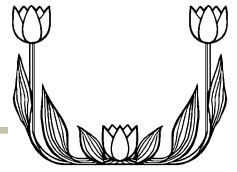


May - June 2010

BETHEL MESSENGER



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From The Pastor

I've been getting a lot of questions about how this part of Wisconsin is different from Pittsburgh. Here are a few differences that Betty and I have discovered.

People call Wisconsin's terrain hilly. Compared to Pittsburgh, these aren't hills, they are mounds. But because of the flatter terrain, I'm getting about 6 mpg better gas mileage. And Wisconsin's sky looks bigger and you can see more stars in Wisconsin. Another difference is the friendliness of people you pass on the street. Now Pittsburgh is a friendly city, but there is not the outgoing friendliness of people in Wisconsin.

One thing we have found that we don't like about Wisconsin is its fascination with meat. When we eat lunch or supper out, it is difficult to get a healthy vegetable other than a tossed salad. If you order green beans at a restaurant, you get almost as much ham as green beans. Betty ordered pierogies (noodles filled with onion or cheese) at a local diner and the order came with more bacon than pierogi. In Pittsburgh, pierogies are a big thing during Lent as a meatless alternative on Fridays.

This meat fascination extends to Pizza places as well. At one place we tried to order a green pepper and onion pizza and the waiter just stared at us. We never heard of a BLT pizza until we moved here.

Betty and I love the Central Time Zone because TV shows are an hour earlier than in Pittsburgh. This provides me with an earlier bedtime and provides Betty with a better opportunity to catch David Letterman and Craig Ferguson on late-night TV.

But there are more similarities than differences. Both places are alive with opportunities for the arts. Already Betty and I have caught several different art shows, museums, plays, and concerts, ranging from high school to professional level. Generally speaking eating out and cultural events are less expensive in Wisconsin. Newspapers and movies are more expensive.

But perhaps the most astounding similarity is the rabid football fans in both places.

Now moving on to church items: I think Bethel Church had lovely Easter week services. From the beauty of the flowers that graced the altar area to the solemnity of the communion table, everything was lovely. The Easter brunch was delicious. Thanks to who planned and implemented all the special parts of the Easter week services.

I want to thank also all who made our first Holy Humor Sunday such a success. Thanks to the Worship Committee for their approval of the idea and for the skits they performed. Thanks to Mardell and the Sunday School for their song, that also gave rise my children's

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sermon. Thanks to the youth that told jokes during the service. Thanks to Ken for the humorous on-screen pictures. Thanks to Janet for her whimsical music during the service. Thanks to all who shared their jokes or stories.

Sermons for May continue with the post-resurrection appearances of Jesus, including the Ascension. After Pentecost and Memorial Day, I will begin a series of sermons on "God is Still Speaking" using Gideon as an example of the various ways God has spoken in the past and how he still may speak today. Sermons and Scripture for May and June include:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sunday, May 2 | "By the Sea" I John 2:15-17, 24-29; John 21:1-14 |
| Sunday, May 9 | "Do you Love Me?" I John 3:1-7; John 21:13-25 |
| Sunday, May 16 | "Ascension" Acts 1:1-14; Luke 24:44-53 |
| Sunday, May 23 | PENTECOST "The First Christian Sermon" Acts 2; John 14:8-17 |
| Sunday, May 30 | Guest Speaker |
| Sunday, June 6 | "God is Still Speaking – Gideon and the Clear Word of God" Judges 6:11-24; Mark 1:14-20 |
| Sunday, June 13 | "God is Still Speaking – Gideon and Public Commitment" Judges 6:25-32; Mark 1:21-28 |

Sunday, June 20 "God is Still Speaking -
Fleecing God"
Judges 6:32-40;
Mark 1:29-39

Sunday, June 27 "God is Still Speaking -
God's Will, Done God's
Way"
Judges 7:1-8;
Mark 1:40-45

At my previous churches, I would frequently reserve some summer sermons for requests from the congregation. I am thinking of doing the same thing in late July and August. If you would like me to give a sermon on a particular subject, Scripture passage, current event, or question, please write down the request and hand it to Betty or me. In the past I have had requests regarding evolution, war, cave men, Edgar Cayce, a painting that was hanging in the church, good people who aren't Christians, predestination, and many, many Scripture passages. So anything is fair game. Remember to write down the requests. Don't just tell me and trust my memory.

Spring Raffle Fundraiser

Our 2010 Spring Raffle Fundraiser prize lists are available in the narthex at Church or can be viewed online at bethelucc-ada.org. Last year we made just over \$3300. Let's set our goal higher this year! WE CAN DO IT if everyone helps. Money and tickets can be turned in to Carol Roethel as you sell them. This year's drawing will be after the 10:00 a.m. Church service on June 6. If you have any questions, call Carol Roethel at 828-0009.



Consistory Meeting

Tuesday, March 2, 2010 at 7:00PM

Opening Prayer – led by Rev. Jim Liddle
Members Present – Ken Matzdorf, Jim Raquet (partial), Diane Rietbrock, Tina Nohl, and Chuck Grubisic.

Chuck brought the meeting to order.

Secretary Minutes – were reviewed by Ken. Tina made a motion to approve the February minutes. Diane seconded it. The motion was approved.

