



Bethlehem Lutheran

Fully Alive

VOLUME 13, ISSUE 7 JULY 2017



The Best of Romans

by Vicar Trevor Freudenburg

2017 is the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. On October 31st, 1517, Martin Luther posted 95 Theses to the door of the Castle Church in Wittenberg. This seemingly innocuous act, a common academic practice during that time, nevertheless ignited a theological revolution which changed both church and world forever. The seeds of the Reformation are found not only in Luther's posting of the 95 Theses, but also in his struggle with and appreciation for the book of Romans.

Our next sermon series will be *The Best of Romans*, which starts on July 9th. We will explore the entirety of the book of Romans. In 1545, reflecting on his life, Luther recalled his difficulty in understanding Romans. Luther was tortured by the fact that he could never be righteous before God, whom he thought of only as a mighty and cruel judge. He writes, "Though I lived as a monk without reproach, I felt that I was a sinner before God with an extremely disturbed conscience. I could not believe that he was placated by my satisfaction. I did not love, yes, I hated the righteous God who punishes sinners..."



Have you ever hated God? You wouldn't be alone, even among those in the church, especially a saint like Dr. Luther! But through Romans, Luther learned that God was not primarily a judge, but a loving Father who sacrificed His son for us, that we might be counted righteous and worthy. Celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation by joining us this summer for our six-week series as we travel the "Romans Road," from idolatry to righteousness through faith, from death to new life, and from disobedience to sacrificial living. See you on the road!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

4/14 Window	Page 2
Pathway Page	Page 3
Scholarships	Page 4
Lifelight	Page 5
PT Bus Pick-Up	Page 6
Stephen Ministry	Page 6
Movie Night	Page 6
Strategic Plan	Page 7
Kids Summer	Page 8

W O R S H I P • S C H O O L S • L I F E G R O U P S



The 4/14 Window at Bethlehem

by Pastor David Langewisch

Here is an amazing statistic: Of the total number of Christians in the world today, 85% came to faith or received Christ in what is called “the 4/14 window.” The 4/14 window is simply the season of life between ages 4 and 14. Here is another amazing statistic: If you approach someone between the ages of 4 and 14 who does not know Jesus, and you share Jesus with that person, there is a 32% chance that person will come to saving faith in Jesus. Just to show the contrast, if you wait until that same person is in high school, or a young adult, the probability drops to 4% that they will receive Christ.

The realities of the 4/14 window are not foreign to Bethlehem. Our very ministry DNA has especially targeted this demographic since our beginnings. We have a thriving school ministry, a ministry focus that can be traced to our very first years as a congregation, back in the 1930’s. We currently have a summer camp ministry voted “Best of Denver” in 2016, with this year’s summer camp numbering over 300!

As wonderful as all this is, there is a missing component in our strategy to hit the 4/14 window. We have one more significant ministry, which, while targeting that window, has not been resourced to do that as effectively as it could. The ministry is BethlehemKIDS. In our strategic planning sessions this past month we did an exercise. We imagined being someone who knew nothing about Bethlehem walking through the facility and determining what Bethlehem’s priorities were, simply based on what was seen in our space. This exercise was done with two large groups. Participants mentioned worship as a priority, school, gatherings, activities... all great things. Not a single person mentioned BethlehemKIDS ministry. That’s because there is no dedicated space for BethlehemKIDS.

If it is true that 85% of Christians come to faith between ages 4 and 14, it is a colossal strategic error for any ministry to not dedicate premium space to this age group. The good news is, as a result of our strategic planning process, this omission in our ministry is being addressed. Anticipate hearing more from our leadership about how God is leading us to give priority to leading people to Jesus, particularly those in the 4/14 window.



The 4/14 Window is a global missions movement whose aim is to REACH, RESCUE, ROOT and RELEASE young people all over the world to grab hold of their inheritance in Christ and transform their world through His power.

The Pathway Page

by Sandy Wendelin

This fall we will roll out the final destination on the Discipleship Pathway – Discipleship Groups. We have Starting Point as the first stop when you are new to Bethlehem, Discovery Groups where you can explore a topic or book of the Bible, and now you will be able to share life together with others, study and pray together, encourage and support one another and maybe even consider how you or your group can Love On others.

