



October 2017

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



# Bethel Messenger

*Vibrantly open to the spirit, Bethel Lutheran Church serves God and its neighbors by joyfully living and sharing the Good News!*

## Pastor's message

O taste and see that the Lord is good- Psalm 34:8a

Have you seen God recently? This ancient invitation from the Psalmist is most commonly heard on Sundays, spoken right before Holy Communion. It serves as a reminder to us, that Jesus Christ is present in the meal we are about to receive. However, the Psalmist's words were spoken centuries before Christ, and can also serve as an open invitation for us to experience our living Lord at any time and place. In other words, the invitation to experience God, which pours out from all corners of our Scripture, is not restricted to any specific time or place. The Bible itself is a collection of stories where individuals and people throughout history witnessed God's amazing activity in their lives. These witnesses speak of experiences with God that can be described through taste, smell, sight, sounds, time, temperature, and texture. Nevertheless, we often confine God's activity to these pages; black ink on white paper, and never expect to experience God anywhere else. What if we were to take the invitation to "taste and see" seriously?

What would it look like if we spent our daily lives, seeking a living active God; an embodied Christ who walks among us, the Holy Spirit who inspires, equips, and enlivens? The beauty of Holy Scripture is that in this witness, we are equipped and invited to see ourselves in the continued narrative of God's holy work. Therefore, we read the Bible, not simply to look back, but also to look out into the world and recognize the same God at work today. In other words, God's not done here, and familiarity with Scripture and God's activity in it helps us to taste and see this reality.

The Reformation itself was the result of Martin Luther's experiences with a living God. In his *Preface to the Complete Edition of Luther's Latin Writings (1545)*, Luther describes a moment where the words of Scripture reached out to him in a new way and inspired him to see the world differently. About this "Tower Experience," Luther writes:

At last, by the mercy of God, meditating day and night, I gave heed to the context of the words, "In it the righteousness of God is revealed, as it is written, 'He who through faith is righteous shall live.'" There I began to understand that the righteousness of God is that by which the righteous lives by a gift of God, namely by faith. And this is the meaning; the righteousness of God is revealed by the gospel, namely, the passive righteousness with which merciful God justifies us by faith, as it is written, "He who through faith is righteous shall live." Here I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered paradise itself through open gates. There a totally other face of the entire Scripture showed itself to me....I also found in other terms an analogy, as, the work of God, that is, what God does in us, the power of God, with which he makes us strong, the wisdom of God, with which he makes us wise, the strength of God, the salvation of God, the glory of God.

The glory of God is truly all around us. So as we celebrate the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, let's not simply look back in our past. Instead, let us follow Luther's example and study Scripture, take up its invitation, and seek daily experiences of our living God.

Blessings,

Rev. Aaron Holmgren

## Lutheran Disaster Response

Lutheran Disaster Response is the disaster response ministry of the ELCA. Lutheran Disaster Response brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people whose lives have been disrupted by disasters in the United States and around the world.

Some key areas of work include:

- Providing emotional and spiritual care for people who have been affected by a disaster and for leaders who respond to a disaster.
- Coordinating volunteers through our local affiliates.
- Assisting refugees in a holistic way by meeting the various needs of the community.
- Promoting disaster risk-reduction by helping communities build their assets thereby reducing the effects of likely disasters.
- Providing long-term recovery efforts by addressing the unmet needs months or even years after disaster strikes.

Together, we can help provide immediate and long-lasting support. Your gifts ensure that our church will be able to provide help and hope for those left homeless or otherwise affected by disasters for years to come.

Ways to Give:

- Online giving (<https://community.elca.org/lutherandisasterresponse>) is simple and secure.
- Become a Monthly Partner (<https://community.elca.org/monthlypartners>) and give automatic, monthly gifts in support of Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Mail your donation. Make checks payable to Lutheran Disaster Response (if designated to a specific disaster, please indicate in the memo line).

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

ELCA Gift Processing Center

P.O. Box 1809

Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

- Give by phone. Call 800-638-3522 to make a donation with a credit card. Operators are ready to assist you Monday through Friday, 8:00 am-5:00 pm Central Time.

