



The Echo

Glorifies God, Serves all people,
Welcomes everyone into Christ's family.

Volume 123

September, 2023

Number 9

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Lily Brondyke
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Financial Secretary Carole Beck
Custodian Rodney Spence
Kids Ministry Coordinator Brook Prins
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dean A. Peterson
Organist Bill VanEffen
Choir Director & Musician/Tech Support John Beck
Pianist Kim Beck
Social Media Producer/Web Developer Kyra Beck
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OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Friday M-F 8:30am-2:30pm (lunch 12-1)

PHONE NUMBERS

Pastor Lily Brondyke 563-542-5746
Church Office 906-786-6642

September

2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10am coffee fellowship	2
3 10am Sunday Worship Facebook live, & AM600 or FM93.5	4	5 Free Store 11am-1pm And 4pm-6pm 9:30am Zumba Gold	6 9am Quilting	7 9:30am Zumba Gold 10am Bible Study	8 10am coffee fellowship	9
10 10am worship in Ludington Park pavilion, potluck to follow.	11	12 9:30am Zumba Gold	13 9am Quilting	14 9:30am Zumba Gold 10am Bible Study	15 10am coffee fellowship 6pm JUST MEEZ at Log Cabin restaurant	16
17 10am Sunday Worship & Sunday school with Rev. Dave Van Kley Facebook live, & AM600 or FM93.5	18 6:30pm Church Council meeting	19 9:30am Zumba Gold 1pm Bethany Gems 7pm Women's Bible Study @ LeAnne Gartland's house	20 9am Quilting	21 9:30am Zumba Gold 10am Bible Study	22 10am coffee fellowship	23
24 10am Sunday Worship & Sunday school with Rev. Dave Van Kley Facebook live, & AM600 or FM93.5	25	26 9am PEO in Fellowship Hall 9:30am Zumba Gold 7pm Women's Bible Study @ LeAnne Gartland's house	27 9am Quilting	28 9:30am Zumba Gold 10am Bible Study	29 10am coffee fellowship	30
OCTOBER 1 10am Worship/Sunday School 11:15am Confirmation grades 6-8						

Faith Formation is for Kids Big and Small!

Then children were being brought to him in order that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples spoke sternly to those who brought them, but Jesus said, "Let the children come to me, and do not stop them, for it is to such as these that the kingdom of heaven belongs."

Matthew 19:13-14

Do you know the expression, "kid at heart"? It could be an important one to keep in mind this time of the year. On September 10th we are rallying together to begin a new year of faith formation! On Rally Day we celebrate the ways we equip young people to have a relationship with God. At Bethany we have Sunday School and Confirmation programs that meet the needs of students ages 4-15. But that is by no means where faith formation stops.

We know that God walks alongside us our whole life. From the cradle to our deathbed, and beyond we are accompanied by a God who loves us beyond measure. It's the great and mysterious confession of our faith that Jesus is the good news of God's love for all people! Faith formation is a means through which we can acquire tools and friends to ask the hard questions of our life and our faith.

Where is God when the person, I love most in the world dies? *(God is crying with you. You are not alone in grief.)*

Am I good enough? Have I done enough for God's love? *(Yes. You don't have to do anything for God's love.)*

But what about when I have a hard time believing it's true?

But what does it mean for me to live as a disciple of Jesus?

Did the unicorns just not make it on the ark? *(I wonder?)*

Following Jesus changes everything about our life. It's not easy. It's often challenging and frustrating. Yet, Jesus beckons, "Let the children come to me!" We are all, big and small invited to go to Jesus with wonder and curiosity! Worship, Bible studies, retreats, and fellowship give us opportunities to wonder and to form our faith. It may not always give answers, but better questions. It may not solve our problems, but it may comfort us in our suffering.

We celebrate faith formation not only for young people but for all people. It's a lifelong journey. I challenge you to try something new this year. Try a Bible study or a retreat. Volunteer with a new group. Try serving sometime in worship—we always need more help. Try something new. God's world is big and God's love is even bigger. There's much to learn and much to explore.

