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Bethel Lutheran Church
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Parkersburg, IA 50665

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Ministers - ALL MEMBERS

Issue 5

Volume 40

Dr. David Craig - Pastor
May 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 May 2017 BEACON

Endings and Beginnings

It is the time of year for endings and beginnings. Each ending is the beginning of something else. Graduations are the end of one set of one schooling and the beginning of another, whether it be further formal education or the much harder education of life. Weddings are the ending of singlehood and the beginning of marriage. We leave behind our thoughts of self and begin to really focus on the thoughts of each other. Every ending is also a beginning.

Change can be frightening at the exact same time it is exciting. We are tired of the old routine of books and classes, or tired of the old lonely state of singleness. We want something new and better and more exciting. We want the future that comes at the ending of our current status. But how will that all work out? Will reality be as good as anticipation? That will be the challenging question for all endings and beginnings. The answer to that question will often lie in how well we prepared for the new beginning we will face. If in our current state we pursue only our desires, then we will not be well prepared for the next phase of life. But if we truly focus on what is coming we have a far better chance to succeed in where we are going.

There is one more critical ending and beginning; the ending of this life and the beginning of the next. How we prepare makes all the difference in what we will experience. If in this life we are only concerned with our own ideas, wants, desires, and expectations, we will find great disappointment ahead. If in this life we focus on what lies ahead, where we want to go, who we want to spend eternity with, and how that relationship would work, we have a brighter future to anticipate. This world comes and goes quickly. The next one is eternal. I will always remember the saying on the plaque that hung on my grandmother's wall. "Only one life twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." Be ready for the new beginning.

David Craig

davidccraig.net

Abundant Grace Daily Devotion

If you would like a **visit from Pastor David Craig**, please call the church office (346-2028) and leave a message with your name and phone number so a visit can be scheduled.

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Adult Sunday school class follows the morning service. Pastor Craig is teaching the class. Everyone is encouraged to attend.
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ORGANIZED PRAYER FOR OUR BETHEL LUTHERAN FAMILIES

WEEK OF MAY 7 – Mark & Marilyn Buss, Greg Carolus & Blake, Justin & Jill Jacobs, Garrett & Wyatt, Andy & Kayla Jacobson, Claire & Bo, Ryan & April Schrage, Rylie & Reygan, Joan Schuck

WEEK OF MAY 14 – Sam & Ami (Carolus) Cordes & Claire, Shirley Cassidy, Jon & Tricia Jacobson, Anna, Wesley & Lauren, Jeff & Pam Jacobson, Jim & JoAnne Schwarz, Jean Scully

WEEK OF MAY 21 – Gary & Dawn (Wiese) Corneilus, Larry & Carol Chapman, Darlene Johnson, Jeff & Diane Johnson, Bill & Irene Senne, Matt & Nora Stahlhut, Mystica & Zachery Herrold

WEEK OF MAY 28 – Jeff & Angie Church & Zach, Pam Dohrn, Stauffer Johnson, Renae & Kenny Knock & Kelsie, Clint & Marcie Sharp, Sam & Sydney, Bruce & Cindy Simon

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CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

We are excited to announce that the call committee has made the recommendation to the Church Council, and they approved it, to extend a contract to Pastor David Craig until June of 2018. We felt that Pastor David and Jacque are doing a wonderful job helping fill our current needs. One of the many benefits of extending his contract is to allow the current confirmation students to finish their studies under one Pastor instead of switching on them again. The call committee will be removing the online posting for a few months and then will resume our search in the fall.

--Jeremy Paulson, Call Committee Chair

May Bible Reading Schedule

May 1, Mon: Acts 17:1-15, Ephesians 4, Psalm 92
Tuesday: Acts 17:16-34, Ephesians 5, Psalm 93
Wednesday: Acts 18:1-17, Ephesians 6, Psalm 94
Thursday: Acts 18:18-28, Titus 1, Psalm 95
Friday: Acts 19:1-10, Titus 2, Psalm 96
Saturday: Acts 19:11-20, Titus 3, Psalm 97
Sunday: Genesis 18

May 8, Mon: Acts 19:21-41, I Timothy 1, Psalm 98
Tuesday: Acts 20:1-16, I Timothy 2, Psalm 99
Wednesday: Acts 20:17-38, I Timothy 3, Psalm 100
Thursday: Acts 21:1-14, I Timothy 4, Psalm 101
Friday: Acts 21:15-25, I Timothy 5, Psalm 102
Saturday: Acts 21:26-40, I Timothy 6, Psalm 103
Sunday: Genesis 19

