



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
January 2008

Serving God, Community, and Individuals



*It is time to seek the Lord, that He
may rain righteousness upon you.*

Hosea 10:12



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

Back in my September newsletter article I mentioned the ELCA's "Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible" initiative. The actual resolution adopted by last year's Churchwide Assembly is printed elsewhere in the newsletter and I would encourage you to read it. At our January Council meeting I will ask the council to formally commit Bethany to become a Book of Faith congregation. That's the easy part; then what??

To be honest, I don't know. I'm always skeptical about things like church wide or synod wide initiatives and strategies and emphases because so often they exist on a piece of paper and that's about it. That could happen with Book of Faith, but I don't want it to. I've beat this drum before but in my opinion, any "renewal" that is going to happen in the Lutheran church is going to start with engagement with the Bible. Rock bands and big screens and peppy praise songs may have their place but to me all such things are gimmicks. Gimmicks don't transform things, because while they might appeal to specific groups for a period of time, they don't last.

What we have that is lasting is the Word of God incarnate, Jesus Christ, and also the Word of God which is Holy Scripture. As Lutherans we should be the most Bible centered church there is. Martin Luther's own study of the Bible was at the heart of the Reformation. Following him and his desire to put the Bible in the hands of everyone, all of us should regularly read and study the Bible as God's living word to us. As the living word though, that means it is open to interpretation. That's why reading and studying the Bible with others is helpful. Together we find new insights and understandings and possibilities.



book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

At Bethany, we do pretty well with Bible Study. We have a solid core of people who attend regularly either on Monday mornings or Thursday evenings. Our women's circles make Bible study a part of what they do. 2007 saw the beginning of a Men's Ministry group who engage in conversation around texts of the Bible. My first hope for the Book of Faith initiative is that the number of people engaged in each of these groups would continue to grow.

A second suggestion I would have is that you follow the Daily Lectionary as a devotional practice. It's included in the newsletter and is taken from the new hymnal. It is intended to help to prepare you for the upcoming Sunday on Thursday, Friday and Saturday and then to provide reflection on the Sunday texts on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. I know that sometimes people want to read the Bible but they're not sure where to start; this lectionary provides a structure that can also enhance your Sunday worship.

Book of Faith is a five year initiative so I expect more will be forthcoming. As 2008 begins, as a church and as individuals, let's commit to being part of this; it's a very Lutheran thing to do!

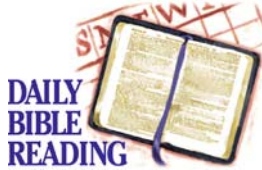
In Christ,
Pastor Geier



“My hand caressed each wrinkled page with reverential care:
The good Book, bearing marks of age, was placed in order there.
My father's father years before was guided by each word;
Now, having read them o'er and o'er, I too their message heard.”

