

January 2018 Newsletter

A WORD FROM, THE INTERIM

And a Happy New Year to you, too – as we enter 2018, I hope you have considered the joys and foibles of 2017 and begun to formulate a plan to change those foibles into joys. The making of New Year's Resolutions could almost be seen as a Biblically based idea. The stories are replete (I like that word) with the need for people to fulfill resolutions sometimes presented as directly from God, sometimes from God through a prophet. From the Ten Commandments to the creation stories to the Sermon on the Mount, we find versions of things the hearers or readers should change or seek to change. Considering that I offer some ideas for 2018 and Peace Church:

1. We resolve to grow in spirit and in faith. The fourth commandment as we find it in Exodus is to "remember the Sabbath Day and keep it Holy". Now let's be real here and recognize that unless the NFL starts scheduling all Packer games on Monday, we are not going to refrain from activities which can hardly be called "religious" or holy. BUT I think it would do all of us some good to set aside some time (even an hour or two) (and maybe you already do this) to spend with family or friends or both without electronic interference reflecting on what it means to rest for awhile as a celebration of the creation story and how God rested on the seventh day! We will offer the opportunity to think about this in a systematic way beginning on January 17 at 6 PM in the library as we read together Walter Brueggeman's book Sabbath as Resistance. For three Wednesdays we will consider how to find time for rest and reflection in a world of noise, electronic interference, and demands.
2. We resolve to be more "public" with our presence in Calumet County, Brillion, and the World utilizing the tools we have. This begins on January 10th when I/we turn our website over to the Confirmands and give them the responsibility for making it more
3. We resolve to be a community which shares the burdens, confronts the needs, and welcomes the stranger into our midst. Too often the "same old folks" have taken responsibility for duties which surround everything from worship to the chicken fry to the plant sale and the list goes on. In 2018, we (that's all of us) will ask others when we need help, will encourage others to take what have been "my" responsibilities, welcome that others want to participate with "me". Communities of faith work best, remain viable, offer the most opportunity for growth when people work together and recognize that no one is irreplaceable. AND that's the good news!!

enticing, more informative, and more relevant. Todd Schneider who is our current web guru will be working with them but the keys to this kingdom will be in their hands and what capable hands they are!!

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And now I resolve to end this – right here, right now!

See you in church or sometime soon I hope.

Pastor Tom

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION POT LUCK

The Confirmation families and Christian Education families are invited to a Pot Luck on Wednesday, January 10, 2018 at 5:30 p.m. The confirmation students will begin class as usual at 5:00 p.m. (See information on the next page) and will break to participate in our Pot Luck Social. As we begin the New Year, we want to think together about our Christian Education program. On behalf of the Church Council, I want to invite all young people and their parents to gather on the second Wednesday of January to discuss and plan the remainder of our year. This will be a chance to discuss the time, format/content, and teaching of the classes. We will furnish soup and ask that families provide a side dish or dessert. All we need to know is how many to plan for! Please call the office or list the number of family members attending next to your name on the clip board in

the fellowship hall!!! Wednesday, January 10th, 5:30 PM and we'll be done no later than 6:45!! Please join us.

CONFIRMANDS AND THE WEBSITE: Beginning January 10th, Confirmands will "take over" our website (<http://peaceuccbrillion.com/>) and begin redesigning it, making it more interesting, and offering ideas about content, pictures, and all aspects of it. We look forward to incorporating their ideas and suggestions.

ADULT STUDY GROUP

DATES: January 17, January 31 and February 7th from 6:15 until 7:00 p.m.

