

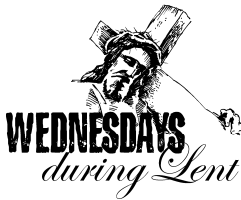


# Bethel Beam

www.bethelinwillmar.org

March 2010

## The Season of Lent



### Wednesday Worship

10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

**March 3**

**INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE:**  
Faith

**March 10**

**INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE:**  
Forgiveness

**March 17**

**INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE:**  
Gifts of Grace

**March 24**

**INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE:**  
Transformation



### Lenten Suppers

**Luther Hall 5:00-6:15 p.m.**  
**\$5/adult \$3/child 12 and under**

**March 3**

Vegetable Beef / Vegetarian  
Soup Surprise!

**March 10**

Barley Beef / Barley & Mushroom

**March 17**

Chicken Wild Rice / Vegetable

**March 24**

Chili / White Chili

**April 1**

**MAUNDY THURSDAY**  
Sauerkraut w/Meatballs / Minestrone

### ***Bethel's Mission:***

***Walking with Christ. Connecting to one another. Serving in God's world.***



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## Bethel Staff

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Pastor Mari Thorkelson—(320) 262-3639	<a href="mailto:mari@bethelinwillmar.org">mari@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Pastor Jonathan Dahl—(320) 262-3432	<a href="mailto:jdahl@bethelinwillmar.org">jdahl@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Pastor Frederik Jensen—(320) 231-3960	<a href="mailto:jfensen@charter.net">jfensen@charter.net</a>
Ron Hagemeyer—Music Ministries	<a href="mailto:ronh@bethelinwillmar.org">ronh@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Carrie Peterson—Youth Ministries	<a href="mailto:carrieannpeterson@yahoo.com">carrieannpeterson@yahoo.com</a>
Beverly Baseman—Christian Education	<a href="mailto:bbaseman@bethelinwillmar.org">bbaseman@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Sharon Peterson—Lay Ministries	<a href="mailto:speterson@bethelinwillmar.org">speterson@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Ione Pillard—Finance/Building Management	<a href="mailto:ipillard@bethelinwillmar.org">ipillard@bethelinwillmar.org</a>
Ruth Koenen—Administrative Assistant	<a href="mailto:ruth@bethelinwillmar.org">ruth@bethelinwillmar.org</a>

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## Come Worship With Us!

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**Saturdays** - 5:00 p.m.

**Sundays**

8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Worship  
9:15-10:15 a.m. Education Hour

***Wednesdays:***

***Soup Suppers 5:00 p.m.—6:15 p.m.***  
***Lenten Worship Services 6:30 p.m.***

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## Simply Giving

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***A simple choice, a generous response***

Have you considered ***Simply Giving***? This is an automated giving program designed to move your financial stewardship plan into action. Through ***Simply Giving***, your financial gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift – weekly, semi-monthly, or monthly – the option is yours.

***Simply Giving*** allows you to share your gifts through planned and intentional giving and activates your generosity into ongoing stewardship unto God. The congregation benefits from steady, more predictable revenues throughout the year and greater confidence in meeting its ministry and mission plan.

Brochures and forms are available in the church office if interested.

As always, thank you for all your generosity toward Bethel and the activity to which God is calling us. We are all in this together! Every person makes a difference!



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## Jottings from Pastor Jon

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*I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13 NRSV*

For many, this is a favorite verse. It is one of my favorites. Yet, interestingly enough, we often find ourselves in total disregard for this verse when our thoughts and actions are consumed by “what we cannot do” or “what we do not have.”

What would it look like to believe and live out this favorite verse of “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me?” Likely, it would mean a shift toward being about “what we can do” and discovering God’s abundance in our life right where we are. Most often, living in abundance does not mean adding MORE but means discovering what **ALREADY SURROUNDS YOU!**

That is the abundant life toward which Jesus leads us! Continue discovering God’s incredible abundance during Lent!

*Pastor Jon Dahl*

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## From Your Bethel President...

