



BETHANY LIFE

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HYMN OF THE MONTH

This summer we placed a new hymnal, *Lutheran Service Book (LSB)* into the pew racks of the sanctuary. We're using some of the liturgies (Divine Service Settings One, Two, and Four and a familiar liturgy from *With One Voice*, the companion hymnal) and singing many of the familiar hymns. But wonderful new hymns are being written every year. That's one of the reasons we adopted *LSB*: to take advantage of the new hymnody and to learn new ways of worshiping our Lord.



of the Month

Each month your worship team intends to introduce a new hymn. When possible, the choir will be on hand to introduce the new melody so that we can learn it as rapidly as possible and have a strong assemblage of voices to backup congregational singing.

Since repetition is the mother of learning, we'll repeat the hymn during each Sunday of each month, so that those of us who attend worship each Sunday will be able to sing the new hymn at least 4 times. That should be often enough to drill it into our hearts.

September's Hymn of the Month is "We Walk by Faith and Not by Sight," LSB #720. The music was composed by Marty Haugen and arranged by Randall Sensmeier (both born around mid-twentieth century), and the text was written by Henry Alford (born nearly 150 years earlier). It's a beautiful, singable, memorable tune. I think it's one of those tunes you'll find yourself humming or whistling throughout the week.

The text is based on 2 Corinthians 5:7 (**We walk by faith, not by sight**) and pulls in thoughts from John 20:29 (Jesus showing "Doubting Thomas" His hands and side, Thomas exclaiming, **My Lord and my God!**,

(Continued on page 4)

and Jesus answering, **Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed**), Mark 9:24 (a desperate father pleads, **I believe; help my unbelief!**), Isaiah 55:6 (**Seek the Lord while me may be found; call upon him while he is near**), and 1 John 3:4 (**We know that when [Jesus] appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is**).

Our goal in all this is to worship the Lord Jesus in spirit and in truth and build each other up in faith and Christian service.

God bless our worship!

Pastor Kreigler

LET US REJOICE!

*This is the Day the Lord has made;
Let us rejoice and be glad in it. Psalm 118:24*

When we say this at the beginning of our worship service it reminds us of our many blessings and how thankful we should be to God. We should thank him for all our blessings every day. Too often we forget this when everything is going well for us.



We tend to take God for granted as we go about our busy lives. However, when troubles come along, whether it's illness, death of a loved one, loss of a job, or other adversities, we call on God to help us through these times. What we forget is that God is always there for us - in good times and bad. We should rejoice always for what he has done for us. Let us remember every day: *This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it.*

Joyce Wilson for the
Board of Lay Ministry

FROM THE PARISH PRESIDENT

I want to thank all of those who have responded with special gifts or increased giving as a result of the letter I sent to you in July. I pray that each of you has had a time for reflection, rest, and the joy of time with family and friends. September finds most of us back to a more structured routine. Let time for worship, Christian education, and Bethany service and fellowship opportunities be regular priorities on your calendar.

Katie Benashski

SAVE THE DATE!



Bethany's

Focus on Jesus Family Day

is Sunday, September 7th
following the 9:30 AM worship service.

Jesus

Join us for the opportunity to sign up for Sunday School, Adult Christian Education, the Helping Hands list, Habitat for Humanity, *A Hand Up* and much more!

Picnic lunch to follow featuring burgers, chicken, hot dogs and lots of other goodies. There will be games, a bounce house for the kids and a special raffle.



This special event is brought to you by the Boards of Christian Education and Christian Care. See you there!

DO YOU LIKE A GOOD STORY?

Most of us can't resist the opportunity to lose ourselves in a good story. There's just something about a good story that reaches us on a deeply personal level, and we feel more complete for the experience.

Our Lord and Savior, just as human as any of us, also loved a good story, so much so that he told some 39 of them during his ministry to help others better understand who God is and how His kingdom works.

These stories are known as parables, and can be best described as earthly stories with heavenly messages. The big difference with Jesus' stories is that instead of being an opportunity to lose ourselves for a time as an escape from daily life, they are opportunities to find ourselves as His followers.

This autumn you will have an opportunity to explore 11 of Jesus' parables in a 10-week course entitled The Parables of Jesus. The course is one of the marvelous Crossways International offerings created by the Rev. Dr. Harry Wendt. While you are likely familiar with the parables featured in the course, and heard them first as a young child, you will emerge from this course with a fresh new perspective on what these timeless stories from Jesus have to say about the kingdom of God.

The course will be offered on ten consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning September 30 and concluding on December 2. A nice feature of this course is that each week is really a unit unto itself, so if a participant needs to miss a week or two, he need not feel that he will have to "catch up" upon his return.

