



BETHANY BANNER

NOVEMBER 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

I am reading a terrific and very helpful book, “Scarred By Struggle, Transformed By Hope” by Joan D. Chittister. It is a very timely book in which she explores the dynamics of personal struggle, whatever their genesis, and the blessing and transformation that can come about by that struggle if we only stay engaged in and through that struggle. She shapes her conversation with struggle around the story of Jacob’s wrestling with God. Through alternating chapters in which she addresses “struggle” in one and “gift” in the other, she very poignantly and directly articulates much of what the people in Bethany are currently experiencing.

My friends, we are in the midst of a large and tumultuous struggle within the family of Bethany. Initially, it appeared to be about the decisions made regarding the ministry of ordained and lay rostered leaders who desire the opportunity for, or are currently in, a committed, same-gendered relationship. And it is through that paradigm that our conversations continue to take place.

But several people, including me, are concerned that the deeper struggle is regarding who we are as a family of Christians who are part of the larger Body of Christ. Comments have been made that there is no “passion” for Christ or for serving; we can’t get teachers to teach, singers to sing, folks to serve on committees or council, to gather for larger service projects, or worship on a regular basis. There appears to be an ongoing retraction or pulling away activity within the congregation based on the uncertainty of the congregation’s future life – will the doors stay open? And some say this retraction activity has been going on much longer than just this most recent controversy. We are allowing fear for our congregational future to suppress the ministry Jesus calls us to today. When fear is in control of the conversation, there is little if any mention of Jesus. That has been the conversational reality in the last several weeks.

Folks, Jesus claims us as his own; through God’s gifts which we receive in baptism, our individual and corporate lives are safe in Jesus – past, present, AND future. There is no place for fear – if we believe what we proclaim we believe each Sunday in the Creed, through worship, prayer, and receiving Holy Communion. Jesus calls us to be fearless for him, and promises to give us the strength and courage, wisdom and discernment for the tasks of the present and the future through the indwelling of His Spirit.

What are we called to be and to do? We are called to be the hands, feet, and voice of Jesus in the world – proclaiming the constant presence of Jesus, the gift of life and freedom from death which is only made real in Jesus. We are the compassion of Christ, serving others and putting others before our own needs and desires. From my observations and conversations, this is the crux of our real struggle – the struggle between the call to serve Christ, not knowing what the future may hold, and our own brokenness which leads us to effort some sense of control over the world within which we live.

As we continue to discuss the Church-wide decisions about gay and lesbian rostered leaders, and our participation or non-participation in the ELCA going forward, it is not enough to make decisions only along those narrow lines. Whatever decision the congregation votes for must be informed by a clear understanding of, and passion for the proclamation of Jesus Christ, and a fervent desire to serve others in Jesus' name. So I ask you to prayerfully consider the following questions:

Do I/we really believe in Jesus Christ and God's work for me/us and for all people through the cross?

Do I/we trust that God is very present as I/we struggle to discern God's call?

Do I/we pray for a clear sense of God's purpose for my/our life/lives at this time?

Am I/Are we willing to go, do, and say what Jesus calls me/us to go, do, and say?

What do I/we think Jesus is calling us to here at Bethany?

Am I/are we ready and willing to re-commit ourselves to serving God, asking God to help and guide us?

May God bless our struggle together with the compassion, kindness, and wisdom of God's Holy Spirit. Amen.

Walking the journey with you – Pr. Nancy



Congregational Update

I would like to take the time to inform everyone on the latest actions taken by the church council. In response to survey in September on Human Sexuality Statement, in which we asked you to indicate where you agreed or disagreed with the Churchwide decision using a scale of 1-5 wherein 1 = Strongly Agree and 5 = Strongly Disagreed, the survey results were as follows:

5 / 1 Strongly Agree
3 / 2 Agree
5 / 3 Neutral
3 / 4 Disagree
30 / 5 Strongly Disagree
46 Total responses

The Council decided our first response was to write a letter to the Churchwide Bishop of the ELCA, Rev. Mark Hanson, and send a copy to the Bishop of the SE Iowa Synod, Bishop Michael Burk. This was done and a copy of it is on the south door entrance.

