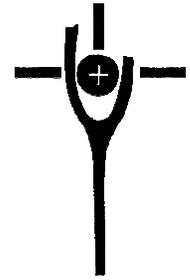


# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BETHEL BANNER



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

## SEPTEMBER 2013

### LAMP Reflections from Dave Rustad

Amazing. Chaotic. God-blessed. Those words summarize my experiences as a first-time "missionary" from Bethel to Cat Lake, Ontario, courtesy of the Lutheran Association of Missionaries and Pilots (LAMP; [www.lampministry.org](http://www.lampministry.org)). The goal of our six-person team? To share the gospel of Christ through our words and actions by teaching Vacation Bible School (VBS) for five days to the children of Cat Lake, a village of about 400 Ojibwe "First Nation" people.



We Pray that you will grasp how wide and long and high and deep the love of Christ is.  
Ephesians 3:18

#### Friday, July 26

We left our church Friday morning with a beautiful sending service involving children in our own VBS program. We drove from St. Paul to International Falls, where we entered Canada, then continued north to Sioux Lookout, a total distance of 469 miles.

#### Saturday, July 27

From Sioux Lookout we flew 112 miles north to Cat Lake. Touching down on Cat Lake's gravel runway, we were driven to the Anglican church building—used primarily for funerals—which would serve as our VBS headquarters.

We walked through the community handing out flyers inviting residents to encourage children in the community to join us on Monday afternoon for Bible stories, crafts and games.

#### Sunday, July 28

We prepped the church for VBS activities and held an impromptu worship service in the evening. Three community residents joined us, and together we sang hymns, read scripture, offered prayers and praised God.

#### Monday, July 29

We met Donnie—responsible for the community's small radio station—and interrupted regular Ojibwe programming to share an invitation to VBS with the community.

Thirty-two children joined our first VBS day, learning that "God promises to Love & Care for His Children." Our lesson included the story of Noah, creating Fruit Loop rainbows on paper plates, and holding a three-legged "enter-the-ark-two-by-two" race.



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## Are We Mammonaholics?

From Pastor Seabaugh

Mammonaholic? What's that? What's Mammon in the first place? We usually think of Mammon as "riches," and that's quite true. However, Mammon is much broader than that. Mammon is the misuse of God's good creation through prideful expressions of power, prestige and possessions. In essence, Mammon is the power of Satan in and among us. It is precisely what Jesus came to destroy. He identifies it, teaches us to resist it and ultimately defeats it through his death and resurrection. When Jesus comes back, he'll recreate a world without Mammon, a world many of us would find boring and pointless. Why? Because we're Mammonaholics, and that's a problem because Jesus said we cannot serve both God and Mammon.

### **Addicted to Power**

*"If you are the Son of God, command these stones to become loaves of bread." Matthew 4:3*

He could have done it. He had that kind of power. But Jesus chose not to use it because he wasn't on a mission to feed his face. Jesus was on a mission to save us from ourselves. Think of a time when you had absolute power over somebody or something. It's such a rush. You can do anything you want and nobody can stop you. Typically, the things we want are only for ourselves and at someone else's expense. Power corrupts. Jesus calls us to renounce such power. Why? Because God's the only one with true power. The rest is just pretending. Jesus calls us to be simple, humble, submissive and utterly dependent on him. Are we addicted to power?

### **Addicted to Prestige**

*"If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down [from the temple], for it is written, 'He will command his angels concerning you,' and 'On their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.'" Matthew 4:6*

It would have been quite the spectacle. Just think of how the YouTube video would have gone viral! Jesus would have been famous! But Jesus didn't come to be famous. Yes, Jesus attracted crowds, but it wasn't about him. It was about them. He loved them. Jesus didn't care what people thought of him. He came to declare truth, a truth that saves both now and for eternity, a truth that got him killed. We idolize our celebrities, sports figures, politicians, and even our YouTube sensations. As a child I dreamt of being famous. I wanted it more than anything. Jesus calls us to do good and be invisible. To Jesus, either we receive our reward here (attention, praise and gratitude), or we receive it from our Father in heaven (eternity). Are we addicted to prestige?

