



# Bethany Lutheran Church

## September 2018 Newsletter

1315 6<sup>th</sup> 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



Needed: a tree that grows volunteers!

I am so thankful for all of you who help keep this church alive by donating your time, talent, and dollars so generously. A church is not a building but a collection of people who serve God by sharing their lives and resources in a spirit of faith and thanksgiving. Thank you for making Bethany such a community!

We do have a problem however, we keep running out of volunteers!

Whether it's teachers for Sunday School, or people to serve on church council, or people to serve communion, we keep running out of people!

I know first hand how busy life can be.

When I was a child, there was only one game per weekend and that was for the boy's high school basketball team, football team, or baseball team. That was all we had! Compare that with the schedules families maintain today.

In addition to this, we have mom and dads, working weekends, nights and holidays. When I was growing up, most moms did not work outside the home, and most dads worked only Monday

through Friday. Today the work schedule is all over the place.

The highway has also taken a bite out of our supply of volunteers. The interstate was new when I was young. Rarely did our family make a trip to Minneapolis or St. Paul. Now such trips are often monthly and even weekly.

All of this takes its toll on your local church which is constantly being forced to serve more people with fewer and fewer resources.

I wish there was a tree that would sprout volunteers, but no such luck! We have to make choices, and I hope that your local church will be at the top of your list. It needs to be there in order to keep you, your family, and your community healthy and strong. The next time someone from church calls you asking you to serve, think twice before you answer, or better yet, breathe a little prayer and ask God to help you answer faithfully.

Pastor Gary



## Smorgasbord

### *New Date for Smörgåsbord*

Smorgasbord has been moved to October 20th from 4:30-7:30 pm. Tickets will be \$15 for adults and \$5 for children 12 and under.



*“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters.”*

Colossians 3:23

## Weddings

Congratulations to Krystyna Hicks and Charles Beasor who were married here on July 21st. To Lindsey Seng and Brandon Eckstein who were married here on August 18th. To Michael Halvorson and Kristen Swanson who will be married here on September 1st.

## With Sympathy

Sympathy and Prayers for the family of Darlene Hall, whose funeral was August 17th and Ralph "Buck" Shepherd, whose funeral was August 18th.

## Thank You!

A big thank you to Harvey and Jim and their helpers, Darold Johnston and Bruce Piersol, for mowing the church lawn this summer! What a tremendous job!



### Midweek Worship

Midweek worship will begin on Wednesday evening starting Oct. 3rd at 6:30 pm and continue throughout the winter and spring. Midweek worship consists of opening and closing hymns with a message and prayers in the middle. Lasts about 30 minutes.

## Confirmation CLASSES

Confirmation begins Sept. 19th and is for grades 7th and 8th. The students will be combined into one class this year, and will meet from 3:15-4:00pm. We will have snacks as soon as the kids arrive from school.

We will have a meeting for parents on Sept 9th at 6:30 pm. We will organize our parent helper list and go over materials for our 7th and 8th grade Sunday school class on sexuality and dating.

Parent helpers for each Wednesday evening serve snacks and help manage the kids. Our church constitution requires at least two adults to oversee all youth events at the church.

Our Sunday school class on sexuality and dating is mostly about dating and making good choices, but also deals with topics such as date rape, and sexually transmitted diseases. Pastor Gary and Hannah Seeger will be teaching this class but could use at least one more adult for times when Hannah or pastor are unavailable to teach.

Confirmation students should begin working on their requirements as soon as possible. To be confirmed at Bethany, students need to attend at least 16 Sunday School sessions each year (32 total for two years), 16 sermon notes each year (32 total), as well as 2/3rds of our Wednesday evening class sessions. Sermon notes can be found on the mail box table in the parish hall.

## SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Arick Broden, Taye Reich
- 3 – Olivia Larson
- 5 – Jordan Johnson
- 6 – Shawn Lee, Sam Pahlen
- 7 – Sandra Klein
- 8 – Aaron Gagner, Shari Klein, Sue Knutson, Peggy Gervais
- 10 – VeAnn Wright
- 12 – Val Fering
- 13 – Laurie Duden, Dakota Erickson, Tim Hams
- 15 – Kevin Brevik, Neal Vraa
- 16 – Gabrielle Baird, Ryan Nelson
- 21 – Shelby Baird, Zadin Lallier, William Tydlacka
- 22 – Ethan Peterson
- 23 – Myron Cote, Scott Larson, Kelly Pahlen, Casey Vraa
- 24 – Lindsey Gagner, Hannah Nord
- 25 – Melissa Benoit, Lynnae Larson
- 27 – Nina Bakke
- 28 – John Murphy
- 29 – Sandy Bertilrud, Crystal Guenther
- 30 – Alexia Olson

## SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 1 – Tom & Lacie Hovland
- 7 – Reed & Nichole Engelstad
- 8 – Jayson & Melissa Sletten
- 9 – Jason & Cristin Gums
- 10 – Jarvis & Destiny Kuznia
- 13 – Clayton & Abby Leith
- 16 – David & Erica Johnston
- 18 – Chad & Tammy Larson
- 20 – Jon & Ashley Erickson  
Brad & Trish Seeger
- 23 – Chuck & Margie Flage
- 24 – Kurtis & LeAnn Ellefson
- 25 – Mike & Alison Lacina
- 30 – Dan & Melissa Benoit  
Dennis & Nancy Haglund



**First Day of Sunday School**

Sunday School will start Sept. 16th at 9:00 am, and is for children four years old (pre-k) to 8th grade. Sept 16th will also feature a presentation by our youth who attended the National Youth Gathering in Houston. The youth will serve a “brunch” meal after worship as a way of saying thanks to the congregation for all the support they received in achieving this goal.



