



## In this issue:

Minutes of Meetings.....	Page 2
Activities and Events.....	5
Max Lucado.....	6
Lighter Side.....	6
Calendar.....	8
The Parish Paper ( <i>in separate attachment</i> )	



## Pastor's Column

Dear Friends in Christ –

So, as we are walking through this time after Epiphany, have any of you experienced any epiphanies, big or small? Have you met Jesus in a different way or heard His call in ways different than in the past? I don't know about you, but I think Mark does such a good job of introducing us to Jesus and so as we walk through Mark for the next several weeks, I have to wonder how we will be found by Jesus in new ways?

And yet, February does not just include the time after Epiphany, but we also will welcome Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent. Hard to believe isn't it?!? Now someone might say, "Aw Pastor, Lent is so dreary and such a downer. Can't we just skip it?" And to that, I can only reply, to receive a gift, sometimes we must take time to prepare our hearts first, to remember why we need the gift, and to remember how great a sacrifice the gift was, is and ever will be. Yes, I may be getting a little ahead of myself in thinking too far ahead, but just as Advent is a time of preparation before Christmas, so too Lent is a very necessary time of preparation for that great time of celebration to come...Easter!!!

So, everyone is invited as we join together with

our Brothers and Sisters in Christ from Shepherd of the Prairie and observe Ash Wednesday on Feb. 14<sup>th</sup>. And then we will embark on our Lenten journey of preparation together on the following Wednesday, Feb. 21<sup>st</sup> with our first of five Mid-Week Lenten Services before we then enter Holy Week. And just like in years gone by, we will alternate hosting with Shepherd of the Prairie.

So, I wonder how Jesus will find us in, and as I wonder that, I look forward to joining you all as we wrap up this time of discovering and being discovered, and as and as we move into Lent.

God many blessings to you all!

*Pastor Jesse*

**Annual Meeting**-Save the Date-March 4, 2018  
Please save the date for the Annual Meeting, scheduled for March 4, 2018 following our worship service.

**Bethany Office Hours** - As both Pastor Jesse and Office Manager Cindy work part time for the church, the following are the Office & Pastor's Hours:

The Office is open Friday's from 9:00 am to 11:00 am to receive letters to India, drop-offs and pick-ups at the church. Office Manager Cindy will be here. Before stopping by, please call ahead to the church and confirm that she is in and has not had to run an errand. If she's not there, please leave a message on the answering machine and she will call you back as soon as she gets back. Pastor Jesse's regular work day at the DOT is from 7:00 am to 4:30 pm. He is open and available by appointment for private visits and from 4:30 to 6:00 Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday or as otherwise arranged for regular church business. These times are his best effort to save extra travel time by catching him while he is in the Ames and Kelley area. So if you have regular business you would like to discuss, let him know and he can meet you at the church or as otherwise arranged. His day off is Saturday. And if an emergency arises, please call and leave him a message and he will get back to you as soon as he can.



# Minutes of Meetings:

## Bethany Church Council Meeting for January 17, 2018

**Attendees:** Mary Nehring, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Pastor Jesse Peterson, Joyce Peterson, Cathy Potter, Chuck Potter, Jerry Ryerson, Cheryl Kalsem

