

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2017 BEACON

Thanksgiving

Here we are, my favorite of all holidays, Thanksgiving. It is a no pressure holiday, play with the grandkids, fifteen of them will be at our house, and eat maybe a bit too much. My brother will come and join the fun and us old folks will reminisce while the children run off to the play room after their playtime with grandpa. But most of all we will share those things for which we are thankful.

And that is really what we all need to do more of. God is so good to each and every one of us. That doesn't mean there haven't been tragedies or hard times this past year. It doesn't mean that everything we have hoped for has come about just the way we wanted. It does mean that God is so good to each of us. The sun has always come up, and if it hadn't we would be in the land that needs no sun to light the sky. God in grace has held our hand in sickness and difficulty. He has walked beside us in the beauty of answered prayers and the anticipation of how He will answer more. He has forgiven our sins and kept us sheltered under the shadow of His wing. He has and will continue to be God and continue to be good. That is what we need to remember beyond just today.

Just in case we think all must be good by human standards for us to be thankful, let us conclude today with the great hymn by Martin Rinkart which was written during the 30 Years War when over half the population of Germany died by war or plague or famine. That is the setting from which comes the great Thanksgiving hymn "Now Thank We All Our God."

Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices,
Who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
Who from our mothers' arms has blessed us on our way
With countless gifts of love, and still is ours today.

O may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
With ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us;
And keep us in His grace, and guide us when perplexed;
And free us from all ills, in this world and the next!

-
David Craig
davidccraig.net
Abundant Grace Daily Devotion

Thanksgiving Families – from Social Concerns Committee

We will be sponsoring two families for Thanksgiving supper this year. Just like the previous years, we will be asking for donations from the congregation for different food items for these families. Please watch the bulletin board in the upcoming weeks about this. Thank you.

In October we requested items for Operations Christmas Child (the Showboxes) – Thank you for your support of this project.

Church Building Hours

At the October Council meeting, the Council determined that effective immediately our church building will be unlocked (handicap entrance double doors) during the hours of 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. daily. If there is an evening activity scheduled, the building will remain open. The last person leaving is asked to turn off all the lights and lock the handicap entrance doors. If you need access to the church when it is locked, please call Terry Drewelow @ 319-464-4499. If he is not available, please call Diane Buss @ 319-415-1583.

November Bible Reading Schedule

Nov. 1: Wed: I Samuel 6:1-9, I Peter 3, Isaiah 25
Thursday: I Samuel 6:10-21, I Peter 4, Isaiah 26
Friday: I Samuel 7, I Peter 5, Isaiah 27
Saturday: I Samuel 8, Isaiah 28
Sunday: Genesis 44

Nov. 6, Mon: I Sam. 9:1-14, Colossians 1, Isaiah 29:1-14
Tuesday: I Sam. 9:15-27, Col. 2, Isaiah 29:15-24
Wednesday: I Sam. 10:1-13, Colossians 3, Isaiah 30:1-17
Thursday: I Sam. 10:14-27, Col. 4, Isaiah 30:18-33
Friday: I Samuel 11, Philemon, Isaiah 31
Saturday: I Samuel 12, Isaiah 32
Sunday: Genesis 45

Nov. 13, Mon: I Sam. 13:1-10, Isaiah 33:1-13, Rev. 1:1-11
Tuesday: I Sam. 13:11-23, Isaiah 33:14-24, Rev. 1:12-20
Wednesday: I Sam. 14:1-14, Isaiah 34, Rev. 2:1-17
Thursday: I Sam. 14:15-30, Isaiah 35, Rev. 2:18-29
Friday: I Sam. 14:31-46, Isaiah 36:1-12, Rev. 3:1-13
Saturday: I Sam. 14:47-52, Is. 36:13-22, Rev. 3:14-22
Sunday: Genesis 46

Nov. 20, Mon: I Sam. 15:1-12, Isaiah 37:1-20, Rev. 4
Tuesday: I Sam. 15:13-24, Isaiah 37:21-38, Rev. 5
Wednesday: I Sam. 15:25-35, Isaiah 38:1-8, Rev. 6
Thursday: I Sam. 16:1-13, Isaiah 38:9-22, Rev. 7
Friday: I Sam. 16:14-23, Isaiah 39, Rev. 8
Saturday: I Sam. 17:1-11, Isaiah 40:1-17, Rev. 9
Sunday: Genesis 47