### **Addicted to Possessions**

*"All these [kingdoms of the world] I will give you, if you will fall down and worship me." Matthew 4:9*

It's a scary thing to think that the kingdoms of the world are Satan's to give! But Jesus did not come to rule the Satanic kingdoms of the earth (including ours). He came to destroy their power through a very different kingdom: the Kingdom of Heaven. But just think of having all the riches of those countries at our control! We could have anything we want in a moment, the best house, the best car, the best gadgets, the best yacht, the biggest portfolio, the most powerful friends... We would never want for anything. But Jesus says his Kingdom is worth selling everything... everything to obtain. Jesus says it's harder for the rich to enter the Kingdom of Heaven than for a camel to pass through the eye of a needle. Are we addicted to possessions?

*Continued on next page*

## Are We Mammonaholics? - *continued* From Pastor Seabaugh

### The Choice

*"No one can serve two masters, for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and Mammon." Matthew 6:24*

Let's put this into perspective. We live in the most *powerful* country in the world. Our media-saturated, success-driven culture is absolutely obsessed with *prestige*. The average American is among the *richest* 10% of people in the entire world. Our whole existence is centered on Mammon. It is taught in our schools, encouraged in the home, and way too prevalent in the church. We are addicted and we can't have it both ways. Either we worship Mammon or we worship God. We Christians need to learn how to live without Mammon, a life of total dependence on God for life and salvation. Whether we go cold turkey or wean ourselves off slowly we have to do it. We must shake off this addiction, and we must do it together.

*"But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you."*  
Matthew 6:33

## Poor In Spirit

From Pastor Fofana

One of the hardest truths for some people is to accept is that there is absolutely nothing we can do to win our salvation.

No matter how generous you can be or how honest or compassionate anyone can be, for sure it is never enough.

God the Almighty is Holy and His standard is perfect. So if we think we are good enough, it simply proves our pride. Only when we see ourselves as God sees us, as sinners, guilty before Him, then we will realize our need of a Savior.

But, in spite of our sin, God still loves us. He loves us so much that Christ died on the cross for us. All we can do is to believe, believe that Christ died for us and by faith we receive Him into our lives. We cannot win our salvation, but Christ has won it for us.



**Church Office: 651-488-6681**  
**bkc@bethelstpaul.com**

From the Office—Lynne

### Office hours:

Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

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.

## From Jordan Ray, Director of Christian Outreach

### “Don’t Worry” in Cat Lake, ON - Matthew 6

Last month my Bethel Banner article dealt with Jesus words at the end of Matthew 6. Today we are going to look at the verses that precede it.

In Matthew 6, Jesus tells his disciples not to worry. These verses echoed through my mind on our recent LAMP VBS Trip to Cat Lake, Ontario. Since this was our first time visiting the Cat Lake community there were many things that our team simply did not know heading up there. We weren't sure if we'd have hot water, beds or internet. I felt like we were *real* missionaries who are striking out into the unknown and paving the way for future groups to come in.

All of the unknowns were an opportunity for us to worry and be concerned about where we were going to sleep and go to the bathroom. When we landed, the person who we were told would meet us was out of town, but God provided a way for us to get to the church. We didn't know who to talk to about keys to the teacherage, but God took care of it. We could tell you many stories from the Cat Lake trip of God providing for our needs, often before we even realized them.



We often worry about our everyday life and let that fear paralyze us from stepping out in faith, but it is when we do step out as God's ambassadors that Jesus' words in Matthew 6 come alive. When we are weak, God is strong. When we know can't provide for ourselves, He does. This isn't just a lesson I've learned for Cat Lake, but one that applies here in St Paul as well. Let's live by faith. Let's not let worries control us but rather be spurred on by God's calling to love our neighbor and make disciples.

## Bethel LAMP Mission Group is Thankful to God for your Support!



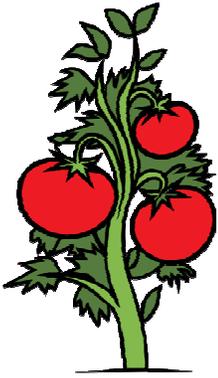
Jordan & Marcie Ray, Dave & Lynne Rustad, Derek Murray & Ruth Seabaugh thank you for your support in prayer, funds and supplies! We raised \$ 4,537 and spent \$4,445! That means that we have a start on fund raising for Bethel's LAMP Mission 2014!

Plan to come on Sunday, September 29 to Bethel's Celebration Sunday worship at 9:30 am, Bible Hour and potluck to hear stories of God at work during our week at Cat Lake.



Hot Dog Feast on Friday!

