



BETHEL UNITED CHURCH

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Minister: Rev. Norm Laird

May 24, 2009

Rural Life (Rogation) Sunday

10:30 a.m. Worship Service

Musical Prelude:

Welcome and Announcements

Awareness Meditation

Words of Gathering:

We gather this morning as God's joyful people.

We lift our hearts and voices in song, in prayer, in praise.

We gather this morning as God's thankful people.

**We are thankful for this space,
and the gift of this time,
and the gift of one another.**

Here we share our joys and burdens.

Here we walk the road of faith together.

Passing the Peace of Christ

Hymn: 649 VU, Walk with Me

Prayer of Humility: **Wondrous God, you speak to us in so many ways including story, scripture, and human life. Open us to your messages, so that we might experience new revelations of your love and power. Gently, gently, touch our places of deep longing...** (continue to pray as you choose...)

Assurance of Love

Hymn: 639 VU, One More Step Along the World I Go

A Question from the Fish Bowl

Scripture: Luke 24:44-53 *p. 91*

Acts 1:1-11 *p. 118*

A reading from A Faith That Makes Sense
by Robert Cormier

One: God speaks through human voices.

Response: **God's words are heard in human hearts and minds.**

Choir Anthem: 'Come Follow Me' by Elly & Steve Kupferschmid

Sermon:

Hymn: 563 VU, Jesus, You Have Come to the Lakeshore

Minute for Mission:

Offering and Prayer of Dedication: **You, our God, have spoken of justice, peace and wholeness for all. We choose to hear and respond. With our gifts and with our lives we seek to bring about, and live in, your realm of love. Amen**

Prayers of and for the people and the prayer from Jesus
(paraphrase p 916 VU)

Hymn: 699 VU, Live into Hope

Benediction and Blessing

Choral Amen 974 VU

Postlude

The Life and Work of the Congregation May 24, 2009

Welcome! We are glad you came! **Visitors** are asked to sign our guest book in the vestibule. **All are invited** to the auditorium following the service for refreshments and visiting.

Coffee (regular and decaf.) and juice are being served in the narthex each morning before the service. This is an opportunity to socialize prior to the Sunday worship services and is one way congregations are engaging in the **Emerging Spirit Campaign**.

This morning:

Head Usher: Vern Larson

Ushers and Greeters: Verna Larson
Diane Rambally
Bea Nicholson

Greeter and Lift Operator:

Reader: Steve Rambally

Musical Accompanist: Kerry Agnew

Bethel United Church welcomes **Kerry Agnew** at our worship service today; thank you for providing us with music.

Norm will be in his office for part of the day Tuesday to Friday most weeks. Feel free to drop in if you see his car parked in its spot. In an effort to be more easily accessible, Norm will for sure be in his office Tuesday evenings 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. and Thursday mornings 9:00 – noon. Please, feel free to drop in or call during these times

Today as we go into the gym for our usual refreshments and gab, consider sitting with someone you haven't spoken to for a while, or someone you do not know well. A suggestion from the Communication and Contact Committee.

The Forward Planning Committee will distribute a preliminary report this Sunday, May 24th and Sunday, May 31st. Members of the Committee will be available in the gymnasium following the worship service to discuss the report. Come to share your thoughts and ask your questions. You are, also, welcome to join a special meeting of Council on June 4th for further discussion of the future of Bethel Church. The final report of the Forward Planning Committee will be presented at a Congregational Meeting after worship on Sunday, June 14th.

'Salads' Recipe Book

In 1970 'Miriam Unit' of the Bethel UCW produced a "Salads" recipe book and it sold for .35 cents.

39 years later, Muriel Unit has reproduced it and copies will be for sale at \$3.00 in the gym following the service this morning. Only 11 copies left.

Bulletin covers – not yet sponsored for upcoming Sundays are May 31, June 14, 21, July 26, August 23 & 30.

General UCW Meeting

The UCW Meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Monday, May 25th in the form of a Potluck Supper. Guest speaker will be Olga Spesaniuk with the 'Hope Cancer Help Center'.

All are cordially invited.

Ham Supper

Once again the Ham Supper has happened. Thank you to all who donated food and their help. We planned for 300, but we were short by 100. Consequently, we had a fair amount of food left over. The excess from Sunday lunch was taken to W.P. Bate School who have a breakfast and lunch nutrition program. After expenses, our profit was \$1,595.19. Thank you once again.

Meals on Wheels: Volunteers are needed to continue delivering meals. The sign-up calendar is on the literature table. Bethel's coordinator is Shirley McKay (374-4883).

Check out Bethel's website for general information about our church, our service and news and events. The site address is: www.bethelsaskatoon.com or go to the WonderCafe site and do a church search using either the church name or postal code. **Any information for our website** must be forwarded through the church office. Information from a source, other than the church office, will not be posted.

Please use hand sanitizer, that is provided, to help prevent the spread of colds and flu-like illnesses.

