



BETHEL YOUTH MINISTRIES

HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENIN'

May

7- IPOINT Work Day- leave @ 9 am Free Granny's Ice Cream

15- 6th Gr. Students and Parents Mtg- 9:45 am in the Fellowship Hall

25- 8th Gr. Students start SH YG

22- Senior Recognition- 11:00 am service

22- FFHS Bacc- 7:00 pm Kennedy School Auditorium

29- Hillcrest Graduation

June

1- 6th graders start JH Youth Group

3- FFHS Graduation

9- School's Out Party- 1:00 pm

SH Coed Softball team: Sign up to play Monday Nights. Starts May 10th
Cost: \$40

June 8th: Summer Schedule Starts: Wednesday JH: 6:00-7:30, SH: 8:00-9:30

COMING EVENTS:

Sonshine: July 13-17: Ticket \$80 Due 6/1

Valleyfair: July 28: Cost \$35 for admission & bus



JH Yth Grp:
3:45 pm

WEDNESDAYS



SH Yth Grp:
7:00 pm

-Big Al

CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

WATCH FOR MORE INFO ON ALL OF THESE FREE SUMMER EVENTS!



Preschool VBS
June 13-17
9:00 am-11:00 am



Sports Camp
July 12-14
3:00 pm-5:30 pm



Day Camp
August 8-11
9:00-3:00 pm

Briefly Bethel

May 2011

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From Matthew Rogness,

Director of Lutheran Brethren International Mission

You have heard of Paul Szobody's bike accident. What follows is the marvelous story of God's care and of human determination. We thank the Lord for His protection through this trauma. We are also grateful to report that he is doing well in his recovery. Thank you for praying!

I usually find that if I bike 1 to 2 hours every other day, my back muscles and general well-being carry on well for the demand of studies. However, since the week prior to the accident was especially long, sometimes on Saturday afternoons I will take a 3 hour hike in the mountain forestry trails, as opposed to paved, official bike trails, in order to work the back especially well and then rest on Sunday and feast with the family. This has worked out very well.

This time, though, the local car mechanic told me of a new trail I had never been on that would take me through the forest to a town high in the mountains where I've often biked on regular roads where there is traffic.

So, I took it. It WAS gorgeous. But somewhere along the way I lost the main trail, which was a nice biking trail since it was well worn by forestry trucks. I ended up on the top of a hill with only foot trails to choose from. I chose one I thought would take me in the direction I wanted to go, but it was steep and the trail covered with leaves. My speed increased too fast, I tried several times to pump the brakes but ended up, as best I can remember, hitting a sort of hole that stopped the bike and threw me into the air down the hill. I must have done a total flip, and then landed on the right side of the back breaking three or four ribs in the back and cracking the hip bone. I rolled back and forth yelling in pain but was very conscious of the ribs now loose and rubbing against each other. I also immediately had trouble breathing.

After settling down and sizing up the situation, I was able to reach up and grab the bike and pull it toward me. I was so glad I had attached a Spring-type coat to the rear carrier, as I was getting cold and had to crawl (it was a beautiful sunny day when I set out and had questioned myself whether to attach the coat). I hoisted myself up slowly, using the arms, to lean on the bike and then slowly moved, inch-by-inch down the hill. Then I collapsed to the ground next to a trail that crossed this one, found a glove in the coat pocket, and used it as a pillow and fell asleep. In the night, I awoke and strategized as to what to do. Around me were holes dug probably by wild boar. These mountains are known for the bores and I had encountered one before in the night on bike. I managed now, after some rest, to hoist myself up onto the bike and sit on the back carrier, which actually took weight off the hip and felt OK. I stretched forward over the seat and used my left leg to push and my left hand to brake, working a short distance at a time, following the trail downhill, but slowly as not to fall. I became quite exhausted and finally arrived at a wood-log barrier set up by the forestry dept. I managed to lift up the bike by my arms, leaning on the barrier, and got the bike over the barrier. About 50 feet ahead I saw a road. It was sort of steep and I thought: if I could get there perhaps someone will pass by. As it turns out it was a gravel road to the forester's house. I was so exhausted I had the idea to get myself up on the seat now, then coast down to the road while bearing any pain caused by being up on the seat. As soon as I got up on the seat and tried to pedal with my left foot I fell to the right -- right on the very hip and ribs already injured. It was, of course, awful, and now I was immobile. I would work for hours the next morning trying to turn over so as to stand to get down to the road, but couldn't. I imagine it was 1 or 2 in the morning, cold, and wind blowing. I asked the Lord to send someone now to find me, or to send a warm front -- my biggest concern was not to spend another night in the cold. By morning the winds stopped and the sun came out. The warmth was so good. A truck with a family in it passed twice on the gravel road, but they never looked down the trail to see me. I put my reflective vest up on a pole and waved it but to no avail (I imagine it was the forester's family).

