

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 October

Hope.....Contact your Circle Chair for details

Love.....Contact your Circle Chair for details

Faith.....Wednesday, October 8th at 7pm at Church.

October, 2008 from Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA

“For we did not follow cleverly devised stories when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we had been eyewitnesses of his majesty.” 2 Peter 1:16

Dear friends in Christ,

Have you ever had a story to tell that seemed so fantastic that you thought people might not believe you? You tell your story and the verification that you use in conclusion is something like this, “I know this is true because I was there.”

My internship pastor relates a story about the film *Rudy*. This was an inspirational story about an eager football player who finally got his chance to play for Notre Dame. Rudy had grown up in a steel working family in Chicago. He listened to the Irish football games on the radio every week and vowed one day he would go to Notre Dame and play football. After some struggles he finally made it to Notre Dame and went out for football, but could not get any further than the practice squad. So he chose to give it everything he had, even on the practice squad, knowing that he was helping the team prepare for their opponents. He was so dedicated and tenacious that he began catching the eye of the coach. In his senior year the coach chose to reward him by letting him suit up for a game. As the game drew to a close and the clock began to run out it appeared that Rudy would not get his chance to play. Then a chant began in the crowds, “Rudy! Rudy! Rudy!” The coach relented and called him over and he got his chance to play football for the Fighting Irish. His dream came true.

This was a great movie, but my supervising pastor said he was there, in fact, he said that he was ‘in’ that movie. He was doing his doctoral work at Notre Dame when the movie was filmed and happened to be at a football game when the film crews came out at halftime to film some of the football sequences. Then it was announced that the crowd was going to be in the movie. When the movie came out, there was a view toward the end zone where he was sitting. He couldn’t see himself, but he did recognize the tall fellow student with black hair standing next to him. He said, “I know it was him because I was there.” He had a personal connection with that film – he was in it.

You know, that is how it is for each one of us too. We each have a personal connection with a pretty incredible story too. In fact, that is the ‘Good News’ of the gospel – that each one of us has a personal connection to the story of Jesus Christ; Christ lived and died for each one of us. Each one of us receives the blessings of Christ’s death and resurrection. We are ‘in’ the story. We are the ones for whom Christ came. This makes it **your** story and **my** story. We are in it; we have a personal connection; we know it is true because we were/are there!

Telling this story, sharing it with others, is one of the greatest things we can do to pass our faith along to the next generations. When you have the opportunity sit down with some of the younger folks in our congregation, or in your families, and tell them this incredible story, tell them your incredible story and how you are ‘in’ it. Tell it from a personal perspective – and you can – because you were there, it is your story, and it can be their story as well. After all, this is the very first of the four key faith practices for nurturing disciples and passing on faith in the home and the congregation that we learned about in our *Frogs Without Legs Can’t Hear* series.

In Christ,
Pastor Jay



Greetings from Luther Point! October 2008

Annual Meeting: You are invited to attend the annual meeting of the Luther Point Camp Association. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 18 with beverages, snacks and fellowship beginning at 9:00. The meeting will begin at 9:30 am with lunch to follow. The annual meeting is being held in conjunction with a 6th-8th grade weekend camp. Perhaps if a parent is bringing a child to the weekend camp they may want to consider staying for the meeting and representing your congregation.

A thorough update on the "Opening More Doors Together" Capital Campaign will be given. New Board members will be elected and new program ideas for 2009 will be shared. Each congregation is entitled to two voting representatives, one clergy and one layperson, or two Laypersons. For each additional 500 baptized members, a congregation is entitled to an additional voting representative. A formal invitation with response card will sent toward the third week in September.

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 September 16, 2008 is over \$455,000. Leadership gift visits will continue for the next several months. The Women of the ELCA Division are 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.

