

May 2023

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From the Pastor

It seems each year this month's newsletter article is about Spring. You know birds returning, trees budding, and flowers blooming. Now that is certainly on my mind, but also May brings Mother's Day.

Tonight we gathered with two of my cousins and their spouses. My Uncle and Aunt have both passed away, and I imagine Mother's Day was forever changed the first year their Mother was not there to celebrate.

Earlier today I had taken my Father to the doctor. My Father's doctor came to the United States of America from India. She spends a great deal of time with her patients. This time she shared a bit about herself with us. As a child her parents struggled financially. She had dreams for her life that were beyond her parents' means. At the age of 17 she "ran away" and joined the army. She was stationed around the country guarding India's borders. This opened up opportunities for her to pursue a career in Medicine and come to the US. Her parents never came to the United States for a visit, and she never returned to India to visit. Both her parents have both passed away. She spoke of having to live with regret.

Recently I have thought about, read about, or heard stories of people coming to the United States. Some years ago I had heard on Wisconsin Public Television that at one time there were more people of German descent in Wisconsin than there were Germans in Germany. Ongoing war and battles over borders and religion brought immigrants to this "new world." A mold caused the Potato famine which led to the starvation related deaths of one million people in Ireland and the emigration of another million Irish to other

lands. Wars over borders and religion, genocide of ethnic groups, and starvation due to natural causes continue. Leaving your homeland is no easy decision. God called Abraham to move from his homeland to an unknown place. Generations later Jacob moved his family from that "unknown land" of Canaan to Egypt to avoid starvation. Generations from then Moses led the people out of Egypt and back towards Canaan. Wars, genocide, religious persecution, and starvation seem to be always present in the recorded history of the human race. But so have acts of kindness, generosity, peace, and welcoming been present in the world's history.

In Biblical times life in the desert required kindness to the stranger. In this "New World" survival of the Pilgrims and those on the frontier so often depended on cooperative efforts to survive. At our last Consistory meeting there was the smell of smoke from a grassfire near Ada. A cooperative effort is required to put out these fires, often by volunteers from the community.

We have been created to live in community. It is in community that our ancestors survived. It is in community that we survive. I think back to after my own mother had passed, how important the secretary at St. John's was to me. Ethel had never married, and had never been a "Mother", but she shared her love with her nieces, and her wisdom with me. I bet if you think back on this Mother's Day and Father's Day there are people that may not have been your biological parents, but were important in your life, important in your becoming the person you are today! God blesses us in community and in those who show us kindness and welcoming.

In Hebrews 13:1-2 we are reminded: "Let brotherly love continue. Do not neglect to

show hospitality to strangers, for thereby some have entertained angels unawares.”

May God bless the Mother's of the world, and may we all be blessed with a Community that acts as mother and father to us in our need for kindness and welcoming. Amen.

Finding New Ways

There are traditions we want to continue. The Rural Church Fellowship Volleyball is one of them. As congregation sizes have declined the Rural Churches have joined together to make up teams. We have found a new way by teaming up with Immanuel. When Our Shepherd had just one Confirmation Student we welcomed her and did Confirmation together.

Now we have joined with Bethlehem, Immanuel, and Our Shepherd to give our youth a Youth Group Experience. We want to thank Bonnie Ziegler for her help in organizing the New Youth Group. We appreciate her commitment to the children and youth. Eric Raquet has volunteered to be the Volleyball Coach for Bethel. We appreciate his willingness to commit to the youth.

This year Hoyt Heinemann came up with an idea for a Sheephead Tournament for the Rural Church Fellowship. It was held at Bethlehem UCC and was well attended and lots of fun. At the first Youth gathering at Our Shepherd Hoyt introduced the young people to Dart Ball. In April the Youth Wii Bowled at Immanuel.

We are finding new ways!

National Day of Prayer

The commemoration of National Day of Prayer will be held Thursday May 4th at 6:30 pm in the Kiel City Park Band Stand. You are invited to come and be part of a community wide program.

Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Green Lake Convention Center June 9-11. We are allowed two delegates and have money in the budget to cover expenses. You can attend all 3 days or go for just one or two. Events begin Friday evening and end Sunday before noon. Contact Pastor Diane if you like to attend and represent Bethel!

Thank You

We would like to thank Lisa Grubisic for her work with the Youth Fellowship and Rural Church Volleyball Team. We appreciate your commitment to the Practice and Game Nights during the busy summer season



Upcoming Events

May 4th National Day of Prayer

May 6th AED Training

May 7th Mission Committee Meeting after Worship

May 9th Consistory Meeting

May 21st Last Day of Sunday School

May 28th Worship will start at 9:30 for the summer.

