

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

January 2019 BEACON

Camping Out East of Bethel

When Kris and I arrived in Parkersburg in July we were struck by the location of the parsonage in relation to Bethel Lutheran, because when Abram was called by God to go to a new land the first place he camped was east of Bethel. (Gen. 12:8) We sold the home we had lived in for ten years and thought for sure God would bring us to the next call He had for us, but nothing was materializing until Dan Frey called me in June. "Would you come and be a contract pastor for us? You could live in the parsonage, we need someone to preach and do pastoral care and just help us out."

I had never lived in Iowa, although I did grow up with the address of 611 Iowa Ave. in Montana. I didn't have my sights set on Iowa, but God obviously did. The call to come to Bethel was clear and so we came. When I came I told you all that I was putting my name in for a call in Arizona but I didn't know how long it would take before I would know whether that would be my next call and so we began. Proverbs 3:5-6, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight." So together, we stepped out with trust in the Lord.

Many of you have said how much my time here has helped Bethel Lutheran, but our time here has helped us too. Even though our time with you was relatively short, you have become very dear to me and to Kris. Bethel Lutheran will always be an important part of my ministry journey.

As we get ready for our next adventure in Christ, I have some things I want to leave with you. As you prepare for what is next for Bethel, your next pastor, your future ministries, consider these gems of wisdom and experience I've learned along the way.

- The Church is Christ's Church. We are all the body and Christ is the head. That means we need to always ask the question, "What would Christ want to do here?" Not, "what are my personal preferences?" When the church is united around the mission it becomes a movement of Christ bringing His kingdom on earth. That is the kind of Church Christ is calling you to be. What does that look like? Go toward the light, every decision is to be made out of love and light and considering the next generations. I'm going to pick up this theme in my upcoming messages.
- Care for your pastor. He or she is not your employee, they are called by God to lead and serve. If you don't join them in ministry, you miss out on the ways God is calling you to growth and service and they will become discouraged and burn out if they end up doing everything. Actually, tell them what you appreciate about them. You have done that for me and these words of kindness and encouragement go a long way.
- Pray, pray, pray! Pray for who God is calling to come and be your pastor. Pray for your church. Pray for the church council and pray for people to step into these positions of leadership. Bethel Lutheran is truly at a watershed moment. Who you call will give vision and leadership to the next several years of ministry here at Bethel. That is why this process must be surrounded in prayer.

Take these to heart. God's heart for every church is to grow and thrive. The possibilities Bethel has are great. When we pray "thy kingdom come, thy will be done" we are praying to join with God in bringing his kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Carry on my friends. I look forward to having two final Sunday's with you on January 6 and 13. Hope your Christmas was full of Christ's light and love and your New Year begins full of hope and promise.

Your Brother in Christ,
Pastor Jeff

Update about Shepherd of the Hills in Fountain Hills, AZ

Shepherd of the Hills is voting to call Pastor Jeff on January 6; assuming that vote is positive, Jeff and Kris will be moving to AZ after his last Sunday in Parkersburg. They move into their new home on January 19.

They will join the church for their Spiritual Life Conference the end of January.

Pastor Jeff will be installed as the senior pastor on January 27. He will preach his first sermon on February 3. Sermons are recorded and placed on the website sothaz.com

The Story Bible Study

The Story will continue on Sundays. Jeremy Paulson will facilitate the discussion beginning January 20. Come and continue to grow in understanding God's upper story and how He fulfills his plans through the lower story and that this is our story too.

January 6, Chapter 14, A Kingdom Torn in Two

January 13, No Class

January 20, Chapter 15, God's Messengers

January 27, No Class

February 3, Chapter 16, The Beginning of the End (of the Kingdom of Israel)

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee would like to wish Pastor Teeples and Kris the very best in their next chapter in life. Our prayers will be with them as they start down this new adventure in Arizona. We were all very blessed to have had them in our lives and they truly did have a great impact on our congregation in a very short period of time. Thank you so very much!

As we continue with our call process, the Call Committee has updated our pastor posting for the LCMC webpage. We have put more emphasis on all the great things our congregation and community have to offer. We will collect the applicant's resumes and meet again in the middle of January to discuss all of them. Please keep praying for our congregation through this process. The Lord will guide us to our next Pastor.

Jeremy Paulson, Call Committee Chair

Ministry Teams

Plan to gather in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, January 9th at 7:30 pm** for a short opening before splitting into individual teams with a Council Liaison.

