



The Tower

November 2019

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bethelpc@gmail.com * www.bethelpresbyterianstaunton.org

As This Elder Sees It . . .

Dear Bethel Family,

I hope this message finds you well. Every month our Bethel Tower provides the opportunity for an Elder to speak to the congregation. To my knowledge there are no specific guidelines to which we are bound, so I want to share with you my thoughts on “How I See It” here at Bethel.

For as long as I have worshiped God I have always recognized that my salvation has come down to this: I am a sinner and I alone am incapable of being good enough to make it to heaven and to experience eternal life solely on my own accord. However, I recognize, believe, and accept with open arms that Christ Jesus died for me on the cross and it is by His grace through faith alone I am a child of God forever.

As believers in Jesus Christ we are eager to do God’s work in this world in an endeavor to strengthen and grow His ministry. The overwhelming challenge is simply that the world we serve in is imperfect and so are we. Thus, it is inevitable that we will find ourselves in disagreement. This will occur in many different aspects in our spiritual walk with friends, family, work and yes, our church. As Christians we collectively agree and believe that we should seek out God’s will not our own. So, my first question for you today is: Do we?

My second question to you today is: Does our community, do our friends, our neighbors, our world and our Lord know us by our love or by our divisions? I am not blind, nor are you. I see the concern in your faces on Sunday mornings and I can hear it in your conversations. In addition, I share conversations with many of you throughout the week and the same can be heard and discussed. Our division has consumed our church. So, my third and fourth questions for you today are: What purpose are we serving here? Are we serving the Lord or ourselves?

Dear friends let us not get so caught up in these issues within our church life that we miss the bigger picture. So, unless you can be certain that the issues we face matter most before our Lord please let them go and lay them at His feet. They are not worth our future together in Christ Jesus.

(continued)



As This Elder Sees It (continued) . . .

Jesus said, in John 13:34-35,: A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.

Let's fight for restoration of family and unity within our beloved church in the name of Jesus Christ. Let us stand together and help our Lord build a Kingdom that has no end. Let's tear down these walls between us so the world will know us by our love, not by our division. I know this is not the easiest road, but remember: if mountains were smooth you couldn't climb them!

Every Sunday together as a church family we recite the Lord's Prayer. Hear your own words as Jesus taught us: "His Kingdom come; His will be done on earth as it is in heaven." This is His kingdom come, and we are his disciples. Remember, the disciples were not without struggle and confusion, but they put the Lord first. Let us do the same!

Derek Almarode, Ruling Elder

Session News & Notes . . .



Congregational Meeting - Sunday, November 10th

The Session has called for a Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, November 10th, immediately following the worship service. The purpose of the meeting will be to elect five members of the congregation to the Nominating Committee. Be thinking and praying about who God may be calling to serve on this committee - could it even be you?

Session News & Notes


*The Bethel Session met on October 8th with nine members present and the Moderator Patrick Pettit.

*The Session has now completed the Minister Information Form (MIF) to begin our formal search for an Interim Pastor and a search committee has been formed. The committee is composed of Derek Almarode, David Schooley, Kathy Swisher, and Tim Turner. Your help and advice are needed as experience in this process is not our strong point. Please also support the Session and the search committee with your prayers.

*The Session welcomes and thanks Kay Thompson for becoming our new Receiving Treasurer! Please offer her your support and thanks as she begins this new and challenging role at Bethel.

*A Congregational Meeting has been scheduled for November 10th to elect a Nominating Committee for the next class of officers. Please plan on attending this meeting and giving your support.

David Schooley Clerk of Session



The LORD gives strength to His people; the LORD blesses His people with peace.

- Psalm 29:11

Session News & Notes (continued) . . .

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Elder-on-Call, November 2019 While all Elders are willing to assist you if you have a pastoral need, the Elder-on-Call for the month of November is David Schooley. Please feel free to reach out to David (540/255-6070;

dschooley05@gmail.com). The Elders on the Session are volunteering on a rotating basis each month to be “on-call”. This will continue until Bethel hires an Interim or Stated Supply Pastor.

- The Bethel Session

Music News & Notes . . .

If you have any concerns or suggestions for the music program here at Bethel or would like to meet with Eli please email or call him. He will be happy to discuss any suggestions you may have or set-up a time to meet with you. Thank you!

Eli's Contact Information

Email:

BethelPCMusic@gmail.com

Phone: (919) 649-0855



The Bethel Choir will begin working on Advent & Christmas music in the coming weeks so this is the perfect time to start singing with them!

