

THE BRISTOL BANNER

Newsletter of Bristol Lutheran Church



May 2017

“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 – 7 year old)

Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.

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

Council President: Bob Hundt, home phone 608-837-3497

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



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



May 20, 2017 - 2nd Annual Hammer It Home

5k Run and 1.5 Mile Walk and Kids Run!

All proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity – Dane County

Registrations are in the office entry,
along with opportunities to volunteer!



Welcome to our new Parish Secretary – Eleanor Brinsko!

We are excited to have Eleanor and Michelle work together through May, to provide a smooth transition, with the plan for Eleanor to take over all responsibilities starting June 12.

If you see Eleanor in worship, or the office, introduce yourself! Thank you for your support through this process.

From Pastor's Rick's Desk

WIGIAT – This is the bumper sticker acronym that hangs in my office. It is the best pastoral care/life advice slogan for whatever feelings you may be having. About anything. Anxious? WIGIAT. Sad? WIGIAT. Celebratory? WIGIAT. Doubtful? WIGIAT. Expectant? WIGIAT. Confused? WIGIAT. Exuberant? WIGIAT. Angry? WIGIAT.

W.I.G.I.A.T (Where Is God In All This?!?)

Bristol may be asking this question, but in a different way. WTHIGD!!! (What The Heck Is God Doing?) There have been many transitions in the last weeks or last months. Staff changes in the secretary position. Future changes with pastor. Leadership changes in committees. The Creed changed on the screen (Apostle's to Nicene!) The plant sale was canceled (jumping worms?). Even the organ had a slight hiccup. The changes and transition leave us with all sorts of feelings...but we remember WIGIAT.

God is in this. God is with us. God is guiding us. God knows the plans for the future, even when we don't. God loves us. God is here. Those are comforting promises. It is for me and my family as we look at what the next chapter in our life brings. It is comforting for Bristol, as we also look at what God has on the horizon.

Change, newness – is never easy. But as the Easter story reminds us, God brings light from darkness, joy from sadness, comfort from anxiety, hope from doubt, life from death. God is a God of resurrection. That is where we find God at work.

So whatever you go through, at work, at home, at school – with your family or church family – remember, WIGIAT. Because we know God is right there with us.

Peace and Love,
Pastor Rick

Opportunities...



Golf Season Begins!!!

*Mark your calendars, every third Thursday, 9 am at Kestrel Ridge Golf Course (Columbus)
Next chance to golf with Bristol Golfers – May 18th*

*YOGA!!! Breath and Stretch, Stretch and Breathe.
We continue our Yoga practice – every Monday night, from 7 to 7:45 pm.*

Audrey Drake is your instructor for the evening....



Graduates....

It's that time of year again to honor our high school and college graduates. If you would like to honor your graduate, please e-mail or drop a picture off to Michelle in the church office by May 15th to be included in the June Newsletter. You may also give a brief description of where they are going (or are currently attending) school. And what their future plans might be.....

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

Ann Schimpf, Paul Treuer, Marina Lachecki Herman, and Joseph Passineau are people who are professional naturalists who authored a book to share their message of caring for the environment that we live in. This book is written for all people to use but it has a focus of encouraging kids to work on ideas and have fun doing projects that care for the earth.

This book is titled “Teaching Kids to Love the Earth”, and it is “a collection of 186 earth-caring activities designed for use with children of all ages to help them experience and appreciate the earth. This book leads you through the author’s Sense of Wonder Circle: curiosity, exploration, discovery, sharing and passion. Each chapter contains a story, instructions for a main activity, suggestions for related activities and a list of additional resources.” This book was published in 1991 and it’s message is still very important but resources that can be used may have changed some since the book was created. All people need to love the earth and it is important to teach our kids about loving the earth and caring for the earth. Come to the library and check this book out and have fun reading about and doing some of the projects that teach lessons about loving the earth.

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE

STEWARDSHIP OF GOD’S CREATION



Planting gardens is a great way to be a steward of God’s creation. Gardening can be fun and challenging as we think about planting flowers and vegetables each spring. May is the month when many people plant their gardens, watch them carefully to see the seeds grow, and wait with excitement to harvest the vegetables and share the of the flowers as they bloom. God’s beauty surrounds us and fills our spirit as we enjoy all that we have planted.

Share your gardening ideas! We can learn from each other sharing our gardening tips, our gardening techniques, gardening joys, and gardening care as we watch all of our plants grow-even some of the weeds. Remember that in Genesis 1 vs 26 we are told to be caretakers of all of God’s creation and all gardens are included in this call as we nurture and grow products that help us and the world around us we can share some of what we create.

