Note From Pastor Mari

There is nothing temporary about you.
Nothing shallow about the endless depths
Of your being. Nothing brief about the extent
Of your longevity. You are. You will be.
Always and forever. For us, with us, among us.
Constant. Sustaining. Enduring. Unending.
And you promise to each one a life
Forever united with the richness of yours.
How could we ask for anything more?
Why would we want anything less?

Dear God, thank you for Everlasting Life, now, today, offering Hope with every breath. Amen.

You are love like no other.
Love so large you contain our smallness.
Love so deep you accept our shallowness.
Love so strong you carry our weakness.
Love so wide you enclose our wandering.
Love so tender you experience our hurting.
Love so tolerable you outlive our apathy.
Love so ardent you thaw our coldness.
Love so true you endure our betrayals.
Love so patient you wait for our returning.

Spirit of Love, we give you thanks for being our true Home, a place of abundant love. Amen.

We meet you in your gospel teachings,
Recognize you in the witness of your life,
Know you by the interior pathways
Leading us to love as you have done.
When we search for our bearings
Or question what is our true direction,
We can look to how you lived your years
And discern our own path for how to be.
Your lessons mark our lifelong journey
With constant signs of steady guidance.

Dear Jesus, thank you for being The Way in my life. Amen.

I hope you find time to enjoy these reflections from my Spiritual Journal. Make room in these winter days for quiet reflection time and notice what happens, what changes, what opens.

SEE YOU IN WORSHIP! *Pastor Mari*

2012 Lenten Journey

Our Lenten Journey together begins with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We will have Ash Wednesday worship with Holy Communion at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. This is a good and meaningful time for families to be together – all ages are welcome – to be impacted by the love of Jesus for us.

We will gather for a midweek time of reflection every Wednesday in Lent from 6:30-7:00 p.m. following homemade Soup Suppers from 5:00 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. This is an especially good time for families to join together. Here is an opportunity once again to sing the beautiful music of "Holden Evening Prayer" which we all love.

Our 40-day study last year with theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer was so well-received, and we will offer another new 40-day journey this Lent. Look for sign-ups and news in our worship bulletins about the insightful book we will study together.

Mark your calendars today for these fruitful upcoming events in the life of Bethel. We are eager to join together for our 2012 Lenten Journey.

LENTEN CALENDAR

Tuesday, February 21
Shrove Pancake Supper, 4:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 22
Ash Wednesday Lenten Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Wednesdays, February 29, March 7, 14, 21, 28
Lenten Worship
10:00 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.
Lenten Suppers
5:00 p.m.—6:15 p.m.

Palm Sunday, Sunday, April 1
8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

Easter Sunday, Sunday, April 8
8:15 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

"One kind word can warm three winter months."

Join In Worship

Wednesday - Matins - 10:00 a.m.
Saturday - 5:00 p.m.
Sunday
8:15 a.m. Worship
9:00 a.m. Cof-Tea Fellowship
9:15 a.m. Education Hour for all ages
10:30 a.m. Worship

Council President Note

From our Council meeting on January 10, 2012.

God's Greatest Possibilities: Steve Friedlein led an exercise that demonstrated the importance on positive effects of clear communication so we as leaders in the congregation communicate, more clearly, to the entire congregation. He also used a couple of quotes that highlighted how our giving ultimately leads to our receiving.

Pastor Mari shared the fulfillment of Christmas services. She shared her concern that the pressures of her role with numerous holiday services and 5 funerals during the same time plus covering the music leadership vacancy and organ update has left her feeling overloaded. Council members discussed how to help get us through the music vacancy challenges and more effort will follow to help Pastor Mari.

Pastor Jon shared his praise for all involved in the great Christmas services. He also confirmed the workload issues along with the visitation load that both Pastors are involved with too. More efforts by Personnel Team and Council to help spread that load will be looked at by all.

