

September – November 2015

Stay Tuned to Bethel



A publication for viewers of

Worship at Bethel



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Dad, don't freak

Those were the first words that my daughter, Lydia, said to me when she called my cell phone from home. I was in my office when I received her call, and despite the request that I not “freak,” I did. After making sure she and her brother, Caleb, were ok, I asked what happened.

“Well, you know that flat-screen TV in the basement? Caleb was playing on his Xbox and wanted to adjust the TV, and so he grabbed it to try to move it. When he did that, the little nail in the back of the TV – you know, the one that was supposed to be holding it to the entertainment center – it popped and the TV crashed down to the floor, right on his feet. And actually, there is still sounds coming from the TV and some really crazy lines too. There is a crack in the screen, but maybe we could get it fixed?”

At that point in the conversation I really found it hard to talk. I wanted to scream, or cry or worse. And, I was really tempted to look round my office to see if there was a hidden camera, but what I finally did was ask to speak to Caleb. Reluctantly, he got on the phone. The conversation went as one might expect – Caleb explaining how he accidentally broke the TV and me not comprehending how such a thing could happen. I tried not to lecture Caleb, but I couldn't help myself. The lecture was not well received, and our phone conversation ended poorly. Upon my arrival home a few hours later, I continued my lecture and ultimately said some things that were not helpful or kind.

Continued inside



Did you know?

Pastor John Swanson . . .

- ✝ Enjoys outdoor activities, such as golfing and biking.
- ✝ Would paint Bryce Canyon, located in Utah, if he could paint any scenery he is seen before.
- ✝ Is motivated to work hard because he loves what he does at Bethel – it is really enjoyable.
- ✝ Collects sports cards (football, baseball, hockey and basketball). He has more than 40,000 cards from the 1940s through the 2010s.

Bethel pastoral staff

Scot Sorensen, *Senior Pastor*

Joe Brosious, *Director of Congregational Outreach*

Antonio Cabello, *Director of Latino Ministries*

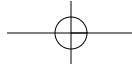
Curtis Everson, *Visitation & Worship*

Paul Petersen, *Bethel Horizons*

John Swanson, *Director of Congregational Life*

Alison Williams, *Director of Congregational Care*





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Gift / memorial summary

May 16 – Aug. 15, 2015

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Dad, don't freak, *continued*

The following days were a bit rough at our home. I found myself avoiding the basement because I just could not bring myself to look at the broken TV and worse, I found that there was unpleasant edginess between Caleb and me. Over time, however, something happened. That "something" was not a miraculous event or a benevolent action; instead it was simply spoken words – words expressing regret, words offering forgiveness and words conveying love.

Despite the initial rough road, my family weathered this little storm. Which is what families do, and it is what friends, colleagues, partners and neighbors do. This compassionate and honest conversation is what people do when they find themselves in conflict with another person and desire to resolve the issue with integrity and concern.

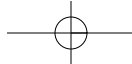
At least it is what we should do. I think about the video of NFL football player Ray Rice knocking out his

then-fiancee in a casino elevator. Sin has a nasty way of influencing the way we behave. I do not get what happened on that elevator, nor do I get why the Baltimore Ravens and the NFL handled the resulting investigation the way they did. But I do get that this whole sad situation happened. It happened because humans are not always so eager to resolve their issues with integrity and concern. Ray Rice isn't, and neither are we.

Personal integrity and concern for others – we often times point our fingers at others who misbehave in some way and suggest they lack these two things and perhaps they do. But they are not alone. Each of us can do better. As followers of Christ, we are called to live lives that reveal God's love, grace and kindness – that is our task each day. I was not revealing much of that love, grace and kindness the day Lydia called and asked that I not "freak." Today, I hope to do better.

Pastor John





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Anonymous

Memorials were given by these non-members:

In memory of Jeanette Bjelde
by Cindy

In memory of Carolyn Hackl
by Jerry & Mary
Lou Baryenbruch

In memory of Loren Juntunen
by Paul & Charlotte Schink

In memory of Evelyn Anna Olm
by Karen Clouse

In memory of my brother Harland Olson by Sondra Northrop

In memory of Glen & Ardene Smith
by Cindy

In memory of my Mom & Dad, Joseph W. & Mary E. Steel by Roger Steel

In memory of Harley Swiggum
by Linda Gerke

Sponsored telecasts

- ◆ **July 26: In memory of Roland Paul** by his family and friends
- ◆ **August 2: In honor of Pastor Curtis Everson** in thanksgiving for his spiritual guidance and friendship to XYZ over the years

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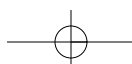
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Bethel Lutheran Church calendar

2015 Sundays	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
September 6	Isa. 35:4-7a	James 2:1-10 (11-13)14-17	Mark 7:24-37
September 13	Isa. 50:4-9a	James 3:1-12	Mark 8:27-38
September 20	Jer. 11:18-20	James 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mark 9:30-37
September 27	Num. 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29	James 5:13-20	Mark 9:38-50
October 4	Gen. 2:18-24	Heb. 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mark 10:2-16
October 11	Amos 5:6-7, 10-15	Heb. 4:12-16	Mark 10:17-31
October 18	Isa. 53:4-12	Heb. 5:1-10	Mark 10:35-45
October 25	Jer. 31:7-9	Heb. 7:23-28	Mark 10:46-52
November 1	Isa. 25:6-9	Rev. 21:1-6a	John 11:32-44
November 8	1 Kings 17:8-16	Heb. 9:24-28	Mark 12:38-44
November 15	Dan. 12:1-3	Heb. 10:11-14 (15-18) 19-25	Mark 13:1-8
November 22	Dan. 7:9-10, 13-14	Rev. 1:4b-8	John 18:33-37
November 29	Jer. 33:14-16	1 Thess. 3:12-4:2	Luke 21:25-28, 34-36

