



# BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5232 Irvine Avenue NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

DECEMBER 2012

## Bethel Lutheran Church

5232 Irvine Avenue NW,  
Bemidji, MN 56601

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### Rev. Mark Kindem

Pastor

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### Patti VanCamp

Office Admin./Fin. Manager  
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### LaVon Johnson

Secretary/Receptionist  
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### Abe Hanson

Custodian

### Prayer Chain

- Day -

Darrel & Lillian Lauderbaugh  
@ 751-2230

- 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! 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's 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 however; it is also a time to remember that God is with us now, that the promised one of whom the prophets spoke has come to us, and has abided with us. 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

Contemporary Service

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM

Traditional Service



**From the  
Council  
President**

Thank you, Bethel, for letting me serve another three-year term on the Church Council. Thank you, also, to the new council members and to the re-elected Foundation

Board members for serving another term.

The Finance Committee has been hard at work hammering out another annual budget. We cannot bring a balanced budget to the annual meeting in January; however, for the last few years we have passed a deficit budget and have still balanced the books by the end of the year.

The vote to associate with the North American Lutheran Church will be on the agenda at the annual meeting as well. Between now and January 27, 2013 (date of annual meeting) it behooves all of us to review the merits of association with another Lutheran Synod.

1. The NALC believes the Bible is the inspired Word of God.
2. The NALC will give us Bible oriented Sunday School material.
3. The NALC will give us a roster of Bible-believing pastors, should Pastor Kindem decide to move on to another parish.
4. The NALC, unlike the ELCA, will give us full possession of our church buildings and allow us to leave their synod with only a majority of votes.

And finally, dual membership in two synods has never been successfully challenged by the ELCA. Churches in our own state have, or have had, dual membership. I can only pray that the majority of Bethel members will support the Pastor and the majority of Church Council members to vote for dual membership in the NALC.

Paul McIntyre  
Council Chair, 2012



*Merry Christmas*

## Bemidji Community FOOD SHELF



**FEED THE  
HUNGRY**

As you read this, Thanksgiving will have come and gone, but thanks to the generosity of many people, the BCFS was blessed with several thousand pounds of

food during the Stuff-A-Truck food donation campaign. Their shelves will be well stocked for awhile. I also want to give a big Thank You to those of you who supplied us with all the egg cartons. That was amazing!

One other bit of news, the Food Shelf Open House was to be held December 6th. It has been postponed due to construction needs, and is now scheduled for January 10th. Watch for further news on this with the time as well. I will try to post upcoming events and specific monthly food needs on the poster near our grocery cart.

I would like to acknowledge our current volunteers who graciously give their time to the Food Shelf. They are: Marlene Lilleby, Aster Mika, Libby Hargesheimer, Shirley Worth, Ed Beil, Edith and Loren Hoyum, Roy and Laurie Blackwood.

Jan Beil

## Bethel Bells Brief

### Wanted: Ringers!



The Bethel Bells played for church on November 18th. In first service we played "Blessings" for the Call to Worship, and Handel's "Arioso" for Offering. Then we played these two pieces back to back right before second service. "Arioso" was arranged by our very own Ione McIntyre while her daughter, Sally McIntyre, took a break from the bells to play the viola solo. The Bells hope to play Dec. 16th and 24th.

Which leads to the second point of this article, the Bells need players! Our numbers are dangerously low to sustain a Bell choir. So, if you enjoy the Handbells, it's time to step up. If you can lift a bell, you can play a bell! Don't worry if you can't read music, we'll teach you everything you need to know. The Bells meet on Thursdays from 6-7:30p.m. We are taking Nov. 29th off so we'll see you **December 6th!**



*Wednesday, December 05 12 noon*

*Wednesday, December 12 12 noon*

*Wednesday, December 19 12 noon*

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



This year's  
**Christmas Community Meal**  
will be held at  
**Calvary Lutheran Church**  
**Tuesday, December 25**  
**Noon to 1:30 PM.**



## Christmas Dinner

Details will appear in the December Sunday announcements as they become available.

# COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

November 13, 2012

**Senior Fellowship group:** The Senior Fellowship group met on Nov. 13, 2012 at noon and enjoyed a potluck lunch. Devotions were given by Paul Martinson. The program included a short video presentation honoring American veterans.

