



Monthly Publication
 Volume # 2011
 Issue # 09
 September 2011

BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

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“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, Let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that 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

Over two hundred years ago, William Clark and Meriwether Lewis were in the middle of their transcontinental journey. One of the many reasons that they were successful was that they relied on a compass in the uncharted territory of the newly acquired Louisiana purchase. Now it may seem that we are in uncharted territory as well: What will happen at our special congregational meeting? What will the economy look like? What about my retirement income? How can we afford college now? All are questions that test our resolve and faith in some way or another. Our promise from scripture is that we are not alone, nor are we without direction. We are surrounded by those who have lived and are living the life of faith, and we all have been given a race to run. We are called to look to Jesus. He is the one who sets our direction and who goes beside, behind, ahead, above, and within us in all our journeys. Thanks be to God!

Pastor Mark Kindem



SUNDAY WORSHIP

[See Updates Inside]

9:00 AM

Worship Service

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour

Concordia Scholarship Update

Four Bethel college students were awarded matching scholarships from the Concordia college congregational scholarship. All four are in their junior year: Megan Casper, Jennifer Johnson, Sarah Kindem, and Kia Sele. Thank you Bethel for supporting Concordia, a college of the church and these dedicated Christian young women.

From the Council President

*You are my witnesses,
says the Lord.*
Isaiah 43:10

While passing through North Dakota on vacation, we saw a billboard sponsored by all the churches in a small town. It read: Character Counts; Everywhere; All the Time. It is easy to remember this when it comes to the most literal parts of the ten commandments: don't steal, don't murder, don't commit adultery. But it becomes more difficult when it comes to the deeper ways we can break these. Jesus said "hating your brother" and "looking with lust" violate the commandments as well. The places others may not see or the things that might not make the newspapers can also break our relationship with God. We are fortunate as Lutherans because Luther elaborated on these more insidious ways in his explanations to the commandments. (Maybe you memorized not belying or betraying or backbiting, too.) These are the underpinnings of the reminder that Character Counts. We are God's witnesses everywhere, all the time.

If you haven't picked up Christ in Our Home, do so. The devotions by Paul Wayne Meier, (Aug. 15-30) have reminded me that "bringing God glory" is the centerpiece and goal of our actions and prayers everywhere, all the time.

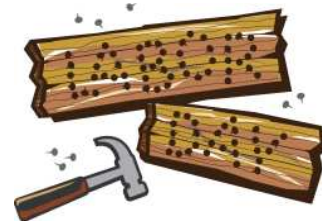
Bethel has been experiencing conflict for some time and many in the community are aware of it. When asked, "How are things at Bethel?" would you reply, "Every Sunday I can hear the Word of God, experience God's gifts of grace, and share in the priesthood of all believers. Thanks be to God!". Pray with me that what we all do and say here and elsewhere has being God's witnesses and bringing Him glory as our primary goals.

In mutual ministry and shared service to Christ,
Laurie Buehler

Covenant Group

An organizational meeting/study will meet:
Sunday, September 25th at 6:30 p.m.

Covenant group is for individuals or couples who 'covenant' together to meet once a month for a year for bible study, fellowship, and food. Everyone welcome, come and join us!



On this Labor Day pray for rights and justice for all who work and the dignity and the success of all who are seeking work.

Have a Safe Enjoyable
Holiday Weekend!



Remembering 9/11
* * * * *

*For He is our peace; in His flesh He
has made both groups into one and
has broken down the dividing wall,
that is, the hostility between us.*

Ephesians 2:14

Congregational Meeting



A **Special Congregational meeting** has been called for **September 18, 2011** following the worship service. The only purpose of this meeting will be to vote yes or no on the resolution to terminate our relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

The resolution will require a 2/3 majority of voting members present to pass. If the resolution passes then a second vote will be held after a visit from the bishop and at least 90 days. This process is outlined in Bethel's constitution section C6.05. This section is included for your information.

