

The Eagle



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

December 2017

⁸And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. ⁹And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. ¹⁰And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. ¹¹For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord. ¹²And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. ¹³And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying, ¹⁴Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.” (Luke 2:8-14, KJV)



I remember those words most vividly, not from any reading in church or personal study, but from the “Charlie Brown Christmas Special.” Linus stands on a stage with a spotlight shining on him, holding his trusty blanket, music playing softly in the background. When I hear these words, I get goose bumps because of the powerful memories of childhood: snow, presents, family all around. Even today, many years after childhood, I look forward to seeing Linus, Snoopy, Charlie Brown and his sad-sack tree. Eventually the tree is transformed and so is the relationship between Charlie Brown and the rest of the gang. Charles Schultz was a good storyteller, comic strip writer, and a good theologian.

Fast-forward thirty years in the life of the baby Jesus. *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord’s favor.” (Luke 4:18-19)*

These are Jesus’ words about himself and the reason he came into the world. He spoke these words at the beginning of his public ministry. He did not come to us to remain a baby in a manger. He came to: bring good news, teach, heal, and liberate people. He knew his ministry would change the world. Jesus’ relationship with the world would transform the lives of each person who chose to follow him. His words and deeds would teach, heal, and free people.

Charles Schultz celebrated the hope found in the birth of Jesus and showed us the change that is possible when Jesus ministers to our hearts. Jesus can transform even the most difficult relationships. Yes, even Charlie Brown and Lucy could sing together, “Hark the Herald Angels.”

Today, I still get goose bumps when I hear the story of the shepherds in the field. I also get goose bumps when I hear Jesus’ words in the synagogue. I find the meaning of Christmas in both stories.

Merry Christmas.

Pastor Mike

Sunday School Corner ...



The annual kids' Christmas program will be held on Sunday, December 17, during the worship service. Everyone is now busy learning lines and songs, and looking forward (some anxiously, some apprehensively) to their performance. Please be sure to support these great kids as they tell the story of 'God's Perfect Plan!'

Sunday School meets every week at 8:30 a.m. - thanks to all parents who make sure your child is present!

Notes from the Music Corner ...

There is so much wonderful and varied music available to tell the Christmas story that it seems the Season is not long enough to use it all:

- Ebenezer Brass will be playing an appropriate Advent anthem on December 10 entitled "People, Look East, the Time Is Near."
- Several young musicians will be sharing their talents for the Sunday School program on December 17.
- There is no bell choir concert this year, but Ebenezer Brass will join with New Holstein area church choirs to present the "Country Christmas" concert on December 3 in the New Holstein High School auditorium at 2:00 p.m. Mark the date on your calendar and plan on attending this special way of celebrating this season of music!
- Ebenezer Brass will be participating in the 4 p.m. Christmas Eve worship service along with lots of congregational singing. There will also be special musical selections at the 11 p.m. service.
- We anticipate having an animated duet for worship on December 31—sending off 2017!



May the music of Christmas have a special individual meaning for each of us - BLESSINGS OF CHRISTMAS to all.

Looking for a special holiday gift? Sponsor an issue of the Eagle (suggested value of \$25) or the week's bulletin (suggested value of \$10)! There are Eagle or bulletin slips on the bulletin board outside the office. Be sure to give the slips to the office so recognition is properly acknowledged.

Christmas Light Show Coming to Calumet County

A new Christmas Light show titled “Delightfully Chilton” will premier this weekend at the Hobart Park/Calumet County Fairgrounds in Chilton.



Delightfully Chilton is a joint venture of ten organizations in Calumet County who have come together

to present a drive through a Christmas light show choreographed to holiday music. Ten 150-foot displays with various themes boasting over 100,000 lights can be viewed while driving through the northern portion of the Calumet County Fairgrounds.

The public is invited to view the light displays on Friday and Saturdays in December from 5:00 p.m.— 9:00 p.m. Admission will be a can food donation. Donated food will be distributed to Calumet County food pantries. Monetary donations will be accepted for future growth of Delightfully Chilton and the participating organizations.

For further information, like Delightfully Chilton on Facebook or refer to the website: www.delightfullychilton.com.

ATTENTION COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS OR ORGANIZATION LEADERS

Please e-mail your annual reports to the office (ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com) by **December 31** (NO LATER than Tuesday, January 2, 2018) so they can be compiled into the Annual Report that will distributed two weeks prior to the Sunday, January 21, 2018, Annual Meeting.

