

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley
Church of the Brethren

December 2017/January 2018
Volume 33 No. 11



Pastor K Licensed to Ministry

On Sunday November 12th Tom Laurer, of the District Ministry Commission, joined our morning worship time to officially license **Eric Kauffman**, known as Pastor K, into the **Church of the Brethren Set Apart Ministry**.

Pastor K came to minister in our congregation primarily to the youth and young adults in August of 2015. A part of coming fully into the pastorate was to become licensed and work toward ordination.

It was around the time the Kauffman family came to our congregation that the ministerial licensing process was changed and lengthened considerably. So, it is that the licensing seems to have taken some time but it is not because Pastor K has been sitting around. He attended a couple of required courses and met with his cohort all the while putting in a full schedule with the Youth and Young Adults. He was approved by the District Ministry Commission over a month ago and our congregation fully affirmed his licensing on November 5th. Pray for Divine guidance as he discerns the next step toward ordination. When you see Pastor K, congratulate him on this accomplishment and let him know how much we appreciate all that he and his family bring to the life of our congregation.

Dale Lehman, Moderator



Jesus is the gift that perfectly fits the size of every heart. May all that He is bring you all that you need at Christmas and throughout the New Year!!

Operation Christmas Child



On November 18, we wrapped up this year's Operation Christmas Child (OCC) project by packing up **480 shoeboxes**. Thank-you to everyone who contributed to this project throughout the year and helped to make it such a success!

Don't forget, you can help with this project all year long by not only donating needed items, but also by contributing to the **aluminum can collection bin** as well as the **Community Aid bin** in the church parking lot. Money raised from these donations is used to **pay for shipping of shoeboxes**. Again, thank-you to everyone who helped with this year's OCC shoeboxes!

Jo Hurst for the Mission Ministry Team



Give More Now. Pay Less Later.

As a result of the Church Council Meeting decision to pay all of the debt service payments from the general fund the opportunity to contribute directly to the outstanding debt of our building has decreased. However, the Ministry Coordinating Team (MCT) has approved receiving a **special offering to go directly toward debt reduction**.

This offering will happen on **December 10**. The offering will be taken using **specialty designated envelopes** that will be provided so that this offering is not confused with the regular general fund taken that day.

This is a great opportunity to give directly to debt retirement and I hope that you will take advantage of this opportunity.

Jim Brubaker, Finance Ministry Team



Friday Fun Night Schedule

Programming is from 6:30 – 8 pm, with open gym/activity time from 6 to 6:30 pm and 8 to 8:30 pm.

Friday Fun Night (FFN) is open to any kid currently in K through 5th grades.

Each night is divided between organized game/activity time and Bible learning, with a focus on understanding how the Bible fits together and is applied to our lives.

We will be covering the New Testament this year. Snacks are provided.

Kids are encouraged to bring their Bibles, bring their friends, and bring an attitude ready for **FUN!**

December Kid Connection Schedule

December 1st at 6 pm

**Family Kid Connection
Gingerbread House Night**



- 8th - Bring a buck night
- 15th - Tie Dye Night
- 22nd - Jesus's Birthday Party
- 29th - Camo Night

January Kid Connection Schedule

- 5th - Pajama night
- 12th - Bring a Buck
- 19th - Aloha night
- 26th - Superhero night

Teresa Chambers for Children's Ministry Team

PIT Youth Ministry

Passionate for, Intimate with, Transformed by
CHRIST

Sunday Night Youth Schedule:

- ALL YOUTH (6 - 12 grade): 6 - 8:30 pm
- 6 - 6:45 pm - Activity/Worship Time
- 6:45 - 7:30 pm - Meal
- 7:30 - 8:30 pm - Interactive Lesson/Small Groups

December Youth

- December 3 "Deep": Worship & Small Groups
- December 10 Christmas Caroling
- December 17 Christmas Party
- December 24 & 31 No Youth (Happy Holidays!)

Parents, we also send weekly emails, Facebook posts and monthly Newsletter about upcoming events – if you are not getting them, you may miss something – let the office know!

