



Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany News

Volume 51, Issue 9

October 2018

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Dates to Remember:

- Oct. 28. 6th Grade Affirmation

From the Pastor

Hello Christian Friends,

Today's reading with my kids had an oldie but a goodie! "David said to the Philistine, "You come against me with sword and spear and javelin, but I come against you in the name of the Lord Almighty, the God of the armies of Israel, whom you have defiled. This day the LORD will deliver you into my hands, and I'll strike you down and cut off your head. This very day I will give the carcasses of the Philistine army to the birds and the wild animals, and the whole world will know that there is a God in Israel. All those gathered will know that it is not by sword and spear that the LORD saves; for the battle is the LORD's, and he will give all of you into our hands." *1 Samuel 17:45-47*

There is so much here! What faith and trust is given to David to rely on God, and boldly proclaim the outcome of chopped-off heads and eaten carcasses. There is great boldness, but do you also see the humility in the boldness. He declares that it will not be with sword or spear. God is the one who fights the battle. Occasionally I would love to have the same boldness of knowing that carcasses will be strewn about in my immediate context of struggle. The battle is the LORD's however. I like to use often the passage from 1 Corinthians 15 following Paul's discussion of the Resurrection

promise, "Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain."

We stand in just as strong of a place as David did when he faced Goliath. We stand in the Resurrection hope of Jesus Christ. The battle belongs to the Lord and He has won. Your labor in God's love and for His kingdom will never be in vain. You might not get to see heads roll right now. Short-term, that is actually what was happening to the disciples, but in the resurrection to come, God's people will be vindicated. The battle is the Lord's and He has given all into our hands.

What is your enemy? It is definitely different for each one of us. Those things that attack our faith and sap our energy and strength. Keep turning to the Lord and His strength; humbly acknowledging our weakness and complete inability to solve it. But have full assurance to stand firm in God's power and love poured out to you in Jesus' death and resurrection. Ultimately the forces of sin, death and the devil will have their heads roll and their carcasses strung out in defeat.

In His Service,
Pastor Levi

From the DFM

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Galatians 5:22-23

What comes to mind when you think of the above verses? Do you think of a specific story or time in life when one of these fruits was shining through? Do you think of one of the fruits that you need to work on displaying better? Do you think of the fruits our society struggles with?

The fruits above are so important in our lives and this year we have the opportunity to take a deeper look at them. In the past, we have had a Sunday School theme that the kids focus on, but typically it did not extend beyond those classes. This year, we have decided to use the Sunday School theme throughout the entire congregation. We will be memorizing verses together that relate to the theme, hearing about it in sermons, and having special events related to it.

So as we dive into this year, I wanted to take a deeper look at this section of Paul's letter to the Galatians. These two verses are fairly well known, but do you know what comes before? Paul talks about some things that can be tough for us to digest at times. He points out our sinful nature and the fact that we *do not* show these fruits as often as we should. Instead, we give into works of the flesh.

The acts of the flesh are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you, as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God. Galatians 5:19-21

Man, that is tough stuff! How often have we been overcome by jealousy? What about selfish ambition? Dissensions? We fall into these sinful patterns daily. However, if we keep going back a bit further, we see a verse that can, at times, be even more convicting: "For the entire law is fulfilled in keeping this one command: 'Love your neighbor as yourself'" (v. 14).

In Martin Luther's commentary on this verse, he says this: "Let nobody think that he knows all about this commandment, 'Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.' It sounds short and easy, but show me the man who can teach, learn, and do this commandment perfectly. None of us heed, or urge, or practice this commandment properly. Though the conscience hurts when we fail to fulfill this commandment in every respect we are not overwhelmed by our failure to bear our neighbor sincere and brotherly love."