Reminder – let's not forget on January 13th following our church service we will have homemade pie and ice cream as a **farewell to Pastor Jeff and Kris.**

Annual Meeting

Bethel Lutheran Church's annual meeting will be on Sunday, January 27, 2019 at 10:15 am following worship.

The snow date is February 3, 2019 at 10:15 am following worship.

Social Concerns

Thank you to everyone who helped participate in Adopt-a-Family for Christmas. The tears of joy in the family's eyes were very heartwarming! It was such a huge success!

December 12, 2018 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the January Council meeting)

Present: Stacy Palmer, Darla Drewelow, Allen Redman, Marilyn Ingalls, Michelle Rients, Carol Chapman, Dan Frey, Bruce Simon

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by Carol Chapman, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Allen Redman, 2nd by Marilyn Ingalls

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Carol Chapman

Pastor informed the group that a monitor has been purchased with memorial money for the choir, Lee Rients has asked to become a member of the church, and Pastor and his wife will be gone on vacation from December 18-January 5

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – A good rotation has been established for teachers for Sunday School through May
- Outreach & Fellowship Ministry Team – Put information together for the Annual Meeting/year-end report
- Property Ministry Team – The door in the basement kitchen leading outside, as it is a special size and will need to be special ordered, as well as masonry work needed for water damage and will need to be replaced in the Spring, as well as looking into better drainage for the church in the Spring, as well.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – No Report
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – Great support was received for Adopt-A-Family
- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – Benevolence spending proposal was presented as follows: \$292.39 to reimburse Paulson family for beds needed for adopt-a-family, \$400 to Parkersburg Ministerial Fund, \$1800 to LCMC Support. Motion to approve by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Carol Chapman

Correspondence:

Old Business:

1. Volunteers update – Jeremy and Brooke Paulson are going to help Jenny with Beacon, etc. and Jeremy will assist in teaching "The Story" after Pastor leaves

New Business:

1. Annual Meeting Agenda – Will add discussion around adding a rotating list of members to be ushers/greeters, etc. to better assist in filling those spots moving forward, add Call Committee Update, add Property Concerns regarding drainage issues
2. Annual Meeting Snow Date – February 3
3. Thank you to Iowa State Bank – The church received a donation from the Iowa State Bank – Bruce Simon will write Thank you and deliver
4. Discuss filling pastor duties – Pastor will be gone for service on the 23, 24, 30. Brad Miller will fill in on 23rd and Ryan Kowlessar with fill in on 24th and 30th
5. Audit Books – Kay Frey will be working on the audit and will be looking for a volunteer for assistance
6. Ushers' responsibilities – Discussion centered around sending an update to all volunteers for usher duties so they are aware of location of items and times to arrive at church, etc. Update to be mailed, emailed, or by text
7. Update on Call Committee – Committee met last Monday and updated the posting on the LCMC site with recommendations from Pastor Teeple, as well as updated the questions to be asked to future candidates
8. Christmas Sacks – Fruit needed to be ordered by the 13th to get by the 17th for approximately 165 sacks. All items will be ordered from Brothers Market and council will fill sacks on the 21st @ 5:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Stacy Palmer, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

January Communion Assistants: Dan Frey, JoAnne Schwarz

February Communion Assistants: Michelle Rients, Stacy Palmer

AP Quilters

In 2018, the quilters completed 149 quilts and gave 173 quilts to the following organizations:

Adult Crisis Stabilization Center	19
Cedar Valley Hospice of Waverly	8
Clarksville Nursing Home	9
Friends of the Family	10
Friends of the Library	2
Grundy Center Nursing Home	9
Parker Place	41
Rehabilitation Center Allison	33
Relay for Life	5
Ronald McDonald House	12
Shell Rock Nursing Home	10
Social Concerns	3
Bethel Church Family	12

We want to thank everyone who has donated fabric, thread, yarn and etc. to help us have a great year. Thank you.....

January Birthdays

2 – Bonnie Gerloff
3 – Jenny Hansmann, Janet Mennen
7 – Eileen Lupkes
15 – Tom Mann
21 – Dan Hemann
22 – Zachary Harreld
23 – Janice Gerloff
24 – Jeff Johnson
25 – Alex Bixby
28 – Perry Bernard, Jeff Jacobson
30 – Bill Hager, Marilyn Ingalls
31 – Mary Rice

January Anniversaries

11 – Merle & Merna Schrage (55)
12 – Roger & Doralene Renken (45)

What does the word volunteer mean to you?

