



BETHEL BEACON

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

5232 Irvine Avenue NW

Bemidji, MN 56601

March 2012

218-444-4746

Fax 218-444-4789
bethelbemidji.org

Rev. Mark Kindem
Pastor

Home Phone # 444-8545
pmkindem@hotmail.com

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

LaVon Johnson
Secretary/Receptionist
lavon.johnson@yahoo.com

Abe Hanson
Custodian

Prayer Chain
Day

Bob & Vi Swanson @ 444-3745

Evening

Judy Thorson @ 444-6944

SUNDAY WORSHIP

9:00 AM

Contemporary Service

10:00 AM

Fellowship Hour

10:30 AM

Traditional Service



March: In like a lamb, out like a lion. So they say. I have no idea what March will be like, as I am writing this in February. But there is something else going on in March. We will be in the middle of Lent. The time in the church year that focuses on the Cross of Jesus. My Dad, a retired pastor, used to warn me about Lent: "Watch out for Lent." Why? "Because whenever you focus on

Jesus and the sacrifice he made on the Cross, you take a stand for the Gospel, and the devil doesn't like it." How true. Jesus comes in to the world as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" and Satan doesn't like it. "Discipline yourselves, keep alert. Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8 This can be a sobering thought; one could even throw up one's hands and say, "what's the use, how can I stand up to such a foe?" Well, we wouldn't be alone: our own Martin Luther put it this way, "The old satanic foe, has sworn to work us woe, with craft and dreadful might he arms himself to fight. On earth he has no equal. No strength of ours can match his might! We would be lost, rejected." Sounds grim doesn't it? But Luther goes on, "But now a champion comes to fight, whom God himself elected. You ask who this may be? The Lord of hosts is he! Christ Jesus, mighty Lord, God's only son adored. He holds the field victorious!" Yes, the Lamb of God does battle with the roaring lion, and wins! "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" Revelation 5:12

Pastor Mark Kindem

Meditation Poem

by Rosalind Rinker

My child, I love you.

I love you unconditionally.
I love you, good or bad, with no strings attached.
I love you like this because I know all about you.
I have known you ever since you were a child.
I know what I can do for you.
I know what I want to do for you.

My child, I accept you.

I accept you just as you are.
You don't need to change yourself.
I'll do the changing when you are ready.
I love you just as you are.
Believe this---for I assure you it is true.

My child, I care about you.

I care about every big or little thing which happens to you. Believe this.

I care enough to do something about it.
Remember this.
I will help you when you need me. Ask me.
I love you.
I accept you.
I care about you.

My child, I forgive you.

I forgive you, and my forgiveness is complete.
Not like humans who forgive but cannot forget.
I love you. My arms are open with love.
Please come here! Come here to Me!
I forgive you!
Do not carry your guilt another moment.
I carried it all for you on the cross.
Believe this. It is true.

Rejoice...And be Glad



In the last chapter of **God Can Make It Happen**, Russ Johnston tells us what to do "when the mountains don't move." Sometimes, he says, you step out by faith, you believe God, and the mountains just don't move. Moses experienced this same problem. Moses and the people of Israel stepped out by faith and found themselves in the desert for forty years. So what are we missing here? The book of Psalms says, "No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly." (Psalm 84:11) God will not withhold anything good if you are trusting Him? But what about when it doesn't seem like He's answering your prayer? Do you then conclude you are not being upright enough and give up on expecting God to work? NO! Jesus promised, "And everything you ask in prayer,

From the Council President

believing, you shall receive." (Matthew 21:22.) He means what He says. Russ then concludes the discussion by saying, "So if you are believing God, whatever you have asked Him for is yours, be it a need, a concern, or a desire. You can expect it on the basis of God's inherent goodness and love. He also adds, "If it looks as though God isn't coming through on His promises, you can't assume He's going to withhold good from you. He never withholds, but sometimes postpones, the delivery of His blessings, if by

postponement He can bring greater good in the end."

Our author believes God wanted him (Russ) to trust Him. Faith in Christ isn't just an additive along with prayer, church attendance, good works -- for an extra-good Christian life; faith IS the Christian life.

Believing God totally transformed Russ Johnston's Christian experience from a weary chore to a holy adventure. And it does happen to many others. You can experience the same change in your life as you learn to live relying on the God who can make it happen.

Respectfully,
Paul McIntyre, Council Chair 2012

God Can Make It Happen by Russ Johnston with Maureen Rank, (Victory Books, a division of SP Publications, Inc., P. O. Box 1825, Wheaton, Illinois 60187), 1976

Council Highlights

Hank Moen brought material to the council regarding the Bethel Foundation.

Paul and Ida Martinson stated that two representatives from China Service Ventures would be in Bemidji on Sat. and Sun., February 25th , 26th.

Pastor Kindem submitted a resolution to be taken to our conference which called for our synod to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman. Passed.

The executive committee is charged to appoint an audit committee.

Old Business:

Discussion was held on:

1) The Council workshop of February 4.

