



OPEN DOORS UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

WELLS CAMPUS

595 1st Ave SW, Wells, MN 56097
507-553-5453 | opendoorsumc@bevcomm.net
Worship: 9:30 am | Coffee: 9:00 & 10:30 am

KIESTER CAMPUS

116 N. 3rd St., Kiester, MN 56051
507-294-3300
Worship: 11:00 am | Coffee: 10:00 am

Pastor: Chris Leistra | Office Phone: 507-553-5453;
Cell Phone: 920-765-3665 | Email: pastorumc@bevcomm.net | Web Site: www.opendoorsumc.org

September 17, 2023 – Pentecost 16

Please turn off or silence your cell phone.

(* indicates when to stand. You may remain seated if standing creates a problem for you.)

– Gathering in Faith –

Gathering Music

Welcome & Announcements

* *Call to Worship*

Leader: Good morning and welcome to worship this Sunday morning. It is good to be together to worship and praise our Lord. Please stand if you are able as we sing our praise.

* <i>Songs</i>	"How Majestic Is Your Name"	#2023
	"Majesty"	#176

Leader: Let us pray together:

**ALL: We give you thanks, O Lord, as we call on your name. We will make known your deeds among the peoples.
We'll sing to you, we'll sing praises to you; we'll tell of all your wonderful works.
We glory in your holy name; let the hearts of those who seek you rejoice.
You are the Lord our God; your judgments are in all the earth.
Amen and Amen.**

* *Passing the Peace of Christ*

Opportunities to Serve

Pastoral Prayer and The Lord's Prayer

– Hearing Our Faith Story –

<i>Scripture Lesson</i>	Romans 14:1-12 (NRSV)	
<i>Scripture Song</i>	"There's A Wideness in God's Mercy"	#121, vs. 1-3
* <i>Gospel Lesson</i>	Matthew 18:21-35 (NRSV)	
<i>Sermon</i>	"Debts and Debtors"	Rev. Christopher Leistra
<i>Message Response</i>	"Grace Alone"	#2162

– Stewards of Faith –

Giving with a Thankful Heart

Offering our Gifts for Ministry

Offertory Music (as we present our gifts for ministry)

* *Doxology* #95

* *Breakthrough Prayer (Take a colored print from the back table to pray this at home.)*

One: Despite hardship, our ancestors dared to dream God-sized dreams.
Many: Praise God for hope-filled dreams.
 One: Do it again, Lord. Dream big dreams through us today!
Many: Praise God for new dreams for our generation.
 One: Invisible God, be visible through our faith today.
Many: Praise God who empowers us with faith to see what others miss.

- One: Almighty God, bless us in our God-sized dreaming. Fill our minds and hearts with the possibilities of tomorrow and help us do the work today that helps us reach those dreams.
- Many: **We will get involved in the dreaming and the work of ministry for the sake of God's mission and to make the possible real, for your glory, Almighty God.**
- All: **Come now, Lord, and fulfill your dreams in us today!**

– Sending Forth –

* *Benediction*

* *Hymn of Going Forth*

"Freely, Freely"

#389

* *Postlude – The Church Scatters for Ministry . . .*

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Welcome to worship in the name of Jesus. Please greet those near you with a sign of peace. Everyone is invited for coffee and treats, both before and after the 9:00 worship service at the Wells Campus.

The nursery is available for parents to use during worship on Sunday mornings. The nursery is on the south side of the entryway next to the restroom. The TV may be turned on to watch the service.

Keep in your prayers this week: The family of Aurora Blank; Jan Johanson following surgery; Jaunice Gerber; Marge Mutschler; Alan Yokiel; all others who are dealing with health issues; the people of Libya and Morocco; the people in Maui and victims of recent storms in Florida, California, Texas, and Mexico; for the people and work of Red Bird Mission; all those grieving, hurting, and lonely; all those struggling with challenging life situations; the victims of natural disasters all around the world; all those serving in the military and their families.

Announcements

Thank you to Staci Thompson for subbing today for Jan Johanson.

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Aurora Blank passed away peacefully at her home on Wednesday, September 13. Funeral plans are set for Saturday, October 21 at Open Doors UMC, time tbd. Please keep her daughters and their families in your prayers.

