

October 2019

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# The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## A Message from Pastor Jen...

**“Anticipation is far worse than participation.”**

That’s what Frank said to me after I shared with him how nervous I felt prior to preaching my first sermon.

Frank was a fellow parishioner when I first began the formal journey toward ordination. Like many of the older members of the congregation, he was also one of my best teachers. True, the seminary training was a crucial element in the journey of becoming a pastor. At the same time, the wisdom shared with me by those who’d grown up in the church and were now in the latter days of their own journeys could not be found in a formal classroom. I am grateful for Frank, and for Millie, and Ruth, and Gladean, and Anna May, and George... and so many more.

Frank’s words come to me when I’m facing something outside of my comfort zone. In his words are the reminder that the human brain has the ability to come up with the worst possible scenario whenever we give it the chance. Behind his words is the assurance that it will be okay, no matter what our brain says.

One thing that I’ve come to realize is that Frank’s words of wisdom that day were

a sermon, based on Matthew 6, where Jesus asks us to consider the lilies of the field and such. I don’t know if Frank was aware of this or not. If I had to guess I’d say no, which is better, I think, than if he’d known. I’ve heard some great sermons delivered by trained ministers. For a down to earth, common sense, hit you in the feels message, none have been as spot-on as Frank’s message to me that morning. Frank’s message came from his heart. The words he used weren’t from the Bible directly; they were biblical words that had become part of his very language.

No amount of sermon preparation can bring about the authenticity of living a life in the Word of God as found in scripture.

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen



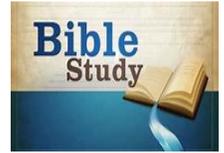
## SEEKING COUNCIL NOMINEES

We are looking for nominations for council in January! If you are interested in serving on council, or know of someone that you would like to nominate, please contact Pr. Jen or Tania Anderson. Thank you!

## PORTAGE LIONS CLUB

The Portage Lions Club will be collecting used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, in addition to hearing aids for distribution to

the needy in underdeveloped countries. Children's glasses are especially in high demand. A collection box is in the Narthex.



### Please Join Us!

On Tuesday for the Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jen. We will meet in the conference room at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

All are welcome to participate. No previous experience is needed—the Holy Spirit takes care of that!

Currently we are reviewing the book “A People’s History of Christianity, Christian Origins”, by Richard A. Horsley.

## The Monday Morning Coffee Clutch

Had a loss, or at a loss? Stop on in and stay a while. Share a story or just sit and listen for a while, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome.

Located in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Held every Monday from 9-10:30am.

### RIVER HAVEN

Please check the River Haven *Wish List* posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for a list of items that are needed at the facility. It's a great, inexpensive way to fulfill our outreach programs, by helping those in need with a simple extra item in your shopping cart, that goes a long way to helping those less fortunate.

### VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

- Worship Team Volunteers are always needed. Your help is appreciated by all! Please sign up in the Narthex, contact Nancy Buckley or the office.
- We are in need of volunteers to help set up and clean up for the annual craft fair on October 17 – 19. Sign up in the Narthex.
- “The American Cancer Society **Road To Recovery** program provides free rides to cancer patients who otherwise would have difficulty getting to their cancer-related appointments. Donate your time and the use of your car by becoming a volunteer



Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church. Unless preempted, coffee hour follows our church service. Gather together after service for treats, coffee, milk or tea and fellowship.

*The sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.*

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W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

**Pastor Jen Johnson**  
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**Mailing Address**  
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www.BethlehemLCportage.org

driver today. To get started, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).”

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

### Oct. 1-20:

- Salvation Army Coat Drive

### Oct. 6:

- Sunday School Kids sing at 9am Service
- Youth Casserole Sale

### Oct 17 & 18

- Craft Fair Set Up

### Oct 19:

- Annual Fall Craft Fair

### Oct 27:

- Confirmation 9am

### Oct 29:

- Dementia Friends Session – see flyer in the Narthex

## SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

We are excited to welcome some new families and grateful for those that are helping. Thank you to all who have signed up for Sunday school and for snack. We do have some children with peanut and gluten allergies. There are still some openings if you have not signed up. See the sign-up sheet on the Sunday School bulletin board.

The lessons we are studying in October are Jesus Heals Ten (Luke 17:11-19), The Pharisee and the Tax Collector (Luke 18:9-14).

On October 6th, the children will be singing at service. We are working on what we will be doing for Christmas this year.

