



**December 2019
Monthly Vision
Newsletter**

**Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Road
Muskego, WI 53150**

WE CELEBRATE GOD'S GRACE AND WE REACH OUT WITH CHRIST'S LOVE

DECEMBER— YOU'RE INVITED!

To join in on...



1st Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Roosevelt Morgan

3rd Tuesday

No Office Hours

4th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

4:30 pm Marketing & Education Meeting

6-6:45 pm Bible Study

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Jennifer
Noisy Can-Salvation Army,
Red Kettle Donation

7th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

Noon-2 pm Friends of Jesus gift wrapping

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

8th Sunday

8:30 am Worship

Following Worship,
decorate church

Noisy Can – Salvation Army,
Red Kettle Donation

10th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

4:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meal

11th Wednesday – Cousin Subs Fundraiser

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

6-6:45 Bible Study

7:00 pm Evening Worship – Pastor Jennifer

14th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

11:00-2 pm Faith, Family & Fun

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

15th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Jennifer

17th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Council Meeting

18th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

No Bible Study

7:00 pm Blue Christmas Worship -
Pastor Jennifer

21st Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous
Winter begins

22nd Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Jennifer

23rd Monday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

24th Tuesday

No Office Hours

7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service -
Pastor Jennifer

25th Wednesday - Christmas Day

No Office Hours

No Bible Study

No Worship Service

28th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

29th Sunday

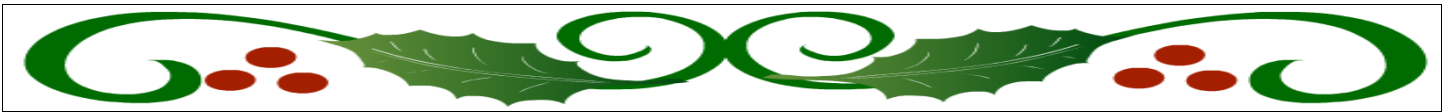
8:30 am Worship - Pastor Jennifer

31st Tuesday - New Year's Eve

No Office Hours

CHRISTMAS SERVICE

Plan to worship God during the
Christmas Eve Service at
Bethel. Invite your friends and
out-of-town family to the
service on Tuesday, December
24th at 7:30 pm.



Hello Advent friends! This time before Christmas seems a little disjointed for me. After all, even at the gas station they are playing Christmas Carols these days. Christmas trees and decorations have been hanging in the stores since August or September. We are shopping, wrapping, baking and all while, shoveling, throwing salt, and figuring out the families and friends' Christmas schedules in order to spend time together. It's busy, and chaotic and beautiful and ever so human.

In contrast to this we come to worship, and we don't yet hear those sacred songs. We put up a wreath instead of a tree. We try with all our might to hold back Christmas from swooping in and stealing this moment of pause, because this is an in between time. We are preparing for Christmas, but it isn't here yet. We are eager for time with our families and friends this holiday, and maybe anxious too for all the stress that some of our interactions bring. And so we seek comfort where we can find it.

At Bethel, we shift our attention from God's activity in the world toward preparing for Jesus to come. The first way is to celebrate Jesus' birth once again. How we anticipate rocking Jesus to sleep with Silent Night or Away in a Manger!!! When we remember the story and the rituals that draw us more deeply into God's presence, we experience anew all that God has for us as disciples. Yet, secondly, we remember God's promises and prepare for Jesus to come again, a final time, to call us all home. This is how we begin Advent, with predictions of Jesus coming again, to save us for a holy purpose.

We hold this waiting in tension with the busyness of our culture. Really, we aren't so far from our cousin, Israel. Israel tried to stay connected to God, they really did. But they kept falling away. In our own culture, we try hard to keep Jesus in front of us and follow where Jesus lead us. Yet the persistence of our culture distracts us. The trees, ornaments, lights, Christmas Cards, gifts etc. all those things we do to prepare for the season, can keep us from the being curious about this time of waiting. What will God do?

Each week this Advent, we will focus on a word, in order to help us wonder about God during this season of waiting. This is a time to think and reflect about what Jesus' coming means, and to wonder what Jesus will do in us and in our communities. Join me in waiting!

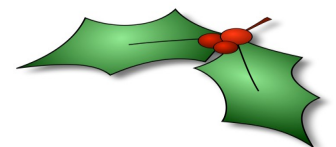
December 1: **WAKE** – We are in the darkest time of the year here in the northern hemisphere! Our hours of daylight get shorter as we approach Jesus' birth. It is so hard to stay awake? How do we continue to pay attention to our faith, when Jesus' promise of the end seems so distant? How do we keep our faith alive? We wonder these things as we keep turning and returning to God!

December 8: **PREPARE** – For our second candle we ponder our preparation for God. Are there metaphorical obstacles that prevent us from seeing God clearly? Have we repented and turned toward God? Have we done the work our hearts need in order to be ready?

December 15: **PROCLAIM** – The Lord is coming, get ready to shout! For God's promises will be fulfilled. Proclaim a shout of hope. Shout out God's love and joy. Speak from you lips God's faithfulness. The darkness is getting brighter. Emmanuel is coming.

