



**MONTHLY VISION NEWSLETTER  
DECEMBER, 2017**

**Christmas Eve Worship  
Sunday, December 24th  
at 8:30 am & 7:30 pm**

**Celebrating God's Grace and reaching out with Christ's Love**



**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**To join in on...**

**2nd Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation  
 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**3rd Sunday**

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Kelli  
 8:30 am Sunday school at Bethel  
 9:15 am Sr. League at Atonement  
 10:45 am Sunday school & Jr. League at Atonement

**5th Tuesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
 4:30 pm Marketing Team Meeting  
 5:30 pm Education Meeting

**6th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
 6-6:45 pm Evening Bible Study  
 7:00 pm Evening Worship

**7th Thursday - Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day**

**9th Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation  
 Noon-2 pm Faith, Family & Fun  
 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**10th Sunday**

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Kelli  
 Noisy Can - Salvation Army, Red Kettle  
 Gifts for Friends of Jesus pick-up  
 Special Congregational Meeting  
 9:15 am Sr. League at Atonement  
 10:45 am Sunday School & Jr. League at Atonement

**12th Tuesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
 4:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meal

**13th Wednesday- Cousins Subs Fundraiser Day**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship

**16th Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation  
 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**17th Sunday**

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Kelli  
 9:15 am Sr. League at Atonement  
 10:45 am Sunday School & Jr. League at Atonement

**19th Tuesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
 7:00 pm Council Meeting

**20th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

**21st Thursday**

7:00 pm Ginny's Gems at Donna Meitner's home

**23rd Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation  
 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**24th Sunday - Christmas Eve**

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Kelli  
 7:30 pm Worship with Pastor Kelli

**25th Monday - Christmas Day**

**26th Tuesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

**27th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

**30th Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation  
 7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**31st Sunday - New Year's Eve**

8:30 am Worship with Guest Pastor - Kelly Taylor Schaus

**WORSHIP**  
**Sundays, 8:30 am**

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP**  
**Sunday, December 24th, 8:30 am & 7:30 pm**

January 2018						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			



## A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE FROM PASTOR

On Wednesday, December 13, you are invited to our Blue Christmas service. It's a special service before Christmas to acknowledge that this time of year isn't always happy for everyone. It's a way of not ignoring the painful parts of our lives and it's about how the real message of Christmas is balm, comfort, and hope for despair.

I tend to be a very traditional person. By traditional, I mean, I love traditions. Sometimes when something is special and meaningful to me, I hope that it will happen the exact same way every year forever and ever (which seldom ever happens, but that's another message for another day). I have so many Christmas traditions from growing up that feel really important to me: every year getting together with my extended family on Christmas Eve, spending time with my sisters and cousins, eating a weird mix of appetizers, going to "the 11 o'clock service" at my home church, waking up the next morning way too early to open presents, eating Pillsbury cinnamon rolls, and playing games with my family.

I remember the first year that I couldn't get home for Christmas. It was tough. I knew my family was doing all of our special Christmas traditions without me. Going to sleep on Christmas Day in an empty house was particularly lonely.

It was also a Christmas that was really important to me. Because I didn't have any of the special family Christmas traditions to enjoy, I paid closer attention to the story of Christmas. I sang the Christmas carols for the messages of hope that they were. I heard the story of God taking on flesh and living among us, and I heard it as a message of solidarity in struggle and heartache. Everything was different. Even though it was sad, it was holy.

I want to invite everyone to Blue Christmas this year. Sometimes the light of the gospel is so much brighter when we are willing to look at the dark places of our lives. Even if this year's Christmas time isn't blue for you, it might be for the person who regularly sits across from you in worship. Christmas is a time for us to really be church for each other, to support each other through the joy and the struggle, and to hear the message of hope once again.

Merry Christmas!

Peace,  
Pastor Kelli



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I would like to thank everyone who handed in their pledge cards. The budget is easier to plan when we have an idea of how much money we may be receiving. Again, we recognize that unforeseen things may happen in our individual finances in the year ahead. Your pledge comes with the understanding that you may need to change your giving in the year ahead. The Annual Congregational meeting is on **Sunday, January 21 after worship** to approve the 2018 budget.

