

THE BRISTOL BANNER

Newsletter of Bristol Lutheran Church



January 2019

“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.

Attend NURSERY and SUNDAY SPARKS for Sunday Worship (3-year-old thru 6th grade)

Fellowship – 10:00 a.m.

Pastor Tim Knipfer, phone 608-712-4825, email pastortim@bristollutheran.org

Council President: Ron Radunzel, home phone 608-886-4880

Parish Office Manager: Karen Kane, email secretary@bristollutheran.org

Financial 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.

From the Pastor's Desk

Greetings to all!!

We are heading into the season of Epiphany and the time after Epiphany. A recourse that we use here in the church office called Sunday and Seasons says this about Epiphany, “Today and in the Sundays following we celebrate the in-breaking of God’s light. The readings help us understand that the manifestation of God is for all people everywhere. This is a message of radical inclusively. The magi are drawn from the east to come to pay homage to the Christ child. They who were once far off are now embraced by the one true God, who has sent a Savior into the world. Likewise, Paul reports in Ephesians that he has been given grace to “bring to the Gentiles the news of the boundless riches of Christ” (Eph. 3:8). Just as Isaiah had foretold, nations shall come to God’s light (Isa. 60:3).”

As I think of what it means to be “radically inclusive” and to “bring the Good News of Christ to everyone, I thank God for you all. We are an Affirming community of faith, who welcomes all people to worship and hear the gospels saving message of Jesus Christ forgiveness which frees us to serve our community and each other. I have witnessed this here at Bristol church as we are doing some wonderful ministry.

We are a welcoming church!

We have wonderful people who make this church a place of warmth and welcome to all who come through our doors. I am told over and over by people who have visited that the number one thing they loved about our church was the sincere welcoming they received.

We have reinvision our Sunday School Sparks children and confirmation ministry.

I asked, and many responded to step up and give of their time and love for our children. Our volunteers are dedicated and have answered their call and use their gifts from God to love and serve our children. Thanks be to God!

We continue our 10am Bible study on Wednesdays:

All are welcome to join as we look at the upcoming scripture for Sunday and discuss what they meant then and how they impact our lives now.

Music Ministry:

We have outstanding music hear at Bristol, from piano to organ, from electric guitar to trombone and recorder. Not to leave out our amazing choir. Everyone giving so much each week to share the Gospel in music!

Befrienders Ministry:

This is a group of people who answer Gods call to minister to those who are home bound. This is a beautiful ministry that brings our church to those who are unable to leave their home, a true blessing for those being cared for and for the care givers.

We continue to have a strong commitment to our community through:

- Quilters who spend many hours for those in need.
- Prayer shawl ministry.
- The Sun Prairie food pantry.
- Sunshine supper where we supply and serve those who need a meal.
- Camp Tuesday where we supply a meal for the children.
- The Norwegian bake sale, profits to help those in need outside our church.
- Other ministries blessed by this church.

As you can see many are giving of their time and money to serve God, the church and our community. What a blessing and a gift from God and I thank you all so very much!!

As we continue in these ministries. My hope for the next year is that we can spend time visioning what and who we are as a church moving forward.

We have been gifted a Casavant pipe Organ

We are in the process of reimagining what are worship space will look like as we hope to make our space welcoming inviting for those new to our congregation that may or may not look like us. As we journey through this process, know that no one person or small group of people will push their agenda. We are a community and we do this together. It will take compromise and not everyone will have it the exact way they hope, but we must keep Christ at the center of our discussions, knowing it is Christ who we worship. We do not worship organs or statues or furniture, our trust is always in Christ Jesus, who loves us and gives us gifts thought the Holy Spirit to use our Worship space to love God and serve the people.

New ministries:

How is God calling you? Where do you see a need our church could fill? Let's be in conversation. Here are a few things that have been brought up to me:

Singles ministry.

Young adult ministry

Parenting groups

Youth mission trips

Event ministry

I love the hope these kinds of discussion bring. Instead of looking for reasons we can't do ministry let's look for ways we can!

As we begin this New Year, we celebrate God is with us, the in-breaking of God's light to the world. Let us remember to give honor to our past, while visioning and dreaming for the future. Many amazing things have come out of this church, are you as excited as I am to see what will happen next? With God, all things are possible.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Tim

ANNUAL MEETING

Please join us for our annual meeting on January 27, 2019 following the worship service. Besides discussing the budget, there will be election of council members, and updates from each committee. We appreciate your feedback and insight as we prepare for the coming year!

