

Bethany Lutheran Church

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www.bethanylutheran.grantsburg.org

Sunday Worship

9:30 a.m. Sunday School

11:00 a.m. Worship

Women's Circle Meetings for September

Hope.....Tuesday, September 9th, at Helen Anderson's 6:30pm.

Love.....Wednesday, September 10th at Church 3:00pm.

Faith.....Wednesday, September 10th at Church 7pm.

September 2008 From Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

Philippians 1:3-6

Dear friends in Christ,

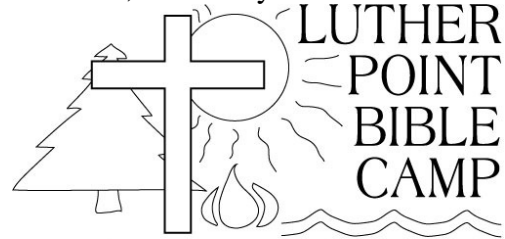
I know that I used this verse last September for the newsletter, but it is difficult to find one that better articulates what I am feeling when I think about the support that this congregation has given to the *Faster Pastors*.

We completed our 205.8 mile run from La Crosse to Minneapolis in about 32 and a half hours this year. The conditions on Friday were quite extreme with the temperature at 93 degrees with a dew point reading of 71. This took its toll on many teams, including ours. One of the *Pastors* got sick from the heat and ultimately couldn't run all of his legs. His miles had to be picked up by others, but he is fine now.

With all of the publicity that our team has received the past couple of years, both through the race organizers and through articles in media sources such as newspapers and the Lutheran magazine, there were many teams who upon hearing our team name said, "We've heard about you." It was fun to explain to them that this year we were running to raise money for the First Call Debt Reduction Fund set up by our synod to help seminarians with their debt load as they come out of school and then to hear the affirmative response to the fact that our congregations were helping to support the next generation of pastors. We don't have a total for the amount raised this year yet, but I know the synod office is excited by your partnership in this effort.

So again this year, along with the Apostle Paul, "I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work in you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ."

In Christ, Pastor Jay



Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ
Greetings from Luther Point!

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, Wisconsin
54840

September 2008

Opening More Doors Together Capital Campaign Update: The Leadership Gift Phase of the Campaign has had exceptional response in the early visiting phase. Total pledges and gifts as of August 15, 2008 is over \$419,000. Leadership gift visits will continue for the next several months. 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. Permit applications for the new septic system are in process with the State of Wisconsin. There is a strong likelihood that the new system will be installed this fall. Church council visitors will be recruited this fall and trained in January of 2009. Church council visits could start as early as February of 2009 for the congregational phase of the campaign.

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, Our special guest will be Carolyn Tuckner, who is a retired Family and Consumer Science teacher from Pine City MN with a passion for quilting.
- **Senior High Weekend Camp:** October 4-5
- **Scrapbooking Retreat:** October 14-15,
- **6th-8th Grade Weekend Camp:** October 18-19
- **Grandparent /Grandchild Weekend Camp:** December 6-7

Registration forms available online or call and talk with Lisa. 715-689-2347

20th ANNUAL QUILT AND CRAFT AUCTION Results: It was a beautiful day with temps in the upper 70s with a light breeze. We could not have asked for a nicer day. We had a fairly nice turnout with 175-200 people in attendance. The quilt quality was very good this year. Unfortunately, the bidding was lighter than normal and the amount some quilts sold for was far less than they deserved when you consider the amount of work involved in making them. Total quilt receipts from the Auction was about \$10,000, which is the lowest it has ever been. My sincere thanks and appreciation to everyone who made items for the Auction. This is truly a labor of love. Thank you very much!!

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director

WHEEL OF WHOLENESS



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."

September 2008

A Way of Life

Repeat this phrase 42 times: "Stewardship is not about money." On second thought, don't. That may only reinforce a connection that should not exist. Instead, begin to think about this phrase: "Stewardship is about a way of life."

How do you spend your time? Every breath is a gift from God. (Look up Genesis 2.7) How are you using those breaths?

How do you care for your body? Your body is a holy temple for the Lord. (See 1 Corinthians 6.19) Have you explored

the ELCA Wholeness Wheel: it connects physical, emotional, social, intellectual, vocational and financial well-being.

How do you manage your resources? Everything, EVERYTHING that we have is a gift from God. (See Genesis 39-50; too long to read? See the first bullet above! ;-)

How do you care for the earth? You walk on holy ground. (See Genesis 1-2.4a) How do you work to care for the earth from which God formed you?

