

The Eagle



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

November 2017

This month's Eagle is sponsored by John and Janet (Pagel) Andrews & their family in memory of the late Arno & Marion Pagel.

Last month I spoke of closed and open hearts. How can we move from closed and angry hearts to open, loving hearts? Here is one suggestion rooted in the practice of prayer.

One example is **Lectio Divina** (much of this description of Lectio Divina is taken from the UCC website) which literally means "divine reading." It can also be translated as "holy reading" or "reading with God." Lectio Divina is a way of praying meditatively with the Bible so that the Word of God can reach into our hearts and minds. Lectio Divina can help us let go of our own agendas when we read the Bible. Like other forms of meditation, it silences the noise of the world around us, leading us in stages to an inner silence where God is waiting for us. But Lectio Divina is not an escape from the world. Instead, God's Word helps us see both our lives and the world around us through God's eyes—and to love what we see in the heart of God. It is both inner-directed (to the presence of God within) and outer-directed (to the world God created). When we listen to God's Word in this way, meditation can be both a calming and a disturbing experience. Sometimes, God may want to quiet our fears and hold us gently. At other times, God may want to confront us with uncomfortable doubts or unanswered questions.



How do we practice this Holy reading? Most people follow a four-step process. This is not to say that this is the only way to practice this, but it is the way most people have found it to be rewarding.

Lectio (reading): Read the Word of God slowly and reflectively. Any text from the Bible can be used for this purpose, but the reading should not be too long.

Meditatio (reflection): Think quietly about the text as you read it. You can read the text many times to let the words sink into your mind and heart.

Oratio (response): Leave your thinking aside and simply let your heart speak to God.

Contemplatio (rest): Let go of your own ideas and plans. And you can go deeper: let go of your holy words and thoughts. Simply rest in the Word of God. Listen at the deepest level to God who speaks within you with a still, small voice.

As you read, reflect, respond and rest, you can leave yourself open to be transformed from within by God's Word. Whether over time this transformation influences the way you see and live in the world is one test of the authenticity of prayer. You take what you read in the Word of God into your daily life. Okay, but how does it work? What do I do?

There is no "right" or "wrong" way to read the Bible as a source for meditation. As you experiment, you may find yourself adapting this long-standing tradition in ways that are useful to you. Here's one method: First, look for a quiet space where you can read and pray. This could be a chair that is comfortable—but not so comfortable that you fall asleep! You want to be relaxed and attentive at the same time. You could sit on the floor with a cushion for support. You might want to set a part in your home a "holy place" to use for daily prayer. A lighted candle, icon, cross or some other meaningful object can be used to center your attention.

Second, ask God to become part of you, to enter through God's Word. Any "prayer of illumination," or your own spontaneous prayer, is suitable. Here's one example: 'Prepare my heart, O God, to accept your Word. Silence in me any voice but your own, that, hearing, I may also obey your will, through Jesus Christ my Savior. Amen.'

(cont'd on page 4)

Sunday School Corner...

All of us in the Sunday School want to send out our congratulations to one of our teachers, Tiffany, on the birth of their baby boy, Oliver. He was born to Kevin and Tiffany Porsche on October 16. Thanks to Krysta Roehrig for stepping in and taking over Tiffany's class until she returns.

We're off to a great year with the kids and are looking ahead to our Christmas preparations. We'll be presenting our Christmas program on Sunday, December 17, during the 9:30 a.m. worship service. We hope all students will participate! Parts will be sent home with the kids soon.

The proceeds allocated to the Sunday School from the recent brat fry at Heritage Orchard were used to purchase Bibles for students, 4th grade and older, who have not previously received one as a gift from the Sunday School. These Bibles will be presented to the kids during the November Children's Worship Sunday.

We've selected the American Red Cross as our mission project for the year. All Sunday School offerings, as well as any special donations from the congregation, will be forwarded to them at the end of the school year. We hope the kids will feel part of the rebuilding and "getting back to normalcy" effort after the recent hurricanes, and that the habit of giving will stay with them as they grow into adulthood.

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

Notes from the Music Corner ...

Thank you to Michael Bratz for playing the prelude on October 15. He enjoys trying different techniques on the organ. We'll look forward to hearing from him again soon.

As a tribute to Stewardship Sunday on November 12 and thinking ahead to Thanksgiving, the bell choir will be playing "Count Your Blessings." It is a rather challenging selection that intertwines "Count Your blessings, name them one by one;" with the hymn "Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices." It is done to a Latin beat with a little percussion added! We will also look forward to hearing from the Junior Ringers that day.



