



Monthly Publication
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BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Bethel Lutheran Church

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SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM
 Contemporary Service
 10:00 AM
 Fellowship Hour
 10:30 AM
 Traditional Service



“But you are a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people belonging to God, that you may declare the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into his wonderful light.”

1 Peter 2:9

I want to thank you all for attending the special congregational meeting held on September 18th. The motion to disaffiliate from the ELCA failed to pass the 2/3 requirement by ten votes. Our congregation is split roughly about 65 percent wishing to disaffiliate from the ELCA and join the NALC, (North American Lutheran Church) to 35 percent wishing to stay as an ELCA congregation. Several members have asked me “What now?” That question is a good one. It is reminiscent of what Martin Luther asks in his small catechism: “What does this mean?” To start with, the 2011 churchwide assembly made procedural changes to its constitution, and Bethel cannot hold another vote for at least six months. Then, if Bethel wishes to pursue another vote, it must consult with the Bishop within 30 days prior to another vote. We are now faced with the challenge and opportunity of living together as a congregation. How we live together is entirely up to us.

How do we do it? How can we do it? First of all, as your pastor you have my commitment that we will continue to faithfully provide worship services based on the preaching of the Word of God, and the administration of the sacraments to whoever comes to worship. Because Jesus is Lord, we will continue to worship Him as such and to conform our lives to His.

To those who voted that Bethel leave the ELCA, I realize that some of you may feel discouraged because the motion failed. I encourage you to stay with Bethel. You are Bethel Lutheran Church! To those who voted that Bethel remain in the ELCA, I realize that some of you may find it hard to stay in a congregation where the majority wishes to leave the denomination in which you wish to stay with. But I encourage you to do so. You are Bethel Lutheran Church! We are in this together: we are Bethel Lutheran Church!

We are all called to live our lives focused on Jesus. In all of our doings, may His will be done.

(Continued on next page)

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...” Hebrews 12:1-2

Pastor Mark Kindem



From the Council President

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own insight. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths. Do not be wise in your own eyes; fear the Lord.. Proverbs 3:5-7a

I've been reading Marva Dawn's book, REACHING OUT WITHOUT DUMBING DOWN; A THEOLOGY OF WORSHIP FOR THESE URGENT TIMES and a statement she makes really jumped out at me. She says, "Since the Church is formed by its relationship with Christ, it is not...a democracy. The earliest Christians made their decisions through intensive discussion and prayer until they could say, 'it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and to us' (Acts 15:28)"p.135. As council chairperson the notion that decisions should be made by seeking consensus and guidance by the Holy Spirit gave me visions of day long council meetings, no votes being taken, only discussion, study, and prayer until we could embrace in agreement. Any volunteers? As Lutherans we believe that discernment, being able to find direction from God through the Holy Spirit is possible and desirable but as modern day people, we often expect it to be quick. We want to avoid forty days wandering in the wilderness and we also want to reverse the order given Acts 15:28 and instead say "it seemed good to US and the Holy Spirit". Unfortunately a by-product of applying democracy and making voting determine our decisions is that it results in winners and losers. Our vote in September resulted in a decision that says we stay in the ELCA. Has the Holy Spirit worked through that vote so that we say, "it has seemed good to the Holy Spirit and us" or are we

led by the notion of democracy so we say the majority rules (our rules for the vote insist on 2/3 majority)? Discussions of another vote to be taken in six months show that the issue has not been resolved and may have resulted instead in resentment and bitterness. The council is studying the book, HEALTHY CONGREGATIONS, by Peter Steinke. Steinke notes that the emotions most detrimental to a congregation are vengeance and bitterness (p.21). They tend to fester and eat away from the inside. He goes on to say, "Healthy congregations are spirited. They are graced and gracious, generous with each other and outsiders. They are communities of thanks and praise. They are wholesome and refreshing." This is certainly what we are seeking at Bethel. Both authors remind us that Christ is the Head and at the Heart of the church. We affirm this each week when we humbly receive Christ's Body and Blood. We go out from this encounter with Christ with joyous shouts of "Thanks be to God" prepared to serve in Jesus name. Let us return to everything we do at Bethel with this same gratitude.

Congregations are being invited and encouraged to develop intentional mission plans by the end of 2012. Let us move ahead and focus on finding ways to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to each other and to our community.

Council elections will be held at the end of this month. We need people willing and committed to serving in leadership roles. Please prayerfully consider being a council member. Contact Jan Dreyer, Ione McIntyre, or Ed Beil. Go in peace, serve the Lord!

