

The Messenger

FEBRUARY 2019

Lent: A Broken Hallelujah

"Darkness deserves gratitude. It is the alleluia point at which we learn to understand that all growth does not take place in the sunlight." -Joan Chittister and Rowan Williams in Uncommon Gratitude: Alleluia for all That Is

Lent is still a month away, yet planning has begun (Ash Wednesday is March 6.) Our theme this year is "A Broken Hallelujah" and we will consider the hallelujahs we discover and find (or God grants) in our brokenness. As in past years, we are looking for lay preachers for our Lenten Midweek services, Wednesdays at 7pm. The following dates and story share questions are as follows:

March 13 Brokenness of Faith

Share about a time you had a crisis of faith or your faith felt broken. What did the doubt or anger feel like? What did you learn about yourself or God during this time? How was God present/absent? Where or how did you discover your "hallelujah" in the brokenness?

March 20 Brokenness of Mind, Body, Spirit

Share about a time you felt broken in mind, body, and/or spirit. Where did you find hope or patience in your suffering? What did you learn about yourself or God during this time? How was God present/absent? Where or how did you discover your "hallelujah" in the brokenness?

April 3 Brokenness of Relationships

Share a story of a broken relationship. What felt irreparable? Did reconciliation happen? Did you learn to forgive? If so, how? Did you have to forgive yourself? What did you learn about yourself or God during this time? Where or how did you discover your "hallelujah" in the brokenness?

If you are interested in sharing your story during worship, please contact Pr. Elaina. She will be available to help you develop your story share reflection.

Renewal Team Update

Over the past month, the Renewal Team has been conducting interviews with people across our community to gain insight into the strengths of Lemont, the needs of the community, and needs of families and households. Team members have interviewed government leaders like the Mayor, leaders in education like River Valley Principal Debbie Lynch, and community leaders like Terri O'Neill-Borders of Hope and Friendship. The Team will continue to do some follow-up interviews in the coming month.

Here at the end of January and beginning of February, the Renewal Team has brought questions to the congregation for consideration during worship. We have considered our Wow's (the cool stuff God is up to already), our Needs (as a congregation and as individuals), and upcoming on February 10, our Assets (all of our resources for ministry.) Thank you for engaging these questions with us!

This collection of information will then be used for further discernment about Bethany's purpose, priorities, and principles. A result or gift of this process will be the ability to articulate those three things with clarity and make future decisions based on what we have determined is the most important to us as a congregation and what God has called us to do in our community. The congregation will hear more from the Renewal Team as we move through the process.

On January 27, the Bethany Family officially welcomed new members: Brian, Alison, Evan and Ben Parker and Evan, Michelle, Owen and Ella White.



THE PARKER FAMILY

Brian, Alison, Evan (6) and Ben (4) Parker have lived in Lemont for a year and a half. Both boys attend Oakwood Elementary. They love Star Wars, dinosaurs and creating artistic masterpieces. Brian is in IT security at USG. Alison is a Realtor with Keller Williams and an active member of Lemont Junior Woman's Club. They like to go hiking with their dog, have campfires in the backyard, and take vacations when they can.

THE WHITE FAMILY

Evan and Michelle White have been Lemont residents since 2013 and have two children: Owen (7) and Ella (5). Evan and Michelle hail from Long Grove and Frankfort, respectively, so Lemont has been a perfect mid-point that allows them to spend much time with both of their families. During the day, Evan works in Human Resources for Grainger in Lake Forest, and Michelle is a Teacher at Centennial School in Orland Park. The kids activities keep both Evan and Michelle busy at the days end. Evan is an Assistant Den Leader in Cub Scout Pack 249 and helps coach the local Lightning baseball team, while Michelle is also a member of the Lemont Junior Woman's Club. Both Owen and Ella attend Oakwood Elementary. Owen loves sports, especially the Cubs, and Ella enjoys everything from dance and gymnastics to swimming and Daisy's. Evan and Michelle have appreciated how welcoming the Bethany congregation has been since beginning to attend in the fall!



Vivian Tiemeier celebrated a momentous birthday in January. Happy Birthday Vivian!

CALENDAR

Sunday, February 10

Bible Study, 9:15AM

Monday, February 11

Worship, 10:30AM

Wednesday, February 13

Church Council Meeting, 7PM

Sunday, February 17

Wednesday Evening Worship, 7PM

Wednesday, February 20

Bible Study, 9:15AM

Sunday, February 24

Worship, 10:30AM

Wednesday, February 27

Book Club at Next Mex, 1PM

Wednesday Evening Worship, 7PM

Bible Study, 9:15AM

Worship, 10:30AM

Wednesday Evening Worship, 7PM

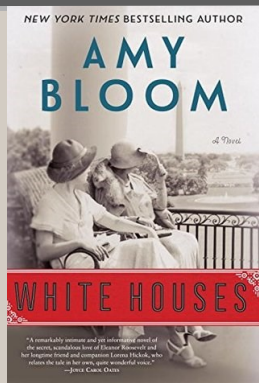


Some of our Confirmation and Sunday School students served at FMSC event on Saturday, January 12. For the confirmation students, this is an opportunity to put our baptismal promise to “serve all people following the example of Jesus” into practice.