Thank you for your promptness,

Jackie

Adult Faith Formation

The Wired Word Bible study is offered Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until about 11:30 a.m. We take on an issue in the news and look at it from a theological point of view. Bible passages are provided for your reflection and study. There is no prerequisite Bible knowledge for this class. We have lots of fun and our discussions always end up going to individual experiences and opinions based upon the Bible and lived faith. Everyone is welcome to drop in and have fun.

Thursday evenings bring an entirely different Bible study. We use the ‘My Confirmation’ book as a guide for the discussions, but we almost always venture into basic questions about the Bible and its use in services and daily life. This class, that meets from 6:30—8:00 p.m., is ideal for people who would like to brush up on their Bible knowledge. Yes, the Bible can be engaging and interesting.

MISSION EDUCATION NEWS

The Seventh Annual Cookie/Candy Walk is coming up on Saturday, December 2, from 9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please drop off cookies, candy, and new or gently-used Christmas items during office hours (10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.) through Thursday, November 30; or from 5:00—7:00 p.m. on November 30. Unable to bake? Please consider a cash donation. Questions? Contact Nan Popp @ 920-418-0149 or Jeanne Keuler @ 920-203-4137.



DISASTER RELIEF COLLECTION FOR PUERTO RICO



This year has been a challenging one for many people. Hurricanes, flooding and fires have affected millions. Our committee has been considering how we can help, and have found that the people of Puerto Rico are in desperate need of clean water, which is something we take for granted. United Nations Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) is active in that country trying to bring families clean water and sanitation items. Buckets, water containers, soap, water purifying tablets and other sanitation items are being distributed to families in need. We will be collecting donations for this project after church services in the month of December. Please give generously!

Our furry friends at the Eastshore Humane Society want to thank those of you who think about them at this time of year! We will be again taking a collection for all of the dogs and cats who are still looking for their forever homes and are being helped by the Eastshore Humane Society. Please watch the bulletins for a list of items that are needed. Thank you!



EUCC Christmas Worship Schedule

- * Advent begins December 3
- * Children's Christmas Program: Sunday, December 17 @ 9:30 a.m.
- * **Sunday, December 24** (*Christmas Fund Special Mission Offering*):
 - * 4:00 p.m. Family worship (with bells)
 - * 11:00 p.m. Candlelight worship (*no Sunday School and/or 9:30 a.m. worship*)
- * **Monday, December 25:** 9:00 a.m. worship

Coffee Hour Sponsors

- December: Church Council
- January: Women’s Guild
- February: Mission Committee
- March: Church Council
- April: Worship/Christian Education Committee
- May: Bell Choir



This is the schedule that was followed last year and will be used again. If any month does not work out for a group, please contact another group and see if they will exchange with you. Otherwise this schedule will be kept and used in years to come. If there are any changes, please let the church office know.

On Sunday, December 24, at both worship services, EUCC will be collecting for the **2017 Christmas Fund**. Your gift to the Christmas Fund assists the ministry that cares for the active and retired clergy and lay employees of the United Church of Christ, provides for the Supplementation of Small Annuities, Supplementation of Health Premiums, Emergency Grants, and provides Christmas “Thank You” Gift Checks to retirees. This is your opportunity to participate in God's promise of renewal by enabling this ministry of compassion and care.

NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS

We are looking for two members of Ebenezer to join our Council this January. Please consider volunteering for the council. If you are interested in becoming a council representative, please see Kelly Kress. Thank you!

If you didn’t see the article from the United Church of Christ News titled ‘**Wisconsin church welcomes neighbors to take from the Blessing Box,**’ we encourage you to visit www.ucc.org/news/wisconsin-church-welcomes-neighbors-to-take-from-the-blessings-box-11162017

Lakeshore United Methodist Church (Manitowoc) invites you to “The Wonder of Christmas” exhibit of several hundred Nativity scenes. This free, family-friendly event is open throughout the month of December; see the bulletin board for specific dates and times!

happy birthday

Beverly Baltz	1
Mark Rusch	1
Dennis Winkler	1
Glen Pingel	2
Chelsa Schneider	3
Tyler Giebel	3
Rita Pingel	5
Kerry Duchow	6
Judy Kurscheidt	6
Kristi Schnell	6
Nick Kuhn	8
Noel Kuhn	8
Christopher Marx	14
Jeanne Keuler	15
Brian Adamietz	19
Heidi Pringle	20
Janet Andrews	21
Norman Pautz	21
Sandy Marx	23
Tricia Roehrig	25
Logan Platner	28
Serenity Ditter	29
Gretchyn Goodrich	30
Riley Roehrig	30
Kourtney Payne	30
Dean Papendieck	31

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



Council Minutes: November 19, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:48 a.m. Members present: Jamie Plate, Dale Hintz, Kelly Kress, Colleen Marx, Kari Meyers, Kelly Brown, and Pastor Mike. Fred Kubichka was absent. Kari Meyers made a motion to approve the agenda. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried. October's meeting minutes were previously approved via email.

