

# BETHANY

## BETHANY UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

*"Let your light so shine before all the world that they may see your good works and give glory to God."*

January 2012

### For Your Information

Dr. Gerald Hendrickson from Hendrickson Chiropractic is willing to come to our church and talk to us about how to eat, shop, and cook food so as to live healthier and get to a place where our bodies are not dependent upon medicines. If you are interested in having him come in, please let Rev. Mundell know.

### BETHANY'S VISION

*"The purpose of this Church shall be to worship God, to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and to celebrate the sacraments; to realize Christian Fellowship and unity within this Church and the Church Universal; to advance the Kingdom of God; to render loving service to humankind; and to strive for righteousness, justice and peace."*

Bethany United Church of Christ

145 W 24<sup>th</sup> Ave

Oshkosh WI 54902

920/235-1631

[www.BethanyOshkosh.com](http://www.BethanyOshkosh.com)

Bethany's worship service is held on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. Communion is held the first Sunday of every month.

Sunday School and Adult Education is held on Sunday from 9:00 a.m to 9:45 a.m. September through May.

Pastor: Rev. Kevin P. Mundell

Church Secretary: Nadine Shreiner

### Sunday School Update

Young children's class studying Spark curriculum

Youth class: Re:form curriculum

Adult class: Topical



*for love comes*

*from God*



*1 John 4:7*



# BETHANY BEACON

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## Please Keep In Your Prayers

Those dealing with cancer, medical issues or struggling with spiritual, personal or relational issues. Also keep in your prayers the unspoken requests, those who are grieving, and those trying to lead us at every level.

Special medical requests: Pam's mother, sister & cousin; Ann Hansen, Carol Lord, June, Tom, Karla, Mary Jo's son and grandson.

Mike Hert as he is deployed to Afghanistan.

Many unspoken requests.

Prayers for an infant dealing with medical issues.

Those dealing with the aftermath of natural disasters.

God's presence in all the political, economic and civil unrest throughout the world

## Prayer Request Cards

Remember that we have prayer cards in the pews that you can use for any requests that you would like us to pray for in worship.

Fill out the cards before worship and give them to the ushers or to the minister. Rev. Mundell prays for the requests throughout the week.

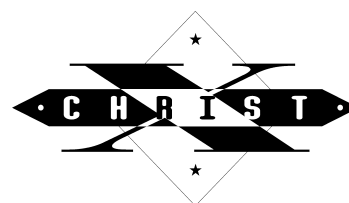
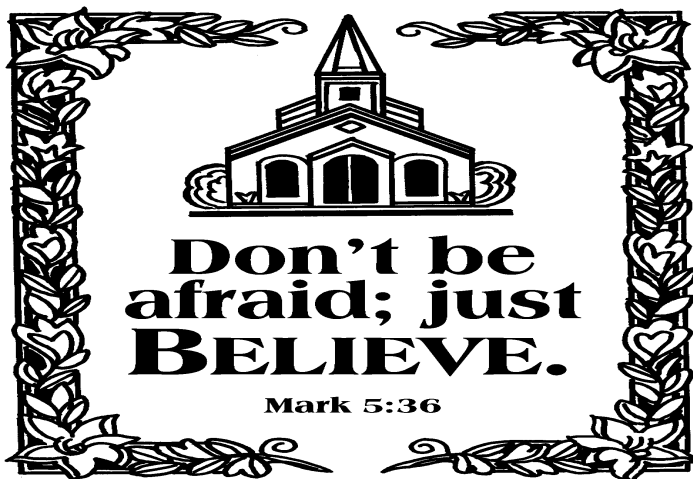


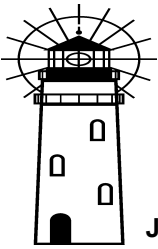
## Stewardship Notes

The apostle Paul says in II Corinthians 9:7 "Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." Paul believes that we give to God through the church not out of obligation, duty, or the law, but because in our heart we are grateful to God and want to give. This is the heart of stewardship, seeing our life, our time, our financial resources as all things God has blessed us with to be given away by us to make others lives better in God's name. Let us together try and give more of who we are this year to God by giving more to all those around us in God's name.

