



BETHEL MESSENGER DECEMBER 2008 - JANUARY 2009

BETHEL UCC, W4225 COUNTY LINE ROAD, ELKHART LAKE, WI 53020
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Hello Friends,

I am sad to write this because it means this is the first issue without the Morse Code. We may have some feelings of sadness missing Rev. Sara but wish her the best in her new life. We would like to continue with an opening message in each month's Messenger. We are looking for volunteers who like to write or feel called to share inspirations. If you feel called to do so please talk to me.

We are facing a time of transition at Bethel UCC and with transitions come excitement, fear, and uncertainty. I would like to reduce some of those fears and uncertainties by informing you of the process of our search and to inform you of "housekeeping" reminders to make the transition as smooth as possible. If, at any time, you have questions please contact me.

Search & Call

We have now entered the "Search & Call" phase in our church. We are without a pastor so we need to begin to fill the vacancy with an interim pastor as we search for a permanent pastor.

1. The consistory remains in contact with Rev. Art Wille, the Northeast Association Pastor, to find an interim pastor. Currently, no interim pastors are available so we will rotate lay people to provide pulpit supply. Some of you have asked, "Why an interim pastor? Why not just use our lay people?"

An interim pastor fills a vital role as one who provides ongoing pastoral care, worship leadership, and program/staff oversight. He or she has specialized skills needed during this time of transition to help us move forward and guide us as we search for a permanent pastor. The interim pastor provides continuity over a period of time where as the role of "pulpit supply" varies from Sunday to Sunday. Most of our lay people have other jobs and roles to fulfill in their lives which prevents any one person from becoming the interim pastor. The interim pastor cannot be a candidate for the permanent position. The consistory will inform you when an interim pastor is available for us to interview.

2. We can now initiate the search process for a new pastor. We need 7 volunteers to be part of the Search Committee. This committee will consist of males and females from a variety of ages. They will meet with Rev. Art Wille to adapt the church profile for our potential candidates. If you feel called to be a part of this committee please contact me by **November 30**.

3. Our Conference office will advertise our vacancy among UCC clergy all across the country. Our search committee will read ministerial profiles, screen candidates, conduct interviews, check references, and eventually select a candidate who will be recommended to the entire congregation.

We Are the Body

The Bible reminds us we are all parts of a body which is the church. Each of us is as important as the next. By working together, the body will not only survive, but flourish in healthy ways. What part will you be?

Some reminders:

- * Consider visiting the members of our body who are home-bound. Please let me know if you are willing to make visits and who you will be visiting.
- * Please give any announcements for the bulletin, including meeting dates/times to Cindy Meyer by **Tuesday** of each week.
- * Please give any articles for the Messenger to Cindy by the **15th** of each month (Dec/Jan; May/June; July/Aug are combined).
- * All reports for the Annual Meeting are to be given copy ready to Cindy by **December 28**.
- * We ask that each committee meets and/or communicates with the consistory on a regular basis. Please attend the consistory meeting at 7:30, the first Tuesday of your assigned month.

Jan– written report from Sunshine Team

Feb–joint written report from Music Team & Worship Team

March--Building & Property Committee

April–Evangelism Team

May–Stewardship Team

June–Mission Team

September–joint written report from Music Team & Worship Team;
Building & Property Committee to attend meeting

