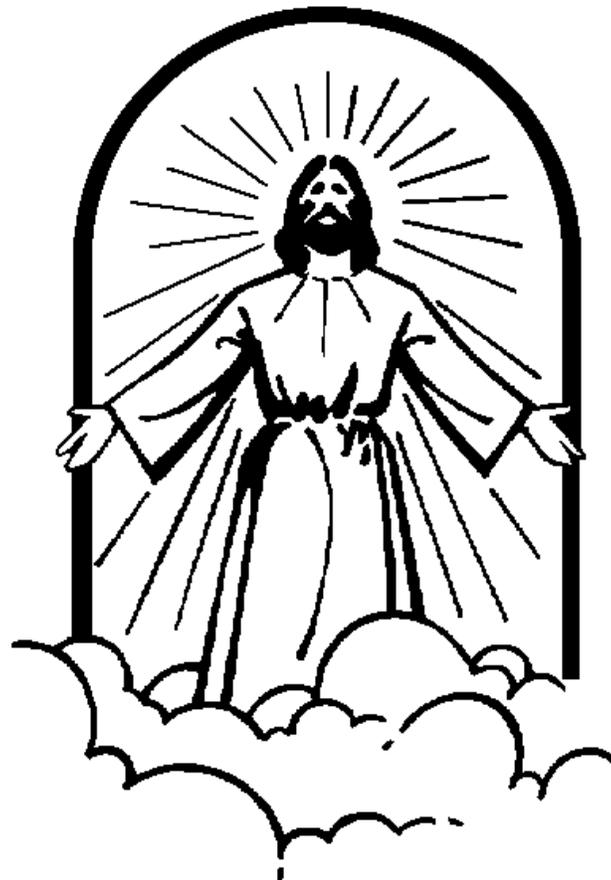




**Bethany Lutheran Outlook**  
**May 2008**

**Serving God, Community, and Individuals**



**“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”**  
(Matthew 28:20 NRSV)

## PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS



The last day of Sunday School this year is May 18<sup>th</sup>; the last session of Confirmation is a couple of weeks before that on May 4<sup>th</sup>. That makes this a good time to thank all those who participate in this important ministry of the church. For Sunday School, serving as teachers, substitutes and/or music leaders have been Wendy Koski, Gwen Bruhnke, Carrie Dubord, Meredith Seppanen, Kathy Geier, Brent and Denise Clark, Tom and Emilie Brown, Pam Allen and Wendy Penhale. For Confirmation, Dave Leverton, Sheree Mariani and Kathy Harrington have served as mentors and Bob Nadeau has willingly filled in when called upon. Meta and Matt Leverton have set up and served snacks when classes have been held at Bethany. Luke, of course, has also been involved with both groups.

As you can see, this is a pretty sizable group of people. In the case of Sunday School teachers, they sacrifice a little extra sleep to be here at nine o'clock on Sunday mornings (or a little after in some cases; I won't mention any names) and for most it includes getting young kids up and out too. In the case of Confirmation mentors, they sacrifice Sunday evenings (unless the Packers have a late playoff game in which case we cancel).

It should also be mentioned that, in both programs, those who are involved are almost all different from those who were involved when I arrived about 5 years ago. To me that is a positive indication of "the next generation" getting increasingly active and accepting responsibility which is important for the vitality of any church. I am most grateful for what these people do and for the positive influence they are on our young people as they help to teach the faith. I'm also grateful for the support of all the Sunday School parents as you too have to get kids up and out on a Sunday morning.

Sunday School and Confirmation staff will be recognized in church on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup> and coffee hour that day will be in their honor. Plan to be here to show your appreciation for their dedication to Bethany's education ministry.

Pastor Geier





## Ascension Day Service on May 1

Forty days after each Easter, many Christians around the world celebrate the Ascension. It's the day when the resurrected Jesus was raised up from the earth into heaven. The Ascension is the prelude to Pentecost, when the Holy Spirit came upon a gathering of people, including the apostles, in Jerusalem.

The Ascension is more important than many Christians realize. In his human body, Christ could be in only one place at a time. The risen Christ, however, can be spiritually present in any place at any time.

St. Matthew's Gospel tells us Christ's last words to his friends were, "Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age" (Matthew 28:20 NRSV). And so Christ is!

On Thursday, May 1, Bethany will have an Ascension Day worship service to recognize and celebrate the ever present spirit of our Lord.

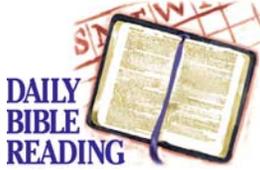
## Pentecost, the church's birthday

Pentecost was originally a Jewish harvest festival when the first fruits of crops were given as offerings to God. On the first Pentecost after Jesus' resurrection, the Holy Spirit came upon Jesus' followers. They were filled with power and love, thus empowering them to witness to God's actions in Christ to all who were nearby. Some 3,000 people responded to their claims that Christ was Lord and Savior of mankind.

The outpouring of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus' first followers on the day of Pentecost is often called the Church's birthday. You can read the entire story in Acts 2



## DAILY LECTIONARY



readings.

