

March 2010

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church
Lester Prairie, MN

Joyfully Living in the Good News!

From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

One of the most difficult parts of the Christian life is knowing for certain that God exists. Faith of course is the answer, but how does one prove faith? And, what happens when we make faith the object of our religious lives as opposed to the good news of the Living God's love for us? Martin Luther addressed the second part of this question in his famous argument with Erasmus of Rotterdam, "The Bondage of the Will."

In one section, Erasmus had suggested that all one needed to do was preach Christ crucified. This is pretty similar to saying that all I need is faith. While both are true, preaching Christ crucified and faith are essential, they miss the larger point. Luther wanted us to know that Christ crucified was not only preached, but that God was indeed part of our lives; one might say part of our day-to-day existence. Luther said that not only does he preach Christ crucified, but Christ brings all these things with him. You could say that faith is all I need, but the reality of God present in your life might be lacking. You would be focused on your work of faith, and not God working in your life.

But, how do we know God is present? This brings us back to the opening line of the article. How do we know? The answer is, we don't. We never can know for certain, nor prove God beyond a doubt. Instead we left to keep returning to church to hear the "words that bring eternal life" again and again. We can have no other answer than this. It won't prove anything nor overtly convince anyone, but "Christ brings all these things with him, including faith among the perfect." We might imagine that we are perfect and have no need of God, but Christ brings us back down to earth so that God's good news is actually good for us.

The next time someone asks you why you believe in God, tell them that the only way that they could understand is by coming to church with you. The Holy Spirit will convince where no one else can.

Pastor Erick Thompson





Sunday School Meets at 10 am Every Sunday Please Join Us!

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!

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS
Soup Supper will be served each Wednesday during Lent from 5:30 to 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. Thank you for your participation each week!

Reminder To Confirmation Students:
Forms for taking sermon notes can be found as you enter the sanctuary.



Holy Week Services
Maundy Thursday Worship - April 1 at 7:00 pm
Good Friday Worship - April 2 at 7:00 pm
Easter Sunday
Sunrise Service at 6:30 am
Easter Breakfast at 7:30 am
Easter Worship at 9:00 am

Please plan to join us and invite a friend or neighbor to attend, too

Wednesday, March 3

5:30-6:30pm Soup Supper
6:00pm WELCA Meeting
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Lenten Worship

Saturday, March 6

Girl Scout International Cooking

Sunday, March 7

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

Wednesday, March 10

5:30-6:30pm Soup Supper
6:00pm Choir
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Lenten Worship
8:00pm Council Meeting

Saturday, March 13

9:00am-noon Banner Making
11:00am-3:00pm Council Retreat

Sunday, March 14

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



Wednesday, March 17

5:30-6:30pm Soup Supper
6:00pm Choir
7:00pm Lenten Worship
8:00pm Ladies Bible Study

Sunday, March 21

9:00am Contemporary Worship
10:00am Sunday School

Wednesday, March 24

5:30-6:30pm Soup Supper
6:00pm Choir
6:30-8:30pm A.S.K. Youth
7:00pm Lenten Worship

Sunday, March 28

Palm Sunday & First Communion

9:00am Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion
10:00am Sunday School
10:15am Christianity 101
5-8pm Food, Fun & Games Night

Wednesday, March 31

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

Thursday, April 1

7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship Service

Friday, April 2

7:00pm Good Friday Worship Service

Sunday April 4

Easter Sunday

6:30am Sunrise Service
With Holy Communion
7:30-9am Easter Breakfast
9:00am Traditional Worship
with Holy Communion



*Join us March 28th
Fun, Food and
Games Night!!!!*

Spring into Action

March is MN Food Share Month!

Our McLeod County Food Shelf needs our help! SO . . .

*We're having a CHALLENGE – It's the **GIRLS** against the **BOYS** here at Bethel!*

(and that means girls and boys, men and women of all ages!)

SEE WHICH TEAM CAN BRING IN THE MOST ITEMS!

*Bring your donations to church and place them in the **PINK** grocery cart if you are a girl,
or the **BLUE** grocery cart if you are a boy!*

We challenge you to bring a donation every time you come to church during the month of March!

Let's see how full the carts can get!

JOIN THE CHALLENGE – BRING IT ON!

At the end of the month, it will be the McLeod County Food Shelf that is the real winner!

THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT!

Deacon Fund

The Deacons would like to take this opportunity to remind our congregation about the Deacon Fund we have available for those who may need a little financial help from time to time.

The fund is totally private and used at the Pastor's discretion. The hope is that those who use the fund will be able to replace those funds down the line so that someone else can benefit.

Donations are accepted any time in addition to those coming in from special offerings.

*Contact one of our Deacons with questions or concerns – Ron Foust, Carol Wortz,
Or Alan Teubert.*

Banner Making

Saturday, March 13

9:00am to noon

Join with other women to create new banners for our sanctuary

Check out our website at
www.lpbethel.org

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!

