

Bethany Lutheran Church

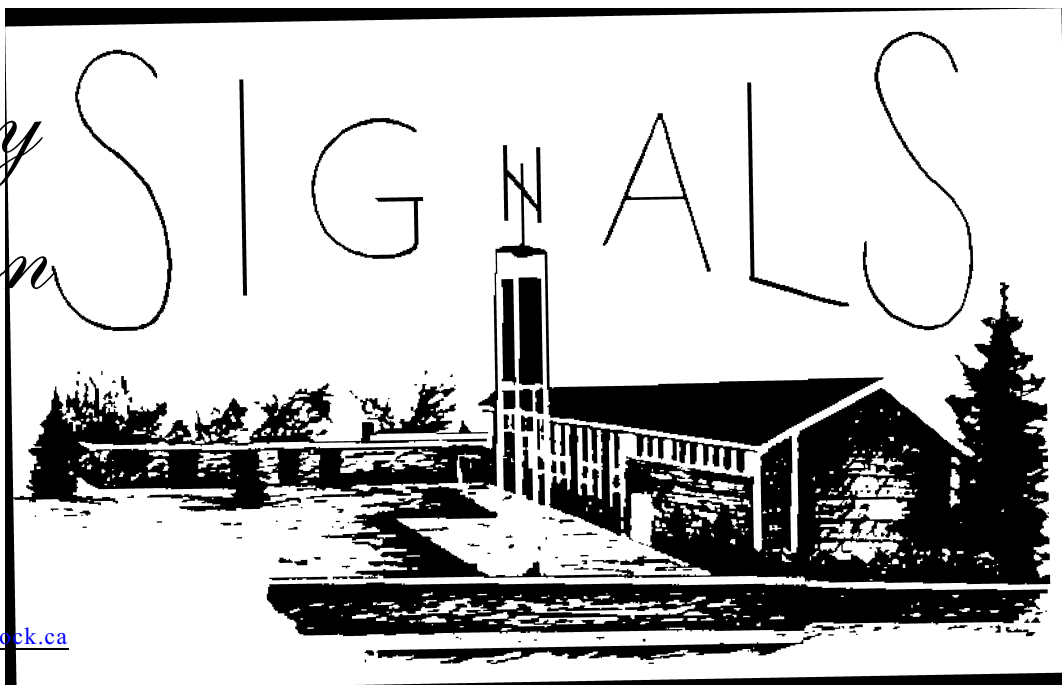
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Rev. Sara Faulhafer



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OPEN HOUSE

On Saturday, September 10th there will be an Open House here at Bethany from 2-4 p.m. to celebrate our “greening” efforts and to give the community an opportunity to come and hear about the process that we went through to apply to the MicroFit program and have our solar panels installed. Also, there will be information on our high-efficiency furnace and other environmentally-friendly projects.

Representatives from Direct Current, Woodstock Hydro & Rick’s Heating will be available to answer any questions. There will be a special presentation at 3 p.m. We encourage you to attend to show your support.

Please consider baking some cookies or tarts to be served, along with a purchased cake & coffee at the open house. Let Barb Mason know what you intend to bring and drop donated items at the church that morning.

Dedication of Solar Panels

Please join us on Sunday, September 11th, at 10 a.m. for a special service, focusing on God’s creation, when the solar panels will be dedicated to the Glory of God. Bethany is one of two congregations in the E. Synod that has achieved the ELCIC Stewardship of Creation

Green Church accreditation.

Sunday School also begins for the year. Plan to stay for coffee & conversation following the service.

Back to Church Sunday

Sunday, September 25th has been designated as Back to Church Sunday when everyone is asked to invite a friend, family member, or congregational member who has gotten out of the routine of attending worship, to join you for the service. (See page 2)

A Happy Hour follows worship.

PASTOR SARA’S CONTRACT

At a special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, July 17th, it was unanimously voted to renew Pastor Sara’s contract for another three-year term starting August 16, 2011 and her compensation package was confirmed.

Members applauded Pastor’s Sara’s wonderful & caring service to our congregation over the past two years.

Church Council thanks the Mutual Ministry committee who worked with Pastor Sara to develop the contract and compensation package. The minutes of the congregational meeting are posted on the bulletin board.

Thank You

Thanks to Liz Park, Ruth Ann Jeanson, Lyle Rosnau & Shirley Hickey who stepped forward to lead worship during the summer!

New Microphone & Computer:

Pastor Sara started using a new ear set microphone in August, so everyone can hear her wonderful sermons clearly now!

