

# BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

## The Mustard Seed

June 2017

### President's Letter May 1, 2017

Volume 12, issue 6

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Another year has flown by and we truly have reason to celebrate here at Bethany. Although we continue to work through change, we had significant challenges that we were able to overcome this past year. Through God's love and our congregation's commitment to serve with both givings and talent, we have completed our basement project.

As we continue to grow our membership, questions have been brought forth about if this truly should be our main focus. Growing our membership is a great idea. However times have changed and family dynamics are not the same as they were 20 years ago. We live in a mobile society and with all of the advances in technology, things seem to move and change at warp speed. It is hard to build membership when people don't go to church.

This year we have spent more time reflecting on who we are and what our vision is. You see this in our bulletins, it is on our web page and there has been discussion during our services.

### **Embraced by God - Growing in Faith - Sent by the Spirit to Serve**

Those three statements really sum it up for me personally. I am proud to be part of the Bethany Family and I truly feel that we really do practice what we proclaim. I believe we have a lot success here at Bethany and I would ask each and every one of you about how you would measure success. Are we not successful when we rally together to donate and make "baskets of promise" for those who need help? Are we not successful when we facilitate "Ruby's Pantry" for our community? Are we not successful when we rally to help a family who lost are their belongings in a house fire? I believe this list could be a long one if we took the time to measure our success. In closing I want to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to serve the last seven years on the church council. Although I will no longer be on the council, I do plan to serve in other ways.

Respectfully, Kim Kucera, Council President

### **Pastor's Letter May 8, 2017**

*"Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so; little ones to him belong, they are weak, but he is strong..." (ELW #595)*

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The above hymn was shared at a Lenten Wednesday worship by Tom Bracken as one of his favorites. A favorite because in a very simple way it describes our relationship with God. God does love us purely because God chooses to love us. God's love for us is expressed in the life and actions of Jesus Christ. As Martin Luther would say "This is most certainly true."

Salvation is just that simple and straight forward. It is when we live in relationship with other followers of Jesus, in the Church, the "Body of Christ", that life can become less simple. You know, dealing with differences of opinion, treating each other like family and all that pesky business of forgiving one another.

This last year much progress has been made as congregational family (see your Council President's letter May 1, 2017 for details).

As we move into the future I believe we need to focus on two areas. First, we need to maintain focus on our purpose as the Body of Christ, that of sharing the Good News of God's love as found in Jesus Christ with the world. And secondly being a well governed, well managed, family in Christ. Neither of these will "just happen." Bethany will continue to need the active participation in both mission and governance of those who have stepped up in the past and those who are new to the process. The future of Bethany is totally dependent on God's grace and the work you as a family are willing to put in. God provides even for the Robin but the worms are not thrown into the nest.

Your Brother in Christ, *Pastor John*

## HELPERS FOR JUNE 2017

### COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

June 4  
(Servers) Council  
(Set-up/ Clean-up) Craig & Judy Hagman

June 11  
(Servers) Council  
(Set-up/ Clean-up) Judy Lundberg

June 18  
(Servers) Council  
(Set-up/ Clean-up) Ed & Shirley Stukey

June 25  
**NO COMMUNION**

July 2  
(Servers) Council  
(Set-up/ Clean-up) Ray & Sandy Kephart

### WORSHIP HOSTS

June 4  
Ray & Sandy Kephart & Marian Veaaasen

June 11  
Andy & Norma Holen & Judy Waytashek

June 18  
Craig & Judy Hagman & Norma Thompson

June 25  
Arden & Patti Hook & Chuck Anderson

July 2  
Ed & Shirley Stukey & Marian Veaaasen

### OFFERING COUNTERS

June 4  
Dixie Peterson & Marian Veaaasen

June 11  
Ed Stukey & Sandy Kephart

June 18  
Bruce Peterson & Judy Hagman

June 25  
Eileen Hastings & Charleen Dahlgren

July 2  
Kaye Mickus & Marian Veaaasen

### LECTORS

June 4  
Colleen Kightlinger

June 11  
Judy Lundberg

June 18  
Judy Waytashek

June 25  
Patti Hook

July 2  
Sandy Kephart

### PIANISTS

June 4 Brienna

June 11 Barb

June 18

June 25 Joan

July 2 Barb

### FELLOWSHIP HOSTS

June 4 Rejoice & Praise & Bethany Branches

June 11

June 18 Hillman Group

June 25

July 2

If you can help out in providing treats for fellowship after worship, please call the church office to be put on the list. **THANK YOU!**

