

THE BRISTOL BANNER

Newsletter of Bristol Lutheran Church



January 2015

“Inspired by the Gospel, we love and serve creation through our Christ-centered community.”



Sunday WORSHIP – 9:00 a.m.

Wednesday WORSHIP– 6:30 p.m.

Attended NURSERY and BRISTOL BUTTERFLIES for Sunday Worship (3 – kindergarten age program)

Sunday School- 10:15 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Rick Reiten, phone 608-622-7910, email pastorrick@bristollutheran.org

Council President: Kathy Thorstad, home phone 608-837-7020

Parish Secretary: Michelle Meier, email secretary@bristollutheran.org



The Bristol Banner January edition is the official monthly publication of
Bristol Lutheran Church. Membership is voluntary. We are located at 6835 HWY N, Sun Prairie, WI 53590-9431.

Upcoming events at Bristol...

Annual Report Deadline...

*Please have any reports turned into Michelle Meier for the Annual Report of the
Congregation by January 9, 2015.*

Annual Meeting Date and Fellowship....

*Please mark your calendars for our Annual Meeting of the Congregation that will be held on
January 25, 2015 immediately following our worship service. Fellowship will be hosted by
the church council. We hope you can join us...*



Financial Statements....



*All monies you wish to have counted on your 2014 giving statements need to be received
(not postmarked) by the church office no later than December 31st. Any monies received
after that date will be applied to your 2015 giving statement.*

2014 Statements will be distributed in early January.

Pastors Message-

This new year offers us a chance to evaluate what happened in 2014, and what we may look forward to in 2015 and beyond.

Last year, I asked council to make a list of hopes and dreams. Regardless of limitations, what is something you hope for out of the mission of this congregation? How do we make an impact on our Bristol community, and the Sun Prairie community? Where are opportunities to expand what this ministry looks like?

After dreaming for a while, we talked about goals, realistic possibilities, and how they may be accomplished. And we realized that maybe our dreams and realities can find a place to intersect.

One of these dreams was for a pastoral intern from one of our seminaries. I know Bristol had an intern 8 years ago, and I still believe that Bristol is a perfect congregation for a young pastor to learn, to teach and be taught by faithful leaders such as yourselves. Bristol is the type of congregation that many first call pastors will end up. However, seminary students serve a year of internship in a large, urban, multi-staff setting, mostly because of the cost.

But I was hopeful! As we started to pursue this dream, I was surprised to receive an email from one seminary offering to pay the monthly stipend, because they liked our idea and believed in Bristol as a promising internship site. This was a major gift, but there were still funds to obtain to cover housing, insurance, and other fees associated with an intern. We applied for grants from foundations, religious corporations, and other sources, but were not accepted.

Which brings us to today. I wanted to ask the congregation if this is a dream that you want to support. While we wouldn't be able to have an intern in place for next fall, there may be a possibility for fall of 2016. We may be offered the gift from the seminary, and there also is an opportunity for you to be part. Maybe you have or know of a rental space that could be gifted for use by an intern. Maybe you are inspired by future church leaders, and can support financially. Maybe you have a passion for teaching young adults, and would volunteer to be on the advisory team. Maybe you have the gift of praying, and can continue to keep this opportunity in conversation with God. Maybe this dream can be a reality.

And know in this new year, is a good time to continue this conversation.

Love and Peace,
Pastor Rick

DISCIPLESHIP - Ministries of the Congregation

PASTOR/PARISH COMMITTEE

The Pastor-Parish Committee is made up of six members. Three are appointed by the Council President and three by the Pastor. The terms are for two years. The committee is to be a support group for the pastor and also a sounding board for the congregation. If anyone has something to share with the committee it will be discussed within the group and hopefully resolved there. What is discussed in the group is confidential.

Members: Barb Fett, Allison Peterson, John Stellflue, Lou Stallman, Arlynn Schwanke and Mary Jo Blumer

LIFE & GROWTH COMMITTEE

Friday, January 16TH, 6pm at Church.

Join for an evening of Chili and Fun.