- Carroll F. Rogers

DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

| | | | |
|------------|--|------------------------|-----------------------|
| January 1 | Psalm 8 | Galatians 4:4-7 | Luke 2:15-21 |
| January 2 | Psalm 72 | Genesis 12:1-7 | Hebrews 11:1-12 |
| January 3 | Psalm 72 | Genesis 28: 10-22 | Hebrews 11: 13-22 |
| January 4 | Psalm 72 | Exodus 3:1-5 | Hebrews 11: 23-31 |
| January 5 | Psalm 72 | Joshua 1:1-9 | Hebrews 11: 32-12:2 |
| January 6 | <i>Epiphany of our Lord</i> | | |
| January 7 | Psalm 72 | 1 Kings 10:1-13 | Ephesians 3: 14-21 |
| January 8 | Psalm 72 | 1 Kings 10: 14-25 | Ephesians 4: 7, 11-16 |
| January 9 | Psalm 72 | Micah 5: 2-9 | Luke 13: 31-35 |
| January 10 | Psalm 29 | 1 Samuel 3: 1-9 | Acts 9:1-9 |
| January 11 | Psalm 29 | 1 Samuel 3: 10-4:1a | Acts 9: 10-19a |
| January 12 | Psalm 29 | 1 Samuel 7:3-17 | Acts 9:19b-31 |
| January 13 | <i>Baptism of our Lord</i> | | |
| January 14 | Psalm 89:5-37 | Genesis 35:1-15 | Acts 10:44-48 |
| January 15 | Psalm 89:5-37 | Jeremiah 1:4-10 | Acts 8: 4-13 |
| January 16 | Psalm 89:5-37 | Isaiah 51: 1-16 | Matthew 12: 15-21 |
| January 17 | Psalm 40: 1-11 | Isaiah 22: 15-25 | Galatians 1:6-12 |
| January 18 | Psalm 40: 1-11 | Genesis 27: 30-38 | Acts 1: 1-5 |
| January 19 | Psalm 40: 1-11 | 1 Kings 19: 19-24 | Luke 5: 1-11 |
| January 20 | <i>Second Sunday after Epiphany</i> | | |
| January 21 | Psalm 40: 6-17 | Exodus 12: 1-13, 21-28 | Acts 8: 26-40 |
| January 22 | Psalm 40: 6-17 | Isaiah 53: 1-12 | Hebrews 10: 1-4 |
| January 23 | Psalm 40: 6-17 | Isaiah 48: 12-21 | Matthew 9: 14-17 |
| January 24 | Psalm 27: 1-6 | 1 Samuel 1: 1-20 | Galatians 1: 11-24 |
| January 25 | Psalm 27: 1-6 | 1 Samuel 9: 27-10:8 | Galatians 2: 1-10 |
| January 26 | Psalm 27: 1-6 | 1 Samuel 15: 34-16: 13 | Luke 5: 27-32 |

| | | | |
|------------|---|------------------------------|----------------------|
| January 27 | <i>Third Sunday after Epiphany</i> | | |
| January 28 | Psalm 27: 7-14 | Judges 6: 11-24 | Ephesians 5: 6-14 |
| January 29 | Psalm 27: 7-14 | Judges 7: 12-22 | Philippians 2: 12-18 |
| January 30 | Psalm 27: 7-14 | Genesis 49: 1-2, 8-13, 21-26 | Luke 1: 67-79 |
| January 31 | Psalm 2 | Exodus 6: 2-9 | Hebrews 8: 1-7 |
| February 1 | Psalm 2 | Exodus 19: 9b-25 | Hebrews 11: 23-28 |
| February 2 | Psalm 2 | 1 Kings 21: 20-29 | Mark 9: 9-13 |
| February 3 | <i>Transfiguration of our Lord</i> | | |
| February 4 | Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 | Exodus 33: 7-23 | Acts 7: 30-34 |
| February 5 | Psalm 78:17-20, 52-55 | 1 Kings 19: 9-18 | Romans 11: 1-6 |
| February 6 | <i>Ash Wednesday</i> | | |



Resolution of Churchwide Assembly

Recommended: To recommend adoption by the 2007 Churchwide Assembly of the following resolution:

- (1) To call members, congregations, synods, churchwide ministries, and institutions and agencies of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America to engage in a five-year collaborative initiative—identified as Book of Faith: Lutherans Read the Bible—with the goal of raising to a new level this church's individual and collective engagement with the Bible and its teaching, yielding greater biblical fluency and a more profound appreciation of Lutheran principles and approaches for the use of Scripture;
- (2) To commit the churchwide organization to substantial engagement in this initiative in extensive collaboration with synods and congregations;
- (3) To urge that this initiative be designed and carried out in ways that affirm the Bible's power through the work of the Holy Spirit to speak in all settings and to all ages, with attention to individual and corporate use of the Bible by members and leaders in worship, devotion, study, proclamation, teaching, and evangelizing;

