

RESOURCES FOR WORSHIP

**January 6 - Epiphany of Our Lord Sunday
8 a.m. & 10:45 a.m. Communion & Worship**

Forum Hour *Discussion of Annual Committee Reports*
 Special Music Senior Choir & Luther Handbells
 Lector Trina Pearson
 Communion Assistant Paul Carne
 First Lesson Isaiah 60:1-6
 Second Lesson Ephesians 3:1-12
 Gospel Matthew 2:1-12
 Hymns Another Year Is Dawning, 75, 82, 200, 197
 Sound System - 10:45 Kristi Carne
 Acolytes - 10:45 Chelsea Linnee, Anna Sedlar
 Nursery Mom/Dad - 10:45 Sue Roll
 Nursery Supervisor Traci Harris
 Ushers - 8:00 Don & Norma Hopkins
 10:45 Paul & Kim Carne, John & Sue
 Decker, Gregg & Rosemary Hendrickson

**January 20 - Second Sunday After The Epiphany
8:00 a.m. Communion Service
10:45 a.m. Contemporary Worship Services**

Forum Hour *Constitution & Synod Report*
 Special Music Cherub's & Senior Choirs
 & Luther Handbell Choir
 Lector Jay Kulbertis
 First Lesson Isaiah 49:1-7
 Psalm 40:1-11
 Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:1-9
 Gospel John 1:29-42
 Hymns 642, 649, 87 (tune 197)
 Sound System -10:45 Samantha Schwalbach
 Acolytes - 10:45 Jamison Norman, Kaitlyn Kell
 Nursery Mom/Dad - 10:45 Sue Scott

**January 27 - Third Sunday After The Epiphany
10:45 a.m. Worship**

Forum Hour No Forum Hour
 Annual Meeting After 10:45 a.m. Service
 Special Music . . . Children's & Confirmation Handbells
 Lector Mary Jo Roll
 First Lesson Isaiah 9:1-4
 Psalm 27:1, 4-9
 Second Lesson 1 Corinthians 1:10-18
 Gospel Matthew 4:12-23
 Hymns . . . 80 (tune 352), 651, Somebody Touched Me
 Sound System - 10:45 Josh Gardiner
 Acolytes - 10:45 Jacob Gartland
 Nursery Mom/Dad - 10:45 Jodi Schwalbach

**Annual Meeting
January 27, 2007
11:45 a.m.**

**January 13 - Baptism Of Our Lord Sunday
8 a.m. Communion Service & 10:45 a.m. Worship**

Forum Hour *Discussion on 2008 Budget*
 by Rev. Dean A. Peterson
 Special Music Children's Choir &
 Confirmation Handbell Choir
 Lector Sandy Anderson
 First Lesson Isaiah 42:1-9
 Psalm 29
 Second Lesson Acts 10:34-43
 Gospel Matthew 3:13-17
 Hymns . . . 90 (tune 407), 494, 76, Standing In The Need
 Sound System - 10:45 Sierra Nault
 Acolytes - 10:45 Bryan Cook, Brittany Nelson
 Nursery Mom/Dad - 10:45 Chrysta Christensen

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 Escanaba, MI 49829
 Permit No. 50

VOLUME 100

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Rev. Paul M. Mai
 Director of Parish Ministries Jeanne Sauter
 Secretary Sandy Flinn
 Custodian John Cavadeas
 Financial Secretary Eleanore Beck

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor pastor@bethanyescanaba.org
 Secretary sflinn@bethanyescanaba.org
 Dir. of Parish Ministries jhsauter@bethanyescanaba.org

January, 2008

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.bethanylutheran-escanaba.org

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30 to Noon - 1:00 to 4:30
 Friday 8:30 to 12:30

PHONE NUMBERS

Church Office 786-6642
 Fax Machine 786-1622
 Ark Pre-School 786-5410
 Rev. Peter Andersen 786-7400
 Jeanne Sauter's Home 786-8719
 Sandy Flinn's Home 786-6949

NUMBER 1

Pastoral Ponderings

2007 was a year that began for me and for the congregation of Bethany as a year of uncertainty. For me the great question was, "Where would I be serving as a pastor at the end of the year?" Would it be at the same congregation or somewhere different? At the time, I really thought I would end up somewhere in Wisconsin, Minnesota or Nebraska. I had never even heard of Escanaba before. For Bethany, the great question was, "Will we have a new pastor this year?" Would the long wait finally be over?

