

Council President  
Harvy Christensen  
246-7272

Vice President  
Julie Griepentrog  
248-3028

Treasurer  
Cathy Bygd  
246-6477

Council Secretary  
Melissa Condon  
248-4591

Education  
Nancy Tritt  
268-5804

Worship  
JoLene Anderson  
248-2010

Stewardship  
Glen Kurtz  
248-4559

Youth  
Krystal Hesselink  
248-3082

Properties  
Bill Breitbach  
248-3806

Fellowship  
Gerry Lockhorst  
246-0037

Evangelism  
Sharon Christensen  
246-7272

Mission Statement:  
**Bethany Lutheran is  
witnessing and reaching  
out in love so that all may  
know and grow in Christ  
Jesus.**



*"You know, pastor, Christmas is the most frightening time of year for me." Jim was really serious as he spoke. He didn't mean the financial and emotional excesses that make Christmas exhausting and discouraging. Jim was a fine Christian who had caught something in the Christmas story that we usually miss. He caught the fear!*

*It was a frightening time for Mary and Joseph. They came into town, Mary feeling the beginnings of labor, with no place to go! This was her first baby, a frightening enough thing even with lots of help. And Joseph? He must have been almost frantic. How else could he have obtained the use of the inn-keepers stable?*

*There may have been peace and joy in the warmth of that stable after all was done, but there were some anxious moments as well.*

*And how would you like to have been one of the shepherds that night? They were accustomed to a quiet, simple life when suddenly "an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them?" Little wonder that Luke adds, "and they were filled with fear." To suddenly see an angel feel the glory of God would scare most of us half to death!*

*And think of Herod. Some strange men arrived talking about a new king born in his realm. A man to take his throne! "When Herod the king heard this he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." What an understatement! Herod and those who depended for their comfort on his being king did everything they could to find out who this threat, this baby king, could be.*

*Herod faked a devout interest to get the wise men to report back to him. When they did not, Herod's fear, his insecurity, his terror at the threat of a new king drove him to order "killed all the mail children in Bethlehem, and all that region who were two years or under." Not a nice Christmas present for those mothers and fathers, this act of a frightened, powerful, man.*

*He frightens us, too, this Christ Child. We see that it was our sins, our wars, our cruelty and selfishness that brought him to earth to suffer and die.*

*We dare not forget, in our celebration and presents, the stark terror of God's entry into the human scene. Only if we share the fright of the moment realizing that we have reason to fear God's judgment, can we honestly share the joy, the joy of knowing that God, despite all we have done, still came to save!*

Pastor J.  
(Pastor David Johnson, Interim)

Statement of Welcome:

*Bethany Lutheran is a welcoming community to all who enter our doors. We are a Reconciling-in-Christ congregation. We welcome the participation of people of all ages, ethnic backgrounds, sexual orientations and gender identities, educational backgrounds, economical conditions, and mental or physical abilities—all who want to join in community to honor God and be of service to people. When Christ claims a person in Baptism the promises are not conditional. Bethany offers to all who wish to be a part of our Community this assurance: "you are not longer stranger or aliens, but fellow citizens and members of God's household." (Eph. 2:19)*



# Birthdays & Sponsors



## December BIRTHDAYS

Jake Dreger	1	Rene Doyle	16
Lindsay Kittel	2	Gene Cody	19
Carol Millikin	3	Mary Jo Hansen	19
Mercedes Davis	4	Quentin Hayes	19
Kiris Brockmiller	5	Jean Meier	19
Dayanerra Haynie	7	Hannah Otto	20
Merrik Waters	5	Margie Koehler	21
Michael Strey	6	Scott Kittel	23
Dayanerra Haynie	7	John Gauper	24
Andrew Roettger	7	Garry Russell	24
Ashley Gibson	8	Chris Boardman	26
Herbie Struss	8	Breanna Schwan	26
Aric Koehler	9	Sophia Wagner	26
Emilee Richard	9	Corey Berger	27
Tadd Hamms	11	Nicole Goodrich	27
Helen Skifstad	11	Ben Zajac	27
Ricky Crawford	12	Parker Fitzgerald	28
Robert Watrud	12	Roger Larson	29
Robert Berger	13	Roger Swanson	29
Allana Quant	15	Dan Bygd	31
Joshua Bottolfson	16	Jeffrey Hinz	31



## December Bulletin Sponsors

Bulletin sponsors are needed for upcoming months. You can sign up to sponsor the Sunday bulletin the on the clip board that circulates during worship each Sunday.

