

April/May, 2010
THE BETHEL REPORTER
The Monthly Newsletter of Bethel Lutheran Church

Bethel Lutheran Church
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He knew my voice—but what I was saying just didn't make sense to him. When my 6 year old called the Church last week, I wasn't in the office so the answering machine (with my voice) said: "Thank you for calling Bethel Lutheran Church. No one is in the office at this time but please leave a message and someone will get back to you."

My son knew that it was my voice so he says: "Dad....Dad." Then he yells to my wife: "Mom, Mom, he isn't there and he wants me to leave a message—how do I leave a message?" [Just say 'This is Isaac, see you later'] "This is Isaac, see you later...he's not talking!!!..Mom, he won't talk!!!!..[He isn't there to talk] Where is he?" And then the machine cuts the message.

What do we do when God seems to just want us to leave a message—or that He isn't there to take our call? I'm reminded of an email with the following poem:

*Jake, the rancher, went one day
To fix a distant fence.
The wind was cold and gusty
And the clouds rolled gray and
dense.*

*As he pounded the last staples in
And gathered tools to go,
The temperature had fallen,
The wind and snow began to blow.*

*When he finally reached his pickup,
He felt a heavy heart.
From the sound of that ignition,
He knew it wouldn't start.*

*So Jake did what most of us
Would do if we had been there.
He humbly bowed his balding head
And sent aloft a prayer.*

*As he turned the key for the last
time,
He softly cursed his luck.
They found him three days later,
Frozen stiff in that old truck.*

*Now Jake had been around in life
And done his share of roaming.
But when he saw Heaven, he was
shocked --
It looked just like Wyoming!*

*Of all the saints in Heaven,
His favorite was St. Peter.
(Now, this line ain't needed
But it helps with rhyme and meter)*

*So they set and talked a minute or
two,
Or maybe it was three.
Nobody was keeping' score --
In Heaven time is free.*

*"I've always heard," Jake said to
Pete,
"that God will answer prayer,
But one time I asked for help,
Well, he just plain wasn't there."?*

*"Does God answer prayers of
some,
And ignore the prayers of others?
That don't seem exactly square --
I know all men are brothers."*

*"Or does he randomly reply,
Without good rhyme or reason?
Maybe, it's the time of day,
The weather or the season."*

*Peter listened very patiently
And when Jake was done,
There were smiles of recognition,
And he said, "So, you're the one!!"?*

*"That day your truck, it wouldn't
start,
And you sent your prayer a flying,
You gave us all a real bad time,
With hundreds of us trying."?*

*"A thousand angels rushed,
To check the status of your file,
But you know, Jake, we hadn't
heard
From you in quite a long while."*

*"And though all prayers are
answered,
And God ain't got no quota,
He didn't recognize your voice,
And started a truck in Minnesota."*

BETTER KEEP IN TOUCH!

Have you called Home (your real Home) lately?

Worship Attendance for March/April:

| Date | 9:00am | 11:15am | Wed. Worship |
|----------------------|--------|---------|--------------|
| 3/3 Lent 3 | 52 | | |
| 3/7 | 54 | 32 | |
| 3/10 Lent 4 | 50 | | |
| 3/14 | 58 | 25 | |
| 3/17 Lent 5 | 60 | | |
| 3/21 | 56 | 30 | |
| 3/24 Lent 6: | 52 | | |
| 3/28 | 42 | 72 | |
| 4/1 Maundy Thursday: | 63 | | |
| 4/2 Good Friday: | 63 | | |
| 4/4 Easter | 98 | 40 | 4 |
| 4/11 | 64 | 18 | 11 |
| 4/18 | 49 | 41 | |

SCHEDULE OF RESPONSIBILITY:

| | April | May | June |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Elder: | Mort Zenor | Tom Lang | Ray Peters |
| Ushers: | Larry Nissen Fred Helmich | Craig Pedersen Curtis Pedersen | |
| Acolytes: | Jaci Nissen Tucker Carlson | Kourtney Bowen Adrianna Junck | Parker Hinrichs Alex Stratman |

HELP—We need someone to run PowerPoint during the 9am Worship service. Please speak to Pastor.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY will be at 10:20am each Sunday. Everyone is invited!!!!