Next the council came up with 5 options:

1. Stay in ELCA and continue funding them. Let God decide whether the issue is right or wrong and focus on other things.
2. Stay in ELCA and designate where our funds go. No funds would go to fund projects that Bethany disagrees with.

3. Stay in the ELCA and cease funding the ECLA. Give our benevolence dollars to places we deem worthy.
4. Cease to be in ELCA and join another Lutheran faction LCMC, CORE, WORD ALONE, etc.
5. Cease to be in ELCA and become non-denominational.

We had an informational meeting with Rev Paul Ostrem, Assistant to Bishop, Southeastern Iowa Synod on October 4, 2009 on items 1,2,&3.

We had an informational meeting with Joyce Peterson and Cyndi Ringgenberg on October 11, 2009 on LCMC.

We had an informational meeting with Joyce Peterson on October 18, 2009, on CORE and WORD ALONE. Option number 5 is not a viable option.

Now that leads us to the current decision. The council has called a special congregational meeting for November 22, 2009, right after the Worship service for the sole reason to vote on the action of terminating our relationship with ELCA or continuing it.

Phil Ringgenberg, Bethany Council Chairperson



Constitution Information

It is the desire of your pastor and council to get as much information as possible to the people of Bethany. In that spirit, as we face some important decisions in the near future, I want to lift up what our constitution says regarding special congregational meetings, voting members, etc. Those of you who have a pictorial directory, also have within that same binder the current constitution, which the Congregation voted for during the annual meeting this past January, 2009. I will try to remember to cite the location of my references so that you may also become familiar with the document under which we are currently obliged to govern ourselves.

Church Affiliation – Chapter 6 of the Bethany Constitution

- *C6.04 – Affiliation with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America may be terminated as follows:
 - a. This congregation takes action to dissolve.
 - b. This congregation ceases to exist.
 - c. This congregation is removed from membership in the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America according to the procedures for discipline of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
 - d. This congregation follows the procedures outlined in *C6.05.
- *C6.05. This congregation may terminate its relationship with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America by the following procedure:
 - a. A resolution indicating the desire of this congregation to terminate its relationship must be adopted at a legally called and conducted special meeting of this congregation by a two-thirds majority of the voting members present.

- b. The secretary of this congregation shall submit a copy of the resolution to the synodical bishop and shall mail a copy of the resolution to voting members of this congregation. This notice shall be submitted within 10 day after the resolution has been adopted.
- c. The bishop of the synod shall consult with this congregation during a period of at least 90 days.
- d. If this congregation, after consultation, still desires to terminate its relationship, such action may be taken at a legally called and conducted special meeting by a two-thirds majority of voting members present, at which meeting the bishop of the synod or an authorized representative shall be present. Notice of the meeting shall be mailed to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the meeting.
- e. A certified copy of the resolution to terminate its relationship shall be sent to the synodical bishop, at which time the relationship between this congregation and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America shall be terminated.
- f. Notice of termination shall be forwarded by the synodical bishop to the secretary of this church and published in the periodical of this church.

Membership – Chapter 8

- *C8.02.c. Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members, during the current or preceding calendar year, shall have communed in this congregation and shall have made a contribution of record to this congregation. Members of this congregation who have satisfied these basic standards shall have the privilege of voice and vote at every regular and special meeting of this congregation.

Congregational Meeting – Chapter 10

- C10.03. Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.
- C10.04. Ten percent of voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05. Voting by proxy or absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06. All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.

