

December 2009

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church
Lester Prairie, MN

Joyfully Living in the Good News!

From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

★ Advent is upon us and we begin another church year. As this new year rolls in we will be doing one thing a little bit differently. In the past at Bethel, a different version of the Lord's Prayer has been used. We're going to be using this again occasionally, and I wanted to offer a rationale for this usage. I recognize how important and deeply ingrained the older version can be for people and so this change is not taken lightly; it was discussed and approved at both Worship and Music Committee and Church Council. ★

To help us understand this change we must begin by looking at language. English, like most Western European languages, has a formal and an informal use. If we still used the formal, it would be used when we were talking to strangers or people in authority, like Kings. The informal would be saved for people with whom we had a close relationship, like family and friends. In German, the informal is "du," and the formal is "Sie." In English our two forms are "you" and "thou." If you were addressing a King, which would you expect to use? I would bet that most of us would use "thou" with the king and be surprised when we were promptly punished for our insubordination. The fact is that in English, "thou" is the informal, and "you" is the formal. But, because of hundreds of years have passed since we used "thou," we have somehow managed to flip its meaning. ★

For the Lord's Prayer this means that if we use the version with "thou" we are addressing God in what we think is a formal way, when it's supposed to be informal. God wants us to think of God as a friend, father, someone very close. When we use "thou" in the Lord's Prayer we run the risk of thinking of God as a distant king rather than the loving Father who gave his Son so we could all be God's children. As Pastor, I would much rather have people think of God as someone who is close; who is intimately related to people; than have people think of God as someone far off; a King who will simply decide your righteousness at the end. So, we will begin using the newer version of the Lord's Prayer to help us think of God as a friend and savior; someone who is so close to us that he is with us everyday.

✠ Pastor Erick Thompson

KIDS CORNER

CARNIVAL!!!!
 On Sunday, November 15th a carnival took place. There were games as well as other activities that included decorating prize bags and face-painting. A hot dog meal was also served. About 25 kids came and enjoyed this event. Thanks to everyone who helped as it is much appreciated!



The kids enjoyed a variety of games...



Some Face Painting...



And of course the yummy food!

How Many Christian Fish (Ichthus) Can You Find In This Newsletter?
 (start on the first page)
 Answer found by birthdays

Sunday School Treat Bags
 Donations can be made to either Mona Dobrava or Cheri Teubert.

Hear Ye, Hear Ye... The Christmas program shall be performed...
 On Sunday, December 13th during the 9:00am service. Come and enjoy!



WHAT'S UP WITH THE BLTS

BLT

BETHEL LUTHERAN TEENS

A.S.K. Youth
 All teens are invited to come and join Crown College students every Wednesday from 6:30-8:30pm. This is a chance to socialize, sing some songs, and play games!

No Confirmation Class
 Wednesday, December 23rd
 Or
 Wednesday, December 30th

Free Concert
 Holy Trinity is hosting Rebekah Antoine on Saturday, Dec. 5th from 7:30-8:30pm in their gymnasium.

JR./SR. HIGH GAME NIGHT
DATE/TIME CHANGE!!!
 ALL TEENS are invited to come to a fun and games night! This will take place from 6:00pm – 8:00pm on Sunday, Dec. 6th. We will have some snacks as well. Bring a friend {or 2}!



"... 'Do not be afraid; for see-I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord.'" -Luke 2:10-11



December 2009

Wednesday, December 2nd

5:30pm Confirmation Class
6:00pm WELCA Meeting
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Choir

Saturday, December 5th

9:30am Secret Pal Reveal

Sunday, December 6th

New Member Sunday

9:00am Traditional Worship
10:00am Sunday School
10:15am Christianity 101
11:00am Worship at the Windows
6:00-8:00pm Jr/Sr High Fun & Games Night

Wednesday, December 9th

5:30pm Confirmation Class
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Choir
7:30pm Council Meeting

Sunday, December 13th

9:00am Sunday School
Christmas Program
10:00am Sunday School
10:15am Christianity 101
11:00am Worship at the Windows

Wednesday, December 16th

5:30pm Confirmation Class
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Choir
8:00pm Ladies Bible Study

Saturday, November 19th

7:00pm Movie Night
(How The Grinch Stole Christmas)

Sunday, December 20th

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Sunday School
10:15am Christianity 101
11:00am Worship at the Windows

Wednesday, December 23rd

No Confirmation Class
7:00pm Choir

Thursday, December 24th

4:30pm Christmas Eve Service
6:30pm Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 27th

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Sunday School
10:15am Christianity 101
11:00am Worship at the Windows

Wednesday, December 30th

No Confirmation Class
7:00pm Choir



Christmas Eve Services:
Thursday, December 24th join us for either our 4:30pm or 6:30pm service.