Along with it being budget time, we also need our congregation members to pray about joining Council. My two terms are up so I will have to step down from Council and being Council President. I have truly enjoyed my time serving on Council and value the friendships that have grown through our time together.

Have you noticed that it has been a little chilly at worship? There will be a congregational meeting on **Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>**, after worship to vote on replacing the furnace that heats the sanctuary and the narthex.

We have been having more problems with the boiler. Another pipe burst in the sanctuary (on the wall side) so we had to turn off heat to that side of the sanctuary and to make matters worse, the furnace that also heats the sanctuary broke.

Just to make the congregational meeting dates stand out:

**December 10<sup>th</sup> after worship**

**January 21<sup>st</sup> after worship**

Giving thanks always and for everything to God, the Father, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. – Ephesians 5:20

Yours in Christ,

Vicki Kakonis

Council President



Please enjoy this downloadable [Advent Devotional](https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/2017_Advent_Devotional.pdf) from Luther Seminary. There are daily devotions through Christmas. The link to use to get the devotion: [https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/2017\\_Advent\\_Devotional.pdf](https://www.luthersem.edu/advent/2017_Advent_Devotional.pdf)





**Faith, Family & Fun** is an intergenerational program that brings families and kids together once a month on Saturdays. Participants share lunch, learn Bible stories, make crafts (from birdhouses to homemade ice cream), share music and play games. Older kids make it fun by joining in to help everyone – even adults. The program is held on the second Saturday of each month from noon to 2 pm. The next meeting is on December 9, 2017. RSVP by contacting Debbie Zortman, Heidi Lindhorst, or Julie Frahmman.

### **Bethel/Atonement - Sunday Morning Education for Children and Teens at:**

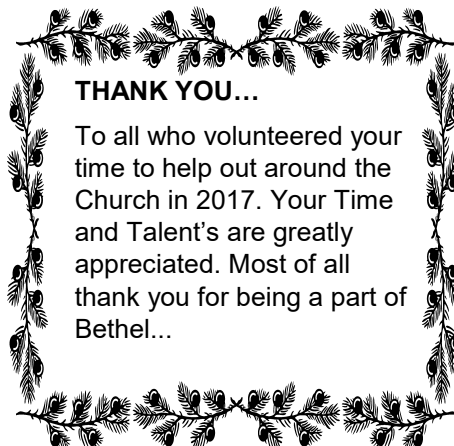
- **Bethel's Sunday School program**

We have Sunday school once per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month during worship. The program is open for Pre-school age to 6th grade. Anyone wishing to teach or be a teen helper, please contact Pastor Kelli, Debbie Zortman, Heidi Lindhorst or Julie Frahmman.

- **Senior League classes are held for students in Grades 9-12 at 9:15-10:30 am at Atonement.**

- **Sunday School classes are held at Atonement for children age 3 through Grade 5 and Junior League classes for students in Grades 6-8 at 10:45 am-Noon.**

Invite friends to join us. Bethel partners in children and youth ministry with Atonement Lutheran Church. Atonement is located at S70 W16244 Martin Drive in Muskego - just two miles from Bethel.



#### **THANK YOU...**

To all who volunteered your time to help out around the Church in 2017. Your Time and Talent's are greatly appreciated. Most of all thank you for being a part of Bethel...



# PRAYERS



When in Church, Prayer requests can be made by filling in a prayer card (found near your seat or on the piano) and putting it in the offering plate or handing it to Pastor. Requests can be submitted confidentially at the church website, [www.bethelmuskegoelc.org](http://www.bethelmuskegoelc.org)

Please keep these people and situations in your prayers:

**Pray for healing of illnesses & injuries:** Angeline, Paul B., Christian D., Pat D., Dakota, Dale, Deno, Ariel Fischer, Michael Fischer, Jeff, Russ Jones, Roger Kerr, Pastor Steve Kersten, Marlene, Matt, Michelle, Pat Murphy, Lela Vern Pickart, Linda Radmer, Sherri, Stevie, Sue, Taylor, Tina, Tony & Carla U's god-daughter, Ludo & Shirley Vretenar.

