

Bethany Banner – October 2009

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

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

In John 15.12-17 we hear:

This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. ¹³ No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. ¹⁴ You are my friends if you do what I command you. ¹⁶ You did not choose me but I chose you. And I appointed you to go and bear fruit, fruit that will last, so that the Father will give you whatever you ask him in my name. ¹⁷ I am giving you these commands so that you may love one another.

As a congregation, we have entered into very challenging times as a result of decisions made at Churchwide Assembly. Those decisions may be the instigation for this, our current struggle, but our reactions to those decisions will be our responsibility and our witness to the Gospel we proclaim, not the ELCA's. God holds us accountable for our thoughts, words, and deeds as we journey through this struggle together.

I raise up this scripture text before us all right now because I am concerned that our tone towards each other and the world remain one of love, respect, and unity in Christ even as we may experience strong feelings of anger and betrayal. Christ is quite clear, "This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you." That is not a plea; in the Greek it is an imperative which says, "Do it!" There is nothing in scripture about "liking" one another – Christ is not into "like" – but there are hundreds of scriptures which directly address loving God by loving each other. How do we do that when we are so angry?

By passing the peace. In another article in the newsletter I have included some information about the ancient Christian tradition of passing the peace. It is an important statement of our understanding of what it means to be members united in the one Body of Christ even as we disagree with each other. It is a visible reminder that as we are reconciled to God because of Christ, we are reconciled to one another in Christ.

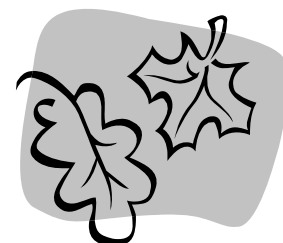
Another way is to pray for each other, intentionally and by name. It is difficult to reject another for whom we consistently pray. And speak well of one another. Luther's explanation of the 8th commandment in the small catechism says this:

We are to fear and love God, so that we do not tell lies about our neighbors, betray or slander them, or destroy their reputations. Instead we are to come to their defense, speak well of them, and interpret everything they do in the best possible light."

It is by the pure and unmerited mercy and grace of God that we are together in this place; called to be a witness to the love and mercy of God's Son, Jesus Christ, who died for his friends (Jn 15.13). How do you want people to interpret our witness, as a people who work to find ways to love each other in the midst of heated disagreements, or as a people who reject each other during these times?

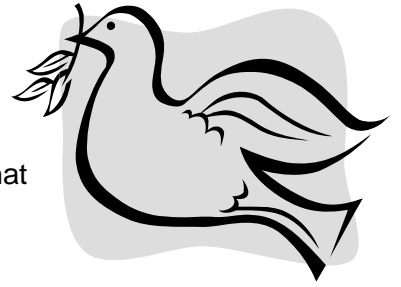
Let us be mindful of our tone – our actions and conversation towards each other and the people we meet. May they experience the joy of the Gospel, the power of Holy love which triumphs over anger and judgment. May the public be a witness to the true peace of Christ as we pass the peace of Christ one to another.

The peace of Jesus Christ be with you all – Pr. Nancy



Passing of the Peace

The following is an article I found on the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod page. It is a wonderful and brief explanation of the history and purpose of the Passing of the Peace which we do following the sermon and before we receive Holy Communion. It is a visible expression of our unity in Christ; an acknowledgment that all are reconciled in Christ, and through Christ, reconciled with each other. I hope you find this article helpful.



Q. When we pass the peace during our worship service, what is really going on? What is the purpose? Are we harboring no ill-feelings towards our brothers & sisters? Or is this more spiritual than temporal where we confirm that we are declared righteous and pass the peace that surpasses all understanding?

A. The passing of the Peace has its origins already in the New Testament. In the letters of St. Paul there are several references to greeting one another with "a holy kiss" (Rom 16:16; 1 Cor 16:20; 2 Cor 13:12; 1 Thess 5:26; 1 Pet 5:14). In the worship of the early church this took on a specific function in the liturgy. Usually it occurred after the sermon or just before the distribution of communion. Its function was to visibly demonstrate that all who were present were one in the faith and that no sin stood in the way of their unity.

Of course, over time the actual kiss of peace has given way to either a handshake or an embrace. The purpose, however, is the same: a visible demonstration that we are members of the one body of Christ. Because we have been reconciled to the Father through the death of His Son, we therefore are also reconciled with one another.

