



Beulah Land

Volume 9, Issue 12

December 2018

Pastor's Message

As we enter the season of Advent, we all know that that means that Christmas is just around the corner. We can almost hear the words of the angels to the shepherds in the fields. The angel said, "Do not be afraid, for behold I bring to you good tidings of great Joy, which will be for all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior who is Christ the Lord." But before that wonderful celebration of our Savior's birth, we travel through the season of Advent.

The Season of Advent is the time when we sing the hymn "Joy to the World, the Lord is come." That hymn includes the words, "Let Heart Prepare Him Room." And that is really what Advent is all about. Clearing out room in our hearts and lives for the coming of our King, Jesus. Advent is a time when we must, at least try, to set aside all the distractions and prepare room in our hearts for the love of God through Jesus Christ and the light that His birth shines into the world. The word Advent comes from the Greek word that means "coming". Notice that it is not "to come", or "came." The word is "coming", and that is an important distinction for us to make. To say that Jesus came on the first Christmas recognizes the nativity that we will celebrate on December 25. That is the climax of our Advent celebration. But to say that Christ is "coming" which is the essence of Advent, means that Christ is continually coming into our lives.

Each day that we walk in the light of Christ, there is the potential for a new revelation of the miracle of Jesus' love in each of our hearts and our lives. And each revelation of Jesus love and healing and peace helps us to move closer to the day when we are made complete by Jesus' presence in our hearts by the power of the Holy Spirit. That Revelation of Jesus' love is complete when He returns in Glory on the last day. Until His coming is complete, we wait and anticipate with Joy and love in our hearts guided by the light that shines from a star that burned bright in the sky over a stable in Bethlehem over 2000 years ago and will continue to shine in the hearts of those who believe. That light is our guide to help us understand that we are all citizens of God's eternal Kingdom that was ushered in by the birth of our Savior Jesus Christ the Lord.

Pastor Tim

Worship Committee:



- **Christmas Eve Service** will be at 6:30pm. Communion will be served.
- **The Christmas Joy Offering** will be collected at the Christmas Eve Service on December 24.

Did You Know?

- The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s.
- 50% of your gift provides assistance for current and retired church workers and their families with critical financial need.
- 50% of your gift makes it possible for students to learn and grow in faith at Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.



Head to Toes Project

The cold weather is here! The Mission Committee is organizing the 6th annual Head to Toes Project. Donations of new hats, scarves, mittens, and gloves will be taken through Sunday, Dec 2. These donated items along with additional clothing items purchased by the Mission Committee will be delivered to the children in several surrounding school districts who do not have the resources for winter clothing. The Mission Committee has already distributed 56 pairs of boots to children in November. Thank you for your generosity and we look forward to your continued support.

Please Remember Our Shut-ins in Your Prayers.

Grace Day
601 Hawthorne Crossing Drive SE
Apt 213
Bondurant, IA 50035

Eleanor Garrison
c/o Dan Garrison
5921 Cambridge Dr
N. Richland Hills, TX 76184

Sonia Grafton
Avonlea Cottage
2021 1st St E, Room 26
Milan, IL 61264

Doris Kennedy
4909 107th Ave
Milan, IL 61264

Prayer Requests:

Cindee Brugman
Bethany Spears

Robert DeVries
Tom Spears

Gary Lovested
Alex Strandgard

Linda Nalevanko
Harriet Strandgard

Dylan Preston

Please alert us with additions or changes to our Prayer List – Thank you!

When the world pushes you to your knees, you are in a perfect position to pray.

**If you feel you are drowning in your troubles today,
remember your lifeguard walks on water.**



During the month of October, the Beulah deacons reached out to others as reported below:

Home visits: 1

communions: 0

calls/texts: 2

Hospital visits: 0

funerals: 0

food delivered: 1

Assisted living/nursing home visits: 5

cards sent: 41

good deeds: 5

"The supreme joy is to promote the joy of others." -- from the book "Wings of Silver", pg 27.

Sherrill Hills, Secretary

Confirmation Corner



We hope you have been following along with our lessons and strengthening your own faith along with the confirmands. Our lessons and the explanations below come from Spark House –“ re:form” curriculum. With these lessons we finished our Jesus Unit. Following are what we studied in our Lessons 24 & 25:

24. Why did Jesus get baptized?

“Baptism” literally means “washing,” and it was a common ritual in Jesus’ day. In fact, some Jews would ritually wash themselves half a dozen times per day, before every meal and every prayer time, to spiritually cleans themselves.

When John the Baptist baptized people in the Jordan it was seen as a spiritual cleansing after people repented their sins. When Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist it was the mark of the start of Jesus’ ministry of doing God’s work. Jesus’ submission to baptism by John set an example that Christians have followed ever since.

The confirmands in our class have been baptized as infants. At that time their families’ were choosing to start their spiritual journeys by bringing them to church and Sunday school. With Confirmation, the confirmands will be making the choice for themselves to join the church and start their spiritual journey.

QUESTION TO YOU: How can we live out our baptismal call in a way that emulates Jesus?

25. Is believing in Jesus really the only way to get to heaven?

This is one of the most debated topics in Christianity. After covenants with Adam’s family, Noah’s family, Abraham’s family, and Moses’ family, Jesus Christ became the way for a new covenant between God and all human beings.

Jesus came to tell people about the availability of a new kind of relationship to God – a relationship filled with healing and love for the downcast and ostracized. Jesus’ message was that no matter your race or tribe, God wants that covenantal relationship with you. So then what did it mean when Jesus said to his disciples that he was the only way to be in relationship with God? Each Christian denomination/church have their own answer to this question.