Looking back at the previous year, it seems we have learned a lesson. Sometimes, in spite of our greatest wishes and desires, things do not happen in the time we wish they would. Ultimately, things happen in God's time, according to God's plan. And when we wait patiently, or even restlessly, wonderful things happen when God gets involved.

There's an old saying, "Tomorrow is a new day." No matter what is going on in our lives, we can look forward with hope to a new day. It is also a chance for us to start fresh each day. Martin Luther wrote, "What does Baptism mean for daily living? It means that our sinful self, with all its evil deeds and desires, should be drowned through daily repentance; and that day after day a new self should arise to live with God in righteousness and purity forever." Tomorrow is a new day and, in faith, we can live as new people.

We have no idea what this New Year will bring. But as people of faith, we are assured that whatever the year brings, God is with us—the God who shared this human experience with us through the life and death of his Son, Jesus Christ. And he promises a new day—a day much better than any other day we can imagine.

Happy New Year from my family and me to you and yours. And may all your blessings remind you that at all times, God is with you.

Pastor Paul



Memorial Gifts

Gifts given to Bethany's Memorial Fund through December 24, 2007

Building Fund - Art & Lois Anderson, Kent & Sandy Anderson, Gerald & Betty Bolm, Bruce & Martha Carlyon, Willard & Debbie Carne, John & Suzi Decker, John & Terry Frankenstein, LeRoy & Charlene Scheeneman, Carol & Tom Kolinsky, William & Kathleen Kilponen, Steve & Maripatt Lindahl, Jon & Julie Neisius, Donald & Fay Nyquist, Ralph & Jean Peterson, Paul & Judy Mai, Robert & Jean Sovey, Thomas & Donna Wilson, Richard & Kris Anderson, Keith & Lisa Anderson, Phil & Melissa Norman, Ross & Lee Anne Strand, Harold & Helen Cook, Joyce Cook, Wayne & Judie Dagenais, Tom & Joan Fugere, Al & Marla Gossan, Ronald & Barbara Ball, Mildred Jerow, Karen Johnson, David & Elaine Klasell, Jack & Anne Magnusen, Lewellyn & Marguerite Mineau, Don & Kris Montgomery, Marion Nye, Ken & Faye Peterson, Grace Seidl, Ernest & Jean Vanlerberghe, Toni & Richard West, Ruth Beck, Bob & Nancy Gregg, Sandy & James Goodyer, Edward & Barbara Jenshak, Mike & Alisa Madden, Ruth Oberg, Steven & Linda Howes, Hildur Tardiff, Dorothy & Clarence Zeno, Women's Dartball League, Delta Youth Chorus, John & Teri DePlonty, Carol & Don Metor, Manley Oakman, Michelle Carne, Mary Maercklein, Norma Thomas.

In memory of Howard Varvil by Jack & Nancy Baum, Eleanore Beck, Phil & Melissa Norman, John & Charleen Cavadeas, Wally & Sandy Flinn, Judie Dagenais, Robert & Joanne Dunstone, Lorraine & Larry Haack, Bill & Lil Howe, Nina & Harold Johnson, Don & Kay Johnson, Mel & Ruth Karkkainen, Robert & Bernice Larson, Ray & Doris McDonough, Dean & Elaine Peterson, Paul & Mary Jo Roll, Bill & Jeanne Sauter, Jason & Shayne Dix, William H. Sauter, Norma Thomas, Lois & Art Anderson, Gene & Alice Jones, Jon & Julie Neisius, Ralph & Jean Peterson, Sirkka Saarelainen, Cliff & Jan Olsson, Lloyd & Alice Jensen.