## Communion Help

There is a sign-up by the PA system for anyone who is willing to set up communion on the first Sunday of each month. If you know how and can help that would be great. If you would like to help out just ask any-one on the Board of Worship & Community Life to teach you. Thank you for ministering in this way.





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## Prayers for the Month of January

### **The Holy Name January 1**

Eternal Father, you gave to your incarnate Son the holy name of Jesus to be the sign of our salvation: Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, our Lord Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### **The Epiphany January 6**

O God, by the leading of a star you manifested your only Son to the Peoples of the earth: Lead us, who know you now by faith, to your presence, where we may see your glory face to face; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **First Sunday after the Epiphany: The Baptism of our Lord (Jan 8)**

Father in heaven, who at the baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan proclaimed him your beloved Son and anointed him with the Holy Spirit: Grant that all who are baptized into his Name may keep the covenant they have made, and boldly confess him as Lord and Savior; who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

### **Second Sunday after the Epiphany (Jan. 15)**

Almighty God, whose Son our Savior Jesus Christ is the light of the world: Grant that your people, illumined by your Word and Sacraments, may shine with the radiance of Christ's glory, that he may be known, worshiped, and obeyed to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

### **Third Sunday after the Epiphany (Jan. 22)**

Give us grace, O Lord, to answer readily the call of our Savior Jesus Christ and proclaim to all people the Good News of his salvation, that we and the whole world may perceive the glory of his marvelous works; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

### **Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany (Jan. 29)**

Almighty and everlasting God, you govern all things both in heaven and on earth: Mercifully hear the supplications of your people, and in our time grant us your peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

## Opportunities

We are also looking for anyone who has an idea of a ministry that they would like to see happen here at Bethany. If you have an idea, let Rev. Mundell know and we will see what we can do together to serve God.

**Don't forget that when you bring in aluminum cans we recycle them and use the money to support our covenant with habitat for humanity.**

## Minister's Report for Dec

Meetings: 15

Visitations: 10

Hospital Visits: 2

Baptism: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 0

Vacation/Sick: 6

Youth Time: 0

Confirmation: 1

Blue Christmas: 1

Christmas Eve Worship: 1

50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party: 1

St. Nicholas Celebration: 1

Pizza Sale: 1

## Sign Ups in Foyer

Bulleting Sponsoring

Coffee Hour Sign up

Communion Sign up





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OF CHRIST

## From the Pastors Desk

A new year is upon us, 2012, and if I listen to the media hype, it is supposed to be our last year because the Mayan calendar is coming to an end in December predicting our doomed fate. Now I am not Mayan, I am a Christian and so I don't take much stock in this prediction but do feel for those who do take it very seriously because the idea of the world coming to an end and how we respond to it shows us one of our base human struggles, the struggle over what we can and can not control in life. I see this all the time when I am helping people with marriage issues, people are trying to control their spouse rather than themselves and do not realize what they are doing. Or when I meet people struggling with their children's behavior when in reality they are struggling with their own behavior and trying to control it through controlling their children.

So as we are entering a new year what shall we do with this year? What can we control that would make us, and the world we live in a better place? What could we choose as a New Years resolution for 2012 that would bring praise, honor, and glory to God through how we live our life for this year? Well, how about this; asking God every day to help you grow in compassion and opening yourself to what this may mean in your life. Why compassion? Because compassion is at the heart of the life Jesus lived and as Christians our call is to live our life as Christ

lived his.

So what does it mean to be compassionate? Theologian Douglas John Hall puts it this way in his book, *The Cross of Christ in our Context*, "To feel compassion, deeply and sincerely, is to overcome the hidden barriers we keep between us and another person; it is to suffer with the other. Not just to have a certain fellow feeling for him or her, and certainly not only to look with pity upon another—a pity that in its actualization accentuates one's distance from the other. Rather, it means to be thrust into a solidarity of spirit with the other – to experience, in one's own person, the highest possible degree of identity with the other."

In other words, to be compassionate is to suffer-with another person. It is not feeling sorry for them because of what they are going through or helping them without letting their situation affect you; no these are forms of pity. Compassion is about suffering with, letting another person's life connect with you enough that you suffer along side of them as you care for them. To show compassion is to be in relationship with people where we risk a part of ourselves. It means we will hurt as those we are

sharing our life with hurt.

