

Bethel Lutheran Banner



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

WINTER 2019

I Will Sing to the Lord a New Psalm

Exhortations from the Psalms for the New Year



Falling and Foam and Uproar, Oh My! by Pastor Andrew Prin, page 2

Our Way of Escape: by Pastor Lusienie Fofana, page 3

CONTENTS

Falling and Foam and Uproar – Oh, My!

By Pastor Andrew Prin

Staff Articles	2
Thanks from the VOA	5
What's Happening	6
Membership Changes	7
From the Office	7
GodSpeak Groups	8
Service Assignments	8-9

In the midst of their walk through the Haunted Forest – Dorothy, the Scarecrow and the Tin Man hear noises in the darkened surroundings. With their minds filling in for what their eyes cannot see, the Tin Man declares that there ARE probably out there lions and tigers (and bears); to which Dorothy tacks on her famous: "Oh, my!"

And for our famous friends the only relief would come when they successfully got to the other side of the forest...and, ultimately to the Emerald City.

In the 80 years since the theatrical release of "The Wizard of Oz," the Haunted Forest which frightened Dorothy and her friends seems quaint and tame.

Now, instead of a roar coming from a single lion, many in our world shudder in fear at the thousand-fold roar of an all-encompassing wildfire consuming their houses and livelihoods.

Now, instead of the foam from a tiger's jaws, countless of our countrymen have suffered the foam of flooding waters.

On Friday, August 25, 1939 – "The Wizard of Oz" (with its famous line from the Haunted Forest) opened in theaters for the first time.

Yet, it would be exactly one week later – on September 1, 1939 – that the world would begin to learn that the growl of another war far exceeded the grumble of a fictitious bear. For it was on that first day of September, that Nazi Germany invaded Poland, ushering in a half-dozen years of scorched-earth armed conflict to be followed by a Cold War to be followed by Vietnam, the Persian Gulf, the War on Terror, Afghanistan...and more up to the present day.

For Dorothy and her friends their veritable "skip" through the Haunted Forest sought the comfort and promise of the Emerald City (and, the Wizard who resided there).

But we need more.

Enter Psalm 46.

It begins with words of promise: *"God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."* (v. 1)

And soon...within another verse...we find ourselves like Dorothy, the Tin Man and Scarecrow...surrounded by darkness and scary noises.

The earth gives way, the mountains are falling. The waters of the sea foam and roar (the sound of a hurricane, anyone?) Speaking of "roaring," nations are in an uproar, notes the psalmist. Kingdoms fall. The earth melts (sound at all familiar?).

What the psalm describes...that is, what we know to be all-to-real in our world... makes Dorothy's walk through the Haunted Forest seem desirable!

Yet, in the midst of all of that falling...and swirling...and foaming...and growling... and melting...and death...

The Banner is published quarterly by Bethel Lutheran Church, a member of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod.

staff

Rev. Andrew Prin

Senior Pastor

Rev. Lusenie Fofana

Assistant Pastor

Alaina Gall

Ministry Coordinator

Mike Lange

Bookkeeper

Dr. Max Radloff

Organist

Faye Hayhurst

Handbells Choir Director

www.bethelstpaul.com

bhc@bethelstpaul.com

670 W Wheelock Pkwy
Saint Paul, MN 55117

651-300-2642

...God offers THIS in v. 10:

"Be still, and know that I am God..."

The Hebrew word, which gets translated "*Be still*" in English, carries the idea of "*leave off your own attempts.*"

How often – in the midst of trouble and terror around us – do we fail to STOP our movement and thinking for a moment, STOP our attempts to understand what's going on and LET God be God?

Because what does He promise us in the midst of the falling and swirling and foaming and growling which surrounds us?

"The Lord Almighty is with us; the God of Jacob is our fortress." (v. 11)

And to that, we're reminded that He breaks the weapons of war...and, He makes them stop. (v. 9) We're reminded that He is our "refuge" and our "strength." (v. 1) We're reminded that He is among us – we will not fall. (v. 5)

For Dorothy and her friends their veritable "skip" through the Haunted Forest sought the comfort and promise of the Emerald City (and, the Wizard who resided there).

But in our world of real haunting...and fear...and violence...we need more.

And in Psalm 46 we get more...much more than we could possible hope. We get the only REAL God...Himself. Alive. Dynamic. In control. Our refuge. Our strength. Very-present with His help in times of trouble.

