

AUGUST 2016



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



*"Because the Lord is my Shepherd, I
have everything that I need"*

Psalm 23

As Meriwether Lewis followed the Jefferson river upstream, he knew that he was on the headwaters of the Missouri river. Over these mountains he expected to see the Pacific ocean off in the distance. "... after refreshing ourselves we proceeded on to the top of the dividing ridge from which I discovered immense ranges of high mountains still to the West of us with their tops partially covered with snow." There was no river route to the Pacific. They needed horses to cross this 'K'useyneiskit' the Nez Perce name for a 'horrible mountainous desert'. Later as they met with the Shoshone leaders, the Chief of the tribe Cameahwait turned out to be Sakakawea's Brother! Sakakawea was the wife of a trader that accompanied the expedition. As a result of this meeting, they would have their horses; could cross the continental divide, and finally reach the Pacific ocean.

Some have said, "They should have taken the Snake River out of Idaho" or, "They shouldn't have gotten lost". 20/20 hindsight. This story reminds me of how God works in all of our lives. We have the 'best laid plans of mice and men' all neat and tidy, and then we are faced the reality. It won't go as planned. We, like Meriwether Lewis, often face immense ranges of high mountains when we want a peaceful river valley. But *'The steadfast love the Lord never ceases, His mercy's never come to an end, they are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness'*

Even if we take a *wrong turn*, or nibble ourselves lost, God provides us the people we need.

Pastor Mark Kindem



**Council
President**

Light the Way

1 John 1:5-10

“ . . . God is light . . . ” (1 John 1:5)

How slowly we learn! A number of years ago, Jan and I were staff members of an institute that led 25 elementary teachers and

their families for a period of six weeks in the study of a few aspects of science that they could use in their classrooms. The final three weeks was a road trip from Bemidji to Williston, ND and then to the Black Hills of SD. The areas of science studied were geology, biology and chemistry but there was also time for family built in. One of the activities was a guided exploration of an unimproved cavern. Each person was given a candle as we entered. The candles gave sufficient light if we stayed relatively close together. At the deepest part of the cave (about 1000 feet below the surface) we entered a large domed “room”. In the domed “room” we were all asked to extinguish the candles. Jan did not like enclosed spaces and was very reluctant to put her candle out. It has taken 35 years for me to “see” what she felt.

In absolute darkness we sat for an extended period of time – perhaps 20 minutes – until everyone experienced some form of light deprivation hallucination. In the absence of all light, you cannot see and soon that lack of light stimulation begins to “play tricks” on your visual senses. Jan was terrified. She was the first one of the group out of that cave. I had trouble keeping up with her on the ascent. Knowing her faith, it should have been easy for me to understand her feelings – I didn’t – not then – I do now.

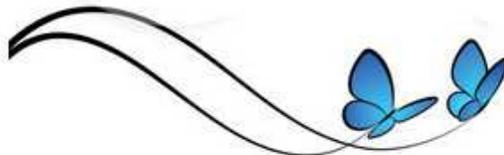
Without light it is impossible to see. Without God it is impossible to love. John connects the two (although he did not mean it in the same way I’m using it) and it provides a powerful example for us. When John states . . . God is light . . . he means that God is holy and perfect and that He wishes for us to be holy and perfect.

After 35 years the light finally dawns on me – Jan was terrified because (in part) she felt removed from His presence.

Let us not be terrified but live in His light – in the holiness of His Son that He desires for us.

“ . . . this is His commandment, that we should believe in the name of His Son, Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.” (1 John 3:23)

If each of us walks in His light, we see and we walk together. Let us worship and fellowship together in the light of God. Praise be to the Father and the Son and to the Holy Spirit for His merciful gifts to us.



Kirt Dreyer
Congregational president



Council Highlights

June 14, 2016

Council President, Kirt Dreyer opened the meeting with a prayer. Duane Christensen led devotions, reflecting on experiences in

his youth and how these experiences have positively impacted his life. Mr. Christensen also read the 23rd Psalm.

