

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2019 BEACON

October is my favorite month of the year! So, I go through a bit of a grieving process as the beauty of Autumn gives way to the winds, bare trees, and colder air of November. But November turns my face toward Christmas!!

Getting ready for Christmas used to bug me! I didn't want to start too soon because I felt like I was hurrying Christmas. However, now I realize that to fully appreciate Christmas I need to begin my preparations by November 1.

It was during those early preparations that I ran across a pastor's discussion board on the internet about 10 years ago. These pastors were "arguing" about the historical accuracy and reality of the Gospel narratives regarding the Birth of Jesus.

Matthew 1 and 2 and Luke 1 and 2 are the only 4 chapters of the New Testament which give any account of the birth of Jesus. Yet, from these 4 short chapters have sprung every story and tradition which accompany our observance of Christmas.

Unfortunately, we have a tendency to enhance the story beyond what the Bible literally says, whenever we retell the story. It always fascinates me when I hear people speak of these "additions" as if they are in the Biblical text. One example is "Mary riding the donkey" to Bethlehem!! Quick, go check Luke 2! Try to find reference to a donkey! Or a Barn! Or an Ox!

So, it is no wonder that skeptics have dismissed the account of the Birth of Jesus as legend or fairy tale. That's where I found myself 10 years ago! I had been a Christian all my life, I had been a pastor for over 20 years, and yet, I had to admit that I had even perpetuated some of the problem by preaching sermons that weren't based on what was in the Bible!!

But over the last decade, the increasing power of internet research has made it possible to access information and ancient documents previously difficult for a parish pastor to even know about. This new ability to research has helped me to build a picture of what happened at the time of Jesus birth. The story suddenly feels real and fully believable!

However, it can be difficult for people to receive these "new" insights with joy! We love to hold on to our visions of Christmas. Historical and scientific accuracy are not the watchwords of the Christmas season! However, I do believe that in the long run, dealing with the literal Biblical narrative, in light of what we can actually know about the history of that era, will show us that Matthew and Luke's seemingly different versions blend together perfectly!

For the last 3 Wednesday nights we have been studying these Christmas narratives. Each week I have been blessed to see more of you attend. So far, I have simply cracked open this egg. At the end of our last gathering I dropped some controversial thoughts. It's not too late to get up to speed on this fascinating study of the most popular story of the Scriptures. Through the months of November and December we will continue to reexamine the people, places, and things that we thought we knew. Are you ready for some adventure?

I hope that revisiting the Christmas narratives of Matthew and Luke will help everyone to see and appreciate the intricate dance of the events which God had to coordinate as He brought our Savior into the world!! Will you join me for the journey?

Pastor Kent

October 13, 2019 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the November Council meeting)

Present: Allen Redman, Dale Krohn, Pastor Wallace, Sherry Brouwer, JoAnne Schwarz, Marilyn Ingalls, Michelle Krohn, Jeff Jacobson and Darla Drewelow.

Call to order: "In the name of the Father, and the Son and the Holy Spirit." Council: AMEN.

Devotions:

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made, seconded and approved to accept the agenda.

Approval of the September Minutes: Motion made, seconded and approved minutes.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made, seconded and approved the Treasurer's Report.

Pastor's Report:

1. Pastor and Rebecca attended the LCMC Annual Gathering in Omaha.
2. The Pastor has made 2-3 hospital visits and has updated the 'Shut In' list.
3. Jeremy Paulson will complete the Adult Sunday School class on "The Story" and then the Pastor will start a class on "How to Study the Bible."
4. The Wednesday night Bible Study on "The History of Christmas" had a good number of attendees.
5. The Confirmation program is still being planned.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children and Youth: Pastor and Rebecca will teach youth Sunday School for a couple of months.
2. Outreach and Fellowship: There will be a weekly Bible Study on Tuesday at 9:30. A group of people helped Virgil Lindaman with outside house and yard cleaning. The Fellowship Brunch was attended by 60 people on October 6th.
3. Property: We are waiting to have doors installed. The Bell Tower is being looked at. The new sound system now has hearing aid assist available, a new I-Pad and the Pastor has a new microphone. Council members are being trained to use this system.
4. Worship and Music: JoAnne said selections are final through November.
5. Social Concerns: Socktober is being collected now. We will collect food items for 2-3 families for Thanksgiving and Christmas gifts for 2 families.
6. Missions/Benevolence: No report.

