



Bethel Mennonite Church

"Serving Jesus, Loving Others"

Vol. 59

December 3, 2017

No.49

Gathering – Led by Worship Leader

Ken Shxnk

Welcome

Ken Shxnk

Advent Call to Worship & Candle Lighting Steve & Miriam Lxpp

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light
comes from the God of trembling mountains
and shaking foundations.

ALL: O God, your expectations terrify us.

**How can our small selves
hold your blazing presence?**

(pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

**ALL: Lead us beyond our resistance.
Let it be.**

Prelude

Ellen Steinxr

Old Testament Reading

Isaiah 60:19-20, Psalms 18:28

Opening Prayer

Praising

Congregational Singing

Praise Team

With our offerings & Offertory

Bill Barxxt

Confession

(on back of bulletin)

Congregational Singing

Byron Kauffmxn

Proclaiming

Scripture Reading

Ephesians 1:18, I Peter 2:9-10

Message: "God Illumines the Darkness"

Pastor Cheryl Shxnk

Communion

Pastor Chuck Swxrtz

Sharing – Led by Pastoral Team

Pastor Chuck Swaxtz

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

Pastoral Prayer

Sending

Sending song

Byron Kauffmxn

Benediction

Pastor Chuck Swxrtz

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:40 a.m. – Worship. Pastor Cheryl speaker. Communion.

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m. – Women's Bible Study

Noon – Peace and Justice Lunch

3:20-5:00 p.m. – Bethel Homework Help

THURSDAY

3:20-5:00 p.m. – Bethel Homework Help

7:00p.m. – Worship Ministry

NEXT SUNDAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School.

10:40 a.m. – Worship. Larry Evxns, speaker

ANNOUNCEMENTS

November Missions Month giving. The grand total for above budget giving for missions during November was.

The Christmas Walk, "A Live Nativity Adventure." December 8th and 9th from 6:00 – 8:00p.m. at Mechanicsburg Christian Fellowship. Admission Free - No reservations needed - A walk will go out every 15 minutes between 6:00 – 8:00p.m.

FREE for the Taking

A few women cleaned the kitchen this week. There are some items on the bar counter that are free for the taking.

New lighter tables have been purchased for the fellowship hall. The old heavy 8 foot tables that are being replaced are free for the taking. Dean has placed them in the middle of the fellowship hall with a sign marking them. Help yourself to the marked tables and kitchen items.

You will find alternative and/or additional Christmas gift giving opportunities/suggestions listed in a variety of catalogues in the foyer:

- ...Mennonite Economic Development Associates (MEDA)
- ...Food Resources Bank (FRB)
- ...Mennonite Central Committee (MCC)
- ...Heifer International
- ...World Vision

There are so many persons suffering in so many places. These organizations are working in various ways to care for them. "Honor your friends and family with gifts that change lives...and bring HOPE." *

Most people approaching retirement age have questions about Medicare. An upcoming **webinar presented by Everence Financial** will provide answers. *Medicare made easy* will be presented on Monday, Dec. 11, at 3 and 8:30 p.m. Specific topics will include Medicare plans, eligibility, deadlines and costs plus enrollment details. The webinar will be presented by Jim Smxth, Everence Financial Services Representative. To register, visit everence.com/MedicareMadeEasy or contact Melissa Shxrt at

*More information in the foyer.

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Pray for friends, Ray Swishxr, Rod Hagxr, and Keith Effinghxm (Chuck Grabxr's co-worker) who are dealing with cancer.
- Remember Bethel members who would love to attend Sunday worship, but they are physically unable to be here with us.
- Praise God for the recording of the entire New Testament in the Toba-Qom language, and for the 33 readers from eight denominations and 12 communities in the Argentine Chaco who volunteered to make this possible. Pray that God's word will find open hearts when it is aired on the radio.

LAST WEEK

Sunday School Attendance
Worship Attendance

*Your generosity empowers our collective work for
God's kingdom purposes. Thanks!*

OUR THANKS TO THOSE WHO SERVE

PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK: Carl Newcomxr

GREETERS:

Today: Paul & Linda Hostetlrx **Next Week:** Paul & Linda Hostetlrx

SOUND OPERATOR:

Today: Miriam Lxpp **Next Week:** Ken Shxnk

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Pastors: Cheryl Shnk (youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office hours: M-F 1:30 – 3:30 p.m., by appointment

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Administrative Assistant: Miriam Lxpp
(secretary@bethelchurchwl.org)

Office Hours: W and F 9:00-3:30 p.m.

Elders: Larry Evxns, Steve Lxpp, Elaine Newcomxr, Dick Lindemxr

Pastoral Care Team: Mark Thomxs, Barb Kauffmxn, Dick Lindemxr,
Carl Newcomxr, Sally Harshbargxr and Michelle Lxnk

Crisis Care: Chuck Swxrtz and Cheryl Shxnk

Confession

O God of power and might,
we want you to tear open the heavens
and come down,
yet we tremble and quake at the thought.
We confess that even though we know your light,
we do not like the dark, empty void
where your Spirit hovers over the waters.
We shake like leaves in the wind,
fearful of what you might ask,
afraid to trust you completely.
Caught up in the swirling of our world
we struggle to "let it be."
Forgive us, O God.
(pause for silence)

Words of assurance

O God, Emmanuel,
In Jesus, the Christ, you have come among us.
You have given us life, and we are restored.

Benediction

As you go from this place,
may you be given peace.
When the presence of God shakes the world
in which you live,
may you remember that the invitation
to walk with Jesus is not a promise of safety,
but rather a call to courage.
May the Spirit embolden you to let it be. Amen.