

# Bethany Banner - September 2009



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ –

In this past week, many of us have had conversations regarding the decisions made at Church-wide Assembly. We have talked, prayed, worried, and expressed great anger and disappointment. To some folk the future may now appear unclear and uncertain, both in terms of the ELCA, and our congregation and its ministry here in Kelley.

A few comments are in order: First, I am here to listen, and I have heard and felt the pain and disappointment in your voices. I want to reassure you that God is walking with us during this time of strengthen us for whatever challenges we might perceive in the upcoming weeks and months.

Secondly, policy changes within the Southeastern Iowa Synod and the ELCA will take time to emerge, and will not arise without great energy and prayer and compassion for all people who are affected by these changes. The policies have to be approved by both the Council of Bishops and the National ELCA Church Council. So I strongly encourage you to be still before God – leave this at God's feet at the Cross, trusting Jesus Christ to guide us if we are but still enough to hear his word.

Thirdly, I want to applaud you for the way in which you have comported yourselves even as you have expressed anger, disappointment, and grief – you have been kind, good listeners, and caring towards those with whom you disagree. God is alive in you! The Bethany Church Council is going to have a special meeting this coming Wednesday, September 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 7:00pm, for the sole purpose of having our own conversations about this new direction of the ELCA. We are going to work hard to create a safe and caring environment where we can hash out some of these very strong concerns. Then we plan on offering a time for the congregation at large to gather together where we can express our sentiments and look at many different options for a possible response.

My dear friends, please pray for the leadership of this congregation, for the SE Iowa Synod, and for the ELCA as together, we try discern God's will for our ministry here in Kelley, for the proclamation of the Gospel, and to love our neighbor as our selves.

Walking this journey with you – Pr. Nanc



ELCA NEWS SERVICE August 24, 2009

## **ELCA Assembly Leader Asks Members to Respect Each Other, Allow Time**

MINNEAPOLIS (ELCA) -- In final comments to the 2009 Churchwide Assembly of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), the Rev. Mark S. Hanson, ELCA presiding bishop, pledged to the voting members "to speak well of you and of this church, and I ask you to do the same."

The churchwide assembly, the chief legislative authority of the ELCA, met here Aug. 17-23 at the Minneapolis Convention Center. About 2,000 people participated, including 1,045 ELCA voting members. The theme for the biennial assembly was "God's work. Our hands."

During the week, the voting members adopted, following considerable debate, proposals to direct that changes be made to the ELCA's ministry policies to make it possible for people in publicly

accountable, lifelong, monogamous, same-gender relationships to serve as ELCA associates in ministry, clergy, deaconesses and diaconal ministers.

Hanson, who presided at the assembly, said, "One way I will speak well of you is not to use the word 'fear' to describe those who oppose the actions that prevailed in many of our discussions. It's not helpful to our life together. It's not respectful of deeply held convictions shaped by theology and Scripture and faith."

"I am committed to the ELCA continuing to be a church body where people feel safe to teach, to preach, to lead and to serve in ways that they believe are consistent with the vows one takes in ordination and the promises one makes in the affirmation of Baptism," he told voting members.

The church needs to be a safe place for "rich theological conversation, biblical inquiry and faith expressions and explorations," a quality of the Lutheran Church for 500 years," he said. Hanson said the steps of implementing the actions of the assembly will take time. "My prayer and my plea is that we take that time together rather than separately," he said.

Speaking to members who opposed the church's decisions on ministry policies, Hanson requested that, if they are wondering about their place in the ELCA, "let us be part of that discernment."

"Take time with your decision. Step back and understand the magnitude of the decision if you choose to leave, because we will be diminished by your absence," he said, adding that the capacity for the ELCA to do its work will also be diminished.

The Good News of Jesus Christ "is too good to squander with internal conflicts that will drain our energies when our capacity is to bring the Good News to the world so that all might know Jesus," Hanson continued.

He concluded by thanking the voting members for the week-long assembly, noting that "it's been a challenge, it's been a joy."

David D. Swartling, ELCA secretary, announced that the 2011 ELCA Churchwide Assembly will be held at the Marriott World Center, Orlando, Fla., Aug. 14-20, 2011.

