

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2018 BEACON

To Struggle Can Also Bring Opportunity

According to the dictionary, the word struggle means "to proceed with difficulty or with great effort." As we all know, all of us will have things we struggle with whether it is our health, financial issues, getting along with family members, marital problems, depression. The list goes on and on. But through our struggles there are also opportunities. Opportunities for our faith to shine; to set an example for others. The old saying when one door closes, God always opens another door. I believe God may allow for our struggles to happen but he leaves it up to use on how we will respond. Kind of a test of our faith so to speak. God never leaves us and will never forsake us and when we think he's not here he's actually carrying us. So, remember, if you are one of the fortunate ones without struggles, look for opportunities to help, encourage, maybe even share your faith with someone who is struggling.

God is always there and always working. It is up to us to figure out what our part is to help serve him. Just like it is with our search for a new pastor. God has a divine plan for Bethel Lutheran Church. We just need to keep praying, keep searching and he will lead us and help us figure it out. It still excites me to think of the large picture. When, with his blessing we will find a full-time pastor. Just as it excited me last Sunday when we had a new couple visiting our church. It shows we, as a congregation, are still inviting others to Bethel and sharing the good news. So, remember, always try to turn our struggles into opportunities.

In closing, I would like to share a Bible verse, Psalm 106:1: "Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever!"

Dan Frey
Council President

Call Committee Update

Recently the committee recommended to the Council an outstanding candidate for Pastor, and the Council agreed with our choice. The candidate was then voted on by our congregation and the motion passed. She had nothing but great things to say about our church, our congregation and the community. She did, however, feel that the Holy Spirit was leading her and her family in a different direction so she declined the call. Please keep her and her family in your prayers as they start their next chapter of work for the Holy Spirit. Let us also keep our entire congregation in our prayers that the Holy Spirit will lead us to our next Pastor. He has a plan for us and we must keep the faith that he is holding our hand and leading us down that path. He will lead us to our future Pastor. He will lead us into our next chapter of life as a congregation.

The committee will resume our search right away and will keep everyone updated as the process continues.

God bless,
Jeremy

June 13, 2018 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the July Council meeting)

Present: Dan Frey, Stacy Palmer, Darla Drewelow, Bruce Simon, JoAnne Schwarz, Michelle Krohn, Carol Chapman

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by JoAnne Schwarz, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Carol Chapman, 2nd by Michelle Krohn

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: No report

Ministry Team Reports:

- **Children & Youth Ministry Team** – \$150 needs to be paid to the Ministerial Association for VBS. Budget contains a line item for VBS from general fund. Motion to pay by Carol Chapman, 2nd by Darla Drewelow.
- **Outreach & Fellowship Ministry Team** – Currently working on meals for those in need. Working with Sandy to coordinate a float for Parkersburg Fun Days Parade.
- **Property Ministry Team** – Lighting project was approved. Steps in kitchen need repair from moisture problem and paint peeling and chipping.
- **Worship & Music Ministry Team** – All hymns selected to July 13th.
- **Social Concerns Ministry Team** – Relay for Life is continuing to sell Root Beer floats to raise money. 7-8 are signed up to walk, would be great if more would participate.
- **Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team** – No report.

Old Business:

1. Copier contract – Received multiple quotes for an updated copier. Ricoh contract producing 20 pages/minute would provide savings of \$83.66/month for a 5-year contract was best offer. Office personnel like the Ricoh copier. Motion by Stacy Palmer to accept the Ricoh contract, 2nd by Bruce Simon.

New Business:

1. BLCW Treasurer & Website Coordinator – Resignation was received by the current volunteer effective end of August. BLCW women will be responsible for finding a replacement treasurer. A request for a new website coordinator will be placed in the beacon.
2. July ministry team date – Due to the first Wednesday of the month falling on a holiday, ministry teams will need to meet at their own discretion and report to their council liaison appropriately.
3. Pastor for July – Alex will fill in for pastor in July except for 15th & 29th. * Pastor Craig may fill in for August and will let Dan know by first part of July.
4. Update on memorial for lighting upgrade – Diane, Jenny and Dan met to discuss available memorial funds as funds are available. They have reached out for response from families for okay to proceed.
5. Farewell potluck for Pastor and Jacque – All agreed that a farewell potluck will take place; will wait for final decision made concerning month of August for fill-in duties.
6. Confirmation – Pastor and confirmand will meet on June 16th and possibly the 17th for testing.
7. Taped Recordings – Currently are not saving to the computer. Decision made to save to a disk only and no longer save a file on the computer.
8. Email prayer chain – If church member has requested email communication, then only those will receive communications in any form via email. If phone was listed, then will continue as have in past.
9. Pastor's visitation report – Council received Pastor's visitation record for March and April.
10. Approval of reimbursements – Approval for reimbursements for communion wine for \$127.26 and \$50 for stamps for Beacon mailing by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Carol Chapman.

