

The Tidings



Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Sun Prairie, Wisconsin October 2008

Pitch In On Fall Clean-up Day



Fall Clean-up Day is Saturday, **October 4 from 8:00-Noon.** 15 -20 people are needed to help with cleaning up the shrub beds, pruning, raking... Bring your tools of choice. People are also needed to wash windows outside, drain hoses, replace filters, etc. (Yes, there will be donuts!) Please come and help. Pick up trucks will be helpful to take the clippings to the recycling center.

Special Voter's Meeting October 5 at Noon

The Pastoral Call Committee has requested a special voter's meeting of Bethlehem members to be held on October 5, 2008 at Noon in the Fellowship Hall.

The meeting will include a vote on the recommendation from the call committee that Bethlehem issue a call.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact any of the call committee members: Bob Hickey, Teresa Bauman, Earl Schalk, Patti Schalk, Sandy Philip, Ron Semmann, Tim Mielcarek, Warren Wiese, Laurie Dary, Barb Weisensel, Keith Nelson or Ardie Nelson.

Voters Meeting Agenda:

Scripture Reading /Opening Prayer
Roll call of voting members (attendance sign in pads)
Reception New Voting Members / Removal of Members
Approve minutes from prior meeting

Unfinished Business:

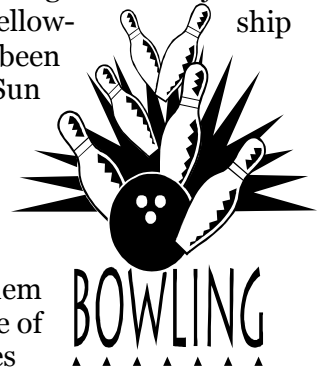
Call committee update and vote on issuing a call
New Business
Adjournment/Closing Prayer

Church Bowling Afternoon

Come one, come all! It's time to bowl! Grab a ball, lace up those stylish bowling shoes and join in for an afternoon of fun and fellowship at Prairie Lanes. Lanes have been reserved at Prairie Lanes in Sun Prairie on Sunday, **October 19** from noon to 4:00 p.m. *(for you Packer fans the football game that day starts at 3:15!)*

Great price too! Bethlehem has been given a reduced rate of \$2.25/game and that includes the shoe rental! Prairie Lanes also serves good food so you can go to the lanes directly after late service.

Bring your family! Bring your friends! Don't miss this opportunity for a good time with great people. Signup sheet is in the narthex.



Focus on the Food Pantry

Throughout October and November our Ladies' Guild will collect non-perishable food and other items for the Sun Prairie Emergency Food Pantry. Bring your donations to church and place near the hay bale in the narthex. Especially needed are non-food items such as:

Laundry Detergent	Deodorant
Shaving Cream	Disposable
Razors	
Bath Soap	Toothpaste
Toothbrushes	Diapers NB-4
Baby Food	Baby Formula
Baby Wipes	

Check out changing needs on their website:

www.sunprairiefoodpantry.com

Food Pantry Volunteers are Needed for 2nd Mondays and 5th Mondays. Call Karen Est at 825-4296.



The Unsinkable Ship

That day when evening came, he said to his disciples, "Let us go over to the other side." (Mark 4:35)

It was hailed as the "unsinkable" ship when it was launched. Even the captain had said, "God Himself couldn't sink this ship." The ill-fated ship was the *Titanic* where hundreds of passengers and crew were drowned. I wonder how much praying took place during that night. If ever hearts and voices were raised to God it certainly happened on that night. Have you ever read these words-*Never be afraid to try something new. Remember: amateurs built the ark, and professionals built the Titanic?*

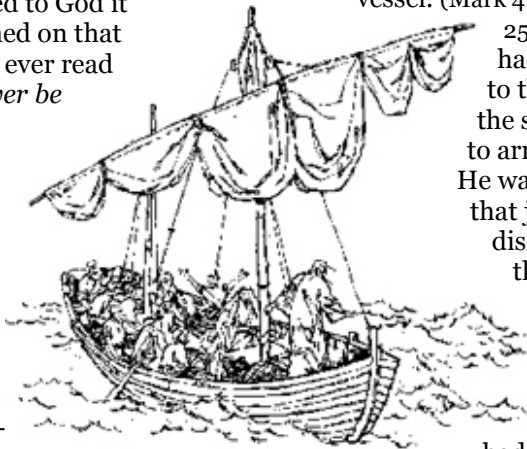
These words serve as a reminder that when we are inexperienced, we tend to lean on God for results. We recognize how little we possess-and how much we need His help. When we are experienced, we tend to lean on our strengths and leave God out of the equation. We depend on our gifts and talents rather than on our God. At least most of the time.