As well, a new computer has been purchased for the office.

DEATHS

Bruce Hawkins, Barry's father, passed away on Sat. July 30th. His funeral was held at Knox Presbyterian on August 4th.

Hilde Schneider passed away on Wed. August 3rd. Her funeral was held in Burlington on August 6th.

Please keep their families in your prayers.

My family and I would like to **thank you** for the cards, flowers, prayers & words of comfort that you have shared with us.

Barry Hawkins

Baby Bundles

The Evangelism & Social Ministry committee, and other members of the church, would like to continue the Baby Bundle outreach project.

We would appreciate all donations. Each Baby Bundle is for a 0-6 month old child (small babies). A box has been placed in the narthex in which you can place your donations.

The bundles include 2 undershirts, 2 sleepers, 2 receiving blankets, 4 cloth diapers, 1 sweater, 2 wash cloths (adult size) and 2 large safety pins. At the moment, sleepers and receiving blankets are most needed.

Diaper flannel is purchased and is made up into cloth diapers - we do not send disposable diapers overseas as they have nowhere to dispose of them. If you would like to give a donation toward diaper material, please write "Evangelism - diaper material" on the "other" line of your offering envelope.

Back to Church Sunday September 25th

"Only 2% of church members invite someone to church." - LifeWay Research - When is the last time you have invited someone to join you at Bethany? September 25th is the perfect time! Churches around the world are participating in Back to Church Sunday (BTCS). Most people who drop out of church haven't lost their faith in God; they simply *fell out of the habit* of churchgoing. Some moved or had a change in life circumstances, or they had a falling out with their former church and simply drifted away. Most often, life became too busy. This means many of them could be open to returning to church."82% of people are at least somewhat likely to attend church if invited".

Why not look through our up-dated directory and see if there are family members, friends or neighbours whom you haven't seen in worship lately? Drop off an invitation, offer to pick them up, share food & fellowship with them at the Happy Hour after the service ... If everyone invited one person, we would double our attendance!

Thank You!

On behalf of the Board of Directors of Habitat for Humanity London, we would like to thank you for your donation of \$774.06, which were funds raised by the Spaghetti Supper, coin collection jar and directed donations.

We appreciate your support and your donation will go directly to building the house for our Woodstock Project. Jeff Duncan, CEO

Please read the entire letter from Habitat for Humanity which is posted on the bulletin board to learn more about their ReStore program that helps to re-use, re-cycle and reduce landfill of building materials by providing an alternative end use for used building products.

Help Pastor Sara Help You!

If you or a family member are in the hospital and would like Pastor Sara to visit you, please let her know. Due to privacy laws, she is not able to check hospital records to inquire if any Bethany members are patients.

Pastor's Message

Grace and peace be with you.

I hope you had a wonderful summer, full of lovely times with family and friends. For most of July, I was on retreat at an Anglican convent in Toronto. It was a fascinating experience! I have shared some of my experiences in my sermons, and we have tried a monastic practice in worship - sitting in silence for two minutes after the sermon. Over the next few months, I hope to talk more about the spiritual disciplines I learned and give you opportunities to practice a contemplative spirituality.

Also in July, I was a delegate at the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada National Convention. My report is included in the newsletter, and you can find additional information in the binder in the narthex, as well as online <http://www.elcic.ca/In-Convention/2011-Saskatoon/default.cfm>.

September will be a busy month, as Sunday School resumes, we celebrate our greening initiatives at our Open House on September 10th and committees begin to meet. I will be at Camp Edgewood the last week of August with our two new confirmands: Alix Christie and Lauren Klosler. We will be sharing classes with Trinity, Tavistock, once a month on Saturdays beginning in October. On September 25th, we welcome friends, family, neighbours, co-workers....to Bethany.

Start thinking now about who you might invite to join you for worship. We have included an invitation which you might want to use, or simply say "Would you like to come to church with me?" Invitations are so much more effective when you already have a relationship established - so don't worry about going door to door, or handing out leaflets on the street. Who do you *already know* that might enjoy and benefit from becoming involved in our faith community? It takes all of us to make this congregation vibrant, engaging and active. So if you're reading this - I'm talking to you!

There are a number of reasons why someone might consider coming back to church. First, almost half of those who are considering attending church said that they would do so because they feel it will bring

them closer to God. Second, not only do people return to the church because God is working in their hearts, but also because they sense a void in their lives. Over a third said that they would return to fill the emotional and spiritual gaps they've felt since leaving the church the first time. The third motivating factor for those returning to Church is to be around those who hold similar values to them. How wonderful it would be to help our friends and family begin to make those connections with God and our community!

