

Bethel Beacon



Pastors:
Erika Buller
Jim Gustafson
Mark Asleson

♥ **BE.THE.Love**

BE.THE.Light



Volume 55 Issue 1

Bethel Lutheran Mission Statement

Bethel Lutheran Church is a community of believers called by God to invite all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to be witnesses in word and deed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.

2019

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The last congregation I served before my retirement was in Mitchell, South Dakota, a shopping, medical, and economic hub for an area located about 70 miles west of Sioux Falls. I lived there for 16 years and became acquainted with a bit of the history of the surrounding area.

As the church enters into a new calendar year, it is also entering into a new liturgical season of the church year, the season of Epiphany. I found it interesting that not far from Mitchell was a very small community with the name Epiphany. I wondered when I lived in South Dakota how this little hamlet got its name. However, I was never able to find out the origin of the town's name, but I did find out about some of its history.

In 1893 Father William Kroeger, a priest who was also a medical doctor came to this little town of Epiphany to serve a fledgling church called Church of Epiphany. Shortly after arriving, Father Kroeger built a laboratory, where he developed medicine to cure diseases and also worked on cure for skin cancer. His work became known nationally, and as a result he became known by many as the priest healer. To many of the residents' of Epiphany he also became known as something of a folk hero.

I have found that bit of history interesting as we consider some of the gospel texts that are a part of the season of Epiphany. It is in this liturgical time where we discover the greatest gift to all of creation, Jesus, Son of God, Healer of All Creation; it is in this season when we encounter the visit of the wise men who came to see Jesus; where we are provided with as much of Jesus' childhood as scripture tells us; Jesus baptism by John the Baptist: and, the first miracle of Jesus, turning water into wine at the wedding of Cana in Galilee.

The word Epiphany means to make manifest, to make known, to bring to light. It is a time for us to come to know, once again, this one who was born a babe in Bethlehem.

As I write this article I have just been hospitalized for three days where I received the diagnosis that I have Acute Myeloid Leukemia. When you receive the Beacon I will be undergoing an in hospital chemotherapy series which began around the last week in December. It's a journey I had not anticipated, but a reminder that none of us know what will happen in life from day to day, or for that matter from moment to moment. The one assurance we do have is that we have a Lord and Savior who has promised to walk with us through any and all circumstances of life.

It has been a privilege during these past few months to work in partnership with the leadership of Bethel and Pastor Mark to maintain and grow the ministry that is Bethel Lutheran Church. You are in my prayers as you move forward working together to further God's Kingdom.

Blessings and peace,
Pastor Dave Astrup

Happy New Year from the Stewardship Board. We would like to share this message from last years Contemplating Stewardship series.

Then the Lord came and stood there, calling as before, "Samuel! Samuel!" and Samuel said, "Speak, for your servant is listening." -Samuel 3:11

God has a calling on your life. Yet, like Samuel we often don't know where to go when we hear our name called. This all changes the moment we stop thinking we need to go somewhere and start believing that God has a use for us right where we are. How can you made a difference with what you have? What gifts or talents could you provide for a neighbor in need? Why not take a risk and make a difference. When you hear God call your name, boldly say right where you stand, "Speak, for your servant is listening."

New Years can be a time for reflection and resolutions. We encourage you to take some time for prayer and listen to Gods voice.

You are the Church - We are the Church - Be the Church - BE.THE. Love



Food Backpack Program

The Board of Outreach is looking for your help in acquiring food items for the Food Backpack Program. The Food Backpack Program is a program that sends food home on the weekends with students that receive reduced or free meals at school and may not have food available to them at home on the weekends. A different item of food will be focused on each month that can be dropped off in front of the office in a marked container.

January's item is: Fruit Snacks

Thank you for supporting this important outreach ministry!



**Become
Part of
Our
Church
Family**

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MEMBER?

