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The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Jen...

LANGUAGE (WORDS)

I love language.
the way it sounds,
the way words
roll off the tongue.

Its roots stretch back,
through time
to that first, single,
unknown, utterance.

Yet still it grows,
branches twisting
and turning.
They sprawl off
into the unknown
with words growing
like leaves,
every one there
because it was needed.

because there was some
thought, or emotion
so complex,
that all the words
that had come before
could not express it.

In this way language grows.
Some new shoot of life
Or another original utterance
emerges and changes.
Meanings blossom
then fade

until the flower wilts,
forgotten by time.

Yet still,
the tree stretches,
back, back to the beginning
and that very first,
unknown sound.

by Icarus Blackmore -
www.youngwritersproject.org

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen

WELCOME NEW PARISH SECRETARY!

Please extend a warm welcome to Julie Saalsaa, our new parish secretary. Julie will be taken over the reins from Barb Rothwell, who is leaving for a well-deserved vacation and new future adventures.

Our office hours will remain the same:
Monday-Thursday, 9am-3pm, and Friday
9am-1pm.

SEEKING COUNCIL NOMINEES

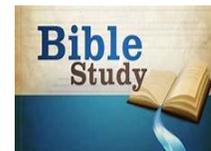
We are looking for nominations for council in January! If you are interested in serving on council, or know of someone that you would like to nominate, please contact Pr. Jen or Tania Anderson. Thank you!

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Please Join Us!

On Tuesday for the Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jen. We will meet in the conference room at 11:00, following quilting.

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

Bring your Bible, a paper and pen if you wish, and your curiosity. Our times together will last somewhere around an hour.

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.

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 Narthax.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- visiting shut-ins. If you have some time to volunteer, please call the office at 608-742-8502.



COFFEE HOUR

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.*

- We also have signup sheets for **coffee hour** and **worship volunteers** that have many blank lines to fill. Please volunteer to help out with these opportunities to make our Bethlehem family come closer together.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Youth Mission Trip Fund Raising Activities

- Sept. 8 – Casserole Sales
- Sept. 15 - Pizza Sales

Sept. 3:

- Quilters 9am
- Praise Team Practice 7:15 pm

Sept. 8:

- Blessing of the Backpacks
- Sunday School Starts 10:15am
- Choir Practice Starts 10:15am

Sept 11:

- Confirmation starts 6:30pm

Sept 15:

- Blessing of the Animals 9am

Sept 22:

- “God’s Work Our Hands 10:15 am

Sept 29:

- Stewardship Kick-off

ROAD TO RECOVERY

“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 driver today. To get started, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit cancer.org/drive.”

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS

During the church service on Sept. 8th there will be blessing of the backpacks so be sure to bring your backpack with you. We are excited to invite you to Sunday School Rally Day September 8th following the worship service. There will be registration forms in the Narthex. This is for children 3 years old through 5th grade.

On Rally Day, you will meet your Sunday School Teacher and get acquainted with your classmates. Rally Day opening and the orientation will be in the church sanctuary. After the children leave for their classes there will be a short Sunday School orientation with the parents. Sunday school will be from 10:15-11:15.

The fourth graders will receive their Bibles during the Church service on Sept. 22nd. The lessons we will be learning are Lost Sheep and the Lost Coin-Luke 15:1-10 and Pray for Everyone-1 Timothy 2:1-7.

We are looking for someone to help with music. If you are interested please see or call Jeanette 617-5228 or Pastor Jen.

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

From the Council...

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

August 15, 2019

In Attendance:

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

Two internal candidates were interviewed for the Parish Secretary position, and a recommendation has been made. The part-time position will be offered to this candidate at 15-20 hours per week to start. The hours may increase as the Stewardship campaign for funding of this position moves forward. Should this person accept the offer, office training should begin the week of August 18th.

Pastor's Report:

The report was submitted with a few action items. Pr. Jen attended a meeting about the community PACAP program. After our discussion, it has been approved to participate in and support this program moving forward. Also, Pr. Jen requested that BLC donate 1 ELW to the prison ministry at the Columbia Correctional Institution, which has been approved. The Stewardship committee has received a tree/poster for the campaign that will begin this fall, and council discussed the location of this and a couple of suggestions for the campaign. Lastly, it was recommended to Pr. Jen that BLC design a t-shirt as a fundraiser. A concept for this was discussed at All Committee night, and they will move forward with getting an estimate.

Committee Reports: Action Items/Noteworthy Decisions:

a. Finance: No updates at this time.

b. Stewardship/Evangelism: Committee report submitted; no action items.

c. Worship & Music: Committee report submitted; All Committee night will be changing from monthly to quarterly with the next meeting in November. No action items.

d. Property: Committee report submitted; no action items.

f. Christian Education: Committee report submitted. We discussed the release of liability letter on behalf of BLC for the upcoming mission trip. Sunday School is still in need of a co-teacher for 5th grade and someone to lead music. All curriculum has been purchased. No action items.

g. Local & Global: Working on some ideas for God's Work Our Hands within our community. No action items.



Thank you to everyone that donated items or helped with the rummage, brat & bake sale on Saturday, August 17th. All of your efforts contributed to raising \$3,354.17 for church expenses. We are deeply grateful to you all for your love and support of Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

OFFERING ENVELOPES

It's that time of year again when we start placing our order for offering envelopes, and we are going to try to streamline the number of offering envelopes that we order. Skipping non-used numbers is a non-acceptable headache for the printers, and the additional envelopes that are not used cost us quite a bit.

