



Bethany NEWS

May 2008

Bethany Lutheran Church - Worshiping together since 1958

Pastor's Message

“Everyone Back to Church for Potato Salad But You”

“I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker and OWNER of heaven and earth.”

(First Article of The Apostles' Creed)

Many people think and act as though reality is what they can see and as far as they can see. People in many countries know little about the world beyond their own borders. In America, people's parameters are often a shopping mall to the right and a TV screen to the left with the occasional fast-food establishment in between – and the disease is spreading rapidly around the affluent corners of the planet.

If only! If only we could take people somewhere in the vicinity of the moon, and point them back to Planet Earth and ask: “Where do you think you came from? What is it there? Why do you think God placed you on it?”

At certain times of the year, many churches undertake a “Stewardship Campaign”, which means they set out to raise enough money to ensure that the local program will continue for another year. They ask people to declare how much they will “give” during the coming year.

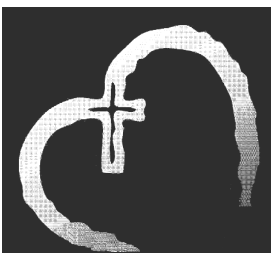
As we approach summer with the usual lower attendance and the associated lower offerings (after all, we are accustomed to paying for what we get . . . don't come, don't give logic) it is a good time to remember the truth that no one can give anything to God, to Bethany or to anyone else. Why? Because God has not given anything to anyone!

In Genesis 1:26-27 God says, “And let them have dominion over . . .” “Dominion does not imply ownership; it implies responsible use, responsible management of creation. When we place something in an offering plate, we do not “give Thee but Thine own.” We merely get our grubby little hands off some of what always has, and always will, belong to God.

The reality is that though we cannot give God anything, we certainly can rob God. The first Article of the Apostles' Creed needs to be amended to read, “I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker **and Owner** of Heaven and Earth.” It follows then, that the only authentic thing we can offer God is our sin.

There will come a day when people will place each of us in a coffin and lower us into a grave, throw dirt on top of the coffin and then proclaim to many of your friends and relatives, “Everyone back to church for potato salad!” You will not be invited. And as they leave people will talk about how successful you might have been, or might not have been. God will say and ask only “I rejoice that you came to know My Son as your Savior and Lord, but how much did you use your life to serve people (really, my Son in disguise) around you?”

Society measures success in a totally warped manner: How much have you achieved for yourself? God never measures success in terms of what we accumulate for ourselves, but in



terms of how much we use life and creation to glorify God by serving others – a truth the advertising world does not want to hear.

Christian stewardship is not even primarily about managing money. It is about learning to develop and manage ourselves – whom God made and owns – that we might be as useful as possible to God and others. When we learn that life has been leased to us that we might give it away, we begin to understand that money is merely “stored servant hood,” “me in a bank,” “me in a transferable form”, “me in a form that enables serving at a distance, serving by proxy.”

Don't forget Bethany or God this summer! And don't feel too bad about not being invited back to church for potato salad at your funeral . . . the heavenly banquet (which I'm sure will include potato salad) will be more than enough to make up for that. But how much greater that heavenly potato salad will taste knowing that what you did on earth helped others to get to this very same table . . . just as the Lord used other people's generous stewardship to get you there.

~ Pastor Zoebel



This year, Bethany's Vacation Bible School program theme is **Rainforest Adventure: A Tree Top Bible Blast!** Our explorers will be learning not only the word of God, but will also learn how important it is to take care of the gifts He gave us, including our planet and all it's inhabitants.

VBS will take place July 27-31, 2008. There will be a sign up sheet available for volunteers to help in all sorts of roles, from group guides to station leaders.

Because our program this year has a "go green" theme, many of our crafts and games will be made from recycled materials. **Please save** toilet paper rolls, paper towel rolls, milk cartons and jugs, paper bags, string, rope, ribbon, rubber bands, shoe boxes, cereal boxes, oatmeal containers, hosiery, old wrapping paper, tin foil, buttons, and sticks of all shapes and sizes for our VBS explorers. A box will be placed in the coat room to collect these items. If you think we can use it, bring it!

