



Bethesda Lutheran Church
“Welcome One Another”

The Visitor

August 2010

305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • (203) 787-2346

A New Pastor



At last, after more than a year with a pulpit filled by an interim pastor, Bethesda will have a permanent pastor. He is Rev. Timothy J. Keyl (pronounced Kile), a graduate of Valparaiso University (a Bachelor’s degree in Music and Theology), Lutheran School of Theology (M. Div.), and Catholic University (Master of Liturgical Music). He is presently pastor at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Nashua, NH.

He, his spouse Kari Henkelmann Keyl, and their children Gabriel (age 15) and Bethany (age 13) were guests at a reception in their honor in the Campanius Room the evening of July 17th, and Pastor Keyl conducted the Sunday service and preached the next day. Bethesda members found them an attractive and friendly family group.

At a congregational meeting following the service, Bethesda members voted to call Pastor Keyl, casting 80 favorable votes out of 83. Pastor Keyl shortly afterward signed the “Definition of Compensation, Benefits, and Responsibilities of the Pastor” which constitutes a contract between the pastor and the Bethesda congregation. As soon as Pastor Keyl can terminate his responsibilities with his current congregation in New Hampshire, he and his family will move to the New Haven area—about the middle of September.

All of us at Bethesda welcome the Keyls to our church, and look forward to his pastorship among us.

Annual Ice Cream Social



Wednesday, 25
August 2010
6:00-8:00 p.m.

You are invited !!!
Bring friends, neighbors,
and family

Music for adults and
children
arranged by Chris and Nora
Lee

Crafts for children
led by Joanne Kimball

Enjoy: Ice cream with
toppings
Cookies and bars

Wear your Bethesda T-
shirt, if available

Flyers and cards will be
available soon
for distribution to
neighborhood and friends

for more information contact:
Katie Gehner
203-481-9720
kgehner@att.net

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At the Sunday service on June 27th we welcomed into the membership three members: Andrea Hoslett, Moira Carlo, and Dominick Artus. We are delighted to welcome them into God's service and worship. We expect that we will be receiving additional new members in the fall.

John Tirro

People at Bethesda who remember Parish Assistant John Tirro will be pleased to hear of his Ordination at St. John's Lutheran Church in Knoxville, TN on August 1, 2010. The presiding officer will be Bishop H. Julian Gordy of the Southeastern Synod.



The church is located at 544 Broadway, Knoxville, TN, 37917 (865-523-3330). A reception will follow.

The next submission deadline for the next issue of
The Visitor is
Sunday, August 8

Please e-mail your submissions to Bob Balay at
prairiesandplains@gmail.com. *Thank you!*
Bob Balay, Interim Editor,
Clare Couture,
Production Manager bethesda@snet.net

Visit our Web page: www.bethesdanewhaven.org

Bethesda Fair



We are gearing up for our Holiday Fair that will be held on Saturday, November 13. We can always use empty pint canning jars for this year's pickles, and empty quart canning jars for this year's soups and cookies in a jar. We love to have people volunteer to help making pickles and the mixes to put in jars. We will publish dates for these workshops as well as pie making workshops in the weekly announcements.

In September we will have more kits available to those who are willing to make Christmas ornaments and other items at home. And our Thursday night work group continues to meet and we would love more company!

We are also looking for someone to head up the Trash and Treasures part of the fair. If you are a tag sale person, we really need your help!

You can see or call Maureen Anderson at 203-488-4993 or Sue Berube at 203-287-8170 for more information.

Pastor's Paragraph...or two

Just in case you were not aware of the recent heat wave, it is “Summer In The City.” It is also the “Time After Pentecost” in the church calendar, sometimes referred to as the Green Season. The juxtaposition of these two realities has prompted the thoughts I desire to share in this issue of *The Visitor*.

Summer in the city, and Resurrection Day Camp, under the auspices of Lutherans In Mission, is a reality. Bethesda is a partner in this ministry, under the direction of Camp Calumet, that benefits so many of New Haven’s younger residents. I do not even need to extol how positive this experience is. Thank you to Bethesda worshippers and members who stepped up to support this program with a special offering. You truly helped assure its continuation.

In this Time After Pentecost, our Gospel readings began a few weeks ago with the reminder that our Lord Jesus was on the way to Jerusalem. During the coming weeks we will be reminded once again of how people encountered Jesus along the way to Jerusalem. The reality of this journey reminds me that He, the Lord, is on the move. His gaze rests on what lies ahead, not what is behind.

As a congregation, Bethesda is on the move. The vision of this people of God rests also on what lies ahead. As I write these few words a Call Sunday has been established on which this congregation will consider extending a Call to a Pastor. In addition, Bethesda will soon be welcoming a new Director of Music and wishing Adam Peithmann, our current Director of Music all the best as he accepts a new, full-time position with a congregation in New Jersey. The opportunity is very real for the congregation to set its sight on what lies ahead and how it can continue to be faithful in mission and ministry.

