

## **February 5: Italy/Oberammergau Trip**

*Jim Deutsche*

Last September, more than 50 members and friends of Bethel, led by Pastor Wahl and his wife Kathy, traveled first to Italy, visiting many of the historical sites of Rome including Vatican City and the Sistine Chapel; then to Florence (home of the Renaissance); and then to Venice and its water canals. After a stop in Salzburg, Austria, home of Mozart, the tour concluded in Oberammergau, Germany and a presentation of the Passion Play that has been produced by the village every 10 years since the 17<sup>th</sup> century.

## **February 12: Galatians: Truth, Life, and Salvation**

*Pastor Jason Burggraff*

Pastor Jason's Adult Forum will compress that this springs Galatians Bible Study into a one-session overview of Paul's powerful letter, where he fights for the purity of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. In Luther's introduction to this book, he writes: *"Therefore this doctrine can never be discussed and taught enough. If it is lost and perishes, the whole knowledge of truth, life, and salvation is lost and perishes at the same time. But if it flourishes, everything good flourishes – religion, true worship, the glory of God, and the right knowledge of all things and of all social conditions. To keep from doing nothing, we shall begin again where we broke off, according to the saying (Ecclus. 18:7): 'When a man has finished, he is just beginning.'"* Let us begin again, with Paul's letter to the Galatians!

## **February 19: The Bethel Anti-Racism Team**

*Kristi LaPlante and Kari Anderson*

The Bethel Anti-Racism team is a congregational effort to address matters of racial injustice and our call as the body of Christ to grow in understanding, build relationships, pray, and advocate for racial equity and a more inclusive church.

The following will be covered:

Why did we form this team?

What activities and events have we provided in the last 2 years?

What are the biggest opportunities as we move forward?

## **February 26: Stepping Into Global Relationships: Seeing Christ in Your Neighbor**

*Kathy Chatelaine*

The Southeastern Minnesota Synod lives into deep accompaniment relationships with the people of the Lutheran Church in Colombia, Tanzania, South Sudan, U.S./Mexico borderlands ministries, local South Sudanese worshipping communities, and local SEMN communities. Join Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, as together we immerse in accompaniment ministry by hearing stories of how the Spirit is blowing mightily throughout our global/local communities!

## **March 5: Stepping Into Global Relationships: Being Christ to Your Neighbor**

*Kathy Chatelaine*

Jesus commands his followers to 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' Who actually is our neighbor? What does Scripture say? What does this mean for us within our local and global communities? Join Kathy Chatelaine, Assistant to the Bishop for Global Ministry, as together we explore ways to live out this life changing command of Jesus.

## **March 12 and March 19: Christians and Racial divisions in the United States**

*Dr Sarah Ruble Gustavis Adolphus College*

How have Christians in the United States contributed to and challenged racial divisions? What does that history mean for where we are now? In these sessions, we will explore key moments in the history of race and Christianity in the United States and consider how the past might help us understand our present moment.

## **March 26: Radical Kindness: Engaging a Community**

*Danielle Teal*

Danielle Teal is the speaker and founder of CAKE (Caring Acts of Kindness Everywhere), a volunteer group that partners with non-profits and organizations on kindness initiatives.

This presentation will showcase how acts of kindness through social contagion strategies can affect positive inspiring change in a community and bridge relational connections.

Contact any member of the Adult Education Team if you have a topic suggestion for Adult Education, or if you'd like to help with the team.

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**Additional Bible Study information is available in the *Bethel Bits* and *Bethel Beacon*.**



# SUNDAY MORNING EDUCATION FORUM



**September 18, 2022 – March 26, 2023**

**Forums are held on Sundays  
at 10:30 a.m. in Room 115**

*Everyone is invited to participate!*

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**September 18: 10 Keys to a Strong Family**

*Pastor Anjanette Bandel*

In light of navigating a pandemic and turmoil in our nation and world, individual lives and families have been riding a rollercoaster of change and uncertainty. How can families remain strong and what role does faith play in serving as the “glue” and foundation of familial compassion, forgiveness, and love? No family is perfect, and there are certainly factors out of our control but there is the capacity for families to utilize tools to grow stronger. Drawing from scripture and the understanding that familial “strength” is a gift of God’s grace, we will use this session to explore elements of balanced, content, and vibrant families.

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**September 25: An Introduction to LSS of MN and its work in SE MN**

*Pastor Kathryn Tiede*

Pastor Kathryn Tiede is the Lutheran Social Services Associate Vice President for Philanthropy. She will introduce us to the work of LSS in achieving their vision of “all people have the opportunity to live and work in community with full and abundant lives”. The work of LSS includes youth and older adult services, adoption, financial counseling, veterans’ services, employment support, nutrition care and behavioral health. She will also include ways that Bethel might get involved.