Events Coming Up:

LOCK-IN December 29 - 30 8 pm -8 am
"Breakout" of our culture of hate, fear and violence; Jesus showed us the way of Peace, and it can be fun, as well as challenging.

On the **2nd Friday in December**, we are **starting a specific Junior High element to our "Friday Fun" night**, 6 - 8:30 pm. This is for 6th - 8th graders who miss Friday Fun, and still want a place to hang out with friends, and maybe help out with the younger Friday Fun.

Thank you to youth who helped out with Apple Cider and raking leaves – it looks like we have a good group of students who like to serve others! Awesome! Stay tuned for more opportunities.

The Christmas season can become hectic and stressful, trying to meet others expectations. Try to take a moment this Advent to remember we are waiting and preparing to RECEIVE Christ. How can you receive Him in a new way this year?



Peace, Pastor K

From Your Lead Pastor,



When Jesus Isn't Enough

Have you ever considered why Christmas time has become what it has become in our culture? Why is it about spending and shopping and parties? Why has the culture looked for ways to “celebrate” Christmas that has nothing to do with the birth of Jesus? I wonder if it is simply because we’ve decided that Jesus just isn’t enough.

As I’ve gotten older and more reflective I’ve begun to think about things that really matter to me. When I strip everything away, what really matters? I’ve come to hope that I’ve arrived at a place where Jesus is enough for me; even if He is all that I have. I’m not naïve enough to believe that I can say this from personal experience because Jesus has never been all that I have. I have wealth. I have health. I have family and friends. I have a great place to work and a wonderful church community. But what if I lost all those things...would Jesus still be enough?

It seems pretty difficult for Jesus to be enough when I have access to all of those things. Could this be the reason that Christmas has become so commercialized, centered on festivities and family when it is purported to be about Jesus? Could it be that Jesus simply isn’t enough for us? The quiet and reflective celebration of the birth of a baby in a manger just doesn’t cut it for us...it’s just not “festive” enough so we have to add a bunch of other “stuff” which seems to have the effect of crowding out Jesus for the most part.

I think that the reason Christmas has become what it has become is that many people have decided that celebrating the birth of a Savior is just simply “not enough”. Rather, we need more. I hope you won’t consider this a “scroogish” rant. Rather, I hope that you will spend a few moments asking yourself if Jesus is really enough for you and I hope you can enjoy the Christmas season in a meaningful way.

God Bless,
Pastor Eric



CHURCH CALENDAR

Please remember that the calendar in The Lamplighter is only a copy from the church events calendar. For the complete view of the current official calendar including facility in use.



Buffalo Gals

On November 10th and 11th six women had an opportunity to attend a Lysa TerKeurst women's conference titled "Women of Purpose". This was held in Hershey, PA. *Thank you to Carol Manbeck for organizing this event.*

ALL women at Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren (BVCOB) are **invited to join us** for the upcoming fellowship events scheduled below. **MARK YOUR CALENDARS...**

On Saturday, **December 2nd from 9 - 11 am** **ALL Women** at BVCOB are invited to join us for our **LIFT Brunch and Secret Sister Reveal** in the Son Room. Plan to bring a dish to share for our brunch, as well as a final gift for your Secret Sister (if you participated).

On **December 9th** join us at BVCOB for Buffalo Gals' **Dressement Talent Show Extravaganza** from **6:30 pm – 9 pm**. You are invited to submit your art work and/or sign up to share a talent. Become educated in regards to human trafficking and **Dressement's ministry** throughout the night. Requested donation upon entrance will be donated to **Dressement**. Desserts, coffee and tea will be served.

On **January 19th** we will be gathering at **Barn Owl Art Studio** from **6:30 – 9:30 pm** to **create inspirational pieces**. **Cost** per participant is **\$10**. Please sign up as **space is limited**. Plan to **bring your favorite bible verse along with a graphic** that you want to incorporate. As an act of love, we are asking that the **piece you create**, you then **gift to someone** who is in need of encouragement, support or inspiration.

Be sure to sign-up for all these events at the Women's Ministry Bulletin Board if you plan to attend.

Discipleship Reconciliation Ambassadorship
Mission Authenticity

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, provoking and envying each other.

