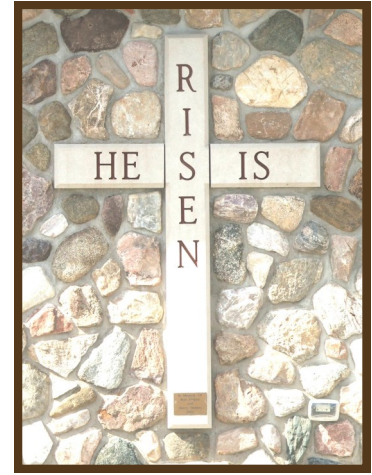


News and Announcements from  
**Bethany Lutheran Church**

130 O'Dill Drive ~ Norway, Michigan 49870  
906-563-8472 ~ [bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com](mailto:bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com)  
[www.norwaybethany.org](http://www.norwaybethany.org)



**September 2020**

***Welcome to Worship***

**Bethany Lutheran Church welcomes you at 9 a.m. every Sunday  
for outdoor worship in the pavilion or live-streamed online on Facebook.  
See our web site for a link to the service, which remains available after the worship hour.**

*O God, we thank you for your Son, who chose the path of suffering for the sake of the world.  
Humble us by his example, point us to the path of obedience, and  
give us strength to follow your commands, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.*

**Communion Kits and Bulletins available for pickup**

For those who worship online, Pastor Dave will continue to bless communion kits which are available for pickup every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:00 pm and Sunday morning from 8:00 – 8:30 a.m. in the parking lot at Bethany Lutheran Church. This will be done so that anyone worshipping with us online on Sunday morning will have the opportunity to receive communion with the community. Bulletins will also be available for pick-up from Pastor or can be downloaded from the Bethany web site. If you need someone to drop off a communion kit at your doorstep, please let Pastor Dave know by calling or texting him at 651-769-3365 or by e-mailing him at [ftp565@yahoo.com](mailto:ftp565@yahoo.com).



Online Gathering

Saturday, September 12, from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Every year, the Northern Great Lakes Synod gathers congregations by conference for fellowship, Bible study, and church business. See page 3 for more information.

Our grouping, the Four Rivers Conference, is one of eight synod. The congregations in our cluster are: Bethany, Norway; Calvary, Quinnesec; Bethlehem, Florence; United, Crystal ; Bethany, Amasa; Trinity, Stambaugh; First Lutheran, Iron River; and Grace, Pembine.

### PASTOR'S PROFOUND PONDERINGS

**3** For everything there is an appointed time, and an appropriate time for every activity on earth:

<sup>2</sup> A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to uproot what was planted;

<sup>3</sup> a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up;

<sup>4</sup> a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance.

<sup>5</sup> A time to throw away stones, and a time to gather stones;

a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;

<sup>6</sup> a time to search, and a time to give something up as lost; a time to keep, and a time to throw away;

<sup>7</sup> a time to rip, and a time to sew; a time to keep silent, and a time to speak.

<sup>8</sup> A time to love, and a time to hate; a time for war, and a time for peace. Ecclesiastes 3: 1-8

Everything has a season; although, when you're going through that season, it's hard to imagine it ever being any different. Like construction season. All summer long it seems like there will never be an end to road work. Those orange cones and orange signs sprout up all over the place like one of Michigan's many weeds. And right when you think you got rid of them, another 10 pop up out of nowhere!

Or what about allergy season? For me, now until the end of September is the worst part of the season for me. It happens every year, but it still catches me off guard. There I am, enjoying the warmer summer weather and then it sucks everything out of me. And no, it's not just a sneeze here or there to warn me it's coming or eyes starting to get itchy. It hits me like a ton of bricks and all at once. One moment I am fine, and the next moment I look like I've been crying for decades and I can't stop sneezing!

You see, the reason why I bring this up is because I know that allergy season is only a season and that it will come to an end, but right now, it feels like it's never going to end. This is my reality right now. Watery eyes, sneezing uncontrollably, thankful each time my nose opens to be able to fully breathe, and feeling completely drained of any and all energy. It's hard to see the light at the end of the tunnel when you're in the thick of it.

But that's the reality. Everything has a season, as Solomon says. When things are going on just as we expect, it can abruptly come to an end and things can drastically change. I hate to bring it up since I am sure we are all tired by now hearing about it, but it's like this with the threat of the Coronavirus. Back in March, the routine of our everyday lives changed drastically, and we've still been feeling the effects of that old season ending and the COVID-19 Season beginning.

Now we look to the upcoming Fall when church activities would start back up again: Rally Sunday, Sunday School, Confirmation, Bible/Book Studies, Quilting Groups, etc. What is Advent going to look like? What about Reformation Sunday, All Saints Sunday, Christmas Eve/Christmas Services? What is going to happen with all of the things that we were used to doing in the previous season? I don't know, but I do know that this is going to look drastically different than in the years past. I've heard many people say, out of frustration, will this ever come to an end?

Even though it may not feel like it, the answer is yes. For everything there is a season and we are in but just one of these seasons. COVID-19 Season will come to an end. There is, however, one thing that never changes: God. God is the constant amid all of these changes and through all of the seasons of life we go through. The other constant is God's love for you. There is nothing in heaven, on earth, or under the earth that could ever separate you from His love. As the seasons of this life come and fade away, may you cling to the One who never changes as He carries all of us through yet another season.

