

Bethany Lutheran Church

22384 State Rd 48/87

P.O. Box 8

Grantsburg, WI 54840

(715) 463-5746

Pastor's home phone number (715) 463-5552

blchurch@grantsburgtelcom.net

www.bethanylutheran.grantsburg.org

Sunday Worship

11:00 a.m. Worship

Women's Circle Meetings for August

Hope.....Friday August 8th at Espresso Cabin at Noon

Love.....No meeting this month

Faith.....Sunday August 20th at Church at 6:30pm

August 2008 From Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us...” *Hebrews 12:1*

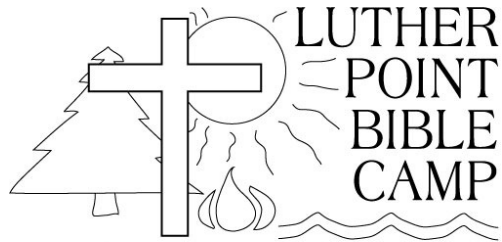
Dear friends in Christ,

The race is set before ‘us’...once again. The ‘us’ that I am referring to is the “*Faster Pastors*,” and the race is the Great River Relay. I believe that this race still stands as the longest such relay in the country. The “*Faster Pastors*” are preparing to run our third Great River Relay. This is a 207 mile race following the Mississippi River beginning in Lacrosse, WI and ending in Minneapolis. The race begins around 8:00am on Friday the 22nd of August, goes through the night running with flashlights, and ends whenever you get to Minneapolis the following day (hopefully between 1:00-4:00pm). This race is designed to be run with a 12 person team with each person running 3 legs of the race. We have run this as an ultra run, which simply means that we have 6 people on our team rather than 12. Each of our team members will run 2 legs back-to-back 3 different times, totaling between 31-38 miles per runner. The first year of the race there were 31 teams of which 3 teams ran it as an ultra race. Last year, the second year of the race, there were 103 teams with 6 running the ultra race. This year, as of today, there are 178 teams – and the really good news is that there are only 4 ultra teams, only 3 of them are in our division. So if this holds, and we finish, we are assured of at least 3rd place in our division.

This year we will be raising money for the synod’s First Call Debt Reduction Fund. This is a fund that will help new pastors in our synod as they come out of seminary to take their first call with a little less debt. The average seminary debt is in excess of \$40,000. As new pastors look for first calls, this debt load makes it difficult to accept calls at smaller or rural congregations who aren’t able to pay comparable salaries to larger congregations. This results in many pastoral vacancies. This fund also has a direct impact for this congregation as Alyssa Augustson is preparing to pursue a call into ordained ministry.

Each of the “*Faster Pastors*” will be asking their congregations to help support their efforts by pledging for the miles their own pastor will run. Mine will be about 32 miles this year. As a group, we will also be partnering with Thrivent Financial who is quite excited about helping with this effort. So please prayerfully consider supporting this fundraiser. There will be a pledge sheet and more information on the race located on the bulletin board in the Narthex.

In Christ,
Pastor Jay



Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ

Greetings from Luther Point!

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, Wisconsin
54840

August 2008

20th ANNUAL QUILT AND CRAFT AUCTION: Make this a family affair this year. Luther Point staff will be providing activities for children and youth throughout the auction event. August 10, 2008 is the date to put on your calendar. Come join us for a day of fun, great food, wonderful quilts and a good day to help raise funds for your Bible Camp. Quilt viewing starts around 10 am with the Luther Point Summer Staff leading us in worship at 11 am. The Pig Roast Lunch starts around noon and the Auction starts at 1:15 pm. Come support your Bible camp with generous bidding and a generous heart.

Opening More Doors Together Capital Campaign Update: The Leadership Gift Phase of the Campaign has started and the response has been very encouraging. Total pledges and gifts as July 15, 2008 is a little over \$300,000. Over the next several months leadership gift visits will be made with families and individuals. The Women of the ELCA Division will also be visiting each local church to inform and inspire the various women's groups to pledge as well. Later in the year a staff alumni division will start their efforts in contacting former camp staff. The Board / Former Board division is in the process of making visits as well.

