

# The Ponderings of Pastor Beth

Dear Members and Friends,

“**What will you bring?**” is the central question we will ask ourselves throughout October and November as we consider stewardship this season.

“What will you bring?” has me thinking of our lives. “What will we bring for food to the party Saturday?” “What will we bring as a gift at the next birthday party?”

Every Sunday we collect offerings. We bring our monetary gifts (or magically have our bank handle that through Egiving!) and “place them before God” so that we can do the work we are **called by God** to do as the church of Jesus Christ.

What we bring matters because our money enables us to live the gospel: to teach, preach, heal, reconcile, love our neighbor, serve our community, forgive, and more.

**...So what will you bring to church?**

Your weekly or monthly offerings?

Your young disciples for Sunday School?

A friend and have them worship with us?

Your special offering Oct. 7 and Noisy Offerings Oct. 14 for **Neighbors in Need**?

A curiosity for the learning about the Bible?

Your donations (large and small) for our **Sat. Oct. 20 rummage sale**?

Your time the week before to setup? Your baked goods?

Your compassionate heart to check in on hurting friends?

Your Sharing Sunday items (diapers and wipes) Oct. 21 for Human Concerns?

What else?

**Thank you** for all that you bring with you to church. Along with your gifts, you are the body of Christ that makes up St. Luke’s United Church of Christ.

*Pastor Beth*

 (“Friend” me on [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com/BethAbbott): Beth Abbott)

## Who's Serving When in Worship?

### October 7

Opening the Church	Veronica Shea
Ushers	Ray & Connie Draver
Communion Servers	<b>Need Volunteers</b>
Communion Crew	Kaye Povlich & Wendy Rendflesh
Liturgist	Brad Uelmen
Closing the Church	Wendy Rendflesh

### October 14

Ushers	Hansen's
Liturgist	Erwin Lackner
Kids' Korner	Van Dam's

### October 21

Ushers	<b>Need Volunteers</b>
Liturgist	Connie Draver
Fellowship Time	<b>Need Volunteer</b>

### October 28

Ushers	Ray & Connie Draver
Liturgist	Jodi Pelczynski
Kids' Korner	<b>Need Volunteer</b>

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## What's Happening in Worship?

### October 7

#### World Communion Sunday

#### Mark 10:2-16

On this **World Communion Sunday**, we are reminded of the wideness of God's love. Our scriptures (once we dig closely) reveal that hardness of heart and exclusivity are not the ways toward living into the fullness of God's love but rather greater compassion and wider welcome. Join us this Sunday where all are welcome at the communion table including our first grader **Autumn Hodgins**, who will feast at it for the first time (**First Communion**)! Be sure to bring along your special UCC offering for **Neighbors in Need** as well!

### October 14

#### Mark 10:17-22

A man comes to Jesus asking what he must do to "inherit eternal life." Jesus, as we'd expect, reframes the focus of the question and instructs the man to keep the **10 commandments**. Further, Jesus observes that this man has possessions in his life that have become **idols**. What things do we place before God? What relationships do we hold sacred over the one we share with God?

### October 21

#### Mark 10:35-45

James and John, two of the disciples, come to Jesus with a big favor: can they sit at the right and left sides of him—places of honor? In this request, they demonstrate they do not yet know how **upside-down world of the gospel** works where the last become first, the sick are made well, and greatness comes from serving others.

### October 28

#### All Saints Sunday

#### John 11:32-44

This close to Halloween, kids are welcome to come in their Halloween costumes or fall-themed attire! We will remember members and friends who have died since **All Saints Sunday** last year and hear how Jesus also faced grief and difficulty with the loss of his friend Lazarus.



