

February 2008

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel UCC, W4225 County Line Road, Elkhart Lake, WI 53020
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Morse Code

The Season of Lent is quickly approaching. For those of you who do not know, Ash Wednesday is February 6, 2008. Where does the time go?

The Season after the Epiphany allows us some time to transition. We move from angels, shepherds, wise men, stables, and mangers to the invitation to follow Jesus. We are faced with questions of discipleship and we are faced with issues of who this Jesus might be. As we follow Jesus and become more affluent with God's call we move into the Season of Lent.

The Season of Lent invites us to take a look inside of who we are, who we have become, and who we want to be. What is God calling us to do and are we taking the time to listen? As we seek to listen to God's still speaking voice have we found ourselves disengaging from those around us? Are we in need of reconciliation? Then, through the course of this journey we are thrown a curve ball and find Jesus on trial. This is the very One who has been our light in the night – the One we have chosen to follow – the One who remains constant in our search for answers to the deep questions of our living. Jesus on trial, how can this be? Who is this Jesus, really?

Our Lenten Worship Series entitled, *Christ on Trial* will begin on Ash Wednesday at 7:30 p.m. Christ most certainly was on trial. Two thousand years have come and gone since Caiaphas and Pilate passed judgment on Jesus in Jerusalem. The verdict passed down at the trial was a miscarriage of justice.

We find Christ on trial. His grace-filled act, his being in the world, his radical teachings all demand a reaction. Every human heart must wrestle with questions like: Who is this Christ? Is he who he claims to be? If so, what does he

mean to me and my living? Christ demands a reply.

During this Season of Lent we will turn to scripture and have eye witness accounts of their encounters with Jesus:

- We will hear a lawyer's opening statements as to who this Jesus is, and who will be on the witness stand in the coming weeks.
- Matthew speaks of Jesus' scandalous association with the seedier side of society.
- A former cripple is herself, evidence of Jesus' loose interpretation of Sabbath law.
- "Jesus, Disturber of the Peace!" Is it true? Prominent Jewish leader Nicodemus weighs in.
- Evidence that Jesus is a self-elected "Judge and Jury" is offered by a woman caught in adultery.
- Are charges of cannibalism true? A young man named John is called to the stand.

Christ on Trial examines evidence that demands a verdict: Who is this Jesus...for you?

All of our Lenten services will begin at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday evenings. For Holy Week: Palm Sunday, March 16 we will conduct the Rite of Confirmation. There will be a Maundy Thursday Service, the time will be announced. For Good Friday, we are having an ecumenical service which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and Bethel will be hosting this event. Churches from the Kiel and New Holstein area are invited.

This Season of Lent is really a time for us to center ourselves. During this centering may we find ways to describe Jesus Christ's role in our hearts.

Blessings to you in this journey through Lent,
Rev. Sara

Here is a list of our members who are living in a care facility or unable to be with us on a regular basis. Let us keep them in our prayers and sending them an occasional note is always appreciated.

Arline Bub
Sunny Ridge
3014 Erie Ave.
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Arno Spindler
Rocky Knoll Health Care Facility
N7135 Rocky Knoll Parkway
Plymouth, WI 53073

Hilda Kraemer
Calumet Homestead Rehabilitation Center
1712 Monroe St.
New Holstein, WI 53061

Dorcey Huber
Calumet Homestead Rehabilitation Center
1712 Monroe St.
New Holstein, WI 53061

Marzine Rautmann
Harmony of Sheboygan East
3315 Superior Ave. Rm. 13
Sheboygan, WI 53081

Ken Wagner
3360 Faust Lake Road
Rhineland, WI 54501

Newsletter Update: If you would like to put something in the March edition of the newsletter please submit items to Cindy Meyer (churchsecretary@bethelucc-ada.org) by February 15th. Thank you!