**Pre-school program investigation at Bethel Lutheran:** Duane Christensen distributed a consultant agreement form. The consultant would be charged with the research and paperwork necessary to study and set up the structure of a pre-school program at Bethel. The time period covered by the agreement is January through March of 2013. The council authorized the congregation president to sign the agreement. The fiscal requirement is \$2,400.00.

**Discussion on the proposed budget** for 2013 was held. Pledges are down from last year. There are significant funds in dedicated accounts which have not been used over the past year or more and it was deemed prudent to look at some of these for use within the general fund of the church.

**Dual church membership:** A motion was made and passed to bring the topic of dual church membership (ELCA and NALC) to the annual congregational meeting in January 2013.

**Election of Council members** will be an order of business at the November meeting of the congregation.



*4:00 p.m. with communion*

**New Members were received.** They are Aster Mika and Dean Rasmussen.

**Missionaries from Russia** (Eric & Lisa) will be in town and could do a "program" at Bethel. It would be a concert on either Dec. 13 or Dec. 14 of 2012.

**The Church Yearbook** is in progress. A proposed picture was shown which is to be used for the cover. Other work on it is proceeding.

Submitted by Kirt Dreyer

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



# Birthdays

- 03 Brandon Kuznia
- 05 Richard Carter
- 07 Gail Pederson
- 11 Jaimie Matthew Wood
- 12 Marlene Bergstrom
- 14 Pricilla Donaghue
- 15 Kari Geror
- 17 Lennard Bergstrom  
Carol Sele
- 19 Betty Olsen
- 21 Scott Evans
- 22 Andler Powell  
Kirsten Walker
- 23 Libby Hargesheimer
- 27 Dolores Johnson  
Robert Swanson
- 28 Henry (Hank) Moen
- 30 Earl Lundeen



# DECEMBER

- 04 Knute & Lucille Naastad 1970
- 16 John and Mary Israelson 1978
- 22 Duane and Elaine Christensen 1956
- 23 Raymond and Barbara Brown 1960
- 30 Douglas and Carol Sele 1978

# Senior Fellowship

This group meets in the Fellowship Hall at Bethel on the second Tuesday of each month at 12:00 noon. Their next meeting is scheduled for 12/11/12. The program will feature Dennis Doedan and his Oompah Band. Please come and bring a guest and a dish to share.



*Calling All Seniors!*

To view our December 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 DECEMBER 2012 down in the left hand corner of the screen. This will open a PDF of the DECEMBER calendar for you to view.





# AFFIRMATION OF BAPTISM (Confirmation)

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Sunday, October 28, 2012

Sponsors: Eugene Klinke,  
Meg Fredrickson

Favorite Bible Verse:

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”* Romans 8: 38-39



## Allyson Kuznia

Parents: Joffrey & Melissa  
Kuznia

Siblings: Brandon & Jacob

Favorite Bible Verse:

*“But those who wait on the Lord will renew their strength, they shall mount up with wings like eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.”* Isaiah 40:31



## Broderick James Coons

Parents: Jamey & Salli Coons

Sister: Ellie Coons

Date of Baptism:

June 15, 1997 @

Calvary Lutheran, Bemidji

Godparents:

Matthew Copiskey,

Joshua & Melonie Copiskey

Favorite Bible Verse:

*“For God so loved the world that he gave his only son so that everyone that believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.”* Jeremiah 29:11-13



## Cody Schlichting

Parents: Randall & Lisa  
Schlichting

Sister: Tasha

Date of Baptism:

March 30, 1997

Sponsors: John and Holly  
Waslaski

Favorite Bible Verse:

*“Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I fear no evil; for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.”*  
Psalm 23:4

Why I chose this verse:

With the things I have done and what I have left to accomplish in my life it gives me great comfort to know that when its my time to walk thru the valley of death that the Lord will be with me to see me to Heaven.



## Elizabeth K. Guenther

Parents: Mary Jo Sorenson &  
Steven L. Guenther

Siblings: Erin, Bernt & Joseph

Baptism: St. Paul’s Lutheran  
Church, Lengby, MN.



