

October 2009

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Lester Prairie, MN

Joyfully Living in the Good News!

From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

Why are we a Church?

Sometimes it's not a bad idea to pause and consider these questions like this. It's a question that seems so simple, but once you begin to answer it, the complexities start to arise. It's helpful to dig down into the specifics of a particular church.

Why is Bethel Lutheran a church?

I would hope that we are a church because we have been called by the spirit to gather together and be made holy by God's redeeming word. Having been made holy, we are then sent out into the world to share this holiness, this good news with others. That is why we are a church. The church is that imperfect gathering of sinners who are made saintly that God uses to spread the good news that Christ died for you; that Christ was raised from the dead for you. Christ has emptied himself so that you can have life and have it abundantly. And, life is not something we live yesterday or tomorrow, but life is what we have today. Life, with all its sorrows and joys, with all its good times and bad, is concerned with today. How do you have life abundantly today? This focus on today also applies to us as a church.

Why is Bethel Lutheran a church **today**?

Why are we here today? How are we being a church today? How has the good news been told today? These are all questions we ask every Sunday when we gather to worship God for all the goodness we receive. Being a church is about receiving good news this very day, and about how we are vehicles for that good news for others this very day. As we prepare for our big Lutefisk dinner, as we think about how we should manage our church, as we go about being members of Bethel, remember that above all, God's good news comes to us everyday; indeed, this very day.

Pastor Erick Thompson

## TO BE A PUMPKIN

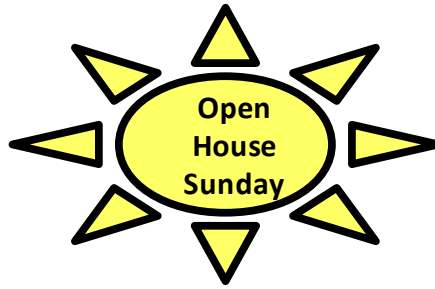
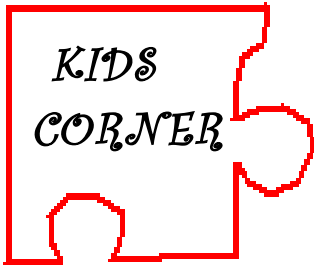
What is it like to be a Christian?

"It's like being a pumpkin. God picks you from the patch, brings you in and washes all the dirt off that you may have gotten from the other pumpkins. Then he cuts off and scoops out all the yucky stuff.

He removes the seeds of doubt, hate and greed. He then carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside of you to shine for all the world to see.

Let your light shine!"





The new Sunday School year has started! Come join us at 10:00am every Sunday. Singing songs and learning about God and his love!



{ WHAT'S UP WITH THE BLTS }  
Bethel Lutheran Teens

**CONFIRMATION SUNDAY!**  
Congratulations to  
**Jesse Dobrava, Jared Kadrie, Sally Krull, and Tanner Mork**  
as they are affirming their faith on Sunday, October 4th!  
May the Holy Spirit bless them on this special day and always!

There will be NO CONFIRMATION on Wednesday, October 14th.



**REMEDY DRIVE CONCERT**  
The BLT's had the opportunity to go to a Remedy Drive Concert. Remedy Drive is a Christian Rock Band from Nebraska.





### 1896 Church Bell

Thank you to Victor & Kirt Groe, Dave & Kyle Horsman, and Lloyd Wortz for replacing the wooden beams with steel beams that hold the bell. Thank you to Victor for supplying the new steel beams. This bell was made for the Bergen Church back in 1896.



### Lutefisk!

Worker survey sheets Are in mailboxes. Please Read and complete them ASAP. They can be Placed in the Lutefisk Mailbox BY October 5th.

### WELCA Crow River Conference Fall Gathering

Tuesday, October 27th at Zion Lutheran Church in Litchfield. ALL WOMEN ARE INVITED to attend this special event.

Registration begins at 4:30pm with Dinner at 5:00pm and the program Follows at 6:00pm. The program Will include a speaker from Lutheran Social Services on the Topic of homeless teenagers in our Area, and also special music. The In-Kind Offering will be AIDS/Hospice Kits. We will be collecting items to put These kits together. See the bulletin Board for items needed.