Enter the Chili Cook off for a chance to gain bragging rights to the best chili, spiciest chili, and most creative/unique chili.

Not a Chili Cook, bring a side to share.

Sign up in the Narthex by Wednesday, January 14.

Questions may be directed to Joy Moore.





Bristol Lutheran Youth



Winter SPARK 2015

What? Winter SPARK is an all-day middle school, adventure with your friends from: *Sacred Hearts, St. Albert the Great Catholic, Sun Prairie United Methodist, Bristol Lutheran, and Good Shepherd Episcopal Church.*

When? Sunday, January 18th beginning at 12PM and ending at 10PM

Where? Drop off - at 12PM at the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

Pick Up - at 10 PM at the Sun Prairie United Methodist Church

We will travel to Knuckleheads in Wisconsin Dells for a few hours to partake in their awesome adventures (Rides, Go Carts, Bowling, Dinner) and then return to United Methodist Church to enjoy popcorn and a movie!

How Much? \$35/youth

Registrations: Due by Monday, January 11 to Pastor Rick.



January 14th – 7:15 PM – Game Night and Youth Service Planning!
Take a break from the regular school nights, and hang out with your Bristol Youth.

Don't know each other? Come out and meet the others.

We will play cards or trivia or human board games.

Plans are still coming together, but it will be fun!

We also will plan a bit for Youth Sunday Service, February 1st.
If you want to read, do Children's Sermon, lead prayers...let Pr. Rick know.



OUTREACH COMMITTEE

The 2015 dates for Bristol Lutheran serving Sunshine Supper have been set. We will be serving on Mondays, March 9th, June 29th, and August 24th. Please mark your calendars for these upcoming dates. We would also like to thank Jan Dorner for doing such a wonderful job as our coordinator!!



STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

"What would Jesus Do?" A challenging question for all people of faith. Think about this question when you consider the call to work in the ministries that God gives to us here at Bristol Lutheran Church and throughout the world. The new calendar year is here and there will be challenges given to us doing God's work and sharing God's love. As faithful stewards we will be inspired with the answers we all have to the question "What would Jesus Do?". Be inspired by what Jesus did do with the disciples and people of his time and will continue to do with us as his disciples today.

Thank you from your stewardship ministry team:
Ray Yoder, Pastor Rick Reiten, and Janice Vollmert.

MEMORIAL COMMITTEE

"WISH LIST" from Bristol Lutheran Church Ministries Updated September 15, 2014

Property/Grounds Committee

1. Conference room chairs at \$150.00?? each

Worship and Music Committee/Altar Guild

1. Speakers for the sanctuary. (to bring the sound system up to the original recommended design) Need two to four speakers, don't have a cost estimate.
 2. Baptismal Font - \$1,500
 3. 2 Laptops: Sanctuary and Office
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BEFRIENDERS

We now have home communion kits for you to take to our homebound members!

We are a congregation – who visits, shares communion, listen to stories, and love each other through our presence together.



For years we have had a thriving ministry called Befrienders, where lay people work with Pastor Rick to visit and bring communion to others we care for in the congregation. This group helps provide pastoral care to the congregation, beyond what the pastor can do alone. As the identity of our congregation changes, we need to strengthen this group with others who are passionate about visiting.

You are a minister of the congregation...can you help?

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COMMITTEE

I hope in all the rush of Christmas it's Joy found you, in the sound of children, a particularly "Joyful Noise" that we are blessed with and to all that participated in our program, sharing your gifts with our congregation brings the Spirit of Christmas alive.

Thank you to the teachers for all the work they have put in, to Michelle for helping us out continually and parents for your help and participation.

Thank you to the congregation for your support, your smiles, your hugs and encouragement. May the coming year send blessings to all of you.

Jean Bauer

ALTAR GUILD

The new flower chart will be located in the narthex starting in December. Please see the directions on the board for more information. Please consider donating your flowers to our floral ministry and put a smile on the face of one of our members!!