June 9-11 Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting

July 24th to 27th Vacation Bible School

July 30th Sunday School Program

October 1st World Communion Day, First Communion at Bethel

October 19th United Church Men and Women's Banquet at St. James UCC

Consistory Minutes

April 11th, 2023

Members Present: Kim Rietbrock, Randy Henschel, Jamie Weidemann, Dan Huber, Faye Spindler, Rachel Voss & Pastor Diane Cayemberg

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 pm.

Regular Meeting

The secretary minutes from February were reviewed. There was a motion (Faye/Jamie) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for February. There was a motion (Faye/Jamie) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

Rural Church Youth Fellowship went well and are excited for the next one that will be held at Immanuel UCC. Bonnie Ziegler will be Bethel UCC's leader, and Eric Raquet has volunteered to be the Youth volleyball coach as Lisa Grubisic will be retiring. Thank you, Lisa, for all your years of time put into the youth program. It is greatly appreciated!

Pastor Diane is going to survey the parents with kids in the upcoming confirmation class to see if they prefer to delay beginning confirmation classes for a year to create a larger group of confirmation students in the following year.

The Conference Annual Meeting will be held on June 8-10. Pastor Diane is hoping to attend and would be happy if any members would be able to also attend. If anyone is interested, they should contact Pastor Diane.

Old Business:

- Review of upcoming Schedule & Events:
 - Sunday, April 23rd – Bonnie Ziegler will lead worship.
 - Saturday, April 29th – Church Cleanup – 8am

- Sunday, April 30th – Cary Knier Johannes will lead worship.
- Sunday, May 7th – Communion
- Sunday, May 14th – Mother's Day – Junior Choir will sing.
- Sunday, May 21st – Last day of Sunday School classes
- Sunday, May 28th – **Summer services schedule begins** – 9:30 am service.
- Sunday, June 25th – Raffle Sunday

• Resurfacing of the church lot:

- Jerry from Back to Black Resealing & Resurfacing will check the parking lot to make sure there are no changes from the previous inspection and verify the quote. He is tentatively planning to complete the project in June on a day at the beginning of a week, so that the parking lot will be ready for vehicles by Sunday service.

• Adult CPR/AED Training Follow-up

- AED training will be held at church on Saturday, May 6th from 9:00-11:00am. The cost is \$40/person. The consistory discussed payment for the training. Dan made a motion that the church pay the fee for participants, and Randy seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- An email will be sent out to the entire congregation asking for additional members that would like to participate in the training. Interested members must complete a Class Registration Form. Currently there are 6 members registered for the class.



The maximum number of participants is 12. Members need to contact Pastor Diane or Kim Rietbrock as soon as possible if interested in participating.

- Midyear Income Reports

- Consistory discussed and agreed that creating and printing midyear income reports is not necessary, since it seems most members do not need them. However, if any members want a mid-year report, they can request the information from Faye. Faye also said that any member can contact her at any time to verify his/her giving amount. A messenger announcement as well as a church announcement will be made midyear to verify that information to members and to remind members about dues.
- Jamie suggested a reminder that ACH (Automatic Payment) is always an option for monthly dues.

- Lawn Mowing Schedule

- Sign-up sheet has been placed in the Narthex.
- Lawn mowers are all ready to go with extra gas in the storage garage.

New Business

- Facebook page for Bethel UCC
 - The group tabled discussion on whether the church should keep Bethel UCC's Facebook page or rely on the website for church information and current activities.

- Penny Pail

- The penny pail for Ukraine was counted and deposited. Pastor Diane will follow up with the committee about future Penny pail donations.

There was a motion (Dan/Randy) to adjourn at 7:50 pm. The motion carried unanimously. We ended with the Lord's prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rachel Voss

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone for keeping me in your thoughts and prayers, and for all the cards and visits while I was in the hospital and at Rocky Knoll. It was all greatly appreciated.

Mark Zimmermann

Sunday school News

The Sunday school students will be completing the school year on [May 21st](#). There will be some discussion of Bible lessons learned from this past year.

[May 14th](#), is Mother's Day and the Junior choir will be performing. Attendance awards will be presented that day also.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL Monday-
[Thursday, July 24th – 27th](#). 9:00 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. daily. Join us on Josephs' Journey. More information will be following. [Sunday](#) school super, Mardell