Information about the 2009 ELCA Churchwide Assembly can be found at <http://www.ELCA.org/assembly/> on the Web. For information contact: John Brooks, Director (773) 380-2958 or [news@elca.org](mailto:news@elca.org) <http://www.elca.org/news>



## **Christian Education**

Dear sisters and Brothers in Christ,

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

It's Fall again (well, almost) and it's time to get excited about all the possibilities to grow in faith, service, and into the Body of Christ. The Christian Education Mission Committee has been working hard and with great creativity to offer a faith-nurturing program with substance, while still being mindful of busy schedules and competing priorities.

**Important Dates:** Sept 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009 - Ballard-Area Rally Day

Nord Kalsem Park, Huxley Noisy Caravan from church right after worship!  
Begins 11:am-ish and goes to 1:00pm-ish Food, entertainment, music all  
Provided. Please bring chairs and blankets. Each church is responsible for providing foods to pass.  
See Jennifer Thompson and Kathy Pietsch for details.

Sept 20<sup>th</sup>, 2009 – All classes begin!

*Christian Education – continued...*

Here are some of the details:

**Four to Eight-year-olds (Pre-school through Second Grade):**

We have decided to spend time with this group learning Bible stories using a children's book series entitled, "Alice In Bibleland". We will meet from 10:45am – 11:30am the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays of every month (with some schedule changes due to holidays, etc). We have attached the schedule for your convenience.

The committee asks that you bring snacks and drinks and leave them on the kitchen counter marked, "Sunday School". We also ask, out of consideration and respect for the teachers who spend time preparing for the class, that you call them if your child are not able to attend Sunday School on that particular Sunday.

You may reach the teachers via the following methods:

Trace Houge Brakke – Home phone: 515-233-1741      Cell phone: 515-291-1503  
E-mail: [amesbrakkes@iowatelecom.net](mailto:amesbrakkes@iowatelecom.net)

Ann White – Home phone: 515-228-3037      Cell phone: 515-231-5884  
E-mail: [dawhite@huxcomm.net](mailto:dawhite@huxcomm.net)

We would love to have some high school folks assist the teachers on these Sundays, so if you are interested, please call Trace Houge Brakke or Ann White and make their day terrific!

As always, we will still need substitute teachers, and we pray that some of you will be willing to assist the congregation in that capacity from time to time. Please e-mail the church at [Bethany@huxcomm.net](mailto:Bethany@huxcomm.net) if you are willing to serve Jesus and the folks at Bethany in that capacity.

**Fifth Grade through Eight Grade**

They will be in Confirmation! Pastor Nancy (that's me!) will be teaching Confirmation, and I am thrilled about it! We will have eight young people in confirmation, with two of them planning to be confirmed in May 2010. Again, in consideration of busy lives and competing priorities, we have decided to have confirmation every Sunday morning from 10:45am – 12:00 noon. In addition, one Sunday evening a month, usually the fourth Sundays, we will have a Confirmand and Parent time where we all meet for a light meal, short devotion, and a service project of sometime. This is an effort to support the primary faith formation locus, which is the family, and to help the confirmands understand the connections between faith and life. That schedule is also attached.

Important dates of note: 8/26/2009

Ballard-Area Confirmation Orientation  
Nelson Park, Slater  
6:00pm-8:00pm

BYOBeverage, chairs, blankets – food and drink will be provided.

**In case of rain, go to Fjeldberg in Huxley.**

9/20/2009 – Confirmation begins!

## **High School and Adults**

We have a flexible schedule for high schoolers and adults. Knowing the demands of families and other commitments, we have decided to offer short bible studies (meet once a week for 4-6 weeks in length) and to schedule breaks in between the studies. We hope in this way, that more people will be willing and open to commit some time to these short bursts, and still feel like the church is sensitive to the demands of life. ***We would like feed back from you as far as the date and time preference(s) for the adult class.*** Again, please e-mail Trace Houge Brakke, Ann White (see above), the church at [Bethany@huxcomm.net](mailto:Bethany@huxcomm.net), or Pr. Nancy – [npr@huxcomm.net](mailto:npr@huxcomm.net) to notify the proper people of your preferences.

Important Date: 9/20/2009 – Adult class begins!

