



# BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5232 Irvine Avenue NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

August 2012

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[bethelbemidji.org](http://bethelbemidji.org)

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Pastor

[On sabbatical until 9/1/12]

**Rev. Mike Fiske**

Summer Interim Pastor

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**Abe Hanson**

Custodian

**Prayer Chain**

- Day -

Darrel & Lillian Lauderbaugh

@ 751-2230

- Evening -

Judy Thorson @ 444-6944



*Grace and peace be to you from God our Father, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in a Holy Spirit that calls, gathers, enlightens and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth. Amen.*

When I was young boy, August was a most favorite month of the year because that's the month I was born. My birthday meant that there would be a party for me ... presents for me ... and special attention given to me. August reminded me that I was special. But August

doesn't hold a special feeling like my younger birthdays did any longer. In fact, I hardly give my birthday any attention anymore.

August 13th

I still love August, it's just that things in my life have changed. The reason for which I live my life is not the same as it was. I am now more aware of a broader understanding of life which has new and special feelings for me to appreciate.

My elder awareness that brings a new and special feeling for life includes you. Thank you for sharing your time with me, I will never forget it. September will come and August will fall away. In my life's reflections, I will forever appreciate August as a month you shared your life with me. You have given me a new special feeling for August ... Thank you!

Luv Ya.

Pastor Mike



**Are you ready for Pedal with PJ 2012?**

**When: Starts at 10:30 a.m., Saturday, September 8**

**Where: Lutheran Campus Center, 1221 Birchmont Drive NE**

An annual 20 mile bike-a-thon (rollerbladers are also welcome!), Pedal with PJ celebrates the work of the Lutheran Campus Ministry of Bemidji and all monies raised go to supporting the mission and programs of the LCM of Bemidji. First held in September 2006, Pedal with PJ's original twin goals were to heighten the visibility and participation in Lutheran campus ministry while also raising money to make Bemidji's Lutheran Campus Center more energy efficient. This effort toward energy efficiency was not only good stewardship in action, it has over the years freed up precious operational resources that could then support ministry programs.

Check out the full details on their new web site at [www.LCMBemidji.org](http://www.LCMBemidji.org).

**\* Summer \*  
WORSHIP  
Schedule**

**9:00 AM**

**Contemporary Service**

**10:00 AM**

**Fellowship Hour**

## From the Council President

This month I received an e-mail from Patti saying we had a very low income for June and she was somewhat hesitant about printing it in the Sunday bulletins. I told her to go for it and keep us all informed. The result, as far as I can tell, was nary a whimper from our congregation. Maybe we cried wolf too too many times, but we are running a deficit of around nine thousand dollars. Perhaps it's no big deal, but for a few dollars more we could alleviate this troublesome debt.

July 2, 2012 was a memorable day for most of us living in Bemidji, Nymore and Rosby. We all got hit pretty hard by strong winds and fallen trees. Our family had six trees down in the front yard, along with the exposed roots and upturned mounds of soil. Folks around and north of our church were spared almost completely, so much so I just had to say to a few of our members (tongue in cheek), maybe God is not too happy with us city folks; either that, or it was a time of testing to see how well we held up to the challenges presented by the storm's aftermath.

For the following week, I kept thinking about what to do with the root debris scattered all over the yard. I did count it a miracle that nobody got hurt, but there were some cases of severe property damage.

My neighbor needed some help on his big spruce, so I started cutting on the tree. I knew there was some wicked tension in the main trunk so I made several cuts before I started through. Sure enough, the chainsaw got stuck tight, just an inch from the bottom of the log. I started wedging around the cut hoping to free the bar and chain. No luck. Now it was time for prayer. (Why do we always wait until we're in a peck of trouble to ask for help?) "Lord,"

I cried, "I sure could use a little help on this whole mess!"

A few minutes later the saw pulled out of the tree and as I was walking home (somewhat exhausted and discouraged), a truck with a small enclosed trailer pulled into our drive. A man got out. Oh, boy, I thought, what does this guy want?!

"Do you want all of those stumps out of your yard?" he asked.

"Yeh," I said, "I need a clam shovel and a dump truck."

"No, no," he countered. "I can do it without all that."

So we walked about the yard and got an estimate on each one. This I've got to see, I said to myself.

Out of the trailer came the stump grinder on wheels with the power blade in front. In a matter of hours, all the stumps and root wads were ground into chips well below ground level.