If you or someone you know desire membership please contact:

*Pastor Erika at ebuller@bethelwahpeton.com
or call the church office at 642-4472.*

CONTACT INFO: Phone 642-4472 fax
642-2477

Pastor Erika: 952-454-6012 ebuller@bethelwahpeton.com

Pastor Jim: 701-403-3254 jgustafson@bethelwahpeton.com

Ashley Petersen: betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com
Brian Finnie: bfinnie@bethelwahpeton.com
Lisa Bassingthwaite: wschool@bethelwahpeton.com
Missy Klose: mklose@bethelwahpeton.com
Clare Byron: cbyron@bethelwahpeton.com

Building Hours

8am-5pm Monday-Thursday
8am-3pm Friday
8am-1pm Sundays



<http://bethelwahpeton.com>
or
www.facebook.com/bethelwahpeton

Call Committee Update:

The call committee met and has decided on a set of questions to ask each potential candidate. We are working with the Synod office on the next steps of the process. We are excited for the start of a new year to continue our search for Bethel's new Senior Pastor.

If you know of a pastor who would like to be considered for our Senior Pastor position, please feel free to offer their name to me so we can pass their name on to our contact at the Synod office for consideration.

Please continue to keep the committee members and Bethel in your prayers as we work diligently to find the best candidate possible.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Plummer - Chair
Brad Cruff - Recorder
Brenda Prochnow
Cade Mauch
Wanda Mauch
Alison Voss
Jay Townsend



The **Bethel Evening Book Club** met for its regular monthly meeting to discuss the Christmas books each member read.

The Books reported on were: **The Nutcracker** by Alexandre Dumas (A retelling by Dumas of the Hoffmann tale. This was the version that was used as the basis for the ballet The Nutcracker.) **Alaskan Holiday** by Debbie Macomber (While waiting for her dream job as a sous chef to begin in Seattle, Josie Avery visits a small town in Alaska. During her time there, she learns to cook native foods and finds herself stuck in the small town environment.) **Christmas at Harrington's** by Melody Carlson (With Christmas approaching, Lena Markham finds herself penniless, friendless, and nearly hopeless. She is trying to restart her life after false accusations landed her in prison, but job opportunities are practically nonexistent.

Upcoming books are: **January---Ordinary Grace** by William Kent Krueger, **February---Commonwealth** by Ann Patchett, and **March---The Alice Network** by Kate Quinn.

Anyone interested in joining us is welcome. We meet the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00 pm at Bethel Lutheran.

DAYTIME BOOK CLUB

We met on December 11, 2018, at the Fry'n Pan at 9 a.m. for our annual Christmas Breakfast. This was a festive fun time and we enjoyed sharing the titles of the books we had read for the Christmas season. Our listing is as follows: *Baxter Family Christmas* by Karen Kingsbury; *Corridors of the Night* by Anne Perry; *Bathed in Prayer* by Jan Karon; *Twelve Dogs of Christmas (a mystery)* by David Rosenfelt; *Alaskan Holiday* by Debbie MaComber; *Christmas at Harrington's* by Melody Carlson; *The Noel Stranger* by Richard Paul Evans; *The Christmas Star* by Donna VanLiere; *Winter Street* by Elin Hilderbrand; *Mrs. Jeffries & the Three Wise Women* by Emily Brightwell. Many of these books are, or will be, in the Bethel Library.

Books we will be reading for the upcoming months:

January 8, 2019 *Fall of Marigolds* by Susan Meissner

A beautiful scarf connects two women touched by tragedy in this compelling, emotional novel. The years are Sept., 1911 & Sept., 2011.

February 12, 2019 *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk* by Kelli Estes

Inspired by true events this brilliant novel weaves a tale of two women determined to do the right thing & to find the power of our own stories.

March 12, 2019 *A Silent Cry* by Anne Perry

Deep in London's dangerous slums, Victorians transact their most secret & shameful business.

January 8, 2019 will be our next meeting. We meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 10 a.m. in the church library. One of our young at heart members has read 80 books for the 2018 year! She is inspiring to all of us. Are you thinking of starting something new for the coming year? All are welcome to join us!

"Where is human nature so weak as in a bookstore?"

