Evangelisch Lutherische Bethel Kirche
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Newsletter, Fall 2026

A Message from Pastor Schmidt

His Mercies Are New Every Morning -
Lamentations 3:22–23

"**The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases; his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.**"

Summer has passed. During the summer months, many things change. Some of the congregation's activities slow down or take a break. Many families travel, visit relatives, welcome friends, or simply enjoy a few days of rest. Sundays continue to come, and the Word of God continues to be proclaimed, but the congregation's regular routine can become a little quieter.

Now, however, we are beginning again. Activities are returning, and Bible studies, gatherings, church work, groups, visits, and so many other things are once again finding their place on our calendars. It is a time of starting again.

And perhaps this is exactly why Jeremiah's words are so appropriate for us: "The mercies of the Lord... are new every morning. Great is your faithfulness."

Jeremiah did not write these words during an easy time. The book of Lamentations was born in the midst of sorrow, destruction, and suffering. Jerusalem had been destroyed. The people had experienced the consequences of their unfaithfulness to God. There were more than enough reasons for discouragement. Humanly speaking, there did not seem to be much room for hope.

But in the middle of all that sorrow, Jeremiah looks to God and says, "The mercies of the Lord are the reason we are not consumed." He does not say that the people deserved a fresh start. He does not say that everything was fine. He does not say that the difficulties had disappeared. He looks instead to what remains when everything seems to be falling apart: **the faithfulness of God**.

This is also an important truth for us as a congregation. Of course, we have not experienced a time of sorrow like the people of Israel. Usually, summer is a joyful season, filled with activities that we spend the whole year preparing for. Still, there can be a certain sadness when summer ends, when vacations are over, and when we need to return to work, school, and our regular routines.

When we begin a new season of activities, it is easy to think first about what we need to do. We need to organize. We need to plan. We need to invite people. We need to prepare rooms, calendars, and programs. We need to find volunteers. We need to work.

All of this is necessary. But Jeremiah reminds us that the work of the Church does not begin with us. It begins with God. Before we think about what we will do for the Lord, we need to remember what the Lord has already done and continues to do for us.

"The mercies of the Lord... are new every morning." Every morning, God gives us a new opportunity to live under His grace, not because we were perfect the day before, but because His mercy never ends.

Perhaps the last season of activities did not end exactly as we would have liked. Some things went well, while others did not. Perhaps we experienced blessings and fruits, but also tiredness, failures, and frustrations. But God's mercy did not end with the summer. It is with us as we begin again. The Church does not live by its own perfection, but by the faithfulness of God.

Therefore, as we resume the activities of Bethel, we can see the coming months as new opportunities that God places before us: opportunities to hear His Word, receive His gifts, teach the children, study the Bible, visit those who are alone, welcome new people, and speak about Christ to those who do not yet know Him.

We do not know what fruits God will produce. And we do not need to know. Our task is to remain faithful to what He has entrusted to us: to proclaim His Word, administer His Sacraments, teach the Christian faith, care for one another, and bear witness to Christ. The results belong to God.

Therefore, we do not say, "Great is our ability," nor "Great is our effort." With Jeremiah, we say: **"Great is Your faithfulness."** Because in the end, it is God who sustains His Church.

Jeremiah reminds us that God's mercies are renewed "every morning." We all need this fresh start, not only as a congregation, but also as individuals. Each person comes into this new season carrying their own story: joys, tiredness, difficulties, plans, and concerns. But we

all have the same need: the grace of God. And we find that grace in Christ, who carried our sins to the cross and, through His resurrection, gives us a hope that does not depend on our circumstances. Therefore, as we resume the activities of Bethel, we are not simply beginning another season of programs; we are continuing to live from what God has already given us in Christ. The Gospel remains the same, Baptism continues to be God's covenant with us, the Lord's Supper continues to offer us Christ's forgiveness, and the Word of God continues to be living and effective.

Therefore, as we begin this new season after the summer, let us do so with gratitude and confidence. We do not know what the coming months will bring, but we know that **the Lord will be with us**, and that is enough. God's mercies did not stay behind in the summer; they continue to be renewed every morning. May He bless Bethel, its leaders, volunteers, families, and all its members, giving us a willing heart to serve, wisdom to work, and confidence in His Word. And when this season comes to an end, may we look back not only at what we accomplished, but at what God has done among us, and say: **"Great is Your faithfulness, Lord."** For we are here not because of our own strength or perfection, but because **the mercies of the Lord never come to an end**. Amen.