- (4) To request that the presiding bishop of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America—who “as its pastor, shall be a teacher of the faith of this church and shall provide leadership for the life and witness of this church” (provision 13.21.)—lead this initiative personally and through collaborative programmatic work with the Vocation and Education unit in partnership with Augsburg Fortress, Publishers, as the publishing ministry of this church, and many others;
- (5) To anticipate the wide availability and use of a rich array of existing and new resources as well as the creative use of new means of communication, mindful of the global and ecumenical context in exploration of the nature and authority of Scripture in the life of individuals and the whole Church;
- (6) To affirm funding of the churchwide organization’s share of this Book of Faith partnership effort primarily through the regular operating budget in recognition not only that this initiative is of foundational and ongoing importance, but also in confidence that mission-support will grow from congregations through synods for churchwide ministries; and
- (7) To invite and encourage all members, expressions, institutions, and partners of this church to commit themselves regularly and increasingly to hearing, reading, studying, sharing, and being engaged by God's Word.



Reading the Bible

“To read the Bible is to take a trip to a fair land where the spirit is strengthened and faith renewed.”

-Dwight D. Eisenhower



"Long after the angels disappear into the heavens, the shepherds return to their flocks, the magi journey home and the great star sets, Jesus remains. The Child in whom we rediscover God's great love for humanity becomes the adult Redeemer who challenges us to imitate his selflessness and compassion in order that we might transform our world in love... May we allow the miracle of Christmas to continue long after the holiday trappings have been packed away; may we welcome the adult Messiah and his challenging Gospel to recreate our lives, making the peace, justice and hope of this holy season a reality in every season of the new year."

Epiphany



Sojourners in Faith

Come along with me
as a sojourner in faith.

Bring along
a sense of expectancy
a vision of high hopes
a glimpse of future possibility
a vivid imagination
for God's creation is not done.

We are called to pioneer forth
toward a future yet unnamed.

As we venture forward,
we leave behind our desires for
a no-risk life
worldly accumulations
certainty of answers.

Let us travel light
in the spirit of faith and expectation
toward the God of our hopes and dreams.

Let us be a witness
to God's future breaking in.

Come along with me
as a sojourner in faith
secure in the knowledge
that we never travel alone. AMEN
- - Rev. Susan Gregg-Schroeder

An Unplanned Journey – Refugee Camps in West Africa

- Luke Smetters

Some of my most favorite memories as a child included going on family trips. They were always exciting adventures and yet while I did not always know where we were going or what stops we would be making, my parents usually did.

Then there are journeys. We often think of life as a journey, with various landmarks along the way. There may be a goal or potential destination in mind, but as hard as we try we can never fully plan all the details. While our own journey of life may be exciting, it can also be scary when there are many unforeseen realities.

Some of our Lutheran brothers and sisters in West Africa have had to embark on dangerous journeys due to political and civil wars. They have had to leave their homes and possessions behind, they have had to leave friends and, in some cases, family members, they have had to leave everything they have known because the dangers of war and death are too great of threats. They have journeyed across their country and into other countries as refugees, seeking a safe place to live and raise their family.



Refugees from Liberia

Since Liberia's recent civil war, over 350,000 refugees have attempted to return to their homes – homes that are no longer. Many towns and villages have been destroyed and are without basic infrastructure. Large refugee camps attempt to provide the basic necessities of life now for thousands of people, seeking to provide food, shelter, clothing and education for these displaced persons. In this region, the Lutheran World Federation (LWF) has assisted the Lutheran Church in Liberia (LCL) in such activities as providing food for more than 17,000 refugees. Additional activities that seek to strengthen communities and peace-building have also been underway.

Since the civil war in Sierra Leone, similar peace activities have been underway with the help of the LWF. As a country listed near the bottom of the United Nation's Index of Human Development, the people of this country have many great challenges to face. Poverty has left many people starving and without an adequate infrastructure. The LWF has assisted the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Sierra Leone (ELCSL) in providing the most basic medical and educational assistance. Where the land is difficult to till and there is no system of water irrigation, new farming skills have been taught. Water wells have also been dug and sanitation measures instructed, where once water had to be collected from nearby rivers and streams.