Budget review for December year end came as good news with contributions up nearly 10% for the year while solid efforts by all the Teams held expenses below budget to put us in a positive position for the year. Please review the annual reports available at church and come hear more at the annual meeting.

Organ renovation fund drive was successful. Now we just need the work to be completed. Thanks for the efforts by all for this great instrument's renovation.

Continued on next column →

February Events

Youth Pizza Sales - Your Papa Murphy items may be picked up on **Friday, February 3** from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the church. Thank you for your support!

Who's In The Middle: (Reminder for those that have signed up) The Super Bowl Party is **Sunday, February 5** at Mark & Linda Bredehoeft's residence, 517 Monongalia Ave SW, Willmar. 4:30 p.m. to ?? Please bring an appetizer to pass and/or a sweet treat.

Cupid's Feast & Pie Auction - **Sunday, February 12**. Please see page 4 for all details.

Join us for Lenten Soup Suppers! Starting **Wednesday, February 29** from 5:00 p.m.-6:15 p.m., we will be serving 2 soups (one meat and one vegetarian), bread, veggies with dip and dessert. 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 will not be able to accept late sign-ups so that we can have enough food for those who signed up on time.* Our Lenten Soup Suppers are a fundraiser for the youth traveling to New Orleans and Duluth this summer. **THANK YOU** for your faithful support!

Knitters: Tuesday, February 20, 2:00 p.m., Diedra's

Over/Under 60's: Thursday, Feb 23, 12:00 noon

There are many other March events that are not listed on this page. Please take a moment to look over the Beam, calendar and website. Thank you!

Council Note Continued

Annual Meeting: Set for Sunday January 22, 2012 at 10:30 a.m. This will follow a 9:00 a.m. worship service (one service Sunday) and a brunch in Luther Hall. No Sunday School that day with nursery provided so we can get more attendance at our Annual Meeting. Come Be the Church.

Darrell Forkrud, Council President

Thank You!

Thanks to all Bethelites for your prayers, cards, visits, goodies and the prayer shawl. A special thank you to Pastor Mari and Pastor Jon for their visits and prayers. It is good to be home from surgery and the stay at Bethesda Pleasant View. I am anxious to get my arm working again. Your support has been a blessing to both of us.

Thanks with love, Loretta and Burton

Dear Bethel Congregation; I wish to extend a belated **thank you** to the members of Bethel Lutheran Church for your continued support and remembrances of the Service-members of the United States Military. I specifically appreciate the Christmas cards and care items that were sent overseas when my son Sergeant Shane Arne, my nephew Staff Sergeant Grant Underland, and myself were deployed to Iraq in from 2009 to 2010. The cards continue even after we have come home which is a reminder to us of your commitment to support our Nations men and women who are called upon to defend our freedoms and the civil rights of others. A special thanks to Mrs. Ron (Jean) Johnson who has organized these efforts and kept the service members in Bethel's Light!
After receiving a refresher lesson on the art of Lefsa baking during this holiday season from my father, Richard Arne, I wanted to try my hand at it solo. Though I could not make enough Lefsa for the entire congregation I wanted to share some with you as a gesture of my gratitude. I hope you enjoy it and I believe Dick will give it his approval.

Erik R. Arne, Command Sergeant Major
Minnesota Army National Guard

Don & June McGrath **thank all Bethel** members and friends for their prayer, calls and card that so well supported Don during treatment for cancer. The good news is that the treatment is now over and the better news is that the cancer is gone. Again, we thank you for your support and comfort though a difficult time.

Don & June McGrath

Thank You!

Seventeen of our 60 years of marriage have been spent here at Bethel. This church has been so kind and welcoming to us. **We want to thank everyone** at Bethel for making our 60th Anniversary and Pat's 80th Birthday such a memorable occasion. A special thanks to our daughters, Kathy and Sharon, for all of their loving kindness and the work they put into the week.

Much love, Pat & Lloyd Tollefson

Women of the ELCA

All Bethel women are invited to meet
on Thursday, February 16,
at 1:30 p.m. in Luther Hall.
Program is *"Quilts."* Bring your favorite quilts.
Hostess is Martha/Ruth Unit.

