

FEB / MAR 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



It's Valentine's day this month, so let's talk about love! It seems more often than not, if someone is hated, that person doesn't change. They hate back, and that only increases hatred. But if a person is loved,

and the love keeps coming no matter how much it is rebuffed, the person is changed. It's like the unrelenting rays of the sun on ice, the love keeps pressing on. The love we have in Jesus Christ is like that. Just as the sun keeps on shining, so also Jesus keeps on loving. The leaders, who in fear and hatred plotted his death, couldn't stop him, nor could Pilate, who sentenced him. And from the cross he faced the taunting, jeering crowd and said what? "Father forgive them, for they do not know what they do". Just what are we supposed to do with a love like that? We can try running away from it, as far as we can, but it will still be there. We can pull the shade down and keep the sun's rays from reaching us, but we can't stop the sun from shining. We can't stop God from loving us. This is indeed the power above all powers.

"Love is patient and kind; love is not jealous or boastful; it is not arrogant or rude. Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong, but rejoices in the right" 1 Corinthians 13:4-6

Pastor Mark Kindem



Lenten Worship Schedule

Wednesday, March 1, 2017
12:00 Ash Wednesday Service
with potluck following noon service
6:00 p.m. Wednesday Meal
6:30 p.m. Ash Wednesday
Evening service

Wednesdays
MARCH
8th ~ 15th ~ 22nd ~ 29th
APRIL 5th
@ 12:00 noon
with a
Potluck Lunch
following each service



**Council
President**

ANOTHER NEW YEAR AND A CHANGING OF THE GUARD.
WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE TO YOU?

All over our great country this year politicians, salesmen and ordinary citizens have been making plans and resolutions for

the new year. At Bethel your council and officers have been meeting and planning for the types of ideas which can enable our congregation to become a strong beacon of light and hope for those in need around us. Lately I have been reading Charles Swindoll's book, THE CHURCH AWAKENING in which he describes ways in which we can be a renewed body of Christ to the world around us. One of the attributes that caught my eye was his admonition that the church needs to be a contagious body. Normally we tend to stay away from a person with a contagious disease but in this case we want people to be wanting to come to us because of what we have. Our church building is nothing without the Christians making up the communion of saints within it. Every Sunday we come back to church to be renewed by the Spirit and then we are expected to carry that Good News to the community which desperately needs it. We are His hands in this task. There is no other way. Without being overbearing, let those around you know what God has done in your life. It can be a life changing experience. This activity has brought many new members to Bethel in the past. YOU can do it. Make this your number one resolution this year. God Bless You and God bless our fellowship of Saints.

Duane Christensen
Congregational President



CHURCHES UNITED

is looking for
1 – 2 Volunteers
MON—THURS
12:30—4:30 pm

TRAINING / SHADOWING
for a month

Call Vicki @
444-1380



SUNDAY, MARCH 12th



12/13/16

President Kirt Dreyer opened the meeting. Vi Suther led devotions reading Galatians 3, speaking of the way to God

and ending with a prayer.

Pastor Kindem has been offered a part time pastor position at Pony Lake Lutheran, subject to approval of their council. The commitment would be to preach Sunday services (after preaching at Bethel) and the occasional funeral. Pastor Kindem is prayerfully considering it. He would do this in addition to his duties at Bethel. Special events, like the congregational meeting for Bethel would come before his duties at Pony Lake. The council moved that due to the consideration that Pastor Kindem's hours have been cut back here, it would be beneficial to both Pastor Kindem and to Pony Lake should he decide to accept this position.

The Evangelism Committee has been meeting for 2-3 weeks. They have been working on letters to send to visitors who have not returned, to visitors who attend frequently, and to members who have not been attending worship. The letters offer to answer questions and to welcome people to return to worship with us. A postcard is sent out to every first time visitor.

The budget discussion centered around the proposed budget for 2017. It has a deficit of approximately \$35,000. We have passed a deficit budget for the last 16 years. The current proposed budget includes the Pastor's Letter of Call and the Office Administrator/Finance Manager at part time and is based on the pledges. No action on the budget was taken at this meeting, but the council must have a proposed budget to bring to the congregation in January at the annual meeting.

Benevolences were also discussed, with some concern expressed about Lutheran Social Services (LSS) and whether they are biblically based, with Jesus at their heart. No action was taken concerning LSS. However, the BCCC was removed from the list of organizations receiving benevolences from Bethel as they are now functioning without a deficit. The BCCC is reimbursing Bethel \$500 a month now, which is an increase from the \$300 they repaid formerly.

We are happy to have some new members. Please welcome Bruce & Shirley Wegley, Myra Lindahl & Ellen Halverson to Bethel when you see

them.

