Pastor Tom’s message

Seek First The Kingdom Of God And All These Things Shall Be Added Unto You. Matthew 6:33

One is amazed at how the Christmas season leaves us feeling like we are continually being herded from one setting to another. We have our buying schedules determined for us. There is Black Friday. There is Small Business Saturday. There is Cyber Monday. Following these highly ritualized events you will have a vast series of commercial organizations wanting you to come back and buy more. In the midst of this are charitable groups making sure that you remember them this season as well. In recent years a new group has also entered the picture. They are a growing group of scammers who seek to take your resources, your identity, or anything else that you may possess. All of this can rapidly take the joy out of the season. Years ago the Church began the campaign: “Keep The Reason For The Season.” It becomes easy to lose focus on your hopes for the season if you are continually being herded by the goals of others. The “Reason for the Season,” is that you might find a time for God to enter into your life and bring peace and happiness. Such things can never happen so long as you (and your wallet) are continually being herded in other directions.

This is why it is so important to continually put focus upon your priorities this Christmas season. Priorities define us. The priority of seeking first the kingdom of God is a simple yet effective way to find the hope that you wish to discover as the year comes to a close.

Many find it helpful to have this Bible verse ever before them throughout the season. Some even have it printed on their car, their office, their refrigerator and even on their checkbook. It helps to give them focus upon their daily planning and their daily living. Many have found it so effective that they have kept this focus going once the new year begins.

How about you? I think this can be a great guiding path to provide you with a successful time through this Christmas season. Seeking first the Kingdom of God is a great path to peace and meaning. Will you join me this season?

If you would like to receive an emailed copy of the week’s bulletin in advance of the Sunday service, please let Katie in the office know. She can be reached by email: albanyumc@tds.net or phone: 608-862-3206. Thank you.

Please join us for the Men’s Prayer Breakfast on Saturday, December 16th, at 8:30am. This is a time for us to come together over a good meal for some fellowship and prayer.
The AUMC Women’s Service Team donated 10 apple pies to the Albany Women’s League pie sale for the Empty Stocking.

We received this thank you:

The Albany Women’s League Empty Stocking thanks all of you
For your hard work and those wonderful apple pies. Because of
people like you who donate either through monetary means
or goods we have the ability to help others.
Thank you,
Albany Womens League---Terrie

Thank You for the New Bells!
Cindy Pryce and Pastor Tom & Karen Moe both purchased a new set of bells for the Sunday School Program to make sure everyone had a bell to play. Happy Ringing!

AUMC SENIOR HIGH YOUTH SCHEDULE
December 2017

December 3rd: 5:00-8:30 pm
Volunteering for Family Promise  We will have dinner (youth leaders will provide) and then share fellowship. This is the Night of Christmas Music, so we will enjoy the program with them.

December 17th: 11:00-1:00 pm
Lunch and Caroling! Even if you don’t think you can sing, PLEASE join us! We will grab a quick lunch and head out. This is just a fun event to share the Gift of Christmas with those in the community.

Please consider for Volunteering for Family Promise.
AUMC will host December 3rd through 10th. If you would like to get on the email list or have more questions, please email:
Chris Ochalla at: chrisandchris5@charter.net
Or Fairy Elmer at: fselmer@aol.com

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Thank You
to everyone who held a place on a committee for the 2017 year. You helped keep the church running smoothly and we couldn’t have done it without you. If you have kept your position on a committee – thank you for your continued service. Thank you and welcome to those of you who signed up to serve on a committee for 2018. If you are interested in serving on a committee you can call the office for more information.

A HUGE THANK YOU goes out to Ron Wanless for the beautiful, hand-crafted signs for the nursery. They look very lovely and will clearly direct people to the right place.

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Come Join Us
For
A Night of Christmas Music
Sunday, December 3rd
6:30pm
Refreshments Following Program

POINSETTIAS!

