

Bethany Banner

“Spirit of God, Descend upon My Heart!”

LBW Hymn #486

This is the title of a song that I chose to be sung right after Bishop Werger of the SE Iowa Synod completed the Rite of Ordination on my behalf. One of the phrases in the first verse that seems to always haunt me as I am about ministry is: “Stoop to my weakness, strength to me impart!” This phrase continues to remind me that if I try to get in the way of what God is trying to do through me, then I am in trouble.

My wife and I feel blessed by God that we have been given the chance to once again, love and serve another congregation. It excites my wife and me to be a part of our worship together.

We are entering into a month that ushers us into the Season of Lent – a time for us to seriously contemplate where we have been this past year and what we have become. In my mind I have a layout as to how we will initiate our Lenten Journey on Ash Wednesday, meeting with the other members of our area to weekly focus on the Biblical texts of this Holy Season, journeying through Holy Week, and culminating all of this on Easter Sunday with shouts of Hosanna! Hosanna!

Lent brings to mind another verse of this special hymn that reads as follows: “I see Your cross; there teach my heart to cling!” This season is a time for us to truly reflect on the treachery, lies, denials, and suffering that our Lord Jesus took upon His own body in our place to make amends for our sins and the sins of this world. There is no greater love than the love of a person who will lay down his/her life for his/her friends.

I will strive to love and serve you - the members of Bethany Church - to point you toward the Way of Jesus, the Christ, who has paid for our misgivings. However, I cannot do this unless you also are willing to walk with my wife and me in this time that we have together, working to lead others to a faith in our Lord and Savior!

I am excited about the Alpha Series being held here at Bethany. My wife and I were in attendance and will try to be there for most gatherings. It was exciting for us to share in the small group which allows us to get to know you even better!

In closing, I would like to share the last verse of this hymn which seems to put finishing touches on our call to be His disciples: “Teach me to love You, as Your angels love. One holy passion filling all my frame. The baptism of the heaven-descended dove, my heart an altar and your love the flame!” This phrase brings to mind the opening verse of a song that I find helpful for my life. It comes from a song entitled, “Go Light Your World!” composed by Chris Rice. It goes like this: “There is a candle in every soul, some brightly burning, some dark and cold. There is a Spirit who brings a fire. Ignites a candle and makes his home!”

MAY YOU FIND YOUR CANDLE THIS LENTEN SEASON
SO THAT WE AT BETHANY WILL ALLOW GOD TO SHINE THROUGH
US IN ORDER THAT WE MAY WITNESS TO THE WHOLE WORLD!

In Christ,

Pastor Bernie Daiker

LENTEN SEASON

Begin your 2007 Lenten journey with the Ash Wednesday service at Bethany, 7:00 p.m. on February 21. For the Wednesdays of February 28, March 7, 14, 21, and 28 our congregation will join Palestine and Nazareth Lutheran churches for soup supper and worship to be held at the Palestine Lutheran Church. Bethany will be responsible for supplying a pastor, special music, pianist, ministry minutes and the soup supper on March 21. Meals will be served from 5:45—6:45 and Worship begins at 7:00.

ALPHA! continues

Join us on Sunday evenings now through April 1 to discuss questions of faith, the church, and the impact these questions in our lives. The evening begins with a simple meal, followed by a professional presentation of about 20 to 30 minutes, and ends with small group discussions of about 10 people each. It will begin at 6:00 p.m. and be done by 8:30 p.m. Please contact Rita Hogue or Larry Kallem if you would like to join the discussion. Everyone is welcome!!



Alpha

USA

Remember that white bucket of pop tabs?

We are still collecting them! They are being given to the fourth grade at Ballard. They are collecting them for a Ronald McDonald house. A younger brother of one of the 4th grade students has cancer and his mother has been living at a Ronald McDonald house in Iowa City for four months and this is how the school decided to help. So, thank you for your pop tabs and keep them coming!

February Anniversary	24– Toni Robinson
14– Dick and Carole Begg	25– Ron Gardner
February Birthdays	25– Maren Holland
1– Linda Dunn	28– Kathy Pietsch
1– Julie Krbec	
8– Ervin Miller	
8– Maggie Sullivan	
15– Hannah Stensland	
20– Lucille Berrett	

ATTENDANCE AND GIVING Budget needed each month \$6871.

Dec. 31	32	\$1,845.00
Jan. 7	74	\$1,574.00
Jan. 14	62	\$2,415.50
Jan. 21	Snowed	Out

Thank You!

Acolytes Serving in February: Dana Osterhout (Feb 4), Rachel Pietsch (Feb 11), Frankie Ringgenberg (Feb 18), Maren Holland (Feb 25)

Riverside Annual Meeting

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp Annual Meeting will be Sunday February 11, 2007 2:00-2:30 registration, 2:30 meeting at the new dining hall.

