



THE BETHEL BEACON

MARCH 2010

MISSION STATEMENT: We, the Bethel Lutheran Congregation, called by God, commit ourselves: to proclaim the gospel, to prepare our members for outreach and service, and to minister to human needs.



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WORSHIP DURING LENT/HOLY WEEK

Wednesdays @ 5:30pm & 7:00pm with *Holden Evening Prayer*
on Feb. 24, March 3, 10, 17 & 24
Supper served from 5:45-6:45pm
Bus service and Nursery available at 5:30pm

Wednesday, Feb. 24, 5:30 & 7pm

✦ ✦

Sat./Sun, Feb. 27/28

Wednesday, March 3, 5:30 & 7pm

✦ ✦

Sat./Sun, March 6/7

Wednesday, March 10, 5:30 & 7pm

✦ ✦

Sat./Sun, March 13/14

Wednesday, March 17, 5:30 & 7pm

✦ ✦

Sat./Sun, March 20/21

Wednesday, March 24, 5:30 & 7pm

EVE OF PASSION/PALM SUNDAY - March 27

Worship at 6:00pm

PASSION/PALM SUNDAY - March 28

Worship at 9:00 and 10:30am

MAUNDY THURSDAY - April 1

Worship at 7:00pm with Holy Communion

GOOD FRIDAY - April 2

Worship at 3:00 and 6:00pm

EASTER VIGIL - SATURDAY, April 3

Worship at 6:00pm with Holy Communion

EASTER SUNDAY - April 4 - PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGES

Sunrise Worship, 6:30am with Holy Communion

Easter Festival Worship with Holy Communion

8:00am, 9:30am & 11:00am

EASTER BREAKFAST - 7-10am

NEXT BEACON

Articles Due:

Tuesday, Mar. 16, 2010
by 12 Noon

Beacon Mailed:

Monday, Mar. 22, 2010

PASTORAL PERSPECTIVE

RUNNING THE RACE, FIGHTING THE FIGHT

Dear Bethel Members and Friends:

It was a terrific hockey game. As part of a series of meetings at Augsburg College, the Regents were invited to attend a hockey game — Augsburg vs. the eighth ranked team in the nation, Division III. As an Auggie supporter, I was delighted to see them get out to a quick lead. They were fast on the ice; they dug harder in the corners; and they scored. They even scored a short-handed goal! Partway through the second period the score was 4-0 - a nearly insurmountable lead in hockey.

But the Hamline Pipers were not ranked eighth in the country because of their pretty uniforms. They are good. And they started chipping away. With six seconds left in the game, they tied the score 4-4. All the momentum was on the side of Hamline. It was a tale of two different games — a quick start by Augsburg and a comeback by Hamline. Things were looking pretty bleak for the hometown squad. They couldn't win a faceoff, and they were getting beaten to every puck.

A five minute overtime ensued. Two minutes into the overtime, there was an intense rush by Augsburg, and a slapshot found the net resulting in a huge win!

The Olympic Games in Vancouver are featuring any number of remarkable athletes, including a gold medal snowboarder from the 2006 games, Seth Wescott. Wescott weaved his way through the preliminary rounds and was one of four in the finals that would determine medal winners.

He got a slow start out of the gate. For the first part of the race, he was in last place with little momentum. One of the boarders ahead of him had trouble, and he moved into third. With some good maneuvering, he moved into second. Still, he was so far behind the leader it would take super gravitational pull and a superlative effort to come close.

Inexplicably, Wescott set himself up to catch his competitor while negotiating two huge jumps. He just flew faster and farther. A gold medal waited for him at the finish line, with his Canadian opponent just a couple of feet behind him.

The Apostle Paul talks about running the race. Paul expects us to run all the way to the end of the race. It is easy to become discouraged; it is easy to give up. Sometimes it would appear that we are so far in the back of the pack that there is no reason to continue. We have good reason to continue. We have the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. We know we are going to win the race — we are just looking for the part we are to play. Sometimes it may take overtime. Jesus is willing to do overtime. Jesus is willing to do eternal time.

I hope you are enjoying the Olympics. I hope you are enjoying your spiritual race.

In the Grace of Christ,
Pastor Norman Wahl

CHURCH COUNCIL NEWS

The following is from the 01/19/10 church council meeting. A copy of each month's council packet can be found in the Bethel Adult Library:

- The Nominating Team submitted the ballot for the annual meeting.
- The rules for the 2010 annual meeting were approved by the church council. Ron Jensen will be the parliamentarian.
- The Zumbro River Conference Assembly will be Sunday, February 14 at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Rochester.
- Samaritan Bethany is having a Capital Fund Raising Campaign. They would like the support of Bethel.

