

BETHANY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

THE NEWSLETTER

**FEBRUARY 2015**

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP**

Sunday February 1 is Souper Sunday. Once again we will bring cans of soup to worship in support of the Caring Cupboard. Please bring peanut butter as well! The 10:30 worship service will include a live radio broadcast of "The Game of Life" by Pastor Lynch and special music by Miranda Schell. Dress in your team's jersey/colors and enjoy a souper lunch in the social hall following worship. Also, make your game prediction and the closest one wins the trophy for a year!

Sunday February 8 has Pastor Lynch preaching from John 8:31-32, "Does Truth Have Many Versions?"

Sunday February 15 features the Sunbeam Choir singing God's praise and Pastor Lynch speaking on "Living Outside the Lines" from Matthew 5:38-42.

Sunday February 22 is the first Sunday in Lent with Pastor Lynch directing us to Joshua 24:14-15, "As for Me and My House." Drew Chapin will play his trumpet and the Singing Pellegrini's will lift their voices in praise.

**THANK YOU'S**

Dear Pastor John, the ceremony in which you baptized my grandson, Jackson Drew Allen was both meaningful and inspiring. Thank you for making the beginning of Jackson's walk with God such a memorable event for him and his family. Thank also to Vicki Smith, Sandy Pillsbury, Carol Marcocci and Lori Walborn for all their help with the lunch.

Sincerely, Marilyn Allen

To my Bethany Church Family: I thank everyone for your prayers, phone calls, cards and visits during my recent confinement. Pastor John, your visits were so welcome and uplifting, to my husband Larry, you were so gracious and caring, even on my bad days, thank you.

In Christian fellowship, Joan Strait

Thank you to Don Brubaker, Ed Kaylor, Tim Laraia, Dick Lasher, Dale Patrick, Terry Patrick, Barry Smith, Larry Strait and Adam Wimmer who braved the cold to take down the outdoor Nativity Scene. Your help was very much appreciated. ~ Selma Patrick

## **PASTOR'S STORY CORNER**

February 14 is Valentine's Day, a day to express our love for one another. The following story provides a glimpse into the heart of God and his great love for us.

There was once a bridge which spanned a large river. During most of the day the bridge sat with its length running up and down the river parallel with the banks, allowing ships to pass thru freely on both sides of the bridge. But at certain times each day, a train would come along and the bridge would be turned sideways across the river, allowing a train to cross it.

A switchman sat in a small shack on one side of the river where he operated the controls to turn the bridge and lock it into place as the train crossed. One evening as the switchman was waiting for the last train of the day to come, he looked off into the distance thru the dimming twilight and caught sight of the train lights. He stepped to the control and waited until the train was within a prescribed distance when he was to turn the bridge. He turned the bridge into position, but, to his horror, he found the locking control did not work. If the bridge was not securely in position it would wobble back and forth at the ends when the train came onto it, causing the train to jump the track and go crashing into the river. This would be a passenger train with many people aboard. He left the bridge turned across the river, and hurried across the bridge to the other side of the river where there was a lever switch he could hold to operate the lock manually. He would have to hold the lever back firmly as the train crossed. He could hear the rumble of the train now, and he took hold of the lever and leaned backward to apply his weight to it, locking the bridge. He kept applying the pressure to keep the mechanism locked. Many lives depended on this man's strength.

Then, coming across the bridge from the direction of his control shack, he heard a sound that made his blood run cold. "Daddy, where are you?" His four-year-old son was crossing the bridge to look for him. His first impulse was to cry out to the child, "Run! Run!" but the train was too close; the tiny legs would never make it across the bridge in time. The man almost left his lever to run and snatch up his son and carry him to safety. But he realized that he could not get back to the lever. Either the people on the train or his little son must die. He took a moment to make his decision.

The train sped safely and swiftly on its way, and no one aboard was even aware of the tiny broken body thrown mercilessly into the river by the onrushing train. Nor were they aware of the pitiful figure of the sobbing man, still clinging tightly to the locking lever long after the train had passed. They did not see him walking more slowly than he had ever walked: to tell his wife how their son had brutally died.

Now if you comprehend the emotions which went through this man's heart, you can begin to understand the feelings of our Father in Heaven when He sacrificed His Son to bridge the gap between us and eternal life. Can there be any wonder that He caused the earth to tremble and the skies to darken when His Son died? How does He feel when we speed along thru life without giving a thought to what was done for us thru Jesus Christ? Yes, "for God so loved the world he gave his only begotten son that whoso ever believith in him should not die, but have eternal life." Now that's something to think about.

