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Bethel Lutheran Church
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Parkersburg, IA 50665

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers - ALL MEMBERS
Issue 7

Volume 40

Dr. David Craig - Pastor
July 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 July 2017 BEACON

Birthdays

There is some special event that each month reminds us of. For me, July is birthday month, not because we all have birthdays in July, but because I do. Whose is the first birthday that we learn? That's right, ours. With our children and grandchildren, we cover all twelve months of the year, but I still think of July as birthday month.

As a child, it was exciting to have one and it took forever to get to the next one. Now they are less exciting and they seemingly come more quickly. As a child, they made us feel like we were really growing up. Now they remind us that we are getting really old, at least that's the way my grandkids see me.

But there is also something more sobering that birthdays remind us of. There will be a limited number of them. The psalmist says that we get three score and ten of them (70) and if by virtue of strength, four score (80). By the psalmist's figuring, I am down to four more. That poses two questions.

The first is, what am I going to do with that limited time? My grandmother had a plaque on her wall that said, "Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Do my days, months, and years amount to what Christ wants them to accomplish for Him? Since He set the bounds of my life, and He has also set the expectations for the time given. Birthdays can help us evaluate whether we have used the past year for Him and how we might lay our plans for service to Him in the year ahead.

The second question is, am I ready for my final birthday? After this life there is another one, and that one is eternal. Have we prepared for it? Have we trusted Christ as Savior, put our faith in Him? No matter what birthday count we have reached, that is the single most important question for every person, the question for which we need the right answer.

David Craig
davidccraig.net
Abundant Grace Daily Devotion

**VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL – VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES
ARE NEEDED**

VBS is fast approaching and volunteers are still needed to fill all open spots for Crew Leaders (4) and Bible Adventures (2). Please sign up on the bulletin board. There is also a list of items needed for crafts and snacks.

Items needed for snacks:

- 4 boxes of graham crackers
- 2 bags of chocolate chips
- 80 small paper plates
- 80 ziplock baggies
- 4 containers cool whip

Snack supplies need to be brought to the church no later than July 10th. Someone will need to transport the snack supplies from our church to the Christian Reformed Church by July 11th. Craft supplies should be brought no later than July 6th.

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RELAY FOR LIFE

Mark your Calendar: **Friday, July 14th, 6:00-11:00 p.m., Butler County Fairgrounds, Allison** -- Opening ceremony starts at 6:00 p.m. with the Survivors Lap immediately following, and the caregivers lap immediately following the survivors lap. The Luminaria presentation starts at 9:00 p.m. Closing ceremonies are at 10:45 p.m. Bethel will have a tent set up, close to the same spot as we usually are.

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July Anniversaries

- 8 – Terry & Darla Drewelow (40)
- 10 – Jeff & Diane Johnson (41)
- 13 – Justin & Tessa Matherly (4)

July Bible Reading Schedule

July 1, Sat: Matt. 12:38-50, Lamentations 2, Psalm 130
Sunday: Genesis 26

July 3, Mon: Matt. 13:1-17, Lamentations 3:1-18, Psalm 131
Tuesday: Matthew 13:18-35, Lam. 3:19-42, Psalm 132
Wednesday: Matthew 13:36-52, Lam. 3:43-66, Psalm 133
Thursday: Matthew 13:53-58, Lam. 4, Psalm 134
Friday: Matthew 14:1-12, Lam. 5, Psalm 135
Saturday: Matthew 14:13-21, Psalm 136
Sunday: Genesis 27

July 10, Mon: Matthew 14:22-35, Ruth 1, Psalm 136
Tuesday: Matthew 15:1-20, Ruth 2, Psalm 137
Wednesday: Matthew 15:21-39, Ruth 3, Psalm 138
Thursday: Matthew 16:1-12, Ruth 4, Psalm 139
Friday: Matthew 16:13-28, Nehemiah 1, Psalm 140
Saturday: Matthew 17:1-13, Nehemiah 2, Psalm 141
Sunday: Genesis 28

July 17, Mon: Matthew 17:14-27, Nehemiah 3, Psalm 142
Tuesday: Matthew 18:1-20, Nehemiah 4, Psalm 143
Wednesday: Matthew 18:21-35, Nehemiah 5, Psalm 144
Thursday: Matthew 19:1-15, Nehemiah 6, Psalm 145
Friday: Matthew 19:16-30, Nehemiah 7, Psalm 146
Saturday: Matthew 20:1-16, Nehemiah 8, Psalm 147
Sunday: Genesis 29

