



# The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## God Does Not Take the Summer Off

*Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy.*

Exodus 20:8

If we had laws that forbid us from worshipping in the summer, we would think our country has gone crazy; we would find ourselves fighting mad. Yet, we take the privilege of worship and Christian fellowship for granted during the summer. Our attendance and our giving both often decline.

Please, as you plan your summer, give “Jesus” the time and the honor that is appropriate considering all he has done for us.

Worship opportunities are Sunday mornings at 9:00 a.m., with fellowship time to follow, and Wednesday evenings at 5:30 p.m.

Finally, I wish to thank all of you for your encouragement and support the past three and a half months. (I will continue well in to June).

We are all looking forward to working with our interim pastor. Together, we will make this church a place where God wants to dwell. Change is part of life, embrace it.

Your humble servant,  
Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

Note: if you desire spiritual help, please call the church office or, in an emergency, you can contact me at 608-697-9873.

JOIN US FOR



## Summer Community Meal

Bethlehem Lutheran is the proud sponsor of the Community Meal each June, along with help from Thrivent Financial.

We will once again be gathering on Saturday, June 16<sup>th</sup> at St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church in Portage to prepare and serve a meal for our neighbors. And, of course, that means clean-up is involved, too! This is a great time for individuals and families to sit down together for a delicious, healthy meal along with friendly fellowship.

We will need help from a lot of folks to make this possible, including young helping hands! Everyone can chip in and this is a great way to serve together as a family. Marj Margelowsky is once again serving as our point person, so talk to Marj for more details and information on how you can help.

And let's all say a big “Thank You” to Marj when we see her next; her enthusiasm never waivers and she gladly takes on whatever role is necessary to help...but she sure could use some “new” help in her corner as she passes the torch to others and shares her can-do attitude.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

### Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

608-742-8502 or 608-697-9873

### Mailing Address

The P.O. Box is no longer use; please mail to  
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### Office Contact Info

Phone (608) 742-8502

Email [bethluch@frontier.com](mailto:bethluch@frontier.com)

[www.BethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.BethlehemLCportage.org) – New Address!

## From the Council...

We have received a request to include the minutes from the council meetings in the Chimes each month. Because of this, we have included a summary of the agenda/minutes from the May church council meeting below. If you would like additional details, please review the posted copy of the meeting minutes which can be found on the council bulletin board in the narthex. The minutes from the May council meeting will be approved and then posted in the

narthex after the June council meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to any member of council. Thank you!



### Church Council Meeting Minutes: Summary May 9, 2018

#### *In Attendance:*

Fred reckling, Tim Kratz, Ann Ciske, Angie Chappell, Kathy Tofson, Cheri Dvorak, Robin Kvalo, Ed Rohrbacher, Tania Anderson, Dan Pulsfus.

*Guest:* Dorothy Waldo

*Interim Pastor:* We should have an interim available to start at BLC by mid-to-end of June. However, there is another option to have a renewal pastor placed at our church for 3 years. Rev. Steve Kottke will be meeting with council on May 30th to explain the renewal process further.

*Bishop:* Pr. Viviane Thomas-Breitfeld has been elected the new bishop for our synod. Rev. Steve Kottke may stay on as the Assistant to the Bishop, but that is unknown at this time.

#### *Action Items/Noteworthy Decisions:*

- a. Dorothy Waldo: approved to purchase new pew cushions with Bob Waldo's memorial funds
- b. The Discipleship Committee will dissolve back to the Evangelism and Stewardship committees. No vote necessary as both are listed in our constitution bylaws independently.

- c. "Cottage Meetings" will be postponed until our interim pastor is determined and in place.
- d. Worship & Music will not be scheduling volunteers in the nursery at this time until further notice. Also, we have approved a series of contemporary worship services for the summer. Additional details will be coming out in June.
- e. The Adopt-a-Bill stewardship program will be running the summer of 2018, lead by Bonnie Dixon.
- f. We are in the process of creating a Bethlehem Lutheran Church policies & procedures binder that can be accessed by our members.
- g. The finance committee will be adding a summary of the financial activities to the Chimes every month once they determine the best layout for this.

