

Good News Letter

Bethany Lutheran Church
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Sunday Worship
9:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Worship

Women's Circle Meetings for November

Hope.....Tuesday November 11th, see circle Chair for location.
Love.....Wednesday, November 12th 3 p.m. at church
Faith.....Wednesday, November 12th, 7 p.m. at church

Good News

November, 2008 from Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA

Last month the bishops from each of the synods throughout the ELCA met. In this newsletter I would like to share with you a letter that came out of that meeting.

Grace and peace to you.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we are deeply concerned about the current financial crisis, which is affecting not only our nation but the entire global economy. This crisis is causing fear and loss in our country as thousands of families face unemployment, foreclosure, and uncertainty about savings and pensions. Meanwhile, they struggle to put food on the table and gas into their cars. The future is uncertain for all of us, but it is especially frightening for those who are already vulnerable and struggling to survive. We offer our prayers for those whose lives are being affected and for our national leaders as they seek to address this complex matter.

We call on all people in our own communities of faith and those from every segment of our society who seek the health of our nation to join in conversation and prayer about our collective economic life, our financial behaviors, and the interconnectedness of all life and creation that cries out to be reclaimed.

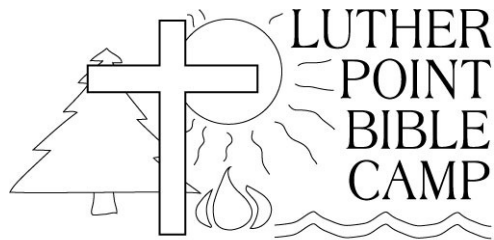
This church has addressed the issues surrounding economic life in its social statement, "Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All," (www.elca.org/What-We-Believe/Social-Issues/Social-Statements/Economic-Life.aspx), and we encourage the use of this statement as a way to understand more fully how the following theological and biblical principles are central as we respond to this situation.

Concern for People in Poverty

The constitution of the ELCA calls this church to serve by "standing with the poor and powerless and committing itself to their needs." (ELCA 4.02.c.). We are grateful for the pastors and leaders in our congregations who already have stepped forward to care for those who are suffering, and we encourage them to continue this response and to provide leadership in the task of turning our attention to the causes and effects of this crisis. We are called to work toward an economic system that truly serves the common good and especially the needs of the poor. We look for partnership with all those who seek to address this financial crisis in a way that also recognizes the humanitarian issues involved.

Personal and Corporate Responsibility

The ELCA social statement on economic life calls for individuals to live responsibly and within their means and to beware of the dangers of over-consumption and unnecessary accumulation, which draw us beyond authentic need into excess and destructive indebtedness. We call on businesses and



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Forming Faith, Pointing to Christ

Greetings from Luther Point!

11525 Luther Point Rd
Grantsburg, Wisconsin 54840

Craig M. Corbin, Director

November 2008

“Opening More Doors Together” Capital Campaign Update: The Leadership Gift Phase of the Campaign has slowed down some in light of the recent events with the national / international economic situation. Total pledges and gifts as of October 14, 2008 is over \$475,000. Leadership gift visits will continue for the next several months. The Women of the ELCA Division are beginning to respond with their gifts and pledges. So far 13 Women of the ELCA congregational groups have responded.

The Camp Board of Directors has decided to delay the construction of the new septic system until next spring. This will allow the camp to move into construction with more financial resources available. We are also in the process of seeking volunteers to make church council visits next spring. Volunteers will be trained and provided with all the materials necessary in order to make their visits. Our timeline for church council visits is February-May of 2009. Congregational campaigns will begin in late spring and into the fall of 2009.