Don Drusch attended the meeting, informing the council that we have received a grant toward the receipt of an automated external defibrillator (AED). Some members of the congregation will need to be trained to use the device. CPR is a first step before the use of the AED. He recommends we have this training as well as the AED training. The council is very thankful to Mr. Drusch for pursuing this grant.

Bethel's council is excited to welcome two new members to our congregation. Please be sure to extend a warm welcome to Natalie Rae Gille and her son Milo Augustus Gille.

Mortgage Refinancing: President Dreyer had a meeting at the bank. The bank, the congregation, and the Bethel Foundation will all need to agree to refinancing. Duane Christensen expressed concern over the possibility of losing funding in a fluctuating market. He would like to ask the congregation to increase giving. Ray Brown pointed out that the refinancing would eliminate some other loans. Expenses have been trimmed as much as possible. Contributions have grown, but not quite kept up with the increase in expenses, such as the septic system. No action was taken on this item.

Parking Lot: A suggestion was made that we fill the cracks in the parking lot and seal coat it ourselves in order to forestall resurfacing until a later date. We received a bid to resurface it last summer for \$16,000, but we don't have the funding for it at this time. The council decided to ask the Property Committee to patch up the parking lot until it can be resurfaced.

Septic System: The septic system is still not covered in black dirt. A suggestion was made that we wait until fall so that we don't kill any grass that is currently growing on the lawn.

Stormwater Assessment: Pastor Kindem has spoken to the city about the assessment. He was told that we are assessed on the amount of land that is covered by either a parking lot or a roof. He told them that $\frac{2}{3}$ of the property is open fields or woodland. They will adjust what we pay based on the actual roof and parking lot size.

President Dreyer and Hal Wilhite have established a Bethel Benevolence Fund. Contributions may be made to this fund.

The American Orthodox Church is interested in meeting at Bethel. They would have two services, one Saturday evening and a second on Sunday after our service. The council agreed to this request. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

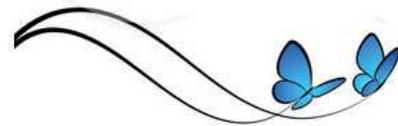
Respectively submitted by Sara Dreyer, Council Secretary.

Respectively submitted by:

Sara Dreyer, Church Council Secretary

Council Highlights

**Bethel's Church Council
did not meet in July**



F A I T H

Don't Keep it to Yourself!



The results from the Salad Luncheon and Quilt Raffle is \$840.77. 10% Benevolence was designated to the Gideons, and the remaining proceeds will go towards the Parking Lot Fund. Special Thanks to Butch & Linda Schramm for their tireless work on the luncheon and to Sara Franks for donating the beautiful Apple Blossom Quilt. The lucky winner of the quilt was Curt Beck.



simple reminders

Lefse Day

Saturday, Sept. 24th

Set-up for Bazaar

Friday, October 9th

FALL BAZAAR

Saturday, October 10th

Again we will be accepting donations of:

Time, Crafts, Woodworking, Baked Goods, Theme Baskets, Plants, and Farmers Market Items.

Fall Bazaar

The quilters would like to thank everyone who has donated sheets, fabric and money. This ministry would not be possible without all of you!



**Thanks,
Everyone!**

“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 JUNE

EVERGREEN HOUSE: \$ 78.00

COLLECTED OFFERING FOR JULY

GIDEONS: \$ 235.00

Church in Mission

Bemidji Community Food Shelf

Thank you: Thank you for your contributions to the Food Shelf. Thanks also to our volunteers in July - Karen Tank, Suze Ann Pearson and Dee Tiegland.

Clients Served: During the month of June, 870 families received 58,623 pounds of food.

AmeriCorps: The first group of AmeriCorps youth completed their duties as of July 1st. We were unable to attain a second group for the remainder of the summer. This means that additional volunteers will be needed to help in the garden.

