

September 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

Philippians 1:3-5 I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now.

I said it last year and I will say it again; Paul knows how to write a letter. In one line, Paul's words of thanksgiving encapsulates so many of my thoughts looking back on this last year. Has it really been a year already? Reflecting on our time together so far, I am filled with gratitude, for how you all have demonstrated the love of Christ to us by welcoming me and Abbe into this community of faith. I only hope that I have conveyed to you the love and respect which I feel towards this congregation.

On September 10, 2016, Bethel Lutheran held my ordination and installation ceremony. For someone who spent years to reach that goal, that day will forever be a highlight in my life. However, it is important for me to remember that ceremonies do not make ministry. If I neglected to do anything after that day, than that moment would be meaningless. Martin Luther in his work "Freedom of a Christian" writes:

Ceremonies are to be given the same place in the Christian life that a model or plan would have for a builder or artisan. They are not meant to be the permanent structure, but without them it would not be possible to build anything at all.

Since last September I hope that we have begun to build something real together. In one year we have experienced the joys of worship and fellowship, we have grieved and cried, celebrated weddings and baptisms, studied Scripture and tradition, and shared in meals and stories. All of these events are building blocks to a strong foundation which have grown out of that first ceremony. Like Paul, I look back and give thanks to God, because I feel that we have been sharing in the Gospel since day one.

However, I also realize that being in my first year, I have probably also made multiple mistakes and have failed to follow the model provided. Perhaps I missed an opportunity to call or visit when you were in need; or maybe I failed to preach the good news on a Sunday you needed to hear it. In all the places where I have failed within this first year, I ask for forgiveness and pray for guidance in the future.

Looking into the future I am filled with hope and excitement, trusting that the plans laid out in this calling can lead to even more meaningful work together.

While September 10, 2016, may hold new meaning in my life, September can also be a significant time for many people. With the end of the Minnesota State Fair we are ceremoniously reminded that Minnesota's summer is officially over and children of all ages return to school. Here at Bethel the choir starts up again, Sunday school kicks off with Rally Day, and weekly adult forums return. With each ceremonious occasion, we can examine the model, and see what buildings lay in store. Every event and activity we plan and build on provides a chance for you to share in God's good news with one another. What structure is calling you this year? Will this September include a venture into volunteer opportunities yet to be explored... perhaps choir, Sunday school aide, altar guild, greeter, or usher? Or will this September mark the month you added a daily Scripture reading, a weekly exercise program, or a monthly book club? Leaning again on Paul's words: In a year from now, when we look back on September of 2017, what will you thank God for every time you remember it?

Let's mark these occasions and build on these plans, so that together we make something real and lasting, and above all glorifying to God.

With Gratitude,
Rev. Aaron Holmgren

Rally Day—Sunday, September 17

Sunday School Kids, please join us for Rally Day! Some fun activities are being planned and we hope to see you all there! We encourage you to invite a friend, classmate, or neighbor to Rally Day/ Sunday school! (First Communion will take place during the worship service.)

We are looking for four volunteers to commit to our Sunday school program as helpers/substitutes. Every Sunday we would like two helpers. That way, if there are four, the helpers can rotate. We plan to be teaching most Sundays but, if something comes up, a substitute would be wonderful! If you are interested please talk to Stacy Meyer or Rhianna Iverson.

Women of the ELCA Planning Meeting

Our Women of the ELCA Planning meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 6, 7:15 pm at church. This is your chance to voice your thoughts and ideas about the kinds of learning activities, service projects, fellowship times, and other ministry events you would like to see offered to the women of Bethel and others within the community. Come and share your ideas!

Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering

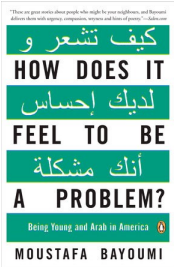
The Crow River Conference Women of the ELCA Fall Gathering will be on Saturday, September 30, 8:30-11 am at Peace Lutheran Church in Cosmos. The topic is "God, Girlfriends, and Chocolate." 50% of the offering taken will go to SWMN Women of the ELCA and 50% to the South African Roof Project at Bishopstowe for the roof at the Umngeni Circuit Center. There will be an In-Kind offering of Personal Care kits. Contributions can also be given to cover the cost of shipping the Personal Care kits. The cost for the event is \$10.00 and the deadline is September 18. Questions can be directed to Jill Duncan, Bethel Women of the ELCA President.

