

Lay Reader Training TODAY Pastor will be conducting a brief in-service for all existing and new lay readers during fellowship (9:00 a.m.) TODAY. Please join him in the Sanctuary.

After-Christmas Cookie Exchange

Have you ever woken up the day after Christmas and thought..."What am I going to do with all those cookies and snacks?" Bring them to church! Come for fellowship on **December 30** and bring a plate of cookies or snacks you may have left over from your Christmas festivities. Coffee and juice will be provided.



Holiday Food Baskets Deadline for Bethel drop off and donation is **TODAY**. Holiday Gift Baskets can be purchased for \$20. Donations can be placed in the offering with checks made out to Bethel & "C.O.O.L. Holiday Basket" marked in the memo.



Building Observations If you observe something at Bethel that requires attention, kindly bring it to the attention of Linda Gifford, Bethel's Property Coordinator. You can send an email (linda@bethelgurnee.org) or leave her a note under the office door. A phone call to the office will also work.

Thank You Redeemer would like to thank those that donated pies for Thanksgiving. They served 2 meals (lunch and dinner) to 91 recruits—both men and women. There were also 50 volunteers.



Winter Gear Collection Bethel is collecting winter coats, boots, gloves and blankets for COOL, PADS and Bernies' Blessings. You may bring items to Bethel anytime and put in the fellowship hall on the table before Thursday, **December 20**.

Cleaning Help Need a little extra help with cleaning? Roberto and Berty, the cleaning people for Bethel, are available for any housekeeping you might need done. If you are interested in their services, contact the church office at office@bethelgurnee.org.



Church Office will Close at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, December 14.

VBS Update The Board of Christian Education would like to add to the information that has been shared with you in regards to the changes to our Vacation Bible School format. During the last four years, our Bethel VBS has experienced challenges, especially a lack of available adult volunteers. We must have enough adult volunteers to provide a safe environment for our children. We were blessed to find creative ways to use our adult volunteers so that our children could have that wonderful Christ-filled, safe experience, but that is becoming increasingly difficult to do. After four years of thoughtful research, weighing pros and cons, discussion and much prayer, the Bethel BOCE decided to go to a 3-day weekend format for the 2019 VBS program. We hope that this new schedule will allow for more adult volunteer participation, as it will not conflict with as many work schedules. There are many possibilities of what this can look like and how it could be implemented. The BOCE is assembling a team of 6-8 people who would be willing to codirect this new venture. There are a couple of veteran people who are willing to work on the team. HOWEVER, we cannot go forward with the 2019 VBS until this key team of people is in place. The team needs to be in place by the end of January in order to be ready for the summer of 2019. Please consider serving our Bethel family on this team. Contact Carla Thompson, BOCE chairperson, (carlajothompson@gmail.com) or Katrina Johns, Equipping Coordinator (contact info below), for more information about this opportunity. Also, please pray for our Board of Christian Education as we work to meet the needs and provide education opportunities for our Bethel family.



**C.O.O.L. food of the month
for December: Side Dishes
*** also in need of canned fruit *****

SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS Today during the Sunday School hour, children will be practicing for our spectacular Christmas Program!!! **MISSION...A SAFE PLACE** B.O.C.E is collecting toys and kitchen items for residents at *A Safe Place*. *A Safe Place* is the Sunday School mission for this education year and they service anywhere from 150-200 children each Christmas and around 150 adult abuse victims.



How can you help us support our mission?

We are asking that each Sunday school student donate an age appropriate toy (meaning, if you have a 1st grade student, bring a toy that is appropriate for a 1st grader). The toys need to be new and unwrapped. Children will have an opportunity to place their donations in a box at the Christmas Program (TODAY, December 9).

Adults - you can help our mission too!

A Safe Place is also looking for new kitchen items to give to their residents. They specifically need crock pots, kitchen utensils, pots, and pans, but they will take anything that can be used in the kitchen.

If you are unable to bring your donation to the Christmas Program, there will be a box near the office to drop them off TODAY. Thank you for your support of *A Safe Place* during this holiday season.

****December 30** no lesson



Children's Program

4:00 p.m. Today

Elders: Jeremy Little
Comm/Asst. Elder: Dave Ziegler
Ushers: Don Heidlauf, Open

Serving Wednesday Advent Worship - 6:30pm

Elders: Mike Bandman
Comm/Asst. Elder: JJ Jones
Acolytes: Michaela Rosenthal, Dylan Love
Lay Readers: Karla Stewart, Jude Squires
Ushers: Sam Squires, Open
Greeters: The Kaiser Family

This Week's Calendar

Monday, December 10

12:30 p.m.—Staff Meeting
 6:30 p.m.—Elders/Council Meeting at Andersons
 7:00 p.m.—Boy Scouts in the Building

Tuesday, December 11

5:30 p.m.— Uline Basketball

Wednesday, December 12

9:30 a.m.—Mom's Club
 6:30 p.m.—Advent Worship— Confirmation Students & Families Attend Worship
 7:30 p.m.—Exploratory Explore God Group

Thursday, December 13

6:30 p.m.—Preschool Board
 7:30 p.m. - Adult Vocal Choir

Friday, December 14 Pastor & Katrina's Day Off

10:30 a.m.—Office Closes Early

Saturday, December 15 Pastor & Katrina's Day Off

Sunday, December 16

8:00 a.m.— Communion in Gym
 9:00 a.m.—Fellowship / Overview for Readers
 9:30 a.m.—Sunday School & Bible Study
 10:45 a.m.—Communion in Sanctuary

DEADLINE for putting an article in the Buzz is 9:00 a.m. on Thursday.

Worship Schedule

Sunday 8AM & 10:45PM

Communion

1st, 3rd, 5th Sunday

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 9AM—3 PM

Friday 9AM - 12PM

Last Week's Attendance

Sunday 8:00 AM—123

Sunday 10:45 AM—88

Sunday School—102

Serving Next Week

Sunday 8:00AM

Elders: JJ Jones
Comm/Asst. Elder: Al Diercks
Acolytes: B. Ratzburg / H. Faitsch
Lay Readers: Lynn Faitsch, Tim Faitsch
Ushers: Don Heidlauf, **Open**
Greeters: The Stutzman Family, The Stewart Family

Fellowship: Jones & Squires
Dec. Altar Guild: Kathy Schwartz
Dec. Counters: Dave Ross

Sunday 10:45AM

Bob Souza
 Jack Warneke
 J. Chudy / A. Chudy
 Bill Schwartz, Suzanne Fowler
 Lance Rasmussen, Scott Gutzke
 Mari Kube, Ellen Dalrymple

Sheila Bunnell
 Cheryl Ross