## Sept. 12 Board Meeting Minutes

### Present:

Pastor Rev. Beth Abbott, President Brad Uelmen, Financial Secretary Veronica Shea, Treasurer Kaye Povlich, Recording Secretary Pam Rossi, Christian Ed Facilitator Kelly Hansen, Facilitator/Stewardship Kathy Immel

### Excused:

Vice President Amy Wheelock Brodzik

The board meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM by Brad Uelmen and Pastor Beth led an opening prayer. A motion was made by Veronica Shea to approve the August Board Meeting Minutes seconded by Kelly Hansen, motion approved.

### Pastor's Report:

- Rally Day went well with 69 attendants.
- Pastor Beth volunteered to be a member of the housing committee in South Milwaukee. She is also still serving on the Southeast Association Administration.
- Oct. 7 is World Communion Sunday.
- The 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of each month will be Children's Sunday.
- Oct. 29 Jennifer Boucher & Earl Wagner's Wedding.
- Nov. 18 Howie will be filling in for Pastor Beth. Communion will move to Nov. 25.
- Katie Shea will be organizing the Christmas program this year, scheduled for Dec. 23.

### Financial Report:

- A motion to approve the August financial report was made by Kelly Hansen and seconded by Kathy Immel, motion approved.
- Parsonage money is dwindling.
- Pastor Beth's Flex Spending account has been updated.

### Five Practices Report:

- Goals:  
Complete "name tag" wall and reorganize narthex (Stephanie Pischke). Continue on outside yardwork (Steve Hansen/Steve Plumb). Redo bathroom hallway bulletin boards (Kelly Van Dam). Kitchen entrance needs to be decorated/finish sprucing (Pam

Rossi). Make plans/decisions around Fellowship Hall painting (Pam Rossi). Seating for infant and toddler room & a throw rug or floor mat. Increase Outside Lighting (for safety and presence). Street Signage (Pam Rossi). Update website and YouTube videos of sermons. Repaint bathrooms adding scripture or verses to brighten up stall doors or walls (Kathi Hayden). Remove pews from back of sanctuary for added space or to add seating

### Christian Education Report:

- Sunday School started. Same Teachers as last year. Older children attendance has been down so there will be one choice for the lesson. Theme will be The Big 10 Stories.
- October a fire drill will be scheduled and in the spring a Tornado drill will be scheduled.

### Music & Worship/Building & Grounds/Stewardship:

- Review the Property Insurance Policy.

### New Business:

- Fundraising- Toppers Pizza Night Mon., Nov. 5 from 4-8pm. Includes carry out and delivery. A voucher will be needed for the church to receive 20% of the sales.
- April 2019 Craft/Vendor Fair with food trucks.
- Setting Goals for the Church: Sacred conversation on race to live into 2019's General Synod invitation (Lent?). Quarterly stewardship messages. Increase pledge amounts by a certain % (to be determined). Increase weekly attendance by a certain number (to be determined)
- Increase membership by a certain number (to be determined).

### Anything Else:

- Kelly Hansen to check with Guest House and Human Concerns for future projects.

Next meeting is scheduled for Oct. 10, 2018 at 6:30pm. Brad closed the meeting at 8:00pm, meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Pam Rossi  
Recording Secretary

**Pastor Beth's Ministry Highlights from September:**

- Getting back into the swing of things after being in Minneapolis the last week in Aug. for continuing education as a part of my young UCC program: **Next Generation Leadership Initiative (NGLI)**
- Participated in a panel discussion Fri. Sept. 7 at the UCC's Pension Board Annuitant Visitor Program training and shared a brief message of how I've seen **God "give the growth"** within our congregation
- Enjoyed the "busyness" of our **Rally Day** including the delicious Salad and Baked Potato Bar!
- Got asked to be on a list to serve as a community volunteer for any Grievance Hearings that may arise with **South Milwaukee's Housing Authority**
- Extended our church's welcome and prayed at **AA's Open Meeting** Wed. Sept. 12 (when friends & family of those who participate in Alcoholic Anonymous in our building are invited to share a meal and be at the meeting)
- **Caleb Eichner's baptism** on Sept. 23! God's blessings to you always, Caleb!

