



The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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**A family of God sharing Jesus
and serving Him faithfully**

September 2015

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Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him.

The Pastor's Page

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

With the flip of the calendar to the month of September, the schedules pick up again. Kids are back to school, with all the activities that come with it. In the life of the church, the schedule picks up as well. Bible Studies and Sunday School resume. In the midst of a vacancy, this adds to the challenges of scheduling.

What impacts does your vacancy play in the events and schedule for Bethlehem? The greatest impact is for midweek. Because of the events at Zion, I am not able to be in Sylvan Grove on Wednesdays. But the work of midweek will go on. The group that organizes and carries out everything involved with midweek will make sure that everything happens as it should. Even though I won't be able to be in the midst of it; I know that it will be just as successful as before.

One of the other changes will be with confirmation and the catechesis process. Instead of having a class time, the bulk of the work will reside with the parents and families. This is in accord with Deuteronomy 6:6-7. "And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you

rise." The work of teaching the faith is not only a church thing, it belongs to the parents as well. The process of confirmation is intended to help families with that important work.

When it comes to Sunday mornings, the time for service, bible study and Sunday School will remain the same as it has for the vacancy. If the time comes that we need to re-evaluate the schedule because of weather or the changing of seasons, we will look at the best options we have. I want to invite everyone to join us. There is something for all ages.

I want to thank everyone for their understanding in the midst of this vacancy. When you have been used to having a pastor nearby all the time, it is a change. If you have a question, a concern or need to visit, please let me know. You can stop by on Tuesdays, or call my cell phone or send an email. You can find that information in the Sunday bulletins.

The author to the Hebrews gives us the admonition "Let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near." (10:24-25)

In Christ,

Pastor Jon Bonine

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September Stewardship Newsletter Article

What is most striking about the rich man and Lazarus is not their differences but their similarities (Luke 16:19–31). Both men die because both men are sinners, and the wages of sin is death. Both men are beggars, for all men are beggars. But, here is where the most striking difference between them takes shape. Lazarus knows it and lives it. The rich man, however, does not.

Lazarus was a beggar in thought, word, and deed. But, he was God’s beggar. He relied upon God for all that he had and all that he was. He looked to God for all things, in good times and in bad. He went to God in all trouble, sought Him for all help, and trusted in His Word and promises to provide for all that he needed for this life and the next. This is, after all, what his name means: God is my help.

The rich man, too, was a beggar. But he didn’t realize it. His status, his wealth, his clothing and his food all came from God’s gracious hand. But the rich man didn’t recognize it. He thought he had earned it, and that he deserved it. And thus, his trust is not in God, who by His Word and promise gives it, but rather in himself, in what he has done, and in what he has.

And so it is that when death comes to Lazarus and the rich man—as it does for all of us because we have all sinned, and death is no respecter of persons—Lazarus is carried by the holy angels to Abraham’s side; while the rich man is in torment in hell. The rich man forgot God. He despised being a beggar, and thus, despised Lazarus. He despised God and His Word, and refused to have mercy on those whom God placed at his doorstep.

Now, the tables were turned. What the rich man didn’t realize or recognize on earth, he now lived out in torment in hell. He knew what it was to beg. But he still didn’t see himself as a beggar of God. He still didn’t look to His Father in heaven for all good and help in every time of need. He instead appealed to His status as a descendant of Abraham, calling out Father Abraham and not “Abba, Father” (Gal 4:6; Rom 8:15).

We are all beggars. We brought nothing into this world and we will take nothing out of it (1 Tim 6:7). Everything we have and everything we are comes from God’s fatherly divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in us, for He gives

everything to us by grace. Thus, we are to love one another and be generous to one another in thought, word, and deed. For you cannot love God and hate your brother. And hating your brother means not to forgive as you’ve been forgiven, to give as you’ve been given to, to love as you’ve been loved.

We are all beggars. This is true. But we, like Lazarus, are God’s beggars. He not only gives us what we need for this body and life—food and clothes, house and home, husband, wife, and children—but He also blesses us with His Word and Spirit, so that we will enter into paradise in the life to come. He claims us as His own by water and the Word in Holy Baptism. In this washing, rich in grace, He gives to us what His Son, Jesus Christ, won for us on His cross: forgiveness of sins. And where there is the forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. He puts His own name on us, thereby giving to us the right of children, the right to call Him Father and the right to His inheritance as His beloved sons. He gives us a seat at His table, in His house, in His kingdom, which has no end.

