



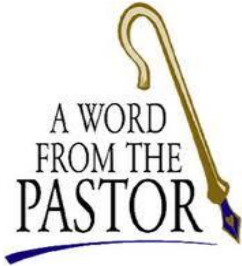
The Bethany Herald

February, 2012



Invite People to Experience the Grace of God Through Jesus Christ and Be Transformed.

Volume 02-12



Dear members of the body of Christ at Bethany,

It would seem silly to start this anywhere but on the personal note:

You all know that I experienced a health trauma and was gone for a while. In 1996 I experienced a cerebral hemorrhage (we fondly call it my "head thing".) 40% of the time these are fatal right on the spot. I am in the very fortunate 14% that gets to live a normal life. It's probably needless to say that I have been on maintenance medicine ever since. The thing I experienced at Marli Storm's funeral was a moment when the medicine didn't do its job. This has been between rare and unheard of for me. I spent the next 10 days with doctors who adjusted and changed medicines so that this wouldn't happen again. Nothing is certain in life, but much is hopeful.

One of the most intense experiences of grace in my lifetime happened back in 1996: I received a letter from Ardyce Holton, from Wildrose, ND (the town of my first church, 1983-85), which was basically a scolding: "Just heard about your health issues," she wrote. "HOW DARE YOU go through this alone? How dare you not tell us about it? Don't you know there are people here who still love you? Don't you know there are people here who want to pray for you?" It moved me to tears. Receiving phone calls from Marli's mother Jerrica, and the Storm family, who in the midst of their own grief was concerned about me, was a similar experience of grace. Getting cards, letters, phone calls and a welcome back from so many of you was an experience of grace. Thank you.

Moving on to matters of congregational importance:

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday Worship will be held here at Bethany in partnership with Trinity Lutheran Church. Pr. Peter Maisenbach will be the preacher. Please plan to attend and begin your Lenten season and discipline at this time.

THE 5 WEDNESDAYS IN LENT

There will be a 5-week worship series, "*The Means of Grace*", on Wednesdays in Lent. A fellowship supper at 6:00 p.m. will precede the 7:00 p.m. worship and services will be of similar length to the Advent worship services (45 minutes or so). For confirmation students, they will replace confirmation classes. The goal is for students to WORSHIP AS A FAMILY, (with parents, siblings or grandparents etc.) and then meet with their guides for 10 minutes.

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Lent concludes on Maundy Thursday as the words of forgiveness are heard and the mandate to love one another is remembered.

GOOD FRIDAY

Good Friday worship will be a Tenebrae service held at Trinity Lutheran Church.

Pastor Len

Highlights of 2011 Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting of the Bethany congregation was held in the Sanctuary on Sunday, January 15, 2012, at 10:20 a.m. There were 82 members present. Highlights of the meeting included:



- ❖ Approval of the minutes from the 2010 annual meeting
- ❖ Election of 2012 Church Council nominees, as follows:

President: Russ Wright

First Vice President: Teresa Martindale

Second Vice President: Kathie Halverson

Secretary: Sharon Cameron

Treasurer: Sandi Schmidt

Mutual Ministries: Lisa Salton

Parish Ed: To be filled

Properties: Kirby Schmidt

Youth: Kim Hoy

- ❖ Approval of the 2012 budget, totaling \$253,979.
- ❖ Election of 2012 Nominating Committee consisting of two outgoing council members, Bruce Iverson and Cyndi Ellis, along with three members, elected from the floor, which included: Carolyn Kruger, Gary Tolzmann and Randy Phillips.
- ❖ Approved a change to the Bethany constitution, as per the following:
From page –6, Chapter 8 - MEMBERSHIP. C8.02. c.) striking the underlined words:
 - c. Voting members are confirmed members in good standing who have attained the legal voting age in the State of Iowa, have communed regularly, have made a contribution of record, and have participated in the life and worship of “This Congregation” during the current or preceding year.
- ❖ Selected Carolyn Kruger and Randy Phillips as delegates for the 2012 WIS Assembly, April 27-28.
- ❖ Approved a motion to remit \$2,300 to the Kidugala District of ELCT to support the seminary education of two students, using funds from the budget line designated as “Seminary Funds”.