Jesus says, "To such as these, the kingdom of heaven belongs." Stay curious beloved people!

Love, Pastor Lily



September Birthdays

- Sept 1** Kim Anderson
Courage Krueger
- Sept 2** Sandy Flinn
- Sept 5** Robert Getzloff
- Sept 7** James Bureau
James Peterson
- Sept 8** Rick Anderson
Christer Carne
Jessica Nelson
- Sept 10** Dennis Hebert
- Sept 11** Jack Prins
- Sept 12** Jif Heskin
Owen Lancour
- Sept 13** Kim Beck
Taylor Forvilly
- Sept 14** Sara Cederna
Leif Heskin
- Sept 15** Kaycee DeLany
- Sept 16** Kristen Farrell
Kay Johnson
- Sept 17** Taylor Flinn
Becky Jacobson
Emma Miller
- Sept 18** Sue Clifton
Julie Roll-Phillips
- Sept 19** Amanda Bink
Barvara Dagenais
Connie Dunstone-Hillesheim
Richard LaCosse
Sue Miller
Colene Peterson
- Sept 20** Ross Strand
- Sept 21** Joanna Beck
Alisa Madden
Shannon Smith
- Sept 22** Sue McCarthy
Don Victorson
- Sept 23** Abigail Durst
Kerri Lancour
- Sept 25** Ray Houle
- Sept 26** Don Hopkins
- Sept 27** Harley Erickson
LeeAnn Strand
Sandy Wilson
- Sept 29** Joyce Anderson
- Sept 30** Curtis Aiken
Parker Erickson



September Anniversaries

- Sept 2** Wally & Sandy Flinn 59 years
Nick & Christina Kobasic 5 years
- Sept 3** James & Judy Schwartz 63 years
- Sept 5** Karl & Andrea Jackson 36 years
- Sept 10** Jim & Elizabeth Moberg 46 years
- Sept 11** Erik & Kim Bessonen 24 years
- Sept 12** John & Christine Anderson 14 years
- Sept 14** Corey & Jackie Porath 11 years
- Sept 17** Will & Debbie Carne 40 years
- Sept 19** Tony & Traci Harris 31 years
- Sept 27** Gregg & Rosemary Hendrickson 43 yrs



Radio Ministry

Each week our worship is broadcast on radio stations AM600 and FM 93.5. These broadcasts reach countless folks with our ministry and message. The cost to support a week is \$90. You may dedicate the broadcast for special events and memorials.

AVAILABLE RADIO SPONSORS 2023 (\$90): October 8, 15, 29; November 12, 26; December 24, 31



Floral Ministry

Each week our altar is adorned with fresh flower arrangements. Two large vases of beautiful flowers help us prepare our altar for worship and are available to be picked up by those who sponsored them. The cost to support one week's floral ministry is \$17. Like the radio broadcast you may dedicate the flowers for special events and memorials.

AVAILABLE FLOWER SPONSORS 2023 (\$17): September 29; October 29; November 12, 19; December 17, 31



JUST MEEZ-
will meet Friday,
September 15th, 6pm at
Log Cabin. Call Ardith at
906-786-4431 if you would
like to attend.



Bethany Lutheran
Church
Free Store

Bethany's Free Store will be opening again on Tuesday, September 5th! Our Free Store will allow those who are lower-income and/or eligible for Michigan Bridge cards to receive non-food items that cannot be purchased with their Bridge Cards.

Since our beginning we have registered and helped over 400 families.

We are always looking for *volunteers*, please contact the office if you can help. (906) 786-6642

If you are aware of any families in need, please encourage them to register and shop the Free Store.



**COFFEE HOUR HOSTS
WANTED**

If you are interested in hosting a coffee hour after Sunday worship? Call the church office!



Bethany Gems

Our Bethany Gems have been collecting items for personal packets that are given to the homeless by the Salvation Army, St. Vincent de Paul and Tri County Safe Harbor.