Tailors in Sierra Leone

For over a decade, Guinea has been the home for hundreds of thousands of refugees from Liberia, Sierra Leone and the Ivory Coast. With such an influx of refugees, provided basic necessities is a challenge, even in refugee camps. Unstable economies bring great fear and lead to mental health traumas and situations of physical and sexual abuse. The LWF has worked with local churches in managing these refugee camps and in providing support for the many victims of abuse and mental health traumas. They have provided much rehabilitation for the people as well as the surrounding environment in hosting these large communities of refugees, with a special emphasis on children's rights.

It is perhaps very difficult for us to even conceptualize of such a journey as those taken by so many refugees, including many of our Lutheran brothers and sisters. We may find ourselves in a situation of helplessness wondering, "What can I possibly do to help them?" In these situations, we begin with prayer to God for our many brothers and sisters who live amidst so many dangers and uncertainties. We pray that while their road ahead may still have much turmoil, that, like Moses and the Israelites, they may one day reach the Promised Land – a land where there is peace – a land where everyone has food, shelter, clothing, medical assistance and education – a land where the tiresome journey of the refugee may come to an end.

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

O Master, Let Me Walk with You

O Master, let me walk with you
In lowly paths of service true;
Tell me your secret; help me bear,
The strain of toil, the fret of care.

Help me the slow of heart to move
By some clear, winning word of love,
Teach me the wayward feet to stay,
And guide them in the homeward way.

Teach me your patience; share with me
A closer, dearer company,
In work that keeps faith sweet and strong,
In trust that triumphs over wrong.

In hope that sends a shining ray
Far down the future's broadening way,
In peace that only you can give,
With you, O Master, let me live.

Text: Washington Gladden, 1836-1918
Evangelical Lutheran Worship #818



Washington Gladden, a prolific Congregationalist pastor during the late 19th and early 20th centuries, became well-known for his stands on social issues. His hymn “O Master, Let Me Walk With You” appeals to Christ for his companionship, guidance, inner peace and hope.

Gladden spent much time fighting political groups such as the corrupt Tweed Ring. He also negotiated in various national disputes and strikes, such as the Telegraphers’ strike and the Hocking Valley Coal Strike. It was always his conviction that it was the duty of the Christian Church to “elevate the masses not only spiritually and morally, but to be concerned about their social and economic welfare as well.”



Kids - Did you know?

Bible Verse to Memorize

**Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
the old has gone, the new has come!**

2 Corinthians 5:17



Dear God,

My brother told me about how you are born, but it just doesn't sound right. What do you say?

Marsha







Gitchee Gumee Guys under the direction of Sharon Green sang for the WELCA Christmas party.



Gitchee Gumee Guys



The Work of Christmas



When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among brothers,
to make music in the heart.
— Howard Thurman



A Year of Time

Though even thinking on the subject of time may prove discomforting, it is not a bad idea—especially at the beginning of a new year.

As we look into 2008 we look at a block of time. We see 12 months, 52 weeks, 366 days 8784 hours, 527,040 minutes, 31,622,400 seconds. And all is a gift from God. We have done nothing to deserve it, earn it, or purchased it. Like the air we breathe, time comes to us as a part of life.

The gift of time is not ours alone. It is given equally to each person. Rich and poor, educated and ignorant, strong and weak—every man, woman and child has the same twenty-four hours every day.

Another important thing about time. Once it is gone, it is gone. Yesterday is lost forever. If yesterday is lost, tomorrow is uncertain. We may look ahead at a full year's block of time, but we really have no guarantee that we will experience any of it.

Obviously, time is one of our most precious possessions. We can waste it. We can worry over it. We can spend it on ourselves. Or, as good stewards, we can invest it in the kingdom of God.

The new year is full of time. As the seconds tick away, will you be tossing time out the window, or will you make every minute count?

- Steven B. Cloud



'Be careful then how you live,' he wrote, 'not as unwise people but as wise, making the most of the time ...' (Ephesians 5:15).

Ann Gonyea's

REFLECTIONS

For a New Year

It's 2008.

My memories of the turn of the millennium and all the worst case scenarios and apocalyptic rants that accompanied it are fading – thankfully.

