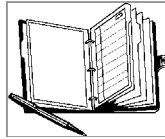


Mark Your Calendars

May 16 ~ Spring Clean-Up
May 24 ~ Summer Worship
schedule begins
May 31 ~ Senior Sunday
June 5-6 ~ Garage Sale
July 22-26, 2009 ~ ELCA
Youth Gathering, New
Orleans

September 24-
27 ~ Bethel
backpacking trip
October 23-25 ~ Befriender
Training



Welcome, Visitors

We're glad you're here! You are welcome at worship, in Sunday School, and at the Lord's Table. For more information about Bethel, please pick up a visitor's packet at the information table in the narthex.

Gluten-free communion wafers are available for those who prefer them. Take communion in the center aisle and let them know your preference.



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

1321 North Avenue
Northfield, MN 55057

Phone: 507-786-6674
Fax: 507-786-8880

Email: bethel@charterinternet.com
www.bethelnorthfield.org



The deadline for submissions to the weekly *Banner* is Wednesday at noon. You may email submissions to bethelbanner@charterinternet.com or drop them off in the church office. For questions or comments, contact Sandy Roberts at 786-6674 or at bethelbanner@charterinternet.com.

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BETHEL BANNER WEEKLY

May 3, 2009

Today At Bethel

Today we *celebrate God's Creation* with a special litany during worship and through displays in the narthex between services. May 3 is also "*Plant a Tree Sunday*", so you can get a free Bur Oak Tree Seedling at the south or east entrance. Then, at noon, join members of all ages to plant tree seedlings in the St. Olaf Natural Lands.

Bethel Youth will be selling the inspirational cards and wall hangings by Bethel member *Tim Larsen* in May. Beautifully photographed images combined with Bible verses make these cards and

artwork a special gift for many occasions.

"Let's Talk!" ~ All adults are invited to our third and last "Let's Talk" discussion for this school year during the Sunday school hour today. If you want a Sunday of good conversation, join us for some discussion around topics that affect and interest our youth!

Bethel has its first *church league softball* game of the season tonight at 5 p.m. at Sechlar #1. Players (all 16 and up are welcome) should arrive by 4:30 p.m. -- and fans are always welcome, too!

Looking for a Church Home?

The last Membership Matters of this program year will be offered today from 12 to 1:30 p.m. for friends and visitors who want to learn more about Bethel. Pastor Tim, some members of the staff, and the New Member Team will host a casual pizza lunch with conversation about our ministries. This is a great time to explore whether Bethel is the right church home for you. There is no cost to you, and nursery is provided. All are welcome!





On-Going Prayer List

God's comfort at a time of loss: Dave & Char Jacobsen and family; Dan & Kim Rohr and family; Mary Nystuen, Barb & Roger Glasgow, Brian Nystuen, and family; Jan & Bruce Roberts and family; Gary & Sonia Johnson and family; Jim & Linda Sawyer & family; Carol & Paul Smith; Steve & Gayle Collins

Healing requests: Logan Olivero, Milt Hanson, Helen Hanson, Maxine Amundson, Randy Knox, Ilana Stanley, Anthony Roberts, Abby Roberts, Becca Carlson, Ellen Nelson

Homebound: Margaret Berg

Those Awaiting Baptism: Riley Moon, Reagan Rezac, Kaelyn Sillanpa

Newly Married: Amy (Kelley) & Clint Peschong, Katie (Graff) and Trent Podritz, Jen & Nick Toth

Those serving in the military and their families: Mike Murphy (Iraq); Mathew Meillier (U.S.); Josh Vosejka (U.S.); Jeff Olson (U.S.); Kenneth R. Laite (U.S., father of Caitlyn Laite); Mark Graff (Japan); Katie Graff (U.S.); Keenan Bachmeyer (Iraq, grandson of Roberta & Gene Ganske)

Praying through the Bethel directory: Mary Nystuen; Steven, Carol, Cullen, Erin, & Ian O'Neill; Matthew, Jenna, Anthony, Blaine, & Logan Olivero; Hans, Michelle, Erik, Christian, & John Olsen; Amy Olson, Tom Sola, Annalee & Kyah Olson-Sola

If you'd like your name to appear on this list, are ready for your name to be removed, or believe we have left someone off the list who should appear, please let us know.

