



THE BETHEL BEACON

MAY/JUNE 2013

RODGER GOOD, PASTOR
REV. C.G. NIENKAMP,
PASTOR EMERITUS

**BETHEL UNITED
CHURCH OF CHRIST
2400 CENTRAL AVE.
NEBRASKA CITY, NE
68410**

Church Telephone #: (402)873-6218
Email: betheluccurch1887@gmail.com
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Find us on [facebook](#)
Worship time @ 10:00 am

A Note From Pastor Rodger

The signs of spring are gradually emerging, but with a great sense of hesitancy. The weather patterns this spring have been a real roller coaster ride. I am not complaining because the rain has been such a blessing. Yet, I know that living in a rural Nebraska community, the farmers are past ready to get to the field work. One such local farmer said; "It is critical." Nonetheless, the emergence of life in the Spring is like a song of praise lifted up to the Creator giving thanks for new life.

In the awareness then of new life springing up, bubbling up all around us, we must also be aware that all this is God's good gifts to us and for us. It is God's sign of life. Our God is nothing short of awesome and amazing. Just look at the provisions God creates for us in each new day; all that we have is designed to bring us abundance; to bring us life. The air we breathe we take for granted, it is just there for us without thought. The food that is regenerated in each new growing season grants us the nourishment we need to be physically well. The rain that falls from the sky and the sun that shines down upon us brings life to fruition. These gifts are nothing short of miracles. And then there are the relationships we have with one another. These are to be nothing short of life-giving too. As we share with one another we give and we take, and in that exchange there should be present a building up of one another. The Apostle Paul tells us that our relationships with one another should be to "encourage one another and build up each other" (1Thessalonians 5:9, NRSV). You may be thinking of some other ways God blesses you.

These are all God's good and perfect gifts for us; gifts of love to us, to refresh us, to nurture us, and to sustain us all our days, in all the seasons of our living. Perhaps you could list the good and perfect gifts that God has given you and say a prayer of thanksgiving. Paul goes on in 1Thessalonians and reminds us to; "pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you" (vss. 17-18). Even a simple "Thank you, God!" is enough.

Shalom my friends,
Pastor Rodger

Darcy Carpenter of Seniors Helping Seniors® is hosting a monthly Alzheimer's support group to assist, counsel, and comfort those with dementia or Alzheimer's, as well as the caregivers and family members of anyone afflicted with this difficult and sometimes devastating disease. The meetings are held the 3rd Monday of every month, at 2:00pm, in the Community Room at the Morton James Public Library. The next meeting is Monday, May 20th/June 17th, at 2:00pm.

Call Darcy with any questions at [402-873-0601](tel:402-873-0601).



It's VBS time again!

If anyone would like to volunteer in any sort of way please let Robin Sinner know.

You can email her at:
robin.sinner@dist145schools.org
 or call her at 402-670-0098.
 VBS will be on June 3 - 7.

BETHEL UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Monthly Statement By Brenda J. Wieckhorst

<u>March 2013</u>	<u>Balance</u>
Current Expenses.....	(7229.14)
Missionary Fund OCWM.....	877.50
Improvement Fund.....	13,756.12
Capital Project Fund.....	14,882.59
Organ Maintenance Fund.....	2,000.00
Bethel Beacon.....	(1979.53)
Elevator Fund.....	12,022.29
Other.....	50.00
Total.....	\$ 34,379.83

A more detailed report has been posted on the church bulletin board. Copies will be made available upon request.



IN OUR PRAYERS IN MARCH:

Lorraine Cooper, Tiffany Orchard, Katie Rogman, Justin Williams, Melvin Giittinger, Marie Ritter, Rita Roos, Adelene Vock, Isaac Gibson, Robin Retchles, Jolene Luther, Phyliss Buss, Claire Like, the family and friends of Karen Stovall, the family and friends of Art Berthold, and all who struggle with chronic illness, those confined to their homes and to long term care facilities.



Thank you to Harold & Gladys Huss who helped assemble the May/June edition of the Bethel Beacon.

Congratulations to our graduating seniors!



Cailyn Heye
Justice Rinne
Blair McBride
Andreas Fuchs

A Mother's Prayer

Thank you, Lord, for bringing my children into my life. Help me guide them and teach them through example to lead lives of wisdom and strong, loving faith. Please let them learn to serve you always in thought and deed. And remind me, Lord, to always be there for my family as you are always there for me.

Amen

You Can Avoid A Stroke!

Most people can't identify a single risk factor or a warning sign of stroke, yet over 750,000 Americans will be affected by a stroke this year alone!