Tania Anderson- *President*

Tim Kratz- *Vice President*

Angela Chappell- *Secretary*

Ed Rohrbacher

Ann Ciske

Fred Reckling

Cheri Dvorak

Kathy Tofson

Robin Kvalo

Hello and Welcome to our regular visitors! We're so glad to have you join us in worship and fellowship. We know many of you are interested in joining our BLC family "officially", and we can't wait for that to happen...but plans for future New Member Classes are temporarily on hold, just until we have a permanent pastor in place. Look for more info in the near future! In the meantime, please continue to join in the fun and don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the staff or Council with any questions you may have.



## Sermon Broadcasts

Sign-Up sheets are available on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$38 and payment is made to the church. Your help in this area is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

**6/3**

Angie Chappell

**6/10**

Dean & Judy Traut

**6/17**

Jim & Kathryn Crawford

**6/24**

Wayne & Bev Johnson



## Chancel Flowers

Sign-Up sheets to sponsor the cost of our chancel flowers throughout the year can be found on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$28 and you will be billed directly by Edgewater Greenhouse. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

**6/3**

Jim & Kathryn Crawford

**6/10**

Jim & Angie Buchholtz in memory of their  
Grandson, Nicholas

**6/17**

Joan & Bill Swift in celebration of their anniversary

**6/24**

Wayne & Bev Johnson in memory of loved ones

## Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great tradition here at Bethlehem and we need everyone's participation to keep it going. It's a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church.

As our worship schedule changes to one service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, coffee hour will follow.



## Worship

Please consider joining with some friends or teaming up with another family to host Coffee Hour and share some treats and smiles with the congregation here at Bethlehem. It's really pretty simple and it's a great way to meet people and get to know each other better. If you need more information, just ask one of the staff members or someone else who has hosted before!

The Sign-Up sheet can be found in the Narthex, along with some instructions that may answer any questions you might have.

**6/3**

The Melby and Oh families

**6/10**

Dean & Judy Traut and Paula Erath

**6/17**

Jim & Kathryn Crawford

**6/24**

The Wagner family



## Sunday School News

A great time was had by all on Sunday, May 20th at the Spring congregational celebration and game day following 9 am church. The children sang, we played games and ate.

Thank you to all who brought food, helped with set-up and clean up, serving, games and fellowship.

We are looking for several co-teachers for next year. If you are interested, please contact Jeanette Gessner at 608-617-5228.



We hope your children have enjoyed Sunday school this year as much as we have enjoyed being with them. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Hope you have a great summer!

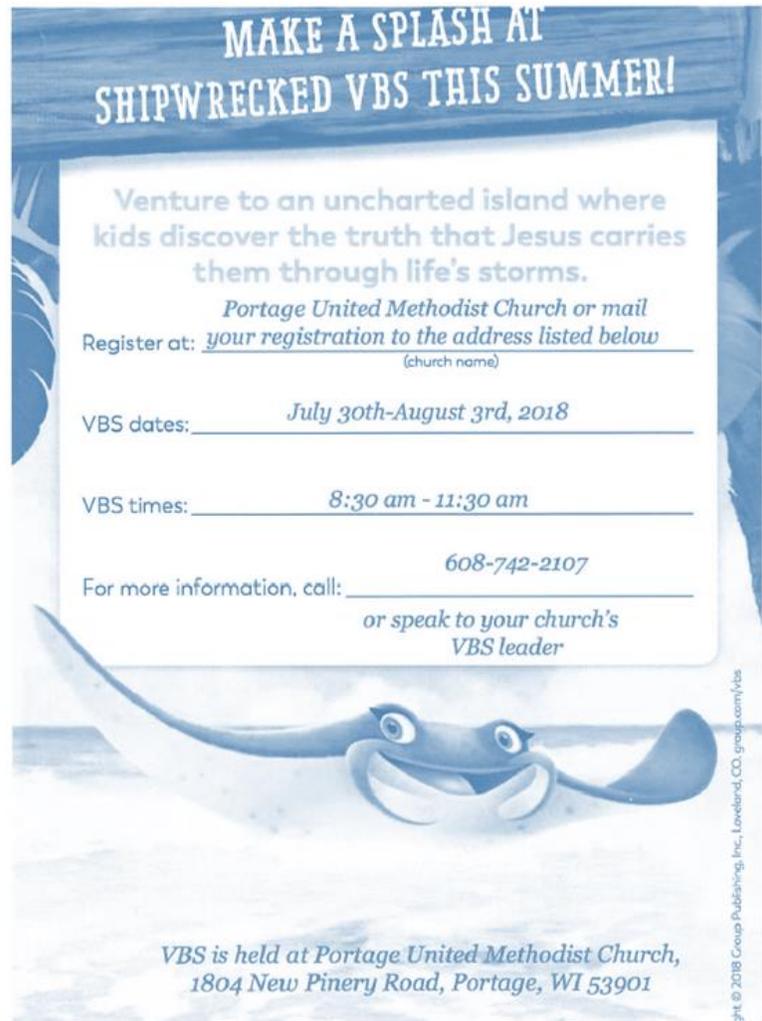
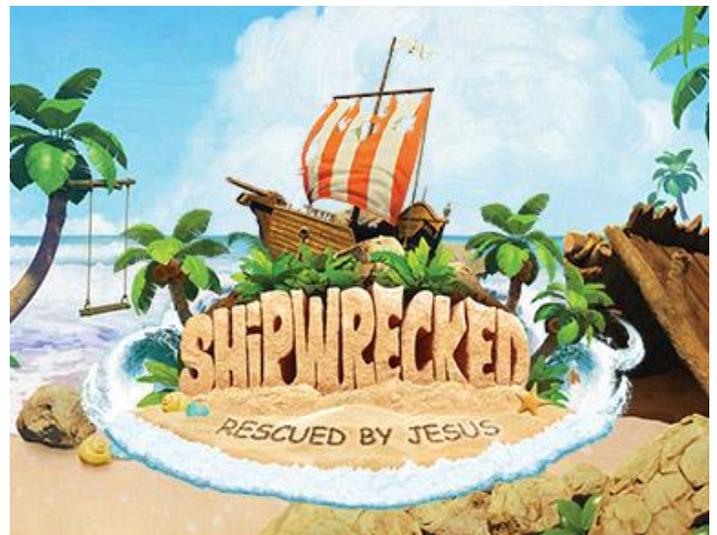
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School Staff