## A Stewardship Moment



Last year I bought one tomato plant so that I could have a few small tomatoes for a salad each week. I expected to pick about a half a dozen tomatoes a week at most. By the time I remembered to purchase a tomato rack for my plant it had grown rather large so I put the rack around it as best I could. Buds were forming into little tomatoes. The plant continued to grow. And I waited expectantly for the sweet red fruit to ripen.

I brought a small bowl the first time I went to pick the ripe tomatoes. The bowl was filled to overflowing. I took a small zip lock bag of tomatoes to work to share. The second time I went out to pick, about a week later, I filled a mixing bowl. I took three bags to work to share. Not even a week later, I picked two mixing bowls full. This time

I brought an ice cream container of sweet, red fruit to share. My tomato plant continued to bear an abundance of tomatoes right up until a hard frost came in October.

As I thought about my expectations and the reality of the harvest I realized that this was a wonderful example of God's abundant blessings. God gave far beyond my hopes. The more I shared with others, the more this plant seemed to produce. How like God's love was this abundance. The more we share of God's love and blessings the more God gives us to share. Whether that be through words of witness to God's love for us or gifts of material wealth, God blesses all we share and never forgets to rain down upon us continued love and gifts to sustains us in our existence on this earth. We are stewards, on behalf of God, of all that we have and all that we are. Stewardship is not a program. It is a way of life!

In the service of our Lord, *Financial Stewardship Team*

## Fellowship One!

We are happy to announce our new online church management system called Fellowship One! Fellowship One (F1) replaces our old system which simply served as a database. This system is a ministry tool designed around people. Let me hit some highlights about our new system.



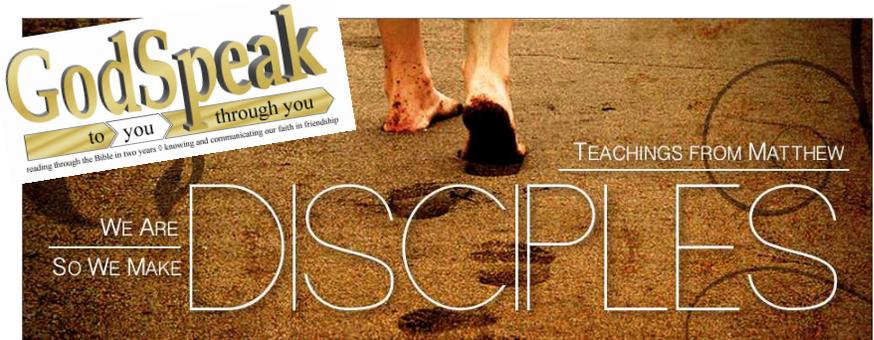
*Maximize Ministry, Minimize Administration*

Local Control: In the past, any changes to phone, address or email would have to be communicated to the church office for the next print version of the directory. Now, every member will have access to their profile through our website. You can make sure all of your information is correct and then determine what you would like other church members to see in the online directory. Ever want to call or email a member, but misplaced your paper directory? Now we will have an online directory with every member who signs up to be listed. **IMPORTANT:** When we launch F1 *we will need everyone to access their profile and determine what they want to be listed online.* The more people who participate, the more useful it will be!

Groups: We have a number of groups who meet on a regular basis. Each group is led and managed independently. F1 allows our groups to be managed online. Group email communication and attendance are all managed online by the group leader(s). Public groups are also listed on our website in a searchable format. People who are interested in a group can express their interest, triggering an email to the group leader. The group leader can contact the interested person, answer their questions and invite them to join the group.

There are lots more awesome features that will allow us to better serve the entire congregation. Let's make the most of this wonderful ministry tool!

## September GodSpeak Readings & Groups



### September 2-7 Disciple (n./v.)

Monday	Matthew 18:1-14
Tuesday	1 John 3
Wednesday	James 4
Thursday	1 Corinthians 10
Friday	Psalms 91
Saturday	John 10:1-18

**Monday Evening 6:30 pm**  
at Bethel in the Youth Room (comfy chairs!)  
Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

### September 9-14 Disciple (n./v.)

Monday	Matthew 18:15-20
Tuesday	Matthew 18:21-35
Wednesday	Titus 3
Thursday	2 Corinthians 13
Friday	Ephesians 4:29-5:2
Saturday	Matthew 6:1-15

