BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Bethel Banner



our church, neighborhood and world..." FEBRUARY 2015 "... making disciples for Jesus Christ in

Bethel's Living Nativity—Sharing the True Story of Christmas!



Grandma Andrea reading the true Christmas story to her grandchildren!

Animals waiting to be fed and petted!



On December 20, Bethel hosted a Living Nativity for our community. Four shows portrayed the true Christmas Story, attendees were given the story book "Mary's Story" and invited to enjoy treats and hot drinks in the warm fellowship hall!

Inside this issue:

Lenten Worship	2
FROM PASTOR FOFANA	3
FROM THE OFFICE	3
FROM JORDAN RAY, DCO	4
GODSPEAK INFO	6
Leadership Team mtg	9
Serving groups	10
Birthdays & Anniversaries	11

Page 2 Bethel Banner

Together in Prayer

"At its deepest and best, our community is simply a fellowship at prayer, gathered in service to the mission of God in the world." – World Mission Prayer League



Join Joshua Vandercar, a missionary with the Prayer League, as we explore the way of the cross from the perspective of an international missionary fellowship and sending society. Worship God, hear stories from fellow workers of the Prayer League, celebrate the work of the Gospel, and pray for His kingdom come. Join us as we gather together in prayer for our church, neighborhood, and world.



Ash Wednesday Worship
Wednesday, February 18 at 7 pm

Wednesday Lenten Meals at 6 pm Wednesday Lenten Worship at 7 pm February 25, March 4, 11, 18 & 25



Plan to begin your evening with Bethel's Lenten Meals at 6 pm Willing to help cook, serve or clean up? Contact Bonnie Renner

Daily Lenten Devotions "The Parables of Lent" By Dean Nadasdy will be available in the narthex. Kids Devotions "Look around Jerusalem" will be distributed during Kingdom Quest.

Bethel in Mission Highlight — Tim & Michelle Miller, LBT

At Bethel's Congregational meeting in June a change was made to the budget regarding monetary support from Bethel. A designated fund, called Bethel in Mission, has been formed to support the ministries of Bethel for reaching our church, neighborhood and world. In this fund, monies are raised first before they can be spent. Bethel in Mission includes education assistance, LAMP, Living Nativity, LINC Twin Cities, MN South District support, Lutheran Bible Translators & other future projects.



This month Tim & Michelle Miller serving in Southeast Asia with Lutheran Bible Translators is Bethel's focus. The goal is to raise \$1500 this month to support the work of the Millers. On Sunday, February 8, the plan is to use skype to speak with them via video conference using our sanctuary screens!

For your giving for "Bethel In Mission" this month — mark your donations "Tim & Michelle Miller".

Tim & Michelle Miller are currently in Thailand participating in leading a Scripture Engagement and Literacy Training. Many people from different churches in various language groups in Thailand and beyond are attending. Literacy programs and mother tongue scripture engagement strategies are being developed at this training. When LBT translates scripture into previously unwritten languages, the work is not done. The people need to learn to read their language. Hearing God's truth in their own language brings people closer to the God who loves them.

Different ways, but the same reality

From Pastor Fofana



People came to Christ in many different ways, your experience will not necessarily be like my experience. Some conversions are sudden and dramatic, a radical change from one way of life to another.

As Saul of Tarsus approached the city of Damascus on a mission to arrest followers of Jesus Christ, a bright light suddenly blinded him. Later he recounted, he fell to the ground and heard a voice say to him, "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute me?" (Acts 22:7) From that moment on, Saul began to

serve the one he had once rejected and later on, his name changed to Paul, from that time God used him to spread the Gospel throughout the Roman empire.

Others came to Christ more slowly, not even knowing exactly when they crossed the line from unbelief to belief. Peter may have been like this, uncertain at first and only later made a firm and decisive commitment to Christ. Yet the Bible doesn't tell us when that moment of conversion came, Peter himself may not have known.