Correspondence: None

Old Business:

1. Congregational Christmas Sacks: Carol is planning on 165 Christmas sacks.
2. Progress on computers: Michelle is meeting with the Pastor and the office staff to update computers.

New Business:

1. Snow removal: Dale will check with Jonathan Koop for snow removal again.
2. Nominating Committee: Committee will meet in November.
3. Thanksgiving Services: Will be on November 27th at 7:30pm.
4. Christmas Tree Decorating: Will be last week-end of November.

Closing prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Communion Assistants: November: Carol Chapman, Dale Krohn; December: Sherry Brouwer, Allen Redman

Submitted by Sherry Brouwer

September 18, 2019 Special Church Council Minutes

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

Call to order by President Allen Redman

Agenda: Custodial Position

Motion made, 2nd & passed to go into closed session.

Motion made, 2nd & passed to end closed session.

Motion to adjourn, second, passed.

Submitted by Carol Chapman, Recording Secretary

Daylight Saving Time

The first Sunday in November of **2019** is when **Daylight Saving Time ends**. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday night, November 2nd.

November Anniversaries

7 – Bob & Brenda Everts (44)
20 – Dale & Jan Stearns (48)
21 – Allen & Rachael Redman (32)

BLCW News

Fall is here with a chill in the air. The BLCW, meaning all women of Bethel, will have the fall general meeting following Worship on Thank Offering Sunday, November 24th. This will be a general meeting. Bethel women will be bringing their Thank Offering forward during worship service.

On Sunday, December 8th, following worship will be the Cookie and Candy by the Pound sale. Anyone wishing to donate cookies or candy can bring their items on Saturday or Sunday. Remember, all women of Bethel are members of the BLCW, and are welcome at our meetings.

Sunday, November 24th, Thank Offering and General meeting.

Diane Buss

Social Concerns

Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving!

This year the Social Concerns Committee will once again be adopting some families for Thanksgiving. Help support our community by donating items for these families. Look for more details in the coming weeks.

November Birthdays

1 – John Hubbard, Rose Sweeney
2 – Zachary Church
8 – Aaron Ellermann
9 – Amber Muller
10 – Lane Luhring, Kory Walters
12 – Dennis Dudley
16 – Bob Everts
21 – Merle Schrage
25 – Ryan Dudley, Terry Mennen
26 – JoAnne Schwarz, Dale Stearns
27 – Bob Rule
28 – Kathy Aalfs, Christina Edwards
30 – Tiffany Frey

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

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
USHERS	Dan Frey	Steve Brouwer	Steve Brouwer	Greg Carolus
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD				
GREETERS	Shirley Cassady/ Carol Warneka	Dennis & Julia Dudley	Perry & Adrian Bernard & family	Terry & Darla Drewelow
LECTORS	Dan Frey	Candy Krohn	Carol Chapman	Darla Drewelow
LITURGISTS	Aaron Ellermann	WOV	Dale Krohn	JoAnne Schwarz
ACOLYTES	Eliza Buss	Evan Palmer	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Carol Chapman/ Dale Krohn		Carol Chapman/ Dale Krohn	

October Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements
Sunday, October 6	84	\$262.50	\$2,702.50	\$0.00
Sunday, October 13	78	\$261.15	\$2,490.35	\$0.00
Sunday, October 20	80	\$292.20	\$2,824.80	\$0.00
Sunday, October 27	70	\$103.10	\$1,617.90	\$0.00
January 1-October 27, 2019		\$6,907.89	\$88,636.74	\$5,760.00

Parsonage Improvements Update

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

Expenses paid through September 9, 2019	\$8,081.13
Estimate for Door including installation	<u>\$1,400.00</u>
Total estimated cost	\$9,481.13
Contributions received through October 27, 2019	<u>\$5,760.00</u>
Estimated funds needed	\$3,731.13

November 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 SET YOUR CLOCK BACK ONE HOUR BEFORE BED
3 DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME ENDS 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	4	5 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	6 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	7 9:00 am Quilting	8	9
10 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 11:15 am Church Council	11	12 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	13 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	14 9:00 am Quilting	15	16
17 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	18	19 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	20 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	21 9:00 am Quilting	22	23
24 9:00 am Worship/Thank Offering 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 am BLCW General meeting	25	26 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	27 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	28 Thanksgiving	29	30

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