

APR—MAY 2017



Bethel Lutheran Church
5232 Irvine Avenue NW,
Bemidji, MN 56601

Church Office
218-444-4746

bethelbemidji.org

Bethel Child Care Center
218-444-4789

Rev. Mark Kindem
Pastor

Home Phone # 444-8545
pastorkindem@hotmail.com

Patti VanCamp
Office Admin./Fin. Manager
adminsec@bethelbemidji.org

Randell McKain
Youth Director
Abe Hanson
Custodian

PRAYER CHAIN

- Day -

Barb Brown @ 243-2313

- Evening -

Judy Thorson @ 444-6944

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM
Worship Service
10:00 AM
Fellowship Hour

BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, 5232 Irvine Avenue NW, Bemidji, MN 56601



"If for this life only we who have hoped in Christ, we are of all men most to be pitied. But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have fallen asleep"

1 Corinthians 15:19-20

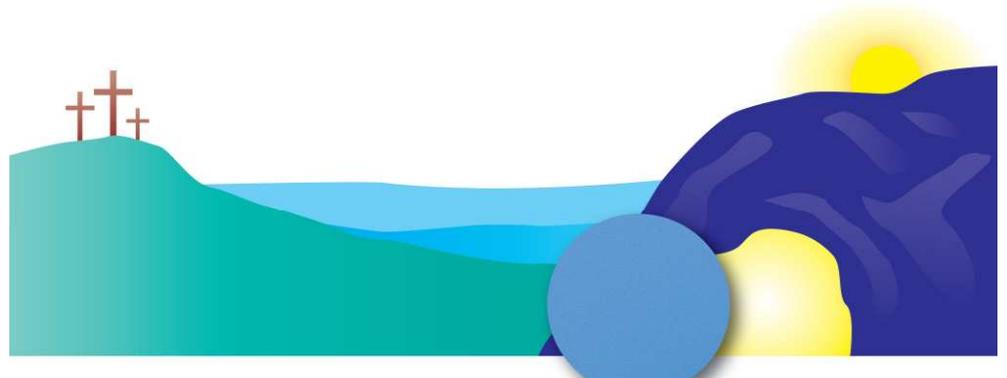
They put him in a tomb on a Friday afternoon. They rolled a large stone against the entrance. He was dead. Let no one disturb his body. They even stationed guards at the tomb to make sure that no one would take him away. But they forgot one thing; they hadn't figured on God! God had sent him on a mission which included death, but death wasn't the end of the errand. God raised him from the dead; He defeated death from the inside out!

Martin Luther in his small catechism asks, "What does this mean?" Some would ask now, "So what's the difference?" "What does Easter mean?" "What's the difference?" I am glad you asked. In the Hymn "Come my Way, my Truth, my Life", written in the 1600's Author George Herbert writes: "Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life: Such a way as gives us breath; Such a truth as ends all strife, Such a life as killeth death."

Death is killed! It no longer has the last word! The last word now belongs to Jesus! And he speaks to you and me, just like he spoke to Mary that first Easter morning. He calls us by name and gives us a new life. Because of Easter there is forgiveness. Because of Easter there is victory. Because of Easter there is love and courage. Because of Easter there is an everlasting future, not a dead end. That's what Easter means. That's what the difference is.

Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through Jesus Christ!

Pastor Mark Kindem



OPEN LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

Bethel Lutheran Church

March 20, 2017

To: Bethel Church Council
Bethel Property Committee
Members interested in exploring a greater Bethel ministry in 2017

From: Duane Christensen, Congregational President 2017

After much thought and prayer the past 3 months I would like to discuss with you some of the problems and opportunities facing us as a congregation this fiscal year. I want to tell you that I see these topics as opportunities rather than problems as we plan ahead for our ministry here at Bethel. I will list these items as goals for our work this year. They are not in order of importance but all of them are valuable and important.

1. We need to improve our credit rating by completing our debt reduction efforts.
2. We need to repair and renew our parking lot to acceptable standards.
3. We need to start and complete our conversion to LED lighting both inside the building and surrounding the parking lot outside.
4. We need to add an activity room for our youth and the BCCC this year.
5. We need to plan to begin restoring Pastors' time and salary in next years' budget
6. We all need to continue our personal evangelism in the community bringing the good news of Christ to everyone we come in contact with and invite them to come to our fellowship.

I am sure that you are reading this as some impossible dreaming but it is not as it may seem. Let me discuss each in a brief paragraph.