### Vacation Bible School 2018

#### We Need Volunteers!!

This year's theme for VBS is Shipwrecked. Planning is underway, and we are in need of volunteers! We will eventually need group leaders and helpers, but our immediate needs include volunteers interested in helping with Bible Discovery (drama), a Mission Project craft, KidVid Camera, Imagination Station (crafts), or someone willing to work on a daily newsletter during VBS week.

If you are interested in helping out with one of the most fun weeks of summer, please contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999. Thanks!

A promotional poster for "Shipwrecked VBS This Summer!". The top text reads "MAKE A SPLASH AT SHIPWRECKED VBS THIS SUMMER!". Below this, it says "Venture to an uncharted island where kids discover the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms." The location is "Portage United Methodist Church or mail". Registration information includes: "Register at: your registration to the address listed below (church name)", "VBS dates: July 30th-August 3rd, 2018", "VBS times: 8:30 am - 11:30 am", and "For more information, call: 608-742-2107 or speak to your church's VBS leader". At the bottom, it says "VBS is held at Portage United Methodist Church, 1804 New Pinery Road, Portage, WI 53901". A cartoon whale is at the bottom. A small vertical copyright notice on the right edge reads "© 2018 Group Publishing, Inc., Loveland, CO, group.com/vbs".



## A Note from Megan...

The month of May certainly has flown by! With school almost over, I am sure everyone is just itching for summer. This month was filled with great opportunity for the youth as well as for the adults!

It began with Shanty Town sponsored by Habitat for Humanity. There was a group of 17 of us who built a shanty out of cardboard boxes for us to sleep in for the night. Although the weather was not on our side, we learned a lot and were reminded of the daily struggles that homeless people face.



Towards the end of May we hosted a Trivia Night at the Portage Elks Lodge. It was a fantastic night, filled with fun! There were 7 teams, food for all, baskets that were raffled off, and lots of trivia! There were a lot of people who helped make that possible, but a huge thank you to Julie and Jerry Saalsaa! Julie helped with all of the technology and PowerPoint and Jerry was an excellent score keeper for us! Overall, I have heard nothing but positive reviews – so thank you to everyone who came out. I am looking forward to the next one!



With May coming to an end, we have also concluded this year's confirmation classes. It was a fun year filled with a lot of growth in our faith.

Next month is a very big month for the youth attending the ELCA National Youth Gathering. We leave June 27<sup>th</sup> and return July 2<sup>nd</sup>.



With this big trip coming up, that is what our focus will be for the month.

