

# JANUARY 2024

Acts 14:<sup>21</sup> *They preached the gospel in that city and won a large number of disciples. Then they returned to Lystra, Iconium and Antioch,* <sup>22</sup> *strengthening the disciples and encouraging them to remain true to the faith. "We must go through many hardships to enter the kingdom of God," they said.* <sup>23</sup> *Paul and Barnabas appointed elders for them in each church and, with prayer and fasting, committed them to the Lord, in whom they had put their trust.*

I feel so very fortunate that in our late teens and early 20's, Karen and I were part of a non-denominational church with a discipleship culture. This group consisted of people of every age (not much different in size from our church community). The people were excited to gather often for worship and Bible study; learning, growing, praying, encouraging, and discipling one another in the love of Christ.

I remember my first visit to the church which gathered in the lower level of the Bob & Maureen Francis Family home. I was nervous! Even though the people were welcoming and made no claims to having reached Christian perfection, I knew they had a passion for Christ that I didn't possess. I knew they had a relationship with God that I wanted for myself. As this church community walked out their faith, they were humble people who recognized their desperate need of saving grace that Jesus alone can provide. Like Christ followers over millennium, they knew their only hope for this life (and eternity) was to surrender everything to Jesus. They oozed with joy as they navigated the treacherous minefields of life with an overwhelming confidence, love, trust, and dependence on the grace of Jesus Christ. They sought to be the church that God called them to be, at that time and in that location. At times it looked awkward and clumsy as they *worked out their salvation with fear and trembling*, yet they did so with pure hearts and motives. I wanted THAT! Following their godly example and loving direction, I made a choice: through the abundant grace, mercy and overwhelming love of the Father, and by the shed blood and sacrifice of the Lamb of God, I became a disciple of Jesus Christ. That decision changed my life.

And just like them, God desires us to be the healthiest possible version of His unique body, in THIS present time and place. Right where He has planted us. So, as we begin this exciting new year as Blackhawk Bethlehem Church, may we passionately seek to embody the fullness of the vision Christ has for us. Make no mistake: no church is perfect. But God's desire, will, and vision for His body are! Let us continue to press on in our pursuit of God's best as we embrace a disciple-making culture at BHB. I pray that none of us will fall short of the fullness of life God intends for us. Hear my heart as it echoes the words of Paul to the church in Corinth in his second letter (11:2) when he said: *I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy for I promised you to one husband, to Christ...*

Onward and upward! PK

# LAY LEADERSHIP COMMITTEE 2024-2026

Christian Ed. Leader: Christine Elliott  
Teachers assume various responsibilities

Ad Council Chair	TBD _____	
Recording Sec.	Irene DeVoe	2024
Staff Parish Chair	<b>Gene Unger</b>	<b>2026</b>
	Marilyn Horstman	2024
	Kyle Elliott	2025
	Jane Pagel	2024
	Shalome Ullmann	2024
Finance Chair	<b>Lloyd Ballweg</b>	<b>2024</b>
	Brian Ullmann	2026
	Mike Enge	2026
	Treasurer & Pastor	
Audit Committee	Ron Schneller	2026
	Dennis Schneller	2025
	Ranju Been	2026
Trustees Chair	<b>Nick Hartley</b>	<b>2025</b>
	Wayne Rider	2025
	Greg Sprecher	2026
	Lloyd Ballweg (Finance Rep)	
	Pastor	
Wills & Memorials	Kay Hankins	2026
Lay Leadership Chair	TBD _____	
	TBD _____	
	Pastor	
Members @ Large	TBD _____	
Membership	Nola Weis	2025
Church Historians	Rev. Dennis & Nola Weis	
Mission & Ministry/ Worship	TBD _____	
	JoAnn Ballweg	2024
	Chris Elliott	2024
	LaNell Jaquish	2024
	Pianist/Organist	
Kitchen Ladies	Nola Weis	
	Kay Hankins	

VBS Director	Abby Bennett	2024
Youth Leaders	Kendall & Karen Schlittler Steve & Laura Mallon TBD _____	
Acolyte Coor.	Shalome Ullmann	
Family ACTS Coor. Coffee Cart	Shalome Ullmann	
Communion Stewards	Teresa Rider Heather Rodenschmit	
Baptism Blanket	Jean Schneller	
Nurture & Care	Nola Weis	
Women w/o Spouses	LaNell Jaquish	
Women's Workout	Karen Schlittler TBD _____	
Women's Bible Study	Karen Schlittler TBD _____	
Men's Study	Mike Enge Pastor	
Annual Events 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Chair Co-Chair	Jo Ballweg TBD _____	
Lord's Acre Chair Co-Chair	Nick & Bobbi Jo Hartley TBD _____	
Chicken & Dumpling Co-Chair	TBD _____ TBD _____	
Social Media	Christine Elliott	
Audio/Visual Tech	Brian Ullmann Gene Unger Nick Hartley Katey Ullmann Rhett Jaquish	
Video Upload/Post	Pastor Kendall TBD _____	
Custodian	Volunteer Sign-up	

## Building a Firm Foundation



CLASSES RESUME JAN. 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024

PreK-5<sup>th</sup> Grade: Meet in Classrooms

6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> Grade: Remain in church

Questions sheet completed during worship

## BIBLE BOWL 2023

It was a terrific showdown for Bible Bowl 2023.

