

June-July - 2021

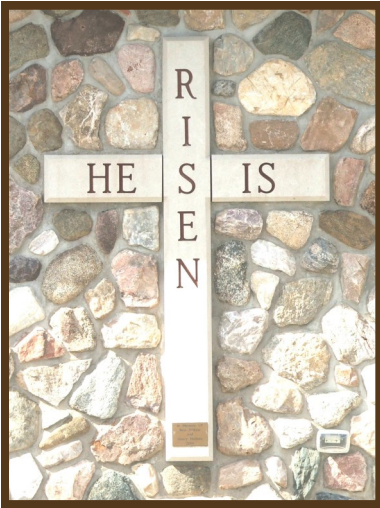
# The Bethany Messenger

*The newsletter of Bethany Lutheran Church*

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870 906-563-8472

Rev. Dave Johnson, Pastor

www.norwaybethany.org office e-mail: bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com



Bethany is best known as the village outside of Jerusalem where Lazarus, Mary and Martha lived. The word "Bethany" is from the Hebrew for "place of welcome." Our mission statement reflects the good news of our message to all: "Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

***"Whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's."***

**~Romans 14:8**

**Remember Rev. Dale Skogman**

***A message from Rev. Katherine Finegan,  
Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod***

Dear Friends in Christ,

It is with sadness that we announce the death of Bishop Emeritus Dale R. Skogman, age 81, who died on June 16, 2021 following a long illness at home surrounded by his family and prayer. He was born on October 21, 1939 in Iron Mountain, Michigan and was the son of Arthur Alfred Skogman and Esther Sophia (Skog) Skogman.

"God Bless the memory of this great man of God," said Orice Walters who knew Bishop Skogman well and served the church with him for many years on the synod level. "I only have good thoughts of him. He talked the walk and walked the talk his whole life."

Rev. Skogman was raised in Felch, MI and was a 1957 graduate of Felch High School. He was the class valedictorian and received the Alpha Beta award from the faculty in recognition of his contributions to the student body. In high school he received varsity letters in basketball and debate and was also editor of the school newsletter, the "Felch Flash."



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**Mark your calendar!**

**Where Kids Can Discover Jesus**  
**1:00—2:45 p.m., Monday-Friday, August 2-6**

A partnership between Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church, Grace United Methodist Church, and Norway Evangelical Covenant Church, where the program will be held.

**PASTOR'S PROFOUND PONDERINGS**

*John 1:1-5 – In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made. In him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.*

I have always loved summer, especially one thing in particular. Now, we all know that there is a lot to love about summer, so how could I possibly narrow it down to one thing? There is the warmer weather, the green grass, camping, summer vacations, fishing, swimming in the lakes, relaxing, exploring, hiking, and so much more! However, my favorite part of summer was the longer days. Yup, that is right, seeing the sun for so much longer is my favorite part of summer. In fact, I knew that summer was coming to an end as the days in August began to become shorter and colder.

As a kid I longed for the longer days of summer mainly because of the rule we had in our house. We were allowed to go outside and play while it was still daylight, however, once the street lights came on, we were expected to already be home. The winter months were the worst! After spending a big chunk of the day at school and riding the bus home, there was up to an hour of daylight left. There was no hope for anything to happen besides homework and to settle in for the night. Occasionally we might have a few friends over or go to a friend's house for an overnight, but as for the weekdays during the winter, the long nights just seemed to drag on.

As an adult, I love the longer days for a much different reason but also remarkably similar. We all know how the dark and cold of winter just drags on for months on end. We know what it is like to sit in for the night when the cold, winter nights seem to just drag and drag with no end. However, without warning it all of the sudden seems to come to an end. The days get warmer, the ice and snow melt, and pretty soon the daylight is noticeably longer. I do not know about you, but when that happens, it is a shock to me. I did not recognize that the days were getting longer until one day I just realize that they were.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." There are many people who know what it is like to sit amid the cold and darkness of the winters of life. Some of you reading this might even be there right now. The darkness creeps in and the daylight in your life has seemed to grow shorter and shorter. That darkness seems to just drag on and on, and the only thing you can do is settle in for the long nights to come. Summer and those longer days seem so far away, and you long for a time when the daylight shines brighter than the darkness.

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it." If you know what it is like to experience the winters of life like this, then take hope that summer does come. That the daylight does get longer and there is a time when you will all of the sudden just notice that the days are becoming longer. You have this God who is not only willing to shine light into the darkest parts of your soul, but also who comes and dwells in the midst of the darkness to share with you, His light. The cross is all about God stepping down into your life, to carry your darkness, and to give you, His light. Also, for those who know what it is like to experience winter more often than summer, God has also given us people in this world who can help, and if you need it, you can find help in many ways. God becoming one of us was for the purpose of setting us free, and there are people God can put in your life to help make that happen whether it be with medicine or having someone to talk and sit with you during the winters of life. Summer can and will come; don't wait in darkness alone.

