

February 2024 Eagle

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From: Ebenezer UCC (admin@ebenezerucc.ccsend.com)

To: melissa.moehn@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, January 31, 2024 at 01:45 PM CST

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**THE EAGLE**  
**February 2024**

## Pastor's Corner

The excitement of Christmas and the New Year's celebrations have passed. I was thrilled a week or so ago to witness a beautiful winter storm with sideways snow. Now it's time for the traditional January thaw. Even though many people are down in the dumps right now because of the weather there is a change right around the corner and it's not the weather.

The season of Lent is quickly approaching. Ash Wednesday services will be February 14 at 7:00 pm at Ebenezer. Lent calls us to take a deep breath and step away from the usual daily routine and strengthen our faith.

"Pastor Mike, how can we strengthen our faith?" To some people I would recommend that they begin each day with prayer...prayer as soon as you wake. Knowing that some people would close their eyes for prayer and then wake again a couple of hours later I'll instead say, after you're awake and are moving around the house...take time for prayer.

Daily prayer life can be strengthened remembering the prayer concerns voiced during the Sunday worship service, thinking of the people you sat next to in church, remembering the people you see at work, praying for each person in your family, etc. Some people pray silently, some by quietly voicing the names and concerns, and still others pray picturing the person in their mind.

Daily prayer can be styled similar to a conversation with another person. This kind of prayer emphasizes the closeness and personal nature of your relationship with Jesus. Other people prefer a formal, ritualized, style of prayer. This kind of prayer reminds us of the holiness of God. I have heard many a sermon about the correct way to pray. I've read books about how to pray. The conclusion I've come to is whichever style(s) of prayer enable you to daily speak with God is the best style for you.

Daily Bible reading can strengthen faith. The Bible is quite a large book so where should you begin? If you are interested in the life and teachings of Jesus, I'd recommend starting with Mark's Gospel. Mark is the shortest of the gospels and it's the one we are reading each Sunday in church. If you prefer the Older Testament, starting with Exodus will be a great place because you are introduced to the Hebrew Bible's greatest prophet, Moses. If you want to read about Paul, start with Acts and then save the Letter to the Romans for last. (It's the hardest read of all his letters.)



During Lent, some people sacrifice something. The most typical thing people give up during Lent is chocolate. I know I am a bit prejudiced here, I am partial to chocolate, but my understanding of Lent is it is a time when we can build our faith therefore, I prefer the active practices like prayer, Bible study, and the like. Giving up something, unless it stands in the way of strengthening my faith, isn't my preference. However, if sacrificing something helps you build your faith then by all means continue that practice.

You don't need to wait for February 14 to begin a practice that builds the faith. You can start some of these practices tomorrow morning or you can even start tonight. The sooner you begin the sooner your faith begins to grow. I would love to have people come to me after church each Sunday and show me their Bible only to discover that it is beat-up! A pastor is thrilled to see Bibles that are torn, dirty, have food stains, are dog eared, and such. Those Bibles are being used. The Bible that is in perfect condition is never touched. (If you insist on having a Bible in pristine condition, get one, and then use another for daily reading, taking notes, writing reminders, etc.)

Take the plunge that is daily prayer and reading. You will learn, grow, and have a closer relationship to Jesus Christ.

Peace and Grace,

Pastor Mike

## *Sunday School Corner*

We had a very busy holiday season in Sunday School!



We got to learn about the Advent wreath and help light the Advent candles during our third Children's Worship on December 10<sup>th</sup>.

We hope you were able to join us for our Christmas program "Christmas Angels Everywhere" on December 17<sup>th</sup>. A very special thank you to Shirley Lisowe for writing and directing a beautiful program. Thank you to our Sunday School teachers Kristi Schnell and Christie Kuhn and to all the parents for your help in making this program a success. I would also like to thank Ruth Aebischer and Vern and Ann Gasch for their donations to the children's gift bags.







