

Make the Connection

Bethel Reformed Church Weekly Newsletter

February 5, 2012

Volume 5—Issue 6



Faithful Stewardship

We are not our own but belong to God in Christ Jesus. We believe that God has entrusted us with our lives and our resources in order to be enjoyed wisely and to glorify him and his kingdom. We also believe that we will be held accountable for what we have done with what we have been given. Therefore, gladly and generously, we offer ourselves and our resources (gifts, talents, skills, time, material possessions, money, etc.) to God to be used for his glory. We value the biblical notions of offering God our “first fruits” (our first and our best) and tithing.

This wonderfully written statement is quoted from Bethel's Core Values. It reminds us that we belong to God. Because we belong to God, so does our stuff.

Everything that we have is a gift from God: our cars, our house, our toys, our jobs, the money in our bank accounts. It all belongs to God. We show that we truly believe God owns everything by giving to God. This is known as a tithe, figured mathematically it is 10% of all that God has entrusted to us.

The tithe that we bring is what allows the Body of Christ to function in a “lost and broken world so loved by God”. Basically it is the way in which we are able to do ministry as Bethel Reformed Church here in Sheldon, IA. At the beginning of the year, we set a budget which states how much money we plan to spend on that ministry. Right now we are behind and we are doing what we can to cut ministry costs. (Our actual spending is still below the budget that we set.) Giving, however, is not keeping up.

Ponder this question for the week. How could your tithe help Bethel reach her God-given potential to share the love of Jesus in a lost and broken world?

Carry On,
Pastor Troy

This Week at Bethel Church

Note: Pastor Troy and Pam will be leaving for the RCA “Conversations” and “Commission on Worship” events in Orlando after the February 5 worship service. Pastor Troy will be back in the office on Tuesday, February 14.

Monday, February 6

7:00 p.m.—NA Meeting, Fireside Room

Tuesday, February 7

10:30 a.m.—Bethel Staff Meeting

7:00 p.m.—Worship Team Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

8:00 a.m.—Men's Prayer Group

5:30 p.m.—Wednesday Family Ministries

6:30 p.m.—Lifetree Café

7:45 p.m.—Sr. High Youth Group

Thursday, February 9

5:30 p.m.—Love INC Budget Mentoring,
Fellowship Hall and Fireside Room

Friday, February 10

6:30 p.m.—Comunidad Cristiana Bible
Study/Prayer Meeting, Fellowship Hall

*Scan this QR code with your
QR code reader app to access
Pastor Troy's sermon notes on
your Smart phone.*



Break In at Bethel

Sometime between late Saturday afternoon, January 28, and Sunday morning, January 29, Pastor Troy's office and the Bethel office was broken into. The person or persons took Pastor Troy's church keys from his office and approximately \$176 from the church office. Sheldon Police were notified and are working on the case. Deacons Ryan Cannoy and Randy Fonkert worked straightaway with Kevin Connor to re-key many church and Youth House doors.

Unfortunately, before the job could be completed, the person/persons entered the same two offices again on Tuesday, January 31. Nothing more, however, has been discovered missing as of this printing.

East and West Sioux Classis Seeking Classis Leader

The Reformed Church in America (RCA) East and West Sioux Classis are seeking a Classis Leader (CL) to serve as a catalytic leader and coach in the two classes. The CL will help achieve the vision for Northwest Iowa by coming alongside of pastors, consistories and congregations to inspire, equip, and empower them to multiply ministry in our region. The CL will work primarily in the areas of Multiplication and Revitalization as well as being a member of both Classis Executive Teams.

Men and women with a passion and experience for sharing Christ, building teams, developing networks and forming effective ministry partnerships are encouraged to apply. A detailed job description is posted on both the RCA and Synod of the Heartland websites:

www.rca.org
www.heartlandsynod.org

Please send resume and cover letter to Search Committee Chair, Mary A. Bechler, 3817 Chippewa Court, Sioux City, IA 51104 or e-mail to: mbechler@cableone.net or fax to 712-226-2687. Resumes will be received from February 1 - March 8.



Distribution Change for Your Words of Hope

The Bethel office has received a letter from the *Words of Hope* office saying that, beginning on July 1, they will begin offering Words of Hope daily devotionals free of charge. Until now, Bethel Church has been paying subscription charges for the quarterly devotionals. They write: *"We are doing this because we would rather have people support our ministry with voluntary donations than buy something from us. We want to build relationships, not business transactions. So we are eliminating the subscription fee to bring our devotional in line with the rest of our Bible study literature. We're doing this to serve more churches, especially congregations of the Reformed Church of America. We hope that this will allow many more people to engage in personal Bible reading with the help of our devotional."*

What does this mean for you?

In their letter, they offer to mail a copy directly to your home free of charge. According to the *Words of Hope*, many churches are choosing this option, sending them their mailing list and requesting only copies to display for visitors and guests. They state that regular attendees and home-bound members appreciate this convenience.

Bottom Line: *Words of Hope* will no longer be distributed via Bethel mailboxes. This Sunday (or next), you will be receiving a form from Bethel's office asking whether or not you would like to have the free devotionals mailed to your home. Bethel Church will make an appropriate donation to *Words of Hope* for their services. Please be sure to return the form by the end of February. Bethel's secretary will be in contact with *Words of Hope* and make the necessary arrangements to have a copy mailed to you.

Our Sympathy to Carol Statema and Family

Jim Statema, 67, passed away on Friday, January 20, at Sanford Sheldon Medical Center. His memorial service was held at Bethel on Saturday, January 28. Please keep Carol, Shelli, Janell, Roger and their entire family in your prayers now and in the days ahead as they mourn the loss of their loved one.