If you have any questions or are interested in volunteering, contact **Tori Michel**. You can get a sneak peek of the program at www.thevbsplace.org!

Celebrate Armed Forces Sunday

May 18, 2008



There are nearly 45,000 Lutherans serving in today's military - many of them deployed away from home and family and serving in harm's way. Each of these military men and women is an important part of our Christian family and we dare not forget them in their difficult hours.

Check out LCMS resources for our armed forces at www.lcms.org?1225. There is information about LCMS troop support efforts and a list of suggestion for items to send in care packages.

Please remember these men in your prayers:

- Craig Baker
- Phil Michel
- Frank Stratman
- Evan Rummel
- Josh Thompson
- Matthew J. Wickbolt

Thank you!

A big “thank you” to everyone for the prayers, cards, visits and calls while I was “laid up.” You are truly a wonderful family and I thank you all for your concerns.

~ Carol Elifritz

Thank you for your concern for Jim who has been diagnosed with gallstones. Prayer is **Powerful** and we thank you for remembering us in your prayers.

~ Jim & Debbie Walbright



Such Splendid Love

We watch with pride and wonder
The little body in crib or cradle.
Will those chubby cheeks and curled fists,
Toothless gums and wailing cry
Grow into lovely face, strong hands,
Pearly smile and melodious voice?
The infant, powerless and weak,
By our watchful care will advance
With growth and grace into boy or girl
Whose words tumble from rosy mouth
Like poems we waited long to hear.
Those curved legs and flailing arms
Will soon walk, run and write,
And our nights of interrupted sleep
Will be exchanged for thanks
That our care produced this child.
Crayons and playtime will soon go
And school days bring forth
The knowledge carried in this small brain
To enhance our gratitude that God
Blessed our Home with such splendid love.

Disguise

Clouds drive across the sky.
 Raindrops hang like jeweled eye.
Puddles dimple on withered earth
 And feel the glow of Spring's rebirth.
Fog creeps on tiny feet
 To hover so darkly discreet
Gray as woolen cloak's disguise.
 It christens as tho' to baptize
Saint and sinner as well.
 Hark to voices of the unseen who herein dwell.
Fog-swirls spread like shroud.
 Give thanks, then, for Nature's gifts allowed.
Speak softly in the mist.
 Turn to see the earth dew-kissed.
Silently, cloud, fog and rain
 Hush the harsh and quell our pain.
Do not draw the curtain
 For in these things I am certain
Lies a quiet tribute
 While earth, hidden, remains mute.

His Father's Mansion

Did Christ die in vain
For our sins and our shame?
As the snow melts and glistening ice
Binds the earth with its vise,
We awaken with hearts astir
As the season for the sepulcher
Where He did repose
Held Him 'til He arose
Oh, the jubilation as the stone rolled
And Christ, the beautiful, did behold
Unworthy men, now chastened,
When He to His Father's mansion did ascend.
Let the sorrow and the joy thereby
Be known as we worship Him whom they did crucify.

Creatures of the Night

Tonight I feel as tho' grieving.
All pleasures are beyond my perceiving.
The rose grows with its thorns sharp
And I must feel their prick as stark
As His crown which pressed so cruel.
With sadness and shame I must duel
While the shades of dusk fall down.
The sun sinks quickly to drown
Any gay radiance it may have shown
Or breeze that blew flower petals which flown
Rest and wither their beauty away in sleep.
Birds their voices stilled their silence keep.
Shadows drift into the garden's plot
And what was, is now dimmed spot
Hiding its face in gloomy reverie.
Above the sky spreads its dark canopy.
Clouds race in spirited journey
Across moon's slivered harmony.
In unseen view the quiet creatures of night
Review with caution that hidden from the sight
Of those trampling in ignorance the day just past.
Others, their vigils o'er, aroused in numbers vast,
Crawl to ignominious defeat in hunger's revelry
Besieged the long night through in ominous destiny.



The end of the preschool year is quickly approaching. There is still much to do. This month we invite parents to school for our annual Mom's Tea and Dad's Day events and we are hard at work preparing for these special celebrations.

