



Bethany Lutheran Church

July 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

How and When? Or Who and Why?

“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Gen. 1:1.

Almost anyone whose been to Sunday school knows the story of God creating the world. They also know of the conflict between science and religion regarding this story. The Bible says it took only seven days to the create the world, but science says it took hundreds of millions of years. Which one is right and which one is wrong?

What if they could both be right? What if the Bible is more concerned with “who made us” and “why we were made”, and science is more concerned with the “how and when” of creation?

When it comes to the “how and when” of creation, science goes into a lot of detail. Science likes to deal with the “process” and “formula” of creation. Science likes to look at the details of things like DNA and the movement of the earth's crust to create continents, volcanoes, and mountain ranges. Science says, “In the beginning you were only one tiny microscopic cell. This is HOW you were made.”

But what is the Genesis story concerned with? I think it is concerned with WHO made us and WHY we were made.

In the first chapter of Genesis, we hear a description of WHY God made human beings.

“God blessed them (people) and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”” (Genesis 1:28, NIV)

The Bible describes people as co-creators with God and caretakers of creation. These are all statements of faith. Descriptions that deal with our “reason” for being here.

No scientist can tell you “why” we were created. They simply are not equipped to deal with questions about the meaning and purpose of life. Scientific books are a lot like cook books. “Mix one teaspoon of yeast with three cups of flour and bake 375 degrees for one hour.” Just the facts, nothing more.

The Bible however is always telling us about the meaning of life and our purpose for being here. We were created because God delights in making things (Psalm 104:31). We were created because God likes company (James 2:23). We were created to give praise to God for making us and all living things (Psalm 92:4-5)! We have a purpose and the Bible is always reminding us of it!

The Bible and science, they both can be true, but in different ways. The Bible is true when it come to faith. Science is true when it comes to things that can be measured, weighed, and observed. Science is kind of like a cook book, while the Bible is often like poetry. One describes the “process” of our being made, while the other describes our “reason” for being made. Both can be true in their own special way. Both can help us understand more deeply the God who made us and loves us.

Pastor Gary

Thank You

To Allen and Sandy Bertilrud for representing us at our Synod Assembly, June 8th and 9th. Thank you to Kevin Reich for being our supply preacher on June 24th and again on July 29th!

VERSE
of the
MONTH

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding”

Proverbs 3:5

Weddings

Congratulations to Amanda Myhre and Michael Dailing who were wed June 9th in Horace ND, with Pastor Gary officiating.

On July 21st Krystyna Hicks and Charles Beasor will be getting married at Bethany. Pastor Graff will be on vacation, but Pastor Carl Hanson from Thief River Falls will be the officiant. Congratulation to Krystyna and Charles.

Vacation Bible School

VBS will be from July 9th to the 12th from 5:30 pm till 7:30 pm. We will have a supper together at 5:30 followed by opening singing, worship, Bible story, games, and crafts. We still have a need for helpers so call Peggy Miller (218-253-4337) or Linda Johnston (218-253-2982) if you would like to help out in some way.

This year's VBS will feature a scuba diving under the sea type setting. It's called "A Deep Bible Adventure!" Open to all children ages 4 years old to 5th grade (do not need to be a member of Bethany).

Youth Group

Thanks to Jenny Schmitz and Nancy Hofstad for chaperoning our kids to the Houston Youth Gathering. Thanks also to Steve Phillion who was the speaker at our confirmation banquet this year. Steve donated to \$20 to each youth on the trip to use as "mission dollars" for someone or some need that the kids found in need while on their trip. It will be interesting to hear how the spirit led them to be generous!

Also, a big thank you to the Bethany Lutheran congregation for so generously supporting our youth in this undertaking.

While in Houston, our youth will be worshiping, singing with some really great worship bands, listening to various speakers, and working in a giant all Houston-wide service project. Should be lots of fun and very challenging! \$500 of our June

Benevolence will be sent along with the youth for a Sunday morning offering which will be equally divided between the hosting "Texas Louisiana Synod" (which is still recovering from hurricane damage from last year), "Prison Congregations of America" an organization that starts ecumenical congregations in prisons throughout the country, and "Global Mission" which aids Lutheran churches not in the United States.

Just One Scripture Lesson!

Starting in July, we are going to try a little experiment. Instead of having four scripture lessons to read each Sunday, we will be having just one, read by the pastor, immediately before the sermon. The idea is to give the lesson more of a connection to the preaching, and not overload our minds with too many diverse Bible passages that often seem to have little connection to the preaching theme or theme of the day. In other words, it should help us connect the scripture lesson and the sermon a little better.

Surveys!

We sent out a survey in the June Newsletter and so far have gotten "zero" responses. Folks this is your chance to give us some meaningful feedback. Please take the time to fill one out. Surveys can be mailed in, dropped off on the table by the door to the sanctuary, or filled out on-line via our Web site. We've included one in this month's newsletter. Your pastor is particularly interested in adult classes Bethany should offer in the fall, and new hymns we should learn. We are also interested in how we might make our Beacons program more effective.

Beacons

We've been having some trouble getting volunteers lately. Why?

One theory has to do with scheduling. People are just plain busy. They work on the weekends, and all week long. There is no "regular schedule," no "rest time," or "down time" for anything including the church.

