



BETHANY LIFE

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FAVORITE HYMNS

Your word I have hidden in my heart,
That I might not sin against You!
Blessed are You, O Lord!
. . . With my lips I have declared
All the judgments of Your mouth.
. . . I will meditate on Your precepts,
And contemplate Your ways.
I will delight myself in Your statutes;
I will not forget Your word.

—Psalm 119:10-16

Holy Cross Lutheran Church, Fort Wayne, Indiana, surveyed members of the congregation to determine their favorite hymns. The results are as follows (in alphabetical order).

A Mighty Fortress is Our God
Amazing Grace
Beautiful Savior
Behold a Host, Arrayed in White
Christ Be My Leader
Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain
For All the Saints
From All that Dwell Below the Skies
Have No Fear, Little Flock
Holy, Holy, Holy
I Know That My Redeemer Lives
Jesus, Lead Thou On
Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee
Just As I Am
Lift High the Cross
My Hope is Built on Nothing Less

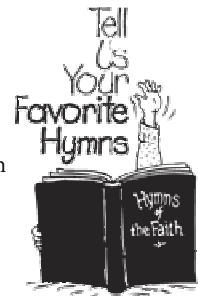


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My Song is Love Unknown
O Rejoice, Ye Christians, Loudly
Of the Father's Love Begotten
On Eagles' Wings
Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me
Silent Night
The Lamb
The Lord is My Light
The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
Thine the amen, Thine the praise
What a Friend We Have in Jesus
When Peace, Like a River

The worship committee of the church was then better able to schedule those hymns more often for use in worship. (I note that each title above is also found in our new *Lutheran Service Book*.)

What are some of your favorite hymns? Members of Bethany are encouraged to make a list and submit it to the Church Office. We can then compile a master list and will be better able to select music for worship services that we know will include some of the congregation's favorites. Hymns need not be from LSB, but, if not, please note where we can find them.



The great hymnody of the Church not only gives God's people opportunity to sing some of their favorite hymns (which is one of the reasons this article is written); it also carries the Word of God and the rich history of Bible teaching from the printed page into the hearts of worshippers. This is one way—a very powerful way—in which God's Word is "hidden in our hearts" (which is the other reason this article is written).

We're devoted to increasingly make Bethany's worship something that brings glory to God and joy to His people. It's also my prayer that the great hymns of the Church went their way into our hearts and minds so that God's Word is hidden in our hearts. God bless your worship!

Pastor Keigom

FROM THE PARISH PRESIDENT

In 1999 (leading up to Y2K) an *Exercise for the Future* was conducted (what would we like to see in the future at Bethany), in 2004 the *Gift Acceptance and Planning Committee* put together a list of non-budget projects or endeavors that could be funded from estate or other major gifts, in 2005 there was a *Lay Ministry Retreat* to address attendance and potential worship changes, in 2006 as one of the byproducts of the Lay Ministry retreat, there was a *Worship Folder Survey* that many people completed, and in 2007 the Parish Planning Council had several meetings (and we continue to look at) our *Values & Vision*.

Lori Verreault took the output from each of these and combined them into a matrix that identified common suggestions and themes. Each time an idea was repeated, she indicated that on the matrix. She grouped the items into the following major categories

- In Reach (e.g., more fellowship, more member involvement, small group events)
- Outreach (e.g., offer building to community, Stephen Ministries, A specific local ministry)
- Worship (e.g., alternatives forms, worship times, Advent services, and frequency of communion)
- Building/Grounds (e.g., air conditioning, microphone upgrade, landscape)
- Music (e.g., new organ, children part of worship, chimes/bells)
- Education (e.g., goals for Sunday School, men's Bible study, host VBS)
- Other (e.g., technology)

In all of the output from these meetings/studies/surveys there are recurring themes:

- More involvement needed from all members (on boards, ushers, etc.)
- More social/fellowship activities/small groups/support groups for members
- Reach out to the community more
- Occasional modern/contemporary service / music
- More involvement of children/youth in all aspects of worship
- Perhaps look at times of services / or evening service
- Parking

We will continue to use these documents for ideas on implementing

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change. However, I would like to report to you on what has been accomplished in the past few years.