If you or someone you love is in the midst of winter and summer doesn't seem to come, here some resources that may help bring the daylight:

Talk to your family doctor for local resources

Betterhelp.com for articles and online resources

Or call 800-273-8255 for the National Suicide Prevention Hotline; online chat is available too

In God's Peace,

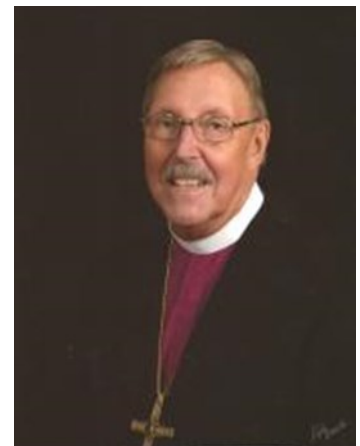


Pastor Dave Johnson

**Remembering Bishop Emeritus Skogman***continued from page 1*

He worked his way through college and seminary pursuing a number of part-time and summer jobs. He worked as a laborer and expeditor at the Iron Fireman Manufacturing Plant in Portland, OR. In Rock Island, IL he served as an assistant to the seminary archivist and night custodian at Missman, Stanley and Farmer drafting firm. He also worked for the Groveland Mining Company, Dickinson County Road Commission and as a pulpwood piece cutter.

He attended Lewis and Clark college, Portland, Oregon and received his bachelor's degree from Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois in 1961. In 1965 he earned his Master of Divinity from the Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago on the Rock Island campus. In 2000 Finlandia University, Hancock, Michigan bestowed on him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree,



Rev. Skogman was ordained into the ministry of the Lutheran Church in America on May 30, 1965 at Zion Lutheran Church in Metropolitan, MI where his great-grandparents, Erik and Brita Skog, were founding and charter members in 1895.

Rev. Skogman served as the pastor of St. Mark's Lutheran Church, Toivola, MI; Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, Atlantic Mine and Grace Lutheran Church, South Range, MI from 1965-71. 1971-76 he served as the pastor of First Lutheran Church, Gladstone, MI. He was the pastor of Holy Communion Lutheran Church in Racine, WI from 1976-85 when he accepted the call to Mt. Zion Lutheran Church, Wauwatosa, WI where he served from 1985-1991.

In 1991 he was elected Bishop of the Northern Great Lakes Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. He served in the office of bishop for eight years. In 1999, he and his wife moved to Gladstone, MI. In 2002 the Northern Great Lakes Synod bestowed on him the title of Bishop Emeritus.

During his active ministry, Rev. Skogman served on a vast number of boards and committees both in the church and community. His service included terms on the board of directors of Carthage College, Kenosha, WI; The Lutheran School of Theology, Chicago, IL; and Finlandia University, Hancock, MI. He was presented a Leadership Award in 1997 from Lutheran Social Services of Wisconsin and Upper Michigan in appreciation for his services. In 2007 Finlandia University bestowed on him the title of Board Member Emeritus in recognition of his service to the university from 1993-2007. He also served nine years on the board of the Augustana Heritage Association dedicated to perpetuating the life and legacy of the former Augustana Lutheran Church in America rooted in the Swedish tradition. He was a past president of the Gladstone Rotary Club. He was an RSVP volunteer for several agencies, the U.P. State Fair and a Reading Buddy at Cameron School. He was a past president of the Gladstone Swedish Club.

During Rev. Skogman's tenure as bishop, the Northern Great Lakes Synod developed a companion synod relationship with the Eastern and Coastal Diocese of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania. The two synods exchanged visits of the bishops, choirs, and work and witness groups. A special project of the Northern Great Lakes Synod was the construction of a three-story library at Kisarawe secondary school where underprivileged youth could complete high school and go on to college. In 2009, Kisarawe, which means "Hill of Hope," named its reading room the "Bishop Dale Skogman Library" in his honor.

Rev. Skogman married Josephine A. Larson on December 19, 1964 at First Lutheran Church in Geneseo, IL. Jo was Dale's faithful companion in life and ministry and they are the proud parents of three children and nine grandchildren. In addition to his wife, Rev. Skogman is survived by his children, Laura (James) Wendt, Beaver Dam, WI; Bradley (Sherry) Skogman, Waukesha, WI; Leah Skogman, Milwaukee, WI.

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Especially dear to Rev. Skogman were his grandchildren, Jamie, Jordan, Jeremy, Cora and Emma Wendt; Addison (Kyle), David, Peter and Ella Skogman.

In 2008, at the age of 68, he enrolled in the Children's Literature Institute, West Reading, CT, graduating in 2009 and was successfully published in children's magazines.