Other Church and Community events:

7th Annual Golden Heart Dinner – McClure Place Foundation will be holding the Golden Heart Dinner on Wed., June 10, 2009 at TCU Place in Saskatoon. Reception is at 6:00 and dinner is at 6:45 p.m. Guest speaker is Peter MacKinnon, President of the University of Saskatchewan. Tickets are \$90.00 (tax receipt of \$50). To reserve tickets call – 955-7677. See poster for more details.

Do you love summer camp? **Camp Tapawingo**, a United Church Camp located on the shores of **Candle Lake** is looking for volunteer health care personnel (Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses with medication course, EMTs and/or physicians) to donate their time and expertise for half week and/or full week camps this summer. Camp Tapawingo is a wonderful place where children and teens (ages 6-16) can come to explore their relationship with Christ through nature and friendship. There are 8 camps running from July to August 2009. For more details please connect with **Sarah Salewich** at **652-2654** or scm574@mail.usask.ca

For those who understand blogging, you can follow the exploits of Pam's time in Uganda at <http://vwbvsfuganda.blogspot.com/>. There will be regular postings of her messages for the rest of us.

Camp Christopher – needs your help to recruit caring people for staff positions - check out posted info.

Queen's House – Summer Ecumenical Institute to be held on June 2 - 5 with Fr. Tom Ryan leading in "Telling our stories, shaping our future". Full conference and day passes available. June 2 at 7:00 pm will be a free public event.

Shelley Thiessen and her son, Ronnie, from St. Thomas Wesley will be attending 2009 Annual Affirm United Conference to be held in Paris, Ontario from July 31 – August 2. They are raising money for their travel and food expenses to the conference. If you can help by buying baking that they will be selling and delivering or with money as a donation, they would appreciate it. Please call 343-7096 for more information or check out the info on bulletin board.

Other up-coming events at Calling Lakes Centre – Creation Vacation & Heather Bishop in Concert (July 6 -10). Summer Oasis & Calling Lakes Classic – July 11 and Summer at the Centre (July 12- 16).

Justice and Reconciliation – An Invitation to Gather beginning June 16 at 12 noon with lunch and ending the afternoon of June 17, 2009 at Calling Lakes Centre – Fort Qu'Appelle. This gathering is funded by Justice and Reconciliation – there is no cost to attend. We invite at least two people from every presbytery to attend. It is a time to listen to each other, learn about current issues and share resources. If you wish to attend call Sandra at (306) 721-3311. Check out posted info.

The **Nutana 100 Celebration Committee** is having a Garage Sale on May 29th (5:00 pm – 9:00 pm). & May 30th (9:00 am - 5:00 pm) in the Nutana Collegiate Gym. Call Cliff at 222-0860.

YOUTH LEADER REQUIRED -- GROSVENOR PARK UNITED CHURCH. In consultation with the minister and the Christian Education Committee, the Youth Leader will lead the Sunday morning Youth program which runs from September to May. Application deadline: June 15, 2009. See poster for more.

Young Athlete Saskatchewan (YAS) - Saskatchewan's Summer Basketball Supercamps taught by Certified Professional A Teacher Coaches accomplished in the Field of Basketball Skills Development. Camps for youths of all levels athletic ability and playing experience. Anyone can obtain a free YAS 2009 information package by calling (306) 242-2425.

Eclipse, entertainment for the whole family, will be performing on Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m. at Meewasin Valley United Church – admission \$15, \$12 and \$5 (see posted information).

The Worship Committee of General Council 40 is seeking prayer flags from each congregation. They hope to use the prayer flags as a symbol of unity of United Churches across Canada.

Farewell Party for Laura Balas – Everyone is invited to attend a De-Covenanting Ceremony and Farewell Party for Laura Balas principal of St. Andrew's College on Monday, June 15 with a barbecue supper at 5:30 p.m. and program at 7:00 p.m. Bring your own lawn chair and donation for silver collect, if possible.

Remember when we donated money to a **Bridge Project** in **Mozambique**? We just heard from Don Kossick and he says, "It has been 3 years in the making but it is nice to know that it will be completed within the next 3 to 4 months. The labour to build has been supplied by surrounding communities. The resources to buy the cement, iron and transport has come from individuals, organizations and churches such as Bethel United. The estimated official cost for the Bridge was about \$300,000 and we are doing it for about \$40,000. Our latest contributions are coming from an Anglican Parish in England. So we really see it as a Bridge of Solidarity and Hope in terms of how it will help communities. Thanks to everyone at Bethel for their continuing support - we are looking forward to sending you a photo of the completed Bridge." (sent by Jeanette Liberty-Dunns.)

Meetings and events this week:

Monday:

- UCW Potluck and General Meeting , 6:00
- Cubs, 7:00

Tuesday:

- Staff Meeting, 9:30

Wednesday:

- Bible Study is finished until September
- Choir practise, 7:00
- Scouts, 7:00

Lectionary readings for next Sunday, May 31 are:

Acts 2:1-21; Psalm 104 VU, Part 2;
Romans 8:22-27; John 15:26-27, 16:4B-15

Stewardship Seconds 2009 - May 24:

God sends us as stewards into the world, glorifying God's name and protecting God's children.