



The BANNER

January 2019

"The Day Isn't Over!"

Some days just can't get any better. Everything falls into place. Productivity is unsurpassed. The engine of life is firing on all cylinders. The human face glows with smiles. Hands are uplifted in praise. It's definitely a two-thumbs-up day! But there are also other days when one wonders why he or she has even bothered to get out of bed. You've had those days. We all have. If anything can go wrong, it will. Some call it Murphy's Law.

Recently, I got up and got on my exercise bike. I wanted to get my day started off on the right foot. My wife interrupted my biking with an emergency. "The garage door won't go up." I got off my bike, put on my coat and checked out the problem. A cable was broken. The garage door needed a repairman. What a way to start a very full day. My wife needed to watch our grandchildren, while their parents went to work. The garage door wasn't only broken. It was immobilized. We needed to get the car out of the garage, but couldn't. My daughter came over and got my wife. I started taking things out of the garage and 45 minutes later I was able to twist and turn my wife's Ford Fiesta so that I could drive it out of the third stall of our garage, which had a separate door. It wasn't easy, but God provided. I was thanking God for small cars & three stall garages.

I was determined to not let a broken garage door ruin my day. Attitude is 100%. I made it over to my daughter's house in time to walk my granddaughter to the bus. I attended a morning planning meeting for the Mega Kid's Camp. I was a "mystery reader" in my granddaughter's first grade class at Gibbs Elementary. I drove over to Byron and played the part of "Zero the Hero" for kindergarteners who were celebrating 100 days of school. I made it to church in time to run off the worship bulletins and then I picked up my granddaughter from the bus. She gave me a big hug and a large smile. It was a great day!

While eating supper with my wife, I reflected on the amazing day God had given me. They say we shouldn't judge a book by its cover. I suppose the same can be said about a day. The Psalmist says, "This is THE DAY that the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it" (118:24). God has redeemed us from sin and death in Christ Jesus. That means that our days are also redeemed. "Yesterday is history. Tomorrow is a mystery. Today is a gift. That's why we call

it the present.” The garage door got fixed. The day came to an end and by the grace of God a new one began. We learn to pray, “Give us this day our daily bread”.

With faith and hope in Jesus, we wait for the Day of the LORD; the endless and forever Day of heavenly glory. “This is the Day that the LORD has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.” Thanks be to God: The day isn’t over.

From: Pastor David Steffenson, Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, a mission congregation of the North American Lutheran Church.

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL
WEEKLY 9:15 LUTHER’S
SMALL CATECHISM DVD STUDY
ALL WELCOME!**



Request to Provide Altar Flowers for 2018

If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2018, please complete this form. Please place it in the offering plate or mail it to: Bertha Olson, 521 E. Main St. #108, Laurens, IA 50554 Thank you.

Name of person providing flowers: _____

Date desired: _____

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: _____

From: _____

Or Altar Flowers

From: _____

Please contact Bertha Olson, 841-4394, if you have any questions.

Why Serve on Bethany's Council?

Dean asked me to write something for the *Banner* this month. I am not a theologian, so a deep analysis of some Bible verse or verses won't work. I am certain that hearing about thirty years of pharmaceutical sales would be unappealing to most, if not all of you. I can't keep writing about things not to write about or I will lose you, if I haven't already. How about my thoughts concerning the fulfillment that comes from serving on the Bethany Church Council? I have been on our Council for 24 of the 40 years that I have been a member of Bethany Lutheran Church, so I have some experience to draw upon in writing this article. I would like to share some of the changes and events I have experienced during this time in our church life.

There is a great deal of personal satisfaction that comes from being on the Council. You are clearly serving the Lord and the members of Bethany at the same time. It really is not as large of a time commitment as one may believe it is. Meetings are once a month on the second Tuesday at 7:00 PM. And usually last until 8:30 PM to maybe 9:00 PM. There are expectations around attending worship regularly, but once you are on Council and are involved in the work of the Council frequent worship attendance becomes more and more rewarding to your soul! You develop a comradery with all of the Council members that carries over to work on the standing committees, on property projects, in worship participation, actually in every aspect of parish life you do become involved with. With the two-term limit, a person doesn't agree to be on the Council and then is "stuck" and can't get off. The maximum you can serve is six years at a time.

You have opportunities to be involved in some rather significant church body and congregational milestones. A few examples I can think back to being involved with are the creation of the ELCA from the merger of the ALC and LCA (Bethany was an LCA congregation). This was an exciting time for us in Iowa that culminated in the Synod Convention in Des Moines where we voted to approve the merger. Another milestone was being a part of the building of our current parsonage. The discussions on what type of home to build, what to do with the old parsonage, and how to pay for the construction were stimulating and sometimes controversial, but we always came to a consensus and moved forward. What great foresight we had to go ahead with this project as it is a huge “pro” when a new pastor is making a list of pros and cons in his/her process of considering a call to Bethany! Another milestone in a congregation’s spiritual life that being on Council is most interesting and rewarding is in the calling of a new pastor. The Call Committee does the yeoman’s work in bringing a new shepherd to our flock, but the Council decides whether or not to recommend the person for a call to the congregation and then to negotiate the compensation package with the prospective pastor if the congregation approves the call. Believe me, this is a most rewarding activity of a congregation’s life to be involved in.

