

May 2022

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From the Pastor

Happy Easter and Happy Spring

There is a great deal of joy that comes with Easter. At church Easter Morning we hear the joyous proclamation He **Is Risen!** Then home we go, or off to family homes. For a family it means gathering for a big meal, laughter, and Easter Egg Hunts. Then in the coming weeks the weather warms and we see green appearing everywhere. Daffodils and tulips begin to bloom and birds work hard to build their nests.

Flower bulbs and eggs all have been used to represent the New Life of Christ's Resurrection. Butterflies emerging from cocoons are often used to represent New Life. After the browns of fall and the white of winter, and the early spring muddiness we are surrounded by signs of Hope.

This year I feel especially happy to see signs of new life emerging everywhere. The first sign in the yard was grass beginning to green up as the snow melted. Then daffodil leaves daring to push up through the earth to reach for the sunshine. The green leaves of wild phlox are beginning to appear and the purple foliage of Virginia Bluebells is just coming into view between the leaf litter left from fall.

I love the dangling flowers of the Virginia Blue bells. They first appear as purple and turn to blue as they mature. I also love the flowers because when they bloom the hummingbirds appear. They dart from plant to plant enjoying the fresh nectar. For me this is a great joy of spring!

The Virginia Bluebells brave the cooler weather then after providing food for the

migrating Hummingbirds they die down and disappear. By early summer they may just be a few dry stalks on the ground. By midsummer there is no sign of their existence. But I believe that they will be back next spring, every spring.

Belief. I believe the Bluebells will be back. I believe the death of our body is not the end. There is something of the Bluebells that lives even as the leaves have disappeared. There is something of us that lives even when our body disappears. When the women went to the Tomb they did not find Jesus' body was not there. The angel reminded them of what Jesus had told them. Sometimes in the middle of winter it is hard to imagine the green of spring, the flowers, and the hummingbirds. Sometimes when we are mourning the loss of a loved one it is hard to imagine the resurrection.

May this spring and the New Life that surrounds you strengthen your faith, and bring Joy to you as you consider the angels words, "He is Risen."

Blessings and Joy, Pastor Diane

May 1st is a special Communion. It will be first Communion for Irelynn Dunton and Greta Raquet.

May 5th 5:00 p.m. National Day of Prayer at Kiel 417 Paine Street City Park

May 11th Brat Fry 4-7 at St. James UCC Carry Outs Only- flyer on bulletin board.

May 15th Enjoy the Bell Choir during worship.

May 22nd 8:45 Joyce Loy will do a presentation on making Plastic Bag Sleeping Mats for Homeless.

May 22nd is the Final Sunday of Sunday School for the school year. Sue Kaiser will sing during worship.

Commented [DC1]:

May 29th the time of Worship changes to 9:30 for the Sundays in summer.

This Spring has been a breath of fresh air in many ways. The most obvious may be that in this area we have started going out, shopping, attending church, coming close to being back to normal. I get an Email from Sheboygan County Health Department twice a week and lately there are very few deaths attributed to Covid. One of our members working as a nurse happily reported that there were no Covid patients at her hospital.

But when I think of the year of 2022 at Bethel it has been a true year of blessing. We have been worshipping together and the children are attending Sunday School. Five young people will have shared Communion with us. We celebrated the Confirmation of Hannah Ziegler.

What can we look forward to? **Raffle drawing on June 26th. Vacation Bible School will be held August 2nd to the 5th. August 14th St. Peter's UCC of Kiel plans to do a worship service in the park during the Kiel Picnic.** The Ecumenical pastors have been invited to participate. Oh, and I bet there will be an Ada Volunteer Fire Department Parade!

What do we need to restart on the path to normal?

It is time to start meetings again. I have been putting off meeting with committees, but now we can meet safely again.

The Consistory has been talking about parts of worship that have been missing.

1. Lighting the candles for worship.
2. Passing the Offering Plate: we will continue to leave the offering plate at the back of the sanctuary at this time.
3. Readers for Worship.

I know there is hope for Soup Suppers for Wednesday Lenten Services and there is interest in a Seder meal for Maundy Thursday. Oh, and someone mentioned Holy Humor Sunday. The Worship Committee will be contacted and we will start planning for the next year's worship services.

One very important thing for any healthy church family is outreach. Jesus didn't urge us to build church buildings, rather Jesus called us to be the church. We are to love our neighbors. In the next few months we will look for ways to show our love for the world.