FALL RETREAT OFFERINGS: Check our website for more details regarding upcoming retreat events scheduled for this fall. Some of the offerings include:

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

Windfall Gifts Needed this Fall: Our camper participation took a drop this year. We were down 15% from 2007. Because of this decrease in camper participation we find the camp facing a \$56,000 deficit in camper registration fees. We also gave away over \$40,575 in camperships and incentives with only \$24,500 raised so far. Due to the lower camper numbers we have less revenue from camper registrations to help cover this shortfall. Every time we give a campership we reach out in faith, trusting that God will provide. Through people like you God will cover the additional camperships that we shared with those experiencing financial need this summer. Please consider sending an over and above donation to the camp this fall.

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director

Connecting Lives Through Christ



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."

**ELCA World
Hunger
October 2008**

Do you know the familiar table blessing, "Come Lord Jesus, be our guest, let these gifts to us be blessed. By your hand shall all be fed, give us Lord, our daily bread..." It's God who provides all that we need – but it is also our Lord God who calls each one of us to ensure that *all shall be fed*. Food is one of the most basic human needs and most of us have had plenty to eat for as long as we can remember. But we also know that there are far too many who go hungry. It's not God's will that people suffer hunger.

Lutherans have always taken seriously the call to respond to God's love by caring for their neighbors, and it manifests itself in many ways. One of them is the ELCA World Hunger Appeal and Program. For many years, millions of dollars have been raised and countless people helped, not only through direct relief, but also through development projects, education, and advocacy. Working together, our gifts to this appeal can help combat hunger and promote the good of the community and *all* its members. So what can we do individually or as congregations?

- ✚ Learn about ELCA World Hunger resources at www.elca.org/hunger and www.augsburgfortress.org/elcahunger Use reproducible information and bulletin inserts to educate the congregation.
- ✚ Promote the use of Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate within your ministry setting.
- ✚ This holiday season, present friends and family with meaningful, make a difference gifts using the ELCA Good Gifts catalog at www.elca.org/giving
- ✚ Discuss how to incorporate hunger issues into your congregation's Christian Education/Sunday School curriculum.
- ✚ Urge your congregation to become involved with a domestic hunger grant site or local food pantry.
- ✚ Pray, pray, pray.

Eliminating hunger in our communities and across the globe requires actions on many different fronts, by many different means – may you be strengthened in your response so that *all shall be fed*.

Rev. Amy Odgren, Assistant to the Bishop, Northwest Synod of Wisconsin



NATE'S NATURE NOTES



October 2008

Color, color, everywhere: This month we'll see the leaves in all their colorful splendor. The peak colors will be around the first weekend in October so get out there now and see the fall colors.

Oddities Seen: Keep on the lookout, there have been some oddball sightings of animals towards the end of September and into early October. If you haven't already heard there was a bull moose sighted just west of Grantsburg. It was reported by several people crossing highway 70 and then was seen on both Fish Lake and Crex Meadows wildlife areas. The other oddity was the threesome of endangered Whooping Cranes seen recently at Fish Lake wildlife area. They were determined to be second year male birds that had spent their summer in Minnesota and North Dakota. It was certainly a sight to see. One other oddball I've seen recently was a lone Snow Goose in with a flock of Canada geese.

Hunting Season is finally here: This month we'll have several additional hunting seasons thrown into the mix. The second weekend is the youth gun deer hunt statewide, encouraging young people to get outdoors and experience the joys of deer hunting before the cold and severe weather hits. The third weekend will be the opening of pheasant and sharp tailed grouse seasons as well as a four day herd control season in the units surrounding deer management unit 10. I am excited for that weekend since I was fortunate enough to have drawn a sharp tail tag for Crex Meadows. I have the opportunity to hunt a bird that is increasingly scarce in Wisconsin and I feel blessed to have this opportunity to hunt.

Trumpeters and Ospreys no longer threatened: Both of these majestic birds may be removed from the state list of threatened species. *"The statewide populations of these two species have increased to the point where we are now confident that they no longer qualify as endangered or threatened under state statutes," says Sumner Matteson, an avian ecologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources who oversaw the recovery programs for both species.*

Leave the Firewood at home: [I'm re-running this segment because of its importance.] 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.