Finances Report:

The financial reports were not available at the time of our meeting.

Kari Meyers made a motion to approve November's bill list. Colleen Marx seconded. Motion carried.

Minister's Report:

Pastor provided a brief synopsis of his activities, during mid-October to mid-November 2017, which included communion, counseling, meetings, prayer, preaching, and numerous correspondence. Pastor also made several outside visits.

We are averaging 76 people each Sunday and the average offering is \$1,804 each week.

Committee Reports:

- *Christian Ed/Music* - The children's Christmas program will be on Sunday, December 17, at 9:30 a.m.
- *Evangelism* - A meeting was held on November 19. The committee reviewed this year's projects and started discussions for 2018. There will not be a meeting in December. The Blessing Box has received a lot of recognition. An article was written and published on the national UCC website. Stephanie also received a letter from State Representative Paul Tittel noting what an "awesome" addition it is to the community.
- *Mission* - The 7th annual Christmas Cookie/Candy walk will be held Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Regarding the housewalk - this will be a regrouping year with the hopes to bring it back again next year.
- *Property* - No new news.
- *Stewardship* - No new news.
- *Membership* - Those from our congregation, who have served our country, were recognized during the November 12 service. Thank you all for your service!

Old news:

No new updates on the Braille system.

No new news on the Property purchase.

A contract with Scott's Towing was renewed for the 2017-2018 snow season.

It was announced, at the November 19 service, that Ebenezer UCC and St. John's UCC of New Holstein will be continuing discussions regarding a shared ministry.

New Business:

Church security, both physical and financial, was discussed. Further discussions/brainstorming will be had.

Meetings for the 2018 budget were scheduled.

****The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, December 17, 2017.**

Kari Meyers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Dale Hintz seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:38 a.m.

Council Secretary,

Jamie Plate

Newsletter Articles are due to the office on the 3rd Tuesday of the month (unless posted otherwise); be sure to check the calendar for the month's due date. **Weekly bulletin announcements** are due in the office on Tuesday mornings. Please also share any pictures for inclusion! All items should be sent to ebenezerooffice@yahoo.com.

A flower chart is posted on the bulletin board in the hallway by the church office. Please feel free to sign up to provide flowers for either the altar or the communion rail to commemorate a special event or as a memorial.

PRAYER LIST

Tod	Arlene	Pat	Katy
Larry	Rod	Scott	Shelly
David	Da'Nisha	Brian	Gracie
Lorraine	Pat	Janine	Linda
Jon	Pastor Susan		

Due to privacy laws, last names cannot be printed on the prayer list because the Eagle goes on the church website which can be viewed by anyone on the internet.

If you want someone added or removed, please contact the church office. Thank you.

DIFFICULTY HEARING??? Don't forget the Hearing Loop for anyone with hearing aids or the head phones available at the entrance to the sanctuary.

Be sure to help yourself to a copy of the January/February **"The Upper Room"** in the Narthex. Regular and large print are available.

The Confirmation Readers for the month are: December 3 Riley Schneider (*no readers on December 10, December 17, December 24 or December 25*) and December 31 Emily Roehrig.

December 2017

Ebenezer United Church of Christ
Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION.					1	2 Christmas Cookie/ Candy Walk 9:00 a.m.— 1:00 p.m.
3 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Country Christmas concert 2:00 p.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	4	5 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	6 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	7 Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 8:30 a.m. Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	8	9
10 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	11 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	12 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	13 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	14 Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	15	16
17 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship/Children's Program 9:30 a.m. Council Meeting after Service Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	18 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	19 EAGLE ARTICLES DUE The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	20 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	21 Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 1 p.m. Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	22	23
24 Christmas Eve 4:00 p.m. Family Worship 11:00 p.m. Candlelight Worship (no 9:30 a.m. worship)	25 Christmas Day 9:00 a.m. Worship 	26	27	28	29	30

31
Worship 9:30 a.m.
Spanish Ministry 3:30
p.m.
***Annual Report
Deadline***

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pastormike79@hotmail.com

Date	Ushers
3	Council
10	Vern & Ann Gasch, Dean & Ellie Papendieck
17	Zach & Carolyn Platner Family
24	Kristi & Ryan Schnell, Kari Meyers, Kurt Knoespel
31	Steve & Chris Stenz, Don & Connie Waldvogel



Office Hours:
Mon-Thurs 10 a.m.—3 p.m.