

Pastor's Page for February Newsletter 2022

Somehow, February seems to be the corner we turn from Winter into Spring!

The days are becoming progressively longer, and Lent begins March 2!

The Lenten Journey has become less and less important in the lives of modern Christians. The decline of mainline denominations, which celebrate Lent, and the rise of Evangelical/Non-Denominational Churches has contributed to the slide... but that still doesn't explain how the Churches I have served have 40, 80, 100 worshippers on Sunday but only 5, 20, or 30 at Lenten services.

In my years in ministry, I have always prepared for Lent with excitement and anticipation. Here is my thinking.....

"Surely this year people will be motivated to focus on Jesus' Road to the Cross and add a Wednesday time of Worship and study to their weekly schedule!"

"It's just for 6 weeks!"

"After what Jesus did for us can we sacrifice a little time for Him?"

But every year Lenten attendance is about 25% of what Sunday Attendance runs!

So, help me out here...is it time to say goodbye to this tradition?

But how can we do that? Is our worship and service to God subject to a Cost/Benefit Analysis?

If we cancel Lenten services for low attendance, what should we cancel next? Sundays?

A famous saying of Jesus from Matthew 18 is: "For where two or three have gathered in my name, I am there in their midst!"

So far, we are still in business! But let's not try and test that limit! Lent is a time for personal repentance, reflection, and appreciation of what Jesus did for us. To truly feel the power of Easter we spend 7 weeks walking with Jesus to the Cross...You in?

90% of success in life is showing up!

Pastor Kent Wallace

## **Bethel Lutheran Church Council Minutes – January 09, 2022**

**Present:** Kyle Rice, Jeff Johnson, Jeff Jacobson, Greg Carolus, Sherri Brouwer, Lee Rients, Jeremy Paulson, Lane Luhring, and Pastor Wallace

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

**Devotions:** Greg Carolus gave the devotions, "God's End Game"

**Approval of the Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda, with no additions was seconded & approved.

**Approval of the October Minutes:** Motion to approve the December minutes, seconded & approved.

**Approval of the Treasurer Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Julie Dudley. The balance on hand in the General Fund, was \$47,727.54. Julie said that there is approximately \$3500.00 worth of checks to get mailed out. The Tuckpointing account was closed out. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded & approved.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Wallace provided a verbal report on his activities for the month of December, which included trying to reorganize after Christmas and the beginning new year. The Children's Sermon was started today during the service. Pastor Wallace thought that there were two shut ins. The Pastor further advised that he is going to attempt to contact all the members as this year goes on and start bible study which will include prayer time before the bible study. Pastor Wallace discussed Confirmation issues. Pastor was told that a member of the church would like him to start praying for members that have on-going medical needs during church services.

### **Ministry Team Reports: Liaison Council Member**

1. Children & Youth: No meeting - Jeremy Paulson.
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting – Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice
3. Property Committee: No meeting – Greg Carolus, Jeff Johnson – Greg reported that Dan Frey is going to replace the outside lights on upper entry door to the church. He also reported that Dan will figure out the problem with outside light that is on a timer.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting - Lee Rients- Lee advised that a new desktop computer was installed for the church secretary.
5. Social Concerns: No meeting – Lane Luhring, Sherry Brouwer – Donated clothes from members of Bethel were donated to the Clothes Closet program at the Parkersburg Library. The fund raiser for Christmas was a success.
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No Meeting - Allen Redman & Jeff Jacobson

**Correspondence/Bill Approval:** Letter from a law firm in reference to Ken Van Lengen's estate. Kyle will seek assistance from Dale Hansmann. Agreed to renew the Parkersburg paper for one year A bill approval to CCLI (Christian Copyright Licensing International) was discussed. A motion was made to make the payment, seconded, and approved.

### **Old Business:**

1. Norton antivirus – Discussion no decision.
2. Children's sermon – The children's sermon was given today during the service, and it went well.
3. Reports for the annual meeting are needed before January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

4. Nominating committee – Last year's outgoing council members and current outgoing council members are responsible for recruiting members to fulfill a three-year term. Kyle will call JoAnn Schwarz to see if she would agree to chair the committee.
5. A member has agreed to donate monies toward making the live streaming more applicable which would include a laptop computer, camera and other attachments that are needed to make the system more user friendly and could be controlled from the back of the church. Jeff agreed to call the donor and ascertain his preferences.
6. Discussion about the distribution of the Beacon. To save money and lighten the load of volunteers, the council will ask members to make a choice on how to distribute the Beacon. The three options include – 1. Receive electronically (email), 2. Pick up at the church, 3. Mailed.