In reach: family events such as SS Family Fun Nights & Super Bowl party, new member brunches, book club/discussion, more emphasis on member needs will be addressed via this year's time and talent survey

Outreach: a specific mission idea – A Hand Up, developing a Building Use Policy so that we can offer the building to outside groups, Stephen Ministry was begun, demographic study was received from District and we're in progress analyzing how we might use, Pastor Bob works with African Immigrant Ministry

Worship: Wednesday evening services during summer and Lent, Advent services were added, occasional contemporary worship music and Jeff (choir director) will be attending a workshop this summer to learn more, communion every Sunday, grape juice available, service variety – 6 different forms, old liturgies have been used, prayers have been shortened, new hymnal will have more modern hymns

Building and Grounds: we air conditioned the sanctuary, microphones have been worked on, Memorial Garden was created

Music: added Chime Choir, added the orchestra, youth are participating, Jeff offers a variety of choir selections

Education: more resources in the SS Library, long term goals are being developed for our children as they progress through SS

Other: we are increasing our use of technology via email, e-invites, time and talent survey, website is being redesigned, we've investigated use of SharePoint for internal board and member communication

A few copies of the consolidated report are available at church for your review. Find them on the table in the rear of the sanctuary and on the table in the coffee area.

LAY MINISTRY INITIATIVES

Due to the lack of time at our Voter's meeting in May, I would like to stress a couple of areas I briefly mentioned in the Board of Lay Ministry report.

First, the Lay Ministers have been discussing at length how best we can stay connected to the members within our districts. We would like to use the email system that Bethany has in place. A general email will go out to the membership indicating this. Should you wish not to be communicated in this way, you will have that option. Secondly, due to the low numbers of Lay Ministers, we have started training and using members who wish to help out

during the service, either as an assistant to the Pastors or by being on duty. Should you be interested in finding out more about this opportunity to serve the Lord, please speak to either myself, Kevin McCarthy, or Tim Pachnieski. Thirdly, the worship committee has been working with Pastor Krieger to plan a less formal worship service for Wednesdays during the summer. If anyone has an interest to get involved in some way, either musically or in the planning and organizing, please speak to myself, Joyce Wilson or Pastor Krieger. I pray that members will take some of these opportunities being presented to help enhance the worship of our Lord. Blessings to everyone from the Board of Lay Ministry.

Lori Littmann



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

As I reported at the May Voters' meeting, all boards have contributed ideas for "major" non budget items. Parish Planning Council consolidated all ideas into one list and prioritized them into high, medium and low. We made a rough estimate of the cost, if we could, and timeframe that these might be done. We determined whether each of the projects was a structural need or an enriching project to enhance or grow our church.

Currently our budget process does not include things like a new roof, tree trimming, or a new hot water heater. This fall the Board of Stewardship will consider whether to change our process to do that and actually put a category into the budget called "Capital Improvement".

We currently have a modest amount of money in a "page 2" (not the annual budget) account for Capital Improvement. This fund is accumulating from offerings that you (members) have so designated on that line of your offering envelope since the mortgage was paid off.

Some of the items on our list of non-budget projects range from a new organ for perhaps \$75,000, to replacing the basement windows, creating a new website, and painting.

The Board of Stewardship and Parish Planning will determine which of the items to address and whether some require special appeals or will be funded through an alternate budget process.

Katie Benashski, Parish President

CROSSWAYS IS COMING!



During the first week in April, Pastor Krieger and I had the pleasure and privilege of experiencing Crossways teacher training with the creator of the program, the Rev. Dr. Harry Wendt. It was a transforming experience and a wake-up call, among many other things!

For those of you unfamiliar with Crossways, it is a Bible study program unlike anything else ever created, and it will give participants a new perspective on the Bible and the life of Jesus Christ that will forever change the way they relate to their fellow human beings. Participation in Crossways will give Sunday morning Scripture readings and sermons a meaning that they have never had before, and allow one to appreciate that what the Bible offers is truly relevant to life in today's world.