Each class will use literature to review letters and numbers. We will explore the children's feelings about the end of the year with various activities such as "Remember When?" Final field trips will be to Blacklick Woods for a program with the naturalist. **3/4s** will experience "Baby Animals in Spring" while **4/5s** head to the swamp to see what lives there. We plan to have our snacks there and have a chance to play on the great playground at Blacklick, too.

Final activities will also see **3/4s** painting with their feet and **4/5s** bringing bikes to school and participating in an alphabet picnic with a food starting with each letter of the alphabet.

As we do each year, all preschool classes will participate in a closing program and a family picnic. Our guest will be "The Turtle Lady".

We are saddened to report that **Mrs. Miller** will not be returning to our preschool in the fall because she will be returning to school to earn a child development degree. We thank Mrs. Miller for her love and service with our precious little ones these past three years.

We will be looking for a new assistant to work with Mrs. Stokes. If you would be interested in becoming part of this mission outreach, please contact Veronika Zoehl.

Preschool Cookbooks are now available for purchase from any staff member. The cost is \$10.00 per book and proceeds from sales will be used to purchase a raised sandbox with a locking lid which will also be accessible to children with diverse abilities.

A big thank-you to **3/4's McKenzie Rice's dad, Bill**, who dug not one but three holes before we could all agree on the right height for the playground fun ball chute.

Thank you, too, to the **4/5's Terbovich family** who gifted the preschool with many sets of wooden 3-D shapes (cylinders, cubes, pyramids, spheres, etc.) to be used for math and science activities as outlined by the Ohio Department of Education's Early Learning Content Standards.

Open registration for our preschool for fall classes continues. Registration forms and brochures can be found on the "Just for Families" bulletin board. Please call the preschool - 866-1211 - for more information.

Ken and Pam Klopfer are proud grandparents.

Soon to graduate granddaughter **Kaitlin Klopfer**, softball pitcher for Liberty Union, threw another shutout for a 10-2 Liberty Union baseball win against Berne Union on April 17th allowing just three hits and striking out nine.

Kaitlin has signed a national letter of intent to play softball at the University of Charleston in West Virginia. Klopfer is in her fourth season as a varsity player for the Liberty Union Lions. She has played summer travel softball for Ohio Classics for six years. Last year, her team, the Ohio Classics Black 16U, won the Compuware and NSA "A" National tournaments in Rockhill, SC.

Congratulations to Kaitlin for her hard work and many accomplishments.

The happiest people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the best of everything they have.

"Rise and put on your foliage, and be seen
To come forth, like the springtime, fresh and green."

~- Robert Herrick

LWML Ohio District Convention

June 20-22, 2008

Holiday City near Montpelier, Ohio

Theme

"The Lord is My strength and My Shield." Psalm 28:7

Projects

Ingathering items will go to support families in need through the Northwest Ohio Grain train

Banner-Quilts will be given to seminary families

New Mite projects will be chosen

One of the 2007 Mite Projects

- A grant to Luther Memorial school in Cleveland to help children and teachers learn more about Jesus and to sing His praises through the purchase of Christian education materials and chapel song books.



In May the children will continue their studies of the events in the life of the early Church, focusing on the first 12 books of Acts.

We will be designating offerings to the LSS Food Pantry and asking Sunday School attendees to bring boxes of breakfast cereal for the food pantry as well. Thanks to all who brought personal care items for the food pantry in April.

On May 18 we will celebrate Teacher Appreciation Sunday during both services and Youth Sunday during the late service. All classes will be sharing some of their gifts with the congregation during that service. Please plan to join us that day and make a special effort to thank a teacher - they have been very faithful and dedicated all year!

I always ask for feedback at the end of each Sunday School year, so if you receive a survey please complete it and return it to me. Your comments are very helpful in planning for next year. Plans are being considered for a summer Family Sunday School - look for more information to come in June.

See you on Sunday at 9:30!