The Choir practices on Wednesday evenings, at 7:00 pm and they would love to have you join them! Whether you are a soprano, alto, tenor, or bass they can use your voice! No experience is necessary and you don't have to be able to read music!

NEW CHOIR



MEMBERS WELCOME!

♪ “O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him;
O come, let us adore him,
Christ, the Lord!” ♪

Church Office News & Notes . . .



Daylight saving time ends on Sunday, November 3rd. Make sure to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday evening, November 2nd. Enjoy your extra hour of sleep!

The December Tower Newsletter Deadline will be Sunday, November 17th.

You may leave articles and announcements for the Tower in Adrienne's mailbox in Memorial Hall or email them to: bethelpc@gmail.com. We welcome and appreciate early submissions before the 17th! All announcements for the newsletter should include: Who? What? When? Where? Why?



Church Office News & Notes continued . . .

**PLEASE
NOTE...**

Please have all announcements for the bulletin for November 24th and the bulletin for December 1st to the Church Office by Monday, November 18th, at 9:00 am. I am requesting the announcements this early due to my vacation and the Thanksgiving holiday. Thanks for your understanding! - Adrienne Barker, Office Manager

The Church Office will be closed Monday & Tuesday, November 25th & November, 26th while Adrienne is on vacation.

Please see volunteer needed below



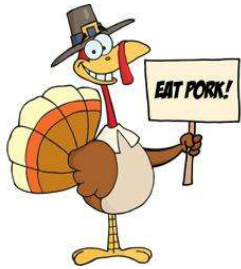
Church Office Hours



Excellent . . .

Monday - Thursday
9:00 am - 3:00 pm

(Lunch usually taken
12:30 pm - 1:00 pm)



**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**

The Church Office will also be closed Wednesday & Thursday, November 27th & November, 28th for the Thanksgiving holiday. The staff of Bethel wishes you a blessed Thanksgiving!

*Be thankful in all circumstances, for this is
God's will for you who belong to Christ
Jesus. - 1 Thessalonians 5:18 NLT*

*Volunteer Needed for Church Office

The Personnel Committee is looking for a volunteer who would be willing to come into the Church Office on Monday and/or Tuesday, November 25th & November 26th while I'm on vacation.



It would be helpful to be in the office from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm to check the mail, check the messages on the answering machine, and answer the phone, take any messages, or answer any questions.

You are welcome to bring a book, laptop, iPad, or smartphone.

You can call or email me at (540) 886-6041 or bethelpc@gmail.com. Thank you so much for considering this volunteer assignment! - Adrienne Barker

Congregational Care News & Notes . . .

"Fellowship Following Worship" We are looking for individuals willing to host "Fellowship Following Worship" in November. Please take a look at the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board in Memorial Hall and find a date that would work for you. And it doesn't have to be fancy (unless you want it to be)! It can just be a snack while we chat and visit with one another following the worship service. A box of cookies, crackers, and lemonade will be plenty! Thanks for thinking of helping with this important time with each other!

Bethel Prayer Group Meeting

Tuesday, November 5th &
Tuesday, November 19th

2:00 pm in the Bumgardner Classroom

ALL ARE WELCOME!



Grab a cup of coffee or tea in Memorial Hall & join us for prayer!

We all know how important prayers are especially during times of transition so please join us for this time of fellowship as we pray for each other, the church, and our community. Prayers can be kept confidential if needed. Please contact Barb Gough at (540) 255-6521 if you have any questions.

Longtime Bethel member and friend Jeannie Lee has moved to Charlottesville but would still love to see you and have visits from you! If you happen to be traveling over to Charlottesville, please consider stopping by and visiting with Jeannie for a little while. Jeannie lives at the Monroe Center which is just off of Rt. 29 at 1150 Northwest Drive. Her phone number is (540) 885-5840 so feel free to call and plan a visit with her!



Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you.
Jeannie 29.12

Bethel Prayer List (updated October 29th, 2019)

Congregation Members

Jarod Davis & Family
Karen Koogler
Jane Law
Shelby Myers

Dan Gano
Sara Ann Lamb
Jeannie Lee
John Pilson

Bobby Goodson
Evelyn LaPorte
Margaret Liptrap
Alice Wooddell

Family & Friends of the Church & Congregation

Sarah Brownlee
Olivia Lewis
Jamie Pirkey
Steve Yancey

Ann Kellogg
William McFarlane
Van Pirkey

David Law
Roy Pilson
Devin Scott

Sympathy & Condolences

Family & Friends of Boyd Wood

Family & Friends of Maggi Peterson

Community, Country, & World

All Military Leaders & Personnel
Michael & Rachel Weller, Missionaries in Ethiopia

Police, Firemen, and EMS workers and volunteers

Mission Committee News & Notes . . .