We will be continuing to hold our Children's Worship services on the second Sunday of each month. The kids have really enjoyed getting involved in the service and seeing the fun surprises that Pastor Mike brings each time!

We also continue to raise money for St. Jude Children's Hospital as our mission project. If you would like to help support this great cause, donations can be made in the donation box in the Narthex, during offering on Sundays or to me. Just label the donation St. Jude or Sunday School mission project so it gets added to the right account. One cumulative check will be written to St. Jude at the end of our Sunday School year in May.

If you have any questions, please feel free to reach out to me at [melissa.moehn@yahoo.com](mailto:melissa.moehn@yahoo.com) or 920-242-7240.

Blessings,  
Melissa Kuhn

## Notes from the Music Corner



Upon request, we will welcome Kimberlee and Jennifer Pringle to again offer their clarinet duet version of “Jesus Loves Me” on February 11, the next Sunday School worship. Any other instrumentalists are welcome for future services.

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## An African Safari Adventure!

Want to experience a safari experience without having to travel to Africa? Well, here’s your chance! Dino and Ellie Papendieck have graciously offered to do a presentation at their home on Sunday, March 17<sup>th</sup>, at 1 p.m. on their trip to northern Africa in November. They have lots of pictures and experiences they are excited to share with us. Anyone is welcome.

If you are interested in attending, please let Joan Woelfel know at 920-418-5457 or Ruth Aebischer know at 920-849-9427 or email her at [draebischer@outlook.com](mailto:draebischer@outlook.com) by Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>. We want to make sure we have enough seating set up for everyone.

There will also be carpooling by meeting in the church parking lot by 12:30 p.m. on March 17<sup>th</sup>. For those that want to drive to Papendieck’s on their own, the address is W5621 Mud Creek Road, Chilton.



A thank you to Dino and Ellie for hosting this event, along with the Women's Guild. Light refreshments will be provided. So come join the fun and experience what life is like in Africa. I'm sure everyone will learn a lot about their culture and life style.



## Letter from the Search Committee



Dear Members and friends of Ebenezer UCC and St. John's UCC

Our congregation's traditional practice of "calling" a pastor affirms the active presence of God's Spirit in the search process. We prayerfully seek a pastor with particular gifts and skills while recognizing that candidates are also engaged in a Spirit-led discernment process.

Since the announcement of retirement by Pastor Mike Stafford-Kennedy, we have been keenly aware of God's new calling for him as we experience a profound sense of sadness. It is not easy to end a Spirit filled ministry. These next five months together will be a precious time, and we will keep you apprised to our plans for a special event to celebrate Pastor Mike's ministry.

As members have approached the Council on what our churches plans are, we want to assure you that we have already been in touch with our Conference Minister, Rev. Jane Anderson. We have had a special meeting with her to understand the UCC procedures during this time of pastoral transition. She suggested we share this brief overview with you:

1) The council will select an interim pastor to provide continuity in worship, pastoral care and program/staff oversight. Rev. Anderson will advise the council in this process and will aid us in finding a suitable candidate to cover in the transition time. This pastor will not be a candidate for the “settled” position.

2) The Search committee is working through the steps in creating a church profile, which will give a snapshot of our members and our beliefs. Once this is created it will be submitted to the UCC to add Ebenezer to the availability of open churches. This step is very important and the members of this committee will be working hard to set up coffee hours for you to talk with us on what you want in our next pastor. We can not start looking at candidates until this Church Profile is completed.

3) Once the Church Profile is submitted to the Conference Office the Search Committee will start receiving potential candidates. Although we would love to discuss every possible candidate that we encounter, it is vital for the members of this committee to maintain a high level of confidentiality. We ask that you continue to pray for us to use God’s guidance to make the best choice for our church community.

We send this message so you will know that we are taking steps to think about our future. We will keep you informed on a regular basis. For now, let us express our gratitude to God for Mike’s ministry and enter into a time of celebration with him. Please keep him in your prayers even as you know from experience that he will be praying for all of us.