HOSPITALIZED: We remember in our prayers those who were in the hospital this past month: Amanda Baker, Lowell Anderson, Arlen Zenor, Wayne and Bonnie Goodwin, and friends of our Congregation—Barbara Martins, and Mondy Zenor. May the Lord continue to strengthen them.

SPRING CLEANUP BY OUR YOUTH: Our Youth will be busy in our community on May 2 helping people with whatever they need help doing—lawn work, etc. If you would like to sign up, see sheet on the bulletin-board.

THANK YOU to all who helped with the Youth Breakfast last Sunday—and who attended. IT WAS GREAT!

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION: Have you considered sending your child or grandchild to a

Christian pre-school, elementary, high school or college? Have you considered financially supporting Christian education? Come see how Christian education impacts lives at a circuit sponsored Christian Education Festival hosted at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3204 S. Lakeport, Sioux City. The Festival will kick off with a spaghetti meal served by Meals with a Mission of Redeemer at 12:30 pm, in the Parish Hall. Bring the kids and grandkids as there will be games and activities for them in the gym.

CAMP OKOBOJI: Thrivent Financial for Lutherans has announced that Camp Okoboji is eligible for a one-time "GivingPlus Phase-out Challenge Grant" to help fill the time period until the new Thrivent Choice program is implemented in Spring, 2010. The camp can receive up to \$5560. To receive this grant, we have been challenged to raise twice that amount (\$11,120) through personal contributions from donors before the middle of June, 2010. Donations can be from both Thrivent, and non-Thrivent members. No special forms are required—just make your gift before the deadline!

BETHEL COOKBOOKS ARE HERE!!!! The Youth would like to thank everyone who submitted recipes for the Cookbook. We collected 525 recipes! The books just arrived. If you pre-purchased a copy, please pick it up. If you would like to purchase one/more—they are just \$15.

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO DONATED EASTER LILIES to adorn our Altar including:

Adeline Robinson: In memory of Harold "Plush" Robinson, and our Parents. (2 plants)

Jerry & Marlene Witt.

Dan & Rose Grau.

Dwayne & Gayle Miille: In memory of their parents Vern & Clara Miille and
Doyle & Barbara Roth.

Inge Malm: In memory of Carl Malm.

John & Lonna Miller in celebration of their children and grandchildren.

Irwin & Carol Grau in memory of their parents: August & Lydia Schmidt, and
Magda & Emil Grau. (2 plants)

Larry & Barb Hinrichs and family: In memory of Lara Hinrichs, and Robert & Elaine
Hinrichs. (2 plants)

Terry & Sandy Johnson.

Dan & Kara Thompson & Girls: In memory of Lara Hinrichs and Grandparents Hinrichs.

Janet Dorale-Hampf in memory of "Pepper" Dorale

Bruce & Pattie Jackson: In memory of their Parents: Harold & Irene Schnier; and
Bill & Geri Jackson. (2 plants)

Tom & Leila Lang: In celebration of our family.

Linda & Vernon Brice: In memory of their parents.

Grayce Smith-Uhl: In celebration of the life Christ gave to save us from our sins.

Norm & Connie Thoreson: In memory of our Parents.

Fran Short: In memory of her parents and Ethel (2 plants)

Bethel's LWML (2 plants)

FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR on Sunday, April 4, were in celebration of Bob & Ruth Jensen's 62nd Wedding Anniversary. May the Lord continue to bless them as they are a blessing to each other!

Thank you everyone who donated to help Amanda Baker. She is home—but receiving treatments in Omaha.

SOUP KITCHEN VOLUNTERS!!! Thanks to Jerry & Marlene Witt, Connie Thoreson, Larry & Darin Hinrichs, Jordan Thompson, Adeline Robinson and John Miller for helping me serve at the Soup Kitchen Tuesday, March 30th. We served 100 people there--the most ever! And many came back several times. It is such a rewarding experience. Lonna Miller, Coordinator

PORTALS OF PRAYER: for April-June, 2010, are available at the church.

COMING YOUTH EVENTS:

May? Roller skating

June Garage Sale

July National Youth Group Gathering in New Orleans VBS

August School Supply Drive

We still need parents to help organize months May, June and August. If you want to do something differently, that is fine. Also these are just some ideas given at the last youth meeting.

NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING: The National Youth Gathering will be held in New Orleans in July, 2010. We just sent the initial registration forms for our church. We have 12 Youth plus 3 adults scheduled to attend. The adults are: Mara Scott, Lisa Ehlers, and Darin Hinrichs.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT will be at Bethel on Saturday April 24 and May 22, from 7-9 pm. Please come from for games/videos/wii and other family fun things! Members and Friends are all welcome!

RESERVED PARKING: There are two parking spaces outside the church which are marked "Reserved." Anyone who has the need to park close to the door is encouraged to use these parking places! No parking stickers or permits are required. If you need to park close, please do.

NEWSLETTERS VIA EMAIL AND U.S. MAIL: At the beginning of the year, we began sending out our Newsletter via email to those who desired it. The others were either picked up or mailed out with first-class postage. However, we can mail 200 newsletters at the Non-Profit Rate for less than we have been spending on First-Class postage. As a result, we will continue to send Bethel's Newsletter out via email—but we will also send a paper copy as well.

BIRTHDAYS IN APRIL/MAY:

| | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 4/2 ERIC PUTZIER | 4/28 TOM LANG | 5/14 LEILA LANG |
| 4/2 HANNA VOS | 4/28 LISA PETERSEN | 5/15 LORNA DUNKELBERGER |
| 4/3 ROBERT MALM | 4/29 MELBA HANSEN | 5/15 TYLER JOHNSON |
| 4/4 THERESA MCSHANE | 4/29 DEVON HOFSTATTER | 5/16 MICHELLE MARKS |
| 4/7 PATTIE JACKSON | 4/29 RENE SAUNDERS | 5/16 CYNTHIA ROBINSON |
| 4/8 MICHAEL GORDON | 4/30 ASHLEY HOPPE | 5/16 PAUL STRONG |
| 4/8 KRISTIN MC ARTHUR | 4/30 TYLER JUNCK | 5/17 KRISTI GRAU |
| 4/9 MARK HEGER | 5/1 JUSTIN JOHNSON | 5/18 CARI GEHLING |
| 4/11 DOROTHY STRONG | 5/1 JASON NEWMAN | 5/21 CALVIN QUINTARD |
| 4/13 JACOB HAMMACK | 5/1 CYNTHIA WOODS | 5/26 DRAKE MC ARTHUR |
| 4/14 JACOB HUMMEL | 5/2 KYLE GRIEME | 5/26 HOLLY NITZSCHKE |
| 4/14 HELEN PETERS | 5/2 ALEXANDER JENSEN | 5/27 ANDREW BIBLER |
| 4/15 ROCHELLE EHLERS | 5/2 ABBY YESKA | 5/27 LILA BREMER |
| 4/17 MARK WILLIAMS | 5/9 NORMAN THORESON | 5/27 COLIN FROMMELT |
| 4/19 LLOYD LUTTER, JR. | 5/10 CAROL GRAU | 5/28 LINDA BRICE |
| 4/20 RUSTY ROSS | 5/10 JANA ROWE | 5/28 JERRY KELEHER |
| 4/20 PATRICK SAUNDERS | 5/12 KYLE ERICKSON | 5/30 SHAWNDA STRATMAN |
| 4/25 JENNIFER JOHNSON | 5/13 ROBERT FRAHM, JR. | 5/31 BRENDA SCHROEDER |
| 4/26 KEVIN PLUMER | 5/13 WILMA MOORE | |
| 4/27 BILL HARRISON | 5/14 KENDALL GRIEME | |

REFRESHMENTS AFTER FIRST SERVICE: Refreshments will continue after our first service. Freewill donations will be put into the Building Fund. A signup sheet is hanging in the Fellowship Hall if you would like to bring refreshments or work in the kitchen.

DO YOU KNOW THESE PEOPLE? According to a mailing service—they have moved to a new address less than 8 miles from our Church. This company has sent each of them a card from Bethel—inviting them to worship with us. However, nothing beats a personal welcome and invitation. If you live next to these people, know who they are—please personally extend an invitation for them to join us here at Bethel.

| Name | Address | |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------|
| Pat Tate | 99 Pine St | Bronson |
| M Nicholas | 200 E Char Mac Dr Apt 441 | Lawton |
| Nick Loggins | 321 1/2 Pine St | Lawton |
| Damon Pierce | 209 E Main St | Lawton |
| L McElrath | 805 Main St Apt 6 | Moville |
| K Bassett | 1961 Moville Blacktop | Moville |
| L McElrath | 6 W Main St | Moville |
| Jennie Wensel | 533 S 4th St | Moville |
| J Grimsley | 205 Main St | Moville |

| | | |
|---------------|-------------------|---------|
| J McMahon | 91 Pine St | Lawton |
| CrystalPierce | 30 S 5th St Lot22 | Moville |

REMEMBER OUR SHUT-INS! Dorothy Goodwin. Wayne & Bonnie Goodwin. Bob Kamm. Carmen Klein. Bob & Ruth Jensen. Helen Robinson. Elna Ruring. Melba Hansen.