Congratulations go out to Claudia Brown for again being chosen to be part of the "Singing in Wisconsin" Middle School group that will be involved in music workshops on Saturday, November 11. Their efforts will culminate in a public performance the same day at 4 p.m. in the Engler Center. You certainly want to come to hear all this talent that comes together in 1 day!

There will not be a Bell Choir Christmas concert this year; however, they will be participating in other community events. Watch for details in upcoming Sunday bulletins.



NEW MEMBERS

On Sunday, October 8, EUCC welcomed in three new members of the church: Melissa Kuhn, and Zach and Carolyn Platner. If you have not done so already, please be sure to welcome them to our EUCC family!

November Confirmation Readers

The Confirmation Readers for the month are: November 5: Skyler Goerl, November 12: (no reader), November 19: Teagan Sabish, and November 26: Bobby Van Beek.

Christian Ed/Worship Committee Minutes

Members attending: Shirley Lisowe, Bea Pingel, Jamie Plate, Tiffany Porsche, Don and Diane Sattler, Krisiti Schnell, Pastor Mike, Elaine Hessel.

The committee met on October 8 to review and preview events. Shirley reported that Sunday School has been averaging 19-23 students in attendance. There is no 4-year-old class. The staff consists of Tiffany Porsche, Krysta Roehrig, Ann Gasch, Kristi Schnell and Shirley Lisowe. Thank you to the staff for their weekly preparation. Regular student attendance for a consistent learning opportunity is encouraged. Pastor reported that there are 10 students in the confirmation class. He was very proud of their interest and questions when recently attending the Domestic Violence event at Calumet Medical Center. With all of the recent natural disasters, the Sunday School's mission project for the year is the Red Cross. The Sunday School Christmas program will be held during worship on December 17.

As summer events were reviewed, it was noted that there was no outdoor worship or organ recital as had been discussed in May. The July pre-service sing-along's went well and the "Musical Hammers" group was well received on August 20. A request has been submitted to again host a gospel musical group next August.

Memorial Sunday will be on Sunday, November 5, to honor all members who have passed away this past year. Letters have been sent to those family members.

There are no plans for a Thanksgiving Eve service. Advent begins December 3. Christmas worship times are as follows: Sunday, December 24 (No Sunday School or regular 9:30 a.m. worship) - 4 p.m. Family worship with bells; 11 p.m. Candlelight worship, and Monday, December 25 - 9 a.m. worship.

Thank you goes to: Don and Diane Sattler for preparing Fathers' Day tokens, Mary Thompson for watering all the indoor plants weekly to keep them green and growing, and Shirley Lisowe for keeping the church website informative and updated (www.ebenezerchilton.org).

The next meeting will be scheduled after Christmas.

Adult Faith Formation

The Wired Word Bible study is offered Tuesday mornings from 10:00 a.m. until about 11:30 am. 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.



Thank you to everyone who volunteered at the EUCC Brat Fry and to those that decorated the church! Both are greatly appreciated!



MISSION EDUCATION NEWS

It is hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner and so is our 7th annual Christmas Cookie/Candy Walk on Saturday, December 2, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall at Ebenezer. We are again asking for your help in making this event as successful as it has been in the past. If you are able and have the time, could you make and donate some home-baked Christmas cookies and candy for this event? The amount you want to donate is up to you. If you have a favorite Christmas cookie or are good at making candy, these items always go over well at the sale and look great in the containers we package them in. If you are unable to bake, we also accept cash donations.



This year we are also selling new or gently-used Christmas items such as decorations, ornaments or table wear, so check for items you no longer need. You can drop off cookies, candy, cash donations and Christmas items during office hours (10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.) November 27-30. We will also have the doors open from 5-7 p.m. on November 30.

If you have questions about the sale, need to have items picked up, or would like to preorder any cookies or candy, contact Nan Popp at 920-418-0149 or Jeanne Keuler at 920-203-4137.

New this year is a disaster relief collection for Puerto Rico. Watch for more details to come!

*Thank you for supporting the Mission Education Committee's Cookie/Candy Walk
and Happy Holidays!*

(cont'd from front page)

Third, use deep breathing to calm your body and mind. This is an ancient technique used for centuries in Christian and other faith traditions. Breathe in slowly and deliberately, then out in the same manner. Be conscious of your breathing; remember that all living things breathe, and that "spirit" means "breath." Find a slow but natural and comfortable rhythm for your breathing. Continue until you feel relaxed and attentive.