The council has given consent for the BCCC to install laminate flooring in the classrooms at the expense of the child care center. There has been concern expressed about the condition of the carpeting in the Narthex. But there was water damage several years ago, and the carpeting is 16 years old. Miriam Kindem requested permission to get estimates to replace the carpeting in the Narthex and hallways. One company suggested they install 24"x 24" carpeted tiles at a cost of \$11,034. If they were also to replace the carpeting in the offices this adds a cost of \$5,074, for an approximate total of \$16,100. Discussion included reducing costs by doing some of the demolition ourselves.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted by:

Sara Dreyer, Council Secretary.

1/10/2017

President Kirt Dreyer opened the meeting with a prayer. Sara Dreyer led devotions, reading from 1 Timothy 6:6-10, and speaking about being content.

Pastor Kindem reported that the Pony Lake Congregation has hired another individual as their part time pastor. He will not be taking on that part time position.

The proposed budget for 2017 was presented by Office Administrator/Finance Manager Administrator Patti VanCamp. The numbers are tight, there is little to no extra. The Pastor's Letter Of Call is part time and the Office Administrator/Finance Manager is part time. Other staff received a 2.5% raise. We still have an accounts payable of \$55,705.53, but this includes a debt of \$40,000 that we owe to ourselves. The council decided to present this budget to the congregation at the upcoming annual meeting.

The council decided to add the Northwood's Pregnancy Care Center and the Evergreen Shelter to the list of organizations which receive our benevolences. It was also determined to give 2.5% of benevolences to local charities and 2.5% to international organizations, based on a

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Lent

BEGINS

March 1st



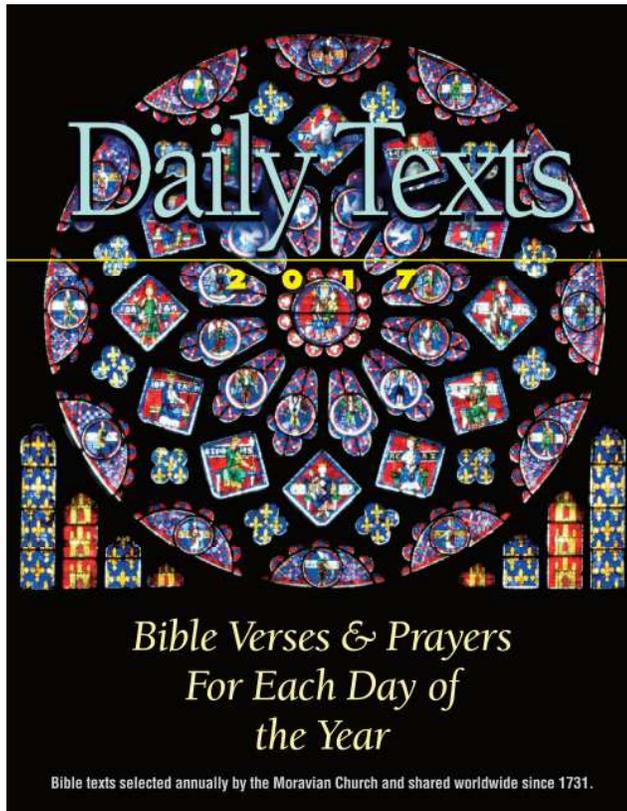
WELCOME
to Our Newest Members!

Don Houseman

Myra Lindahl

Ellen Halverson

Bruce & Shirley Wegley



Your 2017 Daily Texts
are available
in the church narthex!

“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 DECEMBER
CHURCHES UNITED: \$ 175.00

COLLECTED OFFERING FOR JANUARY
NORTHERN DENTAL ACCESS: \$ 63.00

CONGRATULATIONS FROM THRIVENT

We're excited to share that in 2016 over 335,000 Thrivent members chose to direct Choice Dollars® to more than 32,000 churches, schools and other non-profits, including Bethel Lutheran Church, through Thrivent Choice®. **Based on member recommendations, Bethel Lutheran Church received \$3,431 in charitable outreach funding in 2016.** The Thrivent Choice program helps members of Thrivent Financial make a positive impact in their communities.

REMIND SUPPORTERS THAT 2016 CHOICE DOLLARS EXPIRE SOON! 2016 Choice Dollars expire on March 31, 2017.

Help make a difference!

For more information about the Thrivent Choice program and Choice Dollars:

- Visit Thrivent.com/Thriventchoice.
- Call 800-847-4836 and say “Thrivent Choice” when prompted.

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 December and January. Also, thank you to our volunteers (Karen Tank, Char Espe, Irene Beck, Suze Ann Pearson, Dee Tieglund, and Verlie Geror.

Clients Served: During the month of December, 833 families (2,952 individuals) were served and received 68,316 pounds of food. During 2016 the Food Shelf had 828 volunteers and distributed 710,705 pounds of food.

Annual Meeting: The Food Shelf’s Annual meeting will be held on February 9th at noon at Bethel. Volunteers are invited to attend.

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 a distribution site for the NAPS commodity boxes for income-eligible

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seniors. (This is a program that is in addition to the regular food shelf distribution.) This program has increased to 120 clients. 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.

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 families 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 you for your donations to Churches United. Items of need are: volunteers for the office, gift cards, household items, mittens, and sheets (any size).