Nov. 27, Mon: I Sam. 17:12-27, Isaiah 40:18-31, Rev. 10
Tuesday: I Sam. 17:28-39, Isaiah 41:1-16, Rev. 11
Wednesday: I Sam. 17:40-58, Isaiah 41:17-29, Rev. 12
Thursday: I Sam. 18:1-16, Isaiah 42:1-13, Rev. 13

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 5 - Aaron & Angie Ellermann & Riley, Ryan Bixby, Dale & Candy Krohn, Michelle Krohn, James & Sara (Stearns) Deike, Logan & Claire, Chris & Nina Sweeney, Rose & Alexander

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 12 – Alex & Monica Bixby, Dennis & Karol Ellermann, Virgil Lindeman, Tricia Krohn, Rex & Hope Tomkins, Desiree & Blake, Ted & Faye Tuitjer

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 19 – Derek & Jill Etjen, Trevor & Elle, Bob & Brenda Everts, Jerry & Lisa (Senne) Luhring, Chelsea, Megan & Olivia, Randy & Connie Luhring, Chelsie, Lane & Cameron, Lee & Pat Van Hauen, Sandra Shepard

WEEK OF NOVEMBER 26 - Vada Luhring, Jim & Eileen Lupkes, Ken and Beth Van Lengen, Maxine Wahl, Mary Fink, Dan & Kay Frey, Courtney & Tiffany

Family Devotions for November

Bible Verse: "Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good! For His mercy endures forever." Psalm 107:1

Have you ever wanted to just say, "Thank You" to God because He is good? This is something believers should do every day because God is indeed good and His mercy does indeed last for eternity. What a wonderful promise when things in life don't seem wonderful.

November is a good month to say thank you to God because we celebrate Thanksgiving Day and so thanking Him is on our mind. But let's not just be thankful only this month, let's practice thanking Him every day. We can:

Tell Jesus we are thankful He died for our sins

Hide His word in our heart to know Him better

Ask Him to help us grow in grace

Not forget His everlasting mercies

Kneel before God in our heart in love and thankfulness for His goodness

Say to others that God is good in all things

Pray: Heavenly Father, Thank You for Your goodness and mercy every day of my life.

November Birthdays

1 – John Hubbard, Rose Sweeney
2 – Zach Church
8 – Aaron Ellermann
9 – Amber Muller
10 – Lane Luhning, 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

Lending Library

The Fellowship Committee would like to start a Lending Library. If you have any good Christian books that you would be willing to let others read, talk to Beth Van Lengen or Pam Jacobson. We will have more details coming.

BLCW NEWS

Fall is here so there are a couple of dates to mark on your calendar: 1) **Thankoffering Sunday, November 19th**; this is when the ladies bring their Thankoffering boxes to the worship service; and, 2) Sunday, **December 3rd, is the Cookie by the Pound sale.** Ladies are asked to bring cookies or candy to sell following worship service.

Financial Update as of October 11, 2017

Bank Account Balance		\$27,875.24
Commitments yet to be paid:		
- Benevolence	\$5,890.89	
- Sanctuary/Interior Bell Tower Repairs/Painting-estimate (congregational vote May 28, 2017)	500.00	
- Exterior Gutter finish work-estimate	<u>500.00</u>	
Subtotal - Commitments above		<u>6,890.89</u>
Balance		\$20,984.35

October 11, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Present: Diane Buss, Carol Chapman, Darla Drewelow, Day Frey, Jenny Hansmann, Bruce Simon

Approval of Agenda: Motion made by Jenny Hansmann, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Diane Buss, 2nd by Bruce Simon

Pastor's Report was reviewed and discussed

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – no report
- Outreach Ministry Team – no meeting
- Property Ministry Team –
 1. Discussed the times of the Church being locked/unlocked each day. Effective October 22nd, the Church will be unlocked by 8 AM & locked @ 4 PM, unless there are events that require a change. In the event you need access you may call Terry Drewelow @ 319-464-4499 or Diane Buss @ 319-415-1583. This will be communicated in the October 22nd bulletin & in the Beacon.
 2. Turning off lights: A reminder is warranted to all who might be the last to leave the church to please turn off the lights in the room you are vacating as well as other lights that may have been left on. Also, if applicable, ensure the doors are locked.
 3. Two more queen beds will be provided @ the Parsonage.

(cont.)

October 11, 2017 Church Council Minutes (cont.)