Leave off your own attempts to stop your fears and frets.

Be still and know (without a doubt) that He is God.

Peace,
Pastor Prin

Our Way of Escape

By Pastor Lusienie Fofana

Psalm 121:2 "My help comes from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth."

The Youth with a Mission (YWAM) team in Monrovia, Liberia, had nowhere to run. For three days in 1996, civil war raged around them. All checkpoints were guarded heavily. The YWAM team's car was taken away from them, yet they believed somehow all twelve adults and six children would escape.

In their morning devotions of the fourth day, the missionaries read Psalm 124, describing God's power to rescue them from the enemy, and their faith was strengthened. Within the hour, enemy fighters entered their premises once again.

One of the soldiers threatened to assault one of the women, but backed away when she proclaimed Jesus Christ's authority. Others demanded money to help the team escape; some threatened to kill the missionaries if they didn't get the money. But the Holy Spirit led the missionary team to respond with friendliness and confidence, and they answered them quietly, telling them they would make their own way out. Later, the fighters left, warning the missionaries that they would return to kill them. *(cont. next page)*

(cont. from previous page) As God would have it, someone was found who could drive three of the missionaries to safety; the other team members eventually walked out without anyone harming them. Brothers and sisters, the snare of evil was broken, and they escaped! Throughout all this terrible situation, Christians were praying for their safety. The plan of the devil did not work.

Psalm 121:2 tells us that our "help will come from the Lord, the maker of heaven and earth." Nothing is impossible with God. So let me ask you, how do you respond to those who come against you with evil or selfish intentions?

Pastor Lusienie Fofana

2019 Cat Lake LAMP Mission Trip

Interested in bringing God's truth to Cat Lake Ontario this summer? A team of 6 people is needed to provide a week of Bible stories, games, crafts & snacks for the kids of Cat Lake. The curriculum this year is from CPH - Miraculous Mission: Jesus Saves the World! The critical need is a person willing to oversee and organize the VBS curriculum. Please pray for a group from Bethel to be willing to be used by God this summer in Cat Lake. Contact Dave or Lynne Rustad.



Pew Service Volunteers Needed

We are looking for volunteers to join our pew servicers team! Sign up for one or two months out of the year. During your month, you will come to the church once a week to tidy the pews and make sure the attendance cards are stocked. This takes about 45 minutes to an hour to complete. Talk to Alaina if you can help out in this way! Thank you!

THANKS from Lynne Rustad and Roseville VOA-RRC!!!!

WOW! During the month of November, every time I came to worship, I left with a trunk load of donations for the VOA-RRC (Volunteers of America Residential Re-Entry Center in Roseville). Thanks so much for the clothes, winter wear, hygiene items and the knitting/crochet yarn and supplies. The people of the VOA (who helped me carry in the loads every week) are amazed at your generosity. I was able to purchase \$250 of hygiene items at the Dollar Tree with the Thrivent Action Team money! And in January I will shop for black pants and jeans with the money donations from Bethel members. Thank you for helping me show God's love to the people at the VOA who are working on their transition from prison to life in our community.



Volunteers of America Residential Reentry Center

From: Cheryl Turitto, Program Services Coordinator
 Date: 12/06/18

Bethel Lutheran Church,

Thank you so much for your donations over this past year and Holiday Season. Many of our men and women come out of incarceration with nothing but the sweat suit and sandals they are wearing. To be able to go to the clothing closet and pick out clothing or hygiene that helps them to feel like a part of society again is an amazing gift to give. You are a blessing, your love and support is appreciated greatly.

Roseville, VOA

*Anna R.
Rhus Olensand*

*Jan Thanks
Therese*

*Bin Bils
Lary martinez*

*Kelsey
De
W2 8/1
Jim Oliver*

1 Chronicles
29:14 & 17

"But who am I, and who are my people, that we should be able to give as generously as this? Everything comes from you, and we have given you only what comes from your hand. ... All these things I have given willingly and with honest intent. And now I have seen with joy how willingly your people who are here have given to you."

Here's What's Happening at Bethel

WHAT'S HAPPENED

Operation Christmas Child: The Sunday School collected donations and packed shoeboxes on October 28 for Operation Christmas Child, a ministry of Samaritan's Purse that sends gifts to needy children around the world. Bethel youth participated in this ministry by helping out at the Operation Christmas Child packing center in December.

