

News & Notes

*Connecting People to Christ the Vine
And Keeping them Connected*

Bethany's Purpose Statement—*The Church's mission is to build herself up in faith and love, connecting more and more of fallen humanity to Christ, to the praise and glory of God, by and for the transmission of the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation through the Holy Gospel and sacraments of Christ and to keep her members connected to Christ through the same.*



Welcome
May 24, 2009
Seventh Sunday of Easter

On behalf of the family of Bethany Lutheran Church & School, we welcome our members and especially our guests and visitors in the name of Jesus Christ, our Risen Savior. If you are a visitor to Bethany, we ask you to fill out the yellow guest registration card in the pew rack. **We also invite our visitors to stop by our welcome center** in the Narthex for an information packet about our church.

Pony Express Cards Still Coming In!

If you have not turned in an Estimate of Giving card as part of the Pony Express stewardship program, please do so today. Extra cards and envelopes are available at the Pony Express poster. Some of the saddlebags are taking longer than expected to work their way through the routes so if you fill out a card today, you can let the saddlebag skip your house when your turn comes. If you did not get assigned a route (possibly due to demographics, phone records, etc), please complete one today to indicate your estimated support of the Lord's ministry here at Bethany next fiscal year. Thanks to all those who have participated!

Communion Next Week

Next week, on the Feast of Pentecost, we will offer the Lord's Supper at the 5 p.m. and 11:15 a.m. services. At 9 a.m. we will welcome new members by transfer, who will join the catechumens in the Rite of Vocation. The following 5th Sunday, August 30, will also have communion at 5 p.m. and 11:15 a.m., as we have Rally Day festivities at the 9 a.m. service that day. We will return to communing at 9 & 11:15 on 5th Sundays on November 29.

Preparations Underway for the June Voters Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Voters Assembly is set for Sunday, June 7 at 1 p.m., with lunch at 12:30 p.m. The Special Orders for this meeting include the approval of the Bethany Church and School budget for the 2009/2010 fiscal year. To prepare for this meeting, the Board of Finance is sponsoring two forums. The first is on Thursday, May 28 at 7 p.m. and the second is on Sunday, May 31 at 12:30 p.m. Both forums will provide the same information. Please plan to attend these important events.

The Six Chief Duties of the Church

Drawn from Scripture and Recorded in C.F.W. Walther's Book: *The Proper Form of the Christian Congregation*

Duty 1 - See to it that the Word of God Dwells Richly in your Midst (Colossians 3:16)

Duty 2 - Keep the Gospel Pure and Practice Church Discipline (Romans 16:17)

Duty 3 - Look after the Temporal Needs of the Church Members (Galatians 6:10)

Duty 4 - Do all Things in Good Order (1 Corinthians 14:33)

Duty 5 - Band Together with Other Right Teaching Churches (Synod) (Ephesians 4:3)

Duty 6 - Expand the Kingdom of Christ (Missions and Evangelism) (Amos 6:6)

Calendar

DATE	TIME	DESCRIPTION
Sunday 05/24	7:45AM 9:00 11:15 2:30PM	Matins no/communion Divine Service w/communion No Sunday School, High School, Adult, Orientation Classes Matins no/communion Mills/Reier Wedding—Sanctuary
Monday 05/25	7:30 to 10:00PM	Memorial Day No School—Church/School Offices Closed Board of Elders Bible Study/Meeting—Conf Rm
Tuesday 05/26	6:30 to 9:00PM 6:45 to 8:15 7:30 to 9:00 7:30 to 9:00	BLS Awards Night—PAC Telecare (Team 4) - Ch Office Lutheran Confessions—Conf. Rm Voters Board—Library
Wednesday 05/27	8:45 to 9:30AM 9:45 to 11:00 7:00 to 9:00	BLS Chapel—Sanctuary Wednesday AM Bible Study—Conf Rm Lifelight Bible Study—Conf Rm BLS Jr. High Fine Arts Concert—Sanctuary
Thursday 05/28	7:00 to 9:00PM 7:15 to 8:35PM	Board of Finance Cong Budget Forum—MPR Proclaim—Sanctuary
Friday 05/29		
Saturday 05/30	7:30 to 9:00AM 5:00PM	Men's Basketball—PAC Habitat for Humanity—Offsite Divine Service w/communion
Sunday 05/31	7:45AM 9:00 10:15 11:15 12:30 to 2:00PM	Matins no/communion Matins no/communion Sunday School, High School, Adult, Orientation Classes Divine Service w/communion Board of Finance Cong Budget Forum—MPR

Bethany Summaries

Date	Attendance	Unified Offering	Budgeted Contributions
4/19	515	\$11,874	\$22,167
4/26	585	\$14,915	\$22,167
5/03	854	\$13,143	\$13,484
5/10	560	\$15,427	\$13,484
5/17	484	\$14,205	\$13,484

Monthly Simply Giving Auto Withdrawal Receipts—\$3,353 (not included in above).



