



# The Eagle

**December  
2016**

**THE PURPOSE  
STATEMENT  
OF THIS  
CHURCH:**

**Loving,  
living, and  
serving  
faithfully –  
uniting God  
and our  
neighbors.**



## Faith in Chilton

by Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

I sense snow is just around the corner. The temptation with cold temperatures and several inches of snow on the ground is to stay indoors and go out only when necessary. Something else is just around the corner but this doesn't make us want to stay indoors by ourselves. This event calls us to leave the isolation of our homes and gather as a community in the celebration of Advent.

The season of Advent marks the beginning of a new church year. Advent is a time of preparation as we await the coming of the Christ child.

Outside the temperatures drop and the snow falls. Inside the church we hear the stories of Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth, and Zechariah. Inside the church we sing hymns of preparation and celebration.

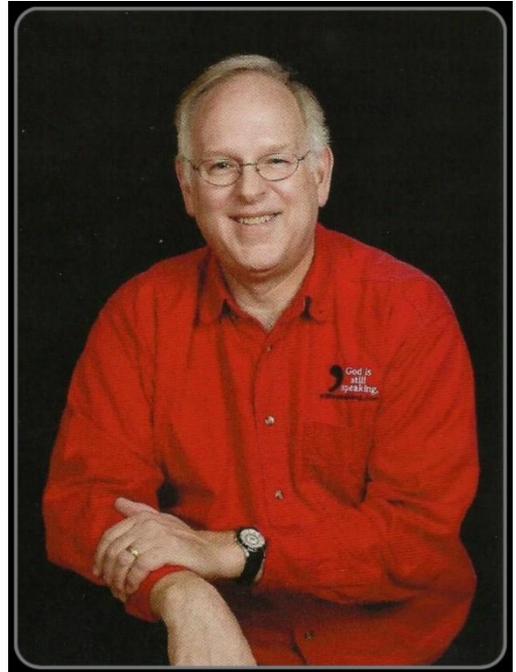
Outside the church we are told to consume, purchase and hand over the credit card. Inside the church we are told of the coming of one who will bring the presence of God in a way we have never imagined, who will love us beyond our ability to imagine.

Outside the church we push and shove and frantically try to get to the best sales. Inside the church we wait while messengers prepare the way of the Lord so that we may receive the greatest gift of all.

Outside the church we look for the best product at the lowest cost. Inside the church we celebrate the coming of the ultimate gift of love embodied in a tiny infant born in a small town to a poor couple.

Outside the church we redeem coupons for trinkets. Inside the church our loving Creator redeems our lives.

As the temperatures drop and the snow banks climb higher, where would you rather be?



## NOTES FROM THE MUSIC CORNER . . .

By Elaine Hessel

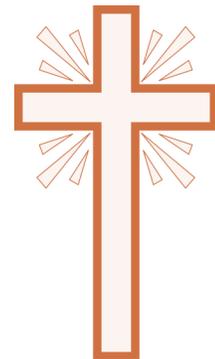
November has been a very active month for the hand bell choir. As this is being written, 5 Ebenezer Brass ringers will travel to Mall of America to participate in the Red Kettle opening on November 19. They will be among 600-700 ringers from around the world who are attempting to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the most ringers. The last record was 530 in 2013 set in Japan. Janel Klika, Dale Klika, Claudia Brown, Stephanie Adamietz and Karen Cmejla have diligently worked to memorize their assigned to 2 bell (Karen has 4 bells) parts. We're hoping to be able to replay the event that takes place in the Rotunda at the Mall of America. A smaller group (4) ringers plan on ringing for the Salvation Army Red Kettle in front of Chilton Walmart 11:00 AM – 1:00 PM on November 25 (Black Friday), weather permitting. Tom Reinl Accounting will be matching contributions from all Chilton Red Kettles for that day.

Ebenezer Brass and the Junior Ringers have been faithfully preparing music for their annual concert to be held December 16 at 4 PM. The theme is "Ringing-Living in Harmony". Please plan on attending this special Christmas setting, bring your friends and neighbors! There will be a free will offering and a light lunch and fellowship to follow the program.

We look forward to involving some vocal presentations and other special music during the Christmas season. Several young people will share their musical talent during the Sunday School program. Please notify Elaine if you have any special music you would like to offer for the Christmas season

Thanks to Michael Bratz for playing the organ on November 6. We look forward to having him return during Advent / Christmas.

Has Cinderella lost her shoes?? There is a pair of white shoes with small heels left on the bench under the coat rack in the choir room. If Cinderella (or whoever they belong to) does not claim them soon they'll go to Shepherd's Attic or the rummage sale.