Absolutely amazing, I said. Hmmm. Did God sent these two angels (husband and wife) or was it all just a coincidence from a simple prayer? For a modest sum of a few hundred dollars I got rid of some new and old annoying stumps. For a few dollars more every week, we can get ourselves out of our own annoying church debt problems. Maybe we should all take another look at our available disposable income for the rest of the church year.

Paul McIntyre

Council Chair, 2012



Starting  
**September 9, 2012**

9:00am Contemporary Service  
10:00am Fellowship Hour  
10:30am Traditional Worship



New-and-Improved  
**WEBSITE**

"Lutheran Campus Ministry in Bemidji has a new website address. You can view the latest newsletter IN COLOR at this website as well as see pictures of activities from the last several years. Go to "[www.LCMBemidji.org](http://www.LCMBemidji.org)" to access their website."

# Lutheran Campus Center

"Lutheran Campus Ministry Bemidji is hosting their first-ever Alumni Thank-You Dinner during BSU Homecoming Weekend on Saturday, September 29 at 6:00 p.m. at First Lutheran Church in Bemidji. There is no charge for this event! It is a way for us to thank congregations, WELCA groups, alumni, friends, former board members and former residents and peer ministers for all their support of our ministry. Please let us know if you can join us at this event by calling the office at 751-5326."



- August 01 7:00 pm Wednesday  
Surrender Bible Study at the church
- August 08 7:00 pm Wednesday  
Surrender Bible Study at the church
- August 15 7:00 pm Wednesday  
Youth Board Game Night at the McKain's
- August 22 6:30 pm Wednesday  
Family BBQ & Volleyball at the McKain's



New pictures for  
Bethel's web site!  
Contact the church office  
if you have some to submit!



# Birthdays in August

- 01 Richard Hoff
- 01 Steven Mayer
- 01 Joe Rinkenberger
- 01 Ella Walker
- 04 Cyndi Fenske
- 06 Helen Kohl-Swedmark
- 07 Emilie Rucinski
- 10 Kirt Dreyer
- 10 Don Drusch
- 10 Logan Haefner
- 11 Gudrun Fredensberg
- 12 Jacob Bronczyk
- 16 Judy Sundvall
- 20 Zackary Seitz
- 21 Scott Pula
- 22 Paul Drees
- 23 Gary Pederson
- 24 Marlene Lilleby
- 26 Rockford Copiskey
- 28 Sally McIntyre

- 30 Bruce Atwater
- 30 Francis Malterud
- 30 Laurie Pommerening
- 31 Cooper Blackwood



## Anniversaries

- 06 *Michael & Daphne Urban 2005*
- 08 *Kirt & Janet Dreyer 1959*
- 09 *Doug & Marlene Lilleby 1969*
- 10 *Clare & Marian Kapphahn 1962*
- 10 *Herbert & Elaine Peterson 1963*
- 11 *Ronald & Marilyn Vietor 1956*
- 12 *Keith & Laurie Pommerening 1978*
- 12 *Alan & Lorrane Thorson 1960*
- 15 *Scott & Chevy Evans 2008*
- 23 *Helen Kohl & Chet Swedmark (dec.) 2003*



*A special Thank You to our  
devoted volunteers taking care  
of the church  
lawn & shrubs!*

*Everything looks great!*



# Church in Society

How big is your neighbor-hood?

This past month has given us new opportunities to ask, as did the lawyer in Luke 10:29-39, "Who is my neighbor?" The storms on July 2nd and 4th left many people dependent on the kindness of neighbors and tradespeople as they cleaned up storm debris from around their homes and businesses. The need was obvious and the needed response was obvious— those trees had to go! In the parable of the Good Samaritan, the need and the needed response were also obvious. These things are not always so clear and so close, but Jesus reminds us that to assume that nationality, class, religious customs, etc. exempt us or can be allowed to stand in the way of the right response are not the way of the kingdom. As the lawyer said, the neighbor was the one who showed mercy. We all have ways of being neighborly. Some opportunities for this month include:



- **MEALS on WHEELS** from August 13-17. The sign-up sheet will be on the table in the narthex. The time commitment is 10:15-ish to noon-ish each day.
- **HABITAT for HUMANITY FAITH BUILDS** - The Faith Build house should be completed in early August. The dedication of the house is open to the public so look for an announcement in the newspaper. Thank you to all those who helped with the build and to those who provided food for the workers.
- **MALARIA CAMPAIGN** - We will be collecting the NOISY OFFERING pill bottles as the Extra Mile Offering on August 12. Keep adding your change to your bottle so we can make a neighborly racket on that day.
- **BIKE & BUILD** riders will have passed through Bemidji on July 29. I have moved the hosting to Calvary Lutheran because they have showers available. My usual source for showers was BSU but they are not open when needed. Calvary agreed to share the hosting and I thank Sheri Minskie for being my liaison. If you would like to follow the bikers progress go to Bike and Build and click on the northern route. You can also donate to the affordable housing cause at that site.
- **LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF** quilters and layette makers will be gathering soon so sharpen your scissors and locate those bifocals and thimbles!



