



Dear Church Family,

This has been a difficult week. Many of you may have heard about the Greenwood fire in the news. You may have even experienced some smoke from that fire in Bemidji. Greenwood Lake is just a little ways from our family cabin on Sand Lake. The western edge of the fire is only about a half mile from our cabin. We've been one wind shift away from destruction of the cabin that has been in Michelle's family since the late 1930's.

We are thankful for the work of the firefighters and forest service. The area has been evacuated. Travel has been suspended throughout the nearby Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. While there has been destruction of property, no lives have been lost.

I've been watching the forest change over most of my adult life. I've paddled past smoldering islands following fires of the past. In the last several years, the forest has been filled with dead balsam. Budworm infestation has killed most of them, leaving a dry fuel load in the best of circumstances. Mix in the summer drought and our current situation is predictable.

Even if our cabin is preserved, the forest we return to will not be the same. Over twenty thousand acres have already burned and the fire has not been contained. It's going to be a season of grief and loss on Sand Lake.

Yet the forest will renew itself. Something about the forest wants to live-- and so the forest finds a way. It will be a changed forest. While many of the geographic features of the area are timeless, the living forest is always in some season of change, but usually not this dramatic.

We as a church are in a season of change. The pandemic has affected how we do church in dramatic ways. While we have returned to in-person worship, attendance has been in the 30-60 range. Meanwhile, online worship continues to hover between 90-120 on the churches Facebook and YouTube channels. I've had several conversations with people who are not ready to resume in-person worship. Sometimes this is due to COVID, and sometimes because people have adjusted to and enjoy online worship. Even if the pandemic was over, we would not be returning to the church as we have known it.

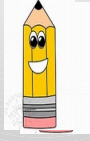
Yet like the forest, the church is a living being. Facing adaptive challenges, your church family is adjusting and adapting to the changing human landscape. While change is unavoidable, we also trust the timeless qualities of God's love to persist with us on the path to abundant life. I believe the "life which wants to live" I love within the forest is a movement of the Holy Spirit. Our church family embodies the Holy Spirit this way. We want to live. How we do this continues to change, and in some ways, will never be the same. But we are adapting and adjusting along with the Holy Spirit in this season of our communal life. It is a great challenge, and also a great adventure.


So I am asking you, and it is a big ask, to recommit yourself to the living entity we call our church family. In whatever adaptive way we continue together, bring your prayers, presence, gift, service, and witness to your church in gratitude for the abundant life God is giving us through Jesus Christ.

May we live abundantly. May we hope faithfully. May we love joyfully.

Pastor Rob

Have you looked for our hidden picture? Once you find what we've hidden in the Newsletter, call the church office at 218-751-3503. Leave the day and the time you're calling. Also, tell us where you found it. The item you will be looking for this month is a Pencil, as seen below. We have a wonderful prize waiting for you! ↓ One winner per year! Good Luck!



 Bemidji Lutheran
Campus Ministry

Rooted in the Lutheran
tradition.

A welcoming spiritual
community for all seeking
God's love & grace.

Web: lcm Bemidji.org

Facebook : Lutheran Campus Ministry - Bemidji

Instagram : @bemidji_lcm



Congratulations to Pastor Rob who is now on the Lutheran Campus Ministry Board. "Lutheran Campus Ministry is an organization set out to help students grow in their faith as well as provide a place for students to hang out and have fun with fellow students."



Thank you to Dawn Dahl and Linda Nelson for all the time you put in to Community Table. Your efforts have never gone unnoticed. Best of Luck!

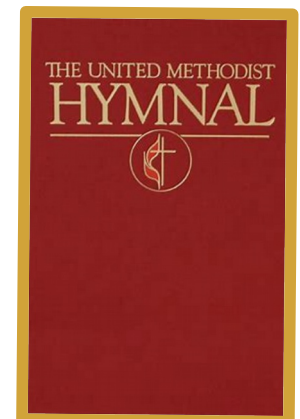
If you know of anyone willing to help out with Community Table on Wednesday and Thursday nights, please call Jane Killgore at (218) 760-6300.

p.s. Linda Nelson is in the pink shirt and Dawn Dahl in the black. Ann Campbell in the white apron is still volunteering with us. 😊 Thank you so much!

