



Bethel
Lutheran
Banner

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

celebration season | 2016

CHANGE

Big Changes

Rev. David Seabaugh

Page 4

"I'm Moving to Canada If..."

Anna Zimmerman

Page 6

Living Nativity 2016

General info, how to serve

Page 11

welcome to the



Bethel
Lutheran

The Banner

CHANGE

Inevitable.

Change is *always* inevitable. The change in seasons here in Minnesota is the time when anyone can see it most. No leaf can escape its necessary, slow and colorful death, nor its eventual plummet to the earth below, followed finally by its burial beneath a mound of icy snow. Why does it need to fall? It actually does it for the tree's survival. You see, the changing of leaves doesn't mark a tree's death for the winter. It secures its life. By falling from its limb, the spot the leaf once lived is sealed for the tree's protection from the cold, dry winter air. Because of the leaf's sacrifice, the tree can live to bud again in spring.

Bethel is no stranger to change in this 2016 year.

In this issue, you will see the many ways that Bethel gets to shift and change with the ebbs and flows of life. This change includes our senior pastor, Pastor David Seabaugh, leaving. It includes a new life being prepared for as Anna Zimmerman, our Director of Discipleship and Outreach, is pregnant and due in April. Our country elects a new president in November. Not to mention, we've seen cultural shifts all around us!

What encouragement do we have as followers of Christ in what seems like such a trying time? Hebrews 13:8 rings true through eternity: "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever." Remember, like a leaf needs to die to protect its beloved tree, our Savior died to protect and save His beloved people: you and me. That is the same love that remains the same yesterday, today, and forever. Embrace the change and thrive.

We pray that you are encouraged by this edition of The Banner, and have titled it our Celebration Issue as an honor to the change that is so good.

Blessings and Love. -Bethel Lutheran Church Staff

Table of Contents



BIG CHANGES
page 4

4

Big Changes | Rev. David Seabaugh

5

Letter from Pastor | Call to Elmhurst, IL

6

"I'm Moving to Canada If..."
Anna Zimmerman, DDO

7

From the Office

8

What's Happening at Bethel
(Announcements)

9

Changes | Rev. Lusienie Fofana

10

Bethel in Mission
Refugee Summit | A Living Nativity

11

A Living Nativity | Information &
How You Can Serve

12

Service Calendar

13

Event Calendar

14

GodSpeak Groups | (Small group Bible Studies)



"I'M MOVING TO CANADA IF..."
page 6



REFUGEE SUMMIT
page 10



A LIVING NATIVITY
page 11

BIG CHANGES

Rev. David Seabaugh, Senior Pastor

The colorful leaves on the trees need to be extraordinarily beautiful for any of us to take too much notice. Autumn comes around every year. Soon it will be cold and white, just like last year. Our lives are filled with constant change, but it often happens so slowly or regularly that we don't really take notice. No, our lives are marked by big changes, memorable shifts in pattern or personalities. Events like births, deaths, graduations, weddings and divorces all qualify as big change. Growing up, many of my most vivid memories came when we moved from one community to another because my father was called to serve a different church. It was always hard to leave a place and people I had become accustomed to, and yet there was always some blessing on the other end that would have been missed otherwise. It was big change.

We are in the midst of a memorable time of big change at Bethel Lutheran Church. God has called the Seabaugh family to serve in Elmhurst, Illinois during our next phase of life. The call is abundantly clear and God is paving a path in ways that are distinctly providential, if not miraculous! All of that doesn't necessarily make it easy. The challenge with big change is that it tends to also bring big insecurity. I know we're feeling that right now. New people, new place, new patterns, and new problems all await us there. It will be easy for Bethel to feel some big insecurity at this time too. It's no small deal acquiring a new pastor, well, it isn't for God, but it sure might seem like a big deal to you! It's so easy to get anxious.