Transition Team Update

The Transition Team is meeting weekly on Thursday evenings. The article in January’s Herald explained that our function is to be the work group of the transition here at Bethany Lutheran. We, perhaps like you, feel that this transition is taking a long time yet we are still in process. It can be frustrating at times because the Transition Team was formed later than the Call Committee and has not yet progressed to the point of having our work completed. As a result, we are waiting and wondering when Bethany will be able to call a permanent pastor. Even so, the Lord is leading and guiding our congregation through this time. Perhaps we can each look for that reassurance in Scripture, like in the following passage from Isaiah 58 for example: And the Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your desire with good things, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters fail not. (verse 11)

The Transition Team has identified our work and has begun to look over the newly reformulated congregational profile. This document is considerably different than the one we completed three years ago. It is now entitled the ELCA Ministry Site Profile. We have many areas to fill in as we describe our congregation. Your help is greatly appreciated as we ask for your input through surveys or interviews. At this time we are reviewing the Pastoral Survey you filled out (put together by the Call Committee), and then we plan to move ahead by interviewing existing committees and groups within our congregation.

We as a Transition Team appreciate your patience and support. We ask you to pray for us and for our congregation through this continued time of transition. May we be guided by the Holy Spirit to do Gods Work with Our Hands, and to be open to the pastor whom God will call to serve among us.

(Note: The transition team consists of Joe Dardar, Gary Halverson, Bruce Klenken, Dennis Peterson, Rhonda Salts, Gary Tolzmann and Onalee Wright)



Prayer Concerns

RECENT AND CURRENT HEALTH CONCERNS:

Carol Anderson, Skip Vanderpool,
Darlene Stough, Kathie Halverson,
Lonnie D., Alta Bruns
Kirk Andersen's mother, Norma Andersen;

Henry & Jill Meyer's niece, Polly Pearson;
Mary Marske's brother, Mitch Baker;

PRAYERS OF THANKSGIVING:

Lisa, Johan & baby Gunnar

RECOVERING FROM SURGERY:

Janet Vanderpool's sister, Marilyn Gentry; Becky DePauw;

MOURNING THE LOSS OF A LOVED ONE:

The family of Randy Harig; The family of Roger Lundberg;
The family of Denise Phillips, The family of Marli Storm;
The family of Norm Woelber; The family of George Larson;
The family of Don Kuhn



Thank you from the family of Randy Harig for the wonderful support of our church family during Randy's valiant battle with cancer and for being there when he finally went home. Thank you to the ladies that served our lunch and to Pastor for the service and visits and to Mary for all her help. Thank you all.

God Bless,
Joni Harig & family

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Thank you! Thank you all, for those that prayed and prayed and prayed some more for my cousin Lisa, her husband, Johan, and their unborn child over in Sweden. After several failed pregnancies, their little baby boy, Gunnar, arrived in late December in healthy condition. My entire family felt blessed to have so many people praying for them. What a miracle!

*Teresa Martindale & Family*

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FROM TANZANIA . . .

ASANTE SANA to our brothers & sisters at Bethany! Thank you so very much for your great help to us. Mr. Hezron is very happy to go to college and he sends you many greetings.

MUNGU AKUBARIKI/God bless you all!

Pastor Nuru Kahwili & Rev. Dr. Lechion Peter Kimilike
(the sister/brother pastoral pair from Imalinyi)

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Our next FOOD DRIVE for UDMO is Sunday, February 5. Starting this month we will be more focused with our donations. **The theme of our drive for February is "soup"**, as in chili, chicken noodle, bean & ham, etc. Our intent is to help stock the shelves at Upper Des Moines Opportunity with some "specific" items. Thanks for your continued support!



### FELLOWSHIP NEWS

Please join us for fun and fellowship at Dart Ball, Tuesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. in the church dining room. Beginners are welcome. We hope you will come!

Lent is just around the corner. If you have a group of friends who would like to prepare and serve a Lenten supper, call Sandi Witt at 580-9593, or Mary Ann at the church.