*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*

### Daily Lectionary for May 2008

1	Ascension of Our Lord		
2	Psalm 93	2 Kings 2:1-12	Ephesians 2:1-7
3	Psalm 93	2 Kings 2:13-15	John 8: 21-30
4	Seventh Sunday of Easter		
5	Psalm 99	9:1-11, 22-24	1 Peter 4:1-6
6	Psalm 99	Numbers 16:41-50	1 Peter 4:7-11
7	Psalm 99	1 Kings 8:54-65	John 3:31-36
8	Psalm 33: 12-22	Exodus 19:1-9a	Acts 2:1-11
9	Psalm 33:12-22	Exodus 19:16-25	Romans 8:14-17
10	Psalm 33:12-22	Exodus 20:1-21	Matthew 5:1-12
11	Day of Pentecost		
12	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Joel 2:18-29	Romans 8:18-24
13	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29	Romans 8:26-27
14	Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Numbers 11, 24-30	John 7:37-39
15	Psalm 8	Job 38:1-11	2 Timothy 1:8-12a
16	Psalm 8	Job 38:12-21	2 Timothy 1:12b-14
17	Psalm 8	Job 38:22-38	John 14:15-17
18	The Holy Trinity		
19	Psalm 29	Job 38:39-39:12	1 Corinthians 12:1-3
20	Psalm 29	Job 39:13-25	1 Corinthians 12:4-13
21	Psalm 29	Job 39:26-40:5	John 14:25-26
22	Psalm 131	Proverbs 12:22-28	Philippians 2:19-24
23	Psalm 131	Isaiah 26:1-6	Philippians 2:25-30
24	Psalm 131	Isaiah 31:1-9	Luke 11:14-23
25	Second Sunday after Pentecost		
26	Psalm 104	Deut. 32:1-14	Hebrews 10:32-39

27	Psalm 104	1 Kings 17:1-16	1 Corinthians 4:6-21
28	Psalm 104	Isaiah 66:7-13	Luke 12:22-31
29	Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24	Exodus 24:1-8	Romans 2:17-29
30	Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24	Deut. 30:1-5	Romans 6:9-13
31	Psalm 31:1-5, 19-24	Amos 2:6-11	Matthew 7:1-6

June 2008

1	Third Sunday after Pentecost		
2	Psalm 52	Joshua 8:30-35	Romans 2:1-11



## The Bible is the Rope

The Bible is, a collection of 66 books. The Holy Bible offers enlightenment on the basics of living as God would have us live. It offers instruction, encouragement, inspiration, hope and wisdom — things needed for life’s journey.

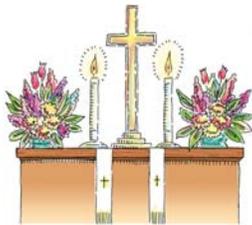


A brilliant Bible scholar, J.I. Packer, once wrote: “The Bible is the rope God throws us in order to ensure that we stay connected while the rescue is in progress.” We need that “rope” and we need it daily.

There is a prayer regarding the Bible written by Thomas Cranmer for the Anglican Prayer Book (Book of Common Prayer). The prayer is, as we might expect, in Old English, yet it is understandable and helpful today. Here it is:



“Blessed Lord, who hast caused all Holy Scriptures to be written for our learning: Grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn and inwardly digest them, that by patience, and comfort of thy Holy Word, we may embrace, and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ. AMEN.”



## *Music and Worship*



**Alleluia! Voices raise,  
sounding God Almighty's praise.  
Hither bring in one consent  
heart and voice and instrument.  
Alleluia!**

So wrote George Wither in his hymn of praise Alleluia! Voices Raise. (ELW 828) Wither's text was based upon Psalms 148 and 150 both of which call upon us to Praise the Lord from the heavens; praise God in the heights.(148) Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Hallelujah! (150)

Bethany Music Ministry is made up of a diverse group of people. We sing, ring bells, accompany, direct but, above all, are faithful servants Sunday after Sunday, season after season, year after year. We have a history. Many of our choir members have sung for years and some are relatively new. Together we make up a unique group of people, willing to lead our congregation in song.

At this time of year, we especially want to recognize the members of Bethany's Music Ministry and thank them for their leadership during the past year. Bethany worships well. Everyone in our church--from the pulpit to the choir loft to the organ bench to the church office to the pews plays an important part in our worship life. The best liturgical, musical, and relational moments are those times when our worship comes together, and we catch a glimpse of the vastness of God. Weekly, we join together in worship and do just that!

**Thus our song shall over climb  
all the bounds of space and time.  
Alleluia! Voices raise,  
sounding God Almighty's praise.  
Alleluia!**

---

### **Summer Music**

Even though our choirs will be taking a break for the summer, hopefully that will not be the end of our special music. Bethany is looking for those who can share their musical talents during our summer services. If you would like to make a musical offering, please contact Bob Bucan or phone the church office. Your musical contribution may be vocal, instrumental, a solo, or a group. Bethany will be thankful for your musical voice raised in song.

# Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

## On Eagle's Wings

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord,  
Who abide in this shadow for life,  
Say to the Lord: "My refuge, my rock in whom I trust!"

*Refrain:*

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath of dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.