Lakeland Conference Women's Retreat
Monday, February 20, 9:00 a.m.
Green Lake Bible Camp
Speakers Bryant Kaden and Carrie Van Epps
Cost $10.00 per person which includes lunch.
Please sign up and pay in the office
by Thursday, February 9.

WOMEN'S UNITS

Mary Morning Unit - 9:30 am, Tuesday, February 7, Friendship Room, Hostess: Jean Johnson

Martha & Ruth Morning Unit - 9:30 am, Tuesday, February 7, Luther Hall, Hostess: Joyce Jacobson

Eunice Unit - 12:00 noon, Tuesday, February 7, Friendship Room (no hostess)

Susanna Unit - 5:00 pm, Tuesday, February 7, Friendship Room (no hostess)

Evening Altar Unit - 7:00 pm, Tuesday, February 7, Friendship Room, Hostess: Kathy Thonvold & Jackie Payne

Morning Altar Unit - 9:30 am, Thursday, February 2, Hostess: Jeanette Carlson

Honor Roll Unit - 2:00 pm, Thursday, February 2, Luther Hall: Hostess: PM Altar Unit

Don't Just Go to Church. BE the Church.

Did You Know...

Attention Soup Makers and Bread Bakers! We are looking for anyone willing to make soup or bread for our Lenten suppers. Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 29 and are fundraisers for the youth attending mission trips this summer. Anyone willing to help out, please contact Lori or Becky at 235-5450. Thank You!

Bethel Bakers: Homemade pies are needed for the Cupid's Feast & Pie Auction on February 12. Please contact Andrea Caruthers if you are able to bring two of your favorite pies. One will be auctioned off to the highest bidder and the second will be the dessert served at Cupid's Feast.

Several interesting books have been donated to the Bethel Library and are now available for check out. These include 4 books from the Baxter series by popular author Karen Kingsbury -- *"Someday," "Summer," "Sunset" and "Sunrise,"* as well as an additional 4 books by her. These are located in the adult fiction section. Several non-fiction books have been added as well including: *"Heaven is For Real"* by Todd Burpo; *"Moses-A Life"* by Jonathan Kirsch; *"Abraham-A Journey to the Heart of Three Faiths"* by Bruce Feiler, and *"God-A Brief History"* by John Bowker.

Please note: The church will be closed on Monday, February 20 to observe President's Day.

Beam Deadline: Deadline for articles in the March Beam is Monday, February 13 at noon. Please email them to Ruth at ruth@bethelinwillmar.org or drop them off at the office.

Bethel's Sunday worship is aired each Monday on WRAC channel 8 at 9 am and 6 pm.

Community Outreach Team

Mark your calendars to attend the second annual **Cupid's Feast and Pie Auction** in Luther Hall on Sunday, February 12 at 5:00 p.m. Our team is planning another festive event with a Valentine theme. There will be a catered dinner, special music and delicious dessert. We will have door prizes, too! This year our team decided that all proceeds will go toward local mission needs. Ticket Sales begin late January at $20 a person with more than half tax deductible. Watch for details in Bethel's weekly bulletins. Join the fun and help our local community serve those in need!

Heads up- The annual church **Rummage Sale** will be Saturday, March 24. Clean out those drawers, closets, garages and attics to bring your donations to church on Friday, March 23. All proceeds from this fundraiser will go toward the Food for Kidz fund to purchase the food product for next November's bag filling. Your generosity with donations and purchases will feed the hungry! Our team says many thanks!!

Visual Arts Team

With thanks to Richard Falk, Bethel Church has acquired two of Audrey Falk's water color paintings which will be displayed on the north wall in Luther Hall. Audrey was a founding member of the Visual Arts Committee. We are grateful to Richard Falk for this special gift.