This vote, and possibly other votes, and indeed, all our conversations regarding the work and ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church, needs to include everyone. Now more than ever, we need activity and conversation from everyone. I know many of you are very uncomfortable with conflict, with dissention, with disagreement. But there are times in our personal lives, and in the life of the church, where our hesitancy needs to take a back seat to the importance of the current events. Even if the decisions that Church-wide made are not that big of a deal to you, the Council need to hear that as well. And we need your participation at the special congregational meeting which Phil Ringgenberg announced earlier in this newsletter. Your voice and participation matter.

For the most part, the informational meetings have been done with great openness and respect for the views of others. Please come and participate.

Serving in November

	11/1	11/8	11/15	11/22	11/29
Ushers	Steve Pietsch and Don Brendeland	Steve Pietsch and Don Brendeland	Steve Pietsch and Don Brendeland	Steve Pietsch and Don Brendeland	Steve Pietsch and Don Brendeland
Greeters	Kevin and Julie Winchell	Marv and Norma Holland	Marv and Norma Holland	Jerry and Joyce Peterson	Jerry and Joyce Peterson
Lector	Ann Stensland	Wyatt Thorson	Dree Brakke	Rachel Pietsch	Conner Pietsch
Acolyte	Connor Pietsch	Taylor Hadaway	Hope Brakke	Holly Johnson	Hannah Stensland
Color	White	Green	Green	White	Blue
Service	Communion	Non-Communion Paperless	Communion	Communion Paperless	Communion

Attendance and Giving

9/27	64	1400
10/4	54	1442
10/11	51	855
10/18	50	940
10/28	66	1393.50
Total		6030.50
Needed each month		\$8109.00

Thank You!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday – Shirlene Brendeland (2), Lawrence Kennedy (2), Dana Osterhout (4), Jerry Ballantyne (8), Deb Osterhout (11), Jerry Ryerson (12), Rita Thorson (13), Connor Finch (15), Helen Miller (16), Tom Loynachan (18), Tracey Finch (21), James Mott (29), Joyce Peterson (29), Emil Grulke (30)

Happy Anniversary Michael and Marcy Finch (4), Jerry and Carol Ryerson (12), Daniel and Julia Sullivan (14), Larry and Donna Kallem (22), Chuck and Cathy Potter (30)



Daily Lectionary

11/1	Isaiah 25:6-9	Revelation 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
11/2	Psalms 18:20-30	Ruth 2:15-23	Romans 12:17-21; 13:8-10
11/3	Psalms 18:20-30	Ruth 3:1-7	Acts 7:17-29
11/4	Psalms 18:20-30	Ruth 3:8-18	John 13:31-35
11/5	Psalms 127	Ruth 4:1-10	Romans 5:6-11
11/6	Psalms 127	Ruth 4:11-17	Hebrews 9:15-24
11/7	Psalms 127	Ruth 4:18-22	Mark 11:12-14, 20-24
11/8	Ruth 3:1-5; 4:13-17	Hebrews 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
11/9	Psalms 113	Genesis 24:1-10	1 Timothy 5:1-8
11/10	Psalms 113	Genesis 24:11-27	1 Timothy 5:9-16
11/11	Psalms 113	Genesis 24:28-42	Luke 4:16-30
11/12	1 Samuel 2:1-10	1 Samuel 1:21-28	1 Timothy 6:11-21
11/13	1 Samuel 2:1-10	1 Samuel 2:18-21	Colossians 2:6-15
11/14	1 Samuel 2:1-10	1 Samuel 3:1-18	Mark 12:1-12
11/15	1 Samuel 2:1-10	Hebrews 10:11-14[15-18] 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
11/16	Psalms 3	1 Samuel 3:19-4:2	Hebrews 10:26-31
11/17	Psalms 3	Deuteronomy 26:5-10	Hebrews 10:32-39
11/18	Psalms 3	1 Kings 8:22-30	Mark 13:9-23
11/19	Psalms 132:1-12 [13-18]	2 Kings 22:1-10	Acts 7:54-8:1a
11/20	Psalms 132:1-12 [13-18]	2 Kings 22:11-20	1 Corinthians 15:20-28
11/21	Psalms 132:1-12 [13-18]	2 Kings 23:1-14	John 3:31-36
11/22	2 Samuel 23:1-7	Revelation 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
11/23	Psalms 63	2 Kings 23:15-25	Revelation 11:1-14
11/24	Psalms 63	1 Samuel 17:55-18:5	Revelation 11:15-19
11/25	Psalms 63	2 Samuel 2:1-7	John 16:25-33
11/26	Psalms 25:1-10	Nehemiah 9:6-15	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11
11/27	Psalms 25:1-10	Nehemiah 9:16-25	1 Thessalonians 5:12-22
11/28	Psalms 25:1-10	Nehemiah 9:26-31	Luke 21:20-24
11/29	Jeremiah 33:14-16	1 Thessalonians 3:9-13	Luke 21:25-36
11/30	Psalms 90	Numbers 17:1-11	2 Peter 3:1-18