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

– meets at 6:30 p.m., 2nd Tuesday of the month

Committee members: Pastor Rick, Jean Bauer, Marilyn Betlach, Bill Blumer (Council Rep.)
Ken Forney (Director of Music Ministry), & Cyndi Voeck (Chair, Secretary)



THANK YOU to Marie Strahl for arranging the two lovely produce baskets for our Thanksgiving altar. They were great reminders of the many blessings that we have received.

Thanks to the following people for purchasing Poinsettia's for our Christmas decorating:

Cyndi Voeck 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, Ward Family 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, Fahrney Family 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, Jon & Marilyn Betlach 1- 5in Red and 1- 5in White, Michelle Meier 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, Ray & Sandy Yoder 6 ½ in. Red, Barb & Bob Fett 6 ½ in. Red, Janice Vollmert 5in. Red, Sheri Witt 6 ½ in. Red, Joy Moore 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, Shemanek Family 1- 5in Red & 1- 5in White, Marie Strahl 6 ½ in. Jingle Bells, and Sandy Junkeris 2-7 ½ in White 2ppp.

New Years Eve – **There will be no Wednesday evening worship on 12/31.**

UNDECORATING – I'm hoping to get some volunteers to help me take the Christmas decorations down on Saturday, 1/10, at 9 a.m. Please give me a call if you're available. If that day doesn't work for you, Thursday the 8th or Friday the 9th are also possibilities. Let me know!

MUSIC JAM SUNDAY – February 8, 2015 **We want YOU!**

We'd like to have as many musicians (both vocal and instrumental) as possible join us on Sunday, February 8th. We're very interested in your involvement and would like to hear of your interest in being a part of this service. Small part, big part, we want YOU! Please let Ken or Cyndi know if you'd like to participate.

Make a JOYFUL noise unto the Lord! SERVE the Lord with GLADNESS! Come before his presence with SINGING!!!
Cyndi Voeck, W & M Chair

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

"In His Steps" written by Charles M Sheldon is a fictional book that shares a message of the challenges a congregation faces as they try to understand what Jesus would do when people reach out for help. The story takes place in the town of Raymond. The First Church of Raymond and Rev. Henry Maxwell have the challenge of what Jesus would do given to them in various ways and they come to understand the importance of Jesus' call to be a disciple. What they do is amazing as disciples of Jesus in the town of Raymond. They grow and they learn about sharing God's love in their church and community. Charles M Sheldon writes this book as a novel and uses his story to teach lessons on being open to knowing what Jesus calls us to do and be as disciples. Check this book out !

Another book the library wants to tell you about is the story of a person who worked hard as a disciple of Jesus. Rufus Burrow Jr wrote this book titled "Martin Luther King Jr for Armchair Theologians". It is a complete story of Martin Luther King Jr and his life and ministry . This book is an easy to read story of a modern day disciple who worked hard with the challenges God gave to him. Stop and check this book out in your library.

Let Us Pray...

Prayers of healing, comfort and support for members: Donna Anderson, Dee & Paul Bruns, and Les Lee.

For family & friends: Paul Tusa, Raymond Parish, Jim Scott (Linda Campbell's and Gary Scott's brother), Connie Matheson (Mike Matheson's wife), Paul Thorpe (son of Polly Colliver), Paul Thorstad (Father of Dan Thorstad), Sara Jessel (Friend of Laurie Gates), Rebecca and Andrew McIntosh (daughter and son in law of Sally Mortensen), Ken Schmelzer (brother of Nancy Scott), Christopher Flynn (Diane Coudray grandson), Mary Lynn Piezker (friend of Jim & Jean Bauer), Nancy Sluder (cousin of Linda Campbell & Gary Scott), Bev Gehrke (Gene & Bev Gehrke's family).

For our homebound: Lorie Nolden, Bernice Sherman, Betty Skrenes, Milt & Ilene Austin, Tom Weigen, Mary Wagner, David Grulke, and Phyllis Reinen.