I read that just after the sinking of the *Titanic* an American pastor was visiting in Belfast, Ireland. The *Titanic* had been built in Belfast, and there had been great pride over the mighty ship. They'd been the first to herald it as "the unsinkable ship." Sixteen members of a church in Belfast, all skilled mechanics, had gone down with her.

There was sorrow on the streets of Belfast when the news was verified that the ship had gone down. The visiting American preached the Sunday after the tragedy in the church that had lost the sixteen members in the *Titanic*. Not only was the building packed with people, but on the platform sat lords, bishops, and ministers of all

denominations. In the audience, many newly-made widows sat, and orphans were sobbing on every side.

The pastor stood up and announced his subject: "The Unsinkable Ship." But he did not apply this term to the *Titanic*. Instead, his message was about that other "unsinkable ship" – the frail, little boat on the Sea of Galilee, unsinkable because the Master of land and sea was asleep on a pillow in the back of the vessel. (Mark 4:35-41; Luke 8:22-



25) Because Jesus had said, "Let us go to the other side," the ship was destined to arrive successfully. He was in charge of that journey. The disciples, the waves, the wind, and the rain all assumed the posture of surrender.

That's not a bad thought to keep in mind when we begin a new journey in our lives, or when the "wind and waves" of life are battering us. Jesus is still in control of the journey. Jesus knows the destination and invites us, by faith, to join Him. Jesus has already drowned our sins in the depth of the sea with His own death on the cross and His mighty resurrection. In the midst of our prayers Jesus invites us to the other side - because He is already there waiting for us. "Seek the LORD while he may be found; call on him while he is near...Let him turn to the LORD, and he will have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will freely pardon." (Is. 55:6, 7)

Jesus still steers the lives of those who put their faith and trust in Him. Jesus, Savior, pilot me! May we be blessed in this journey of faith in Jesus.

Looking forward to the other side,
Pastor Mueller

"For I resolved to know nothing while with you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified." (1 Cor. 2:2)

Stephen Ministry Activities

Dear Members of Bethlehem:

Stephen Ministry training began on September 18 for a group of lay people from our congregation. This training for caring ministry was developed by Stephen Ministries St. Louis. Using it, congregations all over the world have implemented lasting programs of lay caring ministry. At Bethlehem, we started our Stephen Ministry program over 7 years ago and we have cared for many members of Bethlehem, as well as, several outside of our congregation.

Over the next few months our new Stephen Minister trainees will receive extensive training in Christian caring skills. Some of the areas these people will cover in the training sequence include listening effectively, dealing with feelings, confidentiality, using the resources of Christianity, being assertive, and a number of topics dealing with specific life crises. Throughout, the training will emphasize caring for the whole person.



Following the training, these men and women will be commissioned as Stephen Ministers to carry out ministries of caring within our congregation and community, with people experiencing such problems in life as hospitalization, grief, depression, loneliness, and many other life crises. Working under our guidance and supervision the Stephen Ministers will extend the capacity of our congregation to care.

The people who are attending this Stephen Ministry training and committing to two years as Stephen Ministers are

Cheryl Brigowatz
Cindy Bortmess
Diane Hurley
Gary Reed
Ken Kellenberg
Mark and Kris Saeger
Susie Bailey
Tim Perko

Please keep these people in your thoughts and prayers as they receive this training for caring ministry.

If you have any questions about Stephen Ministry training and caregiving, please feel free to contact one of us.

Pastor Mueller
Ardie Nelson, Stephen Leader
Kathy Divine, Stephen Leader

October Youth Activities

October 5
6-8 p.m.

Grades 6-12 at Mielcarek's
3139 Vinburn Road
Sun Prairie.
Bring a friend, swimsuits & towel.

