

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BETHEL BANNER



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

FEBRUARY 2016

Bibles in Cat Lake!

From Jon & Katie Larsh's After Christmas Update

"After [acting out the Christmas story], we got to hand out the Bibles. Bethel Lutheran church in Minnesota had sent up boxes of Bibles for all the kids in Cat Lake; Beginner Bibles for the little



ones, and Action Bibles for the older kids. It was pretty amazing to watch as we handed them out, these kids who wouldn't stop running around or wrestling on the floor finally stopped, and they were all stretched out intently reading their new Bibles. A few days later we



were told by a lady in our church that her brother, and some of the elders too, also went and received one of those Bibles. Bethel has sent a team to provide

Vacation Bible School to the children of Cat Lake, Ontario for the past three summers."



Pray for the kids and families to love God's Word and spend time in their Bibles!



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Mission on the Edge

From Pastor Seabaugh

Living on the edge? While we like to talk about how exciting it is to live on the edge, most of us don't really like it there. We like things to be secure, comfortable and predictable. So long as we have a safety net of our own creation we can dabble in edgy things without feeling the risk of falling. It's great! Do something edgy, snap the right photo, post it on social media and everyone thinks you're "living on the edge." Congratulations.

Jesus calls us to live on the edge, but it's not glamorous. It's not secure, comfortable or predictable either. Jesus calls *us* to live on the edge on a mission to those *on* the edge with the truth that *has* the edge. Let me explain.

Life on the Edge

When Jesus taught us to pray, he wanted us to say, "give us this day our daily bread." Daily bread is life on the edge. Praying for daily bread helps us realize that every bite we eat is a gift we are not entitled to. Every breath we take is not a guarantee. Every night in a bed or the roof over our heads could vanish in an instant. We tend to fight against such insecurities by building up our resources, like a wall that secures us against the fear of that edge. It's no use. The more we store up for ourselves, the less there is for others. Anyway, God wants us on the edge. He made us to be on the edge, because the closer we are to that edge, the more we trust in him. The more we trust in him, the more he can use our entire selves for his good purposes.

A Mission to those on the Edges

Jesus' ministry focused on the people who were forgotten, disenfranchised, impaired and even outright sinful. He loved them even when they were unlovable. He joined them in their filth and risked cross-contamination. He loved them into repentance and eventually died to give them forgiveness. We are those unlovable people. We are the proud, self-absorbed gluttonous people on the edge who have been saved by Jesus. Now, he calls us to follow him to the edges, to take up our crosses and lose our comfort for his sake... for their sake. He calls us to love the unlovable, risk cross-contamination and allow Jesus to shine through us.

A Truth with the Edge

There is right and there is wrong. Edgy, isn't it? God made the world to be perfectly functional in a particular way. It is the way of selfless interdependency and it is beautiful. We love that beauty and we want everyone to have it. In our crazy selfish world the only place we find that beauty is in Jesus. He wanted us to have that beauty so much he took our sins upon himself and endured the ugliness of death. He then defeated death by rising again to show us what the beauty looks like. Through all this we have the gift of forgiveness. God looks upon us and sees the beauty again. We also have a new life today, a life seeking the beauty in the midst of the mess. It's edgy... Because it's true.

So, it's a mission on the edge. As people given this amazing gift, we rely on God for everything and resist storing up our treasures here. We seek those who hurt and love them like Jesus. We even take the risk to speak the truth in love. No safety nets here... just the vision of beauty, a heart of compassion and the promise of eternal life. Gotta love it on the edge!

From Bad to Worse

From Pastor Fofana

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, have things ever gone from bad to worse for you? Just a simple question.

Well, the people of Israel were in slavery in Egypt, which was bad, but God delivered them all. They were in the desert starving, which they thought was worse and so they grumbled against God and Moses.

We are quick to grumble most especially against God when things go little bit bad in life. We are not content with the work, possessions or maybe the people God has put in our lives. We, most of the time, take His gifts for granted and grumble, when we think they are not enough.

Well, in the desert, God the Father of all, sent food (manna) for the Israelites to eat. Then he heard their grumbling and He blessed them. Again they were ungrateful. But God was gracious to them.

Brothers and Sisters, God is with us. He has given us all we have, yet we take it for granted, we grumble because we want more. He gives us His blessing, He sent His Son to die, He sends forgiveness and gives us grace.

He sends the Bread of Life which is Jesus Christ to fill us up, even when we think things are going from bad to worse. Today I ask that you read Exodus 15:2-15.

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.

