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Bethel Lutheran Church
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Parkersburg, IA 50665

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers - ALL MEMBERS
Issue 8

Volume 40

Dr. David Craig - Pastor
August 2017

Bethel Lutheran Mission Statement: "We seek to live God's Word by learning, proclaiming, serving, and praising enthusiastically with all our heart, mind, strength and soul for the building of the Family of Christ."

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH August 2017 BEACON

School Days, School Days

It's August and time to get back to readin', 'ritin', and 'rithmetic. New clothes, new pencils, notebooks, and backpacks; we wouldn't dream of not sending our children off to get educated in the 3 R's. Why those are downright important things that will carry our children into the future where their children will learn that what they are currently learning is no longer true. But, we will still insist that they devote great time and energy to temporary truth. What about eternal truth?

The Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, the Apostles' Creed, these are truths that have not changed and will not change forever. We say to our children, "Keep your grades up or you can't play sports or participate in other extracurricular activities." This statement compels them to keep their minds toiling away at the grindstone of learning temporary truth, both temporary in the sense that it is always changing and in the sense that it does not carry over into heavenly places. But in a dramatic change of attitude from not too many years past, a time when spiritual truth and biblical knowledge were highly valued, we say to those same children that if they succeed in learning that which will not last, that they can skip out each week on learning that which will last.

We argue that they are only young once and that they should have all the opportunities to explore their talents in many areas, even if exploring them keeps them from Sunday school, church, confirmation, and faithfulness to the teaching of the Word thereafter. What has happened to the spiritual understanding of our adult population? Solomon wrote, "*Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*" So, train up a child to consider what he wants to do as being more important than what God wants him to do, and that attitude will carry him or her through life. (cont.)

School Days, School Days (cont.)

Now it's time for training in the real 3 R's. Right Truth, Right Knowledge, Right Goals. God's word is eternal truth. Jesus said, "*Thy Word is Truth*" (John 17:17) Knowing God's word is right knowledge "*the fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge.*" (Prov. 1:7) Right goals are to live a life for Christ, not self. "*For me to live is Christ*" (Phil. 1:21). Our choice is the 3 R's, temporary or eternal. Choose like Joshua, "*As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" (Josh. 24:15)

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David Craig
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[Abundant Grace Daily Devotion](#)

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Financial Update as of July 18, 2017

Bank Account Balance	\$25,951.18
Commitments yet to be paid:	
- Benevolence	\$9,207.38
- Sanctuary/Interior Bell Tower Repairs/Painting-estimate (congregational vote May 28, 2017)	4,500.00
- Exterior Gutter finish work-estimate	500.00
- Loan Balance	<u>1,711.07</u>
Subtotal - Commitments above	<u>15,918.45</u>
Balance	\$10,032.73

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September Calendar item: The Church Council has scheduled a work day on Saturday, September 16th beginning at 8:30 a.m. to finish landscaping around the church including moving the rock from the parking lot to the Salem bell area. Rain date is September 23rd. Please mark your calendar. All help would be appreciated.

August Bible Reading Schedule

Aug 1, Tues: Matt. 23:1-22, Romans 1:18-32, Ecclesiastes 5
Wednesday: Matthew 23:23-39, Romans 2, Ecclesiastes 6
Thursday: Matthew 24:1-14, Romans 3, Ecclesiastes 7
Friday: Matthew 24:15-28, Romans 4, Ecclesiastes 8
Saturday: Matthew 24:29-44, Romans 6, Ecclesiastes 9
Sunday: Genesis 31

Aug 7, Mon: Matthew 24:45-51, Romans 7, Ecclesiastes 10
Tuesday: Matthew 25:1-13, Romans 8:1-17, Ecclesiastes 11
Wednesday: Matt. 25:14-30, Romans 8:18-39, Ecclesiastes 12
Thursday: Matthew 25:31-46, Romans 9, Zechariah 1
Friday: Matthew 26:1-16, Romans 10, Zechariah 2
Saturday: Matthew 26:17-35, Romans 11, Zechariah 3
Sunday: Genesis 32

Aug 14, Mon: Matthew 26:36-46, Romans 12, Zechariah 4
Tuesday: Matthew 26:47-56, Romans 13, Zechariah 5
Wednesday: Matthew 26:57-75, Romans 14, Zechariah 6
Thursday: Matthew 27:1-14, Romans 15:1-21, Zechariah 7
Friday: Matthew 27:15-31, Romans 15:22-33, Zechariah 8
Saturday: Matthew 27:32-54, Romans 16, Zechariah 9
Sunday: Genesis 33