- **FOOD SHELF** is hoping to be able to move to their new location in August so besides the opportunity to serve with Bethel on the first Wednesday of the month (9:30-3:30 or part thereof) help may be needed to make the move. Jan Beil or Edith Hoyum will have more information.

So, Who is the neighbor? The lawyer responded, "The one who showed mercy." Jesus replied, "Go and do likewise." Thanks be to God!



To view our AUGUST Calendar go to Bethel Lutheran's home page on the web and in the tab bar double click on MONTHLY CALENDARS. Then double click on AUGUST 2012 down in the left hand corner of the screen. This will open a PDF of the AUGUST calendar for you to view.



## Bemidji Community FOOD SHELF

The Bemidji Community Food Shelf staff and Board of Directors continue to prepare for their move to the new site in the Industrial park. All canned and dry goods are currently being stored at that site. Preparations are underway to obtain a walk-in freezer and cooler so that all food can be stored on site. Fundraising continues, with much progress being made. We are well on our way to matching our grant from the Neilson Foundation,

and the outlook is favorable for our loan application to the USDA Rural Development Corporation. Other grants are also coming in.

Several of the board members recently made a trip to St. Cloud to tour their food shelf. Clients there do their own shopping for their groceries, and the volunteers assist to weigh and bag the groceries after they are done. Our staff is currently studying this process for implementation in our new facility.

Come see the Food Shelf booth which will be set up in the schoolhouse at the Beltrami County Fair from Aug. 8 through

the 11th.

There is still a need for peanut butter and canned fruit.



Many thanks to our volunteers and to those who have made donations and pledged funds for our new facility. The BCFS would not exist without your caring and concern.

Jan Beil



## Update from the Christian Center in Petrozavodsk, Russia

This year, during Language Camp, the Attorney General and the FSB (formerly the KGB) investigated the camp, the Christian Center, and Lyceum #1, which is the public school that hosts the camps and the Christian Center.

Our US and Canadian team for Language Camp was investigated by the FSB and then referred to the Immigration Office. The

Immigration Office wasn't going to do anything to us, but the FSB put pressure on them to fine us and the Immigration officers were forced to comply. The Immigration officers thought the reason the team was fined was because we were teaching children about Jesus.

The investigation of the Christian Center is continuing and Marina Zinkova, current director of the Center, recently had to testify at the Attorney General's Office. There will probably be another hearing in August. Please pray for her and that the investigation will end positively. There have been no charges against Marina or the Center yet.

The Christian Center was formed in 1995 and the annual Language

Camp started in 1996. In that time, over 15,000 children have heard the Gospel through these ministries.

Russia's religious freedoms are disappearing.

Please pray for Russia and the churches and ministries there. –

Eric Debelak,  
Russian Ministries Coordinator,  
East European Missions Network,  
formerly North Woods Mission to  
Petrozavodsk

Note:

Nancy Streightiff was a board member on North Woods Mission to Petrozavodsk from 1994-2011.

This brief testimony of John Peterson shows one of the surprising ways God works to enable China Service Ventures ministry in China to the poor rural youth, who have never heard the gospel story before joining in CSV run Youth Camps.

This week Rev John Peterson will be leading the last of 4 July Youth Camps in China, assisted by 7 Bible Camp Counselors from the US, several from Hong Kong, as well as 6 local Chinese Christian college youth given special counselor training. The camps have been going exceedingly well. Thanks for your prayers!

## **“You’re Crazy!”**

It was 2007 and it seemed that things were winding down. After 23 years of missionary service in Hong Kong our family was planning to move back to the States. Our son, Noel, was already attending St. Olaf College. Corissa, our daughter, would be starting her university studies in the fall. Our mothers had been waiting patiently to have us set-up home closer to them. Val and I were eager to settle into life in a small rural parish and leave the crowded and congested life of Asia behind.

