



Bethesda Lutheran Church
"Welcome One Another"

The Visitor

Summer 2011

Reminder: The 8:45am Chapel Service on Sundays is no longer offered at Bethesda. Please join us on Sundays at 9:45 in the Sanctuary.

Find this newsletter also on the web at bethesdanewhaven.org

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



Ice Cream Social

BETHESDA'S ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD ICE CREAM SOCIAL

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24, 2011

6:00 P.M. – 8:00 P.M.

OUTSIDE ON THE BETHESDA GROUNDS

OR

IN CASE OF RAIN -- IN THE CAMPANUS ROOM

- ✧ COME TO THIS ANNUAL NEIGHBORHOOD EVENT!
- ✧ ENJOY DELICIOUS ICE CREAM
- ✧ CHOOSE FROM ASSORTED ICE CREAM TOPPINGS
- ✧ MUNCH ON HOME-BAKED COOKIES AND BARS
- ✧ RELAX TO LIVE MUSIC
- ✧ BRING THE CHILDREN TO ENJOY FUN ACTIVITIES

INVITE YOUR NEIGHBORS! NO CHARGE – FREE WILL OFFERING

FOR MORE INFORMATION: contact the Church Office (203-787-2346). www.bethesdanewhaven.org

Bethesda's Annual Neighborhood Ice Cream Social will be on Wednesday, August 24, from 6 - 8 p.m. Get out your Bethesda T-shirts and join us for good fellowship, yummy desserts and lively music! Look for more information coming. If you can help, please contact Katie Gehner at 481-9720 or at kgehner@att.net. We will need scoopers, bakers, set-up and take down assistance, crafters and Bethesda hosts and hostesses for the evening. Ask your neighbors and friends to come along.

Sunday School Vacancies

The 4th grade Sunday school class will be taught by a rotating cadre of teachers this year – are you going to be in the rotation? The families ask you to consider your gifts and volunteer to share the stories and rituals of church with this very committed group of young people. Volunteers could teach one class, four classes, 7 classes – it is all up to you! Are you free in the winter, spring? Do you have a great idea for Lenten topics?

Some of the students in this class are the new acolytes we see serving during worship and they all have been active participants in the Bethesda community since their baptisms. The class typically meets Sundays in the education wing following music time, around 11:15, and ends at noon. Priscilla and Pastor are available and happy to help with materials and there are several curricula to choose from to suit your comfort level. Ruth, David, Sara, Emma, Matthew and all the families thank you for praying about this with them.



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The Bible study continues on God's word to us through the study of several parts of the Book of Acts. We will consider the power of the Spirit and how that guides our lives to live with focus and confidence. The many personalities we will encounter give us insights of God's limitless love and grace. Dates of our sessions include August 3, 17 and 31.

You are invited to join us from 8:00-9:00 am as we gather for a light breakfast followed by readings from Scripture and lively discussions. Let God's Word shine in every heart.

All are Welcome!

Bethesda Sleepover:

Children and youth of Bethesda are invited to a sleepover at church on Friday, August 26 @5 PM in Bethesda's Living Room. Activities to include outside playing, board games, group reading, movies. Bring sleeping bag and pillows. Youth welcome to help in this activity.

Thank you from the Keyls

Your presence at our Open House in June was a blessing. Over fifty people came in and out of our place in the Mount Carmel neighborhood of Hamden, which we now call home. Some of you brought special gifts, flowing out of God's abundance, which were not necessary but received gratefully. Here is a snippet of a hymn by F. Pratt Green that describes our joy in your company: *For the wonders that astound us, for the truths that still confound us, most of all, that love has found us, thanks be to God.* Pastor Tim, Kari, Gabriel, and Bethany Keyl



Vacation Bible School at First Presbyterian Church, 704 Whitney Avenue, August 22-25

