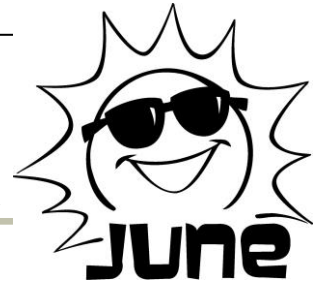


June 2023

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From the Pastor

I have been considering water for some time now. There are some mysteries I have in my mind- how can the water still be coming out of that pipe on the corner of County Line Road and Highway M? It seems it has been running for decades! Does it filter back into the ground water and return to the top spring? Why is there so much water in that "lake" between M and church? There were trees there and now they are dead from the water. Did farmers put in tile and route the water there?

We live in a land of lakes, not just Lake Michigan and Superior but many small lakes. I have heard that Wisconsin has more lakes than Minnesota. When I drove to Randy Koppenhaver's Installation at Bethlehem UCC and on my way home I passed many small lakes and signs for public access. Just south of Whitelaw is the 7 Lakes Golf Course. Not only are there lakes on the golf course, but in the subdivision and all around the area. Some quite deep left behind by the glaciers.

I worry about the water. Just recently there was a historical piece on WOMT about the dust bowl. We are coming up to 100 years since the beginning of the dust bowl. Drought and humans brought about the "black blizzards", in some areas there was as much as 8 years of drought that contributed to the topsoil blowing away.

For many years now as we drive south, I have seen the wind rows of trees cut and burned in Indiana. In their place are the long line of watering machines. Makes me wonder what will happen if the ditches dry up and the wind blows across the vast fields?

Early in the winter after church we chatted about how little snow cover we had. I

guess the weather made up for it in February and March. But this year I lost several sedum plants behind the garage. They had been there for years and had grown large enough that I had started moving pieces of the clumps to other locations. But perennials need a good cover of snow to survive the thawing and freezing of winter. That must be the same for alfalfa? I won't lie, I just looked up, "Does winter wheat need snow cover?" And, yes, for best results 3-5 inches of snow cover.

Our way of life and our agriculture rely on H₂O in all it's forms. In Genesis 1 we read:

¹ When God began to create the heavens and the earth, ² the earth was complete chaos, and darkness covered the face of the deep, while a wind from God swept over the face of the waters. ³ Then God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. ⁴ And God saw that the light was good, and God separated the light from the darkness. ⁵ God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

⁶ And God said, "Let there be a dome in the midst of the waters, and let it separate the waters from the waters." ⁷ So God made the dome and separated the waters that were under the dome from the waters that were above the dome. And it was so. ⁸ God called the dome Sky. And there was evening and there was morning, the second day.

⁹ And God said, "Let the waters under the sky be gathered together into one place, and let the dry land appear." And it was so. ¹⁰ God called the dry land Earth, and the waters that were gathered together he called Seas. And God saw that it was good. ¹¹ Then God said,

“Let the earth put forth vegetation: plants yielding seed and fruit trees of every kind on earth that bear fruit with the seed in it.” And it was so. ¹² The earth brought forth vegetation: plants yielding seed of every kind and trees of every kind bearing fruit with the seed in it. And God saw that it was good. ¹³ And there was evening and there was morning, the third day.

Just as God and the Word and the Spirit were present at creation, so was the water. Water gave life to the world. Moisture for the plants and water for fish to live in. We need water to survive. Water is what allows life to exist on the earth. WATER.

The Bible is full of references to water. Water to drink, water to wash, water to grow crops, water to cross, water to wine. Water is truly a precious gift from our Creator. The Samaritan woman came to new life as she went to the well to get water. We remember our new life in Christ when we baptize our children with water and the Spirit.

Each year the Sheboygan County Health Department sends someone out to check our well water. My sedum reminds me how important frozen water in the form of snow is for the survival of perennials. Water is truly a precious gift.

Dear Creator God,

We thank you for this beautiful earth. We thank you for the water that provides life to plants and animals. Help us to be good stewards of that precious gift. Amen.

Thank you to Mardell Blohm, Cary Knier Johannes, Karen Lisowe, and Bonnie Ziegler for teaching Sunday School and the love and care they showed for our children.

Thank you to those who purchased, delivered and spread the bark in the church gardens.

Thank you to Randy and Debbie Henschel for the beautiful folding chairs.

Thank you for everyone for the donations to the raffle. Thank you to Carol Roethel for all the work she puts into preparing and running the raffle.

Thank God for his healing touch for so many members of our faith community in the last few months. Thank you to all who pray.

Thank you to Cary Knier Johannes and Bonnie Ziegler for leading worship.

Thank you to the Bell Choir members and director Jodi Voss for all the hours of practice and adding to the joy of Worship.

Thank you to Janet Wesley and Jodi Voss for the music they provide for worship. **Thank you** to Cindy Meyer for providing us Bulletins for worship and Newsletters to keep our family of faith in touch.

