



# BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5232 Irvine Avenue NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

December 2013

## Bethel Lutheran Church

5232 Irvine Avenue NW,  
Bemidji, MN 56601

Church Office

218-444-4746

[bethelbemidji.org](http://bethelbemidji.org)

## Child Care Center Office

218-444-4789

**Rev. Mark Kindem**

Pastor

Home Phone # 444-8545

[pastorkindem@hotmail.com](mailto:pastorkindem@hotmail.com)

**Patti VanCamp**

Office Admin./Fin. Manager

[adminsec@bethelbemidji.org](mailto:adminsec@bethelbemidji.org)

**Abe Hanson**

Custodian

**Prayer Chain**

- Day -

Bob & Vi Swanson

@ 444-3745

- Evening -

Judy Thorson @ 444-6944



*"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty. Revelation 1:4b-8*

This past Thanksgiving weekend, Black Friday was on Thursday. Morning. ?? What does that mean anyway? It means that the official start of the

Christmas season comes sooner every year. Still, is there any more anticipated day in the minds of children (and adults) than Christmas? For many, celebrating with family and friends on Christmas is the highlight of the year. But it is during Advent, the days leading up to Christmas that the excitement builds. Waiting is never easy, for children, or adults. But we know that it is easier to wait for something because we have experienced it before and know the wait is worth it. This time of Advent is not *just* a time of waiting; it is also a time to remember that God is with us now, and that the promised one of whom the prophets spoke has come to us, and has abided with us. Now. The Lord our God is in our midst! We may worship without fear!

In this busy time of preparations, of finishing our 'To-do' lists of the season, the programs and parties, may we remember that God is with us even when our plans and schedules don't match up! May we recognize that in the middle of our preparing, Christ *has* come, Christ *is* with us, and Christ *will* come again.

*"The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: Come quickly King of Kings"*  
LBW #33

Pastor Mark Kindem

## SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM

Worship Service

Fellowship Hour

10:00 AM

Sunday School



The **Bethel Legacy Senior Fellowship Group** will hold their December meeting after the weekly advent service on December 11th @ 12:30 p.m. Please bring a dish to share and a friend. The program will be announced in the Sunday bulletins. December's date was changed to coincide with the advent service.



**From the  
Council  
President**

### A Thanksgiving Offering

It was a cold and miserable day before Thanksgiving in 1961. Old Dave and I were stranded in Ulloa Channel just east of Suemez Island in our out-of-commission inboard/outboard 18-foot boat. It seemed to me we had water in our fuel but since the two of us had about as much knowledge of gasoline marine engines as would fit on the envelope that holds the prize in a Cracker Jack box, our hope of getting the engine started was nil to none. I probably should digress here and explain what we were doing in a broken down boat at the south end of the Inside Passage in southeast Alaska. Sure, it was just a routine boat trip out of our Forest Service District Headquarters located in the village of Craig on the west side of Prince of Wales Island. We were to

