



Bethesda Lutheran Church
“Welcome One Another”

The Visitor

October 2010

305 Saint Ronan Street, New Haven, Connecticut 06511 • (203) 787-2346

Learning Hour Off to a Successful Start!

Thanks be to God for such a wonderful gathering of sisters, children, brothers, families in Christ on our first day of Sunday School! The morning of September 19th I could hardly believe all the great things that were about to take place at Bethesda:

- We would welcome Pastor Keyl and his family to our midst.
- He would meet the children.
- We would all worship together.
- We would start our Sunday School program for the year—always an exciting moment in the life of a congregation.
- We would have a congregational picnic.

In addition to these wonderful events about to take place, I looked out the window to see that it was a sunny and beautiful Sunday morning! Needless to say, we are blessed with God’s love and mercy, and pray that this will be a fun year for our children and youth as we all grow in faith and commitment.

We sincerely thank the Sunday School teachers—past or present—for offering their time and talents to guide our children in this journey of faith. When called they all responded: “Here am I, Lord”; we are grateful for their service.

On October 3 our program will be collecting school items so that the children can prepare the “Gift of the Heart” Kits and send them to children in need. Each bag will have the following items:

- One pair *blunt* scissors
- One 30 centimeter ruler (12”)
- One pencil sharpener
- Six new pencils with erasers
- One large eraser
- One box of 24 crayons
- 3 70-page single subject notebooks

Watch for the coming announcement of our first Super Saturday Family Gathering on October 30th, 4:30-7:30 p.m.

If you have friends looking for a church and a Sunday school program, please invite them to Bethesda. We look forward to welcoming newcomers.

– Priscilla Meléndez

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Holiday Fair -- November 13th

Bethesda's Holiday Fair is just around the corner! It will be held on Saturday, November 13th, 10:00 – 3:00 p.m. in the Campanius Room. We hope you will be able to help us in one of many ways.

First, we need helpers at the tables. We are contacting folks who helped out in the past, but we would also love to have “newbies.” If you can’t help by working, please come and shop, and bring friends and relatives. The more the merrier.

If you can buy some raffle tickets for this year’s quilt, please see Maureen Anderson or call her at 203-488-4993. She will have them available on Sundays at coffee hour, and will also have pictures. Friends, relatives, and neighbors are often willing to buy single tickets (\$1 each) or a book of 6 tickets for \$5. And of course the tickets will be sold the day of the fair.

If you are a baker or a candy maker, those tables always need donations. And it is not too late to start making small items, or to clean out troublesome areas in your house for items to donate to our Trash and Treasure area. Donations can be dropped off starting in October; just leave them at the edge of the stage. We hope to find someone to head up Trash and Treasures; if you are a tag-sale person, we need your help.

We will be selling frozen, homemade apple pies at the fair. Please let us know how many pies you would like (one or two, or...) so we know how many to make. Please sign up at coffee hour. See Maureen Anderson or use the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board by October 10th. We will present two pie-making workshops in the Campanius Room kitchen on October 2nd and October 16th, 9:30 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. Please join us to make these wonderful creations. It’s great fun.

Finally, we will offer a session to put together and decorate soups-in-a-jar and other hostess gifts on Saturday, October 30th, starting at 9:30 a.m. upstairs in the Muhlenberg Room. Please join us for this fun event, too. See or call Maureen Anderson at 203-488-4993 or Sue Berube at 203-287-8170

New Members Received

On Sunday, September 26th Bethesda welcomed the following eight new members into our community of faith: Abigail Ferjak, Ben (Associate Member) and Chloe Groth, William Stubbs, Rev. Timothy Keyl, Rev. Kari Henkelmann Keyl and their children Gabriel and Bethany.

We rejoice at their presence among us and ask that you welcome them warmly. We will have additional information about our new members in next month’s Visitor.

Bethesda Music Series Presents Reformation Concert October 31, 2010

Bethesda Music Series will offer its first concert of the season on Sunday, October 31 at 4:00 p.m. The Concert will feature Cantata #66, “Erfreut euch, ihr Herzen” (Rejoice you Hearts) by Johann Sebastian Bach with chamber orchestra, as well as organ works by Corrette and JS Bach. The Bethesda choir will be featured in the cantata and in choral anthems under the direction of Lars Gjerde, Bethesda’s new Music Director. The concert is free and open to the public. Proceeds from a free will offering will benefit Lutherans in Mission and will be matched, in part, by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

From the Pastor ...

I'm Tim, and I'll be your server today

*Think of us in this way, as servants of Christ and stewards of God's Mysteries.
(1 Corinthians 4:1)*

Those who greet you at a restaurant table often offer their name and their role in serving. While the idea of being a servant is not generally desirable given the history of slavery in the United States, it is a commendable biblical role to care for one another. While current society elevates taking care of oneself as a value, the biblical injunction from Jesus is that he came not "to be served, but to serve."

"I'm Tim, and I'll be your server today." I am glad to settle into my role as pastor of Bethesda in these first weeks. I bow to your honored history. I am humbled by your setting in New Haven. I am curious to know who you are, and how you have found your way into this community of faith.

