



Bethesda Lutheran Church

“Welcome One Another”

The Visitor

September 2010

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

Our Renewed Life Together

The renewed life that awaits Bethesda has already begun!

Our new Organist-Choir Director, Lars Gjerde, has already begun working and planning for the fall. His first Sunday was August 1st. Please see Lars’ letter on page 4 for news about the resumption of choir on September 8th as well as his vision for Bethesda’s music program.

Pastor Keyl’s first day with us will be September 13th and his first Sunday will be September 19th.

Come and celebrate the first day of Bethesda’s Learning Hour program also on the 19th. There will be activities for Children & Youth from 2 to 12 years old. Don’t miss the **Congregational Picnic** immediately after Sunday School on **Sept. 19 at 12:00 noon**.

We are again working on organizing our three classes—3-5 years-old (Teacher Gail Labadia); 6-8 years-old; and 9-12 years-old. At present, we have approximately 11 children in our program and our goal continues to be to help them grow in faith.

Please invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate our Learning Hour program and Pastor Keyl’s first Sunday!

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Sunday School Reminders

- Remind your children to bring a weekly offering, which will be given at the end of the year to Resurrection Lutheran Church summer camp.
- Our collection of “**Gift of the Heart School Kits**” will be on October 11. When you go shopping for your kid’s school items, you can also purchase those for other kids in need. Please see the list of school items below.
- Children from ages 2-4 will receive a Bible on Sunday, September 26 during worship.
- Look for the Learning Hour calendar from September to December in Bethesda’s website. We will update this calendar throughout the semester.
- Please, don’t forget to buy items for the Gift of the Heart School Kits. **Each School Kit includes the following items:**
 - One pair blunt scissors
 - One 30 centimeter ruler (12”)
 - One pencil sharpener
 - Six new pencils with erasers
 - One large eraser
 - One box of 24 crayons
 - 3 70-page single subject notebook

Please contact Priscilla Melendez with any questions you may have about the Learning Hour Program.



Pastor Tim, Kari, Gabriel and Bethany Keyl will be moving to Mount Carmel on September 1. Their address will be 124 Murlyn Road, Hamden, CT 06815.

Our New Pastor and Family

Pastor Keyl's cell phone is 603-533-7537, and home e-mail is

timothykeyl@comcast.net. As of Sept. 2, his home phone will be (203) 823-9234. After Pastor Keyl begins on September 13, he will also be receiving emails at pastorkeyl@snet.net.

The Keyls are hoping to find dog care in their home. They are bringing Sugar, their ten-year-old Boxer, to their new home in Hamden. Sugar is loving toward people, but does not get along with other animals. The Keyls will be attending two weddings in September, and will be away Friday through Sunday September 10-12 and Friday through Saturday September 24-25. If you are interested in house sitting and dog sitting, please contact Pastor Keyl at timothykeyl@comcast.net or 603-533-7537.



Resurrection Summer Camp

Bethesda was honored on Sunday, August 1st, to be visited by counselors who were working during August, 2010 at the Resurrection Day Camp run by Camp Calumet.

The counselors were Peter Orelus. Alex Bobman, Taylor Wilson, Emily Burdick, Sydney O'Connell, Nicole Gelinas, Megan Splaine, Mike Carnaroli, Sofia K.Zrioka, Ben Durham, and Amy Terkelsen. By all reports it was another successful Resurrection Day Camp experience for campers and counselors alike.

The next submission deadline for the next issue of

The Visitor is

Sunday, September 12

Please e-mail your submissions to Bob Balay at prairiesandplains@gmail.com Thank you!

Clare Couture,

Production Manager (bethesda@snet.net)

Visit our Web page: www.bethesdanewhaven.org

CHILDREN & YOUTH LEARNING HOUR CALENDAR Fall 2010

September 19 - First day of Learning Hour!

September 26 – Distribution of Bibles during worship. Children Ages 3-5 and Grades K-3rd

October 3 - Collection of items for “Gift of the Heart” School Kits

October Date TBA -- Carwash to benefit CCA

October Date TBA -- Super Saturday Family Gathering at Bethesda 4:30-7:00 p.m. (Halloween/Fall theme)

November 14 - Distribution of coin boxes to benefit the ELCA sponsored program, *God's Global Barnyard*

November 28 – Intergenerational Event (11:00-12:00)

December 12- *Amahl and the Night Visitors* (7:00 p.m.)

December 12 or 19 – Christmas Program during worship

December 26 - No LH

January 2- No LH

From the Pastor

MY FINAL PARAGRAPH...or two

My time journeying with you, the people of Bethesda, as your Transitional Pastor is drawing to a close. It has been my joy to be with you during the past fifteen months. For me this time has been a blessing as I have grown through your living witness to God's power and presence.

I rejoice with you as you await the arrival of Pastor Keyl and prepare to welcome the Keyl family into Bethesda's community of faith. This is the time for which pastors of transition pray, so that mission and ministry may proceed with God's blessing and the presence of a pastor called to be in your midst.

