

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.**

On February 24, Assistant to the Bishop, Todd Iverson, will be preaching at both of our worship services. Following the contemporary service Pastor Iverson will meet with Mutual Ministry and the Call Committee, whom he will be working closely with these next few months. As the "Call" proceeds in the weeks and months ahead, my task will become smaller and the congregation's task becomes larger. I will continue to serve you and keep you updated. Now the ball is in your court!

Pastor J.

### CALL PROCESS

#### PROFILE (Mutual Ministry Committee)

*The "Profile" will include videos and pictures to show the excitement of life and service here at Bethany. We will tell of our needs, hopes, and dreams for our future.*

#### CALL COMMITTEE (Council Selects 6 persons and 1 alternate)

##### COMMITTEE PERSONNEL : (Task: To interview possible future Pastors)

*Don Enger, Nancy Tritt, Cameron Sorensen, Sharon Christensen, Brian Lease, Gene Mullikin and Linda Cords (ALTERNATE)*

*The Call Committee will meet with Pastor Todd Iverson from the Synod Office.*

*The Call Committee will contact the candidate(s) and study their information*

*The Call Committee will interview each candidate.*

*The Call Committee will schedule a "call meeting" when they have a candidate*

#### CHURCH COUNCIL (Makes sure things run smoothly)

*The Council will make sure we are able to welcome and support a pastor and his or her family. This means to shape the salary portion of the congregation budget to provide properly for our new Pastoral family, to see to the proper maintenance of the parsonage, to monitor the "call process" for the congregation, and see that our new Pastor is welcomed and settled into our ministry.*

#### CONGREGATION

*-PRAY, PRAY, PRAY for Bethany Star Prairie*

*- PRAY for the "Call Committee" as they seek to discern God's will for us.*

*-PRAY for the candidates who come to visit and talk with us.*

*-PRAY for **and attend** the "call meeting" as we seek to do God's will.*

*-CONTINUE TO PRAY for our new Pastor and family as they work towards the great future of God's Work in this congregation.*

#### 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



## February BIRTHDAYS

Judy Anderson	1	Miranda Murray	14
Sierra Davidson	1	Todd Schmidt	14
Shayde Ferrick	4	David Graham	16
Ron Handlos	4	Erik Bierbrauer	17
Brian Scholz	4	Bruce Hanson	17
Lora Bierbrauer	5	Scott Swanson	17
Elizabeth Groboski	6	George Birkholz	18
Whitney Hay	6	James Dodor	18
Shannon Mork	6	Joe Hinz	19
Michael Sanders	6	Fay Hopkins	19
Gail Soderquist	6	Pat Goltz	21
Elizabeth Karr	7	Elmer Meyer	21
Elayna Richard	7	Carol Bjornstad	23
Jenna Goodrich	8	Sandee Mondor	23
Grant Grondquist	8	Brenda Crawford	24
Nicholas Sorensen	8	Leah Nelson	24
David Groboski	9	Carolyn Meyer	26
Nancy Johnson	9	Ann Roettger	26
James Howe Jr	10	Conner Cody	27
Cristy Johnson	10	Heather Gauper	27
Mikayla Wickham	10	Barb Kunz	27
Robert Koehler	11	Tery Thompson	27
Garry Miller	11	Wayne Thompson	27
Samuel Motto	11	Macey Cords	28
Kai Abrahamson	12	Shawn Matthys	28
Gloria Russell	12	Eugene Mullikin	28
Becky Lease	13	Mary Jones	29
Lavonne Swanson	13		
Jacob Wickham	13		



## February Bulletin Sponsors

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

**Thank You To Our February Lifeline Sponsor-**  
The John & Heather Gauper family and the Jerome and Jennifer Sorensen family.

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

### Fellowship Note:

#### **How can you help?**

On a weekly basis you can help each and every Sunday by being sure to pick up the used napkins, scraps and beverage cups used by your family and leaving the table clear of crumbs. If you are baking for your family, why not make an extra batch, label it by date and by contents, and put it in our freezer. You can help by donating small paper plates, cans of coffee and creamers. You can help most of all by signing up for any Sunday fellowship time you wish. "We are the church together".



