

NOVEMBER
2011

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Bethel
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Briefly Bethel

The Christian writer G. K. Chesterton had the right idea when he said we need to get in the habit of "taking things with gratitude and not taking things for granted."

Gratitude puts everything in a fresh perspective; it enables us to see the many blessings all around us. And the more ways we find to give thanks, the more things we find to be grateful for.

Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat, suggest reminders in ways to express gratitude: He who has provided so abundantly will be praised and honored by these creative ways to be thankful. Here are some Faith at Home suggestions in preparation for Thanksgiving.

- Express your gratitude in a note or a phone call to a person whose ministry in daily life nurtures your faith. Thank God for this saint in your life.
- Go on a quiet, meditative walk through your house. Stop and say prayers of thanks for all the good experiences you have had in each room.
- Wash your car or clean your telephone and tell God how much you appreciate how these things help you make connections with other people.
- Write a letter of appreciation to an author whose book has been an inspiration to you.
- Give thanks for peace, and the peacemakers in your life.
- After seeing a movie or watching a TV program that touches your soul, say a prayer of thanks for the writer, director, actors, and actresses.
- In gratitude for the good service of a grocery store, a cleaners, or a gas station, tell your friends about the place so that their business can grow. *Express appreciation to the check out personnel.*
- Create a living prayer of thanksgiving by providing a service to a neighbor, doing a chore, or running an errand.
- Say "thank you" to someone today who least expects it from you.
- During a moment of silence today, reflect on the blessings you receive from the community where you live.
- Identify one quality that you admire about each person coming to your Thanksgiving meal. Using decorative script, stickers, and drawings, create place cards illustrating these qualities. If possible, include children in this project.
- Say grace before your Thanksgiving meal. Give thanks for the food, the fellowship of the company around the table, and the presence of *His Holy Spirit* among you.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving in preparation and celebration

Italicized words are my contribution – P Ed Monson

Parish Nurses

The newspaper has already reported there is a case of the FLU in Fergus Falls. Therefore, we must be diligent in protecting ourselves from being a victim or from carrying the germs with us and inadvertently spreading it to someone else. The Flu germs are highly contagious, as they are airbourne, meaning they travel in the air.

There are a few things you can do for protection:

- Cover your mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough, or use your elbow or arm.
- Get a FLU Shot.
- Stay home when you are sick, and Stay away from people who are sick.
- Wipe your telephone, keyboard, doorknobs, and shopping carts
- with an antiseptic solution before using.
- Wash your hands with soap and water, especially before you eat, preparing food, touching your eyes, nose, or mouth, and after using the rest room.

STAY HEALTHY!! Remember God has a plan for you...Jer. 29:11

Carol J. Wester, Parish Nurse

Bethel Exchange

~ Do you have something of value that some one might need? Something you don't need or no longer want?

The **BETHEL EXCHANGE** is a method of giving something you no longer want or need, but that some one else might be wanting or needing.

~ **No money will be exchanged.** (therefore no warrantees or guarantees are needed)

~ This is not a junk sale! Please list only good items that have value.

~ Send us your name, address, date and list of item(s). We will put the information on a 5x7 postcard on the bulletin board near the water fountain.

~ We (Bethel) reserve the right to accept or reject all items put on the exchange.

~ If you see something that you can use, take the information on the item and contact the person and the exchange will be between the two of you.

For more information, contact LaWayne Rogness (Church Administrator) at 736-5654.

Special Services

Veteran's Service

Sunday, November 6, 6:00 pm, Bethel Lutheran Church

All are invited to enjoy this evening of special music, gather to honor the men and women serving our country, and remember those who have served in the past to preserve our freedom.

Guest speaker Pastor Randy Mortenson is a veteran of both the Army and the Navy. After one year of



college he enlisted in the Army and worked in communications (3rd Signal Brigade) at Fort Hood, Texas. Following the Army, Randy attended and graduated from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire with a degree in Communication Arts and an English minor. He continued his education at Lutheran Brethren Seminary in Fergus Falls and received his M Div. there in 1996. After two years of pastoral ministry in South Dakota and Oregon, he was recruited by the Navy to be a chaplain. In October 1998 he began training at

the Navy Chaplains School in Newport, Rhode Island. As a chaplain, Randy served with COMDESRON 7

(Commander Destroyer Squadron 7) in San Diego, the Third Marine Division in Okinawa, and at Naval Station

Mayport, Florida. Randy currently serves as pastor at Ebenezer Lutheran Brethren Church in Mayville, North

Dakota, where he lives with his wife Betsy and their three children: Kyra, Colby and Trevor.

Thanksgiving Communion Service

Sunday, November 20, 6:00 pm, Bethel Lutheran Church

A combined worship service with Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to celebrate the Lord's Supper and His faithfulness to us together. Enjoy refreshments following the service.

Community Thanksgiving Service

Wednesday, November 23, 7:00 pm, Bethel Lutheran Church

A time to gather as a Fergus Falls area community of faith and count our blessings.
More details to come.

