

Bethany Lutheran Church
Eleventh Sunday After Pentecost
July 27, 2008

The Introduction

In baptism God promises that nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. As Solomon prays for wisdom, we seek to more deeply know the treasures of faith, ancient yet ever new. In today's gospel Jesus offers images from everyday life that reveal to us the reign of God. It is like a tree that becomes a safe and sheltering home, like yeast that penetrates and expands, like a treasured pearl, like a net that gains a great catch. Even as we seek the riches of God's reign, the great surprise is that God's grace finds us first!

Order Of Service

***Congregation Stands**

The Prelude

"Glory"

Blake

The Hymn

"The Church's One Foundation"

LBW # 369

- 1) The church's one foundation is Jesus Christ, her Lord;
She is his new creation by water and the word.
From heav'n he came and sought her to be his holy bride;
With his own blood he bought her, and for her life he died.
- 2) Elect from ev'ry nation, yet one o'er all the earth;
Her charter of salvation: one Lord, one faith, one birth.
One holy name she blesses, partakes one holy food,
And to one hope she presses with ev'ry grace endued.
- 3) Though with a scornful wonder this world sees her oppressed,
By schisms rent asunder, by heresies distressed,
Yet saints their watch are keeping; their cry goes up: "How long?"
And soon the night of weeping shall be the morn of song.
- 4) Through toil and tribulation and tumult of her war,
She waits the consummation of peace forevermore;
Till with the vision glorious her longing eyes are blest,
And the great church victorious shall be the church at rest.

- 5) Yet she on earth has union with God, the Three in One,
And mystic sweet communion with those whose rest is won.
O blessed heav'nly chorus! Lord, save us by your grace,
That we, like saints before us, may see you face to face.

Sharing of Parish Concerns

***The Confession & Forgiveness**

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, the source of life,
the word of salvation, the spirit of mercy.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sins to God, who is gracious and
merciful, slow to anger, and abounding in steadfast love.

C: **God of compassion, we confess that we have failed to bear witness that you desire to draw all people to yourself. In our hearts we have thought ill of those who differ from us, and our love of others has not been genuine. We have been caught up in the cares of the world. We have neglected opportunities to welcome the stranger, to feed the hungry, and to mend broken relationships. Forgive our sins, merciful God, that our hearts may burn with love for you and for those in need, and that our lives may witness to your never-failing love for your creation. Amen.**

P: Brothers and sisters, buried with Christ by baptism into his death, your sins are forgiven. The death Christ died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God. So you also, by the power of the Holy Spirit, are dead to sin and alive to God in Christ Jesus.

C: **Amen.**

***The Hymn**

"Go Work In The Vineyard"

1) "Go work in the vineyard," our Savior commands,
Then why are we idle and folding our hands?
He speaks to His children and we must obey,
Go work in the vineyard, go labor today.

2) Go forth in the vineyard, how earnest the call,
There's work for the children, there plenty for all:
Too precious the moments to squander away,
Go work in the vineyard, go labor today.

3) Go work in the vineyard, how glad we should be
That Jesus is saying to you and to me,
The harvest is coming, to all let us say,
Come work in the vineyard, come labor today.

4) Go forth at His bidding your purpose fulfill,
Go forth at His bidding and follow God's will;
Do not grieve the Savior with any delay,
Let's work in His vineyard together today!

***The Greeting & Kyrie**

LBW PP. 57-58

P: Worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth be glad. The God who created the world and fills it with life be with you all.

C: And also with you.

A: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

C: Lord, have mercy.

A: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

C: Amen.

***The Hymn Of Praise**

"Glory To God"

LBW PP. 58-59

A: Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth.

