

CHIMES Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2020 VOLUME 82, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

****This is an experiment. The audience for this Chimes article is intended to be for the kids. Adults, feel free to read on. Also, please read it to anyone in your home who might need some help. Kids, I hope you are seeing this!***

The Lord be with you! I was thinking the other day that the newsletter really doesn't have a whole lot of things in it for you. We spend a lot of time putting the Chimes out every month and forget about including anything for you, some of my favorite people. I apologize. I'm sorry we have forgotten you in what is supposed to be a newsletter for the whole Bethlehem Lutheran Church family. Please, forgive me. Forgive us, the adults in the church.

I want to change this and I'm starting right now. This article is for you.

I missed you when I was in Arizona last month. You were on my mind when I was learning about some really cool ways to help people in our church to get to know each other better. I thought of how I know you when I see you in church, but I don't know much about what you do when we're not at church. Where do you live? Do you have any pets? What kind? What are their names? Would you rather eat pizza or chicken nuggets? Do you play sports? Do you like school? Do you ever think about God? What are you afraid of? What's the coolest thing you know?

I thought about you when I met a new friend. His name is Ramon. He lives in Tucson, Arizona and he was one of the people learning the same stuff as me. But he and I probably would not have become friends if we weren't at the same learning event. Ramon and I are different from each other in a lot of ways. First of all, he's Native American and I am white. The only Native American people I know I have met through church. Another difference we have is how much school we've had. I've been to school for a LONG time. Like 23 years! Ramon is an adult and hasn't graduated from high school. I think the biggest difference between Ramon and me is that I grew up in a really safe home and always had everything I needed and most of the things I wanted. Ramon didn't have that. He grew up in a home that was safe, but his neighborhood was very dangerous. When he was still young, maybe 12 years old he joined a gang. Ramon didn't tell me everything he did when he was in the gang, but I could tell from what he DIDN'T say to me that he did and saw things and had things happen to him that were really scary. He also did a lot of "tagging" which is spraying graffiti on buildings and things. Ramon told all of us in the group that in his old life, he would have already robbed all of us. Wow!

Ramon and I became friends when we shared our stories with each other. Actually, He shared his story first and I was so blown away by him telling me how God changed his life that I could hardly speak. We sat together and I listened as he told me about how his Mom taught him



UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

10am Annual Meeting after
Worship
11 am Souper Chili-cookoff after
meeting

FEBRUARY 9

9am Praise Team & Sunday School
Kids Sing
10am Food/Fun/Fellowship Day

FEBRUARY 10

6:30pm All Committee Meeting

FEBRUARY 13

9am Women's Group

FEBRUARY 14

5 pm Parents Night Out

FEBRUARY 11-17

Pr Jen Out of office – vacation time

FEBRUARY 16

8am Sunday School Teacher Mtg

FEBRUARY 26

Ash Wednesday



about how to be Native and how his Mom taught him to follow Jesus. I listened as he told me how he was there when his Mom died, and how she told him to trust in God always. Ramon told me that when she died, he felt peace in his heart, and he told me it was because of what she told him about trusting God. It was like the last gift she gave him.

When Ramon was sharing his story with me, I felt a feeling that is hard to describe. You know in the movie, "How the Grinch Stole Christmas" when the Grinch's heart grows three sizes on Christmas morning? Maybe that's what it was like, except it wasn't a movie. It was really happening in my own heart! I felt like God was really happy that Ramon and I were friends now and that I took the time to get to know someone that was different from me. The cool thing is that the more time we spent together in Arizona, the more Ramon and I realized we had more things about us that are the same and less things that are different!

When we get to really know each other, then cool things happen. When we listen to other people tell about themselves then God is happy. When we share things about ourselves with other people then they also feel God being happy with them! And, we make new friends.

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen

****This month is an experiment. Next month, if you like having a message written just for you, I will write 2 Chimes articles; one for adults and one for you. You matter to me. PrJ***

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION & YOUTH NEWS

SUNDAY SCHOOL

The Annual meeting is Feb. 2nd after service. We will be having Sunday School in one classroom with a special presentation. There is a Chili/soup cook off as well.

The Children will be singing on Sunday, February 9th. On February 9th we will also be having a congregational Food/Fun/Fellowship event from 10-12. This is for all ages. Bring a friend or family, a favorite game (board or card as we will be in the fellowship hall), we will have games for all ages. The Sunday school staff will provide BBQ, buns, juice, milk, fruit, veggies, and chips. If you would like to bring something, we ask that you bring a dessert.

In February our lessons are The Beatitudes (Matthew 5:1-12), and Salt and Light (Matthew 5:15-20).

