

# December - January

## 2009 - 2010

Bethel United Church Of Christ  
W4225 County Line Road  
Elkhart Lake WI 53020  
(920) 565-2574  
www.bethelucc-ada.org

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Dear Friends of Bethel United Church of Christ,

By now you might have heard that I will be leaving Bethel at the end of the year. I do so with mixed emotions... on one hand I have so enjoyed sharing our journey of faith that I am sad to leave, yet on the other hand I am excited that your search process is proceeding so well.

Yet even if the search process might continue on a little longer than we all might hope, I know that there are many talented members that can and will do an excellent job of leading worship if necessary.

At the first of the coming year, I will be starting as the interim pastor at Preble Park Presbyterian Church in Green Bay. They are where you were about a year ago, dealing with the loss of a pastor while they consider their search for a new clergy person.

As we are about to begin the new year, I can sense a level of excitement growing as you draw nearer to calling your new minister. The transitional time can be difficult to deal with, but I think you've handled it with grace and dignity. You are a strong and solid congregation that has so much to offer. Although I've said it before, I'll say it again... "You are a faithful and faith-filled congregation."

You have probably heard me say that you should have a 'windshield' point of view. That is doing more 'looking forward' rather than 'gazing backward'. With your strong lay leadership and caring and loving congregation, I feel you could be a shining example of how to be continually moving into the future with excitement and an assurance of the guidance of God.

So how do I say 'good-bye'? I wonder if that's really necessary if we all do our best to keep each other in our thoughts, hearts and prayers. I know I will always have a warm spot in my heart for you, the congregation of Bethel United Church of Christ, as we continue our journeys physically apart but hopefully not spiritually apart.

So in closing I would offer to you this simple benediction:

*May God's face shine upon you;  
may Christ's peace rule among you;  
may the Spirit's fire burn within you,  
as we go our separate ways,  
until we meet again.*

*Pastor Greg*

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## Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, September 29, 2009 (October Meeting)  
7:00PM

### Opening Movie and Prayer – 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 September minutes with correction. Faye seconded it. The motion was approved.

### Report of Receipts - Judy e-mailed her report of Income.

Overview: YTD income is down from last year about a 10% decrease.

Discussion: OCWM giving is only at 50% and we need to announce this in church, so everyone is aware of it.

Eric made a motion to approve the receipts. Faye seconded. The motion was approved.

### Report of Expenses – Faye handed out her report.

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

Ken made a motion to approve the Treasurers Report. Judy seconded. The motion was approved.

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

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

### Building Fund Treasurer – no changes.

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

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

1. Salvation Army request for funds and bell ringers – assigned to Jodi Voss
2. Habitat request for funds outside state – we will try to help locally.
3. Lakeland request to designate Oct 25<sup>th</sup> for Higher Education Sunday – make it a mission moment with bulletin insert.

## **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

### Old Items

1. Review Annual Meeting minutes - Should Sound/Video system be purchased with interest from the main stay account? Tech committee to meet with vendor in October to reevaluate our needs and get a current estimate.
2. Sound System Meeting with Congregation – Date set as November 8<sup>th</sup>, for an official congregational meeting to discuss the costs, and how to meet our goal of \$30,000. Jim to talk to stewardship committee to see how they would like to proceed with a capital fund drive to get us close to our goal.
  - a. Worship/Music Team report – Carol Matzdorf submitted the report with the following important dates: )
  - b. October 18<sup>th</sup> – Fall Blessings Service
  - c. November 1<sup>st</sup> - Totenfest Sunday
  - d. November 22<sup>nd</sup> – Thanksgiving Service on Sunday (no service on Thanksgiving Eve)
  - e. November 29<sup>th</sup> – Advent begins
  - f. December 20<sup>th</sup> – Children's Christmas Program
  - g. December 24<sup>th</sup> – Candles, Carols and Communion Service with Communion
  - h. December 25<sup>th</sup> – Christmas Day Service with NO Communion – will need pulpit supply – Jim to assist Worship committee.
3. Apple pie update – all set for Oct. 3<sup>rd</sup>; we will still need help making and selling pies on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>.

