

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

November 2020 BEACON

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP is available on the Bethel Facebook page.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

There is no more denying it! Winter is coming! The only thing which blunts this inevitable reality is that we have wisely placed a big holiday celebration in each of the next months.

As I write this, Halloween is still 10 days in the future. This is a curious holiday. It can be fun...but it can also be dark and sinister! That's because it is a blending of both a pagan rite and a Christian observation. The pagan part is connected to the Autumnal Equinox and the Winter Solstice. On September 22 the amount of daylight and darkness were each 12 hours. Ever since then, we have been losing daylight to darkness. By Mid-October it seems like darkness is taking over!

In more primitive and superstitious times, people began to think it might be time to make offerings to the Prince of Darkness. Thus, the Druids of the Middle Ages began The Feast of Samhain. The focus of this feast is the assuaging of the Spirits of the Dead, whom people feared would haunt them if they didn't leave food on the porch for them!

Into this Superstition the Church introduced the Feast of All Saints on November 1. It is a Celebration of Resurrection and Hope to remind us that Jesus has defeated Death and Darkness and that all of our loved ones who have preceded us in Death will ultimately be reunited with us in the Resurrection! Just like Christmas Eve and Easter Vigil (Saturday night), the night before All Saints day was designated as the beginning of the celebration and was given the title ALL HALLOWED EVENING. This was ultimately pronounced HALLOWED E'EN, and became Halloween!

Since both festivals focused on the remembrance of "the Dead" they soon became intertwined. As we can see with Christmas, before long the Secular can overshadow the Sacred.

Halloween is now about Witches, Goblins, and Skeletons. Thanksgiving is about Pumpkins, Balloons, and Football, and Christmas is about Santa, Reindeer, Homelessness!!

Having written this leaves me kind of depressed!

But I have come to realize that we must rise-up and combat this every year. We must reassert the original power behind ALL HALLOWED EVENING, A DAY OF THANKSGIVING, and THE FEAST OF CHRISTMAS. For the seasonal reality is that every December 21 the amount of Daylight begins to increase each day. After 4 consecutive days of increase we proclaim that the victory is assured...for the Son of God is in ascendance! Merry Christmas!

Midway between these events, in the midst of the darkness, we take a day to declare Victory and Thanksgiving to God!

So, don't let the world steal our days and our Joy! By the time the New Year dawns, we will be well on our way toward Spring and the Feast of the Resurrection! There is a reason why these days happen in a certain sequence. In a simple way they remind us that we are a part of the Church Triumphant. The Victory of Jesus is an accomplished fact. All that remains is His promised return.

Keep your eyes on the sky!

Pastor Kent

October 11, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the November Council meeting)

Present: Allen Redman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Dale Krohn, Greg Carolus, Sherry Brouwer, and Pastor Wallace

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

Devotions: None

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the Agenda, seconded & approved.

Approval of the August Minutes: Motion to approve the August minutes, seconded & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dudley presented the Treasurer's Report. Money Market account for \$24,083.73 is the account holding funds for Operation Cornerstone. Century Link and Direct TV billed the parsonage and church for services rendered and payments were made. Both services were cancelled in June 2020. Jeff will call both entities to try and rectify over payments made. Motion made to accept the Treasurer's report, seconded & approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace updated the success of the Carnival held on September 13th. Adult Bible study will start again this Wednesday night and Sunday after church. Discussion on opening a new bank account for money designated for education. Consensus that bills for education should be submitted and paid out of the general fund. If the amount paid out for education bills is higher than the budgeted amount, the bill should be approved by the Council and paid. Pastor Wallace discussed the advantage of creating ministry teams in lieu of separate committees. He will provide more information online. Pastor Wallace was asked about any contacts that he might have had last month for shut-ins, hospital visits, and nursing homes. Due to the Covid-19 those contacts are difficult even on the phone but will try this week.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting
3. Property Committee: No meeting. Greg Carolus advised that Dan Frey moved a light switch near the basement kitchen door, the east entry door window of the parsonage has not been fixed and resurfacing of the parking lot was completed.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting. Jill Pliner will play the piano next week and drive-in communion will be held after services. Michelle Rients will be asked to announce communion via text.
5. Social Concerns: No meeting. Planning ongoing for Christmas and Thanksgiving.
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No meeting

Correspondence/Bill Approval: None

Old Business:

The Church Directory has been completed and copies are available in the Narthex.

New Business:

Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 7 P.M.

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "Give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you."

It's November. I think of the entire month as "The Month of Thanksgiving." But we all know that Paul, the writer of 1 Thessalonians added no disclaimer saying, "all other months are exempt!" I ask, "Has there been anything good about 2020?" Absolutely! Take a few moments to think of the good stuff, the challenges we overcame because God showed us His steadfast love and faithfulness. And thank Him! I am reminded as I write this of Corrie ten Boom's testimony about the infestation of lice in the beds at the concentration camp she and her sister were in, called "Ravensbruck." The infestation was so severe that the guards wouldn't even come into the building. This provided Corrie, her sister, and the other ladies precious time to retrieve their confiscated Bible and talk about the promises of God. Corrie's writings shame me.

November is also preparation for December. In the church, its sermons, Advent, special music, Kid's Christmas Programs, practices for said special programs and music.

FIRST: I've been thinking of a Children's Christmas Program since "Big Top Bethel" was over. I talked to the Sunday School Kids, and most of them (excitedly) said they would like to do one. We talked about best days to practice. I ordered a couple of possible programs. I would try to keep it very simple, but we still need to practice. I'd like to start the second week of November and practice one evening per week until the first week of December, with 2 practices the second week of December. The program would be presented Sunday, December 13, late afternoon or evening.