**Josh**, pray for strength and direction as he deals with his mom's health issues.

**Pray for emotional, spiritual health & guidance for:** Curtis, Jackie, Jeanine, Kate, Mitchell, Sue G, Tristan, Wanda & all needing support for whatever issues they are facing.

**Pray for peace & comfort for:** all families who have lost loved ones. Pray for Bishop Erickson & family on the death of his father, Rodney Kent Erickson. Pray for the Marlene Gantze family, Pray for Jean Paape and her family on the death of her sister, Jacqueline. Pray for Nate Harris and family on the death of Nate's wife Anji. The Harris's are friends of Aaron & Angela. Pray for Darlene T. and family on the death of a family member. Pray for Sonja Wolfe and family on the loss of Sonja's mom.

**Pray for direction, wisdom & peace for:** Bethel's Church Members, Council, Pastor Kelli and Staff.

**Pray for wisdom, honesty, morality & integrity for:** all the Political Leaders.

**Pray for fairness & truthfulness for:** our media.

**Pray for,** Food and Shelter for the homeless.

**Pray for:** Our Country to seek God's ways, confess our sins and seek God's forgiveness.

**Pray for comfort, strength & wisdom for:** all those affected by the Hurricanes, Earthquakes, Fires & the Las Vegas Shootings.



Volunteer Opportunities



## December Schedule for Sundays

**Ushers:** 3rd-Debbie Zortman, 10th-Schmidt 17th-Ken Packer, 24th-Jochims, 31st-Connor

**Altar:** 3rd-Yvonne, 10th-Betty, 17th-Barb, 24th-Ginny, 31st-Yvonne

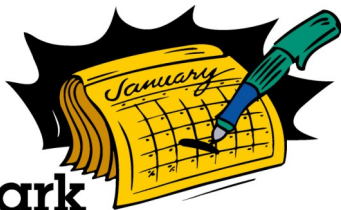
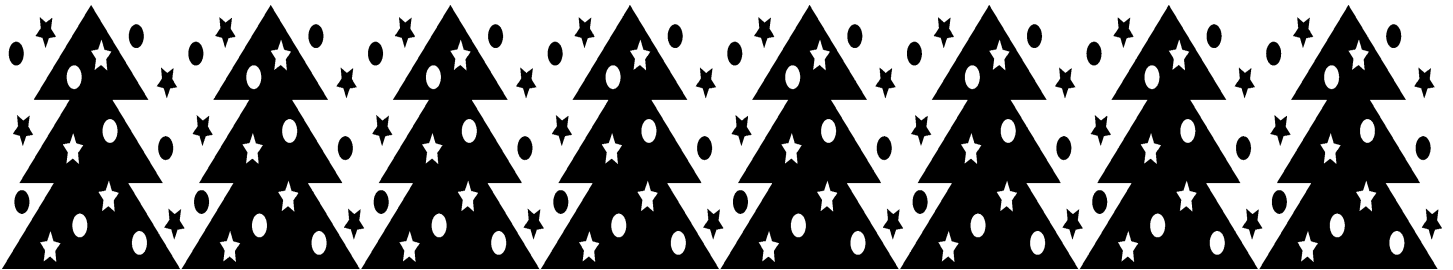
**Media:** 3rd-Jean Paape, 10th-Jeanne Kolkoski, 17th-Julie Frahmman, 24th-Jochims, 31st-Vicki Kakonis



The November 18<sup>th</sup> Craft & Bake Sale netted a profit of \$1,326.90 to date. The Outreach group hoped to designate this money to the purchase of a new heating system. Thanks to all who participated whether baking, working or purchasing the date of the sale.



Thank you to all the Members who came out on Thursday, November 30th to help decorate the Church and Christmas Tree. It looks beautiful.



**Mark  
Your Calendar!**

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21st after the Worship Service. You may start to send in your report now.



### CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

#### Branch (Tree) of Jesse -

Isaiah used the image of a new tree growing from what appears dead to foretell God's redemption of Israel: "A shoot will come up from the stump of Jesse; from his roots a Branch will bear fruit" (Isaiah 11:1, NIV). During Advent, this prophecy assures us of the coming of the Messiah, descended from King David, and thus his father, Jesse.

# Make some noise!

Below are Bethel's 2017 recipients of the Noisy Can Offerings. The Noisy Can Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

January - Pastor Discretion

February - St Vincent de Paul meal-site

March - Hope Center, Waukesha

April - Lutherdale Bible Camp

May - Flowers for Bethel

June - Safe Babies, Healthy Families

July - The Guest House of

Milwaukee, Shelter

August - Lutheran Campus Corner

September - Muskego Senior Taxi

October - Outreach for Hope, Inc.

**November - Gifts from Friends of Jesus**

**December - Salvation Army,**

**Red Kettle Donation**



•**The noisy can for December goes to Salvation Army, Red Kettle Donation.** The Salvation Army, an international movement, is an evangelical part of the universal Christian church. Its message is based on the Bible. Its ministry is motivated by the love of God. Its mission is to preach the gospel of Jesus Christ and to meet human needs in His name without discrimination. The Salvation Army is a nonprofit, tax-exempt charitable organization. Public contributions to Salvation Army kettles enable the organization to continue its year-round efforts at helping those who would otherwise be forgotten.



## Prayer Shawls Ministry

Ginny's Gems woman's group meets the third Thursday of each month. The group meets for devotion and fellowship; they crochet and sew prayer shawls and lap blankets. Prayer shawls and blankets are then donated to local hospitals, nursing homes and rehab centers. If you would like to join this group or contribute to this ministry, please contact Julie Frahmann at 262-679-2038. The next meeting will be on Thursday, December 21st, at 7:00 pm at Donna Meitner's home. Bring a friend! Thank you for your support.





# CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Kelli Weiss, 805-405-9930, [pastorkelliweiss@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkelliweiss@gmail.com)

Secretary - Dawn Vretenar, 262-835-1042, [bethelmuskegoelc@gmail.com](mailto:bethelmuskegoelc@gmail.com)

Musician - Heidi Surprenant, 414-425-6817, [msurprenant@wi.rr.com](mailto:msurprenant@wi.rr.com)

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00-3:00 pm

## CHURCH COUNCIL

**President** - Vicki Kakonis 262-679-5857

Dan Conner	262-679-2768	Jim Lindhorst	262-679-1544
Julie Frahmman	262-679-2038	Teri Orlando	262-679-0456
Yvonne Hafferman	262-710-4457	Ken Packer	262-650-9606
Dave Henkel	262-679-9544	Debbie Zortman	262-662-0535

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



Gifts for Friends of Jesus are being collected up until Saturday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. On that day, the group – Faith, Family & Fun will wrap all the presents. Forms that are needed to be placed on the gifts are in an envelope attached to the collection box.

Special Congregational Meeting, Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>, following Worship. There will be a discussion to approve up to \$7,000.00 for a new furnace for the Sanctuary & Narthex.

Blue Christmas Service will be on Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm at Bethel. Take this time of Remembrance, Reflection and Renewal to come quietly to receive God's love and comfort. The holidays can be difficult. This service gives us an opportunity to experience Christmas carols, responsive readings, Scripture and prayer that create a quiet space to connect with God.

Christmas Eve Service will be on Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, at 8:30 am & 7:30 pm at Bethel.

### Annual Congregational Meeting

Attend the Annual Meeting on Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup> after the Worship Service. You may start to send in your report now.

WISHING CHRISTMAS BLESSINGS

*...now and throughout the coming year...*


Bethel Lutheran Church  
S77 W18426 Janesville Rd.  
Muskego WI 53150

## Support Bethel Ministries



Buy Kwik Trip cards  
through the church office.


**DONATION DAY**  
• ALL DAY  
**Wednesday December 13th**



20% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO

**BETHEL**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLYER MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF ORDERING  
Muskego • W189 S7827 Racine Ave. • 262-679-6181  
COUSINSSUBS.COM



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present it at the time of purchase.