spend a few days on timber sales and special use land permits. But we got off to a bad start. The only good thing about our situation was that the wind was down and the sea had only a light chop to it. Nothing to worry about, Dave said. Dave was the senior having a degree in forestry and sergeant stripes from his time in the Army. I had a degree in forestry, also, but no experience in the U.S. Army. He said, "Why don't you check for navigation maps and I'll tinker with our engine." After awhile he asked me, "Where are we?" I replied, "You know perfectly well where we are! We are now in Ulloa Channel heading for Meares Passage where the outgoing tide will take us between Suemez and Dall Islands and our next stop will be Japan!" "Ah," he said, "Don't worry. We'll land on a beach before that." Dave gave up on the engine and came back down into the cabin. It was beginning to rain again. As a word of warning to all would-be travelers, Southeast Alaska receives most of its yearly rainfall in September, October and November, but you hardly notice it from the other months because the total rainfall for a year is about 160 inches --13 FEET. "What do we do now, Dave?" I asked. He said, "We pray and we wait." Dave was a dyed-in-the-wool old Lutheran kind of guy, whose family ties went back to the Reformation. "How do you pray us out of this one?" I asked. "Just admit to God we're in a pickle and we sure could use a little help down here," he said. I commented, "It doesn't seem churchy enough; there's no theology behind it." So we bantered back and forth for a bit and then it got real quiet. Suddenly out of nowhere a voice boomed out of the sky -- or so it seemed. "Ahoy, down there!" I looked up at the ceiling of the cabin and of course I couldn't see a thing. "Ahoy, down there!" it called out again. I looked at Dave and said, "It sounds like God." He said, "Maybe it is -- should we look?" We came out of the cabin and all we could see was a sheer wall that stretched up from the water 30 feet or more into the sky. It was a fishing boat--a large seiner out of Hydaburg, a fairly good size Native American community located on Sukkwan Strait, not from where we were. We later learned the skipper was taking his family north for a thanksgiving gathering. A typical seine boat is larger than the average troller and has a very large aft deck that is built close to the water and easily carries a large power boat that helps handle the seine net. Today it was empty and we had no trouble moving from our boat to the rear deck of the seine boat. The prow, or bow, of the seiner is much higher than the aft deck and the pilot house sits some distance above the prow. As we were climbing up the ladder to the pilot house, I said to Dave, "You have a funny looking god." He replied, "Well, maybe not a god but surely an angel." "My angels don't look like that," I replied. "Yeh," he said, "these days they come in all kinds of shapes and sizes." When we reached the pilot house and had a cup of hot coffee in our hands, I had to ask the skipper how he picked us out of all these square miles of ocean. No problem-- a good view from up here, a good pair of binoculars and, of course, radar. Yes, radar. I should have known. "But," he said, "I wouldn't have come within a half mile of you if you had your fishing poles out." "Oh." "Yep," he went on, "I don't mess with other people's fishing spots." A lesson to be learned, I thought; when in trouble, hide the poles.

Toward evening, say, 4 p.m., as it gets dark by 5 p.m. at these latitudes, we were in a logging camp with our boat tied up at the dock and a warm cabin waiting for us. The next day was Thanksgiving and we were all settled down in the dining room to a big meal with the room temperature more than a few degrees above warm coming from the wood cook stove. A Thanksgiving I'll never forget.

Sincerely,

Paul McIntyre  
Council Chair, 2013



## COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 12, 2013

### Report of the Nominating Committee:

The following members have been nominated to run for the offices stated.

3-year terms on Church Council

Mike Fiske, Alice Sadek, Hank Moen, Nancy Streightiff

2-year term on Church Council

Gary Pederson

3-year terms on the Bethel Foundation Board

Bernice Beck, Hank Moen

### Budget for 2014:

The proposed budget was discussed. Most of the discussion was regarding benevolence recipients.

### New Signs:

New signs (by the road) will be explored – cost and time line for installation.

### The Apostle's Creed:

The council voted to make a change in the Apostle's Creed to read "... the Holy Christian Church ... " rather than the current language of "... the Holy catholic Church ... "

### Name tags:

Nancy Streightiff made the suggestion that congregational members wear name tags on Sunday mornings to make the transition for new members or prospective members easier.

### Proposed constitution:

(this will be needed because of the change to the NALC)

A draft of a proposed constitution was discussed. This document is a editorial compilation of three (3) documents; the model NALC constitution, the constitution from Grace Lutheran Church (Erskine, MN – an NALC congregation) and the constitution and bylaws of Bethel Lutheran Church (Bemidji, MN). This document will undergo some editorial changes and be available to the congregation prior to the January annual meeting.

Submitted by  
Kirt Dreyer

*Official minutes will be available in the narthex after they are approved.*



*Deadline for ordering your poinsettias for Christmas is 8 a.m. Monday, December 2, 2013!*

*Christmas Eve*

*Candlelight Service*

*4:00 p.m. with communion*





## Birthdays

- 07 Gail Pederson
- 11 Jaimie Matthew Wood
- 12 Marlene Bergstrom
- 15 Kari Geror
- 17 Lennard Bergstrom
- 19 Betty Olsen
- 22 Andler Powell
- 23 Libby Hargesheimer
- 27 Dolores Johnson  
Robert Swanson
- 28 Henry (Hank) Moen
- 30 Earl Lundeen

