



Bethany Lutheran Church

February 2019 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



Remember your 8th grade composition teacher who taught you that “less is more,” when it comes to writing? An abundance of words does not make our message stronger, but only weakens it, leading the reader to boredom, confusion, and frustration.

“Less is more” when it comes to writing. But “less is more” is also true when it comes to living. Often we think that “more is more”. If we just have more channels to watch, more games to go to, more money to spend, we will be happier. But can you really enjoy a hundred channels on TV? Do you really want to watch non stop basketball games on ESPN? Can a billionaire really enjoy spending a billion dollars?

A woman suffering from chronic illness once said, “When you have limited energy, you are much more careful with how you use it.” Perhaps those are words we could all benefit from. How can we use our time and resources more carefully? Perhaps if we start with God, He will help us to choose more wisely.

“Teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalm 90:12, NIV)

Pastor Gary

“Revelation” Bible Study Sunday
Evenings Feb 3rd - 24th 7:00 pm



“Sundae Sunday!” will start with a potluck meal following the service on February 3rd. Then sundaes will be served and the baskets will be awarded to the winners. Tickets for the baskets will be \$1.00 each, or 12 for \$10. The proceeds will go to the Northland's Rescue Mission in Grand Forks. Many thanks to Thrivent for seed money for this event. If you have items you would like to donate to the baskets, please contact Linda Graff.

February Beacons

Pastor Gary and Linda are seeking the assistance of the February Beacons to serve the potluck lunch for Sundae Sunday, February 3rd. If you are a February Beacon and are available to help, please let Pastor or Linda know.




Congratulations

To Andy and Patty Olson on the birth of their son Maverick Charles. He joins siblings Hunter, Ashtin, Daisy, and Lincoln.

Women of Bethany

The WELCA meeting this month will be February 20th. The board meeting is at 6:30 pm and the general meeting is at 7:00 pm. All confirmed women of Bethany are invited to join us!


“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.”
1 Corinthians 13:13

“WITNESSES” Paraphrase Theater

Johnathan Swenson will present a series of “eyewitness accounts” to the person of Jesus Christ. These first person mini plays will bring the gospel to life. Mr. Swenson is a trained actor in theater and music and an ordained minister. He has been a keynote presenter at over four hundred conferences and church gatherings. His unique combination of artist and theologian allows him to have a powerful impact on audiences of all ages. The date is Wednesday February 6th, 7:00 pm, Zion Lutheran Church, Thief River Falls. The cost free! This will be our confirmation class for Wednesday Feb. 6th. We will leave from the church at 6:00 pm. Additional drivers are needed. Sponsored by the Thief River Falls Lutheran Church Conference. Members of congregation are invited to join us. Kathy Murphy (253-4458) has volunteered to organize rides.

Mary Circle

Mary circle will not be meeting February 6th but instead will be attending Johnathan Swenson's "WITNESS" paraphrase theater that evening, 7:00 pm, at Zion Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls. If you would like to attend, please let Kathy Murphy (253-4458) know and meet at Bethany at 6:00 pm to ride share.

Prayers for Healing

Prayers for Healing will be offered during communion on February 17th. As you are communing, either hand the pastor a note or motion with your hand that you wish to have prayers for yourself or a loved one. Pastor and his assistant will lay their hands on your shoulder and offer prayers for you at that time.

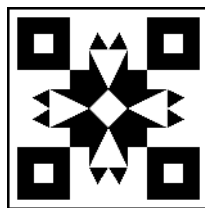


Youth Serve At Care And Share

Our youth will be serving a meal at the Care and Share homeless shelter in Crookston on Wednesday, February 20th. This will take the place of our regular confirmation class and youth will get an “extra credit” point for participating. The meal will be prepared by the youth after school and then taken to Crookston to be served to the residents. Should last from about 3:00 pm – 7:00 pm. During the month of February a box will be in the parish hall for “personal items” collected for the residents. Needed are items such as deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths and towels, diapers size 4-5, men's boxers, and socks. Thanks to Thrivent Action Teams for seed money for this event.

Youth Ski Trip

The Youth Group will be skiing at Buena Vista on Friday, March 1st right after school until it closes at 9:00 pm. There will be a cost to attend. More information coming soon. Questions can be directed to Jenny Schmitz and Hannah Seeger.



