



Three-Point Parish Newsletter
Bethany, First English and Friends in Christ
Lutheran Churches



Epistle for June, 2017

**Bethany
Lutheran Church**



Sunday Schedule
Worship 10:30 AM

59423 140th St.
Menahga, MN 56464

**First English
Lutheran Church**



Sunday Schedule
8:30 Worship
Coffee Fellowship

17 Main St. NW
Menahga, MN 56464

**Friends in Christ
Lutheran Church**



Meets at
the DAC
Building
in Sebeka

Sunday Schedule
9:30 Worship
Fellowship

305 5th St SW
Sebeka, MN 56477

Members of

LCMC

Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ

Mission Statement

“Bethany, First English & Friends in Christ Lutheran Churches are a caring, inclusive Christian Community dedicated to Word and Sacrament ministry; **Growing** in Christ; **Sharing** the faith; **Serving** our neighbors; and **Supporting** each other.”

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 PO Box 189 ~ Menahga, MN 56464

Pastor
James Hallaway
1716ofluke@gmail.com

Parish Secretary
Dayna Anderson
dayna@wcta.net

Bethany Council President
Kris Spadgenske

Bethany Organists
Sandi Mickelson
Kris Spadgenske
Vickie Paurus

*First English Administrative
Board President*
Verllien Augst

First English Custodian
Dan Gilbert

*Friends in Christ Board of
Trustees President*
Tim Puttonen

Friends in Christ Pianists
Ardis Olson
Laicy Erickson
Chris Olson
Ryan Oakland

The Epistle and weekly bulletins are also available online at: www.firstenglishbethany.org

Necessary Things

When the children of Israel were wandering and water was scarce they grumbled to Moses. In one of those times the Lord gave some interesting additions to His commandment. He added a promise, if you will diligently...I will...for I am the LORD, your healer. Let's read it in full.

*“There the LORD made for them a statute and a rule, and there he tested them, saying, “If you will diligently listen to the voice of the LORD your God, and do that which is right in his eyes, and give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians, for I am the LORD, your healer.”
Exodus 15:25b-26*

What's the relevance to our church, our parish? Well, we are in the midst of trial and change. Some folks embrace change, some tolerate it, and some fight against it. The result of these varying levels of response is tension, pain, and even anger resulting in accusations, unbelief-I never thought..., and eventually a desire for the negative to end. We've experienced wounding.

If you are feeling a bit out of sorts or angry I hope to bring you hope. The various arenas of life are not always calm and pain free. People get sports injuries, fender benders as well as serious collisions in vehicles, and we are all also susceptible to mental trauma. The passing of a loved one, the effects of divorce and the suicide of a friend or family member are all most likely to have lasting effects on our mental health and even our physical health.

It is never good to deny our condition. This article is a loving attempt to help all of us as our parish will need to heal from the wounds that it is currently experiencing. None of us ever sets out to get injured in life, but it's almost a certainty that we will. The last place we expect to get hurt is in places that are supposed to bring us joy in life. But, like it or not we often get hurt in our families and in our churches and other organizations as well that we belong to.

Every time you get injured you have to go through a healing process. To not heal is to remain sick,

wounded and weak. If you get gangrene you could lose a toe, a finger or something larger. If you struggle to be mentally healthy you lose parts of your life that give you joy and hope. Looking forward in life is essential to experiencing a life filled with goodness leading to joy.

Can I offer you hope and the potential for joy? Joy is a result of something. For our purposes, the joy I hope for you is the result of the healing of our hearts. Look at these steps to physical healing.

Inflammation-the body's natural response to trauma, the body is going to work on the wound with a series of components to prepare the site for healing.

Proliferation-the wound begins to be rebuilt with new, healthy tissue.

Maturation-also known as remodeling, occurs after the wound has closed up and can take as long as two years.¹

Each of these steps is vital to the healing process. Without the flooding of an injury with white blood cells, antibodies, enzymes and other items our body would never get on top of the injury. These things help fight infection and promote good wound healing.

So in our parish certain items are needed to help facilitate this immediate response to our wounding. We need to love one another in greater quantity and quality. We need to resist giving into gossip-staving off further infection. We need to speak the truth in love and believe for a future. We need deeper fellowship. Perhaps reading this has you thinking about ways you could help. Go for it!

But where do we get new, healthy tissue? There are some verses that come to mind in regard to the newness we need to heal the wound. We need to forgive others and receive forgiveness ourselves. We need to see the new things the Lord desires to do to bring healing. We also need to remember those in Christ are a new creation and old things have passed away. We are meant to move forward by intentionally letting go of the past. Please understand that sweeping things under a rug is not moving on, but

Continued on next page

submitting to the Lord and fellow disciples can help clear out the infection (unforgiveness) and make us ready to receive new skin!