Cooks 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 a distribution site for the NAPS commodity boxes for income-eligible seniors. (This is a program that is in addition to the regular food shelf distribution.) This program has increased to 120 clients. Elders pick up their boxes once a month on the third Monday of the month. 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 call Mary at 444-6580 for more information.

Special Events: The Food Shelf will have a booth at the County Fair, and will also be hosting an Ice Cream Social on August 21st.

Churches United

Churches United is a collaboration of Bemidji area churches led by the Spirit of Christ, organized to serve and



meet the needs of homeless, persistently poor, and impoverished individuals and families by providing individuals and family's financial assistance and referrals in an empowering manner, while also seeking the causes of poverty with the goal to reach a solution to the current concerns."

Thanks to everyone for your donations to Churches United. A special thank you to Char Espe for volunteering and her continued dedication.

Items of need are: laundry detergent, shampoo, deodorant, paper towels, all-purpose cleaner and toilet paper.

Clients Served: During the month of June, Churches United served households with vouchers for food, clothing, transportation, laundry, medical, and utilities for a total of \$1,215.66.

Volunteers Needed: Volunteers are still needed to help in the office with intake, filing, etc. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the Churches United office at 444-1380.

Anita Spangler,
Representative of the
Food Shelf and Churches United



The "I"s Have It Christmas Sale

Friday, Dec. 9th
& Saturday, Dec. 10th

There will be free gift-wrapping!

If you find some excellent wrapping material please buy them and donate to our sale which supports our child care program, the children in rural China and repair of the church parking lot. Thank You!

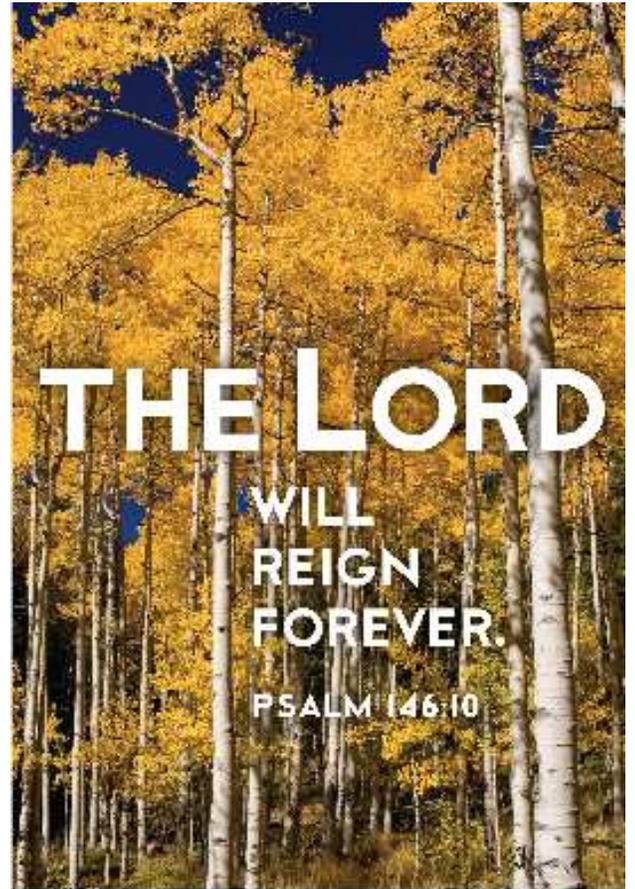
August

Birthdays

- | | |
|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 01 Richard Hoff | 20 Zackary Seitz |
| 04 Cyndi Fenske | 21 Scott Pula |
| 06 Helen Kohl- | 23 Gary Pederson |
| Swedmark | 24 Renee Brown, |
| 07 Emilie Rucinski | Marlene Lilleby |
| 10 Kirt Dreyer | 29 Sally McIntyre |
| Don Drusch | 30 Bruce Atwater |
| 11 Gudrun Fredensberg | Laurie Pommerening |
| 16 Judy Sundvall | |