Linda Dunn Fundraiser Feb. 10, 4:30-7:00

We are thankful that Thrivent Financial for Lutherans made the decision to match funds raised for Linda Dunn dollar for dollar up to \$2500. So our goal is certainly to raise at least that amount. You can all help in the following ways:

1. You can get **tickets** from Betty Grulke on Sunday or by calling her at 685-4407. You may buy and sell to others ahead of time. Tickets are also available at the door on February 10.
2. **Posters** are available on the usher's table for you to post in your workplace, local post office or any business where you shop.
3. Sign-up sheets for **volunteers** to help serve food, provide crackers and bars, and help in the kitchen are posted on the bulletin board. Please sign up if you want to help in this way.
4. **Silent auction items** are needed for that evening. Please bring to the church by Sunday, February 4, except baked goods, which can be brought any time on Saturday, February 10, from noon to 4:00 p.m. Some items donated to date include: oak plant stand, quilted sweatshirt, wall hanging, children's books, Bath & Body basket, valentine bears, adult bears, gift certificates to stores, homemade bread and jelly basket, candy, etc.
5. Your **prayers** that the soup supper and silent auction will be successful. We pray for no storms and decent weather.

Workers will be at Bethany from 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 10. If you want to come help for an hour or stay all day, you are welcome. There will be something for everyone to do. Any questions can be directed to the Primmers, Brendelands or Berretts, Thrivent coordinators.

Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp

Riverside's Gala

On February 17, 2007, you are invited to come for a dazzling night under the stars as Riverside's dining hall is once again transformed into a heavenly delight. The doors will open at 6:00 p.m., and the evening will begin with hors d'oeuvres, dinner at 7:00 p.m.. and an auction and dancing will follow.

It is our prayer that this fundraising event will help Riverside finish paying for the dining hall. Tickets are \$100 per person or \$1,000 for a table of ten. Thanks to a grant from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, 100% of the ticket price will benefit the dining hall and will be a tax-deductible, charitable contribution for you. Tickets may be charged over the phone, or you may send your check to RIVERSIDE LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP, 3001 Riverside Road, Story City, Iowa 50248.

An auction is also planned, and we still need quality auction items. It could be anything from a gift basket to airline tickets. Please call Riverside at 515-733-5271 or Barbara Foster at 515-733-9014 to donate.

Seating is limited and **TICKETS WILL NOT BE SOLD AT THE DOOR**, so make your reservation early. The reservation deadline is February 1, 2007

Help for the Hungry

The Huxley food pantry needs volunteers! They are open Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m. if you would have some time to serve those in our community who need food assistance, please contact Joan Larson at 597-3137. Volunteer alone or in a team of 2.

“A Man After God’s Own Heart”

What does it mean to be a man of God? Men of the Northwest Conference are invited to a Retreat seeking to answer this question Friday, February 2 - Saturday, February 3, at University Lutheran Center in Ames.

We begin with registration at 6:30 Friday and a session together from 7:00—9:00. Pizza and fellowship follow. We break, go home and sleep, and gather again at the Center Saturday from 9:00—noon. We then will share a meal and Holy Communion.

The cost is \$10.00 to cover our food. Ages from High School on up are encouraged to attend. Please contact Palestine Lutheran Church (515-597-2620 or PLC@huxcomm.net) or St. John’s Lutheran Church (515-795-3463 or stjohasm@iowatelecom.net) by January 28 if you would like to attend.



Life Line Screening

Fjeldberg Lutheran Church is hosting a Life Line Screening on **Tuesday, Feb. 6**. Life Line Screening will be performing ultrasound tests for stroke, abdominal aortic aneurysm (AAA), peripheral arterial disease (PAD) and osteoporosis.

In addition, Life Line Screening is now offering simple blood screening tests that identify some important risk factors for heart disease and diabetes. The blood tests (complete lipid panel, blood glucose, and high-sensitivity C-reactive protein) are conducted with a finger-stick sample and results are completed in less than 10 minutes.

You must call 1-800-697-9693 to pre-register. Prices vary depending upon which screenings you choose.

Ballard Lutherans Together (BLT)

A meeting of lay people from our cluster will meet on Thursday, February 15 at 7:45 p.m. at Fjeldberg Lutheran in Huxley. They hope to have a pastor and 1-3 lay leaders from each congregation attend. This will be a brainstorming meeting of what things we might do together. The meeting would last about 1 hour. and Don Dovre will coordinate the meeting. This meeting will discuss and look at outreach ministries that the Ballard Lutherans Together could do. Please contact Pastor Bernie if you are interested in attending.

Do you hear what I hear?

Remember—tapes of the Services at Bethany are available to anyone who is homebound or can not travel to our worship services. Please contact Roland Newton if you know of anyone who may appreciate a copy.

News From Bethany Life Communities

Another year went by so quickly and we pray that you had a year filled with God's blessings and peace. We, at Bethany Life Communities, like to take this opportunity to offer you our heartfelt thanks for your continued support. We also want to share with you some of our 2006 highlights.