From the Secretary's Desk – October 2008

Here we are again at the beginning of yet another month...October. Wow, it seems like just yesterday it was New Years; where has the time gone? I've been reflecting on this a lot lately – life happens quickly and if we're not intentional about how we live, it will zoom right past. This matters in our faith life as much as the rest of our life because if we're not careful the things we intend to do like mentor a youth in the congregation, teach Sunday School, pray for our youth group or study why we do things a certain way in Lutheran worship, will be put aside in the wake of life happening. I challenge you to not let this happen to you. So much good can be done if we are intentional about nourishing our faith lives within the context of our congregation and the church as a whole.

It is oh so easy after all to say "I'll get to that tomorrow", "I don't have time right now", etc. These happen to the most well-intentioned. If I've learned one thing in my own life it's that if I don't get to it 'right now' when I'm thinking about it I will not get to it. Inevitably tomorrow there will be the proverbial 'brush fire' that needs to be put out that will place a wall firmly between me and my good intentions.

"So, how do I change?" you might ask. You may want to start by prioritizing your to-do list; what is/are the most important one or two things for you? Also ask yourself where God is calling you? Do you feel him calling you to work with a youth in the congregation or to be on a committee? Once you've prioritized your list figure out what it takes to implement the first item and commit yourself to starting today. If you complete that item today commit to starting the second item tomorrow. I've heard it said that if you do something for 21 days you form a new habit; why not make faith growth and serving a new habit in your life?

Another way that you might consider building your faith is to get involved in the life of a young person within our congregation. This act can be seen as any one of the four daily keys for faith formation! 1. Caring Conversation: if you choose you could have a caring conversation with a congregational youth each day. 2. Devotions: you could do a devotion that relates to your role as mentor/AAA adult or you could do the same devotion that one of the youth is so you can discuss them later. 3. Service: you can look at your role as a service to the congregation or you could get together periodically to do service projects together. 4. Rituals and Traditions: you can meet at a certain place, talk at a certain time each day or week, or have a meeting layout that you do the same each time.

Any way you look at it being involved with one of our youth will help to build your faith in many ways as you establish a relationship. As you discuss various elements of faith you encounter both teaching moments and reflective times where you can discern exactly what it is that you believe.

There are many ways that we can be intentional about learning more about our faith in Jesus Christ; as many ways as there are people I suspect. I suggest a new look at partnering with a youth for the faith formation of both because I believe it goes beyond our personal relationship with Jesus Christ and builds our community. Your positive impact on a youth will invariably benefit our congregation and the church as a whole.

May God richly bless you this month.

Nate

CONGREGATIONAL ANNOUNCEMENTS:

MISSION SUNDAY is OCT 5th!!!

Every first Sunday of the month the Sunday School teachers tell the kids about that month's specific cause during the taking of the offering. This month on Sun. OCT 5th we will feature SAMARITAN'S PURSE ("The Christmas Shoebox Project") Franklin Graham states that this year, millions of children will experience Christmas joy when they receive gift-filled shoe boxes and also hear the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Your monetary offering marked for "Samaritan's Purse" will make the kid's offering more effective for needy young ones around the world. Thank you and God Bless you on behalf of the Sunday School class and teachers!

Lutheran World Relief: Have you ever wondered where in the world all those quilts or kits for Lutheran World Relief (LWR) you helped up together ended up? Would you like to know how you can help battle disease in developing countries, support Fair Trade, and more? Would you like to be an Ambassador for LWR or learn more about it? LWR has an exciting day retreat called "Renew and Discover" at the Heartwood Conference Center in Trego, WI on Saturday October 25th. Participants will learn about the new and exciting opportunities to engage in LWR's work and meet with fellow Lutherans who have traveled overseas on LWR Saturday Tours! One of the highlights is an inspirational keynote address by speaker John Nunes, President and CEO of LWR.

To find out more and register for the event please look for registration information in the Narthex, bulletin board, call the church office, or go to lwr.org/retreat for a downloadable registration form. We look forward to seeing you! Thank you for supporting God's work around the world.

WELCA: Our next WELCA general meeting will be Monday October 6th at 6:30pm. If you have not gotten your kits in please do so by then. Leave the kits on the basement counter by the south wall.