May 15, Mon: Acts 22:1-21, Galatians 1, Psalm 104:1-18
Tuesday: Acts 22:22-30, Galatians 2, Psalm 104:19-35
Wednesday: Acts 23:1-10, Galatians 3, Psalm 105:1-22
Thursday: Acts 23:11-22, Galatians 4, Psalm 105:23-45
Friday: Acts 23:23-35, Galatians 5, Psalm 106:1-23
Saturday: Acts 24:1-9, Galatians 6, Psalm 106:24-48
Sunday: Genesis 20

May 22, Mon: Acts 24:10-27, Daniel 1, Psalm 107:1-14
Tuesday: Acts 25:1-12, Daniel 2:1-16, Psalm 107:15-30
Wednesday: Acts 25:13-27, Daniel 2:17-35, Psalm 107:31-43
Thursday: Acts 26:1-18, Daniel 2:36-49, Psalm 108
Friday: Acts 26:19-32, Daniel 3:1-18, Psalm 109
Saturday: Acts 27:1-12, Daniel 3:19-30, Psalm 110
Sunday: Genesis 21

May 29, Mon: Acts 27:13-26, Daniel 4:1-18, Psalm 111
Tuesday: Acts 27:27-44, Daniel 4:19-37, Psalm 112
Wednesday: Acts 28:1-10, Daniel 5:1-16, Psalm 113

Church Council Minutes (cont.)

New Business (cont.)

- 4. Extra Old Chairs and Tables - will count how many we need to get rid of and discuss at May meeting.
- 5. Microsoft Contract - tabled for May meeting
- 6. Audit Treasurer books - for easy transition from one treasurer to the next.
- 7. Senior Recognition Day - May 7th. 4 graduates. Requesting information from the parents about each graduate along with their senior picture and confirmation picture. Need info by May 22nd to put in beacon.

Closing Prayer/The Lord’s Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Jenny Hansmann, 2nd by Jay Herter

May Communion Assistants: Jenny Hansmann, Stacy Palmer

June Communion Assistants: Diane Buss, Jay Herter

- Michelle Krohn filled in for Stacy

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Quilting: Since January, we have completed 87 quilts and gave 51 to the following: Allison Nursing Home – 12, Friends of the Family – 12, Grundy Center Long Term Care - 10, Shell Rock Nursing Home – 10, Social Concerns – 5, and Bethel Church Family – 2. The quilters will be taking a break until fall when we will start up again.

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MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 2 – Virgil Lindaman
- 5 – Angie Ellermann
- 8 – Kielinn Herter
- 10 – Emilie Herter
- 16 – Kelsie Knock
- 19 – Karla Beckman
- 27 – Bill Senne
- 28 – Clayton Palmer
- 29 – Rachael Redman
- 30 – Jill Jacobs, Tessa Matherly
- 30 – Faye Tuitjer, Matt Stahlhut

FAMILY DEVOTIONS FOR MAY

Amazing Grace!

Bible Verse: “For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not your own doing, it is the gift of God.”

Ephesians 2:8

On Easter Sunday, we were reminded of God’s **Amazing Grace!** God loves us so much that He sent His Son to die in our place, so forgiveness and eternal life could be ours. We don’t deserve it, and yet it’s ours through Christ – GRACE. How do you explain God’s Grace to your family? How can you teach your family to give Grace to others? Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- 1) Read Matthew 18:21-35 – Jesus’ parable of the forgiving King and unforgiving servant.
- 2) On Mother’s Day, talk about how your Mother/ Grandmother has given Grace to you, loving you even when you are unlovable. Be specific.
- 3) On Memorial Day, talk about those who have served in our military and their willingness to give their lives so we can be free and safe. How is that like Grace?
- 4) Talk about ways to give Grace to others – to the friend who gossips about you, a sibling who tattles, a store clerk who treats you rudely . . .

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, Even though we may never fully understand your amazing Grace, we thank you for loving us even when we don’t deserve it. Help us to love others the same way. Amen.

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Thank you: I so appreciated all the phone calls, cards, visits and food brought in since my back surgery. Special thanks to Pastor Craig and Jacque for their visits. My recovery has been slow but with your prayers and concerns I am doing well.

