

Briefly BETHEL

A Publication of:
Bethel Evangelical Free Church
Devils Lake, ND

It is fall and school has been underway for a few weeks and the fall activity calendar has filled up pretty quickly. Is that how it has been at your house? Do you have a “master calendar” in your kitchen that tells each of you where to go and when and why and all that stuff? Do you have daily check-ins to ask who needs to be where the next day? It’s not quite that obsessive at our house, but sometimes it feels like it.

I have jar on my desk at church that is filled with a variety of sizes of rocks, some bigger than others. It is a visual reminder to me that I need to focus first on the “big rocks” of my life (and that of my family) before I tackle the smaller rocks and gravel that fill so much time. But what often happens is that I spend most of my time on the gravel and small rocks and put off the “big rocks.” So let me ask you, as you are getting into the routine of fall: what are the big rocks in your life? If you spent even 30 seconds thinking of an answer to that question, what would the answer be? OK, start the timer on your watch and for 30 seconds, think about it (and don’t come back and read any more until you are finished). Here you go...

What did you come up with? Any surprises? Any disappointments as you realized how much time you spend on “small rocks” and miss the “big rocks?” Me too. I thought of several; some that I tackle well and others that I don’t. Was one of those “big rocks” rest? “*Well, now that you mention it...*” You didn’t put it on the list because you either didn’t think of it or it would never have occurred to you because it is not part of your present routine.

I’m fascinated by the study and sermon series on Genesis right now. Did you know that on the 7th day, after God created the world and all that filled it, he rested? He did, according to Genesis 2:3. But I didn’t think God needed to rest. He doesn’t. The meaning of the word “rest” in that context is not to sleep or take a nap (not that this would be a bad idea) but of *ceasing from his creative activity*. He stopped. He had blessed, set apart or consecrated the 7th day, made it holy and then he ceased. Something else to notice: each of the other 6 days had a repeated ending: “*And there was evening and there was morning, the xth day,*” but not this one. There is a sense that God didn’t just STOP everything; he savored and dwelt in what he had made. This is “temple” language here. We sometimes focus so much on the construction language of the first 6 days and fail to linger on the 7th day, when God entered into what He had made, lingered there indefinitely and enjoyed all that He had made.

When was the last time you did that? When was the last time you turned off the TV and computer and iPod, went into your back yard, laid on your back and just watched the leaves rustle, watched cloud formations pass overhead, listened to the birds or the bustle of squirrels **and worshipped**? OK, you don’t have to do it there or in that way, but the idea is that you *ceased* your activities to reflect on this place God has made for His glory, even though it is tainted by the effect of sin. That’s what Sunday in church could and should be. But even in a fallen world, it is what each day could be as redeemed beings made in the image of God. Work is great; it was God’s idea. But work is prelude and prep for worship, rest, ceasing. Ceasing gives us a chance to reorient what we do, why we do it and remember for whom we do all that we do.

Yes, life is crazy busy. I get that. But we who are followers of Christ, living in the redemption purchased for us can rest and cease too. We must – for our sakes and His glory. It will show us what the “big rocks” are and where we spend the majority of our time. We were made to share in the glory of our Creator. When we don’t, we lose. When we do, God is praised and we get the blessing of having ceased to find rest in Him and His work in us and through us.

Pastor Bruce

Please mark your calendar for the next:

**Quarterly Congregational Meeting
October 16, 2011 at 1:00 pm**

Regular services that day with worship service at 9:30 am, Sunday school/Connections at 11:00 am and a pot blessed meal at Noon with the meeting to begin at 1:00 pm. Please plan on attending.....



There will be a chili cook off. Chris Jorgenson is looking for 2 more participants, please call her at (701) 739-4078 or email at: cj@petraphilpub.com

Other people coming to the party can bring a side dish to go along with the chili, such as bread, salad or desserts.

Directions: Highway 2 west for 25 miles and then south on new highway 281 for 5 miles. House is on the right (west) side.

**Cooperstown Bible Camp
Grades 7-12**

A weekend designed to grow students in their walk with God and provide an environment where they can build one another up as a team and grow individually.

Plus join in the fun with paintball, a high ropes course, canoeing, great food and great fellowship. To register call (701) 797-2174 or go to: www.cooperstownbiblecamp.com

October is....

Clergy Appreciation Month

What could you do to show that you are thankful for our Pastors?

- A phone call
- A thank you card or note
- A letter, email, or facebook entry
- A cup of coffee or a personal visit
 - lunch, supper, desserts

Many Thanks to the Pastors and their Families!

Fall Harvest Party

Sunday, October 30, 2011
Reg & Eileen Herman's Farm

Come for an afternoon of fun fellowship, fantastic food and fabulous activities!
Join us for a little while or for the whole time!
Beginning at 3:00 pm

WHY?

...God? ...Church?
...the Bible? ...the Cross?

AUTUMMATICs
October 14-16th, 2011
with Neal Kloster and Brody Clarke



Operation Christmas Child Shoe boxes
The power of A Simple Gift. The goal:
To share the **Gospel** with children around the world.

As part of our outreach to the community and the Lake Region area, this year Bethel is excited to be a relay/drop off location.

**National Collection Week is
November 14 through November 21.**

Bethel will have shoe boxes and some supplies available along with extended hours so that people may drop their boxes off. Want to volunteer to help accept the boxes coming in? If you would like to volunteer for sometime during collection week or if you have any questions, please call Tammie Lang at (701) 230-1055.

Have you often wondered what country did my shoe box go to?

Go to: www.samaritanpurse.org/occ

Choose: EZ Give/Follow Your Box

There you will find full details on how to follow your new box this year.

**Wild Game Feast
Outreach Opportunity
February 4-6, 2012**

Thank you volunteers for dedicating your time to the planning of this great Lake Region area opportunity.

Attention Hunters:

Please keep Bethel in mind while doing your fall/winter hunting and fishing. We would welcome donations of fish and/or wild game.

Stay tuned.....

More details will be coming....

A BIG thank you to everyone who helped put together the corn feed in October. Not only was it a delicious meal, but through your generosity, over \$1400 was raised for the building project. Thank you!!!



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Coming November 6

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www.bethelfree.com

We exist to
glorify God by making
disciples and moving them
to Christlikeness.