

THE BETHEL NEWS



Inside this Issue:

- Pastor Bret's Article—Pg. 2
- Council President Article—Pg.3
- A Look at our Loyalty—Pg.4
- Bethel Youth News—Pg.5
- WELCA News—Pg. 6
- Book Club List—Pg. 7
- Notes to the Congregation—Pg. 7
- Team meetings—pg. 7
- Circle meetings—Pg. 7
- Birthdays & Anniversaries—Pg. 8
- Mission of the Month—Pg. 8
- Calendar—Pg. 9

“This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child
wrapped in bands of cloth
and lying in a manger.”



Luke 2:12, NRSV



From Pastor Bret:

Remember how you felt when you thought you were going to be honored or awarded a prize or perhaps awaited the arrival of an important guest, and you did your best to be presentable and had your words all picked out, only to have it not happen. Your name never came up, you were forgotten or the guest cancelled. All these expectations you had built up in your mind never amounted to anything but a shattered dream.

Do you think that the innkeeper would have given Mary and Joseph a first-class room had he known the significance of their visit? Who would give a second thought to a pair of unknown strangers asking for a room when the sign said, "No Vacancy?" Either send them to the competition down the street or let them sleep in the stable was the best he could do. Well, certainly he didn't expect his establishment to be the birthplace of the world's Redeemer, did he? One wonders what he felt afterward.

In the same manner, how do we sometimes know to whom we have really talked or entertained in our home? Worse yet, whom have we turned away from our door when we had the opportunity to be helpful? Dale Evans wrote the book, *Angels Unaware*. That title is referred to in Hebrews 13:2; "Do not forget to entertain strangers, for by so doing some people have entertained angels without knowing it." It makes me wonder if I will have the opportunity to meet these people that I perhaps was less warm to than others, in the afterlife. What will be my excuse? That their visit was totally unexpected; or some lame excuse that doesn't hold water in my self-described effort to be a servant.

In all of us, our minds play tricks as we deceive ourselves into thinking that we are more important than the next person even though God created us all equal and in God's own image to boot. However, since we have been given the freedom to think, we are often at odds as to what God would like us to do.

Christ said that he will come again. For some, this is fiction, for us believers it is an expectation. The next time you answer the door, or await a guest, or have a chance meeting with a stranger, perhaps it is wise to take a different attitude as to what they have to say despite their looks or dress. Given the present state of alarm and distrust in our society, one can only rely on God's grace and encouragement that we are serving a need to someone else. Let's not be like the innkeeper.

What are you expecting this Christmas season? Nice gifts, plenty of food, a good time, good health? On what are your expectations based? How about last year? Did your expectations turn to fiction? Why was that? Put your trust in God and live each day with the full expectation that when God comes, you will be ready. Merry Christmas, PBret



GREETINGS

Dear Fellow Members,

Johnny Appleseed was a hermit who was welcomed wherever he went in the Ohio territory. Everyone loved Johnny, in spite of his appearance. Johnny always carried a sack of apple seeds to plant as he traveled throughout the territory. Even though Johnny was a hermit, God found a way to use him. He aided the settlers in Mansfield, Ohio from an Indian attack that could have led to their massacre.

Martin Luther is supposed to have once said, “even if I knew the world would end tomorrow I would still plant an apple tree today”. We at Bethel can plant the seed of Christianity for today and tomorrow through our support of God’s Church.

As the budget was prepared for this coming year, we tried to make a budget that would be attainable while still pleasing to God. God asks us to give a tithe of ten percent back to him for his work. As members of Bethel, we should look at what we are giving and consider working towards a tithe. Remember that God will provide for us, just as he provided for Abraham when he was asked to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham obeys and God provides a lamb to take the place of Isaac, as Jesus also took our place on the cross.

We need to look at our giving as an investment into Making Jesus Known today and tomorrow. We can do this by not looking at the church budget as just paying the bills but, instead, realizing that all aspects of the budget are an investment in spreading Christianity. By supporting our budget, you are planting a seed (tree) that will grow the fruit of Christianity.