1. During our March council meeting a \$200 matching challenge was made to council members to work on debt reduction and within a few minutes nearly \$2,000.00 was pledged. Some in the congregation have already pledged as well.
2. Our parking lot has a dedicated amount of \$13,000 already for spring attention. The property committee will be getting one more bid for our consideration.

3. With the BCCC's \$3,000.00 pledge we have only about \$1,000.00 left to start that project.
4. The activity room will have at least \$30,000.00 as startup which can be added to reduce the mortgage which will be in partnership with the BCCC.
5. The last two goals will be planned later in a formal way.

Thank you for reading these goals and I look forward to discussing these at future meetings. Working together we know that all things are possible.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Duane Christensen

room is completely filled.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

3/14/17

President Duane Christensen called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m., opening with a prayer. Jessica Powell led devotions, reading from Deuteronomy 6, asking, "What's on your heart today?"

The council received a letter from Hal Wilhite resigning his position on the Evangelism, Finance, and Stewardship committees due to health issues. The council regretfully accepted this resignation and wishes to thank Hal for his dedication and service to Bethel.

As a part of the Spring Fund Drive to reduce debt the council has agreed to pledge matching funds as an incentive for the congregation to begin to pay down the debt from 2016.



02/14/17

President Duane Christensen called the meeting to order, opening with a prayer. Dean Rasmussen led devotions, leading the council in a prayer about being good leaders of the church.

The council agreed to increase the fees for the Wedding Coordinator services. Those families with current rental agreements need to be notified of this increase. Pastor Kindem will call the families and tell them of this change in rates. The rate increase will apply to weddings taking place effective immediately.

Please welcome Alice Mullin as a new member of Bethel. We are glad to have you with us Alice!

The Finance Committee is holding a Fund Drive in order to pay off the remaining debt from 2016.

Member Jessica Powell is now the part-time manager of The Bethel Child Care Center. There are some spots open for children, but the infant

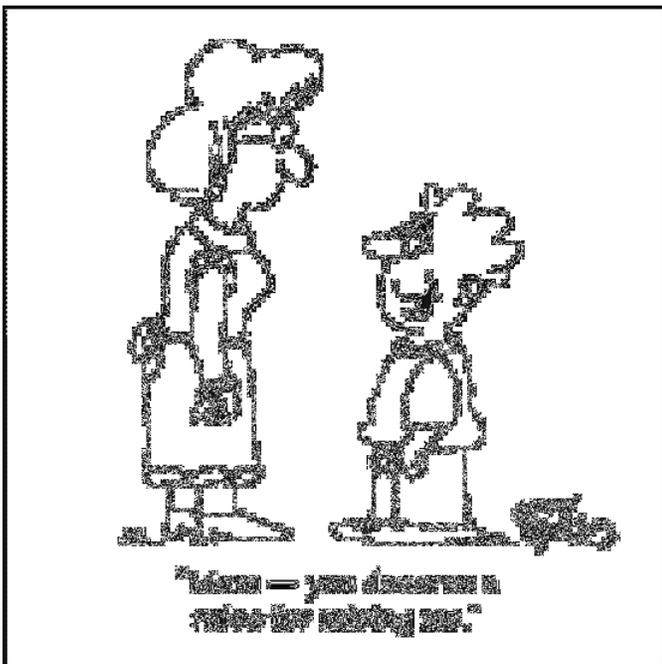
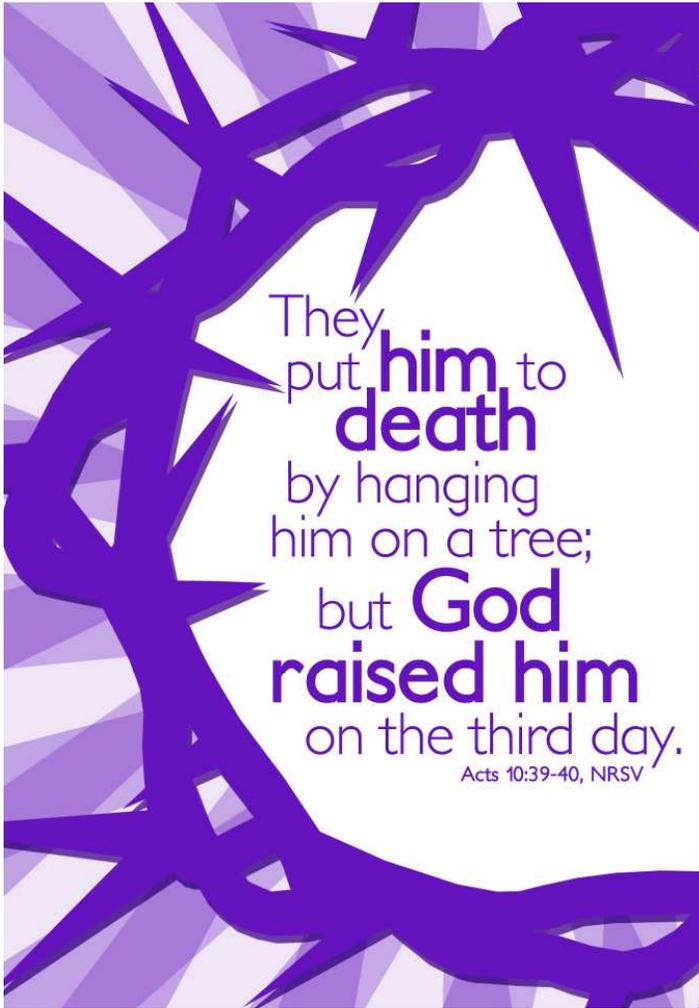
The church building will be getting some new LED lighting. This is funded in part by rebates for the change, a Paulson Fund grant (with the possibility of a second grant in July), and a wonderful donation from the Child Care Center. The LED bulbs use considerably less energy, so the savings on the electrical bill should be substantial. Thank you to all those involved in making this change over.