A friend of mine once told me that he grew up in a strong Christian home. According to him his parents were missionaries in Africa. He said he cannot recall a time when he did not believe in Jesus Christ as his Savior, even as a little boy.

The important thing is not how we come to Christ, but we are sure we are now trusting Christ for our salvation. Let me ask you a question. Are you certain of your commitment to Christ? If not, do not let another moment go by without making that commitment.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the power of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.

From the Office—Lynne

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. Church Office: 651-488-6681 blc@bethelstpaul.com

Office hours: Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm



A new Bethel Membership address/phone directory is in process. Have a new or preferred address or phone number? Give that information to Lynne in the office by February 10.

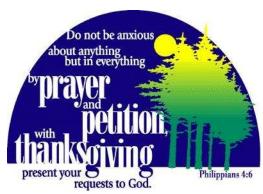
Thank you to Church of the Redeemer Kindergarten-2nd grade Sunday School classes who collected food for Bethel's food closet for those in need in our community!

Planning will begin soon for Bethel's 2015 LAMP mission trip to Cat Lake Ontario, Canada. Pray about your participation in bringing God's truth to Cat Lake. Want to join the team? Want to provide funds? Want to help raise funds? All are needed for the community in Canada.

Contact Lynne Rustad or Jordan Ray.

Page 4 Bethel Banner

From Jordan Ray, Director of Christian Outreach Don't Be Anxious About Anything



Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.

Philippians 4:6

Paul's word to the church in Philippi is to not be anxious about anything. When you think about it, what does a Christian have to be anxious about? We have the promises of God, the provision of God and even the grace of God. What could we possibly be concerned about? Yet, anxiety seems to be a common issue for most people. I know that I struggle with it.

Anxiety comes from fear. We are afraid of what might come. We are afraid that we are not in control. The truth is that we are not in control! The Book of Proverbs says that "Many are the plans in a person's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails." We make plans and work towards goals, but it is God whose purpose prevails. There is nothing wrong with making plans and working hard, but we need to remember that God is in control. We can take peace of heart and mind that Jesus has a plan for us and it is His will that will come to fruition.

I've learned from many of the people older than me at Bethel that as we spend more time on this earth we learn to trust and rely on God. We begin to see that God has a track record of taking care of us throughout our life. Let's pray for God to help us to trust in Him and cure us of our anxieties.

Dear Lord, you tell us to cast all our anxieties on you, because you care for us.

We need your help to do that. Life is complicated and we have a lot on our plate, Lord.

Give us the peace that comes from knowing that you are in control. Thank you for loving us. Amen.

EPIC — The Future Church Now!

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.



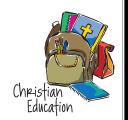
Lost and Found Concert — February 6



Lost and Found, a Christian band, will give a free concert at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church, 616 Ruth St, St Paul, MN, on **Friday, February 6, 2015**, from 7:00 – 8:30 PM. There will be dessert, coffee and fellowship from 6:00-6:45 PM. Lost and Found plays upbeat music in a concert that is fun for all ages. There will be a free will offering that will benefit the local family homeless shelter (Hope for the Journey Home). For more information about the concert, call Eastern Heights Lutheran Church 651-735-4202. For more information about Lost and Found, see their website www.speedwood.com

Bethel Christian Education Assistance

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.



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.

Applications for 2015-2016 school year are available from the church office and are due March 31.

A fund raising meeting was held Sunday, January 11 to discuss the need for fund raising. For the 2014-2015 school year, Bethel has 19 students receiving Education Assistance which is \$38,000 (\$2000 per student). The Rummage Sale will be June 18-20 and several other fund raisers are in the planning stages including the Easter Breakfast, a German Dinner, a Spaghetti Dinner and Sub-Sunday.

To achieve this goal, all members of Bethel will need to be involved and take part in this fund raising! Willing to help? Organize? Cook? Talk Sean Boll or Lynne in the church office!

Thanks Thrivent Members!

Thank you Thrivent Members for making Bethel Lutheran your choice in Thrivent Choice Dollars! During the calendar year 2014 Bethel received \$4,257.00 which was used for Bethel's education assistance.