Operation Christmas Child 2019

For the past 29 years, Samaritans Purse has been collecting shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivering them to children in need around the world. You can participate in this mission project by filling a shoebox or boxes for children in need. Brochures with detailed information on filling the shoeboxes are available in Memorial Hall. All shoeboxes will need to be returned to the church by Sunday, November 17th. There will be a cart in Memorial Hall for you to place your shoeboxes. Thank you for your continued support for all of Bethel's mission projects!

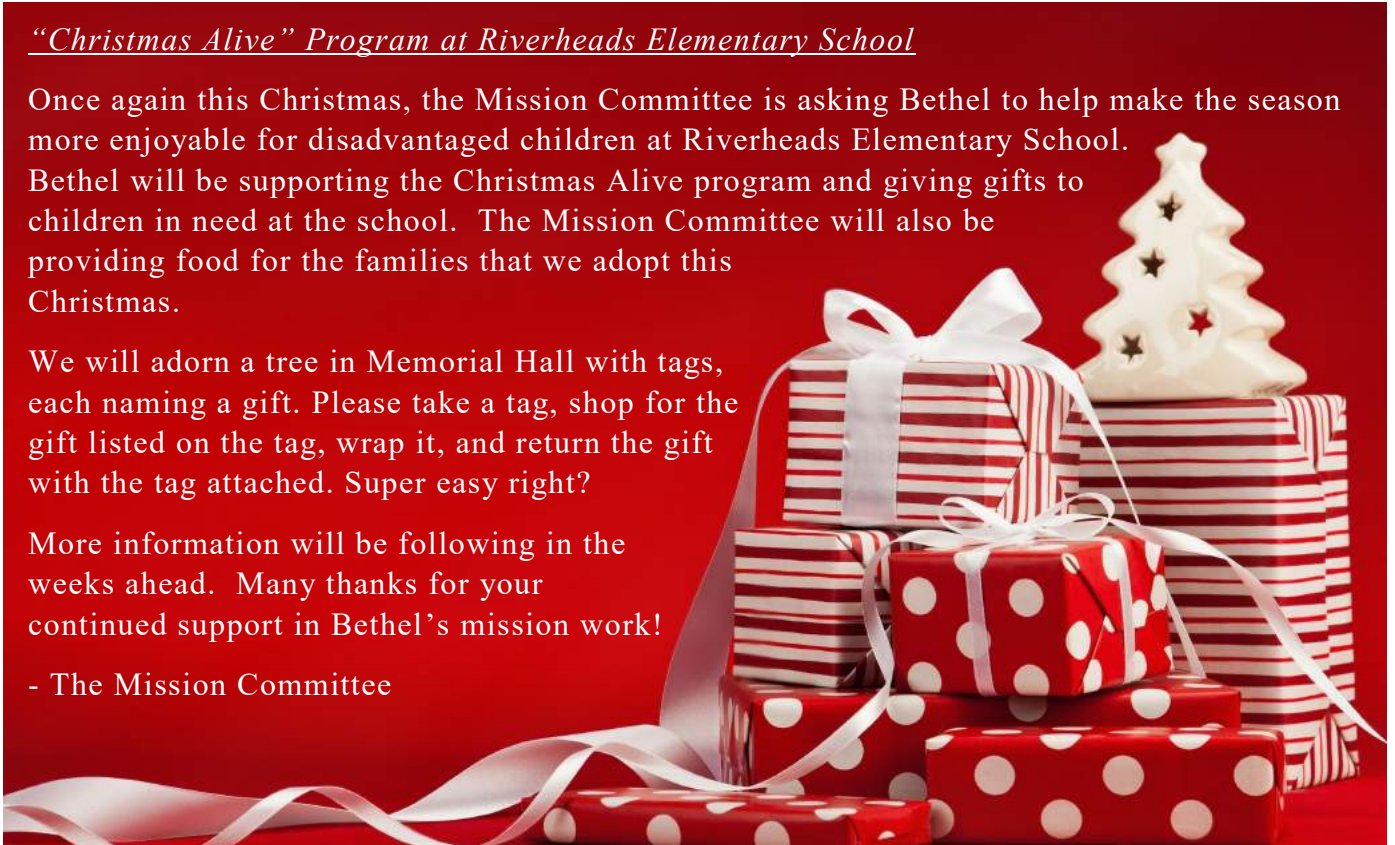
"Christmas Alive" Program at Riverheads Elementary School

Once again this Christmas, the Mission Committee is asking Bethel to help make the season more enjoyable for disadvantaged children at Riverheads Elementary School. Bethel will be supporting the Christmas Alive program and giving gifts to children in need at the school. The Mission Committee will also be providing food for the families that we adopt this Christmas.

