



BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5232 Irvine Avenue NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

September 2012

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Prayer Chain

Day

Bob & Vi Swanson @ 444-3745

Evening

Mikky McCullough @ 751-4668



During my Sabbatical over the summer, Miriam and the kids and I visited different churches in Bemidji. It was helpful to see how other congregations tend to the Word of God. All had a commitment to the faith and to passing that faith down to the next generation. It has been said “children are the future of the church”.

Very true. They are also very present here and now. September is the month when we begin our Sunday school and Confirmation programs; and as in the past, we will be having a supper at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday, September 12 for the students and their families.

Speaking of food: Miriam and Sarah and I went to the State Fair. It was the first time for Sarah, and the last time that Miriam and I went was in 1987! It was a fun day, and I noticed that everywhere I looked I could see a food booth! Deep fried snickers bars; cheese curds; all kinds of things on a stick; pizza, you name it, it was there. I thought, “What would the fair be without the food?”

Indeed. When we worship and participate in Holy Communion, we get the best that God has to offer: the Body and Blood of Jesus is given and shed for us for the forgiveness of sins. I encourage you to, as the hymn suggests, “Come let us eat for now the feast is spread”.

Pastor Mark Kindem

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM

Contemporary Service

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM *

Traditional Service

* [Starts 9/9/12]



Concordia Scholarship Update

Four Bethel college students were awarded matching scholarships of \$1,000.00 each from the Concordia college congregational scholarship. All four are in their senior year: Megan Casper, Jennifer Johnson, Sarah Kindem, and Kaia Sele. Thank you Bethel for supporting Concordia, a college of the church and these dedicated Christian young women.



From the Council President

Borrowing a line from Garrison Keillor, "It's been a quiet summer here at Bethel." The Men's Group has had some interesting thought-provoking sessions on Wednesday mornings and Paul Martinson's

studies on Faith Families increased our understanding of Islam and other religions.

Bethel thanks Pastor Mike for pinch hitting for Pastor Mark while he (Mark) enjoyed his promised but overdue sabbatical.

A special thanks to all our members who brought blessings from their good works.

Hats off to Herb Peterson for all his efforts to help fund the Concordia Congregational Scholarship program here at Bethel. Under this program Concordia will match congregational scholarships up to \$1,000 per year per student. Bethel sent Concordia \$4,000 on August 6th that will benefit Bethel's own Megan Casper, Jennifer Johnson, Sarah Kindem and Kaia Sele.

Thank you, Ben Nielsen, for the \$3,530.00 from memorials in memory of Janet Nielsen. As suggested by Ben and by council action, these funds are being used to help retire the building loan.

And, finally, thank you for the anonymous donation to the church of over \$17,000 in August to the general fund. Bless you!

And now after a rather peaceful summer, we on the church council will be cast back into the tempest. This month we will discuss such topics as dual synod membership, another vote to leave the ELCA, and long range planning for next year's church budget.

Why dual synod membership? Good question. There will be a time when Pastor Mark will retire or move to another parish. Being a conservative church and having a church council with a majority of conservatives, we don't want to be limited to just the ELCA to supply our next pastor. We want to reach out to other Lutheran synods, such as the NALC (North American Lutheran Church) and the LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ.) The majority of the church council are more in agreement with these synods than with the ELCA. Also, our educational and other resource needs will be better met by the NALC or the LCMC than the ELCA.

There will be articles in the Beacon and handouts in the months ahead explaining both sides of these issues -- pro and con. Hopefully by our January meeting we as a congregation can come to some consensus on some or all of these issues.

Just as Jesus was on the boat with the disciples in the Sea of Galilee during the storm that almost sank them, Jesus promised He would be with us during our turbulent and difficult times as well. Pray for Bethel.

Paul McIntyre
Council Chair, 2012

Dear Bethel Lutheran Church,

Grace and peace be to you from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a Holy Spirit that calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth.

Amen.