**The meeting was called to order** by President, Roland Newton

**Devotions:** Roland Newton

**Additions/Deletions to Agenda:** No additions or deletions

**Consent Agenda: Pastor, Treasurer and Committee Reports:** Approved

### Pastor's Report for the Consent Agenda for January 17, 2018:

- Merry Christmas everyone! I am sorry; I am behind on my baking and card sending. Please accept my heartfelt Christmas greetings and know that my thoughts and prayers are with you all as you celebrate the birth of our Savior so many years ago in that stable. God bless you all!
- We had a great series of services as we wrapped up Advent and celebrated Christmas, both here at Bethany and as we partnered with Shepherd of the Prairie for our Christmas celebration. And we are now in the time after Epiphany as we hear about Jesus revealed.
- I have had several Pastoral visits and meetings this past month regarding both church business and Pastoral care items. Let us all continue to lift up those in need of healing, restoration, strength and support in their times of need. And thank you to all who answer God's calls to help out others in their time of need in the name of Jesus.
- Cindy Shearer and I continue to work together on the ins and outs of various office tasks and are preparing for the Annual Report.
- Participated in LCMC's 3 Days of Prayer early in January, where LCMC members from around the globe joined in 3 days of prayer as we enter the New Year.
- We met as a group after church and discussed the proposed merger between Madrid Homes and Western Homes, and after that we had a meeting to discuss the Orphanage and do some planning for the next steps forward.
- I will be meeting with Worship and Music prior to our January Council meeting to look into the future with respect to Lent and Easter. They are right around the corner.
- If you are foreseeing needs upcoming for your committee or group and need to meet and discuss it with me, please approach me sooner than later so we can get ahead of any items forthcoming. Thank you!
- Items for information and discussion in the Committees & Council:
  - o Our next Heritage Sunday Pancake Breakfast is scheduled for March 11, 2018.
  - o Committee Chairs – if you are transitioning leadership and turning over the reigns to the next Committee Chair in March, please use the rest of January and February to prepare the incoming Committee Chair for their new job.
  - o Another reminder for us all - 2018 is here, and if you have wanted to try out a committee, Staff and Volunteer as well as the various committees are looking for volunteers to help with the various Ministries of the church. We cannot do the Ministries we do without you. In particular, we are looking for members to serve on the Auditing Committee and oversee the audit of 2018 Financial Records at the end of 2018 and the beginning of 2019. Please let S&V or the chair of the committee know of your interest.
  - o Announcements – if you have an announcement you would like to be included in the bulletin, the email announcements, or the Banner, please email the details and how you would like it to read to [bethanyofficemanager@huxcomm.net](mailto:bethanyofficemanager@huxcomm.net) and copy me at [bethanypastor@huxcomm.net](mailto:bethanypastor@huxcomm.net). Please let us know where you would desire the information to be shared and for how long.

- For those in leadership of one of the various committees, if you are scheduled to roll off of your committee, please continue to work within your committees in raising up the next generation of leadership and to prepare your committee for the transition.
- A month in review of the Ministries to celebrate within the church:
  - The Sunday School Youth group “The Heaven Sent’s” shared their musical talent as they sung a modern rendition of “This Little Light of Mine” for us at the January 14<sup>th</sup> Service. Thank you Ladies, I know I am personally still humming the tune as I word today. Adults Sunday School is going through the 3<sup>rd</sup> DVD about the Reformation and the historical events that surrounded Luther and the other reformers as they sought after God’s heart in re-discovering the Gospel message. If you are interested in joining the class, you are welcome to borrow Disc 1 or 2 about Martin Luther and the Reformation. They are professionally done and very concise in their treatment of who Martin Luther was and some of the key factors that drove him and the other reformers during the 1500’s and early on in the Reformation.
  - The Orphanage – Thank you again for the many donations and for all those who gave special gifts for the Orphanage for Christmas. The Orphanage Team met early in January and is moving forward. Discussions as to how we can help out with the Orphanage’s housing needs were discussed. If you would like to help out and act as a co-ambassador or even go to India in February, please talk to Pastor Jesse.
  - The Sunday morning Prayer Group is going strong. If you have any prayer requests you would like for them to lift up in their time of gathering, please email them to [dolwil@huxcomm.net](mailto:dolwil@huxcomm.net) and [bethanypastor@huxcomm.net](mailto:bethanypastor@huxcomm.net) . And, if you would like to receive prayer, please consider joining the group, Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:15 in the Children’s Sunday school room.
  - I am sure there is more. Sorry for anyone or anything I missed!
- Looking toward the future:
  - Our Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2018 after the service. More information will be forth coming in the next month.
  - Pastor Scott and I will be working together as we look to partner together for our mid-week Lenten services and Easter celebrations.
  - Thank you to everyone who has supported the Food Pantry and the Backpack Buddies program. Please continue to remember them in your prayers and as you shop for groceries this month.
    - See the flyer posted on the bulletin board for Backpack Buddy monthly request.

Pastor Jesse

### **Committee Reports:**

**Secretary Report:** Approved corrected report via email for printing in *Bethany Banner*

**Treasurer’s Report:** Email sent to all

### **Worship and Music Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Mike Olson Committee Chair

Nothing to report

### **Outreach and Service Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Submitted by Cathy Potter Committee Chair

Ben Potter, with approval from our committee, created and implemented a new Facebook page and website for Bethany. We bought a new church guest book. Our next meeting is scheduled for Jan. 22.

### **Facilities Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Submitted by Kevin Winchell Committee Chair

Nothing new to report.

**Staff and Volunteer Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Submitted by Barb Kesl Committee Chair

The volunteer lists for Sunday morning services have been completed and posted. Thank you to the many volunteers!

**Christian Education Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Submitted by Mary Nehring Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

**Finance Committee Report for Council meeting 17 January 2018**

Jerry Ryerson Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

**Action Items:**

Bethany Good Shepherd Orphanage: Chuck made the motion to commit \$3000 for construction of orphanage space above existing church and Jerry seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Annual Report and Meeting: All reports are submitted for the Annual Meeting, March 4, 2018, following church services.