The snare of the fowler will never capture you,  
And famine will bring you no fear;  
Under God's wings your refuge, with faithfulness your shield. *Refrain*

You need not fear the terror of the night,  
Nor the arrow that flies by day;  
Though thousands fall about you, near you it shall not come. *Refrain*

For to the angels God's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways;  
Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone.

And he will raise you up on eagle's wings,  
Bear you on the breath on dawn,  
Make you to shine like the sun,  
And hold you in the palm of his hand.  
And hold you, hold you in the palm of his hand.

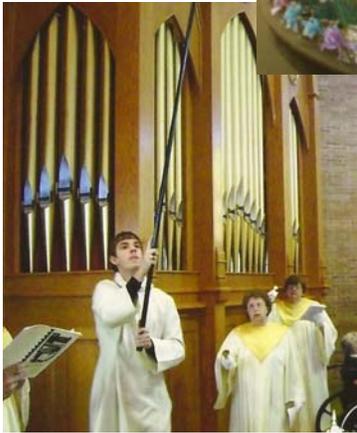
Text & Music: Michael Joncas, b. 1957

Text & Music © 1979 OCP Publications

ELW # 787



*Easter*



## Brief Reflections on the Common Cup

By Luke Smetters

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

Such sacred words are these which bear for us a part of the mystery of the blessed sacrament of Holy Communion. On the night before Jesus' death, in the upper room, gathered together with his disciples, Jesus took a cup of wine. He blessed it as he gave thanks to God, and passed it among his disciples, each of them drinking from the cup.



Matthew 20:22

Perhaps one of the greatest theological statements that a worshipping assembly can make is to all drink from one common cup (also called a chalice). It emphasizes our understanding of the one family into which we have all been baptized, the one Christian life that we all live. That is why we call it communion. The communion which we share is a celebration of our comm(on)-union in Christ. The handing out of individual pre-filled glasses greatly diminishes the sense of commonality and community.

There are many of us, myself included, who are concerned with germs. Medical studies have strived to educate entire communities on exactly how diseases spread. There are no actual medical reports of anyone becoming sick from sharing communion. There have been studies, however, which have discovered more bacteria on individual cups than on a common chalice. The metal of the chalice and the alcohol content of the wine actually fight against the spread of bacteria.

Sacramentally speaking, there are also questions on how to discard the wine that remains in each individual cup. If we truly believe that it is the blood of Christ, can we be content to merely throw them all away, despite the remaining drops of wine in each cup? Also, can we regard manmade plastics worthy enough to hold the blood of Christ? Especially as we grow continually concerned about issues pertaining to the environment, can we really be okay with the amount of plastic we throw away each week? If we were to line up all of the plastic cups that have been used by this congregation over the years, they may very well span a distance from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans, perhaps even further.

These are some of the things I ponder from week to week. I encourage everyone to take and drink from the cup, just as our Lord Jesus has commanded. Step further out of your comfort zone and into a greater understanding of the comm(on)-union which we all share. Come to the table, drink from the cup, and revel in the mysteries of God.



**“Do not pray for an easy life; pray to be a stronger person. Do not pray for tasks equal to your powers but for powers equal to your tasks. Then the doing of your work shall be no miracle, but you will be the miracle. Every day you shall wonder at yourself and the richness of life which has come to you by the grace of God.”**

Phillips Brooks



### **Casey Hares**

Athlete Casey Hares’ name is heard a lot in Marquette County for his record-breaking performances in football. Casey truly shines on the gridiron, and he will continue his awesome play for the Wildcats this fall when he attends Northern Michigan University. While he really enjoys football, Casey also excels at fishing and loves lifting weights, hunting, and most other sports and outdoor activities.

Casey counts on the support of his family. His mother, father and sister mean the world to him, and they are there to support him in all that he does. He appreciates how his mom always pushes him to do his best and how she has shown him what can be accomplished from hard work and dedication.

As a lifelong member of Bethany, Casey has attended Sunday School and Confirmation and selected this as his favorite Bible passage:

“So do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will bring worries of its own. Today’s trouble is enough for today.”

Matthew 6:34

Casey looks at this passage as telling us to live our lives without constantly worrying about things and that we should not sweat the small stuff.

The future looks bright for Casey as he sees himself as a successful individual, husband, and father.

### **Kaitlyn Thompson**



Kaitlyn Thompson is a musician. Since she was seven, music has been a guiding force in her life, whether it is through singing or playing the violin. With music being part of Kaitlyn's essence, it is understandable how much she appreciates how her orchestra teacher Mr. Setterlind taught her about music. His gifts have also taught Kaitlyn to appreciate the little things in life more and to never stop fighting for what she wants in life.

Kaitlyn sees herself as a very driven person who does her hardest to succeed at whatever she does. This fall she will put that drive to work when she attends NMU to study biology. Afterward she intends to transfer to another school to study physical therapy.

Parents Claudia and Danny and brother Eric might have a hard time keeping track Kaitlyn because she is often on the go. Kaitlyn is busy now with school, working at Bonanza Steakhouse, exercising, playing sports (especially tennis), and volunteering.

When attending Sunday School, Kaitlyn looked forward to the special projects that they did, and she enjoyed how they helped her understand the Bible in a fun way.