RESULTS OF ZUMBRO RIVER CONFERENCE ASSEMBLY

Twenty-three Bethel members attended the annual conference assembly at Gloria Dei on February 14.

Bethel will continue to support the work of the conference through a \$.05 assessment per member, a total of \$213.25.

Elections were held and Pastor Anjanette Rist was elected to a two-year term as secretary of the conference. Also elected were nominees to the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly. Elected as the lay male representative is Ron Jensen of Bethel. Elected as female alternate representative is Stephanie Quigg.

**TIPS FROM THE BIG TEAM
WAYS TO SHOW**

YOUR LOVE FOR GOD’S CREATION!

1. Wrap your water heater in an insulated blanket and you’ll eliminate 1,000 lbs. of CO2 a year. Eliminate another 550 pounds by lowering the thermostat to 120 degrees F.
2. Brighten your living spaces. Add indoor houseplants to improve your air quality.
3. Start a neighborhood walking group. Walk to church and the store – have fun too!
4. The power of one: If every U.S. home replaced just one light bulb with an Energy Star bulb, we’d save enough energy to light 3 million homes for a year.
5. Take your own reusable coffee mug each time you go get coffee. Think of all the paper and Styrofoam cups you’ll prevent from ending up in the landfills.
6. Washing clothes in cold water eliminates 2 lbs. of CO2 per load. Also, wash clothes less frequently – only when they really need it.



Bethel has an opportunity to learn to successfully conduct a Fair Trade Market that sells beautiful work from a variety of individuals across the world who then earn a fair wage for their product. Our Savior’s Lutheran in Rochester has been conducting a Fair Trade

Market and offered to assist us to hold a similar event. If you are interested in participating in learning what is involved and to potentially develop a Fair Trade Market at Bethel, you are invited to attend an introductory meeting on March 11, at **either** 10:30am in room 115 or 6:30pm in the Conference Room. If you have any questions or are unable to attend, contact Pastor Anjanette (288-6430) or Helen Mundahl (288-1131) for information.

REFLECTIONS

By Pastor Anjanette

Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. - Matthew 11:28-30

I am an overpacker. On a recent family vacation I was the one with the heaviest luggage and the one who had the most “stuff” in my carry on bag. I’m so thankful for suitcases with wheels that make transporting the load a little “lighter”.

The season of Lent can feel “heavy” in its tone and it is a time when we encourage adding more to our daily and weekly discipline of faith. However, Jesus promises us that when we take His yoke upon us there is an ease and the burdens we carry become lighter. The gift of contemplating the cross is the discovery that Jesus meets us in our weariness and offers us a peace and a place to rest. I have always found great comfort and strength in Jesus’ words from Matthew 11 because of the image of Christ being yoked to my own life’s journey.

During this month of March, when the season of Lent marks our days and when we gather on Wednesday nights to consider “traveling light” through the guidance of Psalm 23, may we be encouraged to exchange the weights we daily bear for the goodness and mercy of God that follows us all the days of our life.

Journeying with *you* through the season,
Pastor Anjanette





Pastoral Acts at Bethel

We encourage you to share in the times of joy and sorrow with fellow members of God's family:

BAPTISMS

Go therefore and make disciples of the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Matthew 28:19

1/31	Dylan Benassi
2/13	Khloe Hanson Emma Dicks
2/14	Emmalynn Carisch Gia DeCook
2/20	Emily Schenck
2/21	Arun Try

WEDDINGS

And now faith, hope and love abide, these three; and the greatest of these is love. 1 Corinthians 13:13

FUNERALS

Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable and we will be changed.

(1 Corinthians 15:51-52)

1/30	Marlys Fritzke & Donald Jensen
2/10	Joseph Ruzek
2/13	Eileen Holkestad
2/17	Paul Brinson

ARE YOU EXPECTING A CHILD? COME TO THE PRE-BAPTISM CLASS



Bethel holds a monthly pre-baptism class on the 2nd Sunday of the month and the **next class** will be **Sunday, March 14, 6:30-7:30pm** in room 115. This class is held for those planning baptisms - even if the baby isn't due for awhile, call Judy in the office and tell her which class you'd like to attend. Parents and local sponsors are expected to participate in this opportunity to review the meaning of God's gift of new life. You are welcome to bring the child that is to be baptized as well. Even if this isn't your first child, we encourage you to attend one of the pre-baptism classes.

You must let the church office know the date you will attend the pre-baptism class to ensure that a pastor will be present to conduct the class. If we don't have anyone signed up for the evening, the class will not be held.

To **schedule a baptism**, please contact Judy Gittus, 288-6430 or jgittus@bethellutheran.com.

