Evangelisch Lutherische Bethel Kirche
Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

Summer, 2025

From Pastor Davi Schmidt

Perfection!

One day, I was looking at a beautiful flower my father had grown in a pot at his house. As I looked closely, I thought that flower was perfect — in colour, shape, and size. So I turned to my dad and said, "What a beautiful flower. It's so pretty, it almost looks like plastic!"

Then I paused and realized what a silly thing I had said! In reality, it's the plastic flowers that try to look like real ones. Artificial flowers imitate the beauty of true flowers. But there's something artificial flowers can never imitate: life! Life is perfect. And that is a divine concept — that is the power of God!

Even though God created everything perfectly, the world lost that perfection because of the fall into sin. That's why, even if a flower looks perfect, it still has flaws — some that we might not even see. And we, too, have flaws, many of which we manage to hide, but they are still there. Our greatest flaw is our sinful nature. In Matthew 5, we read from the Sermon on the Mount, where Jesus gives a deeper interpretation of the Old Testament commandments. He shows that sin is not only in our actions but also in our words and thoughts. Jesus teaches about forgiveness, condemns revenge, and highlights the importance of loving our neighbour — especially those in need. He sets a much higher ethical standard, calling His followers to live with mercy and generosity, even toward those who wish them harm.

The most challenging part of His teaching is the call to perfection: "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." That sounds impossible — especially after Jesus shows how deeply flawed we are. He reveals that no one keeps the commandments perfectly and yet still calls us to divine perfection. This may feel unreachable — like loving those who hate us or living without error. But Jesus is not calling us to human perfection. He is calling us to live under God's grace, reflecting His love and mercy, even in our imperfection.

Many people feel frustrated or discouraged by Jesus' demanding words because they don't understand them. Some even turn away from God, accusing Him of being unfair or distant in the face of suffering. Others become spiritually proud, thinking they don't sin and therefore don't need God. This attitude shows a hardened heart and a blindness to God's grace and love. Instead of humbly acknowledging their need, they grow more distant from the Gospel.

But Jesus fully understands human nature. He knows we can't be perfect in a world filled with temptation and sin. Still, He calls us to perfection — not to burden us, but to lead us to admit our weakness and rely entirely on God. Spiritual laziness, detachment from church life, and religious self-sufficiency are signs of pride. That's why we must remember constantly that we are nothing without God — and that true strength comes from recognizing our need for Him.

In light of all this, we are reminded that true perfection is not found in us but in God — and we can only come close to it through Jesus Christ. Just like a real flower carries the beauty of life, even with its flaws, we too, even as sinners, can reflect the beauty of the life that comes from God when we live by faith, repentance, and love. We are not called to live a fake, plastic kind of faith — but a real, living faith sustained by grace.

So even though we have imperfections, we should not be discouraged. We must keep striving to do God's will. In doing so, we are praising and serving the One who was perfect in our place and who, in the end, will give us perfection when He brings us to eternal life: Jesus Christ, our perfect Saviour.

Amen

New Confirmands Welcomed

On June 8th, William Kayhan, Quinn Gyger and Claire Gyger confirmed their faith, in the Triune God, before the altar of the Lord. Congratulations and continued blessings as you grow in faith.

Our next Confirmation Class will begin September 6th at 10:00 a.m. You may register your child on our website: bethelkitchener.ca through email: lutheran@bethelkitchener.ca, or contact Pastor Schmidt @ 519 721 1621

A Word from the Chairman - Jim Gardiner

The Church Council extends its heartfelt thanks for the continued dedication and participation in the life of our church that is shown by our membership. We appreciate your prayers, and your contributions to our Bethel family.

We have so many blessings to celebrate as we reflect on the past few months of 2025. And we are grateful for the generosity you have shown in supporting our Congregation and Missions.

As we move into the summer months, we encourage you to find opportunities for reflection, and connection with loved ones.

May God bless you with a restful and joyful Canadian summer.

Our Seniors - On the Move

Harry & Ingrid Drung

On Wednesday, June 25th, our Seniors Group (43 in attendance) enjoyed lunch and camaraderie at the Concordia Club. It was a lovely afternoon to spend together before taking a break for the summer months of July and August.

If you are 55+ years, please come and enjoy an afternoon of singing, camaraderie and Kaffee und Kuchen. We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at 2 p.m. in the auditorium of our church. Each month we offer a different theme, i.e. Fall/Oktoberfest; Advent & Christmas; New Year; Heart Month/Valentines; etc.

All are welcome! Our next meeting will be Wednesday, September 17th @ 2 p.m.

A Message from the Elders - Paul Dieterle

Welcome Bethel Family to the hot & hazy days of 'Summer 2025' from your elders, Harold, Harry & Paul. We wish that the next few months are safe, restful & enjoyable for all of you. We also hope to see you often at church services.

Please feel free to reach out to the office, or to Pastor Schmidt to make any prayer requests. Also, if someone you know is in hospital or entering a nursing home, they may enjoy or benefit from a visit from Pastor Schmidt. Letting us know about these changes helps the office staff keep records up to date so that we can provide support and care to our members in need. The more information you are able to give concerning a member, the easier it will be for us to provide care.

German and Portuguese Services:
German Service
First Sunday of the month @11:15
Portuguese Service
Every second Saturday of the month @7:00 p.m.

Garage Sale- Bettina Cook

We had a very successful "Indoor Garage Sale" on May 24. To further entice the treasure seekers, we baked streusel kuchen and served sausage and sauerkraut on a bun. Lots of good smells came from our kitchen!

The proceeds of $960.00 went to the "Haiti Lutheran Mission". Thanks to all who donated items and helped to make this a memorable day!

Sunday School Report - Bettina Cook

Summer is now upon us, which means our Sunday School is on vacation. Please continue to bring your child/ren to church. We provide "Busy Bags"in the narthex filled with activities to keep them occupied during the service.
Sunday School will return after Labour Day (Sunday, September 7th). I wish all a safe and blessed summer

Vacation Bible School - Erika Brandt

'Egypt: Joseph's Journey from Palace to Prison'.

July 21st to 24th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Registration for children of preschool age and up, is underway on our website:

www.bethelkitchener.ca

Everyone is welcome and there is no cost to attend. We are also looking for volunteers, even for one or two evenings.

Church Choir Night! Nellie Scholtes

Our Bethel choirs will take a well deserved break for the summer. The ladies Frauenchor will resume rehearsals Thursday Sept. 4 at 6:30 in preparation for both Services on Sun. Sept. 7. Praise Choir resumes rehearsals on Thursday Sept. 11 and Sept. 18, at 7:30, in preparation for Sunday, Sept. 21.

In choir circles, Thursday nights are known as Church Choir Night in Canada, a take off on Hockey Night in Canada. Would you like to be a part of Church Choir Night at Bethel? You will be welcomed and blessed by your participation in one or both of our choirs which regularly enhance our Services.