Orders due December 10
May be taken home December 24

The cost is $14 for a single poinsettia and $26 for a double poinsettia. Payment should accompany this order form and may be placed in a pew envelope, or may be mailed or turned in to the church office (500 S Park Street, Albany). You may also purchase a poinsettia on your own and bring it to the church and notify the office to have it given in honor or memory of someone.

Name(s)______________________________________

$14 poinsettia __________   $26 poinsettia _________

I prefer ______ red, _____ white, or ______ either color

In memory / honor of   (circle one)

Name______________________________________

Please pick up your 2018 offering envelopes from the table in the narthex. If you do not have envelopes and would like them, please sign up on the clipboard.

Look for this event in January
Dan Holmes leads worship
January 14th

Sunday, December 24th
Please join us for Christmas Eve services
4:00pm Worship Service

8:00pm Candlelight Christmas Service

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SCHEDULE  
++ Please note there may have been changes made to the schedule ++

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<th>DECEMBER</th>
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<td><strong>Liturgist</strong></td>
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<td>3 Darrell Clark</td>
<td>7 Dean Houlberg</td>
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<td>10 Eunice Clark</td>
<td>14 Terrie Blumer</td>
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<td>17 Doreen Guzman</td>
<td>21 Janis King</td>
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<td>24 Kathie Riemer</td>
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<td>31 Wesley Isenhart</td>
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<td><strong>Ushers</strong></td>
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<td>7 Wayne &amp; Jan Albertson</td>
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<td>10 Fairy &amp; Emily Elmer</td>
<td>14 Daryl &amp; Kari Fernstaeedt</td>
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<td>17 Darcy &amp; Al Stephenson</td>
<td>21 Jeff &amp; Cassie Mauerman</td>
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<td>24 Ann Trow &amp; Krisheel Blumer</td>
<td>28 Teresa Brugger &amp; Barb Briggs</td>
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<td>31 Kathie Riemer &amp; Karla Myhre</td>
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<td>10 Bryce McIntosh &amp; Kaden Zurfluh</td>
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**Communion Stewards**
December: Teresa Brugger
January: Teresa Brugger

* If you cannot fulfill your day please try to switch with someone and please let the office know. Thank you for your service for the Lord!
“Star of Wonder”

Sunday School Christmas Program

10:00am service
Sunday, December 17th

Community Resources

Celebration of Lights Service
24th Annual Celebration of Lights Service. Thursday, December 7th, at 6:30pm. United Methodist Church, 2227 4th St. Monroe, WI 53566.
There are several ways to honor a person living or/and remember your loved one: for a minimum donation of $8, you will receive a personalized ornament for your loved one – either living or in memory. Their names will be read aloud and they will be recognized at the service. For a $5 donation, your loved one’s name is recognized during the service. And for $12 donation, a personalized ornament is mailed to the family and the loved one’s name recognized during the service. Ornaments until supplies run out. Order forms available at St. Camillus Center, Monroe Hospital and Clinic information desks, Prairie Stone Gift Shop in hospital lobby, or by calling the hospice office at 608-324-1230 or 800-367-8406.

Sunday, Dec. 17, 7 p.m. at St. Victor Catholic Church in Monroe. The Bel Canto Singers will present their annual Christmas concert, directed by Allen Redford. The concert will also feature organist Deborah Krauss Smith and other musicians. A reception follows the concert.
Homemade Thanksgiving Pie Report