By about noon, or shortly thereafter, I heard footsteps, I yelled. They kept coming. It was an Australian couple who had never been in the Vosges before. He was doing research in chemistry at the University of Strasbourg and they just took a ride to the mountains, parked the car, and among several choices, chose the path I had fallen on for the second time. They left to get help and then I spotted the Gendarmes helicopter looking for me but they never got over me in order to see me through the trees. The Gendarmes were soon there, after a call and meeting up with the Australians. They had been searching since the previous evening. And my own family Sunday morning biked and walked for hours over the mountains -- it now appears on a map that Nathanael and Philip got pretty close to me and the gravel road near me, but then took a different turn!

Well, I guess that's enough detail. I have much to be thankful for.

Paul Szobody

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WOMEN OF BETHEL MINISTRY TEAM

In 2007 the Bethel congregation voted to form a new ministry team called "Women's Ministry Team." Already existing was "Women's Ministry Fellowship" (WMF) and both groups share similar goals of providing ministry and growth opportunities for women. The Women's ministry team has sponsored special events as well as weekly Bible studies while WMF enjoys a monthly fellowship with a focus on missions and a focus on hospitality through the serving teams.

In order to clarify the name of the Women's Ministry Team so as not to confuse it with WMF, it is now being called "Women of Bethel Ministry Team". The 2011 mission statement is that the Women of Bethel Ministry Team exists to provide opportunities for women of Bethel that equip and encourage them in their walk with the Lord.

The Women of Bethel Ministry Team encourages a daily walk with the Lord, weekly growth through opportunities such as Bible studies and monthly fellowship like WMF. We look forward to some special celebrations as well.

Information regarding ministry opportunities for women at Bethel can be found in the weekly church bulletin, the church mailboxes and bulletin boards and also the church website (www.bethellbc.org) and our new Women of Bethel blog (www.womenofbethelfergusfalls.blogspot.com) and on facebook at "Women of Bethel Connections"

Thank you to the women who worked hard for the last 5 years on this ministry team. The formation of a new team often comes with growing pains and the need for patience and hard work. They laid a good foundation for us.

As we look forward to 2011 and 2012, we welcome your thoughts, comments and suggestions as to ways in which our ministry team might facilitate meaningful opportunities for women here at Bethel.

The following women have been elected by the congregation to form the present Women of Bethel Ministry Team: Mary Jo Tonneson, Jen Stumbo, Susanne Strom, ViAnn Sampson, Lois Rogness, Hallie Metcalf, Christine Lawson, Kathy Garvin, De Eastvold and Candis Berge. You may share your ideas with any members of the team.



WMF

The joyous anticipation of Easter was in the air as WMF met on Tuesday evening, April 12th. Following devotions and prayer, that feeling was enhanced as Pastor Ed and Bonnie sang I Believe In a Hill Called Mount Calvary and Thirty Pieces of Silver. The message of those beautiful songs touched our hearts deeply. We were further blessed by Orpha Raun's missionary heart and personal testimony regarding her family's ministry in Chad, Africa for many years. Once again we were reminded that God works in mysterious ways His wonders to perform! Only too often, we miss His miracles all around us. (Please remember to keep praying for David and Jonathan, Zam Zam & Esther Raun as they continue their work in Africa.) After our inspiring program, we enjoyed a delicious lunch and warm fellowship, followed by a brief annual business meeting. Thank you all who joined us and took part in our Easter WMF celebration, and special thanks to Pastor Ed and Bonnie, accompanied by Carol Folden, and Orpha for being such a blessing to us!

We now look forward to a special event in May when we will honor mothers and daughters. All you gals, young and old alike, are invited! There will be special music and Janet Anderson will share with us on a message of HOPE. Mark Tuesday, May 10th, down on your calendars for a warm welcome and fun fellowship at WMF.

HOPE

for the HEART

CHANGES IN OUR OFFICE!



For the next few months, we bid a temporary farewell to Sara Tysver. Sara will be taking time to spend at home with their new baby. The due date is soon! In

transition, we will be moving Dee into the area where Sara works and bring on Solveig Nelson to be in the front office as the person to meet and greet you both in person and on the phone. Sloveig's hours will be from 10:00 am-2:00 pm Monday through Friday as needed. Also please note that beginning June 1, we will begin our summer hours. Office hours will be from 8:30 am-4:00 pm Monday through Thursday and 8:30 am-12:00 noon on Fridays.

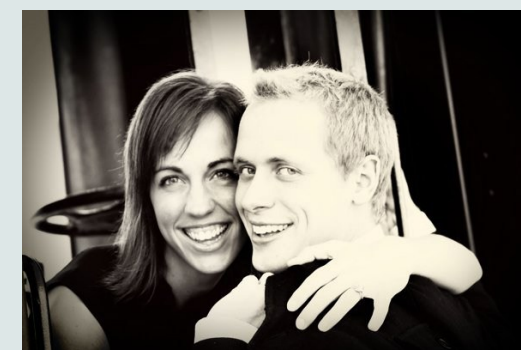
THANK YOU!