~ Pastor John

**FEBRUARY WORSHIP LEADERSHIP**

**Acolyte:**

Casey Funck

**Greeters/Ushers:**

Paul and Karen Leicht, Rick and Diane Miller

**Scripture Readers:**

FEBRUARY 1: Pastor Lynch  
FEBRUARY 8: Ed Kaylor  
FEBRUARY 15: Chantelle Brandt  
FEBRUARY 22: Mary Carl

**Sound System Operators:**

FEBRUARY 1: Don Brubaker  
FEBRUARY 8: Dick Lasher  
FEBRUARY 15: Barry Smith  
FEBRUARY 22: Don Brubaker

**FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

- |                      |                      |                      |
|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| 2 - Betty Gilb       | 14 - Rachel Beam     | 21 - Pamela Patrick  |
| 2 - David Minnich    | 14 - Summer Schell   | 23 - Debbie Eash     |
| 2 - Jennifer Porter  | 16 - Jacob Beam      | 23 - Jacob Dibeler   |
| 3 - Robert Cerisano  | 16 - Roy Tice        | 24 - Nathan Blouch   |
| 4 - Larry Strait     | 18 - Kristin Chapin  | 28 - Courtney Keefer |
| 7 - Matt Dunkle      | 19 - Carolyn Blantz  | 29 - Donald Brubaker |
| 9 - Joe Cerisano     | 20 - Cindy Patrick   |                      |
| 13 - Eric Kolakowski | 20 - Jodi Van Winkle |                      |



**TALENT NIGHT**

Mark Sunday evening March 15 at 6:30 on your calendar for our annual talent night! Don Brubaker will be our Master of Ceremonies as we enjoy talent night at Bethany.



## **DO YOU REMEMBER?**

Do you remember Bethany's Women's Society of World Service? This mission focused group prayed, studied and raised funds for Christian missionaries and missions around the world. Fifty two years ago in 1963 these were WSWS officers: President, Mrs. Marlin Frantz; Vice-Presidents, Mrs. Mark Koble and Mrs. S. A. Miller; Secretary, Mrs. John Norwood; Assistant Secretary, Mrs. Raymond Shertzer; Treasurer, Mrs. Kermit Koch; Pianist, Mrs. C. C. Updegrove; Assistant Pianist, Mrs. Paul Hoover; Spiritual Life, Mrs. Carl Moyer; Missionary Education, Mrs. Arthur Werner; Social Relations, Mrs. Robert Keefer; Local Church Activities, Mrs. Russell Ehrhart; Boys and Girls Fellowship, Mrs. Paul Schreckengast; Missionary Education for Youth, Mrs. Frank Schaffner.

## **CARING CUPBOARD**

We thank the Lord we are a partner with the Caring Cupboard Ministry. Last year Bethany contributed nearly 1,000 pounds of food and personal care items to bless our needful neighbors! The total number of persons provided meals by the Caring Cupboard in 2014 was 16,131. For more information, or to see how you can help, contact Don Brubaker.

## **NEW LIBRARY BOOK**

Check out "The Red Sea Rules" from our church library. Author Robert Morgan uses the Israelites story from Exodus 14 to offer ten sound strategies for moving from fear to faith in difficult times.

## **LOYAL WORKERS**

A Valentine Luncheon for the residents of Interfaith Manor will be enjoyed at noon on Saturday February 14 in Bethany's social hall. A sign up sheet has been posted at Interfaith Manor. We thank our Loyal Workers for providing this outreach to our neighbors from across the street.



## **LOYAL WORKERS, 2015 DATES**

February 14:	Valentine Luncheon for Interfaith Manor residents
May 2:	Spring Craft Show
September 26:	Apple Fest
October 29:	Halloween Parade
November 14:	Holiday Bazaar



## SUMMER CAMP

On Sunday, March 15, at our 10:30 Worship Service a representative from Gretna Glen will share with us what the camp has to offer our children and youth this summer. We are so lucky to have such a fine Christian camp in our area. Our children, grand children and great grandchildren have enjoyed spending many summer weeks at Gretna Glen.

Pastor John and I also spent many summers as counselors at Gretna Glen.

~ Selma Patrick

## FINANCE REPORT - 2014

Let us lift up to the Lord with praise, the year ended with \$1,966.66 more offering than expenses. If \$12, 815.26 of prior year expenses were not paid, our offering would have been \$14,781.92 over the expenses. Thanks be to God and thanks to all for your tithes and gifts. For 2015 each week we need \$1,838.00 to cover our budgeted expenses.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PRAYER MEETING PRAISE

Wasn't the fall and Christmas season events, wonderful here at Bethany Church? Starting with the Loyal Worker's Apple Fest, they hosted the Halloween candy bag give away and their Holiday Bazaar, the Holiday Parade food table that benefited the Caring Cupboard's children's lunch program and the Christmas Party/Talent Show that benefited the Caring Cupboard. We are looking for a Chairman for the Family Ministries and Outreach committee and for a teacher of the Adult Sunday School Class. Kristin Chapin is the Youth Ministries chairman. These committees will implement the ideas from the Vision meeting that were posted in the September's newsletter. Please sign up to be part of these committees so we can implement the wonderful ideas. Sign up sheets are on the table in the Gathering Room.

~Cindy Anspach, Chairperson

## YOUTH EVENTS AT GRETNA GLEN

Youth Events continue at Gretna Glen. There are monthly events of fun activities, faith building, snacks, and fellowship with youth from other churches in our area. The next gathering is on February 15, from 4:00 - 6:00.

Also, a Youth Winter Blast Retreat for grades 7-12, will be held on January 30 - February 1, and a Children's Spring Blast Overnight for grades 1 - 6 will be enjoyed on March 27 - 28. Please see the flyer posted on the bulletin boards for more information.