Fourth, pick up the Bible and read through your chosen text. You can read the text quietly out loud or silently in your mind. Take your time. Read several times until one verse, or a few words from a verse, "speaks to you."

Fifth, repeat the verse or words you have chosen. If it helps, divide the text into two parts: think the first part as you breathe in and the second part as you breathe out. Continue repeating the text until God moves you to silence.

Sixth, spend time in silence. Be aware that you are in God's holy presence. Continue looking at the object you have chosen as a focus of meditation: an icon, cross or lighted candle. Be open to whatever may happen to you: you may feel an emotion, or a sense of awareness, or simply a sense of God's presence.

Seventh, bring the time of meditation to a close. When you feel the time is right, re-read the Bible text one more time. Then conclude with the Lord's Prayer, or any other prayer, or a personal prayer you feel moved to express in God's presence.

Experiment: and find your own way! Remember that there is no "right" or "wrong" way to pray! You may find these suggestions useful, or you may not. Feel free to experiment and develop a style of your own. The important thing is to remember that the Bible is not only a text for study, but also the first and best prayer book of the Jewish synagogue and the Christian church. The Bible can be your resource for prayer as you seek a closer relationship with God.

We are coming to an end in the election process, but immediately after the elections, the culture throws us into Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas shopping/parties, and finally New Years. Begin to practice a discipline of prayer now so that the pace of the year does not overwhelm you and your family.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Mike

Coffee Hour Sponsors

- November: Evangelism Committee
- 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 for 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.

Veteran’s Day
November 11, 2017

Thank you, veterans, for serving our Country.

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------|
| Torrey Gasch | Vern Gasch |
| Jim Gleason | Norman Pautz |
| Dean Pingel | Stacey Sabish |
| Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy | |
| Ralph Schmid | Jim Scholz |
| John Schroeder | Steve Stenz |



We apologize if someone has not been listed.

We have attempted to include all our Military Veteran members. Please notify any of the following people if there are additional names that should be added: Shirley Lisowe (shirleylisowe@gmail.com/418-1675), Karen Cmejla (karen.cmejla@outlook.com/375-0244), Ruth Aebischer (draebischer@outlook.com/849-9427), or Kari Meyers (kmeyers@vernscheese.com/585-9273).



- | | |
|--------------------|----|
| Kathy Kuhn | 1 |
| Alex Greuel | 2 |
| Mariah McGinnis | 5 |
| Adam Gasch | 6 |
| Don Sattler | 7 |
| Pam Schneider | 7 |
| Ashley Porsche | 8 |
| Bruce Alten | 11 |
| Lake Pingel | 13 |
| Jean Reichwald | 15 |
| Janene Van Hoorn | 15 |
| Ruth Aebischer | 17 |
| Linda Edington | 17 |
| Ella Bechlem | 20 |
| Jim Brocker | 21 |
| Joyce Goeldi | 21 |
| John Schroeder | 22 |
| Stephanie Adamietz | 27 |
| Amy Kuhn | 27 |
| Joseph Kuhn | 27 |
| Skyler Goerl | 30 |

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

Our new **Blessing Box** is set up near the Southeast door to the church. Already several people have taken advantage of this mission to the community. We are using the Blessing Box to provide the community with basic items that may be needed, but can’t be afforded. We have been placing non-perishable food items, paper products, diapers, etc. in the box. Winter is approaching so we are asking that no items which may freeze be put in the box. Please ask God what you can contribute to this mission.

You are invited to an Ecclesiastical Council for Lucas Williams which will take place at Saron United Church of Christ (Sheboygan Falls) at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, November 11. Light refreshments to follow. Details are posted to the bulletin board.

Lakeshore United Methodist Church (Manitowoc) invites you to ‘The Wonder of Christmas’ exhibit of several hundred Nativity scenes. See the bulletin board for the dates and times that this free event is open to the public.

On Tuesday, November 7, Zion United Methodist Church (Forest Junction) invites you to their All-You-Can Eat Pancake Supper and silent auction from 3:30—7:00 p.m. See bulletin board for details.

Council Minutes: October 15, 2017

Meeting called to order at 10:54 a.m. Members present: Jamie Plate, Kelly Kress, Fred Kubichka, Kari Meyers, Kelly Brown, and Pastor Mike. Dale Hintz, and Colleen Marx were absent. Kari Meyers made a motion to approve the agenda. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried. September's meeting minutes were previously approved via email.

Finances Report:

Our September revenue was \$8,300.

