

# THE BALSAM BRANCH

November 2017

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



Church Phone: 715-268-9291

Church Website: [www.balsamlutheranchurch.org](http://www.balsamlutheranchurch.org)

Church email: [balsamlutheran@amerytel.net](mailto:balsamlutheran@amerytel.net)

Parish Secretary: *Bonnie Corcoran* Balsam Branch Editor: *Bonnie Corcoran*

## Worship Leader Schedule

Oct 29 Mary Lou Olson  
Nov 5 Rev Paul Baardseth  
Nov 12 Rev Paul Baardseth  
Nov 19 Arlen Peterson & JP Appel  
Nov 26 Angela Moulten from Salvation Army  
Dec 17 Youth Christmas program

## Balsam Lutheran Church

*Unapproved Minutes of the Church Council*  
October 9th, 2017

### In Attendance:

Bob LaBathe, Marilyn Bottolfson, Betty Collins, Sue Fougner, Gail Peterson, Michelle Stone, Dawn Costello, Vicki Hammer.

**Absent:** Sue Albright

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

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

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

### Committee Reports:

**Worship & Music:** Angela Molten from the Salvation Army will come to speak to the congregation on an upcoming Sunday, no date yet.

**Stewardship:** The Fall Dinner ran long; committee members decided to postpone the meeting/outing. The rescheduled date is October 15th following worship.

**Finance:** Did not meet.

**Staff Support:** Did not meet.

**Property:** We should still have a work day scheduled. Building is in need of washing, some shrubs need to be trimmed. Have been readying the building for winter months, batteries have been changed in thermostats and they have been programmed. Furnace filters have been changed, lighting is being checked and bulbs or ballast replaced. Rooms have been set up for youth sessions. If you turn up the thermostats set them back when you leave. Keep all doors to each room closed during the heating season. Some doors have locks installed.

**Prayer Ministry:** The Confirmation/Prayer Partner reveal took place.

**Witness & Outreach:** Fall Dinner was held, with the best turn out we have had. After expenses we brought in \$1,900.00; the craft/bake sale brought in \$326.50.

**Social Ministry:** We will purchase toilet bowl cleaner for the Serenity House. Gail Peterson will organize the Christmas Families we will support. We are waiting on a letter from Northwood asking for a donation for their Chili Supper. We will make a donation for batteries for the Sound System.

**Youth Education:** Sunday morning youth sessions will formally begin on October 8th. All youth are asked to be present for Balsam worship on October 1st and assist with the Fall Dinner following worship (this will count towards their camp fundraising stewardship criteria). The youth will lead worship on October 22nd at both Elim and Balsam; the youth will participate in the joint worship at Elim at 10:15 on October 29th. Presentation of Bibles will be part of worship on October 22nd. After extensive conversation, the committee unanimously voted to keep fifth graders as the recipients of first communion. As such, a recommendation is being made to the council that Peter Markee and Marley Cran be offered the honor of receiving the first holy communion on November 5th. Barb Friese and Sue Fougner will collaborate on the class and bread making session and set a date that works with both families. Confirmation class continues to meet on Wednesday nights. A reminder to all youth and adults: PLEASE be a positive role model in your words and actions.

**Adult Ed:** No report.

**Memorial Fund:** No report.

**Call Committee:** See Old Business

**Old Business:**

1) Bob called and e-mailed Pastor \_\_\_\_\_ and as of this meeting has not gotten a

reply; when Bob called the Bishop he suggested to proceed to the next candidate that we have.

**New Business:**

- 1) A reminder to turn your budgets into Nancy Ashley, it is that time of year.
- 2) Please remember that there is only one service on Sunday October 29th. It will be at Elim at 10:15, with a potluck to follow worship, to wish Gerry and Julie Cardinal well on their move.

There being no more business Betty made a motion to adjourn, Dawn seconded it. Motion passed, meeting adjourned.

We reviewed area prayer concerns and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sue Fougner, Church Council Secretary

## CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE – NOVEMBER

- 11/01** “Luther” Movie at church 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
**11/08** Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
**11/15** Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm  
**11/22** Community Worship Service 7:00 pm  
**11/29** Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm

## NOVEMBER YOUTH SESSIONS

- 11/05** Youth sessions 8:30 to 9:45 am  
**11/12** Youth sessions 8:30 to 9:45 am  
**11/19** Youth sessions 8:30 to 9:45 am  
**11/26** Youth sessions 8:30 to 9:45 am  
GYM youth host coffee fellowship

## **Collection items for back-packs:**

November: bar soap  
December: deodorant  
January: shampoo  
February: toothpaste



## Prayer Ministry

### Prayer Shawl Ministry –

Please let 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.



**Upcoming concert: (7:00 PM)**

### The Mystery Mountain Boys

November 11, 2017

From their webpage: **“We are a ministry of music and comedy. Our shows are family friendly and are based on the fact that there is hope for salvation only through Jesus Christ. We perform our concerts at churches, fairs, carnivals, weddings and more.”**

## Salvation Army

We are signed up to ring bells at Dick’s market on Wednesday, November 22 from 9-7 and on Saturday, Dec 9<sup>th</sup> from 1-7. There will be a sign-up sheet on the board.

### Save These Dates:

**The Community Thanksgiving Service** will be on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 PM.

**The WELCA Christmas Brunch** will be on December 3 after worship.

# THANK YOU!

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU!