Yes We Can: Do you have bags of aluminum cans at home that you've been meaning to get rid of but can't find the time? Would you like to help the youth group attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans? We've got a solution to both of these issues; simply donate your cans to the youth group! We are taking donations NOW so all you have to do is bring them to church with you when you're headed this way, or if you need them picked up call Nate 689-3121 or Dave 463-5233.

Advent Devotional: During the Advent season we wait in anticipation of the Light coming into the world. We are looking for 26 people to share a story of a time when you have experienced the light of Christ in your life. These will be compiled into a devotional booklet that will be made available for all members of Bethany to use during the Advent season leading up to Christmas. The devotional is intended to be read daily in the home from the start of Advent on November 30 - Christmas Day. Each story should include a related scripture passage and a short prayer. The hope is that this devotional will help you intentionally celebrate the season of Advent in the midst of the often busy days before Christmas. Please contact Bethany Walker (715-689-3121) if you are willing to submit a story. Stories are due by Sunday, November 16. They can be emailed to Bethany@LutherPoint.org or a handwritten copy can be put in her mailbox and she will be happy to type it up.

Financial Peace University: Financial Peace University is coming to Bethany Lutheran Church in Grantsburg! FPU is a bible-based, video-driven small group study that teaches families to beat debt, build wealth and give like never before. We attended this program at Immaculate Conception in Pine City and it has absolutely changed our lives, improved our marriage, and is leading us to a much more solid financial foundation. I highly recommend it to anyone from financially stressed to those doing

well financially. This is a common sense approach to money and financial stewardship. We will have a free preview session on Sunday, October 5 after worship around 12:15 p.m. This class consists of 13 two-hour sessions on Sundays at 6:00 p.m. The first hour is a DVD lesson by Dave Ramsey, personal money management expert and author of *The Total Money Makeover* and *Financial Peace*. The second hour is a small group discussion where we talk about your comments, questions, and how to apply the principles we are learning. The first class will be Sunday, October 19 at 6:00 p.m. We hope you can join us and please feel free to talk to us anytime about this program.

Lindsay & Jake Grass—Home Phone: 320-629-3951

Church Basement Ladies: Cost for those going to the Church Basement Ladies show will be \$59. Checks may be made payable to Ruby Lindquist.

Pastor Appreciation Month: October is Pastor Appreciation month. Please feel free to let Pastor Jay, and any other Pastors you know just how much they're appreciated.

E-Team Events: The E-team is hosting Monthly Movie Night--Saturday, Oct 18th, 6:30 pm at church. All are welcome to come and enjoy a movie with friends. Any questions, please contact an E-team member: Sara, Sue H, Dorothy R, Lindsay J, Angie, Rachael or Tina.

The E-team will also be hosting a Fall Party on Oct 31st, 6:30-9:30 pm at church. More info soon!!!

MONTHLY RAMBLINGS...

Billboard Messages from God...

Let's Meet At My House Sunday Before the Game - God

What Part of "Thou Shalt Not..." Didn't You Understand? - God

Keep Using My Name in Vain And I'll Make Rush Hour Longer! - God

Loved The Wedding, Invite Me To The Marriage - God

That "Love Thy Neighbor" Thing, I Meant It. - God

I Love You...I Love You...I Love You... - God

My Way Is The Highway. - God

Tell The Kids I Love Them. - God

Heavenly Rates: A man dies and goes to heaven. Of course, St. Peter meets him at the pearly gates. St. Peter says, "Here's how it works. You need 100 points to make it into heaven. You tell me all the good things you've done, and I give you a certain number of points for each item, depending on how good it was. When you reach 100 points, you get in."

"Okay," the man says, "I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never cheated on her, even in my heart."

"That's wonderful," says St. Peter, "that's worth three points!"

"Three points?" he says. "Well, I attended church all my life and supported its ministry with my tithe and service."

"Terrific!" says St. Peter, "that's certainly worth a point."

"One point? Golly. How about this: I started a soup kitchen in my city and worked in a shelter for homeless veterans."

"Fantastic, that's good for two more points," he says.

"TWO POINTS!!!" the man cries, "At this rate the only way I get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Come on in!"