I've had to remind myself again and again of these words of Jesus:

"Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."
- *Matthew 6:34 (NIV)*

I also find myself recalling this advice from the apostle Paul:

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, 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." - *Philippians 4:6-7 (NIV)*

As Christians, we are the ones who declare big change with our lives. God make a big change in the world when he sent his Son Jesus to show us his interdependent intent for the world. Jesus died on a cross and rose three days later to give us the gift of forgiveness and new life! Big change! We are the ones who have been changed in a big way, and there is no big change that this world can throw at us that is bigger than that! We trust in God no matter what happens. We love people no matter what they do. We hold to God's truth no matter how many lies are told. God has made a big change through Jesus and we are the ones who get to declare that to the world! Yes... even Chicagoland.

So it seems to me that between the Seabaugh family, Bethel Lutheran Church and even Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, IL, there is some really big change going on. Let's all agree not to worry about it. Instead, let's all continue to follow Jesus and put our trust in him. He may know a thing or two about big change.

Blessings,
Pastor Seabaugh

DEAR MEMBERS OF BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH,

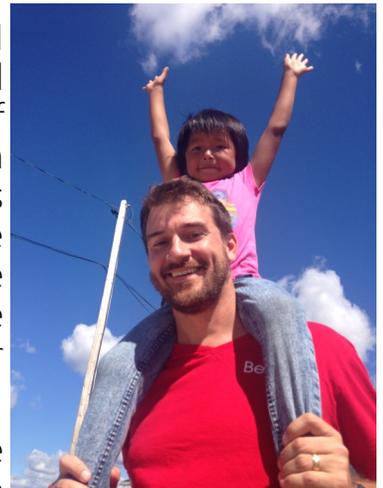
A Love Letter from Pastor David

On August 28th, the voters of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, Illinois voted to call me to serve as their Senior Pastor. Having a call to serve at Immanuel and a call to serve here at Bethel, I asked for your prayers and your feedback as I deliberated this call. I have been truly touched by your prayers and your willingness to submit to God's will for me and my family, whichever way he directed us.

After prayerful consideration, I have been led to accept the call to serve as Senior Pastor of Immanuel Lutheran Church in Elmhurst, Illinois. Please know that this decision in no way represents a negative reflection on Bethel. In fact, it is quite the contrary. You have demonstrated such spiritual maturity, such a kingdom perspective and such ownership of the ministry that I felt free to consider fostering those very things in another place.

Let me express my deepest love for all of you. For 11 years we have grown together, laughed together and cried together. You have been my family's family. We followed Jesus together, sharpening one another along the narrow way. You created a nurturing environment for me to see the teachings of Jesus anew and share them with you and with others. You tolerated stick figures and arrows. You let me try crazy ideas like GodSpeak and WaterLife. You let me make mistakes, and loved me through my growing pains. You've welcomed the foreigner and loved the lonely. I will be forever grateful for my formative years here and the great privilege it has been to be called as the pastor of Bethel Lutheran Church.

Yet, the calling to Immanuel has become abundantly clear. God has used our work together these 11 years to uniquely prepare me to serve him in Elmhurst, Illinois and the greater Chicago area. I have peace and a strong sense of calling. It truly is the answer to your prayers, even if it was not your preference. I believe an exciting new chapter awaits both churches. Let us continue to pray that God's will be done and that his kingdom come. Amen!



Blessings,

Rev. David Seabaugh

Email Pastor Seabaugh:
david@bethelstpaul.com

Read More Pastor Posts:
[www.bethelstpaul.com/blog/
pastor-seabaughs-blog/](http://www.bethelstpaul.com/blog/pastor-seabaughs-blog/)





"I'M MOVING TO CANADA IF

BECOMES PRESIDENT."



It's one of the funniest comments that I hear with any presidential election. The comedy in that statement is the lack of friends who actually followed through with their threat. I'll be honest; it's a temptation for me to think this way as well. When one or both candidates lack most or any of the Christian values we hold true, it's really easy to start making our own plans to leave. Have you ever felt this way? It's the feeling that sounds like "what if". What do I mean by that?

