



Bethany Lutheran Church

Bethany News

Volume 51, Issue 10

November 2018

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Dates to Remember:

- Daylight Saving Time ends, Nov. 4
- Nov. 11, Farewell Brunch
- Nov. 11, Voter's Meeting
- Nov. 21, Thanksgiving Eve service
- Nov. 22, Thanksgiving

From the Pastor

Hello Christian Friends,

As I write my last newsletter article, I sort of feel there is only one verse to go back to. This verse was probably in my first sermon here, although I'm not positive of that. Paul writes in *1 Corinthians 2:1-2*, "And so it was with me, brothers and sisters. When I came to you, I did not come with eloquence or human wisdom as I proclaimed to you the testimony about God. For I resolved to know nothing while I was with you except Jesus Christ and him crucified."

Now I hope it is obvious that Paul does know more than just the crucifixion of Jesus. He also shared with the people of Corinth many things. You read through the Epistles of Paul, and even just the Corinthian Epistles specifically, and Paul's letters drip with Law and Gospel. Especially to the Corinthians he does extensive teaching on moral issues and behavior for gentile believers that haven't been raised in God's Word. It might almost appear as if Paul is contradicting himself as he says that he has known nothing while with them except Jesus and him crucified. However, this verse falls in line with all of the Scriptures. What Paul came to know in his life was that all that he was zealous for in the Old Testament finds its purpose and meaning in

Jesus Christ and His death and Resurrection. All that Paul now does and teaches is in line with and dedicated to guiding others upon the path of following the crucified and risen Jesus Christ. Paul admits that there are always those who are more eloquent and more loved, but he had done all by resolve to point and direct Jesus followers to believe on and follow their Savior Jesus Christ.

This has also been my resolve. I probably haven't been as successful as Paul. Hey, who is? Although, if I were to be as successful as Paul, it might mean numerous beatings and near death experiences and then culmination in martyrdom. I guess in a farewell message, I simply state the truth. It is all about Jesus Christ. It is all about His sacrifice and triumph over your sin, over death, and the power of the devil. It is all about His call on your life to be lived in Him and for Him, and to forsake all other things that war for that allegiance. The world does all it can to take your hearts off of Jesus. It is because your hearts are not fixed on Him. Or, as Paul writes in *1 Corinthians 2:8-10*, "None of the rulers of this age understood it, for if they had, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. However, as it is written, "What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind

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From the DFM

Patience. This is something that I have always struggled with. I like having a timeline and sticking to it. I like knowing what is going on and being in control of what I can. I struggle when things don't go according to *my* plan or when God's answer to prayer is, "be patient. Wait. Not yet." But sometimes that is exactly what He tells us, and we must learn to dwell in that waiting.

God paints pictures of patience all throughout Scripture. God tells Abraham he will be the father of many nations – but Abraham must be patient in waiting. We see Job who waited patiently in the midst of struggles. We see Joseph, who was sold into slavery, but waited patiently on God's timing. Yes, we do see all of these people question why and sometimes that waiting is difficult. We see impatience slip in, just as it does for us. They all wonder what God is up to in this waiting. However, ultimately we see God's promises fulfilled and we see how God provides for them.

Sometimes we face seasons in life where God says, "not yet. Wait. Be patient." Pretty soon we will be entering the season of Advent. This is a whole season centered around waiting. God promises a Savior, but we wait in anxious and joyous anticipation. We trust in God's promises and know that He will provide.

Romans 12:12 says this: "Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer." God does not tell us to be patient *if* affliction faces us – but he tells us that *when it does*, we are to be

patient. Not only are we to be patient, but he wants us to talk to Him! He wants us to be faithful in prayer – turning to Him no matter what is going on in life.

This year our advent devotion theme is "Waiting for our Promised King". We wait for God to fulfill His promises and trust that He is providing. As I said, patience has always been a struggle for me, but it is what God calls us to do. However, we are not waiting with no knowledge of what is to come. God gives us what we need through His Word. He tells us everything we need to know in our waiting – ultimately as we wait for eternity with Him. He has promised to be faithful and has fulfilled that promise time and time again through Scripture. He has promised to be with us in the midst of our waiting. He has promised to provide us with everything we need.

