

September 2009

# BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church  
Lester Prairie, MN

Joyfully Living in the Good News!

From the desk of Pastor Erick J. Thompson

September is here and so is school. Part of the tradition at Bethel has been a Sunday to mark the beginning of the school year. This year, we're doing an "Open House Sunday" on September 13<sup>th</sup>. We'll be going back to our regular worship schedule with traditional worship at 9am. This year, we're adding a more relaxed, different kind of worship at 11am. This "Worship at the Windows" will be a mix of contemporary music, bible readings, prayers, with a short reflection on the texts.

I've been here over a year now and I've come to realize how blessed I am to be serving Bethel. You have a remarkable capacity for growth and energy and it seems that the Spirit is indeed leading us. Part of that leadership the Holy Spirit has shown us is a new Vision and Mission statement. Our new vision statement is: **Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living in the good news.** This vision statement is meant to focus us in on three things. First, we are open to the Spirit's leading. This means that we are listening for what God wants for this church; where God is leading us. We are looking for answers to the question, "Why is Bethel Lutheran Church here?" And, we are doing all this *vibrantly*; we are energetic and willing to risk in order to follow the Spirit's leadership.

The Spirit's leadership will mean that we have to do some work and so we acknowledge that in the next phrase of our vision statement: Bethel serves God and its neighbors. We know that being in a church means service to God (part of the reason they're called "Sunday services.") But, it also means service to our neighbor. Neighbors can be members of Bethel, or they can be members of the larger community in which we live, or neighbors can even mean people on the other side of the world. However we experience them, we serve our neighbors.

How do we do all of this? The answer is found in our new mission statement: **Joyfully living in the good news.** By joyfully living in the good news, Bethel is declaring that all of the above happens because we know the good news that Jesus Christ died for us and was raised that we might live. This good news turns us around and points us back toward God. This good news is so good, we cannot help but respond with joy. We live joyfully because we know that even though life isn't perfect, God will love us perfectly. We live joyfully because we know that our Savior lives. This vision of being vibrantly open to the Spirit so that we can serve God and our neighbors can only happen because we are living joyfully in the good news that God loves us.

I am very excited for all the possibilities that Bethel has to offer this year; not only to its members, but to the wider community. I hope you can join us and hear the good news that brings joy to all our lives.

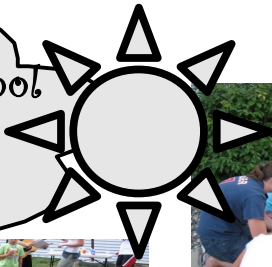
- Pastor Erick

*Happy Moments, Praise God  
Difficult Moments, Seek God  
Quiet Moments, Worship God  
Painful Moments, Trust God  
Every Moment, Thank God*

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

# KIDS CORNER

Vacation Bible School  
 August 2nd-6th  
 Lead Worship Aug. 9th



The week of VBS consisted of games, crafts, songs, and learning about God and his word.

One way to love your neighbor is to help out.

Match the children.



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- Day 1: Creation: God created everything (even Hippos!)
  - Day 2: Golden Rule: Matthew 7:12
  - Day 3: Song Psalm 150: We can "Praise the Lord with..." many different ways including Trumpet sounds, Big Bass Drums, and a Rockin' Guitar!
  - Day 4: Song "I'll Do My Best": We Trust, Praise, Serve, and Love God.
  - Day 5: Prayer: It's a conversation with God. We can pray about anything.
- On Sunday, August 9th the worship was led by VBS. The congregation joined the kids singing their songs.*

## {WHAT'S UP WITH THE BLT'S}

Bethel Lutheran Teens

### Duluth/BWCA Trip

7 BLT's and 2 Chaperons went on a mission trip to Duluth, MN and then went up to the Boundary Waters in July. They stayed at First Lutheran Church while in Duluth. On Monday, they took a tour through C.H.U.M. (Churches United Ministries) of the different agencies in Duluth. Also, while in Duluth they visited soup kitchens, Clayton, Jackson, McGhie memorial and a food shelf. At the Union Gospel Mission soup kitchen they were able to help serve meals. This was a great opportunity for the kids to talk with those who were eating. On Wednesday they took off to the Boundary Waters. The kids said it was a great experience and fun but would have been better if it hadn't been raining and freezing cold the whole time.

**7th - 9th Graders**  
 Confirmation Classes will be held on Wednesdays (starting on September 16th) at 5:30pm. The focus will be on the New Testament. We ask that you sign up by contacting the church office either by phone or email (bethellp@embarqmail.com).

### {Higher Ground}

5 took on the heat (Friday) and cold/rain (Saturday) to attend Higher Ground Music Festival in Winsted, MN. The festival was a new experience for the girls and seemed to be pleasantly surprised. They were able to enjoy different music genres from rap to rock to worship that all expressed God and his love through their lyrics.



