

February 2010

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church
Lester Prairie, MN

Joyfully Living in the Good News!

From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

As we begin our Lenten journeys this February, I'm hoping we can pause to reflect upon the role God plays in our lives. So often, Lent is a time for disciplines, usually identified as "What are you giving up for Lent?" Those who choose to do this will give up chocolate, drinking pop, or something of that nature. Rather than giving something up or making it about what we do, I'm hoping we can instead hear God's call in our lives more clearly.

Martin Luther had a very clear sense of what it meant to be called. First, all people are called. We are called when we are baptized, because in baptism we become part of the church. The church is what God uses to spread the good news. As a member of the church, we are part of God's work in the world. In order to accomplish this work, God calls each and every one of us into specific roles. Luther knew that it wasn't simply the priest who was called in a congregation. Everyone in a congregation is called to be a neighbor to one another. Everyone is called to be a "little Christ" to one another. In all of our roles in life: mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, sons, daughters, citizens, neighbors, we are all called to show God's love to one another.

While this may seem like a tall order, it's actually quite easy. Think of all the interactions you have in a given day. Now, think how you acted during those encounters. If the conversation or experience was one that was positive, you have most likely fulfilled your calling as God's child. Being called doesn't mean you have to tell everyone you meet that Jesus loves them. You don't need to spend every moment worrying about if you are living out God's call. Being called means that God is leading you to be loving to everyone you meet. So, you might greet someone with a smile, listen to someone's story, help someone lift something heavy, or something else seemingly small; yet in all these ways God is leading you through your calling to be a good neighbor. While God also calls us in specific ways, to specific functions, it is through this neighborly calling that God plays a large role in our lives.

Pastor Erick Thompson

"For God so loVed the world
that He gAve
His onLy
BegottEn
SoN
That whosoever
Believes In Him
should Not perish
but have Everlasting life."
-John 3:16

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!



Check out our website at
www.lpbethel.org



All Children are welcome to Sunday School every Sunday at 10:00am!

How Many Crosses Can You Find In This Newsletter?
(start on the first page)

Answer found by birthdays

For some fun Coloring Pages to print out visit:
<http://www.educationalcoloringpages.com/veggietales.html>

{ 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!

Reminder To Confirmation Students:
Lent is approaching which means SERMON NOTES!
Ash Wednesday is February 17th.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
Starting Ash Wednesday (Feb. 17th) the BLT's will be serving Soup every Wednesday from 5-6:30pm.



Sweetheart Dinner

The BLT's are putting on a Sweetheart Dinner.

Who: Anyone who would like to eat

What: Salad, Lasagna, Garlic Bread, and Desert.

When: Sunday, February 14th, 2010

Time: 5:30pm

Where: Bethel Lutheran Church

Price: \$12.50 per ticket

Proceeds will go to Summer Camp and Mission Trips.

TICKETS NEED TO BE PURCHASED IN ADVANCE. They will be sold every Sunday after worship.



Ash Wednesday

Wednesday, February 17th, 2010

5:00-6:30pm Soup Suppers

7:00pm Ash Wednesday

Worship Service

Wednesdays during Lent

Come join us every Wednesday night during the Lent Season for delicious soup [served 5-6:30pm] and Lenten Worship Service at 7:00pm.



"He said to him, 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment."
 -Matthew 22:37-38

February 2010

Wednesday, February 3rd

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

Sunday, February 7th

9:00am Traditional Worship
 10:00am Sunday School
 10:15am Christianity 101

Wednesday, February 10th

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

Sunday, February 14th

9:00am Traditional Worship
 10:00am Sunday School
 10:15am Christianity 101
 5:30pm SWEETHEART DINNER

Wednesday, February 17th

ASH WEDNESDAY

5:00-6:30pm Soup Supper
 6:00pm Choir
 7:00pm Ash Wednesday Service
 8:00pm Ladies Bible Study
 (hostess:Pam Lukens)

Sunday, February 21st

9:00am Contemporary Worship
 10:00am Sunday School
 10:15am Christianity 101
 2:00pm Hosting Conference Assembly

Wednesday, February 24th

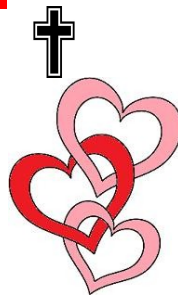
5:00-6:30pm Soup Supper
 6:00pm Choir
 7:00pm Lenten Service

Sunday, February 28th

9:00am Traditional Worship
 10:00am Sunday School
 10:15am Christianity 101

Worship at the Windows

We are ending the 11:00am Worship at the Windows. Thanks to everyone who came to worship with us at this time. We would love to see you at the 9:00am worship every Sunday.



*Vibrantly open to the Spirit,
 Bethel Lutheran Church*



*JOYFULLY LIVING
 IN THE
 GOOD NEWS.*

**Womens Bible Study
 February 17th, 2010
 8:00pm
 Hostess: Pam Lukens**

KIDS AGAINST HUNGER
 Many members and confirmation students from Bethel helped put together 63,000 meals on January 28th here in Lester Prairie.