### STEWARDSHIP DATA

#### STEWARDSHIP OF TIME

December Average Weekly Worship Attendance - 167

#### STEWARDSHIP OF GIVING (thru December 31, 2011)

Y-T-D Revenues Collected----- \$224,363.71

Y-T-D Actual Expenses ----- \$228,131.78

Y-T-D Expenses Over Revenue ----- (\$3,768.07)



We continue to accept orders for the Evangelical Lutheran Worship "cranberry" hymnal, with a goal of having them in place by Easter. There is a sign-up form and payment box on the round table in the south entry area. The cost is \$25 per hymnal. Please consider donating a hymnal(s) or gifting in memory of a loved one. Thank you for your help as we work toward reaching our goal.

#### NEED A RIDE? THE BUS STOPS AT BETHANY.

Do you need help getting a ride to church? Bethany has arrangements with the Spencer transit service RIDES to help you get here for Sunday morning worship. All you need to do is contact the church office and request vouchers for the bus, then call RIDES at 262-7920 to schedule your ride. If you have a need and are interested in utilizing this service, please call the church office at 262-2327 for more information.

#### YOUR VALENTINE'S DAY JUST GOT SWEETER!

Spread the love with Divine Chocolate this Valentine's Day! Your one purchase gives many gifts – your loved one gets a sweet treat, cacao farmers get a fair price for their crops, and their communities get the opportunity to dig wells, build schools, provide health care, and more! Divine Chocolates will be available at cost on February 5 & February 12!



#### ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP SERVICE



We will gather with our brothers and sisters in Christ from Trinity Lutheran Church for worship & the imposition of ashes, on February 22, 7:00 p.m. here at Bethany.

## SUNDAY SCHOOL CORNER



TRAIN UP A CHILD IN THE WAY HE SHOULD GO; EVEN WHEN HE IS OLD HE WILL NOT DEPART FROM IT. Proverbs 22:6

SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR 3YR OLDS THRU 8<sup>TH</sup> GRADE IS HELD UPSTAIRS IN THE EDUCATION WING CLASSES START AT 10:15

### THANK YOU

During the month of December the offering collected during Sunday School was used to purchase an animal through ELCA GOOD GIFTS. We collected \$50.00 in offerings and were able to purchase a goat.

### ATTENTION PARENTS

The kids had so much fun with the Easter Egg Hunt last year that we have decided to do it again. Parents we will need your help, please watch for sign up sheets.

### PARISH ED/SUNDAY SCHOOL MEETING

Weds. February 1, 6:00 P.M. - Parish Ed Office



### Camp Sunday At Bethany

Mark your calendars for Sunday, February 5<sup>th</sup> -- CAMP SUNDAY AT BETHANY! Carolyn Fritsch, Executive Director at Lutheran Lakeside Camp will be coming to visit the congregation and talk about the many opportunities that their camp has to offer.

After the service we will have "Early Bird" Camper registration and you will be able to visit with Carolyn. We have camps this summer for youth finishing 1st-12th Grade, as well as, two weeks of family camp. If you would like more info about Lakeside Camp visit [www.lutheranlakeside.com](http://www.lutheranlakeside.com) or talk to Mindy Lavender.

Copies of the Summer 2012 camp brochures are available on the bulletin board. Also, camperships are available. Or, if you would like to sponsor a child through a campership, please let Mary Ann at the church office know.

### Attention: Parents of students finishing the sixth & seventh grade!

Starting this summer we will be taking the youth to Confirmation Camp as part of our confirmation experience. Confirmation Camp is an amazing opportunity for youth finishing 6th-8th grade to come and feel like they are part of the larger Lutheran community.

We will be going to Lakeside Lutheran the week of July 22-27. The cost will be covered by camperships from the Bethany, and possibly some additional fundraising. Please come to church February 5th to register your child. If you have questions, please see Mindy. Thank you!



### "TRIVIA NIGHT" FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Bring your friends for an evening of "tailgate foods" and trivia! Fun is guaranteed while you recall movies, music, sports & more. Everyone is a winner since the proceeds will go toward college scholarships for Bethany members and the Spencer community.