**VALLEYFAIR**  
 A group of BLT's joined up with St. Paul's youth and went on a day trip to Valleyfair in June.

Confirmation Sunday will be October 4th, 2009.

All ladies of Bethel are invited to attend the WELCA Tri-Conference Fall Retreat. The theme is "Walking with Jesus". It is a one day retreat on Saturday, September 19 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm at Trinity Lutheran Church, Sleepy Eye, MN. There will be Bible Study, Music, Crafts and Communion. The cost is \$10.00 which includes registration, morning coffee and noon lunch. Crafts are optional and will be an extra small fee. Registrations are due by September 5th. See the bulletin board for additional information and a registration blank.

### RECIPES!!!

The recipe deadline is September 13th.  
More the merrier!  
If you have recipes to submit: please check them over to make sure they are correct and place them in Cheri Teubert's box or email them to [bethellp@embarqmail.com](mailto:bethellp@embarqmail.com)



### TWINS GAME

17 from Bethel attended Thrivent's Lutheran Night at the Metrodome on Wednesday, August 26th.

ALL women of Bethel are invited to the Women of the ELCA meeting which meets the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm in the narthex.

**We need you!!** Our organization is interested in being more active but we need more members in order for us to proceed in that direction. Besides being a part of the Phone Calling Committee or a Work Group we would like to perhaps have special programs from time to time which would be of interest to you. At this time we are a very small group and need to grow for this organization to continue.

Another part of the WELCA is our monthly Bible Study. We would urge all women to join us for that as well. We meet the third Wednesday of each month. We use the Bible Study in the Lutheran Woman Today magazine. If you are not receiving that at this time, we will share ours or make copies of the bible study for you. Watch the bulletin for a reminder and also of where we are meeting that month. We meet at member's homes and sometimes at church. Our study this year is "Paul's letter to the Romans". Please join us - these are informal bible study get togethers.

So we would urge each of you to join us to see what we do and what our objectives are. Let's make this year a year of growth for our women's organization!!!!

Bible Studies are starting up! There are opportunities for both men and women!

If you would like the newsletter via email please contact the church office.

Christianity 101: Adult Education will meet every Sunday at 10:15am. All are welcome to attend!

## September 2009 Schedule

### **Wednesday, September 2nd**

6:30pm WELCA Board

### **Sunday, September 6th**

10:00am Outdoor Worship w/Holy Communion

### **Wednesday, September 9th**

5:30pm Confirmation Mtg w/Parents & 7th-9th graders

7:00pm Council Meeting

### **Sunday, September 13th**

Open House Sunday

9:00am Traditional Worship

10:00am Sunday School

10:15am Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Contemporary Worship

11:00-12:30 Free Hog Roast and Potluck  
Games for Kids!

### **Wednesday, September 16th**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

7:00pm Choir

8:00pm Women's Bible Study

### **Thursday, September 17th**

7:00pm Men's Bible Study

### **Sunday, September 20th**

9:00am Traditional Worship

10:00am Sunday School

10:15am Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Contemporary Worship

### **Wednesday, September 23rd**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

7:00pm Choir

### **Sunday, September 27th**

9:00am Traditional Worship

10:00am Sunday School

10:15am Christianity 101: Adult Education

11:00am Contemporary Worship  
Community Meal

### **Wednesday, September 30th**

5:30pm Confirmation Class

7:00pm Choir

### **MOVIE NIGHT**

We are trying to get a movie night here at Bethel going. A movie will be projected onto a wall and will be for all ages. It will give a chance for anyone to come and hang out, eat some snacks, and watch a movie.

If you would like to help plan please contact  
Nicole Horsman (church office).

### **Fire Pit**

This summer we have been blessed with the addition of a fire pit. We have been able to enjoy it during our outdoor worships, community meals, as well as Vacation Bible School.

### **Sound System**

A new sound system was purchased at the beginning of the summer so that we can worship outdoors to really take in God's Creation!

### **Community Meal**

The last Sunday of each month we offer a free meal to anyone in the community. The meal menu varies each month.

Minutes: Church Council Meeting  
Bethel Lutheran Church: August 5<sup>th</sup>, 2009

**Present:** Pastor Erick, Pam L., Kathy K., Mark L., Carol W., Ross S., Janelle Scheevel, Lloyd W.

**Absent:** Bobbi K., Sonny T., Ron F., Steve L., Nancy K., Matt K., Roger M., Cheri T., Ramona D., Clinton H.

A regular council meeting of Bethel Lutheran Church was opened on Wed., Aug. 5, 2009, by Pres. Pam Lukens.

#### **AGENDA:**

##### **Old business:**

**Parsonage Policy:** The vote of the congregation was to sell the parsonage. It has been listed with Coldwell Banker Realtor, Lynne Garber. It is listed to sell for \$134,900.