A Bethel Book Club evening in August



On a recent Wednesday evening, members of the Bethel Book Club meet to discuss *The Year of Living Biblically* by A. J. Jacobs. We started the evening off with food, as Andria had put a delicious pizza in the oven and Jan had brought healthy cheese and crackers to share. *Then* we started our discussion. One member had read the whole book but couldn't remember everything she read, one member didn't quite finish the book, and one member didn't get much of the book read at all—and yet we had a nice discussion about the premise of the book, the author's background as an agnostic Jew, and his knowledge of

and insight into Biblical teachings, as a result of the research he did in order to spend a year trying to live according to what the Bible literally says. *Then* we shared some favorite portions of the book and referred to some of the group discussion questions at the back of the book. *Then* the discussion turned to current events and we had a lively time talking about the political atmosphere in our country and how our Christian faith call us to action. *Then* Mallorie thought it would be a good idea to play a game of Slapzi and since Jan had never played it, the rest of us thought we should teach her how. Andria played so intensely she almost had a heart attack, Mallorie sat on the table to be able to reach the cards, Jan caught on quickly, and Jill won the game! *Then* the tornado warning sirens went off and after consulting the news and weather reports, we all decided to head to the basement just to be safe. Thankfully, we didn't blow away. *Then* we decided it was time to bring things to a close and that we would all look forward to next month's meeting. *Then* Jan and Jill waded through ankle deep water in the street to get to their cars and drive home. Maybe YOU would like to get in on the action and be a part of our next Book Club meeting on Wednesday, September 20! We'd love to have YOU join us! (See page 3 for more information on the next book of the month.)

Bethel Book Club selections**Check Bethel's library for copies of these books!****SEPTEMBER**

How Does it Feel to Be a Problem: Being Young and Arab in America by Moustafa Bayoumi

This book dives into the lives of young Arab Americans in post 9/11 United States. It looks at the structure of fear, oppression, and racism experienced by these individuals and the stress they face in their daily lives.

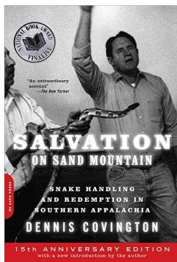
Discussion date: Wednesday, September 20 @ 7:15 pm; 36 Fir St. N., LP

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!

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.

Adult Forums for September

September 3: American Church History: Lutherans WW1-Today

How did we move from largely language based Synods to the ELCA, WELS, and LCMS just to name a few?

September 10: Pester a Pastor

An open forum where you are invited to bring all your burning questions about faith, tradition, religion, God...Your questions will lead the discussion.

September 17: Paschal Lamb?

"This is the feast of victory for the Lord, for the **Lamb** who was slain has begun his reign..."

September 24: Bible Study

A look at the lectionary text we did not hear in the service.

Green Lake Lutheran Ministries Fall Retreats



Fall Frenzy Youth Retreat—September 29, 6:30 pm-October 1, 12:00 pm, Grades 2-6

You're invited back to Green Lake Bible camp for fun activities, games, songs, and campfires, along with the mobile rock wall from Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center! This retreat is a great chance for campers to get a taste of camp in the fall and for new campers to have a short introduction to the camp experience. Invite your friends and save the date! Fee: \$110

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. Camperships are available upon request-contact the Bethel office.

Walk for Life

Join SAVE: for a **Walk Event that will benefit programs to educate about depression and suicide** at the McLeod County Fairgrounds, Hutchinson, MN on **Sunday, September 17 from 1:00-4:00 pm.**

Schedule of event: doors open at noon and the 10 lap walk starts at 1:00 pm

The event will include: music courtesy of Chopper, The World's Nuttiest DJ; Kid's Fun Zone; food and refreshments; a Silent Auction; a Resource Fair and more!

Speakers for the event: Dan Reidenberg, SAVE Executive Director and Dan Hanson, suicide survivor, combat veteran, and Wounded Warrior program.

To register: go to *Events* page at www.SAVE.org Register by August 15 to receive a free bandana!