Rev. Skogman pursued a number of hobbies during his retirement including extensive travel at home and abroad and hosting family and friends in his retirement home. He was also adept at handwork and was recognized by the Sewing Circle at First Lutheran Church for crocheting in excess of 4,000 sweaters for distribution to needy children through Lutheran World Relief. His greatest joy was to be among his grandchildren, family and friends and to participate in the life of his church.

The family suggests that memorials be given to the Skogman Seminarian Scholarship Fund in the care of the Northern Great Lakes Synod, or to a charity of your choice.

We pray for comfort for all who are grieving the loss of Bishop Emeritus Dale R. Skogman. Peace to his memory.

Yours in Christ,

Bishop Katherine Finegan

***The church office asked Orice Walters to share some of her memories of Bishop Skogman.  
We thank her for this beautiful remembrance:***

This is some of my background with Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman. Most of it is my involvement in the Synods and Women's lay Ministry over the years. There were mutual friendships with relatives and friends from Zion Lutheran Church in Felch, where my mother was confirmed. It was Augustana Synod, then Lutheran Church in America Synod, Wisconsin- Upper Michigan Synod, and then the ELCA synod we now know.

As +Dale transitioned in Ministry in Wisconsin and Michigan, I was active in Lutheran Church Women. I became a Board member of the synod LCW and I got to know his wife Jo. It's interesting too, that his mother's maiden name was Skog, who was a founder of Felch Zion church. My mother's maiden name was also Skog. We never figured out if we were related, but Dale's roots were also Swedish-speaking from Jeppo, Finland where my grandparents were from, also called "Swede/Finn."

+Dale was very good friends with David and Mary Lou Blomquist of Felch too. They were very involved in working to get the Companion Synod going between Northern Great Lakes and the Eastern and Coastal Lutheran Church of Tanzania and the Kisarwi School there. Knowing David and Mary Lou, they were instrumental in promoting +Dale as a candidate for our synod Bishop when he had a church in Wauwatosa. A fun note on his name; He also knew my mother well and he'd greet her as the Skog woman (maiden name), calling himself the Skog man.

I was on the synod Mission Outreach Program Committee from the beginning of this synod so of course once again involved with + Dale. At one time he wanted me to do lay ministry for Calvary as a Mission Outreach member. Then he also promoted the Augustana Heritage nationally (proud of his Background I'd say) and edited an Augustana Newsletter and invited me to annual get togethers wherever they were held. + Dale was definitely a great Bishop and as a man of God beyond being an ordained Minister. We always connected at **Christmas** through his annual **Christmas** letter that was always fun to read and some in poetry. He was gifted in so many ways .

— Orice Walters

***Social Night*** will be held on **Tuesday, July 6 at 5:00 p.m.** at the Knight Owl in Norway. Join the fun!

***Christ in Our Home***, the daily devotional, is now available at Bethany. Pick up your copy on Saturday between 1:00 and 2:00 p.m. or at worship. Call or e-mail the church office to receive a copy by mail.



***The Grief Share Support*** hosted by Bethlehem Lutheran Church and First Presbyterian Church in Florence, Wisconsin is meeting every Tuesday from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m. at 409 Lake Avenue through September 7. For more information, call the parish office at 715-528-4851.

***Looking for Readers and Communion Assistants*** Volunteers are now needed to serve as communion assistants and to read the lessons and prayers at worship. Sign up at the in-person worship service or contact the church office to take part in this weekly ministry.

***Would you like to contribute flowers for Sunday worship?*** For a \$17.50 payment to Bethany Ladies Guild, flowers in memory of loved ones or in celebration of special events are set next to the altar and available to take home after worship or on Monday morning. Contact the church office to sign-up to offer flowers.

***Blessed communion kits and bulletins*** are available to pickup every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:00 and Sunday morning from 8:00 – 8:30 in the Bethany parking lot. Bulletins may also be downloaded from the Bethany web site. Please call Pastor Dave if you want to talk about home communion or the delivery of a communion kit to your door. Call or text him at 651-769-3365 or e-mail ftp565@yahoo.com.



***Bethany Lutheran Church is blessed by the gifts and generosity of so many people.***

**Special thanks to the “Cover Girls” and “Shawl Sisters and Misters”** for handcrafting comforters and shawls for our young people and adults in honor of such special occasions as baptism, confirmation, first communion, and graduation. These beautiful gifts are an everlasting symbol of how this congregation brings the love of God to other people.

**Special thanks to all who are serving as lectors and prayer assistants** at Sunday morning worship. Your participation makes an important contribution to our weekly gathering.





Turning to God, our Strength and our Redeemer, we pray for the family of Bishop Emeritus Dale Skogman; the family of Pam Theisen (Orice Walters' niece); Myrna and Paul Ward; Rick; and Ava Johnson Mitchell; For those who are having difficulties with being shut in for months because of COVID -19; for those who received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort; and for those who requested special prayers through our website.