Family Camp! August 3-8 It is not too late to register. Go online at LutherPoint.org or call us at 715-689-2347.

Fall Retreat Offerings: Check our website for more details regarding upcoming retreat events scheduled for this fall. Some of the offerings include;

- **Quilting Retreat:** Sept 16-18,
- **Senior High Weekend:** October 4-5
- **Scrapbooking Retreat:** October 14-15,
- **6th-8th Grade Mini-Camp:** October 18-19 and
- **Grandparent /grandchild camp:** December 6-7.

Registration forms available online or call and talk with Lisa.

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director

From the Secretary's Desk – August 2008

Here we are already at the beginning of August and virtually at the end of summer already. Where has this time gone? I can see how time flies because I've been very busy this summer; when I'm busy the days seem to zoom past in a constant blur. I had a recent experience though that stood out from the blur. In the middle of July I was able to attend the Bishop's Initiative Youth Ministry Certification School. I spent a week at Luther Park bible camp learning a lot about youth and family ministry and faith formation.

So, what did I learn, you wonder? To answer this question fully would take at minimum a week as I described every experience in detail, so, to say that I learned a lot is a serious understatement! It was a week that defied definition and is all but impossible to put into words. I can tell you that while I cannot say precisely what it is, I can tell you what Cert School is not. It is not just another conference or program; both of those things are short-lived and short on results. Cert School is not a Sunday school curriculum or an adult bible study, those are both programs that we do for a few months and move on to the next program. Cert School is not just a way to boost church attendance or increase member giving; as there are more critical issues to address before these. While I can say that Cert School goes beyond the list I gave there are portions of them in the models we learned about.

In broad terms I can say that the model that was shown to us (and will be further demonstrated in our weekend training to come) is about congregational revival and living out our baptism as people of God. We've heard about the 5-4-3 model since this spring's Lenten instruction series. The 5 principles, 4 keys, and triple A adults are core parts of the model that I learned about at Cert School. The 5 principles are about the culture of our church today; they are biblically grounded principles that our congregations have moved away from over time for various reasons. As a reminder they are:

1. Faith is formed, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through personal trusted relationships, often in our own homes.
2. The church is a living partnership between the ministry of the congregation and the ministry of the home.
3. Where Christ is present in faith, the home is church too.
4. Faith is caught more than it is taught.
5. If we want Christian children and youth, we need Christian adults and parents.

The 4 keys are faith practices for living one's baptism. These 4 keys are what take the 5 principles and put them into action in our lives.

1. Caring Conversation
2. Devotions
3. Service
4. Rituals and Traditions

The triple A adults are the ones that turn these 4 keys and 5 principles into results in the lives of our young people. To be clear AAA adult does not mean that you're perfect, completely righteous, or the spotless model of the Christian life. You don't have to be the picture-perfect Christian to be important in the life of a child, not even close. AAA adults are: 1. Authentic 2. Available and 3. Affirming. *If you can be those things in the life of a child you can have a profound impact on that child's faith life.*

So, as you can imagine my life has changed in light of the training I have received. So many things are clear that were blurry before. My life has taken a different course now, and I hope that on this course the Lord will use me to improve the faith lives of many youth and families in our congregation and our community. I hope and pray that as I begin to implement some changes that our congregation is strengthened and enlightened to new ways of impacting our youth and families, and that it would ultimately lead to a revitalization of our entire congregation.

May the word of Christ dwell in you richly, Nate



Scripture Verse for this Month (August 10th reading):

“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart . . . because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved.”
(Romans 10:8-9 NRSV)

- Put on fridge or dinner table
- Say at mealtime.
- Read at bedtime.
- Commit to memorv.

