The Bethlehem Star

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy.” Matthew 2:10

August 2017

**“It is written, ‘Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God.’”**

**Matthew 4:4**



The Scripture Lessons for August:

**Ninth Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Isaiah 55:1-5

Epistle: Romans 9:1-5

Gospel Matthew 14:13-21

**Tenth Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Job 38:4-18

Epistle: Romans 10:5-17

Gospel Matt. 14:22-33

**Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Isaiah 56:1, 6-8

Epistle: Romans 11:1-2a, 13-15, 28-32

Gospel Matt. 15:21-28

**Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost**

OT: Isaiah 51:1-6

Epistle: Romans 11:33-12:8

Gospel Matt. 16:13-20

**52 Important Bible Stories - Continued**

In the last Bethlehem Star I listed twenty-six Old Testament stories that provide a Biblical framework that can help you understand God’s redemptive history. In this month’s issue I want to include twenty-six New Testament stories that do the same. During the 2017-18 Sunday school year, we will be looking at these stories in depth in the adult class. You are invited to come and study these important Bible stories and topics.

1. Jesus’ birth: Matthew 1-2; Luke 1-2.
2. John the Baptist: Matthew 3; Luke 3.
3. Nicodemus and the importance of being born again: John 3.
4. The Beatitudes: How to live for the King. Matthew 5.
5. The Lord’s Prayer: a guide for our own prayer life. Matthew 6; Luke 11.
6. Jesus in search of sinners: Luke 15.
7. The Parables and their purpose: Matthew 13.
8. The miracles of our Lord: Mark 1-9.
9. The Greatest Commandment: Matthew 22:34-40.
10. The Last Things: Eschatology. Matthew 24-25.
11. The necessity of the Holy Spirit: John 14,16.
12. The Lord’s Supper: Matthew 26:17-29; Luke 22:7-23.
13. Jesus’ death and resurrection. John 19-20.
14. The Great Commission. Matthew 28:16-20.
15. Pentecost. Acts 1-2.
16. The Church. Acts 2; Colossian 1; 1 Corinthians 12.
17. Justification by faith. Romans 1-4.
18. Christian joy. Romans 5-8.
19. The grace of giving: 2 Corinthians 8,9.
20. Humility. Philippians 1-2.
21. The Inspiration of Scripture. 2 Timothy 3.

Continued on the next page……….

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122

**August Birthdays and Anniversaries:**

1 Trey Marek

2 Linda Granstrom
 Ray Nash

3 Jay Pilch

Dick & Merle McTague

4 Nancy Firn
 Tyler Paul Polarek

 Michael Polarek

7 Nancy Marchesi

 Joseph Hatz

8 Russel Grieff Barb Vaksdal

9 Zachary Hexdall

10 Allan Lunde

Marsha & Tom Bednarik

12 Hailee Marek

13 Peyton Polarek

14 Angela & David Hatz

 Erwin Kelly

15 Allison Gipes

17 Roger Thorsen

18 Vance Vaksdal

19 Drew Holman20 Judy Stump21 Dianna Larson

 Brian Johnson

Mark & Diana Daggett

 Harper Ochoa

26 A. James Narwick

 Angela Hatz

27 Christine Narwick

28 Betty Polarek

 Joshua Kjellesvik

 Cheryl Coop



22) An overview of the Book of Hebrews.

23) James: The Proverbs of the New Testament.

24) Pain and suffering. 1 Peter.

25) Christian love. 1 John.

26) What is going on in the Book of Revelation?

All of these New Testament stories touch upon the foundations of the Christian faith. These passages clearly set forth who Jesus Christ is, how He has redeemed lost sinners through the cross and the empty tomb, as well as His glorious return to this earth. Furthermore these passages make it clear how humankind is justified by faith in Jesus Christ and what it means to live as a Christian.

God has revealed Himself in a special way through His Word. I encourage you to get to know Him even better by reading your Bible and praying to God. If you are at a lost for what’s going on in the Bible, start with some of these passages. Don’t forget reading God’s Word is really a lifetime endeavor for the Christian. The Bible is a powerful and living Book!

Happy Reading!

Pastor Patrick Lohse

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122



If you would like to “ask the Pastor” a question you can write it down on piece of paper and hand it to me or email me at (lohs0016@umn.edu). Your name will not be printed with your question.