Bell Choir

The bell choir will be meeting on Wednesday, June 7 at 6:00p.m. for bell maintenance.

Mid-Year Giving Reports

Your mid-year giving report is available upon request from Faye Spindler.

Jamie Weidemann wants to remind everyone that ACH is available for auto payments of your giving.

Please contact Faye or Jamie with any giving requests or questions.

Consistory Minutes

May 9th, 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 April were reviewed. There was a motion (Faye/Jamie) to approve the minutes. The motion carried unanimously.

The treasurer reports were reviewed for April. Faye noted that income received at the end of month is not always deposited in the same month received, so that it may seem there is a discrepancy between monthly statements from the treasurers. There was a motion (Faye/Dan) to approve all the treasurer reports. The motion carried unanimously.

Pastor's Report:

May 21st is the last day of Sunday School and Youth Group at Bethel. Eric Raquet will be coaching the team for Rural Church Fellowship Summer Volleyball with Sunday practices.

Pastor Diane will be covering for Rev. Feller May 24th to May 31st.

The Wisconsin Conference Annual Meeting will be held on June 9-11. Pastor Diane will likely attend training on June 8th and stay through the 10th and back to lead worship on June 11th. Vacation Bible School will be July 24th – July 27th and with the program on July 30th during the church service.

VBS will be looking for donations of snack items for the week from the congregation. The theme this year will be Joseph in Egypt.



Old Business:

- Review of upcoming Schedule & Events:

- Sunday, May 21st – Last day of Sunday School classes/Junior Choir will sing in church. Youth volleyball practice begins.
- Sunday, May 28th – **Summer schedule begins with 9:30 am service.**
- Sunday, June 4th - Communion
- Sunday, June 25th – Raffle Sunday
- July 24th-27th – Vacation Bible School
- Sunday, July 30th – Vacation Bible School Program
- Sunday, August 6th – Communion
- Sunday, August 13th – Bonnie Ziegler will lead worship.
- January 28th, 2024 -- Annual Meeting.

- Resurfacing of the church lot:

- Faye reported that Back to Black Resealing & Resurfacing plans to reseal the parking lot as soon as weather & schedule permits in June. Project will be completed early in the week so parking lot access is available for Sunday church services. His quote of \$3,950.00 includes painting lines.
- Faye will talk to Terry and the building committee about the caulking along the walkway and entrances.
- The group reviewed John Flesch's billing statement for the year and believes it competitive. In early fall, the group will review whether to hire snow shoveling of steps and sidewalks in addition to

snow removal of the parking lot and driveways.

- The AED training session at church was a success with 9 congregation members receiving training. Thanks to all who participated and to Mary Johnston for coordinating.
 - The group discussed best means to obtain an AED for the church. Faye is following up on available resources and will report next month.
 - If an AED is purchased, the group discussed possibly using fund-raising savings or memorial funds.

New Business

- Kim reported that Dennis Roethel has met with his committee members to review creation of financial clerk position. The committee is reviewing possible combination of the Memorial Fund & Expenses Treasurer positions after 2024. They estimate compensation of \$2,500 would be appropriate as a budget consideration.
- Carol Roethel has offered to assume responsibility for updating the church's Facebook page.
- Chuck Grubisic will provide training on conference-room technology during the June consistory meeting.
- Cindy has asked someone to look at the folding machine to see why the bulletins are being folded uneven and with creases.
- There will be no July Consistory meeting.
- Prior to the meeting, consistory members sorted old folding chairs. Since Randy and Debbie Henschel donated 40 nice, black folding chairs to the church, the consistory decided to remove 40 of the oldest or worst-

looking, existing chairs. The excess chairs were moved to the garage and are available to any member of the congregation. The consistory is not charging for the chairs but will accept free-will offering. A consistory member will open the garage after worship on Sundays for members interested as long as chairs remain available.

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

Baby Announcement

Congratulations to Lenora and Tyler Stuckmann family as they welcome Warren Anton Roland Stuckmann. He was born Thursday, May 18, 9 pounds 11 ounces and 20 inches long. Everyone is doing good.

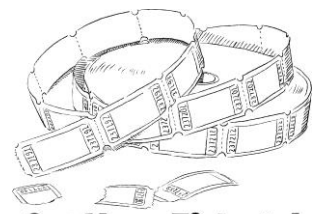
Spring Raffle

The Raffle Prize Lists and tickets have been available since Easter.

A lot of tickets and lists have been picked up, but the sold tickets and money is slow in returning. Tickets will be available at church after services or you can contact me at 920-828-0009. Many prizes are on display at church or you can also see many of them on the website (bethelucc-ada.org) as well. Sold tickets and money should be turned in by Friday, June 23 so I have time to process everything before the drawing on Sunday, June 25 after the 9:30 service.

Thank you for your continued support of this fundraiser.

Carol Roethel



Get Your Tickets!