

# Bethany Lutheran Church

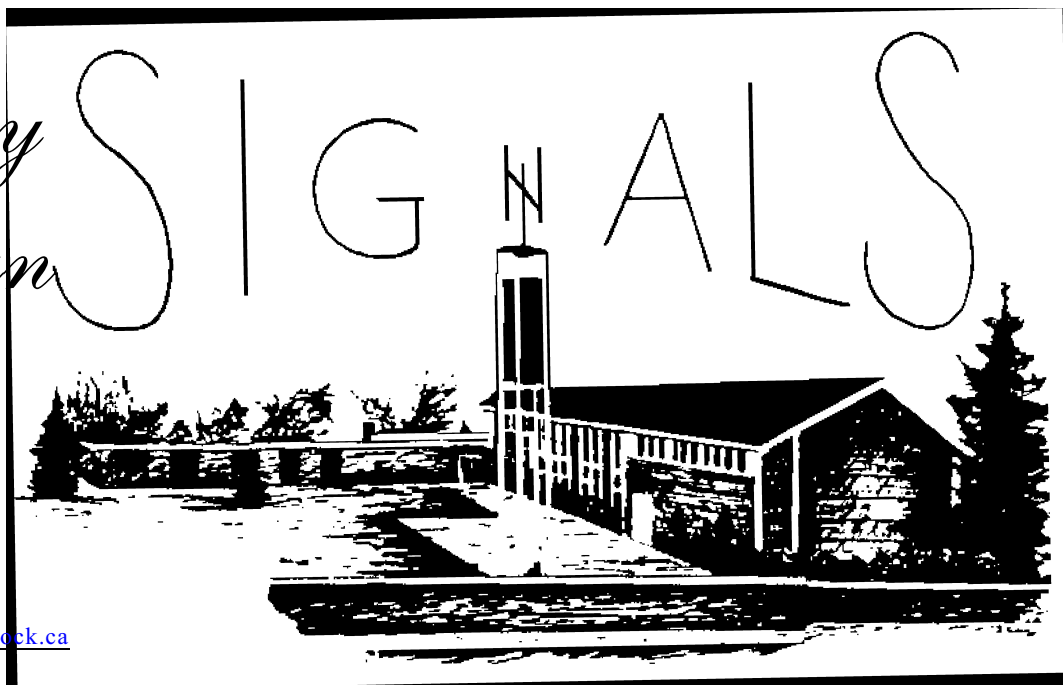
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Rev. Sara Faulhafer



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## SOLAR PANELS

The exciting moment that we've all been waiting for has arrived. Our solar panels and new hydro metre are installed, hooked up, inspected and turned on. We are now producing our own electricity!

A huge thank you to Louis Eckert, Richard Eves and the members of the Property & Finance committees for all their hard work, enthusiasm and perseverance.

An open house is being planned for Sat. Sept. 10<sup>th</sup> for the public to view our solar panels and meet the vendors to get more information. The solar panels will be dedicated on Rally Sunday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>.

Another large step forward on being a green congregation. We are one of a few congregations who have our Stewards of Creation designation by the ELCIC (see pg 12 in Apr/May Canada Lutheran, *Green Queen* article) - way to go Bethany!!

## Church Directory

A new Bethany Directory has been produced and is in your pigeonhole to be picked up. If you do not have a pigeonhole and would like a directory, please contact Cindy in the office.

Thank you to Grace Osinski, Erika Greer, the members of the Evangelism & Social Ministry committee and other helpers, who spent many hours making this information ready for you to use.

## **CHURCH PICNIC**

**- Theme: Crossing the Road & Meeting our Neighbours**

St. David's United congregation will be joining us at Bethany on Sun. June 26<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 a.m. for our annual outdoor worship service and potluck lunch.

Remember to bring your own lawnchair, plate, cutlery, mug, as well as family & friends. The picnic has a **Global Neighbours** theme. Consider bringing a cold potluck item to share that represents another country e.g. German potato salad, Hummus and pita bread, Taco salad . . . or any favourite dish. Dress in an ethnic outfit, or just wear something colourful! It will take place rain or shine. Games for children & adults follow lunch.

The offering will go to each church as designated by the envelopes, but the loose offering will go to Operation Sharing to help our community neighbours.

Please leave the back parking lot for people who have trouble walking - thanks!

## Habitat for Humanity Donation

A cheque from Bethany, in the amount of \$774.06, was given to Larry Moore, who was representing Habitat for Humanity, on May 8<sup>th</sup>. This money was raised through the Spaghetti Supper in February, our loose coin jar collection and donations.

Thank you for your generosity.

## RIDING LAWN MOWER

Thank you to Gerald Mueller, the Property Committee & helpers. A riding lawn mower has been purchased, the shed remodeled to hold it and a schedule made for cutting the grass. Another project accomplished!

## GARAGE SALE

Another gigantic thank you to Shirley Hickey, the members of the Finance & Stewardship committee and all the other helpers who set up, priced, sold, donated items & baked goods, advertised, made signs, flagged people down and cleaned up for the garage sale.

It was an amazing success financially, making over \$1,000.00 for Bethany's ministry, but it also introduced over 200 new people to our building and volunteers, as Shirley pointed out, and that is an even more important ministry.

