

Bethel Lutheran Banner



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

SPRING 2019



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BeTheL___ - What Is the Lord Calling Us to BE?

By Pastor Andrew Prin

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

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As the old saying goes: “If I’ve seen it once, I’ve seen it a thousand times!”

And, what I’ve seen a thousand times are church mission statements, which say things like: “XYZ Lutheran Church exists to share the love of Jesus Christ with the world.”

Take a look at a variety of church websites. Visit a variety of churches. Look at their bulletins. And, I’m willing to guess you’ll find they *all pretty much say and offer the same thing.*

As one congregation in Christ’s one, holy Christian Church – we are called to much the same mission and ministry as all other Christian churches. We all DO want to reach out with Christ’s love and be privileged to have the Holy Spirit work through our efforts to create faith.

But, *what has the Lord done to uniquely equip Bethel* to participate in that Great Commission?

Borrowing from Shakespeare, “What’s in a name?” *And, that’s the thing – in our congregation’s name, there’s plenty!*

We are blessed, because our congregation’s name lends itself to a simple, mission and action-focused point.

Divide our name up into three words, and you get...

BeTheL___

...to which we then get to discover what those “L” words are that the Lord is calling us to “Be.”

With many thanks to a host of you who participated in a half-dozen congregational conversations around this topic – *here’s a brief summary* of what we’ve discovered so far about where the Lord is calling us to “BeTheL___”.

At Bethel, we see the Lord calling us to:

BeTheLoyal – that is, as a Christian family in the Lord’s house, we are a people where the one true God, Savior and Holy Spirit are worshipped. Nothing outside of Him and His inerrant Word is proclaimed.

BeTheLet – Forgiveness, second chances and new life are key and central to who we are and how we conduct ourselves at church and in the world.

BeTheLaborers – We help anyone and everyone. We make the world a better place. We are good stewards of the building and resources God has entrusted. We are active and consistent in reaching others with the Good News of Jesus Christ.

BeTheLaboratory – that is, Bethel is an inviting place and encouraging environment, where smart minds can explore the concert and crossroads of the world and Christian faith.

BeTheLife – God creates. And Bethel is a place which advocates for the sanctity of what He creates, by advocating, supporting and providing for that life.

You'll notice that some of these (i.e., the first three) could describe just about any Christian church. That's true. But, by using words like: loyal, let and laborers – we align our common Christian beliefs under words which are much more specific and descriptive of Bethel's contributions to these tenets.

What is more unique to Bethel, per se, are the "Laboratory" and "Life" words.

As we continue to align our mission and ministries, Bethel will BeTheLaboratory – that is, a place which will be hallmarked by rigorous conversation with the world and with increasingly critically-thinking, skeptical minds (which are choosing to skip regular worship and faith practice to the tune of more than 30% of our population).

And, as we further define what the Lord is calling us to, Bethel will BeTheLife – specifically, regularly working together to serve ministry partners which strive to aid, support and help thrive the lives God has created.

As of this writing, Bethel members and leadership are still working to more fully define all the Lord is calling us to.

Again, many thanks to those of you who have contributed your thoughts, ideas and epiphanies the Lord has made known! For those of you who haven't yet taken the opportunity to do so, please feel free to contact me to share any of the same.

We are blessed that God has called and sustained us in this congregation. We are blessed, too, that He has given us such a good, solid and mission-oriented name. May God continue to bless us as we listen for how He wants us to BE in these coming days!

Peace,
Pastor Prin

The Gift of Each Day

By Pastor Lusienie Fofana

Each day is a gift from God Almighty. It is another opportunity the Lord has given us to serve Him. Time is not inexhaustible, nor can we assume we will always have more. Some day our time here on earth will end.

Psalm 31:15 says: "My times are in your hands." The first thing we should do when we get up from bed is thank God for the gift of another day. The second is to commit our time to Him. God gave it to us for a reason, not to be wasted or mishandled, but to be used for His glory.

Brothers and sisters in Christ, we are accountable to Him for the way we use our time, and once a minute passes it can never be reclaimed. The Bible says we always should be "redeeming the time, because the days are evil" (Ephesians 5:16).