The passing of the Peace began reappearing in Lutheran congregations in the 60s and 70s. It is important before beginning this practice to explain it thoroughly. What it is not is a time to say "howdy" to everyone, or to talk about what you'll be doing after church. A congregation probably needs occasional reminders that the purpose of passing the peace is to demonstrate that we are members of Christ's body. At first, it can be uncomfortable for some, and understandably so. But it can have some tremendous benefits. Consider this: what if you don't want to share the peace with the person sitting in front of you because you are mad at that person for something he did to you or said about you? The fact that you don't even want to shake hands with that person would suggest that indeed there is a need for reconciliation to take place--a gift that God freely offers through His Son.

The passing of the peace has some obvious benefits, but a congregation must be taught what these are and then encouraged to live in that peace of God as they share it with each other.
<http://www.lcms.org/pages/internal.asp?NavID=4456>

Event Success!

Bethany participated in 2 events in the last four weeks which were a rousing success! First, on August 26th, we participated in the Ballard-area Lutheran Confirmation Kick Off, which was held at the city park in Slater. One hundred and seventy people showed up - woo hoo! Everyone had a great time - we ate, prayed, sang, and laughed together, even though it was cold and rainy.

Some of the kids commented that it was so cool that there were so many Lutheran Christians together at one time. How cool is that?

Then on September 13th, we had another Ballard-area Lutheran event - Rally Day. This time, we had about 250 people show up - as good Lutherans, we had more than enough food, including Jello. Everyone had a terrific time sharing food and fellowship and their goofy pastors. At both events the main comment was, "We need to do this again!" God is indeed very good!

Bethany Lutheran Church Council Minutes

August 20, 2009

CALL TO ORDER, APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES, OPENING DEVOTIONS

President Phillip Ringgenberg called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. Those in attendance were Phillip Ringgenberg, Pastor Nancy, Rita Houge, Rita Thorson, Ann White, Amanda Hall, Don Brendeland, Donna Kallem and Kevin Thompson. Meeting opened with prayer.

Rita .T led devotions using Mark and the story where a paralyzed man is lowered through the roof to be healed by Jesus. Council prayed the council prayer, led by Rita H.

Rita T. moved to approve an amended form of the agenda including a few new business items (meeting night for council, shrubbery outside the church, and Bethany shirts/logo). Second by Kevin. Motion carried.

Minutes of the July council meeting were reviewed. Motion to approve the minutes was made by Kevin. 2nd-Ann. Motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The Treasurer's report was presented by Rita Houge. We carried a negative balance last month, and Rita explained that this was largely due to holding three services vs. the typical four (the fourth was the shared service at Nazareth). We took insurance premiums, the youth gathering donation, and the cost of yearly propane out of the mission fund in order to retain a positive balance in all accounts. Motion to approve by Kevin. 2nd-Rita T. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT

Pastor Nancy reported on the youth gathering, saying a big thank you to the congregation, since our youth's experience will have a lasting effect on their lives. The downside to the event is the cost. Since the participants seemed to enjoy the service projects, perhaps it would be feasible to look for service opportunities closer to home in the future.

Also of note: Christian Education and Worship and Service committees are up and running, plans for Advent are underway, and Sunday School is ready to go. There are many changes in status in our home-bounds, so it's especially important to check status and visit often—in particular, Viola Petersen has expressed interest in having more visitors. She is located in room 110 at Riverside and is in bed B. In confirmation news, service projects with parent involvement will be planned for fall. The 26th is the Ballard Area confirmation kick-off, and there is a potential for 200+ people to attend. September 13 is the Ballard Area Rally Day, and this should really show all area Lutherans just how many of us there are. Finally, Pastor Nancy had an organ update: two pedals weren't working correctly, and the repair man came to give an estimate. The part needed should not be more than \$10 and it will be fixed as soon as he is able.

An observation relating to church music was then made—visiting, etc. during the prelude has begun to get quite noisy. Perhaps all should be reminded that this is time typically used for the congregation to prepare their hearts for worship and should be a little quieter.

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Outreach and Service: Prairie Fest is August 29th, and we have planned a parade presence with Marvin Manske's car, the Pastor, and pencils and tattoos to pass out. Kelly Day is August 30, and we are providing a basket with a sign and treats for participants. Community activities have been discussed to engage our Kelley neighbors—bingo at the community room or gas station, a hay ride and bonfire, a service fair with representatives from social security, hospice care, Madrid Home, Good Neighbor, etc.? Finally, the visitor information slip is being included on the bulletins once more, so be sure to return these to Ann Stensland.

Facilities and Finance: The new electrical service and drywall in the parsonage looks great and came within the budget! The organ (previously discussed), and the suggestion that Thrivent Funds are available for the revamping of the storage room and the office was also brought up. A discussion will be held in the coming days about starting these projects as one large Thrivent project, and Eileen Primmer has volunteered to undertake the paperwork.