Celebrate

July Birthdays

- 2 – Ella Sletten
- 4 – Kelsey Stephens
- 5 – Steve Klipping
- 6 – Joanne Dahle
- 7 – Brady Gums
- 8 – Eric Johnson
- 9 – Nicholas Piersol, Hailey Slover
- 10 – Blake Audette
- 11 – Lori Vigstol
- 12 – Alek Lacina, Kevin Reich
- 14 – Brook Rufsvold, Spencer Sundberg
- 15 – John Columbus, D'Anne Johnson, Lane Kleven
- 16 – Steve Hams, Brad Swenson
- 17 – Maurice Bjorgan, John Klein
- 18 – Branden Narlock
- 19 – Sam Brule
- 20 – Dale Knutson, Ann Piersol
- 21 – Carson Gagner
- 23 – Paul Klein, Carly Williams
- 24 – Chris Van Emmerik
- 25 – Jaclyn Fering, Brady Gums
- 26 – Dean Hartel, Mason Johnson
- 27 – Todd Doyle
- 28 – Heidi Matzke, Erika Roff
- 29 – Erwin Wetenkamp
- 30 – Tom Hovland, Cheryl Matzke, Andy Olson
- 31 – Jesse Ellefson

July Anniversaries

- 1 – Jim & Bev Gilbertson
- 3 – Perry & Laurie Duden
- 8 – Dean & Lorri Ann Hartel
- 16 – John & Sandy Klein
- 19 – Fred & Tandra Landman
- 24 – Tim & Peggy Nord
- 30 – Jerod & Wanda Olson

A second theory has to do with communication. We have become very comfortable with emails, text messages, and voice mail. We have also become very comfortable with ignoring such messages! This means our Beacon leaders get very frustrated leaving message after message with people who never call back! If someone calls you and they leave a message, please call back!

A third theory has to do with church affiliation. More and more people get their religion from the internet or TV. The local church just isn't necessary. It's not that people aren't "spiritual", they're just not "religious".

Any ideas for countering these trends? Fill out the survey and let us know.

Women of Bethany

Our women of Bethany "Mystery Tour" will be Saturday July 7th! We will be meeting at Bethany at 11:00 am. Bring a sack lunch for yourself, put on a comfy pair of shoes, and come join us! There will be no board meeting or general meeting in July, no circle meetings in July or August.

Midweek Worship

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

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 Trip
- 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

Thrivent Choice Dollars

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

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

(gbjorgan@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.

Council (Unofficial) Minutes Bethany Lutheran Council Minutes from June 13, 2018

In Attendance: Pastor Gary Graff, Allen Bertilrud, Gerald Bjorgen, Darold Johnston, Ann Piersol, Jenny Schmitz, Keith Leines, Mike Seeger, Ed Dahle

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

Minutes: The May minutes were reviewed. Motion by Ann to approve the May minutes as written. Seconded by Mike motion carried.

Treasurer's Report: Motion by Jenny to approve treasurer's report, second by Mike, motion carried.

Pastors Report: Thanks to Allen and Sandy Bertilrud for attending the Synod Assembly. Pastor presided over the Amanda Myhre and Michael Dailing wedding last weekend in Horace. Many Red Lake Falls people and Bethany friends were in attendance. Vacation Bible school is planned for July 9-12. Helpers are still needed. Contact Peggy Miller or Linda Johnston for more information. Thanks to Jim and Harvey for keeping the lawn up and also to Bruce Piersol and Darold Johnston who have also been helping. This Sunday will be "Send Off" Sunday for our youth going to the Gathering in Houston Texas. We will have special prayers and sermon tailored to the occasion. We are very thankful for our youth and leaders for their hard work on this very ambitious project. Lighthouse will be leading us in songs that will be sung at the Gathering. Thank you to all who cleaned up the church on "Church Clean Up Sunday". It worked wonderfully well! We got the windows washed, pews straightened and got rid of one pickup load of junk to the junkyard. Thanks to all who attended and worked so hard.

Old Business: Handicap parking sign needs to be put up. Continue to work on choir and song leaders. Interior Committee will continue to research soundboard options for the Parish Hall. Types and prices will be explored. Roller for the lawn will be dropped off at church soon.

New Business

Benevolence: Motion by Mike second by Darold to donate \$500.00 to the Seminary Scholarship and \$500.00 for special offering at the ELCA Youth Gathering for the June Benevolence. Motion carried.

Natural Gas: We are now signed up to be connected sometime this summer.

Vacation: Pastor Graff will be on vacation June 21-28. Kevin Reich will

be our supply preacher. Pastor Carl Hanson will be officiating at the wedding for Krystina Hicks and her fiancé while pastor is on vacation.

Parsonage Committee: No longer need an egress window in the basement. Would like to look at asphalt or cement on the parsonage driveway or new lighting in the basement. Pastor will get estimates for both and the parsonage committee will review and make recommendations. Pastor also bought a new faucet and will install himself. Also, on whirly bird type vent on the roof needs to be replaced. Pastor will check with Scott Larson for this.

Beacons Duties: Beacon leaders are having trouble filling the Sunday duties each month. Discussion on

possible changes/training needed. Council will continue to explore ways to improve this process.

Other: Open discussion on weekly scripture readings. Motion by Darold Second by Ann to have only one scripture reading each Sunday that pertains to the message. This will be a trial basis during the summer months. Motion Carried.

Offering Counters:

June 17: Allen and Jenny
June 24: Gerald and Ann
July 1: Keith and Darold
July 8: Ed and Gerald

Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Jenny Schmitz.

Bethany Lutheran Church 2018 Survey

1. What has helped your faith to grow?
2. What ministries at Bethany have been especially helpful to you?
3. What kind of fellowship events or classes would you like to attend at Bethany?
4. What can we do to improve our Beacons program?
5. What kind of outreach program would you like to participate in at Bethany?
6. Name a hymn you have sung from one of our hymnals that we do not know but should know and sing?
7. Any additional comments?