



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

SUMMER 2018

Summer Fruit

"...that you might go and bear fruit..."



Bearing Fruit...and a Bumper Crop of It at That: Pastor Andrew Prin, page 2
God's Love: Pastor Lusienie Fofana, page 3

CONTENTS

Staff Articles	2-3
What's Happening	4
Operation Christmas Child	5
From the Office	5
GodSpeak Groups	6
Service Assignments	6
Serving Calendar	7

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Bearing Fruit

By Pastor Andrew Prin

...and a Bumper Crop of It at That!

The DESIRED outcome was simple – offer something for Bethel and Emmaus youth to do this summer, which would give them: a) some service project to do in the name of the Lord; and, b) chances to do something fun, as well.

The ACTUAL outcome – has far exceeded ANYTHING for which I could have hoped!

This concept, of doing a once-weekly service project/fun activity program is something I had already made real for some years in the congregation I used to serve.

At the time, that program (called "Summer Stretch") had been a predictable and modest success; predictable – in that I had all of my: participants, chaperons and activities lined up well before the season began. It had been a modest success – in that I could count on hosting 6-10 youth per week, which represented two congregations.

Building off of what Anna Zimmerman and I started with last year's Confirmation program, I decided to rebrand this year's summer group – "john1516eens," which grounded in the passage of the same name features the Lord saying...

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit – fruit that will last."

It's a passage, which is missional. It's identifiable. And, it's very, very Lutheran to boot ☺

I should have known the Spirit was up to something, when the night before our first gathering for this summer, I was STILL getting requests to participate.

And so, what started as a simple effort to give Bethel and Emmaus youth something to do...what has the Spirit DONE with that?

The Spirit has BORNE FRUIT...and a BUMPER CROP of it, at that!!!

What began as a simple hope to give a handful of kids something constructive to do this summer has turned into...

...20 youth participants, representing: Bethel's 9:30am service, Bethel's 11:00am service, Emmaus...even some friends of these youth!

...4 dedicated adults, who help Pastor Kooi and I with chaperoning and driving!

...over *95 hours of service* in Jesus' name given to-date by our youth!

...*1 winner* of our Mini-Masters Mini-Golf Tournament, who (much like the winner of the actual PGA Masters Golf Tournament) won a "coveted" navy/gold checkered sport coat!

...*1 new face* virtually every week, who wants to sign up at the last minute (to which, I say: "Yep – just come [with your permission form, please]!" ☺)

...*1* very generous and appreciated *monetary donation* to the program!

...*2 pastors* who are profoundly grateful to see what the Holy Spirit is up to!

...*1 promising trend* that – what has been started this summer – is only the beginning of a renewed, joint youth group between Emmaus and Bethel!

With continued thanks to all of you who have been so overtly supportive of what the Spirit has been up to at Bethel this summer, I am simply and profoundly amazed at how tangible the Lord is making His words about "bearing fruit" in our midst.

And this "fruit" He is bearing out...this "fruit" He has provided a bumper crop of; it's going to last around here for a long, long time.

To Him be ALL glory, now and forever!

Peace,
Pastor Prin

God's Love

By Pastor Lusienie Fofana

The more I read God's Word, the Holy Bible, the more I realize that love is God's supreme attribute. Behind every dealing God has with us is His perfect love.

First of all, it was love that made Him create us, and it was love that caused Him to send Jesus Christ His only Son to redeem us.

His perfect love pursues us and draws us to Himself; His love will someday take us into His presence forever. Many days we have a difficult time understanding God's love. For one thing, the word "love" has come to mean almost anything today. We "love" ice cream or the color of a car. But God's love is far deeper than that.

Brothers and sisters, God's love is a profound and unshakable commitment that seeks what is best for us. Human love can change or fade, but God's love never changes. He says to us in Jeremiah 31:3, "I have loved you with an everlasting love; I have drawn you with lovingkindness." If it were not for God's love we have no hope, either in this life or the life to come.

But there is hope. Amen!

