

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From the Pastor

At our mid-week Lenten Worship Services we are reading the “I am” statements of Jesus as recorded in the Gospel of John. “I am the Bread of Life,” “I am the Light of the World,” “I am the Gate,” “I am the Good Shepherd,” and “I am the Resurrection and the Life” are our weekly topics.

In the Book Study we are reading *Simon Peter Flawed but Faithful Disciple*, written by Rev. Adam Hamilton. There is no need to read the book. We see a short video at the beginning of every session, and we welcome you for one or all of the remaining sessions.

That leads me to the intersection of the two... “I am” meets *Simon Peter*. Jesus had gone to a lonely place, I am guessing it means a deserted rural area. The people had somehow heard where he was and came out from the towns bringing those who needed healing. It got late and Jesus was concerned about sending the people home hungry. I would imagine some people have come several miles seeking Jesus. The disciples had wanted to send the people into town to buy something to eat, but Jesus told the disciples there was no need to send the people away. This is when, after having broke and blessed the bread, they feed a multitude of people with five loaves and two fishes. (5000 men, plus women and children)

Jesus sends the disciples across the lake to the other side. Jesus dismisses the people and sends them home. Then he goes up into the hills to pray.

Meanwhile the disciples are in a pretty good-sized boat. It holds about 13 people. Rev. Hamilton tells us that it has a single mast or 4 oars for rowing. A storm comes up. (Here in the relatively flat lands very often we can see a storm coming. We look to the North or West and see the dark clouds approaching. Who of us hasn't said, “It smells like rain.”) But on the lake surrounded by hills and mountains the storms come rushing in, often without warning.

Suddenly the Disciples find themselves in the middle of the lake in the middle of a storm. The waves have kicked up, rocking the boat and splashing water into the boat. The lake is 8 miles wide and they are several furlongs out into the lake. Wikipedia tells us a furlong is 1/8th of a mile. So, they were at least several football fields out into the water. Certainly, they are out into the deep water. They are not making headway because of the storm, they have been out on the lake for hours. Imagine how they must have felt. It is so dark they can't see the shore. There are no city lights or lighthouses. Their boat is being tossed about by the wind and waves.

Suddenly they see a figure coming towards the boat. They fear it is a ghost. Rev. Hamilton wrote that the Sea of Galilee is deeper than they could measure, so it was believed to be a “portal to the underworld.” To their way of thinking a ghost made more sense than a human walking on the water. The sea is still raging and now add the terror of seeing a ghost coming towards them. But Jesus calls out “Take heart, it is I; do not be afraid.” Here we could turn our focus to Peter, but that is not where I was heading.

Here is our intersection: “I am...” “I am” is what Rev. Hamilton says is the literal translation of the original Greek. Jesus calls out, “Take heart, I am, do not be afraid.” “I am who I am” is the answer God gives Moses when Moses asks what name he should use for God. This is the first time that all the disciples recognize Jesus as the Son of God. “When they got into the boat, the wind ceased. And those in the boat worshipped him, saying, “Truly you are the Son of God.”” (Matthew 14:32-33) In the scriptures God is the one who controls the seas. They recognize Jesus as the Son of God because he could calm the sea. They recognize in Jesus the I Am of God.

On this Lenten Journey I would encourage you to be on the lookout for moments in your life when the I Am of God is with you. Be mindful of the times when Jesus helps to light your way or protects you as a good shepherd. “Take heart, I am, do not be afraid.”

Pastor Diane

Holy Week Schedule

April 18th Maundy Thursday Worship
 April 19th 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Ecumenical
 Worship Service Hosted by Bethel
 April 21 Easter Sunday



Consistory Minutes

March 12, 2019

Members Present: Dennis Roethel, Mark Zimmermann, Beverly Voss, Patte Puetz, Kris Dirks, Lenora Stuckmann, Pastor Diane Cayemberg

The meeting was called to order at 6:26pm. Pastor Diane led an opening prayer.

There was a motion (Beverly/Mark) to approve the secretary minutes from February. It passed unanimously.

The treasurers reports were reviewed. Dennis discussed that Pastor Diane is claiming her mileage correctly. We also need to follow up on the Penny Pail for February, we weren't sure if it was being combined with March. Patte was able to get her medallion signature sent in, so hopefully soon we will be receiving our interest checks with direct deposit. There was a motion (Mark/Patte) to approve all treasurer's reports. It carried unanimously.