## February

### Baptismal Birthdays



Ashley Gibson	1	Jeremy Swanson	13	Ron Roettger Jr	20
Steven Larson	1	Allana Quant	14	Herbie Stuss	20
Carol Millikin	1	Brandon Rees	16	Renee Kobs	22
Lindsay Kittel	3	Patrick Sessions	16	David Groboski	23
Brandy Stewart	3	Brianna Abrahamson	17	Brenda Crawford	24
Brent Smith	9	Kasey Jo Hornbostel	17	Ann Dostal	25
Corey Berger	10	Miranda Murray	17	Bert Frey	25
Julie Howe	10	Andrew Roettger	17	Carlie Gibson	25
Lauren Smith	11	Ann Roettger	17	Kyle Miller	26
Travis Germain	12	Tim Larson	19	Kody Strey	27
Christopher Flaherty	13	Jessica Cacka	20	Ethan Meyer	29
Kristine Hackett	13				



## A LOOK AT FEBRUARY

### Bethany Women United

Bethany Women United met at the home of Lorraine Hawkos, at 10 A.M., on January 14, 2008. Meeting was followed with the Lutheran Bible Study. Fourteen members and one visitor was present. President Linda Cords gave devotions, in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Everyone join in on reading the W/ ELCA Purpose Statement. Minutes of September 10, 2007 were read and approved. Treasure. Report read and approved. Savings (\$6327.) and Checking (\$1922.) A \$200. Memorial gift was acknowledged from the Matthys family. This amount will be placed towards the purchase of new lace table clothes for the fellowship room.



Thank you cards were read from the Glasers and Helen Skifstad for the Christmas goodies and the visits were read.

#### Old Business

Thank Offering Sunday went well. Thank you to Linda Cords for organizing the service and the many volunteers that participated.

Nine women enjoyed the Christmas pot luck and packing the boxes and delivering them to shut in and elderly.

President Linda Cords thanked the quilting group for quilts made for the Gibson family. (Fire loss) Thanks also for the all the donations of gifts and money given to assist in their needs.

#### New Business:

Thrivant funds discussed. It was unanimously agreed to submit a request for \$900, for 2008. \$300 for the Spring Fling, \$300 for the Pie and Ice Cream Social and \$300. For the Harvest Dinner. Gail Abramson will work with Judy Anderson to submit requests.

The National Women's Convention will be held in Salt Lake City, July 10-13, 2008. At present there are 3, possibly 4 women planning to attend. Motion made by Mary Lou Smith, seconded by Marion Burkholz to give each one 1/2 the registration fee \$275. Carried. Synod Convention will be held in Eau Claire, April 25-26, 2008. Motion by Mary Lou Smith, seconded by Marilyn Matthys to designate Jane Kruscke voting delegate.

Morning of Renewal - March 29th at Bethal Highlands in Hudson. We need a chairperson for the Fall Harvest Dinner.

Gerry Lockhorst reminded everyone of the noon Lenten Services.

Consider signing up to serve soup/sandwich at noon.

A most hearty THANK YOU to Lorraine for opening her home to us and for all the special, good and interesting food served. If you missed this year be sure to come next year!

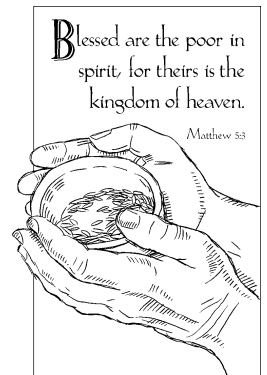
Hand were joined as we prayed the Lord's Prayer.

Mary Lou Smith, Secretary of Women of Bethany

### Black Sunday

*Remember the Johnny Cash song, "Man in Black?"*

"Well, you wonder why I always dress in black, Why you never see bright colors on my back, And why does my appearance seem to have a somber tone. Well, there's a reason for the things that I have on.



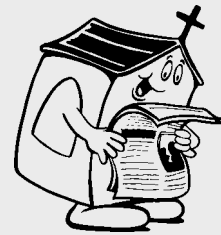
I wear the black for the poor and the beaten down,  
Livin' in the hopeless, hungry side of town..."

