

The Bethany Letter

Sunday ~ June 5, 2011

VOLUME 2011

ISSUE NO. 21

Rev. Stephen Gehlert, Senior Minister

Rev. Mark Steiner, Visitation Minister

Preparing for Pentecost

Next Sunday is Pentecost, a holy day in the Christian year upon which we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit. It was the gift of that Spirit which transformed fearful hesitant followers of Jesus, who'd known the presence of their risen Lord but still lacked the courage to share this amazing good news with anyone, into bold, courageous witnesses of the resurrection. It was their eagerness to proclaim the resurrection and to allow it to dramatically reshape their lives which marked the true birth of Christ's church.

As we prepare to celebrate this Holy Day and consider again what our full welcoming of the gift of the Holy Spirit might mean in our lives, I'd like to share these words by Frank Ramirez:

I'm asking you to remember a childhood passion. You know what I'm talking about, I hope. All of us, at one time or another has been consumed with a passion. It might have been for stamps, or coins, or baseball cards, or the novels of a certain series, or all reading, all books. Maybe it was music, or dreaming up stories and writing them down. Maybe you lifted up a rock and saw bugs, or someone gave you a telescope and the universe opened up before your eyes. I don't know what it was. You do!

For a while at least you were consumed by that enthusiasm. For some of us, it might have lasted for a month, or a year, and began to fade away, to be replaced by something else. Maybe you had a different passion each month. For others, we may still have that same passion, molded and shaped by our maturing years. Right now I want you to think about that enthusiasm, and the pure joy it might have brought you.

This is Pentecost Sunday. I didn't have a camera there that day, or a voice recorder, so I can't bring you back a clear picture, but I know one thing – that thanks to God's Spirit the apostles' passion for the good news knew no bounds. They spilled out into the streets and couldn't help telling everything they knew about the Word Made Flesh.

Is it too much to ask us all, today, to think what our lives of discipleship would be like if through every offering we spilled the unbridled passion of a child? Are we opening our hearts to the Spirit enough so that this happens? Are we walling ourselves off from something so wildly wonderful that people would be as astounded as they were when Peter and the apostles were filled with the Spirit?

May our renewed welcoming of God's "Pentecost gift," the gift of the Holy Spirit, include a desire to live, share, and witness with such passion.

With Pentecost Hope,

Christian Education

CE is looking for volunteers to teach summer Sunday school. It is a great way for you to use your time and talents! Please contact Carolyn Shroyer if you can help one Sunday.



6/05	6:00 pm	Mission Trip Planning
	8:00 pm	Parent Information Session
6/11	7:00 am	Mission Trip Begins
6/19	9/10:00 pm	Mission Trip Returns

6/11	Ponca Creek Mission Trip Begins
6/18	Bethany Kitchen
6/22	Committee Night
6/29	Bethany Night at Donato's
7/04	Office Closed (Independence Day)
7/24	Camp Bethany / New Trinity Family Promise Guest Week



Summer Worship Schedule BEGINS

Sunday June 12th ~ Pentecost

8:30 a.m. A casual, informal worship service held in the Social Hall

9:30 a.m. A traditional worship service in the Sanctuary.

Sunday School for children will be during the 9:30 hour. First through Sixth Graders will attend the service with their parents and then go to their class after the Children's message – held in the library. Nursery children will be in class for the whole hour.

The Incredible Good Neighbors Stock-A-Thon
June is toiletries month. Boxes are available around the church for your donation and our progress is tracked on the display in the social hall. Here's what we'll be asking for

- 6/12 Toothpaste
- 6/19 Shampoo
- 6/26 Deodorant

Thanks

"The Bethany Letter"

To save on cost associated with the preparation and distribution of our weekly newsletter, TBL will be ready on our website, e-mail or to be picked up at church on the following Sundays in the summer:

- June 12, 26**
- July 10, 24**
- August 14, 28 ...**

... to continue weekly

TBL will be mailed (if not picked up) on the Monday after the above listed Sunday. Deadline for summer news articles: 10:00 a.m. the TUESDAY before the above date. Please plan accordingly.



Prayer Shawl Ministry

Prayer shawls are a means to extend our love and prayers to persons who may be homebound, ill or perhaps a way to share a special joy such as a birth or birthday milestone. Bethany's Prayer Shawl group meets the second Monday of each month. If you are interested in this ministry please join them at 9:30 a.m. in the lounge June 13th. Bethany members should let the ministry know of individuals they feel would be blessed by receiving one.

Need a ride to Worship?

