



# Bethel Mennonite Church

“Serving Jesus, Loving Others”

Vol. 59

December 24, 2017

No.52

**Gathering – Led by Worship Leader** Kathy Lehmxn

**Welcome** Kathy Lehmxn

**Call to Worship & Candle Lighting** Joe & Donna Lehmxn

Leader: Yes!

The invitation to carry light  
comes to each of us, no matter who we are.

**ALL: O God, you choose to dwell within us.  
You promise to move about with us  
until we find our rest in you.**

Leader: Your call seems risky;  
saying yes takes away our breath.

**ALL: Yet we know your faithfulness and steadfast love  
endure forever.**

Leader: You are our strength.

**ALL: Yes! Let it be now.**

**Prelude** Bill Barrxtt

**Psalm 89: 1-4**

**Opening Prayer**

**Praising**

**Congregational Singing** Byron Kauffmxn

**With our offerings & Offertory** Elaine Newcomxr

**Congregational Singing** Bill and Praise Team

**Confession & Assurance (see insert)** Kathy Lehmxn

**Proclaiming**

**Scripture Reading** Luke 1:26-38

**Message: “Unto You...This Day”** KJ Schrxck

**Sharing – Led by Pastoral Team** Pastor Cheryl Shxnx

Of our joys, requests, thanksgivings & responses

**Pastoral Prayer**

**Sending**

**Sending song** Byron Kauffmxn

**Benediction (see insert)** Pastor Cheryl Shxnx

## THIS WEEK

### TODAY

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

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

### MONDAY

**12:00-2:00 p.m.** Christmas Day Community Fellowship Meal. John L Yodxr Center at Adriel School.

### WEDNESDAY

**4:15 p.m.** – Our Daily Bread

### NEXT SUNDAY

**9:30 a.m.** – Sunday School

**10:40 a.m.** – Worship. Pastors Chuck and Cheryl, speaking.

“The State of the Church: Looking Back. Looking Ahead.”

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Today. Christmas Breakfast** from 9:00 –10:30a.m. 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 Yodxr Center at Adriel School. 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 Wednesday, December 27th. **Items for the bulletin** need to be in the office by 10:00 a.m. Thursday, December 28th. The bulletin will be printed on Thursday this week. Thanks.

The list of the Gifts Discernment nominations of the remaining congregational positions for 2017-18 that you received in your mailbox last week is due December 31. Please complete the form with your response and return to the box in the foyer by next Sunday, December 31.

The updated church directory has been distributed. 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 Fxulk, 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.

Cindy Kauffmxn sends her Christmas greetings to the congregation. She had hoped to be here this Sunday but her plans fell through.

## PRAYER & PRAISE NOTES

- On Wednesday pray for Lee Jordxn who is having an ablation. He has Barrett's esophagus.
- Ken Hostetlrx had a knee replacement a week ago Friday morning. He is doing well.
- Remember Bethel members who would love to attend Sunday worship, but they are physically unable to be here with us.
- Pray for friends, Ray Swishxr, Rod Hagxr, and Keith Effinghxm who are dealing with cancer.
- Pray for Brad and Terri Spencxr, who are waiting for a lung transplant for Brad. They are Tesa and Lee Jordxn's friends.
- Mennonite Mission Network requests prayer for all those who have left homes and families for the sake of the gospel. May they be embraced by the global family of God and be blessed by discovering fresh insights into the meaning of Christmas.

## 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:** Mark Thomxs

### GREETERS:

**Today:** Ed & Kim Lehmxn

**Next Week:** Ed & Kim Lehmxn

### SOUND OPERATOR:

**Today:** Larry Evxns

**Next Week:** Larry Evxns

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West Liberty, OH 43357

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

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

**Chuck Swartz** ([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)

**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 Swartz and Cheryl Shxnk

## Confession

O God of blessing and joy,  
your favor rests upon us, and our souls magnify  
you.

We sing of your steadfast love.  
and proclaim your faithfulness.

We confess we often lack complete trust,  
walking in our own strength,  
building our own houses  
instead of joining you  
in turning ruins into abundance.

We are terrified and overcome by fear,  
wondering, "How will we know?"  
and pondering, "How can this be?"

We are afraid to claim and proclaim  
that nothing is impossible  
when your power overshadows us,  
when your Spirit comes upon us.

We find it hard to let go and say,  
"Here I am, the servant of the Lord;  
let it be with me according to your word."

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

May you go with God.  
May you carry the grace of Christ fearlessly.  
May the power of the Holy Spirit overshadow you,  
and may you understand  
that nothing is impossible with God.

Amen