**C: Lord God, heavenly king, almighty God and Father:
We worship you, we give you thanks,
We praise you for your glory.
Lord, Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father.
Lord God, Lamb of God: You take away the sin of the world;
Have mercy on us. You are seated at the right hand of the Father,
Receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One, You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
In the glory of God the Father. Amen**

***The Salutation & Prayer**

LBW P. 62

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

***The Prayer Of The Day**

All: Beloved and sovereign God, through the death and resurrection of your Son you bring us into your kingdom of justice and mercy. By your Spirit, give us your wisdom, that we may treasure the life that comes from Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Special Music

"I Will Glory In The Cross"

Margaret Ogren

The First Reading

1 Kings 3:5-12

Because Solomon did not ask for long life, riches, or the defeat of his enemies, God gave him what he asked for: wisdom to govern the people well. In verse 13 God gives him additional honor and riches beyond compare.

At Gibeon the LORD appeared to Solomon in a dream by night; and God said, "Ask what I should give you." ⁶And Solomon said, "You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant my father David, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you; and you have kept for him this great and steadfast love, and have given him a son to sit on his throne today. ⁷And now, O LORD my God, you have made your servant king in place of my father David, although I am only a little child; I do not know how to go out or come in. ⁸And your servant is in the midst of the people whom you have chosen, a great people, so numerous they cannot be numbered or counted. ⁹Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, able to discern between good and evil; for who can govern this your great people?" ¹⁰It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. ¹¹God said to him, "Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches, or for the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern

what is right, ¹²I now do according to your word. Indeed I give you a wise and discerning mind; no one like you has been before you and no one like you shall arise after you."

Psalm 119:129–136

A: Your de-^l crees are wonderful;
C: **therefore I obey them with ^l all my heart.**

A: ¹³⁰When your word is opened ^l it gives light;
C: **it gives understanding ^l to the simple.**

A: ¹³¹I open my ^l mouth and pant
C: **because I long for ^l your commandments.**

A: ¹³²Turn to me and be gra-^l cious to me,
C: **as you always do to those who ^l love your name.**

A: ¹³³Order my footsteps ^l in your word;
C: **let no iniquity have dominion ^l over me.**

A: ¹³⁴Rescue me from those ^l who oppress me,
C: **and I will keep ^l your commandments.**

A: ¹³⁵Let your face shine up-^l on your servant
C: **and teach ^l me your statutes.**

A: ¹³⁶My eyes shed ^l streams of tears,
C: **because people do not ^l keep your teaching.**

The Second Lesson

Romans 8:26–39

These words celebrate the depth of God's actions for us. Through Christ's death for us and the activity of the Spirit praying for us, we are fused to God's love poured out in Jesus Christ. Nothing, not even death itself, is able to separate us from such incredible divine love.

The Spirit helps us in our weakness; for we do not know how to pray as we ought, but that very Spirit intercedes with sighs too deep for words. ²⁷And God, who searches the heart, knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸We know that all things work together for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn within a large family. ³⁰And those whom

he predestined he also called; and those whom he called he also justified; and those whom he justified he also glorified. ³¹What then are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us? ³²He who did not withhold his own Son, but gave him up for all of us, will he not with him also give us everything else? ³³Who will bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. ³⁵Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? ³⁶As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all day long; we are accounted as sheep to be slaughtered." ³⁷No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. ³⁸For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, ³⁹nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

*The Alleluia (sung)

LBW P. 62

All: **Alleluia, Lord, to whom shall we go?
You have the words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.**

*The Announcing of the Gospel (sung)

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

*The Gospel

Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52

Throughout Matthew's gospel, Jesus and his disciples proclaim the good news that "the kingdom of heaven is near!" Here, Jesus offers several brief parables that explore the implications of this announcement for people's lives.