The "what if" feeling is that whisper you hear at first. "What if so-and-so becomes president, and our taxes get raised?" "What if so-and-so decides to legalize this-and-that? Well the outcome could be this! And the Church will surely die if that happens. How could Christianity survive in America if so-an-so gets elected and that happens because of him/her?" I'm certainly guilty of playing this game.

The Pharisees tried to play this game with Jesus, actually. In Matthew 22:15-22, the Pharisees tried to catch Jesus in a political and religious tangle. By asking if they should pay taxes, they were hoping He would either say "No, don't pay taxes!" to get Him into some treasonous trouble, or that He would outright say, "Pay your taxes!" to accuse Him of supporting the oppressive Roman government. Instead, Jesus asks whose image their currency bore. It bore the Roman emperor, Caesar's image. Jesus then says, "'Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's, and to God what is God's."

What lesson does this bear for us? First, we need to ask ourselves "What belongs to the USA?" Jesus used the graven image of Caesar to show what the Romans owned. That means the USA has the right to our taxes, properties, etc. "What belongs to God?" If an image of Caesar reflects what belongs to Rome, what does our image

reflect? Genesis 1:26-27 says that we were created in the image of God. We were created to love selflessly and serve humbly like our Heavenly Father. Matthew 5:48 even says to "Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect." But in a time where it seems so hard to do any of this, who can we look to as a leader? We look to Christ, and here's how He leads us:

AS A SHEPHERD

Political candidates seek to win us over with promises of lower taxes, equality, etc. and they often do so through manipulation, power games and mudslinging their opponents. While they do that, our Savior leads us gently like sheep and promises us the gift of eternal life. "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand" (John 10:27-28).

ON A DONKEY

Note: this does not make Jesus a democrat (bad joke). When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, many of His followers expected Him to ride in on a horse. They thought Jesus was going to overthrow the Roman government and free them all from Roman oppression. These followers

overlooked Jesus' continuous acts of mercy and justice through peace, though. Instead of riding in triumphantly on a horse with sword at the ready, Jesus rode into Jerusalem humbly on a donkey. Our leader did not come to this earth to simply free the people from Roman rule, but He came to set His people free from the bondage of sin forever by dying on a cross.

ETERNALLY

This point is the most important for you to remember during this time of political change. We all have fears of what could happen to us. We feel more and more oppressed daily, and politics seem to pull that fear out. But we find hope in Revelation 11:15: "Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, 'The power to rule over the world belongs now to our Lord and his Messiah, and he will rule forever and ever!'" No matter who rules over us here in this land, we know and believe that we have Christ reigning eternally. His reign is one of love, peace, and one without fear. In Him we are free from sin, and have the promise of eternal life. This voting season, whoever is elected and whatever change may come, hold fast to your faith. Jesus will never let you go.



FROM THE OFFICE

First of all, RJ and I are pregnant! Baby Zimmerman is due at the end of April & we will soon find out the gender. We are both so excited!

This pregnancy has brought on a LOT of morning sickness, and I would just like to take some time to thank any volunteers who have had to deal with my tardiness or tiredness because of it. Your patience has not gone unnoticed, and I apologize for any frustration I may have caused.

Just a couple of notes for you this issue!

- ◆ I've created a 9 month schedule for serving on Sundays. I emailed it to most of you and put it in the church mailbox for the rest if you don't have email.
- ◆ *Portals of Prayer/Strength for the Day* can always be found in the office window.
- ◆ ENews items are due by Wednesdays, and the next newsletter will be distributed in January.
- ◆ The office will be closed and I will be unavailable on Nov. 17-20 & 24-27.

Anna Zimmerman
Director of Discipleship & Outreach
Ministry Coordinator
anna@bethelstpaul.com





WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN:

Refugee Summit There are a lot of new neighbors flooding into the Twin Cities. On November 12 from 8:30-10:30 am, join us in the fellowship hall for a light breakfast and to pray for this people group, as well as learn more about them and what you can do to serve like Jesus. See more details on page 10.

Living Nativity We will have a meeting on November 15th at 7:00 pm to brainstorm, plan, and pray for this outreach event. Mark your calendars for December 10th for the Living Nativity Event! Flip the page for more details!