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**Little Free Library Set to Serve**

A special thanks to **Steve Hansen** for setting up our Little Free Library outside so that anyone in the church or community can select a good book and read! Children's books are also available.

Have books you'd like to donate? Drop them in the library or in the office.

**Fall Rummage Sale:  
Saturday, October 20th.**



Bring in your items and plan to help setup week before and help day of.  
Signup sheets to help setup are available in Fellowship Hall

**Sun. Oct. 14 10:30 AM – 1 PM**

**Tues. Oct. 16 6:30 PM – 9 PM**

**Fri. Oct. 19 9 AM – ??? PM**

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**What Will You Bring?  
Stewardship Wisdom**

Throughout the end of October and November, you will hear read aloud that are written by senior church members. Read as Stewardship Moments in worship ("What Will You Bring?"), these letters will tell the stories of why they give, why they believe giving is important, and how giving to the church has impacted their faith.

Look forward to being inspired!

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**Stewardship Celebration Sunday**

**Sunday, November 11<sup>th</sup>**

*Pledge cards will be mailed in October; please return yours on or before Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>. Harvest Bags also collected (handed out Nov. 4)*



**We're trying a new fundraiser!  
Topper's Pizza Night Fundraiser**



Location: 2971 S. Chicago Ave.  
South Milwaukee

**4-8 PM Mon. Nov. 5**

You'll need a voucher (available  
beforehand); we'll get 20%  
of the sales with flyers.

Delivery or carry out only.

They deliver anywhere in South Milwaukee,  
Cudahy, and Oak Creek east of Howell;  
hand your driver the voucher.

If we turn in 50 vouchers, we'll get 20% of  
ALL sales that night, so spread the word and  
hand out as many vouchers as you can!

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**Interfaith SSR is looking for  
Volunteers and Supporters:**

Each year, we provide fall yard clean-ups  
for our clients. This involves raking the  
lawns of leaves, trimming bushes, putting  
flower pots back in the garage, etc.

Yard cleanups won't take place until the  
majority of the leaves have fallen - at the  
very end of October or early November.  
We are now taking names for volunteers to  
do this. It can be one person, two people, a  
family (all ages!). We then assign you to one  
or two homes (or however many you'd like  
to handle) and furnish you with the details of  
the work which needs to be done and what  
items you might need to bring along.

If you'd like to be on our list of volunteers,  
please let us know:  
**(414) 762-1998**

**South Milwaukee  
Free Community Dinner  
1111 N. Chicago Ave., South Milwaukee**

Located in First Congregational  
United Church of Christ  
**3rd Thursday of each month at 6:30 PM.**  
Enter by parking lot door.



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**The Church and Ministry Team of the  
Southeast Association of the WI  
Conference – United Church of Christ  
And the congregation of Emanuel United  
Church of Christ**

Invite all members and friends to the  
Ordination of Lois L. Buchholz  
Sunday, October 14 at 3 PM  
At Emanuel United Church of Christ  
10627 W. Forest Home Ave.  
Hales Corners, WI 53130  
414-425-1515

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**An Important Reminder**

Due to privacy restrictions, when you or  
your loved one seeks medical treatment at a  
hospital, nursing home, etc, you need to call  
Pastor Beth (920) 207-3889 to have her  
visit, pray for you, or just be aware. Medical  
staff are no longer able to make these  
contacts.



## Five Practices Update

The Five Practices Team and the Board created goals for our church (for now until the end of the year and for 2019). Many of these goals came out of our brainstorming sessions throughout our Five Practices sessions.

See what the goals are and track the progress with the dry erase board that'll appear in the narthex. See your bulletins and congregational weekly emails for how you can help us carry out the goals!