Prayers for this Month:

In the Evening: (Matthew 14:22-33—Aug 10th) Calming God, The winds and the waves and the storms in our lives have buffeted against us this day, and the dark of night can bring with it its own fears. As we lay our heads down this evening, let us hear your words, “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Grant us peace and calm, knowing that you are watching over us this night. Give to us the rest we need to love and serve you tomorrow. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer: (Matthew 14:13-31) Sustaining God, You miraculously provide sustenance for your creation. As your Son looked to heaven before feeding your children, we now lift our heads and raise our voices of gratitude to you and ask that you bless this food to your children this day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

“Four Keys” for Families:

- #1 – Faith Talk:** Matthew 16:24-26 speaks to the followers need to deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Jesus. Discuss what this might mean and what it would look like in your life.
- #2 – Devotional Practices:** Read one of the 31 chapters of Proverbs each day of August from an age appropriate bible.
- #3 – Rituals and Traditions:** Each morning bless one another, reminding those in your family that “You are a beloved child of God” before leaving your homes.
- #4 – Service:** In the Gospel story of the fishes and loaves (Mt 14:13-21) the disciples want to send the people away so they can get food. Jesus tells them, “...you give them something to eat.” Find ways this month that you might help to feed those who hunger.



As PARTNERS IN MINISTRY, the 211 congregations of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin work together in many ways. Here is one way that we “connect lives through Christ.”

August 2008

Book of Faith

At the 2007 Churchwide Assembly we voted to spend the next five years inaugurating the Book of Faith Initiative. It has one clear and crucial goal, namely that **“the whole church become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, and empowered by the Word.”**

Imagine what that will mean for you, your congregation, and this church!
Great resources already exist to help you live into this commitment. At our synod assembly, many attendees received a complimentary copy of “Opening the Book of Faith.” Did you know that if your congregation purchased 10 or more of them, you could download a free leader guide from Augsburg Fortress? Select Learning has a DVD by Mark Allen Powell that will help you understand why it matters how we as Lutherans approach the Bible. You will find “How Lutherans Interpret the Bible” at <http://www.selectlearning.org/>

New resources that will be available in the coming months include: “Introducing the Old Testament” and “Introducing the New Testament” are high quality DVD courses that include a variety of seminary and college faculty. Viewing them will make you eager to dig into the Biblical stories with your friends.

Speaking of Bible study, you’ll want to purchase the new Lutheran Study Bible, which will be available from Augsburg Fortress early next year. Why not consider buying a number for your companion congregation in Malawi, inviting them to study the same Bible stories, and then exchanging what you’ve learned?

Mark March 28, 2009 on your calendar. Your resource center and the East Central Synod Resource Center, will host an all day workshop to give you more tools and ideas for creative Bible study.

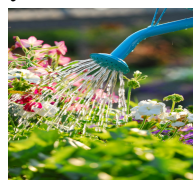
Rev. Greg Kaufmann, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

NATE'S NATURE NOTES

August 2008



Life's a Bear: the local black bears have been busy this month. I've heard numerous complaints about bears getting into just about anything. On top of that one ate my bird feeder! (The nerve!) The local DNR offices have gotten numerous calls about encounters with bears. They are certainly out and active right now, and soon they'll be planning on fattening up for their long winter nap. If you're having problems with bears get rid of the food/bird seed they're after. If that doesn't work you can call the USDA's Wildlife Services at 800-228-1368.



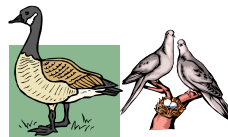
The garden is growing: the amount of growth in my garden this month is astronomical to say the least. What looked like a bare patch of dirt two months ago is now head high corn and waist high pumpkins among a carpet of tomatoes, cucumbers, peppers, and peas. God truly is in the growth of the plants on earth. Praise him for his goodness! Look for even more growth in your gardens this month and likely some harvest. How exciting!