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**October 2 and October 9: “Five Keywords That Christians Get Wrong: Sin, Faith, Freedom, Joy and Love”**

*Dr. Mark Tranvik, Luther Seminary*

It is easy to let our understanding of Christianity be defined by our culture or by popular media. You might be surprised to learn that some words don't mean what you thought they meant. You are invited (and bring your questions!) for a lively discussion about words that shape our views of God, ourselves and our life in God's world.

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**October 16: “Overview of American Lutheranism”**

*Dr. Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary*

These two sessions will present an overview of the history of Lutherans in the United States, as well as some consideration of their present condition. We'll begin with the arrival of the first Lutherans in North America over 400 years ago and trace the development of Lutheran congregations and denominations since then. We'll also spend some time exploring the current conditions of Lutheranism in America, as well as some discussion of the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead.

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**October 23: No Forum MEA Weekend**

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**October 30: “Overview of American Lutheranism”**

*Dr. Mark Granquist, Luther Seminary*

See description for October 16.

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**November 6: “What We Can Learn from the Amish and the Mennonites”**

*Dr. Darrel Joddock, Gustavis Adolphus, Ret*

The Amish and Mennonites trace their ancestry to the Anabaptists in Switzerland in the early 1500s. Dedicated to simple living, the tradition is community-oriented and pacifist. This class will explain the Amish objections to electricity, television, and the like and describe how Mennonites make somewhat different choices. Their form of discipleship can serve as an appropriate challenge for Lutherans.

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**November 13: “John Wesley and the Rise of the Methodists”**

*Dr. Darrel Joddock, Gustavis Adolphus, Ret*

John Wesley was an Anglican who lived in England during the 1700s. He started a movement within the Anglican Church, which became a separate denomination when it came to North America. It spread quickly during the early 1800s and eventually became the second largest Protestant denomination in the U.S. This class will look at Wesley and the early years of his movement.

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**November 20: Immigration and Asylum Issues**

*Kathy Bolin, Board member of Southeastern Minnesota Interfaith Immigration Legal Defense and Brian McDonald, a retired physician who served in the U.S. Navy Medical Corps*

We will look at the complicated U.S. immigration policy and how it may differ from what you may be hearing from various media sources. Kathy and Brian participated in a Border Immersion Visit hosted by the Border Servant Corps of Las Cruces New Mexico in January of 2020. During their time there, they met with immigration judges, immigration attorneys, U.S. Border Patrol agents, individuals with first-hand experience with the immigration system, and church leaders who have been active in humanitarian relief work on the southern U.S. border for over 40 years. At that time, they were also able to go across the border to meet with a group of women and children from Central America who were at a shelter in Mexico awaiting a decision on their requests for asylum in the U.S. It is our hope that the presentation and discussion will be informative and thought provoking.

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**November 27: No Forum Thanksgiving**

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**December 4: Stories behind Christmas hymns**

*Pastor Norman Wahl*

We sing beloved Christmas hymns every December. Behind each of these hymns is a story that can add to our appreciation of the words and melodies we are singing. The most beloved of all Christmas hymns was first accompanied by a guitar on Christmas Eve in the year 1818.

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**December 11 and December 19: “A Short History of Cathedrals”**

*Bill Bakken*

The development and features of the two main forms of cathedral types, Romanesque and Gothic along with the history and features of several English cathedrals using what we have learned about cathedral types to aid our appreciation of the numerous forms of architecture in these buildings. A combination of pictures and on-line exploration will be used to describe some of the features of the chosen cathedrals.

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**January 8: Bethel Youth Christikon trip**

*Kelsie Watkins*

Christikon youth will share about their experiences at Christikon, a Lutheran bible camp in the Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness of Montana. 10 Bethel high schoolers spent a week backpacking in the area, while two more attended for the on-site program. Youth had the opportunity to worship, study scripture, play games, and explore in God's beautiful creation, all while strengthening their relationships with God and one another!

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**January 15: Bethel Holy Land trip**

*Pastor Jason and Erin Burggraff*

Pastor Jason and Erin will present details of the fall trip to the Holy Land which they led.

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**January 22: Holistic Health and You**

*Stephanie Lillis, DC*

Dr. Lillis will present on how physical health and nutrition play a role in overall well-being. She will also share information about benefits of acupuncture and chiropractic care.

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**January 29: Health for All**

*Pastor Doug Cox, Executive Director, Global Health Ministries*

Pastor Doug will share a glimpse of Lutheran efforts around the world in global health, including through Southeastern Minnesota Synod's companion churches in Tanzania and South Sudan. Global Health Ministries (GHM) is committed to strengthening Lutheran health systems that improve health for all people, partnering in 13 low- and middle-income countries where Lutheran churches manage hospitals, clinics and community-based outreach.