2) The letter of call of Pastor Kindem.

Ray Brown was appointed Councilperson of the month for Dec. 2012.

A motion by Loren Hoyum, second by Laurie Pommerening to amend the annual budget by adding \$5,200.00 to keep the church office open 5 days a week. Passed 8-4.

Pastor Mark's sabbatical will be during June, July and August of 2012. Rev. Michael Fiske has been contacted to provide pastoral services during the sabbatical and has accepted.

Some suggestions for the new Council were submitted by Loren Hoyum.

Duane Christiansen submitted a list of goals to guide Bethel. He also suggested that there may be interest in a "Senior Citizen's Group" within our congregation.

Nancy Streightiff mentioned that the annual report of the Food Shelf is available for anyone who would want a copy.

The Bemidji Pro-Life campaign has asked Bethel to make our Church building available as a place to pray for the end of abortion. This would occur on Thursdays during Lent.

Respectfully submitted,
Kirt Dreyer, Council Secretary

The Annual Meeting of BCFS was held February 9 at Bethel Lutheran Church. It was well attended for a soup and bread lunch, followed by annual reports from all officers. The need for food assistance remains great, as there were 8527 families served throughout 2011, and 379,037 pounds of food distributed. There are ongoing efforts to obtain a larger space for the Food Shelf, and fund raising is underway now as an offer has been accepted on a building in the industrial park.

**Bemidji
Community
FOOD SHELF**



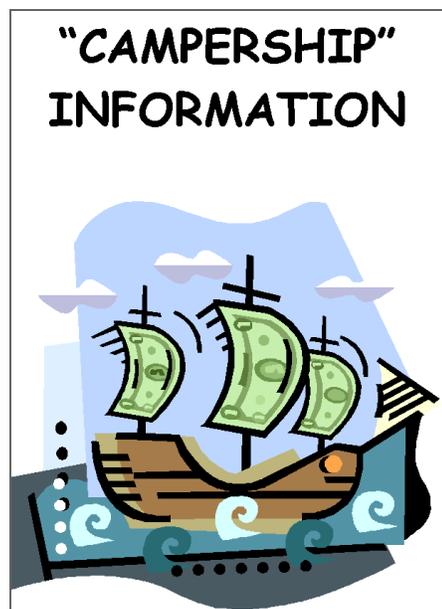
March FoodShare is coming up soon. Please take a moment to read the posters I have displayed near our grocery basket. If cash donations are made, please

indicate the church name on the check, so our membership may get credit. As always, donations of cereal, peanut butter, canned soups, and crackers are appreciated.

The staff, board of directors, and volunteers at the food shelf are a dedicated group, and provide a needed service for the community. They are to be commended. If anyone would like to volunteer, please contact Nancy Streightiff, or myself.

Jan Beil

**Leo & Ruth
Fenske
Youth
Memorial
Fund**



The Bethel Foundation is currently taking applications for Campership Funds that are available from the "Leo & Ruth Fenske Youth Memorial Fund" through the end of May. If you have youth attending camp this summer, please be sure to stop by the office and pick up an application form! The deadline for applications is May 31, 2012.



March Birthdays

- 02 Pastor Mark Kindem
- 03 Berklee Anderson
- 05 Alva Drusch
Darrel Lauderbaugh
Jerry Molitor
- 07 Nate Sele
- 08 Daphne Linnea Urban
- 09 Margaret McNea
- 12 Harlan Charon
Cherene Sadek
- 17 Roy Blackwood
- 18 Jeanne Muirhead
Joseph Sorenson
- 20 Albert Sadek
- 21 Sally Becker
- 24 Louise Hoyum
- 27 Dorothy Bakken
- 29 Gerald Fenske

Anniversaries

- 03 Bruce (deceased)
& Betty Olsen
1955



Wednesdays

March 07 March 14
March 21 March 28

12:00 noon

with soup/sandwich following this service

5:30 p.m.

with Wednesday evening meal following the March 07, 14 & 21 services



April 1, 2012
9:00 a.m.

Contemporary Service
10:30 a.m.
Tradition Service

April 5, 2012
7:00 p.m. Service with communion



Maundy Thursday



April 6, 2012
7:00 p.m. "Shadows" with communion

April 8, 2012
9:00 a.m.
Contemporary Service
10:30 a.m.
Tradition Service



Sunday School SCHEDULE

Wednesday, March 07 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 14 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 21 @ 6:30 p.m.
 Wednesday, March 28 @ No Class

Confirmation Classes

7th - 9th
Grade

Mar. 07	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Theme Event
Mar. 14	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Servant Event
Mar. 21	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Theme Event
Mar. 28	6:30 - 8:00 p.m.	Guide Meeting - Students with family tonight

March 7

Study Night: We will begin a series entitled "Finding Your Fit." This is a biblically based study that helps students discover their values, personality, passions and spiritual gifts.