Kaitlyn's favorite Bible verse is:

“And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love.” 1 Corinthians 13:13

Kaitlyn's goal in life is to help as many people as she can. With her choice of vocation, it will be a perfect way for her to help others and express the greatest gift of love.

### **Erick Pohlman**



Erick Pohlman loves hanging out with his friends and playing football, hockey, basketball, and being part of the Spanish Club. He particularly loves playing hockey as he is a natural at it.

Erick says his parents are sweet and helped him be the person he is today. To Erick, his two little brothers are crazy and fun. Erick has that fun side of him too, and he remembers the fun and goofy times he had with Casey Hares and Jordan Mitchell in Sunday School.

This fall Erick is enrolling at NMU to study for a degree in radiology. In his future, Erick wants to have a job he really enjoys. In addition he wants to remain in the UP and raise a family.

### **Katelyn Hough**

Katelyn Hough plans to attend NMU for a couple of years and then move on to Michigan State University in pursuit of a degree in veterinary medicine. In addition to Katelyn's interest and love of animals, she is particularly interested in promoting equal rights. Katelyn intends to be active on campus by joining several clubs.

Katelyn has traveled to Germany twice and can speak German. Though she is still a senior, she is already halfway through completing her minor in German at NMU.

Katelyn feels many people have greatly influenced her life, but she feels the Stahlmann family has a special place in her heart. They have always been there for her, and the kids have been like her older siblings, always looking out for her. To Katelyn, Donna and Greg are like a second set of parents, accepting her no matter what.

Katelyn is an open person, a great saxophone player, a lover of animals, and a person who cares about the world around her. In her future, Katelyn plans to be a veterinarian, hopefully practicing as an emergency vet. And like she has done throughout her life, Katelyn wants to be an active part of the community to which she belongs.

### **Travis Allen**



Travis Allen is a familiar face around Bethany. Often seen working with his grandfather Don or mother Pam, he has always been willing to work, to help, and to pitch in when needed.

Travis describes himself as an outdoor man who loves to be in woods hunting or camping. He also enjoys working with his hands constructing things. This fall he plans to attend the NMU Skill Center to study Construction.

Travis has a great deal of love for his own family and his church family. They both have always supported him.

Read more about Travis in the June issue of the Outlook,

## Lessons Learned in Life's Journey

By Ann Gonyea

What I've learned on my journey so far ...

... it's not necessarily a long list of , but what I think it's a useful list.

As my kids have gotten older and started their own lives without parents to touch base with on a daily basis, here are some of the items on that list that I really hope they've heard:

1. Learn to want what you already have.
2. A relationship that lasts 30 seconds can be as important to your life as a relationship that lasts 30 years.
3. Why would you pay a company to wear their logo all over your body? Shouldn't they be paying you to be their billboard?
4. Clearly the Lord loves wondrous variety, so why try to be like everyone else? Often, when you are feeling completely alone, you just have to be quiet and get out of your own way so you can hear what God is trying to tell you.

Of course, none of this is easy to do 100 percent of the time, but I don't think "easy" is why we're here. If life were meant to be easy, my life wouldn't include struggles like heart-breaking fights with my husband; emulating Christ in a world that idolizes the likes of Paris Hilton and Ann Coulter; or dogs that shed enough hair in the spring to create an alternative energy source. We are here to challenge ourselves, mess up and repair relationships with the people we care about and do what we can to leave a meaningful footprint on the planet.



I believe a key to being able to accomplish these things lies in our relationship with God and a conscious decision to stop thinking and behaving as though we are supposed to walk this journey on our own. I can only comment on my own experiences, but when life gets tough, if I can remember that I'm not alone and surrender the situation to God, not only am I likely to find the answers I need, but I usually learn more from the situation than I ever imagined possible.



I am struck by the misinterpretation of the word “surrender,” as if it were always a sign of weakness or hopelessness. On the contrary, it is often the most courageous thing you can do. Through Easter we are especially reminded of this by Jesus’ ultimate acts of surrender.

*Indeed, the most striking evidence of Jesus' majesty, the one that clearly distinguishes Jesus' kingship from all others, is his physical location: on the cross between prisoners. Here, King Jesus is at his full majesty. The one bearing through his own free will the burden of all our fears, our hatred, our scandalous refusal to be free is our king. This broken man, rejected by God, forsaken, and reviled even by the criminal next to him, is the king whom we honor today. In this glorious act of surrender and hope, of unshakable fidelity to his people, Jesus embodies true royalty for all who shall follow him. Let no one be mistaken—if you seek worldly power and influence, look elsewhere. This is the king of surrender, who allowed himself to be broken so that he could call us to resurrection through our own brokenness. And when our little mustard seeds of faith allow us to surrender with him, "Amen, I say to you...you will be with me in paradise" (Luke 23:43).*



*Living the Word: Wake Up! by Michaela Bruzzese*  
*Column on Sojourners, an online periodical on faith, politics and culture*  
[www.sojo.net](http://www.sojo.net)

When I think about surrendering, I think of it as being wrapped up in how our lives unfold as people of God. Surrendering is also accepting that we, because God created us the way we are, bring wonderful things the world around us. It might be a certain talent or skill, the gift of our time or a shoulder to cry on. Only by surrendering ourselves, our troubles and our prayers to the will of God can we more accurately embody what God meant for us during our walk on this planet.