“Pray for a good harvest, but keep on hoeing”

Your stewardship committee members are Peg Hanson, Pastor Rick Reiten, Janice Vollmert

BRISTOL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

The annual Salad Buffet, Bake Sale will be minus the Plant Sale this year. An invasive jumping worm has “wormed” its way into the area. It’s impossible to tell if plants have cocoons on their roots and we do not want to risk spreading this invasive creature. Information on this worm can be found at dnr.wi.gov keyword "jumping worm". Therefore, please



do not bring any plants to church since we will not be holding the plant sale this year. **The Salad Buffet and Bake Sale will be held Saturday, May 6 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.** Signup sheets for donations of your delicious salads, yummy baked goods and smiling faces to volunteer are in the fellowship hall. Also find flyers there to post at area businesses. If you have already posted, please try to get the Plant Sale part crossed off. The yard signs will put out in the fellowship hall Sunday, April 30 to post during the week. A portion of the profits will be donated to the Food Pantry, Bristol’s Emergency Fund and Shelter from the Storm Ministries. Your help is greatly appreciated!

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

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

Committee members: Pastor Rick, Marilyn Betlach,
Ken Forney (Director of Music Ministry), Ron Radunzel (Council Liaison), & Cyndi Voeck (Chair, Secretary)

SEDER MEAL – This year we had an exceptional meal and experience! I want to thank all that were involved in pulling this together, especially Emme Thorpe for taking care of everything food related & set-up, Ken Forney for managing set-up and for picking wine for the meal, and Pastor Rick for all of his great ideas & leadership. I hope to see this become a Maundy Thursday tradition.

GOOD FRIDAY – Stations of the Cross

We tried something new this year. The 10 stations we visited really gave a vivid picture of what our Lord suffered before his death on the cross. They gave us time to ponder this and experience some of it. We left the sanctuary with Jesus burial. We looked forward to his resurrection and our celebration on Easter Sunday.

EASTER – The culmination of our art posters colored during the Wednesday Lenten services are now adorning the sanctuary with the whole story of Jesus' journey to the cross. Thank you to all who used their artistic talents to bring life to these drawings!

I must also thank Peg Hanson and Kristin Ward for pulling us together to offer a GREAT, yummy Easter Brunch!

THANK YOU to the following people that helped me with Easter decorating: Marilyn Betlach, Marsha & Brinly Schwanke, Arlene Skrenes, Emme Thorpe, and Kristin Ward. It was fun working with you all. Brinly was the most enthusiastic of all and a great helper!

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE- After 22+ years on this committee, I'm ready to move on and let new blood bring new ideas to this congregation. There are two positions that must be filled: **CHAIR** and **RECORDING SECRETARY**. Please consider stepping up for one of these positions. I will pass on all minutes and related info and will help you as needed. I plan on continuing my role as decorator-in-chief per the direction of the committee. Please contact me if you are interested in serving. cevoeck@gmail.com or 837-6151. (This decision was made two months ago and is not connected to Pastor Rick's decision to leave.)

PENTECOST FLOWERS – The Day of Pentecost is Sunday, June 4. We will be using red geraniums in 4 ½" pots from Klein's for decorating. After years at the same price, an increase has brought the price up to \$5.00 per plant. There will be an order form in the lower narthex. *Deadline to order is Sunday, 5/21.*

OUTDOOR WORSHIP + BRUNCH, June 18, 9:00 a.m.

Stoneridge Estates Community Park (located on Stonehaven Drive between Bird St. & Bristol St.)
(Check the church answering service for weather-induced changes.)

Worship, complete with a **Pet Blessing** (see following article), followed by a yummy **brunch**! Sounds like a great Lutheran gathering to me!!

The park shelter is completely accessible, with pavement from the parking lot to the shelter to the restrooms. There are outlets for our use, too. Lemonade and water will be provided.

WHAT TO BRING (besides yourself): TABLE SERVICE, LAWN CHAIR (or you may sit at one of the stationary tables), BRUNCH DISH TO PASS (outlets available), BEVERAGE (lemonade & water will be provided)

Hope to see you all there!

PET BLESSING

Calling all cats, dogs, snakes, turtles, elephants, etc. We want to bless your pets. At our June 18 Outdoor Worship we'll have a pet blessing. There will be a relevant reading(s), at which time you can bring your pets up for the blessing. "O Lord, you preserve both man and beast." Psalm 36:6. *(If we must be at the church due to weather issues, the pet blessing will take place outside. Pets will not be allowed in the sanctuary.)*

Make a JOYFUL noise unto the Lord! SERVE the Lord with GLADNESS! Come before his presence with SINGING!!!

Cyndi Voeck, W & M Chair



YOUTH

7:15 PM at Church – May 10

Ice Cream! Thank You Cards for Pie Auction Donations! Planning for next year!

Pretty self-explanatory. See you there!

Let Us Pray...