Thanks for all the great work Bethany does. Happy 2008 by Art & Lois Anderson, Kim & Paul Carne, Chris & Kim Anderson, DeeDee & Mike Skradski, Keith & Lisa Anderson.

In memory of Dorothy Olson by Beatrice McDermott, Gene & Alice Jones, Pearl & Al DeBoer, Lloyd & Alice Jensen.

In memory of Albin "Bud" Pearson by Ralph & Dorothy Zenker, Nancy & Jack Baum, Lloyd & Alice Jensen, Terry & Karen Mokszycke

In memory of Allen "Pete" Timmer by Jim & Susan Raymond.

In memory of Arthur Victorson, father of Don Victorson, by Dean & Elaine Peterson.

Undesignated Fund - a gift from the Bay de Noc Choral Society.

Music Fund

In memory of Dorothy Olson by Bill & Lil Howe, Jim & Sandy Goodyer, Dean & Elaine Peterson

In memory of Arthur Victorson, father of Don Victorson, by Paul & Mary Jo Roll.

Radio Broadcasts

The cost of broadcasting the 10:45 a.m. worship service on Sunday mornings is \$85.00. Two people may share the cost for the same Sunday. Radio Broadcasts available for 2008: January 27; February 3; March 9, 30; April 6 (\$42.50), 13, 20, 27; June 1, 8, 15, 29; August 3, 31; September 7; October 26; November 9, 23, 30; December 7, 24.

December Worship Attendance

December 2 - 100*Storm December 16 - 318
December 9 - 341 December 23 - 201
Christmas Eve Services - 602
December 30 - 149

Average year to date this year 264
Average year to date last year 271

Forum Hours & Annual Meeting

The Forum Hours for January will be used each week to discuss different sections of the Annual Report prior to the Congregational Meeting on January 27th.

January 6th - Discussion on Committee Reports
January 13th - 2008 Budget - Expenses & Income
January 20th - Constitution & Synod Report

There will be copies of the Constitution & Synod Report available in the church office or in the narthex of church prior to the meeting for those who would like to read through it before the Forum Hour.

The congregation gathers at the annual meeting to reflect on the past year. We will also make budget decisions for 2008; vote on the Century Mission & Nolden Endowment resolutions; and elect six members to serve for a three year term on the church council.

The annual meeting will be held following the 10:45 a.m. services on January 27th. Please bring your annual report to the meeting. All confirmed members are eligible to vote and are asked to be present at this meeting. **Please note - there will not be an 8:00 a.m. service that day.**

Lent - A Time For

New Beginnings

Easter is a time of new beginnings, and Lent gives us the time to prepare for that unexpected good news. Join us for worship during this season of preparation and new growth. Once again, we will gather for midweek Lenten worship, beginning with Ash Wednesday and continuing through the next 5 Wednesdays. Then we will celebrate with special opportunities for worship during Holy Week. Our weekly worship themes will be:

"Jesus: A New Kind of Thinking"

Ash Wednesday, February 6th at Noon & 7 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Knowing"

Wednesday, February 13th at 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Living"

Wednesday, February 20th at 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Loving"

Wednesday, February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Meaning"

Wednesday, March 5th at 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Caring"

Wednesday, March 12th at 7:00 p.m.

"Jesus: A New Kind of Dying"

Maundy Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday Easter Vigil, March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.

