

NEWSLETTER ARTICLE

We have a story to share. Us. You and me. Bethlehem Lutheran Church. We have a story. Not our story per se, it is God's story of our salvation through Jesus Christ, but you are in the story. It is the greatest story ever told and thus it must continue to be told. As the apostle Paul says in Philippians 3, "***To write the same things to you is no trouble to me and is safe for you.***" Did you see that? It is safe because we so easily forget and thus we need to hear it over and over. Sin and the world distract us. Life happens. And before you know it, you are in despair. And this story of our salvation is not just told by me on Sunday mornings, but in a variety of ways in this congregation. It is told by you. Yes, YOU -- Sunday school teachers, worship leaders, custodial staff, property, council, education, anyone and everyone who claims Bethlehem Lutheran Church as their home. It is told through the education materials we buy, worship technology, music, contemporary songs we need to purchase for worship, coffee and goodies at fellowship time, cleaning supplies, outdoor maintenance, and the list goes on. Did you realize that the storytelling was so multifaceted? Yes, even the toilet paper we stock is included.

Now wait a second Pastor, you lost me there.

It is true. Everything we do here is about the story of our salvation. It is all in line with our mission statement to be available to all. And being available to people involves each and everyone of you and everything we do. No one can say, I am too old or too young to be available, to advance God's Kingdom. We are all in this together. We are not running some church business here. We are proclaiming God's story. But the same people cannot be the ones on the front lines all the time. Just like any battle, you need fresh reinforcements. Satan will not stop and thus we must always be ready and refreshed. We need reliable supply lines. This ministry needs you. ALL of you. I am not writing this to protect my job or so we can buy a fancy new gadget. This is all about the story, the greatest story of all time. The story of your salvation. Will you be available to pray, to give, to be involved, to love, to serve, to be Jesus to your neighbor? You are a storyteller, for better or for worse. Let it be for the better.

FELLOWSHIP TIME

I (Pastor Eric) want to talk with you. All of you. And no, you are not in trouble, I just want to talk with you and get to know you (and so does everyone else) And so, I invite you to stay for **fellowship time after worship**. It is not that I am bored with the same people who stay every Sunday (I love you all), but I want to get to know more of you. Grab a yummy treat and/or some coffee and say “hi”, or just stay and say “hi”. No judgment here if you do not drink coffee. And I am not asking you to stay all morning, just don’t rush out like the building is on fire. If you just cannot stay after worship, stop in during the week sometime and we can chat then. My door is always open (and coffee available if that is what you do). And so, I’ll be waiting for you (in a good way) in the fellowship hall this Sunday (and every Sunday thereafter). Let’s chat 😊

FACEBOOK BIBLE READING GROUP

For those of you on Facebook, I am leading a Bible reading group. So far, we have read through the Gospel of Mark, Hebrews and now have just finished Acts. Currently we are reading Paul’s Letter to the Romans. Each morning I post a devotional for you to ponder as you read your chapter for the day. You are invited into a conversation, or you can just read. This is a private group so if you want to be let in, just let me know or anyone else in the group. You can join anytime (of course, Facebook is required).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is not dead. Keep your eyes and ears open...