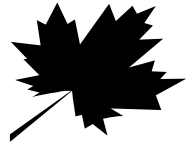
Stewardship is a way of life—it is about how you spend your time and resources and how you care for your body and the earth.

In fact that may be a great way for your community of faith to make stewardship a year round emphasis. Focus on one of these four aspects of stewardship for three months and at the end of the year you can start over at the beginning, because this way of life is for our whole lives—double meaning intended!

Rev. Todd Iverson, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin

NATE'S NATURE NOTES

September 2008



The times, err, Leaves they are a changing: this month we'll begin to see the leaves, especially on the maples, beginning to change colors. The peak colors for up here will likely be some time around the end of the month. This is one of my favorite times of the year and in my mind the beauty of northern Wisconsin in September is unmatched by anywhere else I've traveled.



Frequent Flyers: this month is also the beginning of another natural phenomenon, the migration of many of our bird species. The birds you're most likely to notice are the Canada geese and the Sandhill Cranes simply because of their size. What you may notice if you look closely are the numerous species of shorebirds, warblers, sparrows, and many more that take wing each fall to head south for warmer climates. Some of these birds will travel thousands of miles before reaching their final winter destination.

Hunting Season is finally here: this month will be the beginning of several of our local hunting seasons. The list is plentiful and ranges from the small mourning dove to the large and imposing white tailed deer. September 1st – Mourning Dove and Early Goose seasons open. September 3rd – Bear season opens. September 13th – Archery deer season, squirrel season, grouse season, rabbit, and crow seasons open. September 20th – The youth waterfowl hunt begins, Woodcock and the regular goose seasons open. September 27th – Duck season opener. Wow, what a busy month! I for one am always jubilant when September rolls around again; it's time to get out to the fields and forests again. Good hunting to you!

Leave the Firewood at home: if you're doing any camping this fall keep in mind to leave your firewood at home. Campers are reminded not to bring firewood from Wisconsin's quarantined counties (Ozaukee, Washington, Sheboygan and Fond du Lac), from out-of-state, or from more than 50 miles away from any state managed property they will be visiting. Limits on firewood are in place because firewood can transport tree-killing foreign pests and diseases. This issue again recently jumped back to the forefront with the discovery of the Emerald Ash Borer in some of Wisconsin's southern counties. This new pest is lethal to ash trees and Wisconsin has approximately 727 million trees that are at risk. So, do everyone a favor and leave the firewood at home.



September 2008 – From the Secretary's Desk

Here we are in September already; wow the year is flying by! This is the month things change from summer into fall. We'll see the leaves change on the trees. We hear the word "change" used in the political rhetoric like it's going out of style. Change, change, change, change, and more change.

Well, despite the copious amount of change we're already saddled with I'd like to offer some more. I'd like us collectively to change how we look at youth ministry. For years youth ministry has been misjudged as "the thing" that will help turn our youth into Christians. Take your kids to Sunday School and they'll come out the other side as a Christian. Some unfortunate things about this idea is that it has become very popular and more importantly it's not enough on its own. In the vast majority of cases faith is not formed through programmatic teaching and bible texts alone. *Faith is formed, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through personal trusted relationships, often in our own homes* (Principle 1 of the 5 Principles from [Frogs Without Legs Can't Hear](#)).

So, we are to change how we look at youth ministry by focusing on the relationships rather than the programs. Who then is supposed to do this? The youth leader? Parents with kids in the youth program? Here's another mindset we can change...everyone can be involved in youth ministry. You don't have to have kids in the program; you don't even have to have had kids, to influence the faith life of a young person. Why? Because if you can be Authentic, Available, and Affirming with a youth (there are those AAA Adults again) you can have an enormous impact on their faith. You become someone who truly cares about them. Suddenly you're not just another adult from the congregation you're a friend who cares. The term friend has no age limit, no prequalification for a certain standard, and no perfection clause. However once you are a friend to a youth you become a testament to faith. They wonder how you came to faith, how you've lived your life, and what your faith means to you. This is how they put together the often confusing puzzle pieces of their faith into a lasting image of a Christian young person.

The other thing we can change about our youth ministry is to not think of it, at all, as simply youth ministry. The reason for that is, the changes that we can make to our ministry will reach much farther than just our youth, it goes to the level of congregational renewal. This ministry does that because more than just youth are involved. When AAA adults get involved with youth their faith in turn is built up and strengthened. This becomes a chain reaction of faith building, faith sharing, and living out our faith in our congregation becoming a renewal in our faith family. Sounds like fun doesn't it?

