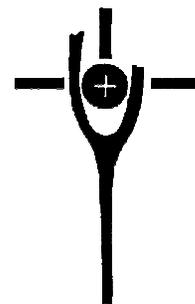


# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BETHEL BANNER



*"... making disciples for Jesus Christ in our church, neighborhood and world..."*

## APRIL 2012

### CONGRATS TO BETHEL'S BIBLE BOWL PARTICIPANTS!

All are winners for studying God's Word, specifically Exodus for the Bible Bowl competition held March 3.

Bible Bowl team A: Elissa Boll, James & Roxanne Thies & Andrew Zimmerman placed 5<sup>th</sup>!

Bible Bowl team B: Derek Murray, Elise Schuenke & Phil Stebbing placed 7<sup>th</sup>!

Bethel's teams represented themselves and Bethel very well. They had positive attitudes, encouraged each other, helped each other out and truly acted as teams and were kind to others.

Thank you to all who helped out, supported the teams with prayer, and a huge thank you to the teens who chose to work so hard studying for the competition & the coaches Susan Boll, Faye Hayhurst & Karrie Thies!



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#### **Palm Sunday Worship**

April 1 at 9:30 am & 11:30 am

**Bethel's Festival Choir** will sing on Easter.

Join the last rehearsal on Tuesday, April 3 from 7-8:30 pm.

#### **Maundy Thursday Worship**

April 5 at 7 pm

#### **Good Friday Worship**

April 6 at 7 pm

**Easter Breakfast** will be served from 8-9 am by Bethel's youth who are fund raising for a future mission trip.

Pastries and baked items are welcome and needed!

Willing to volunteer to help? Contact Jordan Ray!

**Easter Sunday Worship** — April 8 at 9:30 am and 11:30 am



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son....*

JOHN 3:16, NIV

## Worship = Rest

FROM PASTOR SEABAUGH

As a boy I remember the hustle and bustle of Sunday morning. I wasn't always the swiftest out the door in the morning. It was a lot of work getting everything ready, picking out our Sunday best and making ourselves presentable. Unfortunately the work didn't stop when we got to church. It had only begun! Then we had to sit through the worship service! My Dad's a good preacher, so that eased the effort, but as an energetic little boy, a distracted adolescent, a lethargic college student, and even as an adult, I felt like it was work to get through that worship service. That is, until the true meaning of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Commandment really hit me. "Remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy."

### **Sabbath**

The word Sabbath is a Hebrew word that literally means "rest." Its origins go back to creation, when God created the world in 6 days and rested on the 7<sup>th</sup>. We also remember the Sabbath day by keeping it holy, or in other words, "set apart." So, what kind of rest are we talking about? How do we set it apart? The Old Testament talks about resting from our work. The New Testament Pharisees took that too far and made not working so difficult it became work! Jesus came and told them that "The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath." (Mk. 2:27) God set apart a day for us to rest. But what is rest?

### **True Rest**

In order to answer the question about rest, we need to see where work came from. When God made the world, we had a perfect place that provided for us abundantly. Genesis 3 describes man's fall into sin and Adam's punishment from God. Adam would have to work the soil in and "sweat" and "painful toil" until he returned to the ground. It is because of sin that we must work as we do. True rest is the world before sin. True rest is living in the forgiveness of our sins. True rest is the confidence that by God's grace, through faith in him, we will one day walk in a new creation without sin. Take a deep breath. Imagine that rest. It's the rest described in Psalm 23. "The Lord is my shepherd. I shall not want..."

### **Worship = Rest**

Our Sabbath day is Sunday because Jesus defeated death on a Sunday. He rose from the dead and gave us confidence that we would also live after we have died. So, what do we do on this day of rest? We worship. It's perfect! Six days we have labored hard being an ambassador of Jesus in this sinful world. Six days of sweat and painful toil. Six days we've been bloodied and bruised. It's time to rest. It's time to gather with other believers who are also equally bloodied and bruised by the week. It's time to confess our sins and be reassured of God's forgiveness. It's time to hear God's word and be strengthened in our faith. It's time to receive the body and blood of Jesus in the sacrament and be filled. It's time to share the stories of each other's WaterLife as we live our baptism as ambassadors of Jesus. Take a deep breath. It's your Sabbath. It's time to be with the Jesus-followers and rest in Him. Monday we'll be back to work. It's the rhythm of life. Sunday we worship. We rest.