BIGG IDEA IS GROWING

Do you have a passion for the care and keeping of God's creation? BIGG ideas are shared in helping our congregation be mindful of our relationship to the earth. Come to share your ideas for action and plan to be a part of this team. We are now meeting every third Tuesday from 7-8 pm in the conference room. For more information talk to Pastor Anjanette or plan to come to our next meeting on March 16.

YOUNG IN SPIRIT FELLOWSHIP

Young in Spirit Fellowship (ages 62+) will resume with a luncheon on March 18. The lunch begins at 12 noon and we'll share a delicious meal together. Cost is \$8.00 per person and reservations need to be made by Tuesday, March 16 by calling Norma Isaacson, 282-0423. Join in the fellowship and fun.

WORSHIP AND MUSIC NEWS

BECAUSE OF YOU.....

Bethel has a tremendous music program. Because of your generosity, we have eleven ensembles, an active adult and children's music ministry, instruments for the orchestra, a 62-rank Wicks organ to lead and support the congregation and the choirs, a five-octave set of handbells, a great staff and a wonderful facility to carry-out this ministry

THANK YOU for your constant support and encouragement of this ministry. We will continue to enhance your worship experience. **To God be the glory!**

HELP!

Please share your voice and your talents by joining the choir. We have many "snowbirds" on leave for the winter and need singers to replace them. Just show up at rehearsal on Wednesday nights at 7:30pm in the sanctuary (8pm during Lent)! (Confirmed members and older.) New members are ALWAYS welcome!

The orchestra needs string players and a tuba player. They rehearse before choir on Wednesdays at 6:30pm in the sanctuary (during Lent, in the chapel).

IS APPLAUSE APPROPRIATE?

This question gets asked a lot. I personally don't care for applause during worship. The choir does not "perform". What we sing is to the glory of God, not to our own glory. We have great preachers at Bethel, yet we don't applaud them after their sermons. We don't applaud the ushers after they've collected the offering or the readers after they've read the lessons or the acolytes or communion assistants.

There are many times that I feel like applauding after a sermon that has especially touched me, but I quietly hold it in. (I do, however, let the pastor know of my appreciation at the end of the service.) When one person begins clapping, others feel obligated to follow suit.

No, I don't feel that applause is appropriate in the worship service but words of appreciation later are appropriate (to *all* who participate in the service)!

Gary Thorn, Minister of Worship & Music

GOOD NEWS!



WELCOME
TO THE FAMILY

William Deng, one of our members from Sudan, Africa, is going to be reunited with his wife, Rebecca and his 11-month-old-daughter, Ayen soon. The process

of meeting the criteria for them to leave their country and join William has been a long and difficult one. What a blessing for them to be finally united! William will be able to hold his daughter for the first time when they arrive in March.

William and Rebecca have nothing to set up their new household - a Bethel committee has been set up to help them - and we are asking you to help too!

They will need certain necessities before they arrive - a king-size bed, kitchen table/chairs and a crib. Monetary donations are also welcome - make the check out to *Bethel Lutheran* (William Deng in the memo line). We need these gifts ASAP.

We also want to help William & Rebecca furnish their apartment with other necessities. To do so, we'll be hosting a welcome event/shower for the family in the near future - date to be announced. This is not a typical shower - it will be a FAMILY EVENT - we encourage all members of Bethel - men, women, children and families to attend. It will give us the opportunity to show our love and support to one of our own. For this event you can bring gifts or give money ahead of time and the committee will shop for their needs.

A specific list of needed items is at the Welcome Center and in the church office soon. If you have anything to donate, call one of the following committee members - Avis Hagen (288-6430), Doreen Frusti (282-0526) or Sue Lundquist (280-0702) - thank you in advance for your response and prayers!

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY NEWS

4th Grade Special Event "The Easter Story"

On Sunday, March 21, the 4th Graders will come together during their Sunday school hour for a special Easter event. We will meet in Rooms 215/216 to hear the Easter Story, make a craft and have a light breakfast. Watch your mail for a special invitation!



NO SUNDAY SCHOOL on Palm Sunday or Easter Sunday! Please mark your calendar so that you remember there is no Sunday school on March 28 (Palm Sunday) or April 4 (Easter Sunday).

Kindergarten Someone Special Event is coming in April. Look for details in the April Beacon.

VBS planning has started. Mark your calendars for June 21-24. The April Beacon will be filled with more details!!

Sunday School 2010 / 2011 and VBS registration begin on Sunday, April 25.

Last day of Sunday school 2009 / 2010 will be on May 23.