These items include:

- ❖ Soaps
- ❖ Shampoo & Conditioner
- ❖ Lotion
- ❖ Kleenex packets
- ❖ Dental Floss
- ❖ Toothpaste
- ❖ Toothbrushes

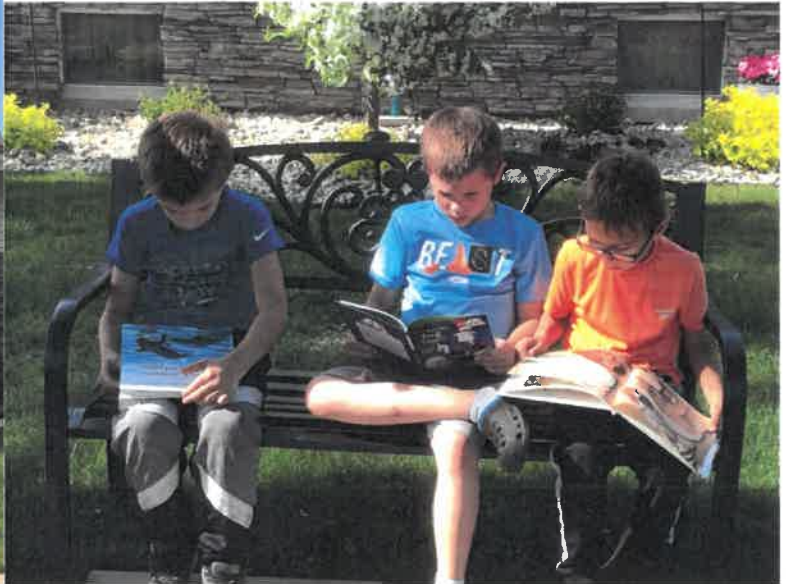
These can accumulate in our homes from travel, visits to our dentists, etc. and can be put to good use.

If you wish to donate, please bring them to Kelly in the church office and she will make sure the Gems receive them.

Thank you for your previous donations.

Our Bethany Gems meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 19th, at 1:00p.m.

The Little Library



Judy Adamini who rents one of Bethany's duplexes started a "Little Library" for kids and adults.

The library was built by Judy's brother Dan, in honor and memory of Peter, and Judy's love of reading. It has been so well received by the families in the neighborhood. The children have been stopping to read all summer long and sharing word of the library with their friends. The children are encouraged to take the books home to read, or sit on the bench Judy provided. Family walks are now including a weekly stop for books. The books in the library have come from Bethany, friends, and strangers donating as they walk by.

Judy said: "In my home we believed when you give a child a book you are giving them the keys to the world. How my husband Peter, who was an English teacher, would have loved the concept of Little Libraries. He passed before they came into being. Thank you everyone for making this possible! Please keep on reading."



SOLID AS A ROCK: FALL RETREAT FOR GRADES 3-6

October 20 - 21, 2023 CDT

Fortune Lake is excited to invite all current 3-6 graders to our youth retreat this fall! This year's theme of "Solid as a Rock" invites us to explore God's strength and the possibilities that open up to us when we rely on them fully. Campers will enjoy camp favorites like games, songs, campfire, Bible Study, outdoor play, camp-style worship, and more! This retreat is a great opportunity for long-time campers to return to Fortune Lake and for those who have never been to camp before to get a taste of what it's like without committing to a whole week of overnight camp. We will spend the week learning, growing, and having fun together in hopes that everyone comes away with a better understanding of our relationship with Creator God.

Campers may come as individuals, with friends, or with a group from their congregation. Adult chaperones are encouraged to attend and will also have the option of participating in the Darkness to Light workshop outlined below; please note that the registrations are separate.

Retreat Registration Online or call the Bethany Lutheran Church Office for help!

Help with registration cost is available through Bethany! Pastor Lily is hoping to bring a group from Bethany. Please reach out if you are interested. This is a great and easy way to experience a night of camp for the first time..

Registration deadline for this retreat is October 13.



