

BetheLight

A Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church
A member congregation of The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
7171 Pearl Road, Middleburg Heights OH 44130-4946
(440) 843-6663
www.gobethel.org

DECEMBER
2017

JANUARY
2018

BetheLight

A Publication of Bethel Lutheran Church



Let your light shine
before others so they
may see your good
works and give glory
to your Father in
heaven.
Matt 5:16 NRSV

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Church Office	440-843-6663
<i>Office Hours</i>	<i>Mon – Fri 9AM – 1 PM</i>
Fax Number	440-843-6664
 Steven M. Krebill	 440-785-9614
<i>Pastor</i>	
pastorstevek@sbcglobal.net	
 Christina M. Krnac	 216-403-5349
<i>Vicar</i>	
4krnacs@gmail.com	
 Erika Haskell	 216-409-9037
<i>Director of Music</i>	
erikah15@yahoo.com	
 Justin Caithaml	 440-371-9557
<i>Choir Director</i>	
justin.caithaml@icloud.com	
 Gail Gold	 440-843-6663
<i>Administrative Assistant</i>	
bethelstaff@sbcglobal.net	
 Christie Scott	 440-243-6266
<i>M.E.E.C. Director</i>	
christieatmeec@yahoo.com	
M.E.E.C. Office	440-888-9922

**Deadline for the February 2018
BeTheLight is January 14th**

The purpose of *BeTheLight* is to inform our members, friends and visitors of worship services and to encourage spiritual growth, Christian Education opportunities, missions and outreach, activities, fellowship events and volunteer opportunities. This newsletter is meant to be an informational tool of **Bethel Lutheran Church** where we serve together as a family in Christ.

The *BeTheLight* welcomes contributions and letters. Copyrighted material (including prayers and inspirational verses) cannot be published without written permission from the author.

MISSION STATEMENT

*The people of
Bethel Lutheran Church
are called by God to be
faithful to the word of God
and proclaim it to all people.
We share Christ's love
and forgiveness
by being Christ's hands,
feet, arms and voice
as we gather and
as we scatter.*



ONGOING PRAYER CONCERNS

PERSONS IN NEED OF HEALING

Judy Bailey, Carl Burgess, Warren Burgess, Marshall Camp, Ruth Kuhn,
Joyce Larson, Marie Link, Eric Nemerovsky,
Kirk Nemerovsky, Eleanor Olschewsky, Eric Whitsel

PERSONS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

Viola Dase~Jan Harmon~Esther Johns~Jean Kellmer
Phil Long~Ann Nemeth ~Mary Reinke~Grace Steffen

*Please keep these friends in your
thoughts and prayers.*





DECEMBER SPECIAL WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays in Advent - We will once again gradually decorate the church during Advent, adding greens and the tree, and finishing decorating for Christmas after Advent 4 on December 24.

Sunday – December 17- Third Sunday in Advent

9:45 AM L.I.F.E. Together Christmas service
“Bethlehem Speaks”
Our children and youth will lead this special service.



Saturday – December 24 – Christmas Eve

9:45 AM **Fourth Sunday in Advent** - Lessons and Carols for Christmas. This year we will be using the traditional format from Kings College at Cambridge University in England. Holy Communion will be celebrated at this service. Directly following worship we will finish decorating the sanctuary for Christmas.



6:30 PM and 10 PM

Christmas Eve – Christmas Eve Worship with carols and Holy Communion. Children’s time is featured at 6:30 PM and candlelight is at 10 PM, led by the choir.



Sunday - December 31- New Year's Eve

9:45 AM – Worship combining Holy Communion, service of healing, and welcoming the New Year.





Prayers at Panera: Caring for those outside our church walls

Reflection by Vicar Christy

When I began my Prayers at Panera ministry, I had no idea what to expect. Would people come? Would people be comfortable asking a stranger to pray with and for them? These are some of the questions that ran through my mind at the start of this ministry in September. All I knew is that I felt compelled to try this third space type of ministry and Pastor Krebill graciously allowed me to experience this as a part of my internship here at Bethel.

What I did not expect was the outpouring of love, prayers and support from the members at Bethel. It quickly became apparent that you were just as excited about this ministry as I was by your checking in with me each week to see how this new ministry was going as well as stopping by during the prayer time at Panera for your own prayer needs and pastoral care.

As I look back over the past three months of this ministry, it has been reinforced that people everywhere long to know that God still cares about them beyond their relationship with the institutional church. I sat with people who were hurt by the church they loved and made to feel unworthy and in some cases carried bitterness toward the church. I sat with people who wanted to feel God's presence as they awaited an appointment with their doctor to get test results, because they are fearful of what they might hear. Others just wanted a safe place to unburden themselves and know that someone in this world is willing to let them do that, no strings attached. Perhaps the most moving visit I had was with a couple, who were homeless, who wandered into Panera to get warm on a chilly day. They sat down at the table next to me trying to warm their hands as they shared a cup of hot water because they could not afford to buy anything. I reached into my bag where I kept a supply of Panera gift cards that were generously donated for this ministry, in case someone was in need of a meal, and pulled out \$20 worth of gift cards and offered them to the couple. They were overwhelmed by my gesture and told me they had not had a hot meal in two days. Once they had eaten their fill, we quickly struck up a conversation. They shared their life's story with me about how once they had it all, a lovely home, their children went to private school, they had two beautiful cars in the driveway but because of a couple bad decisions in the stock market and medical expenses, they lost all their possessions and were too embarrassed to tell their children. We must have talked for nearly an hour as they shared their story. We prayed together, we cried together over their loss and fears. I provided them names and locations of agencies that might be able to assist them. There was nothing more I could do for them and yet, they were overjoyed just to be fed and cared for. Something we often take for granted.