Sunday School

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES TO ELCA COLLEGES

Bethel students who are or will be attending a Lutheran (ELCA) college for undergraduate studies are eligible for a Bethel scholarship that can be matched from the college. Please pick up and fill out an application in the church office by April 15, 2010. Applications can also be found online at www.bethellutheran.com and select forms.



CONFIRMATION NEWS

9th Grade Confirmation Mentor Meeting!!!

Confirmation 9th graders should be planning to join their Mentor for the 10:30am worship service and opening Mentor meeting on Sunday, February 28th. The Mentor meeting will begin at 11:30am.

We look forward to seeing you there.

Confirmation 6th, 7th & 8th Grade Students and Parents!

Your Bethel Lutheran Confirmation registration form and fee for the 2010/2011 year are due on or before February 28, 2010. If you are planning on going to Confirmation CAMP (July 11-16) the camp registration form and deposit are due on or before **February 28, 2010.**

If you have any questions concerning our Confirmation News please contact Daryl Jans, 288-6430.

NEWS FROM THE WOMEN OF BETHEL

Missions of the Month for March:

1. Paper products for Gift of Life Transplant House whose mission is "to provide transplant patients and their caregivers with high quality, affordable accommodations in a supportive, home-like environment." 2. Sewing kits for Lutheran World Relief: The sewing kit items are 3 yards of 44" or 45" cotton or a cotton blend material or 4 yards of 36" material, one package of needles for hand sewing, one spool of matching thread, one card of buttons.

WELCA Pin Nominations Do you know a woman who serves her church and community? Have you been wondering how to recognize her for her service? WELCA has the answer. Nominate her for a WELCA Pin to be awarded at the Spring Coffee, May 1. Nomination forms are available through the Circles and in the church office. Complete and return the form by March 15. If you have any questions, please call Terri Wehrman, 281-6346.

Help needed for "The Promise"! We need workers for the Women's Booth for each performance time of "The Promise" (March 12, 13, and 14, and 19, 20, and 21). If you are interested, leave a note for Avis or Sylvia in the church office, including name, contact information and which dates you would be able to cover.

Dates to Remember:

- Friday, March 5 - World Day of Prayer - Mt. Olive Lutheran
- Monday, April 12 - WELCA Board Meeting
- Thursday, April 15 - WELCA Spring Convention - Grace Lutheran Church, Austin, MN
- Saturday, May 1 - Spring Coffee, 10am
- Thursday, May 6 - Spring Rummage Sale

CHILDREN'S WORSHIP OFFERING

by Sherman P Coltvet

What a joy it is to watch our children bring their offerings to the Lord at our Saturday and Sunday worship services. Some of our children almost come skipping with their offering. Others are very serious about bringing their gift to the Lord. And then there are those who come forward matter-of-factly, this is what you do at this time of the worship service!

Why did we start the children's offering? First of all, we want our children to know that they are important and a part of our worship experience. They have watched mom and dad or grandma and grandpa put something in the offering plate every week. Now they are not just observers. They actually participate in this act of worship. We want them to feel that they are a part of God's people and active in worship.

Secondly, we started our children's offering as an opportunity to teach our children about stewardship. God has been so good to us in our forgiveness through Jesus and God continues to bless us. Can we help but say thank you with some of the gifts that God has given us? Parents - what an opportunity to share with your children how they can set aside a portion of their allowances so that they can bring it to worship to thank Jesus for all his love!

Finally, our children can understand what their gifts are doing. They think about hunger as they give their gifts for world hunger, or they know that "Bundles of Love" is, as it was so effectively explained by Pastor Andy. It's important that they have the opportunity to give and it is just as important that they know what their offering is doing.

Jesus said, "Let the Little children come unto me for of such is the kingdom of God." Our children are coming forward and we can learn from their joyful giving.



YOUTH NEWS

Up-to-date information can be found at
bethellutheranyouth.com

New information is added every week and this is the place to get the most up to date information as well!

Sunday morning **Youth Forum** and **Peer Ministry** will not be meeting on **March 28 or April 4**.

Elevate will meet on **March 28** and be off on **April 4**.

Frontline - will continue to meet in Youth Hall, on **Wednesdays from 7-8:30pm**. All middle school students are welcome to attend this time of Bible study.

Elevate - Sundays, 7-9pm, Youth Hall - We will continue our study on **Salvation**. The evening will start with some free time in Youth & Bethel Halls. We will then have a worship time with the Youth Band, a large group/small group discussion time and end with more worship with the Youth Band. This is a great time to come and ask some questions about your faith as we look at how the story of Jesus interacts with our lives. Topics for March include: **Sin, Atonement, Repentance and Confession**. We have a **Facebook group** for Elevate, check the website to become a member, then receive updates on topics and upcoming events!