Every year, Faith and Fellowship organizes a Christmas Bake Sale with proceeds going to some church projects. In 2019, the proceeds were to go towards new church hymnals. Then COVID hit, and the purchase was put on hold. With opening church services to in-person worship again, it was time to purchase hymnals. Besides thanking the people who donated baked goods and those who made purchases, a special thank you goes to:

**Dave and Nancy Swenson
Jerry Pickett**

for their generous contributions towards the new hymnals. We were able to purchase **150** new hymnals with your generous donations.



BEMIDJI UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

10:00 AM – 2:00PM (M – F)

Office Phone: 218-751-3503

Pastor Rob Cell: 218-766-8744

Email Addresses: Church Office umcbji@paulbunyan.net

Pastor Rob: revrmkopp@gmail.com

Mailing Address: PO Box 607, Bemidji, MN 56619

Street Address: 924 Beltrami Ave. NW Bemidji, MN 56601

Happy Anniversary

September 02- Merlyn and Velma Wesloh

September 08- Lowell and Barb Pommerening

September 12- Mike and Rita Albrecht

September 12- James and Lee Ann Hess

September Birthdays

Sept. 04- Myrna Freborg
Sept. 10- De Pickett
Sept. 11- Betty Howard
Sept. 11- Danielle Kimble
Sept. 12- Nancy Swenson
Sept. 13- Pat DeChaine
Sept. 14- Mary Ann Gray
Sept. 17- Elaine Clark
Sept. 24- Judy Comstock
Sept. 27- Karen "Bubbles"
Thompson

CELEBRATE

September Birthdays

by Annette Wynne

Golden in the garden,
Golden in the glen,
Golden, golden, golden
September's here again!
Golden in the tree tops,
Golden in the sky—
Golden, golden, golden
September's going by!



JUST A REMINDER....

Articles for the October Newsletter are due in to the office no later than **9:00am on Wednesday, September 15, 2021**

You may text, email or call the office.

Pastor Rob is in the office Wednesdays and any other weekdays by appointment.

PRAYERS

...at Neilson Place: Jean Slinkman

...at Trillium: Judy Comstock

...at Windsong: Wag Collins, Bert Clark, Evan Hazard and Dotty Naramore

...at home with her daughter, Kathleen Magsam

...at Havenwood Care Center: Patty Boyer, Mary Conner

...at Goldpine: Laura Hays, Ruby Hausauer, Helen LeClaire Robert Frazey, and Lois Jessen

...at Birch Haven Village: Betty Brooks

...at a home in Tennessee: Betty Howard

...Please keep Don and Beverly Leet in your prayers. They are recovering from an auto accident. Don is recovering in the Twin Cities with his children.

Beverly still in rehab. Beverly Leet
(701) 404-5100 4671 38th St. S
PAM's Switchboard PAM Rehab Room #110
Fargo, ND 58104

...The family of Lorna Sullivan, preparing for her funeral service, Saturday, September 04, 2021. 3pm Visitation and 4pm Funeral. Pastor Marva Jean Hutchens will preside. Fellowship and Food will follow at Suzy and Hondo's Dance Studio 1259 Tyler Ave. SE, Bemidji, MN

... Please contact Jan Grimm to add a name to the Prayer Chain. Her phone number is:
H- (218) 444-0209 C- (218) 821-7816



Offerings and Misc. Received for June 2021

General Offering.... August 10, 2021 \$3,589.41
August 24, 2021 \$1,711.55

On-line Giving for August.....\$1,384.00





Trinity Lutheran Church of Bemidji has set the date for their annual Meatball Dinner. The dinner will be held on **Sunday, October 3rd, 2021** from 11:00am – 2:00 pm at the Church.

More information will be forthcoming.

Thank you.



The family of Jim and Betty Howard would like the congregation to know that **Betty has been moved to a Nursing Home in Sparta, Tennessee, to be closer with family.**

Jim has a new address
Jim Howard
508 Mose Drive
Apt. #531
Sparta, Tennessee
38583

If you would like to get a hold of Jim's daughter Carol, her number is (931) 316-3195. Betty was previously at Havenwood Care Center, in Bemidji.



Many thanks to everyone involved in the brunch following the July 28th music recital featuring Glenn Seibel and Wayne Hoff. The helpers were many starting with members of the Board of Trustees and the folks from Community Meals helping to get Fellowship Hall in tip top shape. The donated coffee cakes get a score of A+, and all the helpers scored A+ also. Our best calculation as to how many stayed for brunch following the recital was approximately 95 people. We received almost \$200 in pre-donations from church members which was so helpful in the food planning. We were so surprised and so delighted and we are giving an A+ score to you folks, also!! This triple A event filled our hearts with joy,
 Sandy Sterr, Verna Lofberg &
 Deanna Nichols



September 19, 2021

Rally Sunday is right around the corner! We'll have performers, delicious food, plus artists, service and information booths. Come one; come all. We need chefs, plus if you would like to run a booth of any kind text Deborah at: (218) 214-3581

SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY MORNING COFFEE SERVERS

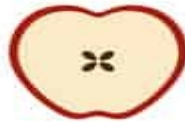
Needed immediately! Can you sign up for one Sunday a month? Also, homemade treats for coffee after service can now be brought in. Please contact Deborah Davis if you are willing to serve coffee and bring homemade goodies. You could also pick up something from the store. It doesn't have to be homemade.

Thank you!



Apple Picking Word Search

apples
autumn
barrel
cider
ladder
picking
pie
wagon



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p	n	p	z	t	b	s	y	q	h
l	c	f	j	m	a	l	a	p	z
n	s	u	c	p	r	a	p	l	f
g	q	r	a	i	r	d	p	h	v
r	n	e	u	c	e	d	l	f	z
e	o	e	t	k	l	e	e	f	v
d	g	k	u	i	w	r	s	e	f
i	a	g	m	n	m	r	w	i	l
c	w	g	n	g	d	h	p	p	e



You may notice some new changes in this months **Voyageur**. We've taken your suggestions and hope this makes it easier to read. We are an older congregation, so you will notice some bigger fonts with articles, and the Prayer List has been enlarged for you to see. If we can help in any other ways for you to enjoy this monthly publication, please let us know. 😊



Thank you **Ann Halden** and **Judy Dvorak** for volunteering with the Community Table. Your time and talents are so appreciated.

Thank you for the nice letter **Helen LeClaire!** It's great to know you enjoy the monthly Newsletter. We hope you are staying well. 😊 Your Office Friends,

Deborah and Karen

Thank you **Ken and Deanna Nichols** for helping prepare the new Hymnals that were bought recently. Your volunteering really does mean a lot. **Deanna** also is The Faith and Fellowship Chair. She sends a lot of appreciation cards out and thank yous for Memorial gifts given to **BUMC!**

United Methodist Church
924 Beltrami Ave.
PO Box 607
Bemidji, MN 56619-0607

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Email: umcbji@paulbunyan.net

September 2021 VOYAGEUR
Published Monthly
September Back To School!

Web Site: www.bemidjiumc.com

BACK TO SCHOOL!



Congratulations to Sue Young for finding the hidden sunflower in last month's Voyageur. We hid it in the picture of Angel towels made by Marcia Roline's mother. ☺ Sue wins a special prize from Deborah's office of fun!



Bemidji Methodist Women will meet on September 15, 2021 at 9:15am.

BMW

HOSTESS: Sue Cuperus and Deanna Nichols

DEVOTIONS: Deanna Nichols

PROGRAM: Speaker is Jeff Molnar "Farmers' Market-Then & Now"

**Plan to join us for a Great Brunch and get together.
Invite a guest. Everyone is welcome!**

open hearts
open minds
open doors



The People of the United Methodist Church

Church Staff

Reverend Rob Kopp~ Pastor
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Karen Thompson "Bubbles"
Office Administration
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Deborah Davis
Volunteer & Events Coordinator
BUMCcoordinator@gmail.com

Leisa Bragg
Accompanist

Jane Killgore
Community Table Coordinator

Maria's Cleaning
Custodial