Prayer for This Week

Creator Spirit, who broodest everlastingly over the lands and waters of earth, enduing them with forms and colors which no human skill can copy, give me today, I beseech Thee, the mind and heart to rejoice in Thy creation. Grant me today a kind and gentle heart towards all things that live. Above all, give me grace to use the beauty of the earth and this eager stirring of life within me as a means whereby my soul may rise to you. Amen.

Bethel News, continued from page 3.

more new books on Monday, May 11 at 6:30p.m.!

All Hands On Deck! *Spring Clean-Up Day* is planned for Saturday, May 16, 9-noon. We will work on some raking, outside window cleaning, sweeping curblines, and a little dirt work. Please bring rakes, shovels, towels and rags. Come for 30 minutes or three hours -- all hands are helpful! Any questions or concerns call Blair Fowler, Trustee, at 612-245-7835.

"How Can I Keep from Singing?!" is the theme of this year's *Spring Music Festival* on Sunday, May 17. At both the 8:30 and 10:45 worship services, the anthems and hymns will revolve around the Gospel text from John 15: "Love one another, as I have loved you. I chose you to bear fruit; the kind of fruit that will last."

Bethel Women Having Fun will journey to New Ulm on Tuesday, May 19, for lunch, sightseeing, and shopping in this Minnesota German town. We will depart from Bethel's

east parking lot at 9:30 a.m. for the two-hour drive. Sign up at the information table in the narthex or contact Nancy Carlson at 650-4048 or sailfairwind@yahoo.com.

Marci Noding and Kelly Groenewold request the honor of your presence (yes, all Bethelites!) as they celebrate their marriage on Sunday, May 24, at 11:27 a.m. here at Bethel. A potluck reception will follow in the CLC. Burgers, beverages and utensils will be provided.

Attention Bethel Bikers! Did you know that bike racks are ready for you? Instead of leaving your bicycles near the entrances (which isn't safe for your bike or for other Bethelites who could trip over them) please use the bike racks on the southeast corner of the office wing (the former Sunday School wing). Happy riding!

Community News

Beginning Experience, Rochester branch is offering a 'coping with grief' weekend. May 15-17 at Villa Maria in Frontenac, MN. This weekend is for newly widowed, divorced, or separated individuals who would like help in their grief process. Please contact berochestermn@yahoo.com or Sheila Wiest (507) 775-2045 for more information and applications.

Habitat for Humanity will be having a garage sale at the Faribault Armory on May 15-16 (Note the date change.). Please help build affordable housing right here in Rice

County by supporting Thrivent Builds with Habitat for Humanity. Thanks for all you give.

There are people who need blood every day, and the best source for that blood is volunteer donors. Sixteen-year-olds can now give blood with a signed parental/guardian form which can be obtained at the door or by calling 1-800-Give-Life. Please consider giving at the upcoming *Bloodmobile* at the Northfield Ballroom, 1055 Highway #3, North, on Tuesday, May 19, from 1-7 p.m. To make an appointment, call Merrell at 645-9821.

**Mot her 's Day
Fishing Opener
Gr aduation
Fat her 's Day**

All good reasons to visit the Scrip table in the narthex today!

SCRIP NEWS

Bethel News

All Bethel Senior Citizens (self-defined) are invited to a monthly *coffee and fellowship hour* on the first Monday of each month at 10 a.m. in the CLC. (That's tomorrow.) This is the last Senior Coffee until October, so be sure to join us!

BAM will be extended this Wednesday to accommodate the early release time at Northfield schools. The Bethel bus will be delivering our K-5 kids as usual and special activities are planned.

Look no further than the Bethel *Library* for the following books – new on the shelf this week!

- How Much is Enough? by Arthur Simon
 - Why Do They Act That Way? A Survival Guide to the Adolescent Brain for You
 - and Your Teen by Dr. David Walsh
 - So You Don't Want to Go to Church Anymore by Wayne Jacobsen and Dave Coleman
- Join us to help shelve even

Bethel News, continued on page 5.

HELP WANTED:

COMPUTER GEEK FOR WEBSITE

Bethel Lutheran Church is looking for that special someone who knows and understands computers to maintain Bethel's website. Computer Geeks are encouraged to apply; others will be considered.

Required qualifications include knowledge base of computers and website development, design, and structure; and, the ability to update the website weekly. This position includes posting the current activities and church schedule.

If you are interested, please submit your resume to the church office or email Roger Van Veldhuizen at rogervv@integra.net. The deadline for applications is May 10, 2009.