Pastor Schmidt

Church Council Chairperson - Jim Gardiner

Dear Bethel Family,

As the summer heat gives way to crisp autumn air, I am delighted to welcome all of you back to a new season in the life of our church.

Summer is often a time of travel, rest and shifting schedules but, as Fall arrives, there is a wonderful sense of routine, renewal and an opportunity to reengage in the mission God has placed before us.

As you will read within this newsletter, much is going on and much is planned. A vibrant church family relies on the heart and hands of its members and I invite you to pray about where God might be leading you to connect, serve, and give in the new church year.

On behalf of the entire Council, thank you for your continued faith, generosity, and commitment to Bethel. Welcome back!!

Yours in Christ, *Jim*

Coffee Hour

Join us after the Sunday Service for Coffee, Snacks, and Fellowship in the auditorium on the 3rd Sunday of each month.
October's theme is "Harvest Brunch".

Lutheran Women's Missionary League

Lilly, Laura & Natacha

All are welcome to join us for the next meeting, Sunday, September 27th following the Service.

Bethel Seniors

Welcome Back! We hope everyone enjoyed their summer. As summer holidays are now over and fall is upon us we were happy to re-start our Bethel Seniors program on Wednesday, September 16th.

October's theme will be Thanksgiving & Oktoberfest; and in November, we will celebrate Ewigkeit/Advent.

All persons, including guests, over age 60 who would enjoy an afternoon of Christian fellowship and music are welcome to join us. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month @ 2 p.m. Our next meeting is planned for **Wednesday, October 21st.**

Harry & Ingrid

ELDERS Message –

The Elders of Bethel have been busy de- liberating many things over the past several months. Some of the items that the Elders are currently discussing and pursuing are:

- the distribution of a Funeral Planning Sheet to the members of the congregation:
- a vision for how we as a congregation might win back members who are no longer worshipping regularly,
- ways to identify visitors to a worship service and make them feel welcome,
- how to simplify the process for receiving voting privileges,
- hosting a CLWR anniversary,
- the flow/format of the Sunday worship service,
- the frequency of Sunday morning Bible studies,
- and summer attendance patterns.

A more comprehensive report will be ready in the next newsletter. I am now, on a vacation in Germany.

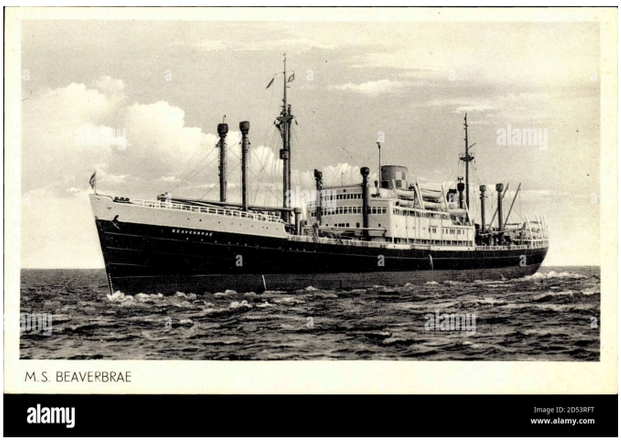
† in His service,
Rick Frey

Beaverbrae Tour and Reunion

Saturday, May 8, 2027

To celebrate the 80th Anniversary of Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR), multiple events will be held across Canada commemorating the Beaverbrae passengers and their legacy.

A Beaverbrae Tour will be held across Canada, including a stop in Kitchener-Waterloo at our Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church. Save the Date – Saturday, May 8th, 2027, time and details will follow in the upcoming months.



The hope is to get local communities to remember CLWR and its involvement with post-war refugee resettlement, how the persons who arrived in ships like the Beaverbrae have impacted Canada's development, and how their legacy continues with current day refugee resettlement.

