



Bethany Lutheran Church

January 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



You ever cook in a crock pot? A crock pot is a “slow cooker” and that’s what the book of Revelation is like. It’s a mixture of ideas that were very popular around the time of Jesus and a hundred and some years before Jesus. Ideas like the resurrection of dead, a divine judgement after death, a messiah who is both high priest and king, the idea of the world being recreated and made new, the idea of a dark anti-God figure at war with God and trying to enslave all humanity. All of these ideas received little or no attention in the Old Testament, but came to full flowering in the New Testament. And how did that happen? Through a several century period of theological reflection in a type of literature known as “apocalyptic” literature. The books written between the writing of the Old and New Testaments are often filled with these ideas and look and sound very much like the book of Revelation. These “between the testaments” books prepared the world for Jesus and the message he would preach. Come join us for a Bible study exploring the book of Revelation and learn how God was at work in the world, long before the book of Revelation was written, preparing the world for Jesus and his message. The study will be held on Sunday evenings beginning January 13th at 7:00 pm.

Pastor Gary Graff

Christmas Decoration Clean Up

Please join the January Beacons in taking down the Christmas decorations in the church Sunday, January 6th after worship.



Thank you to the Bethany Congregation for the Christmas cards, gifts, and gift of money. Pastor Gary and Linda Graff.

Thank you to Destiny Kuznia and her helpers for the "Jesus is the Reason" kids Christmas fun night! The children had fun and learned a lot about the “reason for the season”.

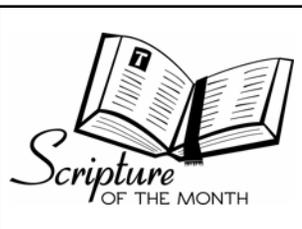


Blood Drive

God’s love has produced many miracles, large and small. One of those is the life sustaining power of blood. We have the ability to share this miracle of life; to pass it along to others. The opportunity to share your healthy blood with those less fortunate will be on January 10th from noon - 6:00 p.m. and Friday January 11th from 7:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. at Bethany Lutheran. Please call Jenny Schmitz at 253-2914 to schedule your appointment.

Pennies For The Pig

Our most recent purchase with “pennies for the pig” was two goats valued at \$200. The goats will be given to a needy farmer in Africa, Asia, or South America. Way to go children of Bethany!



“The name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe.”

Proverbs 18:10



Bible Study on "Revelation"

Starting January 13th 7:00pm, a six week Bible study on the book of Revelation. We won't cover everything in this large and complicated book, but we will look at the high points. The book of Revelation can be very intimidating due to its strange imagery and complicated structure. Adding to these feelings of uncertainty, are the large number of interpretations that have proven false over the centuries. Whole denominations have trusted in such interpretations only to discover that the date of Jesus' return is not as easily predicted as they thought. In our study we'll look at the book of Revelation from a different perspective, studying not just what Revelation means for us today, but also what it meant to the people of 2000 years ago when it was written. Come join us on Sunday evenings at 7:00 pm starting January 13th. The study will last about one hour.

Women's Bible Study

Women's Bible Study will not meet the Wednesday after New Years and will resume January 9th.

Circle Groups

The Mary and Dorcas circle Bible study groups will meet January 9th instead of January 2nd. Dorcas is at 9:30am and Mary is at 7:00pm.



Confirmation Parents

Please sign up to help supervise confirmation classes. We need someone most of the Wednesdays in the new year. Contact us at bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com with any dates you are available.



We will be meeting for a potluck lunch and our annual meeting on Sunday January 20th following worship. Council committee chair people please get your reports into Destiny as soon as possible. In the event of bad weather, we will have the meeting the following Sunday, January 27th.



Congratulations

To Aaron and Ashley Gagner on the birth of their son Ames Daniel, born December 16th. He joins big brother Aadin and big sister Adley.



The WELCA meeting in January will be January 16th. The board meeting is at 6:30 pm and the general meeting is at 7:00 pm.

Thrivent Choice Dollars

Thanks to Thrivent for donating \$77 in "Choice Dollars" this month in behalf of the following members. Gary and Linda Graff, Irene Oland, Richard and Teresa Stephens.

New Council Members Needed

Church council is looking for volunteers to fill positions on our church board. Call President Allen Bertilrud at 253-4236 or Pastor Gary Graff if interested in serving.