Art by Laura Welle is on display in the atrium. *Artwork from Israel* will be on exhibit during the winter months. The artwork includes ink wash and watercolor paintings completed while visiting Israel.

e-Beam is here!

Beginning with this February Beam, those who have elected to receive their Bethel Beam via email will begin receiving a Constant Contact email with a link that will open to the electronic version of the newsletter. Reminder: If we did not received a preference from you and there is a valid email address for you in our system, your household automatically was converted to the e-Beam. The e-Beam link is also available on Bethel's website, www.bethelinwillmar.org. Our website has recently been updated. Please check it out! If there are any questions regarding your receipt of the Beam, please contact Ruth, ruth@bethelinwillmar.org, in our church office. Thank you.

Our Sympathy

The Bethel family extends deepest sympathy to:
Jim Rule on the passing of Jim's wife, Betty;
Mardi Eckhoff on the death of
her husband, Jerry Eckhoff;
Carl & Martha Jacobson on the passing of
Martha's brother, Glenn Carlson;
Kevin & Corinne Dahl on the death of
Kevin's mother, Kathleen Dahl,
the family of **Charles Harvey Allen**, and
friends of **Carol Rutsen**.

We also extend our sympathy to those
who have recently lost loved ones.

Music Director Update

We interviewed our third candidate who was at Bethel the first week of January. After securing background and reference checks, we hope to make a decision. Yes, it is a long process. Thank you for your patience and continued prayers.

Candy Anderson, Barb Holmgren, Jane Kochis, Gary Paulson, Molli Strandberg, Judy Wright and Pastor Mari Thorkelson

YOUTH Events & Items

Youth Rally at YMCA: A collaborative event for grades 6-8 with Calvary and St Mary's will be **Friday, February 3** from 7:30—12:00 a.m. Cost is $10.00. Bethel's 6:30 Band will be performing. See you there!

Sr. Hi students may sign up for the **Synod wide youth gathering** in Mankato on **March 30-31**. Cost is $80.00 per person. Sign up on the bulletin board by the youth room

Bethel Church offers an undergraduate (non competitive) scholarship. The application for the scholarship can be obtained on the Bethel website or the church office. Deadline to apply is **February 15**. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jon at 235-5450.

God's Greatest Possibilities

God's Greatest Possibilities tend to reveal themselves more clearly when we become more aware of the needs of others.

It's so easy to give instructions, or tell others what to do, without regard for their needs.

To illustrate the effect, Council members were given an opportunity to participate in a two part activity:

First, they experienced the challenge and frustration of receiving instructions to construct an object, without the benefit of open communication with the instructor. The outcome and the experience were less than positive for everyone involved.

Then, they were given the opportunity to create a second object. This time, as they received instructions, they were allowed to ask questions and interact with the instructor.

Everyone was able to successfully complete the assigned task, without frustration or confusion.

It became self-evident that possibilities abound when a speaker changes their focus.

Remember: Raising our awareness to the needs of others is an important step in the process of unveiling God's greatest possibilities.

Steve Friedlein, facilitator

Community Events

Troop 224 Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Please join us on Sunday, February 5, for Boy Scouts of America Troop 224's Annual Spaghetti Dinner. We will be serving from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. at Calvary Lutheran Church, Willmar. This is a free will donation. Proceeds will go to support Troop 224's activities. Thank you for supporting the Boy Scouts of America.

Bethel's Mission

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

Bethel Lutheran Church

411 SW Becker Ave
Willmar, MN 56201
www.bethelinwillmar.org

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

The Church Downtown

Non-Profit Org.
U.S.POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 352
WILLMAR, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Bethel Beam

www.bethelinwillmar.org **February 2012**

Love

1 John 4:16

You are the great heart of true loves,
Woven through the fabric of inner life.
You are the fondness in each genuine hug,
The spark and ardor of marital bliss,
The affection held in the eyes of a friend.
You move through parental tenderness
And those who carefully tend the weak.
You are knit into our unselfish actions,
Spun through each effort to be kind.
You are the one great Love in our loves.