So whatever you are waiting for right now – whether that be a job, an answer to a prayer, or even just waiting for warm weather – remember that God is with you.

He is with you in your waiting.

*I remain confident of this:
I will see the goodness of the Lord
in the land of the living.
Wait for the Lord;
be strong and take heart
and wait for the Lord.
Psalm 27:13-14*

God's Blessings,
Shannon

Shut-in Gift Project

Members of Ladies For Bethany will meet on Saturday, November 10, at 9:00 a.m. to make Christmas gifts for shut-ins. The gifts

will then be delivered to the shut-ins. All members of the congregation are invited to join in this project.



What is happening at Bethany?

The most significant issue facing our congregation is the need to fill our vacant pastor position at Bethany. As I stated in a recent letter, we need to proceed in an organized fashion, working with our District office and within our congregation as a whole to address this need.

Members of the Council recently met with Rev. Jeff Smiles, our Circuit Visitor pastor, about the process. The immediate need is for a vacancy pastor to provide the pastoral duties of worship, sacraments, and special needs (funerals, etc.). At the time of this writing, we are reviewing names and hopefully will have a vacancy pastor very soon.

After November 18 we can expect a number of things to occur. We will see fill-in pastors or a vacancy pastor officiating at our worship services. The call process begins after a congregational meeting with President Dwayne Lueck, which was just scheduled for December 5, after our first Advent church service. The Advent service is at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will immediately follow the service. Please plan to attend and mark your calendars. President Lueck will explain the call process to us, which we will begin soon after that meeting. Thank you.

Bruce Frederick -
Bethany Council President

Special Council Meeting with Elders

The Bethany Church Council met with the Elders on Monday, October 22. The purpose of the meeting was to start planning for temporary pastoral coverage given the fact that a vacancy pastor has not been identified by the District office at the time of the meeting. Pastoral duties of worship, shut-in visitations, hospital visits, and other special functions were discussed. The Elders and members of the Council will actively begin planning for

the needs of our congregation. In addition, a meeting with President Lueck has been requested for late November or early December to start the call process. The Council will be appointing a call committee and will be seeking names. The Council discussed the makeup of the committee and will make every effort to ensure it reflects the qualities of our congregation. The call process can start after the meeting with President Lueck.

From the Pastor—*Continued*

has conceived” the things God has prepared for those who love Him—these things are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit.”

May the Holy Spirit by the power of His Word and the use of His Sacraments continue to call you by the Gospel, enlighten you with His gifts, sanctify and

keep you in the true faith. May you always follow the One whom it is all about, Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, our restoration unto our Father and Creator in Heaven.

In His Service,
Pastor Levi Willms

Church Council Notes

The Church Council met on October 9, 2018.

Board & Staff Reports:

- Elders: will have only a 9:00 a.m. service on December 23 & 30; looking for additional ushers and counters; discussed having greeters, attendance, open Director of Elder position, Elder section of handbook.
- Church Properties: the Orphan Grain Train, an LCMS mission organization, will remove pews on October 29; help is needed with removal on the 28th & 29th. Sound loop/pew installation begins November 2 or 3, completion by November 8.
- Family Ministry: close to setting a date for VBS; Shannon and Kris attended the D6 Family Ministry conference which was a wealth of information.
- Finance: September was positive with \$3,212 more in offerings than expenses; \$21,00 below budget.
- Evangelism: will have 'Friendship Sunday' in January.
- Pastor Levi: has accepted call to Yankton, SD; will get direction from President Lueck to prepare for transition/vacancy; November 18 is his last Sunday. Roster Adjustments/Calls training on November 3 at Faith Lutheran for calling inactives. Pastor is enjoying *EveryOne His Witness*, feels it's important for individuals to focus on witnessing.
- DFM Shannon: reported the D6 Family Ministry conference was wonderful; doing an Advent congregational written devotion.