## Raise the Roof!



The Crow River Conference is working together to put a roof on the Bishopstowe Circuit Center, a building [near Pietermaritzburg, South Africa], which has been designed to meet many of the needs of our partners in the Umgeni (pronounced Oom-gay'-nee) Circuit (the term South Africans use instead of conference.) The walls have been erected on the center and donations have been pledged to support the plumbing and electrical

work, finishing and inside fixtures. However, the roof has not been pledged and their project has halted. If every member of the Crow River Conference gave \$2, this great need could be met. \$20,000 is the goal needed to raise the roof. Can you help? Bethel will have multiple opportunities throughout the fall to donate toward this project. Stay tuned! To learn more about the Raise the Roof project, check out the posted information in the narthex.

## October 2017: the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Reformation



"Out of love and zeal for truth and the desire to bring it to light, the following theses will be publicly discussed at Wittenberg under the chairmanship of Reverend Father Martin Luther, Master of Arts and Sacred Theology and regularly appointed Lecturer on these subjects at that place..."

These words begin *The Ninety-Five Theses*, a short document written by Luther to debate the Medieval Roman Catholic's use of indulgences. Legend has it that on October 31, 1517, Luther posted this document publicly on the door of Wittenberg's Castle Church, and it is this event which is commemorated as the beginning of the Reformation. This year we celebrate the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of this event, which changed the world. While Luther's words may have caused division, we still confess first and foremost one holy catholic and apostolic church, which can be found throughout all denominations, wherever the Gospel is shared and God is worshiped and

glorified. In our celebrations of our Lutheran heritage and identity this year, let us lift up the unifying message of God's unending grace, which cannot be bought, earned, or sold. And, may the God who makes things new, continue to inspire us to look forward with a love and zeal for truth and the desire to bring it to light. Happy Reformation!

## Call to action

Make a difference...there is urgent need for volunteers to help with the Habitat home in Hutchinson. Due to weather and contractor problems, we are significantly behind schedule this year. We could really use your help to get back on track with our 25th Habitat home at 429 Grant Ave. SE. Please consider scheduling a day or more, now through mid-December, for you or a group to help finish building this home. No experience is necessary! Please contact us either by phone or email. We are praying to complete this home in time for the Olson family to move in before Christmas. Thank you so much for considering being the hands and feet of Christ. Contact Deb Rueb, Volunteer Coordinator, at 320-587-8888 or deb@crhfh.org.



## Green Lake Lutheran Ministries fall retreat



**Senior High Retreat—October 13, 6:30 pm–October 15, 12:00 pm, Grades 9-12**

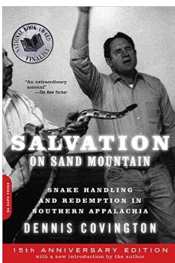
Spend a weekend at camp re-focusing on your faith! Join us at The Village at Shores of St. Andrew for meaningful Bible Studies, goofy games, songs, and campfires in the crisp air of fall. There will be break out sessions for TIM Team groups from this past summer, along with great things planned for those without. Bring your friends and join us for an amazing faith-building weekend. Fee: \$110

**Registration forms** are available on the small table in the narthex or register online at [www.gllm.org](http://www.gllm.org). Camperships are available upon request-contact the Bethel office.

**Bethel Book club selections****Check Bethel's library for copies of these books!****OCTOBER****When God Doesn't Fix It by Laura Story**

Laura's life took an unexpected turn when her husband was diagnosed with a brain tumor. The fairy-tale life she had dreamed of was no longer possible. And yet in struggling with God about how to live with broken dreams, Laura has found joy and a deeper intimacy with Jesus. God may not fix everything. In fact, although your situation might not ever change or get better, with Jesus, you can.

**Discussion date:** Wednesday, October 18 @ 7:15 pm; 36 Fir St. N., LP

**NOVEMBER****Salvation on Sand Mountain: Snake Handling and Redemption in Southern Appalachia by Dennis Covington**

A true story how a journalist sent to report on a murder trial gets caught up in the spiritual lives of a secluded religious sect.