## Anniversaries

- 04 Knute & Lucille Naastad  
1970
- 06 Dick & Marilyn Zeman  
1952
- 16 John and Mary Israelson  
1978
- 22 Duane and Elaine Christensen  
1956
- 23 Raymond and Barbara Brown  
1960

## BEMIDJI COMMUNITY FOOD SHELF

As Christmas nears, let us not forget those in need. Our local foodshelf is busier than ever, and the need is greater than ever before. November is Stuff-a-Truck month at Marketplace Foods and at our local schools with the goal of 20,000# of food and \$4500 in cash donations. We are planning on greater participation by the community. Thank you to all who have purchased the Herberger coupon booklets. That \$5.00 goes directly to the foodshelf for the purchase of food. Thank you to Nancy Streightiff for her help.

Totals from HaHaw dinner proceeds, Stuff-a-Truck donations, Herberger coupon book sales will be made available as soon as I have them. Thank you in advance for all your support. We have had good responses to our new volunteer orientation meetings, but we can always use more help. Please call me or call the foodshelf if interested.

The garden project is moving along, with hopes to begin next spring. The Statewide Health Improvement Program is giving the foodshelf \$2,333.00, and applications will be made for the Beltrami County Agricultural Development grants. A survey has been developed to determine client interest in the garden project.

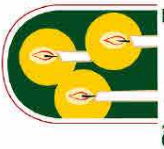


Lakeland Public TV is doing a pledge drive for the Foodshelf on Dec. 3rd. from 7-10 PM.

As always, thank you to all who give their support or time to the foodshelf. It is greatly needed, and appreciated. Wishing all of you a blessed Christmas season.

Jan Beil

**WE can  
HELP!**



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<b>1 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Sunday School	<b>2 8am Poinsettia Order Deadline</b> 5:00pm Weight Watchers	<b>3</b> 5:00pm Church in Society Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>4</b> Bethel Volunteers @ Food Shelf 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 12:00 noon Advent Service / lunch after 4:30pm Finance Meeting in the Trinity Room 6:00pm Wednesday Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>5</b> 4:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>6</b> 7am-4pm Fellowship Hall rented to BiCap	<b>7</b> 8:30am Weight Watchers
<b>8 "Go the Extra Mile" for Village of Hope</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Sunday School	<b>9</b> 5:00pm Weight Watchers	<b>10</b> 5:00pm Church in Society Committee Mtg. 6:30pm Council Meeting	<b>11</b> 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 12:00 noon Advent Service 12:30pm Senior Fellowship Group Meeting in Fellowship Hall 6:00pm Wednesday Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>12</b> 4:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>13</b> 2:00 pm Bus leaving from Bethel for Concordia Christmas Concert	<b>14</b> 8:30am Weight Watchers
<b>15 9:00 a.m. Christmas Music Service</b> followed with a Potluck Dinner	<b>16</b> 5:00pm Weight Watchers	<b>17</b> 1:30pm Mary Martha Circle	<b>18</b> 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 12:00 noon Advent Service / lunch after 6:00pm Wednesday Supper 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth Group	<b>19</b> <b>8 am BEACON DEADLINE</b> 4:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 8:30am Weight Watchers
<b>22</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour 10:15am Sunday School	<b>23</b> 5:00pm Weight Watchers	<b>24 Office Closed</b>  <b>4:00 p.m. Service</b> with Communion <b>Christmas Eve CANDLELIGHT SERVICE</b>	<b>25 Office Closed</b> <b>Community Christmas Meal @ Bethel</b>  <b>Christmas Day</b>	<b>26</b> 4:30pm Weight Watchers	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 8:30am Weight Watchers
<b>29</b> 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour 10:15am NO Sunday School	<b>30 Annual Reports Due!</b> 5:00pm Weight Watchers	<b>31</b>				



Sunday mornings  
@ 10:15 a.m.