Johnny Cash wore black to remember the poor and forgotten members of society and to remember those who have never heard about Jesus. Our congregation will do the same on **Feb. 10<sup>th</sup>**, the first Sunday of Lent. It will be our second annual "**BLACK SUNDAY**". **Members at both the 8:00 and the 9:30 services are encouraged to wear black.** Black wristbands will be made available to adults and children to wear during Lent as a way to observe this season of discipline and penance. By wearing them we will be reminded every day of our need to do more for the less fortunate and of God's never-changing love for humanity.

**A "black box" will be available for donations to the Loaves and Fishes food shelf.** Stay tuned to the Sunday announcements and bulletins for details!!



## Connecting Lives Through



## Come Join the Fun!



A two-day, two-night ice fishing adventure to Mille Lacs Lake is being planned for the Confirmation and post-confirmation age members. We are planning to leave on **Friday evening, Feb. 22, and returning on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 24.**

The cost to all students is \$25, however, post-confirmation students, sixteen to eighteen, will need to buy a 2 day/weekend, out-of-state fishing license (Cost is approximately \$15). We would welcome and encourage adults, 18 and older, to join us; however, their cost will be \$65 plus the cost of a fishing license. If there is enough interest, we would rent additional fish houses; it's always fun to have more than one fish house in the group. Of course, anyone can come to visit us for the day and just pay the lake access fee, which is about \$7. Come join the fun; bring your snowmobiles, ice skates, sleds, outdoor fun stuff, etc., the kids would love to share your stuff I'm sure.

The fish house we will be renting sleeps 12 people and has 22 holes INSIDE the fish house for us to catch fish, hopefully walleye and jumbo yellow perch, with a few eelpout I suppose. YUM! There is no need to wander out in the cold to fish: unless you want to of course. Each fish house has a propane furnace, lights, and cook stove (top burners only). Fish houses that sleep 6 or more also have chemical toilets.

If interested in the GREAT ICE FISHING EVENT, or if you need more information; contact Wanda or Bill Breitbach; 248-3806.

## Tables of 8 Resuming Monthly Activities

On January 19 about 30 people participating in the Tables of 8 program attended "Mere Mortals," a one act comedy play at The Space for Creativity in New Richmond. During the months of February, March, and April the groups will planning other "outings". If you are interested in participating just contact Glen or Sue Kurtz at 248-4559.

## Parsonage Preparation

In anticipation of the arrival of our new pastor there are some repairs and general upkeep projects that should be completed. The parsonage has beautiful hardwood flooring that really needs refinishing, the kitchen cupboards should be painted, two bedrooms need repainting, and there are other small repair projects too.

Volunteers are being sought to complete the work. If you can help, in any way, please see Bill Breitbach or Rick Anderson.

## Offering Envelopes



Bethany uses non-dated, non-numbered offering envelope packets. **New packets can be picked up in the worship cabinet just outside the sanctuary doors.** The "Simply Giving" (automatic offering deposit

program) has grown in popularity at Bethany. If you would like to enroll in the program or change the amount that you auto deposit, the process is easy.

## Shoveling Help Needed

Your help in keeping Bethany's sidewalks shoveled and salted this winter would greatly be appreciated. Bethany relies on volunteers for this essential job. Shovels or scrapers can be found near the South entrance.



## Prayer Chain

If you have a need for comfort, strength or healing—the Prayer Chain is available to help. Call Mary Lou Smith at 246-2882 or Marilyn Matthys at 248-3333 and many people will be put into prayer action. Link up with the Prayer Chain today!

You can become an important link in our prayer chain. Learn more by contacting Marilyn Matthys.



# Council Minutes



*Minutes from meeting January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2008. (pending approval)*

Present: Harvy Christensen, JoLane Anderson, Nancy Tritt, Pastor J, Cathy Bygd, Bill Breitbach, Glen Kurtz, Sharon Christensen, Gerry Lokhorst, John Abrahamson and Melissa Condon.

Absent: Julie Greipentrog and Krystal Hesselink.

Secretary's report: MSC to approve minutes from December meeting as written.

Treasurer's report: A special meeting was held to revise and approve the 2008 budget. MSC to approve final numbers from 2007.

Education: No meeting in December, working on mission statement for annual report

Evangelism: Cradle roll, birthdates needed.

Fellowship: Potluck for annual meeting. 9am service.

Mutual ministry: Informational packet to send to potential candidates and to Synod. History of our church along with statistical information.