Funerals:

Bonnie Witt — January 2
Marlys Miller— January 23
Bill Dey— January 30

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



Office hours:
Monday - Friday 9 am to 3 pm

Baptism:

Isaiah Elden Vandercar—January 10

Thanks Thrivent Members



Bethel received \$ 2,759 Thrivent Choice Dollars for Education Assistance in 2015! Bethel members also applied for and used Thrivent Action teams which provided \$250 supply money for each of the 2015 fund raisers at Bethel, including the

Easter Breakfast, the Rummage Sale Snack Shack, Bibles for Cat Lake and hygiene products for the Volunteers of America Residential Re-entry Center.

Engaged Alienation

Anna Zimmerman
Director of Discipleship & Outreach

Whatever you do, don't stop reading after this quote. "America doesn't want to hear the Gospel anymore. No one is listening. As Christians, it's our duty to cut our losses here and spread God's Word in other countries." A friend of mine once told me this. He was proposing complete Christian alienation from America: abandon America like Lot and his family left Sodom and Gomorrah (Genesis 19). Tell me, is there truly no one left who is open to hearing the Word of God? This friend proposed alienation. I propose an engaged alienation.

I love a good oxymoron. "Engaged Alienation": it's a phrase that causes me to grit my teeth, first because I'm a fascinated linguist, and second because I'm an extrovert who cringes at words like alienation. So why do I choose that phrase, then? Let's take a look at how Jesus guided His disciples in sharing the Gospel by means of engaged alienation.

In Matthew 10, Jesus sends out His 12 disciples in pairs. He instructs them to take literally nothing but the clothes on their backs. Anyone in the towns that they went to would then see their need and hopefully take them in. Because the disciples needed the people to open their doors for them, it therefore opened the door for conversation. The disciples were engaged. Jesus instructed them to "Heal the sick, bring the dead back to life, heal those who suffer from dreaded skin diseases, and drive out demons" (verse 8).

The disciples were also alienated, and Jesus warned them that they would be! "Watch out, for there will be those who will arrest you and take you to court, and they will whip you in the synagogues. For my sake you will be brought to trial before rulers and kings, to tell the Good News to them and to the Gentiles" (verses 17-18). He even says, "Everyone will hate you because of me" (verse 22). This isn't anything new to the disciples. Their people had been dealing with alienation for centuries. All of Exodus shows how the Hebrews were separate from the Egyptians; enslaved, even.

At this point, you might be thinking, "Anna, following Christ doesn't sound so fun. People were enslaved and killed in the name of God!" I'll be honest: Christianity is not glamorous, and it never has been. But since the beginning of time, God has shown His mercy in adversity and alienation. To the Hebrews in Egypt, their enslavement spared them from starvation due to famine in their land. To the disciples, He says that they will be brought to kings and rulers and then they would get the chance to share His love with them!

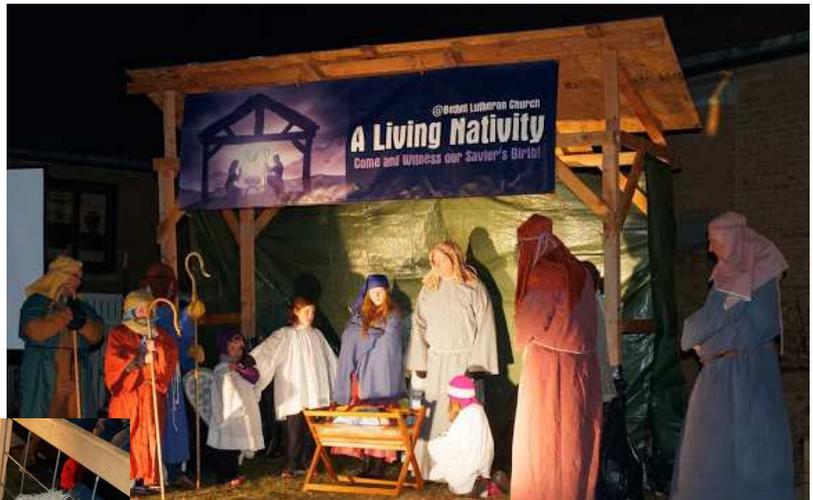
So what does engaged alienation look like today? It doesn't look like a religion who pickets or riots when we don't agree with someone else's values. Christianity is not simply about morals or values after all. It's about a God who loved us so much that He sent His son to the cross. Engaged Alienation therefore looks like being with the sick, guiding the blind, helping the poor. It looks like a redeemed sinner, washed in the forgiving blood of Christ looks like. We are not called to alienate America, stampeding away with a set of cherished values, but rather stand out as beloved children of God. Be engaged in your community, but stand out in our American culture: be engaged aliens.

Living Nativity

Bethel hosted a Living Nativity on Saturday, Dec 19 for over 350 people in our community!