Advent Service Projects: During Advent, we included a service project for the congregation at the conclusion of each Sunday worship service. These special projects tied in with the sermon series, "Light NOW!", which focused on the Advent candle themes of Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. The purpose was to put our words into actions: take the light of Christ promised in His coming, and shine it on those needing the hope, peace, joy, and love that Jesus gives.

The first project ("Hope") was writing Christmas greetings to Christian brothers and sisters imprisoned for their faith. Bethel kids included hand-drawn pictures with each letter.

The second project ("Peace") was packing welcome bags for women and children fleeing domestic violence, seeking help from Women's Advocates (a shelter in St. Paul). The welcome bags included personal care items, notebooks and pens, and coloring items and books for kids.

The third project ("Joy") was sending Christmas cards expressing encouragement and joy to people in a Christ-centered recovery Program, through Union Gospel Mission.

The fourth project ("Love") was assembling gifts for

children and teens at Children's Home LSS, who are awaiting permanent placement. The gifts included a handmade tie blanket, a handmade pillowcase and Christmas stocking, and small toys and candy. All these handmade items were created ahead of time, with a lot of time and effort from many generous volunteers, to whom Bethel expresses many thanks! The congregation bundled these items together for the children, and prayed over them before sending them off.

Living Nativity: Our annual event took place on December 15. This year we held all the indoor activities upstairs in the church: refreshments in the Lounge, a kids craft in the conference room, and a string trio leading Christmas caroling in the Sanctuary. All of these were very well-received by the guests who attended. We held our traditional Christmas skit outside, along with a petting zoo and a fire pit. We had many volunteers who helped make this event happen—a huge thank you to all who participated!

Christmas Eve Worship: On December 24 we enjoyed a Lessons and Carols worship service, with lots of beautiful Christmas carols, and candlelight during the concluding song "Silent Night."

WHAT'S IN PROGRESS

Confirmation: Our Confirmation program, "The Journey," is underway on Wednesday evenings. Occasionally there is a "field trip," such as one to a local aquifer as an object lesson in the discussion of baptism.

GodSpeak Groups: Small groups meet for Bible study and prayer (see p. 10). The Wednesday night women's Bible study is going through the book of James in a study by Beth Moore.

Bible Bowl: Practices are underway for the students who are participating in Bible Bowl. They are studying the Gospel of Mark, and the competition will take place in April.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN

Ash Wednesday and Lent: Our Ash Wednesday service will be March 6. Midweek Lenten services continue on Wednesday evenings through April 10. Stay tuned for information on special Holy Week services leading up to Easter.

Membership Changes: Deaths, Transfers, New Members

Death:

Gerry Hagen passed into the presence of Christ. We grieve with her loved ones, but rejoice she is with her God and Savior!

Memorial Gifts:

Bethel has been blessed with generous memorial gifts in honor of and from the family of Gerry Hagen.

New Members:

We rejoiced to receive the following members in August and September: Crist Hartnett; Brian & Stacy, Jacob and Elijah Martinez.

Transfers:

RJ & Anna Zimmerman and their son, Benaiah, transferred to Shepherd's Gate Church in Shelby Township, Michigan.

From the Office

It's such a blessing to work with a congregation who is generous with money, time and talents. Many thanks to those who responded to special giving opportunities, such as the Giving Tree at Christmas, and donations for the Wagners. Thank you also to those who gave extra time for outreach and service at church, in particular the Living Nativity; the Advent service projects; and putting up/ taking down Christmas decorations. These things would not happen without you! I'm thankful for the help. Thank you for blessing so many. — Alaina

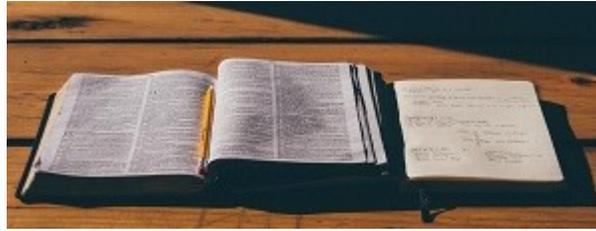
To All of My Friends at Bethel:

I would like to thank you very much for all of your prayers, cards, and phone calls during my surgery last November and my recent hospital stay in December. May God bless you all.