Membership review: Jerry made the motion to accept the roster as printed and Mary seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Easter Breakfast: The Council members will furnish and serve the Easter breakfast. Mary will coordinate the breakfast.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kalsem

**The Collection Plate:**

December offerings -----\$13,874.10

Needed monthly -----\$6512.75 (2018 offering budget divided by 12 months)

----Norma Newton, Treasurer

**BWOW News**

Nothing Reported

**Library News**

Nothing Reported

**Staff and Volunteer (S & V) Committee News**

We invite you to volunteer for assisting with Sunday and special services as a Greeter, a Lector, a Klokker, an Usher, and/or a Communion Assistant. Training available! Lists are being developed for 2018. Many thanks to those who have served on these teams. Many hands make light work. S & V committee includes Jenny Olson, Morey Hill and Barbara Kesl

# Activities and Events

## Those Who Serve in February:

Greeters: February 4 – Dave & Cheryl Kalsem; February 11 & 18 – Morey & Rhonda Hill; February 25 – Ann Stensland

Usher: Morey Hill

Klokker: (February 11) – Erika Peterson

Lectors: February 4 – Dolores Williams; February 18 – Don Brendeland; February 25 – Mike Olson

Communion Preparation: (February 4) – Cathy Potter

Communion Assistant: (February 4) – Morey Hill

Cookies: February 4 – Joyce Peterson & Cheryl Kalsem; February 11 – Rhonda Hill & Jen Olson; February 18 – Mary Nehring & Kathy Pietsch; February 25 – Norma Holland & Barb Kesl

Hospice Cookies: Mary Nehring

Visits to less than mobile members:

February 1-15 – Bob Ryerson

February 16-28 – Dave & Cheryl Kalsem

## Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

**Tuesday, February 13: 9:30am** – Hostess: Jean Finch

**Wednesday, February 14:** Ash Wednesday @ Bethany

**Tuesday, February 20: 1:30pm** - Faith Circle. Lesson Leader: Carol Ryerson. Hostess: Cheryl Kalsem.

**Wednesday, February 21: 5:30pm (soup) 7pm (Service)** Midweek Lenten Soup & Service @ Bethany.

**Wednesday, February 21:** Church Council Meeting following Service at 7pm

**Friday, February 16:** Letters to India due.

**Monday, February 26:** Deadline for Bethany Banner

**Wednesday, February 28: 5:30pm (soup) 7pm (Service)** Midweek Lenten Soup & Service @ Shepherd.

***Don't forget the food pantry – food or dollars.*** The second Sunday of each month (Heritage Sunday) has been designated as the time to bring items for the food pantry.

**Letters to India:** Your letters to India are due on Friday, February 16

**Backpack Buddies:** The fourth Sunday of the month has been designated for donations for the Backpack buddies program, which will begin collection for the following month. The item of request for February is Instant Potatoes or Rice. Also, gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Aldi's and Fareway, etc. are greatly appreciated.

## *Happy Birthday:*

February 2 – Kjersten Olson; February 8 – Maggie Sullivan; February 11 – Charlotte Nutty; February 15 – Conner Pietsch, Hannah Stensland; February 26 – Mike Olson; February 28 – Rhonda Hill

## *Anniversaries :*

February 14 – Scott & Wendy Stensland

# Affiliated and Neighboring Organizations

## Madrid Home Communities News

Nothing Reported

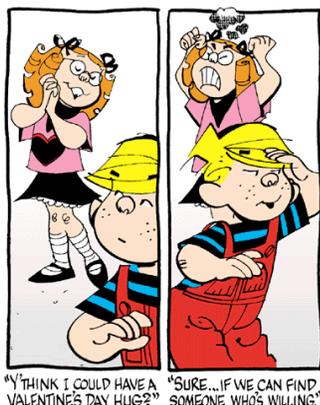


## LOOK TO THE SOURCE OF HELP

David said in Psalm 121, "I lift up my eyes to the hills—where does my help come from?" And David answers his own question, "My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth. He will not let your foot slip, He who watches over you will not slumber. The Lord watches over you. The Lord will keep you from all harm, He will watch over your life."

God—your rescuer, has the right vision. He also has the right direction. He made the boldest claim in the history of man when He declared, "I am the way." People wondered if the claim was accurate. He answered their question by forging a path through the underbrush of sin and death—escaping alive. Maybe you need your hope restored. If so, lift up your eyes. Like David said, look unto the hills...look unto the One who made you and He will give you help.