Life Line Screening will be at Bethel United Church of Christ performing a day of preventive health screenings on 5/8/2013.

Screenings are fast, painless and offered at low cost. They involve the use of ultrasound technology and scan for potential health problems related to: blocked arteries which can lead to a stroke, aortic aneurysms which can lead to a rupture, and plaque buildup in the arteries in the legs which is a strong predictor of heart disease. Also offered for men and women is a bone density screening to assess their risk for osteoporosis.

These non-invasive, inexpensive and painless ultrasound tests help people identify their risk for stroke, vascular diseases or osteoporosis early enough for their physician to begin preventive procedures.

Appointments spaces are limited and pre-registration is required. Sign up now by calling toll free to

[1-888-653-6441](tel:1-888-653-6441).



Thank you to every one who brightened our sanctuary with flowers, and who sponsored bulletins during the month of April.

BEST WISHES TO THOSE CELEBRATING THEIR BIRTHDAYS & WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES IN MAY & JUNE

MAY

Mike Redelfs 4th	David Carpenter 5th	Rylee Mills 7th	Delphine Griepenstroh 9th
Katie Chapin 11th	Sharon Kotas 11th	Brian Bando 12th	Jason Stukenholtz 13th
Grace Sinner 14th	LaVonda Bando 18th	Anna Hotsenpillar 18th	Dalyce Sudman 19th
Gladys Huss 23rd	Emily Meadows 24th	Katheryn Walters 27th	
Andrew Stukenholtz 28th	Bill Walters 29th		

JUNE

Leona Bando 1st	Delores Schriener 1st	Nancy Brown 4th	Josie Meadows 6th
Danielle Barrett 6th	Jason Holman 7th	Rodger Good 14th	Gary Nienkamp 17th
Susan Good 19th	Leta Bremer 20th	Justace Rinne 20th	Sharon Herzog 21st
Makenzie Johnson 22nd	Quintin Holman 23rd	Burton Weible 25th	John Carroll 28th

****LOOKING AHEAD****

JUNE

Sat. 1st: Fellowship Hall rsvd for Kamp Kaleo kids

Sun. 2nd: Communion/Food Pantry

Wed. 5th: Fun & Fellowship 1 pm

Tues. 11th: Women's Fellowship @ Noon
~Birthday Party~
Church Council 7 pm

Sun. 16th: Father's Day

Mon. 24th: Meals On Wheels 11 am

Thurs. 27th: Worship at Duff's 10 am

Mon. 29th: Meals on Wheels 11 am

JULY

Wed. 3rd: Fun & Fellowship 1 pm

Thurs. 4th: Independence Day

Sun. 7th: Communion/Food Pantry

Tues. 9th: Church Council 7 pm

Sat. 20th: Fellowship Hall rsvd

Mon. 22nd & 29th: Meals On Wheels 11 am

ANNIVERSARIES

MAY

Rodger & Susan Good ~ May 6, 1979

Alex & Natalie Sevening ~ May 14, 2011

Stephen & Christine Luther ~ May 25, 2001

Kevin & Jan Pummel ~ May 25th

Derek & Jessica Ferguson ~ May 19, 2012

JUNE

Glenn & Leta Bremer ~ June 4th

Michael & Brenda Wieckhorst ~ June 5, '99

Larry & Tracy Wieckhorst ~ June 10, 1989

Vernon & Linda Brooke ~ June 11, 1957

Mike & Mary Redelfs ~ June 20, 1986

Jerry & Connie Giesecking ~ June 26, 1976

Burton & Cindy Weible ~ June 26th

Daniel & Jen Hamilton ~ June 29, 1996

Frank & Pam Malzer ~ June 24, 1983



BOARD OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

The Board of Christian Education met on Sunday, April 14th, 2013 following worship. Present were: Pastor Rodger Good, Robin Sinner, Sarah Bando, and Jenifer Tietz.

We began the meeting without Pastor Rodger and he joined us a little later.

Minutes from the last meeting were read.

The board discussed our Sunday school attendance policy in regard to some questions, and it was decided that it will remain the same without exceptions. In order to at least receive "good attendance" a child can only miss two times.

The wall for the stage was discussed. We are leaving it up to the Church Council on how to proceed. It has been suggested from them that if we donate our own time and lumber, this project will be much cheaper.

The Senior breakfast/recognition day was discussed. Since we are not receiving any rsvp's from the invitations that Robin sent out, we are going to call the families to see if they are coming. Food was not discussed at this point because of the lack of responses.

