

MARCH/APRIL 2024: Season of Change

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the LORD a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day. The LORD is not slow in keeping his promise, as some understand slowness. 2 Peter 3:8-9a

I can relate to this Scripture! Some days seem to *draaaag!* But just as true, other days have flown by so fast I wonder where they went in such a hurry! Can you believe it was nearly a year and a half ago that I told you in this newsletter column I would be retiring as a UMC Pastor on June 30th, 2023?! It has also been an entire year since informing you (March 2023 Hawk Talk) that Karen and I would continue to serve as your Secretary/Pianist and Pastor until June 30th, 2024, and now *THAT* date is practically on our doorstep!

Some of you may wonder why I am stepping away from pastoral ministry, especially now as we enter this new and exciting season as Blackhawk Bethlehem Church. Two reasons: #1: Ministry fatigue/brain-drain. #2: I've sensed in my spirit that BhB is ready to walk forward in God's vision under fresh pastoral leadership. It is time for a change.

To that end, we have been in earnest prayer during this last year, seeking God to direct our steps. There are still countless details He has yet to reveal to us regarding what He has ordained for the next season of our lives, but we walk by FAITH, trusting our good Father to lead, even though we do not yet see clearly the entirety of His perfect plan. Here is what I DO know and can share with you:

- On July 1st, 2024, you will have a new pastor. Your SPRC/Pastoral Search Team has invited Rev. Dr. Edward A. Jones to shepherd and lead the congregation as Blackhawk Bethlehem's Interim Pastor up to three years. The Administrative Council passed the vote to hire him on Sunday, Feb. 18th. Many of you have met Ed at church...he attends worship when he is able and has heeded the call to be a part of BhB's transition as an independent church (look for Rev. Dr. Jones' bio in the coming months). During his tenure, the Pastoral Search Committee will continue to seek a full-time, long-term Pastor for Blackhawk Bethlehem. Please continue to pray that God will open doors for prospective candidates.
- The SPRC has posted TWO openings commencing JULY 1st, 2024: Church Administrative Secretary (paid position) and Church Treasurer (volunteer). You can find the entire posting in this Hawk Talk.
- Where to next? Karen and I want to stay in the area and continue to seek housing in Sauk Prairie. If you know someone with a house or duplex available for rent, please let us know. 😊
- Future plans: Karen would like to expand her Piano Lesson business and be available for more volunteer opportunities. She will also lead music at Blackhawk's VBS in August (her joy and passion).
- As for me: Even though I may be retiring from my job as Pastor, I'm not yet able to fully retire; I'll be job hunting for something either part or full time. I am confident the LORD has a place for me to minister outside the pulpit and whatever work He chooses for me, I will do it all in the name of the LORD JESUS, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.
- Where will we worship post July 1st, 2024? We're allowing ourselves a "summer break" to prayerfully discern that question and then follow the LORD's leading in the Fall.

Hebrews 11:1...Now FAITH is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see. This is what the ancients were commended for. Verse 11:8...By FAITH Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.

Onward and Upward, PK

For all those who attended the 2023 April Chicken & Dumpling Dinner, Blackhawk 4th of July, and October Lord's Acre Weekend, we say **THANK YOU** for your financial support. Blackhawk Bethlehem Church commits to giving a 10% portion of these Annual Fund-Raising profits to various Missions & Ministries. The 2023 total amount to disperse was **\$2,321.72**. We have "gifted" the following:

- Tower Rock Elementary School
- Good Neighbor Clinic
- 6:8 Making Service Personal Ministry
- Sauk Prairie Food Pantry
- Spring Green Food Pantry
- SPAHS/Ragatz-Honey Creek Church
- Habitat for Humanity
- Family ACTS
- Pathway Home

thank you!

A New Year's Note: *Your worship services live-streamed are eagerly anticipated. I am grateful for the Audio/Visual Technicians who provide the worship services on youtube. I especially appreciated the 4PM Christmas Eve service while recovering from covid. Thank you, Pastor Kendall and Karen for all you do. Mary Meng*

A REALLY DUMB MISTAKE!