If you are interested in participating, please let Pastor Krieger or Mark Litke know as soon as you can. We will need to know how many prospective students there are by mid-September at latest, as materials will need to be ordered. Please call Mark at 313-0472 or email him at mlitke@netzero.net if you have any questions.

CHRISTIAN CARE NOTES...

The Christian Care Board is beginning to plan for the upcoming year. At the top of the list is discussing ways to approach planning for distribution of the Steidel bequest. This is an unprecedented gift for our committee and we will begin prayerfully considering moving forward with a discussion of how this incredible blessing can be best used. We also plan to continue gathering information and volunteers for our *Helping Hands for Bethany* list. Ultimately, *Helping Hands for Bethany* will be a resource all of us can turn to when we need some extra help. For example, if you have a leaking faucet, but don't know how to fix it? *Helping Hands* will find a Bethany member to fix it for you. Or, maybe you need a ride to the grocery store? Meals in the freezer to get through the first days with your newborn baby? *Helping Hands for Bethany* will be able to find other Bethany members willing to lend a hand. Finally, we hope to reach out to other houses of worship in West Hartford to find out how they approach their community outreach. The goal will be to share ideas and strategies.

Peace!

--Lisa Swayne

**This is an exciting time to be part of Christian Care! We have an extraordinary opportunity to help those in need thanks to the generosity of the Steidel gift. Considering joining us for a one-of-a-kind journey!
Contact Lisa Swayne for more information.**

PROJECTS OF THE BOARD OF EVANGELISM

Webpage: Scott Baumer and the subcommittee working on the redesign of Bethany's webpage continue to meet and refine the new format and content. Launch is anticipated sometime this fall.

A Hand Up: The Evangelism Committee will be collecting cleaning products (rags, sponges, cleaning supplies, paper towels, etc.) to assist people through the *A Hand Up* program which Bethany has adopted as a community service project. So stock up on the "Buy One, Get One Free" sales and watch for more information this fall.

YOUTH JUMP BACK INTO ACTION

Happy end of summer! We hope everyone enjoyed the Ice Cream Social after service on Aug. 20. It was good to see all of you out there for an end for summer treat. This fall we have exciting things planned starting with Family Day and other social and servant events. A few of those upcoming events are:

- September 14: Start of Sunday morning Bible Study
- September 21: Whirlyball after late service as we welcome the new 9th graders and catch up with each other
- October 25: Tag Sale with the Dorcas Society's Fall Festival

Please drop of your tag sale items on Sunday morning or contact Scott Baumer (233-2678) to make arrangements. Please do not leave them outside the door during the week. I wouldn't want the little ones in nursery school to stumble over the items. All items except clothes and books are welcomed.

Thanks again for your continued support as the youth group raises money for the next National Youth gathering and other district events.

Scott Baumer

Interested in producing and binding Christian reading materials here at Bethany as part of the *Lutheran Braille Workers?*
"Bringing Christ To Those In Darkness Since 1943"

Contact Kurt & Martha Bilo



THE WEE ONES RETURN



Nursery School is back in session!
Thanks be to God!

School begins on Wednesday September 3rd with our returning 4/5 year-olds and some new ones added to the class. Dianne Hoelzer will once again be leading this class on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays through a year of excitement and learning. The excitement and learning will also begin for our three-year-olds on Tuesdays and Thursdays, again being lead by Marie Baker. The staff completes itself with the return of Karen Lavoie and myself. Bethany Lutheran Nursery School and I are blessed to have such a fine staff of dedicated teachers!

Our year will begin with the celebration of ourselves. We will stress the importance of being a child of God through the remembrance of our birthdays. Our doors will be adorned with baby pictures on balloons that open to a picture of the child on their first day of school.

With school starting, I would like to remind all of you that we use the bathrooms downstairs every weekday morning. Often we are literally running the children to the bathrooms and would appreciate it if everyone could possibly make that a little easier for us during those hours. We respectfully ask that you leave the bathroom doors open during school hours, and if possible use the bathrooms upstairs, (including the handicapped one). This would be greatly appreciated by all of us here at Nursery School. Just the few seconds it takes to open the door, or to check and make sure no men are using the boy's room makes a huge difference between successful pottyng and accidents. Thank you for your cooperation. As always, remember that this is your nursery school and we love to show it off, so stop by and visit sometime!

Mari Mikulastik, Director

NEWS FROM THE DORCAS SOCIETY

Now there are 17, and soon to be 15, members of the Dorcas Society! Our "Inactive" list, (members who are no longer able to actively participate) continues to grow.