Don't forget Ash Wednesday is February 26th. First Communion classes for the 5th graders will start March 1st. Please continue to bring in food for the Food Pantry and pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

WORSHIP SLIDES

We are adding "worship slides" to the weekly Worship Team Volunteer list. We are in need of someone to run the slides for each service. This can be done from the comfort of your normal seat in church with a remote control.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

It has been getting harder to fill the volunteer positions for worship. Thank you to everyone who continues to help. If you haven't signed up, please consider doing so. It is a great way to get involved.

COFFEE HOUR HOSTS

Gathering together as a church family allows us to connect and get to know one another. Please consider signing up to host Coffee Hour after Sunday worship. Sign up sheet can be found in the Narthex.



CONFIRMATION

Parents Night Out

Drop your children off for a fun night of games, crafts, Valentine activities and a movie while you enjoy an evening out!

Fun for everyone!

**Friday, February 14th
5:00pm - 9:00pm**



Dinner Menu: Pizza, fruit, vegetables and decorate your own Valentine's Day cookie. Please indicate on registration form if there are any dietary needs.

This event is chaperoned by members of the church approved by the Safe Church Policy. Confirmation students will be there to play and help lead activities.

Registration forms are needed for each child attending and can be found in the Narthex. They will also be sent out in the weekly news email. Please return to Halley Harms' mailbox.

Please contact Halley Harms (920-210-4430) or the church 742-8502 office for any further questions.

OUR CHURCH

NEW MEMBERS



In January we welcomed Tina Thomas, Ashley Spinks and son Ryan, Ron Hardt, and Chad Hayes to the BLC family. If you see a new face, make sure you introduce yourself and make them feel welcome!

WOMEN'S GROUP

Bethlehem's Women's Group is an opportunity for the women of the church to gather in the name of God to support our church and each other. One of our major projects is holding a Women's Tea in fellowship with the women of Bethlehem and the women of the surrounding communities. The Tea offers us the opportunity to show evangelism, and fellowship in support of women inside and outside our congregation. This year's Tea is scheduled for April 25th.

Bethlehem women's group meets on the 2nd Thursday of each month from Sept through May at 9 am at the church unless we schedule special opportunities within the community. Group meetings within the community allow us to be visible as Bethlehem women to others. As a group, we not only support each other, but also have supported projects in the church with the money raised from the tea. Please consider joining us.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

WINTER WEATHER



As winter weather approaches, this is just a reminder that if Pardeeville or Portage schools close for weather concerns during the week, the church will be closed. This means that confirmation, bible study, and/or Wednesday worship will not be held. We are currently working on a policy regarding cancelling church if we get a storm on a Sunday.

CHIMES NEWSLETTER SURVEY

Thank you to all who have replied! I have received 39 replies to the newsletter survey so far (that's out of 225 newsletters I send out). I know we can do better! 😊 In the January CHIMES I asked the question: do you want to receive the CHIMES newsletter via mail, email or both. This survey is in effort to save money and resources. If you wish to continue receiving it in the mail, I will make sure that happens, but if you would like to receive it via email and print it out if you need it, please let me know that as well.



If you are reading the electronic version of this article, you fill out a quick survey which you'll find [here](#). If you are receiving this in the mail, I ask that you call the church office with your reply. Until I receive an adequate number of responses for the cost analysis, everything will remain status quo. If you have any questions, please feel free to call the office. I will keep you all posted when I receive the survey results. Thank you for your help!

THRIVENT MEMBERS

Did you know you can give Thrivent Choice Dollars to the church on your investment? It does not cost you anything. Just call Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 or email to Thrivent.com to check on your account. They can tell you if you have Choice Dollars and how to send it to the church or some other cause. Our representative is Todd Braaksma 742-5161. Your church Advocate is Marj Margelowsky at 742-3926.

BULLETIN AVAILABLE ON BLC WEBSITE

One of our members had a wonderful idea to help save on resources: make our weekly worship bulletin available online to use on smartphones or tablets. This was an easy thing to make happen, and it's now available on our website. If you would like to follow along during worship on your device or if you're not able to make it to service, you can download the weekly readings and the seasonal bulletin by going to our website.

- www.bethlehemLCportage.org
- Click on Worship Page
- Scroll to the bottom, look under "This Week's Bulletin"
- Large print copy is also available

CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

FROM THE COUNCIL...

We have included a summary of the agenda/minutes from the January church council meeting below. The official minutes from the meeting will be approved and then posted in the narthex after the February meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to any member of council. Thank you!