Our assisted living programs at Cedar Place and Timberland Village are fully occupied. These programs allow people to receive additional support in the privacy of their apartment and help them stay in their own home longer. Both programs received deficiency free surveys from the Department of Inspections and Appeals this year which is quite an accomplishment.

There are three twin homes that are fully occupied at Timberland Village. Construction began on a fourth twin home this fall and will be completed in April of 2007. The independent living apartments at Timberland also remain full. These assisted and independent living options provide a continuum of care that allows us to meet the changing health needs of those we serve.

The Bethany Life Foundation had another successful year raising money for so many endeavors that enhance the lives of those we serve. This includes the renovation of our dining room at Bethany Manor; the purchase of a new bus for use throughout our continuum; financial support to individuals relying on the elderly waiver program; and giving the organization the strength to continue our commitment to serving those with limited resources through the Good Samaritan Fund. The Chaplaincy Endowment Fund was kicked off in 2006, receiving immediate gifts of almost \$20,000 and also receiving a \$200,000 commitment through an estate gift.

Bethany Manor continues to provide long-term care and skilled services for up to 180 individuals at any one time. We had a record number of admissions this year for a total of 253. This number includes those residents who went to the hospital and were readmitted to Bethany Manor. In addition, we had a record number of discharges for a total of 314. This number includes 116 residents who returned to their homes. This number also includes 71 residents who we supported through the end-stage of their lives. We are privileged to share in the lives of so many people and seek to provide the best quality of care and services possible to those we serve.

As we begin another year, we give thanks to all who make Bethany Life what it is today, from our residents, families, team members, donors, and volunteers, to our member churches and pastors that provide support in so many ways. We ask for your continued prayers and support in 2007 of our mission to "help elders thrive in their life journey, living in a Christian environment of hope and compassion."

Sincerely -Betsy Warburton, President and CEO

Madrid Home News

The Friends of the Madrid Home membership drive began in January. Anyone with an expressed interest in the Madrid Home and the welfare of its residents is considered a "friend" to the Madrid Home. Supporting memberships can be given to our Bethany Madrid Home representatives, Darold and Eileen Primmer. If you are interested in supporting Madrid Homes in this way, see either of them. They will take any donations to the Madrid Home annual meeting on March 15.

ALSO, THANKS to all those who contributed items for the Madrid Home to use for Bingo prizes. The Bingo coordinator at the Home says the items will be well received. *You can bring more anytime* and the Primmers will be sure to deliver them to the Home.

Church Solutions

Bethany will begin the Church Solutions program in February. Most meetings will be on Sundays following worship until noon. Below is the schedule for the entire process. If you have questions about the program please contact Larry Kallem.

Church Solutions kickoff; present assessment results	February 25
Vision meeting: Focus: Assets	February 25
Vision Meeting: Focus: Challenges	March 4
Vision Meeting: Focus: Resources & Needs	March 18
Vision Meeting: Focus: Vision & Strategies	April 15
Vision Sunday: Final Forum; teams present visions	April 22
Group meeting: Consultants present strategic vision and action plan; participants complete priority & team preference surveys	May 27
Group meeting; Form action teams; conduct training	June 24
Group/ Action team meeting: Begin work plan development	July 22
Group/ Action team meeting: Continue work plan development	August 26
Group/ Action meeting; Continue work plan development	September 23
Group/ Action team meeting: Teams preset work plans	October 21
Consultants present operating agenda to teams for final changes	November 4
Consultant present operating agenda to council for final edits	November 25
Consultants present business plan to teams for final feedback	Feb 17, 2008
Consultants present business plan to Council for final approval	March 13
Quarterly meeting with Council	April 10
Quarterly meeting with Council	July 10
Quarterly meeting with Council	October 9
Quarterly meeting with Council	January 8, 2009

February 2007

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				1	2	3
4 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Alpha	5 1:00 Quilters	6 Life Line Screen- ing—Fjeldberg	7 6:30 Confirma- tion	8 6:30 Council	9	10 4:30—7:00 Linda Dunn Fundraiser
11 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School <u>Church Solution Surveys Due!</u> 2:00 Riverside Annual Meeting 6:00 Alpha	12 1:00 Quilters	13	14 1:00 Service Group 6:30 Confirma- tion	15 7:45 BLT at Fjeldberg	16	17 6:00 Riverside Gala
18 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Alpha	19 1:00 Quilters	20 1:30 Faith Circle	21 7:00 Ash Wednes- day Service	22	23	24
25 8:30 Choir 9:30 Worship Church solutions Kickoff Richard Graves—Sermon, Kent Zimmerman— results of Survey 10:45 Sunday School 6:00 Alpha	26 1:00 Quilters	27	28 5:45 Soup Supper 7:00 Lent Worship at Palestine			