December 1st ~ 8th ~ 15th ~ 22nd



Wednesday, December 04 12 noon

Wednesday, December 11 12 noon

Wednesday, December 18 12 noon

*Soup and sandwiches will be served  
after each service!*



Confirmation  
Classes



7th - 9th Grade

6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

December 4th ~ 11th ~ 18th

youth  
group  
SCHEDULE

**DECEMBER 04** ~ 6:30 P.M.

WORSHIP NIGHT: A DUMPSTER  
CHRISTMAS PARTY

**DECEMBER 11** ~ 6:30 P.M.

FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITY: POOL PARTY

**DECEMBER 13** ~ 2:00 P.M.

CONCORDIA CHRISTMAS CONCERT

**DECEMBER 18** ~ 6:30 P.M.

CHRISTMAS PARTY FOR YOUTH



Christmas Dinner

This year's  
**Christmas Community Meal**

will be held here at  
**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**Wednesday, December 25**

Watch for  
more information in  
the Sunday bulletins.  
Many volunteers  
will be needed!



**WELCOME**  
to Our Newest Members!

By Baptism:  
Alex Lee Dawes

**November 17, 2013**  
**Election Results**

**Bethel Church Council:**

(for a 3 year term)

Mike Fiske

Henry (Hank) Moen

Alice Sadek

Nancy Streightiff

(for a 2 year term)

Gary Pederson

**Bethel Foundation:**

(for a 3 year term)

Bernice Beck

Henry (Hank) Moen

**Congratulations**

to each one of you!

**Prayer Guide utilizing your five fingers**

In I Thessalonians 5:16-18 we read, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” Wow, we are to “Pray without ceasing?” Maybe using our five fingers on our hand can help us recall the wide variety of prayers in our daily life. This is one way of making complicated things more simple.

**Thumb** is for family and friends. The thumb is usually the closest to our body. So this can represent those persons who are closest to us: our spouse, our children and our neighbors.

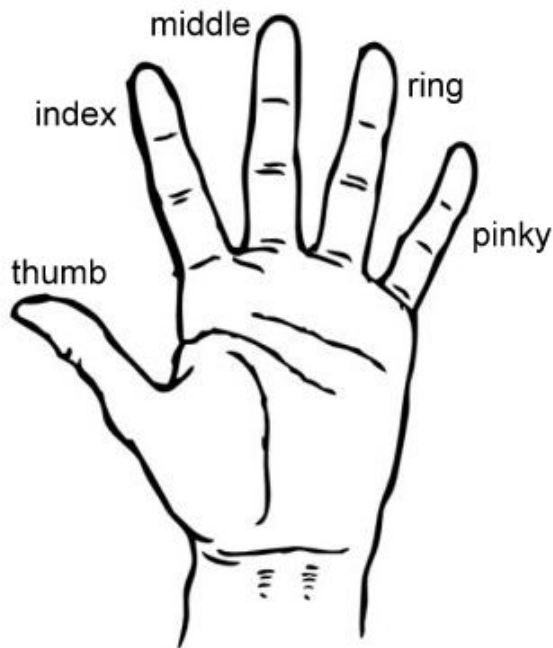
The **index finger** is for those who point the way in our life, such as our teachers and pastors.

The **middle finger** is for those who are in leadership positions such as the president of the church council, leaders in the government, the police.

The **ring finger**, is our weakest finger. I surprisingly found this out when trying to learn to play the piano. This may represent the poor, the sick and the oppressed peoples in this world and our community.

Finally our **little finger**, sometimes called the **pinkie**, can represent ourselves as a humble being.

During the day and evening look at the fingers of your hand and pray!



Adapted from  
Pastor Donohue  
Sarff's devotion of  
July 2012

# Church in Society

*We know that the whole creation has been groaning in labor pains until now: and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly while we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies. For in hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what is seen? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience. Romans 8:22-25*

Hurry up and wait seems to be the message we are surrounded with during Advent, this time which means the coming. The Halloween decor comes down and Christmas goes up within a few days. We begin to hear "holly ,jolly" music and ads encouraging us to buy things

to fulfill dreams and longings. We are encouraged to buy them now but are fearful that something better might come along. In the church we mark the Sundays of Advent with anticipation as well. We know the story of angels singing and shepherds going to see the new baby but we want to see it again and hear the good news of great joy. Thankfully, our Christmas doesn't end in a bonfire of colorful wrapping paper. For us, God himself has come in the flesh. Our Advent is also a time of waiting for Christ's return. We wait with hope and patience but remember that while we wait, we can incarnate the Good News by being brothers and sisters of Christ. We share with him the work of the kingdom.