Through the month of May, I have really enjoyed seeing the church come together. I look around and see people working together; communicating with one another, participating in events together in and out of the church and that is a very reassuring feeling.



I want to encourage everybody, as we approach the summer, to reach out to someone you haven't seen in a while. Invite that person over for dinner or give them a call to see how they're doing. When you see someone at church you haven't seen in a while, go talk to them. Now is the time for us to continue coming together!

Megan Jahoda  
Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator  
914-760-5745

## ADOPT-A-BILL PROGRAM

We're so excited to kick off our 2018 Stewardship program Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.)!



Sometimes our “giving” gets boring... we write out our weekly checks or have the money automatically deducted from our accounts and never give it another thought. We're hoping

this little summer challenge will spice up our giving – in more than one way. And by the way – we're NOT doing this because our lights are about to be turned off, it's just time for an annual Stewardship Drive. Here's how it works: If you're willing and able and would like to – you can “adopt a bill”. You'll see a list of bills in your bulletin or in the Chimes throughout the summer. All you have to do is write out a check in the amount of any bill you'd like to adopt (a onetime payment OR you could adopt the same bill for a couple months). On your check, in the memo area please note which bill you wish to adopt. Your payment can be submitted right along with your offering (remember – this gift to BLC is above and beyond your weekly giving).

As the weeks pass, we'll be updating our bill list AND if you see a need in our church that you think would benefit from this program PLEASE reach out to myself, Tania Anderson, or Chaplain Dan. It's our expectation that the list will evolve as more needs are brought to our attention. That being said – you might just feel moved to send in a check for something you notice we're lacking – do it!!! We can't wait to see where this takes us!

OK now, it goes without saying that not everyone can or wants to give more financial support that they're already giving to our ministry. We get it - many of us need to stay on a budget. Here's where the real fun begins! Our Growing in Faith Together program will ensure that EVERY MEMBER of our congregation can give in some shape or form: Would you be able to pick up the telephone and call ONE member that you haven't seen in the past couple of weeks? If you could do that, you've participated!

Can you please do that? When the Pastor asks the little children to come forward can you encourage your child to do so? Then they will have participated!

Let's all take ownership! Can you take a fellow member out for coffee even if you barely know them? They need you – we need you! When you hug someone on Sunday morning and tell them they look great or tell them that you've missed them YOU'RE doing your part!

It's no surprise that you TEENAGERS and young adults are so much smarter than the over 40 crowd when it comes to technology. Could a few of you PLEASE step forward and offer to run our projection screen once in a while? Our members say they love the screen – but we need hands on deck! If you could – YOU'RE doing your part! See how this works? Even a simple hug or hello to someone you don't know that well on a Sunday morning will make all the difference. It's easy peasy!

We look forward to seeing your gifts in the weeks to come whether it's cash, your time or talents, or your extra care and concern for those around us. Please share your stories with myself or Tania Anderson. We can't wait to see and hear how your small acts of grace and kindness change the energy in our favorite place to worship. I leave you with a few notes from Psalm 24 and one of my favorite daily devotional books: “David said, ‘Lift up your head, and the King of glory will come in.’ As long as your head is down and you are discouraged, with no joy, no passion, and no zeal, the King of glory will not come. Instead, get up in the morning and say, ‘Father, I'm excited about this day.’ When you're really alive, hopeful, grateful, passionate, and productive, the King of glory, the Most High God, will come in and make a way where there is no way.

“...We all have unfair things happen. Don't let it sour your life. Just because you had a bad break or you can't do what you used to do doesn't mean you're supposed to sit on the sidelines. If you can't speak, write. If you can't run, walk. Do whatever you can as long as you have breath. Don't lose your passion.”

-Bonnie Dixon



*Thanks to all who donated  
to the Bingo Prize drive  
for the residents of  
Columbia Health Care Center.  
The donations were greatly appreciated.*

## Changes to the Discipleship Committee

In the summer of 2017, the Discipleship Committee was created in an effort to combine the responsibilities of the Stewardship and Evangelism Committees in to one committee due to a shortage of volunteers. However, it has been recommended to council to dissolve the Discipleship Committee back to the original committees, as written in the bylaws of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Moving forward, we will use the Stewardship and Evangelism Committees as they were originally intended. If you are interested in learning more about what that means, read the definitions from our bylaws below.