Christ Lutheran Academy

CLA is offering several camps this summer including a science camp (June 15-18), physical ed camp (June 15-18), a Spanish camp (June 15-18) and a creative writing class (July 6-9). Call CLA for more information on these exciting summer camps.

For information and questions about CLA call the school office at 815-487-4140 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 noon Monday through Friday or visit our website www.CLA-Plainfield.org.

LAST DAY TO ORDER Red Geraniums for Pentecost



We will once again decorate the sanctuary with geraniums for Pentecost, May 31. Afterward they will be planted on our grounds. The sign up sheet and payment envelopes are with the flower chart in the narthex. The cost is \$6 per geranium. Unfortunately we only have a few names on the sign up sheet—please consider helping us achieve our goal of 45 geraniums.

Chancel Flowers

Flowers for this Sunday, May 24 were placed by Mike and Sheri Walsh for their 15th wedding anniversary.

In Our Prayers (as of 05/21/09)

All of our Members, especially: Louise Bolt, cancer treatments; Dave Dumford, recovery from heart surgery; Eleanor Kerth, cancer; Laura Laube, recovery from surgery; Bill Rodman, pneumonia; Bill Schoen, ill health; Jacob Siebert, recovery from surgery; Ray Van Ham, continued recovery; Ed Warner, ill health; Jessica Yendrejczyk, waiting for kidney transplant. (please renew/update prayer requests after four weeks)



All of our Family Members & Friends, especially: Lou Amoroso, (father-in-law of Janine Amoroso) cancer/chemo treatments; Sandy Anderson, (friend of Glenn Sonlitner) cancer treatments; Richard Baker, (father of Linda Parr) poor health; Katie Beres, (niece of Brian and Sheril Hagie) cancer/chemo treatments; Anne Broggi, (mother of Mike Broggi) hospitalized; Melissa Carrier, (friend of the Esposito family) cancer; Harlan Heiserman, (pastor of Peter Johnson) chemo treatments; Debbie Kamdain, (friend of the Gutzwiller family) recovery from surgery; Marj Koenig, (friend of the Gutzwiller family) cancer; Donna Mullholland, (relative of Jennifer Staffeldt) broken hip/recovery from hip replacement surgery; Rose Paavo, (sister of Denise Collins) healing; (please renew/update prayer requests after two weeks).

For Mike and Sheri Walsh for their 15th wedding anniversary.



Women's Summer Bible Study: A New Song

All women are invited to a Bible study meeting at 7 p.m. on Wednesday evenings at the church this summer. Meeting dates are: June 3, June 17, July 1, July 22, Aug. 5 & Aug. 19. We will use "A New Song: A Women's Bible Study Devotional," a new series from CPH. Come and grow in God's Word, read straight-from-the-heart stories written by women for women, watch inspirational DVD presentations and experience the true love of Christ. Join us for this study of Psalms on Divine Wisdom, "Planted by Streams of Water." Pick up a study book in the church office for \$11.

Worship At Bethany

Does Bethany offer contemporary worship? Does Bethany have traditional services? Worship at Bethany is both - and neither. Like many parishes, Bethany seeks to unite God's family in worship that rises above stylistic preferences.

Christian worship begins with the crucified Christ, who comes to us in Word and Sacrament. He brings to the people of God forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. We in turn extol these gifts with joyful thanksgiving and praise, proclaiming the story of God's love through His Word. This celebration is done in concert with the Church throughout the world, and finds its expression in the liturgy. Lutheran worship is therefore traditional in that it is part of the timeless culture of the Church, and contemporary in that it communicates the Gospel in ways that are appropriate to a given place and time. Since worship is the vocation of all baptized Christians, Lutheran liturgy calls for all individuals to do their parts, that faith may be increased among all who worship, and that Christ may be most strongly confessed before the world.

Providing worship that achieves these noble ends is the responsibility of any Christian congregation. Continuing in the tradition of the evangelical Lutheran communion, the Divine Service at Bethany seeks therefore to involve all who gather in the name of the Lord in the proclaiming, confessing, singing, and praying of God's Word.

