

Bethany Beacon

September 2020



Dear Bethany Members and Friends,

Yea, this pandemic can be over at any time. I know that many of you are running on reserves of optimism and positivity and that others are doing whatever they can to “show up” for their family or jobs or community. I so appreciate everyone who made the necessary changes in order to get outdoor worship off the ground. Certainly, it is not our first choice, but there have definitely been moments of grace: listening to cows mooing, feeling the sun shining on our faces, the wind keeping people awake during the sermon...etc.

At this point, we are going to continue with outdoor services into the fall, monitoring the COVID-19 situation and changing course as the opportunity arises or the situation demands: moving indoors or moving back to online services. Your church council has been acting as our “Smart Team” to make these decisions. Welcome to Marty Christensen and Chris Vogl, by the way, into this leadership role.

I hope you will consider joining the GOSPELS study this fall as I understand there are many people who have wanted to participate in some sort of a Bible Study, but haven’t been able to make the 9am time period or else have felt unsure how to even go about a Bible Study. My great hope is that this study will be so approachable for those who have never attended a Bible Study before AND give the seasoned student a different way of looking at the gospels. (More details inside).

I wish I had the words or insights to make this time a bit more bearable for those who are struggling. There are certainly many, many Scripture passages that have brought hope to those in distress. I’m personally finding though that practicing awareness and being very present to the moment (when I remember!) is helping me see that there can be moments of peace and beauty. God’s truth and presence are always there for us, but so much can distract us, insulate us or deter us. Wendell Berry seems to know this in his *Openings*:

*When despair for the world grows in me
And I wake in the night at the least sound
In fear of what my life and my children’s
lives may be,
I go and lie down where the wood drake
Rests in his beauty on the water, and the
great heron feeds.
I come into the peace of wild things
Who do not tax their lives with forethought
of grief.
I come into the presence of still water.
And I feel above me the day-blind stars
waiting with their light.
For a time I rest in the grace of the world,
and am free.*

Peace to you,

Pastor Lisa

The **Annual Congregational Meeting** was held last Sunday, August 23rd after a quorum was

reached. Out-going President Phil Thompson lead the meeting. Everything up for a vote on the agenda was approved. Council will welcome new members: Chris Vogl and Marty Christensen, for 2-year terms. The Audit Team will welcome Amy Carter for a 3-year term. And the nominating committee will consist of Andy Shaw, Paul Shaw and John Tornes all for a 1-year term.

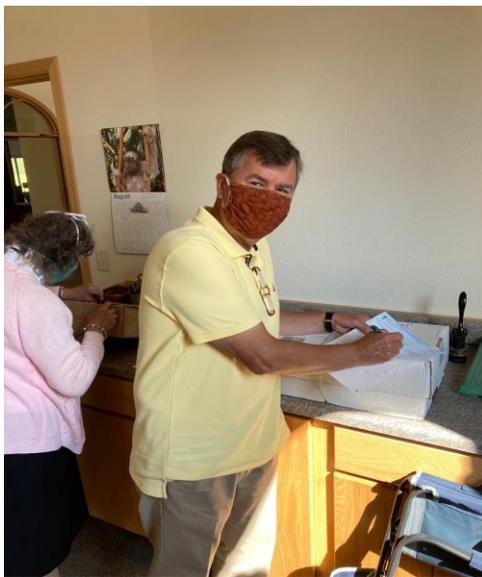
The congregation also approved the purchase of a new roof to be installed in spring 2021 at the approximate cost of \$40,000. Bethany already has half of the money saved and will either take out a loan for \$20,000 in the spring or else work on fundraisers.

Jen Drotts was thanked for all her work in setting up new financial systems in the past year as the “new” Treasurer.



Rich working on yet another outdoor project.

Thank you to Phil Thompson and Rich Anderson for their faithful four years serving on Bethany’s Council.



Phil signing one last check

Season of Creation Worship Series Fall 2020

For the second year, we will celebrate the Season of Creation with the Christian family around the world from Sept. 13th – Oct 4th. Each Sunday features a special creation focus (see below) for the prayers, message, etc. all within the 2020 theme of “Jubilee for the Earth”. This theme was chosen since 2020 marks the 50th year since the first Earth Day and in the wisdom of the Law of Moses, every 50 years would be a jubilee year.

“And you shall consecrate the fiftieth year and you shall proclaim liberty throughout the land to all its inhabitants. It shall be a jubilee for you: you shall return, everyone one of you, to your property and every one of you to your family (Lev. 25:10). The original wisdom of a jubilee year was to restore justice – slaves were released, debts were forgiven – everyone had a fresh start.

