

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2020 BEACON

Each Christmas goes down as a special event in the memory book of our brain. In the past few years Rebecca and I have had several new Christmas experiences. We had our first Christmas in Northeastern Wisconsin and our first December Packers Game live at Lambeau field in the snow!

In my life I have had many Christmases in a variety of places, Sunny California, the Lone Star State of Texas, the flatlands of Iowa, and the North Woods of Wisconsin. Each carries its own unique feel and I find myself pondering upon those experiences each Christmas Season. Like the night in Iowa when we lost power in a Blizzard right after our final Christmas Eve service. Rebecca and I had to spend the rest of the night with only Candlelight, hoping the power would come back before the house got too cold. Or growing up in California, I remember driving to the 11:00 pm Christmas Eve Candlelight service with my Dad. Both of our choirs were singing. Mom stayed home with my younger brothers and sisters. The beauty of the service was followed by the drive home in the stillness of the Midnight hour. Up again at the crack of Dawn. Then back to church for morning worship. My Christmas times have always revolved around worship...except that once...I found myself all "home alone" so I went for a 3-mile run! Then there was the Christmas Day in Texas when I was all by myself...so I went for a 5-mile horseback ride.

Now, Bethel Lutheran in Parkersburg has joined our Christmas memories. This year our Holiday season was thrown for a loop with an unexpected surgery. Rebecca and I want to thank you for your generosity and kindness to us as we not only settle into a new calling but deal with the extra challenges of a lengthy recovery.

Thank you for your partnership in the Gospel and your dedication to Jesus. While the Lord has seen fit to allow us to experience such a diversity of Christmas celebrations, we've learned that "traditions" are what you make of them. Sometimes the unexpected becomes the most cherished.

But the busyness of Christmas in ministry has made the time after Christmas equally beautiful for us. We've been known to leave our tree up until Ash Wednesday! We enjoy the fulness of the season of Epiphany which focuses on the gradual revelation who Jesus is. The testimony of the Holy Spirit descending in the form of a Dove. The recognition in the Temple by Anna and Simeon. Jesus in the Temple..." talking to the elders, who marveled at His wisdom"!! All of this makes our Winter fade quickly into the early Spring and the longer nights of the Lenten Season.

So, don't let down. Don't stop celebrating the mystery of Christmas. Follow Him to the hard wood of the Cross and the miracle of the Empty tomb. Then, let's start all over again next year!!

It never gets old...For He makes all things New!!!

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Pastor Kent and Rebecca Wallace

Thank you Dear People of Bethel Lutheran Church, who have shown the Love of Jesus through the outpouring of cards, visits, and food during the past several weeks as I have convalesced from neck surgery. I have fallen in love with all of you!

Kent and I both thank you for your cards, and the money gift we were presented on Christmas Eve. We are so very blessed to be here in Parkersburg, Iowa at Bethel Lutheran Church... Our new home! God bless you all!

Kent and Rebecca Wallace

December 8, 2019 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the January Council meeting)

Present: Allen Redman, Darla Drewelow, Carol Chapman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Sherry Brouwer, Marilyn Ingalls

Call to order by President Allen Redman "In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Devotions: Jeff provided scripture.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the November Minutes: Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer Report: Motion made, second & approved.

Pastors Report: Pastor Wallace provided an update on his recent visits, & reports they are getting settled in. He looks forward to Sundays. Rebecca is improving & looks forward to resuming activities soon.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting. Rebecca is getting stronger & they anticipate after the first of the year to be back to teaching Sunday School & Bible School.
2. Outreach & Fellowship: Provided some meals & completed some household chores. The current Bible study is almost complete. In January they'll begin "Twelve Ordinary Men."
3. Property Committee: No Meeting/No Report.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: Pastor is doing Christmas and his theme "will be a surprise."
5. Social Concerns: Almost all the gift tags on the Christmas tree, for the three families we've "adopted," have been taken. Gifts need to be returned to Church by Sunday, December 15. Thrivent Financial is sponsoring 2 Action Team's for this event.
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: Jeff reports the following recommendations for the \$5,743.98 available for distribution: Local: Adopt a Family = \$1,500 (\$500 per family in the form of a Master Card gift card; State: Lutheran Chaplaincy = \$750.00; Ronald McDonald House = \$750.00; National: LCMC Support = \$1,400.00; World: Food for the Poor = \$1,400.00. Motion made to accept recommendations; second & approved.

Correspondence/Bill Approval: Allen reports he has received notice from Doralene Renken that she will be resigning from volunteering in the office. We want to thank her for her years of service. A notice will be put in the January Beacon seeking a volunteer to fill this need.

Old Business:

1. Christmas Sacks: Reminder that the Council will be filling the Christmas sacks Sunday, December 22 immediately after church. Jeff will pick up the fruit, candy, etc. from Brother's Market.
2. Review proposed 2020 Budget: Motion to accept the draft, second & approved.