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

Overview: YTD 2010 income was down compared to last year a 23% decrease. Ken made a motion to approve this report via e-mail. Chuck seconded. Motion carried.

Report of Expenses – Tina e-mailed her report.

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

Discussion: Tina will be working on the income taxes for 2008 [with penalty from IRS] to clarify where the problem is so it will not happen in the future. Tina also worked on the insurance issue. The liability did go up slightly. Workman's comp was not included in the 2010 budgeted amount, so we will go over our budget on this item for 2010.

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

Memorial Fund Treasurer - Diane e-mailed us her report.


Discussion:

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

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

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

Correspondence – We reviewed mail that was received to share with consistory.

1. Hershleb's transfer from previous church.
2. Moon beach camps for this summer. – Ken to put on web site, article to Cindy for announcements and put the brochure on the bulletin board.
3. Tax exempt status fee. – Tina to  handle.

Pastors Report –

Visited three members in nursing homes,
Visited three elderly members in their homes, including one home communion,
Talked with three families desiring infant baptism,
Made a home visit and had lunch with a family desiring membership,
Sat in on two children's Sunday school classes, two Confirmation classes and one adult Sunday school class,
Met twice with worship committee and planned Lenten services and Easter week services,
Met with Pastoral Relations Committee,
Met with Association Minister, Art Wille,
Had two pre-marital counseling sessions with one couple
Attended installation service for another minister in conference
Talked about office hours and decided to add another day and perhaps a morning timeslot, if the need arises. After

Pastor's Report

Easter, an additional adult Bible study is being considered.

Ken moved to approve, Tina seconded.
Motion carried.

Annual meeting of NE Association April 17th (Pastor Jim and 2 members can attend).

ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Old Items

1. Review Church Brochure – Chuck has worked on updating the brochure (500 copies for \$370 or 1000 for \$425), but need to get several new pictures because of quality. Ken and Chuck to search for new pictures to replace existing ones. Chuck made a motion to move forward with the project and get final approval via e-mail. Tina seconded. Carried.
2. Capital Campaign – Secretary has copied letter and the stewardship committee is preparing mailing.
3. Sound system update – Chuck and Ken met with Audio Communications and everything is moving smoothly for the week of April 4th installation with training following.

New Items

1. Computer Software needs - Tabled until Pastor Jim knows what he will need for future work at Bethel, perhaps at budget time next fall.
2. Report from Buildings and Grounds Team - Water leak in January flooded the furnace room due to a blocked tile. May need to dig out the old tile and reseal the wall and use extra fill. Tim Voss is contact person in 2010. They will set up Spring Cleaning date and get an article in the announcements 3 weeks before.

Entrance and exit signs may need paint and or replacing. April walk through will be scheduled.

3. Committee for Bethel's 150th Anniversary (Feb. 2012) - Ken to put an article in the bulletin and the messenger, looking for volunteers, to be on this committee.
4. Met with Luann Jeanty for Confirmation class report.
5. Spring cleaning date - Building and Grounds to head this up.
6. First Communion Classes (?) in April - Pastor Jim to contact Mardel to see if we have any candidates.
7. Pastor Jim's Insurance needs (PRC) - Waiting on approval from Association.

E-mail correspondence:

Ken made a motion to approve Report of Receipts, Diane seconded. Motion carried. Chuck made a motion to transfer \$5,000, as a loan, from the Memorial Fund interest, to the Building Fund [for Audio/Video equipment], Jim seconded, motion carried.

Tina made a motion to adjourn and Diane seconded, motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Next meeting scheduled: Tuesday, April 6, 2010

From the Sunshine Team

Any member from the church that knows of any person that will graduate from either High School or college and also what school they will graduate from, please let either Doris Henschel 565-2234 or Carol Eckardt 565-2372 know by May 23, 2010.



Sunday School News

The Sunday school year is coming to a close. The last day of classes will be Sunday, May 23rd. The Jr. Choir has entertained a number of times this year and really enjoyed their dress-up song on humor Sunday.

Mark Sunday, August 15th - Thursday, August 19th for Vacation Bible school classes. We will meet during the evening from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. and present our program, Sunday, August 22nd. All children aged 4 through the 6th grade are invited to joy us.



I am still looking for a few teachers to help with our week's lessons.

Thank you to our teachers this year who committed themselves to teaching our youth. Lisa Grubisic and Shelly Schuler shared the class in the basement and LuAnn Jeanty taught our confirmation 7th graders. Have a wonderful summer!
Mardell Blohm
Sunday School Superintendant



At my previous churches, many of my most rewarding times were in adult Bible study groups. If there is interest from the congregation, I would like to form similar Bible studies at Bethel Church. To accommodate everyone who is interested I'd like to form two groups, one in the afternoon and one in the evening. If you would be interested in an adult Bible study, please fill out the form below and give it to Jim. Or, if you prefer, you can phone the information to Jim (565-3149) or email him (jimljl@yahoo.com).

Your Name _____

Yes, I am interested in a Bible study. I would prefer (check all that you could make, circle the one or two that would be the best for you.)

Monday afternoon _____ Monday evenings _____

Tuesday afternoon _____

Wednesday afternoon _____ Wednesday evenings _____

Thursday afternoon _____ Thursday evenings _____

Friday afternoon _____ Friday evenings _____

I would prefer:

To meet at the church _____ To meet at Jim's house in Howards Grove _____