*Womens Bible Study
March 17, 2010
Meet after Lenten Worship
At Church
All Ladies are Welcome!*

Church Council Meeting Minutes

February 10, 2010

Present: Pastor Erick Thompson, Roger Fedie, Nancy Krull, Faye Mike, Ed Ekdahl, Janelle Scheevel, Ron Foust, Carol Wortz, Alan Teubert, Matt Krull, Jeff Breidenbach, Clinton Halvorson and Albert "Sonny" Teubert

Absent: Lloyd Weisenburger, Cheri Teubert, Bobbie Kadrie, Holly Oestreich and Loren Johnson

Council meeting was opened by our President Roger Fedie at 7:30 PM.

Devotions, led by Carol Wortz.

Treasures Report was given by Ed Ekdahl. Expenses were \$9302.00, Income \$6737.00, balance \$40.80. Transfer was made from money market account of \$3000.00. Ed also has received receipts that need to be paid from Prairie Market. In the future we should have detail for receipts. Also, as to who picked up these items (signature and what for purpose). This will be greatly helpful for budgeting purposes.

OLD BUSINESS

Committee and Board meetings are scheduled for the first Tuesday of the month, 8 days before council meeting.

Progress on Board Goals and report form questions, will be sent out by Roger Fedie.

Cleaning Update: Hiring for now is on hold. Matt Krull spoke with Carol Wortz as to how many hours would be needed for one week. For now we have cleaning persons for the next 2 months.

Pictorial Directory: Cheri Teubert is working on for next fall.

Conference Assembly: The Crow River Assembly will be held at Bethel on Feb 21, 2010. There will be no cost to the church on the event.

NEW BUSINESS

A welcome from Roger was made to all new council members. A recommendation was made for all to review the, Duties and By Laws. (In your folders)

Midweek Lenten collections will be added to the general fund.

Snow Plowing was omitted from agenda and replaced with Kitchen Floor Redo.

Lois Severson has brought to the committees attention that the flooring in the kitchen needs to be replaced, due to mold issues.

Dave Horsman will do removal of the kitchen flooring. Motion to accept was made by Roger Fedie, first to accept by Carol Wortz, seconded by Jeff Breidenbach, all approved.

Council Retreat Date: Pastor Erick brought this topic forward. A date and location were discussed. Location

unknown, date scheduled for March 13th, 11:00 to 3:00. All Deacons and Executive Committees members are to attend. Discussion will be "**3 Year Plan**".

Date for Lutefisk Dinner discussion is set for April 18th, after service. Approved by Alan Teubert, seconded by Matt Krull. Motion carried.

March, Cheri Teubert will read devotions.

Added to the new business agenda, was a vote on Jean and Jerry Christenson for Synod Assembly Trustees. First motion to accept was made by Carol Wortz, seconded by Ron Foust, all approved.

REPORTS

Secretary Minutes from previous months meeting were all read silently. Moved to accept made by Ron Foust and seconded by Alan Teubert. Corrections to last months report: Roger Martin was present for meeting. Deacons, Trustees and Executive meeting for Feb 2, 2010. Time printed was 7:30, actually was 7:00 pm.

Board of Trustees: Matt Krull will be working on a Help Wanted AD for the Church secretary.

Board of Deacons: Discussion was brought forward by Ron Foust in regards to updating our church directory. Also, in discussion was promoting advertising for our Church.

Re: Website update and Face Book. Possibly have an advertising expense line, added to our budget. Also discussed, List of Duties. As in greeters etc., what is expected for these tasks.



Board of Education: No Report

Board of Cemetery Report: Clinton Halvorson, reported on the plotting for Aurelia Larson. Nothing else at this time to report.

Pastor Report: He was very busy with the death of Aurelia Larson, family and funeral plans. Also, he will go the week of March 17-23, 2010. Also brought to our attention, the resignation of Nicole (church secretary). Volunteers would be greatly appreciated.

Financial Secretary Report: Report made by Janelle Scheevel. Per Janelle we were just shy of our budget. She explained contribution chart report. Also, Great News! Attendance from last years to date is UP! Report accepted by Ed Ekdahl and seconded by Carol Wortz. All in agreement motion carried.

Meeting adjourned motioned by Nancy Krull, seconded by Sonny Teubert.

We All closed with the **Lord's Prayer**.

Bethel Messenger

March 2010

Bethel Lutheran Church

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Church Office Hours
Monday 9:00 am – 2:00 pm
Wednesday 12:00 noon - 5:00pm

Commitments to Our Church for the Month of March

Altar Guild

Cathy Houg & Pam Lukens

Ushers

Mark & Pam Lukens

Acolyte

Jacob Dobrava

Lector

Cathy Houg

Greeters

Brian & Jill Duncan

JOYFULLY LIVING
IN THE
GOOD NEWS!

MARCH BIRTHDAYS!



- 1 Joseph Young
- 6 Heather Foust
- 8 Victor Groe
- 9 Jenna Foust
Leon Krone
- 11 Britani Strei
- 15 Beth (Weisenburger) Sawatzke
- 16 Erin Klobe
- 18 Debbie Schott
- 19 Kari Rathkamp
- 20 Peggy Rathkamp
- 21 Kathryn Koenig)
- 25 Mark Lukens
- 26 James Kiekhaefer
- 27 Avian (Fedie) Werner
- 31 Bryon Weisenburger

★ HAPPY ★
BIRTHDAY!

of Crosses in this newsletter: 9