Aug 21, Mon: Matthew 27:55-66, Joshua 1, Zechariah 10
Tuesday: Matthew 28, Joshua 2, Zechariah 11
Wednesday: John 1:1-18, Joshua 3, Zechariah 12
Thursday: John 1:19-34, Joshua 4, Zechariah 13
Friday: John 1:35-51, Joshua 5, Zechariah 14
Saturday: John 2:1-12, Joshua 6, Proverbs 1
Sunday: Genesis 34

Aug 28, Mon: John 2:13-25, Joshua 7, Proverbs 2
Tuesday: John 3:1-21, Joshua 8, Proverbs 3
Wednesday: John 3:22-36, Joshua 9, Proverbs 4
Thursday: John 4:1-26, Joshua 10:1-27, Proverbs 5

BLCW – To all women of Bethel: you are all members of the BLCW and we are having a meeting/brunch on Sunday, August 27th, following worship service. All women are invited. There will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. I hope everyone is having a good summer and I am looking forward to seeing everyone on August 27th.

Diane Buss, BLCW President

AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

2 – Ted Tuitjer
5 – Desiree Tomkins
6 – Mary Fink
7 – Connie Rule, Wilma Schultz
9 – Hope Tomkins
10- Ethan Allen, Kim Marlette
11 – Kolbi Rice
12 – Brenda Everts
13 – Ken Beckman, Mark Buss
14 – Norma Dudley
15 – Diane Buss, Pat Van Hauen
17 – Devin Bernard, Mike Niesen
20 – Kyle Rice
23 – Wayne Dudley, Ava Mann, Maxine Wahl
24 – Courtney Frey
27 – Rylan Paulson
29 - Sara Stearns

AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

4 – Chris & Nina Sweeney (5)
10 – Dave & Sharleen Hubbard (43)
17 – Dale & Jenny Hansmann (43)
17 – Jim & JoAnne Schwarz (54)
21 – Steve & Sherry Brouwer (46)
22 – Ryan & April Schrage (8)
25 – Dan & Kay Frey (33)
30 – Joseph & Christina Edwards (3)
31 – Bryce & Ruth Zacharias (43)

FAMILY DEVOTIONS FOR AUGUST

Let's Get Ready!

Bible Verse: "Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!" Philippians 4:4

"Are you ready for school?" We'll hear that a lot in the days ahead. And the replies will vary from, "Don't remind me!" to the more unusual, "Yes – Can't wait!" Most of us (adults, too) are never ready for vacations to be over. We like our free time. And for kids, it might be a little scary to start something new, like a new school year. So how can we equip our families to be ready with a good attitude about school, job, or whatever God has in store? The best way is with the tools God gives us. Try this: Write/type uplifting Bible verses on cards to stick on the mirror or put in our pockets. Better yet, memorize them! Here are a few to get started, but don't stop here!

- 1) "I can do all things in Him who strengthens me!"
Philippians 4:13
- 2) "Cast all your anxiety upon Him because He cares for you." I Peter 5:7
- 3) "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Joshua 1:9
- 4) "God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline."
2 Timothy 1:7

Pray: Dear Father in Heaven, Help us be ready and willing to follow you wherever you might lead us! Amen.

Relay for Life Update – exceeded their goal and raised \$1,597.82. Thank you so much for everyone who helped and donated. It was a very successful Relay for Life and we appreciate everyone's contributions.

July 19, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Present: Diane Buss, Carol Chapman, Darla Drewelow, Dan Frey, Jenny Hansmann

Call to Order and Prayer by Dan Frey

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Jenny Hansmann, 2nd by Diane Buss

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Diane Buss. Julia Dudley reported that the tuckpointing loan balance is \$1,711.07.

Pastor's Report: Pastor David provided a report of his visits during May and June of 2017. He was on vacation May 22-29. He will be on vacation July 24-30.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – would like Stacy to check on the Riverside Bible Camp.
- Outreach Ministry Team – haven't met but concerned about our absent members.
- Fellowship Ministry Team – haven't met but on the last Congregational Bible Study sign-up, there were no participants. Would like some ideas and some help.
- Property Ministry Team – 1) replaced a valve on toilet; 2) removed diffusers on lights to make church brighter, checking on price to add lights to fans and add bulbs up front; 3) need another work day to finish rock. Set as September 16th at 8:30 a.m. with rain date of September 23rd; 4) Bruce suggested checking into a cement repair for the low spot in the parking lot and clean and seal coat cracks. Bruce made a motion to get an estimate; 2nd by Diane Buss.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – no meeting
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – Relay for Life had lower participation but met their monetary goal.

(cont.)

Church Council Minutes (cont.)

- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – After some discussion a motion was made by Bruce Simon 2nd by Jenny Hansmann to send benevolence to the following: \$500 each to Butler County Relay for Life, Food Pantry, LCMC, Cedar Valley Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Voice of the Martyrs, and Food for the Poor, and \$1,000 to Cody and Samantha Wiegmann for medical-related expenses for their daughter, Hayden.

Old Business:

1. Update on McGee Construction: will start July 31st or August 7th at 7:00 a.m.
2. Youth Leaders: possible interest in being youth leader
3. Additional Loan payments: motion by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Diane Buss for a double payment in August
4. Hog Roast: Congregational event in lieu of the Hog Roast
5. VBS update: need to re-evaluate; didn't have any helpers sign up
6. Confirmation: Pastor David and Jacque, and Council President Dan Frey met with some parents with updates on their progress toward confirmation

New Business:

1. Ushers: may need to have ushers sign up for a month at the beginning of the year and find their own substitute when necessary
2. Council potluck: Fellowship and Outreach Teams are to meet and bring ideas to August Council meeting. Darla will set up a meeting.
3. Cable provider: Dan will ask Dale Stearns to call Century Link to add Dan to the account; other names will be changed after that

Closed with The Lord's Prayer

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Diane Buss, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

August Communion Assistants: Dan Frey, Michelle Krohn

September Communion Assistants: Jenny Hansmann, Stacy Palmer

--Submitted by Darla Drewelow for Stacy Palmer

Bethel Lutheran Church Worship Assistant Schedule for August-- Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

	August 6	August 13	August 20	August 27
USHER	Jeff Johnson			
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD				
GREETERS	Dale & Jenny Hansmann	Terry & Janet Mennen	Dan & Nancy Hemann	Kory & Deb Walters
LECTORS	Diane Buss	Dave Hubbard	Julia Dudley	Pam Jacobson
LITURGISTS	Aaron Ellermann	JoAnne Schwarz	Terry Mennen	Sharleen Hubbard
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann Corryn Mann	Kielinn Herter	Gavin Bernard Devin Bernard	Evan Palmer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dan Frey Michelle Krohn		Dan Frey Michelle Krohn	
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Church Council			
SOUND SYSTEM	Church Council			

IF YOU ARE UNABLE TO FULFILL THE ABOVE COMMITMENT, PLEASE FIND A SUBSTITUTE

JULY SUMMARY

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, July 2	67	\$165.35	\$2,117.42	\$0.00
Sunday, July 9	64	\$121.00	\$1,739.02	\$0.00
Sunday, July 16	50	\$188.00	\$1,992.00	\$0.00
Sunday, July 23	55	\$80.50	\$1,529.50	\$0.00
Total Receipts January 1-July 23, 2017		\$4,280.12	\$58,969.28	\$0.00

ORGANIZED PRAYER FOR OUR BETHEL LUTHERAN FAMILIES

WEEK OF AUGUST 6 – Kathy & Leland Aalfs, Randy & Janelle Gorter, Josh Gorter, Dennis Muller, Amber & Ian, Samantha Muller Wiegmann, Tripp & Hayden, Meri Jo Wiese, Nichole & Tyler, Arlo Williams & Sarah Briggs

WEEK OF AUGUST 13 – Ken & Karla Beckman, Ted Gorter, B.J. Gorter & family, Kirk & Suzanne Gerloff Neuroth, Connor, Malea & Nicholas, Jeff & Stacy Palmer, Clayton & Evan, Bryce & Ruth Zacharias, Joe & Christina Tjepkes Edwards & Sloan

WEEK OF AUGUST 20 – Gary Bergman & family, Shirley Bergman, Rob & Maggie Gorter, Aiden & Wyatt, Lois Hagen, Jeremy & Brooke Paulson, Rylan & Bexlee, Harvey Peters, Shannon & Natalie Drewelow Spree & Ethan Allen

WEEK OF AUGUST 27 – Perry & Adrian Bernard, Devin, Gavin, Lorna & Bella, Barb Brouwer, Bill & Jackie Hager, Dale & Jenny Hansmann, Bob & Lista Patterson, Allen & Rachel Redman, Nate, Chad & Sarah

AUGUST 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	<u>2</u>	3	4	5
6 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 Coffee	7	8	9	10 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study at Darla's Home	11	12
13 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee	14	15	16 7:00 p.m. Church Council	17	18	19
20 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 Coffee	21	22	23	24	25	26
27 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 BLC Women brunch/ meeting	28	29	30	31		

Calendar item: Local harpist, Mackenzie Uhlenhopp, and friend, Kris Dewild, will be performing a one-hour harp concert at Aplington Evangelical Presbyterian Church on Sunday, August 20, 2017, at 6:00 p.m. Everyone is invited to attend and admission is free.