New Business:

1. Annual Meeting Agenda: Discussion only. Will finalize in January Council Meeting.
2. CD Player: Our current CD player needs replacing. Motion made, second & approved to proceed with replacement.
3. Motion to adjourn, second & approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carol Chapman, Recording Secretary

Doralene Renken

We would like to thank Doralene for her commitment to volunteer in the office. She came in one morning a week, usually Friday, to help keep our church running smoothly. She will be retiring from this position as of the first of the year.

That being said, we are looking for someone to take her place. Prayerfully consider this opportunity and let President Allen Redman know soon.

Annual Meeting

Bethel Lutheran Church's annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 26, 2020 at 10:15 am following worship.

The snow date is February 2, 2020 at 10:15 am following worship.

January Anniversaries

- 11 – Merle & Merna Schrage (56)
- 12 – Roger & Doralene Renken (46)

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of January 5 – Dan & Nancy Hemann & Nate; Dale & Jenny Hansmann; Bill & Jackie Hager; Colton & Abigail Hamilton; Jeff & Stacy Palmer, Clayton & Evan; Jeremy & Brooke Paulson, Rylan & Bexlee; Alex & Monica Bixby

Week of January 12 – Bob & Lista Patterson; Mitchell Olson; Harvey Peters; Bryce & Ruth Zacharias; Brad & Lindey Hedrick & family; Perry & Adrian Bernard, Devin, Gavin, Bella & Lorna

Week of January 19 – Joyce Hoffman; Lee & Michelle Rients; Allan & Rachael Redman & family; Roger & Doralene Renken; Kyle & Melissa Henrichs & family; Dave & Sharleen Hubbard; Gary Bergman & family; Shirley Bergman

Week of January 26 – Kyle & Mary Rice, Kassi & Kolbi; Bob & Connie Rule; Pat Rule; Merle & Merna Schrage; Jay & Angie Herter, Emilee & Kielinn; Lee & Kathy Aalfs; Ken & Karla Beckmann

Ladies Bible Study

Ordinary Men

Why did Jesus pick a tax collector or fishermen to be his disciples? They were just common, ordinary men. Come relate to their fears, doubts and hopes as we learn how the power of Jesus worked in them and how it can work in you. Sign-up sheet will be available after church in January or call the office for Tuesday morning Bible study starting January 28th. Book orders are due by January 15th.

January Birthdays

- 2 – Bonnie Gerloff
- 3 – Jenny Hansmann
- 3 – Janet Mennen
- 7 – Eileen Lupkes
- 15 – Thomas Mann
- 21 – Daniel Hemann
- 22 – Zachary Harreld
- 23 – Janice Gerloff
- 23 – Olivia Luhring
- 23 – George Miller
- 24 – Jeff Johnson
- 25 – Alex Bixby
- 28 – Perry Bernard
- 28 – Jeff Jacobson
- 30 – Bill Hager
- 30 – Marilyn Ingalls
- 31 – Mary Rice

Church Council

The Nominating Committee is looking for individuals that are interested in serving on the Church Council. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity to serve. If interested, please call Bruce Simon (346-2150), Stacy Palmer (346-2774), Jenny Hansmann (269-2578), Dan Frey (231-3649), or Diane Buss (415-1583). Thank you.

Worship Assistant Schedule for January--Worship Service 9:00 am

	January 5	January 12	January 19	January 26
USHERS	Steve & Sherry Brouwer	Steve & Sherry Brouwer	Steve & Sherry Brouwer	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD	Bonnie Gerloff			
GREETERS	Roger & Doralene Renken	Ruth Zacharias	Dan & Kay Frey	Bruce & Cindy Simon
LECTORS	Julie Dudley	Jim Schwarz	Stacy Palmer	Dan Frey
LITURGISTS	Candy Krohn		JoAnne Schwarz	Bonnie Gerloff
ACOLYTES	Evan Palmer	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann	Ava Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeff Jacobson JoAnne Schwarz		Jeff Jacobson JoAnne Schwarz	

December Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements
Sunday, December 1	75	\$204.68	\$2,836.86	\$100.00
Sunday, December 8	66	\$226.60	\$3,104.40	\$25.00
Sunday, December 15	66	\$180.59	\$2,185.27	\$255.00
Sunday, December 22	71	\$105.90	\$1,816.10	\$0.00
Christmas Eve, December 24	150	\$266.60	\$1,054.45	\$0.00
January 1-December 24, 2019		\$8,501.78	\$108,640.27	\$6,340.00

Parsonage Improvements Update

The flooring and painting have been completed; the front door has not been replaced yet.

Expenses paid through December 24, 2019	\$8,161.13
Estimate for Door including installation	<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Total estimated cost	\$9,561.13
Contributions received through December 24, 2019	<u>\$6,340.00</u>
Estimated funds needed	\$3,221.13

January 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	6 2:00 pm Bingo, Allison Rehab. Center	7 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	8 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	9 9:00 am Quilting	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:15 am Church Council	13	14 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	15 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	16 9:00 am Quilting	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	20	21 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	22 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	23 9:00 am Quilting	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Annual Meeting	27	28 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	29 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:30 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	30	31	

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