New Opportunity

For Ministry

Are you one who looks at crafts on a display shelf and wonders if YOU could make something like that? Now there is an opportunity for us to come together as a group and use our skills and clever touches to create a variety of crafts like snowmen, angels and Santas. These holiday crafts could be offered



at a sale at Bethany in the fall, and proceeds could support the prayer shawl ministry and buy the supplies needed by the quilters. You don't have to be an expert in anything, but if you want to have some fun and you can glue, stuff, paint, sew a stitch or simply cut fabric, you qualify! All patterns, supplies and instructions will be provided. You just need to come. The first two meetings will be Thursdays, January 3 and 17, at Elaine Peterson's house, 1645 South 16 Street at 9:30 a.m. Any questions? Call 786-5144. Welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry

After a successful first knitting session in November, the Prayer Shawl Ministry group is meeting again on Tuesday, January 15. If you enjoy knitting, please join and become part of the group. The stitch is a simple Knit 3, Purl 3, and help is available for you if needed. Our Bethany members will soon benefit from this gift and from our prayers for them. On the 15th, you will meet at Jane Mulvaney's home, 1000 South 15 Street at 9:30 a.m. Any questions? Call Elaine Peterson, 786-5144.

Monday

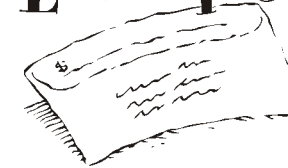
Bible Study

The Monday Study Group will continue on Monday, January 7th, 14th and 21st at 9:00 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. The study is on "Angels" and will be lead by Pastor Paul Mai. Misconceptions about angels abound-in books, in movies and on talk shows. In eight intriguing studies you will explore what the Bible really says about angels, including their service to God and their ministry to people. Everyone is welcome, and of course coffee and goodies will be shared at 8:30 a.m. before each session.

Student Envelopes

Please remember to help your child develop good stewardship practices by remembering his/her

Offering Envelopes



envelope for Sunday School. Our stewardship resources reflect our living in Christ. Scripture talks about generous giving as one of the spiritual gifts that Jesus has given us for the sake of the body of Christ.

Jesus gives us a generous heart so that the heart of Jesus — through the church — may beat louder and stronger in the world. Help your child learn the joy of giving to others by bringing their own envelope each week and offering it to the glory of God in thanks for his abundant giving to us.

The 2006-07 Sunday School benevolence was used to purchase a sink for the Craft Room and dollars were given to the Bethany-Faith parish in Rock and Perkins to help provide food for their almost empty Pantry Shelves.

RAINFOREST ADVENTURE

Kids Lenten Program

On Wednesdays

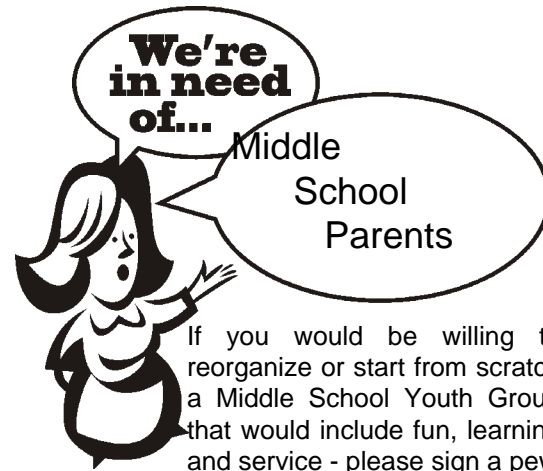
February 13, 20, 27, March 5, 12

The “**Rainforest Adventure**” will help your preschool thru fourth grade kids discover that everyone can do their part to care for God’s creation. Through kid-friendly Bible stories that emphasize stewardship, combined with a jungle of hands-on, fun-filled activities, kids will learn that it is fun and faithful to share the good news of Jesus’ love with everyone.

The Critters will help the children learn their weekly Bible verses. The first week they will hear from Shari the Butterfly about how Boaz shares with Ruth, the second week will feature Bill the Toucan telling about Elisha giving food to 100 people, during week 3 the children will hear from Tad the Frog about the parable of the mustard seed, week four they will hear from Esme the Macaw about Jesus the Vine and on week five they will learn from Cleo the Monkey about Jesus entering Jerusalem. They will show us that God’s People Share, God’s People Give, God’s People Grow, God’s People Love and God’s People Praise.

Rainforest Adventure is just the place for an evening cool crafts, fun songs, zany games, and a jungle of friends.

