

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Lester Prairie, MN

Pastor Erick J. Thompson

## From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

Can you believe summer is almost over? I'm always surprised when August rolls around and I wonder where my summer has gone. This year, the arrival of fall will mean some different things for Bethel. First, we have been worshipping outside most of the summer and will have to get used to being back inside. Second, this year we will not have Rally Sunday, but there will be an Open House Sunday instead. Open House Sunday will be a day for us to invite our friends and neighbors to come and see our church. We'll have a hog-roast, games and lots of fun.

There will be some other opportunities this fall that will change how things look at Bethel. There will be more Adult Discipleship offerings. Bible Study will continue on Monday evenings. To start with, we will be looking at the Gospels of Mark and John. This bible study is open to anyone and you can come any Monday you like. A new offering this year will be Christianity 101. Right after you're finished with coffee and conversation on Sunday mornings, we'll pull up a few chairs and look at some basic questions about God, Jesus, the Bible, and the Christian faith. Meant to be an introduction to some of these basic themes, Christianity 101 will also challenge those who have spent much time looking at the bible and their faith.

Finally, I want to encourage you to come and worship regularly with us once the school year starts. I know that summer schedules are busy, but I'm hoping this fall you can find more time on Sunday mornings to come hear the good news that Jesus lived for you. This good news will change your life; maybe not how you might expect or desire, but there will be change. What does God have in store for you this fall? Come and see!

- Pastor Erick

### **VBS**

Vacation Bible School starts Sunday, Aug. 2nd and goes through Thursday, Aug. 6th from 6:00-8:30pm.

The Theme is **Bible Rock**.

All kids who have completed 1st-5th grade are welcome!

The kids will be leading the worship on Sunday, August 9th.

### **Cell Phone Vs. Bible**

**Ever wonder what would happen if we treated our Bible like we treat our cell phone?**

*What if we carried it around in our purses or pockets?  
What if we flipped through it several times a day?  
What if we turned back to go get it if we forgot it?  
What if we used it to receive messages from the text?  
What if we treated it like we couldn't live without it?  
What if we gave it to kids as gifts?  
What if we used it when we traveled?  
What if we used it in case of emergency?*

**This is something to make you go... hmmm... where is my Bible?**

**One more thing: unlike our cell phone, we don't have to worry about our Bible being disconnected because Jesus already paid the bill.**

When Two Become One

This month we are celebrating two weddings.

**August 1st, 2009**

**Nick Latzig and Amanda Romer**

**August 22nd, 2009**

**Kyle Horsman and Samantha Henrich**

*May you always have Hope in one another, Faith in God, and all the Love to last a lifetime!*

**MN TWINS: LUTHERAN NIGHT**

Wednesday, August 26th

at 7:10pm

Upper club \$17

but Thrivent

will refund you \$5.

Anyone interested in going please

sign up on the bulletin board or

contact Jerry & Jean Christenson.



**7th - 9th Graders**

Confirmation Classes will be held on Wednesdays (starting in September) at 5:30pm.

The focus will be on the New Testament.

We ask that you sign up by contacting the church office either by phone or email (bethellp@embarqmail.com).

**Higher Ground Music Festival**

Some of the youth are going to be attending The Higher Ground Music Festival in Winsted, MN. This will be a chance for them to experience God's Love through Music.

August 14th-15th, 2009

[www.hgmusicfest.com](http://www.hgmusicfest.com)

**August 2009 Schedule**

**Saturday, August 1st**

Romer/Latzig Wedding

**Sunday, August 2nd**

10:00am Outdoor Worship w/Holy Communion  
6:00-8:30pm Vacation Bible School – Bible Rock

**Monday, Aug. 3rd, - Thursday, Aug. 6th**

6:00-8:30pm Vacation Bible School  
7:00pm Music & Worship Committee Mtg.

**Wednesday, August 5th**

6:30pm Council Mtg (Kiekhaefer's Cabin)

**Sunday, August 9th**

10:00am VBS lead Outdoor Worship

**Friday, Aug. 14th-Saturday, Aug. 15th**

Higher Ground Music Festival

**Sunday, August 16th**

10:00am Outdoor Worship

**Saturday, August 22nd**

Horsman/Henrich Wedding

**Sunday, August 23rd**

10:00am Outdoor Worship

**Wednesday, August 26th**

7:10pm MN Twins Game - Lutheran Night

**Sunday, August 30th**

10:00am Outdoor Worship w/Holy Communion  
11:00am Community Meal

Check out the beautiful **BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH SIGN** located on the west side near County Rd 1. Thank you Ross Scheevel, Roger Fedie, and Mark & Pam Lukens for the hard work that they put into it. What a great addition to help reach out to others!

**Newest Member of Bethel**

We welcomed Hannah Marie Smith into our Bethel family through Holy Baptism on Sunday, July 26th, 2009.



One of our members: Mildred Shima passed to God's care on July 6th, 2009.

Our condolences also go to the Teubert Family with the loss of Donald Anderson And

LuAnn Weisenburger and her family as well as Jeremy Radtke and his family for the loss of LuAnn's father/Jeremy's grandfather, Wilbert Radtke.