The theme of Jubilee for the Earth suggests the need for sustainable systems that can restore balance to our beautiful and delicate ecosystems. Just like with the Sabbath, people also need balance and time to be freed from the need to produce or consume. This series will help us reflect on allowing the earth to rest and on allowing our cravings for “bigger, better, faster” to rest.

- Sept. 13 Protecting the Commons
- Sept. 20 There is Enough for Our Need, Not Our Greed
- Sept. 27 The Gift of Water
- Oct. 4 Animal Blessing – Feast of St. Francis

Welcome to Baby Aiden Axel Bujarski! son of Jana & Eric Bujarski, grandson of Diane Nelson. Aiden was born on August 18th and was 8lbs, 10 oz.

Congratulations to Beckett Jay Lorentz son of Kayla and Jake Lorentz, who was baptized in Deer Lake on Sunday, August 23, 2020. Sponsors were Arynn and Mitchel Lorentz. Welcome Beckett to the mission we share in the body of Christ!

The GOSPELS: an 8-week online course
(Sept. 16 - Nov. 4)

Want a better understanding of the Gospels? At the end of this crash course, you will have read all four gospels as well as sections of the highly readable Fortress Introduction to the Gospels by Mark Allen Powell. You will also be able to discuss the materials over Zoom Wednesday evenings beginning at 7pm or simply listen to the discussion from the comfort of your couch! This is a great opportunity for those who have never been to a Bible Study AND those who want to go deeper in their understanding of the Biblical text. Pastor Lisa will lead the conversation, to be joined by Pastor Vicki Taylor and Pastor Ben Buchanan (once the kids are asleep). Copies of the book will be available at Bethany's Outdoor Worship on Sundays or you can order your own copy (Fortress Press, Minneapolis, 1998). For reading the gospels, I would recommend buying or borrowing The Message Bible, translated by Eugene Peterson. Sign up with Pastor Lisa via text at 218-390-5489 or email at bethany@paulbunyan.net to reserve your spot.

Mini-Syllabus

Sept. 16	Powell, pages 38-60
Sept. 23	Gospel of Mark
Sept. 30	Powell, pages 61-84
Oct. 7	Gospel of Matthew
Oct. 14	Powell, pages 85-111
Oct. 21	Gospel of Luke
Oct. 28	Powell, pages 112-138
Nov. 4	Gospel of John

Masks Needed

Anyone willing to make and donate children's masks for the Deer River Area Schools, please drop them off at Northern Star Marketplace/Essentia Pharmacy or Cenex. There are designated bins at each location. They can also be left at the church. If you have questions, please contact Sheila Rae Maki. Thank you!!

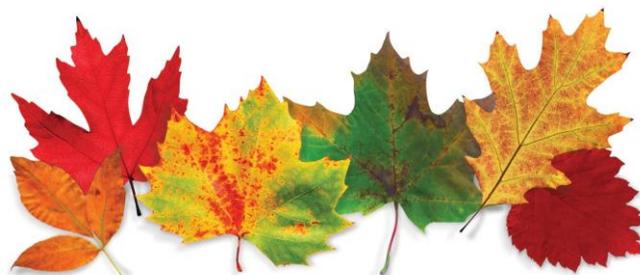
Walk With Ease is an evidence-based program that has been proven to help people with arthritis or other related conditions reduce pain. This free six-week program, led by certified Arthritis Foundation instructors, is proven to reduce the pain and discomfort of arthritis, increase balance, strength and walking pace, build confidence in your ability to be physically active and improve overall health. Walk away arthritis pain! Sign up to get your Walk With Ease book and 6-week walking program, starting September 8th. Offered at no cost through Grand Itasca Clinic & Hospital and Itasca County Public Health.

Self-Directed--Walk at your own convenience, 3 times/week

September 8 - October 16 (six weeks)

Online and weekly email support

Register by calling Jayme at 218-327-5526



September Birthday Wishes!

1 Crew Herme
2 Nancy Olson
4 Dianne Sundquist
8 Sandy Maki
9 Julie Anderson
11 Jason Hebrink
17 Roberta Palen

18 Robert Baker
19 Hope Osse
21 Lael Storlie
 Nancy Hulbert
22 Vivian DeYoung
24 Jean Mattila



Anniversary Wishes

7 Dale & Karen Haiby
14 Dale and Sandra Wick
22 Jason & Tanya Hebrink

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