Wow, for a small congregation, we do big things!

## Love Woodstock

Around 10 churches in the community are participating in the Love Woodstock event on Sat. June 4<sup>th</sup>. Members of Bethany's Evangelism & Social Ministry committee will be serving coffee in front of the Springbank Plaza to shop owners and their customers. They will be wearing their Love Woodstock t-shirts and handing out "Kindness Cards".

## *Luther Hostel*

Pastor Sara will be away at Luther Hostel in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia from Wed. June

1<sup>st</sup> to Mon. June 6<sup>th</sup>. As a new pastor, she is required to participate in this exciting annual event for the first 3 years of her ministry.

If you have a pastoral emergency during this time, please call Intern Steve Hoffard from Trinity, Tavistock: cell 519-276-8393.

Seminarian Tim Dawkins will be leading worship for us on Sun. June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Quiet Please!

Pastor Sara needs 10 minutes before the service each Sunday to get ready to lead worship. Please refrain from entering the office during this time. If you have an announcement that you would like read during the service, write it out and give it to her by 9:50 a.m. Thank you for this consideration.

## ***New E-mail Address***

Paul & Paula Benner have a new e-mail address: [ppbenner0081@msn.com](mailto:ppbenner0081@msn.com).

## **Need to get a hold of Pastor Sara?**

Home office: 519-454-4803

Bethany office: 519-539-2451

[sara.faulhafer@gmail.com](mailto:sara.faulhafer@gmail.com)

If you have a pastoral emergency:

Cell: 226-883-0226

Pastor Sara is generally at the church office on Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday afternoons from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. or other times by appointment.

## **Treasurer's Report**

Bethany has an adjusted year to date deficit as of April 30, 2011 of -\$2,911.64.

We are in pretty good shape at the moment, but please remember as we head into the summer months and vacation time, to still support our congregation on a regular basis through post-date cheques, Pre-authorized Offering Payments, or doubling up your offering after you've been away, or before you leave, since our day-to-day bills continue.

Thank you,

Louis Eckert, Treasurer

## Pastor's Message

Peace and grace be with you.

Although it might not seem like it outside, summer is just upon us! Are you beginning to make plans for these precious days of (hopefully!) warmth and relaxation? How will this impact your journey of faith? As a newly ordained pastor, as part of my call for my first three years in ministry, I have to participate in "5 Amazing Days in June" at the Waterloo Lutheran Seminary/Eastern Synod Luther Hostel. This is an opportunity for learning, connecting with my colleagues, Bishop and Synod staff and professors. To celebrate the anniversary years of the Seminary (100) and the Synod (150)—see <http://lutheransynodseminary.com>, this year Luther Hostel will take place in Nova Scotia, to help the Lutheran churches feel part of the celebrations. Where are we going as the church today? What are our current challenges? What kinds of leaders do we need for tomorrow? These are some of the issues that we will be discussing. A big part of Luther Hostel is the amazing worship services. I'm taking a break this year from assisting with worship after the past two years, but I look forward to participating from the pew. Each day we will worship at a different historic Lutheran church—Bridgewater, Mahone Bay and Lunenburg. So that is how I am beginning my summer faith journey—stay tuned to see what exciting things I'll be up to in July.

Where is God leading YOU these months? If you are planning on taking a vacation, consider visiting a church - Lutheran or another denomination. Participate as fully as you can, taking note of their music, prayers and sermon, as well as the community and building. Are there things you enjoy? Are there things you think Bethany could try? If you can, bring home a bulletin or newsletter so we can find out what is happening in other faith communities. If you are staying at Bethany, we have some great things happening in June—Seminarian Tim Dawkins will be leading worship on June 5. June 12 is Pentecost. June 19 we celebrate the addition of two new members through baptism and honour our

fathers. June 26 we welcome St. David's United to a joint picnic. We will be teaching each other new songs, sharing prayers and food and games. You will want to be here - and bring a friend or family member, this promises to be a fun day! As committees wind down over the summer, I hope these coming months will be a time of rejuvenation for everyone. Let the sun warm both your bodies and your souls, let the light bring hope into your world and may God richly bless you with renewed energy and deep inspiration. Peace be with you

***"I was a stranger and you welcomed me ..."***  
Matthew 25:35

Do we have the gift of hospitality? Throughout the Old Testament, God constantly calls the Israelites to show warmth to strangers and in the New Testament, believers are urged to demonstrate to others the love & grace bestowed upon them through Jesus Christ.

How can we as a congregation offer hospitality to strangers and guests in our midst?

- initiate conversation with guests & newcomers
- use their name several times to help you remember them
- introduce them to others
- invite a guest to sit with you and help them to follow along in worship
- sit in the centre of the pew to encourage others to join you
- invite a co-worker, friend, or neighbour to worship

Too often, we think strangers are only outside of the congregation. There are many people within our church community who could benefit from intentional hospitality.

- invite a student or young adult, living away from their family, into your home for a meal
- offer to do errands for a senior
- babysit active kids and allow the parent(s) time to themselves

In building up the body of Christ, we are allowing God's love to be made visible in a world so desperate for community, compassion, and deep, healing love.