I keep the following passage written by Nelson Mandela close to me during my daily life in hopes that it will remind me to get out of my own way, remember that God is in my corner and has wonderful things in mind for me and everyone else.

## May Worship Assistants

### May 4

Assisting Minister - Brent Clark  
Acolytes - Kara Harrington & Jordan Dault  
Altar - Harriet Maki  
Greeters - Mike Starrine  
Coffee Hosts - Evangelism  
Nursery - Matt Leverton  
Flowers - In memory of Cathy Swanson by her family

### May 11

Assisting Minister - Paul Sandstrom  
Acolytes - Max Alexander & John Leverton  
Altar - Ruthie Solberg & Cathie Beinlich  
Greeters -  
Coffee Hosts - Addy Cain/ Relay for Life  
Nursery - Ali Kitchen  
Flowers - In memory of Donald Tyni by Shirley, John, & Sheryl

### May 18

Assisting Minister - Kathy Harrington  
Acolytes - Victoria Mattson & Mindy Harrington  
Altar - Carol Waters  
Greeters -  
Coffee Hosts - Board of Christian Ed.  
Nursery - Katelyn Hough  
Flowers - In memory of Vendela Larson by Lorraine Haack

### May 25

Assisting Minister - Robert Nadeau  
Acolytes - Megan Hough & Kate Clark  
Altar - Jean Johns  
Greeters - Mike Starrine  
Coffee Hosts -  
Nursery - Kristina Mattson  
Flowers - In memory of Althea Doney by Don Doney

### **May Ushers:**

Jaak Liivoja  
Mike Richards  
Tom Ryan  
Ted Swanson  
John Waters  
Paul Waters



*Thank You!*

### **June Ushers:**

John Beerling  
Jerry Hager  
Bill Heavyside  
Robert Maki  
Donald Meyer  
John Pontti  
Dan Sleeman



# May 2008



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1 6:00 Bells 7:00 Ascension Worship Service 8:00 Choir	2 Deadline for ordering Geraniums for Pentecost	3 Pasty Day 
4 9:00 Sunday School 9:15 Evangelism 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship 6:00 Confirmation—BBQ (Trinity)	5 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship 7:00 Prayer Shawl 7:30 Christian Education	6 9:00 Quilters 6:30 Mother/Child/ Friend Dessert 7:00 Property 	7	8 6:30 Bible Study	9	10 Fortune Lake Music Festival
11 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship  Pentecost 	12 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship 7:15 Men's Ministry	13 9:00 Quilters 1:30 Social Ministry 6:30 Worship & Music	14 10:00 Men's Group	15 5:00 Finance 6:30 Bible Study	16	17
18 9:00 Sunday School 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship  SYNOD ASSEMBLY	19 11:00 Bible Study 6:30 Worship 7:00 Council	20 9:00 Quilters  6:30 Intern Committee (Tom Ryan's)	21	22 6:30 Bible Study	23	24
25 9:30 Choir 10:30 Worship	26  MEMORIAL DAY No Worship Service	27 9:00 Quilters 5:00 Joy Circle (meet at church to carpool to Red Lobster)	28 10:00 Men's Group 1:30 Mary Circle 7:15 Martha Circle	29	30	31 Deadline for June Outlook May 22

*Happy Birthday!*

- 1 - Sheri Wooden
- 3 - Alan Johns
- 4 - Donna Champion
- 5 - Mia Chilman
- 7 - Carol Holmgren
- 8 - Michael Carriere
- 8 - Eric Martin
- 9 - Paul Waters
- 10 - James F. Sodergren
- 11 -- Kate Clark
- 11 - Dwayne Kaukola
- 13 - Carrie DuBord
- 14 - Ray Sundblad
- 15 - Sherry Lusardi
- 16 - Kathryn Chapman
- 17 - Natalee Dobson
- 17 - Jaak Liivoja
- 18 - Allen Beauchamp
- 19 - Duane King
- 22 - Philip Argall
- 22 - Sandra Sundquist
- 23 - Judy Kitchen



- 24 - Tim Nault
- 24 - Perry Wooden
- 28 - Mary Toivonen
- 29 - Janet Olgren
- 31 - Michael Waters



*Happy Anniversary!*

- Jaak & Pat Liivoja  
5/1/76 32 years
- Thomas & Pat Varda  
5/5/73 35 years
- John & Clara Carlson  
5/6/61 47 years
- Perry & Sheri Wooden  
5/14/83 25 years
- Alan & Janine Johns  
5/28/83 25 years

*Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate.  
Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.  
It is our light, not our darkness that most frightens us.  
We ask ourselves,  
Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, fabulous?  
Actually, who are you not to be?  
You are a child of God.  
Your playing small does not serve the world.  
There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you.  
We are all meant to shine, as children do.  
We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us.  
It's not just in some of us; it's in everyone.  
And as we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same.  
As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.*

---

*~Nelson Mandela*



Dear God,  
I do not think anyone could be a better God than you. Well, I just want you to know that. I am not just saying that because you are already God.