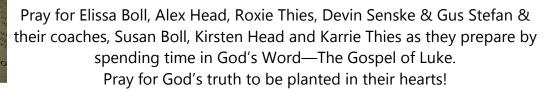


Thanks Earl Bandow, Glen Ellmann, James Faser, Connie Halverson, Beverly Heidenreich, Al Henke, Edward & Mary Martens, Jodi Ruis, David & Lynne Rustad, Tim & Mary Schmalz, Alan & Kent Strommen, David Stueber, Don Weber & Karita Wienke.

Bethel's 2015 Bible Bowl



Bible Bowl weekly practices are on Sundays from noon to 2 pm on Feb 1, 8, 15 & 22 and then daily from 6-8 pm on Feb 23, 24, 25, 26 & 27.



Watch and cheer the Bible Bowl team on **Saturday, February 28** at Concordia University, St Paul MN.

Your faith has saved you; go in peace. Luke 7: 50.

Page 6 Bethel Banner

February GodSpeak Readings



Bethel Lutheran reads the Bible as a congregation.

We call it **GodSpeak: God speaks <u>to you</u>** through His Word and **God speaks <u>through you</u>** to others.

Bethel's current GodSpeak series is called "SAINTS" and will focus on a different disciple who God worked through to make an impact in their time and place. It will be a time to learn about how God has used people to change the face of Christianity and the world.

GodSpeak readings are available on Sunday mornings and on Bethel's website.

February Preachers at Bethel who will share their "Saints"

February 1: Dean Dunavan, Theology Teacher at Concordia Academy February 8: Dr Fungchatou Lo, Executive Directory of LINC-Twin Cities February 15: Rev Dr Dean Nadasdy, MN South District LCMS President

February 22: Dr Richard Carter, Adjunct Faculty—Religion at Concordia University St Paul

GodSpeak Groups

Monday: 7 pm at Bethel in the Conference Room

Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

Tuesday: 7:30 am 2nd & 4th of the month at Suzie Norris' (1276 Dayton Ave)

Leaders: Bob Holst (651-645-7454) & Suzie Norris (651-645-3811)

10 am at Bethel in the Fellowship Hall Leader: Jordan Ray (612-248-7238)

Wednesday: 6:00 pm (African) (Rotates homes each week)

Leader: Lusienie Fofana (651-216-9242)
7 pm at Bethel in the Conference Room Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)
7:15 pm at 1105 Montana Ave W

Leaders: Dave & Lynne Rustad (651-489-6834)

Thursday: 7 pm at Bethel in the Conference Room

Leader: Jeff Bartels (651-489-0903)

Saturday: 8:30 am at Bethel with breakfast at 8 am

Leader: Pastor & Ruth Seabaugh (651-487-0487)

"55" Club Fellowship—Thursday, February 12

Bethel's "55" Club Fellowship will meet **Thursday, February 12** with a lasagna dinner catered by Magnolia Restaurant. Sign up on the lounge bulletin board & pay \$10 to Betty Paulus by February 8.



Central Lutheran School 'Spotlight Event'



Central Lutheran School's primary fund raising event, the Gala, will be at CLS on **Saturday, February 21**. The focus of the event will be on CLS and it's rich heritage, as well as its uncertain future.

CENTRAL LUTHERAN SCHOOL

Former students will examine why Central Lutheran School was the right choice for their elementary education, and current students will show why it still is the right choice for them today.

The theme is 'Spotlight Event'

The spotlight will be solely on the work of the school, past, present and future.

Jeremiah 29:11: "For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."

The 'Spotlight Event' is planned for Saturday, February 21, from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. Enter from the north side of the building, walking the red carpet into the gymnasium. Servers will be roaming with trays of goodies. Watch the presentations displayed on a number of screens. Bid on auction items. Talk with us about how you can support CLS's mission now and in the future. The suggested ticket price is \$25 per person.