**Thank You To Our December Lifeline Sponsor**  
Scott & Mary Jo Hansen

**Our Thanks to Novembers' Lifeline Assemblers:**  
Shirley Estes, Lois Sanders, Jane Bottolfson and Marilyn Matthys

## Offering Counter Schedule

### December Schedule

- 1st Sun. Elmer & Cathy Meyer
- 2nd Sun. Roger & Lavonne Swanson
- 3rd Sun. Jerry & Sharon Neil
- 4th Sun. Shirley Estes & Mary Lou Smith
- 5th Sun. Lois Sanders & Sharon Christensen

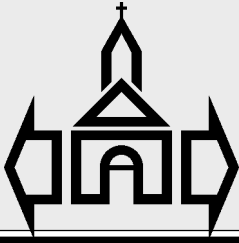
## December Baptismal Birthdays

Chad Johnson	3	JoLane Anderson	14
Erika Smith	4	Amy Bjornstad	14
Dillon Swanson	4	Matthew Koehler	16
Julie Dostal	5	Lester Everson	19
Lucas Raddatz	5	Chad Constant	21
Mark Peper	6	Virgil Estes	23
Ethan Panek	7	Ronald Gibson	23
Rodney Thompson	10	Trever Schroeder	24
Lois Sanders	11	Jonathan Nye	26
Ashley Field	11	Christopher Kiesler	29
Eric Bottolfson	13	Jeannie Roach	30



## Shoveling Help Needed

Your help in keeping Bethany's sidewalks shoveled this winter would greatly be appreciated. Shovels can be found in the closet of the North Entrance to the church.



## A Christmas Message

*Christmas 2007*

*“Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way...”*

**Matthew 1:18**

Many generations after God promised a Messiah, a young girl named Mary conceived a child by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, the young man to whom she was betrothed, was told by an angel that the child she would bear was God's Son, Jesus.

God's power and blessing worked through common lives to bring forth Jesus the Messiah. Joseph and Mary, ordinary young adults nurtured by the generations before them, were open to God's extraordinary activity in their lives. They were common people whose willing hearts and courage powerfully proclaimed the Good

News of the one who would save his people from their sins.

Countless generations later, you and I are called to proclaim the Good News of Emmanuel, "God with us." Our neighborhoods, our communities, and our world are filled with those who long to know Jesus' love and saving presence in their lives. God uses us in all our ordinariness and sinfulness to bring forth the promise and light of Christ's love and salvation.

This Christmas, may the Holy Spirit give you faith, courage, and a willing heart as you take part in God's ongoing miracle. May you know the joy and awe that comes from bearing Christ's creative and redeeming love to the world.

The Rev. Mark S. Hanson  
ELCA Presiding Bishop



### Ring That Bell!!



Invite a friend,  
bring the family but do  
come to help Bethany  
ring the bell for the Red  
Kettle Campaign on  
Thursday, December  
13, from 4-8p.m. at  
Econo Foods in New

Richmond. No need to sign up just  
be there with a smile and be pre-  
pared to share some Christmas  
carols!

### Message from Our Council President

Six months ago Pastor Paul left our church for a new call. The Holy Spirit has been working within the church in many ways. First, we were blessed with Pastor J. He has done such a good job keeping us together and moving us forward. With the attitude that "the glass is half full," not half empty, we forged forward. The ministry of the congregation has been tremendous. Bethany's church council, the many different committees, children's choir, VBS, prayer groups, mothers group, Bible studies and many more have all helped to promote our mission in here in Star Prairie. A few positive words and volunteers make a big difference. People stepped up when they were needed.

Thank you so much for your stewardship in giving to boost Bethany financially making continued outreach possible.

As we continue with our "call" process for a new pastor, your prayers are still needed. With the help of the Holy Spirit we move forward confident Bethany will continue to "reach out in love so that all may know and grow in Christ Jesus".

Peace and God bless for the new year ahead.

Congregational President,  
Harv Christensen

PS There will be seven council positions with one or two year commitments open at our next annual meeting February 3rd. Please prayerfully consider stepping forward.



# Looking Ahead

## Congregational Annual Meeting

Sunday, February 3rd,

10:15 a.m.

Please plan to attend!

*One 9:00 a.m. Worship service*

*10:15 a.m. Annual meeting in the Fellowship  
Hall with brunch. Bring a dish to pass.*

**Remember in Prayer and visitation-**Our men and women in the military and their families. Also remember Ruth Asplund, Stacy Sessions, Dick Sanders, Connie Anderson, Ruth Irle, Chris Flaherty and his family, George Birkholz, and Deb Everson.

