

From the Pastor

If you're like me, perhaps you are shaking your head in bewilderment at the stream of frightening or unpleasant or tragic happenings in our world today. Not only are we personally experiencing a more severe drought than we can remember, but we are dealing with wildfire smoke from fires both in the western United States and in Canada. We are seeing the dire situation in Afghanistan. Even though we have poured \$80 billion and spent 20 years to build up their army, it took only days to melt away, causing thousands of Afghan citizens to try to get out of their country. After a wonderful break from the ravages of Covid where we started to resume normal activities, we are seeing the drastic uptick again as the Delta variant sweeps across the country. Hospitals in the south have filled to capacity and are diverting patients again.

Experiencing or seeing these tragedies, we might wonder how it is possible to have hope in our world. In our women's Bible study for August, the author drew our attention to Ezekiel 37, the story of the dry bones. Israel had been carted off to captivity by the Babylonians and had given up hope of ever being restored. Ezekiel came with a vision from God of God putting new life into this valley of dry bones. The promise was that just as God could restore these dry bones, God could also restore Israel.

And just as God could restore Israel, God is also at work in our world. God comes to us in many ways as God's children interact and care for one another. One seemingly unlikely place to find these stories is the Minot "Whiners and Complainers" Facebook page. Folks don't just complain there – they give shout-outs to those who have been especially helpful – the gentleman at the truck stop who paid for the meal for a young family who was out with their twins, the two men in military uniform helping someone whose boxes fell off his truck on Broadway in the middle of a hot and smoky day, the person who stopped to help an elderly gentleman when he fell in the street near the nursing home. And just recently Sue Taft reported that while she was shopping at

Walmart wearing her bright gold "God's Work Our Hands" t-shirt, with a cart full of school supplies for the LWR school kits, a fellow handed her a \$100 bill and told her to use it to pay for everything. When we are attuned to it, we find that we are surrounded by these God moments. And sometimes we might even be the one who unexpectedly created a God moment for someone else. There is much that we don't have control over, but that doesn't mean that God has given up on us or on God's world. Just as in Ezekiel's day, God can still bring hope where all seemed lost. God is present where people are hurting, and continues to walk with us both in times of joy and in times of sadness.

In Christ,
Pastor Janet



Church School Volunteers Needed!

For the success of our Church School program, I am looking for a couple of people to teach for the following grades: Pre-K, 3rd-4th, and 5th grade. The church lessons are easy to teach. All that is needed is a willing desire to volunteer for an hour or so each Wednesday evening. Contact the church office if you can help.

"Don't Believe Your Eyes" Bible Study for Teen's in 10th Grade to College Freshman

Starting September 22nd, join Steph Walter in a bible study written by Brock Gill. Brock, a stunt artist, illusionist, and author reveals the myths that we believe about ourselves. And discover how Jesus' encounters challenge us to see ourselves in a new way. Call the church office to sign up!

August 2021 Memorials:

In Honor of Emerson Marie Bourquin
In Memory of Marie Hagen Bourquin
Music from Gloria Hauge.

In Memory of Arlin Pederson
Undesignated from Gary & Sandy Brown.

In Memory of Val Swenson
Altar from Val Swenson Estate.
Music and Choir from Bryan & Nadine Holmly.

In Memory of Steve Huso
Undesignated from Duane Olson.

In Memory of Jamie Ituarte
Undesignated from Nancy Langseth.

Bethany Foundation Summer 2021:

In Honor of Pastor Gerald & LuAnn Retirement
Ben Berg.

Pledges Aug 2020

8/1 \$5,345
8/8 \$5,496
8/15 \$3,567
8/22 \$
8/29 \$
Electronic Giving \$9,960

August Ministerial Acts

Baptisms: Jensen Daluge

Funeral: Marilyn Bigwood

LYO

Our LYO schedule for September is:

September 8-Confirmation Parent Meeting/
Meet the LYO

September 15-National Youth Gathering
Meeting after the WOW Service for anyone
interested in attending the Minneapolis event in
July 2022

September 22-Bible Study

September 29-Games



Quilting will officially begin for the year, Sept. 2 @ 1:00pm. That's a new time and new day! Please join us. You do not need to know how to sew. There is lots of fabric that needs to be cut into blocks, quilts need to be tied and pinned around the edges. If you like to sew, you can stitch around the edges of quilts to finish them. We offer on the job training and a tremendous benefits package: good fellowship, lots of laughs, yummy goodies @ coffee time, and best of all, know you are being God's hands to help our neighbors in need. See you Sept. 2 @ 1:00pm.

Sue Taft

Special Congregational Meeting Sun. Sept. 12, 9:40 AM

Our Bethany constitution states that "When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a Call Committee of six voting members shall be elected by this congregation." (C13.04)

The Bethany Nominating Committee has met and chosen six candidates who are willing to serve on the Call Committee. They are Jeff Brose, Becky Hill, Bev Jensen, Tony Meiers, Larry Schafer, and Darek Zaun. Please plan to be at this important special congregational meeting to elect our Call Committee. Once the Call Committee is elected and our congregational self-study is completed, they can begin the interview process. Per the TEEM agreement with Pastor Intern Dave Myers, he will be the candidate interviewed by the Call Committee.