We are again joining the Salvation Army with their coat drive: “Coats of Many Colors”. We are collecting coats, boots, hats, scarves, mittens and snow pants in from October 1<sup>st</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. There is a box in the Narthex or they can be dropped off at the Fire

Station in Portage. We also continue to collect pop tops for the Ronald McDonald house and food for the food pantry.

Please feel free to talk to any Sunday school staff if you have any questions or you can call Jeanette at 608-617-5228.

## THE GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be hosting the 2nd annual *Gifts of Bethlehem* Christmas program on **Sunday, December 8th at 4:00pm**. The musical program will be similar to last year, and we will also be hosting a gift basket fundraiser. If anyone is interested in helping with the planning & coordination of the 2019 program, please contact Tania Anderson.

**Donations/Decorations:** Similar to last year, we will be decorating the narthex to look like a Bethlehem Market. For this, we will need to borrow various baskets, pots, blankets, rugs, etc. for the month of December. Please be sure you label your items with your name somehow so they can be returned to you after the Christmas season.

**Decorating Volunteers:** We have a couple of decorating days planned to help prepare for the Christmas season. Please contact Margaret Molden, Ginny Paulson or Tania Anderson if you are able to help on the dates below:

- December 4th, 9:00am: Assemble the live wreath

- December 5th, 9:00am: Begin Christmas decor and the Bethlehem gifts display
- December 7th, 9:00am: Tree Decorating and finish decorating the narthex

**Musician Volunteers:** We are in need of people that are interested in playing instruments and/or singing in the Gifts of Bethlehem concert!! Please contact Tania Anderson if you are interested!! 608-697-5999

**Just a Reminder...** If you have an event at church, stop in for a visit, attend a meeting, or whatever and happen to be the last one in the building...BEFORE YOU LEAVE, please make sure all the outside doors are locked. Our church doors have been found unlocked several times in the last few months which creates a great liability for us all. Thank you!

## BLC T-SHIRTS

Here's your chance to WEAR our Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission statement: "God's family is serving Christ with love." Buy a t-shirt for just \$15.00 and let people know that God Is Love. These would also make a great Christmas gift. Shirt colors are blue or green. Order forms will be sent out in the weekly email newsletter and can also be found in the Narthex. **Orders and money due by October 13<sup>th</sup>.**



## RENEWAL TEAM UPDATE

The BLC Renewal Team is meeting with you! On September 19 the Team met with the council and brought with them a taco bar. In their time together the Team asked them all three questions:

1. What brought you to Bethlehem?
2. What keeps you at Bethlehem?
3. What do you see as challenges for us, as a church family?

The Team met with the Sunday School teachers on September 29, brought coffee and treats, and the same questions.

They will meet with the Bible Study group on October 1, again with goodies and the questions. The choir will have their opportunity to meet and eat on October 20, during the normal rehearsal time.

The Team will also make themselves available to you during fellowship time following Sunday worship. A Team member or two, plus a council member welcome you to join them for conversation around the three questions.

If you would like the Team to host a gathering, please let Pastor Jen know. You supply the place and we will bring snacks and eager ears.

**Listen**

**Observe**

**Reflect**

**Share**

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

From the Council...

*We have included a summary of the agenda/minutes from the September church council meeting below. The official minutes from the September meeting will be approved and then posted in the narthex after the October 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 September 19, 2019



#### In Attendance:

Pr. Jen, Ann Ciske, Tania Anderson, Angela Chappell, Jack Paulson, Halley Marcks, Don Bender and Robin Kvalo.

#### Guests: **The Renewal Team**

Jean Elliott, Melissa Bradbury, and Mark Teslik. Not able to attend: Lisa Cook

The Renewal Team joined the council meeting to summarize what they have been up to and where they are going with the renewal process. Currently, they are scheduling a series of meetings to ask a few questions and gather feedback from certain groups within the church. The purpose of these meetings is to provide a non-threatening environment to let congregation members provide feedback and suggestions to continue a forward motion and positive environment. Members can have questions answered by Pastor or a council member and opportunities given to start dialogue and ideas. Upcoming meetings include:

9/29/19 Sunday school 8am  
10/1/19 Quilters 11am  
10/13 Choir group 10:15

#### Pastor's Report:

There is a new synod DEM in place so the Renewal Pastors have a leader. The other Renewal Pastors and Pr. Jen will be attending a special instructional event January 13-15, 2020 called "Faithful Innovations Summit" at Luther Seminary; it is paid for by a grant.