July 24, Mon: Matthew 20:17-34, Nehemiah 9:1-19, Psalm 148
Tuesday: Matthew 21:1-17, Nehemiah 9:20-38, Psalm 149
Wednesday: Matthew 21:18-32, Nehemiah 10, Psalm 150
Thursday: Matthew 21:33-46, Nehemiah 11, Ecclesiastes 1
Friday: Matthew 22:1-14, Nehemiah 12, Ecclesiastes 2
Saturday: Matthew 22:15-33, Nehemiah 13, Ecclesiastes 3
Sunday: Genesis 30

July 31, Mon: Matt. 22:34-46, Romans 1:1-17, Ecclesiastes 4

Church Council Minutes (cont.)

will be held, and we will confirm the date of Parkersburg days as not to interfere with other community events.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jay Herter, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

July Communion Assistants: Carol Chapman, Bruce Simon

August Communion Assistants: Dan Frey, Michelle Krohn

--Stacy Palmer, Church Council Secretary

JULY BIRTHDAYS

4 – Beth Van Lengen
5 – Pat Rule
6 – Leah Knock
8 – Connie Luhring
13 - Shirley Bergman, Steve Brouwer, Evan Palmer
16 – Benne Buss
19 – Pastor David Craig
24 – Jean Scully
26 – Michelle Stearns
29 – Stacy Palmer
31 – Bella Bernard, Lorna Bernard, Randy Luhring

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

A decision has been made to extend a part-time contract with Pastor David Craig through June 2018 and he has accepted. Because of this, we have decided to suspend our search for our next Pastor until later this fall. We have removed the posting on the LCMC.net webpage for the time being and are informing any interested applicants that we will be in contact with them at that time.

Thank you,
Jeremy Paulson, Call Committee Chair

FAMILY DEVOTIONS FOR JULY

Freedom!

Bible Verse: "So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed." John 8:36

Even in an unsettled world, we can truly be thankful for the many freedoms we enjoy because we live in the United States of America! As citizens of this country, we must remember that freedom comes with a price – paid for by the sacrifices made by those who have given their lives for us.

As Christians, the freedom we have in Christ also came with a price – paid for by the sacrifice of God's Son. This month, talk with your family about this freedom – the free gift of eternal life, the free gift of forgiveness, the free gift of God's grace - all given so we can grow in faith and become the people God calls us to be. To help your family better understand what freedom in Christ means, read in your Bible or Children's Bible how lives changed when people turned to Christ. Here are a few suggestions:

- 1) Read Matthew 20:29-34 – Jesus' healing of two blind men – What changed in their lives? What did they do at the end of the passage?
- 2) Read Luke 19:1-10 – Zacchaeus meets Jesus – What was Zacchaeus a "slave" to before he met Jesus? How did meeting Jesus give him freedom?
- 3) Read Acts 9:1-22 – The conversion of Saul (Paul) – Saul was responsible for the deaths of many Christians. What did meeting Jesus do to his life, besides change his name? What difference did Paul's conversion make to the rest of us? (Hint: Think about other books in the New Testament.)

Pray: Dear Father in Heaven, We thank you for the amazing gift of freedom you have given us through your Son, Jesus Christ! In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Amen.

June 14, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Present: Diane Buss, Carol Chapman, Darla Drewelow, Dan Frey, Jenny Hansmann, Jay Herter, Michelle Krohn, Stacy Palmer

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Jay Herter, 2nd by Jenny Hansmann

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Michelle Krohn, 2nd by Diane Buss

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: No formal report was presented

Meet with confirmation parents – parents of one confirmand attended to be updated on their child's progress toward confirmation. Due to a scheduling conflict, Dan will schedule the other parents at a later date.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – VBS will be July 10-13 at Christian Reformed Church.
- Outreach Ministry Team – Looking to locate the list of individuals that once offered to help with meals or rides for those in the congregation in need and update that list
- Fellowship Ministry Team – no report. Pastor will be on vacation July 30
- Property Ministry Team – 1) Discussed adding lights to improve the lighting in the worship space. Dan has spoken with one vendor and will speak with others regarding their suggestions, as well. 2) Need to fix the women's restroom to resolve the toilet running
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – no meeting
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – Relay for Life
- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – Groups were suggested for benevolence payouts of \$500 each, including: Butler County Relay for Life, Food Pantry, LCMC, Cedar Valley Hospice, Ronald McDonald House, Habitat for Humanity, Voice of the Martyr, Food for the Poor. Discussions to continue at the next meeting.

(cont.)

Church Council Minutes (cont.)