'Spotlight' Silent Auction will include graciously accepted donations from different businesses and individuals. In addition to having the silent auction, there will also be a 'Buy It Now' option; if there is a certificate, item, or basket you really want, there's no need to wait until the end of the event to see if you've placed the highest bid. Just take the item to the auction coordinator, pay the 'Buy It Now' price, and it's yours!

Your part in CLS "Spotlight Event"

- 1. Pray for the success of the event! Philippians 4:6-7 "Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."
- 2. Former or Current Students responses needed to answer these questions (give to Doug) When you think back on your time at CLS, what are your fondest memories? How did CLS prepare you to be a Christian disciples? How did a Christian education at CLS equip you with the fundamental knowledge and skills for responsible citizenship in the community and the world?
- 3. Attend! No limit on attendees! The program will be repeated throughout the evening, so you can come for a short while, or you can stay the entire time. Its up to you!
- 4. Volunteer! Talk to Doug Zimmerman (651.226.6926, dougjzman@gmail.com).

Page 8 Bethel Banner

Hi & an update from Buck LeGreco

Greetings in the season of our Lord's birth,

With Christmas closely approaching I wanted to take the opportunity to send you an update from the Seminary and how the school year has been going. We have already put an end to the first few weeks of our Winter Term which means that classes are going by fast. I have a busy schedule this quarter but am enjoying what will be my last few months of studies at the Seminary. It is hard to believe that there are only a few months left of my career here in St. Louis and I am looking forward to seeing where God will call me into the service of His Church.

I have completed all of my final paperwork and submitted everything I need to have my name go out for the placement process. I finished my interviews with our directors here and it is making everything feel very real at this point. Now it is just the anticipation of waiting to see if I have any interviews over the next few months and then awaiting April 29th to hear the news at Call Day. I can't wait.

I am very thankful this year that I will be able to celebrate Christmas with all of my family. This has been our tradition for many years but I also know it will become harder for me to travel once I am in the parish. My family is spread throughout the country but we are all making the trip to stay with our parents and have the chance to celebrate the joy of Christmas with one another.

I am also truly thankful for all of the support which all of you have shared with me over these past four years. Every time I receive a card, letter, church bulletin, or any number of other ways you have contacted me I feel truly blessed and I know that there is so much more that each of you do by keeping me in your prayers and assisting to cover the costs of my schooling. Thank you all for your gifts and the Christian love and support you have giving to me.

I pray that you all have a blessed Christmas season and if any of you travel that God will protect you and keep you safe. It is while we all celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ that we know what a true gift is and everything our God does to show His love to each one of us.

God's Blessings be with you,

Athe But Te Sieco

Nathan "Buck" LeGreco

Concordia Academy 7th Annual Choir Dinner Concert



Concordia Academy's 7th Annual Choir Dinner Concert will be held on **Saturday, February 7** (dinner at 5:00 or 6:30, concert at 6:00) at CA (2400 N Dale St, Roseville). This event is a fundraiser for this year's CA Choir Tour to Nashville and will be a fun evening filled with fabulous food and fantastic music in a festive atmosphere. Tickets are \$10 per meal, and the menu features Nashville-inspired items such as fried chicken, sweet corn casserole, biscuits, and peach cobbler. Info & tickets are at www.concordiaacademy.com and look for the Choir Dinner graphic on the front page.

Leadership Team Approved Minutes—January 3, 2015

Present: Pastor David Seabaugh, Mark Meier, Bonnie Renner, Tim Schmalz, Sean Boll, Sharon Bartels, Paul Wilson, Rich Gall, Faye Hayhurst, Jordan Ray, Marcie Ray, Lisa Atchison, Mike Head, Lynne Rustad

President Mark Meier opened the meeting. Pastor Seabaugh shared a devotion about working together.

Reports

Worship—Paul Wilson

Children's Christmas Service went well; Would like someone to attend African worship to learn music and transcribe for use at Bethel services to increase involvement

Outreach—Rich Gall

Rich welcomes suggestions for outreach during winter months; plan to be do National Night Out.