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Wednesday is Church Night – Come to Open Doors!

Your attendance will help determine the success and continuation of our new Wednesday worship and programming! Please, come on Wednesdays and get involved in . . .

DELTA Club – We had a fantastic first-day last week with 17 kids from Kindergarten through 6th grade! Registrations are still being accepted. Thank you to Steve & Renee Burns for helping in the classrooms! When they head South for the winter, we'll need some replacements, so, please consider it!

Wednesday Worship – For those who were wanting more upbeat, lively contemporary music, Wednesday Worship is right for you! Josh Edwards will be leading the music in his spirited style for children, families, and all ages in the sanctuary. A short message from Pastor Chris will tie in with the DELTA Clubs' lesson and all will finish by 5:30 so you can then head to the basement for supper.

Wednesday Supper – Plan your Wednesdays to be at church for worship at 5 followed by supper at 5:30! Jennifer Jackson is our regular cook this fall. There will be no charge to eat, but free-will donations will be appreciated to help cover the costs. At the end of the supper hour, check to see if there are any leftovers to take home for an additional donation. Menus will be printed weekly in the bulletin and on our website.

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The WAY Youth Group meets **TONIGHT** at their new location. This is *the* Youth Group for Open Doors and all churches. They meet Sunday evenings from 6-8pm the former Covenant Life Church, now called The Well Ministry Center, on Hwy 109 (290 1st Ave NE). Look forward to a bigger, better year! Invite all your friends!

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Sunday School for youngsters age 3 through 4th grade will begin **Sunday, October 1**. Children will be excused from worship with their teachers before the scripture reading. Their class will be finished when worship is finished, or shortly after.

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Asking for Helpers and Dessert Makers for Wednesday Suppers! Jennifer Jackson is our regular weekly cook this year, planning the meals, doing the shopping and cooking. She will need some help with serving, clean-up, and general kitchen assistance, so that is where we will be asking for volunteers. Also, volunteers can provide desserts each week. A sign-up sheet for the fall term is on a clipboard on the back table for volunteering. Please consider serving in this way!

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Video & Projection Help Needed! – We're in urgent need of people for layout, video, and projection for worship on Sunday mornings and the new Wednesday evening worship. Layout can be done at home on the church laptop or with PowerPoint. Computer familiarity is helpful. We will train! Please contact Sarah H. or Deb L.

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Trunk or Treat will be on Sunday, October 29 from 3:00-4:00 pm on 1st Ave SW (west of the church). We're looking for lots of trunks, the more the better! Sign up on the clip board or contact Barbara Roberts (553-3341) or the church office if you would like to reserve a spot to host a trunk . . . car trunk, SUV, pick-up. Have fun with it – you can decorate, have a theme, come in costume, bring candy or trinkets for handing out to all the kids. This is a safe and fun alternative to door-to-door trick-or-treating. * Remember to shop Treasures & More for Halloween costumes & ideas!

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Table Sale! We are down to three 3'x8' brown dining tables with Formica® tops for sale, first come first served. Asking price is \$20 each and you haul it away. They are on display on the basement stage this morning.

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Missed getting your photo taken for the directory? There are opportunities this week in Bricelyn and Mapleton to have your portrait taken and get your free 8x10. Universal Church Directories will be at the Bricelyn Lutheran church Tuesday–Friday and in Mapleton at St. John's Lutheran Church Thursday–Saturday. See Shari Petersen or Sarah Hankerson for help in signing up. If you absolutely can't get in for a portrait session, you may submit a photo. Talk to Sarah if you would like to do that. The requirements for print are: wallet size or larger print. The requirements for digital: jpg, pdf or tif file with a minimum resolution of 300 dpi at 2x3 inches (file size no less than 225 KB at 2"x3"). Submissions are due October 1.

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The **Treasures and More** event will be here before we know it (Saturday, Oct 7 and Sunday, Oct 8). What crafts have you been working on? Did your garden give you an overabundance of deliciousness you would like to share in canned, baked goods or produce? How about gently used clean Halloween costumes, have you dug them out of the closet yet? We're looking for items to fill the tables for these categories: Rugs, Bakery, Crafts, Baby Place, Wearables, Jewelry, Collectibles, Plants, Garden Produce, Canned Goods, Holiday, and Halloween Costumes. It would be helpful to get an idea of what will be brought to the event for sale and to arouse interest. A donation sign-up sheet is located on the easel in the entryway for your convenience. A brief description would be greatly appreciated.