So, as you can see this month there will be some change going on as we jump back in to having youth activities in the fall. Remember though, it's not just youth ministry it's a ministry of youth and adults that builds faith for all. I hope and pray that the Lord brings you into the life of a youth this month; and may it build your faith as well.

In Christ's net, Nate



Congregational Announcements:

E-team Meeting: there will be an E-team meeting Wednesday, Sept 3rd at 7 pm at church.

September E-team Event: Bethany Lutheran Picnic & Softball Sunday, Sept 7th, immediately following church at the Grantsburg Elementary softball field. Bring a picnic for your family, gloves, bats, balls, and sunscreen. This will also be our Youth Group fall kickoff event – we will meet informally and discuss the upcoming year for our group. If you have any questions please contact any of the Bethany E-team members.

Thank You: The E-team would like to thank all 22 of the participants who joined us to pass out 480 Frisbees, 500 pens, and three dozen globes to the Fair Parade watchers last Sunday. The theme “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands” was displayed on the globes and Frisbees and our contact information was on the pens and Frisbees. Thank you again to Merlin Johnson for the use of his hay wagon and to Gaylen Brown for the use of his yard for set-up and for helping to provide lunch to the float volunteers. Thank you to Joe Cremin for the use of his sound equipment. And thank you to Dan Kuesel for pulling the float this year.

Church Clean Up: there will be an all church clean up on Saturday September 13th beginning at 9am.

Choir Practice: The choir will begin practicing again on Wednesday, September 3rd at 6:00pm.

Dedication Service: for the new outdoor worship area. On Sunday September 14th worship will be held in the new outdoor worship area as we dedicate this beautiful addition to our church.

Rally Sunday – September 7th: This year’s rally Sunday will be September 7th. Sunday School will begin at 9:30am. Part of the kickoff will be a meeting for anyone in the youth group after the E-team softball event. Bring your family and join us.

New Church Directory: Signups for our new church directory are available before and after the service. We will be taking pictures September 30th and October 1st but now is the time to get the time slot that works best for you. If you have questions please ask Pastor Jay.

Luther Point News: Coming up this month...

Tue.-Thu., Sept. 16-18: QUILTING RETREAT (3 pm Tues through 3 pm Thu).

Lodging, bedding, meals, devotions and ample work space are all included in the cost of \$125. Our special guest leader will be Carolyn Tuckner who is a retired Family and Consumer Science Teacher from Pine City, Minnesota with a passion for quilting. She is an avid quilter and long arm quilter who has taught many quilting classes and currently holds quilting retreats at her home. Whether you are a seasoned quilter or just getting reacquainted with your sewing machine you will enjoy this retreat. Carolyn will have some beginner quilt projects along if you need ideas.



September Silliness: *printed from A Prairie Home Companion – Pretty Good Joke Book.*

A man was praying to God. He said, “God!?”

God responded, “Yes?”

And the guy said, “Can I ask a question?”

“Go right ahead” god said.

“God, what is a million years to you?”

God said, “A million years to me is only a second.”

“Hmm,” the man wondered. Then he asked, “God, what is a million dollars worth to you?”

God said, “A million dollars to me is as a penny.”

So the man said, “God, can I have a penny?”

And God said, “Sure!...Just a second.”



Lutheran 1: “Would you like a cup of coffee?”

Lutheran 2: “No thanks. When I drink coffee I can’t sleep.”

Lutheran 1: “Huh. In my case it’s the other way around. When I sleep I can’t drink coffee.”

A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons. The boys began to argue over who would get the first pancake. Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. “If Jess were sitting here, He would say, ‘Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait’” One of them turned to the other and said, “You be Jesus!”

A new pastor was out visiting his parishioners one Saturday afternoon. All went well until he came to one house. Although it was obvious someone was home, no one came to the door, even after he had knocked several times. Finally, he pulled out his card, wrote “Revelation 3:20” on the back and stuck it in the door.

The next day as he was counting the offering he found his card in the collection plate. Below his message was the notation “Genesis 3:10”.

Revelation 3:20 reads “Behold I stand at the door and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will dine with him and he with me.”

Genesis 3:10 reads and he said, I heard thy voice in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked.”

Jesus and Satan were at their computers, writing reports and doing spreadsheets, and suddenly lightning flashed and thunder rolled, knocking out the power. When it came back on Satan bowed his head and wept because he’d lost everything. Jesus had no problems at all because of course...Jesus saves.

A pastor asked the children at the children’s sermon “Why are we quiet in church?”

One child responded...“because people are sleeping!”