## Christian Education (Bible Studies)

What a wonderful time we are having in class. I am amazed at the end of each class when I reflect about what we have discussed and learned from each other.

We are talking about the violence in the Bible. We began with Genesis and will work our way through the Bible. We are discovering through myth and storytelling how our world came into being and how violence has entered our lives and what God does to try to restore the world to its original state of peace.

An important part of the class are the questions and stories shared each week. We discover that we live with many of the same struggles as the Hebrews and seek to understand God's will in our complex world. The questions are great. Some are insightful. Some are existential. Some are shared by everyone and some are personal. Each class is exciting.

If you would like to join us we meet in the lounge every Tuesday morning from 10:00 - 11:00 am.

## Confirmation

The first year of Confirmation is filled with learning about the most important characters, stories, and lessons from the Old Testament. We began our studies three months ago and we are still in Genesis.

Genesis is home to many characters who are foundational to understanding the Bible that we spend a great amount of time listening to their stories, learning how to read their stories, and understanding how interpretations of those stories have influenced the lives of people for centuries.

The rest of this school year we will be living with the Old Testament preparing to move into the New Testament next year.

## Thank You

I thank you for your thoughts and prayers for myself and Pastor Sue these past few weeks as we struggled with her mother's sudden failing health and then equally sudden death.

Both of us have been living in a bit of a fog the past couple of weeks not exactly sure of what day it was and struggling to put together a plan for each day. In short we have been dealing with grief and grief never lets you have an easy day.

Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

Bless you for your support.

*Pastors Mike and Sue*

## *Reflecting Upon the Presidential Election*

The country has chosen Donald Trump to be the next President. What are we called to do for our new leader?

### **1. Pray for His Salvation and Safety (1 Timothy 2:2-4)**

Christians are called to pray for every person in authority, even if they don't like the person. Actually, it's not about who the newly elected leader is. It's about God's will being done on earth. Christians are called to pray for the leader's salvation and safety. Pray for President-elect Trump to be truly saved and grow deep in his relationship with God in Christ.

### **2. Pray for Godly Counsel to Surround Him (Psalm 1:1-2, 37:30-31)**

Again, whoever the president is, every Christian should pray that godly counsel will be what will surround him. This is to ensure that he won't be listening to wrong counsel, and be able to make wise decisions that would please God and secure the nation.

### **3. Pray That He Would Establish His Presidency on Righteousness, Justice, and Truth (Psalm 89:14)**

The Bible tells us that righteousness and justice are the foundation of God's throne, and it would be best for our human leaders to follow suit. Pray for the President-elect to work for righteousness, justice and truth. Ask God to help Trump rule in godliness.

### **4. Don't Commit Sin (Romans 13:14; James 4:7)**

Regardless of our support for or against President-elect Trump, we as Christians should be mindful of our selves. It's because we could sin if we aren't.

Those against the President-elect might make the wrong move by going against authority, even if he doesn't do what is against God. This is called rebellion.

Those who support the President-elect Trump without godly wisdom might end up closing their eyes to the wrong things that he could do. I'm not saying President-elect Trump is good or wicked. What I'm saying is that we should be careful not to idolize him.

### **5. Submit to God's Authority (Matthew 22:37; Acts 4:19, 5:29)**

God is higher than any other human authority set in place, and thus as Christians our first priority here is to submit to God first, then to human authority. The Bible tells us to submit to human authority. However, when the human leader commands the people to do what is contrary to what God wants, then the Christian must submit to God first. It's always God first, then human authority next.

## MISSION EDUCATION NEWS

The Mission Committee is hard at work getting ready for the holiday season. Our 6th annual Cookie Walk will be on December 3 from 9 to 1 in the Fellowship Hall. Committee members will be calling to remind everyone about the sale and to get a commitment to bring either cookies or candy. Drop off will be on Thursday December 1st from 5 to 7 or any time that week during office hours. Everyone loves this event but our success depends on what we have to sell! Please use your baking skills to help those less fortunate.

Our Chick Project is back for the second year. Help is needed in the Caribbean more than ever due to Hurricane Matthew and the devastation that it left behind. FOOD FOR THE POOR works with the people in this area, helping them to help themselves. One of the best solutions to poverty is to provide self-sustaining solutions. The gift of baby chicks provides a family with not only a sustainable protein source from the eggs but also supplemental income from extra eggs. Last year we bought about 250 chicks and our goal this year is to surpass that by 100! Please count your blessings and give generously!