Our Fall Spiritual Growth Campaign kicks off these kind of LifeGroups with an 8-week study called “The Good Book.” Can you guess what it is about? As an entire congregation, we will explore the amazing truths found in God’s Word that still have meaning and importance for us today as we navigate life and strive to become more like Jesus. That is a simple definition of discipleship, by the way — becoming more and more like Jesus. Through this study we will look at God’s biggest ideas of how to do that! We hope everyone in the Bethlehem community will connect with a group in their neighborhood or

with others in their life situation to study together for these 8 weeks.

After that, your group may continue to meet, or you may connect to a new LifeGroup that will select a new study or use the newly designed Going Deeper study guides that correspond with what is being taught and preached on Sundays. Both the sermon series and the Going Deeper study guides are available online every week! Go to the website and click on Worship, then Sermons, and either watch and listen to the sermon or download the Going Deeper study guide.

So, get on The Pathway. Sign up for a LifeGroup starting August 13 to explore The Good Book! Want to have a group meet in your home or where you work? Contact Sandy Wendelin at swendelin@bethlehedenver.com or sign up to be a host during the host sign-up period starting July 23. We look forward to seeing you on The Pathway.

THE DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY
PRESENTS

The Good Book

A CONGREGATION WIDE STUDY
SEPTEMBER 10th



Scholarship Grant Recipients for Christian School Attendees

by Dale Wagner

Bethlehem Lutheran School and Faith Christian Academy High School have been blessed with an anonymous Bethlehem member donation of \$3,500 to be awarded on the basis of individual student's academic achievement. What a blessing!

Congratulations to recipients Rowynn Laipply, Justin Richter, Hannah Hinerman and Emily Funk.

One \$500 tuition grant was awarded to **Rowynn Laipply**, daughter of Courtney Beorn and Josh Laipply, a Bethlehem member, who is a current 6th grader at Bethlehem Lutheran School, is enrolled for the 7th grade at Bethlehem Lutheran School, and who had the highest GPA for the prior two years.



One \$1,000 tuition grant was awarded to **Justin Richter**, son of Nathan Richter, a Bethlehem member, who is a current 8th grader at



Bethlehem Lutheran School, is enrolled for the 9th grade at Faith Christian Academy High School, and who had the highest GPA.

One \$1,000 tuition grant was awarded to **Hannah Hinerman**, daughter of Debbie and Orville Hinerman, and one \$1,000 grant was awarded to **Emily Funk**, daughter of Margaret and Steve Funk, both of whom are Bethlehem members, are currently Juniors at Faith Christian Academy High School, are enrolled for 12th grade at Faith Christian Academy High School, and who had the highest GPA for their high school years.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church and School has been providing scholarships for over 29 years to members wishing to obtain a Christian education by attending Bethlehem Lutheran School, Lutheran High School-Parker, Faith Christian Academy High School or a Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod (LCMS) college or seminary.

If you are led to assist in helping/encouraging students to obtain a Christian education, please include the scholarship programs in your prayers, and consider a tax deductible contribution to the program. For questions related to assistance at Bethlehem's ELC and grade school programs, please contact Natalie Meyer at 303.969.0699 or Nate Richter at 303.233.0401.

For questions related to assistance at Lutheran High School-Parker, Faith Christian Academy High School, or an LCMS college or seminary, please contact Karen and Terry Donze at 303.420.7868, Karen and Walter Eggers at 303.431.4490, Marty and Dale Wagner at 303.972.9431 or Sandy Wendelin at 303.238.7676.

Your current and past support is truly gratifying and our heartfelt thanks go out to you. Please help us continue sharing God's wonderful bounty by supporting Bethlehem's Christian outreach.