Thank you to everyone that helped with the Fall Dinner. I want to give a big shout out to everyone for all their help. This is a huge undertaking, and we could never do it without so many wonderful, generous hands helping. Serving, doing dishes, donating, cooking, organizing, carrying, refilling, or however you helped out today, THANK YOU!!

So, what a great turn out today. Our biggest ever! We sold 264 tickets. More may have eaten, sometimes we don’t get tickets for everyone, but that is a lot of people. We didn’t have any leftovers, that is for sure!! After expenses, the dinner brought in 1,900.00, and the craft/bake sale brought in 326.50. That is pretty impressive.

I heard lots of great comments, and all the kids that worked, really worked! They all did awesome, so thank you to all the kids! Vicki

November “Birth” days	
03 Kristi Friese 03 Wayne Petersen 21 Chuck Yoak	21 Diane Morel 29 Linda Peterson

## Balsam Lutheran Scrip

Every Sunday following the worship service, someone is available for you to order or pick up your Scrip certificates. Need any extra groceries to celebrate your Thanksgiving feast? How about Black Friday? Do you find a few deals that get you out of the house for Black Friday?

Time to start your Christmas shopping!!

## Energy-Saving

As the winter months approach Please remember these steps to help save on energy cost:

- We need to keep all inside doors shut.
- If you turn up the heat turn it down when you leave.
- Make sure all outside doors are shut.
- Check to make sure all lights are turned off when you leave.

Thank You, Property Committee

## Carefulness Requested

Recycling of aluminum cans means just aluminum cans, not plastic bottles or tin in the bags we save at church. Plastic bottles and tin cans should be taken to Amery. Also please use stronger bags, not Wal-Mart bags. We do appreciate your contribution of aluminum cans to our youth program. Thank You, Bob

**SMOKERS-** Please dispose of your cigarette butts in the proper containers or your car. Please do not just throw them on the ground for others to clean up. Thank you



1525 Point Road  
Grantsburg, WI 54840  
(715) 689-2347

Sam Campeau,  
Director

**Greetings from Luther Point!      October 2017**

### What We Have Been Doing:

We've been going through quite a few positive changes here over the past year. In December the Board of Directors hired Jon Hoyme as Interim Executive Director and myself, Sam Campeau, as Associate

Director. Al Arndt, a former Board member, stepped into the Office Manager position and Clay and Jenny maintained the grounds, hosted retreats and cooked for our guests.

We hired on 30 young people as councilors, leadership staff and support staff. With their help summer camp was a huge success, we had close to 900 young people come through our doors and encounter God at camp through our many different programs. Towards the end of summer our Board of Directors met with Don Johnson, Executive Director of Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, and were led through development retreat.

### Where We are Headed:

At the end of September Jon Hoyme stepped down as Interim Executive and the Board of Directors extended me and offer as Executive Director and I gladly accepted. We are continuing to move forward as a camp, reaching people and sharing God's love with them through this important ministry. Al continues to work in our office, Danielle was brought on as our Retreat Host and Housekeeper, Clay continues as our Property Manager, Jenny left to pursue a new path in life (after much begging and pleading with her to stay). We are seeking a new cook and a new Program Director to fill out our staffing needs.

**We Continue** to be blessed by our member congregations, supporters and friends. We also continue to need your prayers. Prayers for God to send us the right people to fill out our staff, prayers for the continued growth of Luther Point, prayers for all people who retreat here that they might be rested and renewed.

God's Peace,  
Sam Campeau, Executive Director

## Our Missionaries

Thank you for faithfully partnering with us in mission in Tanzania.

These are recent highlights of our work.  
Steve and Bethany Friberg

>Naapok Bead Project artisans celebrated their new constitution and registration as a Community Based Organization. These documents represent important steps in protecting the rights of each member and their property. Since most are illiterate, a community development officer was brought in to guide the group through a series of meetings where all were encouraged to discuss, question, and give input in the writing of the constitution.

>The Uhuru Torch (“Mwenge”) is one of Tanzania’s national icons. It was originally lit on Mt. Kilimajaro at the time of independence in 1961. The Mwenge symbolizes freedom, hope, love, respect and unity. Each year, the torch is carried throughout a different region of the country. This month Naapok Bead Project was proud to be chosen as a local organization to receive the Mwenge

>The work of the church keeps growing because Africans understand their need for God in all aspects of life. Because of a shortage of pastors in Tanzania most small congregations are led by mature Christians who are trained as evangelists to lead services and do outreach under tough conditions. The Holy Spirit blesses their efforts.

>Our sons started their junior year at University of Minnesota. Nyika is studying biology and Zaka environmental sciences. Our daughter Shalai thoroughly enjoys Rift

Valley Academy. We thank God for this mission school.

>This month Dr. Pedro from Spain is doing plastic, orthopedic, and reconstructive surgery for patients in our area. The patients come with burn scars, bone infections, and limb deformities. He volunteers his services twice a year and gives free service.

We are excited to have the next generation of doctors working in the clinics.

Thank you for partnering with us in so many different ways.

*Steve and Bethany Friberg  
Ketumbeine, Tanzania*

## A Blessing

Go now with God.

Be not tempted to stay in the safety of known places.

Move from where you are to where God points.

Go now with God.

Be not tempted to go only in your time, when it suits, when it is sure, for now is God's time.

Go now with God.

Choose not to go alone.

Go in the faith that there is no wilderness so vast, no way so confused, that God is not already there to show you the way.

Amen