January 16, 2020 - In Attendance: Pr. Jen, Ann Ciske, Tania Anderson, Robin Kvalo, Jack Paulson, Halley Harms, Geoff Gilbert and Tim Kratz.
Guest: Julie Saalsaa, Parish Secretary

We welcome Geoff Gilbert to council! His membership to council will be made official at the annual meeting, along with the other nominees: Ruth Price and Kory Anderson.

Annual Report

Julie Saalsaa joined the meeting to present the draft of the 2019 Annual Report for council to review. A few suggestions were made for the report before it was approved, and it will be revised and distributed by Sunday January 19th. An electronic copy will be emailed to our members, and paper copies of the report will be available in the narthex. Pr. Jen did request that a person from each committee present at the annual meeting,



JOIN US WEEKLY

MONDAYS

 9am Monday Mourning Coffee Clutch— Had a loss, or at a loss? Share a story or just sit and listen, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome. Located Fellowship Hall.

TUESDAYS

 11am Bible Study with Pr Jen

SUNDAYS

 10am Coffee Hour for fellowship—sign up in Narthex to host

CONTACT US

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Office Hours:

9am-3pm Monday-Wednesday;

9am-12 Thursday & Friday

specifically sharing a reflective response to the following question: “I notice God working in this ministry in this/these ways”. The Renewal Team will be sharing a report at the annual meeting as well.

Council discussed memorials to the church. Moving forward, the Parish Secretary will generate a monthly report of memorials/donations made to the church to share with council.

Pastor’s Report:

Pr. Jen was in Arizona this week for the Faithful Innovation Learning Community Leadership Training event that was led by Luther Seminary. The lessons that she learned this week will enhance the renewal process moving forward. Pr. Jen also presented the Respectful Communication Guidelines that we may be using in meetings in the future.

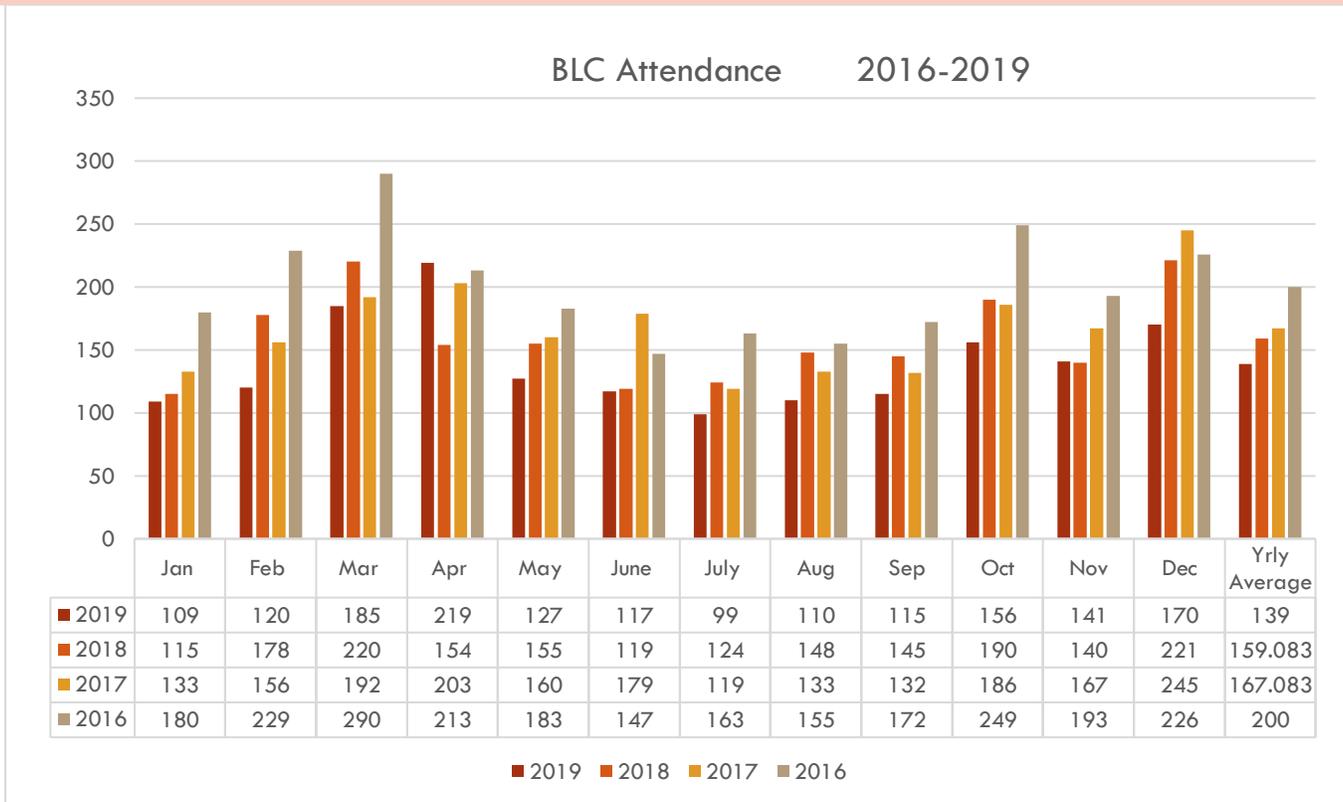
Committee Reports: Action Items/Noteworthy Decisions:

- a. Finance: No actions items.
- b. Stewardship/Evangelism: The Renewal Team meets with the Confirmation parents Wed. Jan. 22 at 6:30pm
- c. Worship & Music: Council approved a special service for Maundy Thursday, “Follow Where Jesus Walked”.
More information coming soon.
- d. Property: No action items
- f. Christian Education: No action items; they are planning a middle school event soon.
- g. Local & Global: No action items

New Business: Kory Anderson has been approved as a nominee for council. Staff will be working on a church policy/procedure for canceling worship service during inclement weather. In 2020, we will be reviewing the BLC Constitution & Bylaws and presenting any changes to the congregation for approval. We will be looking at performance reviews for staff this spring, and a renewal ministry review by this summer. Discussions have started for our Easter Breakfast and a Volunteer Appreciation events as well.

ATTENDANCE UPDATE

JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2019



Bethlehem Lutheran Church February 2020

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|------------------------|
| |  | | | | | 1 |
| 2 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Annual Meeting 10:15 am Sunday School 11:00 am Souper Bowl   | 3 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre | 4 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 11:00 am Photo group 6:00 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Zumba 7pm Praise Team Practice | 5 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation | 6 | 7 10:30 am Tai Chi | 8 |
| 9 9:00 am Praise Team Worship, SS kids sing 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am Food/Fun/ Fellowship Day | 10 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm All Committee Meeting 6:30 pm Euchre  | 11 PrJ vacation 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Zumba | 12 PrJ vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation | 13 PrJ vacation 9:00 am Women's Group  | 14 PrJ vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 5pm Parents Night Out  | 15 PrJ vacation |
| 16 PrJ vacation 8am SS Teacher Mtg 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School | 17 PrJ vacation 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre 6:30 pm SRA meeting | 18 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Zumba | 19 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation | 20 Chimes Articles Due 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 21 10:30 am Tai Chi | 22 |
| 23 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School | 24 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre | 25 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba | 26 Ash Wednesday 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation  ASH WEDNESDAY | 27 | 28 10:30 am Tai Chi | 29 |

FEBRUARY 2020 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| Date | Greeters | Ushers | Reader | Communion Assistants | Altar Guild | Acolytes | Worship Slides |
|--|---|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| Sun 2/2 9am | Chappell Family | Anderson Family | Dan Langan | Olivia Bue & Josephine Bue | Kari Johnson | Isabel Bue | Brady Cox |
| Flowers: Jim & Kathryn Crawford, <i>To the Glory of God</i> | | | | | | | |
| Wed 2/5 5:30 pm | | | | | Diane Gruenberg | Lucas Kreuziger |  |
| Sun 2/9 9 am | Nancy Schwenke | Cox Family | Andrea Langan | Ruth Price & Jaimie Rudolph | Cara Druckrey | Josephine Bue | Ben Rudolph |
| Flowers: Tom & Denise Derey, <i>In honor of Denise's Aunt Dorothy's 100th Birthday</i> | | | | | | | |
| Wed 2/12 5:30 pm | | | | | Judy Donahue | Max Johnson |  |
| Sun 2/16 9 am | Margaret & Del Molden | Larry & Sandy Sween | Ellen Kabele | Brenda Larson & Bobbie Goodman | Brenda Larson | Luke Paulsen |  |
| Flowers: Dick Olson & Barb Rothwell, <i>In memory of Dorothea vonTrott</i> | | | | | | | |
| Wed 2/19 5:30 pm | | | | | Kathy Lawrence | Allyson Zabler |  |
| Sun 2/23 9 am | Barb Rothwell & Dick Olson | Robin & Mike Kvalo | Brenda Larson | Barb Rothwell & Angela Pace | Brenda Larson | Brynn Langan |  |
| Flowers: Dennis & Elaine Benson, <i>In honor of our parents</i> | | | | | | | |
| Wed 2/26 5:30 pm Ash Wed |  | Jack & Ginny Paulson | Bonnie Dixon | Heather Laird & Mark Teslik | Cheryl Hebel | Maren Marcks | Sean Illka |



Looking for volunteers! Contact Nancy Buckley or the Church office to volunteer.