This month’s edition of “Ask the Pastor” includes questions I have heard from children here at church and at home. They serve as a reminder of how thirsty children can be for the truth of Jesus Christ and His Word. Enjoy!

*How long will we be in heaven?*

 The obvious answer is for eternity. Trying to grasp the concept of eternity is difficult. We are so bound by time that it’s hard to imagine existing outside of it.

*Will we ever get bored in heaven?*

 I chuckled at this one. I like to answer this question by saying God is unsearchable and inexhaustible. We will never get tired of knowing Him more and more. John Newton in Amazing Grace has taught us to sing: “When we’ve been there ten thousand years . . . we’ve no less days to sing his praise than when we’d first begun.”

*Will we know everybody in heaven?*

 Yes. On the Mount of Transfiguration the three disciples recognized Moses and Elijah (Matthew 17:3-4).

*Do we turn into angels when we die?*

 Contrary to popular sentiment we do not turn into angels when we die. Angels are created beings by God (Colossians 1:15-17). When a Christian dies their soul goes to be with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:8) and their body awaits the resurrection (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122



“Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.” Matthew 25:40

**FFHM Orphanage Mission Project**

Items needed for **July/August** are:

**Markers (Sharpie permanent; Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue sticks, balloons, stickers, and backpacks.**

 **Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue**

 **sticks, balloons, stickers, & backpacks**

 **sticks, balloons, stickers, backparkers (Sharpie permanent; Crayola color) crayons, glue guns, glue sticks, balloons, stickers, backp** Socks Underwear (boys & girls size 3-5)

There are collection boxes at both entrances. Thank you for your compassion.

**Mark your calendar for the following Sunday School/Youth Group Activities in August:**

* **Get ready for Sunday school. It is right around the corner.**

 



Holy Humor

“A time to laugh” Ecclesiastes 3:4



**A prayer for our Sunday school program:**

Lord Jesus, Friend of children, who has commanded Your church, “Let the children come to Me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the Kingdom of God,” we pray You to look favorably on the efforts of our congregation to bring up our children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. We commit our Sunday school, its teachers and officers, its students and visitors, to Your divine care and guidance.

Since You alone can give the increase, we ask You dear Lord, to cause the good seed of Your word to bring forth abundant fruit in the hearts and lives of our Sunday school children. Give them ready and teachable hearts. Cause them to seek after you when they are young. Amen.

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church 202 W. Jefferson St. Morris, IL 60450

[www.blcmorris.org](http://www.blcmorris.org) Church office: 815-942-1145 Pastor Patrick Lohse 815-584-7122

**Financial Update for the Month of July**

General Fund Missions

Needed to meet monthly budget: $16,613.00 $1108

Offerings Received: $17,486.00 $970

Net difference needed: $ $138

***Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.* 2 Corinthians 9:7**





|  | **August 2017** |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Sun** | **Mon** | **Tue** | **Wed** | **Thu** | **Fri** | **Sat** |
|  |  | 1 **Deacons Meeting 6:30 pm** | 2 **Bethlehem at the Movies 6:30 pm****Fellowship Hall** | 3  | 4  | 5 **Men’s Bible Study (Sherwood Oaks) 7:30 am** |
| 6 **Ninth Sunday after Pentecost****Worship 9 am** | 7 **Small Group Bible Study 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall** | 8  | 9 **Bethlehem at the Movies 6:30 pm****Fellowship Hall** | 10  | 11  | 12 **Men’s Bible Study (kitchen): 7:30 am****Gospel of Mark** |
| 13 **Tenth Sunday after Pentecost****Worship 9 am****Congregational meeting: 10 am.****Fellowship Dinner 5 pm.** | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  | 19 **Men’s Bible Study (kitchen): 7:30 am****Gospel of Mark** |
| 20 **Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost****Worship 9 am** | 21 **Small Group Bible Study 6:30 pm Fellowship Hall** | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  | 26 **Men’s Bible Study (kitchen): 7:30 am****Gospel of Mark** |
| 27 **Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost****Worship 9 am** | 28  | 29  | 30 **Sr. Choir Practice 6:30 pm** | 31  | **Calling all singers:** Choir resumes practice on August 30th at 6:30 pm. Never been in choir before? Come and try it out. Praising the Lord is always good for the soul! |