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## New Items

1. Review 2010 Budget – tabled till November
2. Building and Grounds report - The following items were done at the last work day: Cracks filled in Choir loft and narthex. Painted choir loft. Touched up cracks and repainted those areas in the narthex. Fixed clogged drained tile on South side of church. Ordered filters for furnace and supplies for banner closet in balcony. Replaced burned out light bulbs. Will schedule next carpet cleaning in November.
3. Rural church fellowship dues are due \$150; plus 4 cases of water needed for crop walk. Bring up these dues at annual meeting to see if we want to continue and find out what we are getting for our \$150?
4. Pastor Greg has some suggestions of what would be nice before a new Pastor gets here:
  - a. A clothes tree.
  - b.  $\frac{3}{4}$  length mirror on back of Pastors door
5. Pie sales and Chili supper profits; we should reserve 10% for missions and discuss what to do with the rest.
6. Nominating committee to meet and get candidates for Building and Grounds; Cemetery board; Pastoral Relations; Nominating Committee; and Consistory (need to replace Memorial Fund Treasurer and Church Treasurer). Faye to set up a spreadsheet on committees that are nominated with names and length of service for each, so we always know whose term is up.

Eric made a motion to adjourn and Faye seconded. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting scheduled: November 3, 2009

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## Worship Dates to remember

**December 6**-10:00 a.m. Advent Service

**December 13**-10:00 a.m. Advent Service followed by "In Bethlehem Inn" skit and potluck dinner.

**December 20th** - Children's Christmas Program followed by Brunch and fellowship

**December 24th** – 7:00 p.m. Candles, Carols and Communion Service with Communion

**December 25th** – 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Service with  
**NO Communion**

## Special Advent Events

The worship Team has been working hard to prepare some special events for the Advent season.

On **December 13th** there will be a potluck dinner and play following the worship service. The play, titled "In Bethlehem Inn", will give us an idea of what it may have been like at the Inn Christmas Eve. So come to the "Inn" for a great meal and a special presentation.

On **December 20th** the Sunday school will be presenting their annual Christmas program during the worship service. After the service, join us in the fellowship hall for a Christmas Brunch hosted by the Worship Team. Candy bags will be handed out and there will be Christmas craft projects for the children.

## Winter Farmers Market

The Farmers Market will be held at First Congregational Church U.C.C. 310 Bluff Ave. Sheboygan WI , from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. on December 12th, 2009, January 16th, 2010, February 13th & 27th, March 13th & 27th, and April 10th & 24th. Products available will include: Apples, Amish baked goods, Herbs, jams and jellies, cheese, beef, pork, poultry and eggs, Greek pastries, coffees and many more.

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## **Volunteer Drivers Needed**

SCIO is in need of volunteer drivers to help transport people for medical, dental, Disability , mental health , and other appointments. These people will be older adults, persons with minor disabilities, low income, and persons with special needs who are unable to drive. If interested and need more information please call Karen at 920- 627-3324 or the SCIO office at 920-457-7272 ext.11

## **Bethel History 1862 – 2010**

One hundred forty-eight years ago our forefathers asked Dr. Herman A. Muehlmeier to help them establish a church. After preaching in the homes of several families for some time, upon their request, the congregation was organized on February 10, 1862 with 28 members; a constitution was adopted. On March 31, 1862, the congregation was incorporated under the name, "the German Reformed Bethel Congregation," in the Town of Herman, Sheboygan County, Wisconsin.

The first settlers came to this area in 1846. This was a wooded area, no roads, at most Indian paths, and trails. Being a pioneer wasn't very easy, they built lean-to shelters, and made shingles at night to sell in Sheboygan for salt, sugar, and other things they needed.

The first church was built in 1863, on land donated by Jacob Spindler. He and his brother Louis were among the first settlers. The materials and supplies to build the first church, plus the labor were all donated by members of the congregation. We have to keep up our part and not let our ancestors down, they worked hard to get us what we have today and we have to work just as hard to keep it.

Bethel History  
Audrey Ertel, Historian

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## Sunday School News

Christmas is here and we are entering the busiest season of the year. The students received their memory work for our Christmas program which will be presented on Sunday, December 20th at 10:00 a.m.

We are practicing in our Sunday school classes and planning to practice on Saturday, December 12th and Saturday, December 19th from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m.

The Advent wreath will be lit by families in our congregation this year.

We will be collecting Christmas presents for a local family again this year. Our 'Giving Tree' will feature ornaments listing requests from this family. Please purchase a gift, wrap it and/or bag it and tape the ornament to it and place the gift back under the Christmas tree in the narthex by Sunday, December 20th.

Candy bags will be offered again this year. They will cost \$5.00 each and can be ordered anytime by contacting me.

There will not be Sunday school classes on Sunday, December 27th and Sunday, January 3rd.

Sunday School Superintendant,  
Mardell Blohm