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Highlights from February Church Council meeting :

- ◆ World outreach and mission team approved \$4000 to be sent to Paz Y esperanza from Bethel with possible future fund raisers on their behalf. Paz Y has asked each of 7 congregations for \$10,000 in financial assistance to allow them time to develop a plan for their future.
- ◆ A task force has been formed, comprised of the pastors and representatives from Property, Technology, Visual Arts, and Worship and Music Teams to gather ideas on placement of the Sanctuary Projection Project. A designated memorial gift supports completion of this project.
- ◆ A task force is currently being formed to begin work on the Organ Restoration Project.
- ◆ Council retreat is scheduled for Sunday, March 14 from 1 to 7 p.m.
- ◆ The Vision Team scheduled a short congregational forum held February 21 during Cof-Tea in Luther Hall to review the new vision statement developed by the team.
- ◆ The Community Meal held at Bethel served 218 people. The next meal at Bethel is May 30.
- ◆ The Evangelism Team reported that 20 new members joined Bethel on February 21 with a pot-luck meal following the 10:30 a.m. service.
- ◆ The theme for Lent will be "Incredible Abundance" and will again feature the Holden Evening Prayer service.
- ◆ A pancake supper was served February 16 with the proceeds to the Sunday School Pennies for Peace mission project.

*Council President, Orlo Almlie*

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## Welcome New Bethel Members

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Kevin & Traci Strandberg  
Madison, Molli, and Kourtni

**Address:** Pennock

**Interests/Hobbies:** camping, sports,  
music, family time

Roy & Linda Campbell

**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:** fishing reading,  
knitting, embroidery

Jim & Joan Strutz

**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:** fishing, football,  
baseball, NASCAR, reading

Ross & Mindy Smeby

**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:**

Wayne & Louise Lenzmeier

**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:** antiques, working with  
children, art, reading

Sydney Peltier

**Address:** Spicer

**Interests/Hobbies:** newly baptized  
daughter of Aimee and Shawn Peltier

Nancy Skalla

Elizabeth Marshall, Nicole Marshall,  
and Nathan Skalla

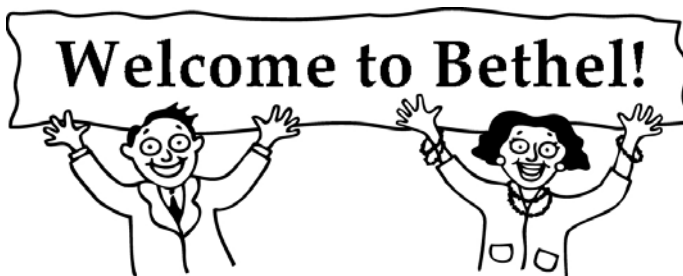
**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:** music, sports, outdoors  
camping, biking

Al & Kathy Setrum  
Ashton

**Address:** Willmar

**Interests/Hobbies:** anything outdoors





## Bethel Teams Sound Off

### Vision Team

The Vision Team has been working on Bethel's Vision Statement:

*"Don't just go to church. Be the church. Celebrating the image of God in every person, we strive to live out our faith with urgency and relevance. Led by the Spirit, we seek to challenge and transform the world, beginning with ourselves and moving into the wider community. We are an ever-growing people of prayer, worship, and service, welcoming all who long for a Christ-centered community of love."*

### Finance Team

The Finance Team will be looking into each fund during 2010 to see how each can be used for needs of Bethel, either from a team request, or to consolidate funds that have a balance when a project is completed.

Example: The Red Hymnal Fund has a balance of \$308.08. The project is complete. The Council acted at the February Council meeting to transfer those dollars into the Organ Fund--and close the Red Hymnal Fund.

Finance will make suggestions to appropriate teams about available fund money that is appropriate to use before using budgeted dollars. Stay tuned!

### Visual Arts Team

The Visual Arts Team works on rearranging and archiving artworks through out the year. Our goal is to have more artworks on display than in storage. Team members are in the process of photographing and recording information about the artworks at Bethel for historical and insurance purposes. We also assist members and committees on aesthetic decisions. We are pleased and excited to be part of the beautification of Bethel Lutheran Church.

After the Mission Event last October, the team created a mission statement:

- ◆ **Ignite spiritual imagination of the congregation and the community**
- ◆ **Preserve the beauty, culture, and history of the church for the sake of the congregation and community**
- ◆ **Glorify God's gift of artistic creativity**



## Bethel Teams Sound Off

### Community Outreach Ministry Team

The Community Outreach Ministry Team continues to meet monthly in pursuit of our mission: “extending God’s love.” Again we had a very successful Community Meal on January 31. Thirty five volunteers prepared food and served 215 people. We had about 8 takeout meals and a few remaining servings to feed our helpful volunteers. Thanks to our 14 bakers who brought a variety of cakes for dessert! Our next meal will be May 30, the fifth Sunday, which falls on Memorial Day weekend. We’d appreciate any help from those who will be home for that holiday weekend. We are expecting a crowd and plan to serve picnic fare. Yes, we do get many words of appreciation for the good food and helpful service. The majority of people coming to the meals are singles and seniors who appreciate dining together. Others have said they need a social outing on long weekends because they have no other plans.