Thank you to all the students and adults who helped with the **Youth Forum fleece blanket service project** during the month of February. Special thank you to Donna Hare and Juli Ingham for preparing so much of the material for the youth to tie. Thanks also to all the members who have donated fleece, made cash donations, or assisted in preparing the material. **All blankets will be donated to local charities.**

High School Youth- Rock & Worship Roadshow Concert! **March 20-21 (Sat.-Sun.)**, Council Bluffs, IA. A night of concerts from: **MercyMe, David Crowder* Band, Family Force 5, Francesca Battistelli, Fee, Remedy Drive, and Sidewalk Prophets**. **Cost is \$50**, which includes concerts, hotel and transportation. Check the **Youth Board** for more information and registration details! You will not want to miss this opportunity!

Middle School Youth can register now for the upcoming trip to the **Water Park of America on March 20**. The **\$20 registration fee includes a pass into the park and transportation on a charter bus**. We will leave Bethel at 8:30am and return at 8:30pm. **Registrations due in by Sunday, March 14**. Friends are welcome to attend!

6th Grade Youth - Come check out camp, before summer confirmation camp! We will be traveling down to **Good Earth Village** to participate in their **Youth Blast on Friday/Saturday March 26/27**. Cost is \$25 which includes transportation, 3 meals on Saturday, Bible study and activities. We will leave Bethel at 6:15pm on Friday and return by 8:00pm on Saturday. Sign up with other 6th graders from Bethel ... and see camp, before this summer!

Youth - interested in earning **some money** for your Youth Account?? Sign-ups will be available at the youth board for people interested in working the upcoming **Easter Breakfast**. Work shifts will be available on both **Saturday, April 3 and Sunday, April 4**. Money earned may be used to help pay for confirmation camp or any other youth sponsored activity here at Bethel.

More information to come regarding: **Youth Led Service in May, summer softball and other activities**.

GIFTS & MEMORIALS

- Music Fund, Prayer Shawl Ministry in memory of Marlys Fritzke from family and friends
- Onkka Endowment Scholarship Fund from Linda Tollefsrud in memory of her father, Laurel Grunwald
- Organ Fund in memory of Harold Hellickson from Mike and Diane Gilbert
- Building Fund in memory of Fredrick Hughes Sr 96th birthday from Margaret Hughes
- Building Fund in memory of Donald Jensen from family and friends
- Sheet Music Fund from Lila Swanson in memory of her sister, Ruby Hogan, whose life was music
- Sheet Music Fund in memory of Ferdy Daniels from family and friends
- Children's Library Fund in memory of granddaughter, Emily Herring, from Herman and Diane Zincke
- Undesignated Fund in memory of Sue Johnson's mother, from Fred and Teresa Hughes
- Prayer Shawl Ministry in memory of Muriel Tritten from David and Marlys Tritten
- Pastors Emergency Fund in memory of Eileen Holkestad from Jim and Cindy Bahler

2010 STEWARDSHIP GIVING

<u>General Giving</u>		<u>Building Fund</u>	
1/24	\$11,264.50	Offerings to Date (as of 2/14)	\$50,862.27
1/31	\$13,925.50	Total Pledged for 2010	\$392,000.00
2/7	\$34,860.69	Number of Families Pledging	443
2/14	\$10,180.50	YTD Mortgage Payments	\$80,854.00
		Annual Mortgage Payments	\$485,124.00
		Mortgage Balance	\$4,876,240.87
As of 2/14/2010:		<u>Simply Giving</u>	
YTD Projected Envelope Offerings	\$123,012.00	General Offerings Rec'd in 2010	\$23,400.83
YTD Actual Envelope Offerings	\$136,118.12	Building Offerings Rec'd in 2010	\$10,312.50
Difference	+ \$13,106.12	% of General Offerings Rec'd 2010	25.7%
		# of Families Participating	180

BETHEL'S STAFF

Pastors:

Norman Wahl Executive Pastor
 Anjanette Rist Pastor of Visitation, Outreach & Missions
 Andrew Nelson Pastor of Education & Youth
 Roy Satre Assisting Pastor of Visitation

Program Staff

Chris Zabel Parish Administrator
 Gary Thorn Minister of Music
 Dave Gross Youth Music Assistant
 Michael Beckmann Youth Director
 Daryl Jans Children's Ministry Director
 Darcy Youngstrom Assistant Youth Director
 Avis Hagen Shared Ministry & Small Groups
 Lorrie Schuchard New Member Coordinator

Office Staff

Judy Gittus Communications/Membership
 Janet Hoffmann Administrative
 Patricia McEwan Education & Youth
 Sylvia Ramaker Receptionist/Secretary