September 12th will mark the conclusion of my time with you. Other pastors have walked with you in ministry in years past, and all who have served in this capacity are part of Bethesda's history. September 13th marks a new day when a new Pastor will be with you as your journey continues. It is to him the people of Bethesda will look as you move forward, individually and as a congregation.

Pastors and congregations grow close during the time they spend together. Yet, in my humble opinion, the greatest gift a congregation can give a transitional pastor is the commitment made to journey with a new pastor for the well-being of the entire church. Be assured that you are kept in prayer – but the journeys of those who have served and the congregation moving forward are truly separate and distinct.

To the entire congregation and extended family that is Bethesda, thank you once again for the opportunity we have had to journey together. A special word of appreciation to the congregation's committed cadre of leaders who have provided faithful guidance during these months. And finally, thank you to the congregational staff during this time of transition – Clare, Maureen, Doris, Becky, Lars, Adam, and Al. Their presence has been of great value to this transitional pastor.

“Rejoice in the Lord always! Again, I say rejoice!”

In Christ's Service,

Pastor Preuss

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Thrivent Choice Nets Rewards for Bethesda

Thrivent Choice, a new program offered by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans, gives Thrivent members the opportunity to donate funds to a number of charitable organizations. Bethesda has signed up as one of these organizations, and as of August 5th we have received \$157 deposited into our Thrivent account. We are grateful for this gift from generous Thrivent members, and encourage other members to follow suit when given this opportunity.

Thrivent Financial designates Choice dollars to eligible Thrivent Financial members monthly, quarterly, or annually, depending on the products they own. Eligible members can reach the Thrivent Financial Service Center by phone or online to direct their Choice Dollars. They select recipients from an online catalog that lists Lutheran organizations and congregations enrolled in Choice Dollars.



A Thank You and Report from ELCA World Hunger

ELCA stands with its neighbors in Haiti in the aftermath of an earthquake that shook the land and the hearts of people across the world—people like you wanting to help, to make a difference in the lives of strangers suddenly hopeless and lacking basic necessities.

ELCA World Hunger has been on the ground in Haiti for many years, providing millions of dollars and supporting many programs through local work of Lutheran World Federation (LWF). Because of this work on the ground and relationships with LWF and partner organizations like Action by Churches Together (ACT), ELCA is able to translate your gifts quickly into food, water, clothing, and shelter for people in the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere.

Your gifts to ELCA provide a water purification system with pipes, filters, and pumps transported from cold-climate Norway to scorching-hot Haiti, supplying clean drinking water to 10,000 homeless Haitians. The ACT Alliance brought in desperately needed water and sanitation facilities. A “water factory” in the Belair neighborhood of Port-au-Prince provided the first clean water many Haitians had access to following the earthquake.

ELCA World Hunger’s long-time work in Haiti, supported by your generous gifts, have been able to act swiftly in the massive relief effort to support as many as possible of the many survivors and victims of this catastrophe. Together, we have been present in Haiti for many years, as we are today, and will continue to work with our brothers and sisters there long after the global spotlight turns elsewhere.

As of May 2010, ELCA has committed \$3.5 million for response efforts in Haiti. Thank you for your gifts. PRAY for those suffering from the effects of the earthquake—hunger, disease, lack of water, lack of shelter, deaths in families.

To give to ELCA, visit their Website at www.elca.org/giving.

—Joan Gibney

A Message from Lars



I am very excited to join your ministries as your new Director of Music. My first Sunday with you was a wonderful experience. I was thrilled to hear the strength and vigor of the congregational singing. I was also moved by your warm welcoming words at fellowship hour. Thanks to Carlen Mandas for helping provide special music. I look forward to learning more about the musical talent among you and enabling as many as possible to offer gifts of music in worship. Thanks to choir members for your service so far! I am humbled to be allowed to lead you forward. If you are a singer but not in the choir, please consider joining us! Choral music-making provides life-changing experiences and friendships. Rehearsals will begin the Wednesday after Labor Day. Please contact me if you have questions about joining the choir or if you would like to contribute special music in our services. I look forward to an exciting year of music making that will enrich our liturgy and provide moving musical experiences that help raise funds for social ministries. I am excited to get to know all of you!

Lars Gjerde

Council Corner



In July and August the Council was busy in many areas:

- Two people were approved for membership: William Stubbs and Abby Ferjak. Bill and Abby, and Chloe and Ben Groth – who were previously approved for membership and associate membership, respectively – will be received as new members in September.
- With a music director hired and a pastor called, the Council disbanded with sincere appreciation the ad hoc committees that worked on these efforts.
- The Facilities Committee reported on the status of the very successful July work day and repairs underway, and the Council approved payment for the tree work done and the Committee’s contractor recommendation to repair the parish house apartment. The Committee is also reviewing all Bethesda’s outside contracts and seeking estimates for the cost to replace the parish house roof.
- The Council has begun to identify leadership and a plan for a capital fund raising effort to be launched in the fall.
- The Education Committee is seeking Sunday School teachers for this fall, and the ad hoc committee on youth and family ministry will prepare a report and proposal for next year by the end of August.
- The Council approved a new fee structure for costs associated with weddings, funerals, and other uses of our building.
- The resignation of Council member Martin Jean was accepted with thanks and regret.