The mailed goodie boxes were received by our deployed soldiers in time for Christmas. The next shipment will be at Easter and again in time for Memorial Day. If you know of any Bethel family member who has been recently deployed or has a new address due to military transfer, please let the church office know. We had two boxes returned as undeliverable. Your donations are always welcomed. Watch for new donation boxes in the near future.

What more can we do for the Haitian people? That question is being discussed by our members. Do you have ideas? Please let us know. We are wondering if we should have another Kids Against Hunger event especially for Haitian relief. Or should we have a cash campaign for the ELCA Disaster Relief Fund? Is there a certain mission we can support? Do you have other ideas? There will be need in that small poverty stricken country for months and years to come. We’d appreciate your feedback—even more so, we’d appreciate your willingness to serve with us as a team member for a year or two! Come to our next meeting on Tuesday, March 23 at 6:30 p.m.

### Property Team

The property team has several maintenance projects in the planning stage for this spring. Wallpaper repairs have been completed. At this time, we are replacing the first floor women's bathroom partitions, revarnishing the Heritage Room lower window frames, and repainting some of the railings in the interior of the building.



## Lenten & Holy Week Activities

### THE DAYS OF JESUS' DEATH AND RESURRECTION

#### April 1

##### Holy Thursday

10:00 a.m. – Chapel, Holy Communion

6:30 p.m. – Sanctuary, Foot Washing/Holy Communion

#### April 2

##### Good Friday

12:00 noon – Joint Worship – Calvary

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. – Bethel

(New joint experiential worship. Come and go as you are able.

Great for families and children.)

7:00 p.m. – Joint Tenebrae Service – Vinje



#### April 3

##### Easter Vigil

A day to spend time in prayer and offer acts of kindness.

#### April 4

##### Easter Sunday

8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m. – Festival Worship

Holy Communion at both services



##### Easter Breakfast

9:00 to 10:30 a.m.

#### Sunday, April 4

Come enjoy the **Easter Breakfast** and support Bethel's youth!

Proceeds from this year's breakfast will benefit our youth mission trips this summer as well as our intergenerational trip to Holden Village in 2011.

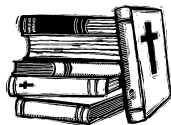
**NEW SERVING TIME THIS YEAR!**

9:00-10:30 a.m.

\$5/adult, \$3/Kids 12 and under

Serving: French Toast, Eggs, Fruit, Orange Juice, and Coffee

## Bible & Book Studies



### New Bible Study Series

**Our Lenten book study** will draw us into the “*Heart of*

*Christianity: Rediscovering a Life of Faith*” by Marcus J. Borg. He speaks

on how we can be passionate believers today. This takes place every

Wednesday, 5:15-6:15 p.m. in the Heritage Room. We will delve into our

Lenten theme of “Incredible Abundance” through challenging, new insights and lively conversation. Open to the community. Invite others. Books are available for \$10.25 at the Bible Study or from the church office.

“**Living the Questions**” A new video and discussion class, begins Sunday, February 28 at 9:15 a.m. in the Heritage Room.

**ALPHA Bible Study** series is coming—Seven week sessions of dinner, video presentation and small group discussions. Plan to attend. Dates are April 15-May 27 on Thursday nights from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Including all day event at Green Lake Bible Camp, Saturday, May 1. Come and join the fun and fellowship. Open to the wider community. Invite friends and neighbors!