(cont.)

June 13, 2018 Church Council Minutes (cont.)

11. Clock in Sanctuary – Report received that pastors cannot see the clock at the back of the sanctuary. Jim and JoAnne Schwarz will purchase a replacement.
12. Lee Reints & Michelle Krohn wedding – Church was requested on November 3rd for wedding. Motion to approve by Stacy Palmer, 2nd by Carol Chapman.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stacy Palmer, 2nd by JoAnne Schwarz

July Communion Assistants: Carol Chapman & Allen Redman

August Communion Assistants: Bruce Simon & Marilyn Ingalls

Submitted by Stacy Palmer, Council Recording Secretary

*NOTE: Since the June 13th Council meeting, Dan Frey has reached out to Alex McNally. The AALC will not allow Alex to preach at Bethel now that he has completed his seminary work and will soon be ordained.

Family Devotions for July

Staying Connected

Bible Verse: Jesus said, "I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing." John 15:5

What happens to a branch when it breaks off an apple tree? It no longer gets the nutrients it needs from the tree, so it soon withers and dies and bears no fruit. Jesus said the same thing happens to us when we cut ourselves off from Him. This summer is a perfect time to "plant" John 15:5 in our hearts. Then let's teach it to our children and grandchildren, so they know how vital it is to stay connected to Jesus!

- ▶ Cut some flowers and put them in water or pull some leaves off a tree. Guess how long it will take before they become dry and crispy. Relate this to Jesus' words in John 15.
- ▶ Let's go to church even while on vacation, stay in the Word, read Bible story books, watch good family movies, and spend time together in prayer!

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, Jesus told us we can't do anything worthwhile apart from Him. Please help us stay attached, so we can serve you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of July 1 – Jeremy & Jennifer Buss, Benne & Savannah; Brad & Lindy Hedrick & family; Joel & Diane Buss; Mark & Marilyn Buss

Week of July 8 – Jeff & Pam Jacobson; Darlene Johnson; Jeff & Diane Johnson

Week of July 15 – Jim & JoAnne Schwarz; Jean Scully; Matt & Nora Stahlhut, Mystica & Zachary Harreld

Week of July 22 – Greg & Blake Carolus; Sam & Ami Cordes, Claire; Shirley Cassady

Week of July 29 – Leah Ingalls, Abigail & Morgan; Kenny & Renae Knock, Kelsie; Sandra Shepard

July Bible Reading Schedule

July 1, Sun: Exodus 26
July 2, Mon: I Chron. 17:16-27, Num. 12, Mark 11:1-19
Tuesday: I Chron. 18, Num. 13:1-20, Mark 11:20-33
Wednesday: I Chron. 19, Num. 13:21-33, Mark 12:1-12
Thursday: I Chron. 20, Num. 14:1-19, Mark 12:13-27
Friday: I Chron. 21:1-17, Num. 14:20-38, Mark 12:28-44
Saturday: I Chron. 21:18-30, Num. 14:39-45, Mark 13:1-18
Sunday: Exodus 27

July 9, Mon: I Chron. 22, Num. 15:1-16, Mark 13:19-37
Tuesday: I Chron. 23:1-16, Num. 15:17-29, Mark 14:1-21
Wednesday: I Chron. 23:17-32, Num. 15:30-41, Mark 14:22-42
Thursday: I Chron. 24, Num. 16:1-14, Mark 14:43-54
Friday: I Chron. 25, Num. 16:15-35, Mark 14:55-72
Saturday: I Chron. 26, Num. 16:36-50, Mark 15:1-15
Sunday: Exodus 28

July 16, Mon: I Chron. 27:1-15, Num. 17, Mark 15:16-37
Tuesday: I Chron. 27:16-34, Num. 18:1-20, Mark 15:38-47
Wednesday: I Chron. 28, Num. 18:21-32, Mark 16
Thursday: I Chron. 29:1-15, Num. 19, Ezekiel 1:1-14
Friday: I Chron. 29:16-30, Num. 20:1-13, Ezek. 1:15-28
Saturday: II Chron. 1, Num. 20:14-29, Ezek. 2
Sunday: Exodus 29