Proliferation is a fascinating part of healing to contemplate. What do you think of the word remodel. When a bone heals it is stronger than before. It is also different. It may have thicker bone mass in one place where the break occurred.

But think of remodeling in a different sense for a moment. When you remodel a kitchen you remove old things. You repair rotten boards, move windows, change layout. Then you replace the cabinets, appliances, floor coverings, etc. with new. Like physical healing it may even take two years!

All this healing has one truth that sticks out to me. It costs a lot. Your body will spend vital resources to bring healing. Your bank account will spend your savings and maybe even more to complete a remodel project. But the end result is strength, beauty and joy!

Can I ask you to welcome the necessary elements to begin the process making us ready to heal? Ask the Lord what your part is. Ask the Lord what He wants you to receive. Ask the Lord what He wants you to stop doing. Ask the Lord if there is a team, a group that is needed for part of this process that

you can be part of based on your gifting and your desire to be part of the solution.

I have some good news for you that I'm confident will happen in this process. When others see love being given and received, gossip being resisted and ignored, they will want to be around you, around us. Joy is contagious and people are looking for hope. God is certainly able to do this.

Consider making the following verses your meditation in the coming days.

*Trust in the LORD, and do good; dwell in the land and befriend faithfulness. Delight yourself in the LORD, and he will give you the desires of your heart. Commit your way to the LORD; trust in him, and he will act. He will bring forth your righteousness as the light, and your justice as the noonday. Be still before the LORD and wait patiently for him; fret not yourself over the one who prospers in his way, over the man who carries out evil devices!
Psalm 37:3-7*

Always remember, God is good!

God bless you! ~ Pastor Jim

¹Source material:<https://www.advancedtissue.com/understanding-healing-stages-wounds/>

Remember in Prayer

- Family of Marie Wortiska
- 2017 Graduates
- Tom Mickelson
- Joan Bruer
- Ron Usher
- Lynette Hilden
- Luke Makela
- Onie Samuelson
- Mike Maurer
- Linda Miller
- Brent Freeman
- Sandy Schilling
- Mary Ann Lusti
- Kurt Mattson
- Brie Schilling
- Gail Hawkins
- Craig Ahlin
- Dennis & Rosie Anderson
- Freddie Hanson
- Katie Wilkowski
- Tanya Porter
- Steve Huttunen
- Aden Munson
- Elaine Hollerud
- Cornie Paulson
- Naomi Butcher
- Sharon Berg
- John Rader
- Thomas Merchlewicz
- Ashley Anderson
- Tracey Skroski
- Joann Koskela
- Bruce Blanchard
- Elvin Yrjo
- Susan Gullekson
- Our Country & Military
- Jon Soppeland
- Hayden Paulson
- Brandon Tjosaas
- Luke Hallaway
- Kyle Soppeland
- Our Churches, Pastors, Leaders, and Staff
- Our Shut-ins

**Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting
May 10, 2017 at 6:00 P.M.**

Present: Dave M., Evelyn M., Kris S., Wendy M., Lynette Y., Dean M.,
Guests: Arnold T., Les R., Rose T., Carol R., Bev T., Jeannette M.
Meeting was called to order by President Kris S.

Open with prayer.

Secretary's report was read, motion was made by Dean M. to approve, seconded by Ron M., motion carried.

Treasurer's report was read, motion was made by Dave M. to approve, seconded by Lynette Y., motion carried.

Committee Reports

Social Ministry-Lynette: has sent out encouragement cards, get well cards, good attendance at Easter.

Stewardship-Dave M.: Hope giving isn't affected by tension in our church.

Education-Dean M.: Heidi will take care of Mother's Day flowers, Sunday school ended last Sunday with cross of nails project.

Worship-Ron M.: Hymns have been picked out through the end of October.

Evangelism-Rita H.: Week of 22nd of May will get together with Bachman's about auction, need to confirm August 13 as date.

Buildings & Grounds-Mark S.: lawn has been mowed, Hasbargen's & Spadgenske's picked up sticks & debris and filled hole in cemetery. Anderson's will also mow new part of cemetery.

Youth: Have over \$5,000 in checking account and are meeting at the Menahga Park tonight. No LYO for the summer, April 30th was confirmation at Friends in Christ.

No report from Pastor Steve

Report from Pastor Jim was read.

Pastor's mileage, Steve's mileage approved to be paid with the exception of mileage to take bulletins to Bethany.

Pastor Jim's mileage report for April to be forwarded to other council, question on Jim's mileage for 4-16. Dave M. made a motion to approve mileage for payment with clarification on 4-16, seconded by Wendy M., motion approved.

