

Monthly Publication
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May 2011

Bethel BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bemidji, MN 56601

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Prayer Chain
Day

Bob & Vi Swanson @ 444-3745

Evening

Mikky McCullough @ 751-4668

9:00 AM

SUNDAY WORSHIP

Contemporary Service

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM

Sunday School

10:30 AM

Traditional Service



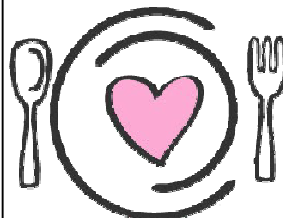
June 6, 1944: D-Day. The day on which the Battle of Normandy began — commencing the Western Allied effort to liberate mainland Europe from Nazi occupation during World War II. It was the beginning of the end for Nazi Germany.

Good Friday: D-Day. The day on which God waged a battle against Satan. But from the surface it doesn't look like a victory. After all, on Good Friday Jesus is brutally beaten, whipped, mocked, finally killed and placed in a tomb. But looking closer, we can see how Jesus fought Satan and the weapons he uses. Against the weapon of deceit, Jesus testifies to the truth and reality of God's kingdom, "I am the way, the truth, and the life". Against weapon of hatred, Jesus lays down his life for his friends, you and me. "Greater love has no one than this, than to lay down ones life for his friends", "For God so Loved the world, that he gave his only Son." On Easter Sunday morning, against the weapon death, Jesus destroyed the power of death, not by avoiding it, or being taken up into heaven and escaping it, but by going through it, and destroying it from the inside out.

"Thine is the glory, Risen, Conquering Son! Endless is the victory, thou o'er death hast won!" #145 LBW

Pastor Kindem

A special thank you to Ardella Lindseth for her Spring Rainbow tablecloths and decoration on the tables in the Fellowship Hall. A much appreciated splash of color during this winter/spring that never ends.



Help Needed: The Bemidji Community Meals is in desperate need of people willing to be on the organizational committee. **The Thanksgiving and Christmas Community Meals will not be held unless we find a few willing volunteers to help with the planning that takes place prior to the meals.** This group meets approximately 3 times before each meal and does not require a large time commitment. If interested please call Karen Propeck at 218-333-1390.

From the Council President

"Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death—even death on a cross."

Philippians 2:5-7

I need more Lent, more Holy Weeks. Those forty odd days at first seem to stretch out and form a routine, then suddenly they are over. In less than a week we go from "Jesus groupies" to all the worst we can be. We don't stand up for justice, we don't attempt to talk a friend out of a terrible act of betrayal, we make cash our king, we abandon our friend in his greatest hour of need giving in to the sleepiness that comes after a big meal, we fear for our own lives but still can't seem to take our eyes off the train wreck that is carrying our friend to his death, and finally we despair of God's promises.

The Gospels tell us it all happens this way to fulfill the scriptures. The Scriptures have always been right about us humans -- that we are born in sin and often act out of sin. They are also always right about God -- that God is Love above and through all else. Our Sunday liturgy has brief reminders of these two truths. We confess our fallen humanness in our thoughts, words and deeds, things done and left undone. We celebrate God's great love in the declaration of the entire forgiveness of all our sins and in Christ's words-this is my body ... this is my blood.

Sometimes Sunday words are weak tea; the good stuff doesn't have enough time to steep. At the end of that short hour when we pray asking God to help us conform our lives to Christ's we don't have much time to figure that out. How will it work the rest of the day? Monday? and so on. In Lent and Holy Week we are given a close up look at how Jesus responds to the worst humans could throw at Him. He doesn't lash out; he doesn't call in the big guns (angels); he doesn't belittle Judas and Peter for their humanness; he doesn't call his lawyer or even argue in his own defense. He gives himself and in doing so allows God's great love for us to be complete. The Lenten hymns are good at helping us see ourselves in the crowds and at the cross. But God in his love gave us Easter. Without it we would be like Judas despairing of our deeds, unable to save ourselves or Christ, fearful that we will betray again, maybe even driven to take our own lives or at least to sever our relationship with Christ and other followers.

Holy Week is a reminder to me of what can happen to individuals and in a community of believers as well. We can be excited about Christ's presence among us and can invite friends and strangers to join our parade. But we can also try to tell Jesus what to do (wash me — nothing or all), gossip about who will or won't betray Christ, take our money and run, estrange ourselves from Christ and fellow believers, or stand by and watch it happen.