### **New Business**

1. Audit – Kay Frey and Julie Dudley.
2. CCLI – The council acted on this during the November council meeting.
3. Budget committee- Discussion about serving on the Budget Committee. Outgoing council and Julie Dudley, and Jennifer Hansmann. Jeff agreed to chair this committee.
4. Members of the council will dissemble the Christmas Decorations upon conclusion of this council meeting.

Motion to adjourn, second & approved  
Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer  
Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

### **REGARDING DISTRIBUTION OF MONTHLY BEACON**

Starting in March, we are going to try and conserve funds for Bethel Lutheran. The monthly Beacon will be available to you in 3 different ways: (1) you can choose to pick it up at church, (2) you can choose to have it emailed to you OR (3) you can choose to have it continued to be mailed to you as in the past. It can also be viewed on the church website ([www.bethelparkersburg.org](http://www.bethelparkersburg.org)). Anyone who wants, can also refrain from getting it all. The choice is yours, there will be a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board for you to let us know your decision. If you choose email, please include your email address on the sheet. You can also call the office and leave your choice on the answering machine. Thank you for your help.

Usher Schedule 2022	
Jeremy Paulson	February 6 & 13
Steve Brouwer	February 20 & 27
Dennis Gerloff	March 6 & 13
Jeff Johnson	March 20 & 27

Email:  
[bethelparkersburg@gmail.com](mailto:bethelparkersburg@gmail.com)  
 Website:  
[www.bethelparkersburg.org](http://www.bethelparkersburg.org)  
 Like" & "Follow" us on Facebook

**\*\*PLEASE** fill out an attendance slip from the back of the church when attending services. This helps us with recording attendance for the church files. They can be put in the offering plate. Thanks for your help with this.

**Worship Assistant Schedule for February -- Worship Service 9:00**

	February 6, 2022	February 13, 2022	February 20, 2022	February 27, 2022
<b>USHERS</b>	Jeremy Paulson	Jeremy Paulson	Steve Brouwer	Steve Brouwer
<b>COMMUNION ASSISTANTS</b>	Kyle Rice Jeremy Paulson		Kyle Rice Jeremy Paulson	
<b>ALTER GUILD</b>	Sharlene Hubbard / Janet Mennen			

Feb. Birthdays	Feb. Birthdays
1-Terry Drewfelow	23-Doraleen Renken
1-Lee VanHauen	27-Peggy Miller
1-Arlo Williams	28-Mitchell Olson
3-Janelle Gorter	29-Brooke Paulson
8-Carol Warneke	
9-Deb Walters	<b>Feb. Anniversaries</b>
10-Jeremy Buss	14-Jeremy & Jennifer Buss
12-Klint Knock	14-Kent & Rebecca Wallace
13-Blake Carolus	
14-Dennis Muller	
19-Eliza Buss	
20-Brittany Buss	
21-Karol Ellerman	
23-Joel Buss	
23-April Kressley	

**Organized Prayer for Bethel Families**

Week of February 6-Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff, Dale & Jenny Hansmann, Terry & Janet Mennen, Jim & Eileen Lupkes
Week of February 13-Tom & Sara Mann & family, Dan & Nancy Hemann, Henry & Janice Gerloff
Week of February 20-George Miller, Jeff & Diane Johnson, Alex & Monica Bixby & family, Perry & Adrian Bernard & family
Week of February 27-Jeff & Pam Jacobson, Bill & Jackie Hager, Vern & Marilyn Ingalls, Kyle & Mary Rice & family

**\*\*\*Any former council members or anyone else with keys to the church that are not being used please turn them in to the church. We are short keys for the new council members. Thank you.**

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# February 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	2 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayers	3 9:00-12:00 a.m. Quilting	4	5
6 9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion/ World Hunger 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	7	8 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	9 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayers	10 9:00-12:00 a.m. Quilting	11	12
13 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School 10:45 Council Meeting	14	15 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	16 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayers	17 9:00-12:00 a.m. Quilting	18	19
20 9:00 a.m. Worship/Communion /Noisy Nickles 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	21	22 9:30 a.m. Women's Bible Study	23 7:00 p.m. Bible Study/ Prayers	24 9:00-12:00 a.m. Quilting	25	26
27 9:00 a.m. Worship 10:15 a.m. Sunday School	28					