Bethesda is participating with three other New Haven churches to offer *All God's Critters* Vacation Bible School from 8:45 am to 2:00 pm, with an extended day option until 4:00 pm. We will revel in different parts of creation. We will sing, make crafts, hear stories, and play and eat together. For children ages 4-10, this should be a wonderful summer experience. **Registration is \$45; forms are on Bethesda's website.** If you are an adult or youth who would like to spend time with children, see Nora Lee nora_viola@yahoo.com or Pastor Keyl pastor@bethesdanewhaven.org who are helping to plan this event. If you have supplies or food to donate, bring them to the box in the narthex (see the list on the website). Each afternoon we will be going to a local park to enjoy the outdoors (weather permitting). Should be fun.



Sleeping Giant Hike for BYG (Bethesda Youth Group) and Parents is Sunday, August 28 following worship

Parents and Youth are to bring a bagged lunch to eat after worship, then head to Mount Carmel in Hamden to Sleeping Giant State Park. We will hike to the summit (easy to moderate hike), then come back down!

Afterwards all are invited to the Keyl home for a cookout, lawn games, and planning for the Fall. Pray for good weather.

Questions?

See Pastor Keyl

pastor@bethesdanewhaven.org

or Meg Carnaroli

mjsplaine@yahoo.com.

From the Pastor:

Creation's Flowing Grace

"No one can serve two masters; for a slave will either hate the one and love the other, or be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth. "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink, or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds of the air; they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? And can any of you by worrying add a single hour to your span of life?" (Matthew 6:24-27)

*How can anyone buy or sell the air, the warmth of the land?
That is difficult for us to imagine. If we don't own the sweet air
And the bubbling water, How can you buy it from us?
--Chief Seattle, 1855*

At our June Open House in the Mount Carmel neighborhood in Hamden, a few people asked who does our landscaping.

The true answer is, not us. The good folks who lived there before us developed the property, and we were told that we would see perennials blooming from May through October. Since the daffodils first pushed their way through the snow, it's been a bit like a slow fireworks display in our yard. Now it's hydrangea and tiger lilies. Soon it will be rhododendron. Already we've said goodbye to peonies and lily of the valley. The vine near the mailbox has embraced the structure we set out and trumpeted purple flowers. And the butterfly bush we severely cut back in the fall has re-emerged with leaves upon leaves. And it's not just flowers. Birds sing happily in the trees. A family of robins has nested in an unidentified bush next to our deck.

About this time each summer I am awed by the fecundity of nature. The earth around us is full, and while we cultivate and plant and water and weed, the growth happens while we are sleeping.

Given the prevailing American Protestant work ethic, we can easily conclude that when success follows effort, we should get the credit.

Jesus in his Sermon on the Mount and Chief Seattle of the Duwamish Confederacy speak the truth. You can't own what's not yours. You can, however, give thanks for what you are given.

I am so thankful for the blooming things in my yard. I am thrilled when generosity flows from an attitude of gratitude, rather than compulsion.

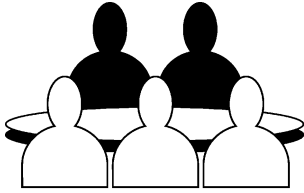
Christians are stewards of God's abundant giving. Consider how you understand your monetary gifts as flowing from thankful hearts. Consider the legacy of Bethesda as a stream of stewards who planted seeds of the Gospel for 125+ years, and made the building a home.

And join me in giving praise to our Creator this summer, for the fullness of the earth and the gift of each other to share life and love.