God's blessing,
Pastor Fofana

Update on the LAMP mission trip to Cat Lake

There will not be a Bethel Lutheran team going to Cat Lake with LAMP this summer. At this point no one from Bethel has been led by God to go. However, the people of Cat Lake are being taken care of by God. Jon & Katie Larsh (Pastor and Christian teacher) are providing a Christian School and Worship on Sundays. Ron & Jen Keres and Matt & Ashley Klockenga (two missionary couples from To Every Tribe) are providing a weekly Kids Club for kids ages 5-8 and a Youth Bible Study with kids ages 9-12. Please continue to pray for Cat Lake – for people to come to faith and to walk in faith and to run from drugs! Pray that the people are disciplined in faith. Pray for the Larshes, Keres and Klockengas to work together and to be an encouragement for each other.



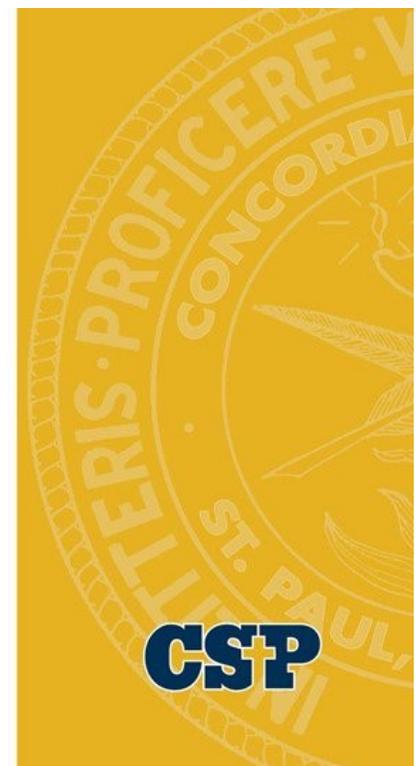
Volunteers Needed

“A Minnesota Lumberjack Experience”

Concordia University, St. Paul

July 10-15 (during the National Youth Gathering)

Sign up at www.ave.csp.edu/nygvolunteers



Concordia University, St. Paul (CSP) invites you to volunteer for “A Minnesota Lumberjack Experience”.

From July 10-15, CSP will be hosting nearly 10,000 youth and leaders for District Events during the National Youth Gathering. Joy-filled volunteers are needed for checking people in, serving food, way-finding, and more. Register to volunteer at www.ave.csp.edu/nygvolunteers. Email questions to

districtevents@csp.edu.

Cradle of Hope Service Project

Our May service project will have two parts to it. The first part is a donation drive for items for Baby Shower Baskets for Cradle of Hope. The second part will be assembling the baskets. These Baby Shower Baskets will be given to low income families that go to the Cradle of Hope Center. You can find the options for what items to donate by the display in the lounge. Pick out a tag for what you want to buy from the display and return it to the Pack-N-Play by May 12th. After that date, a Thrivent grant will be used to purchase additional items that are needed to complete the baskets. They ask that any donations are new items. If you would rather just donate money, that will be greatly appreciated and used along with the Thrivent grant to buy more items. We have a goal of making 6 baskets but would love to go over that goal! We will be assembling the baskets after church on May 19th. If you have any questions, talk to Rebecca Wilharm.

Learn About Cradle of Hope

Mission Statement: Cradle of Hope encourages life by providing financial aid to women and babies in crisis, especially those women who might not choose life because of financial pressures.

Background: Cradle of Hope covers the state of Minnesota with a blanket of support for pregnant women. Since its inception in 1973, more than 25,000 Minnesota residents have received our help. For a pregnant woman and her baby, obtaining the necessary financial and material assistance can relieve an abundance of stress during this already difficult time. Cradle of Hope provides the necessary assistance to promote a healthy pregnancy, birth, a future filled with hope and ensure that every baby has a safe place to sleep.

Goals:

- To encourage life and prevent abortions
- To provide a transition from desperation to hope by supporting, encouraging, and assisting women in carrying their pregnancies to term and caring for their babies after birth.
- To provide financial, material, and online assistance to all MN residents in need.
- To prevent eviction and family homelessness.
- To ensure that every baby has a safe place to sleep.