We will again be taking a collection for the Eastshore Humane Society in Chilton. Items needed are: Purina Complete Dog Chow, Purina Healthy Weight Cat Food, Friskies Pate canned Cat Food, Bleach, Cat Toys, Softscrub liquid hand soap, Forever Stamps for sending out educational info and brochures and lastly cash which is needed for operating expenses and improvement projects. All of these creatures need our help while they are waiting for their forever home. Please help our furry friends!

And when you are getting ready for the holidays and realize that you have too much stuff, don't forget about Ebenezer. We are planning a Rummage Sale for April 2017 but need your items. Our rummage room is empty!! Please drop off items during office hours or when you come to worship on Sunday. No TVs or electronics please. Tidy up your house while you help us to help others!

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### Thank You All

*Do not neglect to do good and to share with those in need, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God.*

Hebrews 13:16

The food drive and coat collection recently held at Ebenezer was a huge success and a big thank you goes out to everyone who participated. With your help, several boxes of coats were donated to help kids stay warm this winter, and just under 500# of food was delivered to St. Joseph's Food Pantry in Menasha. Special thanks to Jim Gleason and the Irish Brotherhood, who organized this drive. They are hoping to do it again next year and include other area churches, as well.

## Christmas Activities

*Sunday School Program* – Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> during the regular worship time. The youth will bring the story of Christmas, with its message of love, to life for us. Please come and witness the message of the birth of Jesus.

*Bell Concert* – The annual Bell Concert will be Sunday, the 18<sup>th</sup> from 4:00 – 6:00pm. Our bell ringers will treat you to the sounds of Christmas and the message of Christ's love for all through the beauty of music. Please come for a thrilling musical experience.

Be sure to help yourself to a copy of the November/December devotional guide, "The Upper Room" available in the narthex.

### Photographers and Writers Needed!

If you wish to write an article for the newsletter or have any photos you have taken of church related events/people that you are willing to share, please send them to Heather in the office by email (ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com). We want to hear from you!

### Happy Birthday

Mark Rusch	01
Beverly Baltz	01
Glen Pingel	02
Tyler Giebel	03
Chelsa Scheider	03
Kurt Wollersheim	03
Rita Pingel	05
Kristi Schnell	06
Charles Parsons	09
Chris Marx	14
Kelly Wollersheim	15
Jeanne Keuler	15
Sandra Pagel	19
Janet Andrews	21
Bob Marx	21
Norman Pautz	21
Sandy Marx	23
Tricia Roehrig	25
Sheila Ott	26
Dean Papendieck	31

*May God bless your years and may you  
continue to bless Ebenezer!*

### Council Minutes: November 20, 2016

Meeting called to order at 11:00 a.m.. Members present: Karen Cmejla, Jamie Plate, Dale Hintz, Kelly Kress, Fred Kubichka, and Pastor Mike. Kelly Brown and Stephanie Ademietz were absent. Kelly Kress made a motion to approve October's minutes and today's agenda. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried.

#### Finances Report:

Our October revenue is \$12,284.

Our October expenditures are \$7,609.

Our general fund balance as of October 31st, 2016 is \$76,526.

Our current balance is \$265,087.

Jamie Plate made a motion to accept the financial reports and October's bills. Fred Kubichka seconded. Motion carried.

#### Minister's Report:

Confirmation classes and Bible Study classes are going well.

#### Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Music**-The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on December 18, 2016—during service. The Handbell concert will also be held on 12/18/16 at 4 p.m with a luncheon to follow.
- **Evangelism**-Working on a comprehensive plan, for next year, to discuss at annual meeting.
- **Mission**-The annual Ebenezer Christmas Housewalk will be held on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Shirley Lisowe gave her resignation regarding the organization of the annual Ebenezer Christmas Housewalk. Kelly Kress made a motion to accept Shirley Lisowe's resignation effective December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2016. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried. If you are interested in taking over for Shirley, please let any of our council members know.
- **Property**-A new boiler pump was installed by Ken Lisowe—Thank you Ken! No new updates regarding the house next door. Further investigation is being done regarding costs, permits, etc--for discussion at the annual meeting.
- **Stewardship**-No new news.

#### Old news

Quorum of 35% and definition of "member in good standing" was discussed. The council agreed on recommending to lower our quorum to 30%. This will be discussed at our annual meeting on January 22, 2017--the quorum of 35% will still be in effect for our annual meeting. A long discussion was also had regarding what a "member in standing" is to be defined as and will be discussed at our December meeting.