All we need to begin “**The Rainforest Adventure**” is **YOU!** Activity Site Leaders only plan one or two activities for each week. Suggestions and helpful information can be found in Jeanne’s office. If you are able and/or interested in becoming a Site Leader for “**The Rainforest Adventure**” give Jeanne a call at 786-6642 or stop in her office for a peek at the curriculum.



If you would be willing to reorganize or start from scratch a Middle School Youth Group that would include fun, learning and service - please sign a pew card when you are in church or call Jeanne at 786-6642. The objective would be to have two or more families involved in an activity once or twice a year so the same people would not be responsible for every activity. The first meeting would be held on a Sunday School morning when the kids are in Sunday School. We will be waiting to hear from you...

“Souper” Bowl Sunday

On **Sunday, February 2nd** the Middle School students of Bethany will participate in the “Souper Bowl of Caring” by collecting donations following the 8 & 10:45 a.m. services. Every penny raised on “Souper Bowl” Sunday is donated directly to the charity each individual group chooses. Those charities provide shelter to the homeless, food to the hungry and compassion to the lonely.

As a non-profit organization, many people have asked how the Souper Bowl of Caring administrative efforts are funded. The “Souper” Bowl of Caring staff raises money separate from the “Souper” Bowl Sunday collection from individuals, businesses and foundations. Your gift is an important part of teaching youth that God can use them to make a difference in the lives of others.

High School Breakfast

High School students, please note the change in our breakfast schedule. This is the semester we change to the **third Thursday of the month**. Our schedule is as follows:



Senior High Breakfast
January 21, 2008
February 21, 2008
March 20, 2008
April 17, 2008
May 15, 2008

If you are in High School and were not able to make it to breakfast last semester, you are welcome to join us this semester. We would love to have you! If you have any questions call Jeanne at 786-6642.

Thank You Teachers

Thank you to all of the Sunday School teachers, guides and musicians who have given so much of their time, energy and enthusiasm to our members. We appreciate all you do!!! Tracy Harris, Todd Dahlquist, Sandy Goodyer, Alisa Madden, Raquel Zelenak, Sue Scott, Becky Leisenring, Shayne Dix, Chrysta Christensen, Kari Bellin-Sloat, Kim Carne, Sandy Wilson, Ernie Burch, Paula Cook, Karen DeZiel, Paul Zelenak, Sue Roll, Julie Roll-Phillips, Greg DeZiel, Mary Maercklein, Tim Mulvaney, Sandy Anderson, Don Aronson, John Beck, Sara Beck, Kim Beck and Dr. Don Nyquist.

Thank you to Pastor Paul teaching the fourth grade students how to use their Bible and for leading the Forum Hour during the past six weeks. We appreciate your time, energy and teaching ability. Thank you Karen!

Soup Suppers

It’s time to think about Soup Suppers again. We will need five+ people (one or more each week) in charge of the kitchen beginning on Wednesday, February 13 and concluding on Wednesday, March 13. If you are willing to do this please sign a pew card or call Jeanne at 786-6642.

Thank You...

to everyone who contributed so generously to the mitten tree this year. Over 50+ pairs of mittens and hats were brought to the Escanaba Area Grade Schools and will be distributed as needed to children who are without. THANK YOU!

Help Feed

On January 30th our 6th thru 8th grade confirmation students will come together for a meal and class. We are looking for a parent(s) to cook, serve and cleanup afterward for these 25-30 students. Please contact the church office by January 23rd if you are able to help.

Ushers

If you would like to be an usher for either the 8 a.m. or 10:45 a.m. worship service, please call the church office.

We have found someone to recruit ushers for both the 8 & 10:45 a.m. worship services and we want to give an up-to-date list of those who are willing to usher.