In the past couple of years, we have depended on our Endowment Monies to make up the short fall between income and expenses. This is only a band-aid solution, not the answer for the future. The Endowment Fund was not and is not intended to subsidize our Church financial budget. The earnings from these funds are for non-operational extra budgetary ministries of an “outreach” nature. Some of the funds support educational scholarships, and special mission support.

Second Corinthians Chapter Eight, Paul defends the collection to the Churches of Macedonia.

Verse 12 tells us “For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has – not according to what one does not have.” How do you decide how much to give? Here Paul gives us several

principals to follow: (1) each person should follow through on previous promises (8:10 9:3) (2) each person should give as much as he is able (8:12 9:6), (3) each person must make up his own mind as to how to give (9:7) (4) each person should give in proportion to what God has given them. (9:10) God gives to us so we can give to others. Paul says we should give what we have, not what we don’t have. Sacrificial giving must be responsible. Paul wants believers to give generously, but not to the extent that those who depend on the givers must go without having their basic needs met. Give until it hurts, but don’t give so that it hurts your family and or relatives needing your financial support.

December 5th 2010 is designated as our intent to give Sunday. You will receive a copy of the 2011 approved budget, intent to invest (give) card, along with a copy of Bethel Lutheran Time & Talent Sheet. When you receive this packet, please prayerfully consider what you can do to **Make Jesus Known** through Bethel Church.

I would like to take this time to thank all of the members of Bethel for their continued support of our ministry.

Thanksgiving was last week and my personal hope is that everyone had a great thanksgiving with, family and friends. I would also like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Remember we are once again offering three Christmas Eve services 4:00pm, 7:00pm, and 10:00pm. Bring a friend and join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus!

LET US PLANT THOSE TREES!

God Bless You,

Bill Conkey

Council President



MINISTRY OVERVIEW PAGE

On Going Prayers

Helen Bell	Gert Bartell
Helen Bendel	Deanna Brannigan
Mary Burkey	Rosemary Brocious
Elaine Brocious	Brian Butcher
Cora Dixon	Dottie Coffin
	Johnny Conti Jr.
June Dahlgren	Betty Deskin
The Grangers	Jenny Dubic
Garnet Floor	Mark DeMartino Jr.
Peggy Emery	Mary Gleckler
Donna Fredrickson	Vicki Lago
Bob Graves	Dale Goehring
Phyllis Evans	Lin Henry
Arvella Harris	Norm Johnson
Hazel Heuer	Alice Kindler
Irma Kika	Freda Hofmeister
John Kanna	Michael Kloos
Marlene Luzik	Anna White
Alberta Nelson	Richie Martin
Steven Martin	Bonnie MacKeown
Carl McKnight	Link Murray
Dick Mumma	Wes Midgley
Becky Nilsson	Robert Patrick
Janet Phelps	Garrett Schenker
Leroy Robison	Lillian Robison
Tom Ring	Marie Schneider
Sally Shilliday	Sue Span
Mary Shively	Jack Sommerlad
Betty Stevens	Ruth Thomas
Bob Urig	Jackie Watson
Kay Varga	Stan Wittenauer
Bea Wilkin	Mal Wilkin
Kay Wean	Ginny Zetterquist



A Look at our Loyalty

The Church is a gift...assembly required.

Our Worship Attendance

10/31	182
11/07	183
11/14	187
10/21	150

Sunday School

General Operations Fund

To cover our 2010 approved budget,

10/31	39
11/07	23
11/14	42
11/21	00

We need to bring in \$24,731 per month to our general fund.

Total received in October \$21,634

Building Fund Income

We need to bring in \$2155 per month to pay our building mortgage

Total received in October \$3583

Original cost of building \$850,000

We now owe (10/28/10) \$151,388.68

DECEMBER ASSIGNMENTS

Assisting Pastor Bret

8:30 Fred Noday
1100 Steve Ausmann, Dig Coffin
Doris Gluck

Altar Flowers:

Dottie Coffin, scheduling
330-758-4283

Ginny Zetterquist, treasurer
330-758-1892

Flower Deliverers:

Dottie Coffin 330-758-4283

Acolytes:

Tom Crew 330-501-8537

Counters:

Bill Conkey 330-270-0113

Greeters:

Beth Applegate 330-542-9360

Ushers:

Andy Ragan 330-549-2376

Brian Klase 330-707-0508

Ushers this month

8:30 John Conti, Howard Wiff

11:00 Ed Larson, Paul Orend
Frank Weaver, Bob Wright

Altar Group B ~ For DECEMBER

Helen LoSasso, Chairperson
Adele Cisine Janet Conkey

Annie DeChellis Delaine DeChellis

Doris Gluck Susie Granger

Arlene McAtee

NEEDED:

Volunteers are needed to serve on communion groups to **PREPARE** communion for church services.

We have 4 groups, so you would only serve 3 times a year.

Contact JoAnn Johnson 330-757-9478



Communion groups: Check with Pastor each month you serve to see if there are any other times for communion. **Please remember to let the office know when any of the communion supplies are getting low.**

Dear Members:

Contact for our e-mail for the Prayer chain is Diana Wiesner- Her email is RX300258@aol.com

If you would like to be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, contact Diana.

~Thanks Diana!~

Dottie Coffin is the contact for the phone prayer chain 330-758-4283

~Thanks Dottie!~



OUR PRAYER LIST is posted on Narthex Bulletin Board...

so that you might be able to send cards to them.

BETHEL YOUTH NEWS

YOUTH PROGRAM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 19TH

During the 11:00am Service



CHRISTIAN ED
TEAM
MEETING
TUESDAY,
DECEMBER 7TH
7:00PM

CHRISTMAS PLAY PRACTICE
SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 5TH & 12TH
AFTER THE 11:00 SERVICE

LUTHERAN OUTDOOR MINISTRIES IN OHIO
FOR THE FAMILY IN DECEMBER
Making Room For Jesus

December 3—5 at Camp Mowana

Join us for preparing our hearts to make room for the baby Jesus! Things to do for the entire family. Friday 7pm —Sunday noon

Celebrate! New Year's Retreat

December 30 — January 1 at LMC

Bring the whole clan out for this unique, family-oriented New Year's celebration!

How to Reach Us...

Camp Luther 440-224-2196

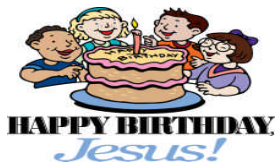
Camp Mowana 419-589-7406

LMC 419-864-8030

www.lomocamps.org

LYO WINTER GATHERING
JANUARY 7TH, 8TH & 9TH

IN DECEMBER we look forward to the Birthday party for Jesus, a children's Christmas program and caroling...see the calendar on Christian Ed bulletin board for these updates and other opportunities that may pop up for us.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Women of the **EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA** 



WELCA NEWS

ABIGAIL CIRCLE MEETING: Tuesday, December 14th at 7:00 pm to box homemade cookies for our shut-ins. All women of Bethel and friends are welcome to come help. We ask ladies to bring one batch of HOLIDAY COOKIES. There will be no Bible Study at this meeting.

COOKE WALK is Saturday, December 11th from 9-1 in Fellowship Hall.



THERE IS A SIGN UPSHEET in the narthex for bakers and helpers to assist in any way for the Cookie Walk. Contact Delaine DeChellis 330-549-9116 or dechellis@zoominternet.net

PIECEMAKERS (our sewing group), will present a variety of table runners, quilts, etc to enhance your holiday decor. Also these make attractive gift items. Our cookbooks and Entertainment books will be for sale at the cookie walk as well. Come and do your Christmas shopping!

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Now on Sale! Now at Bethel. \$30 for coupon book of savings on restaurants, shopping and services. Profits from sales to WELCA for church needs. On sale in narthex after services until December 14th or contact Lynnae Rassega at 330 - 965-2472. Make great gifts

THE INTERNATIONAL BUFFET WAS A SUCCESS! We raised \$1607.00. Thank you again to our great crew of workers!...and all those who came to enjoy! Diana & Rhonda

THANK YOU to the wonderful women who made the 90 delicious pumpkin rolls. The profit of \$600 was given to the Boiler-Heating Fund. Of course, we could not have done it without our loyal buyers. Thank you so much. Ruth Ragan



December 1st—December 19th

We will be collecting scarves, mittens, gloves and hats for The "Needles' Eye.

