

the Bethel Beacon

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August 2017

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August 2017

August Birthdays!

- 3 Jo Ann Keys
- 4 Kim Bucholz
- 8 Carolyn Beck
- 8 Paul Gover
- 9 Tony Wiersma
- 10 Sharon Delcambre
- 13 Joyce Hansen
- 18 Sofia Carpenter-Rodriguez
- 20 Heather Eusebio
- 20 Lincoln Wiersma
- 25 Svea Erickson
- 30 Jacob Alvey



Events in August:

Sunday 6	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Sat. 12	Faith and Family Fun-Day 3-5 Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-12
Sunday 13	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Tue. 15	Council 7pm
Sat. 19	Soul Collage 9-12
Sunday 20	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am
Sat. 26	Neighborhood Hygiene Program 9-12
Sunday 27	Community Breakfast 9am Worship 10am



The Bethel Beacon is published by Bethel Lutheran Church. You can find our members and friends scattered throughout North Portland, the metro area, and beyond. As a community, we worship God together, proclaim the Good News of grace, and show hospitality to all people.
Join us as we live out Christ's command to love each other.

Notes from the Pasture:

Busy Bethel is a Blessing

Pop...whoosh...cheers! Pop...whoosh...cheers! Pop...whoosh...cheers!

What the heck was going on out in the parking lot? I moved to the window to see one of the 3 graders stomp on the 2 liter bottle hooked up to a launcher send the homemade rocket soaring thirty feet in the air. Everyone cheered at the blast off of every rocket.

The fire was just burning down a bit but some folks could not wait. Marshmallows were catching fire and the debate arose about those who burn then eat, those who brown then s'more, and those who just eat. Kid and adult had melted white sugar stretched across their faces. Night two of the campout.

Sitting by the bedside, listening to what had happened. Conversation moves into concern for others while she lay waiting for what comes next. Sometimes silence is best. Sometimes just holding their hand. Sometimes a simple prayer and marking them with the sign of the cross.

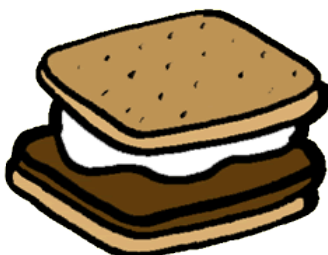
New rules for the showers. Too many folks showing up this summer. Shower times down from 30 minutes to 20 minutes to now 10 minutes and you are out of there. 29 one week...22 the next. Need extra help with washing towels. Everyone gets fed, coffee, conversation and respect.

Evening meeting on a warm summer's eve. Started with sharing what motivates us to be connected to the Drop In Center. Folks see what a positive impact Bethel and the program continue to make on the neighborhood. Watching kids grow up into young adults working and volunteering. For the adoration and excitement of kids seeing Pastor Christine just coming down the stairs.

Summers are often times where things slow down. That is rarely the case here at Bethel. The building is in use seven days a week, with the full day Summer Program, with breakfast and showers, with spiritual directors and community meetings, with basketball and bike riding in the evening.

This is a place of blessing. Let's continue to be blessed while we continue to be a blessing.

Pastor Mike





Dear Friends – I just read Pr. Mike’s article on all of the summer activity at Bethel. He’s hit the nail on the head! We are busy with summer fun, but we are also planning for the fall.

~~ We are planning worship for September and beyond.

~~ The Burdicks are heading up the planning for the Bethel Block Party – “block out” Saturday, September 9, and start collecting your rummage sale items. The POD will be delivered in mid-August

~~ A draft of the Bethel Players November play is in circulation for comment.

~~ And at the state level, we are planning for a state-wide listening season. About ten years after Brother Martin nailed his 95 Theses to the church door in Wittenberg, he and a group of similarly minded thinkers undertook a “grand visitation”. You see the Reformation was never a one and done event. The Reformation is a continuous process.

Just like Luther and Philip Melanchthon and other Reformation leaders wanted to hear people’s stories, assess the faithfulness of their teaching, and stitch the growing Lutheran movement together, the Oregon Synod is embarking on a similar listening tour. We want to hear everyone’s story because we think people’s stories are important, we are still and ever reforming and we are always growing together in our faith.

At the same time congregations are being encouraged to complete ministry assessments (Bethel has completed theirs, including a recent Vitality Survey), teams of visitors are now being trained to visit as many congregations as possible. Those visits will take place in September, October and November.

Once we’ve heard the stories and listened deeply, your responses will be combined with those heard across the state to get a sense of what the needs of the people might be and where our dreams are taking us.

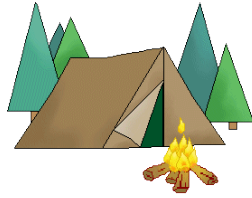
Pastor Christine

May God, the Father of all mercy, grant us through Jesus Christ, his dear Son, the spirit of unity and the power to do his will. Even though the finest spirit of unity prevails among us we still have our hands full to do good and be established by the power of God.