BUDGET FOR 2019

The congregational members attending our December 9, 2018 budget meeting approved the following budget for 2019. The budget will be presented in its entirety at our annual meeting. And, we'll be providing more financial information to you in the future.

Year to date 10/18 Actual	Year to date 10/18 Budget	2018 Budget	2019 Budget	Comments
114,792	151,831	\$182, 197	\$180,897	\$1,300 less



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 or Karen in the church office.



The Adopt a Highway volunteers will appreciate any new people joining us in 2019. This group cleans up the garbage along the roadside and ditches of Cty N from Happy Valley Rd to Progress Way. It usually takes about 2 hours to complete and we have been doing this on Saturday morning, but we are open to suggestions for other times as well. We always meet at the church and divide into two groups with one starting at Happy Valley Rd going to Progress Way and one group starting at Progress Way to Happy Valley Rd. The County provides garbage bags and safety vests. A new sign up form is on the counter in the entry to the fellowship/office area. Information for the regulations from the county is with sign up form. The first clean up time in 2019 will probably be in either March or April, depending upon the weather situations.

Contact Janice Vollmert with any questions you may have.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

Meets at 10:15 a.m., 1st Sunday of the month

Committee members: Pastor Tim, Marilyn Betlach, Melissa Curry (Council Liaison),
Ken Forney (Director of Music Ministry), Kim Han, Ron Radunzel, Emme Thorpe, & Cyndi Voeck

THANK YOU to Marsha Schwanke, Tara Pray, and Melissa Curry for putting together a WONDERFUL Children's Christmas Program. THE GIFT was such a great story about true giving of oneself. The children did such a great job acting it out. Thank you to all of you! I'd also like to thank Jean & Jim Bauer for the background set that they had created in past years. It was so nice to pull it out again this year.

PIPE ORGAN UPDATE – Due to insurance recommendations, we moved the rest of the pieces of the pipe organ to the church on 12/15. We have cleaned out the room behind the sanctuary for storage, but the pieces must be washed before moving them up there, hence the large pieces in the narthex. The cleaning has begun, but the process is on hold until after the holidays. **THANK YOU** for your patience.

The Worship & Music Committee's next meeting is on Sunday, 1/6/19, at 10:15 a.m.

Make a JOYFUL noise unto the Lord! SERVE the Lord with GLADNESS! Come before his presence with SINGING!!!
In Christ, Cyndi Voeck

HISTORY COMMITTEE

In the past, Committee Chairs often kept papers in their homes pertinent to their oversight, because there was no safe place to keep them at church. The History Committee is finding places to store what is pertinent to save from those items.

On November 15, 9-11:30 a.m. Bob Sherman sorted death certificates, obituaries, and funeral bulletins to be saved in the cemetery drawer. Janice Volmert sorted the Stewardship folder and Arlene Skrenes sorted the Youth folder for the Council Committees drawer. Arlene also has been working on a take-home-project scanning to .jpg, and putting on hard drive all photos of BLC activities. Deborah Waelti and Alice Zweifel labeled and filed in alphabetical order (all in one place) the receipts, warranties, and manuals for various items of church property -- exit lights, portable heater, sound system, stoves, etc. -- behind the heading PROPERTY. We are still looking for receipts, warranties, and manuals for purchases made in recent years -- the electronic keyboard, piano, chairs for the conference room, furniture for pastor's office, and baptismal font are a few things that come to mind. If anyone has knowledge of where those papers are, please let Alice Zweifel know. Also, Alice would welcome anyone from the Property Committee who could look at the collection of manuals and tell us (based on the most recent Inventory) which items have already been discarded.

The next meeting of the History Committee will be Tuesday, January 22, 2019, 9 a.m. to noon. Anyone willing to help with some aspect of this ongoing project is welcome to meet with us in Fellowship Hall and volunteer for a task to do that morning.

Alice Zweifel, BLC Archivist

BRISTOL LUTHERAN CHURCH WOMEN

Congratulations and thank you for serving!