St. Paul wrote to the congregation at Corinth while it was splintered into factions who claimed divided allegiances. Paul wanted to cut to the chase: he came to proclaim Christ, not himself. He wanted to be found trustworthy, rather than greedy or self-possessed. And in this instance, I think he proves himself a model missionary of the Gospel.

As we center ourselves on Christ and the mysteries of God, we will be strengthened in our togetherness. Among my many hats to wear as pastor, my particular role is to preside at worship and to preach. For the ancient church as for us, God's presence among us in our weekly Sunday gatherings can be called the "holy mysteries."

But that is true for our journey together wherever and whenever we are the community of Christ at Bethesda. We are all servants of Christ and stewards of God's mysteries. We are spiritual seekers, pilgrims on the journey, looking for what is yet to be revealed.

So we can bow to one another, as servants together. We can share what we have, our stories, our resources, our gifts, our joys, and our sorrows.

I so look forward to lending my ear to listen to you. I am honored to share my voice in speaking (and singing!) with you.

And most of all, I look forward to being with you as a steward of God's mysteries, and table and font, in song and in prayer, in proclamation, and yes, yes, yes, in service.

Bowing,

Pastor Tim Keyl

SAVE THE DATE: Pastor Keyl's Installation will be All Saints' Sunday, November 7, at 4:00 pm. Come and celebrate new ministry at Bethesda!

Council Corner



The Council welcomed Pastor Keyl to his first meeting and was delighted to approve for membership Kari, Gabriel, and Bethany Keyl. New members will be received September 26.

The need for leaders of several efforts was discussed and possible people were identified and will be approached.

Doug Gray reviewed Bethesda's service contracts, so all members would be familiar with them, and distributed a bid for a new roof for the parish house.

2010 Ice Cream Social

Friends from Bethesda's neighborhood came and so did many members! More than 110 people attended our Ice Cream Social last month and Bethesda's members were great hosts while sporting their signature T-shirts.

The inclement weather was a blessing in disguise, for it brought all activities together in the Campanius Room. Music, crafts, and conversations were lively and enjoyed over Ashley's ice cream, abundant trimmings, and a variety of wonderful cookies brought by members. Everyone seemed to enjoy the event and we were pleased to see many new persons join us for the evening.

Area jazz veteran and saxophonist Steve Moran joined Bethesda member and pianist Chris Lee to provide new renderings of jazz standards. As an added twist, the jazz duo was joined by Bethesda's Richard Ford who sang beautifully classic selections from the *Great American Songbook*.

Joanne Kimball captured the interests of many through creative crafts. Richard and Donna Slater oversaw the food and drinks while Richard, Martin, Chris, and Janis were "scoopers." Everyone consumed ice cream along with a substantive number of cookies; however, the supply of cookies proved generous enough to be shared with the recipients of the monthly shelter meal.

Thanks to Bethesda members for attending, and for being so generous in bringing cookies. Visitors were happy and expressed their joy in coming.



The Bethesda Choir has resumed their regular Wednesday rehearsals and have sung during the Sunday service two Sundays in September. Rehearsals with the new Director, Lars Gjerde, have been great fun as well as learning experiences, and the choir is preparing its Reformation Sunday concert. Former and potential choir members are encouraged to find their way to the choir room on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. Lars is eager to get to know everyone better—choir members and others. Please e-mail Lars at music@bethesdanewhaven.org if you have questions about singing in the choir.

Want to know more about upcoming musical events, or music selections in our musical ministries? Join the Facebook page "Music at Bethesda" to get answers to your questions.

Study Bibles

A limited number of New Lutheran Study Bibles are still available for purchase. These are hard cover Bibles, being offered at the same price (\$25) as soft cover Bibles. If you would like one, please call the Church Office, (203) 787-2346.

Offering Update – Plan for autumn giving

The busy autumn schedule has begun—but don't forget to keep up your pledge!

	2009	2010	Ahead/Behind	%
9/19	\$113,589	\$106,315	-7,275	-6%
<i>Yr End</i>	<i>\$167,520</i>	<i>\$158,237*</i>	<i>-9283.82</i>	<i>-6%</i>

*Budgeted based on projections from pledges and past giving habits.



Thanks from Pastor Preuss

Our deepest and most sincere Thank You to members and friends of Bethesda for the way in which you welcomed us into your midst during the time of transition. It was a great blessing to journey with you as your Transitional Pastor. We are most appreciative of your prayers and well wishes when Marilyn underwent treatment for leukemia.

Thank you for your kind words, special reception, and gifts presented following the Worship Service on September 12th. The picture of Bethesda bearing the names of so many members has a special place in my home office.

We rejoice with Bethesda as a new chapter of ministry begins with Pastor Keyl and his family joining with you in mission. You will always be a special part of our lives.

Our journeys all continue within the Body of Christ. Marilyn continues to regain her health for which we rejoice. I anticipate an opportunity to begin traveling with another congregation as it moves through a period of transition. Yes, the journey continues!

May you always know and give thanks to God for God's many blessings alive in you.

