

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2018 BEACON

You Haven't Been This Way Before

"For you have not passed this way before." Joshua 3:4

Happy New Year! You have probably heard that simple comment many times already today. But what does it mean? Isn't everything just the same old same old as before? Not really. Have you ever lived this next year before? Do you know what will happen in this year? Probably not. It isn't just same old same old. It is new. There will be new people and some new experiences. Every year brings something new.

In this New Year we will all need guidance because we haven't been this way before. That was God's instruction to Joshua as the Israelites prepared to enter the Promised Land. They were going to confront many new things and God wanted to make sure that they had their eyes focused on him as they did so. The ark of God went before them. It contained God's Law, our rules to live by; and it contained the budding rod, our promises of an all-powerful God; and it contained a jar of manna, the constant provision of the caring God. In this New Year we have to remind ourselves daily that we need this awesome God to guide us. We need to remind ourselves that He is the God who has never failed. We need to stand back every day and take account that we are strangers in a strange land and that every moment we will need the all-knowing God to lead us.

Dear Father, as we enter this New Year, keep our minds sharp to remember that only You know how to lead and can lead us successfully. Amen.

-

David Craig

davidccraig.net

Abundant Grace Daily Devotion

Aplington-Parkersburg Quilters

In 2017, the Quilters completed 175 quilts and gave 136 quilts to the following:

Adult Crisis Stabilization Center Waterloo-8

Allison Nursing Home-14

Dumont Nursing Home-12

Friends of the Family-12

Grundy Center Long Term (Hosp)-10

Grundy Center Nursing Home-12

Hope Cancer Center for Women IA City-10

Parker Place-12

Relay for Life-4

Ronald McDonald House IA City-9

Shell Rock Nursing Home-10

Social Concerns-10

Bethel Church Family-13, includes 4 graduates

The quilters would like to thank everyone who has donated fabric, thread, yarn, etc. to help us have a great year. Thank You.

Financial Update as of December 13, 2017

Bank Account Balance		\$29,910.23
Commitments yet to be paid:		
- Benevolence	\$7,213.00	
- 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>8,213.00</u>
Balance		\$21,697.23

Lending Library

The weather is cold, and one of these days we will have snow. Now is the time to get ready with a good book. The shelves in the Lending Library are cleared and ready for books. If you have any to share, just drop them off at the church. We will be ready by January 1, 2018.

Thank you – Many thanks to you my “Bethel Family,” for all your cards, prayers and get well wishes sent to me these past couple of months. And a special thanks for the quilt given by you ladies! It is so appreciated.

God Bless You All,
Jann Wiegmann

And “Thank you” to the Christmas Carolers for stopping by. It was so beautiful and so much appreciated.

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

WEEK OF JANUARY 7 – Leland & Kathy Aalfs, Ken & Karla Beckman, Dale & Jenny Hansmann, Dan & Nancy Hemann & Nate, Roger & Doralene Renken, Mike & Penney Neisen

WEEK OF JANUARY 14 – Gary Bergman & family, Shirley Bergman, Jay & Angi Herter, Emilee & Kielinn, Joyce Hoffman, Kyle & Mary Rice, Kassi & Kolbi, Bob & Connie Rule

WEEK OF JANUARY 21 – Perry & Adrian Bernard, Devin, Gavin, Bella & Lorna, Barb Brouwer, Dave & Sharleen Hubbard, John & Erin Hubbard, Pat Rule, Merle & Merna Schrage

WEEK OF JANUARY 28 – Josh Brouwer, MacKenzie & Jessie, Vern & Marilyn Ingalls, Andy & Kayla Jacobson, Claire & Bo, Ryan & April Schrage, Rylie & Reygan, Joan Schuck

Family Devotions for January

Now What?

Bible Verse: “Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, Rejoice.” Philippians 4:4

The anticipation leading up to Christmas has come and gone, and we are left with little to look forward to but a long, cold winter – or so we might think! Remember that our “celebration” of Christmas may be over, but the gift of Christmas never ends. Take time throughout this month to remind your family (and yourself) of the lasting joy that comes through the wonderful gift of the Savior. Find ways your family might continue to share this gift with others – something that comes from God’s heart through yours:

- Give someone an undeserved gift – love and forgiveness, perhaps?
- Give someone who might be lonely a visit, a letter, a phone call, a hug . . .
- Give someone who needs a helping hand one of yours.
- If they ask why you gave them this gift, tell them because God gave His Son, Jesus, to us!