In Christ, who renews and restores.
Pastor Tim Keyl

[Chief Seattle's day of commemoration is June 7. Becoming a Roman Catholic in the 1830's, he earned respect from both Native Americans and whites. He began the custom, which survived his death, of holding morning and evening prayer in the tribe. –excerpted from *Festivals and Commemorations*]

God of abundance, you have poured out a large measure of earthly blessings: our table is richly furnished, our cup overflows, and we live in safety and security. Teach us to set our hearts on you and not these material blessings. Keep us from becoming captivated by prosperity, and grant us in wisdom to use your blessings to your glory and the service of humankind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen



Council Corner – June

At its meeting on June 20, the Council was delighted to receive the report of the Audit Committee, which had completed their review of our 2010 spending. The

Council expressed deep appreciation for the time and care this group spent on this task. Reports were also received with thanks from the Evangelism, Finance, Communications, Mission Endowment, and Facilities committees, and approval was given for the removal and stump grinding of a tree next to the nursery school playground that was damaged by lightening. Pastor expressed gratitude to all those who participated in his family's house blessing party; reported that there was interest in planting a community garden at Bethesda; and noted that the Swedish Aid Society will give Bethesda's young members attending Camp Calumet \$300 each to help defray their costs. Treasurer Ian Bjorkman noted that congregational giving had slipped behind from our 10% challenge budget and the need for members to continue to give as generously as possible throughout the summer. Annual employment reviews have been conducted for Music Director Lars Gjerde and Youth and Family Ministry leaders Mike and Meg Carnaroli; as a result, the Council approved for Lars additional vacation days in lieu of a pay increase so he can concertize, and considered a revised job description and compensation level for Youth and Family Ministry. Many Council members would attend the meeting with the consultant from Kairos on June 29. (See Building Bethesda Together II story.)

Building Bethesda Together II

The Council is excited about the progress being made to strengthen Bethesda's future. Since the annual meeting last January, where the first outline of our hopes and needs for ministry was brought to the congregation, much has happened.

Last month you read about the Leadership Retreat that was held in May and the next step for the Executive Committee to identify and charge task forces to move forward with the work from the retreat. To date, two task forces have been assembled and have begun meeting.

The Sunday Schedule Task Force, led by Chris Lee, is examining alternate schedules for our Sunday mornings now that we have only one service, taking into account the needs of our choir, Sunday School and Adult Forum, committees, and weekly worship and fellowship. This group has been charged with the task of proposing a schedule to the Congregation Council at their meeting on August 15.

The Facilities Planning Task Force, led by Martin Gehner, has been busily collecting all the information on hand about the property maintenance and repair issues of our facility and the

bids to address them to assemble a full picture of our needs. They are charged with reporting their findings to the Council at their September meeting.

The Financing Task Force was charged with identifying ways to address the financial issues of our ministry: our need for more operational support and for capital support for repairs to our facility. The group is being gathered by Ian Bjorkman. The first step is the effort was taken on June 29, when members of the Congregation Council, the Facilities Planning Task Force, and other leaders met with Rev. Renée LiaBraaten from Kairos, a consulting company (see <http://kairosandassociates.com/>) that helps Christian churches and ministries realize the resources needed to achieve their dreams and visions. Rev. LiaBraaten outlined a capital resource development proposal for Bethesda.

The Executive Committee met in July and reviewed the very positive feedback from the meeting with Kairos. The Committee will research other possible consultants before presenting a proposal to move forward to Council. The next Council meeting will be August 15. Stay tuned!



Two from Bethesda will spend a summer week at the New England Synod Lutheran Outdoor Ministries camp on Lake Ossipee, New Hampshire, otherwise known as Calumet! Bethany Keyl and David Judd will be a part of resident camp, where each day they will worship in the outdoor chapel, take swimming lessons in the water, eat, play, and make all sorts of friends in a beautiful setting. Scholarships for their stay came from the Swedish Aid Society. Each spring, the Swedish Aid provides funds to area churches for assistance in sending children and youth to Camp Calumet. In addition, during the spring and fall, they provide assistance to organizations such as the CT Food Bank, Ronald McDonald House, Hospice, Branford Food Council, and St. Ann's Soup Kitchen. Yea, Swedish Aid Society! Yea, Calumet! Yea, Bethany and David! For information on Calumet's programs, go to www.calumet.org.