Green Season is now, and we are reminded that green is the color of life (forget about the grass that may have turned brown with the heat). Our Lord journeyed to Jerusalem to bring to reality God’s desire that we all know life in its fullest sense, in all its abundance. It is no different in the life of a congregation knowing abundant life as it journeys with God in faithful mission and ministry.

It is an exciting time...a time of life...a time of opportunity. You are part of this time and this ministry, in this place, in this community and around the world. Remember that God calls God’s People to look ahead, and in so doing be free to engage in ministry and mission fulfillment to God’s own glory.

In Christ’s Service,

Pastor Preuss



CHURCH WORLD SERVICE SCHOOL KITS

Now is a great time to collect items needed for School Kits. Walmart, Expect Discount, Target, Wallgreens etc. and even Stop and Shop will be putting the items we need on sale during the summer.

Items needed:

- 70-page spiral notebooks
- Large pink erasers
- 30 cm. (12 inch) rulers
- Blunt scissors
- Boxes of crayons (24 count)
- Hand-held pencil sharpeners

Please see Sue Berube (203-287-8170) if you are interested or have questions. Sue will be happy to store the supplies until we make the Kits in the fall and in the spring of 2011.

Lastly, we are being charged \$.75 (plus postage) for each cloth bag used to hold the school supplies. If any person is interested in getting a group together to sew our own bags, please see Sue.

Sarah Circle

Sarah Circle, currently the only circle of Women of the ELCA at Bethesda, will begin its program year with its traditional potluck dinner on Monday, September 13 in the Parish House at 6:00 p.m. September dates fill up quickly; please put it on your calendar now. While we normally meet on the first Monday of the month, we can't complete with Labor Day!

Everybody is welcome to join us. We especially extend the invitation to new or newer members. This evening always features wonderful food and great company, no responsibilities or commitments. It is a wonderful way to get to know each other better.

We are looking for program material for the year and welcome any and all suggestions. Please contact Maureen Anderson (203-488-4993) or Priscilla Melendez (Priscilla.Melendez@Yale.edu) with your ideas.



Book of Faith

Our current series of sessions focuses on the Book of Psalms. The Psalms represent a rich tapestry of prayer and praise. Some Psalms glow with a deep peace in the Lord's strength; others reflect a texture of deep despair; yet others bubble with an exuberant exaltation of the Most High God. The commonality is prayer—a reaching out to God from life's experience.

You are invited to attend our biweekly gatherings, which offer light food and fellowship, biblical readings, and lively discussions. When we open our hearts we are nurtured in our daily lives by the bread of God's Word and God's water of life. Everyone is welcome. We start at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00a.m.

Dates for the next few sessions include:
August 4 and 18, and
September 1, 2010.

— Martin Gehner



FACILITIES CREW

If you remember the Broadway song “Hey, Look Me Over,” it has new meaning for Bethesda.

The Facilities Committee has been hard at work sprucing up the Bethesda Campus, most recently on the workday, July 10th. Many members turned out to make a distasteful job almost fun. Thank yous to John Hively, Sue Berube, Barbara Stark, Richard Ford, Molly Dinneen, Bob and Judy Evenson, Bill Strickland, Diane Witte, Martin Gehner, Mark and Chris Wimmer, Chris Couture, and Marie Gray. An incredible lunch was provided for us by Don Youngberg.

Many hands make light work, and even in 90+-degree heat, we cleaned out several bales of undergrowth, sticks, and logs from the south yard. Thanks to Bob Fries and his tree company, all the debris was shredded and carted away, and 7 dead trees and several prunings removed. The front of the property looks fantastic with its new grooming. The poison ivy has also been cleared up.

Inside, a new set of doors have been installed at the east end of the Nursery school level. Lights in the parking lot and elsewhere outside have been checked and repaired, along with bulbs in the ceiling of the Sanctuary and several broken switches, and a new outlet and light in the upstairs kitchen.

The Kitchen Committee (chaired by Martin Gehner) has received a quotation for continuing work, which has been given to the Church Council for consideration. We are investigating roof repairs and apartment repairs, and upgrading the fire alarm system

Much has taken place at Bethesda since April, but the tasks before us are still daunting. We meet as a committee on the second Tuesday every month in the Muhlenberg Room at 7:30 p.m., and try to keep our meetings brief. If you are interested in supporting the facilities crew, please see Doug Gray or send an e-mail to dgray30@comcast.net. See you in Church.