October 12
5:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12 meet at church to go to Nieting's in Waterloo.
Bring a friend for fun and a bonfire.
Drivers needed.

October 18/19

Servant event – watch for details.



October 24
(Friday)

7:00 p.m.
Grades 6-12 meet at church to go to Corn Maze at Schuster's in

Deerfield. Bring a friend and flashlight.

Cost is \$6. Drivers needed.

Ladies' Guild/LWML to Meet on October 6

All women and confirmed girls are invited to be part of our Ladies' Guild at Bethlehem. We'll be packing up school kits and quilts for Lutheran World Relief. Join a great group of women on Monday, October 6 at 7:00 p.m.

LWML Zone 20/21 Fall Rally

Join other women from the Madison area for the Fall Zone Rally at St. John's Lutheran in Portage on Saturday, October 25. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Norm & Betty Rose will speak on "Mission Central Wisconsin" and Bible study will be led by Rev. Alan Boeck. There is no charge, but an offering will be taken and there is a freewill offering for the lunch that will be served.

Blood Drive Recap

Our Sept 5th blood drive had 20 people presenting and a total of 17 units collected. A thank you is extended to the donors and a special thank you to ALL the volunteers. It wouldn't have happened with-out you! For information on donating or to join BLC'S "One a Week" club contact Judy Meyers at 837-4992.

Camp LuWiSoMo Fall & Winter Retreats

Fall Work Weekend

October 24-26

Mother/Daughter Scrap & Stamp

October 31-November 2

Women's Scrap & Stamp

November 7-9

Kids' Christmas

December 5-7

Information and costs on these retreats can be found on the counter in the hallway or at www.luwisomo.org.

Camp LuWiSoMo is operated by the South Wisconsin District of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod and is located at W5421 Aspen Road in Wild Rose, WI 54984.



Stewardship Corner

Humble Stewards

As stewards, we are the recipients and caretakers of God's goodness, love, mercy, and grace. Stewards are managers of God's creation. We acknowledge God as the owner; therefore, we are to act not as owners but as managers because our lives and resources are simply on loan from Him.

The book of Daniel gives an account of a man who failed to recognize God as Creator and provider and exalted himself. King Nebuchadnezzar, walking on the roof of "his" royal palace, surveying "his" kingdom, was overcome by pride as he announced, *"Is not this the great Babylon I have built as the royal residence, by my mighty power and for the glory of my majesty"* (Daniel 4:30)? He thought he was asking a rhetorical question, but God condemned him to live like an animal as a consequence of his pride.

Pride is destructive. It destroys gratitude to God for all His kindness to us. It destroys our desire and ability to serve others. It destroys contentment for it feeds our competitive nature so that we are not satisfied with just being wealthy or intelligent, but we want to be wealthier and more intelligent than anyone else.

Pride has no place in the life of a servant. First Peter 5:6 reads, "Humble yourselves, therefore, under God's mighty hand that He may lift you up in due time." It is God alone Who can exalt us (Psalm 75:7). If Christ Himself, God's only begotten Son, humbled Himself, should we not follow His example and humble ourselves? Because Christ humbled Himself, God exalted Him (Philippians 2:9)

David, the shepherd-king, put our situation in proper perspective: *"When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have set in place, what is man that You are mindful of him, the son of man that You care for him"* (Psalm 8:3-4)? The

inference is that we are insignificant, yet David goes on to remind us of what we can be proud: "You made [us] ruler over the works of Your hands; You put everything under [our] feet."

Humility allows us to accept our smallness and God's goodness. In the words of Martin Luther, humility is the decision to "let God be God". We are stewards through humility. We are to honor Him with what we have, what we are, and what He will make of us.

 **A simple choice; a generous response**

Simply Giving® is an automated giving program designed to help you conveniently and consistently contribute to your church. Through Simply Giving®, your gifts are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account or credit card. You determine the frequency of your automatic gift—weekly, semi-monthly or monthly — the option is yours. Your gift or payment is deposited into Bethlehem's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account—at no cost to you or Bethlehem.

Bethlehem benefits from steady, more predictable revenue throughout the year, more efficient book-keeping and greater confidence in meeting financial commitments.