Military Prayers

All men and women serving in the military, especially Nathan Awis, Sean Benson, Kurt Bevente, Clint Burnell, Tracey Collins, Sean Haggerty, Luke Harms, Matthew Hinze, Peter Johnson, Michael Kato, Ryan Killacky, Jeremy Klinger, Jim Kolzow, Joe Krefft, Christopher Lee, Matt Nelson, Jason Skeen, Nicholas Camm Williams, Joshua Zyskowski.

Prayer Chain Requests: Please call Marlene Elder at 630-961-1095 or Gertrude Bartha at 630-355-4871.

No Sunday School This Weekend.

The summer quarter of Sunday School begins on June 7 for all grades as staff is available. Classes run through July 26 (no classes on July 5). Teachers and helpers are needed for the summer quarter (grades are : preK (3, 4 & entering K) entering 1-5 and entering 6-8. Classes will be offered as teachers are available. Contact Patty Pedigo (815-577-7452) to find out how you can help out for a week or more this summer! A full curriculum is provided.

Bible Study Page

Youth

"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching and they ate together with glad and sincere hearts" Acts 2:42,46

Garage Sale Tidbits!

How can you help make the sale a success? Encourage family and friends to:

- Donate stuff to sell
- Donate shopping bags with handles
- Provide your truck for large item pick-up
- Come to the Pizza Pricing Party



All New Acolytes

Installation is scheduled for May 31 at the beginning of the 11:15 a.m. service.

St. Andrew Society Picnic

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

10:30 to 2:30

Culver's Bible Study Summer Schedule

Sunday, June 14

Monday, July 13

Sunday, August 9

6:30 to 8 p.m. See you there and remember to bring a friend. Culvers @ 75th & Rt. 59



Parish Education Opportunities

"They devoted themselves to the apostles teaching." Acts 2:42

*There are NO Sunday Classes this Sunday.
All Classes result next Sunday at 10:15 a.m.*

Adult Bible Studies

"The Means of Grace in the Life of a Christian" taught by Pastor Schumacher in the PAC. No class today. Class concludes May 31.

Catechumenate Class - Orientation and Assimilation

Our newest members were confirmed at the Easter Vigil. We are now assimilating them, along with those who are becoming members through transfer and re-affirmation of faith. All members are welcome to these classes where we will hear from staff and lay leaders from all areas of Bethany. If you would like to learn more about how our church and school function, join us. This is a great opportunity for our current and new members to get acquainted. Refreshments will be supplied by the featured groups each week. Pastor Rossow will be leading these sessions in the multi-purpose room. No class today May 24.

Sunday School-Patty Pedigo, SS Superintendent

Sunday School meets from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m.

High School Bible Study

High School Bible Study meets from 10:15 to 11:00 a.m. in the multi-purpose room.

Weekday Bible Classes

Tuesday Evening Teachings of the Lutheran Church

Pastor Rossow's class on the Teachings of the Lutheran Church and the Scriptures meets at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evenings.

Wednesday Morning Bible Study

This class will next meet on **Wednesday, May 27** at 9:30 a.m.

Wednesday Evening LifeLight

The Wednesday evening Lifelight has two branches and is studying the book of Isaiah. They will meet together at church on **May 27 at 7:30 p.m.** For more information call Sandy Wischmeyer (home group) or Pam Mueller (coffee shop group) 630-355-2198.

LifeLight for Women

Women's Friday Morning Lifelight is on break for the summer. See page 3 for a new women's Bible study opportunity being offered this summer.

Saturday Men's Bible Breakfast

Pastor Schumacher teaches a Bible Study the 1st and 3rd Saturday of each month in the multi-purpose room at 7:30 a.m. All men are welcome.

LWML Bible Study

LWML Bible Study is on break for the summer.

Ministry Pages

Day School

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching.” Acts 2:42

The Role of Our School

We are committed to connecting children to Christ and keeping them connected to Him through education, and so we operate a Pre-K through 8th grade school. Our school is a major priority for us, along with preaching and teaching the Word in our regular services.

The School and School Office will be closed on Monday, May 25 in observance of Memorial Day. Classes will resume on Tuesday, May 26.

Bethany Honors Its Students

On Tuesday, May 26 Bethany will honor its students for academic achievement as well as for their sports accomplishments at their Awards Night. Students will receive special awards for participating in the Geography and Spelling Bees, for band, choir, the spring musical as well as art achievements. In addition, Student Council and school newspaper participants will be recognized. Honor Roll and Christian Leadership Awards for Jr. High students will also be awarded. Volleyball, basketball and track teams will receive their sports awards. The evening will be capped off with the announcement of this year's valedictorian and salutatorian for the Class of 2009.