Bible Questions were asked of each team who then had to answer JEOPARDY-style. It was GREAT FUN!

Thank you to Abby for tracking down the JEOPARDY format...it made the game extra-neat for the kids and grownups. Thanks to Angie & Logan for being a great emcee and scorekeeper. Teachers, the questions were perfect for our students and made the "big people" dig deep for answers. Thanks for making it a challenge for all!

## 2023 CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

The "Friendly Beasts" told the story of Jesus' birth in a delightful play that captured the truth of giving our best gifts to the King of kings. Each of the kids/youth did a fabulous job on their parts/solos! Thank you to Abby Bennett for organizing and directing the play (and sister Stacy for writing it). Thank you, teachers for helping the students learn their lines/music. And thank you, Sylvia Timm & Youth for making and handing out TREAT BAGS for all the kiddos. Sweet!

## BIRTHDAY BASH

JANUARY 28<sup>th</sup>

10:00 AM

Celebrating Oct-Jan Birthdays

CUPCAKES FOR EVERYONE!

## PRAYER & PRAISE GATHERING

WEDNESDAY, JAN. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30 PM

Meet in the Fellowship Hall  
for an hour of singing and praying.

## WOMEN'S WORKOUT

It's a NEW YEAR...did you make a resolution to make wellness a part of 2024? Join Karen & Friends at church to move your good body through stretching, cardio, light weights, balance, and drumsticks. The music is terrific, the workout is great and it is FREE!

**MONDAYS: 5:00-6:15 PM** (note time change)  
January 8<sup>th</sup>-May 20<sup>th</sup>

## SPOUSES WITHOUT SPOUSES

WED. JAN. 10<sup>th</sup> No. 1 Kitchen

THURS. FEB. 15<sup>th</sup> Hot Dog Avenue  
Ladies...meet for lunch at 11:30.

## WOMEN'S WED. BIBLE STUDY

JAN. 10 & 24 FEB. 14 & 28 9:00 AM

Check Calendar/Bulletins for location

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 21<sup>st</sup>

Meet at church 6:30-8:30 PM

## **MS/HS YOUTH GATHERING SATURDAYS**

**JAN 13<sup>th</sup> & FEB 17<sup>th</sup>**

**5:00-7:30 PM**

**Food, Games, Topic Study  
Prayer & Blessing**

## **WE NEED YOUR HELP**

Volunteer for a MONTH of church cleaning duties (empty trash cans, vacuum, dust, mop, replenish, straighten) approx. 1 hour/week x 4 and receive a **\$25 PIG GROCERY CARD**.

Sign-up sheet is in narthex.

Many thanks, to those who cleaned the church throughout 2023! Blessings to you!



## Trying something different...

If you are interested in serving as...

**WORSHIP LEADER**

**SCRIPTURE READER**

**ACOLYTE**

...there is a **SIGN-UP SHEET** in the narthex. Please take a look at the Scheduled Sundays and write your name next to the week/duty you will commit to. If you have any questions regarding expectations, please talk to Pastor Kendall or Karen. Thank you!

### **\*Audio/Visual Technician**

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Brian Ullmann
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Gene Unger
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Nick Hartley
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Katey Ullmann
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Rhett Jaquish



**FEBRUARY 14<sup>th</sup>**

**WORSHIP AT 6:30 PM**

### INFORMATION UPDATES

Please take a moment and send NEW email/phone/address information to the office: [bhbumc@gmail.org](mailto:bhbumc@gmail.org). If you receive this newsletter via snail-mail and would like to be included in the Email listing, please send me your address. Thank you!

## **ATTENTION: BAD WEATHER SUNDAYS**

**Church and Christian Ed. will still meet:**  
*The form and setting may change, but our focus will always be on the Lord.*

**Personal safety decision:** *Individuals must use their own good judgment in coming out in inclement weather. If you are responsible for duties and have decided to stay home, give the office a call (544-3991). Please: do not RISK traveling; we prefer you be safe and sound and will gladly adapt.*

**Cancellation:** *In the rare event of cancellation, an email and Facebook post will be sent out. Please check before leaving home.*

Beginning December 2<sup>nd</sup>, the Bethlehem Choir gave their gift of music to the community by singing for the "Christmas Carols in the Country" event held at the Salem Ragatz Church, hosted by the Sauk Prairie Area Historical Society. A full-house enjoyed a lovely evening of Poetry, GOD'S WORD, and songs. The rest of the month, both the Praise & Bethlehem Choirs rehearsed their music to bring beautiful melodies to the Christmas Eve services. Thank you, CHOIRS, for sharing your talents; you are greatly appreciated!

