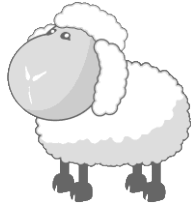


Bethany Beacon

April 2024

Dear Bethany Members and Friends,



To bookend Lent this year our services included the famous Prayer of Saint Francis. It begins, "Lord, make me an instrument of your peace." Such a line could be a prayer on its own, as the prayer is asking God to use the speaker's body, mind and spirit to create peace in her/his family, community and in the world. The prayer ends with a realization: "it is in dying to self that we are born to eternal life." The prayer realizes that the more s/he trusts God to work through his/her life the more the "little self" disappears.

The "little self" is how we would define ourselves on a census, our likes/dislikes or the personality we've created. We couldn't survive without a little self, but it can also get in our way and drag us down with shoulds/stress/comparisons. St. Francis suggests that the more we let the Christ light shine in us, the more we realize eternal life – the life of total connection to God – that we can experience in the here and now.

As we celebrate the season of Easter, we do so trusting that Christ is risen (he is risen indeed!) and provides a way to connect us to God through life and death. You may remember our Epistle Reading from Palm Sunday (of course you do!!) where Paul encourages the Philippians, "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus..." (Phil. 2:5). Instead of filling your mind with the concerns of the little self (worries, competition, greed), fill your mind (or your being) with the risen Christ.

Some people set a timer once a day to bring awareness to their thinking and then take a moment to "empty themselves" (Phil. 2:7) – just for a moment – and allow Christ to fill their being – just for a moment. You may discover that your eternal self desires more and more of this communion time, and your little self grows quieter in their judgments and demands. You may discover that you become an instrument of peace.

My little self is getting super excited for an upcoming family vacation April 7-14. The kids, the grandmas, Ben and I are going to attempt a Disney cruise out of Galveston, TX that stops at two ports in Mexico. Right before that we are going to don our special glasses to be in the central pathway of the Total Eclipse in Kerrville, TX. Pastor Vicki and Pastor Andrea will be leading worship while I am away, and I am so grateful for their willingness, faithfulness and skill.

One final note of feedback – Bethany is about 15% short of meeting our budget as you will notice in the figures further on in the newsletter.

May this Easter season bring the risen Christ deeper into your life and may God bless you to be an instrument of peace,

Pastor Lisa

Lent and Easter Thank You to:

Lenten Soup Maker and Bread Bringers – Beth Anderson, Sue Harris, Robbie Osse, Marty Christensen, Sheila Maki, Myron Hahn, Chuck Elton, Liz Elton, Jennifer Drotts, Jeannine Jensen, Jody Anderson, Pat Tarbell, Paula Shaw, Amy Carter

Diane Loudon and Chuck Elton for being “Anna” and “Peter” for our Wednesday Lenten dialogue series. Chris Vinson for a special appearance as “Junia”.

Bethany Choir and Bell Choir for your work in preparing music to make Holy Week, Easter and an assisted living visit meaningful and memorable.

Paul Shaw for the often thankless, behind-the-scenes altar guild work necessary to make a major holiday seem effortless and beautiful.

Chris Vinson for being our “hymn picker” for worship services. So, if there is a hymn you would like to sing, please let Chris know.

Jeannine Jensen & Team for making the church building sparkle for the holidays.

The Maintenance Team for your consistent work in addressing the broken, the squeaky, the grimy and the heavy. Your work is always appreciated.

CAMP SUNDAY is Sunday, April 14

Camp Hiawatha Director, Pastor Andrea (Ann-dray-ah) Bonneville DeNaples will be sharing a bit of summer camp with us—particularly VLM’s summer theme, “Created to Be”. Pastor Andrea will be available to talk before and after worship to answer any questions you may have about sending your kids/grandkids to camp this summer. Remember that Bethany kids (and a friend) are invited to participate in Camp Hiawatha’s “Discoverers” program July 1-2. Proceeds from the May rummage sale will cover the cost of registration. Camperships will also be made available for other weeks of camp—please contact Pastor Lisa in the office ASAP to make those arrangements.

Confirmation Congratulations

On Sunday, March 17th, five young people affirmed their baptism during worship – Sean Drotts, Lilly Schumacher, Logan Schumacher, Ben Storlie and Caleb Wahlstrom. Their parents and godparents were present to participate in the “laying on the hands” with Pastor Lisa to ask God’s blessing on their “confirmed” adult life of faith. Members of the Wednesday Quilting Group presented each confirmand with a hand-made quilt. Cake was shared by all in the fellowship hall afterwards.



Blessings to:

Bobbi Grife & Bob Passig getting married at Bethany on Saturday, April 6th
Briggs David Kent, son of Ramona and Ryan Kent, being baptized on Sunday, April 7th
Layne Jo Melchert, son of Erica Harrison and Derek Melchert, being baptized on Sunday, May 5th

Enchanted Garden Luncheon at Bethany

DRHC Volunteers invite you to an enchanted garden luncheon at Bethany Lutheran Church on Saturday, May 11th from 11:00am to 1:30pm. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at DayLily Gifts in the Deer River Hospital from April 15-30 (enters you into a drawing) or from May 1-10 or at the door.