### 2010 BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL:

Orlo Almlie (Chair)	Stewardship
Sandy Gardner (Vice-Chair)	Evangelism
Beverly Dougherty (Treasurer)	Finance
Kathy Thonvold (Secretary)	World Missions
Kathi Nichols	Worship and Music
Rollie Swenson	Finance
Mark Bredehoeft	Property
Darrell Forkrud	Planning/Vision
Keith Voss	Technology
Gene East	Technology
Chad Peterson	Stewardship
Jenni Thorpe	Christian Education
Beth Wosmek	Finance



## Upcoming Events

**Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers!** (See front page for the yummy details.) We are serving 2 soups, (one with meat, one vegetarian,) bread, veggies and dip, dessert, and beverages. Cost is \$5/adult and \$3/child 12 and under. Please sign up and pay for your meal in the church office before NOON on the day of the supper. We won't accept any late sign-ups this year so that we have enough food for those who signed up on time. **Our Lenten Soup Suppers** are a fundraiser this year for our Synod Youth Gatherings, the Middle School Mission trip to St. Paul, and the Senior High Mission trip to San Diego. **Thank you** for your faithful support of ministry with and for youth at Bethel!

**Property Team** plus other teams will meet jointly on **Sunday, March 7** at 9:15 a.m. in the Friendship Room.

**Girl Scout Sunday is March 7**. All former Girl Scouts and Girl Scout Leaders are invited to join the current Bethel Girl Scouts in singing the "Hymn of Scouting" during the offering at the 10:30 service. There will be an informal rehearsal at 10:00 a.m. before the service. Please plan on being a part of this new tradition at Bethel.

**Who's In The Middle:** The next upcoming events are: \* **Sunday, March 14**: Game Day at Bethel Church in Luther Hall. Potluck at 12:30 p.m. with games to follow. \* May 29 or June 11: Twins Game. Outdoor baseball! If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, please email us at [inthemiddle\\_bethel@hotmail.com](mailto:inthemiddle_bethel@hotmail.com).

**Quilters:** On **Thursday, March 11**, you will have quilting as usual. Plus, if you wish, bring a sandwich and the usual treat. (Coffee will be furnished). We will quilt, have lunch, then, if you wish, quilt some more!

**Over/Under 60's:** Our March meeting will be **Thursday, March 25** at 12 noon for a pot luck meal. Come, let's learn more about China. Our guest will be Bai Jinguo. He is in Willmar this year teaching Chinese at the Senior High School.

**Progressive Dinner is back!** Mark your calendars for the all-Bethel event that will take place **Saturday, April 17**. Watch the April BEAM for more details.

**ATTENTION YOUTH:** MARK, set, go! Faith on the Run! Stay tuned to hear about our NEW fundraiser in lieu of the rummage sale that will be unveiled **Sunday, April 11**! (See Bethel Youth News for a few more details.)





## Christian Education Events

**Sixth Grade and Parents:** “Faith Traditions” Milestone is March 7 and 14 in room #302. Faith Traditions trip to the Twin Cities is March 19-21. You must sign up by March 7 to order tickets for the Science Museum part of our trip.

**Sacred Dance Fundraiser:** To attend a Sacred Dance Workshop at Mount Carmel, attend a fundraiser Monday, March 9, from 5:00 p.m. to closing at Pizza Ranch. The Sacred Dancers receive the tips and a percentage of the sales that evening. Come for supper at Pizza Ranch.

**Early Childhood Event (Second Grade and Under):** Our next event with Kerry Hogan is Tuesday, March 16, 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Our theme is “Going Green With St. Patrick.” Activities will be on second floor. Parent topic is “Going Green with the Foods We Buy.” We will watch the movie, “*Fresh*”. Sign up outside Sunday School office.

### **Thank you’s from the Child Guides and a recipient of a gift from the Child Guides Fund at Bethel:**

This is a card that came from Ryan, a 1<sup>st</sup> grader at Roosevelt. The Bethel Fund helped his mom pay the registration fee for a bowling club at Kandi Bowl. Thank you so much for helping the Child Guide Program connect needy students to asset building activities!

*Heidi Burton – Roosevelt Child Guide*

All happy... all smiles... all grateful... all because of you! Because of you I can bowl. Thanks so much.

*Ryan*

Dear Bethel Supporters, Thank you so very much for the winter clothing and for the family style games. They will be used with families new to our community as an aid to learning English and also as a way to enrich times spent together as a family. Your generosity helps build caring, resilient and responsible youth.

*Gratefully, Christine Hilbert, Child Guides Coordinator*

**BETHELITES:** Christian Education has supported the Child Guides Program for over ten years. Your support of this local social ministry project for Willmar school children is very much appreciated. Thank you for your continued contributions.

*Beverly Baseman, Christian Education Director*



## ALPHA in April!

Alpha Alpha Alpha  
Alpha Alpha Alpha  
**Alpha**  
Alpha Alpha Alpha

What is the point of life?