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### Love of Neighbor: Support Oct. 7<sup>th</sup>'s Neighbors in Need Special Offering

Neighbors in Need (NIN) is a special UCC mission offering on Sun. Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> that supports ministries of justice and compassion throughout the United States. One-third of NIN funds support the Council for American Indian Ministry (CAIM). Two-thirds of this offering is used by the UCC's Justice and Witness Ministries (JWM) to support a variety of justice initiatives, advocacy efforts, and direct service projects through grants.

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### 'Like' Our Facebook Page!

Find St. Luke's United Church of Christ (see picture with communion cup) and 'check in' when you're worshipping! Join us and invite friends to follow us.

## Our Monthly Potbelly's Fundraiser



Our 3rd Tues. of the month fundraiser at Potbelly's in Oak Creek (in strip mall between Chick-fil-A & Five Guys) from 5-8 PM continues  
**Tues. Oct. 16.**

Show a paper voucher (see table in narthex every Sunday prior), our facebook page Potbelly's post from your phone, the voucher posted on our website, or at least mention "St. Luke's." Encourage friends to join us the tasty fundraiser!

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### Financial Report for August 2018



Balance as of 7/31/18	\$7460.98
Receipts	4616.49
Transfers in:	
Total Receipts	4616.49
Expenses for August	8581.71
Balance as of 8/31/18	\$3495.76

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### Mum Sales Supported Interfaith

**Thank you** for purchasing your mums on Rally Day (Sept. 9)! You helped support the work of Interfaith through our local chapter South Shore Regional and its Neighborhood Outreach Program. Your mums help seniors live independently for as long as possible!





## What's Ahead for Sunday School:

- Oct. 7** Noah
- Oct. 21** Noah/Promises
- Oct. 28** **Kids are invited to wear Halloween costumes or fall-themed attire to church!**  
Decorate Harvest Bags (*handed out Nov. 4; collected Nov. 11*)

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**Sharing Sunday: October 21**  
(*third Sunday of each month*)

**Suggested Items: Baby Items (Diapers, Wipes, Etc.)**

Your donations will be collected during children's time and shared with our neighbors in greater need through Human Concerns.  
Thank you for your generosity!

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### Noisy Offering Collection

Be sure to keep saving up your loose change and small bills for the second Sunday of the month when we have our "noisy" kettle collection. October 14's Noisy Offering will join September 9<sup>th</sup>'s and support our special UCC offering: **Neighbors in Need.**

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### Church Contacts:

Pastor Beth's Office Hours:  
Tues., Thurs., Fri. 9 AM – Noon  
Church: (414) 762-8260  
Website: [stlukesucc.us](http://stlukesucc.us)  
Pastor Beth's email:  
[stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesuccpastor1@gmail.com)  
Pastor Beth's cell (920) 207-3889  
Office Administrator Jennifer's email:  
[stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com](mailto:stlukesuccoffice@gmail.com)

## With Sympathy

Ruth Jasmer, a member at our church from 1940 until she and her late husband Joseph retired to Florida in 1974, died July 4, 2018. She lived to be 95 and had four sons: Dwight, David, Douglas, and Daniel. God's peace be upon her family now in their time of mourning. We give thanks to David for letting us know.

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### Switch to Egiving:

Switch any time to electronically ("Egive") your offering! Fill out a pink authorization form (see narthex or [stlukesucc.us](http://stlukesucc.us)) and opt for your monthly offering to be automatically withdrawn from your checking or savings on the 1<sup>st</sup> or 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. Update your giving at any time! Join others who have experienced the hassle-free way of supporting the ministries of our church.

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### Do You Have an Idea to Share? A Question? A Concern?

Contact a Board Member: Brad Uelmen (President), Amy Wheelock-Brodzik (Vice President), Kaye Povlich (Treasurer), Veronica Shea (Financial Secretary), Pam Rossi (Secretary) Kathy Immel (Building & Grounds), Kelly Hansen (Christian Education)

Or a Pastoral Relations Committee Member: Janet Mierendorf, Michael Osborne, Ron Petrus, or Jilloyn Sodemann