Quilting

Come join the fun! Winter quilting Wednesdays beginning at 9:30 am. You don't have to know how to quilt as we need people to tie knots, thread needles, cut fabric and enjoy the day with the group! Lunch included. We will meet each Wednesday EXCEPT the week of circle when we will meet on Monday at 9:30 am (Feb 4th).

february BIRTHDAYS

- 1 – Kurt Casavan
Keith Herberg
- 2 – Aleshia Lagerstrom
Steve Seeger
Perry Duden
- 3 – Pete Tydlacka
- 6 – Cathy Gilleland
- 7 – Nancy Haglund
- 8 – Lisa Reich
- 9 – Sadie Bernier
Steve Philipp
- 10 – Marne Thompson
- 11 – LeAnn Ellefson
LeRoy Hoffman
- 14 – Fern Brevik
- 16 – Keith Leines
- 17 – Lacie Hovland
- 18 – Alysa Gums
Parker Holt
- 19 – Scott Herberg
Arizona Hams
- 20 – Chelsey Pletschett
Carolyn Roff
- 22 – Kole Kleven
Peter Tydlacka
Amber Danielson
- 25 – Michael Halvorson
- 26 – Kale Miller
Brett Piersol
- 27 – Linda Johnston

february ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Wes & Sherry Largis
- 6 – Aaron & Ashley Gagner
- 23 – Dale & Mary Knutson
- 24 – Knute & Sue Knutson
Lynn & Nancy Seeger



Church Council Members

Thanks to outgoing council members Gerald Bjorgan, Lorri Ann Hartel, Darold Johnston, Ann Piersol, and Jenny Schmitz. Thanks to new council members Kevin Harming, Cheryl Matzke, Lacie Hovland, Brook Rufsvold, and Shellby Baird and Mariah Peterson (who will be sharing a Youth Representative position).

Installation of Council and WELCA Officers

During the worship service on February 10th, we will have an installation and prayers for our new church council, as well as the new WELCA Officers.



1st Communion Classes

Communion classes for fifth and sixth graders will start Feb. 24th at 9:00 am (in place of Sunday school) and continue through March 24th. 1st communion for these young people will be celebrated on April 7th at 10:00 am.



**Lent Starts March 6th
Easter is April 21st**



Notes were recently sent out to parents of confirmation students regarding their youth's progress in confirmation. Please take advantage of Wednesday evening worship services if your young person is behind in requirements. Confirmation is tentatively scheduled for May 5th at 10:00 am.

No Confirmation

Please note there will be no confirmation on February 13th due to parent/teacher conferences at the school.



Conference Gathering

On Thursday evening at 7:00 pm on February 28th at Zion Lutheran in Thief River Falls, we will have the annual spring gathering of our Thief River Falls Conference. We will hear from the Bishop and his staff about how things are going in the Northwestern Minnesota Synod. A representative of Pathways Bible Camps will give us a report on how things are going there. This will be a good time to meet people from other churches and come up with ideas for the coming year. This year's "Witnesses!" event (see above) is an example of area churches networking together to provide good ministry to the people of our area. Mainly for pastor and church council but others are welcome to attend too.

Respite Care Support Group

Meets February 14th at 6:30 pm at Bethany. Call Julie Praska-Moser of Lutheran Social Services for more information (218-686-6228).



We now have a box in the parish hall for donations to our local Red Lake Falls Food Shelf. Items they are looking for include the following: paper towels, toilet paper, kleenex, tooth paste, toothbrushes, deodorant, laundry soap, dish soap, hand soap, shampoo and conditioner.

The Red Lake Falls Food Shelf 2018 Review

This year the Red Lake Falls Food Shelf served a total of 1,136 people giving out 19,472.22 lbs. of food, 4,678.6 lbs. of produce, and 527 vouchers. A voucher is worth \$10 that the customer uses to purchase perishable food items or fresh fruits and vegetables at a local grocery store, either Brent's Fresh Foods in Red Lake Falls or D&R in Oklee.

Last year the Red Lake Falls Food Shelf served a total of 1,168 people giving out 19,702.96 lbs. of food, 5,963.75 lbs. of produce, and 552 vouchers.

