



Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 59

December 17, 2017

No.51

Gathering – Led by Worship Leader Polly & Mark Thomxs

Welcome Polly & Mark Thomxs

Call to Worship & Candle Lighting Michelle & Dave Lxnk

Leader: Awake!

The invitation to carry light
comes from the God of restoration.

**ALL: O God, you amaze us with
your promise to build up the ancient ruins.
You say you will replace the ashes of the past
with garlands of beauty.
Your bold vision dazzles our doubting souls.**

(pause for silence)

Leader: Quiet our questioning souls.

**ALL: Lead us beyond our fears,
and guide us on the path to peace.**

Leader: Let it be whole.

Prelude Praise Team

Psalm 126

Opening Prayer

Praising

Congregational Singing Ellxn and Praise Team

With our offerings & Offertory Bill Barrxtt

Congregational Singing Bill Barrxtt

Confession & Assurance (see insert) Polly & Mark Thomxs

Proclaiming

Message: “Let it be...reaching for wholeness” Alvin Yodxr

Scripture Reading Isaiah 61:1-4, Luke 1:46-55

Sharing – Led by Pastoral Team Pastor Chuck Swxrtz

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

Pastoral Prayer

Sending

Sending song Bill Barrxtt

Benediction (see insert) Pastor Chuck Swxrtz

THIS WEEK

TODAY

9:30 a.m. – Sunday School

10:40 a.m. – Worship. Alvin Yodxr, speaker.

Noon: Soup Lunch

6:30 p.m. – Christmas Caroling

TUESDAY

9:15 a.m. – Women’s Bible Study

Peace and Justice Lunch is **NOT meeting**

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

NEXT SUNDAY

9:00 – 10:30 a.m. – Christmas Breakfast

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today. We will have a soup lunch at noon following the worship service. Soup will be provided. Please bring a salad or dessert to share.

Christmas Breakfast next Sunday, December 24th from 9:00 –10:30a.m. Please bring your favorite holiday sweetbreads, rolls, coffee cake to share. Breakfast casseroles and fruit cup will be provided. Come, enjoy Christmas treats and warm fellowship before the morning worship service.

The **Christmas Day Community Fellowship Meal** will be held at on Monday, December 25th at 12:00-2:00 p.m. at the John L Yoder Center at Adriel School. Volunteer and donation sign-up sheets are on the bulletin board in the foyer. Plan to come eat, fellowship and celebrate the Good News with one another! Carry out meals available.

Please have **items for the January** Bethel calendar submitted to the church office by December 27th. Thanks.

Today the nominations to complete the Gifts Discernment list of congregational positions for 2017-18 are in your mailbox. Complete the form with your response. Return to the box in the foyer by December 31.

The updated church directory is in your mailbox today. In January you will be given a sticker with the congregational positions that are now blank to complete the lists in the back of the booklet.

MCC Thrift Shop would like to take a moment and thank Sue Foxlk, assistant manager for the 10 years she has worked at the store. We’d also like to announce that Amy Yxre and Roxanne Kauffmxn have been hired to work part-time. Stop by and say goodbye to Sue before December 29 and hello to Amy and Roxanne on January 2.

PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- Ken Hostetlrx had a knee replacement on Friday morning. Pray for healing and a smooth recovery.
- Continue to pray for healing for Keith Effinghxm, 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: Michelle Lxnk

GREETERS:

Today: Joe & Donna Lehmxn **Next Week:** Ed & Kim Lehmxn

SOUND OPERATOR:

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

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P.O. Box 549, 416 Washington Street www.bethelchurchwl.org
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Pastors: Cheryl Shxnk (youthpastor@bethelchurchwl.org)

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

Chuck Swxrtz (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)

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 peace,

your justice wells up like a spring,
bringing dreams, laughter,
and wholeness to the world.

We confess we so often stifle your Spirit.

We are afraid to claim that you anointed us
to carry your upside-down vision
into our broken world,
where the lowly are trampled upon,
the hungry go away empty.
the rich increase in power and might.

We confess we lack the courage to build up and repair
what we have broken, imprisoned, and
oppressed.

Forgive us when we do not catch your vision.

Lead us beyond our fears,
and guide us on the path to peace.
(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

May the God of restoration

make you holy and whole.

May your body, spirit, and soul be knit together

in preparation for the coming of the One

who calls all to dwell in the fullness of grace.

Amen.