This was a very good summer. I do not say, "Good Bye"... but rather I say, "Thank You". Thank you Bethel Lutheran Church for such a warm welcome for Sue and me. God placed me in your midst to be your congregational caretaker of faith and it was a great honor.

Now it's your time to greet Pastor Mark back after his three month sabbatical. My blessings for Pastor Mark is the same as my blessing to you, "Thank You". We will be seeing you often.

May the peace of God that passes all understanding keep your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Amen.

Luv Ya.
Pastor Mike



A Mount Carmel
Ministries Seminar
hosted by
Calvary Lutheran



**WALK
THRU^{THE}
BIBLE[®]**

TAKE A WALK. CHANGE THE WORLD.

Learn the Old Testament in a Day

SAVE THE DATE!

September 15, 2012

Calvary Lutheran Church

Cost is \$20 per person (includes lunch & workshop)

Registration: 8:20—8:50 AM

Program: 8:50 AM—3 PM

Child care available at \$2 per hour & must be reserved by Thursday, September 6th

Please contact Tamara Mason (556-0236) or Sandy Hennum (444-6649)

September 9, 2012



“Grand” parents Day



**Consecration
Sunday**

is scheduled for

Sunday, October 7, 2012

Spiritual Growth in the area of Stewardship!



PEDAL WITH PJ

"Pedal with PJ" is happening Saturday, September 8th. Bicyclists will leave the Lutheran Campus Center at 10:30 a.m. and bicycle to Lake Bemidji State Park for a picnic before returning to the LCC. This is a family-friendly event that everyone can participate in. Bicyclists are encouraged to find sponsors to support them as all proceeds go to maintaining the LCC facility. Call 751-5326 for more information.

COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS August 14, 2012

The financial reports were received and concern was voiced that we are continuing to need to move money from the reserves to the general fund to meet our bills. Patti had prepared a brief report on the status of pledges that helps explain some of the shortfall - of the people who made pledges this year about equal numbers have not met their pledges as have made or gone above their pledged amounts. There is often a drop in contributions in the summer but it is something we need to watch. If you are able, please catch up on your pledge so that we can finish the year in the black.

There continues to be a need for funeral coordinator(s). A list was shared that had names of people willing to help and provide needed provisions for funerals. Nancy S. suggested we put together some

service groups to help as needed. She will meet with Laurie B. and Laurie P. to review the funeral file and volunteer lists.

Ray B. shared a survey he would like to give the congregation as a way of jump starting our committees. Many of the committees are dormant and programming has nearly ceased. The outreach group would like to begin promoting Bethel but we want to be able to have a variety of ways people can be part of Bethel. Christian Education was a particular concern as Lori J. has moved out of the area. She and Ione M. conducted the Wednesday school for kids last year.

The Senior Fellowship group will be meeting again on the second Tuesday of the month. September will feature Dennis Doeden and the Umpa Band.

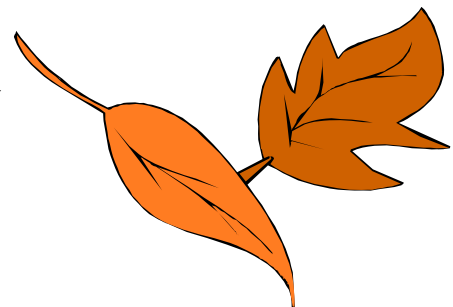
Pastor Mark will be welcomed back during the coffee hour September 2.

Congratulations to St. Bart's on their 100th Anniversary of shared Christian mission.

Our thanks goes out to Mike Fiske for leading worship during Pastor Mark's sabbatical.