Bethesda's Holiday Fair

It's almost time to make our award winning pickles for the fair. If you have any empty and clean pint canning jars, we would really appreciate it if you could bring them into church in the next couple of weeks. Or, if you find coupons in the Sunday paper for canning jars, we will use those, too. If you have empty quart jars from the soups and cookies, please bring them in as well. Thank you so much! Every little bit helps.

If you would like to help us make pickles in August (we usually do it twice) let Maureen Anderson or Sue Berube know so we can make sure to let you know when we will be making them.

Candidate for Ministry Profile – Lorraine Peterson

Lorraine came to Bethesda with her mother, Mary Peterson, as a young girl, and it was here that her sense of call to ordained ministry developed! Following an undergraduate degree in 2005 from Cedar Crest College in Allentown, Pennsylvania with a major in psychology, Lorraine graduated from the Lutheran Theological Seminary in Philadelphia in 2009. She served as an intern at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Holden, Massachusetts, from 2007 to 2008 and worked as a hospital chaplain at Erlanger Medical Center in Chattanooga, Tennessee. In April she returned "home" to Connecticut to await her first call to pastoral ministry. She is assigned to the Southeastern Synod (Tennessee, Georgia, Alabama, and Mississippi) as a candidate for ordained ministry and is waiting to see where God will call her.

Member update – Ann's swims

Ann Onton has been participating in swim competitions (a 10k/6-mile) swim in Fort Meyers, FL, on June 11, a 20k (12-mile) in Noblesville IN, on June 18, and the National Senior Games in Houston, TX, on June 20-23. She has begun training for the Swim Across the Sound on Saturday, August 6, and the English Channel on August 20-26. For more information on the Swim Across the Sound, people can go to the website at

www.swimacrossthesound.org.

They may also view her web page there and/or donate to her swim by selecting 2011 swim marathon, support a swimmer, and type in Ann's name.

Ann is swimming both swims in memory of Dorothy Donnelly, who succumbed to cancer on May 17, 2000. "Dot," as she was known, was a former Olympic swimmer (1940, the year the games were cancelled due to WWII) and one of the early pioneers of Masters Swimming in the U.S. and in Connecticut. Before that, she was the Connecticut AAU Chairman for many years, during which time Ann was a young and upcoming Age Group swimmer. She was present at every major swim meet in the state of Connecticut at that time, usually taking registrations. Ann recalls that my swim coach would always tell us to "check in with Dorothy Donnelly." She would be proud to see one of her very early protégées raising money for a good cause in her name.

Student News

Matthew Zelie: single, male, 30 year-old Lutheran from NH seeks alternative housing arrangement in New Haven while working toward an M.Div. at Yale Divinity School; interested in spare rooms or apartments in the vicinity of the divinity school; willing to barter services like painting, yard car, snow shoveling, for competitive rent; neat, organized, high school teacher for the past six years; car-less so will be relying on a bicycle and public transportation; recommendations available upon request. Contact me at matthewzelie@hotmail.com or [\(603\) 866-1861](tel:6038661861).

Special Note of Thanks

A word of thanks to Carole DeVore for organizing a "prayer chain" during my surgery July 15. I was surrounded by prayer from beginning to end. Bless all who prayed for me.

-- Becky Lerud

New Signage on Whitney Avenue!



Old Sign/New Sign

Prayers for Members and Friends:

For Healing and strength: Becky Lerud; Nils Svensén; Ruth Mattson; Sarah Yoder, cousin of Molly Dinneen; Oscar Roos; Bob Lehet; Ruth Beaumont; Rita Wissink; Nancy Bailey, cousin of Lisa Randall and Leslie Dunn; Verna Carlson; Adele Larson, mother of Doreen Larson Oboyski; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrikson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Len DeNardis; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; Ruth Jacobson.

For those serving in the military 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 those preparing for ministry: Tracy Swan Tuite, Lorraine Peterson, Abby Ferjak, and Ben Groth.