Charles



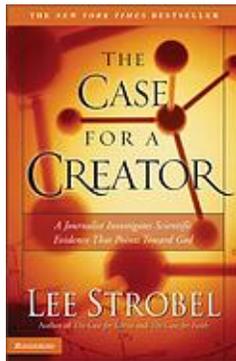
## New Books For May 2008

*By Keenan Funnell*



Strobel, Lee. **The Case for a Creator**

(Adult: 212 STR)

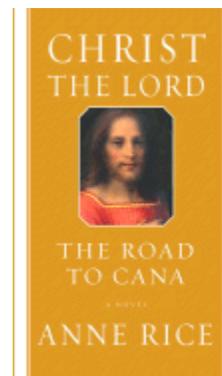


“...In recent years, a diverse and impressive body of research has increasingly supported the conclusion that the universe was intelligently designed. At the same time, Darwinism has faltered in the face of concrete facts and hard reason. Has science discovered God? At the very least, it’s giving faith an immense boost as new findings emerge about the incredible complexity of our universe. Join Strobel as he reexamines the theories that once led him away from God. Through his compelling account, you’ll encounter the mind-stretching discoveries from cosmology, cellular biology, DNA research, astronomy, physics, and human consciousness that present astonishing evidence in the case for a creator.” (from the back cover)

Rice, Anne. **Christ the Lord: the Road to Cana**

(Adult: FIC RIC.2)

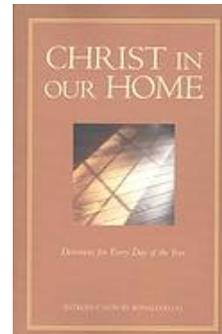
“Anne Rice’s second book in her...life of Christ begins during his last winter before his baptism in the Jordan and concludes with the miracle at Cana....As with *Out of Egypt*, the opening novel, the *Road to Cana* is based on the Gospels and on the most respected New Testament scholarship. The book’s power derives from the profound feeling its author brings to the writing and the way in which she summons up the presence of Jesus.” (from the jacket)



Klug, Ron. **Christ in Our Home, vol. II**

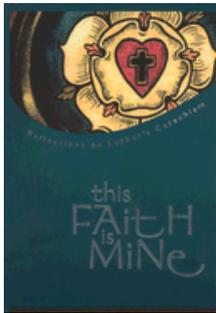
(Adult: 242.2 KLU)

The well-known devotional magazine is now available in book format covering a complete year. “Each day includes a Bible text and key verse, a devotional reflection, a prayer and space for writing personal reflections. In addition to the 365 daily devotions, special devotions are provided for specific occasions.” (from the back cover)



Meyer, R.Z. **This faith is mine: reflections on Luther's catechism**

(Adult/YA: 242.63 MEY)



The introduction is addressed to Lutheran Youth. In part, it reads, “ The reflections in this book have been based on the Small Catechism. The purpose has been to remind you what you have been taught and at the same time to make every part of the faith relevant and vital to your daily life....each reflection has one to three short studies in the Holy Scriptures. These develop the thought of the reflection, leading you lasting growth comes into the Word itself ...[from which] true and ....”

Norden, Rudolph F. **Every Day with the Savior**

(Adult: 242.2 NOR)

“In these [daily] devotional readings, the saving...love of Jesus comes to the fore to give us strength to get on with our Christian vocations.” (Large Print edition; from the Preface)

Lauersdorf, Richard E. **Together with Jesus**

(Adult: 242.2 LAU)

“From Jesus we can learn many things. Not only has he told us to search his Word, but he has also given us an example of the same. The gospels record a number of times when the Savior looked for a quiet spot away from the pressures of daily life to spend time in prayer and meditation, either alone or with his followers. Those who spend time with the Savior...will discover benefit for their souls.” (from the author's dedication)

# Kids - Did you know?

## Bible Verse to Memorize

“Remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

(Matthew 28:20 NRSV)

This month you will be learning about some interesting people.



The widow who had a very special gift.

Paul who wrote letters from prison



Mary and Martha who were different from one another but who each had their own special gifts

Lydia who came to believe in Jesus



There will also be special lessons and activities about Pentecost.

May 11 is Mother's Day. On that day, all of the Sunday School children can lift up their voices and sing during Sunday School and also at the church service. Your beautiful voices can be a gift to your mothers, grandmothers, and everybody else. We hope to hear you all at the 10:30 service.



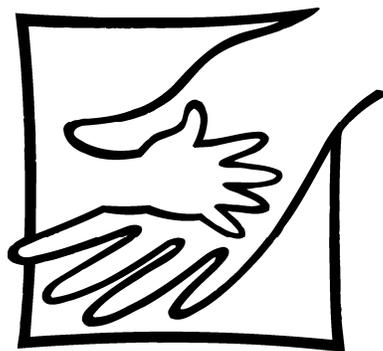
### **A Mother's Day hymn**

Sing praise to our Creator God!  
Earth prospers from the way  
God "mothers" each new child into  
This world day after day.

God fabricates in motherhood  
A channel from above  
That longs to share with every child  
God's Comfort, Grace and Love!

Sing praise to our Creator God,  
Who "mothers" us from birth!  
Providing what we truly need  
Throughout our lives on earth.