Are you interested in volunteering with the Stewardship or Evangelism Committees? Upcoming projects include:

- the Adopt-a-Bill program
- the Annual Stewardship drive
- the Fall Ministry Fair
- a budgeting workshop
- community worship services/events

Please contact **Tania Anderson** if you are interested!!

**608-697-5999** or [tranderson1012@gmail.com](mailto:tranderson1012@gmail.com)

**THANK YOU!**

### **BYLAWS:**

#### Section VI - Committees

Item 3. **Evangelism.** There shall be a committee on Evangelism. This committee shall stimulate and lead all members of the congregation in continuous and, from time to time, concerted endeavors to reawaken the spiritually indifferent and to reach others, who are as yet unwon, with the Gospel and attach them Christ's Church. To this end, the committee shall devote itself to deepening spiritual life of members of the congregation and shall periodically study the congregation in the context of its surrounding communities.

Item 6. **Stewardship.** There shall be a committee on Stewardship, of which the treasurer shall be a member ex officio. It shall be the function of this committee to evoke and promote the expression of Christian faith in daily living; to teach the Christian use of money; to diffuse knowledge of the congregation's local, national and world-wide ministries; and to lead all its members to higher levels of proportionate giving for the Lord's work. This committee shall also be responsible for the annual Every Member Visit and other congregation efforts which lead to informed and grateful giving.

## JUNE WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS 06/18

Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes
Sunday 6/3/18	9:00 AM	Lucille Gauger	Carol Pulsfus	Angela Pace	Bobbie Goodman & Judy Traut	Marie Kucksdorf & Cara Druckrey	Andrew Charles
Wednesday 6/6/18	5:30 PM					Diane Grueneberg	Kenny Georgeson
Sunday 6/10/18	9:00 AM	Alanna & Jim Thays	Dean & Judy Traut	Paula Erath	Tom & Barb Steinhaus	Kari Johnson & Kari Wagner	Naomi Saalsaa
Wednesday 6/13/18	5:30 PM					Judy Donahue	Brett Zellmer
Sunday 6/17/18	9:00 AM	Ron & Nancy Schwenke	Jim & Kathryn Crawford	Jim Crawford		Kari Johnson & Kari Wagner	Cooper Jenatscheck
Wednesday 6/20/18	5:30 PM					Kathy Lawrence	Chloe Saalsaa
Sunday 6/24/18	9:00 AM	Maggie Jeske	Ed Rohrbacher	Kathryn Crawford	Jim & Kathryn Crawford	Cindy Frank & Bobbi Goodman	Lucas Kreuziger
Wednesday 6/27/18	5:30 PM					Cheryl Hebel	Grace Lauth

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## June 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Blood Pressure Screening	<b>4</b> 10:00 am Staff Meeting 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm ZUMBA	<b>6</b> 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>11</b> 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Staff Meeting Tai Chi All Committee Night Euchre	<b>12</b> 6:00 pm ZUMBA	<b>13</b> 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Women's Group	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>16</b> Community Meal
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>18</b> 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Chimes Articles Due Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre SRA meeting	<b>19</b> 6:00 pm 6:30 pm ZUMBA Finance Committee	<b>20</b> 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship	<b>25</b> 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre	<b>26</b> 6:00 pm ZUMBA	<b>27</b> 10:30 am 5:30 pm National Youth Gathering -- Houston Tai Chi Worship	<b>28</b> National Youth Gathering -- Houston	<b>29</b> 10:30 am National Youth Gathering -- Houston Tai Chi	<b>30</b> National Youth Gathering -- Houston

## ***A Prayer For The World***

*Let the rain come and wash away  
the ancient grudges, the bitter hatreds  
held and nurtured over generations.  
Let the rain wash away the memory  
of the hurt, the neglect.*

*Then let the sun come out and  
fill the sky with rainbows.*

*Let the warmth of the sun heal us  
wherever we are broken.*

*Let it burn away the fog so that  
we can see each other clearly.*

*So that we can see beyond labels,  
beyond accents, gender or skin color.*

*Let the warmth and brightness  
of the sun melt our selfishness.*

*So that we can share the joys and  
feel the sorrows of our neighbors.*

*And let the light of the sun  
be so strong that we will see all  
people as our neighbors.*

*Let the earth, nourished by rain,  
bring forth flowers  
to surround us with beauty.*

*And let the mountains teach our hearts  
to reach upward to heaven.*

*Amen.*

**-Rabbi Harold S. Kushner**

**Submitted by Chaplain Dan Pulsfus**