### **Upcoming Sundays to Remember:**

Caribbean Christmas-9:30 a.m. Today

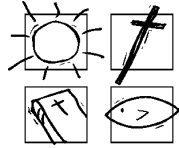
Christmas Sampler-9:30 a.m. Dec. 9

Sunday School Christmas program- 9:30 a.m. Dec. 17

Sunday, Dec. 23 8:00 a.m. & 9:30 a.m. Worship times and Sunday school

Christmas Eve Worship times- 4:00 & 9:00 p.m. (Candle light)

Sunday, Dec. 30- one worship service at 9:30 Lessons & Carols and No Sunday School



**WELCA Bethany Women  
United -Dates to plan  
ahead**

Saturday, December 8<sup>th</sup> Christmas  
Gathering

The morning will begin at 10:00am with a time to celebrate with our Bethany Congregational family. (Plan to bring baked goods for sharing on our visits with some of the home-bound.) Cookies, nut breads, fruit, candies, nuts and crackers, jams & jellies are the items we will be packing in tins or baskets. We will need some baskets, tins, or boxes to decorate.

We will begin packing at 10:00am, break about 11:00 and have a short time to have a short holiday program with song, poem and skit.

12:00 NOON WE WILL HAVE A B-B-Q-POT LUCK MEAL  
B-B-Q'S WILL BE FURNISHED!

Baskets and tins will be delivered following the lunch. We are all looking forward to visiting in some homes, and at the health care centers. We will be visiting about 20 people. Let Linda Cords know if you have someone in mind. Call at 248-3814 or by e-mail at [ljcords@frontiernet.net](mailto:ljcords@frontiernet.net)

Items for the baskets may be left, marked in the kitchen, the week before the 8<sup>th</sup>.

Please join us for a day of fellowship and celebration.

MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup>-Morning of Renewal in Hudson at Bethel Hyland  
APRIL 25<sup>TH</sup>-26<sup>TH</sup> SYNOD CONFERENCE in Eau Claire-Need a delegate

JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> -Mission Trip to Lutheran World Relief, Thrivent and World Global Missions

July 10<sup>th</sup> -13<sup>th</sup>-Gather at the Waters in Salt Lake City for the National Triennial: Bethany Members thus far planning to attend Jane Kruschke, Linda Cords, Marge Barry & Jennifer Struss. If you would like to go to the conference call one of the above Bethany members.

August 12<sup>th</sup>-Summer Retreat-Joy Lutheran in Prescott

August 24<sup>th</sup>-Community Education is going to the 2ed Church Basement Women

This is the sequel to the show now playing—fun play with a great lunch!





# REACHING OUT

## Love Basket Program

LOVE BASKETS are large boxes of food and gifts given to families in need at Christmas time. Families who reside in the New Richmond School District or attend New Richmond churches are eligible to receive these baskets upon request or referral. Items placed in LOVE BASKETS include food, toys, clothing, hats, and mittens. These items will be collected throughout November and early December at various locations in the New Richmond community. Local volunteers will then put together the boxes and distribute them. LOVE BASKETS will be given out this year on December 13th. Please contact Kim Gearin 248-3318 if you have any questions or could help out.

In addition, families can be "adopted" by other families or organizations. If you are interested in adopting a family, please call 246-4840 for more information. Monetary donations can be sent to P.O. Box 474.

The following items can be placed in our church collection box:

- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lotion, etc.)
- Baby needs (diapers, wipes, etc.)
- Non-perishable food
- Blankets
- Waterproof mittens and hats
- Socks and underwear

Families can be adopted by calling the contact number below.  
Contact LOVE BASKETS at 246-4840 or P.O. Box 474.

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## New Topic Bible Studies

A Bible study is a great opportunity for fellowship and learning more of our faith. Numbers attending have steadily increased. You are invited to join a study entitled "Christian Beliefs that will run for 12 weeks. It meets on **Tuesday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** in the church library. An evening nine week Bible study meets each **Wednesday at 6:30 p.m.** entitled "Fruit of the Spirit". This is a topical study on the fruit of the spirit in Galatians 5:22-23. "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, Joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Please join us, everyone is welcome! Questions? Call Linda Cords at 248-3814.