Allow me to share a couple of my most special activities we were involved with and that I received the greatest satisfaction from working on. The first was our year-long celebration of Bethany’s Quasiquicentennial in 2016. That year commenced with the worship service closest to the date of the first Bethany worship service in 1891, and it concluded with our Annual Meeting in January of 2017 that was on the date nearest to the date of Bethany’s first Annual Meeting in January of 1892. When have we had more fun and worked so hard in one year here? We literally had something special every month. From special music, historical presentations about our priceless windows, the origins of the women of the church, to the history of our church buildings and various parsonages. Our celebration dinner and worship in June of 2016 was the highlight of the year with many former members who have moved away returning, the catered meal, and having Pastor Mark Chavez, the NALC General Secretary lead our worship and spend the day celebrating with us. The Dean of the Iowa Mission District, Pastor Marshall Hahn was in attendance as well. Included in this year-long celebration was the hosting of the Iowa Mission District Convocation in September of 2016. What a fabulous day it was to celebrate the North American Lutheran Church in Iowa worshipping with so many orthodox Lutherans here at Bethany. The grounds and the church were so beautiful that day that numerous visitors had to share their compliments with many of us. The food was outstanding, and all aspects of the day from registration to worship to lunch to dismissal went off without any significant hitches! In my opinion (my bias may be showing here) this was to date the best Convocation in the relative short history (since 2011) of Iowa Mission District! These two days were two of the most uplifting days we have had at Bethany in a long time, maybe since the first worship service in our current building on August 1, 1954!

The most important experience, in my opinion, I was involved with at Bethany in the forty years I have been a member was the year we left the ELCA. A major part of my personal satisfaction from this came from being on the Council for that time. We did things the right way by having presentations from the LCMC (Pastor Mark Vander Tuig), Lutheran CORE, the predecessor to the NALC (Pastor Ken Kimball), and the Western Iowa Synod office of the ELCA on separate Sunday afternoons. It was a challenge to follow the process for leaving to the letter all the way through to the end. Our first vote was in September of 2010, our second vote in December was postponed until January due to a blizzard. With an 80+ percent approval to leave, we contacted the ELCA and waited for the Synod Council to approve our separation in

April of 2011. Once that was accomplished, we were accepted into the NALC as a charter congregation and our spiritual life in the Iowa Mission District began.

I must add one more experience from my time on Council these past six years. The best twelve months for me as President of the Council were the twelve months while Pastor Scott Baker was here. Never did the work of the congregation go more smoothly and more satisfyingly than with Pastor Baker leading us. As President of the Council he was the greatest Pastor I had the opportunity to work with and he made the position of Council President the easiest it could possibly be. I am confident that succeeding Presidents will find much the same to say about working with Pastor Klappenbach, as he seems to be a very fine and devout man of God. We continue to be blessed at Bethany.

As I close I want to thank an outstanding group of Bethany members I have had the privilege and honor to work with on Council for the past six years: Bill Alexander, Pat Alexander, Tom Anderson, Dean Armstrong, Rich Ehlers, Ron Hersom, Jim Hodgell, Margaret Nomann, Myles Pedersen, Joy Raasch, Mark Raasch, Brian Runneberg, John Runneberg, Donna Sindergard, and Jean Swanson. I cannot forget Marilyn Ehlers and Shirley Pedersen who were at every Council meeting with their financial reports ready to answer any of our questions. What a blessing it has been to be a part of this Council for the past six years! Thank you to the members of Bethany who have supported us these past six years.

If you have not been on the Council or have not been on in sometime, please consider doing so, you will be most rewarded for participating!

Carol Schmidt's Mailing Address is:

Carol Schmidt

C/O Marian Home Room 313

2600 6th Ave N

Fort Dodge IA 50501

February 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 Fellowship- Gail Olson (CP) Denise & Jim Hodgell Tom & Elaine Anderson- 6:00 Youth Group (HS) @UMC	4 7:30AM Prayer Group 4:00- Worship & Music 7:00-Hand Bell Rehearsal	5	6	7	8	9
10 Fellowship- Linda / Sheldon Bieri Eloise / Dean Armstong Dorothy Smith 6:00 Youth Group (JH)	11 7:30AM Prayer Group	12	13 7:00-Council Meeting	14	15	16
17 Fellowship- Linda / Sheldon Bieri Eloise / Dean Armstong Linda Galbraith 6:00 Youth Group (HS) @UMC	18 7:30AM Prayer Group 7:00-Hand Bell Rehearsal 7:30AM Prayer	19	20 5:00-7:00-Youth Spaghetti Dinner & Silent Auction @ UMC	21	22	23
24 Fellowship- Linda / Sheldon Bieri Margaret/Jim Nomann Tammy Oxenreider 6:00 Youth Group (JH) @UMC	25 7:30AM Prayer Group	26	27	28	<div style="border: 2px solid black; padding: 5px;"> Bethany Lutheran Church Fellowship/Coffee- 9:30 Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 </div>	