WHAT'S HAPPENED:

New Roof Thank you to all who gave so generously to literally put a roof over our heads. Praise God for His provision!

Youth Event: The Bethel 6th-12th graders had a blast at Zombie Hunting! We had about 8 kids shoot paintballs at zombies, then we went and filled our famished bellies with Perkins. Be sure to join us for our next event! Pay attention to your eNews!

Feed My Starving Children 5 adults and 5 kids were able to pack 14 boxes worth of food that is being shipped to Haiti. Praise God! Imagine how many MORE boxes we could have packed if more people had joined. Please be sure to join in next time.

WHAT'S IN PROGRESS:

Call Process The process is moving! Check your eNews for more details as it progresses.

Child Care Center This project is slowly progressing, and you can see the changes in the basement classrooms! We hope to see kids in the new year.

Poinsettia Fundraiser Living Nativity takes some funding to run! Help Bethel raise the funds, AND decorate your house for Christmas by purchasing a poinsettia. Order in the coffee lounge or by emailing the office. Prices range from \$10-\$25, The flowers will be used to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve, then can be taken home that night or on Christmas Day.

Church Decorating Don't you love when the church is decorated for Christmas? The decorating can't get done without you! Pay attention to your eNews for details on when this will happen.

Stewardship & Commitment Sundays These Sundays will be on November 13th and 20th, respectively. Please be in prayer about your commitment to Bethel, and join us for these services.

ESL Because of a few set backs, our new goal is to begin teaching in February. See page .

CHANGE

Celebration Season Verse

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Celebration Season Prayer Needs

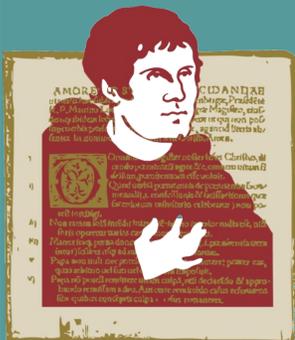
- For all who are struggling with change
- For our church as we go through the Call process
- For the Seabaughs as they move and transition to Elmhurst
- For our Living Nativity event: may it show God's love to all who participate
- For our nation
- For all living on the streets in the cold

Change happens all of the time. The world we live in is always in the process of change. Absolutely nothing remains the same. The calendars that we use are our constant reminder that change is normal. We also change daily: today we are a day older than we were yesterday. Our attitudes, our feelings and behaviors may sometimes change from one movement to the next. The leaves are changing colors, everything we have is constantly changing, we buy new shoes, clothes and cars. Change is always there.

But what If God changed? What if he became old and forgetful? What if God changed his attitude towards us? What would happen? Think about that. But praise God that he never changes. In Hebrews 13:8, it says "He is the same yesterday today and forever." The world changes but God can not change. We change, but God's love for us remains constant.

Psalm 90:2 says, "Everlasting to everlasting you are God!" God eternal (he has no beginning no end). His love is everlasting. He said in Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love." Brothers and sisters in Christ, may our trust ever lie in a changeless Christ for a changing world, Amen.

Pastor Lusenie Fofana



We celebrate the Reformation's 500th Anniversary with a call to the Word. Check out this 365 day Bible reading plan, joining the world and all before us in celebrating the written Word! Follow along on YouVersion's Bible app: search "reformation reading plan" (an update from the Gutenberg Press) or visit www.crafteddaily.com

CHANGE



people we support:

- South East Asia: Miller Family
- Czech Republic: Hoff Family:
- Cat Lake, ON: First Nations
- Liberia: MBrace
- Saint Paul

Bethel in Mission

God lays on our hearts the people we are to serve. We pray for God to provide the hands, the talents, the resources and the sacrifice it takes to engage that mission. If God provides, we do it. If He doesn't, we don't. That means living on the edge of God's provision all the time. We believe that's right where He wants us. This is why we developed Bethel in Mission.