Submitted by Laurie Buehler

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





September

Birthdays

- 03 Nancy Streightiff
- 04 Dennis Sundvall
- 08 Nancy Lofgren
- 09 Jan Dreyer
Shirley Worth
- 10 Audrey Fenske
- 11 Claire Schotzko
Daphne Urban
- 14 Verlie Geror
- 15 Jaramie Wood
- 16 Alan Thorson
- 20 Earl McNea
- 21 Joan Randt
- 25 Cale Sundvall

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



September



September 9, 2012 to May 19, 2013

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

Bethel's Foundation Awards July 2012 Grants

Bemidji Community Food Shelf	\$2,500.00
TEAM—Jail Ministry	\$1,500.00
Habitat for Humanity	\$1,000.00
Bethel Quilters	\$2,000.00
Bethel Advertising	\$2,500.00
Church in Society	\$ 300.00

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 2012 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





All church and non-church events/meetings have to be booked through the church office with Patti. This eliminates the conflict of two things being set for the same time in the same area. Thank you!

Bemidji Community FOOD SHELF

The BCFS has provided 30% more food this year over the previous year, at a rate of approximately 800 families/month. The need for foodstuffs continues to be great. "Hot Items" needed this month are tuna, juices, peanut butter and pancake mix. It goes without saying that the drought in many regions of our country have devastated many crops, so food prices will continue to go up, and the prices paid by the food shelf will also go up.

Progress continues with our new facility in the Bemidji Industrial Park. The closing on the property will be Aug. 27th. The

matching grant has nearly been reached, and other funding has been coming in. A new trailer has been purchased and is already saving money for the food shelf. A pallet stacker has been purchased which will be used to unload pallets of food.

FYI, \$44,000 was raised by the BCFS during the month of July for the "Open your Heart" hunger campaign. It was a huge success.

I have made a plea recently for anyone interested in volunteering for 3-4 hrs./month to contact me for information. The plea still stands. With the move to the new facility, we may need more help. There is also a need for any used folding chairs to be used in the board meeting room at the new facility. I will try to keep you all informed of our needs as they arise, but anyone who has an interest in joining a workgroup later to help get the facility ready, please contact me or any of the current volunteers. There will be a training session for all our current volunteers, to review new procedures for dispensing the food. I will be notifying our volunteers of these dates and times.

I hope many of you were able to come out to the fair and visit our booth in the schoolhouse. There will also be a display set up at the Paul Bunyan Mall on Sat., Sept. 8, along with other non-profit services provided in this area.

Thank you to all for your continued support of the BCFS. It is so greatly appreciated. Bill Beyer, local food shelf president has frequently commented on the generosity and kindness of many of the local business people who have donated their time and expertise, as well as all those volunteering. This project could not happen without them.

Jan Beil



Bells will resume practice on
 Thursday, September 13th @ 6:00 p.m.
 in the sanctuary.

WELCOME / INVITE anyone interested
 in ringing to attend!

Call Carol Johnson @ 751-0415 with questions.



Christian
 Education

Sunday School
S C H E D U L E

Wednesday, September 12 @ 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, September 19 @ 6:30 p.m.



**3rd Grade
 Bible Class
 beginning
 Wednesday,
 September 12th**

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. Bibles
 will be presented to them during the
 worship service on Sunday, October 7th.

Wed., September 12, 19, 26 & October 3

class @ 4:00 p.m.

Sunday, October 7

Presentation of Bibles

**Confirmation
 Classes**



**7th - 9th
 Grade**

Sept. 12 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 Theme Event #1

Sept. 19 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 Servant Event

Sept. 26 6:30 - 8:00 p.m.
 Guide Meeting -
 Students with families tonight

LCM NEWS

"Lutheran Campus Ministry is offering several special events during the weekend of BSU Homecoming September 29 and 30. Saturday, September 29 10:00 a.m. the Lutheran Campus Center will host a memorial service for David Grondin. 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. there will be an Open House at the LCC with the unveiling of a plaque honoring Elaine Bohanon at 4:00 p.m. 6:00p.m. there will be a "Thank You Dinner" at First Lutheran Church for students, alumni, supporting congregations, former board members, former residents and peer ministers, etc. This is a FREE MEAL but we do need to know how much food to prepare so we ask everyone planning on attending to RSVP by calling 751-5326 or following the links in our website: www.LCMBemidji.org. Sunday, September 30 we will hold a worship service at 10:00 a.m. in the Crying Wolf room of the student union. Anyone wanting to be part of a "drop-in choir" is asked to show up around 9:15 a.m. to practice. We hope to see lots of our local supporters as well as alumni from the past decades!"