Yes, indeed, we are beggars. This is true. But we are beggars of the God who loves us, the God who created us from His love, the God who redeemed us by His love in the sending of His Son to die so that we would live and have life to the full. This is His promise. It’s what Moses and the prophets longed to see and of what they spoke. They see it now, not in a mirror dimly, but face to face, just as you shall on the last day.

And as God’s beggars, we have mercy on those who would be beggars of us, who rely upon our giving, even as we rely upon the gracious giving of God. We give to our family, our society, our church. He gives; we receive. Thanks be to God. We give; they receive. Thanks be to God. We count it all a joy to give as He has given to us.

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LWML Flower Committee	
September	October
Shelly Keller,	Emilie Wacker
Coleen Ancell	Shirley Krueger

BOCL

BOCL met on Tuesday August 4 at 7:30 p.m. Members present were Warren Meitler, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Tara Kubick, Tyler Gier, Marilyn Wenhe, Kylie Ehrich, Marcy Hurlbut, & Pastor Bonine. Pastor opened with prayer, minutes from previous meeting were read and approved. As one of the duties of BOCL is Christian education Brock will contact midweek leaders to see if they will be needing any financial assistance or any other needs we could provide for them. Marcy reported on the video taping. More research needs to be done on wiring and also electrical sources. Kylie reported that the t-shirts have been distributed out. Also the supplier has ten extra screens if there is any interest from parishioners for another shirt We have 16 cases of water left. Brock will check with the supplier to see how many labels we have left. The topic of high school spirit items (balls, etc.) came up. While the group discussed this Tara pointed out that the schools get no profit from these, only the company supplying the items make a profit. Fall cleanup project is coming, the board decided that October 10 would make a good time. Details will be hammered out the next meeting. Kylie moved on this, Marilyn seconded, motion passed. Next meeting is set for September 1 at 7:00 p.m. Barb Meitler will be greeter for September. We adjourned with the Lord's Prayer. Respectfully submitted Brock Mueller

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FYI A packet of information regarding our future ministry as well as some information about the pros and cons of a Dual Parish is available. If you would like a packet please contact to office. Please review this information in preparation for a meeting to be announced in the near future.

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Acolyte Schedule

September	October
6 Rachel Sebesta	4 Marshall Hurlbut
13* Marshall Hurlbut	11* Mekelle Hurlbut
20 Mekelle Hurlbut	18 Grace Chegwidden
27* Grace Chegwidden	25* Rachel Sebesta

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Baptismal Birthdays in September



God's blessings to you for all His gifts of grace that you have received, and we pray for many more blessings for Jesus' sake!

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|------------------|---------------|
| Tarry Fischer | Samuel Princ |
| Lois Heinze | Kale Sorensen |
| Christina Kirk | Dean Thaemert |
| Jennifer Meitler | Wayne Trapp |
| Alan (Jay) Meyer | Cody Trost |
| Ronald Nelson | |

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***Lincoln Co.
Site nominated for
National Historic
Register***



At its regular quarterly meeting held at the Kansas Historical Society in Topeka, the Historic Sites Board of Review voted to forward seven nominations to the office of the Keeper of the National Register of Historic Places in Washington to be evaluated by its professional staff. If staff members concur with the board's findings, the properties will be included in the National Register.

The National Register of Historic Places is the country's official list of historically significant properties. Among the nominees is Evangelical Lutheran School – 308 N. Indiana Street, Sylvan Grove, Lincoln County

The Evangelical Lutheran School is located on the east edge of Sylvan Grove, directly north of the Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The two-and-a-half-story building reflects the Prairie School style of architecture and is constructed of native limestone, a common building material in this area during the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The school is associated with the early German Lutheran immigrants who settled in this area, following the efforts of Christ Kruse, a railroad man from Chicago known as a community builder and founder of Lutheran churches. The 1913 school, designed by Salina architect C.A Smith, replaced an earlier building at the same location. The parochial school operated every year except one between 1913 and 1981. At the start of the 1918-1919 school year, Lincoln County's Council of Defense closed the Evangelical Lutheran School due to anti-German hysteria during World War I. The school is nominated for its local significance in the areas of architecture and social history.

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

Our Weekly Worship schedule:

9 a.m. – Sunday School and BLTeens Bible study (school)

9 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

10 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
308 N Indiana Ave
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481-8835

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