President - Kathy Thorstad

Treasurer - Edith Lorenz

Secretary - Barbara Schnell

LIBRARY SPOTLIGHT

"SIMPLE CHURCH" is a book written to present the simple revolution for "returning to God's process for making disciples." "From the clean design of Apple products to Google's uncluttered homepage, simple ideas

are changing the world. They can change the church as well. An award-winning national best seller, 'Simple Church' guides Christians back to the simple gospel-sharing methods of Jesus. No elaborate multilevel outreach strategies required. Based on case studies of four hundred American churches, authors Thom S Rainer and Eric Geiger prove the process for making disciples is often too complex. Simple churches are four ideas to heart : CLARITY which is the ability of the process to be communicated and understood by the people., MOVEMENT which is the sequential steps in the process that cause people to move to greater areas of commitment., ALIGNMENT which is the arrangement of all ministries and staff around the same simple process., FOCUS which is the commitment to abandon everything that falls outside of the simple ministry process. Each idea is closely examined here, simply showing why it is time to simplify" Each chapter of this book addresses ways for churches to do their ministry's with simple ideas and avoiding complicated ways to do ministry work. You will read about and learn about Simple Church concepts and be given ideas to think about with the discussion questions that complete each chapter. A simple mission statement from the book is "Love God, Love others, Serve the world. This book is written to teach about being disciples who continue to focus on the mission of the church that they are called too. Come to your library and experience what "SIMPLE CHURCH" can tell you as you check it out.

Let Us Pray...

Congratulations: Adam Christopher and Allison Betlach on their marriage on December 7, 2018.

Prayers of Comfort and Support for Members: Kobi Maley, Kimberly Han, Allison Peterson, Bob Sherman, and Lynn Krueger.

For Family & Friends: Patty Wood-Bartle (sister-in-law of Kathy & Dan Thorstad), Larry Malsom (Kathy Thorstad's brother-in-law), Bud Wood (friend of Dan & Kathy Thorstad), Bob Rogers (brother of Debbie Mickelson), Dave Collins (friend of Mary Wagner), Ed Knapton (friend of Candy Skibba), Trisha Hodel (sister of Tammy Weiss) , Richard Gordee (Tammy Weiss' cousin), Mary Ann Jacobi (sister of Roger Nolden), Russ Lorenz, Christopher Flynn (Diane Coudray grandson), Mary Lynn Piezker (friend of Jim & Jean Bauer), Bev Gehrke(daughter in law of Gene & Bev).

For our Homebound: Arlene Sasser & Del Trevorrow, Bev & Gene Gehrke, Lorie Nolden, Mary Wagner, David Grulke, Ruth Wipperfurth, and Phyllis Reinen.

THRIVENT NEWS

Wildfires continue to burn throughout California, causing unprecedented devastation and destruction. Thousands of homes and buildings have been destroyed, multiple deaths have been confirmed, and mandatory evacuations are in place for many communities. The Thrivent Member Network - South Wisconsin Region, 708 Heartland Trail, Suite 2800, Madison, WI 53717 (608-831-3339) is eager to help bring comfort to those in need.

Thrivent will match up to \$250,000 in personal donations made online through Thrivent.com and received by Jan. 31, 2019, or when the funding limit is met, whichever comes first. Thrivent will also pay processing fees, so 100% of your donation goes to help those specific disaster relief organizations helping with the recovery efforts. If you need more information, contact:

Thrivent Member Network-South Wisconsin Region
708 Heartland Trl Ste 2800
Madison, WI 53717
(608) 831-3339
SouthWisconsinTMN@thrivent.com

Birthdays and Anniversaries!!

Along with this new month come some new birthdays and anniversaries. Happy Birthday and Happy Anniversary to our members who celebrate the occasion in January!!