March 10

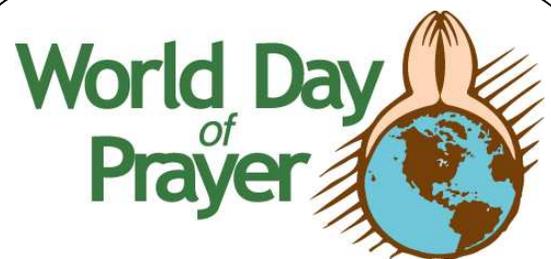
Church and Family Ski Day at Buena Vista Ski Area – Randy will be at BV and have a spot reserved for Bethel. Bring your board games, a book to read, your skis, or your snowboard. The tubing hill will be open as well. All rates are discounted for area churches.

March 15

Chris Tomlin concert at the Sanford Center in Bemidji. – More information to come!



Adventures in Lifelong Learning, Spring, 2012, will open on Tuesday, March 6 with Kevin Cease presenting "**the life and times of a 3rd generation funeral director**". Lois Jenkins, vice president of ALL, says, "it's very chancy to open the season with a funeral director, but most of us know Kevin in some capacity, whether directly with the family funeral home business, in the community theatre, or as a neighbor. We are confident that Kevin will be entertaining as well as compassionate in his presentation. Audience members should come with questions, or Kevin will just talk. ALL will again meet at Beltrami Electric Community room, 4111 Technology Drive, NW, Tuesdays of March and April from 10-11:30. For more information call board member Al, 444-7091. Or email: adventuresinlifelonglearning@gmail.com for a complete schedule.



Friday, March 2, 2012
 First Presbyterian Church
 1:30 p.m. Worship Service

Fellowship time following

5th Street Northwest, Bemidji, Minnesota

To view our March 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 MARCH 2012 down in the left hand corner of the screen. This will open a PDF of the MARCH calendar for you to view.



Church in Society

March is Minnesota Food Share month. During March, corporations make donations to the food banks and food shelves based on what they bring in so during March the dollar is mightier than the can! The “Go the Extra Mile” in March will go to the food shelf.



SOS continues to house 20 people at the various churches in town. Bethel has had the opportunity to fill in some shifts rather than taking on a whole week. Thanks to Pastor Mark, Loren and Edith Hoyum, Roy Blackwood and John Crisman for their help. SOS continues through March but it is unsettling to think of those we have housed living in their cars. Pray that more permanent housing can be found for those needing it.



Faith Build is an opportunity for congregations to get back into building houses with Habitat. Thrivent for Lutherans had a four year commitment to Habitat but now the hope is to broaden the participation

of churches here in Bemidji. Bethel plans to have a crew. The amount of time and the schedule is partially determined by us. We need more folks to sign up. You need not be a great carpenter, we will have you fill out a sheet with your skills and what you are willing to do and then will try to match skills and needs. Building with a partner family is wonderful. The gratitude is so evident. Peoples lives are being changed through home ownership. The sign up sheets are in the fellowship hall. Building will begin June 14.

BETHEL WALLEYE FISH FRY



Red Lake Walleye Dinner

will be served on

Sunday, April 29, 2012

from 5:00 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.



Meal includes:
Potatoes - Beans
Cole Slaw
Fillet of Walleye
Dessert & Drink

For more information contact:

Len Bergstrom or Kirt Dreyer

Be sure to mark your calendar now!
We'll look forward to seeing you there!

A World Hunger Meal is being planned for Maundy Thursday so keep an eye out for more information.

I John 3:17 How does God's love abide in anyone who has the world's goods and sees a brother or sister in need and yet refuses to help?

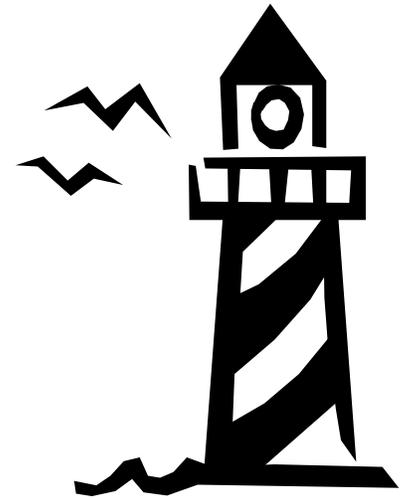
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MARCH 2012



Time to
Spring Ahead

**Sunday,
March 11th!**

YES ~ Envelopes
will be out soon to
place you Easter
Lily order!



**Bethel is
delivering**



**the week of March 12th!
Want to help ~ Sign-up!**

40 DAYS FOR LIFE™

40 Days for Life Spring Campaigns are underway world wide in 258 locations in the U.S., Canada, England, Australia & Spain!

February 22- April 1, 2012

The Bemidji Pro-Life Coalition group set a community goal of committed prayer from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. (12 hours per day) during the campaign. Bethel Lutheran has signed up for Thursday's during Lent. Anyone is invited to pray when they are able. You are needed! Your commitment to pray is valuable. Remember, you can choose to pray at church, or at home. Pray along with others world wide for an end to abortion. Sign-up sheets can be found in the narthex. Please be sure to sign up!