Together in Christ, Laurie Buehler, Council



The Property Committee Needs Your Help!

The garage was cleaned and organized by the property committee recently. We are asking your help to keep it organized. Please do not drop off items such as rummage without checking with the property committee to see if there is going to be an upcoming garage sale.

Also, when returning items to the garage, please place them back where they were found so it will be easy for others to get things that they may need out of the building. The space in our garage is limited so it cannot be used to store any personal items. If everyone helps out, it should keep the building much more accessible to everyone. Thank you for your cooperation!

Property Committee



Age 3 thru 12th Grade

Sunday, May 01 10:30—11:30 a.m.

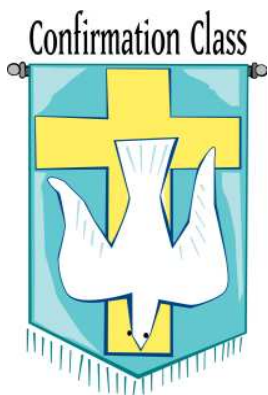
TEACHER APPRECIATION

LAST DAY OF CLASS

KIDS CLUB

Pre-school - 6th Grade

See you in the Fall!



7th

8th

9th

Graders

May 01

Youth

Worship Service

ATTENTION



SENIORS!



If you are a high school senior or college student graduating this spring, please send a picture and a short bio to the church office by Wednesday, May 3, 2011.



SUMMER

WORSHIP

Schedule starts

May 29, 2011

9:00 AM Contemporary Service

10:00 AM Fellowship Hour

Bemidji Area Church
Musicians Concert

BELLS OF BETHEL

Wednesday, June 1st @
12:00 noon

Lunch following in
fellowship Hall





Birthdays

- 02 Siri Bardwell
- 03 Tayden Brown
- 05 Knute Naastad
Janice Beil
- 06 Delores Kilian
Arlene Stratton
Daisy Sadek
Jennifer Jones
- 08 Jordan Jones
Miranda Rosequist
- 10 Eric Heinonen
- 11 Laurie Buehler-
Blackwood
Heather Anderson
- 12 Doug Lilleby
Carson Maish
- 21 Lily Krona
- 24 Charles Mann
Walt Moen
- 27 Vern Nelson
Brianna Pfremmer
- 28 Elaine Petersen
Brayden Anderson
- 29 Baylee Johnson
- 30 Teagen Fenske

Anniversaries

- 12 Cory & Deb Larson - 1990
Andy & Jessica Powell - 2007
- 15 Howard & Marian Blehm - 1943
- 18 Joel & Mary Lu Oustad - 2001



Team Clara

**Is "Taking steps to Cure Cystic Fibrosis"!
4th Annual Rummage Sale
and Bake Sale**

**Saturday, May 7th
7:00a.m. - 3:00 p.m.**

(set up Friday, May 6th)



Bethel Lutheran Church

***All proceeds go to Cystic Fibrosis**

Rolls & coffee will be ready @ 7:00 a.m.

Lunch will be served over the noon hour



**"Great Strides Walk" will take place on
May 21, 2011 @ Lincoln Elementary School!**

Registration is @ 9:00 .m.

Walk will start at 10:00 a.m.



*Mothers
Are A Blessing
From Above!*



To view our May Calendar go to Bethel Lutheran's home page on the web and in the tab bar double click on MONTHLY CALENDARS. Then double click on APRIL 2011 down in the left hand corner of the screen. This will open a PDF of April's calendar for you to view.

What a
Friend
we have
in Jesus

Adoption Information Meeting:

Thursday, May 12, 2011

6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Clay County Service Center, 715 North 11th Street, Moorhead

Registration: Call Lynne Haggart at (612) 879-5230 or 1-888-205-3769

Lutheran Social Service of Minnesota Adoption: Join us to learn about the exciting opportunities and recent changes in adoption. Discover the tools and support for families who would like a flexible, proactive adoption process, and learn how LSS can partner with you to grow your family. LSS can help families adopt children locally, and from countries around the world.

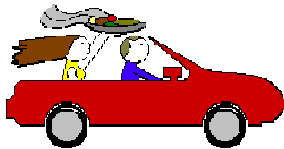
For more information, or to register online, visit www.minnesotaadoption.org.

Church in Society

April was Volunteer Recognition Month. So thank you to everyone that contributes time and gifts to the functioning of this church. Thank you to all who serve in our community as well. Next time you pass the peace, say thank you. The hand you shake will surely have volunteered somewhere. Being in Christ is having servanthood in your blood!