~Henry Ward Beecher~

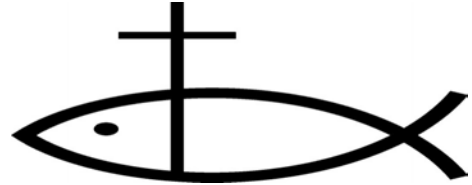
Bethel Youth & Families

Upcoming EVENTS

Senior High join me January 13 at 6:30 pm in the centennial room to hear about the upcoming trips we have planned. Skiing in Duluth in March and a summer camping adventure.

Lisa's Office Hours

Monday 8:30-5:00
Tuesday 8:30-5:00
Wednesday 8:30-7:30
Thursday 8:30-3:00



The Wednesday school store is in need of donations! The kids love non-caffeinated pop, juice, snack size chips and crackers, and



Happy
New Year

Please get your Wednesday school and or confirmation registrations in as soon as possible! Registrations are available outside the main office They are also available on the Bethel website.





Organ Fund

In memory of Donna Hanson, sister of Lois Perkins, given by Lois Perkins

Faith Tool Boxes

In memory of Pat Holderman, sister of Cyndy Gustafson, given by Bev McRoberts

In Honor of Madeline Miller's 90th Birthday given by Bev McRoberts

Quilting

In memory of Donna Hanson given by Sharon Kotnour

In memory of Lorene Mahin given by Sharon Kotnour

In memory of Pearl Lee, former member, given by Ralph & Liz Graalum

Bethel

In memory of Pat Holderman, sister of Cyndy Gustafson, given by Henry & Maryann Look

In memory of Marlyn Edman, father of Gloria Dohman, given by family & friends; Woody & Connie Caspers;

In memory of Lorene Mahin given by Marty & Carol Schmidt

In memory of Donna Hanson, sister of Lois Perkins, given by Chuck & Ione Muralt; Judy McDaniel

Steve Mann's Father given by Burton & Kristie Berg

Endowment

In memory of Dick Schmitt given by Dee Jensen

The Memorial Committee's main objective is to be the resource for any one person or group of people that would like to give a memorial, honorarium, or commemorate an occasion to Bethel Lutheran Church. It is the committee's responsibility to formulate a catalog of specific items, keep a record of all memorials and to acknowledge those that have given gifts.



If you have any questions regarding memorial items or wish to give a memorial item or honorarium please contact committee members: Luther Sannes@642-5140; Bev McRoberts @ 640-887; Reeann Enderson@640-4230

Thanks to the members of Bethel for your continued support.

BeFriender Ministry:

Everyone is, at times, on a difficult journey and needs a caring companion to listen without judgment and provide support. That, in a nutshell, is what BeFriender Ministry is all about. Bethel has trained members of our congregation who are ready and willing to provide a listening ear to anyone in need.

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A BEFRIENDER VISIT YOU, CONTACT PASTOR JIM AT 642-4472 or jgustafson@bethelwahpeton.com





These are the people known to have birthdays in **January**. If you have a birthday in **January** and your name is not listed, we do not have your birthday in our church records. Please contact the church office with your birth date so we may have it for our records.

