



# Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 59

December 31, 2017

No.53

## Gathering – Led by Worship Leader

**Welcome**

**Call to Worship & Candle Lighting**

“I am the New Year”

**Prelude**

**Old Testament Reading**

**Opening Prayer**

Dick Lindemxr

Dick Lindemxr

Art & Mary Newcomxr

Ellen Steinxr

Isaiah 43:18,19

## Praising

**Congregational Singing**

**With our offerings & Offertory**

**Congregational Singing**

**Confession & Assurance** (see insert)

Praise Team

Bill Barrxtt

Carl Newcomxr

Dick Lindemxr

## Proclaiming

**Scripture Reading**

**Message:**

**The State of the Church. Looking Back, Looking Ahead**

Pastors Cheryl Shxnk and Chuck Swartz

Philippians 3:13,14

## Sharing

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

**Pastoral Prayer**

## Sending

**Sending song**

**Benediction** (see insert)

Carl Newcomxr

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** – Worship. Pastors Cheryl Shxnk and Chuck Swartz

### TUESDAY

**9:15 a.m.** – Women’s Bible Study

**Noon** – Peace and Justice Lunch

### THURSDAY

**3:20 – 5:00 p.m.** – Bethel Homework Help

### SATURDAY

**8:00 a.m.** – Men’s breakfast. Liberty Gathering Place

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30a.m. – 10:30 a.m.** – Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** – Worship. Communion. KJ Schrxck, speaker

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

This morning’s bulletin covers are a review of the Advent bulletins we’ve had and didn’t need to use. The content of your bulletin is for December 31. So don’t be alarmed if the cover looks familiar or the people sitting beside you have a different picture on their bulletin. Enjoy the graphics.

Next Sunday, January 7<sup>th</sup> Communion will be served.

The nominations to complete the Gifts Discernment list of congregational positions for 2017-18 were distributed in the mailboxes. Complete the form with your response. Return to the box in the foyer by today, December 31.

It is time to renew our subscriptions to The Mennonite magazine. If you don’t get the magazine and would like to receive it, or if you would like to stop receiving the magazine, let Miriam know. Notify the church office of any *changes* for your subscription to The Mennonite magazine by January 14<sup>th</sup>.

Mennonite Arts Weekend is coming up in 2018. It will be the weekend of February 2 to 4 and is organized by Cincinnati Mennonite Fellowship. More information can be found at [www.mennoniteartsweekend.org](http://www.mennoniteartsweekend.org) and from the poster on bulletin board.

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Lee Jordxn's procedure went well this week. Pray for healing to follow.
- Pray for the families of friends and neighbors who lost loved ones over the holidays.
- Continue to pray for healing for Keith Effingxm, Chuck Grabxr's co-worker who has cancer. Keith had a port was put in Friday in effort to try to shrink the tumor before proceeding with other treatment.
- Pray for Brad and Terri Spencxr, who are waiting for a lung transplant for Brad. They are Tesa and Lee Jordxn's friends.

## 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: Barb Kauffmxn (465-3574)**

### GREETERS:

**Today: Bill and Carole Barrxtt**      **Next Week: Art & Mary Newcomxr**

### SOUND OPERATOR:

**Today: Larry Evxns**      **Next Week: Larry Evxns**

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**Pastors: Cheryl Shxnk** ([youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org))

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

**Chuck Swxrtz** ([chuckandjeanie@gmail.com](mailto:chuckandjeanie@gmail.com))

**Office hours:** M-W, F 9:00 – 11:00 a.m. Th 10 – Noon,  
by appointment

**Administrative Assistant:** Miriam Lxpp  
([secretary@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:secretary@bethelchurchwl.org))

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

**Elders:** Larry Evans, 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,

your light has come. Your glory risen,  
and your brightness dawned  
illuminating not only the way of the magi,  
but all our paths.

From your fullness we have received grace upon grace  
as your mystery has been revealed  
and your presence made known.

Now we too are called to arise, shine,  
and return by another road.

Yet we confess that

instead of lifting our eyes and searching diligently,  
instead of walking with boldness and confidence,  
instead of revealing and proclaiming your presence,  
we cling to what we have and know,  
and we continue on our old, familiar ways home.

We are frightened by the unknown,  
and by the darkness that covers the earth.

Forgive us.

*(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, may you rejoice greatly  
in the goodness of our God.

May your whole being spring forth with joy.

May you not be silent.

May you not find rest

until redemption shines like the dawn  
and safekeeping glows like a burning torch.

May you be called by a new name,

and may you delight  
in the presence of God. Amen.