[Jesus] put before [the crowds] another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; ³²it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches." ³³He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed in with three measures of flour until all of it was leavened." ⁴⁴"The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field, which someone found and hid; then in his joy he goes and sells all that he has and buys that field. ⁴⁵"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant in search of fine pearls; ⁴⁶on

finding one pearl of great value, he went and sold all that he had and bought it. ⁴⁷"Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was thrown into the sea and caught fish of every kind; ⁴⁸when it was full, they drew it ashore, sat down, and put the good into baskets but threw out the bad. ⁴⁹So it will be at the end of the age. The angels will come out and separate the evil from the righteous ⁵⁰and throw them into the furnace of fire, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. ⁵¹"Have you understood all this?" They answered, "Yes." ⁵²And he said to them, "Therefore every scribe who has been trained for the kingdom of heaven is like the master of a household who brings out of his treasure what is new and what is old."

***After the Gospel (sung)**

C: Praise to you, O Christ. LBW P. 63

The Hymn "God Of Grace" LBW # 415

- 1) God of grace and God of glory, on your people pour your pow'r;
Crown your ancient church's story; bring its bud to glorious flow'r.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the facing of this hour,
For the facing of this hour.
- 2) Lo! The hosts of evil round us scorn the Christ, assail his ways!
From the fears that long have bound us free our hearts to faith and praise.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage for the living of these days,
For the living of these days,
- 3) Cure your children's warring madness; bend our pride to your control;
Shame our wanton, selfish gladness, rich in things and poor in soul.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal,
Lest we miss your kingdom's goal.
- 4) Save us from weak resignation to the evils we deplore;
Let the gift of your salvation be our glory evermore.
Grant us wisdom, grant us courage, serving you whom we adore,
Serving you whom we adore.

The Sermon Rev. Paul M. Mai

***The Apostles' Creed** LBW P. 65

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and

earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Offertory "When They Ring The Bell" Marbelle
***The Offertory Response (sung)** "Doxology" LBW # 565

**All: Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Him, all creatures here below;
Praise Him above, ye heav'nly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

***The Prayers**

A: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
A brief silence.

Almighty God, guide your church to proclaim the coming of your kingdom, so that all might come to know you.
Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Creator Lord, bless all who care for the treasure of your creation. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Merciful God, grant to the leaders of all nations the wisdom such as you gave to Solomon, so that they may govern with justice. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Compassionate Lord, comfort those struggling with mental illness, anxiety, grief, and sickness (especially), that they may sense your healing presence. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Almighty God, give to those here assembled the

confidence and knowledge to believe and know that nothing can separate us from your love. Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

A: Everlasting Lord, give us the grace and confidence to trust in your promise of eternal life with you and all those we love (especially). Hear us, O God;

C: your mercy is great.

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

C: Amen.

***The Lord's Prayer**

LBW P. 71

**All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen**

***The Closing Hymn** *"When Peace Like A River"*

LBW # 346

- 1) When peace, like a river, attendeth my way;
When sorrows, like sea billows, roll;
Whatever my lot, thou hast taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.
- 2) Though Satan should buffet, though trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ hath regarded my helpless estate,
And hath shed his own blood for my soul.
- 3) He lives--oh, the bliss of this glorious thought;
My sin, not in part, but the whole,
Is nailed to his cross and I bear it no more.
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul!
- 4) And Lord, haste the day when our faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trumpet shall sound and the Lord shall descend;
Even so it is well with my soul.

***The Benediction**

LBW P. 76

P: The Lord bless you and keep you.
The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.
The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace.
In the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit

C: Amen. Amen. Amen. (Sung)

THE WORSHIP HAS ENDED...OUR SERVICE BEGINS

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH
202 S 11th St - Escanaba, MI 49829
(906) 786-6642**

THOSE WHO SERVE

Pastor Rev. Paul M. Mai
 Secretary Sandy Flinn
 Director of Parish Ministries Jeanne Sauter
 Organist Don Aronson
 Special Music Margaret Ogren
 Lector & Closing Prayer Judy Mai
 Sound System Joshua Linnee
 Acolytes. Jamison Norman, Mitchell Dagenais
 Nursery Supervisor Traci Harris
 Ushers. Leroy & Char Scheeneman, Jim Goodyer,
 Gary Dahl, Peg Hanson, Lois Pinar

Radio - in loving memory of her grandparents, Nels & Alice Nelson and her Aunt Mary Thurber, by Susan Simpson.

