

The Care ier

Pastor Robbservations

The angel said to her, 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.' Mary said to the angel, 'How can this be...?' - Luke 1:30-34b

It's that time of year when it's easy to get lost in thoughts of nostalgia and Christmas memories of childhood. One of my favorite memories comes from a special piece of fake furniture that would always make its appearance at Christmas time. The house I grew up in did not have a fireplace. This caused a problem when figuring out where one would hang one's stocking for Santa to find on Christmas morning. My mom and dad remedied this by purchasing a fake brick-like fireplace made out of painted cardboard and complete with a plug-in light up fake fire. I knew the fireplace wasn't a real one, but wanted desperately for it to seem as real as possible. So I would take the burnt ends of wooden matches as we lit Christmas candles for the season and pinch off the black ash and scatter them over the fake fire. Because, I reasoned, ashes could only come from a real fire.

We all want Christmas to be "real," because the message of God's incredible love for each and every one of us and the promise of forgiveness, peace, joy, hope and salvation

is what we so honestly, desperately need. Is Christmas real?

It seems we are in good company when we ask this question! Luke tells us that when God's angel came to tell young Mary about God's plan she reacted with an understandable question: "How can this be?" Is this real? Can I put my trust in this? Can it really be true?

After some more details addressing Mary's concern the angel responds, "For nothing will be impossible with God." (v. 7) Is that a reassurance you can use right now? Are you willing to hear the message of the angel, that the Good News is, indeed, real? Look around you. Even though there may be much cause for distress; personal health news, work-related troubles, relationship stress, financial difficulties, a world of problems – there is plenty of Good News to hear! God's Kingdom is real; among us now and also a promise of more to come. People are loving one another, kindness is changing lives, churches are changing communities, God's Spirit is healing broken hearts, Jesus-followers are blessing the least, last and the lost. Yes, it's real. It's all real. For nothing will be impossible with God.

A Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to You,

Pastor Robb

December Preaching Plan

Faithful - Christmas Through the
Eyes of Joseph

Sunday, December 3, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 13:54-56

Title: Faithful, pt 1:

A Carpenter Named Joseph

Key Idea: No man played a more important role in Jesus' life than Joseph. He was not Jesus' biological father, yet he adopted him as his son. He protected him, provided for him, taught and mentored him. Joseph provides us a great example of humbly obeying God even when we don't understand, faithfully moving forward in the strength that God provides.

Sunday, December 10, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-19

Title: Faithful, pt 2:

Whose Child Is This?

Key Idea: When Joseph learns of Mary's pregnancy he makes an incredible choice. He essentially decides to take the negative consequences upon himself even though he is completely innocent, thereby sparing Mary. Thirty years later, Jesus would make a similar choice for the sake of the whole world.

Sunday, December 17, 2017

Scripture: Matthew 1:18-21

Title: Faithful, pt 3:

Raising A Child Not Your Own

Key Idea: The mission the angel of the Lord gave Joseph was to raise this boy as though he were his own. It was to love him, to mentor him, to teach him, to guide him. It was to model for this child what it means to be a man. Some of our biggest responsibilities in life are unplanned. No wonder the angel needed to say, "Do not be afraid..."

Sunday, December 24, 2017

Scripture: Luke 2:1-5

Title: Faithful, pt 4:

The Journey to Bethlehem

Key Idea: Joseph and Mary left Nazareth, hoping the child would wait to be born until after they arrived. This was a journey neither Mary nor Joseph wanted to take. It was forced upon them by an Emperor wanting more taxes. It is emblematic of what often happens in life. We all, at times, find ourselves on journeys we don't want to take. But God has an amazing way of working things out!



Sunday, December 31, 2017

Guest Speaker, Ron Vinger

Supper on Advent Wednesdays

Join us for supper in Fellowship Hall at
5:15pm on December 6, 13 & 20.

Supper is "Potluck"

Please bring a dish to pass.

Clean-up help appreciated.