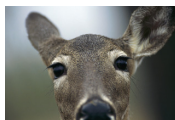
The St. Croix: from all the reports I hear the fishing is heating up on the St. Croix river. Many anglers are having great success on smallmouth bass but are also getting nice walleyes and other fish. The water levels are low so if you go you may be limited in a motor boat and may have to get out and pull your canoe along the shallow areas. Get out there, be a river rat, and have fun!



Practice, Practice, Practice: Looking ahead to the fall hunting seasons now is the time to start practicing your shooting. Shotgun or rifle, we as hunters need to be as familiar as we can be with our firearms. We owe it to our quarry to be as proficient a shot as we can be. Shoot much, shoot often and you will be more accurate this fall.



Early Hunting Seasons: we are only a month away from our two earliest hunting seasons; dove and early goose seasons. Both begin September 1. Doves will have a 60 day season and will have a daily bag limit of 15. Early goose season runs from September 1-15 with a daily bag limit of 5 geese.



Summer Deer Observations: at this point in the summer DNR wildlife staff are keeping logs of the numbers of deer we see. We record bucks, does, does with fawns and numbers seen. All of this information is factored into state deer population models.



Wild Rice Harvesting: towards the end of the month the state's wild rice crop will ripen and begin to drop seeds. This is the point in the year that those who love wild rice look forward to. Canoes with push poles and beating sticks will hit the waterways to partake in some of northern Wisconsin's great bounty, the seeds of *Zizania palustris*, Northern Wild Rice.

Congregational Announcements:

Family Fun Event: On August 9th at 3pm there will be a fun event at Bethany's new Outdoor Worship Area. Join us for a concert by Gary & Carmen Schimpp who will entertain us with a combination of Gospel and Bluegrass music. The Schimpps have been performing throughout the Midwest since 1982. There will be fun, fellowship, and music followed by a picnic meal. Please bring lawn chairs or blankets to sit on. This event is sponsored by the Bethany WELCA.

Luther Point Quilt Auction: Don't forget August 10th at Luther Point, the annual quilt auction. Lots of fun for everyone! The pig roast begins at noon followed by the auction at 1:15. There will also be a silent auction, crafts, and you can buy Luther Point gear and clothing while you're there.

Ignite Concert in Siren – BarlowGirl: Saturday August 16th from 6-9pm there will be a Christian concert in Siren at the new band shell. This year's headlining band is BarlowGirl, a very popular contemporary Christian band. Tickets are \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door.

Burnett County Health Assessment: The Burnett County Health Department is creating a new health improvement plan for Burnett County. A community health assessment is being conducted to allow community members to provide input into what their top priorities and concerns are related to health and environmental issues. This is done to assure that programs and services focus on the community's priority needs. Please give your input by completing the online survey on the Burnett County website at <http://www.burnettcounty.com/gov/index.html> If you prefer to complete a paper survey, they are available at the DHHS office in the Government Center, the libraries, and the clinics in the community. If you would like one mailed to you please call 715-349-7600 X1953.

Looking ahead: in late September/early October we will be putting together a new church directory. We will need to update member information, get pictures taken, and more. There will be more information available as we get closer.

Ladies Retreat was a hit! The E-team hosted the **2008 Bethany Ladies Retreat** at Luther Point the weekend of June 27-28th. Eight ladies spent the weekend enjoying female companionship and Christian fellowship. They enjoyed a spiritual experience walking the labyrinth; devotional time and they played a game that encouraged sharing our personal faith stories. Everyone made prayer scrapbooks filled with pretty papers and photos of loved ones. Friday evening concluded with s'mores from the microwave.

Families for Life: a local organization committed to promoting the pro-life view in the context of family values in a positive and public way is in need of booth volunteers for the Grantsburg Fair, August 21-24. Call or Maude Dahlberg 463-2385 or Elaine Michel 463-2317 if you would like to help.