*What would happen if there were disunity and disagreement among us?
The devil has become neither pious nor devout this year, nor will he ever be so.
So, let us be on guard and anxious to keep (as Paul teaches) the spiritual unity
in the bond of love and peace (Eph. 4:3). Amen*

Luther, “Preface to the Instructions for the Visitors of Parish Pastors”

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bethel Campout... BIG SUCCESS!

Chili dogs, swimming, campfires, “s’mores” with extra-large marshmallows, bike trails and travails, noisy neighbors, and lots of fun...

It was all part of the successful return of the Bethel campout. We had 28 folks overnight on Saturday with 12 additional day campers. Scott’s woodpile became the building blocks for the kids’ seven story apartment followed by ramp and walkways, dikes, and boats. The lake was close by so swimming filled the hot afternoon. Pastor Mike and others

appreciated the showers. The gear was amazing: Coleman stove double coffee makers, four camp stoves and a propane griddle, magic tents that just seemed to pop up, and more coolers than one could count. The children help tell the story of the Good Samaritan (you can guess who the kids picked to play the person who got beat up and robbed).

Folks were already talking about next year and planning is underway. Special thanks to the families who provided planning, gear and much of the food.

Update on Friends

Ronda Bard

Doing well with moving; more recovery time needed. She appreciates all the prayers, support and food.

Loretta Van Dyke

...has asked for prayer as her brain tumor has grown. Treatment options are being considered as she is in physical therapy rehab. She is very tired. Cards are welcome and check with Jim before visits.

Wayne Hassebroek

Continues his recovery from a second hip replacement surgery under the watchful eye of wife, June and granddaughter, Holly.

Returning friends

Chris and Nicole Andeen along with Galen have returned from Medical Residency and moved into the neighborhood. Good to have them back.

Do you see someone that you do not know? Introduce yourself! Before worship, at sharing of peace, or after...

By the numbers last week:

120	Guests at breakfast
144	Hours of summer tutoring for 4-5 th graders at UP
53	Worship attendance at church & campout
796	Pounds of food from Food Bank
22	Showers taken in 3+ hours on Sat.
\$ 1245	Offering from July 23

Choir Returning Soon!!

Look for date and time later this month



Returnable Bottle Collection –



Did you know that Bethel collects all returnable bottles and cans of that have a redeemable value? That's most bottled water, soda and beer? Oregon State Law now gives us 10 cents per container.

We return donated bottles and cans for their redemption value – the majority of funds are used to finance December's Angel Project needs not picked up by individual donors; and any money left over is used for supplies for the Drop In Center.

TWO NEEDS FOR THE RETURNABLE BOTTLE COLLECTION EFFORT:

- 1) If you would like to participate by donating your bottles and cans, please contact Tammy Gover for a special "green" recycling bag and instructions.
- 2) Before the bags of bottles and cans go the collection center, they must be sorted. We sort about twice a month. Would you sign up for a month to sort? Tammy and Paul Gover have taken August, Pastor Mike and Barb have signed up for September, Pastor C. and John have signed up for October. Who would like November and following??

If you can volunteer, talk to Tammy to get instructions and work out details. It's a Dirty Job, somebody has to do it, and you'll earn a special star in your heavenly crown if you can help. (Which is NOT what Martin Luther would say.)

<u>Prayer Requested for:</u>	<u>Prayer Concern:</u>	<u>Prayer Contact:</u>
Bertha Anderson	Prayers for healing	Karen Anderson
All those beloved children of God who live on the margins	We continue to practice welcome and hospitality to all	Bethel Staff
Wayne Hassebroek	Thanksgiving for good recovery	Pr. Christine
Diego	Healing, health, and peace	PJ Bentley
Norma Moody	Healing, health, and peace	Robin Moody
For all victims of hate speech and prejudice	Peace and healing	Bethel Staff
Ronda Bard	Prayers of Thanksgiving as she continues to recover.	Pr. Christine
The families and friends of the 15 trans women of color who have be murdered in the U.S. this year for living their truth	Prayers for justice and tolerance	Phyllicia McGowan
Loretta VanDyke	Prayer for peace and comfort for Loretta, Jim, and Andrew	Prs. Mike and Christine
Sheila Nordling, LeAnn Michaels' mom	Quick recovery from a stroke	Pr. Christine

Ongoing prayers for healing for the following:



Paul Beezhold	Mary Rix	Loretta Van Dyke
Dorothy Hansen	Patricia Conner	Christine Downing
David Lingnau	Bob and Nancy Leon	Kathy Buss
Phyllicia McGowan	Steve Garrick	Skye



First Class Mail

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