We will adorn a tree in Memorial Hall with tags, each naming a gift. Please take a tag, shop for the gift listed on the tag, wrap it, and return the gift with the tag attached. Super easy right?

More information will be following in the weeks ahead. Many thanks for your continued support in Bethel's mission work!

- The Mission Committee



Outreach & Evangelism News & Notes . . .



**VOLUNTEER
BELL RINGERS
NEEDED!**

Ring a bell...help change a life

Calling for Bell Ringers!

The Bethel Outreach & Evangelism Committee needs volunteers to help with ringing the Salvation Army bells at the Staunton Walmart on Friday, December 6th, from 12:00 pm to 8:00 pm. You will be stationed at the pharmacy entrance. Each shift lasts about two hours. If you can help please call Mo Kyle at (540) 292-8578 to schedule a shift. It's a great idea to team up with a friend to make the time go by faster in the cooler weather or a fun activity for a family to do together! Help "ring in the holiday season" for those in need in our community!

Bethel Presbyterian Church Nomination of Church Officers

It is time to start the process of electing officers for the Class of 2023, so they can attend training in February and be ready for ordination/installation in March. The Nominating Committee is requesting that EVERY active member of the congregation participate in this process! Help identify potential officers with your suggestions to the Nominating Committee. Do not worry that they may have already been suggested.

When thinking and praying about those congregation members to nominate, ask yourselves if they faithfully try to live their lives demonstrating the fruit of the spirit from Galatians 5:22-23 “love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control”? Ask God who also might best be able to aid and assist in leading Bethel during this time of transition.

After receiving your advice and after much prayer, the Nominating Committee will nominate four elders, four deacons, and two trustees for a three-year term to fill positions that will be vacant at the end of February. After the nominees are announced, the congregation will meet at the beginning of January to elect church officers for the Class of 2023.

Support the Nominating Committee by praying for them as they work to discern those who God is calling to service and leadership at Bethel.

You have a few options in returning the form. (1) You may print off the form and complete the information on page 8 and return it to one of two “Nominations Boxes” located in the vestibule or Memorial Hall by Sunday, November 24th, 2019. or (2) You may email your suggestions to Adrienne in the Church Office at bethelpc@gmail.com by Thursday, November 21st, at 3:00 pm. Please note that ALL suggestions remain confidential and will not be discussed except within the Nominating Committee.

Thank you for your suggestions, support, and prayers!

<u>SESSION</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2020</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u>
	John Davis	Derek Almarode	Jimmy Callison
	Tabby Moore	Pat Quick	**Dan Gano
	Bob Olson	Kathy Swisher	Dave Schooley
	Mac Williams		Tim Turner
<u>DEACONS</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2020</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u>
	Ellen Fitzgerald	Katie McElveen	Wade Cash
	D. W. Miller	Joe Moore	Charlie Johnson
	Alex Sproul	Linda Tenney	Brian Lee
	*Dale Thompson	Drury Whitaker	Katie Miller
<u>TRUSTEES</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2020</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2021</u>	<u>CLASS OF 2022</u>
	*Dan Gano	Charlie Johnson	Bill Brubeck
	Lee Ann Heizer	Dale C. Smith	James Williams

*Designates those ineligible for re-election to the same office but may be eligible for any other office. **Will be rotating off the Session after this year.

(continued)

Suggestions for the Nominating Committee for the Class of 2023.

Please complete both #1 and #2 for each nominee.

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

1. I suggest (name) _____
for the nomination to the office of
(Circle one) elder deacon trustee

2. I suggest this person because:

You may contact me for more information or if you have any questions.

Name _____ Phone _____

Presbyterian Women News & Notes . . .

Presbyterian Women - November 2019

Special Offering - Thank Offering

*The Afternoon Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, at 1:30 pm. The meeting will be held at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

*The Evening Circle will meet on Tuesday, November 12th, at 7:00 pm. The meeting will be held at the church in the Bumgardner Classroom.