Galatians 5:22-26

Are you living according to the fruit of the spirit? How can you be more intentional? Find a friend this month and **discuss your responses** with one another.

Many Blessings to every Sister in Christ!
Tricia Dreese

Bowling Adventure!

January 14th 1:45 - 4 pm

BVCOB families

with kids in our KidConnection Ministry

(birth - 5th grade) are invited to
our Bowling Afternoon!

You can bring the older ones as well!

Come out for bowling, fellowship and fun!



Location: Lewisburg Lanes

*Look for sign-ups at the Children's tables
coming in December*

Teresa Chambers for the Children's Ministry



Have You Purchased a WEIS CARD?

The Weis Gift card program has been a great success. You get to spend 100% of your money on groceries and the profits still go to the "Building for Ministry" fund.



Were You There? We Were!

The bi-annual Church Council meeting was held on November 5, 2017.

The only new business was the approval of the 2018 budget. The budget for a total of \$528,457.00 was presented by Jim Brubaker and quickly approved.

There was some good discussion during the treasurer's and Capital Fund reports presented by Jim Brubaker and Steve Richard. The comments and questions focused on the financial details behind the \$40,000 budget deficit. Some solace to the sobering budget shortfall was that actual cash flow for the year was still positive by \$7,535.00.

The answer to the question; Which Ministry is not being funded, was answered by Treasurer, Jake Myer. He shared that we are currently behind in our debt service payout by about \$7,900. He also shared some of the line items we are behind in spending are: building and grounds, computer tech upgrades and energy. Giving is down by about \$17,000 from last year. It was also noted that attendance is down by about 9%. Steve Richard encouraged the congregation to not be complacent about giving, even when it looks like there will be enough, we still have \$715,000.00 in outstanding loans.

In order to provide convenience and stay current with normative financial transactions, online giving is now being tested and will be promoted and available no later than Jan 1, 2018. There will be a link on our church website by that point, but if you wish to start online giving before that contact me for information.

In the pastor's reports both Pastor Donita Keister and Pastor K (Eric Kauffman) indicated they were still sleep deprived from having spent the weekend at Crystal Springs Retreat Center, Pastor Donita with the Children's retreat and Pastor K with the Youth Retreat. Pastor Donita encouraged all of us to come out to the outreach events with the intent of interacting with the community. She also spoke about her work as Denominational Moderator Elect and asked for prayer as she and the other leaders struggle with some very perplexing issues. To stay informed go to www.brethren.org.

Pastor K spoke of the youth and young adult's intention to connect with other churches in our denomination. With a personal story he encouraged us to walk in the light of Christ and draw others to the light because stumbling, falling, injury and death is all we can do in the dark.

Pastor Eric spoke of what it takes for our congregation to reach for great in the Kingdom of God. His encouragement was to be discontent with the status quo. He then closed the meeting with prayer.

I want to thank our Ministry Assistant and Church Clerk, Cheryl Ilgen for all the excellent work she does for our congregation and specifically for the well written and detailed meeting minutes on which this article leaned heavily.

Thank You,
Dale Lehman, Moderator



Anyone Have Tension During Christmas?

Ok, I had to laugh as I typed that title. Unfortunately the celebration of the birth of Jesus in American culture is known far more for the gifts and the parties and the conflict than it is for the supernatural birth of a baby 2,000 years ago. Yes, many people have lots of tension at Christmas time. This idea of "tension" is what our sermon time will focus on this Christmas season in a series titled, "A Christmas Tune-up". We are going to look at five different areas of our lives where we experience tension. We are going to talk about how tension is actually a necessary part of life in these key areas. There is a necessary tension between some very important areas of our lives which we often think are on the opposite sides of each other. The areas we are going to look at are: change and consistency, peace and judgment, diversity and unity, strength and vulnerability and servanthood and freedom.

Think of each of these areas as a guitar string that needs an appropriate amount of tension to function. If a string is too loose, the right note won't be created. If the string is too tight, the string will snap. The challenge is to create the right amount of tension in our lives. Each week we will use an example from the Christmas story to illustrate this tension and we will attempt to think through how this tension can actually benefit our lives. I hope you will join us during the Christmas season for a little "tune-up".