Get Involved

- Donate money or new baby items
- Volunteer at a Cradle of Hope fundraising event or by collecting baby items.

More information is available through the Cradle of Hope website.

www.cradleofhope.org
1970 Oakcrest Ave, Suit 104
Roseville, MN 55113
651-636-0637

Here's What's Happening at Bethel

WHAT'S HAPPENED

Blanket Drive: During the month of February, we collected blankets and towels to donate to the local organization Bridging, which provides quality furniture and household goods to those transitioning out of homelessness and poverty.

Bible Bowl: Youth from Bethel, St. Stephanus, and St. Peter's learned all about the Gospel of Mark this year as they studied for Bible Bowl. Practices began last November, and culminated in the tournament, which took place at Concordia St. Paul on April 6. Many thanks go to Susan Boll for coaching the Bethel teams, and to the youth for all their hard work learning and practicing.

Ash Wednesday and Lent: We observed a traditional Ash Wednesday service on March 6, which was followed by midweek Lenten services through April 10. Pastor Prin led a series on "The Art of Discipline," which talked about how different Lenten disciplines, such as repentance, prayer, and service, inform our faith. On Sundays during Lent, we went through the series "BeTheL____", in which we talked about different "L-words" that define who Bethel is and what we're called to do in our missional outlook. Some "L-words" included "Link," "Loaf," and "Life."

Easter: We celebrated our risen Lord with a beautiful worship service that featured music from the bell choir and trumpet and organ. The front of the Sanctuary held our colorful Easter memorial garden: lilies, hyacinths, tulips and mums. Following the service, we enjoyed coffee with pastries, fruit, and yogurt in the Lounge, which was cheerful with colorful Easter decorations.

WHAT'S IN PROGRESS

Baby Items Drive: Our May service project is to collect items for Baby Shower Baskets, which are used by local organization Cradle of Hope to bless expectant mothers who need the support and resources. (See page 5.)

Women's Bible Study: The women's study, which meets Wednesday evenings, is going through "My Heart—Christ's Home" by Robert Boyd Munger. The study will run through May 29, until the summer break.

WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN

Spring Work Day: April showers bring May flowers... and also Bethel's spring cleanup! On May 4 we'll be helping with projects indoors and out, as we spruce up the building and grounds on our semiannual work day.

Confirmation Sunday: We will honor and affirm the baptisms of Bethel's confirmands on June 2 during the 9:30 worship service. As these youths complete their Confirmation journeys, Bethel encourages them to see this as but one stop of many on their lifelong road of faith and worship. Join us as we welcome these confirmands into full membership at Bethel, and as we challenge them to continue journeying with their Lord and us in their lives of faith and service.

Summer Worship: During the hottest months, we will gather for worship in the air-conditioned Fellowship Hall. Join us downstairs each week, June 9 through September 1.

5th Sunday Celebration: The next combined worship service will be June 30 at 9:30. Following worship, tables and chairs will be set up for a potluck. The worship team Praise Him, Proclaim Him is responsible for the potluck setup and cleanup, but all help is welcome and encouraged!

National Youth Gathering: This national event of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod is held every three years, and this summer is taking place in Minneapolis, July 11-15. The theme is "Real. Present. God." LCMS youth from all over the country will spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship. Several of Bethel's youth will be attending the Gathering. Pray that God's Spirit will bless the event and all those who attend it, and bring much fruit from it.

Membership Changes: Deaths, Transfers, New Members

We gladly welcomed into membership Kalia Bergmann.

We grieve with their loved ones, but rejoice in the promise of eternal life for the saints who went to be with their Lord:

Jim Dey (Funeral on May 21)

Glen Ellmann (Funeral on April 5)

Bethel received memorial gifts in honor of Glen Ellmann, to be used to bless and supplement the music ministry of our church.