Fully Alive

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
& School
2100 N. Wadsworth Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80214

Church office: 303-238-7676
School office: 303-233-0401

Visit us online at
www.bethlehedenver.com
E-mail Bethlehem@
BethlehemDenver.com
KLTT 670 Radio Broadcast
11:00 AM Sundays

David J. Langewisch, Pastor

Drew Ross, Pastor

Tim Wendelin, Pastor

Trevor Freudenburg,
Vicar (Student Pastor)

Nathan Richter, Principal

Sandy Wendelin,
Director of Discipleship

Scott Bubke,
Director of Operations

Doug Butte, IT Director

Becky Chaplin,
Director, Ministry to Children

Tony Creeden,
Marketing/Communications

Lauren Dowds,
ELC Director

Dave King,
Director, Worship Arts

Fully Alive is published monthly for the members and friends of Bethlehem Lutheran. It focuses on news within the congregation and activities in the church each month. Articles may be submitted to the church office by the 15th of each month for the next month's issue.

e-mail to:
bethlehem@bethlehedenver.com

Can a Lutheran Hold a Rosary?

by Mary Anne Brossman

Our new year in Lifelight begins in September 2017. We will be studying Job and Romans and I encourage you to join us. This will be my 10th year in this Life-Group and what a difference it has made in my life. Lifelight studies focus on the true Word of God, the Bible. It is what it is — there are no additions and no subtractions in either the New or Old Testaments. Sometimes, there are difficult questions to think through. But, if you complete your sermon notes each Sunday and file them according to the appropriate sermon text quite often the answers are right there. Then, of course, the Holy Spirit also helps us when we ask for clarity so you always have this tutor pointing you to the answers as well.

Some months back I drove my neighbor Sandy to a surgical center for an eye procedure. I was telling her about our Lifelight studies this past spring when we were studying Peter I & II. And I thought she'd get a kick out of my "Peter was the first pope" reply on my first day of Catechism. Sandy replied, "What?? Why you are a Lutheran!" (Yes, she is Roman Catholic). We had such a fun conversation that day and it was amazing how

good a conversation is when you discuss what your faith has in common instead of the differences.

Just before Sandy went into surgery she handed me her purse and showed me her 70 year old rosary from her First Communion that she always takes with her for medical procedures. As she held it, I asked her if she would like me to say a prayer for her. She did. With tears in her eyes she walked back to her procedure, comforted and courageous as the Holy Spirit stayed by her side.

I took charge of her personal belongings and noticed while waiting that her rosary was hanging out of her purse. I opened her purse and secured this inside but not before holding it and thinking of all the years of her life she has kept this and all of the years of comfort it has given her.

Lifelight studies bring you comfort, teach you to pray, teach you to listen closely for God's voice directing you each day, and remind you that you are never alone. I encourage you to join us this fall and at least give it a try. This is one of the best gifts you can give yourself.

Sunday Pick-up Ministry

by Georgia Phillips

After 10 years of devoted service as our Coordinator of Sunday morning bus drivers and riders for services, Dottie Woodcock has decided to step down. Thank you for a job exceptionally done!

This is a ministry for those who can no longer get to church on their own. The boundaries for pick-ups are: Sheridan on the east, 44th on the north, Youngfield on the west, and Jewell on the south.

Ginny Krause will be our new Bus Driver & Rider Coordinator. If you have need for this service, please call the reception desk and they will be happy to pass along your requests to Ginny.

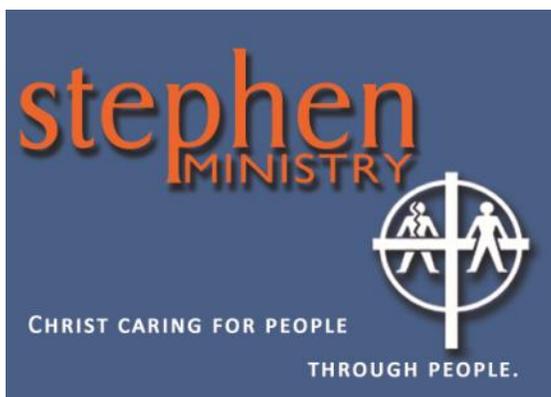
Stephen Ministry Training

by Martha Rowley

We are starting a training class for a new group of Stephen Ministers in September of 2017. Are you meant to join this ministry? Are you a caring person who has good listening skills? Yes? Then this is the ministry for you!