Worship and Music: August 23 is paperless Sunday, and August 26 is confirmation orientation. The committee discussed Advent and church planning, with an emphasis on the church colors and invoking a sensory experience. The Christmas program will be December 20, and the Christmas Eve program (Thursday night) will be at a time determined by the committee after receiving input.

Christian Education: The current Sunday School plan—SS will be on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month usually (there will be a schedule that gets sent out), and they are using “Alice in Bibleland” as a guide. SS will meet from 10:45-11:30. Confirmation will meet in segments—four weeks of meeting, then a break, etc. Christmas program practices will be the 6th and the 13th of December, and the program is on the 20th.

Staff and Volunteer Development: Don Brendeland has volunteered to be a voting member for Facilities and Finance. (yay!) This committee is working on filling more open voting member positions.

OLD AND NEW BUSINESS

Old business included a discussion of the church logo. This has been approved with small changes and Amanda will get those to the appropriate folks asap.

New business included a discussion about switching the date of council from Thursday night to Wednesday nights. Council agreed that perhaps we’d try a Wednesday night for the next meeting in September, making it the 16th of September. Also in new business was a discussion of what to do with the shrubbery and weeds around the church—and it was decided that with Thrivent funds we could hold a clean-up day and tidy this area. Perhaps then in the future there can be a weekly sign-up sheet for these tasks.

Don B. moved to adjourn the meeting. 2nd-Kevin. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8PM and council closed with the Lord's Prayer. Council subsequently reconvened outdoors to congratulate Rita T. on her new Grand Prix.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE “FIND YOUR VOICE” Sept. 3, 2009

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

Pastor opened the meeting with prayer.

Rita is to call K’la Novencido and ask if she would be willing to cover for Carol on Oct. 11.

Amanda is still working on the changes for the church logo, she will get that done before next meeting.

We will be doing paperless Sunday on Sept. 13th. We may want to think about doing them the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month.

The organ has been fixed and was not all that bad of a fix or bill, so it is ready to go for music use.

Confirmation orientation night went very well, there were a total of 170 people there. Make sure the kids look at their folders and have the first lesson done on Sept. 20th the first day of Sunday School and Confirmation.

Rally Day will be on Sept 13th. Will have food and lots of games and fellowship.

Christmas Eve Service has been set for 7:30 pm. We discussed this at length and decided on 7:30.

Meeting closed with Lord’s 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



Service Group Reminders

Service Group will meet October 13, 9:30 and on November 10, 9:30.

Lutheran World Relief projects:

We have decided this years emphasis will be on Sewing Kits and Health Care Kits.

Each year thousands of sewing kits are distributed overseas. Many are used in vocational training programs to teach young men and women sewing skills that they can use to earn an income.

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. Health kits can help refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

Therefore we are asking everyone to help us collect the following items to be used in this way:

cotton or cotton/blend fabric - if 44" wide = 3 yds.

spool of matching thread

packages of about 10 - 15 needles for hand sewing

6 -10 matching buttons (1/2" - 3/4" size)

hand towels, dark color recommended

washcloth, dark color recommended

adult-size toothbrush in original packaging

sturdy comb

metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached

Band-Aids (1/2" - 3/4")

A box will be placed in the narthex for these items. Please bring by November 8th.



Community Family Night

Fjeldberg's stewardship committee is putting on a Special Community Family Night on Nov. 1st at 5:00 at the high school. They have invited the band, Soundtrack, to come and play. Afterwards there will be an ice cream social. There will be a free-will offering to benefit Riverside Lutheran Bible Camp.



The Annual Scandinavian Coffee, Bake Sale, and Gift Shop will be held Friday October 9th from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames.

The Center for Renewal and Grand View University will host a School of Ministry on Monday, Oct. 19, at 7:00 p.m. in room 120 of the Rasmussen Center for Community Advancement Professions on Grand View's campus. In a world where images from The Book of Revelation are so often used in fearful and destructive ways, The Rev. Carrie Lewis La Plante, associate pastor at Redeemer Lutheran Church in Indianola, Iowa, will lead a workshop that looks at the images of hope that John of Patmos intended for his readers. From that vantage point, participants will be able to see the message of hope that Revelation stills holds for us today. Cost for the workshop is \$10.00. You may register by contacting Jane White at 515-263-6008 or jwhite@grandview.edu or online at www.renewingchurch.org >workshops and events and then scrolling down to the School of Ministry section.

Focus on abilities strengthens communities

October is National Disability Employment Awareness Month. This is a month to celebrate and recognize the contributions and skills millions of Americans with disabilities bring to workplaces throughout our nation.