Meals-On-Wheels



MAY EVENTS:

May 9-13 — Meals on Wheels. If you can give time to deliver or drive for this wonderful ministry/service please sign up on the sheet in the narthex or call Laurie or Roy 759-1923.

May 16 — Habitat for Humanity Soup Luncheon fundraiser. Deliveries are available to work places with multiple orders. Lentil with Sausage or Butternut Squash are this year's choices. The soup and bread lunch is \$6. You can order by calling 751-4649 by May9.

Groundbreaking for the Women Build house was April 12 at the corner of 13th and Irvine Ave. We have 4 women volunteering to build this year--gooooooo Bethel. The second house will be built on the 600 block of 19th St. Volunteers will be needed for that house as well. If you would like to help build, contact the Habitat office or talk to Roy Blackwood.



Extra Mile offering for May will go to Evergreen House. Evergreen provides emergency shelter to children and youth and counseling and mediation services to families.

Pathways Camps cleanup days are May 7 at Camp Emmaus, May 21 at Camp Minne-wa-kan and June 11 at Lake of the Woods. Bring rakes, gloves, cleaning rags, etc. Call the Pathways offices to let them know you are coming so they can have enough lunches.



This month we have a more complete report of the food shelf. In March we served 647 families or a total of 1981 people. We had 897 - 0 through 17 years, 1,016 - 18 through 64 years and 65 and over was only 70. We distributed 28,237 pounds of food.

March Food Share totals were 54,713 pounds of food and \$80,512.15. We fell short of last year's total by about a \$1,000.

While we serve these people we are still short of Crackers, Pancake Mix, Hot and Cold Cereal, Peanut Butter and Tuna. Our clients are grateful for anything we can give them.

We are still taking the bar codes from "Our Family" food labels. We receive \$25.00 for every 500 labels we send in.

Bring in old ink cartridges as we can get reward credits to be used for the purchase of office supplies, print the newsletter, and buy copy paper. If you happen to have an extra ream or two of white paper that you would want to donate, place it in the grocery cart at the church.

We still need plastic bags and magazines.

We will soon be in the garden getting ready to plant. If you have any seed potatoes to donate, we can use them.

Don't forget to help your fellow seniors with our proxy program. We received the Venture Grant for this program and want to see our seniors, house bound and handicapped folks receive the help we can give them.

We are taking part in the BOOKS and BAUBLES sale on May 14th as a fund raiser for the food shelf. See flyer on bulletin board or elsewhere in the church. It is being held at the Beltrami County Fairgrounds, 4-H building.

Again, I thank each and everyone of my volunteers for there faithful work for the food shelf. Last but certainly not least, all the food and things that are contributed by our church members and friends.

Nancy Streightiff

BETHEL MISSION QUILTS

We imagine the comfort that comes with a hug when someone is in a time of deepest need. Through a simple combination of fabric and thread we can reach out to those with some of the greatest needs in the world. Not wrapping them in our arms, but wrapping them in the work of our hands and hearts through our Lutheran World Relief Mission Quilts. Most often the recipients use our quilts to shield against the cold and rain, but the quilts versatility also make them useful as simple tents, floor coverings, to haul food, their worldly goods or wrap and hold a baby on is mother's back.

The Bethel Quilters made approximately 144 quilts between January and April this year. The quilters are resting for the summer and will be starting up again in the fall. We sew from 9 AM to noon on Thursdays with coffee at 10 AM sharp. If you are interested in joining us watch for the fall schedule announcement.

Jan Dreyer and Edith Hoyum, co-chairpersons

A SPECIAL THANK YOU FROM THE QUILTERS TO ABE HANSON FOR SETTING UP THE TABLES FOR US AND TO OUR PIANO PLAYER, ROBERT SWANSON FOR ALL THE ENTERTAINMENT.



Take the time to
Commemorate all
U.S. men and
women who died in
military service for
our country.

Gardens @ Bethel

Spring is coming! Help is needed to take care of the flower gardens around the church.

Please contact Loren Hoyum @ 333-1363 or Jon & Jaci Crisman @ 759-9339 for more details!