Children

Sunday School (3 yrs– gr. 6)

Sundays, 9:45 am

KidVenture

Wednesdays 3:45—4:45 pm

Bus pick up @ Kennedy parking lot

Junior Choir

Wednesdays 4:45—5:45 pm



KidVenture fun



Fall Family Festival 2011



2nd graders receiving Bibles



Confirmation:

Sundays, 9:45 am

JH Youth Group: (gr. 7-8)

Wednesdays 3:45—5:30 pm

Bus pick up @ Kennedy parking lot

SH Youth Group: (gr. 9-12)

Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm



Start collecting items for your shoebox!

Collection dates: Nov. 6-20

Operation Christmas Child Trip: Dec. 3

Volunteer at OCC Processing Center in Minneapolis

WORK DAY @ IPOINT: Saturday, Nov. 12

Leave 8:00 am

Back to church: 9:30 pm

Financial Workshop

“Maximizing Your Giving”

Sunday, November 13, 6:00 pm, Fireside Room

Presenter: Brad Martinson, Director of Finance for the Church of the Lutheran Brethren

Our state and local governments have generous guidelines in place for charitable giving to organizations (such as Bethel) that may or may not be available in future years. Learn how to maximize your charitable giving in this informative workshop.

Discussion topics include:

- Choice Dollars from Thrivent Members
- Giving from 401K, for 70 -1/2 yr. olds
- How to donate appreciated assets (ie. stocks & real estate)
- Giving commodities as charitable gifts
- Giving to offset income-tax savings

Adults



Women of Bethel



Our first Women's Ministry Fellowship Night of the 2011-2012 year took place Tuesday evening, October 11 at 7 p.m. The tables were set for fall and the big turnout required the quick set-up of two more tables. What a nice problem! We had over 85 women in attendance and a good time was enjoyed as ladies got their coffee and delicious dessert and had a time of fellowship right off the bat. Candis Berge welcomed everyone and introduced many women who work behind the scenes in our church. Each lady was gifted with a new mug that said "Women of Bethel" filled with candy kisses. They got a mug and a kiss as our thanks!

The highlight of the evening was hearing from Michele Foss, our senior Pastor David Foss' wife. She shared candidly about her life, her childhood, her commitment to Christ, joy in her family, her teaching profession and her appreciation for the members of our church. We were all blessed by her testimony. It was a wonderful evening to be together and rejoice in what God has done in all of our lives! The evening was concluded shortly before 8:30 pm so that ladies could be on their way to their homes and families.



During the month of November we encourage women of Bethel to consider attending one of the retreats at Inspiration Point Bible camp. You surely will not be disappointed!

We look forward to another Women's Ministry Fellowship night on **Tuesday evening, December 6th at 7 pm**. Mark your calendars now as you won't want to miss it as we focus on Christmas and the challenges of keeping the miraculous story of the birth of Jesus front and center in our lives and in our families.

Stay connected!

Women of Bethel's blog: www.womenofbethelfergusfalls.blogspot.com

and on facebook: **Women of Bethel Connections**

A graphic with the words "Thank You" written in a large, elegant, cursive script on a white background.

Dear Bethel church,

A heartfelt thank you to several of the members of Bethel who gave me very helpful assistance during my move from Wall Lake to the Village. I hesitate to name any specific individuals, as there were several who gave me a lot of help. However, I would especially like to express my thanks to two individuals who more than anyone else gave help. They are Rev. Arlow Hushagen and Bob Mc Morrow. My closet family are 200 miles away, and have travelled to Fergus on three occasions to help. However, church is also a family. The "family of God" and Bethel are families that show concern for each other. Thanks. May the Lord reward you. ~ Rev. Omar Gjerness

A grateful thank you to dear friends that sent get well cards, flowers and prayers during my surgery and stay at Broen Home. Also, the Parish Nurses and Pastor Ed were special too. Blessings to you all ~ Mary Wold

We are excited to report that the contributions from the Kick-off Sunday breakfast, a designated Sunday School offering, the Meatball Fundraiser Dinner, and July, August, and September Deacon Board Offerings came to \$11,670. Therefore, the matching amount from Thrivent Economic Outreach Bridge Challenge Grant is \$5,835. The Deacon offerings will remain in the Deacon Fund and the balance will go to the food ministry. Your amazing gifts are greatly appreciated and will make a difference in the lives of many. ~ The Food Ministry Team

A decorative horizontal border featuring a pattern of yellow and brown leaves.

Make a Difference

Host Homes Needed: The St. John's Boys Choir will sing at Bethel on Sunday, November 20. Host homes are needed overnight on **Saturday, November 19** for 2-4 boys/home (gr. 4-6) Provide breakfast and transportation to and from Bethel. Sign up at the Welcome Center or contact the office for details.

Food Shelf Donations: Each year as we count our blessings, we seek to share them with those less fortunate in our community. From now through November 20, a food shelf items (dry goods) and financial donations are being collected and will be given to our local food shelf. Before distribution, all items will be dedicated at the Thanksgiving Communion Service at Bethel on Sunday, November 20.

Foster Care: Ottertail County Human Services in Fergus Falls is seeking foster parents to provide a safe, temporary home for these children. An brochure is available near the church mailboxes, or you may contact them directly at 218-998-8150.

LB International Mission: January 24-February 4, 2012. The LB is partnering with Friends of China (FOC) to recruit a childcare team to run the children's program in Chaing Mai, Thailand. FOC is an interdenominational, international Christian organization serving in strategic partnerships to share the Good News across China. Contact Rev. Matt Rogness at lbim@lbim.org.