Sabbath practices the fourth commandment is: Remember the Sabbath day, and keep it holy. Ever wonder what that means? Sometime back I "bumped into" a website which outlined the practices of some Jewish households on the Sabbath. It was an absolutely eye opening read and sounded so ... well so romantic as it described how families literally withdrew from the world for 24 hours and enjoyed each other, a time of rest, special food (but simply prepared food), and so many other things. In response, I didn't change anything about my Sunday habits BUT I did find it interesting and thought others might also. In response, I would offer us/you the opportunity to think about the idea of Sabbath utilizing Walter Brueggemann's study guide entitled. Sabbath as Resistance. It begins on Wednesday, January 17th and will also be held on January 31 and February 7th. I invite anyone interested in a conversation about this to join me from 6:15 PM until 7:00 PM on those days as we explore what we might do to resist the clamoring of the world for a few hours and enjoy a time of rest, special food, and other stuff. Let me know if you are interested or just show up on January 17th.

(PS and here's the website – note the recipe at the bottom for Cholent -
<http://www.jewfaq.org/shabbat.htm>)

(The above articles written by Pastor Tom)

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 10 – Confirmation class at 5:00 p.m. with Todd Schneider & Pastor Tom

January 10 – Pot Luck for all Confirmation families and Christian Education families starting at 5:30 p.m. (Please call the church office (756-3334) to sign up) Parents welcome to listen in

January 14 – Mini Missions during 9:00 a.m. service for Project Linus (See Mission & Outreach news for more information regarding "Project Linus")

January 14 – Council meeting after worship

January 17 – Adult Bible study from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m.

January 24 – No Confirmation Class (Pastor gone)

January 31 – Adult Bible Study from 6:15 to 7:00 p.m.

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE ON COUNCIL OR ENDOWMENT

We will have two Council positions to be elected for the coming year. Todd has completed his first term. Todd is eligible for re-election for another 2 year term; while Carla Zander has completed her 2 – two year terms and is unable to run.

We have one position available on the Endowment Committee. Bob Lowe has completed his four year term and he is not eligible to run again.

If anyone is willing to serve on the council or the endowment committee, please speak with Carla Zander our council president.

So, if you feel able and willing to have your name placed in nomination or if you can think of anyone who you feel would do a great job serving on the Council or the Endowment Committee please see Carla Zander, president of the Council. All nominees will be contacted prior to the election to verify willingness to serve. Elections will be held the day of our annual meeting, which is scheduled for Sunday, February 18th immediately after worship.

E-GIVING & STEWARDSHIP

Thank you to the members who have signed up for e-giving. We are asking that you double check your financial accounts to make sure everything is working properly regarding your e-giving donation to the church. On Tuesday, January 2nd and Friday, January 5th, will be the first dates of funds being transferred for all of our givers. If you have questions or concerns, please call the church office immediately. (756-3334)

SCRIP

Have any new year's resolutions? How about staying on budget! With SCRIP you can do just that. By using SCRIP cards in place of your debit or credit cards you're more apt to stick to your budget. Purchase your weekly groceries, gas, dining, and downright fun cash in SCRIP equivalents and go armed with a better defense against overspending in 2018.

You can purchase SCRIP cards after worship every Sunday or during office hours from Kathy Daun. Here are some of the cards we have on hand: *Amazon, Econo Foods, Kwik Trip, Cobblestone Creek Dining, BP, Mobil, Cabela's, Brillion Dairy Queen, Subway, Shopko, Cenex, Sears, Pizza Hut, Papa Murphy's, Marcus Theatres, Gander Mountain, Festival Foods, Fleet Farm, Kohl's, Lowe's, Menards, Home Depot, Piggly Wiggly, Target, Bed Bath & Beyond, Wal-Mart, Applebee's, Buffalo Wild Wings.*

Remember, when you use SCRIP, you're donating to the church just by buying the things you need every day!

If you have any questions regarding SCRIP, a special order, or just trying to stay ahead of your budget, please speak to Todd Schneider (920-810-8951).