When discussing such issues in our class, we always use the model of “God as a Loving Parent” when trying to think through these issues. As a loving parent, we believe that God would want a relationship with all of his children. Just as each child has different relationship with their parents, peoples’ relationships with God may all differ. This relationship is between God and that person and only God knows the genuineness of that relationship and the purity of that person’s heart. Therefore, we will leave it to God to decide who salvation is granted to. As Christians we do believe that Jesus did show us how to have a relationship with God and showed us the way to salvation. He is the way and our door to salvation.

QUESTION TO YOU: How is your relationship with God? Are there things that Jesus teaches us that can help us improve our own relationship with God?



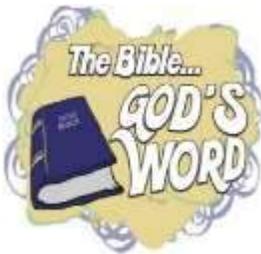
The deacons will again be facilitating our **poinsettias** for the Christmas season. If anyone is interested in ordering a poinsettia, please contact Carla Zwicker in person or by text or phone at 309-236-8622 by December 12. The price is \$15 per plant. Please indicate if this is in memory of a loved one(s) and provide their names.



May Christ be born in you.

Peanut Brittle Fund Raiser

There is still time to order Peanut Brittle in time for a Christmas delivery. It makes a great Christmas Gift for neighbors, friends, and family. The Mission Committee is selling home-made peanut brittle to raise funds for their 2018-2019 Mission Projects. The primary benefactors of this fund raiser are the needy children who receive boots through our Heads to Toes project. The price is \$15 for a 1 lb. package, and \$8 for a ½ lb. package. Delivery will be on Sunday December 16. Please contact Wanda Cross (jwcross84@hotmail.com or 309-714-8089) to order your peanut brittle.



- The Lord your God has BLESSED you in all the work of your hands. *Deut 2:7*
- God has given us these times of joy. *Psalms 81:4*
- Blessed are those whose strength is in you. *Psalms 84:5*
- Forsake me not, O Lord: O my God be not far from me. Make haste to help me, O Lord my salvation. *Psalms 38:21-22*
- Take heed to yourself; if thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and if he repents, forgive him. *Luke 17:3*

October		
Worship	Giving	Attendance
10/7/18	\$ 1,962.00	48
10/14/18	\$ 4,187.00	38
10/21/18	\$ 1,280.00	53
10/28/18	\$ 1,272.00	32

JOY
NOEL
ANGEL
JESUS
PEACE HOPE
WISEMEN
CHRISTMAS
BELIEVE FAITH
PRINCE OF PEACE
THANK YOU



This Month Our Outside Sign Read:

Thank you Carol for weekly updating this sign for all our neighbors to read!

- Celebrate today. God is with us wherever we go.
- Be a “Glow-in-the-Dark” Christian.
- We need love and togetherness now.
- Fall leaves...God doesn't.
- We gather together to ask the Lord's blessings.

Please notice the wording on the sign:

“Fall leaves...God doesn't.”

God is always with us...

spring summer, fall and winter.

Carol Browning took this picture of the snow falling on November 15!



News from Christian Education

You are invited to get into the Christmas Spirit by coming to our Annual Children's Christmas Program. It will be on Sunday, **Dec 16** during our 9am church service. Donations of cookies or rolls would be appreciated for the coffee hour following the program.

Please note: There will be NO Sunday School on Sunday, Dec 30.

Introducing Beulah's New Web Page!

Check it out at www.beulahpcusa.org



Christmas thoughts:

- Are you one of the Inn crowd or are you one of the stable few?
- Owl be home for Christmas.
- Start each day with a grateful heart.
- Keep calm and sparkle on.
- May the days until Christmas be full of pleasure and your holidays create joyful memories to treasure.
- Faith makes ALL things possible.
- **Bright** wishes for the holidays.
- Patience is the companion of wisdom.
- Loving Shepherd of Your sheep, may Your lamb be in safety sleep. Let Your angels round me stand. None can take me from Your hand.
- Let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.

December 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Trenton Zwicker
2 Lane Krueger Rachael Sandhaas-Hoke	3 Jon Cross	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11 Jerome Bina	12	13 Cynthia Peterson- Castro	14	15
16	17 Gloria Paulsen	18	19	20 Sierra Krueger Taylor Krueger	21 Winter Begins	22
23 Jim Neumann	24 Maryan Wherry	25 Jesus Christ	26	27	28 Dale Seaholm	29
30	31					

January 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 Sherrill Hills	2	3 Jean Daves	4	5
6 Lorenzo Galindo	7	8 Julia Sandhaas-Hoke	9 Jay Solomonson	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20 Dorothy Gift Rev. Timothy Snart	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Eleanor Garrison	31		

For newsletter submissions or questions,
please contact: Nancy Roberts, Email: nroberts822@gmail.com
Submission deadline is the 15th of each month.
We're on the Web! See us at: <http://www.beulahpcusa.org/>
Like us on Facebook: [Facebook.com/Beulahpresbyterianchurch](https://www.facebook.com/Beulahpresbyterianchurch)

Mission Statement:

Working together for spiritual growth to glorify, praise, worship, and share God's love.

Vision:

Beulah is:

- A Christ-centered family of faith.
- Flexible in learning and listening to God.
- Serving the Lord with gifts and talents through multi-generational engagement.
- A Landmark Church, visible in the community, vibrant in ministry and impacting the world.
- A destination for continual growth.

Slogan:

Love, Thrive, and Grow for the Glory of God.



Beulah Presbyterian Church
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Orion, IL 61273