An integral part of the tour is to feature stories from Beaverbrae passengers, or from persons who arrived in other ships but were assisted by CLWR. We are hoping to collect as many stories as possible so that they are not forgotten, and also to record them to share with the passengers' families. If you can help CLWR to connect anyone, including their family and/or friends, who came on the Beaverbrae, or on other ships, please go the website and complete the form :
clwr.org/beaverbrae,
Any further questions can be directed to the Bethel Church office, (519)742-1589 or lutheran@bethelkitchener.com
Or Harry Drung, (519)888-3751 or drungharry@gmail.com
You may contact Jennifer Ardon, Canadian Lutheran World Relief (CLWR) 1-800-661-2597, ext. 230

Confirmation Classes will begin September 19, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

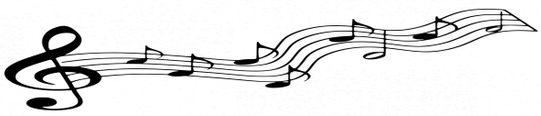
All children 11 years of age or older who would like to take part please contact the church office (519) 742 - 1589 or you may reach out to Pastor Davi via email @ reverendodavischmidt@gmail.com .

Music at Bethel

Praise Choir Rehearses Thursday (as needed) - 7:00 p.m. The Ladies German Choir - Frauenchor, will begin meeting during the daytime on Thursday's, @ 1:30 p.m.

"Come, let us sing for joy to the Lord; let us shout aloud to the Rock of our salvation. Let us come before him with thanksgiving and extol him with music and song."

Nellie Scholtes, Director of Music



Vacation Bible School
Paul's Adventures in Rome: Paul & the Underground Church

VBS was a hit with 20 children (plus many wonderful volunteers!) in attendance. Participants traveled to ancient Rome and met with Paul and his companions and learned about the early church. Many fun activities such as games, crafts, Bible skits, snacks, music & more were enjoyed every evening. Many thanks to everyone who came out and all the volunteers who made the week a success!

Operation Christmas Child

The packing of Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes is drawing near. There is a jar in the Narthex for loose change that will be used to purchase items for the shoeboxes. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sunday School News

Welcome back to Sunday school!

Our Sunday school is for children between 3 and 11yrs of age. Sunday School starts out with kids sitting with their parents to hear the Pastors Children's Message. After the message, we proceed to Room A for a discussion of the lesson, and a craft. The children are brought back to their parents before communion, or during the last hymn, so that the family can depart the service together.

We keep all children together in the "one room" approach. Two adults are always on hand. One leads the younger group and the other for the older kids. Thank you to the parents who come up to help. We are always looking for extra helpers!

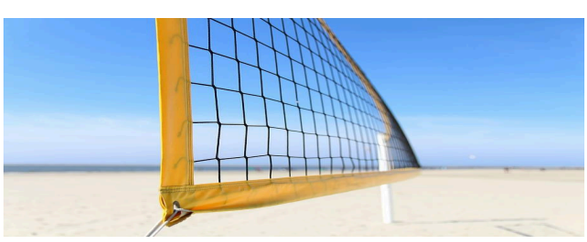
If you have a child younger than 3 years old, they may also join in, and we ask that you stay with your child to supervise their activities. We also have a nursery room with toys available that they may visit. Be aware that this room is not supervised.

We hope to see you there!

Bettina Cook,
Sunday School Superintendent

Kitchener Circuit Youth
September 25, 7 - 9 p.m.
First St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Wellesley

Please come and join us for outdoor volleyball, or indoor games if it rains, followed by snacks and social time. Vicar Lee and Pastor Andy Schroth are looking forward to meeting you!



Mission Christmas Bazaar & Silent Auction

This year's annual Mission Christmas Bazaar is fast approaching! It will take place on

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21,
10am to 1pm

As usual, we will be featuring our famous butter cookies, lunch (soup and sausage on a bun), Kaffee and Kuchen, Attic Treasures, crafts, and children's items, including a crafting area for kids. We are also planning another Silent Auction, with proceeds once again going to support Food4Kids Waterloo Region.

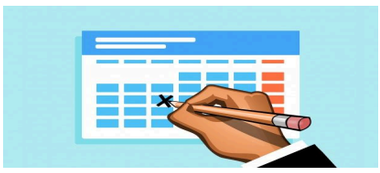
Cookie baking dates are:
Sunday, November 8, noon- 5 pm
Monday, November 9, 9:00 am - 2 pm
Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 pm- 9 pm
Cookie packing will take place on Saturday, November 14, 9 am - noon
All baking will take place at Bethel

We need many, many helpers to make our Bazaar a success!! Please join us for cookie baking (training provided), or volunteer to help on the day of the Bazaar. We are looking for volunteers to head up the Attic Treasures table, sell crafts, help in the kitchen serving lunch, wash dishes, serve coffee and cake, and of course with the set-up leading up to Bazaar. Please contact Linda Brandt, Ingrid During or Bettina Cook if you wish to volunteer. We can not do this without lots of helpers! Remember, many hands make light work!