School Registration for the 2009-2010 School Year

For information on school registration for next year, please call the School Office at 630-355-6607 Monday through Friday. All classes are open with the exception of Preschool 4s morning class, Kindergarten and Fourth grade. These classes are filled with the maximum number of students. We also have a couple of classes that

are close to being filled. Please call the School Office for information on these classes.

Congratulations to Our Track Team



Congratulations to our Royals track team. They did a great job at the State Track Meet last weekend. Be sure to take a look at the pictures and records on display on the office windows. Thanks to the many coaches who helped out this year and a special thank you to Dan Guenther who once again took on the job of head coach.

Junior High Helps “Feed My Starving Children”

On May 8 our junior high students helped pack food boxes at the “Feed My Starving Children” facility. The students, along with their teachers and chaperones packed 20,736 meals (96 boxes), which will feed 57 children for an entire year. Thank you to our junior high for this service project of helping others.

The Sound of Music

Congratulations to our entire BLS Band. The Spring Concert was wonderful and enjoyed by all who attended. Thanks to Mr. Vasilie for a fantastic year!

**BLS 8th Grade Graduation
Friday, June 5—7 p.m.**

Bethany Welcomes Rev. Daniel Preus the Weekend of June 7

The Luther Academy is an organization that was established in 1991 to assist the church in preserving and proclaiming the Gospel of Jesus Christ. They promote genuine, confessional Lutheran Theology through conferences and publications. Rev. Daniel Preus, the Executive Director of the Luther Academy, will be our guest preacher at all services on the weekend on June 6/7. He comes as a gesture of appreciation for the mission dollars that were sent from Bethany to Luther Academy for their work in Indonesia. This is an area where about five million people belong to church bodies that are Lutheran and/or open to Lutheran teaching. The Luther Academy now is able to instruct Indonesian pastors in Lutheran doctrine and practice as a result of Bethany's offering.

Treasurer's Report

	April 30, 2009			10 month 2007/08
	10 month 2008/09	Budget 2008/09	Difference	
Contributions	788,700	871,200	-82,500	869,000
Tuition, Fees	603,200	613,500	-10,300	583,600
Matching	14,700	16,200	-1,500	19,700
Interest	3,300	2,100	1,200	3,100
Bequest/Transfers	141,800	100,000	41,800	100,000
School Fund Raiser	1,600	7,500	-5,900	10,000
Other	7,500	0	7,500	1,100
Total Income	1,560,800	1,610,500	-49,700	1,586,500
Sal./Ben.	1,154,600	1,142,600	12,000	1,092,600
Program	181,800	201,200	-19,400	177,800
Properties	193,100	203,000	-9,900	181,500
Mortgage	58,300	57,500	800	56,000
Total Expense	1,587,800	1,604,300	-16,500	1,507,900
2008/2009				
Surplus/Deficit	-27,000	6,200	-33,200	78,600

Freed to Connect

Total Dollars Committed	1,055,934
Number of Commitments	211
Total Dollars Received as of 4-30-2009	785,995
Total Dollars Received in April	9,887
Available to spend during	FY 2009-10
Missions	20,016
Bethany Programs	25,784
LCEF Mortgage Loan Balance	
	6/30/06 6/30/07 6/30/08 04/30/09
	2,427,443 814,062 650,341 413,393

Some garage sale details:



Bethany Member Pre-Sale—Wed. June 10 (5-8 p.m.)

Open to the Public Sale—Thurs. June 11 (8 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 to 8 p.m.), Fri. June 12 (8 a.m. to 3 p.m.), Sat. June 13 (8 a.m. to 1 p.m.)

Donation Drop-Off Day—Sat. June 6 (3 to 7 p.m.), Sun. June 7 (2 to 5 p.m.), Mon. June 8 (noon to 4 p.m. and Tues. June 9 (8 a.m. to noon).

Looking Ahead At Bethany

May 30 & 31

Sarah Longmire Visit

May 31

New Acolyte Installation—11:15 service.

June 17

St. Andrew Society Picnic—10:30 to 2:30

June 11-13

Bethany Youth Garage Sale

June 22-26

Bethany Music Camp

July 13-17

Vacation Bible School

Attention All Acolytes Come to the Acolyte Picnic

On Wed. June 17 from 10:30 to 2:30 come and join the fun!

