Volume 60 Issue 1 January, 2020

The Chimes

Bethany Lutheran Church

Mission Statement
Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning, and Love - We Are God's People.

A NEW YEAR BRINGS NEW PERSPECTIVES

One of the developments I have been observing at Bethany over the past few months is the increasing energy, focus, and passion in our Outreach Ministry. Outreach has always been strong in our congregation, but it is growing even more. This is vital in churches today. At our last Outreach Committee meeting we discussed ways in which we can more effectively reach out to our community. The action was taken to schedule a soup supper on Tuesday, January 21, from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The intention in this event is to publicize the supper to people in our area who would be blessed to have a hot, nutritious meal provided by our church. We will post a sign-up sheet with items to bring and times for set up and clean up. Be thinking about how we can get the word out to people.

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
2515 Madison Ave.
Burlington, Iowa
Phone: (319) 752-3621
www.bethanyburlington.org

Pastor's Cell: (360) 623-2184

Our Staff

Rev. Paul Hermansen, Pastor
Cory Byrne, Choir Director/Organist
Sue Hermansen, Admin. Asst.
Michelle Huppenbauer, Financial Sec'y
Scott Teater, Custodian

Our annual meeting this month is one week earlier than usual. Pastor Paul is the culprit for this advanced date due to a conference he will be attending. The ELCA requires pastors to be present at all congregational meetings. The official date is January 19, immediately following worship. At this meeting we will review 2019, vote on our new constitution, elect new council members, and vote to approve a budget for 2020. During 2019 members who either died, moved away, or discontinued attending created a decline in our church income. Council leadership took steps to lower our operating expenses. For 2020 there are no salary increases. Thankfully no salaries are being cut. We are blessed to have an endowment fund that provides for scholarship and educational opportunities. We also have faith in God that He will meet our needs so that we may advance the Kingdom.

One of the documents provided at the Annual Meeting is the annual report. If you happen to be someone who is responsible for doing such a report, please submit them ASAP so that they may be included.

NEW MEMBER

We are blessed to have a new person attending Bethany. Her name is Marie Nicholson and she is the granddaughter of Shirley Henson. On January 5 Marie will be received into God's Kingdom by baptism and become a member of Bethany. Marie sits near the front left side of the sanctuary. Please give her a warm welcome to our church family!

THERE IS A NEW FLOWER CHART ON THE BULLETIN BOARD IN THE HALLWAY. ALSO A NEW MISSION SUPPORT SIGN UP SHEET.

OUR KIDS ARE WAITING FOR YOU!

One of the parts of worship that people really like are the children's sermons. During 2019 we heard remarkable messages given by you, the people of Bethany. I can recall some that were given months ago because they were sooooo good! We have a new sign-up sheet for 2020 waiting for you. When you present a children's message to our precious little ones you are fulfilling God's wish that we treasure the young enough to give them God's word. I look forward to seeing our new list filled up by the end of January!

CONFIRMATION RESUMES JANUARY 8

I trust our confirmands had a great Christmas break and are anxious to resume confirmation classes. Our theme for the remainder of the year is the New Testament. We start up again on January 8 at 6:30 p.m. Our first night is on Jesus. That should be the class of the year! For three of our students their study will conclude this spring. They will then have a year of mentoring before being confirmed. Please keep our confirmands in your prayers for the Holy Spirit to continue to direct their lives and keep them connected to the church.

SCOUT SUNDAY - JANUARY 26

Every year the church celebrates the ministry of the Scout programs. Scouts are an important part of Bethany. On January 26 Todd Chelf will be coordinating the Scout Sunday service. Please be present to support our Scouts.

JANUARY ACTIVITIES

The Retired Nurses will not be meeting in January.

The Des Moines County Retired School Personnel will be not meeting in January.

Boy Scout Troop #25 has its regular weekly meetings on Tuesdays.

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR CHRISTMAS KINDNESS

Sue and I are deeply moved every year by the Christmas cards and gifts you share with us. Sue would like to particularly thank her "Secret Santa" for the gift of socks. You can never have too many socks! We are already richly blessed to serve you at Bethany. Opening up your cards and receiving your thoughtful sharing make us feel extra "loved." I pray that this Christmas blessed all of you with God's goodness and love!

SATURDAY NIGHT SERVICE

Once again I appreciate your flexibility when I occasionally change the date of activities. I need to move our Saturday to January 18. Sue and I will be at a conference on the regular Saturday night. I really enjoy this unique worship experience and love hearing your reflections.

2020 OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2020 offering envelopes are on a table in the fellowship hall. It would be appreciated if you would pick yours up if you have not already done so. If for some reason you do not see yours, please call the office.

As mentioned earlier, we are providing a soup supper on January 21 from 4:30-6:30 p.m. as an opportunity to reach out to our community. One of the key components is publicity. I am working with Linda Elmore to get the word out to the residents of Friedenheim. We also have to plan our dinners at the Salvation Army that are coming up. We will get the word out regarding planning meetings so we will be well prepared for a successful event.

SECURITY

The church council has been discussing security of our property for a long time. In order to be responsive to members' concerns, we will be distributing a short questionnaire at the Annual Meeting for each member to complete. The questionnaire will include the following choices for security options:

- Change nothing (keep security as it currently is)
- Install a buzzer system
- Install an alarm system
- Install security cameras
- Other ideas (be as specific as possible _____)

We will then take into consideration the responses as we move forward with making our church a welcoming place that is also a safe place to gather for worship and work. Also, feel free to talk with council members about your ideas. Please know that we are working hard to accommodate ideas from many people, given constraints of budget and physical limitations of our building. Thank you for your active participation in this issue.