Old Business:

- Confirmation Communication Plan: informal meeting on October 21.
- Council Planning 2019: action plan for *Listen and Respond* shared. Implementing a process for members to ask a question about church activities and get a timely response in writing (similar to *The Buzz* in Post-Crescent); will have article in November newsletter and be explained at Voter's Meeting.
- Open Director position nominations: Elders-Bob Koehler, Vice President-vacant, Properties-Bob Wendt to stay as interim, Finance-potential candidate.
- Financial Audit: completed by Marilyn Riemer.

New Business:

- Handbook: all boards should review/revise their respective areas by January.
- Holy Manners: distributed *A Covenant of Holy Manners* handout for comments at next meeting.
- Constitution/Bylaws: meeting on October 14 to educate and answer questions from congregation. A motion and second for the Constitution will have to be entertained and there will be a ballot vote with two-thirds majority.

Next meeting is November 13, 2018.

After the meeting, council discussed having a brunch and free-will offering for Pastor Levi on November 11 between services.

Complete Council minutes available in the church office.



Daylight Saving Time ends

Fall Back!! Daylight Saving Time ends on November 4. Remember to turn your

clocks back one hour before going to bed on Saturday, November 3.



Education

Sunday School Schedule Change

On November 11 we will not be having our Sunday School classes as we will be having a Farewell Brunch for Pastor Levi. We will also not be singing in worship on November

18. Since we would only have a few weeks to learn a new song, I would like to use that time to focus in on our Christmas songs.

Happy Birthday Jesus

Everyone is welcome to join us on December 10 from 5 to 6:30 p.m. as we celebrate the birth of our Savior! This will be a chance to

celebrate, do some crafts, and hear the Christmas story in a unique setting. We hope to see you there!



Christmas Program

The Christmas Program will take place on December 16 during the late service. We will be having one Saturday practice on December 15. This practice will be from 9-11 a.m. All students in grades 1-6 will be expected to be there for that whole time,

but those in preschool or kindergarten can arrive at 10:00 a.m. We will also be looking for youth and adult readers for this program, so if you would like to participate, please contact Shannon.

Intro to Advent Event

On November 25, between the services, we will be having an all-church event in place of Bible study. This event will guide us into the Advent season and help prepare us for

what is to come. We will have some time in the Word, a craft, and some snacks. All are welcome!

Farewell Brunch for Pastor Levi & Family

We will have a farewell brunch for Pastor Levi and his family on Sunday, November 11, between the 7:45 & 10:00 a.m. services. Egg strata, French toast bake, & fruit will be served. Breads, sweetbreads, bars, and dessert donations appreciated, but not necessary to attend.

Help is needed to set up on Saturday, November 10 at 9:00 a.m., or cleaning up after the event. For planning purposes, please sign up by November 4 at the info counter.



Bethany Lutheran Church

Rev. Levi Willms, Pastor
Shannon Meeks, DFM

124 W. Tenth Street
Kaukauna, WI 54130
Phone: 920-766-1452
Fax: 920-766-2697
secretary@bethanykaukauna.org
www.bethanykaukauna.org

Mission Statement

Nurturing our
community to grow
closer to Jesus.

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Kaukauna, WI
PERMINT NO. 163

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Annual Voter's Meeting

Bethany's Annual Voter's Meeting is on **Sunday, November 11 at 11:00 a.m.**, in the church sanctuary. Several important items will be discussed including approval of the revised Constitution and Bylaws and the call process.

All members are encouraged to attend; members age 18 and older are eligible to vote. Copies of the 2018 Annual Report are on the information counter and on the church website.

Saturday Worship Services

Saturday services at 4:30 p.m. begin on **November 3**. Thursday services will resume in May.

Thanksgiving Eve Service

A Thanksgiving service will be held on Wednesday, November 21, at 6:30 p.m.

Come and thank God for the gifts you have received.

