



# Bethel Beacon

*Serving Others, Engaging the World,  
Making disciples for Jesus*

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## January 2017

Ever have a jealous lover? No, I'm serious! Have you ever had a boyfriend, girlfriend, spouse or child who wanted to be first in your life...all the time, in all places, under any and all conditions, no matter what? Have you ever had to make a choice between that person and another? It's hard. Can you love more than one person at a time? Can you love one person more than you love another? Can you love less? Where and when does "love" become "like", and when does "like" become "tolerate"? Is there room for jealousy in love, or like, or tolerate?

Exodus 20:5 reminds us that the Lord [y]our God is a jealous God. If God is love (1 John 4:8) and God is jealous, then what? Does God have favorites, love more than, or less than, or even just put up with each of us? Too many questions, perhaps. But, love is at the root of many of our troubles. The question is not so much one of "Do I love you?" What is ultimately more important to us is "Do you love me?" In some strange way, we become a jealous lover. We want to be first, at all times, in all places, in all conditions. Love me and love me best...

That "love me, and love me best" is what is behind the first commandment. God is a jealous lover. He wants exclusive claim on our hearts. God wants our love. It's not that God doesn't want us NOT to love.....you make the list...spouse, child, friend, parent, nation, job, club, Bible, church. God just wants to be first. And that's hard: we fail miserably. We love friends and family. We love our daily devotionals, we love our church. We love all the people and things God gives us, but do we love the One who first loved us?

Martin Luther explained the first commandment in his Small Catechism. He said we should "fear, live and trust God above anything else." He also says, "[God] promises grace and every blessing to all those who keep the commandments. Therefore we are to love and trust him, and gladly do what he commands."

As we begin this new year, and make our resolutions, let's remember our perfect God who loves us above anything else, and is jealous of our idols. Let's remember our God whose perfect love was evidenced in the Cross of Christ. Let us remember the first commandment and be resolved to put God first in our lives. Every grace and blessing will follow.

Happy New Year!

Pr. Barb

*Beloved, thank you for all the cards, well wishes, hugs and kisses during the Christmas season! And thank you from a grateful heart for your generous Christmas gift.*

*In Christ,  
Pr. Barb*

### **HEROS OF THE BIBLE**

Wednesday nights at 6:30. We'll start with Joshua (who fought the battle of Jericho), and for the next several weeks we'll spend time with Deborah, Sampson, David, Elijah, Daniel and Esther.

### **OLLI CLASSES**

Beginning Tuesday, March 7th, Pastor Barb will be teaching a series of classes in Isms and Oligies. She will start with the difference between philosophy and religion, and discuss a few world religions, covering the basic tenants of their faith traditions.

### **MUSIC MINISTRY**

Thank you Stanley Hastings, Sharon Martin and the Bethel Choir for such wonderful musical leadership during Advent and Christmas.

### **FROM HEAVEN ABOVE**

Many thanks to Holly Kissel, Cassie Pietz and Harriet Picard for directing the Children's Christmas play this year! We had 14 children participate. Thanks moms and dads for all your help and support, too. A special thanks to Santa who showed up all the way from the North Pole to help us celebrate an early birthday party for baby Jesus.

Thanks, Pastor Emeritus Larry Koehn for preaching and presiding on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> while Pr. Barb celebrated a late Christmas with her family in Newnan.

Mark your March calendars now!  
Ash Wednesday is March 1, 2017.  
An evening service will be celebrated.

### **ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL**

We'll start again on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> at 9 a.m.. We'll be studying a program developed by Pr. Bill Hyles from Willow Creek Community Church. While there is some underlying theology that is decision based, we'll view a series of vignettes that deal with Evangelism through a Lutheran lens. It will be an eye-opening 4 weeks. Come with an open mind, an expectant heart and a cup of coffee!

## NEWS FROM THE PREZ

Happy New Year! Father Time is hard at work, and time waits for no one. Time just keeps passing by. Well first I want to let you know we haven't dropped the ball. Your council is at work addressing new matters along with following up on previous issues. We appreciate your support and patience. Feel free to approach us with your concerns and ideas.