–Dianne Witte, President

Offering Update – Think ahead for autumn

Remember to think ahead for the autumn season—cool days, leaf peeping—but also about keeping up your pledge for the season.

	2009	2010	Ahead/Behind	%
8/15	\$101,449	\$93,501	-7,948	-8%
<i>Yr End</i>	<i>\$167,520</i>	<i>\$158,237*</i>	<i>-9283.82</i>	<i>-6%</i>

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



Bethesda Holiday Fair

The pickles are pickled! We have a super supply, so there will be plenty available on the day of the fair.

We have more good news to share! Janis Underwood has agreed to take the lead on the Trash and Treasures section of the fair. Please offer her your help if you are able. Thank you, Janis!

We will have kits to make Christmas ornaments available during coffee hours in September, and our Thursday night work group continues to meet and would love more company!

The debut of our raffle quilt will be in September. Tickets will be available for folks to sell and they will also be available on the day of the fair.

We will be taking orders for frozen apple pies during September and early October. Pies will be made at workshops during October. Dates for the workshops will be published in the weekly bulletins. Please join us.

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



Wednesday Morning Bible Study : Book of Faith

With inspiration from our sessions on the *Psalms*, our hearts are filled with awe for God's ever flowing mercy, his unconditional love for his people, and his daily guidance for those who ask. In trust and confidence the Bible Study will continue with the many faces of the topic on *diversity* in daily life and as Jesus shows us through his life.

You are invited to attend our bi-weekly gatherings with light food, fellowship, biblical readings, and great discussions. We start at 8:00 and end at 9:00 am. The dates for our next sessions are: September 1, 15, 29, October 13, and 27. A subsequent series will be announced soon.



Sarah Circle News

Sarah Circle, currently the only circle of Women of the ELCA at Bethesda, will begin its program year with its traditional pot luck dinner on Monday, September 13th in the Parish House at 6:00 p.m. Please mark your calendar now since September dates fill up quickly with things to do. While we normally meet on the first Monday of the month, we cannot try to compete with Labor Day!

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

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 (203-535-1633) with your ideas.

If you are interested in becoming a member or an associate member of Bethesda, please speak to Pastor Preuss or Pastor Keyl following Sunday worship or call the Church office (203) 787-2346.

Pastor Keyl will be receiving new members on September 26th.

Fair Trade Coffee and Tea



Fair Trade coffee, teas and chocolate are available

for sale the second Sunday of each month at Bethesda Church. A portion of the Fair Trade proceeds goes to the Bethesda Women of the ELCA (WELCA)

Coffee with a Lutheran Flavor ...

Lutheran World Relief and Equal Exchange are introducing new coffee lines from the LWR Coffee Project. All are organic, fair trade coffee blends: Sister's Blend, a "full city roast"; Breakfast Blend (regular and decaf), a blend of medium and French roasts; and Gumutindo, a new coffee straight from LWR and Equal Exchanges partner in Uganda.

Through the Coffee Project, small-scale farmers in Latin America, Africa, Asia, and the U.S. can earn a fair price for their products and have access to affordable credit. They can then invest in education, health care, and agricultural improvements.

Watch for a Fair Trade coffee tasting in early October. You will not only have a chance to vote on your favorites, but also the chance to take some home, win prizes, and find out more about how Fair Trade is making a difference.

Prayers for Our Members and Friends

Healing and strength: Zachary Kelly, nephew of Bill and Cindy Strickland; Chris Wimmer; Marilyn Preuss; Frank and Jeanne Whalen, friends of Karen Baker; Dr. Ruth Steinberg, friend of Ruth Beaumont; Mike Willis, friend of Chris Wigren; Margaret Stark, mother of Barbara Stark; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Oscar Roos; 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; Helen Neumann, mother of Dennis Neumann; Ruth Ebel, sister of Martha Kirschner; Fran Batka, friend of Nils Svensen; Virginia Cellura friend of Molly Dinneen; 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; Rita Wissink; Jeanette Tykson; and Ruth Jacobson.

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.

Thank You!

We are overwhelmed and truly grateful for the numerous cards and well wishes we received to celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary. We sincerely thank all those who so graciously aided in the reception. We have received two 3" thick volumes of cards and letters to read and absorb all the very special insights. Thank you very much.

In praise and thanksgiving,
Katie and Martin Gehner



Pastor Picture Project Underway

You may have noticed that the photographs of Bethesda's pastors are missing from the wall in the Campanius Room. Don't worry, they're just getting a "face lift!" Richard Ford launched the project to give them new frames and archival quality mounting. Betty Neal is leading the effort to refurbish the board on which they're mounted. It will cost about \$750 to preserve this piece of Bethesda's history, an amount that isn't in the church's budget. So, if you'd like to help preserve and proudly display the pictures of our congregation's spiritual leaders, your donation would be much appreciated. Put your gift in the offering, or send it to the church office, now through September. Thank you!



*Thank You
for your Prayers*

Dear Bethesda Friends,
Thank you so much for your prayers and support during my father's illness and after his death. He is with his Lord and Savior. We appreciate all you have done for us.

– Barbara Stark and Tim