In mutual ministry & shared service to Christ,
Laurie Buehler



PERSON OF THE MONTH

RICK HOFF

Born and raised in Moorhead, MN. Graduated high school from Oak Grove Lutheran High School in Fargo, ND. Works as a nurse anesthetist for 33 years providing anesthesia services for numerous hospitals in Northern and central Minnesota, including Sanford Same Day Surgery Center in Bemidji. Married to Joyce Hoff and we have 6 boys, 3 daughter-in-laws and 7 grandkids. I have been a member of Bethel since 1986 and a member of the council for the past year.

Bemidji Community FOOD SHELF

We are coming into a lot of things going on for the Food Shelf in the month of November. STUFF A TRUCK is the week of November 13th thru the 19th. The truck will be going around to the schools as usual and will be parked out at Market Place on the 19th. This is how it has been in the past years and we hope to see it just packed full this year. As we are seeing more and more new people at the food shelf and serving more families, we need to take in a lot more. Food and money donations will be taken.

The annual HAHAW Dinner is Nov, 15th, chicken is the main meat. It is from 4:30 to 7:00 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 9th and Beltrami.

Tickets are available at the Food Shelf or some of the board members have them for sale too, \$7.50. There will be a silent auction as well.

We are planning an OPEN HOUSE at the Food Shelf on Nov. 17th. More on this later. Watch the announcements.

I personally am very grateful to all our volunteers and contributors. With the increase in people and families served there is a greater demand for food. Thank you all for your garden surplus and regular support.

Nancy Streightiff



November Birthdays



- 01 Brianna Gregory
- Kayla Westrum
- 02 Carol Haiby
- 03 Allyson Kuznia
- 06 Susan Copiskey
- Ione McIntyre
- 09 Andrea Haefner
- 11 Matthew Bronczyk
- 13 Howard Blehm
- Mary Israelson
- 16 Nicole Randt
- 17 Cindy Bronczyk
- Joel Oustad
- Lorrane Thorson
- Joy Wilander
- 18 Tyler Israelson
- Matthew Kindem
- 19 Paul McIntyre
- Ben Sorenson
- 20 Jemma Copiskey
- Marilyn Vietor
- 24 Dennis Buchholtz
- 26 Ruth Stebleton
- 29 Lad Mickelberg



Nov. 19

Matt & Laurie Wood

1994

Bethel Lutheran
is hosting this year's

Thanksgiving Eve Service

on Wednesday, November 23rd

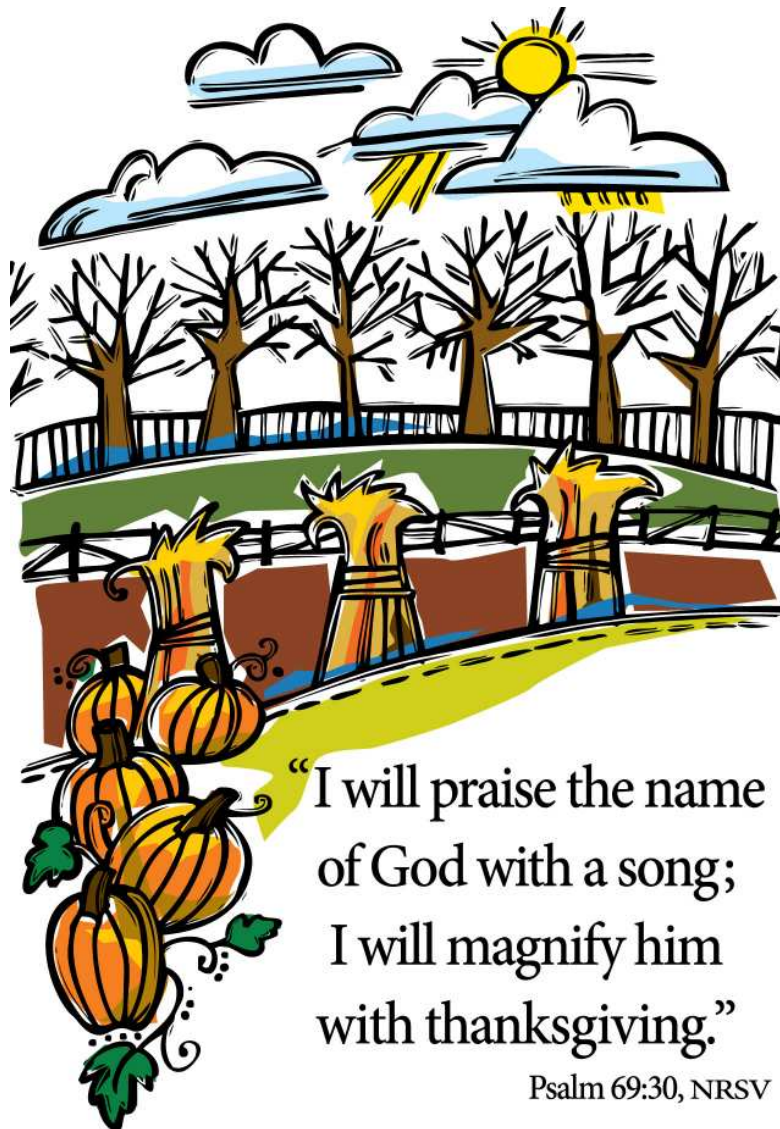
at 7:00 p.m.