Please bring your hats, mittens and gloves

for our tree in the Narthex.
Thank you!



JOURNEY TO BETHLEHEM LIVE NATIVITY

With a living nativity including the animals

Saturday, December 4th ~ 2-5pm

Disciples Christian Church
565 Boardman-Canfield Road
(224 across from Giant Eagle)

Everyone Welcome



NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:



If you have **Altar Flowers** or a **Candle**: Please pay when you reserve your flower date. Make checks payable to the church \$20.00 for flowers and \$8.00 for a candle, and mail to the church or put in the offering plate.
 If you have a date you want, let Dottie know 330-758-4283
Thanks, Altar Flower Committee




LYDIA MIRIAM & SARA RUTH CIRCLES
 Thursday, December 2nd @ 12 Noon
ABIGAIL CIRCLE
 Tuesday, December 14th @ 7:00pm

VASES OF FLOWERS NEEDED:
 1 vase of each of these Sundays:
 December 12th



BOOK LIST for 2010-2011



NOTE : Meet the last Monday of each month at 12:00pm
JAN.31-A Thread Of Grace-by Mary Doria Russell-Marilyn Weaver leader
FEB.28-The Memory Keepers Daughter- by Kim Edwards-Ruth Ragan leader
MAR. 28-The Secret Life of Bees- by Sue Monk Kidd-Delaine DeChellis leader
APRIL 25-My Sister's Keeper- by Jodi Picoult-JoAnn Johnson leader
MAY 30-The Meadow-by James Galvin-Marian Miller leader


All sessions begin at 12:00 in the quilter's room.
 It is not necessary to have read the book! Come and enjoy the fellowship!
 Any questions contact Marilyn Weaver-330-549-2251

HELP US BELL RING!!!
 We will again be helping the **SALVATION ARMY BELL RING** with Boardman United Methodist during the week of December 6th - December 11th. You all know that this Christian organization helps the needy in so many ways, and here is our opportunity to help them raise funds for those needy causes. **Our spot is in front of Bath and Body Works in the Shops at Boardman Plaza.** Sign up on PBret's Office Door...**THANKS!**

DECEMBER TEAM MEETINGS

Tuesday	December 7th	7:00 pm	Christian Ed Team
No Mickey Schuster Meeting this Month			
Thursday	December 9th	9:15 am	Staff Meeting
Tuesday	December 14th	7:00 pm	Finance team
Tuesday	December 21st	6:30 pm	Welcome
Tuesday	December 21st	7:30 pm	COUNCIL
Tuesday	No Constitution Meeting this Month		

The Bethel Lutheran Sanctuary Choir
Presents a Christmas Cantata
 on Sunday, December 12th
 at 2:00 in the afternoon.



DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 1 Janet Liga, Irene Wittenauer
- 2 James Cafaro, Steven Martin, Cory Untch
- 4 Linda Swanson
- 8 Gil Kuivila, David Griswold
- 9 William Klase
- 10 Michael Kovach III, Cory Fox
- 12 Tina Dunn, Laura Frey, Conner Mould, Maria Teutsch, Judson Travis White
- 13 Tracy Fox
- 14 Sandra Dorman, Eleanor Laise
- 15 Daniel Marshall, Richard Mumma
- 16 Tom Atwood
- 18 Katie Butcher
- 19 Walter Binder, Carol Cafaro
- 20 Gertrude Galich, Michael Karsti, Daniel Noday, Kelby Thoreson
- 21 Spencer Fernholz
- 22 Joseph Dulin, Rick Hungerford, Ken Lyons, Breana Trolio, Dennis Zinz Jr.
- 23 Amanda Kovach, Jim LoSasso, Tillie Stefanick, Maddy Urig
- 24 Susan Viars
- 25 Jesus
- 26 Kay Kish, Al Kollay
- 27 Fred Noday
- 28 Justine Carney, Stan Huddleston (50th), Jean Thorpe
- 29 Denis Robinson, James Zellhart
- 30 James Bartell, Lissa LoSasso Bell, William Kish, Kevin White
- 31 Vicki Lago

- 5 Earl & Dorothea Coffin
- 12 Edwin & Virginia Mannion
- 18 Donald & Donna Robinson
- 23 Irene & Stan Wittenauer
- 26 Linda & Scott Adair
- 27 Guy & Beth Applegate



Let the office know of any changes, corrections or additions, or if celebrating a "milestone" birthday or anniversary. Thank you!