As this new year begins, I am reminded of my new years resolutions in the past. I've been successful with some, but many I've just let slowly drift away, never to think of again until this time comes around once more. I try to use my new year's resolution to improve something about myself, and believe me there is a lot to improve! So first this requires me to take a long honest look at myself. Yikes! This seems to be a very hard thing to do. But I also think this is a healthy thing to do. Through prayer and God's word, I believe it is possible to change anything. So I think in my life I'm going to be more obedient to God. I feel many times He nudges me but I let my selfishness take over instead. Yep, it's time for me to stop relying on my own understanding. Here's where I truly need your prayers.

My prayer for you is that God will bless you with health, surround you with people who love you and that you will never walk alone. Happy new year to each and everyone, whether here or far away you are loved and always in my prayers.

Grace and Peace to you,  
Harriet, Council President

James 1:23-24

"For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, and immediately forgets what kind of man he was."

## NEWS FROM PROPERTY

Hello all my Christian friends. I am your new property council member and wish to keep our Church in good working order. With your help we can do this.

Sincerely  
Dot Lichtenberg

## OUTREACH

Happy New Year!

I am honored to be the new Outreach/Evangelical council person this year. A little bit about me; my name is Cassie Pietz, I love God, my family and my church! I have a wonderful, hard working husband Brian and three fantastic kids Nate, Brice and Logan! My hopes for 2017 are to continue the wonderful things Ursula Cole accomplished in 2016, spreading the good news of God's grace!

God fill me with your Spirit, that I might reflect the light of your love. In Jesus' name. Amen.

God's peace, Cassie.

## WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

If your Church group has an announcement you would like to have published in the bulletin on Sundays, please email it to our secretary at [bethelltheran@gmail.com](mailto:bethelltheran@gmail.com). We need to have your information on the Wednesday before you'd like it printed.

- The Worship Committee

## WORSHIP NEWS

### WE ARE CELEBRATING THE TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The parties have gone on, the gifts have been wrapped and shared, the Christmas cards have been sent, and the decorations have been enjoyed. The Christmas holidays have concluded with the day after Christmas sales, but we are now celebrating the Christmas season during the twelve days of Christmas.



As we celebrated our Lord's birth on Christmas Eve, the Christ candle was lit. **The focus of our worship will now be on Christ's birth and the beginning of his life as we sing the beautiful carols of Christmas. The Christmas season ends on January 5 and the season of Epiphany begins on January 6.**

Christmas decorations will be taken down on January 7 at 10:00 a.m. Please find time to help with this project. As we all know, the more hands we have, the less every individual will have to do and things will go much quicker.



There are just too many to name individually so we say thank you to those who participated in our Advent and Christmas seasons. They include those who provided soup and sandwiches for our Advent meals, for attending and participating in our Advent worship on Wednesday evenings, and to all who participated in our worship and music program. We also thank those who provided the poinsettias to beautify our sanctuary even more. Thanks also goes to Pastor Larry Koehn who will lead our worship service on January 1 while Pastor Gibson is celebrating Christmas with her family.

Please keep our worship life at Bethel in your prayers as we begin a new year. Also, take time to consider how you can be involved in the congregational life at Bethel as we all worship together in service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

We wish each of you a blessed and happy new year as we begin 2017. The first meeting of the worship committee of the new year will be in January. Norm Venden will again be the council representative for the coming year.

*The Worship Committee*

## **WORSHIPING IN JANUARY**

**January 1 – First Sunday after Christmas**

**January 8 – The Baptism of Our Lord**

**January 15 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 22 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 29 – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Epiphany**

THANKS FROM YOUR STAFF

Bethel family, On behalf of Stanley, Lisa, and myself we wanted to say thanks for the generous Christmas gift!  
- Cecilia Myhres

ORGAN CONCERT



**JAN 7 @ 7PM**  
**CHASE CASTLE,**  
**ORGANIST**

Chase Castle is an organist and collaborative musician from Cleveland, Ohio. He currently studies with Nicole Keller at Baldwin Wallace University Conservatory of Music in Berea, Ohio, with a double major in organ performance and music history and literature. Castle teaches over thirty piano and organ students weekly in his private lesson studio, and serves as Director of Music at Church of the Epiphany in Euclid, Ohio. He has played some of the finest instruments on the east coast.