Our Sympathy to the Family of Sharon Uittenbogaard

Sharon Uittenbogaard, 66, passed away on Wednesday, February 1, at home. At this printing, her funeral is scheduled for 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 4, at Vander Ploeg Funeral Home. Sharon's family is from the Lake Park area. She is a long time member of Bethel's Prayer Ministry. Please say a prayer for Sharon's family and friends at this sad time.

New Address for Leon and Evelyn Koele

Leon and Evelyn Koele moved to the Aspen Heights Assisted Living Facility in Hull this week. Although their cell phone numbers remain the same, their new address is:

1410 Aspen Street, #122
Hull, IA 51239

May God Bless You, Leon and Evelyn, at your new address.

Thank You from Carol Statema and Family

Thank you for the cards, prayers, food and expressions of sympathy you have given to our family since Jim passed away. Your thoughtfulness, encouragement and support mean so much to us.

Thank You from Atlas Ministries

We would like to express our appreciation for the use of Bethel's nursery for our advocate, Tricia Dagele. We are grateful for your willingness to provide your facility for those in the Sheldon area who request our assistance.

Best wishes in this New Year as we discover God's blessings renewed!
Clark Haken, Director



Be an extension of God's Amazing Grace.
Send out a note of encouragement today.

Daffodil Days 2012

The week of March 12 is the American Cancer Society's Daffodil Days in O'Brien County. The daffodil is the American Cancer Society's "Flower of Hope" that cancer can and will be defeated.

Daffodil Days raise millions of dollars nationwide to support cancer research, education, advocacy, and patient services. All of these help the American Cancer Society strive toward its 2015 goals of reducing cancer incidence by 25%, reducing cancer mortality by 50% and see measurable improvements in the quality of life for all cancer patients.

O'Brien County churches are promoting this fundraiser and you can participate by making a donation to receive beautiful daffodils or share them with someone special. An order form has been placed in each Bethel mailbox. You can fill out this order form, enclose your check made out to the "American Cancer Society", and put it in the basket marked for this purpose in the back of the church. *Orders are due by Feb. 20.*

Hope Haven Horizons Newsletter Available

The winter edition of Hope Haven's Horizons newsletter is available in the large literature sorter in the back of the church. Interested persons should feel free to pick one up.

Birthdays & Anniversaries

- February 7 Leroy Boone
- February 8 Lorene Lambertus
- February 10 Schuyler Vreeman
- February 12 Renee Popkes Heitritter
Brad Tebben

Offering Record

January 29

Offering.....	\$6,022
Weekly Offering Needed	\$8,601
Offering Received YTD	\$27,296
Budgeted YTD.....	\$43,005
Percent Received YTD.....	63%

Discipleship for Adults

Sermon Seconds on Sundays

is a discussion of the Bible text(s) and main points Pastor Troy used in his sermon.

Men's Accountability Group

meets on Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m. Please contact Bill Langfitt at 324-4663 if you are interested.

Circle of Friends Bible Study

Meets the second Tuesday of each month. Currently studying "Live Deeply". Please contact Rose De Vos at 324-4213 to join them.



The End is Near? Apocalypse Explored at Lifetree Café

How and when the world will end will be explored at Lifetree Café on Wednesday, February 8, 6:30 p.m., in the Beanery. The program, titled "The End Is Near?" features a filmed interview with an apocalypse researcher, as well as audience discussion.

"It seems everyone's talking about the world ending in 2012," says Lifetree Café representative Craig Cable. "This program provides a place for people to explore what we know—and what we don't know—about the apocalypse."

Lifetree Café is a place where people gather for conversations about life and faith in a casual coffeehouse-type setting. It features real stories of real people, biblical insights, time to build relationships with old and new friends, laughter, and opportunities to serve.



Inspiration Hills 2012 Summer Camp brochures are here!
Contact Sue Fonkert to get your advanced copy!



Register online at www.inspirationhills.org

In the Area

Information about these and other events may be found on the bulletin board near the east entrance and in the yellow folder in the Beanery.

St. Paul Lutheran Church's Annual Pancake and Sausage Supper will be held on Monday, February 6, 5:00-7:00 p.m.

The Sheldon Area RED CROSS Blood Drive will be held Friday, February 10, at First Reformed Church. Appointments may be scheduled from 1:30-6:30 p.m. Everyone, beginning at age 16, is encouraged to help save a life! For more information or to schedule your appointment, call Bob Schat at 324-4443, or visit redcrossblood.org.

It's **Movie Night at Archer Reformed Church** on Sunday, February 12. "You are invited to join us as we watch Grace Card."

Northwestern College Theatre to Present Musical Comedy

The 1930s musical "The Cradle Will Rock" will be presented by Northwestern College in the Allen Theatre Feb. 16, 18 and 22-25 at 7:30 p.m. The comedy includes historical themes that strike a modern chord: corporate greed, a financial crisis and union busting. Allegorical characters like Larry Foreman, a union advocate, sing of workers' fight for shorter hours, more pay and an end to child labor.

Tickets are \$7 for adults and \$4 for students and can be reserved by visiting the DeWitt Theatre box office between 4 and 9 p.m. Monday through Friday or between noon and 5 p.m. on Saturday. The box office can also be reached by phone, 712-707-7098, or email, boxoffice@nwcsiowa.edu.

Bethel Reformed Church

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Office Hours:
9:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

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