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, help us always to rejoice in your gift of Jesus by sharing it with others. Amen.

January Bible Reading Schedule

Jan 1, Mon: II Sam. 2:18-32, Isaiah 64, Deut. 7:1-11
Tuesday: II Sam. 3:1-11, Isaiah 65:1-12, Deut. 7:12-26
Wednesday: II Sam. 3:12-27, Isaiah 65:13-25, Deut. 8
Thursday: II Sam. 3:28-39, Isaiah 66:1-11, Deut. 9:1-12
Friday: II Sam. 4, Isaiah 66:12-24, Deut. 9:13-29
Saturday: II Sam. 5:1-10, Deut. 10
Sunday: Exodus 1

Jan 8, Mon: II Sam. 5:11-25, Job 1, Deut. 11:1-17
Tuesday: II Sam. 6:1-11, Job 2, Deut. 11:18-32
Wednesday: II Sam. 6:12-23, Job 3, Deut. 12:1-14
Thursday: II Sam. 7:1-17, Job 4, Deut. 12:15-32
Friday: II Sam. 7:18-29, Job 5, Deut. 13
Saturday: II Sam. 8, Job 6, Deut. 14:1-10
Sunday: Exodus 2

Jan 15, Mon: II Sam. 9, Job 7, Deut. 14:11-29
Tuesday: II Sam. 10, Job 8, Deut. 15:1-11
Wednesday: II Sam. 11:1-13, Job 9, Deut. 15:12-23
Thursday: II Sam. 11:14-27, Job 10, Deut. 16:1-12
Friday: II Sam. 12:1-15, Job 11, Deut. 16:13-22
Saturday: II Sam. 12:16-31, Job 12, Deut. 17
Sunday: Exodus 3

Jan 22, Mon: II Sam. 13:1-20, Job 13, Deut. 18
Tuesday: II Sam. 13:21-39, Job 14, Deut. 19
Wednesday: II Sam. 14:1-17, Job 15, Deut. 20
Thursday: II Sam. 14:18-33, Job 16, Deut. 21
Friday: II Sam. 15:1-18, Job 17, Deut. 22:1-12
Saturday: II Sam. 15:19-37, Job 18, Deut. 22:13-30
Sunday: Exodus 4

Jan 29, Mon: II Sam. 16:1-13, Job 19, Deut. 23:1-14
Tuesday: II Sam. 16:14-23, Job 20, Deut. 23:15-25
Wednesday: II Sam. 17:1-14, Job 21, Deut. 24

Annual Meeting – Date Correction

Due to a scheduling conflict, Bethel Lutheran Church's Annual Meeting for 2017 will be held on Sunday, February 4, 2018 following worship. The snow date will be February 11, 2018, also following worship. Please make a note of the correct date and plan to attend.

Status of Call Committee

After discussions with the Church Council, the call committee is resuming our search for a full-time pastor. We have posted a job opening on the LCMC web page and are accepting applicants. If anyone has any recommendations on a candidate, please let any of the call committee members know.

Thank you,
Jeremy Paulson

December 13, 2017 Church Council Minutes

Present: Dan Frey, Stacy Palmer, Diane Buss, Darla Drewelow, Jenny Hansmann, Carol Chapman, Bruce Simon, Jay Herter, Michelle Krohn

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Stacy Palmer, 2nd by Diane Buss.

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Jay Herter.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Jay Herter, 2nd by Carol Chapman.

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – Carol shared special discussions she had with Sandi Shepard and all seem to really enjoy youth ministry, children and Sandi both.
- Outreach Ministry Team – Outreach and Fellowship members and BLCW discussed disbursement of meals to those recently released from the hospital or other care facilities and would like to get it started in early 2018.

(continued)

December 13, 2017 Church Council Minutes (continued)

- Property Ministry Team – Irene stated carpets have been manually and professionally cleaned to try to remove stains in entry way; fire extinguishers are updated and posted; gutter work completed; lock on back door installed; metal railings will need to be sanded and repaired in summer.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – No meeting, but discussed need for new radio up front for choir. Motion made to replace by Bruce Simon, 2nd Jay Herter. Jodi DeBerg will help fill in on organ to help Janet when time off is needed.
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – Hat and Mitten Tree was decided on to help locals in need; serving at the Food Pantry.
- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – Suggestions made for upcoming distribution of Benevolence funds. Motion to accept by Stacy Palmer, 2nd Diane Buss. Those receiving funds include: Food Bank, Cedar Valley Hospice, Bremwood, Ronald McDonald House, Help-a-Heart, Salvation Army, Opportunity Village, Friend of the Family, University of Iowa Chaplaincy, Food For the Poor, Hope International, Voice of the Martyr.

