

THE BALSAM BRANCH

October 2017

Balsam Lutheran Church
1115 Mains Crossing
Amery, Wisconsin 54001



Church Website: www.balsamlutheranchurch.org
Church email: balsamlutheran@amerytel.net
Parish Secretary: *Bonnie Corcoran*

Church Phone: 715-268-9291

Balsam Branch Editor: *Bonnie Corcoran*

Worship Leader Schedule

Oct 8 Bonnie Corcoran
Oct 15 Rev Paul Baardseth
Oct 22 GYM & Confirmation Youth
Oct 29 Bonnie Corcoran
Nov 5 Rev Paul Baardseth

Balsam Lutheran Church

*Unapproved Minutes of the Church
Council*

September 12, 2017

In Attendance:

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

Bob called the meeting to order, determining a quorum. Vicki closed with devotions.

Secretary's Report: Accepted as submitted.

Treasurer's Report: Accepted as submitted.

Committee Reports:

Worship & Music: Did not meet

Stewardship: Met on Sunday, Sept 3rd. It was agreed that Movie Night be put on hold until a winter month (Christmas vacation?) and possibly be combined with a lock-in for the older youth. Discussion will continue next month. The committee led worship at both Elim and Balsam on Sept 10th, which was Grandparents Day. We are looking to coordinate an intergenerational game day at Evergreen Village in Amery. The preferred date is Sunday, October 22nd. *The follow-up on this, based on a phone conversation with the event coordinator, is that they do not schedule these types of activities on the week-ends so we must either come on a week day or evening. There is no school for the Amery or Unity Student on Friday October 6th, so the event will be planned for that day. All ages PK-Retirement are welcome and encouraged to participate. It is our goal to haul the aluminum cans to a collection site within the coming month. The next meeting is set for October 1st followed by a visit to Franconia Sculpture Garden.

Finance: Nothing to report

Staff Support: Did not meet

Property: Need to schedule an outdoor work day, as the building is in need of washing, and the shrubs need to be trimmed.

Prayer Ministry/Adult Education: Prayer Partner event is scheduled for Sept 24 to meet the partners for the up-coming Confirmation class. Several ideas for up-coming Adult Education but nothing has been decided on yet. On October 22nd is the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation of the 95 theses; this committee would like to do a presentation of this either during or after church on that day.

Witness & Outreach: Working on the Fall Dinner scheduled for October 1st following Church.

Social Ministry: Did not meet

Youth Education: We met on August 27th. Confirmation was to begin on Wednesday, September 13th, but has been postponed until the 20th. The Pancake/Waffle Breakfast scheduled for Sept 17th has been cancelled/postponed. (There was a lack of response to the request for adult leadership). There will be NO youth sessions that day. The first Sunday morning youth sessions for the year will be held on Sunday, September 29th, beginning at 8:30 AM and ending at 9:45 AM. All grades PK-High school, are invited to participate. There will be a change to the October schedule; No morning sessions on October 1st but all youth will participate in the Balsam worship at 10:15. Regular Sunday morning sessions (for all aged youth) will resume at 8:30AM on October 8th. Also, briefly addressed was First Communion. There have been some unilateral conversations and decisions made regarding this that the Youth Education committee, as a whole, was not made aware of until last month; we would like the

opportunity to review, and discuss and make a recommendation to the Council (in October) regarding any possible change in our current progression (along with information supporting our decision.)

Memorial Fund: No report.

Call Committee: An interview was held on Friday, September 8th, with a recommendation by the call committee to the council to call this candidate. There are 2 more profiles that we have, if this one does not work out for us.

Pastor's report: Not available.

Old Business:

1) Any suggestions about the Satellite Worship Service were given to Bob to be forwarded to Pastor Ned at Living Waters Church.

New Business:

- 1) Upon recommendation from the call committee, and reviewing the candidates profile the motion was made and seconded to offer the part time position to the candidate. Bob will make the call to him this week.
- 2) Bonnie has requested that her pay be reduced by \$1,000 (\$6,000 to \$5,000), as she has been able to streamline her work load. Motion was made and seconded to adjust her annual wage.

There being no other business motion was made and seconded to adjourn,
Motion passed.
Meeting adjourned.

We reviewed area prayer concerns and closed with prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Fougner, Church Council Secretary

Sunday Morning Youth Sessions

We begin our regular weekly schedule beginning on October 8th. Youth, ages preschool through sixth grade, are invited and encourage to participate in SLAM (Stewardship, Lessons and Ministry). Youth, grades 7th through 12th, are welcome to participate in GYM (God's Youth Ministry). Any and all youth are invited to drop in for a visit! We love to make new friends! Please direct any questions to Barb Friese at balsamyouth@yahoo.com or (715) 222-8272. Thank you!

OCTOBER YOUTH SESSION SCHEDULE

10/08 Youth sessions from 8:30 to 9:45 am
10/15 Youth sessions from 8:30 to 9:45 am
Gym youth host coffee fellowship
10/22 Youth lead 8:30 worship at Elim
Youth lead 10:15 worship at Balsam
10/29 Youth sessions from 8:30 to 9:45 am
Youth will participate in the **10:15 worship at Elim**

OCTOBER CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

10/04 Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm
10/11 Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm
10/18 Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm
10/25 Class 6:00 – 7:30 pm

Balsam Lutheran Scrip

Every Sunday following the worship service, Scrip is available.

