

# THE BALSAM BRANCH

May 2018

**Balsam Lutheran Church**  
1115 Mains Crossing  
Amery, Wisconsin 54001

*Dan Watland, Pastor*  
Pastor's phone: 507-459-1141

Church Website: [www.balsamlutheranchurch.org](http://www.balsamlutheranchurch.org)  
Church email: [balsamlutheran@amerytel.net](mailto:balsamlutheran@amerytel.net)  
Balsam Branch Editor: *Bonnie Corcoran*



Church Phone: 715-268-9291  
Pastor's e-mail: [dwatland@gmail.com](mailto:dwatland@gmail.com)

## Pastor's Pen

For the first time this week I made a deposit of a check using an updated smart phone app from my credit union. After the app was set up, I endorsed the check and opened the app. And here is where the magic happens: I simply touched the home button on my phone and the app opened to my account. It is called fingerprint recognition. The app instructed me to point the camera at the check. The app snapped a picture of the front and the back of the check. All I had to do was point the phone. Then I waited for about 10 seconds. I got a confirmation message that my deposit was accepted. Which kind of freaked me out, because I was still holding the check. The check was deposited, but I was still holding the check.

That got me to thinking: our lives are made up of lots of deposits and withdrawals.

Things happen that bring us life and happiness and energize our life. Then there are things that take those same things from us. This is not about comparing good and bad things, but more of a life balance thing. Both deposits and withdrawals are good things. But the reality is this: you can't take out more than you have put in. Many of us have been "borrowing" from our life account. Before long our bodies, our relationships and our habits take their toll. Something has to give. It doesn't take long before making more withdrawals than deposits catches up with us.

Where do we make these deposits/ withdrawals? Here is the list I came up with: Physical, Emotional, Spiritual and Social. What does a deposit look like for these realms of life? They are NOT the same for everyone. I invite you to "snap a picture" of what a deposit looks like in these four areas of life for you.

Be aware that these four areas of life impact and affect each other. I may be making withdrawals from the spiritual or emotional area, but the deposits or withdrawals I make in the physical will affect what I can give in those other areas. If I expect to have spiritual resources, I need to pay attention to the deposits in the social/ physical and emotional areas. We don't live our lives in a vacuum: all areas of life need to be in balance for things to work effectively.

Another important point: not all deposits are things I "like" to do. This is big for me. I'd like to think that all deposits are fun and easy. While I am inspired by some of these life-giving things, some of them are not so fun. For example, I don't really "enjoy" exercise or eating right but they are important deposits for the physical area of my life!

I'm not suggesting that you need to do all the things you hate, but don't skip the stuff that is helpful. Not every deposit/withdrawal will make the list of your favorite things in life. There are probably ways to make those things more bearable, but they can't be ignored.

I invite you to picture what those life deposits look like for you. Explore what those deposits and withdrawals look like that help you to be the hands and feet of Christ. How do you see your own story as an extension of the Biblical story? I don't have all the answers yet. I invite you to join me in our life journey together. I invite you to "snap a picture" of your own deposits

and withdrawals. Is it a picture of the person God created you to be?

*Pastor Dan*

## **Balsam Lutheran Church**

*Unapproved Minutes of the Church Council*

April 10, 2018

**In Attendance:** Bob LaBathe, Sue Fougner, Marlyn Bottolfson, Gail Peterson, Betty Collins, Sue Albright, Dawn Costello, Vicki Hammer and Pastor Dan.

Bob LaBathe called the meeting to order, determining a quorum. Gail led in devotions.

**Secretary's Report:** Accepted as submitted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Accepted as submitted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Finance:** did not meet.

**Memorial Fund:** Committee members are Chairperson Marlyn Bottolfson, Vicki Hammer, Barb Friese, Ruth Hart, Pastor Dan, Marge Hallquist. There is a donation that will be made, for something that we are in need of. This donation will not go into the Memorial Fund.

**Property:** : We will purchase a commercial lawn mower that has been recommended because of the amount of grass that is cut. Looking at a Toro with a cutting deck of sixty inches. The sprinkler system has been acting up, General Sprinkler has been contacted for the needed repairs. The need for a new vacuum cleaner has been requested.

**Social Ministry:** Final plans for the rummage sale were discussed, with set-up on Wednesday May 2nd at 9:00 am and the

Sale on Thursday from 4:00 pm -7:00 pm and Friday the 4th from 8:00 am -3:30pm. We will serve BBQ's, Potato Salad, Chips and Coffee. Each member is asked to donate 2-3 lbs of hamburger and a package of buns.

**Stewardship:** Roadside clean-up is scheduled for April 22nd, which is Earth Day, but may likely need to be rescheduled due to the weather. The committee will be looking to plan and execute a (mini) worship service at Golden Age Manor (or other living/retirement facility) in May. Will discuss and set a date at the May 6th meeting which will follow worship.

**Worship & Music:** Did not meet, but question was brought up as to why we do not sing during communion.

**Staff Support:** Met on March 25th, all went well. There were no issues voiced from Pastor Dan, Balsam or Elim.

**Youth Education:** The end date for our Sunday morning youth sessions was discussed, but no definitive date has been set due to a conflicted schedule. Youth Psalm readers will continue, whenever possible, throughout the summer to keep the youth connected to worship. Families of Bible camp attendees have been asked to provide baked goods to be sold at the rummage sale on May 3rd and 4th. They are also asked to sit at the sales table on Friday or try to enlist a family member who would be willing to help out. Day Camp dates have not been set. Barb Friese has talked with Rick Ashley about the possibility of spending time with the UMOs youth during each of the camp sessions. Rick is looking into this with the UMOs director. A parent

suggested that our church youth sponsor a free farmers market at some point this summer: a "take what you need and bring what you don't need" forum. This idea was discussed further and could possibly be held 2-3 times throughout the summer. This outreach idea could provide beneficial outcomes by 1) allowing excess produce that people have to be used, not wasted 2) providing homegrown fruits and vegetables to those who may not have access, 3) encourage healthy food choices, 4) allowing youth to participate in the growing and selling of fresh produce, and 5) inviting the community into our facility on a non-worship day (which may make them feel comfortable and welcome enough to join us in worship). This will be discussed further at the next meeting on May 6th at 9:45.