—Peggy Ferrell



## “Tsunami of Hunger”

Stories about increasing food shortages, rising prices and even food riots are in the news, increasing our awareness of the problem of hunger, especially among those most vulnerable.



Hunger is at once a worldwide and very local issue with many causes and as many possible responses. It is as personal as the child who cannot thrive because of malnutrition or the senior citizen who must choose between food and medicine. It is as systemic as the Farm Bill under consideration by the U.S. Congress or problems of distribution in areas of the world troubled by violence and insecurity.

The Northern Great Lakes Synod’s Spring World Hunger Gathering in April highlighted some of the ways individuals and congregations can become involved and some of the actions being taken by our synod and by ELCA World Hunger. Renee Johnson, campus pastor at Finlandia University, spoke on the benefits of the relationship with our companion synod in Tanzania and the experiences of students who have traveled there. Amy Johnson, Director of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, shared information on hunger issues at the local level and stressed that our elected officials need to hear that those issues are important to us.

Our congregation at present provides ongoing opportunities to help on local and global levels, including food drives, special collections and the “noisy offering”. This month quarters are being collected to take to the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly on May 18th and 19th. In the past this **“Quarters for Hunger”** initiative has successfully raised up to \$13,000. for ELCA World Hunger projects. **Coin banks to be used for this purpose are available in the Narthex; they can be returned there before or after church, or at any time to the church office, until May 18.**

As people of faith, we know that “feeding the hungry” is in our job description and we are all called to seek ways to make a difference. Many organizations are worthy of our consideration and support; at Bethany the Social Ministry Board is charged with responsibility for this mission of the church.



**“The life I touch for good or ill will touch another life, and that in turn another, until who knows where the trembling stops or in what place my touch may be felt.” Frederick Buechner**



## What's Up with WELCA?



### **Mother/Child/Friend Dessert May 6 Sharing Our Favorite Scriptures**

What Bible verse do you have underlined...have said to yourself in time of trouble or joy...hung on your wall...written in your journal... read before bedtime... whispered to yourself....?

Many of us have a Bible verse that has given us strength on our faith walk. At our Mother-Daughter-Friend Dessert, we will hear from members who will share the verses which remain close to their hearts which have a special meaning and message to them.

WELCA invites all women of the church and their guests to join them for this special evening on Tuesday, May 6 at 6:30 pm. The Martha Circle is in charge of the program, and the Mary and Joy Circles will be serving.



### **Spring Cluster Meeting**



The Spring Cluster Meeting of the area Lutheran Churches was held on April 20th at Grace Lutheran Church in Gwinn.

The speaker was Helen McCormick who founded "Room at the Inn," a shelter for the homeless sponsored by seven churches. These churches take turns caring for the homeless and needy taking one week intervals. Hopefully more churches will chose to help in this ministry in the future.

The fifty-one woman who attended, voted to give half of the offering to the "Room at the Inn," and the other half to the Synodical Women's organization. After the program, a delicious lasagna meal was served.

The Fall Cluster meeting will be held on September 28th at Bethel in Ishpeming. Perhaps you may want to attend. The Synodical Convention will be held at the Ramada Inn in Marquette in October.

- Evelyn Nadeau



**May 4, 2008 — Bruce Campbell – Letter-Writing  
from the Heart**

***2 Corinthians 3:3***

Otolaryngology is an important word, but a mouthful to pronounce. It happens to be shorthand for that branch of medicine that deals with ear, nose, and throat. [Dr. Bruce Campbell](#), head and neck surgeon at the Medical College of Wisconsin, “sees it all” on the cancer ward where he works and in the classrooms where he teaches. Campbell practices a particular kind of medicine that includes a thoughtful inclusion of his own personal faith. His patients are the direct beneficiaries.

**May 11, 2008 — Jules and Gedeon Naudet – Terror and Faith**

***1 John 4:18***

[Jules and Gedeon](#) are a pair of French-born brothers who enjoy working together. They also happen to be award-winning filmmakers. Not only did they produce the acclaimed documentary “9/11,” containing the only known footage of the first plane striking the first tower of the World Trade Center, they followed that up with a documentary on faith, entitled: “In God’s Name.” This edition of Grace Matters explores the place of terror in American public and private life, and the role of the Christian faith as a response.

**May 18, 2008 — Wayne Muller – The Rhythm of the Christian Life**

***Deuteronomy 5:12***

According to Holy Scripture, God built rhythm into the universe. Work and rest were meant to be fair players with one another. Something happened to this rhythm along the way, however. Rest got bumped to the periphery and work assumed center stage. Author and minister [Wayne Muller](#) reflects on how effectively we keep – and do not keep – the Sabbath commandment. Host Peter Marty looks at the distinctive rhythm of the Christian life.

**May 25, 2008 — Stephen Prothero – Religious Illiteracy**

***John 13:17***

[Stephen Prothero](#) has conducted an interesting study of religious literacy in America. What he has found is that while many people have a deep faith and a gut sense of spirituality, their Biblical and religious knowledge is very scant. In other words, their faith is formed more on feeling and sentiment than accurate knowledge of valued sources. Prothero is chair of the religion department at Boston University and author of the book *Religious Literacy*.