Changes

If you have moved, changed email or phone numbers, please let the office know so we can update our files.

Thank you



Bethany Birthdays! September:

Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month
Rally Day Sunday was especially crowded, so instead of sitting with his family during the hymns like he usually did, Pastor Jones sat up in the big chair next to the altar. His little girl, seeing this, whispered to her mother, "Is Daddy having a time-out?"

Maybe there was getting to be too much talk in church of lutefisk and Hostfest. When a first grader was asked by someone how she liked school, she said, "It's okay, but every morning we have to say the 'Pledge of Norwegians.'"

During the pastor's sermon, a large plant fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the ground. Acknowledging his reputation for long-windedness, he smiled sheepishly and said, "Well, that's the first time I actually put a plant to sleep."

- 1st –Elaine Polsfut
- 2nd –Al Hanson, Preston Johnson
- 4th –KayLee Bourquin, Crosby Longie, Todd Mathistad, Matthew Pederson, Dela Swartout
- 5th –Leia Feldner
- 6th –Rebekah Randash
- 7th –McKenna Hodenfield, Marie Meier, Mark Schumaker, Charles Taft
- 8th –Abby Delzer, Keegan Sult
- 9th –Cathy Degree, Sherie Reimche
- 10th –Autumn Angell, Jenna Jensen, Sava Nelson, Clara Sue Price, Evelyn Smith, Bentley Walhood
- 11th –Hudson Mackey, Allan Opperude
- 12th –Laurie Bjertness, Paulette Nush
- 13th –Eileen Levadney, Connor Schuster
- 14th –Amy Dennis, Caleb Jenkins, Sherain Olander
- 15th –Maeli Haia
- 16th –John Solwey
- 17th –Ashley Harvey, Talon Hoaglund, Myranda Hughes, Brianna Johnson, Mathew Ofsthun, Bethany Shaw
- 19th –Wayne McClain, Alexis Shoberg
- 20th – Isabelle Henderson, Tami Schafer
- 21st –Mark Norby
- 22nd –Roberta Fletcher, Roza Larson, Liam Owens
- 24th –Janet Langseth
- 25th –Fynn Murphy
- 26th –Noah Abel, Karla Lee, Kathy Myers
- 27th –Kimberly Grotte, Larry Schafer, Marchell Walker
- 28th –Charlie Hebor
- 30th –Evan Knutson, Ender Nelson, Emma Tofte

Also, Happy Birthday to anyone whose name is not on the list. If your name is not on the list then we don't have it, so please call the office with it. Thank you!

 **WE WILL BE
CLOSED
LABOR DAY**

Volunteers Needed

The Funeral Committee is looking for some additional volunteers for serving meals and or co-ordination a month (training is provided).

This is a great opportunity for getting to know your other members and wonderful fellowship!

Please call:

Cyndee Beutler (720-6770) or
Karen Kuhnhenh (721-5827)



DO U AMAZON???

If you, Amazon, PLEASE consider using [amazon.smile.com](https://smile.amazon.com)

This is a secure website that is a part of Amazon but donates 0.5% of your purchase back to Bethany Lutheran Church. The link is on our Bethany Facebook page or enter the link:

<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-0248857>

MILITARY BIBLESTICK CAMPAIGN

The Military BibleStick reaches service men and women, deployed in some of the most dangerous areas of the world, with God's Word in audio. Each service member who receives a MP3 BibleStick also has the option to request a free Audio New Testament or Kids Bible for family back home. \$25 sponsors one service member and their family. Please make checks payable to the church and write MP3 Bible in the memo block. This campaign starts August 29th and ends September 26, 2021.

Fall Book Study

Beginning Tuesday, Sept. 21 7:00 PM

Join us this fall, as we read together "Love Without Limits" by Jacqueline Bussie (professor of religion at Concordia College). In *Love Without Limits*, Bussie shares practical solutions for people of faith who yearn to love across division and difference in these troubled times. Through personal memoir, engaging theological reflection, true stories of friendship, creative readings of scripture, Bussie challenges readers to answer God's call to practice a love so deep, it subverts the social order; so radical, it scandalizes the powerful; so vast, it excludes no one. We will meet Sept. 21, 28, and Oct. 5 at 7:00 PM. Call the office (838-5196) to register. The cost is \$15.



September Cause of the Month

Global Health Ministry

Who We Are

Since 1989, Global Health Ministry has sent teams of health care professionals to provincial villages and distressed urban areas in Latin America and the Caribbean to help people with little or no access to professional health care.

Global Health Ministry collects sterile bandages, dressings, gauze, & other medical supplies that would otherwise be discarded in our American health care system. These are distributed in places of need. Support Global Health Ministry by using your global mission envelope in your offering box.

**Fall Church School Schedule
begins on Wednesday, Sept. 15th
with a Welcome Back Rally at 5:00pm
Starting Sept 22nd
Wednesday Supper 5:00pm-5:45pm
Wednesday School at 5:45pm**