MEYER MISSION NEWS: On the Road Again – in Liberia--March 2010

Dear Friends:

“This is the first soil profile we have ever seen here at the University” was Mr. Massaquoi’s response upon receiving a soil audit. “My pleasure to do that for you” was Craig’s reply.

In February at Cuttington University near Gbarnga, Bong County, Liberia, we met Mr. Molly Massaquoi, the assistant farm manager. A Lutheran pastor who attended there had introduced us to him last year when Dr. Ralph von Qualen a plant pathologist was with us. This time I brought along Craig Paskvan, a soil expert and his wife Mary. I – Delano - like to be with “Heavy Weights” when going to universities.

Craig has been our soils consultant since Martin Augustine passed away some years ago. Craig has been making recommendations on how to balance soils, based on the soil samples we have been sending to USA for analysis. At Cuttington U. we delivered the soil audit and inventory report from soil samples we took there last year. We also gave Mr. Massaquoi Craig’s recommendations for correcting the soil imbalance.

Mr. Massaquoi also thanked us for the training materials we brought to him last year. He said he lets students read the materials and then they return it for others to read. We were pleased and impressed. We again gave more materials and also offered to share information with Cuttington via the internet in the future.

In gratitude for the materials and information, we were given three chickens. Where else in the world would you receive a chicken dinner on the hoof – so to speak? We enjoyed our chickens upon our return to Gbarnga. Thank you Mr. Massaquoi!

This was Craig and Mary Paskvan’s first trip to remote African villages and so quite an adventure for them and a joy for us to have them with us.

In Foya, Lofa County we were happy to find our church members Saturday evening and enjoy Sunday Bible study followed by worship services with the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Liberia. Craig and Mary were impressed to hear Biblical truths being taught and expressed in such remote locations. It truly is an encouragement for our faith as we often hear Liberian and Sierra Leonean Christians express how they placed confidence in Jesus Christ through their experiences as they were caught in war. The Lord is my Strength and Shield. Psalm 28:7

Mary Paskvan put her training as a teacher to good use at sessions. “Think, pair, share” is a teaching technique introduced by Mary to help students to analyze in their own minds, discuss what they have learned with someone else, and then share their ideas with the group. The technique reinforces the teaching and helps people recall their new ideas and knowledge. Sometimes the concepts and method caught on quickly, and other times we had to role play the “Think, pair, share” to get the meaning across.

An unexpected opportunity came as a result of our long time acquaintance with Joseph Yasseh who used to be the President of the Lutheran Church in Guinea. Joseph now resides in Foya Central and is working with the Vice President of Liberia on his cocoa plantation. Joseph asked us to travel to Warsongar Village to examine the cocoa trees because the trees are not producing well as a result of severe molds. Joseph guided us on a tour of part of the plantation. Craig took a soil sample and pulled leaves for leaf analysis. I have sent these samples to Brookside Laboratory. Imagine the impact if our people are able to overcome this roadblock to profitable cocoa production.

We felt like the “Dukes of Hazard” trying to reach Garplay, Nimba County. We were only a half hour away from Garplay, approaching from the west, when we were informed by customs personnel, that the bridge ahead was out and that we would have to detour. The detour took us 3 hours and as we neared Garplay from the northwest, a motorcyclist flagged us down saying a truck loaded with coffee had just broken through the bridge a few miles ahead.

We then went back a few miles and tried another route. When asking about the route to Garplay, we received so many conflicting reports that we stopped asking anyone and just pressed on. We later learned the reason for conflicting reports – the section of road we needed to travel was quite bad, but locked in 4 wheel drive & low transfer, we got through and reached Garplay at 8 PM. Mary said that after retirement from mission, I - Delano should start driving for NASCAR.

We were warmly received at Garplay by fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. The village children sang on into the night making the effort totally worthwhile.