Sincerely, Nancy Johnston

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

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 Conference Room — Leader: Andrew Prin (612-868-0927)

Wednesday:

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

7:00 pm Women's Bible Study at Bethel — Leaders: Lynne Rustad (651-489-6834), Kirsten Head (651-487-6075), & Karin Hagen (651-639-8634)

Service



February

Pew Servicing

Alaina Gall

Counting Team #1 Dave Stueber, Karita Wienke

Meals on Wheels Delivery

2/4: Bob Holst

2/11: David Stueber

2/18: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

2/25: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

NOTE: There will be no February Banner mailing.

March

Pew Servicing

Karen Bade

Counting Team #3

Jim Nash, Sharon Bartels, Tim

Schmalz

Meals on Wheels Delivery

3/4: Bob Holst

3/11: David Stueber

3/18: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

3/25: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

NOTE: There will be no March Banner mailing.

April

Pew Servicing

Carolyn Weber

Counting Team #2 Karen Bade, Don & Carolyn Weber

Meals on Wheels Delivery

4/1 Bob Holst

4/8: David Stueber

4/15: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

4/22: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

4/29: Karen Bade & Sharon Bartels

Banner Assembling: Thurs, May 2 (postponed 1 week due to Easter)

Sunday Serving Schedule

Date	Worship Team	Children's Message	Acolyte	A/V	Coffee Hour
Feb-03	STJ	Cara Wilson	Alida Sorenson (Olivia Gall in training)	Caleb Boll	Bonnie Renner
				Eli Sorenson	Steve & Melissa Sorenson
Feb-10	PHPH	Dave Rustad	Darin Hagen	Brian Ruis	Faye Hayhurst
				Haven Ruis	John Collister & Cristina Hartnett
Feb-17	1 Tim	Jeff Bartels	Cameron Collister (Sienna Lopez in training)	Alex Head	Keya Lopez
				Zander Gall	Cindy Pohl
Feb-24	S&R	Alaina Gall	Anna Boll	Randy Wilharm	Karen Bade
					Sean & Susan Boll
Mar-03	STJ	Pastor Prin	Zander Gall (Coda Wilson in training)	David Pieper	Bob & Lynne Holst
				Mikayla Head	Suzie Norris
Mar-11	PHPH	Mark Meier	Olivia Gall	Sean Boll	Paul & Jean Beckman
				Jack Prin	Rich & Alaina Gall
Mar-17	1 Tim	Cara Wilson	Quenby Wilson (Haven Ruis in training)	Joe Widman	Dave & Karin Hagen
				Zander Gall	Mike & Kirsten Head
Mar-24	S&R	Dave Rustad	Charlie Prin	Caleb Boll	Rosemary Prin
				Alaina Gall	Brian & Jodi Ruis
Mar-31	STJ	Jeff Bartels	Anna Boll (Coda Wilson in training)	David Pieper	5th Sunday Celebration
				Alex Head	
Apr-07	PHPH	Alaina Gall	Darin Hagen	Brian Ruis	Becky Luger
				Haven Ruis	Jeff & Sharon Bartels
Apr-14	1 Tim	Pastor Prin	Sienna Lopez	Sean Boll	Brian & Stacy Martinez
					Dave & Lynne Rustad
Apr-21	S&R	Mark Meier	Quenby Wilson	Zander Gall	Easter
				Jack Prin	
Apr-28	STJ	Cara Wilson	Coda Wilson	Randy Wilharm	Holly Fohrenkamm
					Deb Schultz
May-05	PHPH	Dave Rustad	Alida Sorenson	Brian Ruis	Joe & Laura Widman
				Haven Ruis	Don & Carolyn Weber
May-12	1 Tim	Jeff Bartels	Zander Gall	Sean Boll	Randy & Rebecca Wilharm
				Charlie Prin	Bonnie Renner
May-19	S&R	Alaina Gall	Anna Boll (Haven Ruis in training)	Caleb Boll	Mark & Sarah Meier
				Mikayla Head	Paul & Cara Wilson
May-26	STJ	Pastor Prin	Olivia Gall	Zander Gall	Barb Moeller
					Rich & Alaina Gall

670 W Wheelock Parkway
Saint Paul MN 55117



ADDRESS SERVICE
REQUESTED
DATED MATERIAL

THIS ISSUE WAS MAILED
JANUARY 24, 2019

Bethel Lutheran Church LCMS

670 W Wheelock Parkway

Saint Paul MN 55117

651-300-2642

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 8)
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am