Dear Women of Bethel-

Thank you for your kindness and generosity displayed at the Bridal Shower given for me and my future husband, Kory. I am incredibly blessed by our church community. Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to join us in this pre-celebration of our upcoming wedding. I sincerely appreciate your support through your wonderful gifts as well as prayer for Kory and I as we begin our lifelong commitment to one another in June.

Sincerely,

Rochelle Rogness



The power of *Music*



Since May is National Health Month, it seems like an appropriate time to remind ourselves of the benefits of music on our health. Scientific research documents that music has measurable physiological and psychological effects. Listed below are some of the benefits of quality music:

- calms and Relaxes
- distracts from pain and suffering
- comforts
- stimulates cognitive development
- enhances concentration
- reduces blood cortisol levels
- inspires and uplifts
- instills a feeling of well being

In addition to the musical score, the words can also be incredibly meaningful and comforting. For example, after the unexpected loss of my eight month old grandson, Carter, I experienced a lot of wakeful times during the night. Knowing that this is normal part of grief, I decided to embrace these times instead of dread them. It was during these times that sacred music became especially comforting to me. At times it was an entire hymn that came to mind, and sometimes it was just a phrase or verse.

God seemed to know just what I needed. Many hymns were born out of suffering and wend with the hope of heaven which was so encouraging. A while ago I was reading in the Psalms and this verse from Psalm 42:8 jumped out at me: "By the day the Lord directs his love, at night His song is with me– a prayer to the God of my life." WOW! That was exactly what God was to me– my song in my night.

Below are 2 stanzas from a traditional hymn and a contemporary song that are meaningful to me:

"Be still, my soul, The Lord is on thy side; Bear patiently the cross of grief or pain, Leave to they God to order and provide; in every change He faithful will reamin. Be still, my soul! Thy best, thy heavenly Friend, through thorny ways leads to joyful end."
- Katrina Von Schlegel

"There is a hope that lifts my weary head, my consolation strong against despair. And when the world has plunged me in its deepest pit I find the Savior there. Through present sufferings, future's fear, He whispers courage in my ear. For I am safe in everlasting arms and they will lead me home."
- Stuart Towned

Let's be intentional and careful in our musical selection, as it can have a positive or negative bearing on our mental health.

Colossians 3:16– Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom, and as you sing Psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs with gratitude in your hearts to God.

- Joanie Ver Steeg, Parish Nurse

**Bethel Men's Forum
Saturday, May 7
8:00 am**

Men of Bethel: Join us as we hear from Tom Uvaas, swimming coach at the High school. We'll be enjoying pancakes & sausage, and as always, fresh, hot, coffee!



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this yet?.....**

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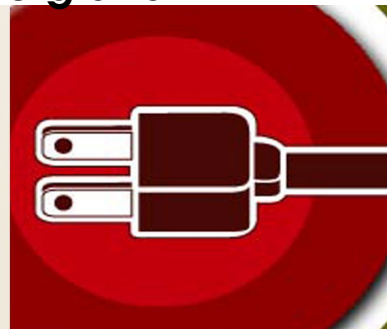
Bethel
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Bridal Showers!

Heidi Peterson
May 5, 2011 at 7:00 pm
Fireside Room
Registered at:
Target, Herbergers, and Macy's

Becca Johnson
May 7, 2011 at 9:00 am
Stillpoint Café
Registered at:
Target & Bed, Bath, and Beyond

**Did you miss Church last week?
Visit www.bethellbc.org and...**

STAY PLUGGED IN
In the Main Menu, click "Bethel in Print" to read this week's bulletin and this month's Briefly Bethel!



Need a Mailbox?

It's one of the many ways to stay connected with Bethel news and activities, if you don't have one and would like one, e-mail Dee: dstelljes@bethellbc.org



Prayer & Praise

Prayer:

- For those struggling financially
- Pray for the ministry of our church in the community
- The leadership of our country
- For the call committee as we seek a Pastor of Praise and worship.
- For our missionaries
- For the Bagirmi

Praise God for:

- Those who have experienced healing!
- For the community of believers at Bethel Church
- Spring!
- Our Resurrected Savior!



YOUR GROUP HERE!

Does your group have an event, outing, or just something happening that you want people to know about?

**GET THE WORD
OUT!**

Send your requests with the information you'd like in the Briefly Bethel to Sara at: stysver@bethellbc.org



From the Quilters

Coming soon! A silent auction of a beautiful quilt hand stitched by Bethel Stitch-a-Quilt. Proceeds are designated for Japan Earthquake relief through the CLB. Anyone interested in matching part of or all of the funds received may contact the church office.