Check out Bethel online at
www.lpbethel.org

Emailing Newsletters!!!

We are sending out newsletters via email to try and cut down on paper.

We do still have the option of giving a paper copy but we need to know!

Please sign up (on the bulletin board) or email (bethellp@embarqmail.com) for either a paper copy or email. If you are not a member but would like the newsletter emailed to you please send your contact information to the church's email.



Worship at the Windows

Worship at the Windows is our 11:00am contemporary worship. Please join us every Sunday by the cross windows!

Vibrantly open to the Spirit,
Bethel Lutheran Church
serves God and its neighbors
by joyfully living in the Good news!



MOVIE NIGHT

We are going to project *How The Grinch Stole Christmas [2000]* (rated PG) at 7:00pm on Saturday, December 19th. This is for anyone to come, have some popcorn, and enjoy a movie. Bring a friend {or 2}! If you have any questions please contact the church office.



Christianity 101 is our Adult Education that takes place every Sunday at 10:15-10:45am. Basic questions to Christianity will be addressed. Please come join us!

-November Movie Night-
20 people came to Bethel to enjoy *The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe.*

We are looking for some help in the weekly cleaning duties of the church. It would be emptying waste baskets, general dusting, vacuuming floors and such. Hopefully we can find enough volunteers to clean on an occasional basis so we don't have to hire the work out. If you can volunteer some time please contact Carol Wertz. She can give you a list of things that need to be done.



Welcome Our Newest Members...

On Sunday, December 6th our church family has grown. Please welcome in...

★ Corinne Dahl

★ Faye Mike

★ Kevin & Holly Oestreich

along with their children: Maggie and Matthew

★ Dan & Kim Romer

Santa "VS" JESUS

Santa lives at the North Pole... Jesus is everywhere.
Santa rides in a sleigh... Jesus rides on the wind and walks on the water.
Santa comes but once a year... Jesus is an ever present help.
Santa fills your stockings with goodies... Jesus supplies all your needs.
While Santa puts gifts under your tree... Jesus became our gift and died on a tree... the cross.
There's a reason why CHRISTmas has CHRIST in it... Jesus is still the reason for the season.

Congregational Meeting
Nov 22, 2009
10 AM

The Meeting was called to order by acting president, Kathy Kiekhaefer. All voting members were asked to sign in on a sheet of paper that was circulated.

A motion was made by Tim Smith and seconded by Loren Johnson to approve the sale of the parsonage and it's lot, and to let the churches elected trustees handle this sale without calling another congregational meeting. Discussion was held, and questions were answered. Loren Johnson called the question and a secret ballot vote was held . The outcome of the vote was 36 yes in favor of the motion and 2 not in favor of the motion. This number complied with the number of signed in members.

Steve Klobe moved we adjourn the meeting, Lloyd Wiesenberger seconded , carried by voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheri Teubert

Acting Secretary of the council



Minutes Church Council Meeting Bethel  Lutheran November 11, 2009

Present: Pastor Erick Thompson, Pam Lukens, Nancy Krull, Kathy Kiekhaefer, Mark Lukens, Ron Foust, Lloyd Weisenburger, Ross Scheeval, Matt Krull, Cheri Teubert, Ramona Dobrava, Roger Martin, Sonny Teubert,

Absent: Bobbi Kadrie, Clinton Halverson, Carol Wortz, Steve Larson, Janelle Scheevel

A regular council meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church was opened on Wed., Nov.11, 2009, by President Pam Lukens. Devotions were done by Pam Lukens

AGENDA:

Old business:

Snow Plowing Bids: Trustees will contact the low bidder for the season

Lutefisk Committee: Lutefisk dinner served 603 persons, vs. 611 for last year. We sold \$ 1150 worth of lefse, vs. \$1180 last year. Total profits of 5600, this includes the matching funds and takes away the donation to the food shelf.