Sarah will be contacting the Sunday school teachers to see if they will be returning next fall.

The possibility of a joint venture with First Christian Church of having a Youth Minister was discussed. We all agreed it would be a wonderful opportunity and a much needed change.

The "All Church Picnic" has been put on hold until September due to busy schedules. When a date has been set and plans finalized, we will let you know!

Vacation Bible School will be on June 3 - 7 here at Bethel from 9:00—11:30 am. The theme this year is "Kingdom Rock...Where Kids Stand Strong for God." We are still looking for volunteers. Students in 6th to 12th Grade are eligible to be volunteer helpers. If you'd like to volunteer in any sort of way, please let Robin Sinner know. Robin can be reached at robin.sinner@dist145schools.org or call her at 402-670-0098. Sign up can be done two ways - go to <http://www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/ez/ncc> or registration forms can be found on the usher's table. If you fill out a paper form, please give back to Sarah Bando or Robin Sinner asap.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, May 7th at 6 pm.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Submitted by Sarah Bando for Mary Redelfs.



CHURCH COUNCIL

April 2013 Church Council Minutes

The Church Council met Tuesday, April 9, 2013 at 7:00 pm. Present were Larry Bando, Norm Brown, Greg Stukenholtz, Cindy Weible, Jan Pummel, Paula Ramold, Tracy Wieckhorst and Margaret Brust. Those also present were Pastor Good, Christine Parkyn-Luther, Frank Malzer and Sarah Bando.

The council met first at the parsonage at 6:30pm, to assess repairs needed. Items of concern are the replacement of patio door, N. E. corner of basement wall leaking, replace drapes in bedrooms and living room, sidewalk on north side of parsonage is heaved. Paint soffits and fascia, pull up lilac bush and trim trees.

President Norm Brown called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm with a scripture reading. John 3: 5-8.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read. The Board approved the minutes as read.

The following reports were provided:

Financial – Christine Parkyn-Luther reported the Beacon 2014 will have to make amendments to the bylaws. Norm Brown calls motion to pay bills. Jan Pummel approves, Tracy Wieckhorst seconded. Motion carried.

Memorial Fund – Margaret Brust is getting names of those graduating.

Pastor Good – 11 Pastoral calls, 2 Ministerial Aid calls, 0 weddings, 0 funerals, 0 Baptisms, attended 3 of 4 weekly Lectionary Group meetings at Soul Reflections. Attended Winter Jam with the Youth Group in Omaha on March 1st. He said it was very awesome and fun. He met with NC Ministerial Assoc. on March 19. Attended the Church and Ministry meeting in Lincoln. Special services were Maundy Thursday with communion and Good Friday at UMC and Easter Sunrise with confirmation class leading worship. Provided extensive counseling in March. He will be graduating May 19th at 10:00 am. Attended the Heartland Association Meeting at 1st Plymouth in Lincoln.

Church Secretary – Sarah Bando reported her surgery went fine. Jen Tietz filled in for her March 11 – 13th. Have had 3 bookings for Fellowship Hall in last month, is still advertising for Lifeline Screening. Is advertising for VBS. Made tickets/ flyers for May Friendship Tea Day, which will be 5-3-13. Got a request on web site from Nikki Johnson regarding use of basement for free exercising classes. Are investigating plausibility.

Buildings and Grounds – Frank Malzer gave thanks to Greg Stukenholtz and his family (they heard that some concrete needed redone and took care of it, at their own cost). Bishop gave a bid to replace a compressor. The bid is \$2189.00. Greg Stukenholtz made motion to send to congregation to ask for their blessing in this decision, Jan Pummel seconded, voting on April 28th. Also reported hand rail in back was damaged (he will patch it) wall in basement was repaired and contract with True Green was signed. Discussed bat in hallway and how to stop reoccurrence; mower was serviced, step out front was repaired. Need of screen for trash cans.

Spiritual Council – Talked about Communion Service.

Board of Christian Education – No report because meeting was moved to 14th after worship.

Unfinished Business: Tracy Wieckhorst got a bid to have the stage closed in.

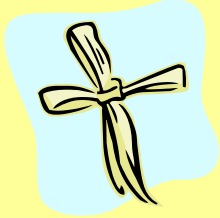
New Business: We will tour the Church to look for things in need of repair.

Next meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th 2013 6:30 pm. Larry Bando made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Paula Ramold seconded. Motion passed.