Flowers - in joyful celebration of Travis Burch's 7th birthday on July 26th by his Mom and Dad.

Center Vase - in celebration of the 93rd birthday of Pearl DeBoer on July 24th by her husband, Al.

STEWARDS RECORD

Budgeted Goal to Date \$ 184,034
 Budgeted Goal Received to Date \$ 180,293
 Attendance Last Sunday 205
 Building Debt \$ 38,504

MINISTRIES

TODAY 10:30 a.m. Craft & Coffee Hour Held Downstairs
 MONDAY 7:00 p.m. Worship
 8:00 p.m. Finance Committee Meeting
 WEDNESDAY 9:00 a.m. Quilting Group
 THURSDAY 9:30 a.m. Craft Group @ Elaine Peterson's

WELCOME - "A cheerful heart is a good medicine, but a downcast spirit dries up the bones" (Proverbs 17:22). Let us joyfully open ourselves to God and cheerfully reach out to welcome our fellow worshipers. We ask everyone present to sign a pew card and place it in the offering plate. If you have a special request or we can be of service to you please indicate it on the pew card.

PRAYERS - we pray for the following people, who are in need of our prayers. If you know of someone we should include, please let us know by way of the pew cards or by calling the church office. We pray for:

Gerri Jackson	Phil Norman	John Pinar
Wanda Getzloff	Grace Seidl	Ruth Sundstrom
Oliver Christiansen	Manford Magnuson	Al Atwood
Brooke Furmanski	Richard Erickson (brother-in-law of Dennis & Debbie Renken)	
Cecile Henry (sister of Marie Zeno)	Don Christensen (Father of Phil & Chrysta)	
Rick Lancour (uncle of LeeAnne Strand)	Tony Filezetti (friend of Dave & Vicki Linnea)	

SERVING - remember in prayer those serving in the military. We pray for: Jessica Charon Jones, Fred Jones, Jeff & Star Monson, Christopher Klingman, Brian Rahoi, Gary Gregg, Ike Howard, Richard Peterson, Matt & Mark Witte, Jennifer Scheeneman Brooks, Adam Johnsen, James Mokszycke, Leeann Scheeneman Peterson & Pete Peterson.

NEEDED - fabric for the Wednesday quilting group— used or new. Please drop off at Bethany a.s.a.p. so they can continue to make quilts.

BIRTHDAYS - celebrating her 80th birthday on Tuesday, July 29th is Virginia Godin and celebrating her 90th birthday on Friday, August 1st is Eileen Peterson. We wish them both a very happy birthday! May God bless Virginia & Eileen today and each day of the year.

BOOK OF FAITH CHALLENGE - you are invited to take the Book of Faith challenge to read the entire Bible in one year. Below is a list of the daily readings for this week.

7/27-8/2	Psalms 116-118	Psalms 119	Psalms 120-131	Psalms 132-138	Psalms 139-144	Psalms 145-150	Proverbs 1-3
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FELLOWSHIP HOUR - Coffee hours are held following the 9:30 a.m. Sunday morning services throughout the summer. Servers are needed to make the coffee, secure goodies for the coffee hour, and clean up the kitchen and fellowship hall following the coffee hour. You may make or buy the goodies for the morning. You will be reimbursed for all expenses. If you can help out with this task, we ask you to please call the church office (786-6642) or indicate on a pew card. **Hosts are needed for AUGUST 17, 24, 31.** We appreciate and thank the Crafting Group for

hosting the coffee hour today!