We'll have "Wacky Acolyte Games" including a traditional water balloon fight and a delicious lunch.

Remember—RSVP to Cantor Magness—email or phone.

Large Item pick-up dates—Sat. June 6 (3 to 5 p.m.), Sun. June 7 (2 to 4 p.m.), Mon. June 8 (7 to 9 p.m.). Call Chuck Guebert (630-357-3759) by Thurs. June 4 to schedule a pick-up.

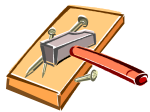
A "Pizza Pricing Party!" is scheduled for June 9 from 6 to 8:30 p.m. Get to know your fellow Bethany members by working together. No experience necessary, training provided. All volunteer help is welcome at all times. Call Diana Guebert (630-357-3759) to volunteer.

Feature Pages

Bethany Music Camp Registration Strong

There has been considerable interest in this year's music camp. Registrations so far show a strong, talented group for this year's camp. Mr. Vasilie, Mrs. Keller, and Cantor Magness are particularly pleased to see the balance between older (entering grades 6-8) and younger students (entering grades 3-5). This means we'll be able to provide fun activities targeted to each age group. We know many of the older students are pumped about the addition of band lessons & handbell choir as part of the camp this year. And we know even more kids are planning on coming! We are starting to assemble & order curriculum, and so ask parents to please go ahead and turn registration forms in as soon as possible. If you'd like a deadline - how 'bout *June 3*? That would still give us plenty of time to get materials prepared for this annual "singing school", which will be held June 22 - 27, 9:00 - 11:45am. We have an astonishingly rich heritage of music as Lutheran Christians. Help keep our song alive by registering your son or daughter for music camp today!

Bethany Members to Work at Habitat



Site

Look for the sign up sheet on the Message Tower this weekend if you want to be part of the Bethany team that is volunteering at the local Habitat/Thrivent Builds site on Saturday,

June 6. We can only take eight to ten workers so sign up early. Remember, carpentry skills are a plus but if you can follow instructions and are willing to help out, we would be glad to add you to our team! Contact David Brouch 630-922-8858.

Junior High Concert on May 27!



Come hear our Bethany Lutheran School's junior high students in concert on May 27 at 7pm. Featured ensembles will include our junior high choir, advanced band, advanced handbells, madrigal singers, jazz band, and "Chicks with Sticks". This annual event is a highlight of each school year. Don't miss it!

Bethany Nursery Need

Bethany provides a staffed nursery every Sunday morning for the 7:45, 9 and 11:15 a.m. services. Georgia Bevente staffs the nursery and welcomes anyone who would like to assist her at any time on Sunday. Also, the nursery is in need of diaper wipes at this time. The next time you're out and about, please consider purchasing a container of wipes and dropping them off at the nursery.

Vacation Bible School—July 13 to 17

This year, Bethany Lutheran Church will be hosting "The Kingdom of the Son" from July 13-17 from 9:00 to 11:40 a.m. Our theme this year is a prayer safari—we look forward to seeing your children as we learn the Lord's Prayer and how God speaks to us through prayer. Registration materials are now available at the kiosk in the narthex. VBS is open to those entering 4 year old preschool through the 5th grade. The cost is \$12 per child. Forms and checks may be returned to the VBS Registration Box in the narthex or to the church office via mail. We are also looking for volunteers, so please sign up at the kiosk if you are interested. Please direct questions to Sally Wilson at 630-551-1367 or email her at sw628@comcast.net. Thank you and we are looking forward to another great year of VBS!

Make Your Pentecost Plans Now—Wear Red Next Week!



Ten days after Jesus ascended into heaven his Apostles and family members gathered to celebrate the 50th day of Passover. On this day the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and they began to proclaim the Gospel with zeal and passion. Flames of fire appeared on their heads and they spoke in the native languages of all those present. To recall this miraculous event, we bring out our finest fire reds—paraments, vestments, flowers and clothing. Plan now to wear the colors of Pentecost on the weekend of May 29/30. If you enjoy a good themed celebration, here are some other ideas for the Festival of Pentecost.

- Wear red clothing to church and all day on May 31
- Be ready to explain to others why you are all decked out in red
- Share a bouquet of red flowers with a friend or relative or deliver a small red bedding plant to a number of friends and neighbors with a brief Pentecost message
- Put a red tablecloth or napkins on your dinner table
- Make a meal using red food or enjoy a snack of red fruit or candy

Let's share our excitement for holidays and festivals that really have meaning for Christians!