- *C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
- a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.
 - b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of the congregation. This notice shall be submitted within ten (10) days after the resolution has been adopted.
 - c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least ninety (90) days.
 - d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least ten (10) days in advance of the meeting.
 - e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent by the to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the ELCA shall be terminated.
 - f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.
 - g. Since this congregation was a member of the Lutheran Church in America, it shall be required, in addition to the foregoing provisions in *C6.05, to receive synodical approval before terminating its membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



We need another group to host one of the fellowship/coffee times on Sunday. Please contact the church office if you or your family/group are willing to serve in this way.



CONSECRATION SUNDAY

is scheduled for

Sunday, October 2, 2011

Spiritual Growth in the area of Stewardship!



PEDAL WITH PJ

"Pedal with PJ" is happening Saturday, September 10! This is a family fun AND fund-raising event Lutheran Campus Ministry in Bemidji offers. Bikers meet at the Lutheran Campus Center (1221 Birchmont Drive NE) around 10:00 a.m. and leave at 10:30 a.m. to bicycle to Lake Bemidji State Park for a picnic before biking back. Riders are encouraged to pick up pledge sheets at the LCC but this is not required to participate. Call 751-5326 for more information."

CHURCH COUNCIL



PERSON OF THE MONTH = JOYCE HOFF

I was born and raised in Fosston, MN. I was a member of Kingo Lutheran Church there. I became a member of Bethel 12 years ago when I married my husband, Rick. Together we have 6 boys and 7 grandchildren. I am a surgical nurse in Fosston. My husband is an anesthesiologist and travels to area hospitals and surgery centers. He grew up in the Fargo - Moorhead area and graduated from Oak Grove High School. We live on Grant Lake by Wilton where we reside with 2 labs and 4 cats (no Mice!). My hobbies are reading, walking, spending time with family, and being on the lake. This is my second year on the Church Council.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

August 9, 2011

The meeting was opened with prayer and devotions led by Paul McIntyre.

Under correspondence a letter of resignation from Dirk Apel was accepted.

The council approved a call by Pastor Mark for a special Congregational meeting on September 18, 2011 for the purpose of voting to terminate Bethel's relationship with the ELCA and joining the NALC.

A third information meeting to prepare for this vote will be scheduled as soon as possible. (The meeting with a representative of the ELCA has been scheduled for August 28th).

We are looking for another group to host Sunday fellowship and coffee on a monthly basis. The annual Bazaar is in need of everyone's support to continue it's success.

Randy McCain is willing to work another year with the youth, his continued employment was approved by the council. Sunday school may be held on Wednesday evenings.

We will continue with two services, traditional and contemporary this fall and monitor attendance and revisit that later.

The church office has up-dated our members list and we're currently showing 271 active members. Active members are defined by church attendance, giving and communing in the past year.

The Finance Committee is gearing up for the next budget cycle for the 2012 year. The executive committee will be meeting with them for help and other committees were encouraged to submit budget requests to the Finance Committee.

Stewardship committee will be going forward with their efforts in October.

Meeting was closed with prayer

Submitted by:

Loren Hoyum, vice president

Official minutes will be available when approved in the narthex.



September

Birthdays

- 03 Nancy Streightiff
- 04 Dennis Sundvall
- 08 Nancy Casper
- 09 Kelsey Buchholtz
- Jan Dreyer
- Shirley Worth
- 10 Audrey Fenske
- 11 Daphne Urban
- 14 Verlie Geror
- 15 Jaramie Wood
- 16 Alan Thorson
- 20 Earl McNea
- 21 Jason Grinde
- Joan Randt
- 25 Cale Sundvall
- 26 Paige Moen

- 01 Ron & Sue Sandell 1961
- 07 Jay & Samantha Hedin 2002
- 13 Ben & Janet Nielsen 1952
- 14 Terry & Colleen Mayer 1985



September



I goofed! Last month's anniversaries listed in the Beacon did not get changed and were actually July's still. Those listed below are the correct anniversaries for the month of August. pvc

- 6 Michael & Daphne Urban 2005
- 9 Doug & Marlene Lilleby 1969
- 10 Herb & Elaine Peterson 1963
- 11 Ron & Marilyn Vietor 1956
- 12 Andy & Lindsey Bronczyk 2006
- Keith & Laurie Pommerening 1978

October 2, 2011 to May 20, 2012

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



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



PRAY
for our
Students





NOTICE !