Worship service begins at 6:00pm

Christmas Eve Worship

8 & 10:30am

The Journey to Bethlehem

4 & 7pm

The Meaning of Christmas

Christmas Eve Supper

Join us for supper in Fellowship Hall
following our 4:00pm worship service.

Supper is "Potluck" this year.

Please bring a dish to pass.

Clean-up help appreciated

December Birthdays



- 2 Jennifer Ciochetto, Megan Bins
- 4 Kalaia Oroyan
- 5 Norman Jensen, Dottie Hansen
Harlen Lunde, Joe Witthuhn
Daniel Crack
- 6 Tom Rebman, Kierra Galeazzi
- 8 Sally Schrader, Timothy Felmer
Riley Madel
- 10 Fred Balliett
- 11 Kristi Nuttall, Brian Watzka, Jr.
- 12 Bonnie DeNamur
- 13 Maurice Pelkey
- 14 Nils Holmgren, Sue Collins
- 15 Jaden Madel
- 17 Shirley Deering, Shelly Reschke
- 19 Robert Atkinson, Sharon Banning
- 20 Corbin Berna, Donald Webster
Wyatt Ryerson
- 21 Eric Witthuhn, Rylan Pigeon
- 22 Ruth Bickel, Gail Witthuhn
- 25 Chris Torrens, Brooklyn Sannes
- 26 Barb Seidel, Chuck Easley
Jennifer Gross
- 27 Sue Conklin
- 28 Katherine Olson, Grace Schindel
Krista Shaw
- 29 Judy Warner, Janice Flegel
- 31 Greg Puls

Thank You

The Trustees would like to express their gratitude to all of the wonderful people who came out in the snow on November 11th! We had a wonderful crew of about a dozen people who worked with Randy Griswold to put our gardens in order for the winter. We learned a lot about pruning shrubs and perennials to use on our own gardens, too! Thanks to Bruce Enke for the use of his "toys" and to Colleen for the hot coffee!



Tuesday, December 5th

Bethany is providing "Ringers" for the whole day! 9am – 7pm Thank you to all who signed up for a 30 minute shift at the BIG RED KETTLE Inside Bay Park Square!!

Giving Tree 2017

Bethany is again participating in the Salvation Army's Adopt-a-Family for Christmas and helping provide gifts for children from Vida Nueva UMC in Green Bay. We are sponsoring one family of 13 people from Salvation Army along with 15 children and 10 teenagers from Vida Nueva.



Ornaments representing individuals from Salvation Army and Vida Nueva are on the tree. We also have gift bags for the children from Vida Nueva. When you take a bag, you will also receive a list of suggested gift ideas.

Please sign your tag/bag out on the sheets provided to record recipients and donors. Gifts must be purchased & put under the tree (**unwrapped!**) by Sunday, December 17.

Finance Update

The following is the Statement of Income(Loss) for Bethany for the 10 months of October, 2017.

Bethany's followers should be proud of the wonderful progress made this year compared to 2016. Revenue is up \$12,165 over 2016. The year to date loss for 2017 is \$320 compared to a loss of \$8,842 for the same time frame in 2016. Even more exciting, attendance at our worship services are up 5% this year. Our church is on a wonderful new path.

Thank you to all of you who have helped with your financial and spiritual gifts, there is an exciting new year of growth for our church in 2018!

Revenue	\$198,849	\$186,684
Expenses	<u>\$199,169</u>	<u>\$195,526</u>
Net Loss	\$ (320)	\$ (8,842)

Year end contributions need to be post-marked by December 31 to be included on your 2017 giving statement. Thank you for your contributions toward Bethany's ministry.

2017 statements to be mailed in January, 2018.

Miracle Sunday 2017

Dear Supporter of Bethany:

As we approach the end of another year, I am happy to report that as of the end of October, our church's financial position has improved as a result of your dedicated financial support. As of the end of October, our financial statement showed the church with a year to date loss of only **\$2,128** in regards to paying **local** expenses (**not** including Conference Apportionments). At the end of October, 2016 our church was showing a loss of **\$ 10,852!** So folks, we have made some excellent progress as a result of your dedication to Bethany's mission. What is even more exciting is the enthusiasm that is being shared within Bethany's walls and the exciting increase in attendance at our Sunday services and programs.

