



Bethany Lutheran Church

August 2018 Newsletter

1315 6th St NE, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750 (218) 253-2589
www.bethanylutheranrlf.com bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com

Pastor:

Rev. Gary Graff

Church Secretary:

Destiny Kuznia

Office Hours

Thursdays
1:00pm – 5:00pm

Worship Times

Sundays 10:00am
Wednesdays 6:30pm

Sunday School

9:00am Sept-May

Church Web Site Director

Dr. Owen Nelson
onelson@mncable.net

Contact Us

(218) 253-2589
Additional contact info at the top of this newsletter

From the Pastor

A gardener once lamented how the deer were eating his vegetables. “Look how they nibble away at everything! I wouldn't mind it if they actually ate one whole pumpkin or one whole squash. Every creature needs its food. But the deer take one bite out of everything! They're nibbling my garden to death!”

It isn't just deer who “nibble away at things”. People are notorious nibblers too. They try this, that, and the other, never really settling down on any one thing. It's always a new job, a new hobby, a new church, a new religion!

And, like usual, everything is “wonderful!” at least at first. But then reality sets in, and suddenly the “grass looks greener on the other side of the fence”, so off they go, nibbling themselves into something new.

There are some things that really take some time and effort to develop. You can't learn to play the piano in just five minutes a day. You can't develop good relationships if you always have one foot out the door. And you can't love God if your heart is always somewhere else.

Jesus once said to potential disciples..

“Follow me.” But he replied, “Lord, first let me go and bury my father.” Jesus said to him, “Let the dead bury their own dead, but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.” Still another said, “I will follow you, Lord; but first let me go back and say goodbye to my family.” Jesus replied, “No one who puts a hand to the plow and looks back is fit for service in the kingdom of God.”

(Luke 9:59–62, NIV)

Jesus' words sound harsh, yet when addressed to a community of “chronic nibblers”, his words are saving. For in a world where nothing is a priority, sin and selfishness reign supreme.

“63 years, 2 months, and 5 days”, reads my life's clock. And what am I doing with my life? Am I “nibbling”, or “feasting” on the “true bread from heaven”, Jesus Christ our Lord? (see John 6:33)

Pastor Gary

Thank you!

A special thank you to all the leaders and children who made Vacation Bible School so special this year. We averaged about 30 kids each evening learning and celebrating our God who can be trusted in. Thank you to Peggy Miller, Linda Johnston, Mikayla Tabert, Kale Miller, Terri Hams, Mary Barnes, Gary and Linda Graff, Morgan Koshenina, Vicki Duden, the Men's Group and all our other helpers for a wonderful, awesome week of Vacation Bible School!

Thank you to Kevin Reich for preaching in the last Sunday of July!

A big thank you to our youth and leaders for a great trip to the National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. Fourteen kids together with chaperons, Jenny Schmitz and Nancy Hofstad, had an exciting and meaningful adventure as they discovered how God's grace, “makes all things new” (Rev. 21:5).

Wedding!

Lindsey Seng and Brandon Eckstein will be wed on August 18th at 4 pm. Congratulations Lindsey and Brandon!

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of the
MONTH

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”

Psalm 143:10

Walk to Remember

Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents grieving the loss of a child, will have a "walk of remembrance" on August 12th at 5:00pm. There will be a time for remembering, a short message, and a balloon release in memory of departed loved ones. A potluck picnic will follow. The public is invited to participate. Look for the gathering in the shelter at Sportsman's Park.

Midweek Worship

There will be no Wednesday evening worship during the months of June, July, and August. We resume Wednesday evening worship in September.

Women of Bethany

The next meeting of WELCA is Wednesday, August 15th. The board will meet at 6:30pm with the general meeting at 7:00pm. Open to all confirmed women of Bethany. Feel free to join us!

Sunday School Teachers Needed

Fall is just around the corner and we will once again be looking for several volunteers to teach Sunday School classes for preschool through 8th grade. It's nice to have a list of potential substitutes too, so if you aren't able to commit to teaching on a regular basis, ask to join our substitute list. If you are interested in helping in this capacity, please contact us at 253-2589 or bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com.

Caregiver Discussion Group

Do you provide the primary care for a family who is elderly, has a disability or chronic condition? If so, this meeting is for you. We will be meeting at Bethany Lutheran Church on every second Thursday of the month starting on August 9th at 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm. There is no cost to attend the meeting. Presented by Lutheran Social Services. For more information, contact Julie Praska-Moser, LSS Caregiver Respire Coordinator, at 218-686-6228.

August Blood Drive

United Blood Services is planning its annual Blood Drive at Bethany for Wednesday, August 29th 1:00 to 6:00 pm. They are seeking volunteers to help with these tasks:

- 1-2 people to call donors to invite them in (typically takes place the week prior to the blood drive). Calls are always better received when coming from a local phone number.
- 1-2 volunteers to simply sign in donors at the blood drive.
- Volunteers to move tables/chairs the night before or morning of the event to provide a quick set up process so the staff start the blood drive on time.

If you are able to help out, please contact Katie Bartelson at 701-365-8928 or talk to Pastor Graff. To get an appointment to donate during the drive, visit bloodhero.com.

Benevolence 2018

- January - \$500 to Fosston Christian Radio, \$500 to "Sat 7" a Middle East radio station
- February - \$1000 to Care and Share Shelter
- March - \$1000 to Bethany Youth Group, National ELCA Gathering
- April - \$1000 to Lutheran Disaster Relief, aid for Syria
- May - \$1000 to Northwest Minnesota Synod
- June - \$500 to Seminary Scholarship; \$500 to National ELCA Youth Gathering Special Offering

Bethany Prayer Chain

If you wish to request prayers for yourself or a loved one, contact Pastor Gary, Marion Bjorgan, or Linda Hoffman. We'll send your request on to a team of 26 individuals who have committed themselves to praying for your need.

Pastor Gary – 253-2589 or 253-4195

(bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com)

Marion Bjorgan – 253-2710

(g Bjorgan@gvtel.com)

Linda Hoffman – 253-2256

(lhoffman@gvtel.com)

Celebrate

August Birthdays

- 1 – Gunnar Broden
- 4 – Michael Klein
Jarvis Kuznia
Harriet Pearson
- 5 – Jim Gilbertson
Randy Myhre
- 6 – Jana Sletten
- 9 – Katie Halvorson
- 10 – Rylee Engelstad
- 11 – Marie Seeger
- 13 – Linda Graff
- 14 – Brenden Larson
- 17 – Linda Hoffman
Karl Kleven
- 18 – Mavis Arvidson
ShyAnn Larson
- 19 – Margaret Lee
- 20 – Clyde Fering
- 21 – James Hanson
- 22 – Hannah Seeger
- 24 – Mark Peterson
- 25 – Dawn Halvorson
Jordyn Knott
Judy Lundeen
- 26 – Bob Harmoning
Jim Roff
Halle Vigstol
- 27 – Brent Guenther
- 28 – Kurt Ellefson
Lincoln Olson
- 29 – Nick Knutson
Laurie Seng
- 30 – Sheila Reich

August Anniversaries

- 6 – Dano & Kelsey Stephens
- 14 – Peter & Rachelle Tydlacka
- 15 – Gary & Dawn Halvorson
- 21 – Kevin & Chelsey Pletschett
- 25 – Karl & Carly Kleven
- 31 – Mark & Susy Herberg