RETREAT OFFERINGS: Check our website for more details regarding upcoming retreat events scheduled for this fall and winter months, some of the offerings include:

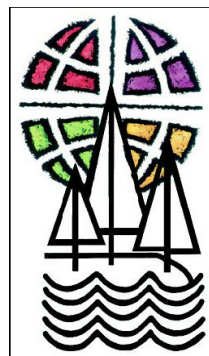
- **Grandparent /Grandchild Weekend Camp:** December 6-7
- **New Year’s Family Retreat:** December 31-January 1, 2009
- **Senior High Weekend Camp:** March 14-15, 2009
- **3rd-5th Grade Weekend Camp:** March 21-22, 2009
- **Prayer Shawl Retreat:** April 21, 2009, 9 am-3pm

Register online or call and talk with Lisa. 715-689-2347

Windfall Gifts Still Needed this Fall: On behalf of the camp, I want to extend my sincere thanks to the many folks who have already responded graciously and generously to our request for gifts. The response has been very encouraging so far. As reported to you last month, 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. In the past month an additional \$4,700 has come in to help with the campership fund. This brings our campership fund up to a little over \$29,000, still well below the total amount given out in camperships and incentives. 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

November 2008

God’s Work, Our Hands

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.”

“Jesus unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written: ‘The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.’” Luke 4:17-19

Scripture reminds us we are called by God to bring good news to poor, to love and serve our neighbor and to strive for a just world. As Lutheran Christians, God equips us to work for justice by granting forgiveness of our sins. It is through grace that we are free to set out into the world to share the promise of the Gospel.

Looking at our neighbors and loved ones, we see many in our community who are struggling to feed themselves and their families. The demand for food at local food pantries all too often exceeds the available supply. The downturn in our economy has resulted in the loss of jobs and housing for working families. More and more, we realize that our neighbor in the pew or down the road is struggling to survive in this land of plenty.

Christ calls us to love one another through acts of charity and by advocating for justice. We bring good news to the poor when we reach out to our local food pantry. We let the oppressed go free when we work through government to call attention to the needs of the poor. Advocating for our neighbors results in programs and funding that make a difference in the lives of children, families and seniors. Where charity and justice prevail, the promise of the Gospel has been brought to life.

Amy Johnson, Lutheran Office for Public Policy Wisconsin

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corporations of all sizes to consider the social implications of company policies and to practice good stewardship of creation (Genesis 1:26).

The Need for Good Government

We hold and teach that government has an instrumental and constructive role to play in our shared life. This role includes “limiting or countering narrow economic interests and promoting the common good” (“Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All,” p. 11). We call on government to hold corporations and other powerful economic actors accountable for the effects of their practices on workers, communities, and the environment.

The Benefits and Limits of Free Markets

For many people, the current market-based economy has proven to be effective as a system to meet material need, generate wealth, and create opportunity. However, we hold and teach that any economic system should be measured by the degree to which it serves God’s purposes for humankind and creation. Those who have been blessed by the fruits of our economy are called to be generous in giving to those who have lost much and to advocate for accountability and appropriate regulation in this system.

As people of the God who calls us out of fear into hope and community, we welcome all people into widespread and respectful discussion about this current crisis. In this way we can create partnerships that will help those whose lives are being shattered and encourage responsibility and integrity in our national economic life.

As people of faith we pray:

Almighty God, your Son Jesus Christ dignified our labor by sharing our toil. Guide us with your justice in the workplace, so that we may never value things above people, or surrender honor to love of gain or lust for power. Prosper all efforts to put an end to work that brings no joy, and teach us how to govern the ways of business to the harm of none and for the sake of the common good; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

**The Conference of Bishops
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

From the Secretary’s Desk – November 2008

Here we are with yet another month of my mental ramblings and fragmented contemplations. I do hope that these bring you some joy, some thought, and sometimes even some challenges. This month I’d like to talk about a commonly used word for November: Thanksgiving. What is thanksgiving really? In this secular day and age it evokes thoughts of full stomachs and football games, deer hunting, being with family, and much more. But, what is it? It seems as though the meaning has become muddled in this world but Thanksgiving is quite simple: giving thanks.

What are you thankful for today? This month? This year?

I am thankful for many things; I am alive to breathe the air, I have a wife that loves me, God has blessed me with a miraculous little girl and so much more. Most of all though I’m thankful for Jesus. It sounds cliché perhaps but without Jesus those other things would lose their luster. It is because of Jesus’ life, death and resurrection that I can live my life as a disciple in this world, and am free to enjoy the blessings that He has given me. Hebrews 12:2

looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God.