### Tuesday Morning 6:30 am every other week September 10 & 24

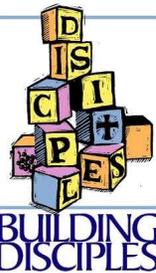
at Suzie Norris' (1276 Dayton Ave)  
Leaders: Bob Holst (651-645-7454)/Suzie Norris (651-645-3811)

### Tuesday Morning 10 am

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

### September 16-21 Disciple (n./v.)

Monday	Matthew 19:1-15
Tuesday	Genesis 2:18-25
Wednesday	Deuteronomy 24:1-4
Thursday	Ephesians 5
Friday	1 Corinthians 7
Saturday	Matthew 18:1-14



### Wednesday Evening (African) 6:00 pm

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

### Wednesday Evening EPIC 6:30 pm

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

### Wednesday Evening 7 pm

at Bethel in the conference room  
Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

### September 23-28 Disciple (n./v.)

Monday	Matthew 19:16-30
Tuesday	Matthew 6:19-34
Wednesday	James 2
Thursday	Ephesians 5:1-5 Colossians 3:1-5
Friday	Acts 4:32-35
Saturday	1 Corinthians 8:1-15

### Saturday Morning 8 am

at Bethel with breakfast at 8 am  
GodSpeak group at 8:30 am (child care provided)  
Leader: Pastor & Ruth Seabaugh (651-487-0487)

*"If a shepherd has a hundred sheep, and one of them has gone astray, does he not leave the ninety-nine on the mountains and go in search of the one that went astray? And if he finds it, truly I tell you, he rejoices over it more than over the ninety-nine that never went astray. So it is not the will of your Father in heaven that one of these little ones should be lost."*

Matthew 18:12-14

## "55" Club Fellowship—Thursday, September 12



Join Bethel's "55" Club on Thursday, September 12 for a Roast Beef Dinner catered by Magnolias Restaurant. Cost of dinner is \$9 and is payable to Betty Paulus by Sunday, September 8.

## Gospel Musical Concert — Saturday, September 14

*Praise the Lord! How good it is to sing praises to our God; for he is gracious, and a song of praise is fitting. Psalm 147:1*

Christ Evangelistic Ministries will hold a Gospel Musical Concert on Saturday, September 14 from 7:00 – 9:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran Church (670 W Wheelock Pkwy, Saint Paul MN). Come and praise God with Marron Cassel, His People from Concordia Academy, Janet Sonie and the Praise Dancers, Linda Conneh, Othello & the Christ Evangelistic Ministries Praise Team. *A Freewill Offering will be collected.*



## Metro Lutheran Sunday at Bethel—September 15

Bethel will be observing "Metro Lutheran Sunday" on Sunday, September 15. Every family attending Bethel that day will receive a free copy of the September issue of the *Metro Lutheran* and will be given the opportunity to support the paper through a free-will offering.



**MetroLutheran**

The *Metro Lutheran* is a pan-Lutheran publication delivered to congregations across the greater Twin Cities area carrying articles about the people, organizations and ministries making a difference in our communities. The September issue carries a story by Dave Rustad about Bethel's recent LAMP mission trip to Cat Lake, Ontario.

"The publication is a blessing to the broad 'Lutheran family,'" says Bob Holst. "I commend the publication, and encourage Bethel members to regularly read it and support it."

## German Dinner—Saturday, September 28



Bethel Ladies Fellowship will host their annual German Dinner on Saturday, September 28 from 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Tickets are priced at \$10.00 for adults and \$5.00 for 10 and under and will be on sale at the church on Sundays, September 8 & 15 - or you can call the church office to reserve your tickets. The menu includes: pork chops, famous German potato salad, sauerkraut, green beans, rye bread, applesauce and homemade dessert bars. The children's menu consists of tater tots, hot dogs, corn, and the same dessert bars. All proceeds will be used for church improvement projects. Come and enjoy this fabulous food and good fellowship.

## LAMP Reflections from Dave Rustad — *continued from page 1*

### **Tuesday, July 30**

The day's lesson, "God Has a Perfect Plan for Each of Us," was based on God's promises to Abraham. The message was timely, but our day "a disaster." Everything that could go wrong did. And yet...God was still at work.