BULLETIN SPONSORS FOR 2018

If anyone would like to sponsor the monthly bulletins for 2018 in loving memory of a loved one or in thanksgiving for their family or for a special anniversary, please see the sign-up sheet in the fellowship hall. **Please note we have the months of February, April, July, August, and the Palms are available yet.** The cost is \$30.00 for the month. If you would like to sponsor the

palms that cost is \$25.00.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE FOR THE MONTH OF JANUARY

Sunday, January 7, 2018

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship with communion
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Sunday, January 14, 2018

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship/Mini Missions
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship
10:00 a.m. Council Meeting

Sunday, January 21, 2018

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship

Sunday, January 28, 2018

9:00 a.m. Sunday Worship
10:00 a.m. Coffee Hour & Fellowship

SUPPORT ENVELOPES, YEAR END STATEMENTS & ANNUAL MEETING

THE 2018 CHURCH SUPPORT ENVELOPES are now available. Adults please destroy your old envelopes.

END OF THE YEAR STATEMENTS: All financial statements for the 2017 giving year will be run and distributed the first full week in January.

OUR ANNUAL MEETING will be held on February 18, 2018 immediately after worship. Deadline for information to be placed into the annual report is Friday, February 2, 2018. Our council will be hosting the coffee hour the day of our annual meeting.

GREETERS

January 7 – Chad, Janel & Dale Klika
January 14 – Roger & Lois Schwahn
January 21 – Kay Wachal
January 28 – Jenifer Pittl Family

ACOLYTES

January 7 – Grant & Trent Leiterman/Dale Klika
January 14 – Chloe & Derek Vande Hey
January 21 – Brynn Williams & Madeline Cooney
January 28 – Alex Nowak & Emma Schneider

SUNDAY HELPERS

January 7 – Carla Zander
January 14 – Dawn Voight
January 21 – Todd Schneider
January 28 – Sandy M Kuchenbecker

COFFEE HOUR

January 7 – **need volunteers**
January 14 – **need volunteers**
January 21 – **need volunteers**
January 28 – **need volunteers**

LAY READERS

January 7 – Chad Klika
January 14 – Amber Horn-Leiterman
January 21 – Karla Miller
January 28 – Cindy Riha

USHERS

January 7 – Chad Klika
January 14 – Tony Reese
January 21 – Karla Miller
January 28 – Duane Loose

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHERS

Pre-School – Grade 2

January 10 – Teacher: Joselyn Heritage
Helper: Morgan Janas
January 17 – Teacher: Joselyn Heritage
Helper: Morgan Janas
January 24 – Teacher: **Need volunteer**
Helper: **Need volunteer**
January 31 – Teacher: Joselyn Heritage
Helper: Morgan Janas

Grades 3-6

January 10 – Teacher: Becky Schneider
Helper: Emma Schneider
January 17 – Teacher: Becky Schneider
Helper: Emma Schneider
January 24 – Teacher: Becky Schneider
Helper: Emma Schneider
January 31 – Teacher: **Need volunteer**
Helper: **Need volunteer**

PARENT CONFIRMATION HELPER

January 10 – Krahn Family
January 17 – Barth Family
January 24 – **NO CLASS**
January 31 – Heritage Family

JANUARY ANNIVERSARY

January 18 – Michael & Brittney Horn

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS

January 2 – Stacey Barth
January 4 – Carla Zander
January 7 – Dawn Eijtjes
January 14 – Mason Aplin
January 16 – Rhonda Klessig
January 19 – Bennett Reese
January 20 – Amber Horn-Leiterman
January 20 – Teagan Eijtjes
January 21 – Brandon Wachal
January 23 – Joselyn Heritage
January 25 – Marcella Bohman
January 26 – Jacob Schneider
January 28 – Margo Kees
January 28 – Becky Schneider
January 29 – Rev. Tom Williams

FINANCIAL GIVING

November 2017

Sunday School Children - \$27.00
Loose Collection – \$31.00
General Fund - \$2,607.00
E-giving - \$2,408.00
Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service - \$355.00
(Money given to the Local Food Pantry)