Blessings, Pastor Seabaugh

FROM THE OFFICE—LYNNE

**Bethel Address Directory corrections**

**Carrie Flack email**

carrie.flack@minneapolismn.gov

**Janice Kuball email**

jkuball52@gmail.com

**Ben Woto email**

benjamin.woto@gmail.com

**Ben Woto** phone = 310-920-4606

**Hawa Woto** phone = 952-486-9978



**Office hours**

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm  
Office Closed—Good Friday, April 6

**New Members**

**Isaac, Mamisa, Rachena & Tiana Harris**

110 Thompson Ave W  
West Saint Paul MN 55118  
612-206-2624

**Ed, Rosaleen, Isabel & Noel Krum**

1419 Pascal St N Saint Paul MN 55108  
651-646-8401

**Terry, Michelle & Sydney Sistad**

591 Como Ave Saint Paul MN 55103  
651-488-0595

**Funeral**

**Paul Chris Williams—March 10**



Hosta plants needed to plant around the church sign — do you have plants that need to be divided and shared? Contact Ruth Seabaugh.

Bulletin & e-news items are due to the office by Wednesday mornings

Banner information is due to the office by the 15th of the month

ACCEPTING OTHERS

A boy came to our village one time. He was little bit on the heavy side (too big). Noone gave him a chance to show what kind of person he was. Instead, everyone started to judge him by his weight.

Unfortunately, I did also. Later on many of us got to know him better, and he turned out to be a really cool boy.

I was so guilty about the way we acted from the beginning. I started to think I wish we had not judged him because of his appearance. But I am sure everybody has treated someone unfair at one time. And most of us can be kind of shallow and sometime judge people by the way they look.

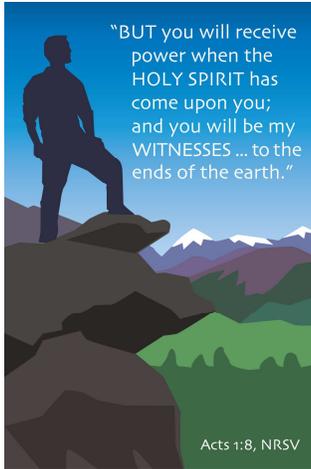
Brother and sisters in Christ, God who created us is never shallow. He cares about all of us. Not because of what we look like, but because of who we are. If you walk through our village, try to pay special attention to all the different kinds of people you will see. God our father in heaven made each person unique. You can praise Him and thank Him for the way He made you and the way He made other people. Amen.

*Remember what scripture says: Romans 15:7 Accept one another ... just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God.*

FROM VICAR FOFANA

FROM JORDAN RAY, DIRECTOR OF CHRISTIAN OUTREACH

## Staring into the Sky - Acts 1



In Acts 1 we find the account of Christ's ascension into heaven. After giving many convincing proofs and speaking to them about the kingdom of God, the time had come for the Son to return to the Father. Before he ascends, he commissions them by saying, "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." After saying this he is taken up and hidden from their sight.

Scripture tells us that the disciples stood there watching Jesus ascend even after he was hidden from their sight. They were literally straining their eyes to see Jesus. Two angels appear to them and remind them that Jesus would indeed return in the way he had left and asked them "Why do you stand here looking into the sky?"

I wonder how long they'd have stayed there looking for Jesus in the clouds.

Reading this I think that we can be like the disciples. We long for Christ's return (as we should), but in doing so forget that He has given us a mission. We spend our days "staring into the sky" when Jesus has commissioned us to be his witnesses. Sometimes we are content to keep our faith to ourselves. I know that I've been guilty of this. But God has given us His Spirit so that we can share the love of His Son.