END OF SUMMER BASH



The middle school youth group had a great time at our end of summer bash! Thank you to the Nyquist family for hosting us. There's no better way to get back to school than with an evening of fun, friends, and faith.

If you or anyone you know is interested in being involved in our youth groups or confirmation class reach out to Pastor Lily. There's always room for more!



2023 U.P. State Fair

We had a great week at the fair! Bethany, along with other ELCA churches in Delta and Schoolcraft counties, sold water and baked goods for the whole week. All proceeds from the sales go toward clean water projects around the world.

With all the support from you, from the Conference 6 churches and from Elmer's Country Market we were able to raise \$3000 for clean water projects. This is how we live and love like Jesus in the world! Thank you to everyone who helped out!



SUNDAY SCHOOL BEGINS!

September 17th

Sunday School begins on September 17th! Pre-K through 5th grade students are invited to participate in faith building and Bible story fun throughout the school year.

NEW THIS YEAR- Drop your student off in the Sunday School room BEFORE worship begins! Sunday School education will take place during the first portion of worship-then, students will join you in worship during the offering time. We are so excited to learn together this year!



RALLY DAY 2023 **September 10th, 10AM**

We will meet at the Ludington Park pavillion for worship at 10am, with a potluck to follow.

Bring your lawn chairs, bring a dish to share, and bring your backpacks for a blessing!



Join us for fun & games, and Confirmation/Sunday School registration as we kick off the 2023-2024 school year!

Riding the Tiger

Aging and Spirituality in the Second Half of Life

A Men's Retreat

Sponsored by The Cedar Tree Institute in partnership
with the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the ELCA



October 20 (Friday) 5 P.M. CST –
October 21 (Saturday) 2 P.M. CST
Fortune Lake Camp, Crystal Falls, Michigan

Facilitators: Rev. Lee Goodwin, Rev. Jon Magnuson, and Rev. Scott Ehle

*Lodging (single rooms)

Dinner, Breakfast, and Lunch

Cost: \$150

*(SINGLE Rooms or DOUBLE Rooms available—state option when registering.
Space is limited)

Register by October 1, contact Jim Duehring, Assistant to the Bishop
906-228-2300 or by email at: jduehring@nglsynod.org

Registration is being handled by the Northern Great Lakes Synod

Based on the Franciscan priest Richard Rohr's insights,
a fascinating and helpful look
at the peculiar gifts and challenges in the second half of life
as we navigate with courage and hope, the shifting sands of, identity,
utility, and meaning.



2023 Fall Class Preview

Join the fellowship and fun with people across the Northern Great Lakes Synod as you explore the Bible, church traditions, and issues central to the lives of Christians today. Registration will be available on the synod website (nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation) and opens in August. Online courses will begin in September and October. For more information or to receive the link to register in August, contact Deacon Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or lori.ward@nglsynod.org

Christ's Kaleidoscope

A focus on resources that educate and deepen cultural competency regarding racial equity, our indigenous neighbors, and the LGBTQIA+ community.

with Pastor Bruce J. Thorsen and Samuel Brink,
Fortune Lake Lutheran Bible Camp Intern

Embracing God's Future without Forgetting the Past:

A Conversation about Loss, Grief, and Nostalgia
in Congregational Life

a study on the book by Michael Girlinghouse
with Bishop Katherine Finegan of the Northern
Great Lakes Synod

The Gospel of Mark: It's Story and Meaning

with Pastor Phil Johnson of Ascension, Minocqua

Stewards of Children:

The movement to make your faith community
a safe space

with Pastor Kari Vadis of Trinity, Rhinelander

Take and Eat:

A study of food and spirituality from Holy
Communion to potlucks
with Pastor Mike Markwell of Immanuel, Escanaba,
meeting in person

That's Not in MY Bible: A Survey of the Apocrypha

with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

Stewardship of Animals

with Cindy Sjoquist of First, Gladstone

Who are the Evangelicals?

A former evangelical pastor turns whistleblower
(without being mean).

with Pastor Lon Hider of Christ the King, Escanaba
and Faith, Rock