The Bethany Council

The SE Iowa Synod is offering a 2 part workshop at the Synod offices on February 13 from 9:00 a.m. to noon on reducing risk in churches. The first part will address common property hazards and practices for assessing the physical security of our building. The second part, ALICE Intruder Mitigation, provides individuals with preparedness response and skills in the event of an aggressive intruder situation. Early registration is suggested; the workshop is free. If anyone is interested, let the office know and we can see about carpooling.

FROM THE PASTOR

For the Son of man came to
seek and save the lost.
Luke 19:10

WHAT IS BETHANY'S MISSION?

Did you know that Bethany's mission statement is printed on the front of our bulletin every Sunday? "Reaching out in Worship, Fellowship, Learning and Love - We Are God's People." I am not sure when this mission statement was created or by whom. It is a good proclamation and has served Bethany for a long time. But, in today's world, mission statements need to be brief, focused, and easy to memorize.

In Luke 19:10 we have Jesus' mission: "I came to seek and save the lost." That is a clear mission, easy to remember. If you were to come up with a mission statement for Bethany, what would it be? My two favorite words in our current statement are "reaching out." Two decades into our new century the church is discovering that we need to reach out beyond ourselves more than ever before! The days of assuming that people will automatically come to our church are gone. Yes, we need to go out into the world and reach out beyond ourselves to the poor, struggling, disenfranchised people of our time.

So the question that is asked is: are we at Bethany ready for a new mission statement? To answer this we need to ask God what He sees our mission to be. The movement of the Spirit at Bethany is to do more for others outside of Bethany. This falls right in line with Jesus. Our Lord went out to people and they responded by following Him. Could we put into a brief statement what the mission would look like? How about, "Bringing Christ into the World" or "Loving Like Jesus beyond Ourselves."

The Council will be exploring the possibility of creating a new mission statement in 2020. We are grateful for the one we have and may retain parts of it in a new one. The entire congregation will also be invited to give input on this important event. As our new year unfolds we will keep you informed of any activity about a new mission statement being formulated.

In Christ,

Pastor Paul

CHURCH & COMMUNITY CONNECTION

January 2020 Lay Leaders

Head Ushers:
Dan & Julie Wischmeier

January Lead Usher:

Ushers
5 -
12 -
19 -
26 -

Communion Assistants
5 - Todd Chelf; Scott & Jan Creighton
12 - Amy Unglaub; Teresa Morehead; Bill Mundt
19 - Sue Hermansen; Dan Harken; Mike Hopp
26 - Jim Martindale; Jeff & Kim Engle

Children's Sermons
5 - Amy Unglaub
12 - Pastor Paul
19 - Amu Unglaub
26 - Todd Chelf

Acolytes
5 - Jonathan Chelf
12 - Aaron Morehead
19 - Mason Fritz; Eli Wallace
26 - Lucas Chelf

Lector
5 - Dan Harken
12 - Rachel Lindeen
19 - Kim Engle
26 - Carlene Woodside

Greeters
5 - Bob Sogard; Arnhild Zaiser
12 - Gerald & Lila Janssen
19 - Dan & Julie Wischmeier
26 - Scott & Jan Creighton

Missionary Support
5 -
12 -
19 -
26 - Pam Taylor

Flowers
5 -
12 -
19 -
26 -

Altar Guild
Bonnie Rosenberg; Nancy House; Sarah Loots; Debbie Hoxie

1 - Andrew Shepherd
4 - Michelle Cox; Brian Rosenberg
8 - Marjorie Ervine
9 - Aunika Johnson
11 - Melissa Milton
12 - Kaye Sladky
14 - Taylor House
15 - Mary Honsey
21 - Donna Kerns
23 - Conni Boyer
27 - Pam Taylor
29 - Shirley Mundt

16 - Ron & Carlene Woodside

Meetings

The meetings for December that have been scheduled as of the publishing of this newsletter are listed below. Watch the bulletins for any date and time changes or additional meetings scheduled.

WELCA
TBA

Outreach Committee
Tuesday, January 14, 5:30 p.m.

Finance Committee
Thursday, January , 6:30 p.m.

Church Life Committee
Monday, January 13, 5:30 p.m.

Property Committee
Monday, January 13, 6:30 p.m.

Executive Committee

Church Council
Sunday, January 5, 10:30 a.m.

Men's Breakfast
Saturday, January 18, 8:00 a.m.

PLEASE NOTE

The deadline to submit information for the monthly Chimes is the 25th of the month. You're welcome to email your submissions, leave a note on the desk in the office, or call the church office.

ALSO!

Because of Federal Privacy laws, if you or a member of your family are hospitalized and would like the Pastor to visit, you must contact the church and let us know.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

DECEMBER ATTENDANCE

December 1	95
December 8	87
December 15	94
December 22	93
December 24	161
December 29	114

DECEMBER GIVING

December 1	$ 2,875.40
December 8	2,676.75
December 15	4,317.00
December 22	4,068.00
December 24	710.00
December 29	2,815.00
Total	**$ 17,462.15**

Thank you for your generosity and faithful trust in God to provide your needs! God believes in you and has a great future planned for Bethany.

If you change your mailing address, please let the office know ASAP. For every returned piece of mail returned for an incorrect address, we