PASTORIAL ACTS for APRIL

MEMORIAL SERVICE

Chester "Chet" Douglas Swedmark

Date of Memorial Service: April 2, 2011

Date of Death: March 12, 2011

Chili Challenge

The Lutheran Campus Ministry's "Chili Challenge" was held Tuesday, April 12 with eleven cooks displaying their best chili. Winners by popular voting were as follows: Best Mild Chili--Jim McCracken; Best Spicy Chili--Leena Po, Best Overall Chili--Randy Frisk. Congratulations to the winners and thanks to all who took part by cooking or by showing up and sampling the concoctions. (Once again Pastor Jim is claiming to be the victim of so-called "voting irregularities" but no one else present claims to have seen any such thing.)

BETHEL COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

April 12, 2011

Devotions were given by Kirt Dreyer. The first order of business was to accept Duane Christensen's offer to serve on the council. The Bethel church council now had its full complement of 12 members. Praise the Lord!

Several topics were discussed and clarified including what was appropriate "Talks" during Sunday morning services, try to make the weekly financial reports in the bulletin more clear to the average member, the group that serves coffee during Fellowship can determine where the benevolence portion (10%) can be donated, articles for the Beacon should be responsible and clearly "owned", a member with a "Tupperware" fundraiser idea was referred to the Bazaar committee.

Dirk Apel brought up the "Truth Project" that may be of interest to Bethel as we seek our way forward. He will provide the internet address and would be willing to visit with anyone regarding it.

The council appointed a committee to research and report back to the council about alternatives to the ELCA. Those appointed were: Rick Hoff, Paul McIntyre, Duane Christensen and Kirt Dreyer. If you have questions, suggestions or issues please contact one of these committee member, Pastor Mark or one of your council members.

Submitted by:

Loren Hoyum

– Council Vice President

The official and complete minutes will be available in the narthex after the next council meeting.

SARA DREYER ~ COUNCIL PERSON OF THE MONTH for APRIL

Greetings to all,

I am Sara Dreyer. I have been a member of the Bethel community since 1999. My husband, Bruce, and I joined and worshiped while Bethel was located on the corner of 5th Street and Irvine avenue. The building was small and cramped and there was limited space for Sunday school classes or fellowship events. We liked the warm, friendly feel of the church family. Though we wanted to belong to a small, personal church, we were pleasantly surprised of the plans to build out on Irvine Avenue.

God has given me with, among other blessings, three wonderful sons. Although they keep me on my toes, their boundless energy and plethora of activities keep me young. In addition to raising my boys, I work as a special education teacher, I attend college classes to earn specialized licenses, I help my husband to run a farm and I occasionally help him to run his business.

THE EARTH IS THE LORD'S (Ps. 24:1)

Church and Society

Springtime - The earth springs to life after the long winter. All things depend on the soil for life.

The Native American Chief Seattle knew the earth, the soil to be a sacred gift.

Listen to him: "The earth does not belong to men; man belongs to the earth. This we know. All things are connected like the blood that unites one family. All things are connected. Whatever befalls the earth befalls the sons of the earth. Man did not weave the web of life; he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web he does to himself This earth is precious to Him (The Creator), and to harm the earth is to heap contempt upon the Creator We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters; the deer, the horse, the eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices of the meadows, the body heat of the pony and man all belong to the same family."

The earth is the Lord's. We who are of the earth are called to value this most sacred gift. We, the children of God, sisters and brothers of Christ who gave himself for the life of the world, hear him say, "Come, with all of creation, preserve, protect, rejoice, give thanks, and bless all that gives life celebrate the wonder and the mystery."

V.A. Nelson

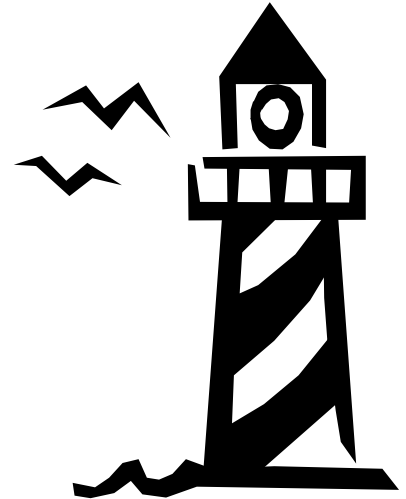
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May 2011

Bethel's Walleye Fish Fry

May 1, 2011

5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

\$10.00 per meal

Meal includes:

Fillet of Walleye
Scalloped Potatoes,
Beans,
Cole Slaw

Dessert and Beverage.



Hot Dogs
will also be
available for
children @
\$5.00