## Lutheran Marriage Encounter

- \*A series of presentations given by clergy and lay couples in a conference setting
- \*Private and focused time with your spouse
- \*Helpful not matter how long you have been married

**Restore communication...rekindle romance...renew commitment**

For information and registration call:  
651-464-1858, or 763-561-1575  
[www.godlovesmarriage.com](http://www.godlovesmarriage.com)

February 22-24, 2008 Crown Plaza, Brooklyn Ctr, MN  
March 28-30, 2008 Country Inn & Suites, Duluth, MN  
April 25-27, Crown Plaza, Brooklyn Ctr, MN

### *Stewardship & Thanksgiving!*

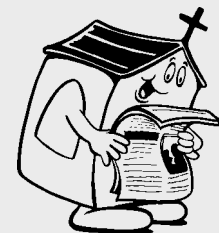
Bethany would like to "Thank You" for your participation in the Anonymous Pledge process. This financial commitment for 2008 resulted in 53 pledge cards being returned with approximately \$131,841.00 in pledges. Your gifts will aid in the call process of our new pastor, continue our outreach and respond to the growing educational needs of our church.

Bethany experiences the same rising costs as those surrounding us in our everyday lives, so please continue your support. We have an exciting year ahead.

*Lets us spread the WORD, Jesus did.*

Stewardship Chair – Glen Kurtz

Connecting  
Lives Through



## Greetings from Luther Point

Greetings from Luther Point!

December 2007

**Looking Ahead to January and February:** We have the following retreats we would like you to know about. Watch our website or look for our December newsletter for more information.

Weekend Camp:	January 19-20, 2008
Camp Ambassador Retreat:	January 19, 2008 and February 16, 2008
Scrapbooking Retreat	Date to be determined
Mission and Accompaniment Retreat	February 19, 2008

**Weekend Camp - GODSPACE.COMe:** All 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grade students are invited to attend this Weekend Camp on **January 19-20, 2008**. Registration forms are available online at [LutherPoint.org](http://LutherPoint.org) and will also be mailed to families and congregations in December. Retreat begins Saturday with 9:00 am check-in and ends on Sunday at 12:00 noon. Parents are invited to the closing worship at 11:30 am. Registration deadline: January 9th. Theme verse: *"And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him."* Colossians 3:17

**Bunks, Bunks and More Bunks:** We will be receiving our next delivery of rough sawn lumber sometime in November or December. We will give it a month or two to dry before we start to plane all the lumber. Volunteers will be needed once the lumber is planed to begin the process of routing, sanding, staining, and much more work. If you enjoy working with wood, this is the volunteer project for you. Please contact us, SOON! Between now and next summer we hope to build an additional 35-40 bunks. We are anticipating a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to assist us with this project.

**Summer Staff Opportunities:** It's not too early to start thinking about next summer's employment opportunities with LPBC. Applications will be available in December - please encourage the future leaders of the church to apply.

**Are You Age 70 1/2 or Older?:** A special opportunity for year end gifts. The Pension Protection Act of 2007 permits current gifts of IRA charitable rollovers, up to \$100,000 to your favorite charity. **IRA Rollovers to Charities and Ministries** 1) Must be made to public charities or to ministries; 2) Only regular and Roth IRA's qualify; 3) Donors with other qualified retirement plans (401k, 403b, 457, TSA) may be able to roll them over to an IRA, then use the IRA rollover to make a gift. **How will this benefit a donor?** Donors will save income tax because this distribution is not included in taxable income.

**Act now!** Contact your Financial Advisor or Luther Point for more information.

### Christmas Poinsettias for our sanctuary

Red \$14 ea.  
White \$14 ea.

Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Number \_\_\_\_\_ \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Name of donors \_\_\_\_\_

In Honor /Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

**Poinsettia orders due by December 9th.**



ORDER  
YOUR  
POINSETTIAS

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director



# Reaching Out

## Bethany's Christmas Sampler

**What is a Christmas Sampler you ask?**

On **December 9th**, during our 9:30 a.m. Worship service, you are invited to share your talents with our congregation. Last year we enjoyed instrumental and vocal solos, some wonderful seasonal prose & poetry, and a Christmas drama presentation. If you would like to help make this a Christmas memory for you and your family please talk with Mary Ann Hanson (246-4754) or JoLane Anderson (247-3010) Bring your family and invite your friends!

## Sunday School Christmas Program -Note to Sunday School Parents

There is only one special program practice on Saturday December 15th at 10:00 a.m. Please make every effort to see that your children are present. Our annual Sunday School Christmas program is scheduled for 9:30 Sunday, December 16th. It would be greatly appreciated if you have children in Sunday School if you could volunteer to help host the fellowship and/or bring oranges, cookies and candies to share with the congregation after the program. Special thanks to program coordinators Jennifer Struss and Jennifer Sorensen.