Jesus will come back in the way that he left. We await that day with anticipation that spurs us onto His mission of making disciples.

*Dear Lord, we long for your return. We await that day that you will make all things new. Help us to look forward, but to also make the most of every opportunity to be your witness in this world. Amen*

## EPIC — THE FUTURE CHURCH NOW!

Spend Wednesday evenings at Bethel growing in faith with Bethel's Youth group (9th - 12th grade). Come for fellowship, Bible study and fun on Wednesday evenings from 6:30-9:00 pm. The Confirmation students are welcome to join us at 8 pm when they are released!



## A STEWARDSHIP MOMENT

In April we join with Christians around the world to celebrate Easter—the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the grave. The tomb is empty! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! On that first Easter morning, the “pain and stain” of death were forever wiped away. Jesus rose from the grave, never to taste death again, and by His resurrection opened up for us the doors to everlasting life. Let us rejoice and remember the words from a favored Easter hymn “Jesus Christ is ris’n today, Alleluia! Our triumphant holy day, Alleluia! Who did once upon the cross, Alleluia! Suffer to redeem our loss, Alleluia!” (Lutheran Service Book #457)



As St. Paul reminded us in Philippians 3, we not only have a citizenship in heaven, but we also have a citizenship in this world. As citizens of the world many people dread April 16th because it is the deadline for filing 2011 tax returns. Most Americans would be thrilled if they had to pay only 10% of their income for taxes. But we know better. In Minnesota the state sales tax on many items is 6.5 %. Social Security tax is another 7.65% (15.3% if you are considered self-employed for tax purposes). State and federal income taxes are in addition to these other taxes. It doesn't take long to figure out that we are paying “double and triple tithes” for state and federal taxes.

Is giving a tithe of the financial blessings that God has given to us an impossible expectation? No, it isn't. Is giving a tithe a command for Christians? No, it isn't. The big spiritual question about Christian giving is this one: “What percentage of the financial blessings that God has entrusted to me do I believe He is calling me to give?” We do not give in order to meet the church budget, or because someone puts a guilt trip on us. 2 Corinthians 9:7 gives us this wise counsel: “Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.” The key is to talk to God in prayer, asking for His guidance regarding giving, and then moving forward empowered by His Holy Spirit to be free and joyful in our Christian giving.

The tomb is empty! Hallelujah! Jesus Christ is risen; He is risen indeed! Have a blessed Easter!

In the service of our Lord,

*Financial Stewardship Team*

## APRIL GODSPEAK READINGS

## MIDWEEK GODSPEAK GROUPS

**April 2-7 — New Creation**

Monday	Isaiah 65
Tuesday	Job 19
Wednesday	John 11
Thursday	2 Corinthians 5
Friday	Revelation 21-22:4
Saturday	Luke 24

**April 9-14**

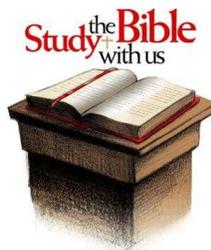
Monday	Acts 1:1-11
Tuesday	Acts 1:12-26
Wednesday	Daniel 7:13-14
Thursday	Revelation 1:1-8
Friday	Mark 16:14-20
Saturday	1 Corinthians 15:1-22

**April 16-21**

Monday	Acts 2:1-13
Tuesday	Acts 2:14-42
Wednesday	John 16:5-16
Thursday	Isaiah 11:1-9
Friday	Genesis 11:1-9
Saturday	Luke 4:14-21

**April 23-28**

Monday	Acts 2:42-47
Tuesday	Acts 2:42-47
Wednesday	John 17:20-26
Thursday	Hebrews 10:19-25
Friday	1 Corinthians 1:4-17
Saturday	Hosea 2:19-23



**GodSpeak Groups continuing!**  
**Spring Schedule — April to June 2012**

Pick a group so you can be discipled **and** disciple others! Grow together in discipleship as God speaks to us and through us. It is never too late to start reading God's Word!

