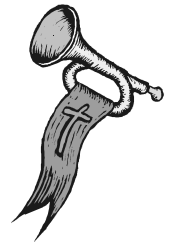




THE BETHANY BUGLE

OCTOBER 2012



Gratitude for the Gift of Grace

Almerinda taught me about sacrificial Christian love. Almerinda was my host mother when I was in Brazil as a Rotary Exchange student. Her husband spent the first 3 and ½ months I was living in their house working in Portugal. During this time, she was temporarily a single mother of 4 girls: one who had cerebral palsy and was non-verbal and bed-ridden at home, a 16-year old, an 8-year old, and me (a foreigner with limited knowledge of Portuguese). During this time, about three months after I arrived, I became very ill. She cared for me as any mother would do. After several days, she noticed the yellow skin and yellow in my eyes and knowing what it was she called a doctor to the home. The next thing I knew, I was in the hospital in a foreign country. I was diagnosed with hepatitis and ended up staying in the hospital for several days.

Thirty years ago Brazilian hospitals in medium-sized towns were nowhere near as advanced as today. I was 16, barely spoke the language, could not eat, had lost 20 pounds in one week, and was very weak and very scared. Almerinda never left my side. Even through the night, she stayed in the other bed in the hospital room. She spent all this time with me, even though there was a chance she could have spread the disease to her daughters at home. She made me laugh and worked hard at making sure I was getting the care I needed. She blessed and changed my life.

Almerinda showed me an example of what radical hospitality and Christian love was like. All I could do was to thank her personally and publically. The only way I knew I could ever truly thank her was to share that same deep hospitality and Christian love with others.

This experience reminds me of what God does for each one of us. God loves us no matter what condition we are, no matter how weak we are. God cares for us and never leaves our side. God sustains us, lifts our spirits, and gives us new life. In sum, God blesses us and changes our lives for good.

What can we do to thank God? We can thank God privately in our prayers, and publically at worship and by sharing what God's love means to us with others. We can also thank God by reaching out to others with Christian love, and we do this through our financial offerings and gifts of time and talents. God has blessed you with amazing gifts of grace – God's grace surrounds you daily. Give thanks always and in all ways.

Peace,

Pastor Michelle Efers

NOTES FROM THE DAYCARE OCTOBER, 2012

The hot summer days have turned quickly into cool, brisk mornings and beautiful afternoons. The children are enjoying being outside in the very comfortable weather again. The summer has quickly passed and now fall is here. We will soon take our annual trip to the Pumpkin Patch. A major highlight is riding the hay wagon to the field to select their pumpkin. There are also games to play and a pumpkin eating dinosaur to watch. It is always a very fun day for both children and staff.



Soon the children will learn how to plant tulips, daffodils and crocus bulbs out in the new playscape. They will wait with great anticipation to see what happens when spring arrives next year. A major goal of having a natural playscape is connecting children with nature and to experience the beauty of God's creation. Yes, there will be many different play activities which happen, but it will also give each child, and perhaps their family, an opportunity to plant and harvest many types of vegetables as they spend time together.

The fencing contractor started working on the fence today. It has been a long wait for the children as we weren't supposed to allow the children to use the area without a fence. They watched the area built with great joy and anticipation and then had to wait a very long time to use it. We have let them play some in the area with very careful supervision. They have enjoyed finding the trolls who live under the bridge and tried to stay away from the alligators in the swamp. They've caught the fish that jump out of the water around the ark and played telephone through the tunnel under the slide. As you can tell, they have very vivid imaginations. As more activities are added, their creativity will no doubt expand!

Soon we will install the walking paths and then work on planting new grass seed in the remaining areas. There is still much work to be done. We have had many parents volunteer to assist us in further developing the area to include all of the areas to make this a wonderful area for families to enjoy. The school-age children will be here for two weeks in October for the first time due to the new, balanced calendar which most school systems are using. They will be making many different landscaping decorations during this time. We need your help through donations. Ladies, this is the perfect opportunity to donate all of your unused costume jewelry - pins, earrings, necklaces would all be appreciated. They will be making mosaic flower containers and decorating stepping stones. If you have any clay gardening pots, we'll take those too! They make wonderful birdbaths when stacked in an unusual way. Coffee tins will allow us to make totem

poles. Any decorative concrete statues which you no longer want can be used. We'll place a box in the narthex for your donations. There are so many exciting things to do, it's rather hard to decide where to start first.

We want to thank everyone again for your generous donations of water, fruit and snacks which made the Day of Caring a huge success. We especially appreciate all the help which was given in making the two days flow smoothly. Fox 59 did live broadcasts all morning as well as an in depth story for their evening news. The Southsider Voice published a nice press release with a picture. We also had the distinct honor of being featured on Channel 8 on September 4 at 7:30 p.m. as all news stations presented a simulcast for the kick-off to the United Way fundraising campaign. We will try to link those publicity pieces to our website very soon. It has been a full calendar of activity. On October 10, we will have our inspection / review which will determine when we receive a Level II certification in Paths to QUALITY. We are diligently working to get everything in place. It is rather challenging due to the fact our daycare has grown quickly in the last two months and our new staff must be thoroughly trained. We look forward to checking off this goal and moving on to Level II by Spring of 2013.