Crossways offers a variety of study options, and there will be much more information forthcoming about the various offerings. The intent at this time is to offer the courses at different times throughout the week to allow those with varying schedules an opportunity to take advantage of this unique course of study.

The following remarks are from Harry Wendt himself, and really capture the spirit and intent of Crossways, and the sometimes difficult questions that the course will require all of us to ask of ourselves:

"If I'm following Jesus, why, when I have done my giving, have I so much left over for myself? If I'm following Jesus, why do I have so many friends among the affluent and so few among the poor? If I'm following Jesus, why am I getting on so well in a world that marked him out for death?

Are you following Jesus or believing in Christ? Unfair, you say; the two are inseparable. Theoretically, yes, but pragmatically, no. We separate them all the time. If we must, let us err on the side of following. For one can believe without following, but one cannot follow without believing."

Interested? Intrigued? If so, you have a lot to look forward to! Stay tuned!

Mark Litke,
for the Board of Christian Education

YOUTH TO HIT THE RAPIDS!



Summer is upon us and we heading to Maine for whitewater rafting with other youth groups from the New England area, keep us in your prayers.

We had a great year in Sunday morning youth group Bible study...thanks to all who helped especially Mari, Pastor Bob and Scott.

After service on Wed., August 20 we will have our annual end of summer ice cream social for all. Come join us for a sweet treat and talk to us about Whitewater rafting and our experience with the other youth groups. Also, ask Scott Baumer about his trip to Indianapolis for the annual Youth Worker's conference.

Thanks again for your support of our flower sale. We raised \$300, which will be matched by Thrivent.

Blessings to Bethany's 2008 Graduates!

Peter Foxen, who has graduated from Rocky Hill High School, and will be attending Roanoke College in Salem, VA this fall.



Joe LaCava, who has graduated from Conard High in West Hartford, and will continue his education at Franklin Pierce University, in Rindge, NH.

Thomas Feldtmose (grandson of Anna) who has graduated from Conard High, and will be attending the Univ. of CT in September.

Stephan Perrault, who has received his degree in Criminal Justice at Central CT State University.

Emma Peters, who has received a BA from Drew University with a double major in Religion and Behavioral Sciences. She will pursue a Masters degree in School Counseling at the Univ. of Htfd.

Congratulations to All!

LATEST NEWS FROM PUBLIC RELATIONS...

Since taking over the PR Board in January, I have been working to make sure events are well- advertised both with the use of posters and the email lists. Most of you have received Evite invitations from me. Also, I am part of the website redesign team.

My goals for the rest of the year are:

- To add more members to the board.
- To publish a weekly email newsletter with news and reminders
- To take over the monthly newsletter from Bunny, which I know will upset Bunny greatly. My hope is to freshen the design a bit, add some new features and take the number of issues to 10 times per year.
- To do some longer term planning about how we can publicize what's going on at Bethany to the community

I am always happy to share news with the congregation or help publicize an event. All I ask is that you give me ample warning, so we can plan what kind of PR we want to do and I can then design the necessary components.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON ATTENDANCE, GIVING, AND EXPENSES

As I reported at the May Voters' Meeting, I have formed a special committee to consider our trends in attendance, giving, and spending. In three of the last 4 years we have had a substantial deficit in giving toward the budget. Our attendance at worship is declining; -14% in 2007 and a continued decline in 2008. This is a trend in mainstream churches and our New England District office provided me with similar statistics across New England.

Mark Littmann, Treasurer, has made some projections with modest assumptions about attendance, giving, and budget and forecasts deficits of -\$35K, -\$30K, -\$23K over the next three years.

The committee members in addition to me are: Mark Littmann, Tom Springer, Scott Knake, Lori Verreault, and Carri Roux.

We'll look at attendance of existing membership, prospective evan-

gest possibilities for growth, giving and spending. You may be asked for some information as we update our member data base to have accurate internal demographics.