For those traveling during the summer months.

Preparing for new birth: especially for Rebecca, Simon and Dalia Schimmack as they await the birth of their second child

Pastoral emergencies: Please contact the church office (203-787-2346) with any pastoral emergencies. **Pastor Keyl** will be away from **July 12 -28**. If you are in need of pastoral care, please call Clare and if she isn't in the office, leave a message and she will notify someone to help you.

Summary of the New England Synod Assembly Priscilla Meléndez & Aníbal González

From June 3 to 5, Aníbal González, Bethany Keyl, and Pastor Tim Keyl were Bethesda's representatives to the New England Synod Assembly, which took place in Springfield, MA and hosted more than 500 voting members. We were extremely proud that a young member of our congregation actively participated in the assembly, and we thank Bethany for her willingness to be part of this important gathering. Pastor Kari Keyl was also part of our group.

For some of us it was our first such experience here in New England, and we truly enjoyed seeing old friends from Bethesda, meeting other Lutherans from our region, listening to outstanding preaching (by Pastors Stephen Marsh and Stephen Bouman), and voting for the Synod budget and various important resolutions. Following the Assembly's theme, "Doing What Matters", the Assembly members spent Saturday out in the community helping in different projects. Working in the community became still more meaningful since only two days before, Springfield experienced the effects of three tornados, which damaged homes, trees, and buildings.

On Friday afternoon we attended the first plenary session, in which we heard the Treasurer's and the Bishop's reports, and in which the anniversaries of rostered leaders were honored, including our own Pastor Leon Linquist's 50th anniversary of his ordination and Pastor Keyl's 25th year as ordained clergy. A significant part of the Bishop's report included the Synod's sponsorship of new ministries, such as "Joseph's Coat of Many Colors" in Bridgeport, CT, and the recently acquired Blue Spruce Inn, in Vermont, which is being transformed into a residence for inmates who have served their terms and are returning to society. In our view, this was one of the most important moments during our two-day assembly since it opened our eyes and ears to the outreach ministry done both by our Synod and the ELCA at large. It reminded us that we are part of a larger body and that we need to keep in our prayers both our Synod and Church, and to continue supporting them financially. Actually, there is no "them" and "us," but a "we" forming a single body in Christ.

On Saturday morning there was a plenary worship service in which each of us had the opportunity to give the Eucharist to our neighbor at the table. By 11 AM, we were all sent to go forth for our mission projects, and on the way we were shown some of the areas affected by the tornadoes. Bethany Keyl, Pastor Keyl, and I participated in a cleanup and children's fair at the Lion's Den, a faith-focused sanctuary for young people in the Springfield area (see <http://www.lionsdenoutreach.org>). Pastor Kari Keyl worked with a crew of six people to clean out a disintegrating garage for a woman in her 90's who has cancer. We all returned with a deep sense of community and joy after meeting the people from the area and contributing modestly to the various projects. In the evening, we attended the graduation of the School of Lay Ministry, which highlighted the active participation of lay members in the work of the Church in New England. Afterwards, Assembly participants enjoyed a fun concert by the *a capella* singing group "Ball in the House."

The final plenary took place early on Sunday morning. At this meeting four resolutions were presented and voted on: (1) A call to the Church to speak and act to prevent bullying, harassment, and related violence; (2) A Memorial Calling the Church to speak and act to prevent bullying, harassment, and related violence; (3) A Resolution to Establish Community Gardens; (4) A Resolution on the Interfaith Family Support Task Force. All four resolutions were approved by the Assembly. The morning ended with a Festive Eucharist in which Bishop Margaret Payne preached.

Aníbal and I are grateful that our congregation entrusted us with the responsibility of representing Bethesda at this Assembly. We left enriched and filled with enthusiasm about the incredible and challenging work that the New England Synod is doing, and knowing how important it is that we continue being part of that work. Thanks be to God!