The main entry door is being rekeyed Thursday, September 15th. Anyone in need of a key to the main door will need to register for a new key by that date. Please stop in the office after September 5th to register for a new key. The old keys will no longer work after that date.

Bemidji Community FOOD SHELF

We are so grateful to all our Bethel friends for their continued support for us. We continue to see an increase in the number of families that we serve each month and your generosity allows us to give them some good food. Dough For Bread Sunday was an offering of \$209.00. The garden produce that we have asked for is coming in and we can always use more. We continue to need saltine crackers, peanut butter,

pancake mix, hot and cold cereal, and plastic bags.

We had a good response to our ad for a Coordinator and have started interviewing. Hopefully when I write again we will have someone hired. Bill Byer has been filling in, in his capacity as president of the BCFS, and the rest of the executive board — CJ, Edith, and myself — have been helping him when he calls us to do things. We will be attending a state conference in September for new ideas and to hear what other food shelf/pantries are doing.

If you have any questions or want us to be aware of a need with someone you know, please let me know. We do still have the Proxy Program and would like to see more use of it. There are many senior citizens who could use help and if we know who they are, we can help them.

Thanks again

Nancy Streightiff



FEED THE HUNGRY



Family Night Supper

Bethel would like to have supper served every Wednesday evening that Christian Education classes meet. But we need volunteers in order to do this. Please call the church office if you would like to take this on for the school year.

Thank you!



Sunday School
SCHEDULE

Wednesday, September 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

3rd Grade Bible Class
beginning
Wednesday,
September 7th

This will be a time to introduce the 3rd Grade class to the old and new testament, the different books of the bible, and how to explore the bible on their own. During the worship service on October 2nd they will be presented their bibles.

Wed., September 7, 14, 21, and 28
class @ 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 2
Presentation of Bibles

Confirmation Classes

7th - 9th Grade

Sept. 14 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Theme Event #1

Sept. 21 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Servant Event =
Adopt a highway clean-up

Sept. 28 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
Guide Meeting -
Students with families tonight

Youth Enjoy Valley Fair Trip

On Friday, August 19 at 6:00 am twenty two youth and several family members loaded a charter bus and headed to Valley Fair. Despite the overnight storms that swept through Bemidji, the weather at Valley Fair was wonderful. Everyone was able to enjoy the rides in the park, a traveling jazz band that serenaded one of our participants, overpriced junk food and plenty of fun in the sun at Soak City Water Park.

Nineteen hours later we arrived back to Bethel tired, but thankful for a great day and an enjoyable trip. Thanks to Pastor Mark for arranging the transportation and to all who joined us. We had a great day, good attitudes, laughter and lots of fun.

Randy McKain, Youth Director



September 14 @ 6:30 p.m.

Fall Kickoff (Seek & Pray)

September 21 @ 6:30 p.m.

Study: Mr. Bean Goes to Church

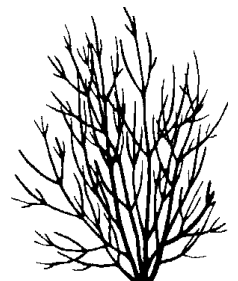
September 28 @ 6:30 p.m.

Study:

How to Get the Most from Your Bible

A BIG THANKS to everyone who worked on the church lawn and shrubs this summer! Well kept grounds makes a positive impression on our visitors and neighbors!

WE APPRECIATE YOU!