In God's Peace,



Pr. Dave



Online Gathering  
 Saturday, September 12  
 2:00—4:00 p.m. Central time

The Zoom link needed to participate in our conference gathering will be e-mailed to Bethany members this week. If you need assistance with Zoom, call the church office at 906-563-8472. Here is an outline of what our time together as the Four Rivers Conference of the Northern Great Lakes Synod will look like:

*Welcome and opening prayer*

- 20 minutes Dwelling in the Word with small groups
- 25 minutes Year of Discovery presentation with Q and A
- 5 minutes Lifelong Faith Formation presentation with Q and A
- 15 minutes Breakout sessions of conversation
- 10 minutes Synod ministry overview
- 5 minutes Website Review and Facebook page
- 5 minutes Record "Peace be with you" for Synod-wide Reformation Worship
- 30 minutes Conference meeting agenda, only if applicable

*Closing Prayer*

## Synod Offers Fun and Interesting Classes for Adults

The Northern Great Lakes Synod has launched a new series of classes for adults who want to increase their knowledge and understanding of the Bible, church history, Lutheran Theology, and more. "**Lifelong Faith Formation**" is geared to people who share a love of learning and have discovered that adult studies help them to grow in faith.

In these challenging and uncertain times, our Synod is offering online classes via Zoom this fall and winter. While discussions through computer screens are not ideal, online learning presents an opportunity to connect people from across the synod

Sign-up soon for one or more of these classes which begin in mid-September:

**Ecclesiastes Bible Study**, with Pastor Tommy Richter of Zion, Manistique

**"FREEDOM"- A Study in Galatians**, with Reverend Thomas A. Skrenes, Bishop Emeritus

**Introduction to Biblical Greek**, with Pastor Nicole Hanson-Lynn of Zion/Salem, Ironwood.

**Bias in our Communities: Addressing Race in Rural America** with Pastor Christina Forsythe of Porterfield/Beaver.



For more information, visit [www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation](http://www.nglsynod.org/lifelong-faith-formation) or contact Bethany's secretary Lori Ward at (615) 519-1969 or [lori.ward@nglsynod.org](mailto:lori.ward@nglsynod.org). Lori is coordinating the program for synod.

### Bethany Council Members

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### A message from the Congregational Council

We know that you many of you are unable to be physically present in worship, but your support to continue the mission and ministry of Bethany Lutheran Church is needed! We rely on you and your support to continue to have the ability to carry out the mission and ministry of this church even during the summer months. There is still work to be done as God continues to move and act in this world. We are invited to participate in that work! We want to encourage you to either continue putting your weekly offering in your offering envelopes and bring them to church during “communion pick up” on Saturday afternoon or Sunday morning OR to mail-in your offering, and we will keep it stored in the safe until it can be counted and deposited.

### Highlights from the August Council Meeting

At the August 11 meeting of the Bethany Lutheran Church Council, discussion included:

**Christian Education.** Pastor Dave anticipates five or six confirmation students in the fall and is looking at ways to meet online, while no Sunday School plans are in place for Bethany or Grace United Methodist;

**In-Person worship.** This was discussed at length, with consensus reached on week-to-week evaluation.

**Pastor’s Report.** Among other things, Pastor Dave reported that he is now posting weekly, 10-minute devotions on the Bethany Facebook Page. Pastor noted that United Lutheran Church in Crystal Falls and Bethany in Amasa, are making progress on calling a new pastor and will hopefully complete the process in the near future.

**Finances.** Council reviewed reports, bank statements, and the parish balance sheet. Finances are relatively stable due to a salary-relief grant and a large contribution received in June. A secure drop box will be installed outdoors to collect offering, while work is underway to receive donations through PayPal.



Mike Day, Ava Johnson Mitchell (Pastor Dave's Aunt), Al Patrick, Don Gattra, Tom Temple, Mike, Erick Schultz, Tony Solda, Ron Arnold, Terry, Kierstin, Jen, Arlene Coulter, Dan Gyselinck, Paula Conery, Ryan Dedo, Blake Sternhagen, and Jean Guldswog.

If you have an update to our prayer list, please let the Bethany office know. Thank you!

Tune in to Pastor Dave's weekly 10-minute devotion, posted every Wednesday on the Bethany Facebook Page.

The Daily Devotion Booklets "Christ in Our Home" are available at Bethany. Contact the church office at 906-563-8472 to have one mailed to you.



### *Happy Birthday*

09-02 Tony Dzik

09-08 Dartagnan Mollick

09-15 Barb Rice

09-07 Marg Day

09-10 Cheryl Carlson

09-07 Evelyn LaCourt

09-10 Duane Manier

09-17 Jim West

### *Happy Anniversary*

09-11 Bruce and Linda Hawkinson

### ***Join the conversation and fellowship***

Members and friends of Bethany are invited to  
Community Coffee at 9 a.m. every Tuesday in the pavilion  
and to

Pub Theology at 6:30 p.m. outdoors every Thursday at Calvary Lutheran Church



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

## Return Service Requested

«First Name» «Last Name»  
«Street Address»  
«City» «State» «Zip Code»

***Let Us Pray.*** *The ELCA Prayer Ventures for September 2020 include these suggestions and many more:*

As school resumes nationwide, pray that the Spirit will grant us wisdom, creativity and patience as we seek new ways of being church together, attend to the needs of teachers and students, care for one another, and fight the spread of COVID-19.

Pray for the Spirit to help us recognize, trust and appreciate God's authority and power over all creation, the universe and our everyday lives.

Pray that our acts of generosity will be driven by our faith, without partiality, restraint, the promise of reward or recognition, or the expectation of earning God's favor.

In the spirit of "God's Work, Our Hands," pray that our congregations, together with neighboring congregations, ecumenical and interreligious partners, community organizations and Lutheran agencies, will respond daily to the endless opportunities for serving our neighbor.

Pray for farmers, ranchers and agricultural workers as they struggle through the pandemic. Ask God to bless every aspect of their work, from planning and planting to tending crops and animals to harvesting and distributing their bounty, which feeds the world.

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