Together we can celebrate the future.
Peace, Pastor Diane

Sunday School News



The Bethel Sunday school students have been working hard. They entertained the congregation in March and again on Palm Sunday, with songs and bell ringing performances.

All those attending on Palm Sunday, enjoyed the bread pretzel making, packaging a congregational gift and of course the egg hunt.

We are planning on singing May 8th, Mother's Day and again May 22nd, the last day of classes.

Vacation Bible School will be held Tuesday, August 2nd through Friday, August 5th, with church participation on Sunday, August 7th.

Sunday school teachers and V.B.S. teachers will meet May 22nd, after church service.

Sunday school superintendent,
Mardell Blohm

Spring Raffle Fundraiser

Bethel's wonderful members have done another great job of providing amazing prizes for this year's Raffle prize list. Thank you. We have a record number of prizes! Let's make this year a new record in ticket sales!! Prize lists and tickets will always be available at church and at my home (904 College Ave., Howards Grove - phone first - 920-828-0009). Let your friends and family know that prize lists and some prize pictures can be viewed on the church website also. Some prizes will also be on display at church as well. Raffle tickets and money can be turned in at church (in the marked container) or dropped off at my house. If you have any questions, give me a call at the above number.

Carol Roethel



*Spring Raffle
Fundraiser*

Pictures Needed

I need pictures (images) of your raffle prizes again this year, to put on the church website. If you have or can take a picture for me, please send an image file to me at:

kmatzy@gmail.com

Consistory Minutes

April 5th, 2022

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Randy Henschel, Jamie Weidemann, Mary Johnston, Steve Blohm, Rachel Voss & Pastor Diane Cayemberg.

The meeting was called to order at 6:27 pm.

Regular Meeting:

The secretary minutes from March were reviewed. There was a motion (Steve/Randy) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for March. There was a motion (Steve/Randy) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

- Pastor Diane will attend the Association Annual Meeting on April 30th. No members have expressed interest in attending.
- Confirmation classes are finished for the year. They are exploring possibility of several conference confirmation gatherings next year.
- Bethel UCC will host Ecumenical Service @ 7 pm on Good Friday (April 15th). Pastor Diane will lead the service and be joined by three deacons from Catholic parishes and pastoral leaders from Bethlehem UCC and Gloria Dei Lutheran churches. Our Bell Choir will perform.

Old Business:

- Review of upcoming Schedule & Events:
 - Sunday, April 10th – Palm Sunday – Confirmation at Bethel
 - Thursday, April 14th – Maundy Thursday with communion at 7 pm

- Friday, April 15th – Good Friday – Ecumenical Service at Bethel UCC at 7 pm
- Sunday, April 17th – Easter with Communion
- Sunday, April 24th Service will be led by Cary Knier Johannes
- Saturday, April 30th – Spring Cleaning at 8 am
- Sunday, May 1st – Communion for Irelynn Dunton and Greta Raquet
- Sunday, May 22nd – Last Day of Sunday School
- Sunday, May 29th – Memorial Weekend - Service led by Bonnie Ziegler with summer worship schedule beginning at 9:30 am

Unfinished Business

- 160th Anniversary Cookbooks have been distributed to members. There was a motion (Jamie/Randy) to approve the sale of any extra 160th Anniversary Cookbooks for \$10.
- Spring Cleaning Date is scheduled for – April 30th at 8 am
- Spring Raffle tickets will soon go on sale
- Offering Plate – will remain in the back of church until further notice.
- Steve reported that he will touch base with Back to Black Seal about concerns about some cracks and seams and the recommended maintenance. Blacktop resealing will be included in the 2023 budget.
- Steve addressed the upcoming garage project and reported that the windows seem fine with no rot, but the small service door does need replacement. A flatbed has been arranged for

hauling aluminum to B & B when project begins.

- Steve offered that he could be available when TDS requires access to the building on April 11 to install updated Wi-Fi equipment.

New Business

- The Mail Slots outside the office are not adequate for current needs. The group discussed a need for additional slots or a new mail bin. Steve will follow-up on possible addition or replacement of the bin with additional slots for the following positions:
 - Building Maintenance
 - Cemetery
 - Script
 - Custodian
- Lawn Mowing schedule – Kim will confirm with Ken and/or Tim about beginning lawn-mowing sign-up schedule.
- Fire inspection revealed exit/fire sign failed in basement. Steve will follow-up.

There was a motion (Steve/Mary) to adjourn at 8:11 pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Voss

Reminder

Remember starting May 29th Worship Service starting time is 9:30 a.m.