## *The Lighter Side*



### TAKE THE TIME FOR 10 THINGS (Author Unknown)

1. Take time to Work – it is the price of success.
2. Take time to Think – it is the source of power.
3. Take time to Play – It is the secret of youth.
4. Take time to Read – it is the foundation of knowledge.
5. Take time to Worship – it is the first command, to worship the one & only true God.
6. Take time to Help and Enjoy Friends – it is the source of happiness.
7. Take time to Love – it is the one action that should never fail & conquers all other actions.
8. Take time to Dream – it hitches the soul to the stars.
9. Take time to Laugh – it is the singing that helps with life's loads.
10. Take time to Plan – it is the secret of being able to have time to take time for the first 9 things.

I HAVE NOTICED (from One Woman's Point of View)

Everything is farther away than it used to be. It is even twice as far to the corner and they have added a hill! I have given up running for the bus; it leaves earlier than it used to.

It seems to me they are making the stairs steeper than in the old days, and have you noticed the smaller print they use in the newspapers and Sunday bulletins? There is no sense in asking anyone to read aloud anymore, as everybody speaks in such a low voice I can hardly hear them.

The material in dresses is so skimpy now, especially around the hips and waist, that it is almost impossible to reach one's shoelaces; and the sizes don't run the way they used to. The 12s and 14s are so much smaller.

Even people are changing. They are so much younger than they use to be when I was their age. On the other hand, people my own age look so much older than I am. I ran into a classmate the other day; she has aged so much she didn't recognize me.

I got to thinking about the poor dear while I was combing my hair this morning and, in so doing, I glanced at my own reflection. Really now, they don't even make good mirrors as they used to.

**Bible Wordsearch**  Apostles Chosen

Wordsearch 251 Matt.9:33-10:10

H	B	A	P	O	S	T	L	E	S	S	H	E	E	P
C	I	N	U	T	Y	E	N	R	U	O	J	G	S	E
A	S	U	E	A	D	D	A	H	T	E	A	A	N	T
E	D	I	S	E	A	S	E	I	S	S	M	D	A	E
R	W	E	L	A	E	H	S	S	O	E	U	E	R	
P	O	T	K	Y	N	C	S	E	H	Z	S	O	L	U
O	R	L	D	O	A	D	M	T	A	E	G	O	C	R
E	C	N	I	R	P	M	A	M	D	A	N	F	H	Z
S	M	A	I	H	E	S	A	L	V	L	I	R	A	E
I	E	O	I	L	T	H	T	T	S	O	H	E	N	B
A	T	L	D	I	E	W	P	I	T	T	C	E	D	E
R	I	M	R	G	E	A	M	E	J	H	A	L	R	D
P	E	I	R	L	N	O	R	O	H	C	E	Y	E	E
Y	P	O	V	N	N	I	H	S	M	S	T	W	W	E
S	H	E	A	V	E	N	K	E	I	J	U	D	A	S

AMAZED ANDREW  
FREELY APOSTLES  
HEAL CLEANSE  
HEAVEN CROWDS  
ISRAEL DISEASE  
JAMES ISCARIOT  
JESUS JOURNEY  
JOHN KINGDOM  
JUDAS PREACH  
PETER MATTHEW  
PHILIP MESSAGE  
PRINCE SANDALS  
RAISE SHEPHERD  
SHEEP TEACHING  
SIMON THOMAS  
SPIRITS ZEBEDEE  
SPOKE TWELVE  
TUNIC ZEALOT  
THADDAEUS

After you find all the hidden words the left over letters spell out a Bible verse reading from the top left to the bottom right

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MORE PUZZLES AT:  
<http://biblewordgames.com>    COPYRIGHT 2016    ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Each month, there is an attachment to the Bethany Banner called the Parish Paper. We are asked to print this notice every month to protect the publisher's newsletter copyright:

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## February 2018 at Bethany Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> Worship at 9:30am Communion Sunday School for all ages 10:45am	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> Worship at 9:30am Heritage Sunday Sunday school for all ages 10:45am	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> Service Group 9:30am	<b>14</b> Ash Wednesday @ Bethany  Happy Valentine's Day	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Letters to India are due	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> Worship at 9:30am Sunday school for all ages 10:45am	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> Faith Circle 1:30pm	<b>21</b> Midweek Lenten Soup/Service @ Bethany Soup – 5:30pm Service – 7pm  Church Council following Service	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> Worship at 9:30am Sunday School for all ages 10:45am	<b>26</b> Deadline submission for Bethany Banner	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> Midweek Lenten Soup/Service @ Shepherd Soup – 5:30pm Service – 7pm			