**Men's Breakfast and Bible Study**

Men's Bible Study meets on Thursdays for breakfast at 7:30am followed by Bible study from 8 till 8:30 am. Starting date is Sept. 6th. All men are welcome!

**Women's Bible Study**

Women's Bible Study meets for breakfast on Wednesday mornings at 7:30 am. The Bible study begins at 8 and goes till 9:00 am. All women are invited.



**You are Hard to Contact!**

Please let us know what your preferred mode of contact is and how to get hold of you. Cell phone, land line, text, email, smoke signals, etc. Help keep our contact records up to date. Email us at [bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com), or leave a message on the answering machine.



The next meeting of WELCA is scheduled for September 19th. The board will meet at 6:30pm with the general meeting at 7:00pm. All Bethany women are invited!

The 31st Northwest MN Synodical Women's Organization Annual Convention will be held September 14-15, 2018 at Trinity Lutheran Church in Detroit Lakes, MN. This year we will be collecting fleece for our physical offering. The fleece we collect will go to the convention and will be made into blankets by Lutheran Campus and Outdoor Ministries. Fleece needs to be 2 1/4 yards in coordinating colors for blankets. Bring to Bethany by Sunday, September 9th. More information can be found on our Bethany website under WELCA.

The WELCA Conference 2 Fall Gathering will be October 6th, 2018 at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Thief River Falls, MN. The featured speaker will be Briana Ingraham from Red Lake Falls. She will be telling her story of how she came to Minnesota! LaVonne Forsberg will tell about the stained glass windows she designed at Redeemer Church. She also designed our windows at Bethany! There will also be special music.

For more information on any of these events, contact WELCA President Kathy Murphy at 253-4458.

**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



**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](mailto:bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com))
- Marion Bjorgan – 253-2710 ([gjbjorgan@gvtel.com](mailto:gjbjorgan@gvtel.com))
- Linda Hoffman – 253-2256 ([lhoffman@gvtel.com](mailto:lhoffman@gvtel.com))

**Electronic Newsletter**

Want this newsletter sent to you via email? Zap us an email stating so at [bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com](mailto: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**

No meeting was held in August.

**Bethany Lutheran Church Council Minutes - July 18, 2018**

Attended: Pastor Graff, Gerald, Darold, Sue, Cristin, Jenny, Lorri Ann

Call to order – Treasurer Sue K. called the meeting to order at 7:30 pm and Pastor Graff opened the meeting with Devotions.

Minutes – The minutes dated June 13, 2018 were reviewed. Motion by Jenny to approve the minutes, Darold seconded and the motion carried.

Treasurer’s report – Motion by Darold to approve check numbers 11209 - 11220, Gerald seconded the motion and it carried.

The Board of Education will be meeting in August.

Parsonage - The egress window will be put in soon. Pastor Graff will take care of this.

Interior Committee – Still working the panel situation. We are not quite sure which way to go and the cost.

Exterior Committee – the Handicap sign is in place.

Pastors Report – Pastor Graff thanked the crew who led Vacation Bible school this year. He also thanked Kevin R. for leading

service when he is on vacation. Bruce, Harvey and Jim have been taking care of the church lawn this summer. A huge thank you to them also. Pastor Graff noted our church credit card number was recently stolen by an individual from California. The card has been cancelled and new passwords will be created.

Old Business - None

New Business

Youth Update – Jenny gave an update to the council noting the trip to Houston was wonderful. All 14 kids were great! The music and message were fantastic. Our group had a lice incident which was taken care of by a professional but was quite costly. Jenny reviewed the expenses for lice treatment. Motion by Sue to reimburse Jenny and Nancy for their costs for lice check and treatment up to \$300.00, Darold seconded the motion and it carried. It was noted if the families have a hardship paying for lice checks and treatment, the Trustees will re-visit this.

Damaged office equipment – We lost our projector during our last storm. Sue will investigate the insurance for this as we have a minimum of 16 hours labor in fixing, etc. and the cost for the projector is approximately \$1300.00, Motion by Darold to purchase a new projector, second by Cristin and the motion carried.

Offering Counters:

- July 22 – Gerald Bjorgan, Jenny Schmitz
- July 29 – Darold Johnston & ?
- August 5 – ?
- August 12 – Sue Knutson, Lorri Ann Hartel

Lorri Ann put an email out to the church council requesting volunteers to count money.

The meeting was closed at 8:40 pm with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Lorri Ann Hartel, Secretary

# Puzzle!

Unscramble these biblical words and phrases, which all have something in common. Then write the circled letters in order on the blanks below.

1. eivn \_ \_
2. illy fo het elavly  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
3. albm fo dgo \_ \_
4. estmra \_ \_ \_
5. sseju \_
6. okrc \_
7. rdbae fo fiel  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_
8. htligi fo eth dwlro  
\_
9. voasir \_ \_ \_
10. dorl \_ \_
11. ishct \_ \_ \_
12. ehsprdeh
13. teh dowr \_ \_ \_
14. rncpie fo cepae  
\_

What do these have in common?  
\_ \_ \_ \_ \_

Answers: Names of God's Son