- 1 – Bobbi Narlock
- 3 – Paula Miller
- 4 – Marion Bjorgan
Brett Rewertz
- 5 – Mike Lacina
- 6 – Shannon Vraa
- 8 – Emily Johnson
Shandi Nelson
- 9 – Elliot Kuznia
- 10 – Gemma Hovland
Mikayla Tabert
Halle Seeger
- 11 – Will Duden
Ethan Johnson
- 13 – Havie Lee
Bjorn Carlson
- 15 – Tammy Larson
Debra Piche
- 17 – Aiden Hovland
- 18 – Olivia Doyle
Tony Knutson
- 19 – Vicki Guillemette
Dano Stephens
- 22 – Jessica Roff
- 24 – Lorraine Miller
- 28 – Austin Klipping
Isiah Olson
Sienna Olson
Katrina Olson
- 31 – Dawn Swenson



- 10 – Arick & Amy Broden
- 11 – Roger & Cindy Dupont
- 19 – Terry & Heidi Rewertz
- 29 – Kevin & Michelle Harmoning

Benefit for Rochelle Chaput

There will be a benefit meal, silent auction, and live auction for Rochelle Chaput who has been receiving treatments for Snapping Scapula Syndrome. The family has made over 50 trips to Rochester to the Mayo Clinic for her treatment and she still has many trips ahead of her. The Benefit will be held on Saturday, January 26th at the American Legion in Red Lake Falls with the free-will offering meal beginning at 5:00 pm. If anyone would like to donate an item for the silent or live auction, please contact Steve Phillion at 218-253-2499 or sphillion@rlfedu.org. Rochelle's grandparents are Jacob and Barb DeHaan of Red Lake Falls.

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.

Grief Support in 2019

Hospice of the Red River Valley offers several grief support services including individual support through home or office visits and calls, support groups, youth grief support, and a grief support resource library that houses topics on caregiving, death and dying, chronic illness, hospice care, dementia, suicide, grief and loss, pet loss, parental loss, children and teen literature, rituals and ceremonies, and inspirational and motivational stories. Support groups include "Grief Journeys for Adults," "Grief Journeys for Widows," "Grief Journeys for Men," and "Pregnancy and Infant Loss." For a schedule of these meetings and other grief support events visit www.hrrv.org or call (800) 237-4629.



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
(gjbjorgan@gvtel.com)

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

Electronic Newsletter

Want this newsletter sent to you via email? Zap us an email stating so at bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com. Also, please include the above address in your email address book or your spam filter (especially the Garden Valley one) will automatically "bump" our mailings into your garbage folder. Thanks!



Council (Unofficial) Minutes Bethany Lutheran Council Minutes from December 12, 2018

In Attendance: Pastor Gary Graff, Allen Bertilrud, Gerald Bjorgen, Darold Johnston, Ann Piersol, Jenny Schmitz, Ed Dahle, Cristen Gums, Sherry Largis

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

Minutes: The October minutes were reviewed. Motion by Jenny to approve the October minutes as written. Seconded by Darold motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Sherry to approve treasurer's report and checks 11260-11295, second by Cristen, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Assisted with three funerals for First Presbyterian Church this fall. There's been only one funeral in 2018 at Bethany. Pastor has done 8 weddings this year. Now using Symbis pre-marital counseling which Pastor is certified to administer. Continuing Ed topics participated in deal with increased sensitivity and understanding of diverse cultures. Confirmation is one session of 7th and 8th combined which is going well. November council meeting was cancelled due to members unable to attend. Evening in Paris was a huge success which raised over \$3000.00 for the Sonshine Ministry. Our youth group did a great job helping with this. Walk Through Bethany was held at Bethany showcasing manger scenes. Special music provided by Rachel Largis. Sunday school program is this Sunday with meal after by youth

group. Christmas for Kids night is being planned at Bethany on December 23, 2018. Pastor will be holding a class this winter on the book of Revelation.

Items for Discussion: Discussion on stewardship and how to better reach out to people. Try encourage people to sign up for auto payment. Also, discussion on how to get people more involved and back to attending church. Discussed sending out short text messages once in a while with upcoming activities (i.e Lighthouse will be performing this week, communion this week). Also discussed having one Wednesday night per month as family worship and have a meal. This was done a few years back and was well received.

Old Business:

Benevolence: Discussion about benevolence and other ways that we are doing this such as Sonshine ministries, use of our building, use of our Pastor, and quilts just to name a few. Motion by Jenny to table the benevolence of \$1000.00 for this month due to current financial status.

New Business

Natural Gas: We are now signed up and switched over.

Replacement Council Members:

There are five member going off council. Discussion on recruitment of new members and desire to have recent confirmed student members on the council. Members will reach out to others and ask if they are interested in serving our church in this capacity.

Offering Counters:

December 16, 2018: Sherry and Gerald
December 23, 2018: Jenny and Darold
December 30, 2018: Allen and Gerald
January 6, 2019: Darold and Cristin
January 13, 2019: Ed and Gerald

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Jenny Schmitz.

Automatic Offering

Why Should I Sign Up?

Convenience - No need to write checks or remember to grab an envelope before heading to church.

Saves Money - Less check blanks to buy, no bank or ATM fees.

Support for Your Church - We receive your offering no matter if you're at the lake, home with sick kids, away visiting family, or on a business trip or vacation.

Stability - We can better budget our finances when we can rely on a stable, regular income base.

You're Still in Control - Cancel or change your offering amount or withdrawal date/s at any time.

It's Easy! - Just fill out the form and we do the rest.

"Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

- 2 Corinthians 9:6-8