**Adult Education/Prayer Ministry:** The Prayer Partner event went well.

**Pastors Report:** Reviewed as submitted.

**Old Business:**

1) \$3500.00 was moved from the Scrip Program to the general fund and there is \$3500.00 designated for the lawn mower. The cost is about \$6,000.00.

**New Business:**

- 1) We discussed the purchase of a new vacuum. An industrial Vacuum with bags that was looked at is \$539.58. A motion was made and seconded to use \$600.00 to purchase the vacuum. Motion passed.
- 2) There will be a dedication for the Cross and Shed on June 10th during worship.
- 3) Discussed the possibility of outdoor services in June and August. Will discuss further at next meeting.

4) The Easter Breakfast went well. \$920.00 was the total with half going to Campership and half to Youth Ministry. The leftover food was delivered to the Serenity House and they were most grateful.

5) Balsam Council members of the Joint Review are: Bob LaBathe, Marlyn Bottolfson, Vicki Hammer and Sue Fougner.

We reviewed area prayer concerns and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Fougner, Church Council Secretary

**THANK YOU!**  
*THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!*

**THANK YOU to all who contributed to the Spring Salad luncheon**, in so many different ways. Thank you to those who made and brought food, who brought items for the raffle and door prizes, who sold and bought raffle tickets, who decorated and set up the fellowship hall, and all those who worked so well on the day of the luncheon. Thank you, all of you, so much! \$937 was raised.

**A huge thank you for everyone who attended the Easter Breakfast** and made donations of food products and for those that helped with this event to make it such a huge success. Also need to thank everyone for taking part in our meat raffle. Because of all of you we were able to raise \$920.00 from these two events to be put toward Campership and youth programs. Also congratulations to our meat raffle winners Sally Pickard, Les Markee, Mary Peterson, Julaine Berglund, Rob LaBathe and Brad Fougner. God Bless you all.

## **Youth News and Roadside clean-up**

Sunday Morning Youth Sessions will end on May 6th! It will be a busy day; youth will meet from 8:30 - 9:45, will participate in worship and then are encouraged to participate in the roadside clean-up following worship. Participation certificates and perfect attendance awards, as well as teacher recognition will occur during our 10:15 worship service. A light lunch of soup and sandwiches will be provided to those (young and old) who are participating in the roadside cleanup. Many hands make light work, so we hope to have a great turn out!

## **Rummage Sale**

Social Ministry will sponsor a Rummage Sale on Thursday, May 3, 4 to 7 PM and Friday, May 4 from 8:00 to 3:30 PM. You can be bringing your donated items to the church conference room. ***Please have your items at church by noon Wednesday, May 2.***

Included during the rummage sale will be a lunch on Friday from 11 AM to 1:30 PM and a bake sale on both days. Your baked goods will be much appreciated.

Helpers will be needed for set-up on Wednesday morning and Thursday, May 3 and Friday, May 4, from 9:00 AM until done. Helpers for clean-up will also be needed, Saturday, May 5, from 9 AM until done.

Please plan to come to church early enough before worship May 6 to help put the chairs back.

## Balsam Scrip

Scrip orders are taken each week. Don't forget to plan ahead for those special events and activities in May!!

Are you going out to eat for **Mothers Day** on May 13th or getting Mom a special gift? **Spring planting and projects** are supposed to be right around the corner. (Dragon Fly, Amery True Value, Menards, etc). **New hair cut** for the spring? (Cut Above) **Any Weddings or Vacations** coming up for the summer? End of May... **Fathers Day** is coming up in June.

## Backpack Fundraiser

Our 5th annual Salvation Army Backpack fundraiser will be Friday, June 8th from 4-8pm at the Amery Fire Hall. Our goal this year is a very hopeful \$25,000.00. If you would like to help in any way, it would be very appreciated. Help could be in the form of a silent auction items or basket, baked goods, baked goods or helping work at the event.

More than ever the need keeps growing. Help us feel the hungry children.....contact Betty Collins or Gail Peterson with any questions or donations.

Betty Collins

**“The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'”** –Billy Graham

## May “Birth” days

08	Kinsley Kobernick	18	Marisa Olson
11	Sue Bird	23	Allan Moltzer
13	Karen Ford	27	Dewey Peterson
15	Joyce Thompson	28	Glen Collins
17	Steve Frederickson	29	Taunya Kobernick
		30	Susan McElfresh

## Remember to save:

Sheets, blankets, fabrics, tablecloths, etc for mission quilts

Aluminum cans for Social Ministry funds

T-shirts to be made into diapers for missions

Used ink-jets, eyeglasses, labels, stamps, milk caps, boxtops

## Prayer Ministry

- **Prayer Shawl Ministry** – Please let Pastor Dan, Bonnie Corcoran at 268-9881 or Nancy Bottolfson at 268-8244 know if there is someone in need of personal prayer, a visit and a prayer shawl.
- **Prayer Requests** – Prayer Chain, please contact: Julaine Berglund at 268-8246 or email her at [jdberglund@amerytel.net](mailto:jdberglund@amerytel.net) or call Esther Nelson at 268-8223.