Prayers of comfort: To the family of Spencer Zuelfdorf (friend of Tammy Weiss) who passed away on December 17, 2014. To the family of Bernice Makepeace (Diane Coudray's Aunt) who passed away on December 4, 2014.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

Gary Scott	Jan	1	Randy Taylor	Jan	19
Alice Bakke	Jan	3	Steve Reinen	Jan	21
Kassius Brown	Jan	4	Bill Gerke	Jan	22
Ross Burrison	Jan	5	Ray Yoder	Jan	25
Shelly Seehafer	Jan	5	Allison Peterson	Jan	26
Joy Moore	Jan	5	Lou Stallman	Jan	29
Deborah Waelti	Jan	13	Les Lee	Jan	29
Brinly Schwanke	Jan	14	David Manthe	Jan	31
Bethany Ledford	Jan	16			
Gabby Schmid	Jan	17			

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

	<u>Years married</u>
Tim & Linda Campbell	01/08/1977...38

WORSHIP ATTENDANCE

11/26/14- 55	11/30/14- 86	12/3/14- 14	12/7/14- 105
12/10/14- 15	12/14/14- 75	12/17/14- 15	12/21/14- 110

Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry hours:

Monday - 10:00am – 2:00pm, **Tuesday** – 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m. (Regular Pantry services are closed the last Tuesday of every month. Instead the Mobile Food Pantry will be held from 5:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.), **Wednesday**- 10:00am – 2:00pm, **Thursday**- 5:00p.m. – 7:00p.m., **Friday**- 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., **Saturday**- 9 a.m. – 12 p.m, **Sunday** – CLOSED

You can drop off items at the pantry during business hours. Cash donations are welcome, as they are used to buy needed supplies, and also to pay the rent and other bills associated with the upkeep of a building. Thank you for helping your neighbors. (Bristol's Food Pantry workday is every other Monday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. (see calendar). You can help whatever time you have available!)

**FOOD PANTRY –
Sunshine Place**
18 Rickel Road, Sun Prairie
825-3875
(PO BOX #611 for mailing)

BRISTOL LUTHERAN CHURCH GROUPS

Chancel Choir is our group of people, High School age and up, that likes to sing. Rehearsal is every Wednesday at 7 p.m. (not in summer).

Men's Breakfast is an informal gathering for men at the Country Cafe and meets on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 8 a.m., September through April.

Prayer Chain is a ministry prayer group that supports and cares for others through prayer. Your Prayer Chain coordinator is Sandy Junkeris.

Quilters make quilts at the church for LWR in the spring & fall during scheduled Tuesdays from 8:30 a.m.-noon. Bring your materials (or just yourself) and enjoy this fellowship. Quilting will begin again in January of 2015.

The diakonia™ Project.

Introduction to the New Testament

Gospel of Matthew

This is a continuation of the information learned from the diakonia™ program which is a 2 year exploration of the bible and a personal faith journey.

The first three books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, were composed by anonymous writers. Each book used the same format: all books start in Galilee, each book keeps the transfiguration in the center with God's affirmation, there is a description of the journey to Jerusalem, and each book ends with the cross. Also, in all three books, Jesus uses the parable to teach his followers. A parable is a common object or action taken from daily life to make one main point; the parable wants the audience to think and then ask questions.

Listed below is a short explanation about the Gospel of Matthew, the second of the four "Good News" books written.

Who was the author? Traditionally, Matthew (also called Levi) who is one of the twelve disciples. Because the writer uses the Book of Mark as his primary source, scholars do not believe that he was one of the twelve followers of Jesus who witnessed the events described. The writer is anonymous. Rather than say "anonymous" when referring to the author, I will continue to identify him as "Matthew".

When was it written? The book of Matthew was written in the 80s CE which was at least a decade after the destruction of Jerusalem when tensions between postwar Jewish leaders and early Christians provoked bitter controversy. It was also written approximately 50 years after the death of Jesus.

Where was it written? Probably, it was written in Antioch, Syria, which was the site of a large Jewish and Jewish-Christian community.

What were the sources of information used to write the Gospel? The Book of Mark, *Quelle* or *Q* (a hypothetical document that many scholars believe contained a collection of Jesus's sayings which was assembled about 50-70 CE), and sources known only to Matthew.