MAY EACH OF YOU HAVE A HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1/1 Nicholas Tubbs | 1/16 Alexis Fasching | 1/27 Daryl Eberhardt |
| 1/2 Abby Miller | Clinton Gilbertson | Ricky Holbrook |
| 1/3 Taylor VanEps | Alexis Tschakert | MaKayla Johnson |
| 1/4 Lorraine Dronen | 1/17 David Bjerkager | Jacob Uhlich |
| Harleigh Higdem | Jenna Blanchard | 1/28 Brad Bollinger |
| Bobbi Jo Jelinek | 1/18 Allison Grefsrud | Alison Boock |
| 1/5 Ryan Hendrickson | Jamie Hendrickson | Michael Boock |
| 1/6 Liam Dohman | Gale Link | Phyllis Folstad |
| Meredith Mitskog | Ray Neuman | 1/30 Myrna Ball |
| Abigail Voss | 1/19 Burton Berg | Lucas Bumgarner |
| 1/8 LaRuth Buboltz | Janna Fatland | 1/31 Natalie Bruschwein |
| Allen Hunt | Cody Shockley | Brad Hubrig |
| Mary Julson | Elaine Sommers | Brandon Wixo |
| Jason Sirek | 1/20 Jon Miller | |
| Mary Tolo | Kennedey Wixo | |
| 1/9 Michelle Blome | 1/21 Alexis Johanson | |
| Kamdyn Heitkamp | Christa Krump | |
| 1/10 Olivia Hansen | 1/22 Cynthia Borchert | |
| 1/11 Julie Carlson | Bruce Christianson | |
| Braxton Heitkamp | Landon Dimmer | |
| 1/12 Neal Folstad | Karen Nelsen | |
| Monique Gregor | Ellie Rezac | |
| Dylan Holbrook | 1/23 Taylor Bollinger | |
| Wade Mund | 1/24 Haleigh Gebro | |
| Jody Rezac | Angela Hofmann | |
| Wanda Sherven | Justin Miller | |
| 1/13 Keath Borchert | 1/25 Roger Bergeman | |
| Westin Wiberg | Kathleen Dimmer | |
| 1/14 Sawyer Malme | 1/26 Rachel Bassingthwaite | |
| Lori Pithey | Wayne Flack | |
| 1/15 Brooklyn Sirek | Gabriella Hendrickson | |
| Kaycee Wickoren | Gabrielle Paulson | |
| Gage Berndt | Emily Whaley | |



Worship VOLUNTEERS

If you are unable to serve on the assigned date and cannot find a replacement please call:

USHERS—Linda Miller -899-3479 **COFFEE SERVERS**—Carol Sturdevant -642-4355

READERS & COMMUNION ASSIST—Doug & Judy Peterson at 640-7010 Please notify the church office of the change at 642-4472.

9:00 am Service

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Reader	Sandi Gilbertson	Katie Erickson	Jean Hoerer	Jane Krump
Ushers	Sonja Christensen; Geri Coyne; Jerry & Barb Mohs	Corrine Romereim; Linda Miller	Jeff & Kathy Olson; Luther & Barb Sannes	Pat & Vicky Trappen; Charlene Clute
Communion Assist	Judy Fleck; Cyndy Gustafson	N/A	Sonja Christensen; Barb Mohs	N/A
Coffee Servers	Phil & Bonnie MacIver; Randy & Jean Hoerer	Norma Nosek; Linda Palmer	Terry & Suzanne Pehl, Doug & Judy Peterson	Jody Rezac; Bev McRoberts

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Reader	Diane Finnie	Karen Nelson	Angie Hoffman	Clare Byron
Ushers	Terry & Suzanne Pehl; James & Trudy Jacobson	Larry & Norma Bontjes; Daryl Eberhardt	Phil & Bonnie MacIver; Gary & Jodi Friskop	Randal & Jean Hoerer; Karen Lutz; Judy McDaniel
Communion Assist	Sharon Kotnour; Floss Johnson	N/A	Doug & Judy Peterson	N/A
Coffee Servers	Gary & Jodi Friskop; Neal & Phyllis Folstad	Sonja Christensen; Joan Hardie	Floss Johnson; Clark & Gail Williams	Kathy Dimmer; Courtney Dimmer

If you are unable to serve on the assigned date please try to find a replacement.

11:00 am Service

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
Reader	Breckin Anderson	Carmen Tischer	Mandy Finke	Kelly Carlson
Ushers	Matt, Mary and Breckin Anderson	Brenda and Darin Prochnow	Jerry & Barb Mohs	Abby Heitkamp & Kelly Carlson
Communion Assist	Bob & Ginny Buck; Kathy Hammer-runner	N/A	Myrna Ball & Muriel Hendrick Linda Miller-runner	N/A
Coffee Servers	Matt & Mary Anderson	Jay & Andrea Thimjon	Myrna Ball	Abby Heitkamp