Anniversaries

- August 09, 1969 ~ Doug & Marlene Lilleby
- August 11, 1956 ~ Ronald & Marilyn Vietor
- August 12, 1960 ~ Alan & Lorraine Thorson
- August 12, 1978 ~ Keith & Laurie Pommerening
- August 18, 2012 ~ Brian & Nancy Lofgren
- August 23, 1958 ~ Ray & Violet Suther
- August 26, 1967 ~ Merlin & Roxanne Engum
- August 28, 1964 ~ Gordon & Sara Frank



We will continue to meet on a Wednesday night at the McKain's home for a BBQ and yard games in August. The family of each youth is invited.

The weekly youth group will consist of an activity followed by the reading of the book; The Case for Christ by Lee Stroebel.

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|---------------|---|
| <i>Weekly</i> | Activity and reading of The Case for Christ |
| August 3 | Bethel youth @ Food Shelf |
| August 15-19 | Meals on Wheels |
| August 17 | End of the Summer BBQ at the McKain's (6:30 pm) |

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH 5232 IRVINE AVENUE NW BEMIDJI, MN 56601	1 5:00pm Weight Watchers	2	3 BCCC 6:30am - 6:45pm Bethel's Day @ Food Shelf 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 11:30am Finance Committee Meeting Bethel Youth Group @ Food Shelf	4 4:30pm Weight Watchers	5	6
7 FOOD SHELF SUNDAY 9:00am Worship Service with Fellowship Hour	8 5:00pm Weight Watchers	9 5:00pm BCCC Advisory Board 6:30pm Council Meeting	10 BCCC 6:30am - 6:45pm Bethel's Day @ Food Shelf 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study	11 4:30pm Weight Watchers	12	13
14 "Go the Extra Mile" for Jail Ministry 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour	15 5:00pm Weight Watchers	16 6:00pm BCCC Staff Meeting	17 BCCC 6:30am - 6:45pm Bethel Delivering Meals on Wheels 15-19 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Youth Group - End of the Summer BBQ at the McKain's Bethel Youth Group is also helping with "Meals on Wheels" this week	18 4:30pm Weight Watchers	19 BCCC CLOSED Inservice Day for Employees	20
21 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour	22 5:00pm Weight Watchers	23	24 BCCC 6:30am - 6:45pm 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study	25 4:30pm Weight Watchers	26	27
28 9:00am Worship Service 10:00am Fellowship Hour	29 8:00am BEACON DEADLINE 5:00pm Weight Watchers	30	31 BCCC 6:30am - 6:45pm 7:00am Men's Group 10:00am Bible Study 6 to 10 pm Fellowship Hall rented to Headwater Quilters	<h1>August</h1>		

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BETHEL BEACON

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THE BEMIDJI AREA CHURCH MUSICIANS 2016 SUMMER RECITAL SERIES ~ 29th Season WEDNESDAYS Noon to 12:30 p.m.

August 3	Flute Ensemble and St. Mark's Musicians	St. Mark's Lutheran Church 2220 Anne Street NW W. of Paul Bunyan Communications
August 10	Jennifer (Paquette) Ellis, piano, folk harp	Calvary Lutheran Church 2508 Washington Avenue SE
August 17	Aana Freihammer, piano Philip Hermann, organ, voice	St. Philip's Church 702 Beltrami Avenue
August 24	Wayne Hoff, organ Carol L. Johnson, piano	Aardahl Lutheran Church 2+ miles E. of P. Bunyan Dr. on Roosevelt Road, 1+ mile S. on Van Buren (Co. 403)
August 31	Turtle Island Ensemble – Sarah Carlson, piano, Andrew Ronnevik, violin, Jon Romer, native flute, Bob Madeson, euphonium, Jake Kaehne, voice	First Lutheran Church 900 Bemidji Avenue

FREE WILL OFFERING
Supports our Music Scholarships

LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING EACH RECITAL