

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

December 2020 BEACON

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP is available on the Bethel Facebook page.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

Christmas captures human imagination in a way that nothing else has the power to do! Why?

Because there is no other story like it! No other religious system on earth has ever considered basing itself on the claim that God took Human flesh upon himself so that he could die as payment for sin on behalf of His Creation.

The power of this story has captivated me. Pondering its enormity always raises questions in my mind. Seeking the answers to those questions has revealed the enormity of the power of what God has done.

My Christmas research began in 2006 with my discovery of an online debate between several pastors. There were questions about the historical accuracy of both Luke and Matthew. It was asserted that there was no way that both Luke and Matthew could be historically correct.

It has now been 14 years...or 14 Christmas seasons... since that wake-up call! My research has revealed possibilities I had never even considered before. Every year I learn more!

To create opportunities to share this information, I have decided to add some Wednesday night worship opportunities to our regular Sunday mornings. By the time you receive this Newsletter some of these opportunities will have already taken place. However, there will be a video on file for you to check out in case you miss them.

We will add Wednesday Advent Services at 7:30 pm at which we will sing some Christmas carols and hear a devotional on one of the Christmas story personalities. Here is the full schedule:

Sun. November 15	9:00 am	Jesus has People! #1	Text: Matthew 1:1-17
Sun. November 22	9:00 am	Jesus has People! #2	Text: Luke 3:23-38
Wed. November 25	7:00 pm	Zacharias – the Priest (Thanksgiving Eve)	Text: Luke 1:5-23
Sun. November 29	9:00 am	Elizabeth – Daughter of Aaron (Advent 1)	Text: Luke 1:24-25
Wed. December 2	7:30 pm	Mary – The Virgin mother (Advent Midweek 1)	Text: Luke 1:26-38
Sun. December 6	9:00 am	Liz and Mary – “Sisters” (A2)	Text: Luke 1:39-56
Wed. December 9	7:30 pm	Joseph – the man who “should” be King (AM2)	Text: Matthew 1:18-25
Sun. December 13	9:00 am	Shepherds – Foundation of Israel (A3)	Text: Luke 2:8-20
Wed. December 16	7:30 pm	Herod – the man who “would” be King (AM3)	Text: Matthew 2:1-5
Sun. December 20	9:00 pm	Chief Priests/Scribes – the Status Quo (A4)	Text: Matthew 2:4-6
Wed. December 23	7:30 pm	Magi – the King Makers (AM4)	Text: Matthew 2:1-12
Thurs. December 24	7:00 pm	CHRISTMAS EVE – “King Jesus”	Text: Revelation 19:11-16

See you there! Pastor Kent

November 8, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the December Council meeting)

Present: Allen Redman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Dale Krohn, Greg Carolus, Sherry Brouwer, Marilyn Ingalls, Kyle Rice, 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: Additional New Business Agenda items: 1. A need for a volunteer to be responsible for writing the weekly church bulletin and monthly Beacon. 2. A discussion by the council to find solutions for more church member participation in church activities. Motion to approve the Agenda, seconded & approved with additions.

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

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dudley presented the Treasurer's Report. Operation Cornerstone Money Market account balance dated October 31, 2020 is \$24,595.54. Jeff contacted Century Link and Direct TV in reference to charges being billed to the church after the service was cancelled. Century Link advised that they weren't notified of cancellation of the phone to the parsonage. No refunds as of yet; continued attempts will be made. Treasurer Dudley noted that the bills from Century Link have stopped. Kyle mentioned that an application for forgiveness of the PPE Loan will be made on November 13, 2020 and someone from the council needs to sign the application. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded & approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace visited Vada Luhring, Ben Frieling, and Bill & Irene Senne. Pastor Wallace thinks that every one of the shut-ins have at least been contacted, except for Bob and Connie Rule. Discussed Christmas Services date and time. (See New Business)

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting
3. Property Committee: No meeting. Greg Carolus advised that he will contact Harken Lumber about fixing the Parsonage door.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting
5. Social Concerns: No meeting. Planning ongoing for Christmas and Thanksgiving gifts to families in need.
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No meeting

Correspondence/Bill Approval: None

Old Business: None

New Business:

1. A motion was made, seconded & approved to hold the Bethel Lutheran Annual Meeting on January 24, 2021 right after morning church services.
2. Kay Frey has agreed to complete the 2020 financial audit.
3. Nominating committee needs to be notified to begin a search for volunteers for the Church Council. The committee members are Dan Frey, Stacy Palmer, Bruce Simon, Michelle Rients, Darla Drewelow, and Carol Chapman.
4. Advent Services will begin on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7:30 PM and continue on until Christmas. The Youth Christmas program is to be held on December 13th at 6:00 PM. The Christmas Eve Service will be held December 24th, at 7:00 PM. There will be no Christmas Day services.

Council Minutes (cont.)