November 2018 Worship Assistants

		Sundays 7:45 AM	Sundays 10:00 AM
Elders	<i>Saturday: Mike Baarts</i>	Mike Robinson	Wayne Owen
Altar Guild		Cheri Rietveld	Barb Dishno
Ushers	November 4	Team 3	- - -
	November 11	Team 4	Team 7
	November 18	Team 1	Team 8
	November 25	Team 2	Team 5
Counters	November 4		Team 1
	November 11		Team 2
	November 18		Team 3
	November 25		Team 4

USHERS

<p><u>TEAM #1</u> - Trevor Magnuson (Leader), Charity Magnuson, Gail Marzahl, Bonnie Reichel</p>	<p><u>TEAM #5</u> - Bob Koehler (Leader), Jeb Green, Josh Green, Trevor Koehler, Dan Tuyls</p>
<p><u>TEAM #2</u> - Garry Whitney (Leader), Dick Kickland, Mason Kickland, Micki Kickland</p>	<p><u>TEAM #6</u> -</p>
<p><u>TEAM #3</u> - Norbert Fuhrman (Leader), Bill Jorgensen, Sue Kamien, Jack Van Den Heuvel, Shirley Van Den Heuvel</p>	<p><u>TEAM #7</u> - Gordy Anderson (Leader), Keith Mitchell, Dale Owen, Linda Wruck</p>
<p><u>TEAM #4</u> - Diana Driessen (Leader), Eleeta Gast, George Gast, Karen Gast, Kay Gast</p>	<p><u>TEAM #8</u> - Bill Jensen (Leader), Ashley Haen, Gary Hartz, Joan Hartz</p>

MONEY COUNTERS

Team 1- Joe Kamien
 Team 2 - Joan Borg, Gordy Anderson, Mary Ann Anderson, Maggie Robinson
 Team 3 - Bill Jensen, Marv Braun, Bob King, Judy King
 Team 4 - Sandy Weiland, Wilma Allwardt, Joyce Diedrich, Cori Shearer
 Substitutes: Dick Kickland (766-2524), Micki Kickland (766-2524), Doris Marzahl (766-1486), Jane Stenz (788-3009)

November 2018

Bethany Lutheran Church

Sunday				1	2	3
Sunday: 8:55 AM Sunday School 9 AM Adult Bible Study 9 AM Youth Bible Study 9 AM Naomi's Table Bible Study						8:30 AM Inactive Member Training @ Faith Luth. 4:30 PM Holy Communion
4 7:45 & 10 AM Holy Communion Services <i>Daylight Saving Time ends</i>	5 1-3 PM Quilters 6:30 PM FPU 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	6 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Church Properties 6:30 PM Prayer Shawl Group	7 6:15 PM Midweek School 7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice			10 9 AM LFB shut-in gift assembly 1:00 PM Gerits & Dodge wedding 4:30 PM Worship Service
11 7:45 & 10 AM Worship Services 8:45 - 10:00 AM - Pastor's Farewell Brunch No Sunday School classes 11 AM Annual Congregational Meeting	12 6:30 PM FPU 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	13 10 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Elders 7:30 PM Church Council	14 6:15 PM Midweek School 7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice	15	16 <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	17 4:30 PM Holy Communion <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DFM Shannon out of the office</div>
18 7:45 AM Holy Communion Service 10 AM Holy Comm. Contemporary Service	19 1-3 PM Quilters 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	20 10 AM Bible Study	21 6:30 PM Thanksgiving Service	22 <i>Thanksgiving Day</i>	23 <i>Office closed</i>	24 4:30 PM Worship Service <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; text-align: center;">DFM Shannon out of the office</div>
25 7:45 AM Worship Service 9:00 AM All-Church event (no Bible Studies) 10 AM Contemporary Service	26 6:30 PM Men's Bible Study	27 10 AM Bible Study 6 PM Care Ministry	28 6:15 PM Midweek School 7:00 PM Contemporary Band practice	29	30	

Please visit the church website for updates and changes to the calendar.