Cleaning the church: A letter was read to council from Carol Wortz. It expressed her views on what is needed for the cleaning of the church. This issue was tabled until next meeting the trustees will meet with Carol to discuss.

ASK Youth Group: Pastor had talked with their leaders, he recommended about \$450 for this school year, issue tabled until Dec. meeting and we talk about Lutefisk fund

Tables: Carol W. has found some tables that meet our criteria, and the council gave her the go ahead to purchase those, since funds were designated and approved from last year's lutefisk dinner profits. Still need to see if School science teacher wants our old heavy tables.

New Business:

Kitchen Project: We received a letter from the WELCA board concerning their help with the kitchen flooring project. It was decided that Matt K will contact two plumbers for bids and opinions on what should or could be done about our plumbing issues in the kitchen and in the downstairs bathrooms. A suggestion was made to convert downstairs bath into one large family toilet. The plumber will probably know if this is able to meet code etc.

Parsonage Sale: The sale of the parsonage with the potential buyer did fall through. It was decided to continue with the congregational meeting on Nov 22, and take the secret ballot vote, so that everything will be in place if we ever get another interested buyer.

Year End Reports: Reports due to Nicole by Dec 15, 2009

Budget Committee: They are ready to meet this month and start working on 2010 budget.

Nominating committee consisting of Roger F., Loren J., Lloyd Wortz, Mary Lou T. and Jill D. will be notified to contact people to serve on church council.

Secretary Report: Moved to accept by Ross S. seconded by Cheri T. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Oct. receipts were \$8348.50. Expenses were \$8399.46 Check book balance is \$40.15 Mark transferred the last of the money out of the money market general fund to cover expenses for this month.. Moved to accept report by Ron F., seconded by Lloyd W. Passed.

Financial Secretary's: We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget. We have not made budget for several months now. Lloyd W. moved to accept report, Nancy K. seconded .Passed.

Board of Trustees: Most was covered in old and new business. They did some painting in the parsonage to freshen up for sale.

Board of Deacons: Ron reported they met a month ago to plan for Nov. Stewardship drive. Pledge cards will be distributed Nov 22 and due back by Dec 6. The Deacons will be filling in for Pastor during his vacation days.

Board of Education: Rehearsals for Christmas program are underway, Holly is heading this up, the program will be held Dec 13 during worship service.

Cemetery Board: no report

Pastor's report: Pastor was busy with continuing education and reports he is refreshed and renewed from his attendance at these conferences. The children's carnival will be held this Sunday. Christmas Eve services will be at 4:30 and 6:30PM this year.

Other Communications: Our new mission statement is "Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and it's neighbors by **Joyfully living in the Good News**".

Next Meeting: Dec 9, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Kiekhaefer,

Church Council Secretary

Bethel Messenger

December 2009

Bethel Lutheran Church

77 Lincoln Ave N; P.O. Box 207; Lester Prairie, MN 55354

320.395.2125 Email: bethelp@embarqmail.com

Pastor Erick J. Thompson,

Cell: 612.310.0623

Email: bethelpastor@embarqmail.com

Church Office Hours

Monday – Thursday

12:00pm - 4:00pm



Commitments for Our Church for the Month of December

Altar Guild

Carol Wortz

Usher

Mary Lou Teubert

Cheri Teubert

Acolytes

Trace Ruzicka

Chelsea Pecholt

Lector

Chelsea Pecholt

Cheri Teubert

Greeters

Steve Larson



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- | | |
|----|--------------------|
| 1 | LuAnn Weisenburger |
| 2 | Amber Schultz |
| 3 | Alexander Rucicka |
| 6 | Kaylee Scheevel |
| 8 | Aurelia Larson |
| 10 | Rhonda Valen |
| 11 | Betty Babcock |
| 14 | Warren Babcock |
| 15 | MerriLea Kylo |
| 21 | Joseph Detlefsen |
| | Ed Ekdahl |
| | Ron Foust |
| 26 | Sara Ross |
| | Holly Oestreich |
| 31 | Lisa Klobe |
| | Tim Smith |

of Christian Fish in this newsletter: 12

★ **HAPPY** ★
BIRTHDAY!