~ Kelly Schmidt

Hard work appreciated

A special thank you for the dedication, time and effort given to our children by each member of our Sunday School staff. Thanks to **Mary Pullen, Beth Rice, Rachel Torres, Natalie Zoebel, Susie Schneider, Cindy Deering, Deb Twigg, Sandy Nelson, Cari Asar, Kathy Benson, Kevin Schmidt, Eric Bornschlegl, Mike Kuberski, Lisa Marie Almond, Pastor Zoebel, Tina Baker** and substitute teachers **Tori Michel, Robin Barber, Pam Rieker, Mary Hoar** and **Pat Proschek**. They have worked hard this year to further our call to "walk in the Word"

Volunteer Needed

Bethany has a tradition of providing "Children's Church" during the summer months - children ages 4 through 3rd grade learn a Bible story and do a craft during the sermon/offertory and then return to worship for Communion.

In the past Kathy Benson has coordinated this program, but she will be taking the summer off this year. A Coordinator is needed to organize and run the program this summer. Materials will be provided. Please speak to Kelly Schmidt if interested.

History Note . . . 1961

By September 1961. the architect had completed a master plan, which reflected the program prepared by the Building Committee and members of Bethany. The congregation reviewed and discussed the master plan at a number of meetings and gave their approval. The decision was then made to build the Fellowship Hall and a portion of the Administration Unit. The architect was directed to begin work on preliminary drawings.



Another major decision made by the congregation that fall of '61 was to issue a call to Pastor Wisch. Up until that time, he had been working for the Mission Board of the Central District. On February 11, 1962 The Reverend John K. Wisch was installed as the first pastor of Bethany Lutheran Church, Columbus, Ohio by Dr. W. C. Birkner, Secretary of Missions and Church Extension of the Central District.

50th Anniversary celebration

Mark your calendar September 26th - 28th

Bethany's 50th anniversary celebration is scheduled for the weekend of September 26-28th. The Homecoming Weekend will kick off the celebration Friday evening with a bonfire out back of the church and a catered sit-down dinner Saturday at the church. A special single worship service will be held on Sunday morning with a reception after the service. As details are developed, you will be updated.

(We understand that there is an OSU football game on Saturday, Sept 27 against in-conference Minnesota, but the game time has not been announced yet. However, Bethany celebrates 50 years only once, and we will make every effort to avoid a conflict with the game.)

We plan to invite former members to share in the celebration. If you have the current address of former members, please send it to Bev Ruff as soon as possible so that a mailing list for invitations can be developed. Please place the information in Bev and Stan's church mailbox. We appreciate your assistance with this celebration.





Social Ministries and Evangelism Commissions have three servant events in May and ask for your participation and prayers.

Ottawa Ridge Servant Event

We need your help to provide a breakfast on **Saturday, May 10th at 9:30 am** for the residents of Ottawa Ridge, the retirement housing down the hill from the church. We are having the breakfast on this date to support Eric Bornschlegl's new Bible study which will follow the breakfast at 10:30 am. Please look for more information in the bulletin's Yellow Pages..

7th Annual Green Thumb Gathering

On **Saturday, May 17th**, we will have our seventh annual **Green Thumb Gathering at the Pickerington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center** from **9:00 a.m. til noon**. People of all ages are welcome and encouraged to participate. The residents would love to see youngsters involved and it is a great opportunity for children to help others.



We are going to work in the Center's courtyard which is an enclosed outdoor area, safe for children to work and explore. We will work from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon cleaning their gardens and planting new flowers. In addition, we are looking for volunteers to escort residents from their rooms out to the courtyard to visit and enjoy the morning with us.

There will be a sign-up sheet for volunteers on the church bulletin board. We are also asking for flower donations, i.e. Marigolds, Impatiens, Petunias. Any donation of any size is appreciated. The flowers can be left at church between Sunday, May 11th and Friday, May 16th, on the table designated in the rear of the church. Or you can bring them with you to the nursing home on the 17th.

Thank you for your support and please pray for a nice day.

Shoebboxes for Our Military Heroes

A Pizza Dinner Fundraiser will be held on **Friday, May 30, 2008 at the church**. All proceeds from this event will be used to purchase care items for the American

Soldiers serving in Kuwait with Craig Baker's battallion. Our goal is to prepare and send 300 packages of goods.