A general IT Quote has been obtained from DRS Sound, Inc out of Kiel, for an estimated \$10,000. We have a donation, from June Gasch's memorial, for the improvement of our sound system as well as 2 grants. We can also apply for a 3<sup>rd</sup> grant if we utilize our 2 current grants. Our current sound system is about 10 years old. Fred Kubichka made a motion to accept DRS Sound Inc's quote for the sound system update and the hearing loop installation. Jamie Plate seconded. Motion carried.

\*\*We are looking for interested members to join the Church Council next year--if you are interested, please see any of our council members.

\*\*Diane Sattler has retired from decorating the church. We are looking for volunteers to take over the decorating.

Holly Vanakkeren, president of board of directors, stopped in to discuss Happy Hour and their contract. Happy Hour is a state certified, "parent-run", nursery school for ages 3-4 year olds. Happy Hour has been around for about 40 years and has been here at Ebenezer for about 10 years. Happy Hour is financed through tuition and fundraising only. Happy Hour is held on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays—from 8:00 to 10:15. The contract was discussed and they are only holding 1 session 3 days a week this year—compared to the 2 sessions, 3 days a week, they held last year. Jamie Plate made a motion to keep Happy Hour's contract at \$225/month rent for the 2016-2017 school year—with the contract ending May 25, 2017 and the new one will be discussed at our meeting in July/August 2017. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried.

The Irish Brotherhood's community food and coat drive was a huge success!!

### **New Business:**

A special session was held after church on November 13<sup>th</sup> to sign a new contract with Gordon Fleisch—for a new copier. There have been problems with service and billing with our old copy machine vendor. The price increase will be an average of \$3/month. Kelly Brown made a motion to sign a new contract with Gordon Fleisch. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried.

Ebenezer has been given a generous donation from Dwayne Kandler's estate. Once the estate is settled, Ebenezer will be entitled to 40%.

Pastor Mike suggested sending out Community postcards to all Chilton residents inviting them to services at Ebenezer and to announce that we now have a settled minister. The council agreed to discuss further at our budget meeting that will be held on November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Pastor Mike also suggested sending Christmas cards to our members. The council agreed.

Budget meeting date was set for November 29<sup>th</sup>.

Due to there being 5 Sundays' this upcoming January, the Annual meeting will be held on January 22, 2017. This will allow enough time for Reinl's statement, bills, etc.

\*\*The next council meeting will be Sunday, December 18th, after church.

Kelly Kress made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Kubichka seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 12:47 p.m.

Council Secretary,

Jamie Plate

# December 2016

# Ebenezer United Church of Christ

Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 House Walk Cookie Walk
4 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	5	6 Bible Study 10 AM Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM	7 Confirmation 6-7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM SA Toys for Tots	8 Men's Brkfst @ 7 AM Angels 8:30 AM SA Toys for Tots	9 SA Toys for Tots	10 SA Toys for Tots
11 Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	12	13 Bible Study 10 AM	14 Confirmation 6-7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	15 Women's Guild Mtg @ 7 AM Angels 1 PM	16	17
18 Evangelism Cmt mtg 8:30AM Sun School Xmas Program Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM Council Mtg after service Hand bell Concert 4 PM	19 Century Ridge Worship 10 am	20 Girl Scouts 6-7:30 PM <b>EAGLE ARTICLES DUE</b>	21 Confirmation 6-7:30 PM Hand bells 6:30 PM	22	23	24 CHRISTMAS EVE Service 7 PM & 11 PM
25 CHRISTMAS DAY Worship 9:30 AM Spanish Ministry 2 PM	26 <b>OFFICE CLOSED</b>	27	28 Hand bells 6:30 PM	29	30	31 NEW YEAR'S EVE

44 Washington St.  
Chilton, WI 53014  
920-849-4331

[www.ebenezerchilton.org](http://www.ebenezerchilton.org)

[ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com)

(office)

[pastormike79@hotmail.com](mailto:pastormike79@hotmail.com)

(pastor)

 Ebenezer UCC Chilton

**Office Hours:**

Mon - Thurs 11AM-4 PM

## Readers

Breanna Cook (Jim & Penni Gleason)	4
None	11
None	18
None	25

## Newsletter Articles due to the office by email on the third Tuesday of the month.

Weekly bulletin announcements are due in the office on Tuesday mornings.

## Ushers

Church Council	4
Sunday School	11
Vern & Edith Knoespel, Kristi & Ryan Schnell	18
Don & Diane Sattler, Kimberly Pringel, Don Pingel	25