ORGAN RECITAL  
FEATURING:

—  
J.S. BACH

—  
DIETRICH  
BUXTEHUDE

—  
CESAR FRANCK

—  
GODWIN SADOH

**BETHEL  
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FENNISGARD CONCERT

Mark your calendars now for a night of food and music! January 29th, we'll be hosting the Fennisgard family who will celebrate our Lord through the gift of contemporary and traditional hymns. We'll be having a potluck dinner that night. A love offering will be received.

BLC WOMEN

The BLCW Quarterly Business Meeting is set for January 5 at 7 p.m.

Our regular Tuesday bible study/fellowship will be the 17<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m.



Sock and Mitten Tree

Beloved of God – What a blessing you continue to be. Because of your generosity, the Gulf Coast Women's Center for Nonviolence received the following:

11 hats \* 35 pairs of mittens/gloves \* 43 pairs of socks \* 3 sets of booties \*

2 hat/glove sets \* 10 hat/scarf sets

You were blessed to be a blessing!

LOAVES & FISHES DINNER

The annual supporter's appreciation dinner will be held on Jan 14 @ 4:00.

They are asking that you RSVP by Jan 7.

There is a flier posted in the narthex with more details.

**MEET OUR NEW CHURCH COUNCIL FOR 2017**

**Harriett Picard – President**

**Holly Kissel – Vice President and Parish Education**

**Dot Lichtenberg - Property**

**Cassie Pietz – Outreach**

**Norm Venden – Worship**

**Marie Bartels – Council Secretary**

**Kerry Bartels – Finance**

**Mike Erickson - Stewardship**

**Birthdays**  
 07 Jessie Stever  
 07 Dathan Ladner  
 10 Holly Kissel  
 10 Greg Pietz  
 10 Kristin Schwartz  
 23 Sue French  
 29 Abbey Pope  
 30 Harley Wilson

## JANUARY BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



**Baptismal Birthdays**  
 Albert Stever  
 Suzanne Frost  
 Michael Monto  
 Goldie Flaming  
 Logan Pietz  
 Brent Pietz

## JANUARY WEEKLY HELPERS

**The 2017 Flower Chart is up in the narthex. Please sign up for flowers.**

You may sign up on the flower chart posted in the Narthex. Your donation will be included in the Sunday bulletin and/or here in the Beacon. After the morning worship, you may take home the flowers you have donated or, if you prefer, the blooms can be delivered to shut-ins, hospitals, or other facilities, bringing beauty and community to those who cannot be physically present in church. Call Cecilia at the office for more details, 388-1226.

**You'll see we are always in need of volunteers for weekly services.**

**Sign-up sheets are posted in the Narthex.**

<i>Date</i>	<i>Flowers provided by</i>	<i>In Honor/ memory of</i>
1/1	Pr. Larry & Sarah Koehn	
1/8	Carol Cheatham	
1/15	Robert Boston	
1/22		
1/29	Ruth Myhres	In memory of Clyde Myhres

**Council Person of the Month**

Holly Kissel

**Altar Care**

TBA

**January Yard Maintenance**

Kerry Bartels  
 Robert Boston  
 Norm Venden  
 Sam Reyer

<i>Date</i>	<i>Communion Assistants</i>	<i>Lectors</i>	<i>Ushers</i>	<i>Acolytes</i>	<i>Crucifers</i>	<i>Tellers</i>	<i>Refreshments</i>	<i>Hymn Board</i>
1/1	Holly Kissel	Sarah Koehn	Carol Cheatham Glenda Rogers	Antonio Hernandez	Nathan Pietz			Lisa Lewis
1/8	Kerry Bartels	Wes Cole	Ken Boraas Wes Cole	Oliviah Adams	Zach Scott			Norm Venden
1/15	Robert Boston	Paula Wilson	Jessie Stever Paula Wilson	Selena Suaste	Nicolas Suaste			Robert Boston
1/22	Dorothy Fox	Ruth Myhres	Sam Reyer Mike Erickson	Larry Aldrich	Antonio Hernandez			Lisa Lewis
1/29	Dot Lichtenberg	Norm Venden	Dorothy Fox Lisa Lewis	Zach Scott	Larry Aldrich			Sharon Martin