What happens when we die?

**Is forgiveness possible?**

How is Jesus relevant for our lives today?

ALPHA at Bethel is your chance to consider  
the important questions  
that give foundation to our Christian faith walk.

It's finding & renewing our faith,  
food and friendship,  
questions and small group conversation.

The ALPHA course is one evening each week  
starting Thursday, April 15  
6:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. for seven weeks  
plus an enriching Saturday retreat  
at Green Lake Bible Camp, Saturday, May 1.

Everyone welcome.

For more information; pick up a brochure at church or call:  
Sandy Garner, ALPHA Coordinator 320-979-0847 or  
Sharon Peterson, Church Receptionist at 320-235-5450

# DIRT CUPS

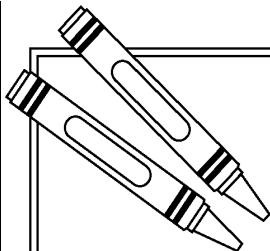
Make this easy snack for your family or your friends at Sunday school. As you eat it, celebrate the miracles God brings in the spring.

### What you need:

- 2 cups milk
- 1 (4-serving size) box of chocolate instant pudding
- 1 (8 oz.) tub of frozen whipped topping, thawed
- 1 (16 oz.) package Oreo cookies, crushed
- 8 (9 oz.) plastic cups
- gummy worms and frogs
- plastic flowers (optional)

### What you do:

1. Mix milk and pudding in a large bowl. Beat with a whisk until well blended. Let stand 5 minutes.
2. Add whipped topping and half of the crushed Oreos.
3. Place 1 tablespoon crushed Oreos in each cup. Fill cups 3/4 full with pudding.
4. Top with remaining crushed Oreos.
5. Chill at least 1 hour or until ready to serve.
6. Decorate with gummy worms and/or frogs.
7. Place the stem end of the plastic flower into the center of the pudding dessert.



## Just for KIDS

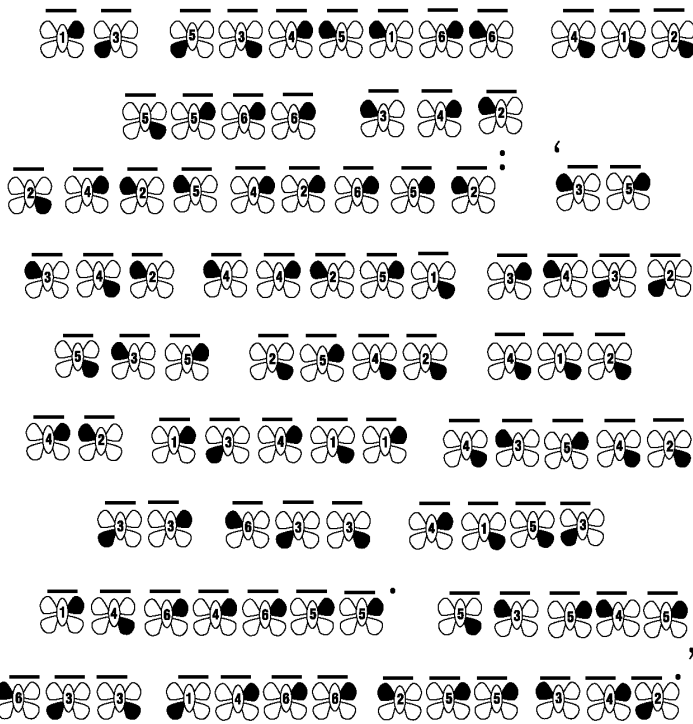
### The Angel's Message

When Mary and Mary Magdalene went to Jesus' tomb, an angel suddenly appeared before them! He told them not to be afraid and gave them a message for Jesus' disciples.

Use the code to read the message from Matthew 28:7 (NIV).



"G



Answer: "Go quickly and tell his disciples: He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him."



## For Your Information

**March & April Altar Flowers.** We are in need of altar flowers for the next two months. If you would like to donate flowers in memory of/in honor of someone, please sign up on the bulletin board or call the church office.

**The Health & Wellness initiative** is postponed to a later date. If you are interested in being a part of a group leading this idea, see Pastor Mari.