Bonfire



Enactment of the True Christmas Story

Petting Zoo



Instruments to play

Names translated into Greek



Crafts for the kids



February Bethel in Mission: Snowboarders & Skiers for Christ



In our hustle and bustle, it is so important to simply breathe. God calls us to rest in Him, and so often there is so much going on that we put the resting part on the back burner. We see the need, and we would like to have a night of worship, rest, and play with you! Join us **Friday evening, February 26** for this amazing opportunity with Bethel Lutheran and SFC.

Group rates are available for 20 or more people, so sign up your whole family and invite your friends! Sign up on the lounge bulletin board or talk to RJ & Anna Zimmerman.

Adults/Children: \$20

Ski/Snowboard rental package (includes helmet): \$20

Tubing rates: \$12 per person

Snowboarders & Skiers for Christ USA (SFC USA) is a grassroots organization that exists to bridge the ski/snowboard culture to Jesus, partnering with the local Church. SFC's vision is to be the light of Jesus in the ski/snowboard culture.

RJ Zimmerman is involved with this ministry and is just getting going with ride nights, bible studies, and connecting. Pray that he will reach some local riders this winter and for financial & prayer support.

If you feel led to financially support RJ & SFC— RJ would like to host wax nights and bible studies. He need materials for waxing like: wax, scrapers, clamps, iron. It's about \$250 for all materials. No donation is too small. If you feel led, you may go to: <https://sfcusa.org/afton/donate>. Just make sure the drop down menu says, "SFC Afton Alps" to allocate to RJ's ministry.

2016 Bible Bowl

Bethel's Bible Bowl teams are meeting every Sunday from noon to 2 pm to study Ruth, Esther, Jonah & Daniel. Pray for Anna Thompson, Caitlyn Murray, Josiah Seabaugh, Alex & Mikayla Head, Elissa & Caleb Boll and Devon Senske as they prepare for the competition on Saturday, March 12. Thanks to Susan Boll, Kirsten Head and Roxie Thies for coaching the teams!



Online Giving Comes to the Bethel Website

Now there is an easy, fast and safe way to financially support the mission of Bethel Lutheran Church online. Go to www.bethelstpaul.com/give/ and you will find this page.

Give - Bethel Lutheran Ch... X

← → ↻ <https://www.bethelstpaul.com/give/> ☆ ☰

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God has given us a mission. You can help us fulfill it.

Home » Give

General Fund

The General Fund of Bethel Lutheran Church supports the day-to-day expenses of the church. This includes staff salaries, property maintenance and other operating expenses. This is foundational. Without support here, many other things simply don't happen. **Our greatest resource is the people God has provided our church to lead by serving.** So, the General Fund may not be the most exciting place to put your money, but it might just be the most important.

[Give to Bethel in Mission](#)

Bethel in Mission

Bethel in Mission is a collection of ministries run and/or supported by Bethel Lutheran Church. Each ministry is funded by designated contributions to the ministry itself or to Bethel in Mission as a whole. These include tuition assistance for Christian students, neighborhood events, and mission partnerships here and abroad. We try to keep all Bethel in Mission projects out of our regular operating budget so we can be **prayerfully responsive to God's provision.**

[Give to a Properties Project](#)

Properties Projects

God has blessed us with a building so that we can bless others. Not only does our congregation use our facility, but many others are blessed to use our facility as well. That means we need to take care of this kingdom resource. Trusting God, we resist taking out loans for most properties upgrades, but rather wait to raise the money first before taking the plunge. **We build as God provides, not the other way around.** Consider helping us keep our kingdom resource useful for his service.

Bethel General Fund

\$ 0.00

There are three "buckets" to choose from, each supporting different aspects of our ministry.

continued on next page

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Online Giving Comes to the Bethel Website

The **General Fund** keeps the lights on, the staff fed and is the foundational support Bethel needs to operate our ministry. Giving must go here first for the rest of these "buckets" to be useful.

Bethel in Mission is a collection of ministries run and/or supported by Bethel. These ministries are not budgeted and require designated donations or general "Bethel in Mission" donations. These ministries include:

Christian Education Tuition Assistance

LAMP Mission Trip to Cat Lake, Ontario

Benevolence Fund - Help for those in desperate need

Living Nativity

Mission Support for MN South District, LINC Twin Cities, Miller Family *and more*.

Properties Projects is the "bucket" for those big ticket facilities items that don't fall in our budget.

God is using our building as a mission, so we need to be good stewards of it. We prefer to stay out of debt and a contribution here can help us to do that.

Giving online is easy. Just navigate to the fund you want to contribute to and click the + next to the name for a description of the fund. Put in the amount you want to contribute and then fill in the rest of the information. Done!

Please note, contributions made on our website are subject to a fee (2.9% + 30¢ per transaction). We are paying for the convenience and it's worth it. If you don't a surcharge attached to your donation, write us a check or give through your bank. It works just as well!