## Thrivent Congregational Coordinators



Bethany's is in need of one more Congregational Coordinator. Currently Gail Abrahamson and Judy Anderson are representing Bethany but we must have one additional coordinator for 2008. If you would like to help them please call Judy 294-2291 or Gail 248-3127. They are pleased to announce that Bethany may qualify for as much as \$1,600 in Thrivent funding in 2008. Their role as coordinators is to provide leadership to volunteers efforts in the congregation, involve members of Thrivent Financial in identifying, planning and conducting activities, request funding from the Operations Center and involve church leadership in needs identification and activities. If you are have a committee, group, or an idea that you wish to apply Thrivent matching funds to in the 2008 calendar year, please feel free to contact any of the coordinators above. Our coordinators will be meeting early in February to decide which projects to seek matching funds for. It would be a shame if no projects were planned to qualify for matching funds.

## Good News!

Thank you to Kim Miner-Gearin for coordinating our Secret Pals program for Sunday School teachers and their classes this year.

## Christian Ed Teachers/ Sunday School Teachers:

Preschool- Jackie Waalen	248-3146
Kindergarten- Jean Measner	(715)755-4806
Billy Jo Larson	(715) 417-1659
1st & 2nd-Carolyn Meyer	246-9399
Lori Rasmussen-Murray	246-9044
3rd--Ann Dostal	247-4048
4th Annis Fredrickson	246-4143
5-6th-Sharon Christensen	246-7272
Tammy Nelson	248-4591
7th-Confirmation- Nick Griepentrog	248-3028
8th-Confirmation- Pastor J.	248-3730 or
	(715) 651-2819

## Minutes from church council meeting November 13, 2007

*(Pending approval at Dec. council meeting)*

In attendance Harvy Christensen, Glen Kurtz, JoLane Anderson, Bill Breitbach, Nancy Tritt, Sharon Christensen, Cathy Bygd, Krystal Hesselink, Pastor J and Melissa Condon.

Absent: Gerry Lokhorst and Julie Griepentrog.

A motion was MSC to approve Melissa Condon as secretary to fill the position left vacant.

Secretary's report: A motion was MSC to accept October minutes as written.

Treasurer's report: November

It is requested that all budget information for 2008 be submitted to Executive Council for approval/adjustments by mid December to determine new budgets.

Committee reports:

Education: Need to find dates to paint all Sunday School rooms. All background checks for the teachers came back good.

Evangelism: 158 letters were sent out to members that are not active on a regular basis, of these 47 were returned. Of the 47 returned 29 of them wish to remain members and 18 wish to be removed as members.

Fellowship: No report.

Mutual Ministry: Committee for Mutual Ministry is working on a profile to address the needs.

Properties: A gift designated for Presentation/Projection equipment of \$3,300.00 was graciously accepted. The tech committee has met to purchase and set up the equipment. Currently looking for a home for a piano, anyone interested please contact Bill B or Rick A.

Stewardship: Parsonage issues to be addressed, clean-up, repairs, monies for new pastor. There is 7 years of general wear and tear. The attic needs extra attention.

A suggestion to begin reviewing the 2007 budget with objective of trimming the 2008 budget by approximately \$25,000.00 in effort to balance expenses to level of giving.

Worship: December services 2<sup>nd</sup> Caribbean, 9<sup>th</sup> Sampler, 16<sup>th</sup> Sunday School Program, 23<sup>rd</sup> Regular Services, 24<sup>th</sup> Services at 4:00pm and 9:00pm, 25<sup>th</sup> NO SERVICES, 30<sup>th</sup> Lessons and Carols

Other tentative special services: January 20<sup>th</sup> Rock and Roll, January 27<sup>th</sup> Worship meeting, February 3<sup>rd</sup> Black Sunday and Annual Meeting., February 24<sup>th</sup> Gospel Sunday.

Youth: Movie and Pizza night, Bowling both in December and Ice fishing for the confirmation students the last weekend in February on Lake Mille Lacs.

Pastor: Election of "Call Committee" So far 8 names have been suggested, the ideal situation would be to begin interviewing in February or March. The council is working on a questionnaire for potential "Call Committee" members, as they are looking for diversity on the committee. All members of this committee are to be members of the congregation.

New Business: Looking for a Thrivent Rep to replace Becky Lease

Old Business: All teacher background checks came out good.

MSC to adjourn.

Melissa Condon, Council Secretary