Throughout the coming months, we are going to dive into the fruit of the Spirit. We are going to learn about joy and peace and patience. About self-control and faithfulness. However, I want to be sure that we are also looking at the rest of Paul's letter. It gives us many things to grasp onto and learn about. It teaches us more about loving our neighbor. It humbles and convicts us when we recognize the works of the flesh – our own sinful nature. Ultimately, though, it points us to Christ. It points us to our failures and reminds us that we will never be good enough by our own will and strength. However, it also points us to a Savior who has come to redeem us all. Thank God that we do not have to be good enough or strong enough or perfect enough to receive salvation! God has displayed His love for us through His Son – while we were still sinners, Christ died for us!

(Continued on page 5)

Constitution and Bylaws Revisions *(Article 4 of 4)*



The following article will explain the remaining portion of the Bylaws revisions approved by the Council and the District Synod committees. I think you will find them more a “housekeeping” and “grammatical improvements” series of changes.

Article III of the Bylaws starts with the subject of “Meetings”. Congregational meetings can be called by petition of twenty or more members. In the previous C/B, the topic of a meeting required it to have been previously voted upon by the Church Council. The new language states that “any matter of importance” can be the subject of this type of congregational meetings.

Secondly, in two areas of the Bylaws, removal from office of the pastor, professional staff, and later in the C/B for Board members, the Council added language suggested in the District guidelines to our existing language to state the following (with new language underlined): for the following reasons: persistent adherence to false doctrine, leading a scandalous life, inability to perform official duties, willful neglect of official duties, or domineering in office.

Thirdly, the vast majority of further changes in the Bylaws relate to making sure the “Church Council” portion accurately states the number and correct names of our various Directors and Boards. For some time the Council has been functioning with eight Directors instead of nine in the C/B, and five Boards (some with different names) than the six listed in the C/B. We just brought the C/B up-to-date with the numbers and

current names. An example would be the old “Stewardship and Finance Director” is now the Finance Director. One area to note is that some time ago the Board of Youth and the Board of Education merged together under a new name, Board of Family Ministry. This change in responsibility happened years ago but the name change was approved by the Church Council earlier this year.

Additionally, we clarified the long standing practice that our called staff are not voting members of the Church Council. The new language added is: “Called staff are advisory, non-voting members of the Church Council.” This was suggested in the District guidelines if it was the practice of a church.

If you read the whole document, which I hope you do, you will also see some grammatical improvement of words here and there, thanks to some members of our Council and Linda, our church secretary. We did our best to make it a clear and concise document.

Finally, if you have any questions about the changes to the C/B, please get a copy before the Voters’ meeting in November and read it. Copies are on the information counter for any and all participants. A meeting for all interested will be on Sunday, October 14, at 11:15 a.m. in the basement fellowship hall to answer any questions you may have. You can also give me a call (920-540-8558) or send me an email at frederickbruce@hotmail.com. I will do my best to answer any and all questions. I thank you.

Bruce Frederick-Bethany President

Church Office Hours

Starting in October, the church office will be open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to noon.

Church Council Notes

The Church Council met on September 11, 2018.

Board & Staff Reports:

- Elders: group has suggested changes to the handbook. (Bruce is working on the handbook and needs each board/group to review its section before the end of the year.) Roster Adjustment Training at Faith Lutheran is November 3. Potential candidates for Director of Elders needed before November meeting.
- Church Properties: there is an opening for a new board chairperson; Bob received a call from a pastor who was interested in Bethany's old pews; Cleanup Day in early November.
- Family Ministry: classes up and running.
- Finance: in August paid \$5,132 in insurance premiums resulting in a net loss of \$9,409.
- Pastor Levi: projector and screen are ordered and installed soon. Pastor received a Call to Yankton, SD, will visit October 5-7 and make decision shortly.
- DFM Shannon: 10 in youth group; 3 in 5th-6th grade class; 21 in Sunday School; Team Speak going well.

