

BethLight

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

2018

January

2019

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

In This Issue. . .

Prayer Concerns.....	3
Bethel Happenings.....	4-8
Birthdays & Anniversaries	9-10
Calendars.....	11-12

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 2019
BeTheLight is January 13th**

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

Marshall Camp, Richard Larson, Joyce Larson, Eric Nemerovsky,
Kirk Nemerovsky, Betty Powers, Eric Whitsel,
Maureen Zelina, Ron Zelina

PERSONS WHO ARE HOMEBOUND

Bob Breska~Viola Dase~Alice Forsthoffer ~Jan Harmon~Esther Johns
Jean Kellmer~Helmut Link ~Marie Link~Phil Long



*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 23.

Sunday – December 16 - Third Sunday in Advent

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



Sunday – December 23 - Fourth Sunday in Advent

9:45 AM 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 church for Christmas.



Monday – December 24 – Christmas Eve

6:30 PM and 10 PM

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 30 – First Sunday of Christmas

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



FROM THE PASTOR

As I write this article intended for the Advent/Christmas season, the sounds of children's laughter from our pre-school's Halloween party are drifting down the hall. Such is the nature of schedules and deadlines in a hurried world. By the end of October we are gearing up already for the headlong rush toward Christmas, a holiday which in our culture, threatens to collapse under the weight of its own excess. Rather than admonish you with holy wisdom about keeping Advent, watching, waiting, and taking time for quiet reflection (all of which are good things, by the way) I thought I would rather use this space to give you a Christmas gift. So, here it is:

"Jesus of Nazareth, who is called the Christ."

Actually, I am not giving you this gift, God is. I'm just reminding you of it. But whatever can it mean? It means:

Jesus came to be God "with us, for us" so that we don't have to be.

And what does that mean for us for Christmas 2018? It means that you don't have to create the "best Christmas ever" this year. You don't have to create it or buy it or cook it or sing it or "find it in your heart somewhere." You don't have to be nicer or kinder or gentler, your family doesn't have to suddenly get along better. Christmas simply is not your responsibility. God already has it covered.

Don't misunderstand. If it makes you feel good to cook and sing and decorate and be generous and kind and get along with your relatives as a response to this gift that has been given to you, then go for it! But even if you do all that, Christmas will still come because of God's goodness and mercy and love made known in Jesus, and not because of what you do.

So, if you don't feel like cooking or decorating this year, if this is your first Christmas without a loved one, if you are lonely or depressed, and your family still doesn't get along, take heart, because Christmas will come just as surely for **you** because of God's mercy and love made known in Jesus.

When we hear that, some of us may want to rush too quickly to talk about what we should or ought or might do in response to Christmas. But those things, important as they may be, are not the Gospel, the Good News. Either this is the story of the incredible love of God who sets foot on the stage of human activity and becomes "God with us" despite all of our failed attempts at being good or holy or selfless---or it is not. If it is Good News, it comes to us precisely as a gift, the grasp of which "neither prophet, nor apostle, nor angel was ever able fully to express, and which no heart could adequately fathom or marvel at," according to Martin Luther.

Luther also wrote, "This is the great fire of the love of God for us, whereby the heart and conscience become happy, secure, and content." May our proclamation of that great love be the clear strong message that rings out loud and clear from every corner of Bethel Lutheran Church, Middleburg Heights, Ohio this Christmas.

God's blessings,

Steven M. Krebill, Pastor



GIFTS UNDER THE “JESSE” TREE

A Bethel Advent/Christmas Tradition now in its 21st 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 at the 10:00 pm Candlelight service on Christmas Eve. Rehearsals are scheduled on Wednesday, December 5th, 12th, and 19th from 7:30 - 8:15pm. We will warm-up at 9:15 pm on Christmas Eve. Please let me know if you are planning to participate – see me at church or email me at: erikah15@yahoo.com. If you have been considering 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 16**. 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

God's Faithful Followers

World-wide Acclaim for GFF Poet

My name is Deanna. At age 12, I took a creative-writing class and I've been writing ever since. In the early 2000s, I started to write a poetry book for, and about, people with developmental disabilities. Although most of my poems are fictional, many are about me, friends, and co-workers, all of us having developmental disabilities.