December 1 – 27, 2017

Sunday School Children - \$33.50
Loose Collection – \$166.00
General Fund - \$3,403.00
E-giving - \$2,418.00
Sunday School donations- \$200.00
UCC Association Christmas Fund - \$30.00
Bulletin Sponsor - \$90.00
Mission & Outreach donation - \$100.00
In Memory of Doris Knoespel - \$25.00
(into general fund)
From Women's Guild (Candle Oil) - \$29.95
Scrip into General fund - \$500.00
From Endowment into Maint. Fund - \$1,200.00

MISSION AND OUTREACH

In the December newsletter I challenged you to think about the statement, "where your money goes, so does your heart go," and your generosity and willingness to get involved when people needed to hear from our church proved where your hearts are. Mission and Outreach involves the entire church and we continue to work as a team for the Lord.

Adopt A Family: First you completed the Adopt A Family project through Salvation Army. Gifts of clothing, toys, gift cards and even some extra little goodies were provided for two families. I would also like to note that some of the children were in the bracket that I often describe as "the ages difficult to buy for" – teenagers and preteen! But you did a wonderful job of finding personalized gifts for them.

Instead of participating in the Shoe Box project, this year you were offered another avenue to provide gifts for those not adopted. Gift ideas were provided using the Star program and you generously gave toys, warm pajamas and other gifts so the many children not adopted had a gift under the tree.

I know without a doubt you will be bringing a multitude of smiles as the gifts are opened on Christmas morning.

Love Baskets: A week after having the Adopt A Family completed you jumped right in and provided baked goods, gifts and other food items to complete 47 love baskets. Your ability to identify those in need of our love is what makes this project a powerful way of serving others.

The baskets were delivered to 15 church members and 32 non-members. Each year we try to encourage members and friends of the congregation to deliver just one basket to someone on the list that you don't know. Without doing this, you have missed perhaps the most important part of this project, understanding the reason outreach is so very important. By witnessing the absolute joy, appreciation or even shock on faces as they take your gift and realize our church is reaching out to them to say **WE CARE**. As you make your New Year's resolution this year try to include the promise that you will be part of the delivery team for Christmas 2018!

We will be giving you small selections from the thank you notes as they come into the church.

Take the time to note how truly thankful people are for your thoughtfulness and generosity.

- Sincere appreciation for your Holiday gift
- Thank you so much for thinking of us and for the wonderful gift basket. I greatly appreciate your support and kindness.
- Want to sincerely thank you for my wonderful Love Basket. I haven't done any baking yet, so I really appreciated it. God works in wondrous ways!
- Thank you once again for the beautiful Love Basket. I sure do appreciate the kind words in the card and how you appreciate me and my family.
- What a wonderful surprise - during this difficult Christmas it is nice to know others are thinking and care about what my family is going thru.
- Thank you for the wonderful Gift Basket. Thanks also for all your prayers for me.

Mini Missions: Your collection of \$87.50 on December 10th helped fill our Love Baskets with small gifts. Through the Mini Mission project, you have traveled around the world during 2017 providing encouragement, appreciation, and receiving a greater understanding of others needing to hear God's word and love. Let's make 2018 another year of exploring God's world thru Missions.

January's Mini Missions will be for Project Linus, an organization several members of our congregation are directly involved in. Their mission statement of "Providing Security Through Blankets" sums up what this group of talented seamstresses can and have accomplished. Members of this sewing group continually work on fabric, transforming it into quilts, which are then given to someone in need. Their recent endeavors included making and sending 500 blankets to those displaced by the hurricanes. There are several ways we can help Project Linus – our donations of money but also donations of fabric and yarn. If you have questions please contact Janel Feldner or Laurie Sommers. I will rely on Janel Feldner to give you more information as she greets the children during the service on January 14th.

God's meaning for our lives is to spread His love and care to others and this project certainly warms not only people's hearts but also their bodies.