Founder of the Back to Church Program, Michael Harvey, writes: "Set your goals for God high. If you have a goal for God's work that is small that may be the result. One of the problems of the church today is that our goals are too low and we meet them. If you want to achieve great things for God, we must have much bigger goals. If your mind says "I am sure we can make this goal," then it is perhaps not high enough. If our goals are higher, we will need to think in a different way. Nothing is impossible for our God, but God allows us to play our part. But remember success is one person inviting one person, the response is God's!"

Think and pray about who you might invite to church; consider how you will extend that invitation and then act. The rest is up to the work of the Holy Spirit! Many blessings be with you as we enter into the fall season. May you experience and know the fullness of God's love.

Pastor Sara

DIRECTORY UPDATES

Please change Theresia & Joe Kleiner's phone number to 519-537-2658 in your new directory.

Kathleen Schaper has moved to 143 Church St. P.O. Box 306, Thamesford, ON N0M 2M0.

With sadness, we say goodbye to Sharyn and Jack Cheney who have moved away and joined Zion Lutheran church in Stratford. Their new address is: 26-115 Greenwood Drive, Stratford, ON N5A 7G2.

We wish them joy in their new home!

Canada Lutheran Subscriptions

Those of you who subscribe to the Canada Lutheran magazine can do so at a bulk rate through Barb Mason who is co-ordinating it.

Your cheque is made out to "Canada Lutheran" not Bethany Lutheran Church. The money for subscriptions will not pass through the church books and it will not show up on your tax receipt.

Check with Barb as to what the bulk rate for a 1 year subscription is and have your cheque to her by October 15th in order for her to mail them to Winnipeg in time.

If you miss the deadline, you will have to send in your subscription yourself at the regular subscription cost.

Come raise your voice: Retell, Reclaim, Rejoice!

Raise your voice in a Synod-wide gathering on **October 23, 2011 at 2 pm!** This special celebration marks the conclusion of our Synod and Seminary anniversary year of *Remembering for the Future*.

Voices from across our synod are converging on St. Peter's Lutheran in Kitchener, Ontario, to create a mass choir which will sing Bach Cantata No. 80, based on the Reformation chorale *A Mighty Fortress*. And mighty it will be when choristers are joined by the fifteen piece orchestra all directed by Dr. Peter Nikiforuk. Singers representing nearly every conference from Sudbury to Montreal have made plans to attend.

The Bach Cantata of our Lutheran heritage retells and reclaims the gospel message proclaimed through music that has inspired Christians around the world. Rejoicing in our future will also be pivotal to our worship experience. Integrating today's technology, we will explore our hopes and dreams for the future. Your participation in congregational song and prayer will be a vital element in our worship together. This special worship celebration will also be taped for broadcast on CKCO TV on Reformation Sunday.

Please come and add your voice to this unique worship gathering as we close our anniversary year. Mark your calendars for **Sunday, October 23, 2:00 p.m. at St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Kitchener, ON.**

It is not too late to become a choir member. For nitty-gritty details, or to register to participate, contact Choir Coordinator Scott Knarr at Mount Zion, Waterloo. e-mail: scott.knarr@mzlc.ca . Or call him at Mount Zion at (519) 886-5820. Rehearsal schedules and recordings of individual parts can be found at <http://www.mzlc.ca/worship-music/synodchoir>

LOVE WOODSTOCK

Love Woodstock was again a great day as the love of Christ was shown to the community through random acts of kindness. Thank you to the 9 churches who participated.

Blessings, Bill Meade
Assistant Pastor, Calvary Church

Pastor Sara's Office Hours

Remember that Pastor Sara is usually in the church office Monday - Wednesday from 1:00 - 4:30 p.m. or by appointment.

Please refrain from entering the office during the 10 minutes before the service starts on Sunday mornings, so that Pastor Sara can peacefully prepare to lead us in worship. Thanks!

Remember our shut-ins in your prayers and actions

Helen Bond - Woodingford Lodge, Woodstock
Liz Brenneman - Caessant Care, Woodstock
Joyce Flath & Chris Craig - Woodstock
Maria Langner, Woodstock
Matilda Menning - Park Place, Woodstock
Bill Pathy - Glendale Crossing, London
Anna Pathy - Norwich
Allan Schneider - Caessant Care
Erna Tischer - Delhi Nursing Home, Delhi