Office—Lynne Rustad

Organ and pianos were tuned. Release – Ken & Connie Halverson to Lutheran Church of the Holy Trinity; Transfer – John Collister and daughters Cameron and Olivia from King of Kings Lutheran Church;

Motioned, seconded and carried to approve release and transfer.

Tree of Love gift cards to 20 families - needed to use some benevolence funds. Bulletin use survey suggested. Fellowship— Bonnie Renner Bonnie will contact people to assist her with fellowship events. Education—Lisa Atchison Need more teachers for Kingdom Quest; Sean Boll working on education assistance; Discussion regarding ways of recruiting volunteers for various activities. Properties— Tim Schmalz Lounge screen can be hooked up with sanctuary screens, eventually plan is to have a screen in nursery;

Tim is working on bathroom drains; Consulting about roof leaks; air conditioning unit on roof does not work and is too heavy for roof – causing water to pool & leak.

<u>Treasurer—Faye Hayhurst</u>

Faye is set up on computer & is getting acclimated; No contributions have been sent to Tim and Michelle Miller because Bethel in Mission has not been set up. Can a donation be sent to them? Suggestion made to make a request for donations to the congregation - \$1500. Suggestion made to Skype with them.

Stewardship—Mike Head

No report – great team who takes care of business.

Jordan, DCO

Living Nativity went well; Suggestion made to hand out candles at end and sing "Silent Night."

Bright Side Tutoring – rent-free community room in apartment building should be ready to use in

Youth – Grades 9-12 youth are very busy and don't attend youth group activities very often; youth in Grades 7-8 attend more often. Planning to hold monthly events and encourage attendance.

Service—Marcie Ray

February or March.

Food Closet is getting more frequent use. Cash donations are helpful because Lynne can purchase the items that are frequently taken. Jordan will make slide for how benevolence fund donations are used; Bright Side volunteer schedule will be made with tutoring dates and snack donations; Suggestion made to volunteer at FMSC

New Business

Fifth Sunday worship – Suggestion to have worship in sanctuary but have communion in fellowship hall after the meal & commune around the tables

Retreat

Coincide with Pastor's return from sabbatical; possible dates: April 24-25 or April 17-18; to be decided: venue (Jordan), purpose, agenda (to be discussed at March Leadership Team meeting), theme, funding; ideas – changing culture of today's youth – presentation by Jordan, properties plan – big picture, work toward being more of a church family; how does tradition help us; how does tradition hinder us; Bible study/devotion; preparation questions received ahead of retreat; Education

Meeting re Christian Education on Sunday, January 11, 12:00 noon; purpose is to obtain additional assistance with fund raising activities besides rummage sale.

Pastor Seabaugh

Suggestions for nominations for district offices need to be approved by February 1, 2015, and submitted to district office.

Jeff Bartels – volunteered to serve as Lay Delegate to Circuit Forum on January 25 and District Convention in 2015; David Stueber – alternate.

Motion, seconded & carried to approve nominations

Congregation mtg will be held on January 18 for congregational vote <u>Sabbatical Preparations</u>
Sabbatical supply list distributed; opportunities for assistance and leadership discussed.

Next Ministry Team Leaders meeting: Thursday, February 19, 6:30 p.m. Next Leadership Team meeting: Thursday, March 19, 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Bartels, LT Secretary Page 10 Bethel Banner