Registration is \$6.50 which includes Dinner. More information is posted on The bulletin board along with a sign up sheet. Please sign up no later Than SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18th. We will pool rides.

Thank you to Victor Groe and Harold Severson who have put time into repairs in the cemetery.



Some of the men helped serve/clean up!



Salads...  
Ice Cream...  
Music...  
Socializing...



### Fabulous Fall Female Gathering

On Saturday, September 26th, about 35 females gathered to share a lovely salad luncheon and entertainment by Bradley & Co.. Bradley played an assortment of of music on the banjo.

### SOAP MONTH!!

October is soap month. A brand new bar of soap contributes to cleanliness and dignity. Lutheran World Relief accepts new bars of any brand soap, in its original wrapping. All bar sizes are accepted; however, bath-size bars (4-5oz.) are highly preferred. Bars of soap can be placed in the basket that is located near the mail boxes.

# October 2009 Schedule

## **Thursday, October 1st**

7:00pm Men's Bible Study

## **Sunday, October 4th**

Confirmation Sunday

9:00am Traditional Service w/Holy Communion

10:00am Sunday School

No Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Worship at the Windows

## **Wednesday, October 7th**

5:30pm Confirmation

6:00pm WELCA Board

6:30pm A.S.K. Youth

7:00pm Choir

## **Friday, Oct. 9th-Sunday Oct. 11th**

Lefse Rolling

## **Sunday, October 11th**

9:00am Traditional Worship w/Holy Communion

10:00am Sunday School

10:15am Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Worship at the Windows

## **Wednesday, October 14th**

5:30pm No Confirmation

6:30pm A.S.K. Youth

7:00pm Choir

7:30pm Council Mtg.

## **Thursday, October 15th**

7:00pm Men's Bible Study

## **Sunday, October 18th**

**Blue Jean Sunday**

9:00am Contemporary Worship

10:00am Sunday School

10:15am Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Worship at the Windows

## **Wednesday, October 21st**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

6:30pm A.S.K. Youth

7:00pm Choir

8:00pm Ladies Bible Study

## **Saturday, October 24th**

Meatball Making/Set up

## **Sunday, October 25th**

**LUTEFISK DINNER!**

9:00am Traditional Worship

10:00am Sunday School

No Worship at the Windows

Lutefisk Dinner

## **Wednesday, October 28th**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

6:30pm A.S.K. Youth

7:00pm Choir

## **MOVIE NIGHT**

We are going to project Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe (Rated PG) in Mid-November. This is for anyone to come, have some popcorn, and enjoy a movie. Exact date and time are yet to be determined.



Check out Bethel online at [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

## **Worship at the Windows**

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



## **Emailing Newsletters!!!**

We are going to be 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](mailto: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.

★ ★ Vibrantly open to the Spirit, ★ ★

Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living in the Good news!

## **Minutes Church Council Meeting Bethel Lutheran September 9, 2009**

**Present:** Pastor Erick T., Pam L., Nancy K., Kathy K., Mark L., Carol W., Steve L., Janelle S., Lloyd W. Matt K., Ramona D., Cheri T. Roger M.

**Absent:** Bobbi K., Sonny T., Ron F., Clinton H., Ross S.

A regular council meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church was opened on Wed., Sept. 9, 2009, by President Pam Lukens. Devotions were done by Pastor Erick

### **AGENDA:**

#### **Old business:**

**Open House Sunday:** Will be held Sunday Sept 13. The evangelism committee has gone door to door in the new development area with invitations to join us for the open house hog roast. A Potluck supper will provide the salads and desserts. There will be a bouncy air toy of some sort for the kids that day.

**Renew Your Congregations for Missions:** Dates are changed to October 1,2,3,4. Still hoping to get as many church council members there as we can.

**Secretary Position:** Has been posted in house, and no action taken by council at this time. The church secretary has requested her hours change Mon., Wed., 10-4pm and Tues., Thurs. 10-2. This does not correlate with pastor's hours, but would put someone here in the morning to sign UPS shipments etc.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**ASK Youth Group:** Will begin meeting here again on Wed., September 16 from 6:30 to 8:30. There is a new director from Crown College, and they wanted to try a Wed. evening. After much discussion, it was agreed they would limit the hours to two, and not move the couches from the teen room into the dining area.