Born with Beal's Syndrome, I have limited mobility. I'm also legally blind in one eye and have mild heart and hearing concerns. Although having developmental delays, I am pretty high functioning, passing both parts of the 12th-grade English proficiency test.

I find peace and God's comfort in writing and sharing my more than 400 poems, seen on www.Voicesnet.com. On the home page, click on "Our Writers," then "All Members," next, "Dilley" and "Deanna," and finally, click on my name to see my poems. Note, especially, my poem "Special Olympics' Oath," featured by the World Special Olympics.

"Thank you," Bethel Lutheran and your caring ministry, God's Faithful Followers.

Deanna Dilley

God's Faithful



Followers

The recent Art Festival by God's Faithful Followers raised \$750. A big "Thank You" to everyone who purchased art and crafts made by our talented artists and for the congregation's generous support for this ministry. GFF is donating \$500 from the proceeds to Bethel's General Fund.



SUPPORT NEWS



Adopt-a-Member Ministry Brightens the Day for Hundreds

Since its start in early 2016, Bethel's Adopt-a-Member ministry team has sent hundreds of thinking-of-you, have-a-nice-day, get-well, sympathy, encouragement, birthday, and anniversary cards to our congregation members who are on the Prayer List, receiving Pastoral Care, homebound, in assisted-living and nursing homes, sick, hospitalized, in rehab, downhearted, and in the military or college. Also, thank-you cards are sent to Sunday visitors and guest musicians. Our card ministry is funded by Thrivent (cards, materials, and postage) and by card donations from the congregation.



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	Merri Karp
18	Matthew Pickens
19	Bob and Carol Pickens
21	Alan and Georgia Bobrosky
23	Amber Strobel
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 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						<i>1</i> <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
<i>2</i> <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>	<i>3</i> <i>Gail returns back in the office</i>	<i>4</i> <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i>	<i>5</i> <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	<i>6</i> <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>GFF 7pm</i>	<i>7</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	<i>8</i> <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
<i>9</i> <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Life Together 9:00 am</i> <i>Worship 9:45am</i>	<i>10</i>	<i>11</i> <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i> <i>Council meeting @ Pastor's house 7 pm</i>	<i>12</i> <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	<i>13</i> <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11 am</i> <i>GFF Christmas Party & Dinner 7pm</i>	<i>14</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i> <i>Staff Christmas party at Pastor's 6pm</i>	<i>15</i> <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i> <i>9 AM Life Together Rehearsal</i>
<i>16</i> <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Life Together Christmas Service 9:45am</i> <i>Youth Christmas Party @ Pastors</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i> <i>Lectionary Bible study 10am</i>	<i>19</i> <i>Choir 7:30pm</i>	<i>20</i> <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11am</i> <i>MEEC WINTER BREAK STARTS</i>	<i>21</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	<i>22</i>
<i>23</i> <i>Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am</i> <i>Worship – Lessons & Carols 9:45am</i>	<i>24</i> <i>Christmas Eve Services 6:30pm & 10pm</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>25</i>  CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>26</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED	<i>27</i> <i>Al-Anon 10am</i> <i>Bible Study 11 am</i>	<i>28</i> <i>AA 8:00pm</i>	<i>29</i> <i>Men's Bible study 8am</i>
<i>30</i> <i>Worship 9:45am</i>	<i>31</i> CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED					

January 2018

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED 	2 Church office hours Resume 9am – 1pm	3 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm MEEC CLASSES RESUME	4 AA 8:00pm	5 Men's Bible study 8am
6 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am Faith Explorers 6pm	7	8 Lectionary Bible study 10am Council Meeting 7pm	9 Choir 7:30pm	10 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm	11 AA 8:00pm	12 Men's Bible study 8am
13 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am	14 MLK Day NO CLASSES FOR MEEC	15 Lectionary Bible study 10am	16 Choir 7:30pm	17 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm	18 AA 8:00pm	19 Men's Bible study 8am
20 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am Faith Explorers 6pm	21	22 Lectionary Bible study 10am	23 Choir 7:30pm	24 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm	25 AA 8:00pm MEEC Staff in service day – No School	26 Men's Bible study 8am
27 Adult Bible Study 8:30 & 11:30 am Life Together 9:00 am Worship 9:45am Faith Explorers 6pm	28	29 Lectionary Bible study 10am	30 Choir 7:30pm	31 Al-Anon 10am Bible Study 11am GFF 7pm		