Out of the blue, while attending to the needs of one of my Hong Kong church members, my pleasant thoughts about a tranquil life back in the U.S. would be rocked. The woman in need was suffering from depression and had found little relief from the medical community. Another church member and I decided to take her to a healing service in our area. The service was concluding and we were preparing to leave when a woman approached. I had never seen her before, but she came up to me, pointed her finger at me and said, “God is calling you to serve the poor in China. Do you know that? Have you heard him say that to you?” As I was listening, I was thinking, “You’re crazy!” I was thinking, “God, this makes no sense. I have been serving in Hong Kong. I have no experience working in mainland China. I don’t even speak the language. All I have learned is Cantonese. And what do you mean—I’m to serve the poor? Which ones? There are over one billion.” She continued to point her finger at me and say, “God is calling you to serve the poor in China. Have you heard him?” I responded with the only words that came, “No. I haven’t heard God say that to me, but if I do I will go.” She left and we left, too. I dismissed the whole experience as crazy.

A couple months later I was with some of the young people from my church. We were in a very different part of Hong Kong, far away from where I encountered that woman. We were eating together in one of the many small eating-places when in walked the same lady. Again, she walked right up to me, pointed her finger at me, and said, “Have you answered God’s call? He is calling you to serve the poor in China. Do you know that?” She walked out, and all I could think was, “This is not a coincidence. God you are in this, but I don’t understand.”

Valerie and I moved to the States in December 2007. The first week we were back we received a phone call from Ida Martinson with China Service Ventures. She told us that they would like to meet with us. That same week we met with the executive committee members and were told, “We are with China Service Ventures. We serve the rural poor in Henan, China. We would like you to work with us.”—and so began a journey of searching and praying. Val and I joined the CSV Board. This past January I was invited to fill the new position of Mission Coordinator for CSV’s work in China. It is a call that resonates deep within me. I truly believe it is God’s call, and it all began with a woman who I thought was crazy.

Written by John Peterson, 6/17/12





The American Cancer Society needs your help.

One of the toughest challenges people with cancer face is getting to and from lifesaving treatments.

Volunteer drivers are needed for the Society's Road to Recovery program in Beltrami County.

Please consider donating your time to take cancer patients to their treatments.

Simply click to learn more about volunteering as a Road to Recovery driver.

To find out how you can help, call the American Cancer Society at 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

### REMEMBER . . .

Noisy Offering on Sunday, August 12th for the Malaria Campaign!



Keep adding your change to those pill bottles so we can make a neighborly racket that morning!

# HELP WANTED

Bethel is still in need of someone to coordinate funeral luncheon arrangements!

\_\_\_\_\_ I am interested in serving as funeral coordinator. I will meet with the pastor or family to make arrangements and create a calling tree for volunteers.

Thank you for being a part of this fellowship of support.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to reach me: \_\_\_\_\_

Please put this sheet in the offering plate or turn it into the church office. Thanks!!

The Bethel Council



Volunteers to help with deliveries the week of August 13th! Sign up sheet is located in the church narthex!



Bethel Lutheran Church  
5232 Irvine Avenue NW  
Bemidji, MN 56601

Nonprofit Organization  
U.S. Postage Paid–Bemidji MN  
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# BETHEL BEACON

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AUGUST 2012

THE BEMIDJI AREA CHURCH MUSICIANS PRESENTS  
***THE 2012 SUMMER RECITAL SERIES***

“Our 2th Season” WEDNESDAYS, NOON to 12:30 P.M.

- |         |   |   |
|---------|---|---|
| Aug. 01 | Shannon Jones, organ<br>Guest recitalist  | United Methodist Church<br>9th and Beltrami Avenue  |
| Aug. 08 | Wayne Hoff, organ<br>Carol L. Johnson, piano<br>Also Kayla Kami & Tammy Seibel  | Aardahl Lutheran Church<br>2+ miles E. of P. Bunyan Drive on Roosevelt Road,<br>1+ miles South on Van Buran (Co. 403) |
| Aug. 15 | Muff Magelssen, organ, keyboard;<br>Other Mountain Remnant: Jean DeSmidt,<br>Jim DeSmidt, guitar; James Ellerston, violin | First Presbyterian Church<br>501 Minnesota Avenue   |
| Aug. 22 | Joe Henry, piano, organ   | St. Philip's Church<br>702 Beltrami Avenue  |
| Aug. 29 | Sarah Carlson, organ  | Frist Lutheran Church<br>900 Bemidji Avenue   |

**FREE WILL OFFERING = Supports our Music Scholarships**

LUNCH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOLLOWING EACH RECITAL – COSTS TO BE ANNOUNCED