The training takes approximately a year. After 6 months you will be commissioned and become a Stephen Minister with some newfound skills that you may not know that you possess. Then, there is 6 months of continuing education to give you other information that will be invaluable to you in your personal life and for people who you care for in your life whether it be in God's ministry at Bethlehem or with friends and relatives. We have 4 people signed up for the training, but there is room for more. The more, the better! This is exciting, folks, something that will change your life for the better!

Please contact Martha Rowley at 303.425.6971 or Sharon Brown at 303.903.6183 for more details.



School Movie Nights
June 28 at 6pm in Commons
July 26 on the Sports Field

Strategic Action Plan May Progress Report

by Hazel Hartbarger

REMARKABLE WORSHIP

Goal #3 - Increasing Pastor interaction

This goal is as complete as the current schedule allows and now considered ongoing.

Ministry Support Goals - Providing an updated, clean and safe facility within budgeted resources while practicing responsible stewardship

The north property (newer vicarage and duplex) was sold which provided funding for facility upgrades (boiler/HVAC and Sanctuary lighting) within budgeted resources. While projects have not yet started, it is hoped that they will be completed by 10/31 if not sooner.

Currently doing an asbestos abatement project in the school kitchen and gym stage.

Ministry Support Goal #5 - Provide Facility as 3rd Place Environment

Outside groups have begun using the Commons on a regular basis as a place to gather, play music and enjoy a safe, welcoming environment.

EXCELLENT SCHOOL

Goal - Aligning the curriculum—Complete and ongoing

Goal - Families in the school and ELC without a church home yet

The graduation service and Rock-n-Roll chapel on the last day of school were powerful witnesses to students and their families. We hope to encourage them to come to church over the summer.

We will do another big push over the summer for Right Now Media with families.

Goal - Increase enrollment by 15% and maintain 90% retention rate.

This goal is on pace for a 15% increase in enrollment, but numbers will not be available until August.

A new tent cover was ordered to help promote the school and church at community events. New school swag and print material will be used for these

summer recruiting times.

Ministry Support Goal #7 - Provide updated facility within budget resources

The school side of the facility received a new roof. Unfortunately, hail damage will necessitate replacement again. This goal is now considered complete and ongoing.

DISCIPLESHIP PATHWAY

Goal #1 - Create improved systems/entry points so that 50% more people are connected to groups.

BethlehemKIDS will be offered all summer giving kids the opportunity to stay connected to their faith community year around.

Three fellowship events are planned for Middle School IMPACT this summer, this is a change from the weekly Wednesday IMPACT.

Goal #2 - Love On those not on the Pathway (At least 10 Discovery Groups at any given time)

This goal is considered complete and ongoing.

Ministry Support Goal #5 - Provide support and efficient communication

The Discipleship Pathway Trail Guide, updated Discovery Group listings, Communication Stations, website information, and various other venues are now used to promote the ministries on The Pathway. Complete and ongoing.

External Goal #1 - Love on surrounding neighborhood and offer service opportunities

A catalog highlighting all service groups will be made available at the Communication Stations; all common interest groups will be listed on a card for one of the pegs and all discovery groups will receive a card to promote those groups.

The Service Fair was held to support service groups, inform members of what is available and promote participation.



2100 North Wadsworth Boulevard
Lakewood, CO 80214

Non-Profit Org.
U. S. POSTAGE PAID
WHEATRIDGE, CO
PERMIT NO. 68

Hey Kids and Families!

by Becky Chaplin

We have a lot of exciting opportunities for you this summer! Check them out below!

Level 56 Launch Event at Jump Street *Saturday, July 29th, 3-5 pm*

5th and 6th graders are invited to this brand new group, exclusively for them! *Jump* to a whole new level of fun and faith with friends at our first event at Jump Street. Then join us every Sunday for our Level 56 small group time starting Sunday, August 20th, 9:45-10:25 am.

Family Rockies Game — *Sunday, August 6th, 1:10 pm*

Families of all ages are invited to Faith Day at the Rockies! We'll meet at Coors Field for the old ball game, with a Newsboys concert to follow!

Backpack Blessings — *Sunday, August 13th, 9:15 am*

Kids from all schools and all ages are invited to receive a special Backpack Blessing for the school year ahead during the 9:15 worship service. Kids, bring your backpacks and bring your friends!