Enrollment forms are available in the church office. Completed forms should be turned in to Betty Isaacson who will enter you into the program. Changes can be made at any time.

"Signs and Symptoms: Is It Time to Call?"

Hospice is for anyone, with any disease, who is at the end of life. Learn about the signs and symptoms that indicate when it is time to ask about

hospice at HospiceCare's next question-and-answer seminar, "Signs and Symptoms: Is It Time to Call?" The free, public seminar is on Tuesday, October 14, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway in Madison. Pre-registration is not necessary.

HospiceCare Drop-in Support Groups

If your life has been impacted by the death of a loved one, HospiceCare invites you to come to a weekly morning or evening group attended by others going through similar situations. You do not need to pre-register or to commit to attend a set number of groups. You simply come when you want to, and don't come when you don't feel like it.

Being with people who understand what you are going through can be very supportive.

The meetings are held at the Don & Marilyn Anderson HospiceCare Center, 5395 E. Cheryl Parkway, in Madison, every Wednesday from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. For more information, please call Kris Simon at (608) 276-4660.

JCPlayZone.com

Lutheran Hour Ministries' interactive kids' Web site, JCPlayZone.com offers games, recipes, crafts, coloring pages, and free e-cards. Activities and games are updated periodically so that kids will keep coming back.

Games include a word search, matching game, crossword puzzle, among others. Besides providing a safe, Christian environment for kids to play online, some games, coloring pages, and e-cards help share Bible stories. JCPlayZone also has Christian music, Daily Devotions, and audio versions of Bible stories to help teach kids Christian values.

Many parents who have checked out JCPlayZone and its companion Web site, [JCParentZone](http://JCParentZone.com), are excited



to share the links with their friends and are happy to have a safe, Christian Web site for their kids to play on.



Woman to Woman – Talk you can trust

"Woman to Woman" radio promotes women's well-being and spiritual growth through in-depth discussion of women's issues, to give practical lifestyle information. Phyllis Wallace and her guests motivate and instruct listeners on how to make the transition from "hearing" to "doing."

Woman to Woman is not broadcast anywhere in the Madison area, but you can listen to it on your computer any time at:

www.womantowomanradio.com

Coming Up on [womantowomanradio.com](http://www.womantowomanradio.com):

October 05, 2008

Have a New Kid By Friday!

Are reasonable expectations - be polite and pitch in at home - too much to ask from your child? You don't need to raise your voice to get your child's attention. You need author and psychologist Dr. Kevin Leman: he promises you a new kid by Friday.

October 12, 2008

For Parents Only...

Kids change quickly. From doting child to hostile teenager, she doesn't want to be like you or even with you! Sound familiar? Shaunti Feldhahn and Lisa Rice wrote *For Parents Only* to help parents demystify teen thinking and build closer ties.

October 19, 2008

Men Are Like Waffles, Women Are Like Spaghetti

October 26, 2008

The Rest is Up to You

Make a Blanket for Project Linus

Project Linus is a non-profit organization, dedicated to "Providing Security through Blankets," for ill or traumatized children and teens.

Blankets should be **homemade of all-new washable materials** (no recycled materials or **wool**) in child or teen-friendly colors or prints (animals are especially popular). 45x60" is the most needed blanket size, but many sizes are useful. They should be at least 30x36" for infants, 45x45" and 45x60" for older kids, up to a maximum of about 45x72."

Blankets may be knitted, crocheted, fleece or quilted. For fringed fleece blankets, it is best to start with a 1 1/2 yd length of 60" wide fleece.

Place finished blankets in the blue box under the Women's Guild table in the hallway.

Call the Prayer Chain



If you have a prayer request for members of Bethlehem, their families or friends call Judy Meyers at 608 837-4992 (home) or Nancy Anderson at 825-3333 (home) or 244-6181 (work) to activate the prayer chain.

Updates to Your Church Telephone Directory:

Adolph & LaVerne Auerbach
Waunakee Manor
801 S. Klein Dr
Waunakee, WI 53590

Crystal Blek & Danielle
906 Betty Lee Court
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Jim & Sandy Oughton
6339 Brandywood Trail
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Chris & Lynn Thomas
3089 Castleton Crossing
Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Parish Planning Council

September 9, 2008

Present: Dennis Dary, Pastor Mueller, Bob Hickey, Keith McCredie, Debbie Reed, Tom Barnet, Bryon Wornson, Laurie Dary

The meeting was brought to order at 7:06pm and opened with prayer by Pastor Mueller.