Thanks so much, Jean Scully

April 12, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Present: Diane Buss, Darla Drewelow, Dan Frey, Jenny Hansmann, Jay Herter, Michelle Krohn, Bruce Simon

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

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Jay Herter, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Jay Herter, 2nd by Bruce Simon

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – No report
- Outreach Ministry Team – Pastor wants a list of all members and the last time they attended church; he will use this to schedule visits.
- Fellowship Ministry Team – No meeting
- Property Ministry Team – Bruce will see about painting front of church and balcony. Dan will get attachment for water meter reading for parsonage. Electrician/lighting guy visited in March, no figures yet. No rebates on LED bulbs. Occupancy sensor in entryway bathroom is replaced. Wall phone in kitchen is broken. Traced out speaker wire for sound system in basement; found out it was never attached.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – No meeting
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – No report
- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – recommended \$500 Food Pantry, \$500 Ronald McDonald House, \$500 Cedar Valley Friends of the Family, \$1,000 Brandon and Jenny Uhlenhopp, \$500 LCMC Disaster Relief, \$600 Lutheran Chaplancy = \$3,600 which makes us current through 2015 only. Motion made by Diane Buss, 2nd by Bruce Simon

Correspondence: Church Mutual – insuring the church; Council has received correspondence previously and local agencies are more cost effective

(cont.)

Church Council Minutes (cont.)

Old Business:

1. Organ repairs – still getting estimate. Janet Mennen will schedule meeting with the organ repair guy
2. Call Committee Update – Asked Pastor Craig to renew contract for one more year after current contract expires. July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018. Contract was reviewed by Council. Motion to approve contract by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Diane Buss
3. Sunday School Volunteers – Michelle Krohn volunteered to be substitute
4. Thrivent Donations - further discussion was tabled for next meeting due to Carol's absence
5. Easter Breakfast – Council does not need to set up tables on Saturday, as they are already set up
6. Community Church Builders License - Software update needed. \$1,080 due in June or July, \$864 if paid early. Motion made to pay early by Jay Herter, 2nd Jenny Hansmann
7. Additional Loan Payments – Make another payment in April so there will be 2 payments in April. Motion by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Jay Herter

New Business:

9. Confirmation Parents Adrian Bernard and Jay Herter attended. Jacque needs more commitment from students, they need to know the material, perhaps more class time is needed or parents help more at home. Parents will be given a chart that shows attendance, sermon notes, etc. to show progress made to fulfill their Confirmation Covenant.
10. Gideons - want to visit sometime after Easter, Pastor Craig will schedule.
11. Lawn/Spring Clean Up – Saturday, April 29th 9am-noon. Need to weed the front, 1 ½ inch rock and plastic was suggested. Need to fertilize lawn with crab grass stuff.

(cont.)

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

	May 7	May 14	May 21	May 28
USHER	Jeff Jacobson			
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Cassady/Carol Warneka			
GREETERS	Steve & Sherry Brouwer	Ruth Zacharias	Jeff & Diane Johnson	Bruce & Cindy Simon
LECTORS	Kassi Rice	Diane Buss	Darla Drewelow	Dave Hubbard
LITURGISTS	Aaron Ellermann	Terry Mennen	JoAnne Schwarz	Sharleen Hubbard
ACOLYTES	Devin Bernard Evan Palmer	Kielinn Herter	Gavin Bernard Ava Mann	Erica Marlette
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jenny Hansmann Stacy Palmer		Jenny Hansmann Stacy Palmer	
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Church Council			
SOUND SYSTEM	Church Council			

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



APRIL SUMMARY

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, April 2	76	\$154.20	\$2,392.81	\$0.00
Sunday, April 9	71	\$200.40	\$2,508.80	\$0.00
Sunday, April 16	146	\$191.02	\$2,824.18	\$0.00
Sunday, April 23	81	\$128.90	\$2,005.10	\$0.00
Total Receipts January 1-April 23, 2017		\$2,466.56	\$35,024.90	\$100.00

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

- 4 – Matt & Nora Stahlhut (4)
- 13 – Randy & Janelle Gorter (39)
- 17 – Dan & Nancy Hemann (20)
- 22 – Vern & Marilyn Ingalls (47)
- 27 – Dennis & Julia Dudley (39)
- 30 – Paul & Jenna Hubbard (9)

Special Church Council Meeting, April 23, 2017

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

Although Council reviewed and approved Pastor David Craig's contract for July 1, 2017 thru June 30, 2018 At the April 12th meeting, additional information was added regarding insurance and vacation. Jay Herter made a motion to accept the revised contract, 2nd by Diane Buss. All approved. Signatures will be obtained and the contract will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

Jay Herter made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Carol Chapman

MAY 2017

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday			
	1	2	3 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir	4 1:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study at Darla's Home	5	6			
7 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday Senior Recognition Sunday 10:00 Coffee 10:15 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	8	9	10 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir 7:30 p.m. Church Council	CONFIRMATION CLASS OF 2013 Sam Sharp, Nate Hemann Kassi Rice, Riley Ellermann Pastor David Hagstrom SENIOR RECOGNITION SUNDAY, May 7th					
14 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	15	16	17 6:30 p.m. Senior Choir						
21 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 Coffee 10:15 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	22	23	24						
28 9:00 Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 a.m. SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	29 Memorial Day	30	31						