Lutheran Services in Iowa's services for people with disabilities (SFPD) program empowers persons with disabilities to build the skills they need to become an active part of communities in Iowa, including the workforce. SFPD's supported community living program is a goal-oriented service that assists individuals through one-on-one interaction with life skills such as money management, cooking, personal hygiene, socialization and communication, safety and more. It is through the focus on abilities that LSI helps those with a disability accomplish their goals and have a positive impact on their community.

Visit www.lsitips.com to read more about how you can help provide independence for a friend or loved one with a disability.

October Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday: Jackson Ringenberg (1), Roland Newton (10), Jean Finch (17), Ryan Finch (18), Martin Reed (20), Rosalyn Berret (23), Norma Newton (28)

Happy Anniversary: Norm and Marcia Berrett (11), Ron and Jean Finch (20), Phil and Cyndi Ringgenberg (25)

Serving in October

	10/4	10/11	10/18	10/25
Ushers	Tom Loynachan and Dave White	Tom Loynachan and Dave White	Tom Loynachan and Dave White	Tom Loynachan and Dave White
Greeters	Julia and Maggie Sullivan	Mike and Toni Robinson	Mike and Toni Robinson	Kevin and Julie Winchell
Lectors	Julia Sullivan	Taylor Hadaway	Stephanie Winchell	Maren Holland

Attendance and Giving

8/30	53	1558.87
9/6	53	1192.50
9/13	48	1267.00
9/20	60	1734.00
Total		5752.27
Needed each month		\$8109

Thank you!

October Lectionary

10/1	Psalms 26	Job 2:11-3:26	Galatians 3:23-29	
10/2	Psalms 26	Job 4:1-21	Romans 8:1-11	
10/3	Psalms 26	Job 7:1-21	Luke 16:14-18	
10/4	Job 1:1-2	Psalms 26	Hebrews 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
10/5	Psalms 55:1-15	Job 8:1-22	1 Corinthians 7:1-9	
10/6	Psalms 55:1-15	Job 11:1-20	1 Corinthians 7:10-16	
10/7	Psalms 55:1-15	Job 15:1-35	Matthew 5:27-36	
10/8	Psalms 22:1-15	Job 17:1-16	Hebrews 3:7-19	
10/9	Psalms 22:1-15	Job 18:1-21	Hebrews 4:1-11	
10/10	Psalms 22:1-15	Job 20:1-29	Matthew 15:1-9	
10/11	Job 23:1-9, 16-17	Psalms 22:1-15	Hebrews 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
10/12	Psalms 39	Job 26:1-14	Revelation 7:9-17	
10/13	Psalms 39	Job 28:12-29:10	Revelation 8:1-5	
10/14	Psalms 39	Job 32:1-22	Luke 16:19-31	
10/15	Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35b	Job 36:1-16	Romans 15:7-13	
10/16	Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35b	Job 37:1-24	Revelation 17:1-18	
10/17	Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35b	Job 39:1-30	Luke 22:24-30	
10/18	Job 38:1-7 [34-41]	Psalms 104:1-9, 24, 35b	Hebrews 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
10/19	Psalms 75	Job 40:1-24	Hebrews 6:1-12	
10/20	Psalms 75	Job 41:1-11	Hebrews 6:13-20	
10/21	Psalms 75	Job 41:12-34	John 13:1-17	
10/22	Psalms 34:1-8[19-22]	2 Kings 20:12-19	Hebrews 7:1-10	
10/23	Psalms 34:1-8[19-22]	Nehemiah 1:1-11	Hebrews 7:11-22	
10/24	Psalms 34:1-8[19-22]	Job 42:7-9	Mark 8:22-26	
10/25	Jeremiah 31:31-34	Psalms 46	Romans 3:19-28	John 8:31-36
10/26	Psalms 28	Isaiah 59:9-19	1 Peter 2:1-10	
10/27	Psalms 28	Ezekiel 18:1-32	Acts 9:32-35	
10/28	Psalms 28	Ezekiel 14:12-23	Matthew 20:29-34	
10/29	Psalms 146	Ruth 1:18-22	Hebrews 9:1-12	
10/30	Psalms 146	Ruth 2:1-9	Romans 3:21-31	
10/31	Psalms 146	Ruth 2:10-14	Luke 10:25-37	

Prayers

*For all who suffer from spiritual, mental, or physical illness: Diane Aust, Toni Robinson, Mikayla Rietgraf, John Maul, Jim Phoenix, Linda Dunn, 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

October 2009

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
				1 Worship & Music 6:00	2 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	3 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
4 Worship 9:30	5	6	7	8 Missions 5:30 Council 6:30	9 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	10 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
11 Worship 9:30	12	13 Service Group 9:30	14	15	16 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	17 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
18 Worship 9:30	19	20 Faith Circle 1:30	21	22	23 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	24 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
25 Worship 9:30	26	27	28	29	30 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	31 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath