

January 2019
Monthly newsletter

Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Road
Muskego, WI 53150
262-679-1616
www.bethelmuskegoelc.org

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



1st Tuesday - New Year's Day

No Office Hours

2nd Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

5th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

6th Sunday

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren

Sunday School

Town Hall Meeting with Synod

7th Monday

6-9:00 pm Girl Scouts

8th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

2:00 pm Marketing Meeting

3:00 pm Education Meeting

4:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meal

9th Wednesday- Cousins Subs Fundraiser

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship-Pastor Maren

12th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

Noon-2 pm Faith, Family & Fun

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

13th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

Noisy Can

15th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Council Meeting

16th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

17th Thursday

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

19th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

20th Sunday

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren

Annual Meeting

22nd Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

23rd Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

26th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

27th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

29th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

30th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

Join us for Worship on
Wednesday Evenings at 7:00 pm &
Sunday Mornings at 8:30 am

Town Hall Meeting with the Synod
January 6, 2019
Worship 8:30 am
Meeting Immediately Following

+

Congregational Meeting
January 20, 2019
Worship 8:30 am
Meeting Immediately Following

From Pastor Maren...

Happy New Year! Maybe you've been setting some goals or making some resolutions. We tend

to do that this time of year! We also know that most of those good intentions are hard to keep up!

Rather than feeling guilt when we come up short... I invite you to extend yourself some grace!

Our disappointments are often rooted in unrealistic expectations and striving towards perfection.

So maybe it is time to loosen our grip on perfection. We can instead strive toward faithfulness.

And then rest in the grace of God who gives us 2nd and 3rd (and infinity!) new chances!

I wrote the following reflection the Friday before Christmas. But as the church really celebrates Christmas into January, I thought it'd be appropriate to share with you in the New Year! I hope you enjoy....

Maybe this Dec. 20th finds you feeling a bit like this picture... a little bit loopy! December can do that to you. It's December 20th and I find there's still a lot left undone. Sometimes I feel a little bit undone! The pictures that were intended as Christmas card material are still sitting on the computer. Cookies for Santa are not baked. The favorite chocolates that were left out to be wrapped for teachers got eaten, thus necessitating yet another dreaded trip to the store. We've not yet taken the kids to Candy Cane Lane. I know none of these things are the end of the world. And I try to remember that there is no "perfect Christmas," that there is no "perfect family." But there is still a lot of pressure out there to strive toward some perceived version of perfection.

Maybe that's why I like this picture so much. It's not the fancy, polished photo where everyone is perfectly smiling. But I think more importantly, it captures the love and the laughter and the humor that we all share. The essential things that get us through the ups and downs of life!

Before we got to the park on this particular day, all was not so "picture-perfect." A button fell off of the dress and it was too late to fix it. There was pre-teen self-consciousness and worries about hair, and sibling squabbles in the car. Like many of our family photos, at least one of us (usually me!) is blinking. Noting a bit of stress, the photographer put us all at ease and added in her own fun and humor too. In the end, it turned out to be a "perfectly imperfect" day.



(continued on next page)

Pastor report continued -

2018 has been quite the year. And not always in a good way. There are reminders everywhere around us, and oftentimes within us, that all is not so Holly Jolly. The brokenness and injustice, heartache and pain in the world, can make it hard to get out the words that "it's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year."

I've got some different lyrics stuck in my head this season. Not a Christmas tune, but from a recent movie that really moved me. (A Star is Born). With great acoustic guitar background, the questions are posed, "Tell me something girl.. Are you happy in this modern world? Or, do you need more? Is there something else you're searching for?"

Happiness can be transient, but I do find myself longing for more. Maybe you are too. More joy. More peace. More hope for this world. More of all those words that we find on Christmas cards. But we long for the real deal.

In our modern world so much of the Christmas story is tamed down, sanitized to look good on our lawns or in our sanctuaries. But rather than a picture-perfect manger scene, it was really a wild and chaotic scene. Forced exile, perilous journeys, many unknowns, fear and pain. It's good to remember THIS manger scene... because if God chose to enter humanity HERE, in a remote little unknown town, in the midst of less than ideal conditions, in the midst of a dark night... if the good news of great joy for all people was announced EVEN HERE... well then, God can and will break in anywhere.

In the midst of our darkness. In the midst of our own uncertainties and less than ideal conditions. In the midst of the highs and the lows and everything in between... a Savior comes. To be Emmanuel - **God. With. Us.**

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) As we move from Christmas into Epiphany, may we keep looking up and seeking the Light. May we also BE the light shining brightly, illuminating the hope that is found in Christ.

Happy New Year! Pastor Maren

JANUARY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

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

FEBRUARY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	3rd	10th	17th	24th
Altar:	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
Media:	Jean P	Ken P	Jochims	Schalk's
Ushers:	Ken P	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Jochims	Conner's
Communion:	Debbie Z	Sue H	Jean P	Barb O
Lector:	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kate/Sara J	Ben/Jake S

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

FUN WINTER EVENTS FOR FAMILIES TO ENJOY IN JANUARY

Ongoing, Slice of Ice @ Red Arrow Park. Experience ice skating downtown, a Milwaukee tradition. Time: Weekdays 11 am-8 pm; Friday-Saturday 11 am-11pm. Cost: \$8 skate rental; free with your own skates.

Monday, January 1, Polar Bear Plunge @ Bradford Beach. Time 12 pm. Cost: Free

Thursday, January 3, Milwaukee Art Museum-Meijer Free First Thursday @ Milwaukee Art Museum, 700 N. Art Museum Drive, Milwaukee. Admission to the Milwaukee Art Museum is free for individuals and families on the first Thursday of each month, thanks to Meijer. Time: 10 am-8 pm. Cost; Free.

Thursday, January 3, Milwaukee Public Museum - Free Thursday @ Milwaukee Public Museum, 800 West Wells Street, Milwaukee. All visitors receive free access to the permanent exhibits of MPM on the first Thursday of every month during Kohl's Thank :You Thursday. Time: 9am-8 pm. Cost: free.

Saturday, January 5, Family Free Day at the Milwaukee County Zoo @ Milwaukee County Zoo, 10001 W. Bluemound Road, Milwaukee. Sponsored by North Shore Bank. Parking fee still applies. Time: 9:30 am-4:30 pm.

Friday-Sunday, January 11-13, Home Building and Remodeling Show @ State Fair Expo Center. An annual showcase of home ideas put on by the Metropolitan Builders Association. Time: Friday 12 - 8 pm; Saturday 10 am-8 pm; Sunday 10 am-5 pm. Cost: \$10.

Saturday-Sunday, January 12-13 and 19-20, Dooby Dooby Moo @ Helfaer Theatre, 13th Street, Milwaukee. A fun play for all ages drawn from Doreen Cronin's delightful Click Clack Moo series. Time: 2:30 pm. Cost: \$12.

Friday-Sunday, January 25-27, Waukesha Janboree @ throughout Waukesha. A weekend filled with family-friendly events throughout Waukesha. Time: Varies, check website. Cost: Varies.

Saturday, January 26, Chil-Fest in Downtown Oconomowoc @ 133 East Wisconsin Avenue on Fowler Lake. You can warm up with some homemade chili hosted by downtown businesses and local fundraising organizations with proceeds going to local charity. Check out the ice carvers art work. A DJ and beer tent are set up on the lake. A family skating rink nearby and an ice fishing clinic. Plenty of family fun is to be had at this event. Time: 9 am-5 pm. Cost: Free.

Sunday, January 27, Fanfest: Brewers on Deck @ Wisconsin Center. This winter fan festival features a number of activities for the entire family, autographs and photos from Brewers players and more. Time: 10 am-5 pm. Cost \$12-\$22.



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 January 6, 2019.

RSVP by contacting Debbie Zortman or Julie Frahmman.

Children's Sunday School



Bethel's Sunday School program

We gather for Sunday school once per month on the 1st Sunday of the month held during worship. Next class is on January 6th.

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

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



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

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, Eileen's friend's daughter going into surgery, Jean, Kathy Fischer, Larry for heart healing, Michael Jegers who is recovering from brain surgery, Russ Jones, Mike K., Lela Vern Pickart, Linda Radmer, Matt, Michelle, Michael F., Stevie, Taylor & Tony.

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

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.

The top New Years Resolutions include:

[Lose Weight](#)

[Help Others](#)

[Quit Smoking](#)

[Better Education](#)

[Get a Better Job](#)

[Save Money](#)

[Get Fit](#)

[Eat Healthy Food](#)

[Manage Stress](#)

[Manage Debt](#)

[Take a Trip](#)

[Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle](#)

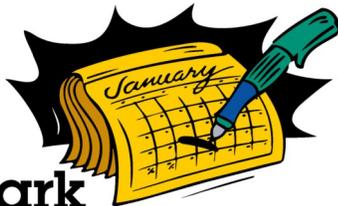
[Drink Less Alcohol](#)

WISHING
BLESSINGS

..now and throughout the coming year...



EVENTS & PUBLICITY
from the Marketing Team:



**Mark
Your Calendar!**

SAVE THE DATE!

Annual Meeting
Bethel Lutheran Church
Sunday, January 20th, 2019
(following the 8:30 am Church Service)

Please join us as we discuss our future and make congregational decisions on important items facing our church. We will also be discussing and approving an operating budget for the 2018 calendar year. We will elect a member to go to the synod assembly. It is your opportunity to have a voice in the future of your church.
Please plan to attend.

~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.

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



**Giving
Envelopes and
Year End
Statements
are on the table
in the
Narthex. Please
pick yours up.**

Make some noise!

Below are Bethel's 2019 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.

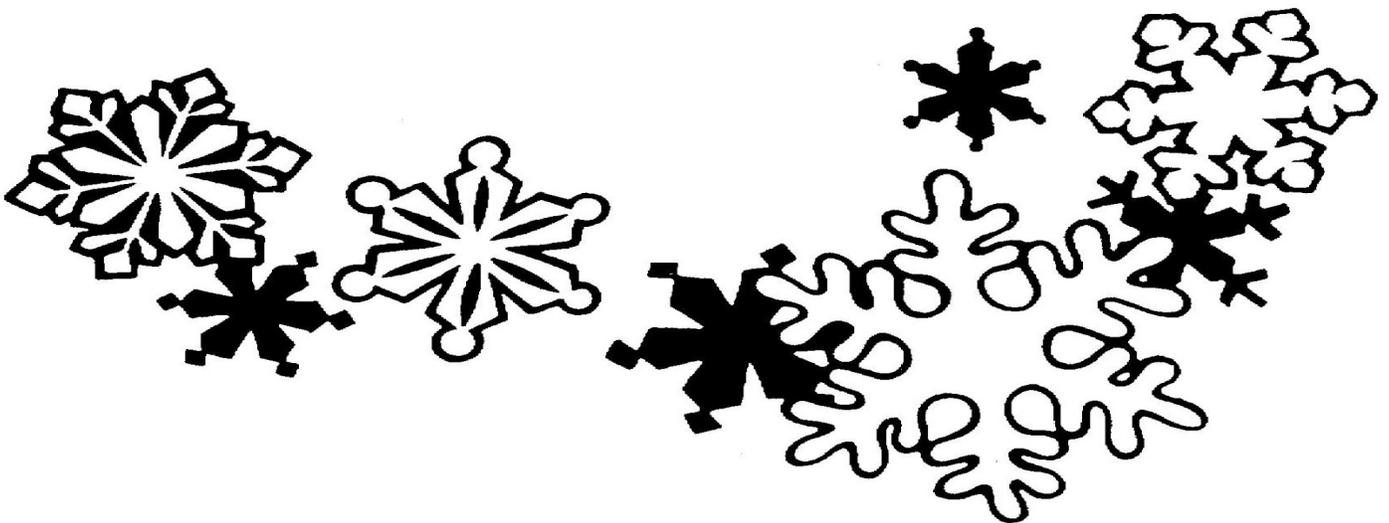
November - Gifts for Friends of Jesus

December - Salvation Army,

Red Kettle Donation



•The noisy can for January goes to Pastor's Discretion.



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 Frahmman at 262-679-2038. The next meeting will be on Thursday, January 17th, 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

Secretary - Dawn Vretenar, 262-835-1042, bethelmuskegoelc@gmail.com

Musician - Heidi Surprenant, 414-425-6817, 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 January

Many blessings to all in this new year, 2019. We will be starting off busy, busy, busy! Join us whenever possible. Pastor Maren will be leading services on Wednesday's and Sunday's, the Greater Milwaukee synod staff will be here, and the Annual meeting will be this month.

~Town Hall Meeting~

Plan to join us for Bethel's Town Hall meeting **Sunday Jan. 6th** after worship with the synod staff. We will review and discuss the Mission Site Profile and hear about the next step in the process for getting a new pastor. We have formed our **Call Committee** who are busy reviewing the MSP and preparing for the call process. The Call group is: Tracy Jochims, Julie Frahmann, Barb Osberg, Ken Packer, Heidi Lindhorst, and Dave Henkel. Please keep Bethel and the Call Committee in your prayers during this exciting time of calling a new pastor.

"Remember the Lord in everything you do, and he will show you the right way."
Proverbs 3:6

~Annual Congregational Meeting~

Mark your calendars for Bethel's Annual Meeting, **Sunday Jan. 20th**. Hear about all the activities and changes that have happened during 2018; we'll budget for 2019; and look forward to another exciting year. (I urge all the committee heads to get your reports in to the secretary as soon as possible for the culminating of the report. ☺)

~Bethel's Music Gifts~

We were able to share our gifts of music with several other congregations: Atonement-sheet music and risers, Heritage Presbyterian-sheet music, Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Hymnals, Kathy and Ed Beale's Church- sheet music, All Saints Evangelical Lutheran Church- sheet music, and Michelle's Sorority Sisters - Sheet music. We then crafted crosses from hymn music for the former choir members thanking them for their musical talents in this precious ministry. "Sing for joy to the Lord, all the earth; praise him with songs and shouts of joy!" Psalm 98:4

Peace, Debbie Zortman, Council President



Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Rd.
Muskego WI 53150

DONATION DAY
• ALL DAY
Wednesday January 9th



20% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO
BETHEL
LUTHERAN CHURCH

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