It's amazing how one little click of a button can cause such HUGE frustration! It was a major blunder on my part...I deleted something I should NOT have and LOST the office email address book. I was able to retrieve MANY but not ALL contacts from old messages but I still need to fill in some blanks. Because I want to make sure I don't miss anyone, please take a moment and send a note to the office: bhbumc@gmail.org This will allow me to update any contacts as well as re-create an address book. Thanks!

HAPPY HUSTLERS 4-H HEAD. HEART. HANDS. HEALTH

In 4-H, kids and teens complete hands-on projects in areas like health, science, agriculture and civic engagement in a positive environment where they receive guidance from adult mentors and are encouraged to take on proactive leadership roles. This group of young people meet at Blackhawk Bethlehem on the 1st Sunday afternoon of the month. At their January gathering, they made Valentines for Veterans. In February, a Rotary Student staying with the Hooks Family presented a slide-show and talked with the group about her home-country. Happy Hustlers General Club Leaders: Shalome Ullmann & Susie Thering. Cloverbud Leaders (littles): LaNell Jaquish & Lindsay Rodgers. Kids Officer Team: Elise Hooks/Pres., Mason Thering/VP, Paisely Jaquish/Sec, Zane Rodgers/Treas., Brady Ullmann/Reporter.



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME
SET CLOCKS AHEAD
ONE HOUR MARCH 9th



”SINGSPARATION”

SUNDAYS AT 10:00 AM

PreK-5th Graders meet with Abby & Karen in the Sanctuary to sing/move as well as learn new songs. They are scheduled to sing during worship on March 24rd and Palm Sunday, April 28th.

BIRTHDAY BASH
SUNDAY, APRIL 28th
10:00 AM

Celebrating FEB-MAY Birthdays
CUPCAKES FOR EVERYONE!



VBS 2024
AUGUST 5th-9th
9:00-11:30 AM
Age 4 yrs.-6th Grade

Look for the REGISTRATION FORM in this newsletter and at church. Invite a FRIEND!

PRAISE & PRAYER GATHERING
WEDNESDAYS, MARCH 6th & APRIL 3rd
6:30-7:30 PM

WOMEN’S WORKOUT

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.

WOMEN’S WED. BIBLE STUDY

MARCH 13 & 27 APRIL 10 & 24 9:00 AM
Check Sunday Bulletin for location

SPOUSES WITHOUT SPOUSES

THURS. MARCH 14th No. 1 Kitchen
THURS. APRIL 18th The Riv
Ladies...meet for lunch at 11:30.

MEN’S WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY

MARCH 27 & April 24
Meet at church 6:30-8:30 PM

MS/HS YOUTH GATHERING
SATURDAYS
MARCH 16 & APRIL 13
5:00-7:30 PM

March 16th: In preparation for Easter, we are taking the kids to St. Anne’s Chapel in Plain to hike the Stations of the Cross. Back to church for supper. Wear sturdy shoes.

April 13th: Supper & Study. We will help the kids work out individual statements of faith as they consider making a decision and declaration of faith before their church family & friends in May.

The CHURCH SPRING CLEAN DAY is scheduled for **SATURDAY, APRIL 20th, 8AM-NOON.** The Trustee Committee has a list of tasks to tackle along with the general deep cleaning of our building. A JOB LIST will be posted in April...if you want to help but are unavailable that Saturday, you are most welcome to come during the week to complete a task.

WILL YOU SERVE AS...

**WORSHIP LEADER,
SCRIPTURE READER
STUDENT ACOLYTE
BELL RINGER**

SIGN-UP SHEETS are in the narthex.

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, please talk to Pastor Kendall or Karen. Thank you!

***Audio/Visual Technician**

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

BLACKHAWK 4th of JULY 2024

Can you believe the 4th of July is only 5 months away? Our committee has already met and I'm working on the worker list. If your name wasn't included last year and you would like to help, please let me know ASAP. This is a memorable tradition of BhB and one of our fundraisers for the year. With everyone working together, we will keep it going. Thank you in advance. Pie bakers get ready...we need you! In Christian love, Jo Ballweg.