### JUNE BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

#### JUNE

<b>June 3rd</b>	Betty Renstrom's <b>101st</b> Birthday
<b>June 5th</b>	Kiera Kightlinger's Birthday
<b>June 6th</b>	Mark Anderson's Birthday
<b>June 8th</b>	Dwight and Bette Hagman's Anniversary
<b>June 12th</b>	Roger & Pat Estrem's Anniversary
<b>June 17th</b>	Ed & Shirley Stukey's Anniversary
<b>June 23rd</b>	Sam Virnig's Birthday
<b>June 24th</b>	Sarah Virnig's Birthday
<b>June 24th</b>	Pat Estrem's Birthday
<b>June 24th</b>	Tim & Darcy DeBoer's Anniversary
<b>June 24th</b>	Gene & Lorraine McKenzie's Anniversary
<b>June 29th</b>	Cliff & Marlis Saker's Anniversary
<b>June 29th</b>	Merlin Thurk's Birthday
<b>June 30th</b>	Charles Anderson's Birthday



### HOMEBOUND OR RELOCATED?

If a family member or friend has become homebound or has been moved into Assisted Living or the Nursing Home, please share that information with the church office. **THANK YOU!!**

**CHURCH OFFICE HOURS Monday through Friday 9am-3pm**

**Pastor John is in the office on Tuesdays. Please stop in or call for an appointment.  
Pastor John's phone: 320.676.3130**

**DEADLINE for the July/ August 2017 Mustard Seed will be NO LATER THAN Sunday, June 25th.  
Please have all items in to Darcy by this date. Thank You!**

**Un-approved Minutes for Council Meeting - May 16, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by President K Kucera.

Members present: R. Kephart, K. Kucera, N. Holen and Pastor John.

The April 18, 2017 minutes were approved. PJ/RK M/S/C

The proposed agenda was approved with the following additions; Bible school at the Alliance church PJ/RK M/S/C

Treasurers Report/Financial Update: April showed a net loss of \$298.53, YTD loss of \$1379.95

Pastor's Report: 04/1/17-04/30/17 – Worship: Sundays (3) including Palm Sunday, Easter and Maundy Thursday. Contacts: Individual Contacts (5), Membership and Baptism. Committees & Planning: Council Meeting (1), Finance (1), Worship planning. Events & Miscellaneous: Congregational Conversations re: Bethany's future, Synod Pastors Meeting (1), Onamia Community Prayer Breakfast, Synod Assembly (3 days) and Mustard Seed Article (1).

Planning Sessions for the next 11 months: Table

To-do List: Potential Council members - Ray and Kim still have two contacts (Ray has 1 possible candidate), Norma is completed (2 possible candidates), Pastor John completed (2 possible candidates).

Annual Meeting: The Council reviewed the report for the meeting on May 21, 2017.

Boiler: Ray is working on bids for 2 boilers.

Alliance Church Bible School: The Alliance Church will be hosting bible school the week of June 19-23 and wanted to extend an invitation to Bethany youth to attend. RK/NH M/S/C

Council thanked Kim for her years of service on the Bethany Council.

Meeting was adjourned. NH/RK M/S/C

Our next meeting will be held on June 20, 2016 at 5:30 p.m.

Submitted By: Kim Kucera, Acting Secretary

**SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING - MAY 24, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Pastor John.

Members present: R. Kephart and Pastor John (Norma Holen consent by phone)

Members absent: None

Item 1

Per the Bethany Lutheran Church constitution, Chapter 12 (C12.01.b) a council seat remaining empty for four successive regular meetings may be declared vacant. M/S/C to declare 6 council seats vacant.

Item 2

Per the Bethany Lutheran Church constitution, Chapter 12 (C12.03.) for Council seats declared vacant the Council shall elect a member of the congregation to fill the vacant seat. M/S/C to elect Patti Hook, Velma Jones, Pam Olson and Dixie Peterson to fill seats declared vacant in Item 1

M/S/C to adjourn,

Submitted By: John Lundberg, Acting Secretary

June Council meeting is Tuesday, June 20th at 5:30pm

## GROUPS, MEETINGS, ETC.

**Prayer Shawl** - Tuesday, June 6th at 4pm.

**Quilting** - Quilting will resume this Fall.

**SENIOR COMPANIONS** Meet at Bethany on the second Tuesday of each month from 9-11:30am.

Council meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, June 20th at 5:30pm.**

## MISCELLANEOUS NEWS AND INFORMATION

### **"Books for Bethany" for Bethany's Little Free Library!**

Bethany will be sponsoring a Book Drive again this summer. Books will be collected every Sunday beginning May 1. Books should be new or in gently used condition. Books can be for children, teens, or adults. Please look through your closets and shelves, and begin saving "Books for Bethany"! Spread the word.

### **ONAMIA DAYS BOOK & BAKE SALE**

SATURDAY, June 10 from 9am—2pm at the Onamia Depot Library. Accepting book donations through Wednesday, June 7th. Donations of baked goods can be dropped off Friday afternoon from 1-4pm or Saturday morning.

### **ONAMIA DAY'S PARADE**

Bethany will be participating in the parade again this year. There is a sign-up sheet on the door in the Narthex for those who will be able to walk in the parade. The parade is Sunday, June 11th at 2pm. Line up is at the Onamia Bus Garage beginning at 1pm.