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

**You're Invited!**  
**All Members of Bethany**



**Please join the Allen Family in celebrating  
the graduation of**

**TRAVIS LAROY ALLEN**

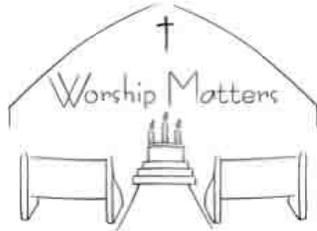
**Saturday, May 17, 2008  
4 pm - 6:30 pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church**

**Please join the Thompson family in celebrating  
The graduation of**

**KAITLYN THOMPSON**

**Sunday, June 8, 2008  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
Bethany Lutheran Church**





### Council Highlights

- April 25—notification of who intern will be for 2008-2009
- Approved carpeting of East/West hallway in Sunday School wing from Carpet Specialist (\$2189 to be paid from Pasty Sale and congregational appeal)
- Ascension Service will be May 1 at 7 pm
- May 18—Last day of Sunday School
- June 1—Graduate Recognition
- May 18-19—Synod Assembly at NMU; Delegates are Pastor, Kathy Geier, Bob Nadeau; Luke will also attend.
- Bethany will collect quarters to fight hunger to be given to the Synod Assembly
- May 19-23—Pastor will be in Minneapolis for Continuing Education
- July 28-31—Vacation Bible School at Bethany
- Approved Bethany as a Lay School site; Pastor Geier will take over from Pastor Echelbarger as coordinator of Lay School
- Worship service will remain at 10:30 for the summer.
- Received thank you's from Hillcrest and Cedar Hills Group Homes for the donations from Bethany.

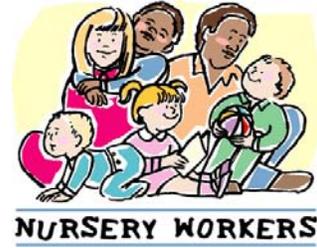
### Pick Up Your First Quarter Offering Statements



Because of rising mailing costs, congregational members may pick up their first quarter offering statements in the church office. Those statements which are not picked up will be mailed.

## Nursery Workers Provide Great Service for Bethany

Five Bethany students have been nursery attendants this school year. Special thanks to Ali Kitchen, Christina Mattson, Matt Leverton, Kaitlyn Thompson and Katelyn Hough for watching our youngest members during church services.



Students confirmation age and older are encouraged to consider signing up to work in the nursery for the 2008-09 school year. Please contact Judy Kitchen at 225-1769 for more information.



## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Denise Clark who directed Ishpeming High School's production of South Pacific. Matt Waters gave a stellar unforgettable performance as Luther Billis. In addition Katie Johns was Ensign Cora MacRae and Travis Allen was part of the construction crew.



## HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL

Congratulations also to Max Alexander who sang and danced to the tunes in High School Musical.



Noisy Offering for May and June will go to Habitat for Humanity.

Thanks to everyone for your generosity!



## Kaye and Doreen Say Thank You

I would like to thank all who sent me Get Well cards and also their Prayers after my fall on the ice and dislocated my shoulder. My healing will take a long time so I am told and am on my third week of Physical Therapy which is very painful. Please keep me in your prayers awhile longer as I try to find the patience to get the job done. I need all the help I can get when it comes to patience and pray God will give me lots of help. Thanks again to all. God Bless you all.:)

Kaye Frederickson



Thanks to all who sent cards and get well wishes to me while I have been staying in Wisconsin. Bless you all.

Doreen Brown

## 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**

### Keep In Your Prayers

- Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents: June Bjerne (Brookridge Assisted Living), Alice Jacobson (Woodland Assisted Living), Myrtle Carlson (Northridge Pines Assisted Living—Calumet), Teckla Holmgren, Barbara Crabb (Mather), Marvin Nadeau (Valente), Pearl Forchini (Mather), Martha Ulrickson (Valente), Ken Dalglish (Mather), Sue Noerell (Valente), and Doreen Brown.
- Nick Chartre
- Therese Korpi
- Those in the military that they may remain safe
- Nancy Swanson
- Alan Johns
- Paul Blomgren
- Marcia Hemmila
- Karen Williams
- Don Doney
- Fern Sundberg
- The family and friends who mourn the death of James Medlyn
- The family and friends who mourn the death of Gladys Ball
- The family and friends who mourn the death of Ron Renfors
- Sheree Mariani and family who mourn the death of her father Robert Johnson
- David Laine



**Bethany's Website**  
[www.bethanyishpeming.org](http://www.bethanyishpeming.org)

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](mailto:linkarzig@netscape.com)

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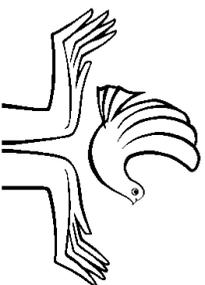
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Parish Planning Council:  
Exec. Director, Robert Nadeau  
Asst. Exec. Director, Tom Ryan  
Christian Education, Denise Clark  
Evangelism, Paul Sandstrom  
Finance, Cheryl Sleeman  
Personnel, Sandee Sundquist  
Property, Bill Heavyside  
Social Ministry, Marian Medlyn  
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