REFUGEE SUMMIT

WELCOMING ALL THROUGH THE LOVE OF CHRIST

NOVEMBER 12, 2016 8:30 - 10:30 AM

Bethel Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall

EXPLORING QUESTIONS INCLUDING

What are a refugee's daily struggles, needs? | What are churches doing to help? | How can I help? | How can we embody Christ's love here?

FEATURED GUEST SPEAKER

Brittany Hibma

Employment Counselor | MN Council of Churches Refugee Services

PRAY. EAT. LEARN. SERVE.

LOVE OUR NEWEST NEIGHBORS. JOIN THE DISCUSSION.

Light breakfast provided! Email Anna Zimmerman anna@bethelstpaul.com by November 9.



A Living Nativity

@Bethel Lutheran Church

THIS EVENT DOESN'T HAPPEN WITHOUT YOU!

Here are the various ways you can help out by participating:

"THE SHOW" TEAM

- * Actors (4-15 needed, speaking or non-speaking parts)
- * Jailer/Roman Soldiers (4)
 - * Stage managing
 - * Costumes
- * Audio/Equipment

THE MEDIA TEAM

- * Canvassing
- * Advertising

THE BUILDING TEAM

- * Stable/outdoor banner set up
- * Basement set up (6 people)

HOSPITALITY TEAM

- * Refreshments
- * Cookies
- * Greeters

Every year, Bethel hosts "A Living Nativity" which blends scripture reading, actors portraying the true Christmas story, live farm animals and a Bethlehem marketplace experience. Invite family and friends to remember and celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Sign up for one of the above jobs with Anna Zimmerman or on the bulletin board in the coffee lounge.

DEC 10 | Bethlehem Walk open @ 5:30
Live shows between 6:00 & 8:00

service

nov. Pew Servicing
Lynne Holst &
Suzie Norris

Money Counting Team #1

Betty Paulus, Dave Stueber, & Karita Wienke

NOTE: There will be no Nov. Banner mailing.

Meals on Wheels Delivery

11/7: Bob Holst

11/14: Dave Syueber

11/21: Betty Paulus, Karita Wienke

11/28: Karen Bade, Sue Norris

dec. Pew Servicing
Carolyn Weber

Counting Team #3 Jim Nash,
Sharon Bartels, Tim Schmalz

NOTE: There will be no Dec. Banner mailing.

Meals on Wheels Delivery

12/5: Bob Holst

12/12: Dave Syueber

12/19: Betty Paulus, Karita Wienke

12/26: Karen Bade, Sue Norris

jan. Pew Servicing
Nancy Johnston
& Betty Paulus

Counting Team #2 Karen Bade,
Don and Carolyn Weber

Banner Assembling Jan. 26 9:15

Nancy Johnston, Dick Tehle, Betty Paulus

Meals on Wheels Delivery

1/2: Bob Holst

1/9: Dave Syueber

1/16: Betty Paulus, Karita Wienke

1/23: Karen Bade, Sue Norris

1/30: Karen Bade, Sharon Bartels

SUNDAY	TEAM	CHILDREN'S MESSAGE	ACOLYTE	COFFEE HOUR	A/V
11/6	S & R	Grace Orwick	Eli Sorenson	Becky Luger	Caleb Boll
				Rich & Alaina Gall	Sean Boll
11/13	StJ	Jeff Bartels	Caitlyn Murray	Steve & Barb Moeller	Eli Sorenson
				Anna & RJ Zimmerman	Dave Rustad
11/20	PHPH	Mark Meier	Anna Boll	Cindy Pohl	
				Mike & JoAnn Lange	Caleb Boll
11/27	1 Tim	Cara Wilson	Mikayla/ Cameron	Sue Norris	David Pieper
				Bob & Lynne Holst	Alex Head
12/4	S & R	Bob Wolf	Zander Gall	Dave & Ruth Bittner	Ruis Family
				Mark & Sarah Meier	
12/11	StJ	Grace Orwick	Gus Stefan	Karen Bade	Sean Boll
				Susan & Sean Boll	Mikayla Head
12/18	PHPH	Sarah Pieper	Eli Sorenson	Grace Orwick	Caleb Boll
				Lisa Stefan	Dave Rustad
12/24	PHPH	Pastor	Caitlyn Murray	Christmas Eve	RJ Zimmerman
					Eli Sorenson
12/25	1 Tim	Anna Zimmerman	Anna Boll	Holly Fohrenkamm	David Pieper
				Deb Schultz	Caleb Boll
1/1	S & R	Cara Wilson	Caitlyn Murray	Steve & Barb Moeller	Sean Boll
				Carolyn Westphal	Caleb Boll
1/8	StJ	Mark Meier	Eli Sorenson	Karin & Dave Hagen	Mikayla Head
				Mike & Kirsten Head	RJ Zimmerman
1/15	PHPH	Sarah Pieper	Zander Gall	Mary Hubert	Ruis Family
				Steve & Melissa Sorenson	
1/22	1 Tim	Gina Marchetti	Mikayla/ Cameron	Anna & RJ Zimmerman	David Pieper
				Alaina & Rich Gall	Alex Head
1/29	S & R	Anna Zimmerman	Gus Stefan	5th Sunday Celebration	Eli Sorenson
					Sean Boll

