

**Bethel Lutheran Church  
S77 W18426 Janesville Road  
Muskego, WI 53150  
262-679-1616  
[www.bethelmuskegoelc.org](http://www.bethelmuskegoelc.org)**

**December 2018  
Monthly newsletter**

**Celebrating God's Grace, and  
Reaching Out With Christ's Love**

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



**1st Saturday**

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

**2nd Sunday**

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren  
Sunday School  
Christmas decorating following worship

**4th Tuesday**

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

**5th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

**7th Friday - Pearl Harbor Remembrance**

**8th Saturday**

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

**9th Sunday**

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren  
Chimes will be played by the children this morning  
Noisy Can - Salvation Army, Red Kettle Donation  
Friends of Jesus –gifts picked up

**11th Tuesday**

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

**12th Wednesday- Cousins Subs Fundraiser**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours  
7:00 pm Evening Worship-Pastor Maren  
Blue Christmas Service

**15th Saturday**

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

**16th Sunday**

8:30 am Worship - Supply Pastor

**18th Tuesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Council Meeting

**19th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

**20th Thursday**

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

**21st Friday - Winter begins**

**22nd Saturday**

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

**23rd Sunday**

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren

**24th Monday - Christmas Eve.**

7:30 pm Worship with Pastor Maren

**25th Tuesday - Christmas Day**

No Office Hours

**26th Wednesday**

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - lay member Lessons & Carols Service

**29th Saturday**

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

**30th Sunday**

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren  
Lessons & Carols Service

**31st Monday– New Year's Eve**

Join us for Worship on Wednesday Evenings at

7:00 pm &

Christmas Eve Worship -  
Monday December 24, at 7:30 pm

Dear Family of Faith,

As we turn the calendar to December we begin a new church year and enter the church season of Advent. The term Advent literally means “coming” or “arrival.” In the weeks of Advent, we prepare for the arrival of the Christ Child into our lives, the one whom God sent as our Savior.

Advent is about preparing. Think about birthday parties or other parties you have thrown for others. You need to think and plan for many things - who to invite, the menu, what kind of cake the person likes best. A lot of preparation goes into throwing parties, and yet the efforts are rewarded as we see smiles on faces, friends and family enjoying each other’s company.

Likewise, we have **four weeks** in Advent to prepare for the big party to come – Jesus’ own birthday party.

And celebrating Jesus’ birth is anything but an ordinary celebration. We are celebrating the fact that God has fulfilled God’s promise to be a **living and redeeming God** by entering into our lives and becoming one of us in Jesus Christ.

Advent is more than a time for making our homes ready and for buying gifts, it is a time for making our hearts and minds ready for Jesus as well. With all the hustle and bustle that this month entails, our spiritual preparations are essential. Regular worship, prayer, and Bible reading/devotions are some ways to stay anchored to the One was born for us.

Advent is also a time to examine and strengthen our connections to God and to God’s hopes and dreams for the world in which we live. I invite you to reflect on the following:

1. How will you prepare your hearts this Advent season?
2. As we enjoy the company of family and friends during the holidays, Jesus also wants to keep company with us. How will you we make more time for him?

As we go about this season of Peace and Joy... we know that the holidays can also be a time of grief and sadness, or tension and stress. With that in mind, we will again be offering a **Blue Christmas service on Wednesday Dec. 12, 7 p.m.** Please plan to join us for this special comforting service, and invite along family/friends who may also need a respite and a word of hope.

As we worship, work, prepare, and travel this month... I wish you moments of calm and stillness. May the Prince of Peace break through all the hustle and bustle, and fill your hearts with joy as you trust in Him!

Peace, Pastor Maren



#### CRAFT AND BAKE SALE 2018

Hello Bethel Members,

Congratulations! We made \$1,700.00 at our 2018 Craft and Bake sale! Thank you all for your donations of your wonderful crafts and delicious baked goods! God has given you a lot of talent and creativity. You are amazing. A big thank you to all who helped, distributed posters and flyers, set up and worked the sale. The day was full of a lot of laughs and camaraderie, we also did work. We will continue to sell raffle tickets for the quilt. Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 tickets for \$5.00. If you would like tickets, please let me know. The drawing is February 10th. The perfect gift for Valentines day. Thank you again for supporting this event and making the 2018 Craft and Bake sale a Success! Have a very Merry Christmas and many Blessings to you all. Thank you, Jean Paape.



"THE HOLIDAY SEASON IS A PERFECT TIME  
TO REFLECT ON OUR BLESSINGS  
AND SEEK OUT WAYS TO MAKE LIFE BETTER  
FOR THOSE AROUND US."

### Volunteer Opportunities



### DECEMBER SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	2nd	9th	16th	23rd	30th
<b>Altar:</b>	Barb	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
<b>Media:</b>	Jean P	Ken P	Schalk's	Jochims	Ken P
<b>Ushers:</b>	Julie F	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Conner's	Jochims	Debbie Z
<b>Communion:</b>	Debbie Z	Sue H	Jean P	Barb O	Sue H
<b>Lector:</b>	Heidi L	Kathy D	Ben/Jake S	Kate/Sara J	Kathy D

### JANUARY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	6th	13th	20th	27th
<b>Altar:</b>	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
<b>Media:</b>	Jean P	Ken P	Jochims	Schalk's
<b>Ushers:</b>	Ken P	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Jochims	Conner's
<b>Communion:</b>	Debbie Z	Sue H	Jean P	Barb O
<b>Lector:</b>	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kate/Sara J	Ben/Jake S

"PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE SUNDAY A MONTH, BETHEL NEEDS YOUR TIME AND TALENTS"

Volunteers are needed for the December 24th, Christmas Eve. Service at 7:30 pm. If you are able to help out that night with Altar, Media, Usher, Communion or Lector, please let the office know.



**Faith, Family & Fun** is an intergenerational program that brings families and kids together once a month on Saturday. 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 8, 2018. RSVP by contacting Debbie Zortman, Heidi Lindhorst, or Julie Frahmann.

#### Children's Sunday School



#### Bethel's Sunday School program

We gather for Sunday school once per month on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of the month held during worship. Next class is on December 2nd.

The program is open for Pre-school age to 6th grade.

Anyone wishing to teach or be a teen helper, please contact Debbie Zortman, Heidi Lindhorst or Julie Frahmann.



WISHING YOU AND  
YOUR FAMILY A VERY  
MERRY CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A HAPPY NEW YEAR.



#### MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY

Open Every Thursday -

Drop off Donations - 9 am to 5:30 pm

Pick Up Food - 1 pm to 5:30 pm

S81 W19150 Apollo Drive -  
Muskego

Telephone number: 262-679-6448  
[muskegofoodpantry@hotmail.com](mailto:muskegofoodpantry@hotmail.com)



#### THANK YOU...

To all who volunteered your time to help out around the Church in 2018. Your Time and Talent's are greatly appreciated. Most of all thank you for being a part of Bethel...



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 this week:

Amy, Connor (2yrs old) and parents Tom and Gail as Connor is still going through treatments for cancer. Connie, Corey & Amber, Dale, Jean, Kathy Fischer, Larry for heart healing, Michael Jegers who is recovering from brain surgery, Russ Jones, Mike K. for AA recovery, Lela Vern Pickart, Linda Radmer, Matt, Michelle, Michael F., Stevie, Taylor & Tony.

**Pray for peace & comfort for the families who have lost loved ones:**

Christian D. who passed away recently and comfort for the Kakonis family as they mourn the death of Tom Kakonis, Dan's father.

**Pray for Protection:** Christians around the world, our Church, our youth & families separated at the border.

**Pray for and Protect and bless our pets who give us companionship and delight.**

## Holiday Schedule

Bethel Lutheran Church invites you and your guests to join us for Worship during the holiday season. Near the end of another year, praying, singing, and celebrating together helps us connect with each other and with God. All are welcome to receive Communion. If you don't have a church home, or the weather is bad, we're just down the street and welcome your visit. Many blessings to you and yours.

### Schedule:

\***Blue Christmas:** 7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 12th. Worship and observe what makes the holidays painful, bittersweet or hectic for you.

\***Christmas Eve:** 7:30 pm, Monday, December 24th. A joyful service concluding with singing Silent Night during candlelight.

\***Lessons and Carols:** 7:00 pm, Wednesday, December 26th. 8:30 am, Sunday, December 30th.

I am very thankful that on November 13, we served 201 people at the St. Vincent de Paul meal site. It's a blessing that members of Bethel provide jello, cake, stew and are willing to serve people who are less fortunate

These wonderful people who provide are: Tracy Jochims, Jeanne Kolkoski, Kathy Duran, Diane Conner, Julie Frahmann, Lynn Gressle, Georgia Hainer, Lori Schwanz, Barb Zanotelli, Kathy Ferguson, Ken Packer and Bryon Paape.

Hope everyone had a wonderful Thanksgiving! Many blessings and thanks! Jean Paape



## EVENTS & PUBLICITY from the Marketing Team:



**Annual Congregational Meeting**  
Attend the Annual Meeting in January after the Worship Service. Date will be announced shortly.  
You may start to send in your report now.



**Christmas decorating  
will be on  
Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>  
following Worship.  
Please join us!**

**Gifts for Friends of Jesus  
are being collected up until Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>. Forms that are needed to be placed on the gifts are in an envelope attached to the collection box.**

**Blue Christmas Service  
Wednesday, December 12, 2018  
at 7:00 pm**



# Make some noise!

**Below are Bethel's 2018 recipients of the Noisy Can Offerings.  
The Noisy Can Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month.**

January - Pastor's Discretion

February - St Vincent de Paul meal-site

March - Hope Center, Waukesha

April - Lutherford 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 for 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.



WISHING CHRISTMAS

BLESSINGS

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

## 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 20th, at 7:00 pm at Donna Meitner's home. Bring a friend! Thank you for your support.

"Many thanks to all who donated yarn to Ginny's Gems at the yarn drop in September. This yarn will be put to good use and should keep the group crocheting for quite awhile."



# CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Maren Hooper, 262-271-8914, [pastormaren@gmail.com](mailto:pastormaren@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 - Debbie Zortman 262-662-0535

Vice President - Dave Henkel 262-679-9544

Secretary - Julie Frahmann 262-679-2038

Treasurer - Georgia Hainer

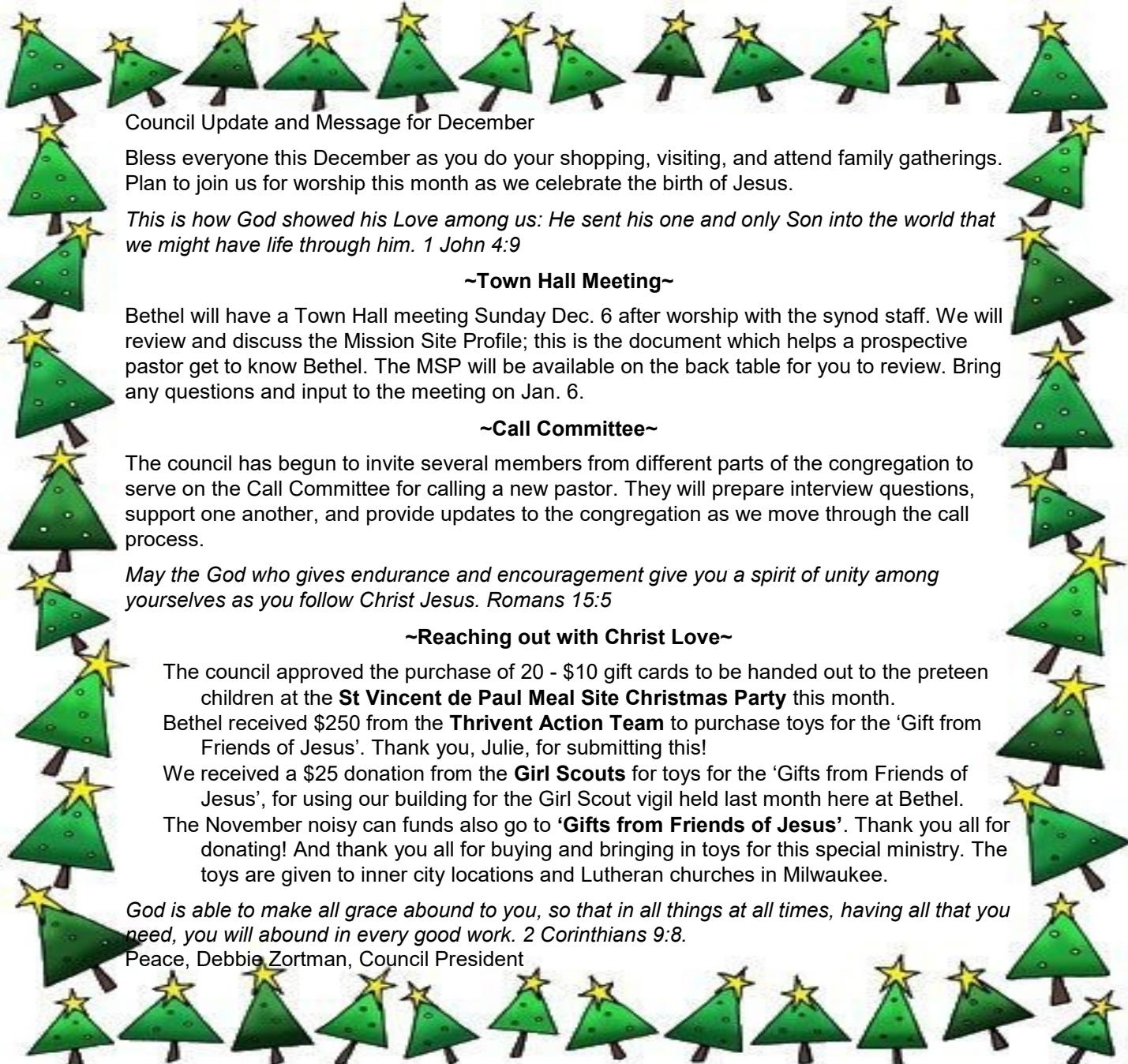
Dan Conner 262-679-2768

Jim Lindhorst 262-679-1544

Teri Orlando 262-679-0456

Barb Osberg 262-679-3905

Ken Packer 262-650-9606



### Council Update and Message for December

Bless everyone this December as you do your shopping, visiting, and attend family gatherings. Plan to join us for worship this month as we celebrate the birth of Jesus.

*This is how God showed his Love among us: He sent his one and only Son into the world that we might have life through him. 1 John 4:9*

### ~Town Hall Meeting~

Bethel will have a Town Hall meeting Sunday Dec. 6 after worship with the synod staff. We will review and discuss the Mission Site Profile; this is the document which helps a prospective pastor get to know Bethel. The MSP will be available on the back table for you to review. Bring any questions and input to the meeting on Jan. 6.

### ~Call Committee~

The council has begun to invite several members from different parts of the congregation to serve on the Call Committee for calling a new pastor. They will prepare interview questions, support one another, and provide updates to the congregation as we move through the call process.

*May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus. Romans 15:5*

### ~Reaching out with Christ Love~

The council approved the purchase of 20 - \$10 gift cards to be handed out to the preteen children at the **St Vincent de Paul Meal Site Christmas Party** this month.

Bethel received \$250 from the **Thrivent Action Team** to purchase toys for the 'Gift from Friends of Jesus'. Thank you, Julie, for submitting this!

We received a \$25 donation from the **Girl Scouts** for toys for the 'Gifts from Friends of Jesus', for using our building for the Girl Scout vigil held last month here at Bethel.

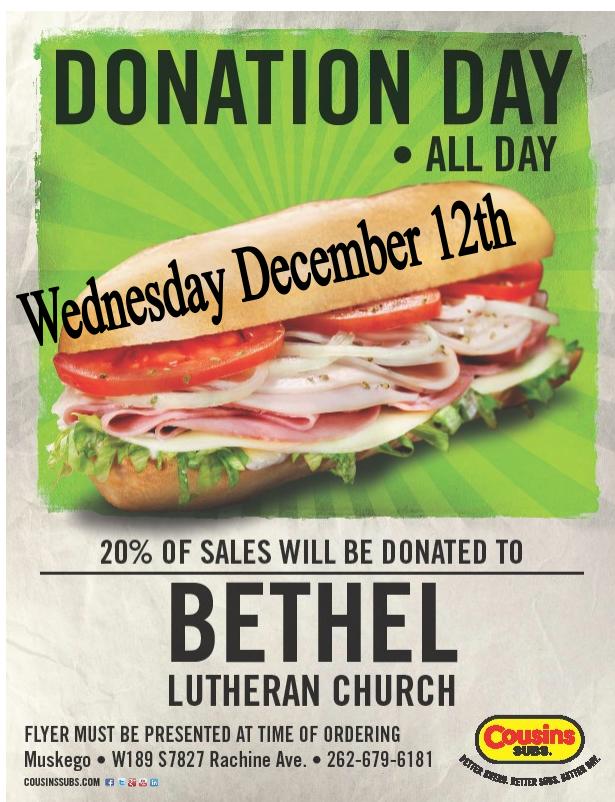
The November noisy can funds also go to '**Gifts from Friends of Jesus**'. Thank you all for donating! And thank you all for buying and bringing in toys for this special ministry. The toys are given to inner city locations and Lutheran churches in Milwaukee.

*God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work. 2 Corinthians 9:8.*

Peace, Debbie Zortman, Council President

Muskego WI 53150

S77 W18426 Janesville Rd.  
Bethel Lutheran Church



Please present this coupon and  
present it at the time of purchase.