Wed., Dec. 05 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Wed., Dec. 12 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Wed., Dec. 19 @ 6:30 p.m.  
 Wed., Dec. 26 - NO CLASS



**Confirmation  
Classes**

**7th - 9th  
Grade  
6:30-8 p.m.**

Dec. 05 Theme Event  
 Dec. 12 Fellowship Event  
 Dec. 19 Theme Event  
 Dec. 26 Will Not Meet

# YOUTH GROUP

Dec. 05 Study Night—Not a Fan  
 Dec. 12 Fellowship - Swimming Party  
 Dec. 15 Tentative Day Trip to  
                   Vertical Endeavors  
 Dec. 19 Study Night—Not a Fan &  
                   White Elephant Gift Exchange  
 Dec. 31 Youth & Family  
                   New Year's Eve Party



# Tubs Of Love

Adopt a Family for Christmas this year! There will be two tubs available in the narthex for people to fill themselves or in cooperation with someone else. Each tub will have a family listed with suggestions as to what to put in it. Please return the filled tubs back to Bethel by Tuesday, December 18th!



*Sounds  
of the  
Season*

**Sunday, December 16  
 9:00 a.m.  
 Christmas Music Service**

Potluck Dinner following the service.

## I AM OWNED A CHILD

We have all been children. Christmas is a time when one child gets the attention of us all. Born in Bethlehem to rather poor parents, from a town off the main tracks in Galilee, this child became the most remembered of any child in history. Circumcised the 8<sup>th</sup> day, he was given the name Jesus. “The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.” (Lk 2:40) At Christmas we celebrate his birth, so simply portrayed in Matthew and Luke, but accompanied by the excitement of shepherds who heard an angelic chorus and the announcement: “for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.” (Lk 2:12)

As we celebrate this birth, our children and grandchildren join in. Many things happen, but one of the things children most excitedly anticipate is the receiving of gifts from parents and friends, symbolizing God’s gift to all people of this child.

Strange things can happen in this giving of gifts. This is one such story. Gathered around a Christmas tree on Christmas eve, we three children were excited to receive our gifts. I was about six. I received more than I expected, especially the two big semi-trailer trucks of different design and color. I had never seen such beautiful gifts before. I sat there in amazement, beginning to dream of all the fun I would have with them.

As the evening went on my mother said something to me. “These are wonderful gifts. Now that you have two trucks maybe it would be wonderful to share one of these and give to children in the nearby orphanage to play with. Wouldn’t that make them so happy?”

I didn’t answer, but continued to play with my toys. I had no intention to get rid of anything. They were mine. But on Christmas morning, when I got up and went to play with my gifts, I saw there was only one truck. How sad I was.

After Christmas we went back to school — maybe 5 or 6 blocks from home. Shortly before the school I would pass by the orphanage. Sometimes I could see some children outside playing. I had never paid attention to the school before. Now I stopped and looked in through the fence, looking and looking. “These were the children that got my truck,” I thought to myself.

In the following days, as I stood there on my way to school I quietly thought: “Ah, how I wish I were an orphan. Then I could get my truck back again.” And then I slowly walked on. Thus was my Christmas turned from a time of joy and celebration into a feeling of disappointment and loss. Nobody knew what I was thinking and mourning.

Children and Christmas. One thing Jesus said after he had grown up, no longer a child, and had become an itinerant teacher with 12 disciples were these words: “Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all.” Then Jesus took a child in his lap and said that to welcome a child was to welcome not only Jesus himself but God. (Mk 9:35-37).

Well, what about this six-year old boy who wanted his truck back because it was first of all his! Did Jesus love him? Well, he was baptized as an infant, and had been told the story of Jesus. Did he love Jesus? Did he not understand it? Did he not care? Did he not know what Christmas is about — self-giving? Did he put himself first?

Throughout the years, our parents encouraged us to memorize bible verses. Sometimes when travelling or at other times where we had family devotions, we on occasion all cited a Bible verse. My older brother always cited Proverbs 6:6 — “Go to the ant thou slugard; consider its ways and be wise.” I don’t remember what my sister cited — maybe different verses. But I always cited Psalm 103:12: “As far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our sins from us.” Why did I cite this? Maybe partly because I was born out in the east, in China, and we were now in the west, in America. But the key was that east from west is as far as one can get away from something. I knew, at least in part, that I needed my sins to be removed as far from me as possible, so that is what I cited.