**Custodial needs:** Carol Wortz has volunteered to take over the custodial needs of the church for a while. Motion was made by Ross S. and seconded by Mark L. to discontinue our current cleaning service and hire Carol W. through the next council meeting in Sept. Passed by voice vote of the council. Kathy K motioned and Lloyd W. seconded to have the carpets cleaned by the August 22 wedding. Carol will oversee this. Motion was passed by voice vote of the council.

**Building Usage Form:** Will be done this month, Pastor, a WELCA board member and Trustee will need to meet on this.

**150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary:** Celebration will be held in August of 2010. Progress continues with plans for the anniversary celebration. The quilt continues to be sewn. The Picture directory will be done in fall, October maybe. The cookbook will be ready to sell by spring. Logos have been designed by Alaina Fedie.

##### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**11:00 Services:** It was moved by Carol W and seconded by Lloyd W. that an 11:00 service be held every Sunday. It will be informal, held in the back of the church by the stained glass cross, with volunteers doing the music portion.

**Renew Your Congregations for Missions:** This conference will be held again on the 2<sup>nd</sup> weekend in October at Green Lake. Pastor would like our entire council to attend. Motion made by Ross S and seconded by Kathy K to allow up to \$500 for council to attend this retreat. Dates are October 8, 9, 10, 11.

**Secretary Position:** Has been posted in house, and no action taken by council at this time. The issue was tabled until we talk to Nicole H.

**Open House Sunday:** Will replace Rally Sunday, to be held on Sunday Sept 13<sup>th</sup> a Hog Roast will be held at the church and the entire community invited. Sonny T will provide the hog and roaster. Potluck dishes will supplement.

**Thrivent Simply Giving:** Mark received notice that

Thrivent will no longer be covering the administrative costs of the Simply Giving program. We will now need to pay for that cost. Ross S moved and Carol W seconded that we pick up the costs of the program which is estimated to be about \$100 per year.

**Secretary Report:** Moved to accept by Ross. seconded by Lloyd W. Passed

**Treasurer's Report: June** receipts were \$5851.00; Expenses were \$8,362.32. Check book balance is \$2962.86. July receipts were \$6,072.45; Expenses were \$8,286.01 Checkbook balance is \$749.30. A \$525.00 donation was received in memory of Mildred Shima, who passed away on July 6, 2009. Motion to accept report by Lloyd W. Seconded by Ross S. Passed.

**Financial Secretary's:** We need \$8509.42 per month to make our budget. We are \$5996.01 below budget YTD. Ross S moved to accept report, Kathy K seconded .Passed.

**Board of Trustees:** Parsonage Sale and cleaning and up keep of the church continue.

**Board of Deacons:** Pastor will be gone August 6, VBS will lead worship.

**Board of Education;** no report since there were not any members of Ed Board present. VBS was run by Nicole H. and Hannah W. with assistance by Anne K. Attendance has built thru the week as each child was asked to invite a friend to attend with them.

##### **Cemetery Board: No report**

**Pastor's report:** Pastor will lead adult forums on Sundays as well as both worship services at 9 and 11 am. One confirmation class will be held this year on Wednesdays.

Confirmation is planned for the first Sunday in October. He will put up some pictures of the Boundary Waters trip, and it was suggested that the kids that attended talk to the congregation about their trip as a way of showing gratitude for the extra offerings taken to help fund their special trip.

**Other Communications:** We need to continue working on the Vision and Mission Statement we started at the council retreat. Pastor suggested we vote on this Mission statement. "Vibrantly open to the Spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and it's neighbors by **Joyfully living in the Good News**" Carol motioned that we accept this mission statement and have a banner made by the Herald Journal ready for open house Sunday. Ross S seconded. Passed by voice vote of the council.

**Next Meeting** Sept 9, 2009 at 7 PM

Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer

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

# Bethel Messenger

September 2009

Bethel Lutheran Church

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

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**

## Open House Sunday

Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup> we will be having worship at 9:00am (traditional) and 11:00am (contemporary). Sunday School will be 10:00am-11:00am and Christianity 101: Adult education will be from 10:15-10:45am.

Oh, but wait... there's more! There will be a free hog roast and potluck (please bring a dish to share) and fun games/activities for kids! We hope to see you there!



## Commitments for Our Church for the Month of September

### Altar Guild

Pam & Mark Lukens

### Ushers

Mark & Pam Lukens

### Acolytes

Jared Kadrie  
Quentin Mertz

### Lector

Shirley Weisenburger

### Greeter

Jill Duncan

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS!

- 1 Sophie Dahl
- 3 Adam Mertz
- 4 William Peterson  
Jacob Smith
- 5 Jean Christenson  
Tami Foust  
Nicole Weisenburger
- 6 Brandon Mork
- 7 Pamela Lukens
- 9 Nolan Hoehn
- 12 Jim Jorgenson  
Jane Martin
- 16 Kate Larson
- 20 Chris Rustad  
Jennifer Starke
- 21 Claire Larson  
Mary Lou Teubert
- 24 Roger Fedie
- 25 Patricia Gillespie
- 27 Matt Krull