The minutes to the August meeting were accepted as distributed.

Pat Schommer submitted treasurer's report prior to the meeting to Dennis Dary.

The Board of Lay Ministry is continuing to fill the schedules for communion servers, altar guild and scripture readers for worship services; schedules to be posted on board by usher's station. Christmas program/service will be on December 21st, one service only, time to be verified. A thank you gift will be presented to Jim Isaacson for his many years of service to the church as choir director. Call committee in the process of contacting 4 candidates for Pastor to see if they would entertain a call; at time of this meeting, one has declined and one is interested, 2 still need to be contacted. Summer service schedule, the board recommends that starting next summer (Memorial Day through Labor Day) that there only be one service on Sunday mornings at 9am; this will be brought up at voter's meeting.

Pastor Mueller stated that confirmation class begins tomorrow, Sept 10th; 55 children and parents were in attendance at last week's mtg, several families have signed up to coordinate meals for these nights. Pastor is working with Pastor Mark Schumm from Calvary to see if he can substitute on nights he will not be able to teach. Prayer notebook study to begin on Sept 14th at 9:15am, 22 names are on sign up list; Pastor will explain how notebooks works, will also touch base with group on weekly basis but is hopeful that various members will take turns leading the discussion & prayer and that small groups will spin off & meet on their own. Pastor also relayed that President Wille's father passed away this week, will have Christian burial this Saturday in Watertown.

The Board of Evangelism will host Family Fun Day on Sept 20th, 1-4pm, various adult & children's activities going on. Board is documenting the process that Len & Betty Linzmeier

have been conducting in contacting visitors to Bethlehem. A flyer will be in bulletin to gather interest for participating with a Habitat For Humanity building project in Sun Prairie. Debbie Reed is working with Chris Moehr to make updates to our website.

The Board of Christian Education meeting minutes indicate that they will table making a recommendation to the voters regarding the Youth & Family Ministry position until the November voter's meeting.

Tom Barnet announced that the Board of Stewardship will implement the program called Financial Peace, 13 weeks series, around end of October; it is a faith-based program to teach people how to manage money. Time, Talent & Treasures consecration program to occur around Easter time. The envelope boxes will include a Simply Giving enrollment & authorization form for members to use if they wish.

The Board of Church Properties will hold Clean-up day on October 4th to clean windows, trim brush, etc. On October 25th the sanctuary lights will be relamped.

Dennis Dary noted that the bulletin board to display minutes from the Boards & other church information in the hallway has been updated to display each board's name. The Angel Tree program will again take place this year; Zak Waldschmidt will take the lead. Church audit- Dennis will contact Pat Schommer and District to find out if we can team up with another church and conduct each other's audits.

Board chairs are asked to bring their budget numbers for 2009 to the next PPC meeting; treasurer will need electronic version of budgets at least 2 weeks before Nov. voter's mtg to compile for budget approval.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

Submitted by,
Laurie Dary

Voter's Meeting – Regular

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
September 14, 2008

Pastor Mueller opened meeting with prayer at 12:13pm.

Attendance sign in pad routed around room to record attendees (32).

No members were added or removed at this meeting.

Motion to accept minutes from previous meeting at previously distributed made by Earl Schalk, passed without dissent.

Proposed bylaw wording change to Article 5, Section 1. Procedure for Securing a Pastor or Teacher, new

wording as follows: "For a Pastor, the Board of Lay Ministry shall appoint and oversee a Call Committee. The Call Committee's purpose shall be to present a list of acceptable male candidate(s) for the pastorate to the voting membership at a regular or special meeting of the voters. The Board of Lay Ministry and the Pastoral Call Committee shall consult with the President of the South Wisconsin District or his representative during this process.