Christmas teaches us a lot. Sometimes things we do not expect. That child born in Bethlehem loved us to death, and then rose from the dead. Therefore we can sing words like these:

How sweet the name of Jesus sounds  
in a believer’s ear!  
It soothes our sorrows,  
heals our wounds, and drives away all fear.

By thee my prayers acceptance gain,  
*although with sin defiled.*  
The devil charges me in vain,  
*for I am owned a child.*



# Счастливого рождества

## Merry Christmas



**Eric and Liza Debelak**  
**Russian Missionaries**  
**Lead Community Christmas Program**  
**Bethel Lutheran Church**  
**Friday December 14th at 7:00 PM**  
**Fellowship and free will offering**

December 14th, at 7 PM, Eric and Liza Debelak will be coming to Bethel Lutheran in Bemidji and December 15<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM, to Hope Lutheran in Northome for evenings of Music and Missions. Liza has a master's degree in balalaika performance (a Russian folk instrument). They will be doing Russian music and sharing about what God is doing in Russia, including the building of the first Bible Camp/Retreat Center in Northwest Russia. These will be great opportunities to celebrate the Advent Season.

You may remember Eric and Liza from a previous visit in 2008, when they preached and shared music during worship. Eric is now East European Missions Network's Russian Ministries Coordinator.

Since Vladimir Putin returned to the Russian presidency in May, 2012, Russia has quickly been losing its freedoms. In the past few months, dissidents have been imprisoned, places of worship have been closed, pastors have been fined and one church in Moscow was even illegally bulldozed in the middle of the night. If Russia continues on this path, the door to do mission work there will probably close.

Since Eric and Liza don't know how much longer they can serve in Russia, they are focusing their efforts on finishing building the first Bible Camp/Retreat Center in Karelia, a region in Northwest Russia. This Bible Camp/Retreat Center, once built, will be self-sustaining and able to operate even if foreign missionaries will no longer be able to go to Russia. Russia still desperately needs help rebuilding Christianity after 74 years of repressive, atheistic communism. Today only one out of 200 people attend church regularly.

Please come, hear some great Russian music. There will be time after the services for fellowship and to learn more.

# Church in Society

“Prepare the way of the Lord.” Isaiah 40:3

This time from our national holiday, Thanksgiving, until our Christian holy day, Christmas, is a time of preparation. We are bombarded with messages about preparation—how to properly prepare our turkey; how to prepare for the merriest Christmas and happiest New Year—the shopping, buying, wrapping, sending, giving and receiving. The ancient way of preparing after this kind of pronouncement was to work on infrastructure; get the roads built! How unprepared the world was for the coming of a baby.

God came in an unexpected way and announced a new kind of kingdom, a kingdom of love, servanthood, and sacrifice. During Advent let’s shout to ourselves—“Prepare the way for the Lord, Prepare the way of the Lord.” Let’s make ways for God’s kingdom to come among us. Joy to the world!



By the end of the 3rd quarter this year the Soup Kitchen had served over 10,000 people and over 15,000 meals (includes seconds and leftover take away). Meals are served Monday, Tuesday and Thursday. New board members are being sought.

Our turn serving Meals on Wheels will come up again in January. Keep an eye for the sign-up sheets. Thank you in advance.



Habitat: Brush with kindness could use more volunteers on stand by for rehab projects. The Restore needs volunteers for the sales floor and preparing items for sale.

The Food Shelf is up and running in it’s new location. Stop in January 10th for their open house and talk to Jan Beil about volunteering.



Bethel Lutheran hosted S.O.S. the last week in November. Thank you to everyone who so graciously volunteered their time to help shelter and feed these homeless people during our cold winter season.

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# BETHEL BEACON

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DECEMBER 2012

## Bethel Foundation / Paulson Fund

The Foundation Board will accept applications for distribution of funds thru December for distribution in January 2013.

Applications have to address Bethel Outreach / Christian Outreach programs..

Applications considered will not exceed amounts in excess of \$2,500.00.

Applications are available at the church office and are due back to the church office by December 31, 2012.

