

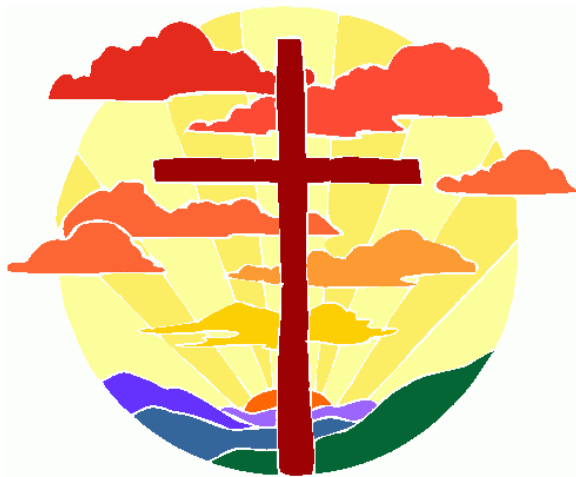
Bethany Lutheran Church

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August 2023



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I'm Tired

"I'm tired!" As I was sitting at my desk this morning, that's what my inner-voice was saying to me. It was complaining about "my lack of energy - my weariness" and reminding me that my age that continually creeps toward bigger numbers surely has something to do with my present state of mind. But the truth is, that I know that I'm not alone with this "being tired" malady. For I've heard from others that that's a problem for each of us as age continually climbs upward, stealing some of our youthful vibrance.

But I also know that age isn't the only cause for inner-exhaustion. For there are numerous other root cause for weariness, like being disconnected from God, the God who loves us. It is this disconnect that comes our way because of our sin and our guilt. And this dislocation from the One who loves us, who strengthens us, empowers us, who cares for us, who guides us, leaves us to our own sinful devices and that often allows for confusion and weariness to set in.

A favorite verse of mine is found in the 40th chapter of Isaiah. Here the prophet wrote:

*"Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall;
but those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength.
They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary,
they will walk and not be faint."*

In those two verses (Isaiah 40:30-31) Isaiah shares an important reminder for us all. That even the strongest can feel overwhelmed and lose track of where inner strength comes from. For the God of heaven who created us, created us to be at rest with Him. He created us to be in harmony with Him, so that when life's burdens wrestle our strength away, in God we can find rest for our weary soul.

And that's where Faith and Bethany Lutheran come into our weariness equation. For each of the houses of worship provide Sabbath rest. It's in the first chapters of Genesis that we have a reminder that rest and harmony were the way God envisioned things to be for us: rest, harmony, not weariness. That understanding came in the form of a commandment that is found in the 20th chapter of Exodus. It's here that God said to Moses

⁸Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. ⁹ Six days you shall labor and do all your work.

¹⁰But the seventh day is a sabbath to the LORD your God; you shall not do any work — you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien residence in your towns. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore, the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it.

Rest for the weary soul. Sabbath rest. It's important for each of us to set aside time to refresh our inner-self. And we do that well at Faith and Bethany each and every Sunday as we allow the goodness of God to awaken us to a new way of living. Oh, and by the way, such rest doesn't mean idleness.

A non-wearied life was meant to be lived -- that kind of life in God who created you and redeemed you to be His own. It means a sense of balance, strength, in the middle of work, as well. "I'm tired!" God has an answer for that.

God's Blessings
Pastor Carl

August 2023

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|--|--|--|--|--------|---|
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 9:00 AM Worship Svc 10:00 AM Fellowship 10:15 AM set-up/ decorate for VBS Gary Oberton | 7 4:30 -7:30 PM Vacation Bible School | 8 4:30 -7:30 PM Vacation Bible School | 9 4:30 -7:30 PM Vacation Bible School | 10 4:30 -7:30 PM Vacation Bible School 7:45 PM Root Beer Floats/Clean-Up | 11 | 12 |
| 13 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 5:00 PM BBQ 6:00 PM Outdoor Worship Svc Pastor Carl |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 |
| 27 9:00 AM Worship Svc w/Holy Communion 10:00 AM Fellowship Pastor Carl Food Shelf Sunday | 28 | 29 | 30 | 31 | | |

August 2023

Team Hansen: Brad & Mary Hansen, Glen & Amanda Bramstedt, Joel & Jeanine Pantzke, Andy & Kourtney Frank, Lois Breden, Kim Schultz, Tom & Sandy Bjorge, Glen & Theresa Welters

September 2023

Team Bushinger: Darren & Lynn Bushinger, Bruce Ford, Leone Johnson, Carla Fritz-Wolff, Mark & Mary Schlangen, Norma Pantzke, Florence Jones, Darline Molde, Irene Oldenburg



Aug 23rd Norb & Jan Bueckers

| | |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Aug 1 st | Tracy Kjeldergaard |
| Aug 4 th | Jan Bueckers |
| Aug 5 th | Donna Lundgren |
| Aug 5 th | Waylon Hendrickson |
| Aug 5 th | Kaleb Kjeldergaard |
| Aug 6 th | David Christensen |
| Aug 6 th | Everleigh Frank |
| Aug 29 th | Arnie Akkerman |

Contact any Council Member if you have specific needs:

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Gary Oberton 320-749-2992

Bruce Ford 218-575-2335
Elizabeth Oberton 320-630-3100
Brad Hansen 320-232-9204

Vacation Bible School: VBS will be held August 7-10, 4:30-7:30 pm. This year's theme is "Stellar, Shine Jesus' Light". Kids, mark your calendars so you don't miss this Out of the World event! VBS is for ages 4 through 6th grade, and we welcome older kids as helpers. We'll serve Root Beer Floats after our last VBS on Thursday, August 11. Please join us for floats and socialization around 7:45, or come earlier if you want to see some of what happens at VBS. This is a great time for our neighbors to get to know us and feel welcome. If you can, plan to help clean up afterwards. Again, we'll appreciate help!

Bethany biannual offering statements for January 2023-June 2023 have been put in your mailboxes. Also, note solar giving has been added to these statements, along with pledge amount and remaining balances on pledges. If you did not receive a statement, we do not have record of your giving during this period. If you have any questions, concerns, or discrepancies, please see or contact Jeanine Pantzke, financial secretary at jpantzke@brainerd.net or 320-749-2921.