In an odd twist I am also thankful for the difficult times in my life; because many of those moments have shaped and molded me into the person I am today. Hebrews 12:6-11 talks about the times that we are disciplined in our lives:

For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives." It is for discipline that you have to endure. God is treating you as sons; for what son is there whom his father does not discipline? If you are left without discipline, in which all have participated, then you are illegitimate children and not sons. Besides this, we have had earthly fathers to discipline us and we respected them. Shall we not much more be subject to the Father of spirits and live? For they disciplined us for a short time at their pleasure, but he disciplines us for our good, that we may share his holiness. For the moment all discipline seems painful rather than pleasant; later it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.

Note the underlined portions here; it reminds us that He disciplines us for our good. I think back to the times that I was disciplined in my life and know that without that difficulty I would not be where I am today. I was definitely disciplined for my own good and it brought me to a better path. I am most certainly thankful for that!

As we move closer to the holiday of Thanksgiving I hope and pray that you will consider all of those things, good and bad, in your life that you are thankful for and in this, as in all things, that you are reminded of God’s love for us.

In thanksgiving for the love of Christ,
Nate

Congregational Announcements:

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 **16 more** 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 through 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. Be looking for your copy of this advent devotion to be available on November 30th. *Please help out, share your story and be a part of this joy-filled devotion.*

Flu Shots: The Burnett County Health Department is having a number of flu shot clinics in the area in the coming weeks. The cost is \$25 for a Flu shot, \$40 for a Pneumonia shot. Insurance is accepted so bring your insurance cards. If you'd like more information call the health department at 349-7600. Here is a schedule of the times and locations where they are available.

Monday, November 3rd at the Siren Senior Center from 9:30-11am.

Monday, November 3rd at the Webster Elem. School Cafeteria from 3:45-5:45

Tuesday, November 4th at the Northland Community Center from 11-12.

Wednesday, November 5th at the Webster Senior Center from 10-11:30.

Thursday, November 6th at the Swiss Town Hall – Danbury from 10-11:30.

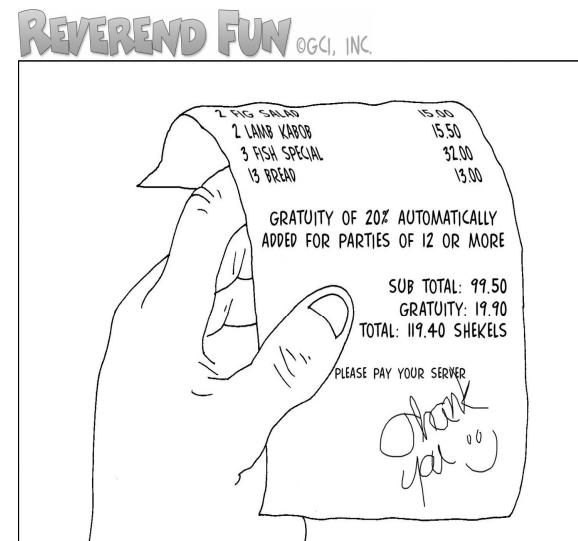
Friday, November 7th at the A&H Senior Center from 9:30-11:30.

Monday, November 10th at the Siren Government Center (Rm. 165) from 9-5:30.

NATE'S NATURE NOTES

It's almost Deer Hunting Time: the biggest thing this month for many hunters in Wisconsin is that it's prime time to deer hunt. The bow hunters will begin the month with the rutting season kicking in. Bucks are chasing does and will tend to let their guard down. Later in the month begins the annual pilgrimage of orange-clad hunters seeking meat for the freezer or that trophy buck. Just a reminder if you hunt in Unit 10 – you'll need a \$12 bonus permit to shoot an antlerless deer. This is the only unit nearby that is not "Herd Control". Many don't realize this change from last year and it's our responsibility as hunters to know the law. Be safe and have a great hunt!

Don't Like White Space
Room for your article here!



JESUS WAS ALWAYS GETTING HIT BY THE MANDATORY TIPPING RULE



EVERY SINGLE PERSON IN THE WORLD HAS TRIED IT BUT YOU!