#### Committee Reports: Action Items/Noteworthy Decisions:

- a. Finance: No action items
- b. Stewardship/Evangelism: No action items.
- c. Worship & Music: No action items.
- d. Property: Snow plow contract for 2019-2020 approved.
- e. Christian Education: Background checks for volunteers will be requested every 5 years. Council approved an additional BLC Release of Liability form to be signed by youth attending the Dominican Republic mission trip in January. Council also approved to recommend travel insurance through Brotherhood Mutual for the youth attending the mission trip.
- f. Local & Global: God's Work Our Hands at Tivoli this Sunday.

Nominations for council: There is one council position open right now, and three others opening up in January. We are seeking out nominations for these positions. We may have a candidate for the position that is currently open; to be confirmed soon. We will continue to look for others that would be interested in serving on council.

**Adopt-a-Bill.** Here's a list of some of our general expenses for you to consider.

<b>Monthly Expenses</b>		
Advanced Disposal	waste disposal	\$ 206.67
Alliant	gas/electric	\$ 526.29
Baraboo Credit Card	credit card	\$ 341.44
Frontier	phone/internet	\$ 304.96
GFC	copier lease	\$ 470.26
Portico	insurance/benefits	\$ 1,183.35
Thrivent	mortgage	\$ 5,983.00
<b>Regular Bills</b>		
1517 Media	Christian education	\$ 57.90
Cavanagh Company	communion supplies	\$ 67.14
JW Pepper	music supplies	\$ 51.99
Paychex	financial process fee	\$ 74.37
Quick books	financial computer program	\$ 35.00
Quill	office supplies	\$ 86.97
The O'Brion Agency	office supplies	\$ 85.00
The TH Stemper	altar supplies	\$ 77.29
United States Postal Service	postage	\$ 100.00
Vanco Payment	simply giving process fees	\$ 25.73
Wisconsin Pest Control	Insect control	\$ 140.00

<b>Ave Monthly Income Jan-Jun 2019</b>	<b>Ave Monthly Expenses Jan-Jun 2019</b>	<b>Amt needed per week for expenses</b>
\$24033	\$25713	\$6428
<b>September Weekly Income</b>		
	Total income**	Offering
Aug 26 – Sep 1	\$4057	\$2274
Sep 2- 8	\$5925	\$5125
Sep 9-15	\$3660	\$3022
Sep 16-22		
Sep 23-29		
** includes designated funds raised (ex: youth, memorial and other groups)		

## OCTOBER 2019 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Readers	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes
Wed 10/2	5:30 PM					Diane Gruenberg	Braxton Druckrey
Sun 10/6	9:00 AM	Dan & Marie Kucksdorf	John Denhartigh & 	Brenda Larson	Brenda Larson & Darlene Anderson-Prest	Cara Druckery	Grady Saalsaa
Wed 10/9	5:30 PM					Judy Donahue	Grace Lauth
Sun 10/13	9:00 AM	Alanna & Jim Thays		Lisa Cook	Ruth Price & Bobbie Goodman	Marie Kucksdorf	Ethan Macomber
Wed 10/16	5:30 PM					Kathy Lawrence	Brett Zellmer
Sun 10/20	9:00 AM	Betty Levzow	Ellen Kabele & 	Brenda Larson	Brenda Larson & Nancy Buckley	Bobbie Goodman	Kane Chappell
Wed 10/23	5:30 PM					Cheryl Hebel	Max Johnson
Sun 10/27	9:00 AM	Bob Chloe Rehdantz	Larry & Sandy Sween	Darlene Anderson-Prest	Darlene Anderson-Prest & John Denhartigh	Kari Johnson	Max Krueziger
Wed 10/30	5:30 p.m.					Judy Donahue	Tyler Zabler



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

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# October 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		<b>1</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 11:00 am Photo group 5:30 pm Finance Committee	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> 9:00 am Worship-SS Kids Sing 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:00 am Youth Casserole Sale 10:15 am BP Screening 12:00 pm Bishop's Convocation	<b>7</b> <b>Bishop's Convocation</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>8</b> <b>Bishop's Convocation</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>10</b> 9:00 am Women's Group 5:00 pm Renewal Team Meeting	<b>11</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>15</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>16</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>17</b> <b>Chimes Articles Due</b> <b>Craft Fair Set up</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>18</b> <b>Craft Fair Set up</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>19</b> <b>Fall Craft Fair</b> 
<b>20</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre 6:30 pm SRA meeting	<b>22</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> 9:00 am Confirmation Sunday 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>29</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 12:45 pm Dementia Friends Session 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>30</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>31</b>		