Our September expenditures were \$9,215.

Our total equity, as of September 30th, 2017, was \$77,465.

Our balance as of September 30th was \$275,407.

Gifted stock, current value as of September 30th, is \$29,355.12. (Up \$11,000 for the year to date).

Kari Meyers made a motion to accept September's treasure's report. Fred Kubichka seconded.

Motion carried. Jamie Plate made a motion to accept September's financial reports. Kelly Brown seconded. Motion carried.

Minister's Report:

Pastor's report is relaxing at his wife's cabin, but Pastor noted there is nothing out of the ordinary to report.

"New Member Sunday" was held on October 8, 2017, and 3 new members were received.

Committee Reports:

- **Christian Ed/Music** - Meeting was held on October 8, 2017. The Sunday School mission project this year will be the Red Cross. The Christmas program will be held on December 17, 2017. Elaine has already put in a request to host another gospel group next summer. Christmas worship was discussed and worship times will be December 24 at 4 p.m. and 11 p.m.—both will be a candlelight worship, and Christmas Day at 9 a.m. There will be NO regular 9:30 a.m. worship on Christmas Eve Sunday, December 24.
- **Evangelism** - The Blessing Box is complete and in place outside the Washington Street entrance.
- **Mission** - We are still looking for houses for the Housewalk. Please contact Karen Cmjela if you or someone you know would be willing to offer their home.
- **Property** - Ken Lisowe built a beautiful blessing box. It is in place and being used. A big thank you to Ken Lisowe for all of his time and hard work!
- **Stewardship** - No new news.
- **Membership** - 3 new members were welcomed on October 8, 2017.

Old news:

No new updates on the Braille system.

New Business:

Conversations regarding the property next door have resumed.

Pastor had informal meetings, after church, on October 22 and October 29, to answer any questions and/or listen to any comments/concerns regarding a shared ministry.

We are looking into snow plow removal companies for the upcoming winter. Another coat drive for St. Joe's, in Appleton, is in the works.

****The next council meeting will be held on Sunday, November 19th, 2017.**

Kari Meyers made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Fred Kubichka seconded. Motion carried. Meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Council Secretary, *Jamie Plate*

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

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 ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com.

If you are a caregiver, you are invited to a **Caregiver Appreciation Event on November 5**, put on by Lutheran Social Services, Outagamie County Aging and Disability Resource Center (ADRC), and The Outagamie Caregiver Coalition. Details are on the bulletin board.

PRAYER LIST

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

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.

Lutheran Social Services invites you to a free MINDWORKS session on Friday, November 17, from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. This class is designed for people experiencing early memory loss. The invitation is located on the bulletin board for further details.

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

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.

The Church and Ministry Team of The Northeast Association of the Wisconsin Conference, United Church of Christ Invite all members, friends and clergy of the NEA Congregations to the Installation of Rev. Kathryn O'Connor Kuhn as Pastor for Congregational Care and Missions at First Congregational United Church of Christ (724 E. South River St. Appleton) Sunday, November 12, during morning worship services at 8:45 a.m. and 10:30 a.m.

Looking for a special holiday gift? Sponsor an issue of the Eagle (suggested \$25) or the week's bulletin (suggested \$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.

November 2017

Ebenezer United Church of Christ
Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	Oct 30 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	Oct 31 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	1 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Hand- bell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	2	3	4
5 Day Light Savings Ends Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m.—All Saint's Sunday Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	6	7 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m. Girl Scout meeting 6-7 p.m. in hall	8 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	9 Men's Breakfast @ 7 Angels 8:30 a.m.	10	11
12 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	13 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	14 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	15 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	16 Women's Guild @ 7 Angels 1 p.m. Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	17	18
19 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Council Meeting after Service Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	20 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	21 EAGLE ARTICLES DUE The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	22 Jr. Ringers 5:45 p.m., Regular Handbell Rehearsal 6:30 p.m.	23 Thanksgiving	24	25
26 Sunday School 8:30 a.m. Worship 9:30 a.m. Spanish Ministry 3:30 p.m.	27 Confirmation Studies, 6 p.m. in Lounge	28 The Wired Word 10:00 a.m.	29	30 Confirmation for Adults 6:30 p.m.	ALWAYS CHECK THE CURRENT SUNDAY ANNOUNCEMENT CALENDAR FOR THE MOST UPDATED VERSION.	

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



Date	Ushers
5	Council
12	Sunday School
19	Erica & Jamie Plate Family
26	Robert & Sheri Van Beek Family