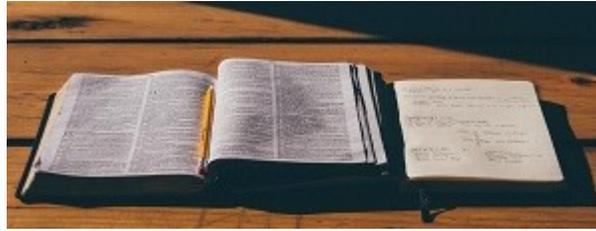
From the Office

April was National Volunteer Month, and I want to express my appreciation for all the great volunteers who help out here at Bethel. On Sunday mornings alone we rely on so many volunteers: our worship teams who provide greeters, ushers, and Communion assistants; our audio/visual team and our acolytes; altar guild and musicians; Sunday school teachers; Coffee Hour servers; drivers who help bring people to church; Jim who take photos and Jeff who records the sermons; and so many others who help make services at Bethel welcoming and worshipful. Beyond that, we have a leadership team; committees; money counters; a prayer chain; the Ladies Fellowship who support needs beyond our congregation; pew servicers; members who deliver Meals on Wheels; and many congregants who turn out to help with service projects, outreach events, and work days. We are indeed the Body of Christ, each person helping to support the ministry and mission of Bethel. Thank you to all of our wonderful volunteers, for the work and time you give. You are a blessing to many!

— Alaina

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 — September through May

Service



May

Pew Servicing

Lynne Holst & Suzie Norris

Counting Team #1 Dave Stueber,
Karita Wienke

Meals on Wheels Delivery

5/6: Bob Holst

5/13: David Stueber

5/20: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

5/27: Holiday

Banner assembling: May 2 (moved
from April 25)

June

Pew Servicing

Alaina Gall

Counting Team #3

Jim Nash, Sharon Bartels, Tim
Schmalz

Meals on Wheels Delivery

6/3: Bob Holst

6/10: David Stueber

6/17: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

6/24: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

July

Pew Servicing

Carolyn Weber

Counting Team #2 Karen Bade, Don
& Carolyn Weber

Meals on Wheels Delivery

7/1: Bob Holst

7/8: David Stueber

7/15: Alaina Gall & David Stueber

7/22: Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

7/29: Karen Bade & Sharon Bartels

Banner Assembling: Thurs, July 25

Sunday Serving Schedule

*Summer worship in the Fellowship Hall begins June 9. We will resume worship up in the Sanctuary on September 8. No acolytes will be scheduled during the summer months while we gather in the Fellowship Hall.

Date	Worship Team	Children's Message	Acolyte	A/V	Coffee Hour
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
Jun-02	PHPH	Mark Meier	Coda Wilson	Alex Head	*Confirmation Sunday Ken & Connie Halverson
				Jack Prin	Cindy Pohl
Jun-09	1 Tim	Cara Wilson	*Summer worship	Sean Boll	Bob & Lynne Holst
					Suzie Norris
Jun-16	S&R	Dave Rustad		Caleb Boll	Karen Bade
					Sean & Susan Boll
Jun-23	STJ	Alaina Gall		Zander Gall	Faye Hayhurst
					Steve & Melissa Sorenson
Jun-30	PHPH	Jeff Bartels		Randy Wilharm	5 th Sunday Celebration
Jul-07	1 Tim	Pastor Prin		Alex Head	Paul & Jean Beckman
					Barb Moeller
Jul-14	S&R	Pastor Holst		Alaina Gall	Dave & Karin Hagen
					Mike & Kirsten Head
Jul-21	STJ	Cara Wilson		Brian Ruis	Brian & Jodi Ruis
					Jeff & Sharon Bartels
Jul-28	PHPH	Mark Meier		Sean Boll	Brian & Stacy Martinez
					Dave & Lynne Rustad
Aug-04	1 Tim	Alaina Gall		Zander Gall	John Collister & Cris Hartnett
					Rich & Alaina Gall
Aug-11	S&R	Dave Rustad		Caleb Boll	Ken & Connie Halverson
					Don & Carolyn Weber
Aug-18	STJ	Jeff Bartels		Randy Wilharm	Holly Fohrenkamm
					Deb Schultz
Aug-25	PHPH	Pastor Prin		Sean Boll	Bonnie Renner
					Barb Moeller
Sept 1	1 Tim	Cara Wilson		Alaina Gall	Mark & Sarah Meier
					Paul & Cara Wilson

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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