We have some new dish towels/wash cloths for the church kitchen! Thank you, Mary Ellen McCutchin for the donation. You can never have enough, especially when it comes to church Dinner Events!

### **BLACKHAWK 4<sup>th</sup> of JULY 2024**

The 4<sup>th</sup> of July Committee will meet at the church on **THURSDAY, JAN. 25<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM.** Planning early will help us fine tune the day for everyone's enjoyment. We will discuss what went well, what did not, ways to improve, and new ideas. Interested and willing workers are encouraged to attend.

# JANUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec 31 9:00 AM Worship No Christian Ed.	1	2	3 6:30-7:30 PM Praise & Prayer Gathering Fellowship Hall	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Chat & Chew 2:00 4H Club	8 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	9	10 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Barb Hultberg's  11:30 SWOS @ No. 1 Kitchen SPRC mtg. 6:30 PM ADMIN mtg. 7:30 PM	11	12	13  5:00-7:30 PM YOUTH GATHERING
14 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:15 Praise practice	15 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	16	17	18 10:00 AM Maplewood 2:45 PM Pine Villa 3:30 PM Pines	19	20
21 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:15 Choir practice	22 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	23	24 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Karen's	25 10:00 AM Greenway  7:00 PM 4 <sup>th</sup> of July Planning mtg	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Birthday Bash 10:15 Choir practice	29 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	30	31			

# FEBRUARY 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 COMMUNION 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Chat & Chew 2:00 4H Club	5 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	6	7 6:30 PM Finance mtg. 7:00 PM Mission & Ministry mtg.	8	9	10
11 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 TRUSTEE mtg. 10:15 Praise practice	12 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	13	14 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Barb Hultberg's 6:30 PM Worship ASH WEDNESDAY @ Blackhawk	15 11:30 SWOS @ Hot Dog Ave. 10:00 AM Maplewood 2:45 PM Pine Villa 3:30 PM Pines	16	17 5:00-7:30 PM YOUTH GATHERING
18 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:15 Choir practice	19 5:00-6:15 PM Women's Workout	20	21 6:30-8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	22 10:00 AM Greenway	23	24
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**WHAT IS THAT???** If you've wondered about the black metal rectangles hanging on each side of the altar, they are mounting racks for large-screen TVs. The TRUSTEES have been working out a plan to upgrade our Audio/Visual system and this is the first step of installation. With the help of a special donation from the Ladd Family and others, the Trustees purchased the TV units which will be tied into a system that will eventually be used to enhance the worship experience. Two 86" diagonal UHD smart TVS will be mounted on the adjustable arm mounts that can retract flat to the wall. They will replace the projector and pull-down screen currently used by pastor to display sermon power points. Future uses will include internet streamed videos and song lyrics. A smaller smart TV will also be mounted to the face of the balcony to be used as a monitor for the pastor and/or musicians. Once fiber optic internet is connected, computer upgrades will allow for worship services to be live streamed (instead of our current method of recording, editing, producing, uploading, and releasing). Stay tuned for updates on the progress and needs of this project.

**IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T FIGURED IT OUT YET...**Our way of collecting tithes and offerings changed a few months ago. Gone are the brass plates that we were accustomed to. With a bit of creative thinking, John Been fashioned a CROSS-shaped slot/box that is affixed directly to the shelf itself. Into this slot, you may drop your tithes and offerings. Thank you, Steve Mallon for donating the shelf, and thank you, John, for using your carpentry skills. It looks and works GREAT!

**TWO MONTHS WORTH OF NEWS/INFORMATION:** Since September 2023, the office has been putting out a 2-month newsletter; Sept/Oct, Nov/Dec; this will continue in 2024 (you are reading the Jan/Feb edition). That means anyone who would like to have items of information included in the Hawk Talk must think AHEAD. Please email your submissions to the office [bhbumc@gmail.org](mailto:bhbumc@gmail.org) by the 15<sup>th</sup> of each ODD month.

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If you would like to help beautify our sanctuary for EASTER SUNDAY, please fill out the order form and place it in the offering plate or mail it to the church office along with your money by **SUNDAY, MARCH 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Please indicate the flowers to be given in MEMORY or HONOR and who they are FROM. Your plants may be picked up after Easter morning worship on MARCH 31<sup>st</sup>. Thank you.



_____ Lily	@ \$8.00	_____
_____ Tulip	@ \$8.00	_____
_____ Daffodil	@ \$8.00	_____
_____ Hyacinth	@ \$8.00	_____

Total amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_

In MEMORY \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

In HONOR \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

FROM \_\_\_\_\_

Blackhawk Bethlehem Church  
S10174 County Rd C  
Sauk City, WI 53583

Return Service Requested

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2024  
HAWK TALK

Blackhawk Bethlehem Church  
S10174 Cty Rd C Sauk City, WI 53583  
Pastor Kendall Schlittler