It doesn't seem possible that we are in the final stretch of the first decade of the new millennium. But it is indeed, and I find my thoughts turning to the topic of time and how I will use it in the New Year and beyond.

For as long as I can remember, the concept of time has been somewhat of a nuisance to me. I understand that keeping time is important in many cases. I struggle to get places on time, get Outlook articles turned in promptly, etc. My aunts tell me it's a genetic issue.

But I also understand time outside of sunrise and sunset to be very artificial. I can feel pretty fenced in by the oppressive ticking away of seconds, minutes and hours. I've taken all the obligatory time management courses. I've subscribed to a career ruled by day planners and MS Outlook calendars. I've gone through the Six Sigma, Steven Covey and Apollo risk management training. It helps a little. But in the end, I wind up thinking about the day my family and friends are burying me. Will they comment on my firm grasp of time management? Yeah, I'm thinking that probably won't be the hot topic of conversation.

So as we've come into this time in which many of us start thinking about resolutions – bettering ourselves and our world somehow – I have noted that with each passing year I get a little more sincere and contemplative about my own resolutions. The thought I put into resolution making has become more valuable to me than all the insincere, rushed resolutions I made – and sometimes didn't keep – in years past.



This year events such as Walter Brueggemann's visit, a Thanksgiving spent with most of my children, and a Christmas season decorated with new and old friends have filled me with thoughts of time in relation to my role as a member of Bethany and the wider Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.



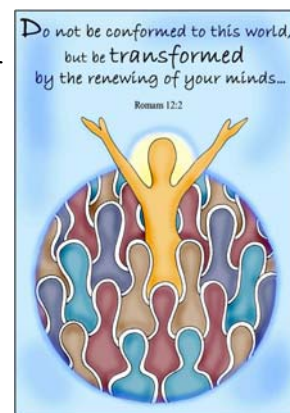
I've struggled for some time with thoughts of what it means to be an evangelical Lutheran. My understanding of "evangelical" has ranged from memories of TV evangelists who were really con artists more worried about the material trappings than saving souls. These days, "evangelical" has taken on a meaning more tied to our political process and an elite group of untouchables working to redefine what it means to be "Christian" and calling out for action that is anything but Christ-like.

It's all very confusing, but 2007 made it clear to me that my personal role as an evangelist is important.

Brueggemann uses the example of desperation in times of exile to illustrate the power of being a Christian witness using Isaiah 40:9.

**Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings;
lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings,
lift it up, do not fear;
say to the cities of Judah,
"Here is your God!"**

As evangelists, we may not be physically exiled from our homeland, but I think you could argue that spiritually we are exiled. Pontification from the capitol city wrapped in clever marketing campaigns and branding our country's actions (or lack of action) as moral, Christian and in the name of God has made it very clear – "If you're not with us ... clearly you are not a patriot or a Christian."



These hostile takeovers of the definitions of “Christian” and “evangelical” make it tough to understand how I can answer the call to action Vicar Luke Smetters proposed in his sermon on the First Sunday of Advent.



“Apostle Paul understood this. In our passage today from Romans, Paul writes, ‘you know what time it is, how it is now the moment for you to wake from sleep.’ Paul has renewed the charge, the call to discipleship. ‘Wake from [your] sleep.’ Rise up out of these pews and go tell someone about Christ, and let it be someone who is lacking in faith.”

So how do I conduct myself as an evangelist with that backdrop of con artists and so-called Christians? And how much of my trepidation is due to a lack of confidence in my own ability to “herald good tidings” and “tell someone about Christ?” Surely I cannot be the only one who is struggling to figure this role out.

Pastor Geier said on Christmas day, “Our Savior is born! It’s time to celebrate, to sing for joy, to share this good news, but also to begin to consider what all this means for us, today, especially what it means after the presents are opened and Christmas dinner is eaten and cleaned up.”



What does it mean? Beginning to answer that for myself is my resolution for 2008 and I am so thankful to have my Bethany community around me. I look forward to a fruitful year of reading and conversation and action.

Happy New Year!