Volunteers of America Residential Re-Entry Center

Thanks to Bethel members for your hygiene and monetary donations for the VOA-RRC for those coming out of prison. Over \$350 in products were delivered to the center. The staff was very appreciative and are grateful for your generosity.



Mentors are needed for this center. Willing to spend time with a resident being a friend/role model in the community? The Mentor responsibilities include 2 hours a week minimum for a 6 month commitment. The goal is to provide a positive person in their life, to meet them where they are and help them transition to life out of prison.

Interested or have questions? Talk to Lynne Rustad

GodSpeak Groups

Bethel Lutheran reads the Bible as a congregation. We call it **GodSpeak: God speaks to you** through His Word and **God speaks through you** to others.



Who is This Jesus?

It's the title to one of our favorite African songs. "Who is this Jesus?" More and more, it's a question that someone may ask you! We want everyone to be ready with an answer to that question. Our GodSpeak series over Epiphany and Lent is designed to help us get to know Jesus again. We'll look at Jesus through the eyes of his disciples so that we can see him clearly today and be ready to answer, "Who is this Jesus?"

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: Pastor Seabaugh (651-487-8047)

Wednesday: 6 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)

& Jeff Bartels (651-489-0903) — During Lent will meet Sunday mornings at Bethel

Saturday: 8:30 am at Bethel with breakfast at 8 am — Leader: Pastor & Ruth Seabaugh (651-487-8047)



Sunday Worship	Worship Team	Sunday Driver	Acolyte	Coffee Hour	Audio/Visual
Feb 7	Share the Joy	Dave Rustad Tim Schmalz	Elliot Flack	Cindy Pohl Mike & JoAnn Lange	Brian Ruis Josiah Seabaugh
Feb 14	Praise Him, Proclaim Him	Bonnie Renner Jim Nash	Mikayla Head	John & Angela Kurkoski Lisa Stefan	Sean Boll Caleb Boll
Feb 21	1 Timothy	Dave Rustad Tim Schmalz	Kaylee Luger	Sue Norris Bob & Lynne Holst	RJ Zimmerman Alex Head
Feb 28	Search 'n Rescue	Bonnie Renner Jim Nash	Sabrina Mora	Dave & Ruth Bittner Mark & Sarah Meier	Dave Rustad Josiah Seabaugh

Money Counting Team # 1

Betty Paulus, Dave Stueber & Karita Wienke

Pew Servicing — Karen Bade

Banner Assembling Thursday, Feb 25 at 9:15 am

Nancy Johnston, Betty Paulus & Dick Tehle

Meals on Wheels Delivery – Mondays

February 1 — Bob Holst

February 8 — Dave Stueber

February 15 — Betty Paulus & Karita Wienke

February 22 — Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

February 29 — Karen Bade & Sharon Bartels



FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

		Caleb Boll	Feb 09
		Greg Engen	Feb 09
		Bob Mueller	Feb 09
		Nicholas Brewer	Feb 12
		Tim Goebel	Feb 15
		April Pearson	Feb 16
		Alida Sorenson	Feb 18
		Martha Biggerstaff	Feb 19
		Lynne Holst	Feb 22
Matthew Weiss	Feb 01	Aelah Vandercar	Feb 22
Lynne Rustad	Feb 02	Eleanor Hardin	Feb 23
Anna Zimmerman	Feb 02	Caitlyn Murray	Feb 23
Jon Oberhamer	Feb 03	Ruth Seabaugh	Feb 23
Jordan Ray	Feb 03	Jeffrey Vilmo	Feb 23
Brian Ruis	Feb 03	Barb Moeller	Feb 24
Josiah Seabaugh	Feb 03	JoAnn Lange	Feb 25
Brooke Atchison	Feb 06	Melissa Sorenson	Feb 25
Dick Klemz	Feb 08	Andrew Pearson	Feb 27
Terry Sistad	Feb 08	Corinthian Thomas-Beckman	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
Nicholas Hoveland	Feb 23
Cassie Matthes	Feb 23
Bob Mueller	Feb 23
Josiah Seabaugh	Feb 23
Lillian Beckman	Feb 24



Jim & Toni Dey
51 years on 2/27



Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of the heavenly lights, who does not change like shifting shadows. He chose to give us birth through the word of truth, that we might be a kind of firstfruits of all he created.

James 1:17-18

"55" Club Fellowship—Thursday, February 11

Bethel's "55" Club Fellowship will be on Thursday, February 11 at noon with a swiss steak dinner catered by Magnolia Restaurant. Sign up on the lounge bulletin board & pay \$10 to Betty Paulus by February 7.



670 W Wheelock Parkway
Saint Paul MN 55117



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BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS



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SAINT PAUL MN 55117
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blc@bethelstpaul.com
bethelstpaul.com



Because ... it's true!

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 10)
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am