Pastor Fofana

Here's What's **HAPPENING** at **BETHEL**

WHAT'S HAPPENED

Zimmerman Farewell: On May 13, we celebrated the ministry of RJ and Anna Zimmerman here at Bethel before they left for new jobs and ministry in Michigan. During worship we commended them to the Lord, prayed for them, and gave them farewell gifts, including a new guitar for Anna, and special African clothes from the Liberian congregation. We enjoyed a dessert reception and fellowship following the service. We are very thankful for Anna's work as DDO here at Bethel since 2015, and for RJ's service on the leadership team and various ways that he volunteered.

Sunday School Party: The end-of-year party for Sunday school was May 20. Teachers, students, and parents enjoyed beautiful weather, outdoor games, and ice cream donated by Conny's Creamy Cone.

Annual Meeting: The annual congregational meeting was held on June 24 following worship. There was discussion and a vote on a motion regarding the CLS Association, and officers of Bethel's leadership team were elected. See the meeting minutes for greater detail.

Sermon Series: Beginning April 8, Pastor Prin preached a sermon series entitled "What's in [His] Name?" The series explored the names and titles of God in the Bible, and how these affect our faith and personal walk with God. Following that was "Springing into Summer," three sermons with a respective focus on Mother's Day, Pentecost, and

Holy Trinity Sunday. In June, Pastor Prin began a recurring series called "Missed Links," which features scripture texts not included in the Lectionary. These texts so far have included Song of Songs 4:1-4, 7-9 ("Your Hair Is Like a Flock of Goats"); Judges 10:1-2 ("Tola"); and 2 Kings 2:23-25 ("Elisha Is Jeered").

LINC Sunday: On June 24, Pastor Ben Griffin and other leaders from LINC Twin Cities joined Bethel for worship and shared about their organization's work and ministry in the metro area. Pastor Griffin also preached a sermon on forgiveness. To learn more about LINC Twin Cities and how you can support this vital, vibrant ministry, please visit their website at <https://twincities.linc.org/>.

WHAT'S IN PROGRESS

John1516eens Summer Service Program: A joint effort of Bethel and Emmaus Lutheran Church, this youth program takes place on Tuesdays throughout the summer. It combines service opportunities with fun activities, and has been a wonderful means of strengthening the faith and friendships of our youth, and teaching them what it looks like to serve others. Some of the activities have included laser tag, a trampoline park, and mini golf; and the youth have volunteered with Feed My Starving Children, Bundles of Love, and New Life Family Services, as well as done work at our Bethel properties.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN

National Night Out: Bethel will host its annual block party for National Night Out on August 7, starting at 6 pm. As usual, we will have a potluck picnic out in the parking lot, including grilled hot dogs and burgers. There will be activities for kids, a visit from local fire and police departments, and the opportunity for Bethel members to interact with neighbors. Please join us!

Sunday School Kickoff: We return to our Sunday School calendar with a kickoff celebration on Sunday, September 9, following worship. Kids and families are invited to participate in games and enjoy treats. Parents can register their children for the 2018-2019 children's program.

Sunday School Service Project: Operation Christmas Child

Attention Bethel Members:

Throughout the year, our Sunday School children will be helping out with different service projects.

One idea is to box up items for Operation Christmas Child. Items will be collected or bought for boys and girls in three age categories: 2-4, 5-9, 10-14. Our goal would be to put together 6 boxes for girls, and 6 boxes for boys – 2 from each age category. We are open to members giving money or buying items to fill the boxes. This year, instead of using cardboard shoe boxes, we will buy plastic boxes, which the children receiving our gifts can reuse.

Summer is a great time to buy school related items or to buy items such as flip flops and short sleeve shirts that are on sale at the end of the season.

If you would like to see the suggested items that are appropriate for each age group, visit the website: <https://www.samaritanspurse.org/operation-christmas-child/what-goes-in-my-shoebox-suggestions/>

Thank you for giving!

From the Office

August 1 marks one year that I have been working in the Bethel office. It has been a joy and privilege to serve the congregation in this capacity. I'm thankful for the warm welcome and the continued encouragement from Bethel members, and I've particularly enjoyed better knowing our members and seeing how God is using our church as His hands and feet in this community. I look forward, Lord willing, to more years of working in the Bethel office! — Alaina Gall

Thank You!