**Snow Plowing Bids:** Matt Krull will handle this, we will review bids at October meeting. The need for bids will be put into the bulletin.

**Lutefisk Committee:** Will be activated soon. The committee that volunteered at the annual meeting consists of Steve K, Jim J., Bryan W., Steve L., Roger F, and Mary Lou T.

**Council Meeting Time:** The time will be changed from 8 pm to 7:30 pm on second Wed of each month.

**H1N1 Flu:** If a flu outbreak occurs that causes school to be canceled, it was decided to cancel church. We will also ask parishioners that are not feeling well to stay home if running a fever, and not shake hands during the Peace if they are not feeling well.

**Free Lunch:** Free lunch will once again be offered to the LPHS students once a month at our local churches. Bethel will host the first one October 14. Eric Angvall is our contact on the Youth Task Force.

**Community Meals:** Discussion was held, and decided

to continue the free community meals. The next one will be held in Nov. after Thanksgiving.

**Secretary Report:** Moved to accept as corrected by Steve L. seconded by Lloyd W. Passed. The correction is that Carol W. is volunteering her time as our Church custodian.

**Treasurer's Report:Aug Receipts were \$9,050.25.** Expenses were 9,251.34 Check book balance is \$548.24. \$1500 moved from Money Market fund this month to meet expenses. Moved to accept report by Lloyd W., seconded by Ramona D. Passed.

**Financial Secretary's:** We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget. We are gaining ground with our yearly deficit, only \$6500 below budget. It was noted that Aug was above June and July for attendance, and way above two years ago. Nancy K moved to accept report, Ramona D seconded .Passed.

**Board of Trustees:** Parsonage Sale: The house has been shown twice, it was suggested by our realtor to lower the price by \$15,000. We will wait another month and see about that. A wasp nest was cleared from the front door area of the church. Carol W. continues her cleaning of the church and agreed to do it through the end of October. It was felt that since carpets were not cleaned this summer, we should wait until after Lutefisk Sunday to do that job. Also a blue jean Sunday will be held the Sunday before Lutefisk to ready the church for the big dinner.

**Board of Deacons: Nothing to report**

**Board of Education:** New Sunday School teachers have been recruited they will continue with the Camp songs learned this summer and use a spark curriculum which stresses students using their Bibles, and learning how to look up things in the Bible as well as Bible stories for the younger class.

**Cemetery Board:** Victor and Harold have continued their work straightening stones

**Pastor's report:** Pastor had surgery on his ankle 2 weeks ago and has an order to stay off the foot for another 4 weeks. The worst part is that he cannot drive, so has to get rides everywhere. He will try to make Sunday church services, and give assignments for the confirmants over e-mail etc.

**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** Oct 14, 2009 at 7:30 PM

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Kathryn Kiekhaefer,**

**Church Council Secretary**

# Bethel Messenger

October 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



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

JOYFULLY LIVING  
IN THE  
GOOD NEWS!

## OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS!

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

#### **Lutefisk! Lutefisk! Lutefisk!**

Anyone wanting to help prepare Lefse for our Lutefisk Dinner is welcome to join! Whether you are experienced or a beginner we invite you to come the weekend of October 9th-11th!

Meatball making and set up will take place on Saturday, October 24th.

THE BIG DINNER is on Sunday, October 25th so mark your calendars!



**149 Years Serving God  
34 Years Serving Cod!**

#### Altar Guild

Shirley Weisenburger

#### Ushers

Bryon Weisenburger

Ron Foust

#### Acolytes

Maggie Krull

Karlea Kylo

#### Lector

Bryon Weisenburger

Ron Foust

#### Greeters

Loren & Roxy Johnson

2	Brock Klobe
4	Sarah Bolf Jan Smith
8	Connie Ruzicka Pastor Erick Thompson
11	Cameron Bolf
12	Kristie Hatlestad Barry Kylo
13	Lloyd Larson
16	Deborah Johnson
18	Quentin Mertz
20	Kathryn Jorgenson Jane Larson
21	Rose Halloran Jason Ryan
22	Eric Angvall
23	Ronald Larson
29	Rachel Kylo

★ **HAPPY** ★  
**BIRTHDAY!**