

Bethany Lutheran Church Red Lake Falls MN

Phone: 218-253-2589

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Bethany Lutheran Church

February Newsletter

Annual Meeting

Rescheduled for Feb. 7th 11:00 AM immediately after worship (hopefully "in person"). This will be an "in person" meeting (in the sanctuary) as well as "virtual" meeting for those who wish to follow on their computer or cell phone. Items of discussion will include the budget, reports from various committees, and election of council members.

Next fall we will look at adopting a new constitution. Our current church constitution is a patchwork of adaptations and amendments accumulated over the years and does not read very well. The new constitution has a number of provisions that might be very helpful to us, for example, it would allow us (in consultation with the Bishop) to call or share a non Lutheran pastor with another church that we currently in pulpit and altar fellowship with. These are denominations that have so much in common with us, that it seems appropriate, with some stipulations for the sake of good order, to share pastors with. This would include the Presbyterians, Methodists, Episcopalians, United Church of Christ, and few others. Trinity Lutheran in Crookston, recently shared a Lutheran pastor with the Presbyterian Church in their community. Our Savior's of TRF currently has a Presbyterian pastor as their full time pastor. This is a wonderful sharing that almost took place five hundred years ago during the reformation and did often take place on the American frontier in the 1800's. This could lend itself very well to your call of a new pastor!

Worship Services

Worship will be both "in person" and "virtual" as long as the Covid count for our county remains low. The virtual service will be

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ch website and Facebook page listed

Newsletter PDFs



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February 2020
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AUTOMATIC OFFERING

February Birthdays

- 1 – Kurt Casavan, Keith Herberg
- 2 – Aleshia Lagerstrom, Steve Seeger, Perry Duden

below. The "in person" service will be at 10 AM on Sunday. The service will be indoors and you will need to wear a mask, maintain social distancing, and keep visiting to the minimum. Please keep your church in your prayers during this difficult time in our life together. Communion will be celebrated on February 7th.

Lent

Lenten Worship will begin on February 17th at 6:30 pm. This will be at the church as well as on the church website and Facebook page.

Prayers for our Nation

We are still a nation filled with lots of sick and grieving people. Here is a good prayer from our hymnal that seems appropriate for times like this.

Almighty God, you have given us this good land as our heritage. Make us always remember your generosity and constantly do your will. Bless our land with honesty in the workplace, truth in education, and honor in daily life. Save us from violence, discord, and confusion; from pride and arrogance; and from every evil course of action. When times are prosperous, let our hearts be thankful; and in troubled times, do not let our trust in you fail. We pray in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

2021 Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes for the coming year will be on a table in alphabetical order in the north entryway.

Confirmation Class

"In person" confirmation at 3 pm on Wednesdays. If youth are unable to attend the Wed "in person" class they can attend the "virtual" session on Thursday evenings at 6 pm. There will be no confirmation on Feb 10th and 11th due to parent teacher conferences.

Sunday School

We are still not meeting "in person" but will be as soon as conditions permit.

Men's and Women's Bible study

We are currently studying the Old Testament book of Genesis.

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3 – Pete Tydlacka
 7 – Nancy Haglund
 8 – Lisa Reich
 9 – Steve Philipp
 10 – Marne Thompson
 11 – LeAnn Ellefson, LeRoy Hoffman
 14 – Fern Brevik
 16 – Keith Leines
 17 – Lacie Hovland
 18 – Alys 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

Books for this study can be picked up on the table in the North entryway. Women's Bible study is currently meeting at 9:00 am on Wednesdays. Men's Bible study is meeting at 9:00 am on Thursdays. Both are virtual. If you wish to join us, email the church for an electronic invite. We would love to have new participants!

Council

New council members are needed as 6 of the current members are going off. If you are interested in serving please let Pastor Graff know before the annual meeting on February 7th.

Facebook Devotional - "Faith, Facts, and Love"

"After that, he (Jesus) appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep." (1 Corinthians 15:6, NIV)

I love how Bishop Bill Tesch of the Northwestern Minn Synod described the church we should strive to be. A church bound to faith, facts, and love. Doesn't that sound like a great set of goals to pursue?

Sometimes we think that faith and facts are opposites. Not so according to the Bible!

Faith and facts go hand and hand. It is a fact that Jesus rose from the dead and appeared to more than five hundred witnesses (1 Corinthians 15)! It is a fact that God delivered the whole nation of Israel from slavery in Egypt (Exodus 13:14). It is a fact that several centuries later, that same God delivered the Jewish people from seventy years of bondage in the land of Babylon (Jeremiah 37:17).

And what of your story of faith? Isn't it a fact that God has called, and gathered you into his flock of forgiven sinners? Is it not a fact that he has blessed you with the gift of life everlasting? Is it not a fact that he has blessed each of us with his spirit to help and guide us in times of trouble? Fact, fact, fact and more facts, that lead us not away from faith, but deeper into faith. Faith and love, since all of God's acts of deliverance are also acts (or facts) of great love.

Faith and facts go hand and hand and if we pursue faith, facts, and love, we shall never be disappointed!

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lead us into love and a deeper

relationship with the Lord, what does a disregard for facts and faith lead us into? In what ways are you pursuing faith, facts, and love?

Let us pray: Dear God, enable us to discern the true voice of your spirit that leads us ever deeper into faith, facts, and love. A love for you and for all people. Amen.

****NOTE** Year end offering statements are in your box. If you want you can request to have them mailed to you. --**

Additional Information

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.

Like Us on Facebook

We now have a new Facebook Page for Bethany Lutheran Church! The quickest way to get to us is by clicking on the link on the homepage of our website. Like our Page for updates and events happening at our church!

Amazon Smile

You can now donate to Bethany Lutheran Church using Amazon Smile. Be sure you are on the Amazon Smile website (smile.amazon.com) and make your regular purchases. A portion of the sale will be donated directly to Bethany.

Local Food Shelf

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

RSVP Groceries to Go Program

The RSVP Groceries to Go Program is recruiting volunteers to assist with grocery shopping for qualified seniors. If you like to shop and are willing to provide a little companionship to a homebound senior, this may be the volunteer position for you. All volunteers will receive training prior to being matched with a client. If you are interested in being a RSVP Groceries to Go volunteer, or you need assistance with grocery shopping or know of someone who needs assistance, call RSVP at 281-8288, or tsykes@umn.edu.

RSVP Handyman Program

The RSVP Handyman Program helps homeowners, age 60+ by providing men or women volunteers to perform minor home maintenance work. RSVP handymen are skilled and trained. Background checks are performed on all volunteers. Volunteers may install grab bars, replace light bulbs, fix leaky faucets, install smoke alarms, etc. Clients do not pay for the labor, only for the needed materials. If you are in need of a Handyman, or would like to volunteer as one, please call RSVP at 281-8288, or tsykes@umn.edu.

Electronic Newsletter

Want this newsletter sent to you via email? Zap us an email stating so at
bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com.

Please include the above address in your email address book or your spam filter will automatically “bump” our mailings into your garbage folder.