There will be 2 supper sessions, one at **5:30 and one at 7:00**. We will be pre-selling tickets for this event. and everybody is invited. The menu includes pizza, salad and drinks for **\$5.00 per person**. There will be a table set up to purchase desserts separately. Members of the church are asked to donate a special dessert and to help with serving/advertising. Please check your mailboxes for more information.

Calling all gardeners!

The Evangelism Commission is proposing that Bethany create a Community Garden on our back acreage. Flowers and vegetables for us and our neighbors to enjoy! We are just in the planning stages but your input is needed.

Your suggestions and ideas, sources of information will be appreciated.



Annual LWML Yard Sale

**Friday, June 13th
4:00 p.m. til 8:00 p.m.**

**Saturday, June 14th
8:00 a.m. til 2:00 p.m.**

Please keep collecting those good, useable, clean items you no longer need or use for Bethany's yard sale. This is LWML's major fund raiser each year and the plan is to use any money earned by this sale to purchase a commercial appliance for our kitchen.

Volunteer workers are needed

Set up

Starting Monday, June 9th through Friday, June 13th
During the day (call to be sure someone is at church)
Monday through Thursday evening 6-9 p.m.
and on Friday from 4-9 p.m.

Sale Workers

Friday Evening 4-8 p.m.
Saturday from 8 am - 11 am and/or from 11 am- 2 p.m.

For Clean-up

Monday evening June 16th starting around 6 p.m.

"Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." (James 4:7)

Satan promotes conflict in many ways. Among other things, he tempts us so we give in to greed and dishonesty (Acts 5:3), he deceives us and misleads us (2 Tim. 2:25-26), and he takes advantage of unresolved anger (Eph. 4:26-27). Worst of all, he uses false teachers to propagate values and philosophies that encourage selfishness and stimulate controversy (1 Tim. 4:1-3).

Here are some of the expressions that often reflect the devil's lies and influence:

- "Look out for Number One."
- "God helps those who help themselves."
- "Surely God doesn't expect me to stay in an unhappy situation."
- "I'll forgive you, but I won't forget."
- "Don't get mad, get even."
- "I deserve better than this."

Satan prefers that we do not recognize his role in our conflicts. As long as we see other people as our only adversaries and focus our attacks on them, we will give no thought to guarding against our most dangerous enemy.

~ Taken from *The Peacemaker: A Biblical Guide to Resolving Personal Conflict* by Ken Sande, Updated Edition (Grand Rapids, Baker Books, 2003) p. 50-51

Food for Thought

Read Jesus' responses to Satan's temptations in Matthew 4:1-11. Note that in contrast to Satan's favorite expressions noted above, none of Jesus' responses contain the word, "I". What's more, none of Jesus' responses to Satan even contain the word, "you" - usually our second favorite word in conflict!

How do we prevent Satan from getting a foothold in our conflicts? We keep our conflict responses (and our words) God-centered, remembering that if God is not at the center of our thoughts during a conflict, Satan will be altogether too happy to quietly take God's place.

Help You Respond to Conflict Biblically

We are excited to announce the launch of our new blog, [Route 5:9; Reflections on the Journey of Living out Matthew 5:9](#). Our desire is to reflect on the peacemaking journey, gospel-centered relationships, and life in the church. We encourage you to take a few minutes, jump over to our blog, and then make it a regular part of your blog reading. We trust it will be a blessing and encouragement to you.

PeaceMeal is a weekly e-publication of Peacemaker Ministries (www.Peacemaker.net). All Rights Reserved.

Miss a PeaceMeal? If you've missed a past issue or have the need to reference a past issue, you can access them in our PeaceMeal archives. Issues will appear for approximately one year from date of publication.

Don't forget to pass the peace!

Say your piece in PeaceMeal. We are looking for peacemakers from around the world to write the Food for Thought section of a future issue of PeaceMeal. How about you? Guidelines and more information can be found at www.Peacemaker.net.