After supper, we had an unexpected visit with Gary\* (\*not real name), a 30-something leader in the village. He explained that he was a relatively new Christian who was questioning if God loved him despite his sin. The conversation provided the perfect opportunity to remind Gary of God's grace and forgiveness in Christ. We told him that God sees Christ's righteousness when He looks upon His children. We prayed with Gary and thanked God for bringing us together.

### **Wednesday, July 31**

Today's lesson was "God Promises to Save His Children from Their Sins." It was based on Numbers 21 (poisonous snakes in wilderness; bronze snake on pole). The story foreshadows Christ's sacrifice on the cross. Forty-six children participated in the day.

Both the craft—a clay snake on a chop stick—and the outdoor game—"snake tag" with children having socks over their arms playing the role of snakes—were big hits and reinforced the message that God hears us when we call out to him for salvation.

We again concluded our evening praying for the specific requests included in our prayer box.

### **Thursday, August 1**

Today's lesson was from Isaiah 7, "God Promises the Savior, Jesus." The kids were fully engaged in the craft of the day—making "Baby Jesus in a Manager" through the creative use of toilet paper rolls, shelled peanuts, tissue paper, markers and straw.

Later that evening we also were greeted by Ellen, our band host. Traveling with Ellen was her 12-year-old grandson, whom we had asked to "be a leader" in our VBS program. Could this be a future church leader in training? We pray it will happen.

### **Friday, August 2**

Though it drizzled throughout the day, we hosted a community feast (a picnic hotdog lunch) prior to VBS. Our feast introduced the day's lesson, "God Promises That All Who Believe in Jesus as Their Savior Will Live with Him Forever in Heaven." The lesson was based on Jesus' words about the great feast from Luke 14:15-24. We reminded the children that God's feast offers life—forever—with Christ.

We then said good bye, finished packing and cleaning, and headed back to the airport, where we reversed our original travels and arrived home in Saint Paul on Saturday morning.



### **Lessons Learned**

Our team gives God the glory for allowing us to sow His word among the children of the village. The needs of the village are great, but God is at work. We look forward to returning to help teach and encourage Cat Lake children and adults to put their hope in Christ. Thank you, LAMP, for giving us this opportunity.

## Leadership Team Meeting— *Approved*— July 18, 2013

Present: Pastor David Seabaugh, Dave Rustad, Lynne Rustad, Tim Goebel, Lisa Stefan, Bryan Marshall, Jordan Ray, Mark Meier, Lisa Atchinson, Bonnie Renner, Adrienne Vandercar, Sean Boll

### **Minutes from the previous Leadership Team meeting were approved via email.**

The meeting was called to order by president Dave Rustad, who began with devotion and prayer.

### **The meeting agenda was presented and approved.**

New members were introduced and departing members were thanked for their service.

New Members were introduced to the Leadership Team meetings process, Policy manuals were distributed & Financial information was explained.

Radical Book discussion: Chapter 5: The Multiplying Community: How all of us join together to fulfill God's purpose

Discussed how written reports could be handled with the new mission/purpose/

expectations of the Ministry Team.

### **Old Business**

CLS Update (Tim G) – The board held elections, and Tim Goebel has moved from secretary to vice chair. Ken Halverson accepted a position as the acting executive administrator until a new principal is called. The committee to call a principal has made their choice for a call recommendation and is moving forward. The financial gap stands at about \$500,000. CLS must get monthly giving back up and see an increase in tuition or the school faces closure or must sell the property and meet in another building.

Financial Update (Bryan) – Bethel is currently borrowing from the facilities fund to cover the general fund. Discussion at next meeting will be consolidating some of the funds.

### **New Business**

Ministry Goals Assignment (for discussion September Meeting): Members were charged to consider their vision for what could be accomplished in their specific

areas (i.e., education, fellowship, worship, etc.) and present a "wish list" to the group. It's an opportunity to think creatively and come together to report on what areas Bethel should focus in the future.

Mgmt Goals Assignment (for discussion September Mtg): Are there ways of doing what we do more efficiently or effectively that we should discuss? Should we consolidate funds? Are there ways to make meetings more effective?

Changes to leadership team – should bylaws be updated? Should we consider being more flexible with our meeting time for future Ministry and LT meetings? Dave said he will send an email out to find out more information from other members absent tonight.