**Discussion date:** Wednesday, November 15 @ 7:15 pm; 36 Fir St. N., LP

**DECEMBER**

**Movie Night:** We will finalize our selections for 2018! More information to come!

**Bethel Sunday school**

We had a lot of fun on Rally Sunday, September 17, 2017! We made good on our promise and got the kids a bounce house! We will try to keep everyone updated with our schedule in case you want to review the lessons ahead of time. Here is the schedule for the next three Sundays:

October 1: "Two Juicy Bites" Adam and Eve Genesis 3:1-24

October 8: "God's Promise" Noah Genesis 6-9

October 15: "Water Play" Baby Moses Exodus 2:1-10

We are also looking for volunteers to help out during Sunday School. We have a great routine, with video, story, discussion and project. We start out together and then split into two groups which are Pre-K-2nd grade and 3rd-6th grade. (Pre-K are welcome to join but must be accompanied by an adult.) We have had a few volunteers so far, thanks to Diane Horsman, Mitch Overbye, Matt Meyer, and Alison Dye! We just need to get a calendar dedicated to this task.

Thanks to all involved, for your help and support. We have an awesome group of kids here at Bethel! Rhianna Iverson and Stacy Meyer



## Thank you October volunteers!

ALTAR GUILD: Carol Wortz

USHERS: Lloyd Wortz & Ron Foust

LECTOR: Carol Wortz

GREETER: Jeff Breidenbach

## Directory update:

Ed Ekdahl: [e2Norway@gmail.com](mailto:e2Norway@gmail.com)

*For the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve,  
and to give his life a ransom for many." Mark 10:45*

## Easy online Volunteer sign-up for 2017-2018

Go to [www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org), click on Worship, and then Worship Volunteer Sign Up

## Blue Jean Sunday, October 8

Please, plan to stay after church to help with fall cleaning or sign up for a job to do at your convenience. "Many hands makes light work."



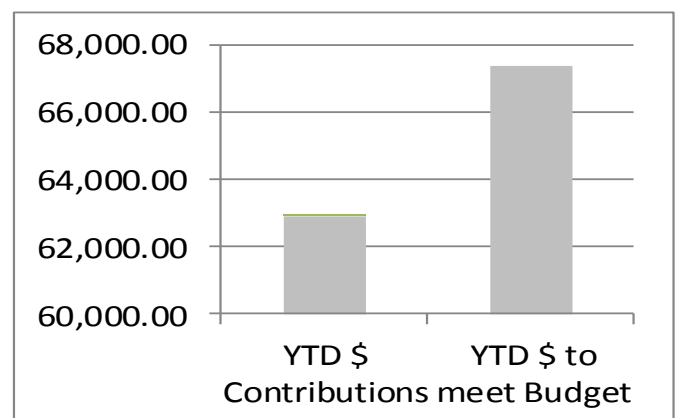
On the 15th of October we will be doing a "Ketchup" Sunday. Since many people are gone on vacations over the summer, offering tends to fall a bit behind. To help make up the difference we are asking that on October 15 you consider doubling your typical weekly offering. It's a simple way to help us catch-up and live fully into our ministry and mission. Thanks! Pr. Aaron

## Simply Giving program

Bethel Lutheran Church has an electronic option (*Simply Giving*) for making regular offerings. Contributions can be debited automatically from your checking or savings account. Our *Simply Giving* program offers convenience for you and much needed donation consistency for our congregation. Applications are located on the secretary's office door. All you need to do is fill out this form and give it to Lloyd Wortz, Bethel's Financial Secretary. Lloyd will also help with any questions you might have at [landcwortz@hotmail.com](mailto:landcwortz@hotmail.com) or 612-501-8770.

## Financial corner...

<b>For the Month of August 2017</b>	
Attendance	178
\$ Contributions	6,880.00
	8,423.06
\$ Difference	-1,543.06
<b>For the Year 2017</b>	
YTD \$ Contributions	62,930.32
YTD \$ to meet Budget	67,384.48
YTD \$ Difference	-4,454.16



**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
Council Meeting Minutes  
September 13, 2017**

Council Members attending the meeting included Pastor Aaron, Vice President Ron Foust, Secretary Jan Smith, Education Board member Stacy Meyer, Trustees Mary Lou Teubert and Wayne Iverson, Finance Committee members Matt Krull and Bobbi Kadrie