The 4th of July Committee will meet at the church **THURSDAY, MARCH 14th at 7 PM.**

CHURCH JOB POSTINGS

Church Administrative Secretary (paid)

Church Treasurer (volunteer)

Please look at the full description and submit your resume to Staff Parish Relations Committee Chair; Gene Unger or mail to Blackhawk Bethlehem Church by

APRIL 15th, 2024.

EASTER CANTATA

SATURDAY, MARCH 30th

Sauk Prairie River Arts Center

2:00 PM

A Community Choir presents
Pepper Choplin's

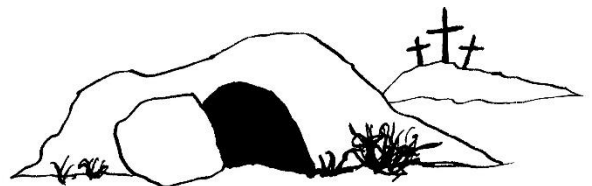
"COME WALK WITH ME"

Through the Passion &
Resurrection of Christ

No tickets required

Free-will offering for 6:8's Poverty
Alleviation Programming

**HE AROSE! HE AROSE!
HALLELUJAH! CHRIST AROSE!**



In Loving Memory of...

Elaine Wilhelm

Passed from this life on Jan. 24th, 2024
(a month shy of her 100th birthday/Feb. 29th).

Jacob Feigl

who passed away February 19th, 2024

Our heart-felt condolences to their

Friends & Families

MARCH 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3 COMMUNION 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Chat & Chew 2:00 4-H	4 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	5	6 6:30-7:30 PM PRAISE & PRAYER	7	8	9 TURN CLOCKS AHEAD ONE HOUR
10 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Singspiration 10:15 Praise Practice	11 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	12	13 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Parsonage	14 11:30 SWOS Lunch @ #1 Kitchen 7:00 PM 4 th of JULY mtg.	15	16 YOUTH GATHERING 5:00-7:30 PM
17 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Singspiration 10:15 Choir practice	18 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	19	20	21 10:00 AM Maplewood 2:45 PM Pine Villa 3:30 PM Pines	22	23
24 PALM SUNDAY 9:00 AM Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. <u>10:15 Choir practice</u> 31 EASTER 9:00 AM Worship NO CHRISTIAN ED.	25 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	26	27 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Barb Hultberg's 6:30-8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	28 MAUNDY THURSDAY 10:00 AM Greenway	29 GOOD FRIDAY	30 HOLY SATURDAY 2:00 PM "Come Walk With Me" Easter Cantata River Arts Center

APRIL 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	2	3 6:30-7:30 PM PRAISE & PRAYER	4	5	6
7 COMMUNION 8:30 Choir rehearsal 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Chat & Chew 2:00 4-H	8 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	9	10 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Parsonage 6:30 PM SPRC 7:30 PM Ad Council	11	12	13 YOUTH GATHERING 5:00-7:30 PM
14 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Singspiration 10:00 TRUSTEE mtg. 10:15 Praise practice	15 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	16	17	18 10:00 AM Maplewood 11:30 SWOS Lunch @ The Riv 2:45 PM Pine Villa 3:30 PM Pines	19	20 8:00-NOON CHURCH SPRING CLEAN
21 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 Singspiration 10:15 Choir practice	22 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	23	24 9:00-10:30 AM Women's Bible Study @ Barb Hultberg's 6:30-8:00 PM Men's Bible Study	25 10:00 AM Greenway	26	27
28 9:00 Worship 9:25 Christian Ed. 10:00 B-DAY BASH 10:15 Choir practice	29 3:15-4:00 PM INSPIRE (tutoring) 5:00-5:45 PM Women's Workout	30				



Blackhawk Bethlehem Church
AUGUST 5th-9th, 2024 9:00-11:30 AM
AGES 4 yrs.- 6th Grade
(please fill out registration form for each child)

Name _____

Age _____ Grade in the Fall _____

Parent Name _____

Address _____

Phone Contact # _____

Email _____

Allergies or medical problems we should be aware of _____

Mail this form to: Blackhawk Bethlehem Church S10174 Cty Rd C Sauk City, WI 53583
OR Email: bhbumc@gmail.com