Correspondence: LCMC Annual Gathering October 8-11

Old Business:

1. Organ repairs – any update? – Organ has been repaired by Omega Organ; minor repairs were made and a suggestion was made for regular maintenance
2. Pastor's contract – signed for another year
3. Additional Loan payments – there was a double payment made in June and motion was made by Michelle Krohn and 2nd by Carol Chapman to approve a double payment in July
4. Update on when McGee will start repairs – no report
5. Disperse of old tables and chairs – Quilters want 2 sturdy tables, leaving approximately 10 to sell for free will donation, as well as approximately 32 chairs to sell for donation

New Business:

1. VBS July 10-13 – Still need volunteers and supplies for VBS, including: 4 Crew Leaders, 1-2 Bible Adventure Helpers, Snacks for July 12 for 80 children, 5 rolls of colorful duct tape, 100 paper sacks, and 10 containers of Play-Doh in different colors
2. Wedding for Lane Luhring & Eisha Oden June 23, 2018 – added to the church calendar
3. Communication – Looking for best way to ensure communication is open between Council. Will continue to work on best modes of communication and ensure all lines of communication are open
4. Youth Leaders – Still looking for Youth Leaders to step in and help with youth activities
5. Office Volunteer – Looking for one volunteer in the church office on Monday, Tuesday or Thursday to help.
6. Hog Roast – discussions were had regarding location and timing of the hog roast including feedback from last year. Jay will look into when the High School Gatorade Games

(cont.)

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

	July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
USHER	Terry Drewelow				
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen Sharleen Hubbard	Janet Mennen Sharleen Hubbard	Janet Mennen Sharleen Hubbard	Janet Mennen Sharleen Hubbard	Janet Mennen Sharleen Hubbard
ALTAR GUILD					
GREETERS	Randy & Connie Luhring & Cameron	Michelle Krohn & Lee Rients	Terry & Darla Drewelow	Dale & Candy Krohn	Jim & Eileen Lupkes
LECTORS	Sandi Shepard	Jay Herter	Carol Chapman	Candy Krohn	Steve Brouwer
LITURGISTS	Sharleen Hubbard	Michelle Krohn	Beth Van Lengen	Dale Krohn	Hymn Sing
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann Corryn Mann	Gavin Bernard Evan Palmer	Kielinn Herter Erica Marlette	Gavin Bernard Evan Palmer	Devin Bernard
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Carol Chapman Bruce Simon		Carol Chapman Bruce Simon		
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Church Council				
SOUND SYSTEM	Church Council				

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

JUNE SUMMARY

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, June 4	74	\$183.00	\$2,407.02	\$0.00
Sunday, June 11	61	\$97.00	\$2,213.03	\$0.00
Sunday, June 18	64	\$143.00	\$1,887.20	\$0.00
Sunday, June 25	55	\$71.41	\$1,428.01	\$0.00
Total Receipts January 1-June 25, 2017		\$3,725.27	\$51,591.34	\$0.00

ORGANIZED PRAYER FOR OUR BETHEL LUTHERAN FAMILIES

WEEK OF JULY 2 – Derek & Jill Etjen, Trevor & Ellie, Bob & Brenda Everts, Jerry & Lisa (Senne) Luhring, Chelsea, Megan & Olivia, Randy & Connie Luhring, Chelsie, Lane & Cameron, Ted & Faye Tuitjer, Lee & Pat Van Hauen, Sandra Shepard

WEEK OF JULY 9 – Mary Fink, Dan & Kay Frey, Courtney & Tiffany, Vada Luhring, Jim & Eileen Lupkes, Ken & Beth Van Lengen, Maxine Wahl

WEEK OF JULY 16 – Ben Frieling, Butch Geertsma, Tom & Sara Mann, Nora, Ava & Corryn, Lance & Kim Marlette, Kaitlin & Erica Leona Wallbaum, Kory & Deb Walters

WEEK OF JULY 23 – Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff, Terry & Janet Mennen, George Miller, Eric & Becky (Walters) Simmons, Lee Walters

WEEK OF JULY 30 – Guy Gerloff, Henry & Janice Gerloff, Justin & Tessa (Gerloff) Matherly & Noah, Darwin & Peggy Miller, Carol Warneka, Jann Wiegmann

JULY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Walters/Simmons wedding
2 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 Coffee	3	4	5	6 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study at Darla's Home	7	8
9 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee	10 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bible School @ Christian Reformed Church	11 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bible School @ Christian Reformed Church	12 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bible School @ Christian Reformed Church	13 6:00-8:00 p.m. Bible School @ Christian Reformed Church	14 6:00-11:00 p.m. Relay for Life, Butler County Fairgrounds – see page 2 for details	15
16 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 Coffee	17	18	19 7:00 p.m. Church Council	20	21	22
23 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee	24	25	26	27	28	29
30 9:00 Sunday Worship/ Hymn Sing 10:00 Coffee	31					