Dear brothers and sisters of Bethel,

Thank you so much for the wonderful departure party. We felt so much love with all of your kind words! We are also so grateful for your generous gifts – for the amazing Taylor guitar (I'm still so shocked!!), the beautiful African clothing, and the tasty desserts! We miss our Bethel family already.

Thank you so much, The Zimmermans – Anna, RJ, & Benaiah.

Bulletin and E—News
Announcements are due by
Wednesday of each week.

Congratulations!

On Tuesday, July 10, Alex Head completed all the requirements to earn his Eagle Scout. He now joins a small group of elite boys who have accomplished this task.

He would like to thank everyone who supported him over the years through fundraisers and with helping build the community garden. Your support was greatly appreciated!

GodSpeak
to you through you



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.

GodSpeak Groups



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: Andrew Prin (612-868-0927)

Wednesday:

6 pm (African) (Rotates homes each week) — Leader: Lusienie Fofana (651-216-9242)

7:15 pm at Rustads' (1105 Montana Ave W) — Leaders: Dave & Lynne Rustad (651-489-6834) & Jeff Bartels (651-489-0903) — resumes in the fall

Service



August

Pew Servicing

Karen Bade

Counting Team #1 Dave Stueber,
Karita Wienke

Meals on Wheels Delivery

8/6: Bob Holst

8/13: Dave Stueber

8/20: Dave Stueber & Karen Bade

8/27: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

September

Pew Servicing

Alaina Gall

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

Meals on Wheels Delivery

9/3 holiday

9/10: Dave Stueber

9/17: Dave Stueber & Karen Bade

9/24: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

October

Pew Servicing

Alaina Gall

Counting Team #2 Karen Bade,

Don & Carolyn Weber

Meals on Wheels Delivery

10/1: Bob Holst

10/8: Dave Stueber

10/15: Dave Stueber & Karen Bade

10/22: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

10/29: Karen Bade & Sharon Bartels

Banner Assembling: Thurs, Oct 25

Sunday Serving Schedule

Date	Worship Team	Children's Message	Acolyte	AV	Coffee Hour
Aug-05	1 Tim	Alaina Gall	Anna Boll	Alaina Gall	Cindy Pohl
Aug-12	S&R	Cara Wilson	Alida Sorenson	Zander Gall	Ken & Connie Halverson
Aug-19	STJ	Jeff Bartels	Quenby Wilson	Caleb Boll	Bob & Lynne Holst
Aug-26	PHPH	Dave Rustad	Charlie Prin	Eli Sorenson	Suzie Norris
Sep-02	1 Tim	Mark Meier	Mikayla Head	Joe Widman	Brian & Jodi Ruis
Sep-09	S&R	Pastor Prin	Eli Sorenson	Alex Head	Rosemary Prin
Sep-16	STJ	Alaina Gall	Darin Hagen	Brian Ruis	Barb Moeller
Sep-23	PHPH	Jeff Bartels	Cameron Collister	Haven Ruis	Rich & Alaina Gall
Sep-30	1 Tim	Mark Meier	Jack Prin	Randy Wilharm	Holly Fohrenkamm
Oct-07	S&R	Dave Rustad	Caitlyn Murray	Zander Gall	Deb Schultz
Oct-14	STJ	Cara Wilson	Zander Gall	Eli Sorenson	Sean & Susan Boll
Oct-21	PHPH	Pastor Prin	Anna Boll	David Pieper	Karen Bade
Oct-28	1 Tim	Alaina Gall	Alida Sorenson	Mikayla Head	Alaina Gall
					John Collister & Cristina Hartnett

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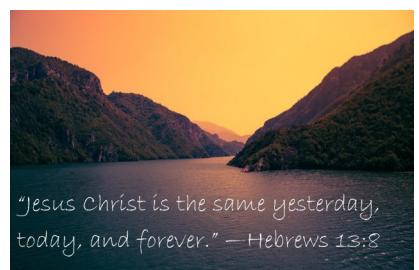
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"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday,
today, and forever." — Hebrews 13:8

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