As you can see – we may be a small church, but God isn't finished with us yet! There's lots to do, lots to learn, and lots of opportunities to grow in faith in Jesus Christ. So please come and be a part of this faith-growing activity and fellowship. Remember – please pray about attending a class, assisting with classes, or even teaching a class, especially adult class – no expertise required, just a yearning heart. God's peace be with you all –

Pr. Nancy Reed



## **WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE "FIND YOUR VOICE"** **July 7, 2009**

Members present Pastor Nancy, Rita T, Amanda H.

Rita Thorson opened the meeting.

Pastor talked about having Worship in the Park on August 30<sup>th</sup> before our Kelley Day celebration.

Rita to e-mail Donna , Ann and Jean to see what they want to do for Kelley Day.

Sunday Aug. 23<sup>rd</sup> is our next paperless Sunday.

Pastor Nancy will not be preaching on Aug. 9<sup>th</sup>. We will have a guest Minister, Sharon Nordley, with Wickliff Bible Translators. She is here from Senegal.

Aug. 26<sup>th</sup> is Confirmation Orientation at Nelson Park. The time will be from 6:00 – 8:00 pm. All confirmation students and parents, please be there.

Pastor would like the committee to think about the color red for Oct 25<sup>th</sup>. Red for Reformation. Think of a song, the color red, Martin Luther, something that we can do for that day. (song- walk by faith, not by sight) the saying that goes- grace alone, thru faith alone, by Christ alone) Banner idea for that time, could be – caterpillar, chrysalis, to butterfly.

Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> is a White Sunday color. We will lift up all who passed in the last year.(red blood washes away sin to make us white and pure)get faith stories from older parishioners.

Ask Bob Ryerson to visit with Viola Peterson at Riverside.

Visit with Mildred Brendeland at Ballard Creek.

Visit with Mary Jane Thompson at Madrid Home.

Visit with Emil Grulke in Nevada.

Also talk to Ron Chelsvig and Don Brendeland etc.....

Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup>—color is white again, (Christ the King) think about what comes to mind for the kings day.

Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> is Advent—Lower the banners, light coming into darkness, emphasize light and dark. We would like to do the announcements at the end of service, Advent thru Christmas.

Think about things you would like to see at advent, come up with some ideas, whether it be skits, scented candles, banners.... Bring ideas to next meeting.

Christmas program is going to be Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>. Would like to do the story of Luke 1 verses 30 thru ??  
Mary becomes with child

Ask around to see what time we would like to have Christmas Eve Service????

Carol will be gone Oct. 11<sup>th</sup>. Will need to set up a sub for her.

Amanda is to bring the new logo with her to council. We are so very excited to see it.

We also talked about the windows again, moving along again.

Meeting closed.

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** will be September 8 at 9:30. It will be a work day so come dressed accordingly. We will be preparing the new storage room for remodeling.

**The WELCA fall general meeting** will be Tues. Oct 19 at 6:00 p.m. Soup supper, Thank offering, election of officers, and business meeting. We do need new officers this year so everyone please consider serving as an officer – Co-chairs, Sec, Treasurer. We have all served for several years and are ready to pass on our positions. If we don't get volunteers then we may not continue to function. Please think and pray about this. Contact Ann Stensland or Jean Finch if you are interested.

**Riverside Bible Camp's Annual Womens Retreat** will be Saturday and Sunday September 19-20. Women of all ages are welcome and this year's theme is "Becoming an Authentic Woman of God". Pick up a registration sheet on the bulletin board or register on line at [www.riversidelbc.org](http://www.riversidelbc.org).

**Check the bulletin board for flyers about the Center for Renewal fall workshops and Hawk-I health insurance.**



## Lectionary for September

9/1 Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48 Deuteronomy 4:15-20 1 Peter 2:19-25

9/2 Psalm 106:1-6, 13-23, 47-48 Deuteronomy 4:21-40 Mark 7:9-23

9/3 Psalm 146 Isaiah 30:27-33 Romans 2:1-11

9/4 Psalm 146 Isaiah 32:1-8 Romans 2:12-16

9/5 Psalm 146 Isaiah 33:1-9 Matthew 15:21-31

9/6 Isaiah 35:4-7a Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 Psalm 125 James 2:1-10[11-13] 14-17  
Mark 7:24-37