**Monday Evening 6:30 pm**

at Bethel in the Youth Room (comfy chairs!)  
 Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

**Tuesday Morning Men's Breakfast 6:30 am**

at Keys Café (Lexington & Larpenteur)  
 Leader: Pastor David Seabaugh (651-488-6681)

**Tuesday Morning 6:30 am every other week**  
**April 3 & 17**

at Suzie Norris' (1276 Dayton Ave)  
 Leader: Suzie Norris (651-645-3811)

**Wednesday Evening EPIC 6:30 pm**

at Bethel in the Youth Room  
 Leader: Jordan Ray (651-271-5636)

**Tuesday Morning 10 am**

at Bethel in the Fellowship Hall  
 Leader: Pastor David Seabaugh (651-488-6681)

**Wednesday Evening 7 pm**

at Java Train 1341 Pascal St N  
 Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

**Saturday Evening (African) 5:30 pm**

at ?? (rotates homes each week)  
 Leader: Lusienie Fofana (651-216-9242)

*"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe, and many wonders and miraculous signs were done by the apostles."*  
 Acts 2:42-43

## BETHEL'S EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The purpose of the Bethel Christian Education Assistance Fund is to enable as many members of Bethel as possible to attend doctrinally sound primary schools, secondary schools, and universities; with particular emphasis being placed on encouraging support of our LCMS-affiliated educational institutions.



Christian School

As a partner in Christian education, Bethel Congregation attempts to underwrite a percentage of tuition costs at approved Christian institutions of learning. Education assistance may be awarded to those students whose parents have been active members of Bethel for not less than one year, and who have attended Bethel services on a regular basis. Students attending a LCMS synodical university or seminary preparing for professional church vocations may also be granted assistance for four years; and up to seven if enrolled in a LCMS seminary.

Bethel provided Educational Assistance for the 2011-2012 School year to Harper & Autumn Atchison, Jake Bluhm, Elliot & Amelia Flack, Anna Lange, Grace Matthes, David Pate and Josiah & Daniel Seabaugh at Central Lutheran School; Tee Fofana, Alisa Klatt, Derek Murray, James & Roxanne Thies, Natalia & Dominika Walsh at Concordia Academy; Elissa, Caleb & Anna Boll at Gethsemane Lutheran School; Gus Stefan at King of Kings Lutheran School; Elijah & Alida Sorenson at Calvin Christian School; Lusienie Fofana and Buck LeGreco at Concordia Seminary in St Louis MO.

The families and recipients of Christian Education funds **thank you** for generously supporting Christian Education through your monetary gifts through the church and your support of the rummage sale!



## BETHEL'S ANNUAL RUMMAGE SALE — JUNE 13-16, 2012

Volunteers are needed and welcomed to pick up "treasures", host drop-off dates, advertising, set-up, day care, clean up and many hands are needed for the sale days. The EPIC Youth will be hosting the Snack Shack for a fund raiser for future mission trips! Contact the office to volunteer and with any questions!



## "55" CLUB FELLOWSHIP — THURSDAY, APRIL 12



Join Bethel's "55" Club on Thursday, March 8 for a Battered Cod Dinner catered by Magnolias Restaurant. Sign up on the lounge bulletin board and the cost of dinner of \$8 is payable to Betty Paulus by April 8. Come for dinner & fellowship!

## CELEBRATION SUNDAY, APRIL 29



Sunday, April 29 is Bethel's next Celebration Sunday. New Members will be recognized at the combined worship at 9:30 am, Bible Hour at 10:45 and a POTLUCK at noon! Women Serving Christ is hosting this celebration — an International Potluck, so bring a dish from your heritage or your favorite cuisine. All members of Women Serving Christ are needed to set up and clean up. Talk to Ruth Seabaugh to volunteer.



## CONCORDIA ACADEMY OPEN HOUSE — APRIL 12



CA-Roseville will host an open house on Thursday, April 12 at 7:00 pm to check out the opportunities for a Christian education in a Lutheran high school. Contact Marilyn Mick at 651.484.8429 ext. 136 for more information.