**Date:** Sunday, February 19

**Time:** Open for tailgating at 5 p.m.; Game from 6-9 pm

**Where:** Legends, 422 – 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue E.

**Cost:** \$80/team, 5-8 people per team

**What to bring:** Fun food to share with your team (pizza, pop, sandwiches, cocktail wieners, bars/cake, etc.) Beer & wine will be available to purchase

Reserve a table on-line at [Trivia4higher@gmail.com](mailto:Trivia4higher@gmail.com) or call Becky Winterboer @ 262-4850.

## Women of Bethany

AS A COMMUNITY OF WOMEN WE COMMIT OURSELVES TO GROW IN FAITH AND AFFIRM OUR GIFTS.

### Women of Bethany Planning Team Meeting

Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 P.M. in the Parlor.

All women are encouraged to attend.

NOTICE: We will draw the name of the winner of the gift basket at the February 6<sup>th</sup> meeting, please have your surveys turned in by Sunday the 5<sup>th</sup>!

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February, March, April . . . only three Fun and Fellowship work days left before we load our finished quilts and kits for shipment to the Lutheran World Relief warehouse in MN. Women (and men!) of Bethany are invited to meet Thursday, Feb. 9, at 9 am in the church dining area. We'll work on quilts and kits and assess needs to meet our goals. Then we can solicit ideas for more efficiency in our church's LWR mission.

There will be a potluck lunch at noon where we continue the fun and fellowship.

Mission Action chairperson,  
*Janet Myers*

### FEBRUARY BIBLE STUDIES

Bring a Bible and gather with your sisters-in-Christ to discuss this month's lesson and spend time in prayer and fellowship. Meetings are in the parlor at the following times:

RUTH – WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15 – 7:00 P.M.

MIRIAM/ELIZABETH – THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16 – 1:30 P.M.

PRISCILLA - TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - 9:30 A.M.





Bethany Lutheran Church  
 15 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street  
 Spencer, Iowa 51301

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### February Volunteer Schedule

Please check the chart below to see if you are scheduled to help with worship services during the month of February. We welcome new volunteers at any time --please call the church office 262-2327 or Worship & Music Chair, Sue Metcalf at 262-8367, if you would like to help as worship volunteer. We appreciate and encourage your active participation in the life of the congregation at Bethany!

| Date                       | Reader                             | Greeters                                             | Communion Helpers                    |
|----------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>February 5 9:00 am</b>  | Cheryl Ahern                       | Liz Vulk                                             | Kevin & Cheryl Ahern, Cindy Heiter   |
|                            | <b>Video:</b> Leon & Donalle Rodas | <b>Projection System Operator:</b> Randy Phillips    |                                      |
| <b>February 12 9:00 am</b> | Sue Boblit                         | Tom & Sue Boblit                                     | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |
|                            | <b>Video:</b> John & Holly Fogarty | <b>Projection System Operator::</b> Steve McAllister |                                      |
| <b>February 19 9:00 am</b> | Becky Dettmer                      | Julia & Patrick Winterboer                           | Becky Dettmer, Bruce & Judy Iverson  |
|                            | <b>Video:</b> Sandi Schmidt        | <b>Projection System Operator:</b> Denise Tolzmann   |                                      |
| <b>February 26 9:00 am</b> | Amber Ellis                        | Ron & Cindy Pingel                                   | XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX |
|                            | <b>Video:</b>                      | <b>Projection System Operator:</b> Joel Stave        |                                      |
|                            | <b>Acolytes:</b> Jenny Klenken,    | Brandt Roskens                                       | Lauren Sather                        |

**TO PREPARE FOR WORSHIP, PLEASE READ:**

**February 5 – Epiphany 5**  
 Isaiah 40:21-31  
 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c  
 1 Corinthians 9:16-23  
 Mark 1:29-39

**February 12 – Epiphany 6**  
 2 Kings 5:1-14  
 Psalm 30  
 1 Corinthians 9:24-27  
 Mark 1:40-45

**February 19 – Transfiguration**  
 2 Kings 2:1-12  
 Psalm 50:1-6  
 2 Corinthians 4:3-6  
 Mark 9:2-9

**February 26 – Lent 1**  
 Genesis 9:8-17  
 Psalm 25:1-10  
 1 Peter 3:18-22  
 Mark 1:9-15