**Alzheimer's Support Group:** Starting immediately, the Support Group will no longer be meeting at Bethel Church on Thursday evenings. The new place and time is as follows: **First Thursday of the month, 3:30 p.m., Bethesda Pleasant View.** If you need someone to sit with your loved one during the meeting, call for a free pass so that they can attend Adult Day Services while you gain support from other caregivers at the group meeting. For more information, call: Bunne Frost-Johnston 214-5621 or Cindy Wilkens 214-5634.

**Shelter House's annual "Hope for Tomorrow"** gala is Saturday, May 1. In addition to inviting you to their party, they are also seeking sponsors, monetary contributions or auction donations. Donations for silent or live auction should be highly sought after items likely to bring \$100 or more. Your sponsorship or donations would be greatly appreciated by March 25. If you would like to donate or have any questions, please contact Connie Schmoll at 235-0475 ext 1.

**The Woodbury Chorus Orchestra** will present "Celebration of Life" on Sunday, March 21, 4:00 p.m. at Vinje Lutheran Church. This program of choral and orchestral music will include selections of Hayden and Schubert as well as musical favorites of Richard Rodgers and Fiddler on the Roof. Admission is free, no tickets required. 100% of the proceeds of a free will offering will benefit the Willmar Area Food Shelf.

**Bulletin and Beam Articles** can be emailed to [ruth@bethelinwillmar.org](mailto:ruth@bethelinwillmar.org). Bulletin notices are due by 5:00 p.m. on Wednesdays. The next deadline for the April Beam is **Monday, March 15 at 12 noon.**





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## Thank you!

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Dear Pastor Mari, Pastor Jon, Pastor Jensen and Bethel Congregation,  
Thank you pastors for your visits while I was in the hospital. Thank you for everyone's prayers and for thinking of me, Wayne, and our family. We feel so blessed to be a part of the Bethel family. We are so blessed to have such wonderful pastors. Thank you again.  
*Love, Wayne & Janet Reich and family*

Dear Bethel Friends,

Thank you very much for the heart-warming, wonderful cards and letters you sent me for my 90th birthday. You are all in my prayers and thoughts. *Love, Ruth Petersen*

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## Footsteps of St. Paul

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Are you interested in taking a trip this fall (October or November) to Turkey and Greece, walking in the footsteps of Paul?

- ◆ Corinth—Paul stays for 18 months with Aquila & Priscilla, writes 1 & 2 Thessalonians and later Romans
- ◆ Ephesus—Paul stays for 2 years, writes 1 Corinthians and possibly Galatians
- ◆ Macedonia—Paul writes 2 Corinthians
- ◆ Plus traveling the interior of Turkey

Sign up in the office if you are at all interested.  
Pat Foley and Pastor Mari

2010 Lenten Theme:  
*INCREDIBLE ABUNDANCE*  
*Becoming a new and different people*  
*John 10:10*



## WELCA—Bethel Women of the ELCA

### Tuesday, March 2

9:30 a.m.

Mary Jane Hedin  
Friendship Room

Martha Joyce Jacobson  
1443 Grace Av SW

Ruth Jervey Christiansen  
Luther Hall

12:00 p.m.

Eunice Friendship Room

5:00 p.m.

Susanna Church Library

7:00 p.m.

P.M. Altar

Dorothy Peterson, Sue Jordahl  
Friendship Room

### Thursday, March 4

9:30 a.m.

A.M. Altar June McGrath,  
Joan Peterson  
Friendship Room

2:00 p.m.

Honor Luther Hall  
Hostess Young Women's Altar Unit

## Attn: Ladies

### SERVING LUNCH AT FUNERALS IN BETHEL

At present, Bethel has 5 service groups who are responsible for serving lunch at funerals. There are times when we need people to either provide a 9x13 cake or work in the kitchen/dining room to assist in serving. Eilene would like to compile a list of people who would be willing to assist with baking or serving at a funeral. Please call Eilene Magnuson 235-1611 or leave your name on a list at the church office as to how you would like to serve. Thank you very much!



## Our Sympathy

Bethel would like to offer their deepest sympathy to the following families who have lost loved ones recently:

**Gary Pearson**      **Virginia Hanson**  
**Leona Richmond (Sharon Groen's mother)**



Bethel Lutheran Church

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Willmar, MN 56201  
[www.bethelinwillmar.org](http://www.bethelinwillmar.org)

Phone: 320-235-5450  
Fax: 320-214-8784

**The Church Downtown**

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REQUESTED**