July 23, Mon: II Chron. 2, Num. 21:1-20, Ezek. 3:1-15
Tuesday: II Chron. 3, Num. 21:21-35, Ezek. 3:16-27
Wednesday: II Chron. 4, Num. 22:1-21, Ezek. 4
Thursday: II Chron. 5, Num. 22:22-41, Ezek. 5
Friday: II Chron. 6:1-17, Num. 23:1-12, Ezek. 6
Saturday: II Chron. 6:18-31, Num. 23:13-30, Ezek. 7:1-15
Sunday: Exodus 30

July 30, Mon: II Chron. 6:32-42, Num. 24:1-13, Ezek. 7:16-27
Tuesday: II Chron. 7, Num. 24:14-25, Ezek. 8

URGENT: Altar Guild Volunteers

Right now there are three months without anyone to do Communion, etc.--July, August and November. If you are able to help out, please contact JoAnne Schwarz or Bonnie Gerloff. Thank you.

WEBSITE Coordinator

The Church Council is looking for a WEBSITE Coordinator. Any computer with internet access can be used for this volunteer task. Training is available. If interested, please contact Dan Frey or any of the Church Council members. Thank you.

July Birthdays

4 – Beth Van Lengen
5 – Patrick Rule
6 – Leah Ingalls
8 – Connie Luhning
13 – Shirley Bergman, Steve Brouwer, Evan Palmer
16 – Benne Buss
24 – Jean Scully
26 – Michelle Stearns
29 – Stacy Palmer
31 – Bella Bernard, Lorna Bernard, Randy Luhning

Relay for Life

This year we are excited to have Relay for Life at the Butler County Fairgrounds in Allison on Friday, July 13th from 6:00-11:00 pm. We look forward to everyone joining us in our walk. We will also be taking individual donations to raise money for Relay for Life and silent auction items. If there are any questions, please don't hesitate to ask. Come and help us raise money for a great cause!

July Anniversaries

1 – Eric & Becky Simmons (1)
8 – Terry & Darla Drewelow (41)
10 – Jeff & Diane Johnson (42)
13 – Justin & Tessa Matherly (5)

Worship Assistant Schedule for July--Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

| | July 1 | July 8 | July 15 | July 22 | July 29 |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| USHERS | Terry Drewelow | | | | |
| ORGANISTS/PIANISTS | Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard | | | | |
| ALTAR GUILD | | | | | |
| GREETERS | Dale & Jennifer Hansmann | Joyce Hoffman & Jean Scully | Jim & Eileen Lupkes | Terry & Janet Mennen | Dave & Sharleen Hubbard |
| LECTORS | Pam Jacobson | Jim Schwarz | Darla Drewelow | Dave Hubbard | Diane Buss |
| LITURGISTS | Dale Krohn | JoAnne Schwarz | Bonnie Gerloff | Sharleen Hubbard | |
| ACOLYTES | Ava Mann | Gavin Bernard | Evan Palmer | Corryn Mann | Gavin Bernard |
| COMMUNION ASSISTANTS | Carol Chapman Allen Redman | | Carol Chapman Allen Redman | | |
| COFFEE FELLOWSHIP | | | | | |
| SOUND SYSTEM | Michelle Krohn/Stacy Palmer | | | | |

June Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

| | Attendance | Bene./Mission | Current | Building Maintenance |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, June 3 | 52 | \$169.18 | \$2,442.83 | \$0.00 |
| Sunday, June 10 | 63 | \$100.10 | \$1,711.20 | \$0.00 |
| Sunday, June 17 | 61 | \$131.70 | \$1,640.55 | \$0.00 |
| Sunday, June 24 | 60 | \$170.35 | \$2,159.19 | \$0.00 |
| January 1-June 24, 2018 | | \$3,924.55 | \$52,488.16 | \$0.00 |

Showing We Care

If you know of someone who might benefit from a home-cooked meal(s) provided by members of our congregation – or – if you are able to help prepare a meal, please contact Janet (319-269-9674), Jenny (319-269-2578), or Sharleen (319-414-7409).

Fellowship Following Worship

Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to volunteer to make coffee and bring treats for fellowship following worship for a Sunday in July. Thank you.

July 2018 Calendar

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--------|---------|------------------------------|--|--|----------|
| 1 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| 8 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Coffee | 9 | 10 | 11 7:00 pm Church Council | 12 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study @ Darla Drewelow's home | 13 6:00-11:00 pm Relay for Life, Butler County Fairgrounds, Allison | 14 |
| 15 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Coffee | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 9:00 am Sunday Worship/Hymn Sing 10:00 am Coffee | 30 | 31 | | | | |

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