-- Ann Gonyea

NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR
Noel Hallelujah Merry Christmas Happy New Year

Redeeming the time

Dear God, stretch time for me,
Enlarge each hour
That it include time
For a thought of Thee.
Grant me an extra minute, Lord,
To see
And ponder the perfection
Of a flower.

Lord, somewhere in my life
I pray,
Insert a day
That I may spend
Entire
In fellowship with Thee.
And in that day,
In Thy unfailing grace,
Include one instant, God,
When I meet face to face
My Christ.
This will suffice
Whatever else life bring.

Just this one Thing
I ask in faith of Thee:
Please God, stretch time for me
Into eternity.

- Thelma Scott Kiser



Bread Bakers Wanted

If you have attended worship at all during these past few weeks, you will have noticed that real bread is now being broken at communion. Using real bread and wine for communion is encouraged since these would have been the elements which Jesus would have used when he celebrated the last supper with his disciples. An ELCA statement on communion in 1989 stated that “a loaf of bread and a chalice are encouraged since they signify the unity which the sacrament bestows. The bread may be leavened or unleavened.”

Using real homemade bread for communion also enables the congregation to give thanks to God for the gifts which God first provided. God has blessed us with gifts of grain and wheat. Farmers help in the maturing process of the crops. And yet while the ingredients of bread are usually bought from a local grocery store, the one who bakes the bread uses their own hands to sift the ingredients together, molding and shaping the dough as God has molded and shaped us. When that bread is prepared for worship, we give thanks to God for having blessed us with such bountiful gifts. That loaf of bread becomes yet one more offering to God, a offering that is carried forward as we celebrate God’s most holy and gracious feast.

Consider being a bread baker this New Year. The preparation and baking time combined is under one hour. The recipe below is so easy that even children can help in the kitchen. It is also a great time for parents to begin talking to their children about the meaning of communion. Sign up for a Sunday to bake and provide the communion bread for our worship. The sign up sheet is posted on the kiosk in the narthex. If you have any questions, please speak to Vicar Luke.

Luther’s Bread Recipe

Preparation Time: 15 minutes

Baking Time: Approximately 15 minutes

Sift dry ingredients together three times:

- 2 cups whole wheat flour
- 1 cups white flour
- 1 & 1/4 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 & 1/4 teaspoons salt

Stir in 4 teaspoons oil. Set aside.

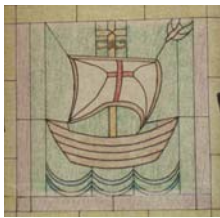
Mix wet ingredients together until dissolved:

- 3/4 cup + 2 Tablespoons very hot water
- 3 Tablespoons honey
- 3 Tablespoons molasses



Council Approves Stained Glass Project for Entryway

The church council recently approved a Memorial Stained Glass Project for the entry of the church. Dan Argall will design and create the windows using the patterns and themes from the new paraments. The main colors that Dan will incorporate in the designs are green, white, purple, red, and blue. White will predominate on the top of the doors, while green will be the emphasis on the right as you are looking out, and combination of remaining colors on the left side. Four designs are presently on display as you enter the church. Each panel costs \$130 and may be purchased separately. If you would like, you may make a donation to the Memorial Fund designating that donation to the Stained Glass Project.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl group has completed several shawls, and they are available for anyone who would like to give one. To obtain a shawl, or for more information about them, contact Pastor Geier or any member of the group: Linda Dahl, Debbie Cain, Marian Medlyn, Sue Ryan, Ruby Kaukola, Donna Dubord, Sharon Argall, Carol Waters, Ann Gonyea, or Kathy Geier. We welcome new members anytime, so please come when or as often as you are able.

As the Prayer Shawl Ministry continues, the members will be in need of materials and supplies. If you are willing to make a donation toward those supplies, please put your contribution in an envelope and label it Shawl Ministry.

Thank you.

Noisy Offering



Starting January sixth, church will be a little bit noisier. The Social Ministry Board has decided to begin collecting a second “noisy” offering of spare change that will not silently float into the collection plate, but will joyfully jangle into metal bread pans. Children especially may be fond of participating in this...

