

Bethany Lutheran Church

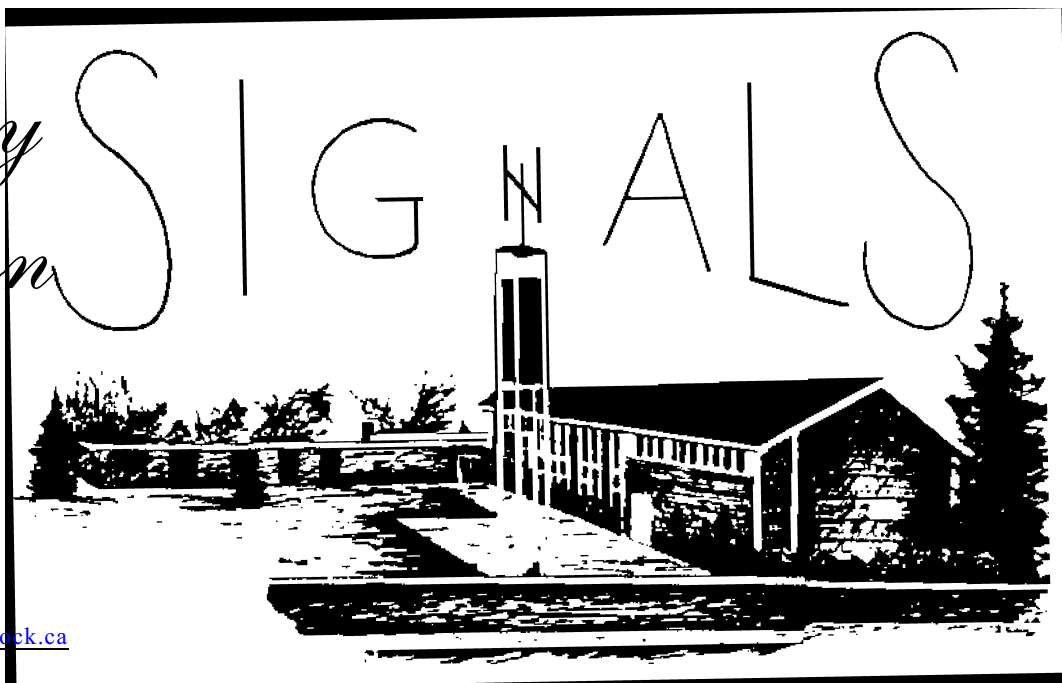
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Rev. Sara Faulhafer



Volume XXII, Number 7

July & August, 2011

Congregational Meeting

On Sunday, July 17th, there will be a short, but very important, congregational meeting following the 10:00 a.m. service.

Pastor Sara's 2-year term call to Bethany is completed on August 16, 2011. Council will ask the congregation to renew Pastor Sara's call for another 3 years and confirm her compensation package as worked out by the Mutual Ministry committee.

We need a quorum to vote on this, so please make an effort to attend.

Joint Worship Service

We will be joining Old St. Paul's Anglican church for worship on Sunday, July 3rd at 10:00 a.m. They are located at 723 Dundas St. There is no service at Bethany that day.

Open House

On Saturday, Sept. 10th, we will be holding an open house at Bethany for the public to come and get information on the solar panels. A representative from Direct Current Renewable Energy will be here to speak with them as well.

Then on Sunday, Sept. 11th, we will dedicate the solar panels at the 10:00 a.m. service and have a Coffee Hour afterwards. Let's be proud of all the effort individuals and committees have put into helping Bethany become green. Come celebrate!

BACK TO CHURCH SUNDAY

Sept. 25th is "Back to Church Sunday". Start thinking of someone you could invite to join you for worship. Look through the updated directory. Is there someone listed that you haven't seen in worship for a while? Your invitation can be as simple as "Would you like to come to worship with me?"

A Happy Hour will follow worship.

SUMMER TRAVELS

When you're away this summer, take a picture of yourself to bring back and hang on our "Bethany Was Here" poster in the narthex.

If you visit another congregation for worship, take a picture in front of the church and bring back a bulletin to share with us.

Visit the www.elcic.ca website and click on "Find a Congregation" if you need to locate somewhere to worship, when on vacation.

SOLAR PANELS

On Saturday June 18, we gained on-line monitoring of the solar inverters. The solar system is now connected to a data logging system that anyone can monitor on-line from a computer on the internet (no password required) at www.bethanywoodstock.solarvu.net.

You can find interesting data such as instantaneous output in watts, kilowatt hours, revenues, diverted CO2 etc. There is more detailed data for equipment diagnostics if anyone is interested.

The data logging only began June 17, so the first month is not available on-line. However, a check of the outbound electricity meter shows that after 31 days of production we have generated 1653 kwh. This is revenue of about \$1,325.00. for our first month's production.

Louis Eckert

Thank you's

Erika Greer thanks all those who have sent cards and offered prayers & well wishes for her healing during the past several weeks.

A big thank you to those who have been working in the gardens to make them so beautiful: Vic & Ruth Ann Jeanson, Barb Mason, Elsa Zelch, Inga Hansen & others.

We also thank those who have been reconstructing and redecorating the shed so the riding lawn mower can fit: Gerald Mueller, Dale, Dextter & Hooper Hadland, Glenn Schwartz, Doug Allen, Louis Eckert & others.

Thank you to the men who have undertaken the arduous task of refinishing the support beams for the sanctuary roof: Gerald Mueller, Louis Eckert, Glenn Schwartz & Pastor Dick Holm.

Directory Updates

Chuck Vinnins has a new phone number: 519-290-0794.

George & Verna Riffel have moved to 509-635 Canterbury St., Woodstock, N4S 8X9.