Pastor Eric



What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley

Kathy Diehl's **Banana Bread** recipe is found on page 106 of **Come to the Table** cookbook.

- 3-4 – med. bananas, mashed
- ¼ C. – oil
- 1 C. – sugar
- 1 – egg
- 2 C. – flour
- 1 tsp. – baking powder
- ½ tsp. – baking soda
- ½ tsp. – salt
- Nuts or chocolate chips, optional

Mix bananas, oil, sugar and egg together well. Mix together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt; gradually add to banana mixture. Add nuts or chocolate chips, if desired. Bake at 350° F for 1 hour. Makes 4 mini loaves or 1 regular size loaf.

When I prepared this recipe, I added ½ C. mini semi-sweet chocolate chips to the batter, sprayed 4 mini loaf pans with olive oil and baked for 45 minutes. After 10 minutes of cooling in the pans I removed them and allowed the bread to cool completely on racks. This is a yummy banana bread recipe, and it's not the only one in the **Come to the Table** cookbook.

This is the last **Come to the Table** cookbook recipe to be highlighted by this Mystery Chef. It's been a lot of fun sharing recipes with you over the last 5 years. I hope you have been inspired to try some of them, and purchase the **Come to the Table** cookbook for yourself or to share with others.

There are less than 80 cookbooks still available, and Christmas is the perfect time to purchase a few to give as gifts. Have you considered one for your babysitter? A new neighbor? A niece or nephew? **Come to the Table** cookbooks cost just \$10 and are available at the Welcome center.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



The Mystery Chef



A BIG Thank You



For five years **Janice Shively** has been writing the What's Cooking at Buffalo Valley article as **The Mystery Chef**. The articles helped to promote the **Come to the Table** cookbook. The proceeds from the **Come to the Table** cookbook benefit our building debt reduction. Her articles also gave a nice diversity to articles in the Lamplighter.

Thank you, Janice for faithfully providing articles for each edition of the Lamplighter for five years.

Jeff Bastian

BVCOB Red Cross Blood Drive Give the Gift of Life!!



Tuesday, January 2



The **blood drive** begins here at the church at **1 pm** and goes **until 7 pm**. Helping hands are always needed! We are in **need of people** to help in the kitchen and replenish snacks and drinks for the donors, as well as provide a light meal for the workers.

We will be looking for a couple people who would be willing to make a pot of their favorite soup. Donations of other items will be needed as well. More information will be coming soon.

We also need cookies!! When baking for Christmas, bake some extra to serve at the blood drive!!

The last and most important way you can help is to **GIVE BLOOD**. Mark this date on your calendar and give the **Gift of Life!!**

Vicki Bastian

The Lamplighter

Buffalo Valley Church of the Brethren
46 Brethren Church Rd
Mifflinburg PA 17844

Return Service Requested

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Lead Pastor – Rev. Eric S. Reamer
(570) 837-9393

Donita J. Keister, Associate Pastor
for Children & Pastoral Care

Eric M. Kauffman, Associate Pastor
for Youth & Young Adults

Editors – Jeff & Vicki Bastian
Church Office/Kitchen (570) 966-1183
churchoffice@bvcob.com

8:00 AM - Worship Service
9:00 AM - Fellowship Time
9:20 AM - Sunday school
10:30 AM - Worship Service

October Offerings Summary

General Fund	\$49,469.64
YTD Offerings	\$406,395.52
Needed YTD	\$447,131.52
Behind Budget	- 40,736.00

Other Deposits

Children's SS	16.67
CMT	30.00
Scrip Cards	3,225.00
Weis Cards	4,975.00
Wenger Cards	1750.00
Dominican Missionary	810.00
Youth	20.00
Community Aid	303.00
Ambit energy	61.00
CAS	500.00
Brethren Disaster Relief (sticky Buns)	82.00
OCC	230.00
Dressemer	50.00
Metal Recycling	46.00
Cookbooks	110.00
Candy project	3,483.50
Family In Need	170.00