Philippians 1: 27- Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. The person credited with bringing the Lutheran Church to the village of Compound-Su in Gbapolu County is Victoria Fayia. Victoria was working with a non-governmental organization (NGO) that focused of imparting skills to ex-combatants. She was teaching sewing and tailoring as part of a reintegration program to help former rebels to learn a useful skill. Victoria conducted herself in a way that drew people to want to know Jesus Christ and they asked for the Lutheran Church.

Rev. Nathaniel Taylor, who is working with the local pastor, guided us to Compound-Su along with Moses Fayia and Johnson. Johnson was with us for the first time to learn more about agricultural training. Moses, Victoria's husband, had done some agricultural training in compound-Su already. He again was a great help in teaching and made our last stop in Liberia a joy for Linda and me. Moses expressed the hope that Linda and I return for short-term agricultural teaching in Liberia. What a blessing it has been for us to work with faithful Christians who serve!

This recent 3-week trip was our final visit to Liberia as career missionaries. We have been blessed to have growing relationships with many friends in Liberia over the years, and so parting was time of mixed emotions for us. We are happy to be completing our career missionary service on positive notes, as many we worked with in the past, have expressed an appreciation, understanding and positive results from the training we have been doing. It has been an awesome privilege to share our faith and see our Lord bringing souls to faith in West Africa.

Looking back at many Christian friends we have met along the way and hope to meet again, we recall Revelation 7: 9, "After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, tribe, people and language, standing before the throne and in front of the Lamb. They were dressed in white and holding palm branches in their hand."

Because of Christ's resurrection from the dead, we have the confidence that we too will live with Him, standing at His throne along with the great multitude of believers. May you celebrate with joy His victory over death this Easter! 1 Corinthians 15: 54b & 57 - Death has been swallowed up in victory. Thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Thank God for safety, strength, health and positive training sessions in Liberia.

Ask the Lord for safe travel to the Missionary Retreat to be held in Ghana in late March and on to Northern Ghana where Linda and I will say "Good bye" to old friends we worked with from 1994 - 2000.

Pray for safety and health for Dr. Ralph von Qualen, Linda and Delano as we travel to Guinea in mid April for agricultural training sessions.

FINANCIAL SUPPPORT

Thank you to all who have contributed gifts "for the support of Delano and Linda Meyer." Address (without our name on envelope) to: LCMS World Mission, 1333 S. Kirkwood Road, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295. Inside the envelope designate your gift for us on the check or in a note. To contribute to our LCMS World Relief & Human Care project, "Agricultural Training in West Africa", designate & send checks to LCMS World Relief and Human Care, 1333 S. Kirkwood Rd, St. Louis, MO 63122-7295.

Wishing you a blessed Easter,

Delano & Linda Meyer

Note this change of address since we are leaving the mission field on May 28, 2010.

Our new address is:

Delano and Linda Meyer

61203 150th St.

Chokio, MN 56221

April 2010

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------|--------|---|
| | | | | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
| 11:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 12 IDW Pastors' Conf | 13 IDW Pastor's Conf | 14 3:45 Conf—2 nd Year Students 5:30 Worship | 15 | 16 | 17 |
| 18:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 19 | 20 | 21 8:30 Chapel @ St. Paul 3:45 Conf—2 nd Year Students 5:30 Worship | 22 2:30 Char- Mac | 23 | 24 Oral Questioning 7-9pm Family Fun Night |
| 25:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 26 | 27 | 28 5:30 Worship | 29 | 30 | |

May 2010 (as of 4/15/10)

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--------|----------------------------------|---|---------------------|--------|-------------------------------|
| | | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 3 | 4 | 5 5:30 Worship | 6 1:30 LWML | 7 | 8 |
| 9 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 10 | 11 Pastor's Conf—Faith, SC | 12 5:30 Worship 7:00 Elders 7:30 Council | 13 | 14 | 15 |
| 16 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 17 | 18 | 19 5:30 Worship 7:00 L-B Baccalaureate @ Bethel 7:30 Voters Assembly | 20 | 21 | 22 7-9 Family Fun Night |
| 23 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp | 24 | 25 | 26 5:30 Worship | 27 2:30 Char-Mac | 28 | 29 |
| 30 9:00 Traditional Worship 10:15 Sun School/Bible Study 11:15 Contemp Worship | 31 | | | | | |