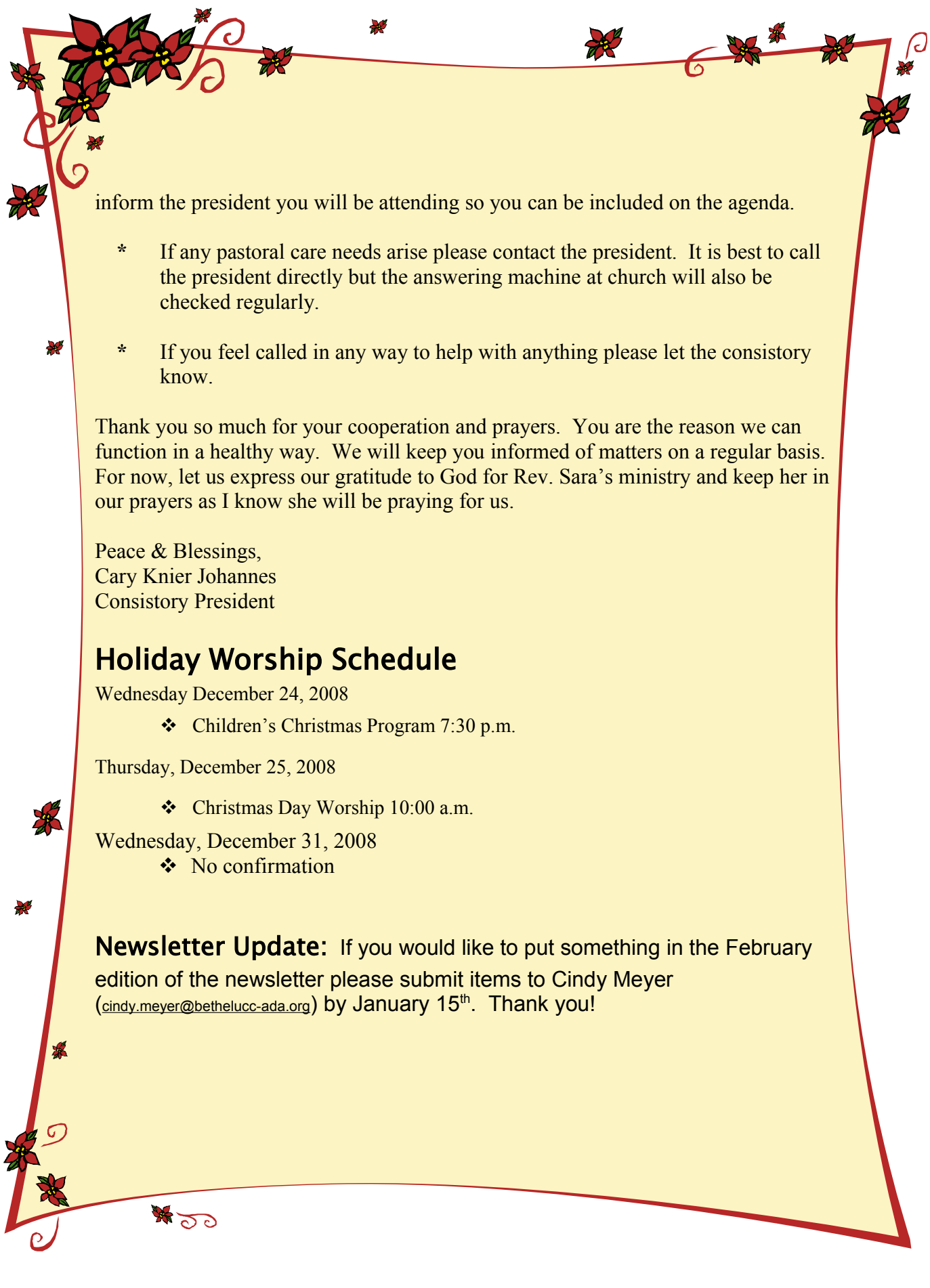
October–Stewardship Team

November–Pastoral Relations Committee & Nominating Committee

The following teams will request to **meet as needed**:

Cemetery Committee; Christian Education Team; Technology Team; Youth Fellowship; Hospitality Team; Greeting/Welcoming Team

If any team has been inadvertently overlooked, please inform the consistory. Also, if any issues arise, please feel free to attend a consistory meeting at any time. Please



inform the president you will be attending so you can be included on the agenda.

- * If any pastoral care needs arise please contact the president. It is best to call the president directly but the answering machine at church will also be checked regularly.
- * If you feel called in any way to help with anything please let the consistory know.

Thank you so much for your cooperation and prayers. You are the reason we can function in a healthy way. We will keep you informed of matters on a regular basis. For now, let us express our gratitude to God for Rev. Sara's ministry and keep her in our prayers as I know she will be praying for us.

Peace & Blessings,
Cary Knier Johannes
Consistory President

Holiday Worship Schedule

Wednesday December 24, 2008

- ❖ Children's Christmas Program 7:30 p.m.