Attention Women: At our fall WELCA meeting we decided we wanted to provide gifts for the residents at Beloit. There are about 55 children ages 6-13. Whatever you purchase please bring, unwrapped, to the Christmas Brunch at Ballard Country Club on Dec. 5. Thank you for helping with this project. This is a list of items you can choose from: card games, board games, yard games, clothing, socks, underwear, stocking hats, gloves or mittens, books, stuffed animals, pens, pencils, hair things for girls, and hygiene items such as--lotion, deodorant, kids bandaids, toothpaste, toothbrushes, combs, hairbrushes, maybe some good smelling stuff or anything else you can think of for a child or young teen. Movies, puzzles.,

Service Group will meet November 10, 9:00 a.m. Please note the time change!

Faith Circle meets on Tuesday, November 17, at 1:30 p.m. Bonnie Ballantyne will serve. The lesson will cover Romans 4 and 5 so read that before the meeting.

A WELCA Christmas brunch will be held on Saturday, December 5, at 10:30 a.m. The cost will be \$12.00 each, paid at the door. It will either be held at the Broiler in Ames or the Ballard Country Club in Huxley, pending which place has space for us. If you plan to attend, please let Eileen Primmer or Donna Kallem know by November 29. You are invited to bring special guests also.

Thanks to all who helped clean, paint, or helped in any way with the room off of the kitchen. If you spent any dollars that you have not reported, please let Primmers or Don Brendelands know. If you spent hours that were not reported, please do the same. Thrivent Financial for Lutherans will pay the cost of the items used as part of their Care for Congregations program.

Christmas with Wartburg will be performing Tidings of Great Joy! At the Lutheran Church of Hope in West Des Moines on Saturday, December 5 at 7:30 p.m. Check the bulletin board for information about reduced price tickets!

Madrid Home Upcoming Events Fall Bazaar & Bake Sale, Sunday November 22 from 1-3 p.m. Christmas Decorating Party, Saturday, December 5 from 1-3 pm Gift Wrapping for Madrid Home Residents, Thursday, December 17 from 9-noon.



WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE “FIND YOUR VOICE” Oct. 1, 2009

Members present Pastor Nancy, Rita T, Bob Ryerson, Cyndi R. and Phil R.

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.



The Worship and Music committee all worked together to get the southeast room all cleaned out for our Confirmands to enjoy a nice space for class.

Work on getting a roster going for making communion bread. Send e-mail to Julie to put a notice in the bulletin.

Worship and Music Committee will make a recommendation to the council , to go ahead with the estimate of \$2000.00 for the making and installing of the eastside lower windows. Rita will have Jarrett and Melanie Peterson to put it in writing for estimate.

Rita to remember to take church bulletins to work for recycling.

Reformation Sunday is Oct. 25th, we would like to ask that we all wear red for the church service.

All Saints Sunday is Nov. 1st. rita is to e-mail Julie to get a list of all that have passed away since last Nov. Also need to get hold of Rita H. to get list of items that need to be dedicated from Memorial Monies.