BAPTISMS

On Sunday, July 19, we welcomed Anderson Daniel and Nevan Rose into Bethany's community of believers through Holy Baptism. Their parents are Alaina & Mike Vollmershausen, proud big brother is Pierson, devoted grandparents are Richard & Mary Lou Witzel and sponsors are Amy & Greg Munro.

PASTORAL CARE FOR JULY

Pastor Sara will be away from July 1 to 24. If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please contact the minister who is on call, as listed below.

July 1-18: Rev. Bruce Genge, Old St. Paul's, Anglican church. Church office: 519-537-3912 or Home: 519-537-5016

July 19-24: Rev. Rick Brown, Trinity Lutheran, Tavistock. Church office: 1-519-655-2372 or Home: 1-519-634-9328, Cell: 1-519-573-1474

We will be in good hands for worship leadership, while Pastor Sara is enjoying a much-deserved time of refreshment. Those leading worship for us during July are listed in Pastor Sara's message on the following page. As well, while Pastor Sara is at Confirmation Camp with our 2 Confirmands at Edgewood Camp & Conference Centre in Eden Mills, Shirley Hickey has offered to lead worship on August 28. Thank you to those who will share their time & talents to lead worship over the summer!!

Articles for Signals

We welcome articles from the congregation to be printed in the Signals. Perhaps you really enjoyed an outing or event that you took part in with fellow church folk, or have praise for some of the work being done around the church, or in the community. We'd like to hear from you!

Treasurer's Report

Pastor's Message

Summary for May 2011

Inflow	\$ 10,737.09
Outflow	13,745.45
Shortfall	\$ -3,008.36

The outflow includes a one-time purchase of a riding lawn mower. Directed gifts for May were to CLWR for \$227.00.

Especially since we are in a deficit position, remember to support Bethany over the summer months - even when you are on vacation - through Pre-authorized Offering Payments, post-dated cheques, or doubling up before you leave or after you return. Our day-to-day expenses do not take a vacation!

Have a safe & happy holiday.

Louis Eckert, Treasurer

KNAPSACKS FOR KIDS

Operation Sharing is collecting donations of school supplies to help those in need who cannot provide the necessities for their school-age children. The aim of the program is to provide the children with a knapsack & school supplies to take away the "shame" of showing up the first day of school without them.

Over 450 children in Oxford County were assisted last year. Cash or item donations can be made at Operation Sharing in College Avenue Church, 22 Wilson St. (side door off Peel St.) School supplies can be donated at Curves for Women, Heart FM, Southgate Centre, W.E.R.C., Staples, Zellers & Wacky Wizard. A list of needed items is on the bulletin board.

For more information, please contact Caren Bright or Bonnie Rhea at Operation Sharing 519-539-3361. This is another wonderful way that we can help our community!



Peace and grace be with you!

I hope you are enjoying these precious summer months. June has already slipped through our fingers, so make the most of July and August while they are here! During the month of July, I will be away on a retreat. My friends are giving me a hard time—"Sara who else but *you* would use their holidays to go to a convent???" Yes, I lead such an exciting life!! July 1; I begin my 3 ½ week retreat at the Anglican convent, Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, in Toronto. This program is for women who are intentionally committed to seeking God's guidance in living out their baptismal call. I will be sharing in an intentional Christian community, learning how to live a balanced life of prayer, service, study, rest and recreation, engaging in classes and discussions about Christian life and vocation, and receiving personal guidance in deepening my prayer life. So I'm not going to be sprawled out on a beach, but I do hope and pray that this will be a nourishing time for me. In the middle of my retreat, from July 14-17, I am heading to Saskatoon as a clergy delegate to the ELCIC National Church Convention, "Covenant People In Mission for Others". The theme is drawn from Isaiah 56:6-8 and focuses on our identity as God's servants, and on the responsibility we bear toward each other and collectively toward others by virtue of this covenant. We are joined together in the covenant of baptism and called to live our lives as disciples of Jesus. ELCIC National Bishop Susan C. Johnson has been encouraging the ELCIC community to engage in a call to spiritual renewal and to be a more visible witness to our neighbours. At National Convention, we will explore aspects of this call to read, pray, worship, study, serve, give and tell. The word "covenant" is also a synonym for "treaty," so the theme *Covenant People: In Mission for Others* gives us the opportunity to explore how we as a church and as Canadians are treaty people, and challenge ourselves to renewed relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous people. There are many ways you can keep informed with all things convention-related: [ELCIC Website](#):

www.elcic.ca/In-Convention/2011-Saskatoon
ELCIC INFO: email info@elcic.ca with the word "subscribe" in the subject line to receive press releases and highlights from the National Convention and the National Office,
Facebook: become a fan of the ELCIC on Facebook, Twitter: follow [@ELCICinfo](https://twitter.com/ELCICinfo), For more information on the issues we are going to be discussing, please see the bulletin of reports: <http://www.elcic.ca/In-Convention/2011-Saskatoon/Bulletin-Of-Reports.cfm>. Please remember our Bishops, National Church Council and delegates in your prayers. This will be an important gathering as we discern where and how God is calling the Canadian Lutheran church. While I am away, there are many exciting things planned for worship! July 3, we will be joining Old St. Paul's Anglican for worship—some of you will remember Rev. Genge from his participation at our Good Friday service. On July 10, one of my ordination sponsors, Rev. Michael Hackbusch will be leading a Holy Communion service at Bethany. Michael has been a strong influence in my life and has taught me a lot about worship and pastoral leadership. July 17 and July 24, our talented Bethany members Ruth Ann Jeanson, Liz Park and Lyle Rosnau will be leading worship. Plan on attending all of these wonderful worship opportunities! May these summer months be an opportunity for you to recharge, renew and be refreshed. Peace be with you in your traveling, working, relaxing and everyday living. I'm praying for you!

Pastor Sara