Custodial Staff

Bill Freytag Properties Supervisor
 Bryan Kohn Custodial Supervisor
 Tony Wright Custodian
 Dustin Christopherson Part-time Custodian

Principal Organist Dale Mundahl
 Saturday Organist Jim Bahler
 Weekend Receptionists Barb Larson, Lois Graif
 Financial Secretary Alice O'Groske
 Nursery Coordinator Shelly Savage

ADULT EDUCATION NEWS

BIBLE STUDIES AND MORE: All of our studies welcome new members and meet in various rooms (check the calendar on the kiosk in the Narthex):

- **Monday Night Bible Study** - 6:30pm in room 115 - study Sunday's lessons
- **Wednesday Early Morning Bible Study** (6:30am—read through the Bible) - rm 115
- **Wednesday Morning Bible Study** (10am – studying Sunday's lessons), room 115
- **WELCA Bible study**, 10:45am on the first Thursday of each month, room 115

SUNDAY ADULT FORUMS: 10:30am in room 115 (unless otherwise noted):

- February 28 - "Mission and Outreach: Current Work and Future Dreams" led by Pastor Anjanette Rist - hear about the many missions Bethel is involved in.
- March 7 - "Interfaith Hospitality Network & Dorothy Day House" - learn more about these missions we support.
- March 14 - "IHN and Dorothy Day House: Panel with Recipients" - learn from people who have been guests at these two missions.
- March 21 - "Emotional Illness in Tough Economic Times: Homelessness and Poverty"- led by Dr Mark Williams, Mayo Clinic psychiatrist who will discuss his work at Salvation Army's Free Clinic.
- March 28 - No Adult Forum

Faith 'N Friends - Ladies: Join us Tuesday, March 9, 2010 6:30-8pm, Music Room, as we continue with Chapters 4 & 8, "Partnering with God Today," in John Ortberg's book *"God is Closer than you Think."*

Samaritan Bethany Pancakes

The Samaritan Bethany Foundation is planning their 24th Annual Pancake Breakfast at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church on Saturday, March 20 from 7am-12:30pm. The cost of the tickets are \$6.00 for 10 years and older (\$6.50 at the door) and \$2.00 for nine years and younger. The proceeds will go to the Transportation Fund. Tickets will be on sale in the Narthex on March 6/7 and 13/14 or in the church office during the week. Upon request gluten free pancakes will be served.



ANNUAL PLANT SALE

The 7th Annual Plant Sale will be held May 21 and 22 with the proceeds benefitting Bethel's Children's Music Ministry.

Donations of plastic pots, boxes, potting soil, etc. are being accepted now. Contact the people below to let them know what you can donate - please do not bring your donations to the church office - you will be told where to bring them.

Please e-mail Dave and Tammy Gross at gross@bethellutheran.com or leave a message for Gary Thorn, 288-6430 ext, 3106.

Day on the Hill Thursday, March 25

8:30am-3:30pm

The Joint Religious Legislative Coalition is sponsoring its annual Day on the Hill and Bethel members/friends are invited to attend to be informed and also to speak to lawmakers directly about matters related to poverty, health care, judicial fairness, housing, and taxation in MN!. Registration is received at www.jrlc.org and the cost if paid before March 10 is \$30 (\$15 student or low income). Indicate your interest on the Count Me In Forms at church or contact Pastor Anjanette who is organizing transportation and attending the event.

Bethel Lutheran Church
and



This year it's COW vs. FISH!

The Bethel Challenge for 2010 is to raise 2000 units of food for Channel One.

This year, we will be collecting boxes of Hamburger Helper or Tuna Helper, or a cash donation (\$2.00 = 1 box).

Pastor Andy (Super Cow) and
Pastor Anjanette (Super Fish)

will be holding a competition as to who is the best super hero. However, this is a win-win for all involved. Donations go to feed the hungry in Olmsted County.

Your donations help serve:

- Seniors and individuals with physical or mental health disabilities
- Working families and individuals
- People in times of crisis due to job loss, medical problems, or personal disaster

SOUPER BOWL RESULTS

Just like in the Super Bowl, the Saints pulled off a win against the Colts in Bethel's own Souper Bowl of Caring. The final score was \$563.56 for the Colts and \$593.32 for the Saints. Good job everyone and thanks for all of your donations. Half the donations will remain in our community by being donated to the Channel One Food Shelf and the other half will benefit the people in Haiti through the American Red Cross. Stay tuned for next year's coverage of Bethel's 2nd Souper Bowl of Caring.

YOU ARE NEEDED!