Stewardship

A pastor tells this story: “When I was a child my mother sent me to a florist to pick up some flowers for the dinner table. I had to carry the flowers through town from the store to my home and I was embarrassed to do this. I was afraid that my friends would see me and call me names for carrying flowers. But a few years later, I was in love with a young woman and I returned to that same florist’s shop, purchased a bouquet for the object of my affection, and carried it through the same streets without shame. I was no longer concerned with what anyone would think of me. I was just thinking of her, and of how happy she would be to get flowers, and of how happy I was to be the one to bring them to her.”

There is a strong connection between love and giving. We give because it’s something we want to do, not because we have to do it. (My mother and father were fond of saying this to us kids.) Yes, there are indeed times that we are expected to give to our loved ones regardless of how we feel about it. Yet, we don’t always give out of a sense of obligation. Sometimes we give, in the words of Forrest Gump, “For no particular reason”! Now the man who gave flowers didn’t stop to ask, “You know, what she really needs is an oil change for her car, that would be more practical.” In the same way giving to the church as an act of worship is not geared for meeting budgetary needs, as important as they may be. We do have an obligation, yes, of course, a duty to support the congregation in which we belong, but giving as an act of worship takes us beyond duty to delight. May we never tire of giving to the God, who so graciously never tires of our asking.

Church in Society

Our extra mile for September will go to **Habitat for Humanity**. Plans are in the works for a Faith Build by the churches in the community. If you are interested in being a liaison to this committee, contact Laurie Buehler or Judy Reese.

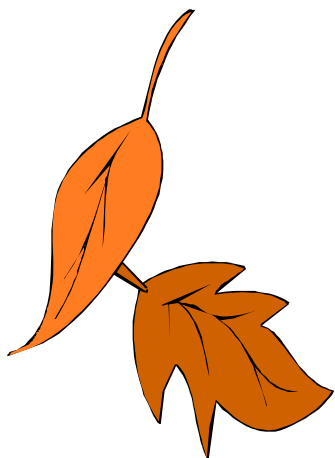


The need continues to be high at the **food shelf**. The new federal guidelines for receiving commodities have meant that more people are eligible to receive food each month. As a result, staples go down quickly. Please note Nancy Streightiff's notes from the food shelf and give what you are able. Thanks again to our willing volunteers.

We will be delivering **Meals on Wheels** again in October. **SOS** will also begin meeting to plan the winter schedule of temporary housing for the homeless. If you are interested in being in on the planning of this ministry, let Laurie know. Bethel has a turn to serve at the **Thursday Soup Kitchen** at the Methodist church on September 15. Talk to Ardella if you can help.



Annual Fall Picnic and Election



"Beltrami County Thrivent Chapter #31326 invites all Thrivent members to the Annual Fall Picnic and Election on Sunday, September 11 at 4:00 p.m. at the Blackduck Wayside Rest at Highway 71 and Summit Avenue in Blackduck. Food and door prizes will be provided courtesy of your Beltrami County Chapter. In case of rain and/or cold weather, the event will be held at Faith Lutheran Church in Blackduck. Please bring your lawn chairs. A gift of \$100 will be awarded to each of the 19 Lutheran churches that are in our chapter. For more information, contact Don Drusch at 218-751-6442.

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SEPTEMBER 2011

Bethel's Fall Bazaar Saturday, October 29, 2011



To continue this fellowship and money raising activity Laurie Pommerening has stepped forward to chair this years' Fall Bazaar. She already has lined up several people willing to head up certain areas of the Bazaar, but still is in need of a lot more help to make it a great success. If you are interested in helping out in a certain area, please give Laurie a call at 368-9686.

The next scheduled meeting for further planning is Sunday, September 11 during the Fellowship hour.

Everyone is invited to attend and share your input and ideas!

We will gather at the back of the Fellowship Hall.

Keep thinking and/or working on items you could add to the bazaar!

Crafts Theme Baskets Baked Goods

Farmer's Market Items Jams, Jellies & Preserves Candy