Old Business:

- Confirmation Communication Plan: Shannon is setting up individual meetings and would like to schedule some congregational meetings. She is working on curriculum and researching materials. May have a congregational letter explaining key points of the approved proposal; informal meeting tentatively planned for October 21.
- Council Planning 2019: Bruce did some research planning for a goal for Council and presented some structured ideas for writing a goal; *Listen and Respond* plan was agreed on.

New Business:

- Board annual reports should be available by October meeting so a budget can be presented at that meeting. Names of nominees for Director of Boards of Elders, Church Properties, and Finance also needed by next meeting.
- Voter's Meeting: Sunday, November 11, 2018, after the late service.

Next meeting is October 9, 2018.

Complete Council minutes available in the church office.



Church Council Open Positions

Terms for several positions on the Church Council will end at the end of December, so we are seeking nominations for candidates to fill those positions. The new term will begin in January. Chairperson positions up for election are Board of Finance, Board of

Church Properties, and Board of Elders. Nominations will be voted on at the Voters Meeting on November 11. Please contact Bruce Frederick or Pastor Levi by October 8 if interested.

Education

Children Singing in Worship

On October 14, we will have the Sunday School students sing during the late worship service. We will be working on the song during our Sunday School opening over the

next few weeks! Please also mark down November 18 as that will be the next date the children sing.!

6th Grade Affirmation Service

On October 28 – Reformation Sunday – we will be celebrating last year’s 6th grade class as they Affirm their faith! They have worked alongside their parents for the past two years to learn more about God’s Word and

Luther’s Small Catechism. Join us during the late service to celebrate these individuals as they point to what it means to be a disciple of Christ!

From the DFM

(Continued from page 2)

In response to this love, may we keep in step with the Spirit. May we respond to our gracious and undeserved gift of salvation in love and humility toward our brothers and sisters in Christ. May we strive to display

these fruits in our lives. However, when we fail, as we will, may we remember God’s incredible gift of salvation in the midst of our brokenness.

God’s Blessings,
Shannon Meeks

Loaves & Fishes Food Pantry

The suggested items to donate in October are saltine crackers, laundry soap, softener, and dryer sheets. Donations can be left in

the box at the bottom of the balcony stairway. Thank you for your past donations.

Bethany Membership

Baptism

Nathan James Kraft, son of Ashley & Jonathan, September 9, 2018

New Members

Daniel, Jennifer Teeters and children, Kaukauna

Death

Theresa Gilbertson, August 27, 2018

Bethany Lutheran Church

Rev. Levi Willms, Pastor
Shannon Meeks, DFM

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Mission Statement

Nurturing our
community to grow
closer to Jesus.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Saturday Worship Services to begin November 3

Saturday worship services at 4:30 p.m. will begin on November 3. Saturday worship services will

continue through April. There will be no Thursday evening services until May.

October 2018 Worship Assistants

| | | Sundays 7:45 AM | Sundays 10:00 AM |
|--------------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Elders | <i>Thursday: Dan Thorson</i> | Joe Kamien | Bob Koehler |
| Altar Guild | | Cindy Niesen | |
| Ushers | October 7 | Team 3 | - - - |
| | October 14 | Team 4 | Team 7 |
| | October 21 | Team 1 | Team 8 |
| | October 28 | Team 2 | Team 5 |
| Counters | October 7 | | Team 1 |
| | October 14 | | Team 2 |
| | October 21 | | Team 3 |
| | October 28 | | Team 4 |

| USHERS | |
|--|--|
| <p><u>TEAM #1</u> - Trevor Magnuson (Leader), Charity Magnuson, Gail Marzahl, Bonnie Reichel</p> <p><u>TEAM #2</u> - Garry Whitney (Leader), Dick Kickland, Mason Kickland, Micki Kickland</p> <p><u>TEAM #3</u> - Norbert Fuhrman (Leader), Bill Jorgensen, Sue Kamien, Jack Van Den Heuvel, Shirley Van Den Heuvel</p> <p><u>TEAM #4</u> - Diana Driessen (Leader), Eleeta Gast, George Gast, Karen Gast, Kay Gast</p> | <p><u>TEAM #5</u> - Bob Koehler (Leader), Jeb Green, Josh Green, Trevor Koehler, Dan Tuyls</p> <p><u>TEAM #6</u> -</p> <p><u>TEAM #7</u> - Gordy Anderson (Leader), Keith Mitchell, Dale Owen, Linda Wruck</p> <p><u>TEAM #8</u> - Bill Jensen (Leader), Ashley Haen, Gary Hartz, Joan Hartz</p> |