Council Highlights

- ✓ The Worship & Music Committee reported that the plastic glasses for communion have been going well for everyone.
- ✓ Combined the Pastor's Discretionary Fund & Food & Fuel Fund and renamed it the "Crisis" Restricted Funds.
- ✓ A Contemporary Worship service will be held on the third Sunday of each month at the 10:45 a.m. service from January to May of 2008. Council will review feedback from the congregation after this trial period.
- ✓ 10% of the Thrivent Matching Funds \$340.79 will be given to the Alliance Against Violence & Abuse.
- ✓ 10% of the Coplan Estate monies \$100.00 will be divided between Escanaba, Gladstone, Bark River & Rapid River Schools All Night Graduation Parties.
- ✓ 10% of the Hogberg Estate \$500 will be given to the Northern Great Lakes Synod.
- ✓ Signatures for both the Thrivent and U.P. State Bank accounts will have 4 signatures on file. Council recommended and passed that Bill Howes, Ralph B.K. Peterson, Robert Sovey and Nan Smith be our representative signers.
- ✓ January's Church Council meeting will be held on January 7th instead of January 14th and the Social Ministry & Evangelism committee will meet on January 14th.

Bishop's Convocation

The 2008 Bishop's Convocation will be held on Thursday, January 17th at Bethany. They will begin at 10:30 a.m. ET with coffee and fellowship, and they will be on their way home at 3 p.m. ET.

The speaker will be Pastor Kathryn Love who serves the Church as Assistant Director of Evangelism and Director for Prayer and Renewal at the office in Chicago. After her presentations, you will have an opportunity to discuss the Bishop's trip to Tanzania, the actions of the 2007 Churchwide Assembly, and any other matters.

We are asking for volunteers to make muffins for this event. We will need two people to make the coffee, serve and clean up for the morning coffee and also two people to serve and clean up for the luncheon that day. If you can help out in any way, please contact the church office (786-6642).

Pictorial Directory

Because we had so many people worried that they would not be included in the new pictorial directory that has been planned for 2008, we tentatively changed the dates to September 9-12th and September 16-19th.

Please put these dates on your calendar now so you are available when we call to set up an appointment.

We will also need people to help schedule appointments - call the church office if you are willing to do this.

Pastor Mick Is Asking For Your Help

Pastor Mick is asking for your help. When he was at the forum this past Reformation Sunday, he asked for our help in providing assistance for the less fortunate souls of Milwaukee. He proposed that as many of our members as



possible put up to a dollar a day aside for a year and at the end of the year, the money be brought into church and sent to him at Reformation Lutheran in Milwaukee. He is asking churches in Milwaukee to do the same. Our Social Ministry/Evangelism Committee is supporting him in this request.

If you can't help financially Pastor Mick has another project for us. He has members of his church who never receive any mail. If you would be willing to write to someone once a month and perhaps send a small gift on their birthday or other holidays, please sign up on a pew card with your name and address. Your names will be sent to Pastor Mick and he will send you the name of a person and a short background about that person. You will send your letters through Pastor Mick so your address will not be known.

Please give serious consideration to these two opportunities to help those who are less fortunate.

Thank you,

Bethany's Social Ministry &
Evangelism Committee

Food For The College Students

Twice a year Bethany is asked to prepare a meal for the students at Bay de Noc Community College. Our next meal to prepare will be on Monday, January 28th. Can you help? We will need:

9 Casseroles, 7 Salads
5 Pans of Bars, 3 gallons of Milk
2 gallons of Juice, 3-4 Workers

These students look forward to these "home cooked" meals. We hope you will be able to help us with this one. Please don't wait until the last minute to volunteer. Call the Church Office (786-6642) or indicate on a pew card when you are in church.

Member Match Update On Building Debt

The monies matched from August 1 thru December 1st of the \$70,000.00 was \$16,000.00 bringing our building debt down to \$82,535.02.

For the month of December we were able to put another \$14,621.20 on the principal of our loan - bringing our debt down even further to **\$68,816.52** at the end of December. WOW! FANTASTIC! GREAT!

The match for 2008 began on December 2, 2007. We **ARE ALL** working **TOGETHER** and meeting this challenge to delete the balance of the debt!