Old Business:

1. Snow Removal – Jonathan Koop was hired for removal again this year.
2. Nominating Committee – The group has met and have one name so far.
3. Call Committee – In planning stages. Group has updated the advertisement for LCMC website and made active.
4. 2018 Budget – Update made to remove BLAST line item. Motion to approve by Jay Herter, 2nd Michelle Krohn.
5. Annual Meeting – Items added to the agenda include: suggestion to combine some ministry groups, Call Committee update, discussion regarding a Youth Leader.
6. Sound System update – A new CD recorder has been ordered for recording services, as well as a new omni-directional microphone for the pastor.
7. Church Youth Leader – This will be added to the Annual Meeting agenda for discussion.

New Business:

1. Time change – Discussion surrounding changing the start of church service during winter months, with consensus to leave the time as is to maintain consistency. Motion to approve by Jay Herter, 2nd Michelle Krohn.
2. Bulk Mailing Permit – New Year means renewal of the permit. Motion not to renew permit by Bruce Simon, 2nd Jay Herter.
3. Christmas Sacks – Each family will receive a special sack for Christmas.
4. Pastor's Report – Report containing hospital visits, communion shared and shut-in visits by Pastor throughout September and October was reviewed.
5. Christmas Benevolence – Motion to approve 90-10 split by Bruce Simon, 2nd Jay Herter.
6. Norton 360 – Office computer is now up-to-date for computer virus software.
7. Wedding Policy – Verbiage will be cleaned up a bit in the future.
8. Kate Hogelucht Wedding – Rehearsal June 15, Wedding June 16. Motion to accept as non-member wedding and place on calendar by Michelle Krohn, 2nd Bruce Simon.
9. Weather Announcements – Dan will make the decision after speaking with Pastor to determine possible cancellation of services due to poor weather conditions. Carol will log on to KWWL to post for the announcements.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stacy Palmer, 2nd by Carol Chapman.

January Communion Assistants: Bruce Simon, Dan Frey

February Communion Assistants: Michelle Krohn, Stacy Palmer

Submitted by Stacy Palmer

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

	January 7	January 14	January 21	January 28
USHERS	Ken & Beth Van Lengen			
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jacque Craig			
ALTAR GUILD	Bonnie Gerloff			
GREETERS	Dan & Kay Frey	Vern & Marilyn Ingalls	Mike & Penney Neisen	Dale & Jan Stearns
LECTORS	Carol Chapman	Jim Schwarz	Sandi Shepard	Diane Buss
LITURGISTS	Terry Mennen	JoAnne Schwarz	Dale Krohn	Michelle Krohn
ACOLYTES	Devin Bernard Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann	Gavin Bernard Evan Palmer	Ava Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Carol Chapman Bruce Simon		Carol Chapman Bruce Simon	
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP				
SOUND SYSTEM	Diane Buss/Carol Chapman			

December Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, December 3	74	\$203.00	\$2,879.02	\$0.00
Sunday, December 10	78	\$91.20	\$1,675.82	\$0.00
Sunday, December 17	66	\$153.70	\$2,128.30	\$0.00
Sunday, December 24am, 24pm & 25	68/157/15	\$1,064.20	\$2,974.86	\$0.00
Total Receipts January 1-December 25, 2017		\$8,696.73	\$105,451.77	\$100.00

January Birthdays

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

January Anniversaries

11 – Merle & Merna Schrage (54)
12 – Roger & Doralene Renken (44)

January 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4 9:00 am-Noon Quilting	5	6
7 9:00 Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	8	9	10 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Church Council	11 9:00 am-Noon Quilting 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study at Darla Drewelow's home	12	13
14 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	15	16	17 6:30 pm Senior Choir	18 9:00 am-Noon Quilting	19	20
21 9:00 Worship with Choir/ Holy Communion/Noisy Nickels 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	22	23	24 6:30 pm Senior Choir	25 9:00 am-Noon Quilting	26	27
28 9:00 Sunday Worship 10:00 Coffee 10:15 SUNDAY SCHOOL-Adult & Children/Confirmation	29	30	31 6:30 pm Senior Choir			

Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com
 Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
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Fellowship Following Worship

Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to volunteer to make coffee and bring treats for fellowship following worship for a Sunday in January. A separate sign-up sheet will be posted for future months. Thank you.