I need BIG people and little people (adults and kids). I promise, it will be FUN, it will be joyous, it will prepare our hearts for Jesus! We will do some practicing in Sunday School also during those weeks (as needed only)!

Here's the deal, I absolutely have to hear from you no later than Sunday, November 8! I hope to do some puppetry for this program and will teach anyone interested. NO MEMORIZATION! Sign-up sheet in narthex, or call/text Rebecca at 715-296-0796.

SECOND: We will be setting up a table at the "**Student Connection's Vendor Fair,**" on December 4th and 5th in Aplington. This will be to promote our church and fundraise for next year's "Big Top Bethel." We will have a couple of carnival games set up with prizes given to winners. Details are being worked out.

Our needs for this event are as follows:

1) People needed. Anyone interested in manning games for a couple of hours on either or both days. You can even wear a costume if you want!

2) Stocking stuffers needed. We'll be putting prizes in Christmas Stockings and would really appreciate donations of stocking stuffer toys and candies throughout the month of November. Again, sign-up sheet in narthex, or call/text Rebecca at 715-296-0796 for comments/questions.

Praying for a truly blessed November and Thanksgiving for all of you.

Rebecca

Social Concerns Adopt-a-Family

Due to COVID, the Social Concerns Committee decided to do the Adopt-a-Family different this year. We will be taking cash donations to use for the Adopt-a-Family for Thanksgiving and for Christmas. All cash donations need to be in by Sunday, November 15th. The donations will be used by the Social Concerns Committee to purchase the Thanksgiving meals and the Christmas gifts. For those of you who still would like to buy a Christmas gift for the Adopt-a-Families, you will still have your opportunity.

You can give cash donations to Brooke Paulson, Eileen Lupkes, Sherry Brouwer, or Ruth Zacharias.

Thanks in advance for everyone's generosity.

Operation Cornerstone Status:

The Operation Cornerstone committee would sincerely like to thank the entire congregation for their support of this project. The financial contributions have been amazing and we are at \$24,583 toward our goal.

At this time, we are expecting the tuckpointing to be completed in 2021. As a committee, the objective is to have the resources to fully pay for the project at the point the contractors arrive. This leaves us with approximately \$4,000-\$5,000 additional funds to secure.

Thus, we have turned the corner in successfully raising funds and literally need one more boost to satisfy the debt we will incur.

We will keep you apprised of details regarding the start of the work. In the interim, your prayers for our church family and our church needs are greatly appreciated. We are genuinely grateful for your financial contributions and any future donation to this project.

Many thanks,
The Operations Cornerstone Committee

BLCW NEWS

Fall is here and November 22nd is our Thank Offering Sunday. Ladies are asked to bring their Thank offering boxes forward during the first hymn. Following worship service on November 22nd, we will have a BLCW meeting. All ladies of Bethel are invited and we will be social distancing. Beth Van Lengen

Usher Schedule for Remainder of 2020

The Church Council has set up the following usher schedule for the remainder of 2020. If you need a replacement, please call Dennis Gerloff at 319-415-6818 or Greg Carolus at 319-859-5151.

Terry Drewelow	December 6 & December 13
Jeff Johnson	December 20 & December 27

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

	Nov. 1, 2020	Nov. 8, 2020	Nov. 15, 2020	Nov. 22, 2020	Thanksgiving, Nov. 25, 2020, 7:00 pm	Nov. 29, 2020
USHERS	Lee Rients	Larry Chapman	Larry Chapman	Perry Bernard		Perry Bernard
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner					
ALTAR GUILD						
ACOLYTES	Evan Palmer	Eliza Buss	Gavin Bernard	Ava Mann		Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dale Krohn Marilyn Ingalls		Dale Krohn Marilyn Ingalls			

October Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
Sunday, October 4	25	\$64.33	\$998.97	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, October 11	48	\$205.83	\$2,352.47	\$0.00	\$500.00
Sunday, October 18	30	\$81.33	\$1,361.97	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, October 25	42	\$186.83	\$1,636.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
January 1-October 25, 2020		\$5,386.89	\$74,488.11	\$250.00	\$24,558.00

November Anniversaries

7 – Bob & Brenda Everts
 20 – Dale & Jan Stearns
 21 – Allen & Rachael Redman

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of November 1 – Steve & Sherry Brouwer, Marilyn & Vern Ingalls, Shirley Cassady

Week of November 8 – Allen & Rachael Redman & family, Kyle & Mary Rice & family, Dale & Candy Krohn

Week of November 15 – Perry & Adrian Bernard & family, Jeremy & Brooke Paulson & family, Leah Ingalls & family

Week of November 22 – Darwin & Peggy Miller, Dale & Jenny Hansmann

Week of November 29 – Lance & Kim Marlette & family, Ryan & April Schrage & family, Jim & JoAnne Schwarz

November Birthdays

2 – Zach Church
 8 – Aaron Ellermann
 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 – Christina Edwards, Kathy Aalfs
 30 – Tiffany Frey

November 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	2	3	4 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Church Council	9	10	11 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	12	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	16	17	18 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship/BLCW Thank Offering Sunday 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class 10:15 am BLCW meeting	23	24	25 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Thanksgiving Svc.	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	30					

Daylight Saving Time

The first Sunday in November of 2020 is when **Daylight Saving Time ends**. Please remember to set your clocks back one hour before bed on Saturday night, October 31st.

Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com
 Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
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