

October 2009

BETHEL MESSENGER

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Dear Friends,

Autumn is arriving in fits and spurts, the thermometer seems not to know which way to head, and I can't figure out whether to wear a coat or not. However, from what the forecasters are saying, pretty soon autumn will arrive full force, the thermometer will do nothing but head downwards, and I will no longer have to wonder about wearing a coat!



Rally Day was especially exciting with the kids singing, blowing bubbles, and of course cake!

I pray that you might remain unswerving on your spiritual journey as the Search Committee works diligently on your search for a new pastor. Please remember to keep them in your thoughts and prayers.

The Fall season that is quickly arriving brings with it a variety of gifts from God. The crispness in the air that seems to fill your lungs with freshness and renewed energy is always welcome. The leaves on the trees are beginning to replace the greens of summer with the multi-colors of fall. Fall is also a time of harvest, a time when crops that have matured over the summer are gathered in and the land is prepared again for the task of new growth.

Keep strong, dear friends, sure in the knowledge that God is with you and always will be providing guidance, encouragement, steadfast love and grace to you as the church, the Body of Christ.

Grace and peace,

Pastor Greg

I feel blessed to be here at Bethel UCC to experience this autumn with you. Even though the temperature might be dropping, I can feel the warmth of this congregation reaching out to each other, working together, worshipping together.

Consistory Meeting**Tuesday, August 4, 2009, 7:00 p.m.**

Opening Prayer – was led by Pastor Greg
Members Present – Ken Matzdorf, Eric Raquet, Jim Raquet, Judy Zimmermann, Faye Spindler, Chuck Grubisic and Pastor Greg.

Secretary Minutes – were reviewed by Ken. Chuck made a motion to approve the July minutes. Judy seconded it. The motion was approved.

Report of Receipts - Judy e-mailed a report of July Income.

Overview: YTD income is down from last year which is a 11% decrease. Ken made a motion to approve the July receipts. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

Report of Expenses - Faye e-mailed out her report.

Overview: Major expenses were salaries, insurance, and Web Pro (gas).

Eric made a motion to approve the July Treasurers Report. Chuck seconded. The motion was approved.

Memorial Fund Treasurer - Eric e-mailed us his report.

Ken made a motion to approve the July Memorial Fund reports. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

Building Fund Treasurer - Chuck e-mailed us his report.

Faye made a motion to approve the July Building Fund report. Judy seconded. The motion was approved.

Correspondence - Jim handed out mail he has received to share with consistory.

1. Bread for the Work – Oct. 18th request for assistance; declined
2. SCIO – Approached by United way for no interest loans, looking for donations; declined

Pastor Greg's Report –

Proposed a potential new member class - scheduled for Aug. Visited Marzine Rautman. Met with Worship committee, lined up Rally Sunday, Totenfest, Fall Blessing Sunday, World Communion Sunday, and the advent season; i.e. Christmas service (Carols, candles and communion)

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSIONOld Items

1. New Member Sunday – Update – Now tentatively scheduled for Aug. 23
2. Hymnal Committee – Update – New committee has not met yet, Pastor Greg to contact potential members and set up a date to meet.

Apple Pie Fund Raising/Youth leaders – Update (Carol Roethel has volunteered if she gets another person to help.) Suggestions; Bev Voss and Faye Spindler -

3. Child Safety Gate – Ken discussed 2 options; one to purchase a retractable gate and the other to build a fixed gate. Issues include the flexibility of a retractable versus the awkwardness of a fixed gate. Judy made a motion to order the retractable gate. Faye seconded. Motion carried. Faye to order.

New Items

1. Long Range Plan - Ken to send out email/announcement on weeding flower beds – Faye to purchase safety

gate for stairs – library to be moved upstairs (Carol Matzdorf).

2. Discussion on Confirmation Education
LuAnn Jeanty came to discuss this year's confirmation class (possible candidates; Freddie Meyer, Erin Rietbrock and Brunner child) discussion centered on Sunday replacing the Wednesday night time frame due to small number of kids. LuAnn teaches from the Bible and part of the past curriculum. Parents come once/month to get questions answered and work through other learning questions with their child. Mentors come once/month to work with the child on building their faith. LuAnn suggests some outside church opportunities to work with the child/mentor relationship.

Eric moved to have Confirmation class on Sunday morning, during Sunday school. Faye seconded. Motion carried. Start time is Rally Sunday, Sept. 6th.

3. Choir Director Discussion – Dana Raquet will direct and will contact Jodi Voss for coordination of help when needed.
4. Visitation of Members - Leander Nohl should be visited.
5. Other business that needed to be discussed; Faye Spindler and Kattie Raquet requested some tables. Ken moved to approve, Chuck seconded. Carried.
6. There is a piece of fascia board blown off and needs to be remounted. Brian may be able to get a 50' boom to use to replaced it. Jim to ask him.

Adjournment: Faye moved to adjourn, Eric seconded; motion carried.

Lord's Prayer

Next meeting: September 1, 2009

The Crop Walk

The Crop Walk will be held on Sunday, October 11, 2009. Registration and lunch are at 12:00 and the walk begins at 12:30 p.m. The walk begins at Immanuel UCC, proceeds to St. John's UCC, and ends at Bethel. 25% of the proceeds goes to a local agency. Please consider walking or donating to this worthwhile cause! Contact Lisa Grubisic for further information.



Apple Pie Time

It's that time of year again.

Mark your calendars!

Apple pie making day will be October 3.

It's Chili Supper Time!

Our Chili Supper is Wednesday, October 7 from 4:00-8:00 pm. Tickets are Adults \$5 and Children \$3.



Each member should provide 2 pans of bars, cakes, or cookies (Please have the dessert cut before bringing to church).

We will have a Craft/Bake Sale as well: Please have baked goods cut, wrapped, and priced before bringing to church.

Thank you for your assistance!