| MONEY COUNTERS |
|---|
| <p>Team 1- Joe Kamien</p> <p>Team 2 - Joan Borg, Gordy Anderson, Mary Ann Anderson, Maggie Robinson</p> <p>Team 3 - Bill Jensen, Marv Braun, Bob King, Judy King</p> <p>Team 4 - Sandy Weiland, Wilma Allwardt, Joyce Diedrich, Cori Shearer</p> <p>Substitutes: Dick Kickland (766-2524), Micki Kickland (766-2524), Doris Marzahl (766-1486), Jane Stenz (788-3009)</p> |

October 2018

Bethany Lutheran Church

| | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |
|--|---|---|--|---|---------------------------------|-----------|
| | <p>1-3 PM Quilters</p> <p>6:30 PM FPU</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 PM TeamSpeak</p> | <p>10 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Church Properties</p> <p>6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group</p> | <p>8 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at KFR</p> <p>6:15 PM Midweek School</p> <p>7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice</p> | <p>6:30 PM Worship Service</p> | <p>Pastor Levion Call visit</p> | |
| <p>7</p> <p>7:45 & 10 AM Worship Services</p> <p>Pastor Levion Call visit</p> | <p>8</p> <p>6:30 PM FPU</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p> | <p>9</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6:30 PM Elders</p> <p>7:30 PM Church Council</p> | <p>10</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at KFR</p> <p>6:15 PM Midweek School</p> <p>7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice</p> | <p>11</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship Service</p> | <p>12</p> | <p>13</p> |
| <p>14</p> <p>7:45 & 10 AM Worship Services</p> <p>10 AM S.S. children sing</p> <p>11:15 AM C/B Q & A mtg.</p> | <p>15</p> <p>1-3 PM Quilters</p> <p>6:30 PM FPU</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p> <p>7:30 PM TeamSpeak</p> | <p>16</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> | <p>17</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at KFR</p> <p>6:15 PM Midweek School</p> <p>7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice</p> | <p>18</p> <p>6:30 PM Holy Communion</p> | <p>19</p> | <p>20</p> |
| <p>21</p> <p>7:45 AM Holy Communion Service</p> <p>10 AM Holy Comm. Contemporary Service</p> | <p>22</p> <p>6:30 PM FPU</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p> | <p>23</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study</p> <p>6 PM Care Ministry</p> <p>Secretary at Support Staff Seminar-Wausau</p> | <p>24</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at KFR</p> <p>6:15 PM Midweek School</p> <p>7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice</p> | <p>25</p> <p>6:30 PM Worship Service</p> | <p>26</p> | <p>27</p> |
| <p>28</p> <p>Reformation Sunday</p> <p>7:45 AM Worship Service</p> <p>10 AM 6th Grade Affirmation</p> <p>10 AM Contemporary Service</p> | <p>29</p> <p>6:30 PM FPU</p> <p>6:30 PM Men's Bible Study</p> | <p>30</p> <p>10 AM Bible Study</p> | <p>31</p> <p>8 AM Men's Bible Breakfast at KFR</p> <p>6:15 PM Midweek School</p> <p>7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice</p> | <p>Sunday:</p> <p>8:55 AM Sunday School</p> <p>9 AM Adult Bible Study</p> <p>9 AM Youth Bible Study</p> <p>9 AM Naomi's Table Bible Study</p> | | |

Please visit the church website for updates and changes to the calendar.