In the case of a DCE or teacher, the Board of Christian Education shall appoint and oversee a Call Committee. The Call Committee's purpose shall be to present a list of acceptable candidate(s) for the pastorate to the voting membership at a regular or special meeting of the voters. The Board of Christian Education and the Call Committee shall consult with the President of the South Wisconsin District or his representative during this process." The 3 sentences at end of this section remain the same. Motion made by Warren Wiese to accept this bylaw change, passed without dissent.

Pastoral Call Committee update presented by Bob Hickey, committee has reviewed the 12 candidates; the Pastor's SET (information) available in church office, they must stay in office and no photocopies shall be made. 4 candidates considered top tier, these 4 have been contacted, 2 declined to be involved in call process, 1 interested, 1 still considering; not confirmed but plan on doing a phone interview on Sept 17th.

Dena Schlitz presented the recommendation from the Board of Christian Education regarding Youth and Family Ministry position: The Board of Christian Education moves that with the guidance of the Lead Pastor, the Youth position be filled as soon as possible. However, if the lead

pastoral call has not been answered by the end of 2008, the Board of Christian Education will come back to the voters and ask to fill the position with a temporary call in the form of an intern or a hire. Motion was seconded and passed without dissent.

Treasurer's report was presented by Pat Schommer, currently we are spending below our approved budget. But our weekly receipts are lagging behind amount needed to fully fund General Fund; need \$9840/wk, averaging \$7350/wk through 8 months. Current cash reserve (General Fund) is about \$22,700. August month-end financial summary sheets are posted on the church bulletin board.

Board of Lay Ministry chair Bob Hickey announced that on December 21st, 2008 there will be only one service at 9am for the Christmas program. Board has also suggested that next summer there only be one service on Sunday mornings at 9am along with the 7pm Thursday service.

Board of Church Properties report was presented by Tom Heumann. Regular church maintenance is continuing and that Fall Cleanup Day will be on October 4th, all are welcome to come and help with tasks around church.

Board of Evangelism chair Deb Reed reported that Family Fun Day will be September 20th from 1-4pm. Board is in the process of documenting the follow-up process for contacting visitors to Bethlehem. Also are working on updates to the church's website, www.bethlehemlc.org, to keep it vibrant and can rely on it as a communication tool.

Board of Stewardship chair Tom Barnett presented that the program Financial Peace will be offered. The Time & Talent program will occur January thru May culminating with a Consecration Sunday to incorporate

Treasures. Tim Ditloff from District will meet with Bethlehem members on Sept. 30th to discuss financial health at Bethlehem and to discuss other possible solutions.

A motion was presented by Len Linzmeier to change the job title of Lead Associate Pastor to Administrative Associate Pastor, was seconded, discussion ensued and motion failed with 6 yeas and 24 nos.

Laurie Dary announced that Ladies Guild will be collecting donations for the Food Pantry during the months of October thru November; other boards or groups are encouraged to join if so desired.

Pastor Mueller's report included being thankful for the care and compassion of this congregation, he's grateful for all people that have been helping out since Pete Imlah left and are keeping programs going. There are 26 in the confirmation class; Todd Neiting, Monica Schommer and Paul Baumann have been helping on Wednesday nights. Prayer Notebook journey has started, participants are encouraged to read God's Word and pray every day. Pastor asked for everyone to continue to pray for Pastor and our congregation.

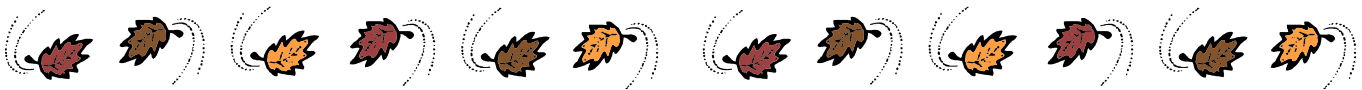
Motion was made by John Schlitz to adjourn meeting, was seconded and passed without dissent.

Pastor Mueller closed the meeting with prayer.

Meeting adjourned at 1:45am

Minutes submitted by Laurie Dary

32 members in attendance per sign in sheet



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 Broadway Drive
Sun Prairie, WI 53590
608-837-7446

www.bethlehemlc.org

office@bethlehemlc.org

Worship:

Sundays: 8:00 & 10:45 a.m.
Sunday School/Bible Classes 9:25 am

Rev. Stephen M. Mueller, Pastor