**Meals on Wheels**--Thanks to all who were the smiling faces and helping hands to shut ins in November. Sandi M. appreciated our willingness to switch weeks.



**Habitat for Humanity**--Work continues on the Faith Build house. The next couple of weeks will bring in the utilities, kitchen and bathroom, and interior doors and trim. We hope to have the partner family in early in December. Look for the dedication announcement in The Pioneer. A concert by local musicians called "Homes for the Holidays" will take place December 8 at 4:00 pm at First Baptist Church. A Free will offering will be taken to go to Habitat. There are six families waiting and working on their hours toward home ownership but Habitat is only financially able to build one or

two houses per year. Additional donations mean families will get into their homes sooner. The music promises to be outstanding. Plan to be there. Volunteers are needed to work in the Restore and on Brush with Kindness projects.

**Food Shelf**-- The need for food becomes more acute at this time of year. Many families get together which increases the demands on their food resources. Our culture places a high value on extravagance during the holidays and poor families feel this pressure too. Donations of food items (even the extras like cake mixes, etc.) and cash are needed. There are openings for volunteers as well.



**SOS**-- Churches are serving 17-20 people a night. If you are available to help, contact Laurie Buehler at 759-1923. A group has met to discuss the need for additional shelter both during the day and during nights especially in the winter. The next meeting is November 18 at 2:00 pm at the People's Church. The Hunger and Homeless Awareness fundraising dinner is Tuesday, November 19, from 4:30-7:00 pm at the United Methodist Church.

There are a number of other activities in the community that you can be part of--mitten trees, toys for tots, etc. Take the time to incarnate the body of Christ during this season.

*Laurie Buehler*

# Bethel Youth



**Volunteering  
@  
Food Shelf  
11/13/13**



**Bethel Child Care Center  
Opened November 18th!**

**Openings are Available!**

*Children are a Heritage from God*

For further information, please call  
218-444-4789 or email Kathryn Shea at  
[bccc@bethelbemidji.org](mailto:bccc@bethelbemidji.org).

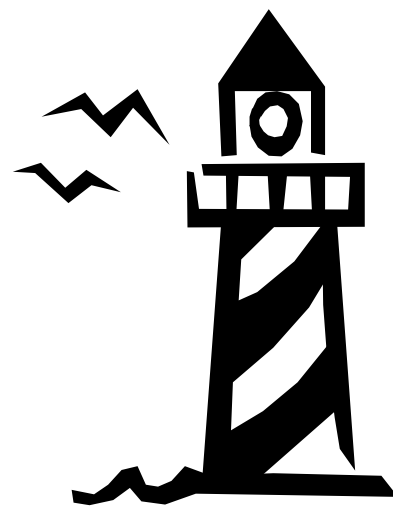
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# BETHEL BEACON

Monthly Publication - Volume # 2013 - Issue # 12



DECEMBER 2013

## Churches United

Thank you every one for your continued support of Churches United. Every little bit helps. Also the continued giving of clothing and other items is greatly appreciated. I stopped at the office on Friday, Nov. 15th and learned that all the care packages had been given out already so there is a need for more of them. Family size items—toothpaste, soap, shampoo, lotion, etc.-- are in great demand. These items are placed in gallon size zip locks (which you can also donate) and if they only have the little containers of these items they double up on them. Market Place fuel stamps are also used for our clients. When you take things to the office yourself, if you tell them they are to be credited to Bethel Lutheran Church, that is helpful in the bookkeeping department. If you want credit for this for your tax purposes, you need to tell them that also.

At this time of the year there is especially a need for blankets . If you are in doubt as to what to give or provide, think of what you and your family use and you will have an idea.

I realize that there is a duplication of needs with the food shelf. They are mostly food, where as we look to the soul and body needs. Toys are always needed.

There is also a need for volunteers. These volunteers would work one or more afternoons a month (up to the individual) for four hours, interviewing clients, giving out supplies, sorting and stocking shelves, and whatever else is needed.

Nancy Streightiff