Amanda has finished the logo and e-mailed it out to everyone. The Worship and Music Committee would like to recommend to the council that we adopt this as our legal church logo.

Meeting closed with the Lords Prayer.

Committee Members: Pastor Nancy: 515-769-2245, Rita Thorson: 515-769-2260, Cyndi Ringgenberg: 515-769-2458, Amanda Hall: 515-233-2468, Bob Ryerson: 515-597-3247
Minutes by Rita Thorson

Taking care of caregivers

During November, we celebrate National Family Caregivers Month. Caregivers may call themselves husband, wife, parent, son or daughter, but no matter what their title they play an important role in caring for loved ones who need their assistance. While this care is given freely and lovingly, it can be stressful at times.

At Lutheran Services in Iowa, we celebrate family caregivers in communities throughout Iowa and offer programs that assist them as they take on this vital role. LSI's home health care programs provide important services to families including home visits by skilled nurses, homemaker services to assist with light housework and respite services for those caring for a family member with a physical or mental disability. At LSI, we understand the difficulties and benefits of caring for a loved one. That is why we are here to support this important group of people that take on these rewarding responsibilities.

To read helpful tips from LSI professionals about caring for loved ones and other helpful family suggestions, go to www.lsitips.com.

Prayer list:

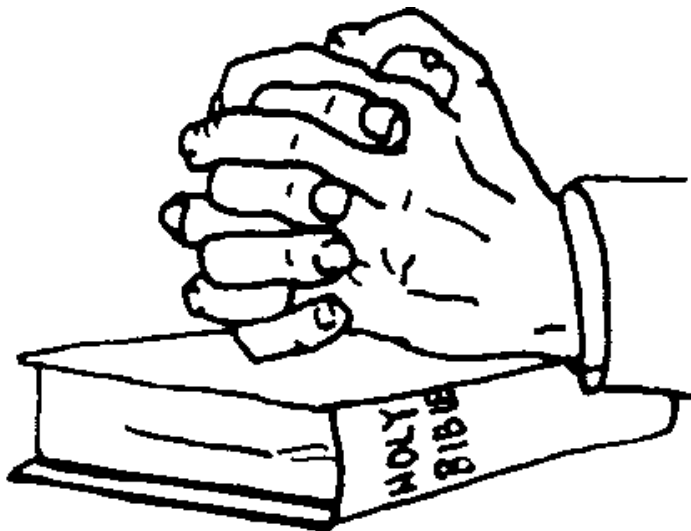
*For all who suffer from spiritual, mental, or physical illness: Jim Jolly, Viola Peterson, Dianne Aust, Toni Robinson, Mikayla Rietgraf, Jim Phoenix, Henry Haapala, Marvin Grulke, Lawrence Kennedy, Mary Jane Thompson.

*For this congregation's discernment of their mission

*For those experiencing violence in their relationships or in their countries

*For all military personnel and their families

*For all missionaries, especially Tim and Paula Tjernagel and their family



NOVEMBER 2009

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Worship 9:30	2	3	4	5 Worship and Music 6:00 Pastor Nancy on Vacation	6 Pastor Nancy on Vacation	7 Pastor Nancy on Vacation
8 Worship 9:30 Pastor Nancy on Vacation	9 Pastor Nancy on Vacation	10 Service Group 9:00 Pastor Nancy on Vacation	11 Council 6:30	12 Missions Committee Meetings 5:30	13 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	14 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
15 Worship 9:30	16	17 Faith Circle 1:30 Pr. Nancy at Bishops Day of Renewal in Grinnell	18	19	20 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	21 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
22 Worship 9:30 Special Congregational Meeting following Worship Confirmands Service Project 5:00	23	24	25 Ballard Community Thanksgiving Soup Supper and Worship 7:00	26 Thanksgiving	27 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	28 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
29 Worship 9:30	30					



AND IN
ALL THINGS

GIVE
THANKS