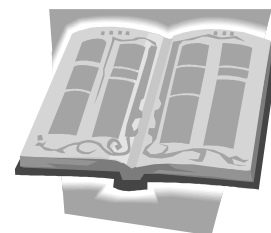
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August Financial Report	
Church Income Received: \$16,673.85	Church Expenses: \$24,836.17
Balance: (-\$8,162.32)	
September Budgeted Income Needed: \$16,481.42	

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Friendship Bible Study

Friendship Bible study began again on September 18. We meet every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. for a brief worship service with song (led by Todd Nichols on guitar) and prayer, followed by a Bible study, craft and snack. Three times a year, we play bingo and have a party after the worship service instead of the Bible study and craft. The next bingo party will be October 30. The congregation is always invited to participate. A great way to participate is to offer small prizes for bingo and special treats. If you can provide some prizes or treats for Tuesday October 30, please contact Melissa Van Lue or Pastor Michelle.



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2012 CROP WALK

What.....33rd Greater Indianapolis CROP HUNGER WALK

When.....Sunday, October 21, 2012

Meet at1:30Christian Theological Seminary

Length.....3.5 miles through Butler-Tarkington Neighborhood

In 2011, Bethany was 22nd out of 77 groups in funds raised (\$1,393).

Of the 5 Lutheran Churches, Bethany was 2nd.

Goal this year is to add 3 walkers and encourage walker to raise at least \$33 more than last year.

Come out and walk to end hunger one step at a time.



CHOIR

Choir will resume practice beginning Thursday, October 11th, 2012 at 6:15 p.m. The first Sunday we will sing will be October 14th, 2012. Choir members mark your calendars, and anyone else who would like to join us please come. See you at church on October 11th at 6:15 p.m.

Bethany Lutheran Church Council Meeting Congregational Report

September 10, 2012

Pastor Michelle Elfers reported on her very busy August month which involved meetings with the various church committees, prayer group, Sunday School, University of Indianapolis Student Fair, as well as helping with the United Way's Day of Caring for the Daycare, coordinating a Chin congregation to meet at Bethany on a continuing basis, and following through with ordering furniture for the Nancy Costelow Memorial project.

The Treasurers reported on the flow of finances during the long 3 paycheck month of August. The need for continuing repairs on the HVAC for the entire building was discussed. A possible long term solution was discussed and will be investigated by the Finance committee. Church council members need to turn in committee budgets to Finance committee before the end of September. Shingles for the replacement roof shingles have been ordered; the insurance funded work will be scheduled soon.

Debbie Rohrman reported that the August 24-25 Days of Caring by the United Way was a tremendous success and expressed many thanks to all who helped with generous donations of snacks, cookies and especially water. Publicity from Channel 59, Channel 8 and the *Southsider Voice* has been invaluable as the fall enrollment campaign has been very successful. The fence placement is yet to be done by United Way. Many parents have volunteered to assist on an October workday on the playscape.

Worship and Music Committee members have formulated a Bethany Wedding Policy and will have that available when finalized. Earleen Ashbrook, Stewardship Chairperson, has scheduled four dates for the Stewardship campaign: Sept. 30, Oct. 7, Oct. 14, and Oct. 21. Letters to congregation members will be sent out beginning Sept. 24.

Pastor, Christian Ed. and Youth Committees and the Daycare are looking at having a combined activity with Daycare school-age youth and the youth at Bethany.

A list of the Bethany cleaning chores done by Lisa Nichols will be posted. Substitute cleaning person(s) for Lisa while she is on vacation the weekend of September 21 – 23, is still needed.

Nominations for elections at the congregational meeting on November 18 for upcoming open positions on Council were discussed.

The complete written reports are available in the Council notebook in the Narthex. The Pastor and council members are available to answer questions.

Prayerfully submitted,
Ilze Bye, Congregation President

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Synodfest 2012
One Faith. Many Practices.
October 27, 2012
9:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
[Pilgrim Lutheran Church](#)
3650 W. 106th Street
Carmel, IN
Dorothy Bass, Keynote

"I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." -John 10:10
Join Bishop Bill Gafkjen, Dorothy Bass and a host of other gifted leaders who are prepared to facilitate a day of worship, discovery and learning. Together we will explore how our One Faith is lived out in Many Practices. Breakout sessions will offer opportunities to go more in-depth into various faith practices.

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Lay Assistants Sign Up

Just a thank you to all who have, and a reminder -- Please remember to consider signing up to be a Lay Assistant for the coming months. Our Lay Assistants read the Scripture Lessons and assist with the Prayers of Intercession and Holy Communion for each Sunday and special worship services. Those of you who haven't been Lay Assistants, we will give you training in assisting with Holy Communion. Please sign up on the Lay Assistant Sign-up Sheets in the narthex. Thank you!