- The Neighborhood Outreach Team has partnered with Riverside Elementary to provide winter clothing to families who struggle to keep their children warm during our cold Minnesota winters. As you are sorting through old winter clothes or are out

shopping the end of season clearance sales, remember the needs of our neighbors. We need grade school size, good condition; coats, snowpants, mittens, hats, boots, sweatshirts, sweatpants and tennis shoes. Clothing can be delivered to the blue collection bin at the Newcomers' desk. Thanks for all your support on this effort!

- Bethel will host an orientation/training on April 29, 2010 at 6:30 pm. Bethel could use more volunteers for our Buddy weeks, so please plan on attending this training. Volunteers are needed for a variety of jobs, such as cooking a meal, hosting, driving the van or staying overnight at the host site. Bethel has 4 weeks a year that we "Buddy" at Homestead United Methodist Church. Please call Lynn (282-7975) for more details and plan to attend the orientation if you or your family is looking for a rewarding volunteer experience.
- The Dorothy Day Hospitality House, the homeless shelter in Rochester, is in urgent need of an overnight volunteer 1 or 2 nights/week (9:30pm-7:00am). You can receive free room and board, sharing the weekly overnight duties with 3 other men. This position starts March 1st, plus there will be another opening starting July 1st. Please contact Joan Grosso - 288-1300.

IHN NEWS

Mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual Interfaith Hospitality Network (IHN) House Party, *There's No Place Like Home* on April 10 at Holy Spirit Catholic Church from 12-2:30pm. There will be a live and silent auction. IHN needs your talent to create unique houses for auction! Any type of house; doll, bird, dog, kitty condo, bat, butterfly, etc. would be welcomed! Call Kathy, 282-9604, if you could donate a house for the party!



LIBRARY NEWS

What Language Do You Speak? Best selling author and counselor, Gary Chapman, has written several books guiding us to discover the languages of love. The Bethel Library has the following waiting for you:

The Five love Languages of Children - discover your child's primary language and then gain some ideas on ways to strengthen the bond between you and your children by speaking their unique language. You will also find suggestions for good parenting and an action plan to keep you on track each week.

The Five Love Languages of Singles brings practical insight whether you are young or old, widowed, divorced, separated or never married. Suggestions for communicating and receiving unconditional love can be applied in all of your relationships - with friends, coworkers, roommates and family members.

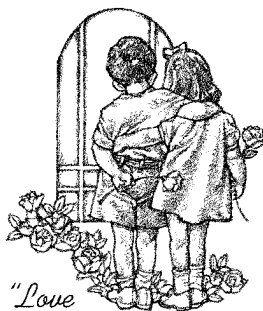
The Five Love Languages - Men's Edition is unusual in that it is a relationship book written from a man's perspective. You will also find an easy to use husband and wife profile exercise that will guide you in interpreting your scores.

The Five Love Languages of Teenagers It's easy to tell when a teen wants to be loved. Use this tool to analyze your teen's love

language so you can learn to speak the right language to truly be understood.

For a free study guide and more information check www.fivelovelanguages.com where you'll find an interesting question and answer section on the

topics of marriage, parenting and family.



*"Love
your Neighbor
as Yourself."*

Mark 12:31

TEA TEAM

What is our purpose and how do we use the money we raise?

The Tea Team was originally known as the Decorating Team. The team started in the fall of 1995 with sole purpose of planning a Victorian Tea. For many years, the team planned both a spring brunch and the Christmas Tea. After a few years, it was decided that planning both events was too much so we decided to give up the spring brunch.

Originally, the money we raised was used to decorate the church. We bought Christmas trees and ornaments. Other things that we have used our monies for over the years have included:

- * furnishings for Room 115
- additional round tables
- banners that match the present paraments
- banners for Easter, Advent, Epiphany and Pentecost
- kneelers in the new sanctuary
- outside banners material and a sewing machine to sew the banners
- Riverside Elementary for warm clothes for children in need
- building two houses in Ecuador
- helped pay for the re-silvering of the punch bowl and a communion chalice.

Our team meets on the third Thursday of month in April, May, August, September, October, November and December. We usually begin planning for the next tea in January. Part of our team works on planning the menu. The week of the tea we spend most of that week in Bethel's kitchen preparing the food the tea. We have 25 to 30 hostesses that set the tables for the tea. Pictures from past teas can be viewed on Bethel's website (bethellutheran.com) and click on the Photo Album. If you are interested in being a part of this exciting team or would like to host a table, contact Teresa Hughes, ftughes72@aol.com.

PASTOR WAHL SABBATICAL

In the summer months of 2010, Pastor Wahl will be on a three-month sabbatical. The Southeastern Minnesota Synod is supporting the sabbatical with some resources and is also supporting Bethel to provide some pastoral support in Pastor Wahl's absence.