The ELCA churches of Bemidji have been taking turns hosting this event, and look forward to this worship opportunity. There will be a fellowship time after the service as well.



Daylight Savings Time ends Sunday, November 6th!
Don't forget to turn your clocks back 1 hour!

To view our November 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 NOVEMBER 2011 down in the left hand corner of the screen. This will open a PDF of the NOVEMBER calendar for you to view.



Council Highlights October 11, 2011

Devotions and our book study led off the regular meeting of the Bethel Council. The first order of business was to put Ray Brown on the council with the understanding he would run in the November elections. Welcome Ray!

Pastor Mark's report included a characterization of the recent congregational vote to "disaffiliate" leave the ELCA. The resolution failed by 10 votes. 66 voted to leave the ELCA, but 76 (that is 2/3 of the total of 110 votes cast) were needed for passage of the resolution. The soonest another "First Vote" can be held is six months from the previous vote. Pastor Mark pointed out that how Bethel chooses to proceed from here is up to Bethel.

Related to the Direction of the Congregation some discussion about Pastor Mark's 9 year old Letter of Call and if it met the needs of the current congregation. A suggestion was made that perhaps we need to assess the needs and direction of the current congregation and then see if Pastor Mark's letter needs to be revised. The council will be working some more on that in the coming meetings.

The preliminary budget for 2012 was presented by the finance committee. It is currently showing a \$70,000 deficit. The committee sought input from the council and congregation on how to deal with this potential shortage.

The nominating committee of Jan Dreyer, Ione McIntyre and Ed Beil were charged with identifying people willing to run for council for the November 20 council elections. Anyone interested in helping out please contact someone from the nominating committee, council or church office. Please pray about it.

The council will be reorganizing and updating the committee liaisons and members in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by:

Loren Hoyum, council vice president

(This is not the official minutes of the 10/11/11 council meeting)

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



Volunteers are needed for Monday & Tuesday mornings. Please sign up in the narthex.

Questions — ask Patti, LaVon, Pastor Mark, Loren Hoyum or Jan Beil. No experience needed!

Servants of Shelter

**Bethel Lutheran is
hosting S.O. S. the week
of November 27 thru
December 4, 2011!**

**Watch for a the sign-up
sheet in the narthex to
offer your time to our
homeless people!**



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NOVEMBER 2011

Church and Society

Bethel will host **Servants of Shelter** emergency housing for the homeless the week of November 27-December 4. Once again we will need people to volunteer to do meals and stay at the church. Our usual schedule has been four hour shifts beginning at 4:00 pm until 8:00 am. The sign-up sheet will be in the narthex and fellowship area. It takes many people to make this ministry of caring happen. Please **Help Out** where you can. The weatherman is predicting a brutally cold and snowy winter. Let's be sure no one has to sleep outside. Mike Baake, one of the sheriff deputies is working with the city to develop a day shelter so that people have a place to go when they leave the warmth and safety of our churches during the day. Pray for the development of this service.

Thank you to all the volunteers that delivered **Meal on Wheels** during October. Besides providing needed meals, the brief regular visit can be life saving. This past time one of the usual clients didn't answer her door or phone. The police were called and entered her home. She had fallen and had been unable to reach her phone or get to the door to get help. The action of our volunteers resulted in her being taken to the hospital and being treated.

The second **Habitat for Humanity** house will be dedicated November 12. The house is on the corner of 15th and Minnesota. It was built on the foundation of a house lost to a fire and will house a family with two children. Look for the announcement in the bulletin. The public is always welcome to the house blessing.