We would like to thank all who donated food/grocery/clothing items, produce, grocery/birthday bags, and/or monetary donations throughout last year. All of your prayers and support are greatly appreciated! Thank you for seeing Jesus in those in need! May God bless you abundantly for your generosity!

The Red Lake Falls Food Shelf





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
 (gbjorgan@gvtel.com)
 Linda Hoffman – 253-2256
 (lhoffman@gvtel.com)



**Council (Unofficial) Minutes
 Bethany Lutheran Council
 Minutes from January 9, 2019**

In Attendance: Pastor Gary Graff, Keith Leines, Gerald Bjorgen, Ann Piersol, Jenny Schmitz, Ed Dahle, Cristen Gums, Sue Knutson and Mike Seeger

Call to Order: Keith L. called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and Pastor Graff opened with prayer and devotions.

Minutes: The December minutes were reviewed. Motion by Jenny to approve the minutes after taking out the phrase “and switched over” in regard to natural gas. Seconded by Mike, motion carried.

Treasurer’s Report: Motion by Gerald to approve treasurer’s report including checks 11296-11308 and debit card transactions, second by Mike, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Pastor will begin a bible study on Revelation starting 1/13/19 at 7:00 p.m. Confirmation

reports were sent to parents with update on fulfillment of requirements. Confirmation is tentatively set for May 5th. With a smaller class he’s having trouble getting volunteers to serve snack and provide second adult supervision. A mass email was sent to the congregation with a good response. Working on getting 5th and 6th grade first communion classes started and date set for first communion. Linda Johnston, Hannah Seeger and Alison Lacina are taking over 7th and 8th grade Sunday School class. The four month unit Pastor did on Sexuality and Dating went well. It was noted by a parent volunteer that the material used is rather dated although the topics presented are still relevant. Pastor will look at what updated curriculum may be available for this topic. Sundaes Sunday is being planned for 2/3/19. Basket raffle and meal are being planned with proceeds going to the Northland’s Rescue Mission in Grand Forks. Thrivent Action Team is helping with this. Also a Thrivent Action Team is being used for the youth group to prepare and serve a meal at the Care and Share in Crookston as well as provide personal hygiene products to the residents.

Items for Discussion: Pastor shared a Save the Date with council members. Conference two will be presenting “Witnesses” presented by Jonathan Swenson of Paraphrase Theatre on February 6, 2019. Great opportunity to hear a good presenter. They are looking for congregations in conference two to contribute to the cost of bringing the speaker in. Motion by Sue to donate \$200.00 benevolence to offset cost of event, second by Mike, motion carried.

Old Business:
Natural Gas Changeover: Has not been done yet. Keith L. has contact Dean Adams to do this and will be following up with him. Propane tank is getting dangerously low so may need a partial fill. Keith will monitor.

Replacement Council Members: Lacie Hovland, Brooke Rufsvold and Kevin Harmoning have all agreed to have names on the ballot. We also have two youth who are willing to run and would collectively hold one position. They are Mariah Peterson and Shellby Baird. We still need one more name for the ballot.

New Business
Budget: Sue Knutson reviewed the 2018 budget and the proposed 2019 budget. The Trustees recently met and made a proposed 2019 budget which was presented and discussed. A motion to recommend budget as presented to the congregation at the annual meeting was made by Jenny and seconded by Cristin, motion carried. In discussing budget the council discussed church secretary position. A motion was made by Mike to give a 3% increase to this position for 2019. Second by Ed, motion carried.

Benevolence: January Benevolence was discussed. Sue motioned to donate 200.00 to conference two for Witnesses Event, \$500.00 to LSS Senior Meal Site in Red Lake Falls and \$300.00 to Violence Intervention Project in Thief River Falls. Second by Ann, motion carried.

Business Items for Annual Meeting: Get committee reports to Destiny as soon as possible.

Offering Counters:
 January 13, 2019: Keith and Gerald
 January 20, 2019: Mike and Jenny
 January 27, 2019: Sue and Allen
 February 3, 2019: Keith and Gerald
 February 10, 2019: Cristin and Sue

Pastor thanked outgoing council members for sharing their time and talents.

Meeting adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Jenny Schmitz.