Correspondence

- We received a thank you from OCWM for our donation.

Pastor's Report

- Pastor Diane was able to visit all our shut-ins this month. She didn't bring communion, but she spent time getting to know everyone. She plans to bring it to them later.
- Pastor Diane finished the liturgy for Lent as of today. Karen Lisowe was working to get speakers lined up for the Lenten services.
- Pastor Diane, Tom, and Karen Lisowe were able to attend the doctrine presentation that Lakeland University held. All three will also be attending the annual meeting in the Dells.

- There is a meeting on March 14th for the Ecumenical Pastors, the meeting will be here on Thursday.
- There will be a short meeting for the two Communion first timers after church on Palm Sunday.
- There is a Rural Church Fellowship on April 26th, that will be a lunch and meeting to follow.
- On March 31st St. Marks/St. James will be celebrating their pastor's installation.

Old Business

- We all made sure we had the correct email address on file to send documents to each other.
- Holy Trinity Parish will be celebrating 150 years on April 7th starting at 8am.
- The One Great Hour of Sharing offering will happen on March 31st.
- Pastor Diane's installation/ordination is still in the works, we are looking for dates sometime in May or June.

New Business

- Spring clean-up will be set for April 27th with a backup of May 4th.
- First Communion will be celebrated on May 5th.
- The spring raffle deadline for submitting donations is March 17th. The drawing will be on June 9th. This is to avoid Memorial Day and Communion.
- We transferred out 4 members to another church and moved one member to the associate member list.
- Prayer cards will be copied and added to the pews so that they can be handed in during the offering if there are any prayers or concerns.
- The furnace was having issues during church on Sunday, this will be looked at this upcoming week.
- Bev will keep track of the offering amounts during Lent, donations will be

sent to each of the businesses of the speakers.

- Pastor Diane is going to try to tape the mic because it keeps moving.
- Mark suggested we switch to ringing the bells, prelude and then announcements. We agree that we can try that for a while.
- We discussed if Maundy Thursday will be in the fellowship hall or the sanctuary, it will depend on how they want to conduct the service.

Ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.
Meeting adjourned at 7:31

Respectfully submitted,
Lenora Stuckmann

Spring Raffle Fundraiser

Raffle prize lists and tickets are 'hot off the printer' waiting for all members to pick up. Remember that you cannot reprint the tickets (they must have consecutive numbers) and if you cut the individual tickets out, they have to be cut on the lines so they are very close to the same size. These are State of Wisconsin Gaming rules.

So let's get going and sell lots of tickets! Tickets and prize lists are always available at church or can be picked up at 904 College Ave. Howards Grove. Call ahead 920-828-0009. Let's beat last year's total of \$4859. Thank you all for continuing to support this Raffle and Bethel UCC.
Carol Roethel



Save Your Receipts!

My HuTerra is the program we work with that rewards us for supporting local businesses. Simply save your receipts and bring them to church, or download the MyHuTerra app and submit your receipts. Either way, Bethel UCC earns a percentage. Most all Piggly Wiggly, BP Gas, and Mobil Gas receipts (even out of our area if you are traveling) can be submitted. They must be submitted in a timely manner (under 45 days). The receipt must have the business name and the purchase date visible. Ask your friends and family to share their receipts too, if they are not already submitting them to HuTerra themselves! Hennings Cheese, Gravel Pit (Kiel), Riverview Restaurant (Kiel), Roecks Bakery, Target, Pick 'n Save, WG&R Furniture, and Applebee's are a few local businesses whose receipts we can submit. It's an easy way to raise extra funds for our church. If you have any questions, talk to Lisa Grubisic or Carol Roethel.

Prayers & Concerns

It has been suggested that 'Prayers and Concerns' be written on the Bethel Joys and Concerns Prayer Cards that can be found in all of the pew racks or at the back of church. These will be collected with the offerings during the worship service.

Holy Humor Sunday

Find your Funny Bone for Holy Humor

Sunday, April 28-Bring a joke or funny story and share it with the congregation. A sign-up sheet can be found in the narthex.



Mission Work

April Mission work will be collecting items for the Shipping Container Project 2019 to Haiti and Dominican Republic. A wish list of items they are looking for can be found in the narthex.

Spring Clean Up

Please join us on Saturday, April 27th at 8:30 a.m. for spring cleaning the inside and outside of church. In case of bad weather, the backup date will be May 4th.