The meeting was closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cindy Weible, Secretary



SPIRITUAL COUNCIL

The Bethel Spiritual Council met on Tuesday, April 2 at 7:00PM. Those present included Bill Carroll, Connie Giesecking, Susan Briley, Mike Redelfs, and Pastor Rodger.

Pastor Rodger lead us in prayer at the beginning of our meeting.

The March minutes were read and approved.

Old Business: Discussion was held regarding a list of topics to include in the written history of Bethel UCC, a project that the Spiritual Council has been working on. The list was divided into categories that individual members will write about and present at the next Spiritual Council meeting in October. BJ and Jake still outstanding with reports and will submit his update of last 25 years of church history in May meeting. Also discussed was Maundy Thursday communion service flowing more effectively for larger services. Pastor discussed the Confirmation trip with more info to follow in May meeting.

New Business: Pastor Good reported no funerals. There were no weddings. There were no baptisms since last reported. Pastor reported that Totenfest was in planning stages. We are discussing switching to gluten free hosts for communion. We are hosting the Nebraska Conference on June 2 church service to be conducted by the conference minister with wine and grape juice in chalices rather than plastic cups. We also discussed improvements in the weekly church bulletin layout. Pastor will give more information on his July Vacation plans and dates in May meeting.

We closed with the Lords Prayer. The next meeting of the Bethel Spiritual Council will be Tuesday, May 7 at 7:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Bill Carroll, Secretary

SCHEDULED TO SERVE MAY 2013

LAY LEADERS

May 5

Jason Holman

May 12

Sarah Bando

May 19

Jan Pummel

May 26

Norm Brown

GREETERS

May 5

Jim & Janice Holman

May 12

Marilyn & Chris Rivett

May 19

Kevin & Jan Pummel

May 26

Marilyn Weible & Adelene Vock

USHERS

May 5—May 12

Derek & Jessica Ferguson, Bill Carroll, George Stukenholtz

May 19—May 26

Harol & Gladys Huss, Katie Chapin, Pauline Peterson

SOUND SYSTEM

May 5—May 12

Norm Brown

May 19—May 26

Kevin Pummel

ACOLYTES

May 5

Noah Hamilton

Christian Tietz

May 12

Mason Hamilton

Gray Carpenter

May 19

Dylan Holman

Quintin Holman

May 26

Lauryn Hawkins

Katherine Luther

CD MINISTRY ~ Margaret Brust

COOKIE FELOWSHP ~ Sue Griepenstroh & Katie Chapin



National Day of Prayer Observance

As our nation struggles with continued economic insecurity, vast healthcare reform, and countless challenges to our constitutional rights, citizens of the United States are preparing to exercise their freedom to gather, worship, and pray. Millions will answer the call to prayer on May 2nd in observance of the 62nd annual National Day of Prayer. You are invited to participate by joining others from the area on the north steps of the Otoe County Courthouse from 12:05 to 12:25 pm.

This year's theme, "Pray for America", is based on Matthew 12:21 which reminds us that "in His name the nations will put their hope." National Day of Prayer Task Force Chairman Shirley Dobson, wife of Family Talk founder Dr. James Dobson, has said that, "The American people continue to be plagued with challenges that defy simple answers, and our hope lies in humbly seeking the Almighty's guidance, protection, and blessing—not only on the National Day of Prayer, but throughout the year."

SCHEDULED TO SERVE JUNE 2013

LAY LEADERS

June 2

Kassi Holman

June 9

Sarah Bando

June 16

Cindy Kreifels

June 23

Sandy Ried

June 30

Dean Gripenstroh

GREETERS

June 2

Jane Kreifels
Cindy Kreifels

June 9

Derek & Jessica
Ferguson

June 16

Doris Hoffman
Sharon Kotas

June 23

Jim & Janice
Holman

June 30

Gene & Kay
Nannen

USHERS

June 2—June 9

Larry & LaVonda Bando
Allen Grundman, Joan Weible

June 16—June 23

Gene & Kay Nannen
Frank & Pam Malzer

June 30—July 7

Norm & Nancy Brown
Bill Carroll, John Carroll

SOUND SYSTEM

June 2—June 9

Burt Weible

June 16—June 23

Stephen Luther

June 30—July 7

Dennis Marshall

ACOLYTES

June 2

Jason & Andrew Stukenholtz

June 9

Nick Brown
Hailey Walters

June 16

Mason Hamilton
Grey Carpenter

June 23

Dylan & Quintin Holman

June 30

Lauryn Hawkins
Katherine Luther

CD MINISTRY ~ Jan Pummel
COOKIE FELOWSHP ~ Harold & Gladys Huss

Bethel United Church of Christ

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