Hello my name is Dan Weber and I would like to comment on Thanksgiving Pies as a fund raising project. My wife, Linda, started this fund raiser when we were still in the old church eight years ago with the goal of selling 100 pies. That first year 124 pies were sold. The Albany Lions Building was used to make and bake the pies. I wasn’t quite as involved back then and remember coming home from up north deer hunting on a Tuesday before Thanksgiving and going right down to the Lions Building to help. Diane Bergman is co chair of the project helping Linda with decisions, very energetic, great pie crust roller and sold lots of pies in Brodhead. Linda always set her sights high and each year wanted to make more and more. Her goal this year was 500 pies and 506 were sold. Where ever we would go she would sell them pies. She was always shopping for the best deals on product even talking to managers just to get special rates. Did you know Aldi’s has evaporated milk 20 cents a can cheaper than Woodmans. Yes that’s right we ran all over saving money for the project but probably costing us more in gas than what we saved. The six bushel of apples came from the Ridgewood orchard in Beloit and the cherries were from Michigan through the Amish. Linda spent hundreds of hours on each pie sale organizing and measuring out all the ingredients at home before the sale. Her sister, Carol, would come over to help her occasionally. It takes a lot of workers to actually make the pies and we were so fortunate to have so many dedicated people helping the past eight years. I would like to recognize the people who helped make those 506 pies this year. The first pies made were the 124 cherry and a couple weeks later the 176 apple. When the apple pies were made four bushels were peeled the day before and three ladies peeled the last two bushels when the apple pies were made. They had 263 years experience or rather that is what their combined ages are – Joanne Rankins, Marge Parmer and Carol Elmer. Julie Blumer and Penny Thompson are always willing to help and do just about anything. Kathy Atkinson is the crimp master and always has her phone with her. Tracy Stefanik can slice up apples faster than anybody I’ve seen. The 100 pumpkin, 90 pecan and 16 mincemeat were made Tuesday before Thanksgiving. Bonnie Zee is very willing to help and very seldom misses. Margaret Kauk and Karla Neild are two we can really count on and are great help. We got Shirley Davies-Morris involved this year. She bakes a lot at home. We are so glad that Rose Durtshi retired because she is a very hard worker. Holly Atkinson is the one who puts the apple and cherry pies in the bags and marks them. We got Brandi Grazioso helping this year and is fun to work with. Eunice Clark is another great crust roller and we had so many pies to bake this year she recruited Darrell and they baked 60 pecan pies at the church. Lois Sherwin is a hard worker and takes pictures to post but we never think to take one of her working. This year she moved to Fond du Lac so the ladies made her sign a contract that she would be available every time they made pies. She never broke her contract. Jeff and Jane Gibbons are always willing to help Linda and I whenever we ask them. Jeff helps with the pies after they are baked and Jane washes a lot of dishes plus many other things. After the new church was built they helped us so much for a few years when we served over 500 people a roast beef dinner in two and a half hours as another fund raiser and when we were done with everything and were walking out the door they were walking out with us. Special thanks to Chris & Chris Ochalla for designing the advertising fliers and order blanks. I hope that is everyone who helped make those 506 pies. The 300 apple and cherry pies are put in six freezers and some are sold in advance. Abe Runaaas has one of our freezers in his garage and is kind enough to let us store it there. This is our last year for making pies and we have met many nice people and had so many repeat customers. The customer buying the most pies services the dehumidifiers at the church, Kevin Macke bought 24 pies. Some others order around a dozen. To the above mentioned people who are always willing to help us - a heartfelt thank you. We would also like to thank those who have been purchasing our homemade Thanksgiving pies. The sales around $4500.00 will all go to the 2019 Youth Mission Trip. The cost of the ingredients will be absorbed by the Women’s Service Team.

Dan
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<td>8am &amp; 10am Worship Service</td>
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<td>5  Family Promise Host Week</td>
<td>6  Food Pantry 4:30-6:00pm</td>
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<td>15  Men’s Prayer Breakfast 8:30am</td>
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Church Staff
Pastor:
Tom Moe

Office Manager:
Katie Brugger
Office Hours: 8:00am – 1:30pm
Monday
8:00am-2:30pm
Wednesday
8:00am-2:30pm
Friday

Administrative Council Chair:
Jon Brunner

Financial Secretary:
Eunice Clark

Treasurer:
Fairy Elmer

Lay Leader:
Glenn Holtsapple

December 2017

Join us on facebook: Albany UMC
Visit our Website www.albanyumchurch.com