For many years now, we have celebrated a Miracle Sunday each December. It started out as an appeal to the congregation to help meet our annual Conference Apportionment. Over the past 5 years, due to our church's challenges, we have used the Miracle Sunday offerings to help meet our local expenses only, with no money left to help defray some of our apportionment commitment.

With the wonderful progress we have made this year to meet our local expenses, we are hoping to rally Bethany's followers to not only ensure we do not have a shortfall in regards to the local expenses of the church, but also to be able to pay some to the conference apportionments.

Remember, Bethany is a part of the Wisconsin United Methodist Conference and is connected to its causes and mission. By being a member of a larger organization,

Bethany's mission for God becomes more impactful in the world. Through October, Bethany has paid \$3,729 in conference apportionments. Our yearly conference budget from the conference is \$43,344. That is quite a shortfall! However, our conference has understood the severe challenges we as a congregation has faced and has worked with us to provide a wonderful pastor with an opportunity to grow. All the conference is asking, is that Bethany make its best effort in contributing as much as it can while still meeting its local obligations.



Sunday, December 17 will be **OUR** Miracle Sunday.

Please consider what amount you might be able to contribute to make this special Sunday a success, and place it in an envelope marked **MIRACLE SUNDAY**.

Let's rally together and make this Bethany's most successful Miracle Sunday ever!

Sincerely,
Brad Witthuhn, Finance Chairperson

Cookie Fest

Saturday December 2nd 9am - 2pm



Come & buy your Christmas cookies and candies (containers provided)

Stay for lunch featuring: Chili, Chicken Booyah & Pulled Pork Sandwiches, beverage & dessert

Quarts of soup will be available for sale to take home.

Browse the craft tables for hand-crafted Christmas presents.

Check out Grandma's Attic for gently used treasures.

Cookies and candies make great gifts.

United Methodist Women Potluck Thursday, December 14th at 6:00pm

Everyone is invited for food and fellowship in the Adult Lounge. Bring a dish to share and don't forget your place setting (plate, cup and silverware).

What-So-Ever Circle

January date change from January 1st to January 8th at 1:00pm.

Calling ALL Musicians



If you have ever thought about sharing your musical gift with our congregation, Christmas Eve is a great time! We are having two morning worship services at 8 & 10:30am along with worship services at 4pm & 7pm. Please contact Jen Ciochetto (405-8966) or the church office if you are interested.

Caring Ministries Christmas Visits Dec. 3-16th

Caring Ministries mission is to reach out to church families and the community with prayers, cards, calls or visits during difficult times as well as celebrate happy occasions. During the Christmas season, we visit and deliver approximately 35 plates of cookies to those who need Christmas cheer, our senior citizens of Bethany at home as well as nursing homes and assisted living facilities. This year we are doing visits to our members and friends. Please consider sharing a few minutes of your time to brighten someone's day. We have a wonderful committee and flexible schedules. Call Nancy McGrew (983-0859) if you would like to help.

Sunday School News

Sunday school starts at 9:15 am in the Sanctuary

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM



Join the children as they perform **"The Inn Crowd"** Sunday, December 17th 10:30 am service

Lunch will be served following the Christmas program.

In anticipation of the Christmas program, the Education Committee is looking for volunteers to supply the following food for after service luncheon for approximately 100 people:

100 buns	Chips
Veggie Tray	Pickles
Drinks	Cupcakes
Napkins	Plates
Cups	

Sign-up sheets are in the Lobby. Please contact Zona Akbari at zona.akbari@att.net or 920-662-0971 with questions.

Christmas Program PRACTICE

The children will be practicing for the Christmas program on **Saturday, December 16th at 9:30am**. Please have your child (ren) at this practice. We are looking for parents to help frost and decorate cupcakes for the luncheon.