Synod Assembly Reflections from Pastor Kari

As many of you know, I do a lot of traveling around on Sunday mornings to lead worship for a variety of congregations. In my preaching and in my conversing I like to get conversations going about what it means TO BE THE CHURCH in the world today. Times keep changing, and we can either moan about how hard it is to be

the church or we can get busy noticing the fascinating new ways of being church that are materializing all around us, right in our own communities, all over New England, and across the planet.

Well, I did a whole lot of this “noticing” while attending this year’s Synod Assembly, and what a delight it was to do so! The atmosphere was electric with the excitement of trying new ways of interacting and serving and “doing business”. I felt sure that this energy swirling around and within us was God’s lively Spirit, and it was fun to hear others observing this, too.

We sat at round tables with a mix of people from all over New England, so I was hearing stories of how God is showing up in many different contexts. And the next day, my table of folks ventured out to excavate the rain-soaked, many-layered, decades-old stuff out of the garage of an elderly woman in need. Our group marveled at the deep joy we felt while serving together, despite the muckiness of our task.

I so enjoyed seeing videos and personal presentations of the powerful ministries that are alive in our Church today. I hope you get a chance to go onto the New England Synod website (www.nesynod.org) to see for yourself. Don’t miss the video about *Cathedral of the Night*, an ecumenical street ministry that brings together those who have homes and those who do not, to worship and share a meal: (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uC6J2Tdk-JM>). And to get a bigger picture, watch the video shown at the Assembly which features creative ministries from across the ELCA, our national church body: http://www.elca.org/Design/Javascript/pop_video.htm?file=rtmp://media1.elca.org/video&id=freedinchrist&tl=Freed in Christ

Thanks be to God for showing up in a big way at our Assembly! The reverberations of this Spirit-filled gathering will be felt by many as we journey forward, seeking what it means to be the Church, to be God’s hands and voices and energy in the world.

Kari Henkelmann Keyl

Synod Assembly reflections by Bethany Keyl

On Saturday I went on one of two tour buses with about 100 people. Our leader was a very fun and entertaining pastor named Greg Dyer. He was kind enough to give us a tour of the city before putting us to work. We got to see some fun places like the Basketball Hall of Fame and the Springfield Armory. But we also were shown parts of the city where the tornadoes had done the most damage. It was shocking to see what the storm had done. Finally, Pastor Greg took us to our final destination: The Lion’s Den. The Lion’s Den is a safe place for troubled teenagers.

When we got to the Lion’s Den, Pastor Greg showed us the upstairs floor, the downstairs floor, and the park across the street. The upstairs had a TV, a foosball table, and an office. The downstairs had a room that was known as, “The Black Hole.” The park had a basketball court, open space, and there would soon be food. Some people cleaned out the office, some went to work on “The Black Hole,” some beautified the exterior of the Lion’s Den, and some, like me, worked at the park. Although it was much more fun than any work I’ve ever done.

When we first arrived at the park, there weren’t that many people there. But Pastor Greg assured us that kids would soon flock in. Some people, like my dad, got out their footballs or Frisbees. Other people started up basketball games. Soon kids of all ages were joining the fun. And what was I doing? Some thing that all kids love: face painting.

One of my pastor friends had entrusted me with her face painting supplies when she decided to organize “The Black Hole” cleanup. At the park, I discovered that a few other people had had the same idea. Business was slow at first, but then those three other people and I had our hands full with customers! Once we painted ourselves and a few others as guinea pigs, everyone got interested in seeing what we could do for them.

It was so great talking to these kids, even for a brief amount of time. Some of them told me a little bit about things they liked to do, or their tornado experiences. I also enjoyed getting to know the three people I was face painting with. Two of them were youth, Jaleel and Gabby, and one was a pastor, Becca.

I had such a great time that day, and painting those kids’ faces was so memorable for me in a way that I cannot describe. Creating a moment of happiness for people that you will never see again can be a huge God moment.

- Bethany Keyl