In Christ’s name,

The Search Committee.

If you want to reach out to us about your thoughts on our next pastor our contact information is listed below:

<b>Ken Lisowe</b>	kenlisowe@gmail.com
<b>Jill Sippel</b>	jksippel1534@gmail.com
<b>Joan Woelfel</b>	jhwoelfel@hotmail.com
<b>Patrick Bender</b>	pt.bende@live.com
<b>Kari Meyers</b>	kmeyers@vernscheese.com
<b>Stephanie Adamietz</b>	sadamietz74@gmail.com



### READER SCHEDULE

February 4: Owen  
February 11: Pastor Mike  
February 18: Lake  
February 25: Addison



### USHER SCHEDULE

February 4: Council  
February 11: Ken  
February 18: Mark  
February 25: Kelly

**Jeris Waldvogel Scholarship 2023 Winner**



# Anna Stumo



Anna Stumo, our 2023 scholarship award winner, was awarded \$500 and accepted her scholarship at the January 7th, 2024 worship service. Anna is a 2023 graduate of Hilbert High School and is pursuing a career in Nursing at the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. She is the daughter of Erik and Maria Stumo.

Pictured is: (L-R) Karen Cmejla, presenter, Anna Stumo, and Amy Puls (Jeris' daughter).

Congratulations to Anna and the best of luck as she pursues a career in nursing.



## BIRTHDAYS

2 Penni Gleason  
12 Mason Pagel  
12 Bobby Van Beek  
15 Kaleb Plate  
15 Darren Sattler  
21 Andy Hofmeister  
21 JoAnn Lakin  
21 Jase Porsche  
28 Carson Pierquet



Arlene  
Audra  
Audrey  
De'Monique  
Da'Nisha  
Diana  
Eugene

Gail  
Jeff S.  
Rod  
Sandra  
Sharon  
Tod  
Tony  
Mary  
Thompson's  
Family  
Terry  
Schenkus'  
Family



## **New Council Members**

*Nick Kuhn and Brian  
Adamietz were  
installed as the  
newest council  
members on  
January 28.*

# BETHLEHEM CHILI SUPPER

11608 LAX CHAPEL RD-KIEL

WEDNESDAY

FEBRUARY 7, 2024

Drive Thru/Pick Up Only

3:00 pm - 6:30 pm

## MENU

- Ready-to-Heat Chili
- Fresh Bread
- Cheese
- Crackers
- Homemade Tortes



- Meal Deal \$9.00
- Gallon of Chili \$18.00

## DIRECTIONS

67 N of Kiel - Right on Hwy X go 2 miles - Left on  
Lax Chapel - the church is located 1/2 mile on Left


**Holy Trinity Parish | 11928 Marken Road, Kiel**

**23rd Annual Perch Fry**  
February 16, 2024


**Dine-In Serving from 3:30 to 7:00**

**Carry-Outs from 11:00-1:00  
& 3:30 - 7:00  
(call 920-773-2380)**

- Raffle Tickets
- Visit the HT lounge
- Handicapped Accessible.



**Menu**



Fillets

2 pieces.....\$12


3 pieces.....\$14

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**Served With:**

French fries, homemade American potato salad, or baby reds; with coleslaw, homemade applesauce, bread, milk or coffee.

Also available: Grilled Cheese  
Homemade Tortes



## 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

### January 21, 2024

Meeting was called to order and quorum noted at 9:10 AM by Council President, Mark Rusch.

Nick Kuhn made a motion to approve the agenda and Glen Pingel seconded it. Motion carried.

Ebenezer "Church Covenant" was said in unison with congregation.

Prayer was led by Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy.

Don Pingel made a motion to approve last years 2023 Annual Meeting Minutes and Glen Pingel seconded it. Motion carried.