Serving at Bethel in February

Sunday Coffee Hour Servers

February 1

Brian & Jodi Ruis

Paul & Cara Wilson

February 8

Lynette Knippenberg

Joshua & Adrienne Vandercar

February 15

Sue Norris

Bob & Lynne Holst

February 22

Jordan & Marcie Ray

Don & Carolyn Weber

Sunday Driver

February 1 — Dave Rustad

February 8 — Jim Nash

February 15 — Tim Schmalz

February 22 — Dave Rustad

Pew Servicing

Dave Stueber

Money Counting Team # 3

Ray Bade

Don & Carolyn Weber

Worship Acolyte

Sunday, February 1 — Elissa Boll

Sunday, February 8 — Andrew Pearson

Sunday, February 15 — Mikayla Head

Sunday, February 22 — Kaylee Luger

Worship Teams

Sunday, February 1 — Search 'n Rescue

Sunday, February 8 — Share the Joy

Sunday, February 15 — Praise Him/Proclaim Him

Sunday, February 22 — 1 Timothy

Banner Assembling-Thursday, February 26 9:15 am

Betty Paulus, Dick Tehle & Carolyn Westphal



<u>Union Gospel Mission</u> <u>Saturday, February 7</u>

11:30 am-1:30 pm Bethel members serve lunch

and clean the kitchen on the first Saturday of the month. Contact Jordan Ray to volunteer!

UNION GOSPEL MISSION
Twin Cities

Meals on Wheels Delivery - Mondays

February 2 — Bob Holst

February 9 — Dave Stueber

February 16 — Betty Paulus & Karita Wienke

February 23 — Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

Bright Side - Homework Help & Tutoring Program

Tuesdays from 4:30–6:30 pm at Washington Tech Magnet School (1495 Rice St)

Tutors and volunteers are available to 1st to 5th grade students with:

Help with homework

Developing potential to succeed in school & life

Learning about Jesus and His love

Talk to Jordan to volunteer!



Pastor David

December 2014

Am aware of the generosity and kindness extended to our congregation, Church of the Redeemer, by Bethel Lutheran.

And then, last Sunday, I was surprised by the Karen refugees who are forming a new congregation in St Paul attending our worship service. What is more, Bethel Lutheran is welcoming them to worship at 1:30. Thank you for blessing the body of Christ in this way.

Ross Anderson (a member of Church of the Redeemer)

"... making disciples for Jesus Christ"

Bob Mueller

Nicholas Brewer

Ray Bade

Tim Goebel

April Pearson

Alida Sorenson

Feb 09

Feb 12

Feb 12

Feb 15

Feb 16

Feb 18



Birthdays		Martha Biggerstaff	Feb 19
		Wendy Knowlan	Feb 19
Matthew Weiss	Feb 01	Lynne Holst	Feb 22
Lynne Rustad	Feb 02	Aelah Vandercar	Feb 22
Jon Oberhamer	Feb 03	Eleanor Hardin	Feb 23
Jordan Ray	Feb 03	Caitlyn Murray	Feb 23
Brian Ruis	Feb 03	Ruth Seabaugh	Feb 23
Josiah Seabaugh	Feb 03	Jeffrey Vilmo	Feb 23
James Thies	Feb 04	Barb Moeller	Feb 24
Brooke Atchison	Feb 06	JoAnn Lange	Feb 25
Dick Klemz	Feb 08	Melissa Sorenson	Feb 25
Terry Sistad	Feb 08	Andrew Pearson	Feb 27
Caleb Boll	Feb 09	Corinthian Thomas-E	Beckman
Greg Engen	Feb 09		Feb 28



Adrienne Vandercar	Feb 5
Jim Dey	Feb 10
Tim Schmalz	Feb 14
Lisa Kubiszewski	Feb 16
Anna Hayhurst	Feb 18
Betty Paulus	Feb 19
Lynne Rustad	Feb 21
Elijah Seabaugh	Feb 22
Bob Mueller	Feb 23
Cassie Matthes	Feb 23
Nicholas Hoveland	Feb 23
Josiah Seabaugh	Feb 23
Lillian Beckman	Feb 24
Ray Bade	Feb 25
Gary Glaeser	Feb 25



Anniversaries

Jim & Toni Dey 50 years on Feb 27

Rob & Traci Matthes 19 years on Feb 22



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18

670 W Wheelock Parkway Saint Paul MN 55117



ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

DATED MATERIAL

This issue was mailed January 29, 2015

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS



670 W WHEELOCK PARKWAY
SAINT PAUL MN 55117
651-488-6681
blc@bethelstpaul.com
bethelstpaul.com



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