December 22: **EMBODY** – Are you restless yet? Christ is in us, waiting to come forth. He kicks, moves, grows and works within us. Christ longs to kick, move, grow and work through us in our communities too. Christ is coming.

Blessings to you as you wake, prepare, proclaim and embody Christ!
Pastor Jennifer





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 or Vicki Kakonis. Requests can be submitted confidentially at the church website, www.bethelmuskegoelc.org

- *Please keep these people and situations in your prayers this week: Betty, Debbie, Jean, Jeanne, Julie, Kathy, Lela, Lynn, Maggie, Michael, Sue & Tay.
- *Pray for peace and comfort for the families who have lost loved ones.
- *Pray for protection for all those around the world who suffer religious, ethnic, or other forms of persecution.
- *Pray for our Call Committee. Guide them and grant them wisdom as they work to seek a new pastor to be among us to lead us and walk with us into future ministry.

DECEMBER SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	1st	8th	15th	22nd	29th
Altar:	Barb	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
Media:	Open	Liam F	Open	Jochims	Julie F
Ushers:	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Conner's	Debbie Z	Jochims	Baseler/ Schmidt's
Communion:	Barb O	Debbie Z	Sue H	Barb O	Debbie Z
Lector:	Kathy D	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kate/Sara J	Heidi L.

JANUARY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	5th	12th	19th	26th
Altar:	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
Media:	Open	Liam F	Jochims	Julie F
Ushers:	Ken P	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Jochims	Conner's
Communion:	Debbie Z	Sue H	Barb O	Debbie Z
Lector:	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kate/Sara J	Kathy D



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



Faith, Family & Fun –the program is held on the second Saturday of each month from 11:00 to 2 pm. The group will be meeting on Saturday, December 14th.

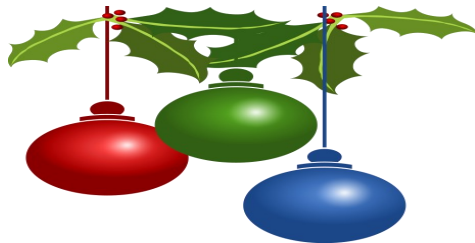


**Mark
Your Calendar!**

Annual Congregational Meeting.
**Attend the Annual Meeting in January after the
Worship Service. Date will be announced shortly.**
Please start sending in your reports.



**Christmas decorating
will be on
Sunday, December 8th
following Worship.**
Please join us!



**Gifts for
Friends of
Jesus
are being
collected up
until Saturday,
December 7th.**

**Forms that are needed to
be placed on the gifts are
in an envelope attached
to the collection box.
Gifts will be picked up on**

**Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 18, 2019
at 7:00 pm**



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 Ministry, Madison

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...



CRAFT AND BAKE SALE 2019

Hello Bethel Members,

Congratulations! We made \$1,551.00 at our 2019 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. Thank you again for supporting this event and making the 2019 Craft and Bake sale a Success! Have a very Merry Christmas and many Blessings to you all. Thank you,

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Jennifer Olson - 414-405-7945, paws4thought4@gmail.com
Secretary - Dawn Vretenar, 262-835-1042, bethelmuskegoelc@gmail.com
Musician - Heidi Surprenant, 414-477-9519, 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 262-679-2133

Dan Conner 262-679-2768
Teri Orlando 262-679-0456

Jim Lindhorst 262-679-1544
Barb Osberg 262-679-3905

Council Update and Message for December 2019

Many blessings to all this Advent Season. Usually with the Wisconsin weather you can tell which season we are in, but WOW ... what's with this weather; you never know what to expect! Let us take comfort in the fact that as we know exactly what to expect in the coming celebration of Jesus Birth. Help us prepare and remember the hope, love, joy, and peace of this Advent Season.

"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

~Expect to See This December~

- The Faith Family Fun group shopped for gifts for The Friends of Jesus with your November donation to the Noisy Can and monies from the Thrivent Action Team. Thank you to everyone for bringing in gifts and being part of this special giving ministry! Join us for **gift wrapping** Saturday Dec. 7, 12-2 pm.
- Let's have everyone stay after worship and **decorate the church**, Sunday Dec. 8. Join in; many hands make light work!
- The children are playing **chimes**, Sunday Dec. 15 during the morning worship service.
- Beautiful **poinsettias** will adorn the alter. Some call it the flower of the Holy Night; sometimes thought of as a symbol of the Star of Bethlehem.
- The **snowplowing** contract is set with the Mary Linsmeier Schools. (We're good for up to 55")

"She gave birth to her first born, a Son. She wrapped Him in cloths and placed Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn." Luke 2:7

Peace, Debbie Zortman, Council President

Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Rd.
Muskego WI 53150

DONATION DAY
• ALL DAY



Wednesday December 11th

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



FLYER MODEL. PICTURE SIMILAR. ©2019

Please present this coupon
at the time of purchase.

WISHING
CHRISTMAS
BLESSINGS