I DIDN'T CHOOSE JESUS

On July 1 some visitors from China visited Bethel. Some of you met them in the coffee hour after church. One of them was a young woman, a 20-year old college student from central China. You did not know it then, but she was quietly celebrating one year of becoming a Christian.

She has written something! We got it before she returned to China. Quite a testimony. I'll let you take a peek. She begins:

"My name is Nancy Huang from Xinyang District, in Henan, born on Rooster Mountain."

This is where China Service Ventures works.

"I graduated from the No 2 High School in Xinyang City, and am presently a fourth year student at JiangHan University in Wuban on the Yangtze River. I came to faith in the Lord on July of 2011 and became a Christian. It is now exactly one year. Many people have asked me: 'Your family is not Christian, and you are a college student. Why would you want to believe in Jesus?'"

The reason for such a question, of course, is that publicly becoming a Christian right when you are about to graduate from college limits your options for career opportunities. So, "Why would you want to believe in Jesus?" Her answer:

"I reply: Jesus chose me; I didn't choose him."

Could any of us give a better answer as to why we are believers? I couldn't imagine the possibility.

As she goes on to describe in 2 and 1/2 pages of closely written Chinese characters, she shares how it happened. Graduating from high school in 2009, she took the university exams and was waiting for a notice. The days and weeks went by. Nothing.

"I worried that my parents would blame me and my friends would look down on me. Every day at home I would go online and play computer games, sometimes not going to bed till one o'clock."

"One day, my father asked me: 'Would you be willing to join in an international summer camp? There are foreigners. You can learn English.' The camp was close to home, a walk of only 5 minutes. Without hesitation, I went the next day to CAMP."

It was a joyous time. She was from a well to do family. But she found out the camp was for “middle and high school students whose families had it very difficult.”

“After Camp I got a T-shirt filled with many names and also learned the phrase: ‘Not to be served, but to serve.’

“At that time, I felt the Camp was a friendly, and real place. I got to know many people, and they gave me a lot of joy. . . . But in fact, what most impressed me at that time was that these counselors and staff came to help poor children, and did so without pay, and included me who was not a “Boundless Love Student,” (i.e one of the poor) giving me the same treatment.”

The next year she called a CSV staff member in April, offering to serve as a staff assistant.

“On July 5th I arrived in the Camp. I spent an unforgettable summer. . . . I decided to follow Jesus and become a Christian.

As a matter of fact, during the years 2009-2011, she writes:

“These three years of my college life I found very perplexing. I did not know what I wanted to do after college. The curriculum was very boring. I had no desire to run out every day and play with my friends. I found less and less meaning in my life. In fact, all I wanted was a simple life, with goals, with meaning, with a happy spirit. I didn’t like competing with others, seeking prestige.”

She describes her previous college years. She was an English Club President, the referee in the sports department, accomplished in Tae Kwon Do, trained in the intricacies of tea drinking, spending weekends in the library. Yet:

“I feel lonely, I want to be loved, and sometimes I feel that no one can help me, like a lost bird I feel helpless. . . . In fact, one month before the 2011 Camp I had a quarrel with my parents. . . .”

In fact, in 2010 when she first went to camp:

“I knew CSV was a Christian community. . . . At the closing gathering of the Camp everyone devoutly stood hand-in-hand. I did not know that that was prayer. The time of prayer made me feel so calm.

“In 2011 the Hong Kong counselor, Hosanna, was the first to teach me how to pray. She was like my angel sent by God. Realizing my life was very confused she prayed for me. She begged God to calm my heart. . . . When she said, ‘I pray in the name of Jesus,’ I felt that Jesus was really there. Yes indeed! God heard her prayer! . . . I began to believe that Jesus loves me.”