The first thing I think of is our volunteer firemen and ambulance crews of the small communities, both which are vital for the mere existence of small towns. When I think of the tornado that hit our community, and all the volunteers that helped restore it back to where it is today, I can't imagine where we would be today without them. What would Parkersburg be like today without all those volunteers?

Being a volunteer, no matter what it is for, is a win-win situation. Quite often it gives the volunteer as much joy as the one you're volunteering your services for. Sometimes volunteering is hard. Sometimes you have to make sacrifices just to help someone else. But isn't that what God calls us to do - to help one another?

You could say another word for volunteer is disciple. And God has asked all of us to be his disciples. God has given us all gifts or talents. It's up to us to use those gifts or talents. Also, how we are to use our gifts and talents. I can't think of a better way to use our gifts and talents than to use them to serve our Lord and Savior.

As I have mentioned before, our annual meeting is January 27th. I have asked everyone to pray about being a volunteer/disciple on the church council. As Council President that's one thing I was hoping to change in our congregation - the attitude about serving on church council. To look at it as an honor and a privilege to serve on the council, not a burden or something you're not qualified for or have time for. Bethel will never reach its full potential without everyone using all of their God-given talents.

I hope and pray I will see everyone at our annual meeting and together, with God's help, let's make 2019 a year that will surpass all of our hopes and dreams.

Yours in Christ,
Dan Frey

Worship Assistant Schedule for January--Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

	January 6	January 13	January 20	January 27
USHERS	Steve Brouwer	Larry & Carol Chapman		Larry & Carol Chapman
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD	Bonnie Gerloff			
GREETERS	Lee & Michelle Rients	Dennis & Karol Ellermann	George Miller & Virgil Lindaman	Leah Ingalls & Jason Uhlenhopp
LECTORS	Sherry Brouwer	Candy Krohn	Darla Drewelow	Diane Buss
LITURGISTS	Dale Krohn		Michelle Rients	Bonnie Gerloff
ACOLYTES	Gavin Bernard	Evan Palmer	Corryn Mann	Ava Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dan Frey JoAnne Schwarz		Dan Frey JoAnne Schwarz	
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP		Homemade Pie & Ice Cream		

December Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, December 2	52	\$133.98	\$1,784.15	\$0.00
Sunday, December 9	75	\$212.08	\$2,678.75	\$0.00
Sunday, December 16	87	\$222.00	\$3,574.55	\$0.00
Sunday, December 23	48	\$117.60	\$1,333.44	\$0.00
Christmas Eve, December 24	118	\$65.85	\$797.15	\$0.00
Sunday, December 30	54	\$155.86	\$1,663.75	\$0.00
January 1-December 31, 2018		\$108,730.68	\$8,416.65	\$250.00

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January 2019 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 6:30 pm Senior Choir	3	4	5
6 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School/"The Story" Adult Class	7	8	9 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm All Ministry Teams	10 9:00 am Quilting 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study @ Darla Drewelow's Home	11	12
13 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:15 am Homemade Pie & Ice Cream 10:15 am Sunday School-Children	14	15	16 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Church Council	17 9:00 am Quilting	18	19
20 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School/"The Story" Adult Class	21	22	23 6:30 pm Senior Choir	24 9:00 am Quilting	25	26
27 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School-Children 10:15 am Annual Meeting	28	29	30 6:30 pm Senior Choir	31 9:00 am Quilting		

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of January 6 – BJ Gorter & family; Rob & Maggie Gorter, Aiden & Wyatt; Bill & Jackie Hager; Lee & Kathy Aalfs; Wayne & Norma Dudley

Week of January 13 – Ryan Dudley & family; Dennis & Julie Dudley; Terry & Darla Drewelow; Pam Dohrn; Larry & Carol Chapman; Jeff & Angie Church & Zach; Jim & JoAnne Schwarz

Week of January 20 – Jean Scully; Jeremy & Brooke Paulson, Rylan & Bexlee; Bob & Lista Patterson; Allen & Rachael Redman

Week of January 27 – Jay & Angie Herter, Emilee & Kielinn; Kenny & Ranae Knock & Kelsie; Shirley Bergman; Gary Bergman