Bethany Church Rummage and Bake Sale

Friday, May 3 and Saturday, May 4

8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Drop off your donations from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on April 28 (after church service), 29, 30 and May 1st. Bake Sale goodies accepted May 2, 3 and 4.

All donations are to be clean and usable.

Not accepting books, mattresses/boxsprings, bed pillows, large appliances, and electronics.

Volunteers are needed for:

- Receiving donations
- Setting up tables
- Pricing prior to the sale
- Organizing donations on tables and clothing racks
- Bake Sale – donating bake sale goodies, setup
- Cashiers
- Cleanup after sale

Volunteers are needed for full or half days, or, just a few hours. Many hands are needed in order to make the sale a success. There will be a volunteer signup sheet in the Narthex.

Call or text Carol Bean at 651-470-0269 or Beth Thompson at 507-250-4236 with questions.

Proceeds will send kids to camp.

Cabinets and Countertops from Eagle Nest Lodge for Sale!

Eagle Nest Lodge is replacing cabinets and countertops in a cabin. Bryan and Sue would like the proceeds to be included towards the Bethany Rummage Sale to assist with sending youth to camp.

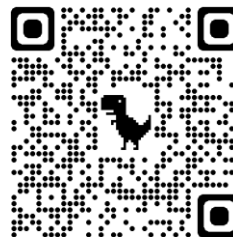
The cabinets and countertops can be seen/picked up at Eagle Nest Lodge at 58671 Eagle Nest Road, Deer River. Please call prior. 218-246-8701. Make an offer.



Phill Hermel, Simon Lick and Troy Scott are hoping to make a difference in the Deer River community by holding a fundraiser to benefit EIGHT local

organizations with their efforts. Troy Scott will attempt to run his first marathon (26.2 miles), Simon Lick will bike 125 miles (something he has never done), and Phill Hermel will put his rollerblades on for one last time for 98.8 miles. They are going to attempt to complete the 250-mile journey in 36 hours! ALL donations will make a difference and we appreciate any support. Many people have asked us why, and the answer is our community needs our help.

They plan to depart Grand Rapids MN on August 2, 2024 at 7am and head north towards International Falls. The next day (8/3) they will return to Grand Rapids by 7pm. There will be a stop at Blueberry Bowl at 1:30 for a meet and greet. There will be another stop at Florios at 4:00 for a meet and greet. Join Troy, Simon, and Phill at Florios in Cohasset MN at 4PM for "The Mega Mile" - a one mile trek with them to Portage Park. You can be a part of the 250 mile journey! Balloons will be offered for a free will donation at Florios to support the cause of your choice. You can write the name of the person you are there for, the cause, or the reason you are a part of the journey. Rides will be offered back to Florios after the mile is completed. They hope to finish at the Tall Timber Days tent located in downtown Grand Rapids at 6:30pm.



How can you get involved:

- Sponsorships
- Shirts and Merchandise
- Great Itasca Giveback (fcsuite.com)
- Checks can be made out to "The Great Itasca

Giveback"

There will only be one account to support all eight organizations

The Great Itasca Giveback will benefit:

- Itasca Friendship Club
- Itasca Area Cancer Crisis Endowment
- Jim Tarbell Cancer Care Fund
- Itasca Ironsides Sports Team
- Itasca Search and Rescue and Itasca Dive Team

North Homes School Based Mental Health Services of Itasca County

Grand Itasca Foundation’s Patient Crisis Fund experience and share the love of Christ in the world.

Create Your Own Boundary Waters Trip with VLM Canoe Country

Ready for an unforgettable journey that goes way beyond the basic adventure? Get ready to team up with Voyageurs Canoe Country – where every trip is a chance to explore the beauty of God’s creation and soak in the joys of community and camping on the water.

Here's what sets us apart:

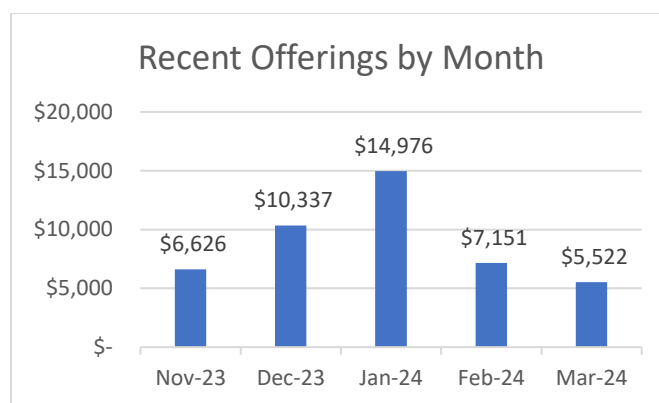
Our staff aren't just guides – they're skilled at leading discussions that weave the lessons of the wilderness into our faith and daily lives. You'll get top-notch gear, expert guidance in wilderness first aid and water safety, and instruction in Leave No Trace camping practices. From tents to canoes, we've got all the group equipment covered – just bring your own personal gear like sleeping bags and clothing. Enjoy delicious meals both at camp and on the trail, ensuring you're fueled up for adventure. Your journey kicks off with a cozy night's stay at Camp Vermilion, setting the stage for an epic adventure ahead. Plus, we handle all the paperwork and fees, so you can focus on making memories.