### **Onamia Area Early Childhood Coalition 2nd Annual Rum River Rubber Ducky Race**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 12th - Ducks will be dropped in at the Rum River launch site in Onamia at 1 p.m. and retrieved at the Soo Line Trail bridge. Prizes awarded to the top 10 ducks. Adopt a duck for \$5. See Darcy or Susan.

**THANK YOU... to those who are giving through Thrivent Dollars!! Much appreciation!**

### **RUBY'S PANTRY**

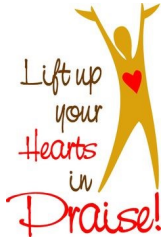
Food Distribution Program. Everyone who gets hungry qualifies! You receive an abundance of grocery items for a \$20 donation. Bring your own baskets or boxes for food. Located at the Lions Community Center, Onamia beginning **at 10:30 am the FIRST Monday of the month. Registration begins at 10am.**  
**Next three dates will be JUNE 5th, TUESDAY, JULY 3rd and AUGUST 7th.**

### **FARE FOR ALL**

This is a cooperative food purchasing program. **OPEN TO ANYONE!!** Packages of fruits and vegetables (\$10), as well as frozen meat items (\$11 or \$25). In Onamia one Wednesday per month from 3-5pm at the Veterans Club.  
**NEXT TWO DATES are June 7th and July 5th**

## JUNE 2017 MUSIC HAPPENINGS

### REJOICE & PRAISE



#### REJOICE AND PRAISE SCHEDULE

**SUNDAY, JUNE 4th - PENTECOST**

**8:15am - Rehearsal for Worship**

**9:30am - Rejoice & Praise leads worship**

**PENTECOST is Sunday, June 4th. PLEASE wear red to celebrate Pentecost.**

### BETHANY BRANCHES

**“Bethany Branches” (All children and young people age 4 through high school)**

**Sunday, June 4th : Meet at 8:15a.m. for rehearsal; lead worship at 9:30a.m.**

All Children and young people from age 4 through high school are invited to participate in leading worship as singers, musicians, readers, and actors.

For more information contact Susan Bracken or Colleen Kightlinger.

### HAPPY FATHER’S DAY!

Dusty Like Dad

“At the first church that I pastored, I had the job of mixing feed to supplement my income. For a period of about two weeks, each day that I came home from work, my two boys, ages 2 and 3 would look at me, smile, and would say, “Boy, dad, you sure are dusty!” I would reply, “Yes, I sure am dusty.” Then I would get cleaned up.

I didn’t think too much of this until I was washing my car and saw my oldest son doing something very strange. He was picking up the gravel and stones that were in our drive and rubbing them into his pants. I asked him, “Want are you doing?” He replied, “I want to be dusty like you dad!”

I realized that if a child would look up to his father for being dusty and want to copy his father, a child could look up to his father and follow him for anything. What are you passing on to your son?”

– Jerry L. Steen

### YOUTH HAPPENINGS



#### SUNDAY SCHOOL

**Sunday School will resume this Fall.**

# JUNE 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4</div> <b>PENTECOST</b> 8:15am - Rehearsal 9:30am - Rejoice & Praise & Bethany Branches w/ Communion	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5</div> 10am Community Connect 10:30am - RUBY'S PANTRY	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6</div> 4pm Prayer Shawl	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</div> 5pm - Bible study at UMC	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">9</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">10</div> 8:30am - Men's breakfast at UMC
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">11</div> 9:30am Holy Communion PARADE - 2pm	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">12</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">13</div> 9am Senior Companions 2pm - Mutual Ministry	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">14</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">15</div> 5pm - Bible study at UMC	ONAMIA DAYS	
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">18</div> FATHER'S DAY 9:30am Holy Communion	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">19</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">20</div> 5:30pm - Council Meeting	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">21</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">22</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">23</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">24</div>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">25</div> 9:30am Word & Prayer	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">26</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">27</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">28</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">29</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">30</div>	July 1
July 2 9:30am Holy Communion	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">3</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">4</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">5</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">6</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">7</div>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px;">8</div>

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH  
500 LINDQUIST ST.  
ONAMIA, MN 56359**

**320-532-3366**

**NON-PROFIT ORG  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
ONAMIA, MN  
PERMIT NO. 13**

**Council Members:**

**Pastor - John Lundberg**

<b>Norma Holen</b>	<b>Ray Kephart</b>
<b>Patti Hook</b>	<b>Pam Olson</b>
<b>Velma Jones</b>	<b>Dixie Peterson</b>

**Music Coordinator - Susan Bracken  
Administrative Assistant - Darcy DeBoer**

**RETURN SERVICE  
REQUESTED**

Address:

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 5 - PENTECOST**

**8:15am - Rehearsal for Worship  
9:30am - Rejoice & Praise and Bethany Branches  
w/ Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 11**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 18 - FATHER'S DAY**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

**SUNDAY, JUNE 25**

**9:30am - Word & Prayer**

**SUNDAY, JULY 2**

**9:30am - Holy Communion**