Mark your calendars with the following events:

- There will be a time of fellowship following worship on Sunday, February 3rd. If you would like to provide refreshments for this time please contact Sandy Knier at 894-3826.
- Founders Day Lecture at Lakeland College – 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, February 5th at the Bradley Fine Arts Building. Rev. Holly Whitcomb will be speaking on *Spiritual Tools for the Spiritual Journey*. Further conversation with Rev. Whitcomb will take place during a luncheon in the Laun Center immediately following the lecture. Cost for lunch is \$10. RSVP for the luncheon by calling 920.565.1538 or emailing darlingca@lakeland.edu by Jan. 28.
- Lakeland College UCC Indoor Tailgate at the Wehr Center Lobby. A free make-your-own sub lunch will be served from 12:30 p.m. until 1:45 p.m. at the Wehr Center. If you are planning to attend, please contact Colleen Darling, Mission House Center, 920.565.1538 or via email at darlingca@lakeland.edu. Please RSVP by Friday, February 1, 2008 Women's Basketball: Lakeland vs. Alverno – 2:00 p.m.; Men's Basketball: Lakeland vs. Dominican – 4:15p.m.
- We will welcome new members, John and Beverly Ambroso, to our congregation on Sunday, February 10, 2007.
- The Gospel Gals invites you to attend a Labyrinth walk. A Labyrinth is spiritual practice to center oneself and to walk a path in prayer. If you would like to learn more about this practice, this Labyrinth will be set up by members of First Congregational United Church of Christ in Sheboygan. This event will begin at 6:00 p.m. in

Bethel's fellowship hall on Sunday, February 10, 2008.

- Hear those students who will be confirmed this year share their Statement of Faith beginning on Sunday, February 24th.

We reached our OCWM goal this year! Our goal for this past year was \$1898.00 and we made it! This speaks volumes to your commitment in supporting our wider church. Good job, Bethel! Our goal for this year is \$2000.00. Let's strive to meet this goal!

Kiel Community Pantry is in need of the following items:

Paper toweling
All-purpose cleaners
Canned meats
Crackers
Sugar

Dear Sisters and Brothers:

Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have," says the writer of Hebrews to the community of faith. The call was personal, a reminder that our actions as Christians speak as loudly as our words and worship services. God desires our participation in the lives of others, an expectation made even more pointedly by Jesus when he tells his followers, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it me." (Matthew 25:40, NRSV) Of course, the 'least of these' do not just live in our community. God's call to share what we have encompasses people everywhere. The people fleeing violence in Sudan, suffering from AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa, reeling from devastation in Indonesia, starving in poverty in India, and recovering from any number of disasters around the United States – we are called to make a difference in their lives. We

can do this through our special offering, One Great Hour of Sharing.

As each of us gives to One Great Hour of Sharing we help families and villages around the world to build lives and communities that are healthy, safe and sustainable. Sharing our resources really changes lives!

Nine Christian church bodies work alongside Church World Service, transforming lives in this country and around the world. Our gifts to One Great Hour of Sharing:

- ✓ Create sustainable sources of income for rural villages
- ✓ Provide micro-credit to women to start poverty-escaping businesses
- ✓ Teach trades and job skills to people maimed by landmines
- ✓ Offer children a chance to survive past the age of 5 and go to school
- ✓ Help rebuild communities ravaged by natural disasters
- ✓ Resettle refugees into new lives
- ✓ And much more!

On March 2, we will dedicate each person's offering during worship. Last year, we gave \$990.15 to this special offering. Let's meet this mark and maybe even surpass it. Doing good and sharing what we have gladdens the heart of God, who promises that those who respond "shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail." (Isaiah 58:11, NRSV)

In Christ's Love,
Rev. Sara

Bethel UCC Minutes

December 4, 2007

Rev. Sara opened our meeting with prayer.

Members present: Rev. Sara Morse, Cary Johannes, Beverly Voss, Faye Spindler, Randy Henschel, Eric Raquet, and Scott Huber.

1. We reviewed the secretary minutes from the October meeting. Bev made a motion to accept the minutes, Randy seconded the motion, motion carried. We then reviewed the November minutes. Randy made a motion to accept the minutes, Bev seconded the motion, motion carried. After reviewing the minutes from the budget meeting Eric made a motion to accept them. Cary seconded the motion, motion carried. We also decided at this time to keep the mission fund money in the Youth Fellowship savings account as a separate line item.
2. After reviewing the report of receipts from October Faye made a motion to accept the report, Eric seconded the motion, motion carried. We then reviewed the November report. Randy made a motion to accept the report. Scott seconded the motion, motion carried.
3. After reviewing the expense report for October Bev made a motion to accept the report, Eric seconded the motion, motion carried. Then after reviewing the November report, Eric made a motion to accept the report, Randy seconded the motion, motion carried.
4. Eric combined October and Novembers' reports so after reviewing the report Faye made a motion to accept the report, Bev seconded the motion, motion carried. Eric made a motion to invest the Elmer and Lucille Spindler memorial in the United

Church Foundations funds, Bev seconded the motion, motion carried. Eric will also be contacting Marion Karstedt about the candelabras with some option for her to look over.