Things to do - Mark your calendar

- The **next Bloodmobile** that Bethany is scheduled to sponsor is **May 15**. Please make an appointment to be a donor on that day by calling Ann Kesselring. Take this opportunity to give the gift of life to someone in need.
- **7th Annual Green Thumb Gathering on Saturday, May 17th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon** at the Pickerington Nursing and Rehabilitation Center.
- A pizza party and bake sale **fundraiser for our "Shoebboxes for Our Military Heroes" project** is scheduled for **Friday, May 30th**. \$5.00 tickets will be available from Social Commission members.
- **Church Restoration Weekend - July 18, 19 & 20th**. Make plans to be there
- Make place plans to attend **Vacation Bible School July 27-31, 2008**. This year's theme - Rainforest Adventure: A Tree Top Bible Blast! Watch for volunteer sign-up sheets - your help will be needed for a successful VBS.
- Save this date! **Bethany's 50th Anniversary Homecoming Weekend - Friday September 26 through Sunday, September 28**. Watch for more details.
- Do you have an interest in legal issues such as freedom of speech and freedom of religion? Do you have concerns that your rights as a US citizen and a Christian are being violated? Check out the American Center for Law and Justice website: www.aclj.org.
- The Lutheran Church Missouri Synod publishes a wonderful monthly magazine, **The Lutheran Witness**, which is available for only \$14.16 for 11 issues. If you would like to receive this inspirational and educational resource at home, please get a check to the church office **by May 4th**. (make it out to Bethany and put "Lutheran Witness" on the memo line).

**A recipe from 30 years ago
(1978 April Newsletter)**

Ellie Tuhy's recipe for a dessert that she brought to a Voters' meeting lunch in 1978.

Butterscotch Delite

Crust:

- 1/1/4 stick margarine
- 1/1/2 cup flour
- 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts

- 1 Mix with fingers until crumbly and press into 9 x 13 pan.
- 2 Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes.
- 3 Cool.

Cheese Layer:

- 1 8 oz. Cream cheese
- 1 cup Cool Whip or mixed Dream Whip
- 1 cup powdered sugar

- 1 Blend ingredients and then spread evenly on cooled crust.

Pudding Layer:

- 2 packages instant butterscotch pudding mix.
- 1 Prepare as directed except use only 3 cups of milk.
 - 2 Spread pudding on top of cheese layer.

Final Layer:

- 1 Spread 1 cup Cool Whip (or mixed Dream Whip) on top.
- 2 Sprinkle with 1/2 cup finely chopped nuts.
- 3 Refrigerate until ready to serve.

Word Search: The Good Samaritan

D W E F I L J E S U S H
 O E M E L A S U R E J T
 G L Y Y O D D N A O G I
 N B L L A R U O Y E G W
 U A T R A E H L O T K E
 O R T R O B H G I E N S
 H A I I E B N N I R B I
 C P G I R T B E L N A W
 I E V O L A I E N A S E
 R T U O B A M V R L K K
 E L A W Y E R A E R E I
 J V P R I E S T S L D L

Words may run left, right, up, down, diagonally in all directions.

LAWYER	GOD	JERUSALEM
ASKED	WITH	JERICH0
JESUS	ALL	ROBBER
ABOUT	YOUR	PRIEST
ETERNAL	HEART	LEVITE
LIFE	NEIGHBOR	SAMARITAN
LOVE	PARABLE	INN

You can help with this need . . .



Lutheran Social Services of Central Ohio has been serving the hungry for 54 years. The pantries serve the community by providing food to individuals and families in need. Please remember to pick up a few extra items on your next trip to the grocery store.

Some needed items:

- coffee in small jars or 1- and 2-lb. cans
- powdered drink mix with sugar
- tea bags - individually wrapped or small boxes
- canned fruits and vegetables
- Hamburger/Tuna Helper
- canned pastas
- scalloped potatoes and other box side dishes.

Pastor - Rev. Dr. George T. Zoebel
 Church Phone : 614-866-7755
 E-mail: bethanycolumbus@sbcglobal.net

Worship Services

Communion celebrated every Sunday

Traditional Service

- 8:00 a.m. every Sunday
- 11:00 a.m. 1st & 4th Sunday monthly

Contemporary Service

- 11:00 a.m. 2nd & 3rd Sunday monthly

Sunday school

- 9:30 a.m. every Sunday September - June

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- | | |
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