**Opening Prayer**– Pastor Aaron opened with an excerpt from *Ending Your Day Right* by Joyce Meyer

**Council Business**

**Pastor's Report:**

- \* Pastor attended the Crow River Conference Meeting. Two new members were welcomed leaving no pastoral openings in Crow River conference congregations.
- \* First communion classes have been held and Sunday, September 17<sup>th</sup> will be First Communion Sunday.
- \* The next Task Force lunch will be Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> at Bethel.
- \* The Prairie Community and Harvest Community churches have been invited to join Bethel in a Thanksgiving service the Sunday evening before Thanksgiving.
- \* Pastor will be attending a training program in mid-October and the Fall Theological Conference September 24-26. He will also be travelling with the National Lutheran Choir to Washington September 28-October 1<sup>st</sup>.
- \* Four children from Bethel will be going to the Fall Frenzy at Green Lake Bible Camp September 29-30.

**New Business**

- \* School Banner – A motion was made by Wayne and seconded by Andria to have a Bethel Lutheran Church banner displayed in the Lester Prairie school gymnasium at a cost not to exceed \$500.00. The cost would be covered equally by the outreach and marketing budget.

**Old Business**

- \* Parking lot/drainage- A goal was set to get at least two more bids on this project by the October meeting before discussing further.
- \* Council nominations for 2018 – Discussions will continue to raise awareness and clarify the responsibilities of council positions.
- \* Stewardship Campaign- This focus will be included during the five Sundays in November. Stewardship at a global, national, local, and personal level as well as a plan to create welcome baskets, will all be included in this emphasis.
- \* Catch-Up (“Ketchup”) Sunday – A general consensus of the council agreed to the financial team’s idea of organizing a Sunday in October to focus on catching up on individual offering pledges. The date set was October 15<sup>th</sup>.

**Secretary Minutes of the August Meeting**- Motion made by Andria, seconded by Stacy to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

**Treasurer Report** – Motion by Wayne, seconded by Lloyd to approve the report. Motion carried.

**Financial Secretary Report** – Motion by Andria, seconded by Matt to approve the report. Motion carried.

**Other Board Reports**

- \* Finance – They have started doing budget talks and are planning for the audit.
- \* Trustees – The toilets in the downstairs women’s bathroom are going in this week. They are seeking and waiting for parking lot bids and eventually bids for snow removal. A cleaning day will be scheduled for early October. The paper drive will be held September 26 - October 4 with funds going to the parking lot project.

**The meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer and other prayer requests.**



# October 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship	2	3	4 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p choir	5 Paper drive trailer pick up	6	7 6-9p Worldwide Mission Movement
8 Blue Jean Sunday 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, fall clean-up	9 11a-5p office	10	11 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p council	12 11a-5p office	13	14 6-9p WMM
15 "Ketchup" Sunday 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Adult Forum	16 11a-5p office	17	18 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office 11:57a-1:15p Youth Task Force lunch <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p choir 7:15p book club	19 11a-5p office	20	21 6-9p WMM
22 9:00a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship	23 11a-5p office	24	25 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p choir <i>*Newsletter deadline</i>	26 11a-5p office	27	28 6-9p WMM
29 Reformation Sunday 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Bible Study	30 11a-5p office	31				

**Bethel Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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**We're on the web!**

[www.lpbethel.org](http://www.lpbethel.org)

[www.facebook.com/lpbethel](https://www.facebook.com/lpbethel)

**Birthday blessings!**

3	Rhianna Iverson
4	Jan Smith
	Sarah Bolf
10	Connor Radtke
11	Cameron Bolf
12	Barry Kylo
	Kristie Collins
	Abigail Cartwright
18	Quentin Mertz
20	Jane Larson
22	Eric Angvall
23	Ron Larson
26	Grace Meyer

**Baptism day blessings!**

2	Tamie Foust
4	Kaelyn Schultz
5	Nicole Weisenburger
	Elsie Jaeger
6	Jameson Meyer
7	Mark Detlefsen
	Nora Christenson
10	Cassandra Mesik
14	Beckett Schultz
18	Mary Lou Teubert
20	Jacob Smith
25	Hailee Collins
26	Alissa Fedie
	Mallorie Torry
30	Larry Peterson