FESTIVAL - Finlandia University invites you to their 10th Annual Sibelius Academy Music Festival, Wednesday through Friday, July 30, 31, and August 1, in Michigan's beautiful Upper Peninsula. They are pleased to present a series of three concerts featuring performances by five gifted, professional level Finnish musicians from the Sibelius Academy of Helsinki, Finland. Tickets are \$15.00 for adults and \$10 students and children age 12 and under are free. For advance tickets, call North Wind Books at 906-487-7217 or 888-285-8363 or SibeliusFest@finlandia.edu. The concerts are listed below:

Wednesday, July 30 - 7:30 p.m.

Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock, Michigan
Melis Jaatinen, mezzosoprano, and Maija Väisänen, piano

Thursday, July 31 - 7:30 p.m.

Finnish American Heritage Center, Hancock, Michigan
Joonas Ahonen, piano

Friday, August 1 - 7:30 p.m.

St. Peter's by the Sea Church, Eagle Harbor, Michigan
Kaisa Koivula, clarinet, and Jukka Ojala, accordion

CANCELLED - Unfortunately the **mission trip to Reformation Church** in Milwaukee scheduled for September 26th - 28th has been cancelled. We will meet with someone from Reformation on our way to Great America and deliver the items collected for their Neighborhood Store and Coffee House.

COOKBOOK - our sister church, Christ the King, recently put together a hardcoverd cookbook titled "**Recipes & Remembrances**" for their 50th anniversary. If you would like to look at or purchase one of these cookbooks, they are located in the church office. The cost is \$20.00.

GREAT AMERICA -the bus is **full**. If you forgot to sign up and would like to go...we will put you on a "waiting list" - we have had cancellations in the past years, so don't hesitate to sign up. The bus leaves at 5:30 a.m. and comes back between 10:30-11:00 p.m. the same day. The deadline to sign up is July 30th.

LOOKING - we are in need of sponsors for our Radio Broadcasts for **2008: November 9, 30**. 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. Available Sundays in **2009** are: January 4, 11, 18, 25; February 1, 8, 22; March 1, 8, 15, 29; April 5, 12, 19, 26; May 3, 10, 17, 24, 31; June 7, 14, 21, 28; July 5, 12, 19; August 2, 9, 16, 23; September 6, 13, 20; October 4, 11, 18, 25; November 1, 8, 22, 29; December 6, 13, 20, 24.

USHER COORDINATOR - the church office is looking for a person(s) to be in charge of getting ushers for each month for the 9:30 & 10:45 a.m. worship services. Indicate on a pew card today or call the church office if you are interested.

Jesus ♦ Justice ♦ Jazz

July 22-26, 2009

In 2009, Lutheran youth and adults will gather around Word and Sacrament in New Orleans, Louisiana, the birthplace of jazz and home of a rich cultural history. They will participate with their peers (about 36,000) in worship, Bible study, service, and play; all shaped around the theme Jesus • Justice • Jazz.

Pastor Paul will be taking a group to New Orleans next year. You are invited to prayerfully consider making this trip. We *estimate* the cost of the trip to be around \$1,000.00 per student. **Registrations for the gathering must be in by September 15, 2008.** If you are interested in making this trip please sign a pew card or call 786-6642. We will have to begin fund raising soon.

Registration opens September 15, 2008. The registration fee is \$295.00 per person. A \$125.00 non refundable deposit is due upon registering. If you think you would be interested in making the trip with us please let us know by calling 786-6642 or signing a pew card.

OUR MISSION PROJECT FOR V.B.S. was items for Reformation's "**Neighborhood Store & Coffee Shop**". Marge and Tee have emailed Bethany the following request: new underwear, socks (all sizes and for all ages). All items should be delivered to Room 2 in the Educational Building by July 31 as we have to take these items with us on the Great America trip and drop them off with Marge outside of Milwaukee so the kids and adults will have what they need before school starts.

Pictorial Directory News

A new pictorial directory will be taking place on September 9th-13th and 16th-20th. We need your help. We are looking for an assistant program coordinator — computer and internet skills preferred, a Sign-up Coordinator, telephone coordinator, host coordinator (no food involved) and a layout coordinator. Call Jeanne to find out the description of each of the coordinator's responsibilities. It's easier than you would think!!!