Clients Served: During the month of December, \$2341.25 was disbursed to clients in the form of gas, food, and laundry vouchers. The total amount disbursed to clients in 2016 in the various vouchers was \$14,190.56.

Expanding Office Space: Mt. Zion has secured a grant for \$12,000 from the Neilson Foundation for renovation and expansion of the current office of Churches United.

Anita Spangler,
Representative of the
Food Shelf & Churches United



*Thanks
to everyone who
brought in
Christmas
cards, candies,
fruit baskets,
precious
homemade gifts,
etc., along with
well wishes for
the new year to
the office staff
this year. It
was very much
appreciated and
yummy!*



Birthdays

- 12 Ray Suther
- 15 Hal Wilhite
- 16 Marian Blehm
Linda Brooks
- 19 Tessa Sadek
- 21 Raymond Brown

Anniversaries

None

MARCH

Birthdays

- 02 Pastor Mark Kindem
- 05 Darrel Lauderbaugh
- 08 Charlotte Espe
- 12 Harlan Charon
- 18 Dennis Zeto
- 25 Gordon Franks
- 27 Linda Schramm
- 29 Gerald Fenske

Anniversaries

- 10 Dennis & Judy Sundvall
1973
- 21 Lennard & Marlene
Bergstrom 1964
- 31 Paul & Ida Martinson
1962

**This
winter
remember the
homebound**





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

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

FEBRUARY

1st ~ 8th ~ 15th ~ 22nd

MARCH

1st ~ 8th ~ 15th ~ 22nd ~ 29th

- Wednesday, February 1 ~
Serve: Food Shelf
- Sunday, February 5 ~
Souper Bowl Sunday
(We will be collecting money for the Food Shelf)
- Wednesday, February 8 ~
Study: The Book of Mark
- Wednesday, February 15 ~
Study: The Book of Mark
- Saturday, February 25 ~
College Connection at McKain's Confirmation for Alex



Possible trip to Adventure Zone in Duluth or Northern Air in Fargo. Dates and details will be discussed with youth and their family.

- Wednesday, March 1 ~
Ash Wednesday
- Wednesday, March 8 ~
Study: The Book of Mark
- Wednesday, March 15 ~
- Scavenger 20 ~
Study: The Book of Mark
- Saturday, March 25 ~
College Connection at McKain's Confirmation for Alex

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recommendation by the North American Lutheran Church (NALC) to equally support organizations both locally and internationally.

New officers were elected to the council. The results are; Duane Christensen - Council President, Hal Wilhite - Vice President, Sally McIntyre - Council Treasurer, and Sara Dreyer - Council Secretary. The council wishes to express their thanks to the former officers; Kirt Dreyer - President, Ray Brown - Treasurer, & Alice Sadek - Vice President. Your leadership, time, energy and prayers have been greatly appreciated.

Paulson Foundation Grant Requests were reviewed. These were:

1. The Bethel Child Care Center requested \$2,500 for continued flooring improvements.
2. The Property Committee requested \$2,500 to go toward sealing the parking lot.
3. The Property Committee requested \$2,500 to replace existing incandescent bulbs with LED bulbs.

The council agreed to send all three requests to the Paulson Foundation, recommending full funding.

Laurie Pommerening is Bethel's Wedding Coordinator. She puts in numerous hours for each event. The council determined that she should receive an increase in pay for her services.

This payment would come from the families hosting the ceremony.

President Dreyer offered to pay for the replacement of the carpeting in the aisle of the Sanctuary. He would like some assistance in choosing the color and pattern style of the new carpeting. Char Espe, Miriam Kindem, Lisa & Don Newhouse will help to select the carpeting.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectively submitted by:

Sara Dreyer, Council Secretary



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Bemidji, MN 56601

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BETHEL BEACON

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FEB/MAR
2017



2017 Bethel Lutheran Church Council

Duane Christensen [President] #444-9694
5028 Woodberry Ct. SE
mapridge@paulbunyan.net

Sara Dreyer [Secretary] #751-9381
1877 Becida Road SW
sdreyer42@yahoo.com

Char Espe #766-9726
914 Old Rail Way SW
ca_espe@yahoo.com

Paul Martinson #243-3084
12149 E. Movil Lake Rd. NE
pvmimm@gmail.com

Sally McIntyre [Treasurer] #751-0759
300 Jefferson Avenue SW
voltammogram@gmail.com

Lisa Newhouse #469-3516
300 Jefferson Avenue SW
lisanewhouse17@yahoo.com

Jessica Powell #368-8233
3321 Doral DR NE

Dean Rasmussen #651-226-6384
5120 Balsam RD NW

Art Reistad #444-4127
2815 Ridgeway Avenue NW, # 3

Alice Sadek #209-8875
931 Tyler Avenue SE

Vi Suther #444-8114
6504 Power Dam RD NE
rvsuther@paulbunyan.net

Hal Wilhite [Vice-President] #444-3554
1805—30th ST NW, #215
hallou@paulbunyan.net

