



# Bethel Mennonite Church

*“Jesus compels us to experience and extend the gracious rule of God by the power of the Holy Spirit.”*

Vol. 57                      January 4, 2015                      No. 1

## *Epiphany Sunday – “Your Saving Mystery Revealed”*

### **Preparing**

By praying together                      Infant Nursery @ 8:45a.m.

### **Gathering**

Pre-worship Music                      James Lochridge and Team

Gathering Choruses

Welcome & Candles Lit                      Doug Steiner

Call to Worship (see back of bulletin)

Opening Prayer

### **Proclaiming**

Scripture – Matthew 2:1-12 & Psalm 72:1-7, 10-14

The Three Gifts Video

**Message “Reveal Your Mystery”**                      **Pastor Dave Maurer**

Confession of Faith (see back of bulletin)

### **Praising**

With our offerings & Offertory                      James Lochridge

With Hymns                      Bill Barrett

### **Sharing**

Of God’s Revelations to Us

Pastoral Prayer                      Pastor Dave Maurer

### **Sending**

Benediction                      Pastor Dave

Sending hymn

## LAST WEEK

Sunday School                      53

Worship Attendance                      90

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

## OUR THANKS TO

**PASTORAL CARE THIS WEEK:** Dick Lindemer (465-4163)

### **NURSERY:**

**Today:** Carol Buck

**Next week:** Beth Maurer

### **GREETERS:**

**Today:** Larry & Barb Evans

**Next week:** Larry & Barb Evans

### **SOUND OPERATOR:**

**Today:** Mark Kauffman

**Next week:** Brody Robinaugh

### **MEDIA OPERATOR:**

**Today:** Brody Robinaugh

**Next week:** Annie Steiner

Bethel Mennonite Church

465-4587

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West Liberty, OH 43357

**Pastor:** Dave Maurer ([pastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:pastor@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Office hours:** T & Th 9-11:30a; Wed & Fri 9:30-Noon & 1:30-4:30p

**Youth Pastor:** Cheryl Shank ([youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Administrative Assistant:** Tesa Jordan ([secretary@bethelchurchwl.org](mailto:secretary@bethelchurchwl.org))

**Office Hours:** Wed & Fri 9am-5pm

**Elders:** Carl Newcomer, Dick Lindemer

**Pastoral Care Team:** Barb Landes, Barb Kauffman, Barb Evans, Dick Lindemer  
Sharon Showalter, Carl Newcomer, Mark Thomas, Chuck Swartz

**Tech Coordinator:** Todd Hostetler

## **TODAY – Epiphany Sunday**

**9:30 a.m.** — Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** — Worship Service

## **TUESDAY**

**9:15 a.m.**—Women’s Bible Study

**12 noon**—Peace & Justice

**3:00 p.m.**—Bethel Homework Help

## **WEDNESDAY**

**7:00 p.m.**—Youth Bible Study

## **THURSDAY**

**3:00 p.m.**—Bethel Homework Help

**7:00 p.m.**—Ministry of Worship

## **SATURDAY**

**8:00 a.m.** — King’s Daughters Breakfast

## **NEXT SUNDAY –**

**9:30 a.m.** — Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** — Worship Service— Pastoral Exchange with Jubilee

(Tony Doehrmann “Rekindling the Gift” 1 Cor. 2:10-13; Eph 5:8-10)

## **LOOKING AHEAD**

**Janet Wilkins is still updating subscriptions.** If you wish to be on (or removed) these mailing lists, please let her know by January 15<sup>th</sup>. There are sign-up sheets on the lobby table where we keep bulletins.

**Restructure Listening Lunch** – In the next few weeks, the restructure sub-committee will attend each of the Sunday school classes to share about the restructure proposal and to receive feedback. After worship on January 18<sup>th</sup> those who are not in a Sunday school class or missed the Sunday that the committee was present in their class, are invited to bring a sack lunch and to meet down in the fellowship hall for a chance to join the discussion.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**Weather Cancellation Policy:** As a reminder, our winter weather cancellation policy has been posted on the bulletin board. News of cancellations will come through our phone chain, WPKO, and our webpage.

**MEDA is holding a Mennonite Entrepreneurs Conference:** A weekend of challenge and reflection for business owners and entrepreneurs. Jan. 29 – Feb. 1, 2015 at The Resort at Longboat Key Club, Sarasota, Florida. For more information, visit [www.meda.org/entrepreneurs](http://www.meda.org/entrepreneurs).

**MDS is requesting a special year end offering** for disaster recovery to assist in eight locations that have suffered great losses and are still in need. Tornadoes and storms in the South that destroyed homes, raging rivers in Alaska, Alberta and Colorado have caused flood damage to hundreds of homes as well as the continued efforts to restore those affected by Hurricane Sandy will all be assisted with your generous gift. If you would like to make a contribution, please do so by Jan 4<sup>th</sup>, make your check out to Bethel Mennonite, and write “MDS Year End” on the memo line.

**Through the Bible in a Year Reflection Questions:** as we begin our corporate journey through the Bible this year, here are a few questions to reflect upon in your reading. More may be found at Pastor Dave’s blog (<http://thequest.blogspot.com/>). A complete list of daily readings is available from the church office. **January 5-11**

- God made some big promises to Abram and he wondered how he could know that they would happen. What promises has God made to you (or humanity) and what signs of fulfillment has God shown?
- God cared for Hagar and Ishmael even though they were not the ones to fulfill God's promises to Abram. Are there times when you have been outside of God's plan for your life and still seen God's blessing/provision in your life? How so?
- In the stories of Abraham and the angel of the Lord; Lot and Sodom and Gomorrah, we read of both mercy and judgment. How have you experienced both God's mercy and judgment in your life?
- God tested Abraham by asking him to sacrifice Isaac. Abraham passed the test and God promised to make his descendants numerous and through them to bless all nations. Isaac was reminded of this: Blessed to be a blessing. In what ways are we also called to live out of our blessings to be a blessing to others?
- Abraham sent his servant to his homeland to find a wife for Isaac. The match was discerned through the prayer of the servant and Rebekah's family trusted this discernment. How willing are we to trust in such discernment for matters of this importance? Are there realities that hold us back from trusting such discernment?
- Jacob had an encounter with God at Bethel. Gen. 28:16 says, "When Jacob awoke from his sleep, he thought, "Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it." Describe a time in which you were surprised to discover God in the midst of an unexpected place. How can we become more a tune to God's presence?

## **PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES**

- **Pray for Tom Kxng** who is recovering from a car accident on 68.