If you are a regular contributor to the church's finance, you don't have to worry, your envelope number(s) will remain the same, if they are in the 100-275 range. Simply Giving members have numbers in the 900's, and those also will remain the same.

For those of you that use Simply giving and occasionally want to make an additional donation to the church, you can use an envelope found in the racks on the back of each pew and write your simply giving number on the envelope to make sure it is record correctly. If you can't remember your envelop number – don't worry, the office has a listing of all the names associated with envelop numbers.

For those of you that are not Simply Giving members and have offering envelop numbers above 299, you will be reassigned a number. If you are a returning member, and have not given to the church in the last year, please check with the church office to find out if your old envelop number has been reassigned.

Snow birds, please consider the Simply Giving solution, as you can change your giving amount to a lesser amount when you are away from home, or leave it the same all year long. We know that when you are away from home, you are probably contributing to another congregation's finances, which is great, as we know that all congregations are facing the same financial struggles.

We depend on all of our active members contributions, which help support our mission and facility, and hope you will understand that we are taking whatever cost cutting measure we can, to maintain the status quo and plan for the future.

COMMUNION CARDS

Communion Registration

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage WI 53901
608-742-8502

Holy Communion is offered to all who are baptized, confess the Church's faith, and who believe that the Body and Blood of Christ is really present with the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins. All wine used is non-alcoholic. Please fill out this card and hand it to the usher.

Name (Confirmed) _____

Name (Un-Confirmed) _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Date Communed _____

Please Check

- Member of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Desire a Pastoral Contact
- Please note change of address
- Interested in joining Bethlehem Lutheran Church
- Visitor, please fill in home church and address on reverse side. Your information will be forwarded.

As we use up our old cards, new cards will take their place. The new cards will have a new blank row to register those who are not confirmed, but attend communion. This will help in differentiating children verses adults that attend communion with their parents or guardians, and make tabulating numbers for our Synod parochial report each year much easier. It will also be helpful to remember to only have one household per communion card.

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

| Monthly Expenses | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|
| 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 |
| Regular Bills | | |
| 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 |

| Average Monthly Income Jan-Aug 2019 | Average Monthly Expenses Jan-Aug 2019 | Amount needed per week for expenses | |
|--|--|--|-------|
| \$24033 | \$25713 | \$6428 | |
| August Weekly Income | | | |
| | Total income** | Offering | Notes |
| July 29- August 3 | \$8621 | \$7571 | |
| August 4- 10 | \$8666 | \$8516 | |
| August 11-17 | \$4208 | \$3838 | |
| August 18-24 | | | |
| August 25-31 | | | |
| ** includes designated funds raised (ex: youth, memorial and other groups) | | | |

Church Volunteers

| Date | Greeters | Ushers | Reader | Communion Assistants | Altar Guild | Acolytes |
|----------|--------------------------------|---|---------------|---|------------------|-----------------|
| Sun 9/1 | Elayne Hanson | Ed & Marie Rohrbacher | Brenda Larson | Linda Lewis &  | Marie Kucksdorf | |
| Wed 9/4 | | | | | Judy Donahue | Alex Schilling |
| Sun 9/8 | Gail & Linda Otto | Ann Ciske | Kris Soderman | Ruth Price & Jeff Melby | Bobbie Goodman | Ava Wohlfert |
| Wed 9/11 | | | | | Kathy Lawrence | Allyson Zabler |
| Sun 9/15 | Duane & Joan Meister |  | Linda Lewis | Nancy Buckley & Brenda Larson | Kari Johnson | Naomi Saalsaa |
| Wed 9/18 | | | | | Cheryl Hebel | Jack Brenner |
| Sun 9/22 | Betty Ring | Kory & Tania Anderson | Robin Kvalo | Ann Ciske &  | Brenda Larson | Andrew Charles |
| Wed 9/25 | | | | | Diane Grueneberg | Emily Johnson |
| Sun 9/29 | Nancy Schwenke & Judy Hernkind | Larry & Sandy Sween | Del Molden | Halley Marcks &  | Cindy Frank | Lucas Kreuziger |

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

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!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September 2019

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|---|--|---|--|------------------------------|---|
| 1 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 10:15am BP check | 2 Office Closed/Labor Day 6:30pm Euchre | 3 9am Quilters 11am Photo Club 11 am Bible Study 5:30 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Zumba | 4 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 7:00pm Zumba | 5 | 6 10:30 Tai Chi | 7 |
| 8 9am Worship-Backpacks 10:00 Coffee Hour 10:00 Youth Casserole 10:15 Choir Practice 10:15 Sunday School | 9 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30 SREA Meeting 6:30pm Euchre | 10 9am Quilters 11am Bible Study 5pm CASA Meeting 6:30pm Zumba | 11 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation | 12 9am Women's Group 5:30pm Renewal Team | 13 10:30am Tai Chi | 14 |
| 15 6am Youth Pizza Making 9am Worship-Blessing of Animals 10:00 Coffee Hour | 16 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm SREA mtg 6:30pm Euchre | 17 9am Quilters 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Zumba 7pm SREA Annual Mtg | 18 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation | 19 Chimes articles due 6:30pm Council Mtg 6:30pm SRA Annual Mtg | 20 10:30am Tai Chi | 21 8:00am – 4 pm Rummage Sale |
| 22 9am Worship-4 th Gr. Bibles 10:00 Coffee Hour 10:15 "God's Work Our Hands" | 23 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre | 24 9am Quilters 11am Bible Study 6:30pm Zumba | 25 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation | 26 | 27 10:30am Tai Chi | 28 |
| 29 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 10:00 Ministry Fair Stewardship Kick-off | 30 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre | | | | | 31 |