Please welcome Carol Kilian as a new member of Bethel. In addition to Carol, we will soon be welcoming Twila Wright and Gloria Rokke as new members. There is a little paperwork that needs to be completed before Twila and Gloria are official, but we are glad to have them with us.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted by:

Sara Dreyer, Council Secretary



Red Lake Walleye Bethel



Sunday, April 30th

5 - 6:30 p.m.

\$12 per person

Extra fillet \$3

Fillet of Walleye

Potatoes—Beans

Cole Slaw

Dessert & Drink

Contact Lenny Bergstrom @ 243-3142,
or Kirt Dreyer @ 444-4641,
if you would like to help with this event!

Church in Mission

Bemidji Community Food Shelf

“Mission Statement: The Bemidji Community Food Shelf is a faith-based, caring place that listens to those who are experiencing food insecurity. We work with our partners to be inclusive and to provide fresh, nourishing foods for those living in Beltrami County and the Bemidji School District.”

Thank you: Thank you for your contributions to the Food Shelf during the months of February and March. Also, thank you to our volunteers (Karen Tank, Char Espe, Irene Beck, Suze Ann Pearson, Dee Teigland, and Verlie Geror.

Clients Served: During the month of February 2017, we served 766 families and distributed 58,507 pounds of food. This compares to 703 households and 52,787 pounds in February of 2016. February is typically a very low visitation month. Our highest visitation month is in June.

Annual Meeting: The Food Shelf’s Annual meeting was held on February 9th at Bethel. Bill Byer was honored for his years of service as Board Chairperson and Jim Fretheim, retired pastor for the Evangelical Covenant Church of America, assumed the board chair position.

Cooks continue to be needed at the Food Shelf: If you like to cook and visit with people for at least one day a month, please contact Mary at 444-6580. Cooking involves preparing a soup, hot dish, etc. from supplies at the Food Shelf to distribute to clients to demonstrate how a particular item could be used.

(NAPS) Nutrition Assistance Program for Seniors: The Food Shelf is looking for a volunteer to learn how to interview for NAPS. Currently, approximately 127 seniors receive boxes once a month. NAPS is a program that is in addition to the regular food shelf distribution. Seniors pick up their boxes once a month on the third Monday. Boxes typically contain

cereal, canned vegetables, milk, juice, pasta and processed cheese. Seniors need to apply by coming to the Food Shelf and filling out an application or by calling Mary at 444-6580 for more information .

Anita Spangler, Food Shelf Representative

Churches United

Report will be published in the next newsletter!



WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

Alice Mullin

Carol Kilian

“GO THE EXTRA MILE”

ON THE SECOND SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH BETHEL HAS A “GO THE EXTRA MILE” OFFERING TAKEN UP FOR LOCAL MISSIONS.

COLLECTED OFFERING FOR FEBRUARY

WNALC MISSION BANKS:

TOTAL DONATION WILL BE PUBLISHED IN THE NEXT NEWSLETTER SENT OUT!

COLLECTED OFFERING FOR MARCH

FOOD SHELF: \$ 60.00



Maundy Thursday
April 13, 2017
7:00 p.m.



Good Friday
April 14, 2017
7:00 p.m.