OUR ANNUAL FAIR

October 25, 2008

We are blessed to have leaders who are committed to accomplishing the huge task of organizing, planning and 'putting it all together'. Without them, we would not be having a FAIR.

Members all work together in various and numerous ways to plan, purchase food items, setup, serve, sell, make crafts, knit, crochet, bake, make soup, clean up, and whatever needs to be done to help make the Fair a success.

We need you!!! We are counting on members of the congregation to **Come, contribute time,, financial support, enjoy lunch and fellowship, and take advantage of doing some early Christmas shopping.**

We are hoping that many in the congregation will plan to bring baked goods, jam, jellies or pickles for the bakery table; costume jewelry for the popular jewelry table; homemade crafts of any kind to add to the variety of knitted, crocheted and decorative items.

Dorcas Ladies meet every Tuesday morning in the undercroft. Items can be brought in on any meeting day, or call our President, Edith Schirmer (582-8503) or Vice-President, Edith Hartleb (667-2034).

Lois Selnau, Secretary



CALLING ALL KNITTERS!

Greetings from the Bethany Prayer Shawl Ministry!

We have continued to knit throughout the summer months while enjoying each others company, praying, listening to music, and sipping lemonade. There is a full stock of prayer shawls for comfort and celebration.

In July we sent small finger prayer shawls to five Bethany high school and college graduates in celebration of their achievement and to carry throughout their new endeavors.



We are always happy to welcome new members. You don't know how to knit? Not a problem! All you need are willing hands and the experts among us can teach you. Many of us (including yours truly) only make the simplest of shawls and yet the love and prayers we put into them make them beautiful. We meet at 6:00 PM in the Duchow Room on the third Thursday of each month. If you would like to know more, please stop by or contact Linda Howey at 521-1061.



Thrivent is sponsoring the building of a Habitat for Humanity house in Hartford. Bethany members are scheduled to work on this house on October 18 (more details to come). In the meantime, some anxious builders wanted to start swinging the hammers now. Thanks to Joe Presing who has coordinated with Habitat for Humanity to build a shed for the new home. Construction will take place in Bethany's parking lot on Saturday, September 20 starting at 8:30 AM. Once completed, HH will pick up the shed and deliver it.

New England District's
Fall Workshop Extravaganza
Sharing God's Great Gifts!

Save this date:

Saturday, November 8, 2008

8:45 AM - 4:00 PM

Immanuel Lutheran Church
154 Meadow St.—Bristol CT

An opportunity for Christian Fellowship, Education, and worship

Sponsored by the Parish Life Department
of the New England District—LCMS

Over 20 workshops to choose from!
Cost will be \$15 per Adult, \$10 per Teen,
Age 12 & under—Free (family max.—\$50)
Registration includes 3 workshops, continental breakfast,
lunch, and babysitting for children 3 & under.

Registration materials will be available in early Sept.
For more information, contact Brenda Bacon at the NED
office: 413-783-0131 Ext. 10 or bbacon@ned-lcms.org

Please mark your calendars now for Saturday, November 8th and consider attending the New England District's Fall Workshop Extravaganza. There are going to be many sessions to choose from including ones led by Bethany folks; *Putting Together the Life of Jesus* by Pastor Bob, *Chime and Bell Choir* by Lois Marks, *Banner Ministry Workshop* by Sue Johnson, Linda Howey and Joyce Wilson. Some other topics include *Short Term Missions for Seniors*, *How to Share Your Faith without Fright*, *Strategic Planning for Congregations and Clergy*, and *The Kenya Ministry*.

ATTENDANCE & COMMUNION FIGURES

Date	Communed		Communed		Total	Total
Week of:	Wed.		Sun.		Attend.	Communed
6/16	46	42	80	68	126	110
6/23	36	32	95	93	131	125
6/30	53	52	70	53	123	105
7/7	57	54	105	86	162	140
7/14	66	62	77	66	143	128
7/21	59	58	75	73	134	131
7/28	58	54	63	51	121	105
8/4	57	55	55	51	112	106
8/11	69	64	66	59	135	123



MEMBERSHIP CHANGES

New Members

Trey & Elizabeth Hill, Clara

Changes of Address

Sarah Burns
(returning from Chicago)

Bob & Sally Harvey, Caroline & Mason

Don Perrault III

Baptisms

Clara Marie Hill
Daughter of Trey & Elizabeth
Born 10/12/07;
Bapt. 6/29/08



Nolan Maynard
Son of David & Heather
Born 4/24/08; Bapt. 7/27/08

Funerals

Henry Weinberger
1/24/1916—6/24/2008
Service held on 6/27

Greta Ilgaudas
4/23/1916—6/30/2008
Service held on 7/3