Entry fees: Adult=\$15.00; Kids 12 & under=\$10.00; Family of 5=\$50.00.

Fundraising: teams and participants are encouraged to help raise money for suicide awareness by setting up a fundraising page at SAVE.org/events.

Sponsored by: SAVE-SUICIDE AWARENESS VOICES OF EDUCATION, Glencoe Regional Health Services, Hutchinson HEALTH, and FIVE STAR-FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

To become a sponsor, a volunteer, or for more information contact Tammy Diehn at diehn61@gmail.com or 507-381-4082.

Thank you for serving in September!

ALTAR GUILD: Nancy Krull & Andria Carlson

USHERS: Lloyd Weisenburger & _____

LECTOR: Shirley Weisenburger

GREETER: Dave & Arla Huser

LAWN MOWING: Pete Hallberg



Bethel Paper Drive begins September 26



Bethel's next paper drive will be September 26 through October 4. Please save newspaper, magazines, catalogs, phone books, office paper, processed food boxes, cardboard, junk mail, tp/pt rolls, etc. Questions can be directed to Mary Lou Teubert at 952-467-2542 or the church office at 320-395-2125. Watch for the truck in Bethel's parking lot.



A greener approach to giving

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the earliest organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers and donation consistency for churches.

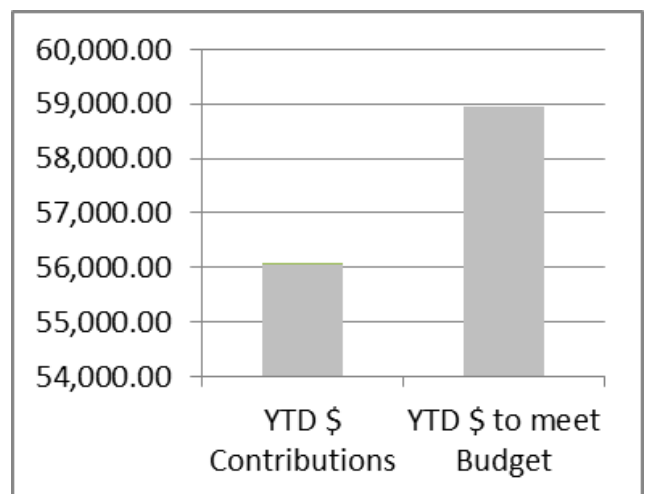
A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing and disposal of paper checks. That's why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

The *Simply Giving* program is available at Bethel. 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 or 612-501-8770.

Financial Corner...

<u>For the Month of July 2017</u>	
Attendance	158
\$ Contributions	7,618.50
\$ to meet Budget	8,423.06
\$ Difference	-804.56
<u>For the Year 2017</u>	
YTD \$ Contributions	56,050.32
YTD \$ to meet Budget	58,961.42
YTD \$ Difference	-2,911.10



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Council Meeting Minutes
August 23, 2017, following potluck and worship

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

Opening Prayer– Pastor Aaron

Council Business

Pastor's Report: Pastor has led one service at St. Mary's Care Center in Winsted, attended the Crow River Conference Luncheon for all pastors in the conference, had one lunch with congregational members, and made five pastoral visits.

New Business

- * Building use by Worldwide Missionary Movement– Bobbi and Jan met with representatives of the congregation regarding their usage contract and to plan for its renewal. Their congregation is growing and they are thankful to be able to use Bethel's facilities on Saturday nights. A motion was made by Mary Lou and seconded by Ron to extend the current contract for them to use the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall on Saturdays from 6-9 pm at a cost of \$200.00 per month. Bethel will also add their worship information to our church sign. Motion passed.
- * Consider Fair Trade Coffee and other vendors for supplies - A discussion was held raising an awareness of possibilities to consider while looking at all points of view and continuing to be respectful and responsible consumers. This is an area to research further.
- * Education Needs: Education Board members Stacy and Rhianna led a discussion on how to continue, strengthen, and grow the Sunday School programs. Classes will start this fall on Rally Sunday, September 17 for all Bethel children preschool through grade 6. The children will be divided into two groups. One class will include preschool children accompanied with a parent along with children in Kindergarten, first, and second grade. Another class will be held for children in grades three through six. The committee would also like four volunteers to rotate so one volunteer would be in each class weekly to become familiar with the program, support the children, and assist the teachers.