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
FOR DECEMBER
Second Harvest Food
Bank**



DECEMBER



Sun

Mon



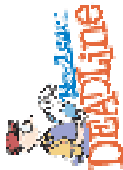


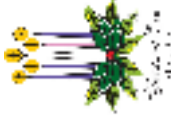


Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 8:30 Worship 11:00 Worship with communion	5 8:30 Worship with communion 11:00 Worship 2:00pm CHOIR CONCERT	12 8:30 Worship with communion 11:00 Worship 2:00pm CHOIR CONCERT	19 8:30 Worship with communion 11:00 Worship with KIDS PROGRAM at the 11:00 service	26 One service at 10:00 	6 7:00pm Christian Ed Team	7 7:00pm Christian Ed Team	13 7:00pm Finance 7:00pm Abigail Circle	20 6:30 Welcome 7:30 Council	27 Office Closed	1 6:00pm Making clothespin cookies	8 6:00pm Making clothespin cookies	15 	22 NO BIBLE STUDY	29 NO BIBLE STUDY	2 12 Noon Sara Ruth & Lydia Miriam Meeting 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir 	9 9:15am Staff Meeting & Party 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	16 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	23 6:00 Bells 7:00 Choir	30 9:00am Newsletter team	3 9am-1pm Cookie Walk 	10 9am-1pm Cookie Walk	17 9am-1pm Cookie Walk	24 Services at 4PM, 7PM, & 10PM 	31 New Year's Eve	4 Merry Christmas 	11 Merry Christmas 
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BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

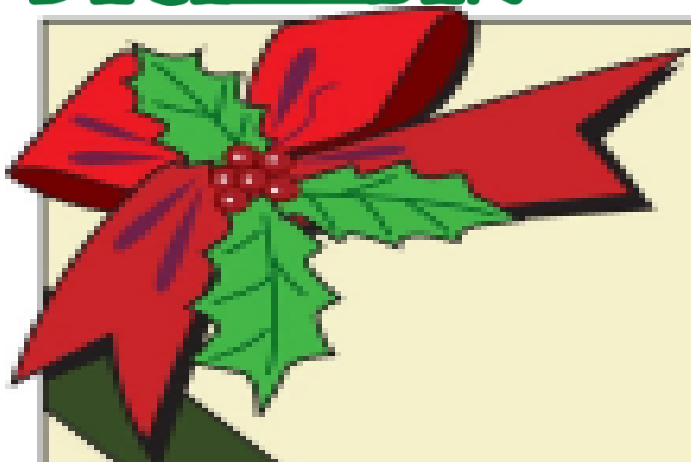
425 Crestview Drive
Boardman, OH 44512

Making Jesus Known

DECEMBER 2010

**Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Youngstown, OH
Permit No. 224**

Return Service Requested



Phone: 330-758-5745
Fax: 330-629-8658
Email: office@bethelboardman.org

Sunday Worship: at 8:30 & 11:00 am

Nursery provided at all Services

Holy Communion:

1st & 3rd Sundays at 11 am & 2nd & 4th Sundays at 8:30 am

CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICES 4PM, 7PM & 10PM

Our Staff

The Ministers

Senior Pastor

Office Manager/Bookkeeper

Director of Visitation Ministry

Youth Directors

Building Manager

Organist

Director of Music

Treasurer/Financial Secretary

The Entire Bethel Family

Bret D Rizzo

Georgette Kollay

Paul Burgeson

Rick & Starr Hungerford

David Walsh

LaRue Murray

Emma Cowell

Paul Orend/Sue Mallery

**Our Web Page:
bethelboardman.org**