Sunday Assistants for the Month

DATE, TIME	1/6, 9:00a	1/13, 9:00a	1/20, 9:00a	1/27, 9:00a	2/3, 9:00a
ACCOMPANIST	Ken Forney	Jeff Dorner	Ken Forney	Ken Forney	Ken Forney
ACOLYTE	Samantha Schwantes	Braeden Moore	Ben Ward	Lexie Shemanek	Samantha Schwantes
ASSIST MINISTER	Roger Nolden	Cyndi Voeck	Anne Seitz	Emme Thorpe	Roger Nolden
CA	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
COMPUTER OPERATOR	Marty Seitz	Arlene Skrenes	Barbara Schnell	Kathy Thorstad	Marty Seitz
GREETER	Donna & Larry Weisensel	Bonnie Lee	Ann & Arlynn Schwanke	Dan & Kathy Thorstad	Peg Hanson
LECTOR	Wendy Dederich	Jean Moe	Darwin Anderson	Catherine Pierce	Donna Weisensel
NURSERY	Allison Betlach	Debbie Waelti-Keller	Emma Seehafer	Allison Betlach	Debbie Waelti-Keller
BUTTERFLIES	Shelly Seehafer	Sandy Hundt	Marsha Schwanke	Sandy Hundt	Shelly Seehafer
SPARKS LEADER	Tara Pray	Marsha Schwanke	Melissa Curry	Tara Pray	Melissa Curry
SPARKS SUPPORT	Tammy Weiss	Tammy Weiss	Tammy Weiss	Tammy Weiss	Tammy Weiss
USHER	TEAM 5	TEAM 1	TEAM 2	TEAM 3	TEAM 4
FELLOWSHIP	Jan Dorner	Mary Kay Knipfer	Open	Open	Open
ALTAR FLOWERS	Open	Open	Open	Open	Open
ALTAR GUILD	Arlene Skrenes & Lori Taylor	Arlene Skrenes & Lori Taylor	Arlene Skrenes & Lori Taylor	Arlene Skrenes & Lori Taylor	Janice Vollmert & Marie Strahl
COMMUNION BREAD	Alice Bakke	Alice Bakke	Alice Bakke	Alice Bakke	Kathy Thorstad

Head Ushers and teammates: (A.L. = Assistant Lead Usher)
USHERS, PLEASE USE USHER LAPEL PINS found on the back table of the sanctuary.

TEAM #1 - Lead Usher: Bill Gerke (837-8436),
 Bob Sherman, Gary Gehrke
 TEAM #2 - Lead Usher: Gary Scott (837-3702),
 Fred Zweifel, Alice Zweifel
 TEAM #3 - Lead Usher: Roger Nolden (837-9426),
 Dan Thorstad (A.L.), Marty Seitz,
 TEAM #4 - Lead Usher: Darwin Anderson (837-5598),
 Don Hanson, Richard & Barb Schnell
 TEAM #5 - Lead Usher: Lou Stallman (837-2987),
 Arlynn Schwanke, Gary Yager, Bob Hundt

Please note the number of "open" spots for assistants, flowers, and fellowship. Would you be able to fill just one spot? Thanks for considering it!

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 9:00 AM *Sparks Sunday (PreK-6th) 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship	31 9:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Yoga	1 Happy New Year!! 8:30 AM Quilting	2 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship 7:15 PM Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	3	4	5
6 9:00 AM *Sparks Sunday (PreK-6th) 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship	7 7:00 PM Yoga	8 8:30 AM Quilting 6:30 PM All Ministry Night	9 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship 7:15 PM Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	10 8:00 AM Men's Breakfast	11	12
13 9:00 AM *Sparks Sunday (PreK-6th) 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship	14 9:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Yoga	15 8:30 AM Quilting	16 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship 7:15 PM Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	17 9:00 AM Bristol Golf Outing 6:30 PM Exec Committee 7:00 PM Council	18	19
20 9:00 AM *Sparks Sunday (PreK-6th) 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Fellowship	21 7:00 PM Yoga February news articles due!	22 8:30 AM Quilting	23 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship 7:15 PM Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	24	25	26
27 9:00 AM *Sparks Sunday (PreK-6th) 9:00 AM Worship 10:00 AM Annual Meeting 10:00 AM Fellowship	28 9:00 AM Food Pantry 7:00 PM Yoga	29 8:30 AM Quilting	30 10:00 AM Bible Study 6:30 PM Worship 7:15 PM Choir 7:15 PM Confirmation	31	1	2

My Two Cents... there are so many things to do at church or for church that aren't on a calendar. Since I've started, I'm amazed the number of people coming and going to care for our building, count the money, archive our precious historical items, make sure we have people scheduled to take care of our services, help with mailings, and on and on.....

***THANK YOU!** You have really provided me with all the support needed to be the best I can be, too! And a special thank you to Michelle, whose shoes are hard to fill. She has been an amazing Office Manager!*
Karen Kane