9/7 Isaiah 38 10-20 Joshua 6:1-21 Hebrews 11:29--12:2

9/8 Isaiah 38:10-20 Joshua 8:1-23 Hebrews 12:3-13

9/9 Isaiah 38:10-20 Judges 15:9-20 Matthew 17:14-21

9/10 Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:1-14 Hebrews 11:17-22

9/11 Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 2:15-24 James 2:17-26

9/12 Psalm 116:1-9 Joshua 6:22-27 Matthew 21:23-32

9/13 Isaiah 50:4-9a Proverbs 1:20-33 Psalm 19 James 3:1-12 Mark 8:27-38

9/14 Psalm 119:169-176 1 Kings 13:1-10 Romans 3:9-20

9/15 Psalm 119:169-176 1 Kings 13:11-25 Colossians 3:1-11

9/16 Psalm 119:169-176 Isaiah 10:12-20 John 7:25-36

9/17 Psalm 54 Judges 6:1-10 1 Corinthians 2:1-5

9/18 Psalm 54 1 Kings 22:24-40 Romans 11:25-32

9/19 Psalm 54 2 Kings 17:5-18 Matthew 23:29-39

9/20 Jeremiah 11:18-20 Proverbs 31:10-31 Psalm 1 James 3:13-4:3; 4:7-8a

Mark 9:30-37

9/21 Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 5:1-14 James 4:8-17

9/22 Psalm 139:1-18 2 Kings 11:21-12:16 James 5:1-6

9/23 Psalm 138:1-18 Jeremiah 1:4-10 John 8:21-38

9/24 Psalm 19:7-14 Exodus 18:13-27 Acts 4:13-31

9/25 Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 1:1-18 Acts 12:20-25

9/26 Psalm 19:7-14 Deuteronomy 27:1-10 Matthew 5:13-20

9/27 Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29 Esther 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22 Psalm 124 James 5:13-20

Mark 9:38-50

9/28 Psalm 5 Zechariah 6:9-15 1 Peter 1:3-9

9/29 Psalm 5 Zechariah 8:18-25 1 John 2:18-25

9/30 Psalm 5 Zechariah 10:1-12 Matthew 18:6-9



## Serving in September

**Ushers** – Kevin Winchell and Rick Lem

**Greeters** - Ron and Jean Finch (6), Rita Houge and Lorraine Kennedy (13, 20), Julia and Maggie Sullivan (27)

**Lectors** – Dree Brakke (6), Rachel Piesch (13), Conner Pietsch (20), Dana Osterhout (27)

## Happy Birthday

Vivian Nerness (8), Eileen Primmer (11), Viola Peterson (13), Cathy Potter (13), Tiffany Dunn (14), Amanda Hall (15), Chris Brakke (18), Mark Finch (18), Marvin Manske (18), Marilyn Osterhout (20), Frances Ringgenberg (20), Ann Stensland (21), Carter Thompson (23), Toots Kennedy (26), John Johnson, (27).

## Happy Anniversary

Dean and Debra Osterhout (2), Jeremy and Nikki Johnson (4), Jerry and Bonnie Ballantyne (11), Arlo and Janet Richardson (17), Gene and Vicky Hermann (27), Orland and Vivian Nerness (27)

## Attendance and Giving

Date	Attendance	Giving
8/2	38	1132
8/9	44	1386
8/16	74	1510
8/23	55	1047
	Total	\$5075

Needed each month \$8109

Thank You!



# September



# Calendar

S	M	T	W	Th	F	S
		1	2 Council 7:00	3 Worship and Music 6:00	4 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	5 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
6 Worship 9:30	7	8 Service Group 9:30	9	10 Missions 5:30 Council 6:30	11 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	12 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
13 Worship 9:30 Rally Sunday!	14	15 Faith Circle 1:30	16	17	18 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	19 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
20 Worship 9:30 1 <sup>st</sup> day of church school	21	22	23	24	25 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath	26 Pastor Nancy's Sabbath
27 Worship 9:30	28	29	30			

***Vision Statement:** Bethany Lutheran Church is a creative congregation providing spiritual growth and service opportunities to ALL.*

***Mission Statement:** As faithful disciples of Jesus Christ and with the gifts given us, Bethany Lutheran Church enhances the spiritual vitality of its membership and communities by strengthening faith, friendship, family, fellowship, and FUN through special programs, education, and worship.*