Peace be with you,

Pastor and Marilyn Preuss



Pastor Portrait Project Complete

A piece of Bethesda's history has a fresh new face! Through the efforts and contributions of many people, the pictures of Bethesda's former pastors have been re-framed and returned to their newly-painted display board in the Campanius Room.

A big thank you to Richard Ford for organizing the project and doing a lot of the leg work, including the tedious job of re-hanging the pictures; Betty Neal for refurbishing the display board with help from Stina Neal; Jeanne Bjorkman for arranging for a photo of her portrait of Pastor Merkel; Molly Dinneen for negotiating a good price from the framer; and to the following people for their generous donations that made it all possible: Molly Dinneen, Becky Lerud, Greg & Carlen Mandas, Fred Neumann, and George Patrick. Much appreciated!



Wednesday Morning Bible Study

The theme for Bible Study sessions this fall is Spirituality. You are invited to attend the bi-weekly gatherings, which feature light food, fellowship, biblical readings, and lively discussions. Everyone is welcome; sessions begin at 8:00 a.m. and end at 9:00 a.m., meeting in the Parish House Living Room.

Dates for the next sessions are September 29th, October 13th and 27th, and November 10th. Please mark your calendars.

Drink Coffee – Win Prizes!



Fall Adult Forum begins with series on Fair Trade

On September 26th, our speaker was Liz Rider, manager of Ten Thousand Villages, New Haven. Liz is a passionate advocate for Fair Trade. The global fair trade movement began with the founding of Ten Thousand Villages more than 60 years ago through the visionary work of Edna Ruth Byler, a pioneering businesswoman. Byler was struck by the overwhelming poverty she witnessed during a trip to Puerto Rico in 1946, where she was moved to take action. The seminal contribution of Byler ignited a global movement to eradicate poverty through market-based solutions. Byler believed she could provide sustainable economic opportunities for artisans in developing countries by creating a viable marketplace for their products in North America.

October 3, we will travel (by video) to Latin America to meet coffee farmers who grow and harvest the Fair Trade coffee Lutherans enjoy through the LWR Coffee Project. Learn how Fair Trade helps farmers earn the income they need to feed their families, educate their children, seek medical care and improve their communities.

October 10 all are invited to a tasting of the four new coffees Equal Exchange has developed specifically for the LWR Coffee Project. Participants will have the opportunity to win prizes for themselves and, by completing and sending voting cards to LWR, to win \$500 for our congregation.

Join us for our Adult Forum held in the Parish House Living Room following the 9:45 am worship service.



Ann Onton, a member at Bethesda, participated in the FINA World Masters' Swim Championships in Gothenborg, Sweden from August 2 – 7, 2010. Her amazing results:

9th place 200m Fly
13th place 100m Fly
14th place 50m Fly
13th place 400m Individual
Medley
15th place 200M Individual
Medley
7th place 3k Open Water
swim

Congratulations, Ann!

Her next major swim endeavor will be attempting a crossing of the 21-mile Catalina Channel off the Pacific coast on October 11-12, 2010. This will be a benefit swim through St. Vincent's Swim Across the Sound, in memory of Christine Morandi, to benefit families of children with cancer. Details will be forthcoming.

Prayers for Our Members and Friends

For Healing and strength: Bob Fries; Ed Abeling; Ray Anderson; Oscar Roos; Linda Salisbury; Betty Neal; Betty Henrickson; George Lindbeck; Robert Evenson; Aina Smith; Len DeNardis; Sylvia Dunn; Ruth Mood; Jeanette Tykson; Ruth Jacobson; Rita Wissink; Zachary Kelly(nephew of Bill and Cindy Strickland); Frank and Jeanne Whalen (friends of Karen Baker); Mike Willis (friend of Chris Wigren); Margaret Stark (mother of Barbara Stark); James Moyer (friend of Molly Dinneen); Sue Merkel (former member); Almira Muschamp (mother of Sue Berube); Barbara Veleber (former member); Maureen Matthews (friend of Kathy Wimmer); Ruth Ebel (sister of Martha Kirschner); Fran Batka (friend of Nils Svensen); Virginia Cellura (friend of Molly Dinneen); Dot Palcovich (former member); Mary Beth MacNab and Margaret Berube (friends of Sue Berube) Jonathan Cortright (father of Dan Cortright) Mary Benedosso (friend of Doris Hentz)

For those serving in the military: including Allison Mandas (daughter of Greg & Carlen Mandas) Joshua Bender (stepbrother of Chris Lee); ***and the chaplains of our churches who serve them.***

For our partners in the Gospel: the congregations and schools of the Evangelical Lutheran Church In Jordan & The Holy Land (ELCJHL); Luther House; our mission partners, Resurrection Lutheran Church in New Haven, and the Pangani Children's Centre, Nairobi, Kenya, in its ministry to those living with the impact of AIDS and hunger in Africa.

For Bethesda: that God continues to guide us into the future with ministries of witness and service while building up our community in all of its diversity.

We rejoice at the birth of Henry Alan Doon Marchand on Sept. 1st. Henry is the son of Adam Marchand and Ellen Doon and the brother of Jack.



In Our Prayers