events

-----by month-----

NOVEMBER

“55” club

turkey dinner

Nov 10, 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall | \$\$
Sign-up in lounge

refugee summit

Nov 12, 8:30-1030am
Fellowship Hall
Light breakfast provided

living nativity planning meeting

Nov 15, 7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall

church Christmas decorating

TBD, check eNews!

stewardship/ commitment sundays

Nov 13/20, 9:30am

leadership team meeting

TBD

office closed

Nov. 17-20, 24-27

DECEMBER

“55” club

Christmas party

Dec 8, 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall | \$\$
Sign-up in lounge

a living nativity

Dec 10, 5:30-8:00
Set up during the
week & day of

Sunday school Christmas program

Dec 18, 9:30am

Christmas Eve candlelight service

Dec 24, 7:00pm

Christmas Day communion service

Dec 25, 9:30am

New Year's Eve watch night

Dec 31, 9:00pm

youth night

event: tbd
date: tbd

JANUARY

“55” club

Jan 12, 12:00 pm
Fellowship Hall | \$\$
Sign-up in lounge

Christmas un-decorating

TBD

5th Sunday Celebration

Jan 29, 9:30am combined
worship, 11:00am potluck

youth night

event: tbd
date: tbd

eNews: Want to see these updates weekly? Sign on to our Bethel eNews! Simply go to our website to subscribe. You'll receive Bethel & community highlights, weekly sermons, and more!



-----weekly-----

sundays

9:30am Worship
11:00am African Worship
1:30pm Saint John's
4:30pm Church/Redeemer
(Communion every 1st and
3rd Sunday of the month)

mondays

9:30am Staff Meeting
7:00pm Reserved

tuesdays

6:30am Men's Bible Study
9:30am Prayer Group
10:00am GodSpeak Group

wednesdays

6:00pm Bells
6:30pm African GodSpeak
Confirmation
7:00pm GodSpeak Groups

saturdays

6:00pm African Prayer



www.facebook.com/blcstpaul.com



www.bethelstpaul.com



blc@bethelstpaul.com



651-488-6681



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

651-488-6681 | blc@bethelstpaul.com | www.bethelstpaul.com

Celebration Edition, 2016

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:6-7

Distributed on 10/27/2016

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.

Current GodSpeak Series: "The Story"



tuesdays

7:30 am, 2nd & 4th of the month: Suzie Norris' house
Leaders: Bob Holst (651-645-7454)
& Suzie Norris (651-645-3811)

10 am: Bethel Fellowship Hall
Leader: Pastor Seabaugh (651-487-8047)

wednesdays

6pm: African, rotates homes each week
Leader: Rev. Lusienie Fofana (651-216-9242)

7pm: Bethel Classroom
Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

7:15 pm: 1105 Montana Ave W
Leaders: The Rustads (651-489-6834)
& Jeff Bartels (651-489-0903)

thursdays

evenings: young adult study, locations vary
Contact the office to learn more