Christmas Program Helpers

We are looking for parents or church members to volunteer to either help out with the kids with costumes or setting up the scenery! Please contact Elise Puls at elisepuls@hotmail.com or 920-412-6505.

Upcoming Dates

December 17th Christmas Program
December 24th No Sunday school Class
December 31st No Sunday school Class
January 7th Sunday school resumes
January 21st Cherubs sing @ 10:30

Don't forget to like Bethany's Facebook page!

Poinsettias

You may purchase poinsettias in memory or in honor of someone special for Christmas. The cost is \$14.00 each. The poinsettias will remain in the Sanctuary through Christmas Eve worship services and then you may take them home. Orders are due by December 10.

Chantelles Christmas Concert at Bethany Sunday, Dec. 10th 4:00pm



The Chantelles is a local women's music group that sings 3-part harmony. Please join us as they perform our favorite Christmas songs. Admission is a non-perishable food item or cash donation that will go to Kingdom Come Food Pantry in Oconto Falls.

Advent Wreath Candle Lighting



We will be lighting the Advent Wreath each Sunday & Wednesday during Advent as part of our Worship Service. Please sign-up in the Lobby if you (& your family or friends) would like to experience lighting the Advent Candles as we prepare for Christmas.

Worship Service offered at Tender Hearts Assisted Living

Tuesday - December 19th & January 16th
300 Cardinal Lane Green Bay WI 54313
9am in Building 1 and **10am** in Building 2
(Coded entry – wait at door)

Members of our Caring Ministry Team will be leading these Worship Services and Communion will be served. Please join us.

FAQs

Missions Update

Our December Mission Project

Midwest Mission



MMDC provides opportunities for individuals and groups of all walks of life, denominational backgrounds, abilities, and ages to help

provide disaster relief, education and medical supplies to those in need both locally, nationally and internationally.

MMDC provides a "hands on" mission experience. For those receiving the supplies, we are bringing hope that someone somewhere loves them. To give to the Midwest Distribution Center, you may use your December offering envelope and mark the Mission section or in the memo portion of your check, please write either "December Mission or Midwest Distribution Center". Thank you.

AshCares

Bethany UMC has chosen AshCares as one of our on-going ministries to help school-aged children in our Ashwaubenon community.

New Community Shelter

We serve lunch on the second Saturday of the month. Please sign up in the Narthex to help.

Kingdom Come Food Pantry (Oconto Falls)

Non-perishable items only. Please place donated items in the basket provided at the church entry.

Used Glasses & Pop Tops

Containers located in Fellowship Hall

Boy Scout Troop 1563

Aluminum Can collection 1st Sunday Dec. 3rd
Jack Stubb Eagle Scout Ceremony Dec. 17th

Pastor Robb McClintock 494-8801
greenbaypastor@yahoo.com

Sunday Morning Schedule

8:00 Worship Service
9:15 Friends & Food - Fellowship Hall
10:30 Worship Service

Church Office 494-8801

Hours Monday – Thursday 9:30am–2:30pm

Newsletter Items Due by Third Sunday

For Visits (Home or Hospital) or for Prayer

Requests Contact the church office @ 494.8801

Bethany UMC Email

bethanyumcgb@outlook.com

Bethany UMC Website BethanyGreenBay.org

WI United Methodist Conference

wisconsinumc.org

Bethany UMC is in the North East District. We are a part of Circuit #3.

Our Bethany Family

Congratulations:

Aila Wiinamaki was baptized on Nov. 19th.

Blessings have been received from:

- Stephanie Dutkowski gave a Blessing in memory of Betty Gilchrist.
- An anonymous Blessing was received in appreciation for: Marty Martell, Terry Kilgore, Frank Gertz, Sherm Demeuse, Cliff Voigt, and Mike Mason for the many hours spent this summer mowing the church lawn. Randy Griswold for edging our property. Mike Mason & Sherm Demeuse for repair of the mailbox post. Neal Sannes for donating paint striping in the lower level parking lot.