## ST PAUL LWML METRO ZONE SPRING RALLY — SATURDAY, APRIL 14



"So Precious" LWML Spring Rally at Jehovah Lutheran Church (1566 Thomas Ave in St Paul). Registration begins at 8:45 am, light breakfast at 9 am and the rally begins at 9:30 am with a bible study with Pastor Robert Cordes. Cost is \$5 and RSVP to Beth at 651-631-8956 by April 9.

## LEADERSHIP TEAM POSITIONS OPEN FOR NOMINATION

Members are needed to serve on the Leadership Team for a 2 year commitment beginning July 2012 for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Properties & Stewardship. If you have questions, are interested in being part of our Leadership Team or would like to nominate someone to lead, contact the church office at [blc@bethelstpaul.com](mailto:blc@bethelstpaul.com) or 651-488-6681. Step up to serve!

## CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL CHOIR PLANT SALE

CLS Choir is selling flowers & plants from Gerten's Greenhouse (profits are for the choir/fine arts program). Stop by the school office to place your order or contact your favorite CLS choir member. Order forms are due Monday, April 2nd.



## MINISTRY LEADERS MEETING — FEBRUARY 16

**Present:** Pastor Seabaugh; Jordan Ray; Adrienne Vandercar; Dave Gardner; Dave Rustad

### **Water Life**

Ministry Leaders met to discuss changes taking place to worship, outreach, education with the congregation's increased focus on "missional" living.

Jordan described how the youth are beginning to share their faith stories (Water Life) with each other. "We are beginning to speak the gospel into each other's life," he reported.

Pastor and Jordan shared and discussed the "Big Map" (Our Church), where members live and can make disciples. The goal is to help members understand that the church (their life in Christ) goes with them wherever they go; their ministry is the relationships they have with people every day of the week, NOT just Sunday.

Pastor reported that the African service often has testimonies of God at work. Many of their stories are on adversities overcome. He would like to see more of a shift to how God is using them in the world.

Pastor would like to see increased movement of Bethel members between services.

### **Service Length**

Pastor would like to begin to create an expectation that our worship service lasts 75 minutes. He is interested in exploring: Having our first service run from 9:30 – 10:45 a.m. Having Bible Hour/ Sunday School go from 11 a.m. – noon. Starting the African service at 11 a.m. Ministry team leaders discussed pros and cons of the time shift. Further discussion will be held.

### **Offerings**

There is a certain "awkwardness" in the current way our offerings are collected. Some members give electronically. Some give periodically (e.g., monthly). There seems to be inconsistency in whether people actually pass the plate down the pew or not. Various options were discussed (maintain current system; have a collection box as people leave; etc.). Pastor noted that it is important to remind members of what it means that we are stewards of God's resources.

**ACTION:** Dave G. and Adrienne will develop a list of pros and cons for various offering scenarios for the Leadership Team to discuss.

### **GodSpeak**

With the conclusion of the gospel of John, Pastor reported that GodSpeak would focus on God's gift of grace. Creation/Salvation/Baptism/Communion/New Creation. Following these five weeks, GodSpeak will move into the book of Acts.

### **Miscellaneous**

Leaders discussed revisions to the website.

Photography and the use of photo release forms were discussed.

**ACTION:** Dave R. will check with the Minnesota South District to receive legal advice on what, if any, release forms may be required to use people's image on our website.

The idea of sending newcomers to the neighborhood a post card was discussed. Further discussions will follow.

Pastor closed the meeting with prayer, and the meeting was adjourned.