There is a part of me that is going to miss my Wednesday mornings at Panera, meeting people where they are at. It has reminded me that people everywhere are in need of hearing they are loved, loved by God and loved by their neighbor. The amazing, lavish love that God gives us is not meant to be kept within the confines of our church walls, our homes, our automobiles... it is meant to be shared with the world outside the walls that separate us.





GIFTS UNDER THE “JESSE” TREE

A Bethel Advent/Christmas Tradition now in its 20th Year

The Jesse Tree will be set up in the back of the church and decorated with tags. The tags will identify the names of children in K through 2nd grades at Waverly Elementary.

- Each tag will have a child's name, gender, grade, size, and favorite color.
- Everyone is encouraged to take a tag, purchase **one clothing outfit (shirt, blouse, or sweater and pants/skirt) and one toy or book**, wrap the gift and place it under the tree (with identifying tag attached.)
- Final day for placing gifts under the tree will be Sunday, December 17th.

If interested in helping with any of the following, please contact Sue Van Straaten at 440-888-1868.

- Sunday, December 17 - sort gifts after worship
- Monday, December 18 - help deliver the gifts to the school
 - take pictures of the children opening the gifts

If you go to the school on Monday, you will be caught up in the excitement! These gifts are the only gifts some of these children will receive.

Please consider participating in this effort to reach out to school children in need as we share our gifts from God with others.

Sue Van Straaten
Social Concerns Outreach





REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve Choir



Please join us! Additional voices are needed to sing with the choir on Christmas Eve for the Lessons and Carols service at 9:45am and the Candlelight service at the 10pm. Rehearsals are scheduled on Wednesday, December 6th, 13th, and 20th from 7:30 - 8:45pm. Please plan to attend all rehearsals leading up to Christmas Eve. We will warm-up at 9:15am for Lessons & Carols and TBA for the Candlelight service. Please let me know if you are planning to participate – see me at church or email me at: erikah15@yahoo.com. If you have considered joining the choir, this is a fantastic opportunity to see what it's all about. Or, if you'd just like to sing on Christmas Eve, that's great too. All are welcome!



Christmas is just around the corner, a time for thanks and celebration of Jesus' birth. Poinsettias are a small but beautiful expression of celebration and a means to decorate our church. We will again purchase poinsettias from Uncle John's Plant Farm.

The order forms can be found in a small hanging envelope on the bulletin board in the Gathering Place hallway. Your orders can be placed in the offering basket or given to any one of the Altar Guild ladies. The last day to order is **Sunday, December 17**. We have been asked to place our order as soon as possible this year. Please do not wait until the last minute to place your order.

Thank you,
Shirley Daedelow



December Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Jennifer Cajka
2	Elizabeth Johnson
4	Judy Bailey
6	Grace Steffen
7	Georgia Bobrosky
9	Max Ciccarello
9	Rob Leidy
12	Rochelle Gold
14	Louis Pamer
16	Bob Minut
18	Marie Hvizdos
18	Merri Karp
18	Matthew Pickens
19	Bob and Carol Pickens
21	Alan and Georgia Bobrosky
23	Amber Strobel
25	Nate Krnac
27	Laura Lee Costa
28	Elfi Schuster
30	Maggie Bartlett




January Birthdays and Anniversaries

2	Charles Behm
3	Leah Leidy
6	Ava Salmen
9	Alex Ciccarello
14	Viola Dase
15	Bryan Ciccarello
17	Taylor Geraci
21	Edie Lannoch
31	Spencer Reardon

December 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 AA 8:30pm	2 Men's Bible study 8am
3 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am Faith Explorers 6pm	4	5 Lectionary Bible study 10am Internship Committee Meeting 7 pm	6 Choir 7:30pm	7 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm	8 AA 8:30pm	9 Men's Bible study 8am
10 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am	11	12 Lectionary Bible study 10am Council meeting @ Pastor's house 7 pm	13 Choir 7:30pm	14 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11 am GFF Christmas Party & Dinner 7pm	15 AA 8:30pm	16 Men's Bible study 8am Life Together Rehearsal 9am
17 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together Christmas Service 9:45am Youth Christmas Party @ Pastors	18 MEEC WINTER BREAK STARTS	19 Lectionary Bible study 10am	20 Choir 7:30pm	21 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11 am	22 AA 8:30pm	23 Worship 6:30pm and 10pm
24 Worship 9:45am Christmas Eve Services 6:30pm & 10pm	25  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	26 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	27	28 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11 am	29 AA 8:30pm	30 Men's Bible study 8am
31 Worship 9:45am						

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 	2 <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i> <i>Internship Committee Meeting 7 pm</i>	3 MEEC CLASSES RESUME	4 <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>GFF 7pm</i>	5 <i>AA 8:30pm</i>	6 <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
7 <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Life Together 9:00 am</i> <i>Worship 9:45am</i> <i>Faith Explorers 6pm</i>	8	9 <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i> <i>Council Meeting 7pm</i>	10 <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	11 <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>GFF 7pm</i>	12 <i>AA 8:30pm</i>	13 <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
14 <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Life Together 9:00 am</i> <i>Worship 9:45am</i>	15 MLK Day NO CLASSES FOR MEEC OFFICE CLOSED	16 <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i>	17 <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	18 <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>GFF 7pm</i>	19 <i>AA 8:30pm</i>	20 <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
21 <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Life Together 9:00 am</i> <i>Worship 9:45am</i> <i>Faith Explorers 6pm</i>	22	23 <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i>	24 <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	25 <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>GFF 7pm</i>	26 <i>AA 8:30pm</i>	27 <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
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