Our trips run from early July to mid-August, so mark your calendar and get ready to paddle into the unknown! Most trips feature a small group size of 8 participants per guide, ensuring a personalized and intimate experience. Larger groups are welcome to book multiple trips – the more, the merrier! Got a trip in mind? Visit www.VLMcamps.org to get started.

10th Annual Forward Health Foundation Gala: Fire and Ice

Morse Town Hall in Deer River will be transformed into a magical venue for Forward Health Foundation’s 10th annual Gala on Saturday, April 20th. Social hour begins at 4:30pm, plated dinner by Timberlake will be served at 6pm. Live auction at 7pm and Live Music from 8-10pm. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at Daylily Gifts or online at forwardhealthfoundation.org/upcoming-events

Bethany’s Monthly Financials



Bethany's Financial Snapshot

Feb. 29 Year-to-date Budget	Feb. 29 Year-to-date Received Actual
\$23,434	\$19,962

SAVINGS

Contingency Fund	\$ 22,164
General Memorials	\$ 4,508.00
Pollinator Fund	\$ 2,240.00
Shaw Scholarship Fund	\$ 102,142.69

CURRENT CHECKING \$3,374

Bethany Church Council Meeting
Saturday, February 24, 2024
10:00 a.m.

- I. The meeting was called to order by Marty Christensen. Jody Anderson, Marty Christensen, Jennifer Drotts and Pastor Lisa were present at the Council Retreat hosted by Eagle's Nest Lodge. The Council expresses gratitude to Bryan and Sue Harris for sharing their beautiful space.
- II. The meeting was opened with a prayer by Pastor Lisa.
- III. Additions to the agenda: none
- IV. Minutes from the January 17th meeting were approved.

- V. Old Business
 - a. 2024 Contingency Growth Fund- further discussion on a greater sustainability plan for Bethany.

Carol Bean has shared numerous ideas with Pastor Lisa regarding growing the ministry at Bethany and sustainability plans. Upcoming rummage sale, May 3 & 4, is being planned. Proceeds from the sale will be used to send students to Camp Hiawatha on June 30-July 2. Ages: grades K-4. April 11th Pr. Andrea Bonneville D'Naples from Hiawatha will be our Camp Sunday speaker. Any money raised from the sale over the camp fees will be put into the Contingency Fund.

 - b. Custodian Review- previous custodian was let go as the job wasn't a good fit at this time. We will seek a cleaner from within our congregation.

 - c. Confirmation Guidelines Approval- tabled from January. Pastor Lisa has created updated confirmation guidelines. The guideline will be sent to families with confirmation-age students and

placed in the monthly newsletter. The guidelines will be viewed as a starting point and will be amended as the need arises.

- VI. New Business
 - a. Lights in the fireside room- two lights for placement beside the reading chairs in the fireside room were approved.

 - b. Online worship offerings- there are members that would like to worship via online format. A person to run the recording device is needed to continue this practice. A recommendation to explore purchasing hardware that will take care of the recording. Jody will check with Ara Anderson on possible options available.

 - c. Pollinator Garden 5 Year Plan- Phil has been in contact with Jeff Poenix and a plan has been created. Funds will be placed in a pollinator fund for future maintenance costs.
- VII. Financial Statement- the financial statement was provided by Jen Drotts and current balances were reviewed.
- VIII. Next meeting date- **Wednesday, March 20th, at 4:15 p.m.**
- IX. A motion was made to close meeting.

- X. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Jody Anderson
Secretary

Sunday Service Schedule



Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Reader	Fellowship	Communion
4/7/24	Andy & Paula Shaw	Chris Vinson	Beth & Phil Thompson Jean Mattila	Marty Christensen
4/14/24	Beth Anderson	Ann Hedquist	Liz Sprague Diane Nelson	
4/21/24	John & Barb Tornes	Beth Anderson	Carol Bean Barb & John Tornes	Diane Loudon
4/28/24	Larry & Shirley Nixon	Larry Nixon	Jody Anderson Janet & Marty Christensen	
5/5/24	Jeff & Amy Carter	Jeff Carter	Lynette Schmidt	Andy Shaw



Volunteers appreciated! If you would like to take a turn serving coffee for fellowship, greeting, ushering, reading or assisting with communion, please let Diane Nelson know so you can be added to the list.

April Birthday Wishes!

7 - Nikki Osse
Harper Nelson
9 - Bruce Hemphill
Aspen Vogl
10 - Donna Sunell
11 - Kathryn Anderson
12 - Gunnar Hebrink
14 - Dale Grife

15 - Dale Wick
23 - Logan Schumacher
28 - Jace Swanson
29 - Doug Kutschat
30 - Michelle Anderson
Gregory Shaw
Beth Thompson



ANNIVERSARY WISHES

17 - Jeff & Diane Loudon
23 - Aubrey & Adam DeYoung

25 - Bryan & Sue Harris

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