We also need your help soliciting donations for the Silent Auction. A letter will be available soon for anyone who wishes to approach a business or friend for a donation. Also, if you are "crafty", we are always in need of more items to sell at the craft table. Donations for the Attic Treasures table can be dropped off on the stage. (Please clearly mark any donations as "Attic Treasures". Finally, we will be asking for donations for baked goods nearer to the Bazaar.

Thank you in advance for helping us make this year's Bazaar another great success!

Linda Brandt

Calendar of Events - Mark your Calendars	
Confirmation Classes Begin	September 19, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.
Coffee Hour & Fellowship	September 20, following the Service
Kitchener Circuit Youth 1st St. Paul's Church, Wellesley	September 25, 7 - 9 p.m.
Lutheran Women's Missionary League	Sunday, September 27th (following the Service)
Coffee Hour - Harvest Brunch	October 18th following the Service
Senioren/ Seniors' Group	Wednesday, October 21st.
Cookie baking dates are	Sunday, November 8, noon- 5 pm Monday, November 9, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Wednesday, November 11, 6:30 pm - 9:00 pm
Cookie packing	Saturday, November 14, 9:00 am - noon
Coffee Hour	November 15 following the Service
Mission Christmas Bazaar & Silent Auction	Saturday, November 21, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.
Coffee Hour: Your opportunity to check out the Christmas Bazaar if you were not able to attend on Saturday.	November 22 following the Service Cookies and Cakes available Free Will Donation appreciated
First Advent Pot Luck Lunch	November 29, following the Service
Beaverbrae Tour and Reunion	Saturday, May 8, 2027
Ongoing Events: Praise Choir Rehearsals	 Thursday - 7:00 p.m. (as needed 2 or 3 times a month)
Frauenchor Frauenchor	Thursday's @ 1:30 p.m.

"Truth springs from the earth, and righteousness looks down from heaven. Indeed, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its produce." **Psalm 85:11-12**

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Pastor Davi Schmidt

September, 2026

Dear brothers and sisters of Bethel:

In the Bible, giving thanks means **recognizing that everything we have and everything we are comes from God**. Christian gratitude is not simply a reaction to the good things that happen in our lives, but an attitude that acknowledges the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord. The psalmist says, "Oh give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever" (Psalm 107:1). When we give thanks, we confess that we are not the authors of our own blessings. Our life, our daily needs, our family, our work, and all the good things we receive are gifts that come from the hands of God.

The Bible also teaches us that **gratitude remains even when we face difficulties**. Paul writes, "And be thankful" (Colossians 3:15), and he also says, "Whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him" (Colossians 3:17). This does not mean that we should consider suffering to be something good or pretend that difficulties do not exist. It means that, even in the midst of difficulties, we continue to trust in the God who remains with us. We can give thanks because our hope does not depend on our circumstances, but on the faithfulness of God.

Above all, **true Christian gratitude comes from what God has done for us in Jesus Christ**. We have many reasons to give thanks for the blessings of this life, but the greatest of all is the gift of salvation. In Christ, we receive forgiveness of sins, reconciliation with God, and the promise of eternal life. Therefore, our gratitude does not remain only in words; it is also expressed in our worship, in our prayers, in our service to others, and in the way we use what God has entrusted to us. As Paul reminds us, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (1 Thessalonians 5:18).

This year, we will gather for our Thanksgiving Service on **Sunday, October 11, at 10 a.m.** It will be a special opportunity to come before our Lord in prayer, to praise Him, and to give thanks for His many blessings. May this celebration strengthen our faith, remind us of God's constant love, and give us confidence as we look toward the days that are still to come.

Let us gather together with grateful hearts, rejoicing in the grace and salvation that God has given us through Christ Jesus. May we continue to trust in our Heavenly Father, knowing that He is faithful and that He will continue to care for us and provide for all our needs according to His gracious will.

Amen.

Pastor Davi Schmidt