Need any extra gas to go out for some fall leaf drives? Time to get ready for Halloween candy? Need any extra scrip to get ready for trick -or -treaters?



Bible Study on the Parables with Pastor Paul Oman:

Paul Oman invites everybody to join him on Wednesdays, Oct. 11, 18, 25, Nov. 1 at 9:15am - 10:30am at Anderson Hall Conference Room
Lake Wapogasset Lutheran Bible Camp
738 Hickory Point Lane, (Easy access, no steps).

“Join Paul Oman for a study of *The Parables of Jesus* in the context of the Middle East. You will gain insights otherwise overlooked in our Western culture, and better understand the meaning and message of Jesus as a result. Paul will incorporate his artistic abilities into this study. **Everyone is welcome.** No Bible experience necessary. Paul will not “put you on the spot” but will allow you to participate at your own comfort level. Bring a Bible, or one will be provided for you. No cost. No registration. Just come and enjoy! Any questions, call Paul at 715-790-2029. “

Budget Requests

All committees need to have their budget request in to Nancy Ashley by October 31 so the November council can discuss the proposed budget.

Collection items for back-packs:

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

Kleenex for Kids

Let's again collect 3 boxes of Kleenex for each of the 30 classrooms, 90 boxes altogether.

October "Birth" days	
13 Allison Egan 14 Vince Kobernick 22 Mike Morel	27 Amy Johnson 28 Charley Cran

Volunteer Opportunity

Interfaith Caregivers is looking for volunteers to help elderly and disabled with fall yard clean-up. Whole families can work together to help. Call Interfaith at 715-485-9500 to volunteer. Work will be done in October or November, depending on your schedule.



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 or call Esther Nelson at 268-8223.

October 29

There will be only one worship service on Oct. 29 and it be at Elim. The service will be at 10.15 AM followed by a pot-luck lunch. The reason for this is to wish Gerry and Julie Cardinal the best luck as they move on to their new home and to thank them for all they have contributed to both churches in the past.

The Mystery Mountain Boys will be here in concert on November 11, 2017 at 7:00 PM.

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, THANK YOU!! So, what a great turn out. 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

Elim's Fall Dinner

Everyone is invited! Elim will be sponsoring their Fall Harvest Dinner on Saturday, October 21, 4-7 pm. at Elim Church in Range. The menu will feature turkey, ham, and all the trimmings. Adults: \$9, Children 6-10: \$4. Carry-Outs are available. A craft and bake sale will be held during the dinner hours.

Reminders

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.

Recycling of aluminum cans means just aluminum cans not plastic bottles or tin cans in the 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

Dear Luther Point Family,

It has been my privilege to serve as your Interim Executive Director these past ten months. I am extremely happy that after interviewing him, the Board of Directors has chosen to move **Sam Campeau**, who has served as associate director for almost as long, into the Executive Director position. Luther Point had an excellent summer thanks in large part to his leadership.

The Board of Directors has been trained and organized and I am confident will work with and support Sam in ways that will grow this ministries outreach, programming, and fiscal responsibility.

Luther Point will quickly be starting an active search for a new Program Director to oversee all the programming at camp.

Luther Point has a long history of working with and serving her member congregations as well as the larger community and I firmly believe that this will grow dramatically in the months and years ahead. It is your support and participation in this ministry that will grow this partnership and the work of the church.

Blessings to all of you.

Jon Hoyme, Interim Executive Director

Reformation Roots:

From "Living Lutheran"

In the 2016 collection *The Forgotten Luther: Reclaiming the Social-Economic Dimension of the Reformation*, Cynthia Moe-Lobeda wrote that Luther never wavered from his belief that "works do not cause salvation." Still, "Luther also insisted that works are a vital part of life for people who are justified by Christ," particularly "works that embody 'love to our neighbor,'" she said.

Moe-Lobeda found that "for Luther, that norm of neighbor-love pertains to every aspect of life for the Christian."

Ryan Cumming, program director for hunger education with ELCA World Hunger, notes that Luther's opposition to indulgences stemmed in part from the fact that their sale created "opulence built on the backs of people who could barely afford to feed themselves." This led Luther to write in his 95 theses that giving to the poor was "a better work" than purchasing indulgences, and that to buy an indulgence rather than help a neighbor in need was to purchase "the indignation of God."

In the Large Catechism, Luther argued that the commandment against murder applies both to the taking of life and the failure to preserve it: "If you see anyone who is suffering from hunger and do not feed her, you have let her starve."

Reflecting on the commandment against stealing, Luther also boldly critiqued the "free public market" of his day: "The poor are defrauded every day, and new burdens and higher prices are imposed." Luther urged Christians instead "to promote and further our neighbors' interests, and when they suffer any want, we are to help, share, and lend to both friends and foes."

As a way for the government to respond to the needs of the vulnerable, Luther and others in Wittenberg established a "Common Chest" in 1522. The chest offered financial support for orphans and poor children, dowry support for poor women, interest-free loans, refinancing for high-interest loans, education or vocational training for poor children, and vocational retraining for adults. Health care was added later, as the Common Chest funded the services of a town physician and paid the cost of hospital care and other treatments.