There was no "Old Business" brought up to discussion.

**New Business:**

Glen Pingel and Zach Plattner were appointed as tellers if needed during the meeting.

The floor was opened to nominations and elections of new council members. Nick Kuhn and Brian Adamietz volunteered to step forward to be nominated. Nick Kuhn made a motion to



accept the nominations and Kristi Schnell seconded it. Motion carried. (The two out-going council members are Dean Papendieck and Stacy Freund).

Dean Papendieck came forward and presented the financial report and the 2024 proposed budget of \$100,952.

Discussion was brought up on the two line items of “Ministers Pension and Disability” and the line item of “Health Insurance”. After much discussion, it was decided to increase the “Pension and Disability” to using last year’s figures of \$4340, increasing the proposed budget figure of \$1810 by \$2530. Then the “Health Insurance” amount was discussed to increase the proposed budget figure of \$425 to \$6000 for a difference of \$5575. Joan Woelfel made a motion to accept the “new” proposed budget of \$109,057 and Kristi Schnell seconded it. Motion carried.

### **Pastors Report:**

in addition to what Pastor had already written in his report, he verbally expressed his sincere gratitude to the congregation in giving him support after his wife, Pastor Susan, passed away when granting his sabbatical earlier this year.

### **Presidents Report:**

Mark Rusch also expressed his gratitude with all the help and volunteers that have come forward this past year to make this church function.

There were no other comments or concerns with other committee reports.

### **New Business:**

President Mark Rusch presented two new proposals for discussion with the congregation. First proposal was the estimate of both large stained glass windows on the east and west side of the chancel area to be upgraded and better insulated. We have an estimate from a company of \$11,500 for each one (total of \$23,000) and the upstairs balcony window on the east side for an estimate of \$3750. It is also with the understanding that this company will not be able to start this project for approximately 12-18 months from now and the estimate may vary by that time.

The second proposal of discussion was the removal of all the tiled flooring in the basement due to the many cracked tiles coming apart and the fact that they contain asbestos. We have an estimate of \$18,360 for a company to remove ALL the tiles in the basement floor along with any asbestos piping in the boiler room. This project can be started quite quickly.

It was noted that donations will be greatly appreciated to offset the cost of these projects and the remainder of the monies would come from donations out of our Memorial Fund.

After much discussion of these two proposals, Glen Pingel made a motion to accept the bids and contact the companies of these two projects and have them book us onto their calendars. Stephanie Adamietz seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Vern Gasch expressed concerns about our current sound system in that he and others have noted it's been difficult to hear through certain microphones lately and maybe the council could have someone check into that.

There was no other new business for discussion.

Ann Gasch made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:52 AM and Donna Pingel seconded it.

Respectfully submitted,  
Council Secretary,  
Karen Cmejla

## January Council Meeting Minutes

### Ebenezer UCC Church Council Minutes January 14, 2024

Members present: Pastor Michael Safford-Kennedy, Mark Rusch, Don Pingel, Karen Cmejla, Judy Mattes, Dean Papendieck, Kristi Schnell and Amy Kuhn. Missing: Stacey Vernon.

Meeting was called to order by President Mark Rusch at 7:35 AM in the church lounge. Prayer was led by Pastor Mike.

Don Pingel made a motion to approve the December's minutes and today's agenda. Amy Kuhn seconded it. Motion carried.

Dean Papendieck presented treasurers report:

- > Total December Revenues: \$39,701.48 (Includes \$29,200 donation for Narthex stained glass window restoration from the Knoespel family)
- > Total November Expenses: \$28,304.80
- > Checkbook Balance: \$96,130.90
- > Money Market Account: \$219,552.69
- > Total Cash Equity: \$120,015.72
- > Cambridge Investments: \$69,738.67
- > Long-term Liabilities (Special Giving Accounts): \$195,667.87

Judy Mattes made a motion to approve the treasurers report and bills list and Don Pingel seconded it. Motion carried.