Then came the capstone:

“On the following day, I told Carly (a counselor from WAPO in Wisconsin) how I was moved. She gave me a Bible, and almost every night taught me how to read the Bible. She is my good elder sister in Christ. What impressed me most was: ‘The old has gone, all is new,’ these words. The Lord Jesus has died for me on the cross, his precious blood washed all my sins away. It is his desire that we who have been made alive can rejoice and no longer be afraid. I believe in him and rely on him for this gift of eternal life. I have no reason to struggle for the things of this world, to be bitter and confused. These sorrows no longer belong to me for I have been made a new person. How grateful I am that the grace of God has been given to me. . . . I also want to help others, because I know there must be a lot of people, like I used to be, lost like me. I know I am insignificant, doing simple things. But even so God still remembers me, protects me, helps me to strengthen my faith.”

She then goes on to tell of her visit this year to America, her work at WAPO Youth Camp and how many things, even very difficult ones—like losing her bag of travel documents including passport, have confirmed God’s rich blessings in her life. At the end she writes:

“This account was scribbled down over several nights and the organization is a bit messy. I apologize. Would we be able to maintain communications? I wish you happiness every day!!! God loves you!!!”

(Nancy Huang’s testimony summarized by Paul V Martinson)



Church in Society

Our call to service is always before us. Jesus said, "The poor will always be with you". Some may take that to imply that the poor then become sort of like wall paper that you live around so long you forget what it looks like. I often think that what Jesus was saying was that we can never possibly forget Him because we always have around us those we are called to serve. One of the primary transgressions of the Israelites was they were forgetting the widows and orphans-the most vulnerable of their society. The call continues to us. We do have the poor with us and we are called to serve.

Special thanks to those who delivered Meals on Wheels and offered a smile and kind word as they went. Our next turn at the wheel is the week of October 29 - November 2.

The Faith Build house building project was a wonderful success. The house went up quickly and was dedicated Saturday, August 25. Ashley and her two children planned to move in that afternoon even without her major appliances in place. A third home is being rehabbed and the family hopes to move in early September. A fourth home may be built later this fall using money from the sale of a home that was donated but needed to be moved. There is a Women Build planned for next year and fund raising will begin soon for that project. The Habitat annual meeting was held August 30 at Diamond Point Park Pavilion. Volunteers are needed to work at the Restore, clerking, general tidying, receiving, and whatever else you can do. Call Habitat and talk to Steve if you are able to help. Brush with Kindness projects continue also. Persons able to pay for materials to do essential repairs to their homes but cannot afford the labor costs work through Habitat volunteers to make those repairs that enable them to keep their homes.



The **Food Shelf** has secured the necessary financing and donations to begin work on the old ODC building with hopes being in the building in October. With the new location and possible changes in the way food is distributed, volunteers may also expect some changes. We will keep you posted as the transition is made. It is so much fun to work at this time of summer. One day we had two huge totes full of zucchini and yellow squash and gardeners kept bringing their bounty to share so we would just chuckle and put it all out for others to enjoy.

Our **Go the Extra Mile** offering for September will go to Habitat for Humanity. Pray for the families seeking decent, affordable housing that gives them a hand up not a handout.

Micah 6:8 *"He has told you, oh mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"*

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SEPTEMBER 2012

Bethel's Fall Bazaar 8 am - 2 pm
Saturday, October 6, 2012



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

Crafts ~ garden produce ~ canned goods ~ plants

Lunch will be served at 11:00 a.m.

We will also have fresh lefse and rømmegrøt for sale.

Please check out the board in the narthex for needed supplies for the Lefse Project and Bazaar. If you are able to donate please pick up a post-it note, purchase the item and bring it to the church by September 13, 2012.

We will be frying lefse on the morning of September 14th. If you can help, please contact Sandy Norrgard @ 243-3172, Laurie Pommerening @ 751-3433 or Edith Hoyum @ 333-1363.

Thank you in advance from the bethel bazaar committee!