Kris S. told everyone of Steve's severance package. Explained resignation contract was signed with approved severance package.

Old Business:

1. Bible Institute in India-New class has started, you can donate though Pastor Jim's 501C. Dave M. made a motion to table donation in one month.
2. Spring Clean-up : if you do some cleaning, write it on the sheet in the kitchen.
3. Change name on sponsorship for radio "the Word", Rita will take care of it. "Bethany Free" is being used for sponsorship.

New Business:

1. Carol Ristinen is resigning from Women's Directory, we are looking for a volunteer. Will bring it up in church on Sunday. Thank you to Carol for years of serving.
2. Question from Carol R. about setting up a call committee for a new pastor. Discussion was held.

Motion made by Dave M. to adjourn meeting, seconded by Dean M., meeting adjourned.

Submitted by Evelyn M, secretary.

**BETHANY
Attendance & Offering**

4/30/17

22 Adults 3 Children

Cemetery \$ 75.00

Missions \$ 710.00

\$ 785.00

5/7/17

30 Adults 8 Children

General \$ 830.00

Missions \$ 40.00

\$ 870.00

5/14/17

26 Adults 13 Children

General \$ 615.00

Missions \$ 34.00

\$ 649.00

5/21/17

22 Adults 3 Children

General \$ 808.00

Cemetery \$ 300.00

Missions \$ 40.00

\$ 1,148.00

Thank you to Gloria Beck, Margaret Maki, Jeannette Mickelson, Arnold & Rose Thompson and Bev Trimble for their gifts to the Bethany Cemetery Fund in memory of Wayne Maki.

Thank you to Fred & Lois Corwin for their gift to the LYO in memory of Wayne Maki.

Thank you to Carol Ristinen for her many years of dedication of putting the Bethany Women's Directory together, your hard work was & is greatly appreciated.

If there is anyone who would be willing to take over the job of the Women's Directory, please speak to Lynette Y.

The Bethany Circles Meeting hosted by Eleanor Huwe will be held on June 15th instead of on June 8th.

Spring Cleaning of the inside of the Bethany church needs to be done. Please help when you are able. There is a list of items to be done in the kitchen, please write down what you have completed.

Bethany Disciples: Please remember to make a special donation to Buildings & Grounds for the summer lawn care.

Friends in Christ Board of Trustees Meeting ~ May 21, 2017

Present: Reuben R., Tim P., Curt O., Tom C., Tracey O. & Pastor Jim
 Pastor Jim opened the meeting with prayer.
 Financial report: financial report was read and accepted to send it to audit.
 Curt & Jim went to the Master's Institute, Curt talked about his experience at the institute. Motion was made to approve \$119.50 for Curt's half of the expenses.

New Business:

1. Red Eye River Days service will be held at the Sebeka Park on Sunday, June 18th as a Tri-Parish Service.
2. Day at the Lake will be July 16th at the Paul Miller Park in Perham. Service will be held at 10:30 A.M. followed by potluck. Come earlier for fishing, swimming and fellowship. No service at the D.A.C.
3. Look at the LCMC website and make some changes regarding church information.

Missions: Tabled until next month.

Meeting closed with prayer.

Submitted by Tracey O., Secretary

LYO GIRLS

ALL GIRLS in grades 7-12 are invited to First English Church on Wednesday, June 7th & 14th from 9:00 A.M. to 10:30 A.M. to learn quilting from the quilting ladies.

Please RSVP to Pastor Jim if you are interested in this great opportunity to spend time with the quilting ladies of the church & learn a skill that can be used by you to be able spread God's love in your home, city and throughout the world.

First English Women's Executive Board Meeting

The Women's Executive board met at the church on Thursday, May 18th at 4:00.

The meeting opened with devotions and prayer by Marlene Schiotz.

Secretary's report read & approved.

Treasurer's report read & approved.

Missions: Quilts will be packed on May 31st for LWR.

May 19th at 10:00 check on kits for LWR.

Kitchen cleaning on June 8th at 9:00 A.M.

Events-Midsummer Dinner on July 8th. Menu-Pot roast beef on buns, hot dogs, coleslaw, baked beans, potato chips, watermelon wedges, dill pickles, cookies, iced tea. Lemonade, milk & coffee. Price, adults \$9, 5-10 \$5.

Motion made & seconded to pay balance of amount of entry rugs. Next meeting is on June 15th at 4 P.M.

The meeting closed with Lord's Prayer.