**Pastor's Report** was given.

There were no new **COMMITTEE REPORTS**.

**OLD/CONTINUING BUSINESS:**

- The new computer is up and running well but we are still having issues with the electronic computerized locking and unlocking of the entrance doors. Pastor Mike is looking into this with our current computer app “AccessIt!” and company that set it up on the old computer. We may have to consider a new program with the new computer.
- We have decided to approach the congregation at the annual meeting next week about the upgrades to the two large windows on the east and west side of the chancel. We have contacted another company (Staige Stained & Leaded Glass Restoration, LLC) who has ideas and options to insulate the stained-glass windows in the chancel areas and repair the east side of the upstairs balcony. They have submitted a bid to us for \$3750 to repair the east upstairs balcony window and \$11,500 each for energy efficiency construction of the two altar windows but wouldn’t be able to get at it for another 1218 months.
- The Land Line Phone in the kitchen is NOT working and the phone company says its internal. Dean Papendieck has volunteered to check into this concern and possibly repair.
- The search committee met with Conference Administrator, Jane Anderson, on Wednesday with St. John’s committee to continue the process of finding a new pastor.
- Mellissa Kuhn has started upgrading our church website and Facebook page!

There was no other old business.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Two congregation members have stepped forward to volunteer for the next council positions. They are Nick Kuhn and Brian Adamietz.
- The new Church Budget that Dean and Mark put together was discussed. Dean Papendieck made a motion to approve the budget and Judy Mattes seconded it. Motion carried.
- There was an estimate of \$18,360 given to tear out all the flooring tiles in the basement due to deterioration and contents of asbestos in the tiles. This also includes any pipes in the boiler room. This proposal will also be discussed with the congregation at the annual meeting next week.

There was no other new business.

Don Pingel made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:40 and Karen Cmejla seconded it. Motion carried, followed with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next council meeting will be held on February 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 AM in the lounge.

Respectfully submitted,  
Council Secretary,

*Karen Cmejla*

## **February Calendar of Events**

# February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. • Communion Sunday School	5	6	7 Wired Word @ 10 a.m. Confirmation Class @ 5:30 p.m. Handbell Practice @ 6 p.m.	8 <b>Men's Breakfast</b> Group Meeting at 7 Angels @ 8:30 a.m.	9	10
11 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. Sunday School Children's Worship	12	13	14 Wired Word @ 10 a.m. Handbell Practice @ 6 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service @ 7 p.m.	15 <b>Women's Guild</b> Meeting at 7 Angels @ 9 a.m.	16	17
18 Council Meeting @ 7:30 a.m. Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. No Sunday School	19 <b>Eagle Articles Due</b>	20	21 Wired Word @ 10 a.m. Confirmation Class @ 5:30 p.m. Handbell Practice @ 6 p.m.	22	23	24
25 Worship Service @ 8:45 a.m. • Handbell Choir Sunday School	26	27	28 Wired Word @ 10 a.m. Confirmation Class @ 5:30 p.m.	29		

*\*Click on the calendar to view a larger image*



**Administrative Assistant:** Mary Keran (920) 849-4331 [ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com](mailto:ebenezeroffice@yahoo.com)

**Pastor:** Rev. Michael Safford-Kennedy  
(920) 286-1956 [ebenezerchiltonpastor@gmail.com](mailto:ebenezerchiltonpastor@gmail.com)

**Council President:** Mark Rusch (920) 213-5557

**Council VP:** Don Pingel (920) 849-2062

**Council Secretary:** Karen Cmejla (920) 375-0244

**Council Treasurer:** Brian Adamietz (920) 645-8699

Kristi Schnell (920) 464-1060

Judy Mattes (920) 853-7109

Amy Kuhn (920) 418-0929

Nick Kuhn (920) 378-0204



Ebenezer UCC | 44 W. Washington St., Chilton, WI 53014

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