### **The meeting was adjourned. The meeting ended with a group prayer.**

Next Ministry Team Leaders mtg — to be determined later.  
Next Leadership Team mtg - Thursday, Sept. 19 at 6:30 pm. Kent will lead devotions.  
*Radical*: Chapter 6 for September meeting

# Serving at Bethel in September

## Pew Servicing

Cara Wilson



## Coffee Hour Servers

September 1

Cara Wilson

Becky Luger

September 8

JoAnn Lange

Angela Kurkoski

September 15

Evie Stener

Karrie Thies

September 22

Traci Matthes

Karen Johnson

September 29

Janice Kuball

Mary Hubert



## Sunday Driver

September 1—Ken Halverson

September 8—Jim Nash

September 15—Tim Schmalz

September 22—Dave Rustad

September 29—Ken Halverson

## Sunday Worship Team

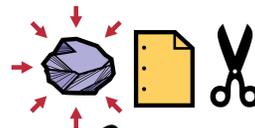
September 1—Praise Him/Proclaim Him

September 8—1 Timothy

September 15—Search 'n Rescue

September 22—Share the Joy

September 29—Praise Him/Proclaim Him



**Our Volunteers ROCK!**

# Volunteer

## Banner Assembling

**Thursday, September 25**

**9:15 am**

Winnie Bentz

Mavis Henke

Dorothy Jorgenson

Betty Paulus

Driver: Tim Schmalz

## Meals on Wheels

September 6—Ray & Karen Bade

September 13—Dave Stueber

September 20—Betty Paulus & Karita Wienke

September 27—Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

## Money Counting Team # 4

Sharon Bartels, Jim Nash & Tim Schmalz

## Sunday Acolyte

September 1—Harper Atchison

September 8—Jessica Hoveland

September 15—Kage Luger

September 22—Grace Matthes

September 29—Emma Moore

# EPIC — The Future Church Now! — Wednesday Evenings



EPIC—The Future Church Now! Jr and Sr High youth are welcome to come on Wednesdays from 6:30-9 pm for games, Bible Study and fellowship.

## September birthdays

Kent Kaiser	09/01
David Seabaugh	09/02
Kristina Countz	09/04
Bonnie Renner	09/05
Todd Thies	09/09
Gus Stefan	09/10
Sandra Atchison	09/11
Nyaket Dojiok	09/11
Jessica Moeller	09/13
Daniel Seabaugh	09/17
Donald Glende	09/20
Luciano Najero	09/20
Suzanne Norris	09/20
Bernice Sandstrom	09/21
Tricia Bluhm	09/22
Robert Kane	09/22



David Rustad	09/22
Hawa Woto	09/23
Roxanne Thies	09/24
Sharon Bartels	09/25
Nicholas Pearson	09/25
Cara Wilson	09/26
Amanda Beckman	09/27
Richard Nitz	09/27



Toni Dey	09/01
Elijah Sorenson	09/01
Bonnie Renner	09/05
Larry Dahl	09/11
Anna Lange	09/13
Sonya Engen	09/14
Sarah Atchison	09/16
Taylor Krivanek	09/16
Caleb Ruis	09/19
Christopher Meggitt	09/21
David Rustad	09/22
Nyadoar Dojiok	09/24
Nyaket Dojiok	09/24
Nyalat Dojiok	09/24
Jessica Hoveland	09/24
Karen Bade	09/25
Christian Hoveland	09/25
Bernice Sandstrom	09/26
Nathan LeGreco	09/27
Christopher Petersen	09/28
Einar Nordstrom	09/29
Solomon Kromah	09/30



## September Anniversaries

Scott & Wendy Knowlan	11 years on 09/07
Gregory & Sonya Engen	12 years on 09/08
Bruce & Sandra Bairaktaris	7 years on 09/09
Michael & JoAnn Lange	29 years on 09/22
Joe & Nancy Plumbo	23 years on 09/22
Paul & Jean Beckman	42 years on 09/24
Dale & Cynthia Pohl	36 years on 09/24

*He answered, "Have you not read that the one who made them at the beginning 'made them male and female,' and said, 'For this reason a man shall leave his father and mother and be joined to his wife, and the two shall become one flesh'? So they are no longer two, but one flesh. Therefore what God has joined together, let no one separate."  
Matthew 19:4-6*

670 W Wheelock Parkway  
Saint Paul MN 55117



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## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS



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Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Bible Hour 11:00 am  
Sunday Morning African Worship 11:00 am  
GodSpeak Midweek Bible Groups (See page 6)  
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am