This is what Christmas and Easter are about, God experiencing humanity through Jesus the son and being changed by Jesus' life, death, and resurrection. It is God living compassion through Jesus and letting our suffering be a part of God. When Jesus was being beaten before he was nailed to the cross that was God being beaten and God experiences the pain and suffering that we were inflicting upon Jesus because of our sin.

Remember when Jesus arrived at the home of his dear friend Lazarus to late and found him dead, he did not resuscitate him immediately but rather he wept, he showed compassion toward his friends who were part of Lazarus' family. Or when Jesus was touched by the woman who was hemorrhaging for years and was healed, he turned and sought her out and told her that her faith healed her rather than saying that his power to heal changed her life. He showed compassion to her by recognizing the pain of isolation she had known and letting her know she was okay.

Let us all make our New Year's resolution a desire to grow in compassion toward one another and watch how God works through this growth in our lives.

Happy New Year

Rev. Dr. Kevin P. Mundell



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## **Child Care Schedule:**

- Jan 8 Laura Bradley
- Jan 16 Carol Wiechman
- Jan 22 Lori Felix
- Jan 29 Kelly Mundell



## **Please feel free to volunteer for Ushering**

\*\* Whomever Ushers: please note there are slips of paper for worship & nursery attendance. Please fill them out and put in offering plate. Thank you ~

## **Upcoming Events**

- Jan. 29<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual meeting
- Feb. 22 Ash Wednesday
- Feb. 29 Soup Supper/Lenten worship
- Mar. 10<sup>th</sup> Pizza Sale



## **Looking for something to do?**

Here is a list of the top ten new years resolutions I found on line the other day. Go back to school; get a better job; get into shape; make a difference; go somewhere; quit smoking; reduce debt and save money; get organized; find someone special; focus on important relationships. If you noticed, not one of the top ten is directly about our spiritual life or God with the exception of make a difference, maybe. So I would challenge you to make a new years resolution focused on growing in faith whether reading the bible regularly, praying through our church directory regularly, participating in worship regularly, volunteering at church regularly, sharing your faith regularly, sharing your financial resources regularly, sharing your time regularly with people who have greater needs than you. Make this year about God in a new and profound way.

## **Thank You!**

Thank you to everyone who helped with the St. Nicholas Celebration. We made cards for church members, practice for our Christmas program, ate chili, and decorated the church. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who helped with Bell Ringing this year. We covered all four days. We especially want to thank Cody and Chayton for filling in on all of the open slots. Thank you.

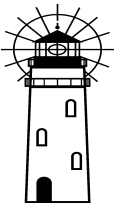
Thank you to everyone who brought in gifts for our Adopt a family this year. The Salvation Army needs have risen significantly and we helped serve God through helping a family in need. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who helped with our 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Party, especially the board of worship, Carol, and Nadine. The party was well attended and appreciated. We especially want to thank those who donated to help cover the cost of the meal. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who sold pizzas, helped make and deliver them. We made about 440 pizzas in the December sale. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the Children's Christmas program, especially Mrs. Cooper for putting it together. Thank you.

Thank you to everyone who participated in our annual Women's Christmas Luncheon and to Sharon and Audrey for putting it together.



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## **Birthdays & Anniversaries**

1<sup>st</sup> Bruce Blechl

2<sup>nd</sup> Ray Simons

3<sup>rd</sup> Jeff Pollack  
Mike Williams

4<sup>th</sup> Nick Whitney

5<sup>th</sup> Kirk Versteegh

6<sup>th</sup> Kathy Pollack  
Betty Pollack

9<sup>th</sup> Lily Pollack  
Nadine Schreiner

11<sup>th</sup> Debby Moushey

Jim Galow

18<sup>th</sup> Mike Pollack

19<sup>th</sup> Dave Zillges

21<sup>st</sup> Dave Pentz

24<sup>th</sup> Jim Larson

Janet Sohrweide

26<sup>th</sup> Charles Caldwell

27<sup>th</sup> Penny Leatherman  
Ryan Pollack

29<sup>th</sup> Beth Pentz

Roger Wiechman

30<sup>th</sup> Don Pockat

31<sup>st</sup> David Volkman