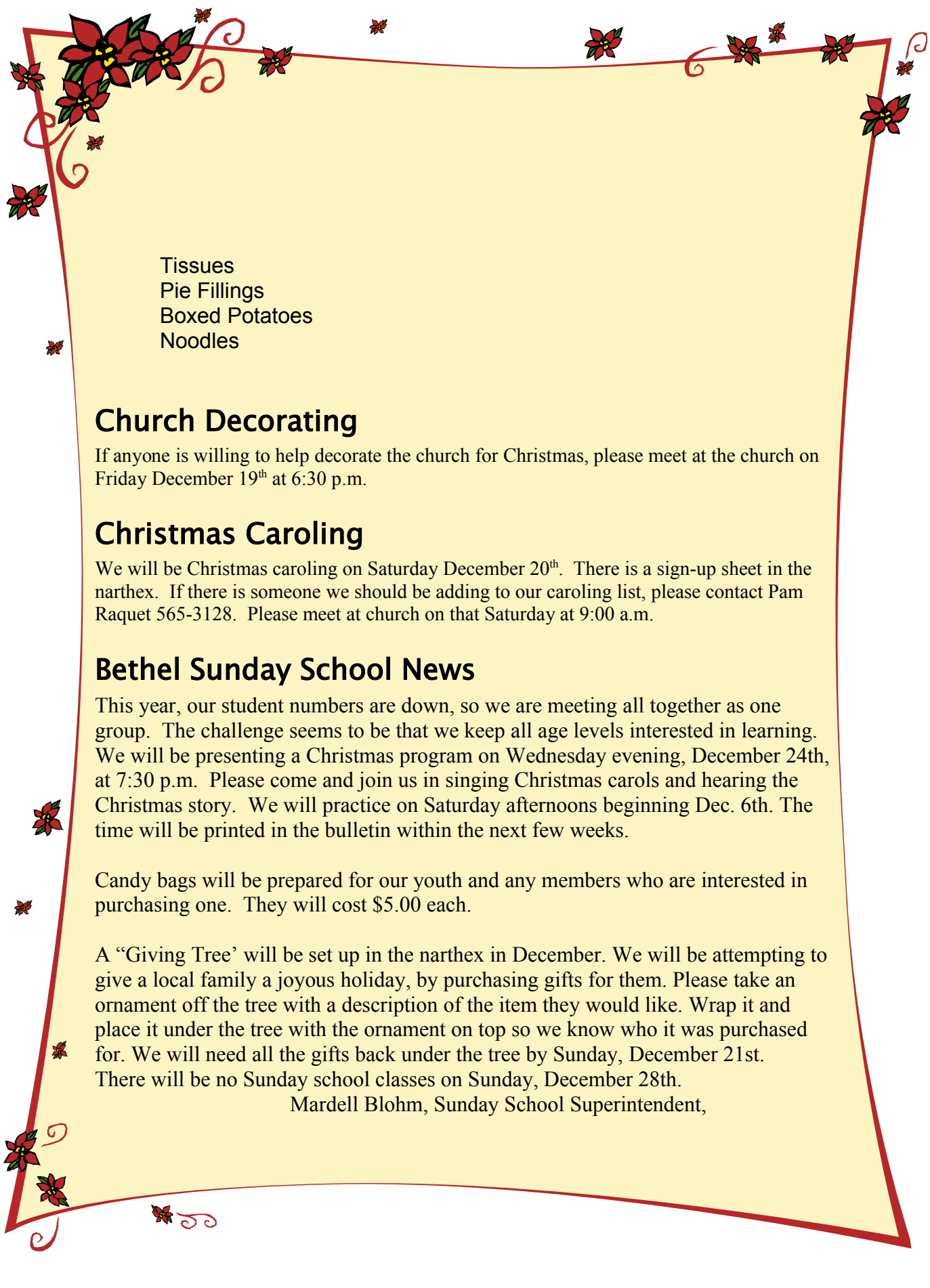
Thursday, December 25, 2008

- ❖ Christmas Day Worship 10:00 a.m.

Wednesday, December 31, 2008

- ❖ No confirmation

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



Tissues
Pie Fillings
Boxed Potatoes
Noodles

Church Decorating

If anyone is willing to help decorate the church for Christmas, please meet at the church on Friday December 19th at 6:30 p.m.

Christmas Caroling

We will be Christmas caroling on Saturday December 20th. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If there is someone we should be adding to our caroling list, please contact Pam Raquet 565-3128. Please meet at church on that Saturday at 9:00 a.m.

Bethel Sunday School News

This year, our student numbers are down, so we are meeting all together as one group. The challenge seems to be that we keep all age levels interested in learning. We will be presenting a Christmas program on Wednesday evening, December 24th, at 7:30 p.m. Please come and join us in singing Christmas carols and hearing the Christmas story. We will practice on Saturday afternoons beginning Dec. 6th. The time will be printed in the bulletin within the next few weeks.

Candy bags will be prepared for our youth and any members who are interested in purchasing one. They will cost \$5.00 each.

A "Giving Tree" will be set up in the narthex in December. We will be attempting to give a local family a joyous holiday, by purchasing gifts for them. Please take an ornament off the tree with a description of the item they would like. Wrap it and place it under the tree with the ornament on top so we know who it was purchased for. We will need all the gifts back under the tree by Sunday, December 21st. There will be no Sunday school classes on Sunday, December 28th.

Mardell Blohm, Sunday School Superintendent,