If you have any thoughts to share, please let me know or feel free to speak to any of the committee members.

Katie Benashski,
Parish President



NEWS FROM THE DORCAS SOCIETY

The women in 'Dorcas' continue to discuss and work out details in preparation for THE FAIR. The date is Saturday, October 25th. Mark it on your calendar NOW and plan to help us make it a success once again. Our Bethany Youth Group is planning on managing the 'White Elephant' items and we are pleased to have our 'Kitchen Crew' (Sue and Mike Johnson and Ann and Steve Scholz) returning to provide their 'Service with a Smile' at the lunch counter! We count on the support of Bethany members. Watch the bulletin and the September Newsletter for ways that you can help. Keep in mind that we will have the Jewelry table and we welcome donations anytime. Also, we will plan on a table of 'Antique and Collectible Items' as well as an abundance of hand-knitted and crocheted items and yummy baked goods.

Wishing you all a happy and safe summer.



2007 Budget Results & Special Appeal

As previously reported, the general offerings toward the 2007 budget were substantially short of actual disbursements. The special appeal within the past couple months generated about \$8,000, leaving us with about \$17,000 to deal with. The Board of Stewardship will discuss “next steps” at its meeting on June 23.

2008 Budget Results – 4 Months

Receipts – about \$111,000, down 1% versus last year

Disbursements – about \$125,000, up 3% (the 2008 budget is 4% greater than 2007)

Result – shortfall of \$14,000 (compared to a shortfall of about \$9,000 last year)

It's only 4-months, but the early results aren't good.

Bequest

Bethany has been blessed with a bequest from the estate of Shirley Steidel. She is a former member of Bethany, having relocated to Florida about 28 years ago. The bequest falls under the Gift Acceptance Policy that was established a few years ago by Bethany's Gift Acceptance and Planning Committee. The Committee has met to discuss the management of these funds that are outside the budget process.

2008 Stewardship Campaign – Consecrated Stewards

At the May meeting, the voters approved a resolution indicating Bethany's commitment to utilize the Consecrated Stewards program later this year. This program was developed by the Synod and is being supported by the New England District. The program will span 5 weeks in the fall, mainly with stewardship themes in the Sunday sermons and education hour. The program will culminate on Sunday, November 16, with Pastor Stoltenberg (Meriden) as the guest preacher. We also plan a celebration dinner or luncheon – the details of which need to be worked out.

We will need help with preparing for the celebration Sunday – particularly regarding the celebration meal – to handle invitations and reservations, follow-up phone calls, identifying and agreeing with a caterer, planning the menu, and the other logistics with feeding “200 to 250” people in one place at the same time. Any and all volunteers to help are welcome !! Please call Mark Littmann, Bunny Hallenbeck, or Pastor Krieger to express your interest.

ATTENDANCE & COMMUNION FIGURES

Date	Communed		Communed		Total	Total
	8:15 AM	11:00 AM	8:15 AM	11:00 AM	Attend.	Communed
4/20	108	95	56	51	164	146
4/27	78	73	105	92	183	165
5/4	88	77	151	117	239	194
5/11	89	77	92	81	181	158
5/18	105	96	69	60	174	156
5/25	74	72	84	80	158	152
6/1	113	82	56	49	169	131
6/8	56	54	83	77	139	131
9:30 AM						
6/15	141	134				

MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

Change of Address

Alice Faska




Releases

Ed & Lois Rinehimer
Rel. to Faith Lutheran Church
Johns Island, S.C.

Funeral

Elmer Selnau
5/27/25—5/20/08
Service at Barnes
Mem. Chapel,
Bristol, on May
25.



Special Thanks  *The many prayers and beautiful cards and notes of sympathy from members of our 'Bethany Family' have touched our hearts. We knew that God was with us and leading us through the difficult final weeks and days of Elmer's time with us. Thank you for your many expressions of love and support. May God bless you for being a blessing to us.*

Lois Selnau & family