**WELCA meeting
 Is Wednesday,
 February 3rd
 At 6:00pm.**

Minutes Church Council Meeting **Bethel Lutheran**

Jan 12, 2010

Present: Pastor Erick T., Pam L., Nancy K., Kathy K., Ron F., Carol W., Ross S., Matt K., Cheri T., Ramona D., Sonny T., Clinton H.

Absent: Bobbi K., Lloyd W., Steve L., Roger M., Janelle S.

A regular council meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church was opened on Wed., Jan 12, 2010, by President Pam L.

Devotions were done by Ross S.

AGENDA:

Old business:

Annual Meeting: All reports are in; a newly updated budget will be ready with year end 2009 figures.

Nominating Committee: All offices are accounted for; Faye Mike has agreed to be church council secretary.

Kids against Hunger: The city hall will be set up Jan 28th from 2:30 pm to 7:30 pm for assembling the meals. Kathy Krone and Kathy Kiekhaefer will serve on the committee from our church. \$500 has been designated from Lutefisk profits for this year's donation. A sign up sheet is in the narthex for workers, and council members have volunteered to bring 2 doz cookies or bars.

New Business:

Cleaning Update: Carol W. will sit down with the trustees and give her list of tasks and estimates on number of hours needed, and how that will fit into the budgeted money.

Lutefisk Dinner Profits: Several changes were made to the list. The total profits were \$6100, with \$610 going to the local county food shelf. Also \$1000 was shifted from the evangelism committee to the 150th Anniversary Committee to help fund a sit down celebration dinner for the congregation on August 22, 2010. The balance of left over money will go to general operating fund. Amendments motioned by Carol W seconded by Ron F and carried by voice vote of the council.

Picture Directory: Cheri Teubert will work on it anticipate a fall 2010 directory.

Committee Meeting Night: Pastor proposed a designated meeting night on the first Tues. of each month so that each committee will meet and get its work done before the council meeting. He feels that the various committees have been letting a lot of things slip thru the cracks, and not get done. He, as a part time pastor, can not pick up all the slack for the committees' work. He feels this meeting night may help get things more organized. Motion made for this meeting night made by Nancy K., seconded by Cheri T. Passed by voice vote of council. First meeting will be Feb 2, 2010, 6:30 pm- Deacons, Trustees, Executive, 7:30 pm Evangelism, Worship and Music, Youth/BLT, Education. Only one member from each committee is then expected to attend church council on the second Wed. to represent their group.

Thank you: Pam offered her thanks to all who are outgoing members of church council. They are Pam and Mark Lukens, Kathy Kiekhaefer, Steve Larson, Ross Scheevel, Ramona Dobrava, and Roger Martin.

Secretary Report: Moved to accept by Cheri T seconded by Nancy K. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: receipts were \$8,362.64. Expenses

were \$8,425.25 Check book balance is \$40.80 Mark transferred the money out of the money market equip replacement fund to cover expenses for this month. Moved to accept report by Clinton H., seconded by Ross S. Passed.

Financial Secretary: We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget; our new budget for 2010 will require slightly less. We have not made budget for several months now. Nancy K. moved to accept report, Cheri T. seconded .Passed.

Board of Trustees: Most was covered in old and new business. The Snowplowing contract is in effect, and has used up 3 of the twelve snow plowings budgeted. They are still working with the realtor, as several families are still interested in the parsonage, the driveway will be plowed out and sidewalk shoveled to make it look better, and to gain access to the building.

Board of Deacons: Two substitute pastors were used in Dec and Jan and were well received by congregation.

Board of Education: Ramona D. has resigned as Sunday School Supt. and replaced by Holly O.

Cemetery Board: no report

Pastor's report: Pastor will change his hours to match Nicole's Secretary new hours are 12-5 T, Th, F. Pastor days will T, W. The 11 am worship service is being disbanded for now. He would like to see a 5th Sunday "Noisy" Offering implemented, to enhance our mission giving, we can collect all our spare change and designate a mission, for instance Haiti Relief efforts. Motion made by Ron F and seconded by Ramona D. Passed by voice vote. The new council will need a retreat in the upcoming month, and the synod assembly has been changed to April 17 and 18 in Redwood Falls, volunteers are needed to represent our congregation at this meeting.

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: Feb 10, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted,

Kathryn Kiekhaefer,

Church Council Secretary

Recommended Usage for Lutefisk Dinner Profits: \$6100.00

\$500	Kids Against Hunger
500	Prisoners of Hope Mission
500	Tables for Basement
500	Youth Task Force of Lester Prairie
500	ASK Youth Group
600	Bible Camperships for Bethel Youth to match up to half the cost of their attendance
600	Bethel Youth Missions
50	Green Lake Bible Camp
50	Shalom Hill Farm Windom
1000	Evangelism Fund Bethel
1000	150 th Anniversary Party
610	McLeod County Food Shelf

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES

January 17, 2010

I. Call to order: The annual meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church in Lester Prairie was called to order by President Pam Lukens at approximately 10:15 AM with 55 members present.