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LIVING IN, WITH AND UNDER GOD'S GRACE Stewardship and God's Grace

*O day full of grace, O blessed time,
our Lord on the earth arriving;
Then came to the world that light sublime,
great joy for us all retrieving;
For Jesus all mortals did embrace,
all shame and despair removing.*

Lutheran Book of Worship 161, English Text copyright (c) 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship, admin. Augsburg Fortress. Reproduced by permission.

As we experience our Lord Jesus and the Gospel there is grace. God's caring, redeeming, supporting, renewing, inspiring favor comes to us. This grace comes in the midst of a broken world and broken lives. It takes on rebellion, hurt, illness and loss. This grace is abundant and surprising and can overwhelm our own mortal perspectives that too often see only scarcity, challenge and hopelessness.

This grace can come to us in surprising ways. It can come through the caring outreach of a trusted friend who calls or stops by just when we need them. It can come as we reach out to someone in need and find God's grace welling up in us that we might be God's grace to someone else. It can come in the simplest of things as a surprise gift, a sunny day, or the smile of a stranger.

Yet, grace can also come to us in trusted and reliable ways. Word and Sacrament are the trusted and promised sources of God's grace. In the word we find Jesus, for as Martin Luther said, the Bible is like the manger that held the Christ child. In the sacraments – in, with and under these earthly elements – we are graced with the forgiveness, life and salvation that are ours in Christ Jesus.

From September 30 through October 14, we will explore through three Scripture passages what it can mean to live in, with and under God's grace. This approach to life is at the essence of stewardship.



Welcome!

GREETERS FOR OCTOBER

Joan Shannon

Patty Shannon

Val Subris

OCTOBER FLOWERS



October 7th Joan & Patty
 Shannon – In Memory of
 Alexandra “Granny” Harding

October 14th Melba Van Lue – In Memory of Loved Ones

October 21st Rosemary Dorsey – In Memory of Husband Dutch

October 28th Christcare
 Daytimers – In Memory of Laura Wolford

OCT.	LAY ASSISTANT	USHERS	COUNTERS
7th	Earleen Ashbrook	Bill Kappner Joni Webb	Todd Nichols Donna Shaffer
14 th	Sally Graybeal	Bill Kappner Joni Webb	Donna Shaffer Debbie Rohrman
21 st	Erv Schreiber	Bill Kappner Joni Webb	Donna Shaffer Debbie Rohrman
28 th	Joni Webb	Bill Kappner Joni Webb	Terry Battema Marlys Battema Mildred Baxter

PLEASE KEEP OUR BRAVE MILITARY MEN AND WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES IN YOUR PRAYERS.



An * denotes currently deployed outside of the United States.

Bob	Battema	Air Force	Son	Terry & Marlys Battema
Tyler	Bell*	Army	Coworker's Son	Sally Graybeal
John	Campbell*	Army	Family Friend	DuPriest Family
Sean	Dardeen	Marine Corps	Family Friend	Bulinna Dennis
Rick T.	Duncan	Navy Reserves	Son	Rick & Gladys Duncan
Jimmy	Du Priest	Navy	Son	Terry & Sandy Du Priest
Jacob	Edwards	Air Force Reserves	Grandson	Gene and Dottie Hussey
Alex	Gurley*	Army	Nephew	Rick & Gladys Duncan
Jerry	Gustafson	Army	Family Friend	Graybeal Family
Mark	Hamilton	Navy	Grandson	Norbert & Benita Matthews
Dennis	Lambert	Army	Grandson-in-law	Tony Scheidelmeier
Christian	Magnacca*	Marines		
Gregg	Matsumoto	Air Force	Family Friend	MaryAnn Moschell
J.C.	Mikits	Army	Son	Janis & Judy Mikits
Patrick	Porter	Naval Reserves	Nephew	Bill Porter
David	Timmons*	Navy	Grandson	Rick & Gladys Duncan
Austin	Van Lue	Army	Grandson	Melba VanLue
Jeremy	Wood	Air Force	Great Nephew	Mabel Hulfachor

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2011-2012 Bethany Lutheran Church Council Members

- The Rev. Michelle Elfers
- Earleen Ashbrook – Stewardship
 - Tom Baer – Mutual Ministry
 - Bruce Bye – Finance
 - Ilze Bye – President – Membership
 - Barbara Campbell – Worship & Music
 - Cheryl Mullin – Outreach
 - Donna Shaffer – Vice-President – Christian Education, Financial Secretary, Assistant Daycare Director
 - Melissa VanLue – Youth Ministry
 - Joni Webb – Secretary

Non-Council Ministry Team Leaders

- Richard Mathes – Co-Treasurer
- Charles (Chuck) Webb – Co-Treasurer
- Deborah Rohrman – Daycare Director, Organist, Choir Director

Bethany Lutheran Church
4702 S. East Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46227-1652