Old Business

- * Parking lot/drainage- One proposal for the parking lot drainage issue and one proposal for landscaping the area have been received. The topic will be further discussed when more information has been gathered.
- * Council nominations for 2018 – After a discussion regarding how to clarify the responsibilities of council positions, it was tentatively decided to include this in a holistic approach to a stewardship focus in November.
- * Strategic Vision/Planning – Pastor has added more concrete examples to the strategic plan started by the council in July. The intention is to continue work on the plan so it is ready to share at the congregational annual meeting in January.

Secretary Minutes of the July Meeting- Motion made by Ron, seconded by Mary Lou to approve the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer Report – Motion by Stacy, seconded by Matt to approve the report. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary Report – Motion by Ron, seconded by Stacy to approve the report. Motion carried.

Communications Received – Acknowledgement received for our \$100.00 offering given at the Synod Assembly.

Other Board Reports

- * Finance - No report
- * Trustees – The vacuum is fixed. Mary Lou is replacing the toilets in the downstairs women's bathroom. This will be done with the help of a Thrivent Action Grant and will support the goal to conserve our natural resources.

Lord's Prayer and other prayer requests



September 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 6-9p Worldwide Mission Movement
3 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Adult Forum	4 office closed <i>Labor Day</i>	5	6 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 5:30p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir 7:15p W/ELCA	7 11a-5p office	8	9 6-9p WMM
10 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Adult Forum	11 11a-5p office	12	13 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p council	14 11a-5p office	15	16 6-9p WMM
17 9:00a worship First Communion & Rally Day! 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Adult Forum	18 11a-5p office	19	20 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 6:30p choir 7:15p book club@ 36 Fir St. N. LP	21 11a-5p office	22 <i>Fall Begins</i>	23 6-9p WMM
24 9a worship 10:15a coffee & fellowship, Bible Study Fall Theological Conference	25 11a-5p office <i>*Newsletter deadline</i> Fall Theological Conference	26 Paper drive begins Fall Theological Conference	27 10a Bible Study 11a-5p office <i>*Noon bulletin deadline</i> 5:30p worship & music mtg. 6:30p choir	28 11a-5p office Pastor NLC	29 Pastor NLC	30 6-9p WMM Pastor NLC

***All calendar events are subject to change. For up-to-date calendar events, see our online calendar: <http://www.lpbethel.org>**

***Correction of Directory Update: Emily, Greg, & Liam Larson-10668 Xavis Ave. NW, Coon Rapids, MN 55433**

Bethel Lutheran Church, ELCA

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bethellutheranlp@gmail.com
Hours: M, W, Th 11am-5pm
Rev. Aaron Holmgren:
320-295-8787
pastor@lpbethel.org

We're on the web!

www.lpbethel.org
www.facebook.com/lpbethel

Bethel Paper Drive: September 26-October 4

Birthday Blessings!

- 
- | | |
|----|---------------------|
| 1 | Wyatt Iverson |
| | Krissa Latzig |
| 2 | Cassandra Mesik |
| 3 | Adam Mertz |
| 4 | Jacob Smith |
| 5 | Jean Christenson |
| | Tamie Foust |
| | Nicole Weisenburger |
| 11 | Kurt Rosenau |
| 12 | Jane Martin |
| 18 | Mallorie Torry |
| 20 | Neil Kleve |
| 21 | Mary Lou Teubert |
| 24 | Roger Fedie |
| 25 | Patty Gillespie |
| 27 | Matt Krull |

Baptism Day Blessings!

- | | |
|----|------------------|
| 2 | Andria Carlson |
| 5 | Loren Johnson |
| 7 | Anne Jenkins |
| 9 | Linda Detlefsen |
| 12 | Jack Otto |
| 16 | Victor Mertz |
| 17 | Mike Raguse |
| 22 | Jean Christenson |
| 23 | Alison Dye |
| 26 | Marilyn Pawelk |
| | Katie Radtke |
| | Jesse Dobrava |
| 28 | Olivia Radtke |

