

November 2018

BETHEL MESSENGER



Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
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From the Pastor

Dear Friends in Christ

Peace and joy to all in the name of Jesus the Christ.

November has this wonderful holiday at the end of the month called "Thanksgiving." It kind of shapes the whole month, a time for giving thanks. It sets the mood for the month, sharing the harvest, sharing the gifts that God has given us.

It is good that we have this celebration in November because without it, I think, November would be the worst month of the year, except for my wife's birthday and our anniversary. November is filled with bare trees, brown lawns, bare fields, falling temperatures, and even snow. With this celebration we are reminded that even in times of gloom we have much to give thanks for. From the beginning, when the Pilgrims were fighting the elements, starvation, and death, they found time and a reason to give thanks. It was important that they took this time to show their appreciation to God for all that God had done and would do in the future.

Today, giving thanks is one of the most meaningful and healthy things we can and should do. It is good for the soul and the physical body. It is something that everyone is capable of doing and everyone appreciates it when it is given. On Sunday, Oct. 14 we all

laughed when one of the children had to run back up and share his thanks. I know no one who would chastise another for saying "Thank you."

It is also good for our physical well-being. In studies done at the Universities of California and at Miami, those who kept gratitude journals on a weekly basis exercised more, reported fewer aches and pains, felt better about their lives as a whole, and were more optimistic about the future. They also were more likely to report having helped someone in need.

An attitude of gratitude also improves our relationship with God and with others. This attitude of gratitude reaches into the depths of our souls and shines the light of God's faithful presence to carry us through times of darkness and uncertainty. In giving thanks to God we come to see light for our journey and our spirits can find joy.

Take time this month to Give Thanks to God.

Peace and joy.
Pastor Tom

November Worship Schedule

November 4 Rev. Schroeder
(Communion & Totenfest)
November 11 Rev. Schroeder (Veterans Day)
November 18 Cary Johannes (Talent Sunday)
November 25 Rev. Schroeder

Consistory Minutes October 9, 2018

Members Present: Dennis Roethel, Mark Zimmermann, Bev Voss, Rich Lange, Tom Birschbach, Lenora Stuckmann and Rev. Tom Schroeder

The meeting was called to order at 6:35pm. A prayer was lead by Rev. Tom Schroeder. There was a motion (Bev/Tom) to approve the secretary minutes as read. The motion carried unanimously.

There was also a motion (Rich/Tom) to approve all the treasurer reports as read. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Tom handed out his report containing his visits and upcoming events.
 - He attended 3 church meetings
 - He made 7 calls, 1 in the hospital, and 6 to the shut ins
 - He will be participating in the Harvest Blessing, Reformation Sunday, Adult Education Opportunities (11/4, 11/25, 12/2), The United Church People Banquet at Lakeland, Veterans Recognition, and the Talent Show.
- He discussed that he would like to start hosting some adult education classes at 8:45 on Sundays before church.
- Dennis added that we will be having Toten Fest on November 4th. The members who have passed this year are Arno Spindler on December 2, 2017 and Henry Knoener on May 9, 2018. We are going to figure out where the candles were purchased from in the past and how many we need.

Old Business

- The chair racks have arrived. They are in the fellowship hall. They fit very nicely in the corner, however, we could probably use one more chair rack. Each one holds just under 35 chairs.

- We will be meeting with Rev. Jane Anderson on October 10, 2018 to discuss our shared ministry options.
- The buildings and grounds committee did power wash the church. They were able to get up about 35 to 40 feet but mentioned that we would need to have a professional come next year.

New Business

- Dennis found another business that could pave the parking lot and he requested a quote from them. Dennis will prepare our options and bring them to the annual meeting to discuss.
- Rich prepared the budget for 2019, and we discussed as a group. There were a few small increases in some of the lines. There was a motion (Dennis/Tom) to preapprove the estimated 2019 budget. The motion carried unanimously.
- Pastor Tom went to the insurance meeting. He said the meeting was to discuss with the pastors the need to stay with the insurance plan. There are 3 different levels in 2020. Each church pays a set amount per capita, and about 370 member is the break-even point. We will likely be seeing ours triple.
- The United Church Men and Women (formerly called the Women's Guild and Men's Brotherhood) are sponsoring a scholarship fund and they are requesting donations. We will list this as an item to discuss at our annual meeting.
- The Thanksgiving eve service is normally an ecumenical service, but none of us have heard the plans for this year.