The money will be designated for distribution to the various agencies that help people in our community who are in need. As most of us know, these agencies are facing increased demands on their resources as more people are having difficulties making ends meet. January’s collection will go to the Salvation Army.



Carl and Doris Pellonpaa recently found these “house rules” in a house they rented while attending their granddaughter’s wedding in Las Vegas. As we enter a new year, perhaps these should be the house rules for us all.

House Rules

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| Always be honest..... | Proverbs 12:22 |
| Count your blessings..... | Psalms 34: 1-3 |
| Bear each others burdens..... | Galatians 6:2 |
| Forgive and forget..... | Micah 7:18 |
| Be kind and tender hearted..... | Ephesians 9:32 |
| Comfort one another..... | I Thessalonians 4:18 |
| Keep your promises | Romans 4:21 |
| Be supportive of one another..... | Acts 20:35 |
| Be true to each other..... | Revelations 15:3 |
| Look after each other..... | Deuteronomy 15:11 |
| Treat each other like you treat your friends..... | Matthew 7:12 |
| Love one another deeply from the heart..... | Peter 1:22 |



January 6, 2008 — Philip Gulley – If Grace is True...

Romans 11:33-36

One of the favorite questions many Christians love to ask is, “Who is saved? Is She? Is He? Am I?” The question grows in interest when people who do not profess Jesus Christ are included in the question. [Philip Gulley](#), a popular author and Quaker minister, has some very important things to say about who gets saved. If grace is true, as a concept, a word, and as the defining characteristic of God, reasons Gulley, then it must be true for ALL people.

January 13, 2008 — Jim Autry – Rethinking Miracle Stories

John 10:38

[Jim Autry](#) is a former Fortune 500 business executive, a leadership consultant, poet and author. But he is something else too. He is the loving father of an autistic son. Raising this son has caused Autry to read the healing miracles of Jesus in a way that might surprise many conventional or orthodox Christians. If you are wondering whether or not to believe in miracles, and whether they might be pointing to something larger, this program is for you.

January 20, 2008 — Immaculée Ilibagiza (Part I) – Burning Hate

John 15:23-25

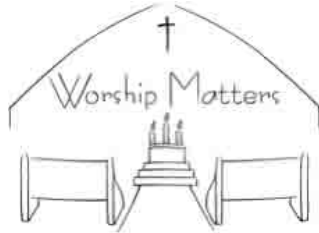
[Immaculée Ilibagiza](#) is an amazing woman. She narrowly escaped death in the Rwandan genocide of 1994 by hiding in the bathroom of her pastor’s house for 91 consecutive days. In this compelling interview, the first in a two-part series, Immaculée gives an inside look at the faith that carried her through a horrific ordeal. She discusses the mystery of hatred and the necessity of Christian hope.

January 27, 2008 — Immaculée Ilibagiza (Part II) – Forgiving the Unforgivable

Luke 7:36-50

[Immaculée Ilibagiza](#) returns for the second of a two-part series on the tragedy of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. She is the author of the book, *Left to Tell*, a gripping narrative of the ordeal that left her family and most of her village dead. In this broadcast Immaculée relives the jail encounter that brought her face-to-face with the killer who stabbed her parents and brother to death. This woman of faith will reawaken the power of forgiveness for all who are seeking a new way of life.

Grace Matters airs on Sunny 101.9 at 7:30 Sunday mornings.



Council Highlights

- Received a thank you for the \$1227.80 which Bethany sent from November's World Hunger drive
- Group homes in Ishpeming are looking for various items—this list will be posted on the kiosk.
- Our Savior in Marinette prayed for Bethany and Pastor Geier on Christ the King Sunday as part of their continuing program of prayer for all churches in the synod.
- Looking into possibility of new intern for 2009-2010.
- Pastor performed 2 baptisms: Ella Riutta (Dec. 3) and Sophie Rose Dianna Hymers-Horne (November 10—Maine)
- Discussed 2008 budget which was accepted as presented with the addition of \$150 to certain line items.