Our coordinators will be looking for people to oversee the sign-up for appointments, recruit a sign-up team (recommended 1 person per 2 days of photography (5 people), and oversee the telephone calling of families who have not signed up for pictures. We will be able to sign up on line as well as call in to choose your photography time.

There will be a coordinator meeting with our Lifetouch manager in which he will establish a time line, explain the directory process and make sure everyone is comfortable with their own responsibilities in this project.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF - we will continue to collect "Health Kits" as well as "Sewing Kits" during the month of July.

The Health Kit should contain:

a hand towel and washcloth (dark colors recommended),
a bath size bar of soap (in its original wrapping),
a toothbrush in its original packaging, toothpaste (with a shelf life of at least 12 months-unwrap packaging),
comb (wide tooth preferred, remove packaging), 6 band-aids ½" x ¾" and
metal nail file or nail clippers with file attached (remove packaging) do not substitute cardboard emery boards for the file.
Wrap all items **except the toothpaste** in the towel, and tie securely with ribbon or yarn. The toothpaste will be added at the LWR warehouse prior to overseas shipment.

A Sewing kit includes:

3 yards of 44" or 45" cotton or cotton-blend fabric - 4 yards if 36". (no knits or 100% polyester)
1 pkg. of about 10-15 needles for hand sewing (needles purchased in larger packages can be divided by inserting 12 needles into a swatch of felt or thick fabric)
1 spool matching thread (300 yards)
1 card of 6 or more ½" to 5/8" matching buttons.

WANTED: SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS! Please call the church office at 786-6642 if you are able to teach or team teach. Our children and youth need you!!

CHRISTMAS IN JULY - today the Fellowship Hall will have the look of Christmas. The Bethany Craft Group will be hosting the morning coffee after the service, and they will be displaying a sampling of the items they have created for Bethany's Holiday Craft Fair. You are welcome to come and take a good look! The craft group will be available to answer questions and even share secrets. Goodies for the morning may even include some holiday treats. The Craft Fair will be held at

Bethany on Sunday, November 9th.

FALL RETREAT - the Women's Fall Retreat at Fortune Lake Camp will be held from September 19th thru September 21st. The theme this year is "*Having A Mary Spirit*" by Joanna Weaver. We all have a desire to have a willing spirit and to be open to God's call. Come and join the group as we come together to seek a "Mary spirit" as we look to the promise of renewal and hope. Registration forms are available in the church office. Deadline for registration is September 1st.

PATH (Personal Action Towards Health) - Path is a Chronic Disease Self-Management Program that was developed and tested by Stanford University. It is designed to be a part of your current medical treatment. Research has shown people who have attended this six week program feel better, are less limited by their illness and spend less time at the doctor or hospital. To register or for more information about class dates and locations contact: UPCAP Services - 1-800-305-8137 or 786-4701 ext 3019. The cost for this six week program is \$10.00.

EARTHKEEPER THURSDAY NIGHT - on Thursday, August 7, EarthKeepers are invited to gather at Grace United Methodist Church in Marquette for coffee and conversation around the article from *Befriending the Earth* by Thomas Berry, CP. He talks about the growing danger we are in as Earth's systems are stressed, and about the possibility of and the hope for a new age – the Ecozoic – where humanity's presence in the Creation might be a blessing and not a blemish! He lists six conditions for this transition to happen, and suggests we can be motivated both by fears about what is happening, and by the attraction of what might be.

The article is posted on the Earthkeeper Website – www.UPEarthkeepers.org. Please take time to read it, and then consider inviting a few friends, or your faith community, to gather on Thursday, August 7, to talk about it. Comments emailed to upearthkeeper@earthlink.net (there's a link on the website) will be posted as they come in, so you can see what others are talking and dreaming about. (If you have question about how this works – use the same upearthkeeper@earthlink.net address.)