Easter Morning
April 16, 2017
9:00 a.m.

Worship Service
10:00 a.m.

Easter Fellowship
served by the
youth



April Birthdays

- 02 Ronald Sandell
- 08 Bradley Hoff
- Lillian Lauderbaugh
- Hunter Olson
- 09 Joyce Hoff
- 12 Sarah (Kindem) McKeown
- 13 Helen Thompson
- 15 Samantha Pula
- 20 Keith Pommerening
- 21 Helen Fusaro
- 24 Duane Christensen
- Donald DeLapp
- 27 Phyllis Ugelstad

Anniversaries

- 22 Harold and Phyllis Ugelstad
1995



MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 01 Knute Naastad
- 02 Eli Olson
- 03 Lori Jerdee
- 05 Carol Kilian
- 06 Delores Kilian
- Daisy Sadek
- Arlene Stratton
- 10 Bruce Dreyer
- 12 Doug Lilleby
- 25 Sarah Dreyer



MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 12 Andler and Jessica Powell
2007
- 15 Hal & Louise Wilhite
1959

ATTENTION

All parents of graduates (either college or high school), please turn in a senior picture and bio by Sunday, May 7th.

We will have a celebration for them on Sunday, May 21st.



Wednesdays @
5:45 - 7:00 p.m.

Wednesdays @
6:30 - 8:00 p.m.

APRIL

5th ~ 12th ~ 19th ~ 26th

MAY

3rd ~ 10th



- Wednesday, April 5 ~ Study # 7
- Wednesday, April 12 ~ Study # 8
- Saturday, April 15 ~
Easter Late Night
(Prepare for Easter Brunch)
- Sunday, April 16 ~



Fundraiser

- Wednesday, April 19 ~
Serve: Soup Kitchen or Churches United. Write and mail finals gift cards to students.
- Wednesday, May 3 ~ Bible Study
- Wednesday, May 10 ~ Bible Study
- Wednesday, May 17 ~
Service Night:
Adopt a Highway
- Wednesday, May 24 ~
Wrap-up: BBQ & Bonfire
at the McKain's

“FREE US” To Move Forward

Debt is bondage whether it is in your family or in your church. Proverbs 22:7 says, *“The rich rules over the poor, and the borrower becomes the lender’s slave.”*

God’s desire for our church and for your family is freedom from the slavery of debt. We are bound by the chains of this debt and restricted in what we can accomplish in our community and around the world as long as it is over us.

We carried over a debt of \$55,705.59 from 2016. There was a \$10,000 short term loan from the Bethel Foundation, a \$10,000 Line-of-Credit from Security Bank, \$5,761.84 in mortgage payments (3 months) and we borrowed \$30,000 from our savings account for designated funds (committees, kitchen fund, youth group, etc.) With the generous offerings received the 1st. QTR. of 2017 this debt has already been reduced by \$18,761.84 to a balance due of \$36,943.75.

How soon can we clear up this remaining 2016 Debt?

Can we **“FREE US” to Move Forward** before summer arrives?

- Follow God’s lead as you consider a weekly, monthly or one-time gift directed to reducing this debt!
- Pray for God’s wisdom and leadership as we move forward in fulfilling His purpose and plans!
- The Church Council has agreed to pledge matching funds (up to \$1,350.00) as an incentive for the congregation!

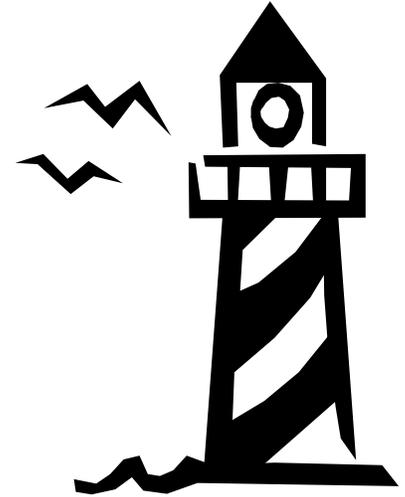
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BETHEL BEACON

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2017

THE "I'S" HAVE IT! Spring Shopping Event

Friday, April 21 - 8am - 6pm
Saturday, April 22 - 8am - 2pm

*CLOTHING • GLASSWARE • PLANTS • HOUSEWARES
YOUNG LIVING ESSENTIAL OILS & PRODUCTS • GIFTS
CROCHET ITEMS • AND MUCH MORE!*

Bethel Lutheran Church - 5232 Irvine Ave NW - Bemidji