Ishpeming's Cedar Hills and Hillcrest Group Homes Need Your Help

Cedar Hills and Hillcrest are group homes in Ishpeming for adults with developmental disabilities, currently serving five females and seven males. They are in need of many items. If you are able, the following items would really help them. Please bring items to the church, and they will be delivered.

Gift cards to Shopko, Wal-Mart, or the Country Village theater; CD's of oldies, easy listening, Christmas, pop, (all but RAP); DVD's of westerns, family viewing, cartoons; toiletries of all kinds—shampoo, cream rinse, bath soap or gel, body sprays, deodorant/antiperspirant, combs, brushes, toothpaste, toothbrushes, dental adhesive, denture cleaner, pre-shave, after-shave, disposable razors, body lotion, finger nail and toe nail clippers, powder, nail polish and nail polish remover, wet wipes; blankets, quilts; AA batteries for residents' CD players; "Sweatin' to the Oldies" VHS by Richard Simmons.





**Ella
Jane
Riutta**



On December 3rd at the Monday night service, baby Ella Jane Riutta was baptized. Ella is the daughter of Dr. Adam & Sharla Riutta and grand-daughter of Jane & Jim Anderson. God-parents are Katie & Matt Barron - close friends of the parents. Ella was surrounded by her loving family, close friends and neighbors. The family wants to say Thank You to Pastor Geier and Vicar Luke Smetters for making Ella's baptism very special.

Jane Anderson

Congratulations on a Job Well Done!



Bethany members brought Marquette County much joy this Christmas season with the production of *Scrooge* at the Forrest Roberts Theater. Luke Smetters (Bob Cratchitt), Denise Clark (author and director), Kate Clark (narrator), and Max Alexander (townsperson) gave us a special gift with this production . Thank you!



Bethany Supports Local Food Banks

January's target food will be soups .
Though only one type of food is designated, you are never limited to just that if you wish to bring something else.

Council Thanks Outgoing Chairpersons

The Council and congregation give a heartfelt thank you to Bethany's outgoing chairpersons for their faithful leadership and dedication to their committee and Bethany and for the many years that they served. Thank you.....

Ted Swanson (Assistant Executive Director)
Brent Clark (Christian Education)
Jerry Plaisier (Property)
Kathy Harrington (Stewardship)

Get ready to bake
your pies!



Bethany Pie Social **January 19 2 p.m.** **Open to the public**

Proceeds will go to the roof project.
Matching funds will be applied for from Thrivent.

Contributions to and ideas for the newsletter can be made by contacting **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@netscape.com

Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents: June Bjorne, Teckla Holmgren, Barbara Crabb, Clyde Jago, Marvin Nadeau (Valente), Pearl Forchini (Mather), and Martha Ulrickson (Valente)
- Nick Chartre
- Therese Korpi
- Those in the military that they may remain safe
- Alan Johns
- Paul Blomgren
- Marcia Hemmila
- Karen Williams
- Nancy Swanson



Fair Trade Coffee, Tea, Cocoa and Chocolate Are Available at Bethany



| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------|
| Café Salvador Coffee | \$5.00 /box |
| Organic Decaf Coffee | \$5.75/ box |
| Whole Bean Coffee | \$5.25/box |
| Whole Bean Decaf | \$6.25/box |
| All teas | \$2.50 / box |
| Hot cocoa | \$4.20 / container |
| Baking Cocoa | \$4.20 |
| Milk Chocolate Bar | \$2.25 |
| Dark Chocolate Mini Bars | \$3.00 for 20 |

From Small Farmers With Love



Bethany's Website www.bethanyishpeming.org

- Read and listen to Pastor Geier's and Luke Smetters' sermons.
- View the Outlook in color.

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Asst. Exec. Director, Tom Ryan
Christian Education, Denise Clark
Evangelism, Paul Sandstrom
Finance, Cheryl Sleeman
Personnel, Sandee Sundquist
Property, Bill Heavyside
Social Ministry, Marian Medlyn
Stewardship, John Pontti
Worship & Music, Dan Argall

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Northern Great Lakes Synod