Prayers of healing, comfort and support for members: *Forrie Scott, Mary Wagner, Debbie Maley, Kobi Maley, David Manthe, Kassi & Charlie Brown and family,*

For family & friends: *Angie Alt (Coworker of Sonia Schwantes), Jean Hodle (Tammy Weiss's mom), Malia Haynes (family of Nancy Schmelzer-Scott) Donna Harrison (friend of Alice Bakke & Candy Skibba), Elaine Rogers (friend of Debbie & Mark Maley), Mary Margaret Kreager (sister of Diane Coudray), Sarah Nissen (Friend of Lindsay and Pastor Rick), Denise Stier (Daughter in Law of Lea Nordness), Carol Fowler and Mary Jane Smith (Friends of Gloria Bartlett), Bernadine Cook (Jim Bauer's sister), Mary Ann Jacobi (sister of Roger Nolden), Chris Briggs (Jim Bauer's sister), Russ Lorenz, Jamie Falk (friend of Ken Forney), Christopher Flynn (Diane Coudray grandson), Mary Lynn Piezker (friend of Jim & Jean Bauer), Bev Gehrke (Gene & Bev Gehrke's family).*

For our homebound: *Arlene Sasser & Del Trevorrow, Bev & Gene Gehrke, Lorie Nolden, Clara Higgins, Betty Skrenes, Milt & Ilene Austin, Mary Wagner, David Grulke, Ruth Wipperfurth, and Phyllis Reinen.*

Prayers of comfort for the family of: *Shirley Thorstad (Dan Thorstad's mother) who passed away on April 8, 2017. Paul Anderson (friend of Art & Lorre Paulman) who passed away on April 18th, 2017.*

Birthdays and Anniversaries!!

It's a brand new month!! - May 2017.

Along with this new month comes some new birthdays and anniversaries.

Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to our members who celebrate the occasion in May!!



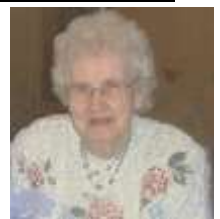
Help Wanted for Bristol Butterflies and Nursery....

Do you enjoy the children of the congregation? Would you like to help the children make a craft, read them a story, play with them during our service? Please contact Sandy Hundt if you would like to become a volunteer! The rotation is usually one time every 4-5 weeks. Let Sandy know if you are interested!!

Dear Friends of Bristol Lutheran Church:

Thank you for the cards and well wishes that I received for my birthday. Each card has a special place in my heart. Blessings.

Betty Skrenes



Thank you to Arlynn Schwanke and Darwin Anderson for purchasing two Crimson King Maple trees and planting them on April 22nd & 23rd.

Thank you for all of your work on Earth Day weekend.

Thank you to the kids and all the people who came out to clean up my outside areas on April 8. It was a blessing to have your help that day. Thanks for a job well done.

Janice Vollmert





Semi Annual Meeting June 4th in the fellowship hall following worship.

Join Thrivent Financial at the Brewers' first-ever Faith Day at Miller Park, presented by Thrivent Member Network-South Wisconsin Region, featuring a free postgame concert by multi-platinum Christian music group MercyMe! Thrivent Members & guests can purchase tickets at special discounted rates: \$16 Terrace Reserved, \$24 Loge Bleachers, \$30 Loge Outfield, \$35 Field Outfield. Limited quantities available for each level. Saturday,



June 17, 2017, 1pm: Tailgate; 3pm: Brewers vs. Padres, Miller Park, 1 Brewers Way, Milwaukee, WI. To purchase tickets, go to <https://groupmatics.events/event/Thriventday>. Tickets include access into the Thrivent tailgate, complete with complimentary food and beverages, with on-site donations made to Milwaukee Habitat for Humanity or Salvation Army Milwaukee County. All game attendees are invited to stay for the free postgame concert by MercyMe.

A list of donated items needed, as well as the bracelets required to enter the tailgate, will be mailed out prior to June 17th. For questions or more information, please contact Lisa Truong at lisa.truong@thrivent.com or (414)433-4875.

Altar Flowers

Thank you for the beautiful altar flowers that have adorned our worship space. Now that summer is here we want to remind everyone that your garden flowers or Farmer's Market flowers are a nice option and seem like even more of a sacrifice than florist flowers. Also a reminder that plants are a welcome addition but they are not placed on the altar. They may be placed on the plant stands.

If you sign up for flowers that you want to order from Prairie Flowers on Main Street, it is your responsibility to order and pay for them directly with them. They will deliver to church on Saturday with no delivery charge. Two people may share the cost of these. And if you choose to donate the flowers please indicate that on the side of the flower chart for that Sunday.

Have a beautiful, colorful, summer.

Simply Giving? Or Simply Giving!

Can you start giving simply? What this means is that your duty and joy to give as a disciple in God's mission can be assured. Our duty is to support the ongoing daily ministry of God's church, and the joy is to see God changes lives through that ministry! Where we put our treasures is where our hearts follow. When we are excited and invested in the mission we are part of we want to give more. Simply Giving helps.

What it is...

1. Consistent Faithful Giving
2. First Fruits Giving – giving from the top of our income instead of what is left over
3. Green – No Envelopes!
4. Growth in Stewardship – You can still put offering in the plate for fun mission opportunities

What it is not...

1. Auto Giving to God
2. A Bill
3. A cheap way for the church to “get” money

It is okay if you do not want to join in Simply Giving too! God provides many ways for us to support mission. Let us continue to pray for how God may be leading our lives of faith through these gifts. If you are interested in signing up please contact Michelle in the church office.