FEBRUARY BOOK CLUB

Not a reader? Join us anyway for lunch at a local restaurant and social hour. Book discussion follows lunch so if you haven't read the book, feel free to leave. The February selection is White Houses by Amy Bloom. Join us on February 20th at Next Mex.



Thrivent Choice Dollars were gifted to Bethany from Dave Colliander of Hurricane, UT



Gary Gray, David Bergmark, Shawn and Eamon Salmon for lots of snow removal
 Marlene Ahlberg and Marge McLaughlin for spreading salt
 Doug and Dorothy Freehauf for leading the Luke Bible Study
 The Evangelism Committee for hosting the New Member Mixer



GIFTS TO BETHANY

A gift to the Open Pantry in honor of the birthday of Esther Ludwig by Shelley & Jim Durham

A gift to the General Fund from Leslie & Michael Hall

A donation of quilt batting from American Sales, Orland Park

A gift to the General Fund from an employee of Exelon Corp. (please let us know who you are!)

IN OUR PRAYERS**Bethany Members**

Ginny Connelly

Nancy Iwan

Theora Kujawa

Vivian Gunsaulus

Leona Nelson

Vivian Tiemeier

Peyton Kirk

Frank Iwan

Ben Sabourin

Marie Heeren

Norma Johnson

**Friends and Relatives of Bethany Members**

Joanne Bauer—friend of Jim & Ginny Connelly

Gene Sobba—uncle of Carole & Jim Ross

Terry Wilder—friend of Glenda Anderson

Bernie Schroeder—father of Cheryl Hagedorn

Monica Johnson—friend of Beth Howell

Stella Slowik—friend of Kim Stowe

Nancy Ludwig—friend of Dave Staudt & Floyd Kujawa

Jim McKeever—colleague of Kris Falese

Sean Clark—friend of Kelsey Schroeder

Rudy Cozzi—friend of Glenda & Ed Anderson

The Halama Family—friends of the Iwans

John Shea—brother-in-law of Heather & Mike Nilles

Sue Lucheon—friend of Ginny Connelly

Pastor Melissa Kuemmerle —friend of the Bergmarks

Marianne Carlson—friend of Ginny Connelly & Karen Rae

Justin & Stephanie Wormsley—friends of Jodi & Bruce Taylor

Bob Meisenheimer—friend of Dave Staudt

Tim & Virginia Schroeder—relatives of Jim & Carole Ross

David Gray—brother of Gary Gray

Zane Diaga—friend of Mary Staudt

Patrick Cronin—friend of the Staudt Family

Gary Cobbett—friend of the Bergmarks

Will Pukula—friend of the Olkiewicz Family

MaryAnn Olkiewicz—mother of Keith Olkiewicz

Finley Engnell—friend of the Olkiewicz Family

Jim Driscoll—friend of Gary Gray

Sue Bea Wright—friend of Sue & Gary Gray

Kyle Williams—friend of Sue Gray

Anita Bromberek—friend of Sharon Ahlberg

Frank Roy—friend of Barb & Michael Woods

Maria Railey—friend of Lori Olkiewicz

Kevin Ray—friend of Ed & Glenda Anderson

Janice Johnson—relative of Pat Engwall

Mike Hoffman—friend of Kerri & Corey Schroeder

Brenda Short—friend of Kealy Schroeder

Ranada Rymkus—friend of Don Garling

Beau Dowling—friend of Kris Falese

Rev. Glenn Bergmark

Sherri Vick—cousin of Gary & Sue Gray

Dennis Murphy—friend of the Andersons

Frank Miller—brother-in-law of Marlene & EJ Ahlberg

Yvonne Borkhuis—sister of Rev. Glenn Bergmark

If you would like to add anyone to the Bethany Prayer List, call or email the church office OR drop a note in the offering plate—be sure to include your name.

Conversely, if anyone listed is no longer in need of our prayers, please notify us as well.

MONETARY DONATIONS TO THE BETHANY OPEN PANTRY WERE GIVEN BY

Don & Patty Krengiel
Lemont Township
Ed & Glenda Anderson
Mark & Maureen Skowronski
Elsie Schultz

Matthew & Elizabeth Clarage
Jean & Chuck Martinkus
Robert Themel
Lois Miller

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED FOOD STAPLES TO THE BETHANY OPEN PANTRY

St. Alphonsus Church
Starbucks Coffee patrons
Jurgis Matulaitis Mission
St. Matthew Church

Lemont Police Department
Mary & Dave Staudt
St. Patrick Church
Emmanuel Baptist Church

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