There is one waiting for YOU! Just call the office at 330-923-5277 and we will arrange for you to be picked up. Worried that something might happen to keep you from attending? Don't worry! You will be given the name and phone number of the week's driver so, if need be, you can cancel at the last minute. We do hope you will call.



**Camp Bethany-New Trinity
Register by
June 15th & Save**

Registration forms for Camp are available in the office. They were mailed to parents of 1st - 6th grade children. A savings is available for registrations received by June 15th. The absolute deadline for registrations is July 15th. If you would like to help with a breakfast there is a sign-up sheet in the social hall. Scholarships are also available - contact Pastor Steve.

Bethany Kitchen



Bethany Kitchen had another great turnout May 21st. "Thanks" also goes to: Cheryl McGraw, Bob Pletzer, Carole Pletzer and Sue Mancinelli who were inadvertently missed in last week's newsletter!



Bethany Kitchen's next meal will be served on Saturday, June 18th. Help is always needed for food preparation & cleaning up.

Social Hours – a Chance for All to Share!

Social Hours are a real blessing. We're asking Bethany members to help out as individuals, families, or small groups this summer. Here are some dates we still need help:

**June 19 July 17, July 31
Aug. 14, Aug. 21, Aug. 28**

If you can help on one of these days, please call the office at 330-923-5277 or e-mail cwood@bethany.ald.net.

Inside Out
&
Upside Down on
MAIN STREET



**Vacation Bible School
at Bethany**

**July 11th - July 15th
9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.**

Please remember in your prayers...



- † *Joan Porter, Copley Health Center*
- † *Olive Devine, Haven Homes*
- † *Donald Haflinger, Home*
- †

† *In Sympathy...*



We extend our Christian sympathy to the family of James Lipinski, Sr. who passed away May 28th.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHURCH IS ...

- to establish a Christian congregation for worship,
- to preach and teach the Gospel of Christ,
- to celebrate the sacraments,
- to render loving service toward humanity,
- to strive for righteousness, justice, and peace,
- to advance the Realm of God at home and abroad.

(The Bethany Constitution)

**Calendar for additions to ~ or ~ changes to the
2011 monthly calendar mailed to you.**

(as of June 2nd) **June 6th to June 19th**

- 6/06 7:00p GREEN Team Mtg. (L)
- 6/07 9:00a Staff Meeting
- 10:00a Newsletter Deadline
- 7:15p Finance Committee Mtg.
- 6/08 7:00p Consistory
- 6/09
- 6/10
- 6/11 7:00a Ponca Creek Mission Trip Begins

Names of Sunday Volunteers are published AHEAD OF THE SCHEDULED Sunday as a kindly *reminder* and early *thank you!*

If you are unable to volunteer the day you are scheduled, please remember to...
...Find someone to take your place ... and then
...Call the church office so we may make
 the necessary changes on our schedules



Summer Schedule Begins

Sunday ~ June 12, 2011

- † Nursery Available ~ 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
- † **PENTECOST – Communion at both services**
- 8:30a Worship** in the → *Social Hall*
- 9:30a Worship** in the → *Sanctuary*
- 10:30a Social Hour Hosts: *Corinna Croskey, Jackie Salsbury, Beth Lees, Beth Weiser*

Times change!

Volunteers for June 12th

- Flower Delivery: E. Frederick
- Greeters: P. & R. Novak / J. Neilson Family
- Lay Reader: Kim Fratz
- Special Music:
- Nursery: H. Cool, H. Bowman
- Ushers: L. Luginbill, M. Jensen, M.&R. Bowmaster, H. Bowman, L. Short, C. McGraw, L. Sheppard, B. Pletzer, A. McVan, H. Koudela, K. Koudela
- Van Driver: S. Gaskill
- Visitor Outlook: N. Read-Zeller

- 6/13 9:30a Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6/14
- 6/15
- 6/16
- 6/17
- 6/18 11:30a Bethany Kitchen



Sunday ~ June 19, 2011

- † Nursery Available 9:15 to 10:30 a.m.
- † **Trinity Sunday**
- 8:30a Worship** in the → *Social Hall*
- 9:30a Worship** in the → *Sanctuary*
- 10:30a Coffee Hour

Volunteers for June 19th

- Flower Delivery: S. Keenan
- Greeters: H.&J. Edwards / L. Rodgers, L. Luginbill
- Lay Reader: M. Heyburn
- Nursery: K. Keenan, S. Melvin
- Special Music: R. McClellan, piano
- Ushers: J.&S. Mancinelli, F. Read, J. Grazulis, J. Seymour, R. Berie, K. Fratz, M. Spring
- Van Driver: C. Jones
- Visitor Outlook: H. Bedillion