Lucille Erickson, Secretary

FIRST ENGLISH Attendance & Offering

4/30/17	64
General	\$ 485.00
Loose	\$ 25.00
Building	\$ 85.00
	\$ 595.00

5/7/17	45
General	\$ 920.00
Loose	\$ 11.00
Bible Institute	\$ 10.00
World Hunger	\$ 10.00
Building	\$ 80.00
	\$ 1,031.00

5/14/17	57
General	\$ 1,390.00
Missions	\$ 10.00
Loose	\$ 40.00
Building	\$ 20.00
	\$ 1,460.00

5/21/17	81
General	\$ 1,130.00
Loose	\$ 52.25
Building	\$ 305.00
	\$ 1,487.25

Thank you to Mavis Mattila for decorating the tables throughout the year at First English.

Many thanks to Dianne Schilling for making the graduate reception special with the decorations and a delicious cake at First English.

Mid-Summer Picnic Coming Soon! Saturday, July 8th

Serving a meal during the Menahga Mid-summer Celebration has been a traditional experience for First English for many, many years! This project requires everyone's help-the youth-men and women.

Men-we need you to help serve and lift roasters. Only 1 hour of your time is required!

Starting on the second Sunday in June there will be sign up sheets available in the fellowship hall.

First English Church Kitchen cleaning will be held on June 8th at 9:00 A.M.

LYO STUDENTS: Please take a look through this entire Epistle for opportunities to serve your church and community throughout the coming months. Your help would be greatly appreciated by all!

Thank you to everyone who donated to the new rugs in the First English church entries, they are paid for!!!!

The following information is being provided to clarify Pastor Jim's pastoral credentials. Below is a list of Pastor Jim's training, certifications, degrees and his past work experiences.

Christ for the Nations Institute ~ Dallas, TX

Christ for the Nations Institute (CFNI) is the educational arm of the ministry Christ For The Nations, Inc. Founded by Gordon and Freda Lindsay in July 1970, CFNI is an interdenominational Bible College located in Dallas, Texas.

CFNI is accredited by the International Christian Accrediting Association, a private Christian organization operated under the auspices of Oral Roberts University.

May 12, 1990 ~ Associate in Theology Degree

Christian and Missionary Alliance ~ Licensed Minister 1998-2008

Master's Institute ~ White Bear Lake, MN

Master's Institute's statement of faith is evangelical, creedal, and sacramental. Being Lutheran is an issue of substance rather than style, of theology rather than methodology. We are Reformational in our understanding of the authority of Scripture and the centrality of grace and faith. We are an approved Seminary for Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ, and have placed students in Missouri Synod, ELCA and non-denominational settings.

Graduates are currently serving in the ARC (Alliance of Renewal Churches), LCMC (Lutheran Congregations in Mission for Christ), HNI (Harvest Network International) Churches, the ELCA (Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), or have returned to their sending church in some leadership capacity or as a church planter of that congregation.

May 21, 2011 ~ Master of Divinity Degree

Omega Team ~ Big Lake, MN

The Omega Team is a network involving: Local Churches, House Churches, Ministries, Training Centers, Missions Organizations, Marketplace Ministries, Revival Centers, Network with other Ministerial Associations and Networks

What Omega Team Does

Bringing revival to individuals, churches and communities.

Evangelism and World Missions

Church Planting

Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

Care for the poor and the needy.

Bringing revival to individuals, churches and communities.

Evangelism and World Missions

Church Planting

Equipping the saints for the work of the ministry

Care for the poor and the needy.

April 27th, 2011 ~ Ordination

What Omega Team Values

The inspired and authoritative Word of God

The centrality of Jesus Christ and the all sufficiency of the Cross

The manifest presence of God

The manifestation of the Holy Spirit

Relationships that build support, protection and accountability

The recognition of the five fold ministry

Prayer, intercession and worship

The autonomy of local churches and ministries

Integrity in life and ministry

Recognizing and encouraging both men and women in their ministry calling

Equipping and releasing the saints for the work of the ministry

Releasing the emerging generation

Love and prayer for Jerusalem and the nation of Israel

Unity of the Body of Christ

LCMC Certification ~ April, 2013



CHURCH IN THE PARK

Three-Point Parish Worship Service

June 18, 2017
Sebeka Park
10:00 A.M.

* There will be no services at First English, Bethany or Friends in Christ on this day.

Tri-Point Parish Summer Events

Sunday, June 18

Service at the Sebeka Park

Saturday, July 8

Mid-summer Picnic at First English

Sunday, July 9

Service at the Lake in Menahga

Sunday, July 16

Service at Paul Miller Park in Perham

Monday, August 7 to Friday, August 11

VBS

Sunday, August 13

Service at Bethany Church with Auction following.

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
Menahga, MN 56464
Permit NO. 3



BETHANY, FIRST ENGLISH,
FRIENDS IN CHRIST
LUTHERAN CHURCHES
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