*If you have an update to our prayer list, please contact the church office.*

**These weekly events provide opportunities for fellowship, learning, and growing in Faith through Bethany Lutheran Church:**

- Community Coffee, every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Bethany;
- Women's Online Bible Study at 10 a.m. every Wednesday
- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at 7 a.m. every Thursday at Bethany;
- Women's Bible Study at 10:15 a.m. every Thursday at Bethany, led by Pastor Dave Johnson and Pastor Irene White

june  july

### *Happy Birthday*

Leslie Randall	06/02
John Aune	06/04
Mike Randall	06/05
Cora Modlin	06/14
Addyson Burklund	06/21
Orice Walters	06/23
Donna VanHolla	06/24

Grace Schiltz	07/06
Norma Deau	07/08
Alex Manier	07/08
Jacob Anderson	07/10
Rebecca Whisler	07/13
Jeffrey VanHolla	07/16
Paul Dzik	07/18
Ross Moll	07/22

### *Happy Anniversary*

Dan & Pam Bjorkman	06/21/86
Paul & Lori Dzik	06/07/86
Jacob & Megan Lynch	06/22/13
Todd & Melanie Schmidt	06/27/15
Peter & Cheryl Kivisaari	07/03/71
Sam & Angela Koprowski	07/31/10
Dave & Katie Johnson	07/14/12
Mike & Leslie Randall	07/15/72



## ***Bethany Event Calendar***

Meeting at Bethany unless otherwise indicated  
**call or e-mail the church office or Pastor Dave to receive links to online events**  
**906-563-8471, bethanoffice@norwaymi.com**

### **Thursday, June 24**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, June 27**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online  
 Orice Walters, Lector and Prayer assistant

### **Tuesday, June 29**

9:00 a.m. Community Coffee in Great Room

### **Wednesday, June 30**

10:00 am Online Women's Bible Study  
 (then on break for month of July)

### **Thursday, July 1**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, July 4**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online

### **Tuesday, July 6**

9:00 a.m. Community Coffee in Great Room  
 9:00 a.m. Cover Girls  
 5:00 Social Night, Knight Owl

### **Wednesday, July 7**

Online Women's Bible Study on break for July

### **Thursday, July 8**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, July 11**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online

### **Tuesday, July 13**

9:00 a.m. Community Coffee in Great Room  
 9:00 a.m. Cover Girls

### **Thursday, July 15**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, July 18**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online

### **Tuesday, July 20**

9:00 a.m. Community Coffee in Great Room  
 9:00 a.m. Cover Girls

### **Thursday, July 22**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, July 25**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online

### **Tuesday, July 27**

9:00 a.m. Community Coffee in Great Room  
 9:00 a.m. Cover Girls

### **Thursday, July 29**

1:00 p.m. Men's Breakfast and Bible Study  
 10:15 a.m. Women's Bible Study

### **Sunday, August 1**

9:00 am Worship, in the Great Room and Online

## **Monday, August 2—Friday, August 5**

**1:00—2:45 p.m.**

**Vacation Bible School**

**in partnership between Bethany, Grace  
 United Method Church, and Covenant  
 Church, where VBS will be held.**

## **Bethany Lutheran Church Council 2021**

Meeting on the second Tuesday of each month at 6:00 p.m.

Ray Anderson, President

Dave VanHolla, Vice President

Lisa Anderson, Secretary

Mike Randall, Treasurer

Sally Borga - Lori Dzik - Diane Gendron

*Council in person and via Zoom at 6:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of each month.*



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church  
130 O'Dill Drive  
Norway, MI 49870

## Return Service Requested

### ***LET US PRAY. The ELCA Prayer Ventures for June and July 2021 include these suggestions and many more:***

Give thanks and praise to God for reminding us that we are made new each day through God's mercy and grace.

Pray for nations experiencing repeated waves of COVID-19 infection and communities impacted and struggling, and pray that their health care workers, medical facilities and efforts to vaccinate as many people as possible will slow the pandemic.

Pray that God's power, presence and love will ease our fears and uncertainties, calm the storms in our lives and strengthen our faith so that we will be bold and tireless disciples who do God's work in the world, share the gospel and serve our neighbor.

Give thanks that God is attentive to our prayers, hearing our cries for help, comfort and renewal and our expressions of joy, mourning, praise and thanksgiving.

Give thanks to God for the gift of freedom we enjoy in our nation. Pray that we will use that freedom thoughtfully and responsibly, working for justice and equity to liberate our neighbors—here and around the world—who are oppressed or excluded.



**For the full monthly Prayer Ventures throughout the year, visit <https://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>.**

**For daily devotions written by the people of the Northern Great Lakes Synod visit: <https://nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully>**