A sabbatical is a time to experience a completely different rhythm of life — rest, devotion, travel, refurbishment of the spirit. (You may remember that Pastor Wahl attempted a similar sabbatical about eight years ago — didn't work out too well — something about three broken vertebrae in the back and a body cast.) Kathy and Pastor Wahl will do significant travel that they haven't been able to accomplish because of their conflicting schedules as a teacher and preacher. The centerpiece will likely be a trip to the Holy Land. Additionally, time is planned in Door County, Wisconsin; Napa Valley, California; northern Minnesota lake country; and a short (free!) cruise in the Bahamas.

Helping to focus the sabbatical is Mark Buchanan's The Rest of God, a seminal work in the taking of Sabbath in one's life. Pastor Wahl thanks the people of Bethel for their support, and is especially thankful to the staff for seamlessly carrying on Bethel's multitude of ministries.

2010 ANNUAL MEETING

Nearly 300 people gathered for the annual business meeting of Bethel on January 31. Many of the items on the agenda vary little from year to year, including reports, the adoption of a budget, and elections. Much work and many meetings preceded the annual meeting this year because of the issues that have faced the ELCA.

The people of Bethel have stepped forward in the face of difficult circumstances. And while there are disappointments with some parts of the budget (including the reduction of benevolence support, reductions in team funding, and going without the filling of a vacant staff position for an undetermined amount of time), the budget was approved.

Elected to the Church Council were Sue Lundquist, Jeanne Townsend, Lori Odegard, and Mike Buttshaw.

Much debate surrounded the four resolutions presented to the congregation. It was a respectful discussion with passion on all sides.

Three of the resolutions passed, and one did not. Both for the resolutions and the specific results, see Bethel's web page www.bethellutheran.com. If you do not have access to the Internet, the church will be happy to provide a copy of the results at your request, and they are available at the Welcome Center and the receptionist's desk in the church office.

Thank you, people of Bethel, for your spirit and for moving together in mission.

SAMARITAN BETHANY CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

One of Bethel's ministry partners, Samaritan Bethany, is conducting a special capital campaign to support its new effort at the building just off Broadway between 7th and 8th NW. It is a tremendous improvement in living conditions for residents.

Bethel members will be given the opportunity to participate in this campaign on March 6-7. Between February 20 and March 7 you will be given much information to help guide your generosity. We are thankful to Samaritan Bethany for the care it has been offering in our community for decades!

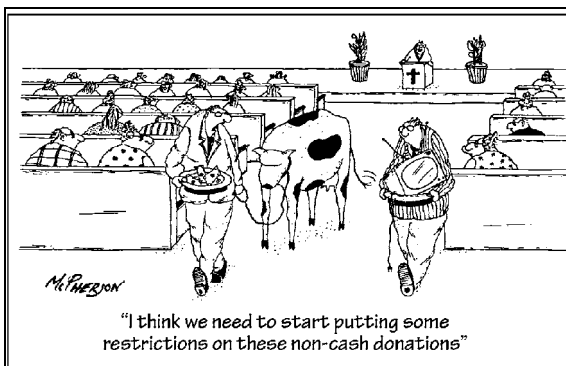
HELP KIDS GO TO CAMP!

Confirmation camp ... just around the corner! It's hard to be thinking about warm summer days and relaxing outdoor time with friends, but yes, confirmation camp is not that far off. This year, Bethel is fortunate to be taking approximately 100 students to camp! Three grades of Bethel youth will have the opportunity to participate in camp this year - time in the outdoors with friends, bible study with counselors and staff and relaxing evenings around the campfire. This experience is always one of the highlights for the youth here at Bethel. We thank the congregation for supporting this program and the opportunity for our youth to have a more in depth study of the Bible while attending camp at Good Earth Village.

If you have an interest in financially supporting this opportunity for a youth please locate a **Confirmation Camp Scholarship Fund Brochure** located at the **Welcome Center** and **Youth Board**.

Bethel Lutheran Church ELCA
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**HELP WITH MINNESOTA FOODSHARE
BY GIVING HAMBURGER OR TUNA
HELPER - WE NEED TO RAISE
2000 POUNDS!**

***YOUR COMPETITORS ...
Pastor Andy (Super Cow)
Pastor Anjanette (Super Fish)***

***If you would prefer not to have
your name appear in any Bethel
publications, please contact the
church office, 288-6430.***

WORSHIP TIMES

Saturday 6:00pm
Sunday 9:00 & 10:30am

OFFICE HOURS

Mon-Fri 7:30am-5:00pm
Sat 8:30am-12 Noon
Sun 8:00am-12 Noon

**MARCH 2010
BETHEL BEACON**

Staff e-mails can be found at:
www.bethellutheran.com