5. After reviewing the building fund report for October Faye made a motion to accept the report, Cary seconded the motion, motion carried. After reviewing the November report Bev made a motion of accept the report, Faye seconded the motion, motion carried.
6. Rev. Sara then reviewed the pastor's reports from October and November:
 - a. Bethel participated in the Rural Church fellowship Crop Walk on Sun. October 14th. The rural churches raised over \$7,000. 25% of the monies raised are going to SCIO and the rest is going to CROP.
 - b. A new members class was conducted for Sara and Rick Krueger who plan on joining Dec. 9th
 - c. The confirmation class went to St. Dominic's Catholic Church on Sun. evening Oct. 21st to experience a catholic contemporary service
 - d. Rev. Sara conducted the wedding rehearsal and wedding for Travis Knier and Jaime Jeanty on Oct. 26th-27th.
 - e. Jacob Phillips, Tom Hansen and Brandon Ertel attended the confirmation retreat at Urban Immersion in Minneapolis, MN November 9-11th
 - f. Vincent Janice was baptized on November 18th.
 - g. Some upcoming events at Bethel;
 - i. New members Rick and Sara Krueger - Sunday,

- Dec. 9th
 - ii. Blue Christmas Service- Thursday, Dec. 13th
 - iii. Sacrament of Holy Baptism – Sunday, Dec 16th
 - iv. Children’s Christmas program – Monday, Dec. 24th, 7:30 pm
 - v. Christmas Worship – Tues. Dec. 25th, 10:00 am
 - vi. Annual Reports due Sunday, Dec. 30th
 - vii. Annual Meeting – Sunday, January 20th – Worship begins at 9:00am
 - viii. Ms. Edith Guffey, Associate General Minister of the UCC will be coming to lead a workshop and lead worship on the weekend of April 26-27th, 2008
 - h. 7 pastoral visits and counseling sessions for October and 11 for November
7. Make sure everyone on the consistory has a snow shoveling schedule
 8. If church is going to be canceled it will be announced on the radio station WHBL and TV stations WBAY (2) and WTMJ (4)
 9. Mileage is up to \$.50 ½ per mile for 2008
 10. Eric made a motion to accept the 2008 budget Randy seconded the motion, motion carried.
 11. Scott made a motion to accept the Housing Allowance as proposed at \$13,850. Randy seconded the motion, motion carried.
 12. Cary made a motion to accept the proposed furnace cleaning quote/recommendation from the building and ground committee, Faye seconded the motion, motion carried.
13. We reviewed the recommendations for the positions that are up for re-election in 2008
 - a. Chuck Grubisic – Building Fund Treasurer
 - b. Judy Zimmermann – Financial Secretary
 - c. Carol Matzdorf – Pastoral Relations Committee
 - d. Floyd Voss – Cemetery Board
 - e. Steve Blohm – Building and Grounds Committee
 - f. Nominating Committee
 - i. Fred Kraemer – 1yr term
 - ii. Kim Rietbrock – 2 yr term
 - iii. Mark Zimmermann – 3 yr term
 14. Mark Zimmermann and Peggy Hansen agreed to audit the books on December 12th
 15. Question was asked how we are going to convey the giving for the year in the annual report. There are some people working on how to show this in a more positive way.
 16. We received a letter from Cory and Lynn Hert telling us that they will be leaving the church in 2008 due to the direction the UCC is heading with its ministries. They will be missed.
 17. Next meeting will be Jan 8, 2008
 18. Randy made a motion to adjourn, Bev seconded the motion, motion carried.
 19. We closed with the Lord’ Prayer.

Scott Huber, secretary