You can start bringing your items in at Wednesday Supper on Oct. 4 through 5:00 pm Friday, Oct 6. If these dates are not convenient for you, a room will be made available to put your items in next to the Youth Room. All items are to be marked visibly with price and your initials.

Please get the word out to your friends and family. If there's no interest in buying anything, invite them anyway for the egg bake brunch on Saturday! There are posters available for you to take, and word of mouth is always effective free advertising! This church-wide event is one that all can share in its success, thank you ALL for your time, talents and donations.

If you have questions, please feel free to call or text Linda at 507.383.5796

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World Communion Sunday is October 1 Your gifts to World Communion Sunday support racial and ethnic students in achieving their educational goals while also transforming communities. Fifty percent of the offering provides scholarships for graduate students from the U.S. and other countries. Thirty-five percent supports ethnic scholarships for undergraduate students. Fifteen percent funds in-service training programs for racial and ethnic persons. Use the Special Sundays offering envelope on the offering table.

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The Wells Community Blood Drive will be Monday, September 18 from 10:30am-6:30pm. To make an appointment, register online at www.redcrossblood.org, enter sponsor code: WellsMN; or call 1-800-RED-CROSS. All presenting donors will receive a free t-shirt!

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Wilderness Prayer Center Open House September 24 The Wilderness Prayer Center is the former Rice Lake United Methodist Church, which is now owned by Youth For Christ. It has gone through an extensive remodel and is now a multi-use facility for YFC ministries, a retreat space for individuals, families, and ministry partners, and an open space for Bible studies, meetings and groups. The public is invited for a time of self-touring, fellowship and food from 4:00-6:00pm on Sunday, Sept. 24, and program and prayer service from 6:00-7:00pm.

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The Community Prayer and Bible Study Group, called "Wellspring", has a change of place and time. They will be meeting at the new Well Ministry Center (the former Covenant Life Church). They still meet on Wednesdays, but the prayer time will begin at 10:00am and the Bible study at 11:00.

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Pastor Chris will be on vacation Thursday afternoon, September 21 through Tuesday, September 26. While he is away, if you have any pastoral care needs, please call the office. Pastor John Mitchem is on-call.

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THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

Sunday, September 17

W 9:00am Worship
 10:00am Coffee
 6:00pm The WAY youth group at The Well Ministry Center

Monday, September 18

Newsletter Deadline
 10:30-6:30 Blood Drive at Wells Legion

Tuesday, September 19

9-11am Coffee at The Bean
W 1:00pm Painting Class
 6:30pm Ministry Council

Wednesday, September 20

W 9:30am Staff meeting
 10am-12 Wellspring prayer and Bible study at The Well Ministry Center
W 3:15pm DELTA Club
 5:00pm Wednesday Worship
 5:30-6:30 Supper
 6:00pm Praise Team
 6:30pm Choir

Thursday, Sept. 21-Tuesday, Sept. 26

Pastor Chris on vacation. John Mitchem on-call.

Thursday, September 21

9:30am Wells Area Ministerial mtg. at GSL

Sunday, September 24

W 9:00am Worship w/ Rev. Frank McKeegan
 10:00am Coffee
 6:00pm The WAY at The Well

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WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

PastorRev. Christopher Leistra
 Organist..... Staci Thompson
 Scripture ReaderAlice Oleson
 Offering2 volunteers, please
 A/V Sarah Hankerson
 Projection Brett Hankerson

Birthdays This Week:

September 17 Clare Kruse, Becky Woolverton
 September 19 Doug Bruckhoff, Ruth Roesler
 September 21 Brenda Johnson
 September 22 Vonnie Walker
 September 23 Kathy Heaton, Wendy Nickel
 September 24 Grace Mithun

Cable Schedule of Wells' Sunday Service:

Tuesday: 11:00 am & 8:00 pm (Bevcomm ch 990)
 Friday: 6:00 pm (Bevcomm ch 990)



September 20

Taco Bar
 Pizza
 Cupcakes