



January 2010

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church
Lester Prairie, MN



Joyfully Living in the Good News!



From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

Happy New Year! It's hard to believe it's already 2010. In the church, our new year was back in November. When we observe Advent, we are starting a new year in the church. For many of us, January 1st represents a new beginning; another chance to commit to a change we think we might need in our lives. For the church, it's not quite like setting a New Year's resolution, but it is a time to think again about what it is we are as a church.



Using the church season's that we've raced through in the past couple months as a guide, I thought it might be important for us to revisit those and what they mean in order to gain some perspective on what a new year means for the church. Advent is a time of preparation, a time of expectation. Advent is looking forward to the return of Christ. So often advent is pointed at Christmas, the birth of Christ and all that Christmas means, but Advent is meant to give us hope for tomorrow.

Advent is followed by Christmas, a time for celebrating that God has indeed come to be with us, live with us, and die with us. Jesus is God's great gift of love, and God's way of entering in to our lives. "God is with us" is something we can say because of Christmas. And, Jesus' death and resurrection mean that our lives are better here on earth; maybe not in measurable ways, but because of the gift of faith.

Epiphany is our next church season, starting on January 6th. During epiphany we shine forth the good news that our God loves us enough to come be with and die for us. Now, we go out into the world to share that good news with others. Last year we did Epiphany Plants as a way to help us go spread the news. What will we do this year? How we will be a church that shines forth God's good news? The church's seasons may not be that familiar, but they can be a very helpful reminder for us of what church is meant to be. How do you see yourself part of the church's mission to spread the good news to all people?

Pastor Erick Thompson



**KIDS
CORNER**

Kayla Weinzierl, Kaylee Scheevel,
Maggie Piehl, and Sarah Bolf
sang [**beautifully**]
"Who Would Imagine A King"
during offering.



The Children's Choir sang...
"C-H-R-I-S-T-M-A-S"
"The Angels Sing"
"Away in the Manger"

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

Does not count

Answer found by birthdays



The Sunday School Christmas Program
Was performed on Sunday, December 13th.
The kids acted out the Nativity Story.
Thank you to all who helped with everything!



WHAT'S UP WITH THE BLTS

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!



The BLT's got a new TV. Thanks to
Roger Fedie for building the TV cabinet!



JR./SR. HIGH GAME NIGHT
**On December 6th some of the teens got together
to play some games. They enjoyed playing
bean bags, Xbox, Wii, board games, and a
Scavenger hunt.**



"God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear..." -Psalm 46:1-2
"Be still, and know that I am God! I am exalted among the nations, I am exalted in the earth." - Psalm 46:10

January 2010

Sunday, January 3rd

9:00am Traditional Worship
No Sunday School
No Worship at the Windows

Wednesday, January 6th

5:30pm Confirmation Class
6:00pm WELCA Meeting
7:00pm Choir

Sunday, January 10th

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

Wednesday, January 13th

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

Sunday, January 17th

ANNUAL MEETING!!!

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

Wednesday, January 20th

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

Sunday, January 24th

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

Wednesday, January 27th

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

Sunday, January 31st

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

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
On December 19th, we hosted a Movie Night showing "How The Grinch Stole Christmas". We had a great turnout! There will not be a January movie night but one will hopefully be shown in February. Please keep  eyes open for more information.



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!

BAPTISM
Please welcome
Abigail Beth Cartwright
(daughter of Jacob Smith and Nicole Cartwright)
into our Bethel family as
she was baptized on
December 22nd, 2009.



Welcome Our Newest Members...
On Sunday, December 6th we welcomed in
Corinne Dahl
Faye Mike
Kevin & Holly Oestreich
along with their children: Maggie and Matthew
Dan & Kim Romer
Welcome to the Bethel Family!

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.



Secret Pals!
Secret Pals have been placed in mailboxes of those women who signed up! Ladies... SHHH Remember it's called SECRET pals for a reason!

Womens Bible Study
January 20th, 2010
8:00pm
Hostess: Roxy Johnson



**Minutes Church Council Meeting
Bethel Lutheran Dec 9, 2009**

Present: Pastor Erick T, Pam L, Nancy K, Kathy K, Steve L, Lloyd W, Ross S, Matt K, Cheri T, Ramona D, Roger M, Sonny T,

Absent: Bobbi K, Clinton H, Carol W, Ron F, Janelle S

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:

Year End Reports due Dec. 15

2010 Budget: The budget was presented by the deacons. After much discussion, a motion to present the budget to the congregation was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Steve Larson. Passed by voice vote of the council.

Nominating Committee Update: All committee members have been contacted, no names presented to council yet.

Copier: Pastor and Matt met with the Ikon /Ricoh sales person about our copier needs. No action was taken by council.

Bathroom Plumbing Issues: Matt met with a plumber to discuss our plumbing issues. He felt that to completely solve the potential for future leaks, the entire church would have to be replumbed, with all pipes taken up to the basement ceiling. Since this is not feasible at this, or really any time soon, no action was taken. Any floor installed in the basement should be waterproof, ie: ceramic tile, linoleum, or painted concrete. We are at code with regards to handicapped accessibility with the upstairs bathrooms and elevator.

New Business:

Cleaning Update: Tabled until Jan Meeting.

Holiday Gifts to Employees: A gift of Prairie Bucks will be given to each employee.

Lutefisk Dinner Profits: After much discussion, a motion was made by Nancy Krull and seconded by Cheri Teubert to present a list of recommendations for use of our lutefisk dinner profits to the congregation at the annual meeting. Passed by voice vote of council. List attached

Secretary Report: Moved to accept by Steve L. seconded by Cheri T. Passed.

Treasurer's Report: Nov. receipts were \$10,252.54. Expenses were \$10,189.28 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 Steve L., seconded by Ramona D. Passed.

Financial Secretary: We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget. 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.

Board of Deacons: The last of Stewardship talks is scheduled for Dec. 20 and will address some of the budget concerns we have going into 2010. Deacons will fill in for pastor during his vacation. A substitute pastor was hired for Dec 27.

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: There were about 20 children at the carnival, and the junior/senior high event was well attended. Pastor vacation will be Dec 25- Jan. 4.

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: Jan 13, 2010 at 7:30 PM

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

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

Recommended Usage for Lutefisk Dinner Profits: \$5600.00

\$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

Bethel Messenger

January 2010

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Pastor Erick J. Thompson,

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



Commitments for Our Church for the Month of January

Altar Guild

Jean & Jerry Christenson

Usher

Jerry Christenson

Acolytes

Sarah Bolf

Kathryn Jorgenson

Lector

Jill Duncan

Greeters

Mary Lou Teubert



JOYFULLY LIVING
IN THE
GOOD NEWS!

of Christian Fish in this newsletter: 10

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS!

- 3 Dave Pawelk 
Shirley Weisenburger
4 Harold Severson
6 Faye Mike
7 Andrew Ross
8 Kayle Otto
10 Lloyd Wortz
15 Thomas Gillespie
17 Nathan Weisenburger
18 Clinton Halvorson
19 Cheryl Smith
Albert (Sonny) Teubert
23 Cathy Houg
24 Tammy Ruzicka
30 Emillie Fedie
31 Ashlynn Kley
Lloyd Weisenburger



★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!