PWCT Meeting - November 3rd



Thank Offering 2019

In February 2019, the Creative Ministries Offering Committee of Presbyterian Women met to discuss grant applications. Of the 75 applicants, 18 were chosen for funding. Twelve of the projects serve people in the United States and six of the projects are international.

The Thank Offering will be collected at the November Circle Meetings.

GIFT CARDS FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHILDREN'S HOME OF THE HIGHLANDS *a ministry of the Presbyterian Church*

This month, the Bethel Women plan to deliver gift cards to the Presbyterian Children's Home of the Highlands, known as PCHH, in Wytheville, VA. This long-term residential facility accommodates up to 30 children at a time between the ages of 5 and 18 and serves more than 90 residents annually. The children are offered life skills training, psychiatric evaluation, education, counseling, faith development programs, hope, purpose, and a home in a stable and loving environment that is overseen by God's love and grace. They will appreciate our donations.



The staff at PCHH has suggested our gifts should include cards from Walmart, McDonald's, Wendy's, Dollar Tree, Dollar General, or Family Dollar.

If you are able to participate in this project, please print the purchase amount of the gifts on the cards and deliver them to Stephanie Rivers, Barbara Gough, or Joyce Miller before Sunday, November 24th. Thank you for your help with this effort by Bethel's Presbyterian Women.

Stewardship & Finance News & Notes . . .

Bethel YTD Budget Update

Stewardship & Finance Reporting through September 30th, 2019

YTD Annual Revenue Received \$136,854

Approved Annual Budget \$189,500



The Stewardship & Finance Committee welcomes Kay Thompson as Bethel's new Receiving Treasurer! Kay has numerous years of banking and financial experience and we are grateful she has volunteered her time and talents to Bethel by taking on this responsibility!

Worship Committee News & Notes . . .

November Lectionary Schedule

November 3, 2019

Daylight saving time ends

21st Sunday after Pentecost

All Saints' Service

Guest Speaker: Derek Almarode

Habakkuk 1:1-4, 2:1-4; 2 Thessalonians 1:1-12; Luke 19:1-10

November 10, 2019

22nd Sunday after Pentecost

Veterans Sunday

Guest Minister: Rev. Anne Ross

Haggai 1:15-2:9; 2 Thessalonians 2:1-17; Luke 20:27-38

November 17, 2019

23rd Sunday after Pentecost

Guest Minister: Rev. Bernard Bangle

Isaiah 65:17-25; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-13; Luke 21:5-19

November 24, 2019

Christ the King/Reign of Christ

Guest Minister: Rev. Ann Reed Held


Jeremiah 23:1-6; Colossians 1:11-20; Luke 23:33-43




Bethel will be recognizing All Saints' Sunday on November 3rd. During worship we will remember all in our Community of Faith who have claimed the Gift of Eternal Life, over the past year. Please join us for this special service that will include a candle lighting ceremony of remembrance.



Many Thanks . . .

Thank you  Heartfelt thanks to my church family and friends for the prayers, cards, calls, visits, food, and other acts of kindness during the loss of Boyd T. Wood. He loved the Lord and attending church. Again many thanks!

Love,
Jane Law

Thanks!  Many thanks to the wonderful and talented volunteer(s) that decorate the cabinet in Memorial Hall seasonally. You do a fantastic job and your hard work and efforts do not go unnoticed. Thank you for brightening things up for us in Memorial Hall!

The cabinet in Memorial Hall beautifully decorated for autumn.



Many Thanks (continued) . . .



RIVERHEADS
HIGH
SCHOOL

Dear Bethel Presbyterian Church,

Sending a HUGE thank you for your generous contribution for the 2019 Riverheads High School After Graduation Celebration. Over 100+ seniors and their guests enjoyed a fun-filled evening while keeping them safe and off the streets. We could not have had a successful event without your support!

Sincerest Regards,
Riverheads Chemical People

PS - Please keep us in mind for our 2020 celebration. We appreciate your continued support!



The Youth Committee offers a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone who made our Harvest Party a success! From those who helped organize the event, donated candy and/or food, volunteered their time, decorated their trunks, came by themselves or with their families, or assisted in some other way, we could not have had a successful event without you! EVERY SINGLE ONE OF YOU WAS APPRECIATED! We had a great time with pumpkins, trunk-or-treat, costumes, and of course candy!

Schedules & Such . . .