Welcome to Our New Music Director



If greeting a new Pastor were not enough for us to feel pleased about, we also can look forward to a new Director of Music, Lars Gjerde. Lars is a native of Norway, but has studied in the United States at Augustana College (Sioux Falls, SD) where he earned a B.A. in music and German, and at the Eastman School of Music (Rochester, NY) where he is working toward a doctorate in Organ Performance and Literature. He has also studied at the University of Bergen, where he earned a second Bachelor's in Organ Performance and Church Music. He has held several church positions, including Assistant Musician at the Lutheran Church of the Incarnate Word in Rochester, NY. Lars will meet with members of the choir July 25th, and will begin as Bethesda church organist August 1st. Velkomen, Lars.

Offering Update – Think ahead for summer

Remember to think ahead for the relaxing season, not only about beaches, boats, and barbecues, but also keeping up your pledge for the summer. Perhaps the warm sun and cool drinks will inspire an additional gift!

	2009	2010	Ahead/Behind	%
As of 7/18	\$84,690	\$83,180	-1,509	-2%
Yr End	\$167,520	\$158,237*	-9,283.82	-6%

*Budgeted based on projections from pledges and past giving habits.



Dear Friends at Bethesda Lutheran Church,

First and foremost, I wish to extend a heart-filled thanks to everyone at Bethesda. Your voices have inspired me, your talents have greatly impressed me, and your support has kept me going all year. It is with sadness mixed with joy and excitement that I have accepted the director of music position at Tower Hill First Presbyterian Church in Red Bank, NJ.

This position is full-time: my new responsibilities will include rehearsing and conducting multiple adult, youth, and bell choirs. I will also be overseeing a music series and will be influential in shaping worship, planning special services, and possibly enlarging the music program even more. The job presents challenges that at times will be difficult, but I think will make me a better church musician.

Again, I wish to extend my thanks to you all. I have learned a great deal this past year. I will always remember the special musical occasions—Reformation Vespers, Christmas, Holy Week, Easter, and last but not least, Music Sunday. Lauren and I have greatly appreciated all that the church has given us and will certainly be thinking of you in the future. Although my new responsibilities will make it difficult to visit Bethesda on Sunday mornings, if you find yourself on the Jersey shore, please stop and visit at Tower Hill.

Tack så mycket, Vielen Dank, Gracias, Thank you,
Adam and Lauren



To all my friends at
Bethesda:

A belated but sincere thanks to you all for your kind thoughts, words, and prayers during my illness. I am very fortunate to have so many wonderful people caring about me. It was a rough go for a while, psychologically as well as physically, but I am well on the mend, and enjoying life again. I made the right choice, moving here, where I reconnected with lots of friends and family and have a great support system. For those of you who know me well—my therapy group consists of four widows and a bottle of wine. I miss you all.

With love and thanks,
Bea Mandrill



Prayers for Our Members and Friends:

Healing and strength: Dr. Ruth Steinberg, friend of Ruth Beaumont; Mike Willis, friend of Chris Wigren; Richard and Margaret Stark, parents of Barbara Stark; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Oscar Roos; Stacy Opsal, granddaughter of the Evensons; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; James Moyer, friend of Molly Dinneen; Sue Merkel; Almira Muschamp, mother of Sue Berube; Betty Henrickson; Barbara Veleber, former member; Maureen Matthews, friend of Kathy Wimmer; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; James Phillips, husband of Karen Phillips; Helen Neumann, mother of Dennis Neumann; Ruth Ebel, sister of Martha Kirschner; Fran Batka, friend of Nils Svensen; Richard Treat, friend of Marie and Doug Gray; Virginia Cellura friend of Molly Dinneen; Frank and Jeanne Whalen, friends of Karen Baker; Dot Palcovich; Aina Smith; Mary Beth MacNab, friend of Sue Berube; Margaret Berube, friend of Sue Berube; Len DeNardis; Jonathan Cortright, father of Dan Cortright; Mary Benedosso, friend of Doris Hentz; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Ruth Jacobson.; Jeanette Tykson; and Rita Wissink.

For those serving in the military: including Allison Mandas, daughter of Greg & Carlen Mandas; Joshua Bender, stepbrother of Chris Lee; **and the chaplains of our churches who serve them.**

For our partners in the Gospel: the congregations and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan & The Holy Land (ELCJHL); Luther House; our mission partners, Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven, and the Pangani Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, in its ministry to those living with the impact of AIDS and hunger in Africa.

For Bethesda: that God continues to guide us into the future with ministries of witness and service while building up our community in all of its diversity.

For Comfort in Grief: We remember the family and friends of **Alice Golden** who died in the faith on June 18th and of **Karl Ogren** who died in the faith on Tuesday, July 20th. A funeral for Alice was held at Bethesda on June 23rd; a funeral for Karl was held at Beecher and Bennett Funeral Home on Friday, July 23rd. *Rest eternal grant them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.*