II. Opening: The meeting was opened with devotions as printed in the annual report

III. Approval of agenda: Motion to approve the agenda made by Eric Angvall, seconded by Roger Fedie. Carried.

IV. Secretary's report: Motion to approve as printed by Ron Foust, seconded by Bryan Weisenburger. Carried.

V. Treasurer's Report: Motion to approve as printed by Nancy Krull, seconded by Steve Larson. Carried.

VI. Report on Money Market Fund: Motion to approve by Nancy Krull, seconded by Steve Larson. Passed

VII. Nominations and election of Officers: Motion to approve and elect in single vote those nominated to serve on church council by Steve Klobe, seconded by Eric Angvall. Passed those elected were: President, Roger Fedie, Vice President – Nancy Krull, Secretary- Faye Mike, Treasurer- Ed Eckdahl, Deacon- Alan Teubert, Trustee- Jeff Briedenbach , Education Board- Holly Ostereich, Cemetery Board- Loren Johnson, and Delegates to Synod assembly- to be determined.

VIII. Reports:

IX. Reports of the following committees were submitted and approved in mass.

X. Report of the Pastor, Pastor's Statistical Report, Report of the Council President, Report of the Deacon Board and Deacon's Fund, Cemetery Board Report, Women of the ELCA, Lutefisk Dinner Financial Report, Bethel Lutheran Teens Report and Financial Report, Thrivent Report, Trustee Board, Education Board. Motion to approve reports in mass made by Steve Klobe, seconded by Lloyd Wortz and passed by voice vote of the congregation.

XII. Old Business: None

XIII New Business:

XIV. Budget Approval: The 2010 budget that

was proposed and approved by the church council was presented by Trustees. Motion to approve the budget totaling \$103,867.73 was made by Matt Krull, seconded by Loren Johnson, carried.

XV. Nominating Committee Appointments: Five voting members of the congregation that will be on nominating committee for next year are Pam Lukens, Steve Larson, Jeff Briedenbach, Ross Scheevel, and Kathy Kiekhaefer. Motion to approve made by Kim Weinzierl, seconded by Bryon Wiesenberger. Passed

XVI. Lutefisk Dinner Profits: A list of suggestions for use of \$6100 Lutefisk dinner profits was presented by the council. After discussion, the final list for approval of congregation was the following.

McLeod County Food Shelf	\$610
Bible Camperships ½ of cost max.	\$600
Kids Against Hunger	\$500
Prisoners of Hope Ministries	\$500
ASK Youth Group	\$500
Tables	\$500
Lester Prairie Youth Task Force	\$500
Bethel Youth Mission Trip	\$600
150 th Anniversary Party	\$1000
Green Lake Bible Camp	50
Shalom Hill Farm Windom	50
Remainder to go to general savings	

Motion to approve list as amended by Dawn Raguse, seconded by Steve Klobe, carried.

XVII. Lutefisk Committee Appointments: A special congregational meeting will be held in the spring to discuss and decide if another Lutefisk dinner will be held. A written ballot vote will be taken at that time. Motion made by Ron Foust, seconded by Roger Fedie, carried.

XVIII. Audit Committee Appointments: Persons on the audit committee for next year will be Bryon Wiesenberger, Ross Scheevel, and Lloyd Wortz. Motion by Ramona D seconded by Steve Larson. carried

XIX. Other Business: None

XXI. Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Roger Fedie, seconded by Nancy Krull, carried

XXII. Closed by singing a Table Prayer.

Bethel Messenger

February 2010

Bethel Lutheran Church

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320.395.2125 Email: bethelp@embarqmail.com

Pastor Erick J. Thompson,

Cell: 612.310.0623

Email: bethelpastor@embarqmail.com

Church Office Hours
Tuesday, Thursday, Friday
12:00 noon - 5:00pm



Commitments for Our Church for the Month of February

Altar Guild

Nancy, Sally, & Maggie Krull

Usher

Steve Klobe
Dave Horsman

Acolytes

Trace Ruzicka
Chelsea Pecholt

Lector

Klobe's

Greeter

Ron Foust



JOYFULLY LIVING
IN THE
GOOD NEWS!

of Crosses in this newsletter: 8

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Christian Young
- 4 Samantha Kadrie
- 7 Tanya Ruzicka
Carol Wortz
- 9 Judy Angvall
- 10 Noah Houg
Chris Ekdahl
Jeff Breidenbach
- 15 Brian Duncan
- 16 Matthew Oestreich
Derek Dobrava
- 17 Emily Ryan
- 18 Ramona Dobrava
- 23 Gracelynn Hintz
- 25 Paul Pawelk
- 26 Dan Romer

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!