SERVING AT BETHEL IN APRIL

**Coffee Hour Servers**

April 1  
Barb Moeller  
Andrea Bode  
April 8  
Sue Norris  
Lynne Holst  
April 15  
Karen Bade  
Susan Boll

April 22  
Jean Beckman  
Brenda Walsh  
April 29  
Dorothy Jorgenson  
Tricia Bluhm

**Meals on Wheels**

April 2—Ray & Karen Bade  
April 9—Tim Schmalz & Dave Stueber  
April 16—Betty Paulus & Karita Wienke  
April 23—Sue Norris & Karen Bade  
April 30—Ray & Karen Bade



**Banner Assembling**

**Thursday, April 25**

**9:15 am**

Winnie Bentz  
Holly Fohrenkamm  
Dorothy Jorgensen  
Betty Paulus  
Driver: Tim Schmalz

**Worship Teams**

April 1—Search 'n Rescue  
April 5 (Maundy Thursday)—Search 'n Rescue  
April 6 (Good Friday)—1 Timothy  
April 8—Share the Joy & Praise Him/Proclaim Him  
April 15—Praise Him/Proclaim Him  
April 22—1 Timothy  
April 29—Search 'n Rescue



**SCHEDULE  
OF**



**VOLUNTEERS**

**Money Counting**

**Team # 3**

Ray Bade  
Earle Bandow  
Don Weber



**Sunday Drivers**

April 1—Bruce Bairaktaris  
April 8—David Rustad  
April 15—Jim Nash  
April 22—Ken Halverson  
April 29—Tim Schmalz

**Dorothy Day**

**April 22-Group III**

Don & Carolyn Weber  
Dave & Jenny Gardner  
Jodi Ruis & Tricia Bluhm  
Tim Schmalz & Lynn Schibonski  
Bruce Breiland & Lizzie Moeller



*You're a  
Blessing!*

*Thank you to all my friends for the cards, telephone calls and visitors during my hospital stay. They are greatly appreciated. I am getting better. It is slow, but I will make it. Thanks again. — Evie Stener.*

*Thank you to all the members of Bethel for remembering Mildred Dey's 100th birthday, especially Sharon Bartels, Suzie Norris, the 3rd & 4th grade Sunday School class and Holly Fohrenkamm. — From Jim & Toni Dey and family*



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

		Amelia Flack	04/19
		Marlys Miller	04/19
Sienna Lopez	04/03	David Stueber	04/19
Jennifer Holiday	04/05	Lynette Hoveland	04/21
Rachena Harris	04/06	Charles Fruhstuck	04/22
Kassy Bartelme	04/09	Taylor Krivanek	04/22
John Bluhm	04/09	Kaylee Luger	04/23
Josiah Bode	04/09	Phoebe Stefan	04/23
Phyllis Bracewell	04/09	Anna Boll	04/24
Don Flack	04/11	Earl Bracewell	04/25
Mikayla Head	04/11	Carrie Flack	04/26
Henry Anderson	04/14	James G Faser	04/27
Luke Rustad	04/14	Karen Johnson	04/28
Jeffrey Bartels	04/17	Nicole Guillette	04/29
Shanttilla Hansen	04/17	Cecilia Neeland	04/30



BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS

Mildred Ott	04/04
Rebecca Luger	04/05
Cara Wilson	04/08
Quenby Wilson	04/08
Coda Wilson	04/08
Alex Beckman	04/16
Edward Knudsen	04/16
Eleanor Hardin	04/17
Kent Strommen	04/18
Jayden Atchison	04/19
Debra Schultz	04/19
Caitlyn Murray	04/20
Brianna Engen	04/22
Earle Bandow	04/24
Alida Sorenson	04/24
Josiah Bode	04/26
Mary Hubert	04/29
Haven Ruis	04/29
Phyllis Bracewell	04/30
Bonnie Witt	04/30
Mildred Zerahn	04/30

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



Juan & Keya Lopez	14 years on 04/17
Chris & Rebecca Luger	14 years on 04/25

*"You have made known to me the paths of life;  
you will fill me with joy in your presence."*

Acts 2:28



670 W Wheelock Parkway  
Saint Paul MN 55117

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ADDRESS SERVICE  
REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

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THIS ISSUE WAS MAILED  
MARCH 22, 2012

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## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

670 W WHEELLOCK PARKWAY

SAINT PAUL MN 55117

651-488-6681

BLC@BETHELSTPAUL.COM

BETHELSTPAUL.COM



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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Bible Hour 10:45 am  
Sunday Morning African Worship 11:30 am  
GodSpeak Midweek Bible Groups (See page 6)  
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am