	February 3	February 10	February 17	February 24
Reader	Lila Gedrose	Carmen Tischer	Sheila Dolan	Kelly Voss
Ushers	Bob & Ginny Buck	Greg & Darcy Meide	Sheila Dolan & Aaron Riebe	Marc & Joyce Johnson
Communion Assist	Barb Mohs & Char Oehlke Paul Oehlke-runner	N/A	Paul & Sibyl Jacklitch Trese Saar-runner	N/A
Coffee Servers	Paul & Char Oehlke	Darcy & Greg Meide	Kim Pauly	Pam Hendrickson

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES
December 6, 2018**

CALL TO ORDER – Hal Fisher 6:30 PM

Roll Call

Hal Fisher	X	Jenn Plummer Board of Lay	X
Art Grochow	X	Jeff Beyer Board of Property	X
Pat Pithey	X	Pastor Mark	X
Sandi Gilbertson	X	Pastor Dave	X
Erika Buller	X		
Blake Peterson, Board of Outreach	X	Guests:	
Cyndy Gustafson Board of Education	X		
Angie Cruff , Board of Stewardship (SUB) Barry Hendrickson	X	Dana Anderson – new chair for Board of Lay	

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION – Jeff Beyer

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of November 13, 2018 Minutes: Motion by Jenn Plummer , Second by Jeff Beyer (motion carried)

TREASURERS REPORT:

	August	September	October	November
<i>Envelope offering:</i>	\$40,052.21	\$39,778.58	\$41,039.93	\$31,087.00
<i>Deficit:</i>	(\$30,625.09)	(\$24,422.61)	(\$9,517.40)	(\$19,514.34)
<i>Checking acct balance:</i>	(\$27,892.21)	(\$21,689.73)	(\$6,874.82)	\$13,218.54

(\$16,782.00) due to the member loan of \$30,000

Add the balance to the blue sheet for the bulletin. Recommendation that the stewardship board do a temple talk.

Benevolences were paid.

Motion by Art Grochow, approve as presented; Second by Blake Peterson to move to audit committee (motion carried)

OLD BUSINESS:

Update on the security position. NDSCS will not be able to provide these services.

Nominating committee update. We have three vacancies:

Board of property

Board of education

Board of lay

Call committee update – things are moving along. Met December 3 and decided as a committee the questions that will be asked in interviews. The ministry site profile is almost ready to submit.

Budget – executive committee will be meeting on December 20 to work on the budget.

NEW BUSINESS:

Board Reports:

Board of Stewardship: Barry Hendrickson

Haven't received a lot of commitment cards or time and talent sheets

Went through the campaign and reviewed feedback – not much feedback

Some concerns with the time and talent brochure

Look at other ways for next years campaign

No new members on the board

Board of Property: Jeff Beyer

Switching to LED lights as they go out

Security was discussed.

The architect was contacted

Went through budget

Discussed board membership

Board of Education: Cyndy Gustafson

Advent fair – December 19 (book fair in this room)

Open on Sunday December 16 for book fair

January 16 – 3rd graders receive bibles

Chaperone guidelines in progress

Board of Lay: Jenn Plummer

Discussed the budget

Talked about Christmas decorating

New decorations were purchased for the tree

Talked about Jenn going off the board and who is going into the chair position

Board of Outreach: Blake Peterson

Reviewed the new member Sunday.

Planning for next year.

One goal is to do some ongoing events.

Target groups that maybe haven't had a lot of involvement with before.

Update on the capital campaign/appeal.

We have the beginnings of a committee and met with Blair on the 29th of November.

Scheduled to meet on the 13th with Blair with the committee.

Plan for audit committee to begin in January.

The bylaws say three people on the audit committee on a three-year rotation.

Carla S, Dale F, Linda G

Carla will go off - need a replacement

Board Reports – each board email minutes to Bethel office to review prior to planning council meeting

Christmas Cantata - December 16 at both services

Wednesday school program 16 at 4:30 pot luck to follow

Advent fair – November 19

Christmas Eve services - 4:00, 6:00 and 10:00

December 23 one service

December 30 one service

Annual meeting – January 27 between the two services

Leadership meeting – February 10

Spiritual Direction will be given in January by: Art Grochow

Next meeting Thursday December 6, 2018 at 6:30