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Mail this form to: Blackhawk Bethlehem Church S10174 Cty Rd C Sauk City, WI 53583
OR Email: bhbumc@gmail.com



**Blackhawk Bethlehem Church, Inc.
Administrative Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 10, 2024 @ 7:30pm**

Attendees: Gene Unger, Pastor Kendall & Karen Schlitter, Kay Hankins, LaNell Jaquish, Lloyd & JoAnn Ballweg, Nola Weis, Tom Owens & Irene DeVoe

Excused: Christine Elliott, Nick Hartley

Devotion by Pastor Kendall - Psalm 63 verse 1

Meeting brought to order by temporary acting, Chair of Administrative Council - Pastor Kendall

Approval of last meeting from October 11, 2023 minutes were approved with no objections

Committee Reports:

- **Financial Report** - Savings Account was closed and a Money Market was opened to the best interest of the Blackhawk Bethlehem Church, Inc Current Money Market Balance: \$46,223.33
 - Reported the Audit Committee - Dennis Schneller, Ron Schneller & Ranju Been will be completed upon Ron's return from FL
 - Secretary - Lloyd Ballweg
 - Treasurer - Karen Schlitter Current Checkbook Balance: \$37,520.85
- **Wills & Memorial:** Fund Balance: \$9,442.89
 - Kay Hankins reported \$1,000 will be moved to Lloyd Ballweg for TV fund.
- **Council Member /Committee Reports:**
- **SPRC** - Gene Unger
 - Process in Pastoral Search - interviewed people from seminaries for an Interim Pastor
 - Looking into Interim Pastor, Administrative Director (to over-see) various programs and a Secretary.
 - The Board has given a go ahead to make a 3 year plan with job descriptions and salaries - there will be an additional Admin Meeting. - At this time No vote was taken
 - During this time the SPRC will continue to look for a Full-time pastor
 - Pending SPRC/ADMIN vote/approval, Dr Ed Jones is being considered for Interim Pastor position
- **Trustees:** Nick Hartley – absent/no report
- **Annual Events:**
 - **4th of July** - Joann Ballweg
Reported the posters / flyers are being developed
Meeting is January 25, 2024 at 7pm
 - **Lord's Acre** - Nick & Bobbie Jo Hartley – absent/no report
 - **Chicken & Dumpling Supper** - No one has come forth to chair this event and considering to skip it for a year (possible every other year).
- **Recording Secretary** - Welcome to Irene DeVoe

- **Sunday School** - Christine Elliot -report by email
Reported that the most views on video have been when the children are in the program, such as Christmas program and Christmas Eve.
Comment from the committee: increase times kids are involved in church services.
- **Youth** - Pastor Kendall & Karen -
Meet monthly on Wednesday OR Saturday - for 2 1/2 hrs including study, pray, eat & play (attendance varies)
Sunday Sermon worksheet

Membership / Nurture & Care - Nola Weis Currently have 106 Members
Elaine Wilhelm with be 100 February 29, 2024, suggest sending her cards at the Pines

- **Member at large** - LaNell Jaquish - no report
- **Social Media** - Christine Elliot – email report: most views on video have been when the children are in the program, such as Christmas program and Christmas Eve.
- **Worship, Mission & Ministry** - Meeting is February 7, 2024 at 6:30pm

Agenda Items:

Approval for request for Church Building for Use/INPIRE - Inspire is a Literacy Tutoring Program
Motion was made to approve the use of the Church from January 15th to end of School year from 3 - 4 pm and will review at end of school year.
Lloyd Ballweg made the motion and Seconded by Jo Ann Ballweg - motion carried

A motion that the Administrative Council Meeting minutes to be emailed to Pastor Kendall & Karen then printed and put out in Narthex for those interested. Nola Weis made the motion and Tom Owens seconded the motion; motion carried

Nola Weis made a motion to adjourn the meeting and Gene Unger seconded the motion - motion carried

Next Meeting: Administrative Council Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 10, 2024 at 7:30 pm

Submitted by: Recording Secretary
Irene DeVoe

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

Return Service Requested

MARCH/APRIL 2024
HAWK TALK

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