4. McGee Construction - gutter issues were discussed & noted we have received a commitment from McGee Construction that our outstanding issues will be resolved before winter. They have been paid for the projects they have completed to date.
 5. Microphones – Additional ones are needed for the Reformation Sunday presentation by the Youth. Dan will check on obtainment.
 6. Fire Extinguisher service - Summit Companies will be contacted to fill the replacement need & ongoing service. Once complete a posting will depict where all fire extinguishers are located. Motion by Jenny Hansmann & 2nd by Diane Buss.
 7. Old materials remaining in the Pastor's office was discussed & tabled for next meeting.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – no meeting
 - Social Concerns Ministry Team – no meeting; however, Carol Chapman reports they have chosen two families for the Thanksgiving Adopt a Family Initiative. The process will be similar to last year's initiative. Watch in the Beacon/bulletin for upcoming details.
 - Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – no meeting

Correspondence: none

Old Business:

1. Youth Leaders – unfortunately we have had no response for volunteers to fill this need. Discussed possibly contacting Wartburg College for a student who may be interested in a paid position. Carol Chapman will do an inquiry.
2. Confirmation – Discussed the current program & students involved along with the upcoming Reformation Sunday event.
3. Call Committee – Discussed defining to the Call Committee what our specific congregational needs/parameters are so they can better seek candidates. We agreed a full-time pastor is our desire; however, financial constraints & declining membership is an issue. Some research will be done on various options relative to possible sharing of a Pastor if that should become necessary.
4. Fall Kickoff Feedback Review - ongoing review of the feedback continues each month. The "Fishers of Men" business type card samples were distributed & discussed along with options for a relief organist if that need would be necessary.

New Business:

1. Budget Committee members are Jenny Hansmann, Dan Frey, Julia Dudley, Jim Schwarz, Angie Ellermann, Jeremy Paulson
2. Nominating Committee members are Jeff Johnson, Jeff Jacobson, Angie Ellermann, Jim Schwarz, Jeremy Paulson; Dan will search for a chairperson.
3. LCMC Education/Class – Pastor would like to attend an upcoming class on Lutheran Theology. Motion to approve by Darla Drewelow & 2nd by Jenny Hansmann.
4. Lending Library – Our library has interesting, inspiring reading materials on a variety of topics. To encourage the congregation to check these materials out, volunteers have come forward & would like approval to identify & present to the congregation, on a regular basis, possible materials they may want to explore. The Council agreed & will encourage them to move forward. More details to follow.

Communion Assistants:

November - Jenny Hansmann, Stacy Palmer

December – Diane Buss, Jay Herter

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Darla Drewelow & 2nd by Diane Buss.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Carol Chapman

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

	November 5	November 12	November 19	November 23	November 26
USHERS	Dan & Kay Frey	Vern & Marilyn Ingalls, Jason Uhlenhopp & Leah Ingalls	Allen & Rachael Redman	Perry & Devin Bernard	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jacque Craig				
ALTAR GUILD	Jann Wiegmann & Jan Stearns				
GREETERS	Dennis & Karol Ellermann	Mary Rice	Terry & Darla Drewelow		Dave & Sharleen Hubbard
LECTORS	Sherry Brouwer	Carol Chapman	Beth Van Lengen		Dan Frey
LITURGISTS	Aaron Ellermann	Bonnie Gerloff	JoAnne Schwarz		Sharleen Hubbard
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann Corryn Mann	Evan Palmer	Devin Bernard Gavin Bernard	Devin Bernard	Gavin Bernard
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jenny Hansmann Stacy Palmer		Jenny Hansmann Stacy Palmer		
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP	Church Council				
SOUND SYSTEM	Church Council				

October Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, October 1	75	\$210.40	\$2,321.10	\$0.00
Sunday, October 8	66	\$141.60	\$1,379.42	\$0.00
Sunday, October 15	64	\$167.30	\$2,010.80	\$0.00
Sunday, October 22	66	\$141.00	\$2,044.20	\$0.00
Sunday, October 29	58	\$131.00	\$1,724.10	\$0.00
Total Receipts January 1-October 29, 2017		\$6,425.02	\$87,122.84	\$100.00

Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com
Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
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November 2017 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
November Anniversaries 7 – Bob & Brenda Everts (42) 20 – Dale & Jan Stearns (46) 21 – Allen & Rachael Redman (30)			1 6:30 pm Senior Choir	2	3	4
5 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	6	7	8 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Church Council	9 9:00 am-Noon Quilting 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study at Darla Drewelow's home	10	11
12 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	13	14	15 6:30 pm Senior Choir	16 9:00 am-Noon Quilting	17	18
19 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	20	21 6:30 pm Senior Choir	22 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 9:00 Sunday Worship (1 st Sunday in Advent) 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	27	28	29 6:30 pm Senior Choir	30 9:00 am-Noon Quilting		