Nursery Schedule November 2019

Children's Church - Penny Lee

November 3rd - Louise Hoy

November 10th - Elizabeth Mulcahy

November 17th - Cindy Almarode

November 24th - Stephanie Rivers

Flower Schedule

November 2019

November 3rd -
JoAnn Pendley

November 10th - Cindy Almarode

November 17th - Lee Ann Heizer

November 24th - Bettie Swisher



Offering Schedule

November 2019

Ellen Fitzgerald

Charlie Johnson

Katie Miller

Dale Thompson



November

Greeters:

Wade & Phyllis

Cash

Don't
forget

November 3rd - Daylight Saving Time Ends

November 5th - Election Day

November 11th - Veterans Day

November 28th - Thanksgiving Day



Birthdays & Anniversaries . . .



Leona Ware	November 1	Marty Simmers	November 17
Danny Grimm	November 4	Graylin Fauver	November 21
Samantha Damen	November 5	Kenny Olson	November 22
Sarah Hord	November 8	Tate Burkholder	November 27
Lisa Surface	November 9	Charlotte Maddy	November 30
Tom Whitaker	November 10	Marylinn Surface	November 30
Jill Webb	November 11	Sue Whitesell	November 30
Corbett Smith	November 12		
J.W. Davis	November 13		
Penny Cash	November 15	William Rivers	December 1
Eli English	November 15	Jimmy Callison	December 2
Bayleigh Lee	November 15	Guy Brooks	December 3
Allen Quick	November 15	Robert Shultz	December 4
Brian Lee	November 17	Paul Thompson	December 4



Lee Ann and Tom Heizer	November 1, 1985
Luanne and Sam Leonard	November 1, 1980
Rhonda and Charlie Johnson	November 5, 1983
Lucy and Alex Sproul	November 25, 1972

Around the Community . . .

Updates & Figures on Riverheads Weekday Religious Education (WRE)




- Classes resumed for WRE in its brand new building which is 100% paid for!
- Things are going well with teacher Dana Cash and the assistant who was hired, Kathy Bartley.
- As of mid-October 587 children were attending WRE every other week for 40 minutes, including walk time.
- The estimated budget for the general account for the 2019-2020 school year is \$57,628.
- If you would like to help, supplies needed include:
 - 3 hole punched paper (can be purchased at Staples),
 - Individual packs of construction paper: blue, green, brown, red, orange (specific colors, not the multicolored packs, please!)
 - Money for Christmas crafts



Many thanks to all of you in the community for your dedication to this amazing program! Your prayers and support have made this become a reality!

Blessings,
Mary Alford, WRE President

November 2019

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 <p>3 Daylight saving time ends 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & All Saints' Service 12:30 - Deacons Meeting 12:30 - PWCT Meeting</p>	<p>4 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life</p>	<p>5 Election Day 2:00 - Prayer & Fellowship Group (No school for Augusta County)</p> 	<p>6 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>1 All Saints' Day World Community Day</p>	<p>2</p>
<p>10 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:00 - Congregational Meeting 12:45 - Christian Education Comm. 12:45 - Stewardship & Finance Comm. 12:45 - Worship Comm.</p>	<p>11 Veterans Day 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life</p>	<p>12 1:30 - Afternoon Circle 7:00 - Evening Circle 7:00 Session Meeting</p>	<p>13 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 OCC Shoeboxes Due December Tower Newsletter Deadline 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship 12:30 - Mission Comm.</p>	<p>18 Deadline for November 24th & December 1st bulletin announcements 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life</p>	<p>19 9:30 - Shenandoah Presbytery Meeting at Opequon PC, Winchester, VA 2:00 - Prayer & Fellowship Group</p>	<p>20 1:15 - Worship Planning Meeting 7:00 - Bethel Choir 7:00 - Handbell Choir</p>	<p>21</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>
<p>24 Deadline for Class of 2023 Nomination Forms 9:30 - Sunday School (A) 9:45 - Sunday School (K) 11:00 - Worship & 5 Cents A Meal 12:30 - Youth Comm. 4:00 - Community Thanksgiving Service at Redeemer Lutheran Church</p>	<p>25 Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation) 6:30 - Cub Scouts 7:00 - Boy Scouts 7:30 - Young Life</p>	<p>26 Church Office Closed (Adrienne on vacation)</p>	<p>27 Church Office Closed (Thanksgiving holiday)</p>	<p>28 Thanksgiving Day Church Office Closed</p> 	<p>29</p>	<p>30 TBA - Decorating for Advent & Christmas</p> 