Minutes Church Council Meeting  
**Bethel Lutheran** June 10, 2009

**Present:** Pastor Erick Thompson, Pam Lukens, Kathy Kiekhaefer, Mark Lukens, Carol Wortz, Steve Larson, Ross Scheevel, Lloyd Wiesenburger, Sonny Teubert, Clinton Halverson

**Absent:** Bobbi Kadrie, Janelle Scheevel, Cheri Teubert, Ramona Dobrava, Ron Foust, Matt Krull, Nancy Krull

A regular council meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church was opened on Wed., June 10, 2009, by President Pam Lukens. Devotions were lead by Pastor Erick

**AGENDA:**

**Old business:**

**Parsonage Policy:** A congregational meeting is planned for July 12 to decide what to do about the parsonage. Announcements will need to be put into the bulletin three Sundays in a row prior to the meeting.

**Boundary Waters Trip:** A trip will be taken by the BLTs July 12- 18<sup>th</sup> into the Canoe area for a canoe and camping trip. Steve L moved that a Special congregational offering be done to help with expenses for this trip. Carol W seconded, passed by voice vote of the council.

**Summer Services:** The first session went well, and the new equipment seems to be more than adequate.

**Building Usage Form:** Will be done this month, Pastor, a WELCA board member and Trustee will need to meet on this.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Community Breakfast during Prairie Days:** Carol W. moved that our church kitchen be available for use if needed during the community breakfast held during Prairie Days, July 19<sup>th</sup>. Seconded by Lloyd W. and passed by voice vote of the council.

**Bergen Site Services:** Will be held on July 5<sup>th</sup> with a potluck to follow.

**Minimum wage increase:** The minimum wage increases on July 1 to \$7.25 per hour. Carol W. moved that we increase the secretary pay to meet that amount, Roger M. seconded and passed by voice vote of council. Lloyd W. moved that we increase the pay to meet minimum wage of our cleaning crew. Steve L. seconded and passed by voice vote of council. It was discussed that our cleaning needs need to be reevaluated after summer. Cleaning twice a

month is not adequate and different arrangements will probably need to be made.

**Mission Vision Statement:** Will try to work on at next council meeting or set up time for another retreat to finish.

**Secretary Report:** Moved to accept by Steve L., seconded by Ross S. Passed

**Treasurer's Report:** May receipts were \$16,491.75; Expenses were \$11,030.21. Check book balance is \$5,474.18. Motion to accept report by Carol W. Seconded by Clinton H. Passed. Money was spent this month to finish up the sign, and also for Faith Chests.

**Financial Secretary's:** We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget. Motion to accept report by Lloyd W., seconded by Roger M. Passed. Concern was voiced over a drop in attendance.

**Board of Trustees:** Have done some research on the parsonage sale

**Board of Deacons:** Will lead worship on Sun. June 14

**Board of Education :** Vacation Bible School will be Aug 2-6, 6 pm to 8:30 pm Nicole H and Hannah W. have volunteered to lead it. A sign will be ordered through the Herald Journal.

**Cemetery Board:** The skunks are back. We will assess damage thru out the summer and take action as needed.

**Pastor's report:** Secretary position could open up if Nicole finds another job. We will be prepared to advertise again within the church in August if needed. Community meal discussion, it was felt that they are a benefit to the community and should be continued thru the summer. June 28<sup>th</sup> will be headed by Lloyd and Shirley Wiesenberger, July 26<sup>th</sup> by the Roger Martin Family, and Aug 30<sup>th</sup> by the Lukens Family. Pew Bibles were purchased for \$500

**Other Communications :** 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration will be held in August of 2010. We would like EVERYONE to try to sew a stitch or two on the beautiful Quilt that is being put together for our raffle.

**Next Meeting** Council Cookout at Kiekhaefer's cabin, August 5<sup>th</sup> 6:30 pm Bring your spouse and potluck dish to pass and meat to grill.

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Kathryn Kiekhaefer,**  
**Church Council Secretary**

# Bethel Messenger

August 2009

*Bethel Lutheran Church*

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320.395.2125 Email: [bethelp@embarqmail.com](mailto:bethelp@embarqmail.com)

Pastor Erick J. Thompson, Cell: 612.310.0623



Summer Church Office Hours  
Monday – Thursday  
12:00pm - 4:00pm

## **AUGUST BIRTHDAYS!**

### Commitments for Our Church for the Month of August

#### Altar Guild

Judy Angvall & Cathy Houg

#### Ushers

Volunteers Needed

#### Acolytes

Kathryn Jorgenson


Jacob Dobrava

#### Lector

Lloyd Weisenburger

#### Greeter

Mary Lou Teubert

- 
- 1 Ross Scheevel
  - 2 Mark Detlefser
  - 4 Jesse Dobrava  
Larry Peterson
  - 6 Earl Latzig
  - 8 Nancy Peterson
  - 10 Tristan Arioso  
Anne Kiekhaefer  
Bruce Young
  - 12 Kyle Horsman  
Kevin Braend
  - 13 Linda Detlefsen
  - 14 Kim Johnson  
Mark Rath
  - 16 (Alan Luehrs)  
Michael Raguse
  - 21 Blanche Breidenbach  
Tanner Scheevel
  - 24 Chris Kadrie  
Dick Kiekhaefer
  - 25 Loren Johnson  
Kathy Kiekhaefer  
Marilyn Pawelk

### **Outdoor Worship**

Every Sunday we have the opportunity to enjoy God's creation by having worship outside (weather permitting) at 10:00am.

The outdoor worship services are held on the west side of the building. Bring your lawn chairs, otherwise we will have folding chairs available.