Who was it written for? The book was written for Greek-speaking Jewish Christians and Gentiles who were, at least partly, observant of the Torah.

Most scholars believe that Matthew's Gospel is an expanded edition of Mark. The book of Matthew contains an account of Jesus's birth (chapters 1 and 2), a description of Jesus's appearances after rising from death (chapter 28), and five sections of teaching material. These speeches include the Sermon on the Mount (Chapters 5-7), instructions to the twelve disciples (chapter 10), parables of God's Kingdom (chapter 13), instructions to the church (chapter 18), and warnings of the Final Judgment (chapter 23-25).

In writing a new edition of Jesus's life, Matthew provides his community with a comprehensive survey of Jesus's teaching. Matthew repeatedly quotes or alludes to specific biblical passages in the Hebrew Bible to prove that Jesus of Nazareth is the expected Messiah foretold in Jewish history.

Written a decade or two after the Roman destruction of Jerusalem, Matthew softens Mark's portrait of Jesus. He adds parables that imply a delay in the Second Coming of Jesus (chapters 24 & 25). Matthew's Gospel shifts the ideas about the end of life to necessary church activities during the time between Jesus's resurrection and the reappearance of Jesus.

By framing Mark's account of Jesus's ministry and Passion with narratives of the Savior's birth and resurrection, Matthew emphasizes the supernatural character of Jesus's life which was directed by God. In Matthew, Jesus becomes the Son of God at conception and inherits of all the ancient promises to Israel. According to Matthew, Jesus is the "son" of Abraham, heir to David's throne, successor of Moses, and the embodiment of divine Wisdom. Matthew's Gospel became a guidebook providing instruction and discipline to the Jewish and Jewish-Christian community of faith, and the church's primary source of wise counsel.

Why was Matthew's Gospel placed as the first book in the New Testament? Scholars developed several reasons: 1) it offers more extensive coverage of Jesus's teaching, 2), it is the Gospel most concerned with the nature and function of the church, and 3) it forms a strong link with the Old Testament by starting with Jesus's genealogy and including many references to the Hebrew Bible. I personally like the gentleness of this Gospel with the many teaching stories and the hope that is listed at the end with Jesus's resurrection on Easter morning. I will have life after death.

Information adapted from *The New Testament: A Student's Introduction*, by Stephen L. Harris, 5th edition, McGraw-Hill publishers, 2006.

Submitted by Catherine Pierce

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Thank you - on behalf of everyone at the Spirit of Giving Program - for your support of our program and compassion for the families in need on the Sun Prairie community.

We are excited to provide a small blessing to about 1,200 kids (425 families) to help with Christmas celebrations this year. Each sponsored family will receive a gift for their child(ren) from their wish-list, as well a box of food and a turkey to make a holiday dinner. Thanks to you and thousands of other community members, we've been able to make this happen!

Kathy Schumann and Michele Olsen
Spirit of Giving Program Coordinators

We would like to express our sincere gratitude for the comfort and support provided to our family when our mom passed away. Everyone's prayers helped us through the difficult times and reminded us how blessed we are to be part of the Bristol Lutheran Church family. Your kindness and generosity is a true reflection of how much Anna was loved. By sharing stories and pleasant memories, you gave us the strength to honor and celebrate Anna's life. Thank you and God bless.

The Family of Anna Reinen

Kathy Thorstad for the wonderful job she is doing as our Council President.

Alan Sebranek for his many hours of voluntary work as our Treasurer;

Edith Lorenz & Lou Stallman for doing our offering counting;

Ray Yoder for being our trusty Recording Secretary for Church Council and congregational meetings;

Michelle Meier for being our Financial Secretary;

Jan Dorner and Lorre Paulman who shared their time and treats during the fellowship hour.

Faith, Hope, and Love- The greatest of these is love... 1 Corinthians:13

Thank you to all my relatives and dear friends for the cards and wishes for my 97th birthday. It was a great day! But we are never out of debt are we? As long as we have homeless folks and all the dear children we owe them shelter and food. But by the grace of god....go I.

I wish everyone of you a blessed Christmas.

Anna Gehrke