5. Discussion about providing Christmas sacks for the participants of the Youth Christmas Program. It was decided to not hand out Christmas sacks after the Christmas Eve Service.
6. Jenny Hansmann would like a replacement to organize and complete the weekly bulletin and monthly Beacon. A plea for a replacement will be advertised in the bulletin and Beacon.
7. A discussion was held for ideas on how to get more involvement from church members on a continuous basis. Topics included Ephesians 4 Ministry Teams, and Children and Youth outreach among other ideas.

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved. Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

I am so excited to announce that I am happy to tell everyone that I am thrilled to say that it's an honor to let everyone know that I am pleased to be so excited to announce... THE FINAL MONTH OF 2020! Yaaaay!!!

In celebration of this, I joyfully announce The Bethel Lutheran Church Production of, "**An Angels in the Attic Christmas**", on December 13, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Starring: Whoever shows up! (Just kidding!)

SYNOPSIS: After much effort, Granny Grump hobbles up two flights of stairs to her dusty attic, where she finds treasures she has long forgotten!

In the meantime, her children and grandchildren realize that the costumes that were ordered for the church Christmas Program are back-ordered due to Covid. What will they do? The program is tomorrow night!

Wait-a-minute!!!... Granny has an attic full of old costumes! She'd have just what they needed!

Did she?

Come find out!

There'll be Stockings for the kids, and a surprise for everyone!

Jesus Blesses Little Children, Mark 10:13-16:

13 Then they brought little children to Him, that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. 15 Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." 16 And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Calendar of Events:

Christmas Program Rehearsals:

Wednesdays, December 2 and 9, Puppets at 6:00 p.m. and ALL people involved at 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, December 12 at 9:00 a.m.

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM: Sunday, December 13, at 6:00 p.m.

NO SUNDAY SCHOOL: December 20 and 27.

Rebecca

Annual Meeting Reports

December 20th is the due date for submitting reports that will be part of our 2020 Annual Report. Council Liaisons, please work with your team/committee to prepare and submit a report by that date.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!!!!

Jennifer Hansmann for many years has volunteered in organizing and collating the weekly bulletin and the monthly Beacon. She would like to have a much-deserved break, although she will continue as the financial secretary. If you're looking for a rewarding way to pitch in, pray about volunteering your time and using your skills for only a few hours out of your week to help the church. The task can be done by one person, but maybe 2 or 3 volunteers want to take on this task together. If you are interested, please contact a council member or just talk to Jennifer.

Thanks, Bethel Lutheran Church Council

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of December 6 – Zach Church, Aaron & Angie Ellermann & family, Lane & Eisha Luhning & family, Kory & Deb Walters

Week of December 13 –Dennis & Julie Dudley, Bob & Brenda Everts, Merle & Merna Schrage, Ryan Dudley

Week of December 20 – Terry & Janet Mennen, Jim & JoAnne Schwarz, Dale & Jan Stearns

Week of December 27 – Bob & Connie Rule, Joseph & Christina Edwards & family, Lee & Kathy Aalfs, Tiffany Frey

December Anniversaries

- 12 – Sam & Ami Cordes (5)
- 20 – Taylor & Brittany Buss (17)
- 22 – Bob & Connie Rule (62)
- 27 – Joel & Diane Buss (52)

December Birthdays

- 2 – Riley Ellermann
- 6 – Ranae Knock
- 7 – Dan Frey
- 15 – Jennifer Buss, Kay Frey
- 20 – Sarah Redman
- 22 – Colton Henrichs, Diane Johnson
- 26 – Savannah Buss
- 28 – Sara Mann
- 31 – Vada Luhning

Social Concerns

The Social Concerns Committee would like to thank everyone who helped with the Adopt-a-Family. The donations were greatly appreciated and put to good use. This year we had three families for Thanksgiving, and we will have three families for Christmas. The Thanksgiving families were all very grateful for our generosity. Thanks again!

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

	December 6	December 13	December 20	Christmas Eve, December 24, 7:00 pm	December 27
USHERS	Terry Drewelow	Terry Drewelow	Jeff Johnson		Jeff Johnson
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner				
ALTAR GUILD	JoAnne Schwarz				
ACOLYTES	Gavin Bernard	Ava Mann	Evan Palmer	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Sherry Brouwer Allen Redman		Sherry Brouwer Allen Redman	Sherry Brouwer Allen Redman	

November Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
Sunday, November 1	49	\$100.83	\$1,597.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, November 8	41	\$198.53	\$2,286.77	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, November 15	31	\$94.83	\$2,487.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, November 22	36	\$102.33	\$1,240.97	\$0.00	\$0.00
January 1-November 22, 2020		\$5,883.41	\$82,100.79	\$250.00	\$24,558.00

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December 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation Christmas Program Rehearsal: 6:00 pm Puppets 7:00 pm All Involved 7:30 pm Advent Service	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	7	8	9 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation Christmas Program Rehearsal: 6:00 pm Puppets 7:00 pm All Involved 7:30 pm Advent Service	10	11	12 9:00 am Dress Rehearsal for Christmas Program
13 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Church Council 6:00 pm Christmas Program	14	15	16 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Advent Service	17	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels	21	22	23 7:30 pm Advent Service	24 7:00 pm Christmas Eve Worship	25	26
27 9:00 am Worship	28	29	30	31		