There was a motion (Rich/Mark) to adjourn the meeting at 7:36pm. We ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Stuckmann

Poinsettias Sale

Millhome Nursery & Greenhouse is again selling Poinsettias to churches with a price break from retail cost. The Nursery has traditional red and white Poinsettias as well as a limited variety of other colors for mixing. The prices are:

6-1/2 inch (one plant per pot)	\$ 9.50
7-1/2 inch (two plants per pot)	\$16.50
8-1/2 inch (three plants per pot)	\$21.00

If you are interested in ordering any Poinsettias, please call or text Teri Rietbrock at (920)980-5906 by December 2nd.



Bethel Sunday School

The Sunday School classes are using large group material, even though we are a small group. That means one teacher presents the same story to all students. It seems to be working out well.

The youth learned and sang a new song at the October 28th church service. They also dressed as Biblical characters, painted pumpkins and played some games.

Talent Sunday is November 18th, and the youth choir will be singing.

Sunday, December 23rd, will be the children's Christmas program. Practices are still to be determined. A Giving Tree will be set up in the narthex with gift requests for a local family down on their luck. We will follow the same policy of picking a card request off the tree; purchasing and wrapping the gift and bringing back to church by Sunday, December 16th.

Candy bags will again be for sale at \$5.00.

Sunday School Superintendent,
Mardell Blohm



Totenfest – November 4

This year, on November 4th we will remember those who have gone to their eternal rest since last year's festival. This year we remember Arno Spindler (12/2/2017) and Henry Knoener (5/9/2018). We raise them up and give thanks to God for the lives God has shared with us, and to give our sustained support to their families.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighters

During the season of Advent (December 2-23), we will include an Advent Wreath ceremony as part of our services of worship. During November you will have an opportunity to sign up your family (parents and children, sisters and brothers, or church relatives), to light the candles and lead the readings. Each Sunday we will need at least 3 people to pull this off. Rev Schroeder will get the scripts to those who volunteer. Please look for the sheet to sign up on.



Community Thanksgiving Service

**Wednesday, November 21, at 7:00 p.m.
at Bethel United Methodist Church**

The Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service for the Kiel area will be held on Wednesday, November 21 at 7pm at Bethel UMC on Meggers Rd. Pastor Tom will be involved and hopes to see many of us at this most meaningful service as we celebrate the meaning of this day.

Talent Sunday

November 18th. What's your talent? Sing, play your instrument, read a story or poem, or show your creative art work. Any talent is welcome. A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.

Adult Education Opportunity

Be The Church

On Sunday mornings, when Pastor Tom is in the pulpit, he will offer a class for anyone interested in looking at how Bethel Church can shine. Through a combination of travelogue and conversation we will look at churches Pastor Tom has visited and how Bethel can continue to spread the Good News of the Gospel. Join us at 8:45 a.m. for 45 minutes of discovery. Join us on October 28, November 4, 11, and 25 and December 2.

REMINDER – Daylight Savings

On Sunday, November 4 – remember to set your clocks back one hour at 1:00 a.m.

President's Column

November is the time of year when snow or ice could result in a cancellation of church service and Sunday School classes. If conditions are deemed unsafe to travel, the Consistory President will contact the other Consistory members to inform them of the decision to cancel. At that time the Consistory will contact all church members by phone by 6:30 - 7:00 AM of that day. It will also be posted on our website and Facebook page that church has been cancelled for that day.

As we close out October 2018, it has been another successful year with our chili supper and apple pie fundraisers. Even though sales were down slightly, our church family came together, as always, to make it a great success.

God's Blessings to all as we move closer to that wonderful time of the birth of Jesus.

Dennis Roethel
President

Veterans Day

Sunday, November 11th

Do you have a current or past member of your family who you would like to thank for their service? Please bring or send a digital photo (with name) of someone who served and give to a member of the worship team by Sunday, November 4th. [Karen Lisowe, Joyce Loy, Patti Puetz and Jodi Voss]



VETERANS DAY

Missions for November

Let's show our blessings by giving to others. We are collecting for the Kiel Food Pantry and for Backpack Buddies this month. A wish list for Backpack Buddies can be found in the narthex.

APPLE PIE FUNDRAISER

We had another successful Apple Pie Sale this year, thanks to everyone who helped to make this fundraiser happen! I have been told numerous times that our pies are the best around!! We have 5 pie shells (\$1.75 each) and 1 pie yet to sell in the Church frig freezer. Please contact me or Carol Roethel if you're interested in purchasing.

THANK YOU to all who helped in all the ways necessary for this to be successful. A special thanks to Carol and Dennis Roethel for setting up the church kitchen; to Bob & Lisa Eckardt for getting the cardboard; to Tim Voss for setting up the peelers ahead of time; and to Jodi Voss for letting us use the school's big peelers, which saves a lot of time. We couldn't do this without all your help.

We need a couple more people to help with getting this set up next year. Please consider being part of this team.

Faye Spindler, Chairperson