Properties: Update on projection/presentation system. Looking for volunteers to run equipment. Issues involving the parsonage, upgrades, maintenance and repairs.

Stewardship: No meeting in December.

Worship: Currently "Lutheran" magazine is a subscription paid for by the church at a cost of approximately \$800.00 per year. If anyone is **NOT** interested in receiving the magazine please inform Judy Anderson or JoLane Anderson. These are always available at church if you are looking for a specific article.

Youth: No report

Pastor: Pastor J has submitted a work log since his arrival at Bethany, average of 47.5 per work week.

Old business: None

New business: The "Call Committee" has been formed and is as follows; Don Enger, Nancy Tritt, Sharon Christensen, Gene Mullikin, Cameron Sorenson and Brian Lease, also Linda Cords as an alternate if anyone is unable to fulfill their duties.

MSC to adjourn.



# Planning Ahead

## "Murder in the Manor"

A Valentine Dinner Theatre

Friday-Saturday, February 16 & 17

5:00 p.m. Silent Auction  
Seating 6:00pm, each night  
Reserved Tickets, Limited Seating.  
\$15 Each

Bethany Lutheran Church

Call Mary Lou Smith at 246-2882 for tickets  
Silent Auction Items Needed!

**Menu:** Fresh, crisp hor dourves. Followed by the dinner theatre's first course of Caesar salad served with warm fresh-cut Italian bread. Next will be the main menu course where you will enjoy gently-flavored, home-cooked mashed potatoes; vibrant green beans almondine; tangy topped pork tender loin to tantalize your palate. For the final course capping off the dinner is our beautiful, red velvet, triple-layer dessert with a cream cheese, pecan frosting. As you may know, your beverages, tax, and gratuity are all included in the price of your Dinner Theatre Ticket.

### This Can't Be Done Without You!

If you can help with kitchen duties, serving or cleaning up for one or both performances, please see Rick Anderson (294-2291). Confirmation students-this is a great way to fulfill your required "in service hours to Bethany".



### A Use For Your Extra Yarn

The women of Malawi would like to learn how to knit. If you have extra yarn or #10 knitting needles to spare it can be put to good use. Please bring your items to church by March 8th. There will be a box, in the Fellowship Hall marked "Malawi".

## Greetings from Luther Point!

February 2008

**Summer Staff Opportunities:** We need your help recruiting staff, especially MALE candidates. We hope to have a majority of our staff hired by the end of March, just in time for Bethany, our Program Coordinator, to take maternity leave. Applications are available online or inquire with the camp office - encourage young adults to apply.

**Looking Ahead to February-April:** We have some retreat offerings that we would like you to know about. Find our website, LutherPoint.org, for more information. Camp Ambassador Retreat- February 16, 2008  
Mission and Accompaniment Retreat-February 19, 2008  
Retiree Retreat-March 4-5, 2008  
Prayer Shawl Retreat-April 10-11, 2008

**Mission and Accompaniment Retreat:** Accompaniment - meaning walking together side by side - is the model for mission used by the ELCA. The model is lived out daily in companion synod relationships. In this retreat, we'll explore the accompaniment model through a variety of activities with the goal of equipping participants to be better "walkers" with their companions. The retreat will include lunch. Our retreat leaders will be Diane Kaufmann, Joseph L. Mbele and Tom Nielsen.

**Retiree Retreat:** Retirees are invited to gather at the Retreat Center for an overnight stay. Our guest Bible study leader will be retired Pastor Chuck Arndt. He will lead retreaters in four Bible study sessions that will focus on how God used biblical people who were of retired age. It will be a time of celebration and self-discovery as guests are invited to consider God's renewed call on their lives. The retreat will also include time for relaxation, devotions, worship, fellowship and good food.

**Bunks, Bunks and More Bunks:** The rough sawn lumber is on site. Most of the lumber has been cut to rough dimension. Planing is the primary emphasis towards the end of February and into March. We are anticipating a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans to assist us with this project. Several groups are showing interest.

**Register for Camp Online:** Go to LutherPoint.org and check out the camp programs. Invite a friend and take advantage of a discount and register by April 1 to receive the Early Bird discount.

Thank you for your partnership!

Craig M. Corbin, Director