



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

April 2021						
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Easter Sunday celebrates one of the greatest days in history - when Jesus, the Son of God, defeated death and rose from the grave. With His death Jesus has given us life! We all come to the cross with sin and brokenness to be raised anew..... Let us CELEBRATE!

How exciting it is to be once again part of the ministry group at Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC). Bishop Amy Odgren, your church council and myself have agreed that I would serve in ministry as your Synod Authorized Minister (SAM). I look forward to worshipping our Lord Jesus together in the months to come.

My ministry first started when I was a Sunday School Teacher at BLC after being confirmed. Jeff and I were also married at BLC and then moved to Nebraska. God has led me to help share His Gospel in many different ways and I look forward to sharing my life's story with you as we visit and worship in the future.

The pandemic has changed our lives – giving us struggles, heartache, and uncertainty. The BLC Smart Team has done a great job of helping us keep safe and healthy. With them guiding our way we are now able to join together for worship.

I am ready to CELEBRATE our becoming anew in Christ together!

We are Easter People

-Clara (Schaumburg) Edin - SAM



April Worship Schedule



April 1 st <i>Maundy Thursday</i>	IN PERSON Al Overland	Worship 4 pm
April 2 nd <i>Good Friday</i>	IN PERSON Rick Martens	Worship 4 pm
April 4 th <i>Easter Sunday</i>	IN PERSON Rev. Cindy Gray	Worship 10 am
April 11 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	IN PERSON Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
April 18 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	IN PERSON Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
April 25 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	IN PERSON Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am

Masks must be worn to attend all in-person worship services

Click or use the text below to watch our on-line recorded Sunday Worship Services on the BLC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/qXlcchWMIaCRqg>

IN OUR
Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Millie Sorensen, Leroy Larsen, Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Ann Olson, Jo Jessen, Tony Ecklund, Shirley Lund, Joyce Schaumburg, Chase & Elizabeth Moon (*in the Philippines*), Lowell Larsen, and their families.

If you would like to add someone to this weekly list, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com

2021 Church Council Members



Marilyn Krogh
President



Chuck Moon
Vice Pres.



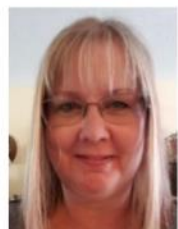
Position Vacant
Secretary



Bill Jansen
Deacon



Andy May
Deacon



Heidi Moon
Deaconess



Linda Jensen



COUNCIL MEETING

March 9, 2021
Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Krogh, Chuck Moon, Bill Jansen, Heidi Moon. Andy May absent.

The meeting was called to order at 6:12 pm.

CHECK-INS, DEVOTIONS AND OPENING PRAYER:

Devotions were led by Marilyn.

Chuck Moon addressed those present briefly, he provided an email for review.

ACCEPT MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 2021 MEETING:

Motion by Bill J. to accept the February minutes, second by Chuck M., motion carried.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

The report was presented to the council.

PASTOR'S REPORT: The February Pastor's report was submitted to the Council via email by Larry Anderson, SAM, on March 2, 2021.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—No report.
- Family Ministry—No report.
- Music and Worship—Hymns and pulpit supply are in place for March.
- Circle of Faith—A copier has been made available in the conference room.

AD HOC COMMITTEES' REPORTS:

- Call Committee—Received one response from their letter to neighboring congregations. Marilyn read letter from pastor Brenda Wicklund of First Lutheran in Hinckley.
- SMART Team—The team met and revised the plan on March 1, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Accept SMART plan—Motion to approve the SMART plan v1.7 by Chuck M., second by Marilyn K., motion carried.
- Discuss opening or reconfiguring pews for Easter: This is being considered.
- Constitution Article 12.01: Tabled.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Pulpit Supply Rates—Synod guidelines for pulpit supply have increased. Motion by Chuck M. to pay the recommended rates per Synod guidelines, second by Bill J., motion carried.
- Letters to Council—Letters of concern were received from a few members of the congregation. The letters were distributed to the Council for review. Marilyn read one of the letters aloud to the council; as well, she read aloud her letter of response.

Motion to adjourn by Chuck M., second by Bill J., motion carried at 7:05 pm.

Our next meeting will be

Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6 pm in person at church.

*Submitted by,
-Bill Jansen*

COUNCIL MEETING
Special Called Meeting
March 18, 2021
Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Marilyn Krogh, Chuck Moon, Bill Jansen, Heidi Moon, Linda Jensen. Andy May absent. Guest Clara Edin.

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm.

OPENING PRAYER: Was offered by Clara Edin.

BUSINESS:

- Approve changes to the SMART plan—Proposed changes in the SMART plan to eliminate occupancy limits. This aligns the plan with state guidance of "no limit" for worship services. Also proposed adding language that presenters can unmask while addressing the congregation. Motion by Bill J., second by Marilyn K., motion carried.
- Approve SAM Contract—A draft copy of a SAM contract with Clara Edin developed in consultation with Bishop Odgren was presented by church council president Marilyn Krogh. Language modifications to the contract were discussed and agreed on by full consensus of the council. Motion to approve the contract by

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**Special Council Meeting
March 18, 2021
Unapproved Minutes
continued...**

Chuck M., second by Linda J., motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Bill J., second by Marilyn K., motion carried. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer at 7:50 pm.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, April 14, 2021 at 6 pm in the church.

*Submitted by,
-Bill Jansen*



During this difficult time of COVID-19, we still need your help to make certain we continue to meet our budgetary needs

You can make safe and secure one-time or recurring online contributions through our website:

www.blcaskov.com/online-giving

Your checks are greatly appreciated too, for those who aren't online

Thank you for your continued support!



- Ella Ruble—1st
- Yvette Maloney—4th
- Elaine Smith—20th
- Missy Ecklund 21st
- Faye Williams—22nd
- Payton Williams—25th
- Fred Ecklund—27th

April Anniversaries

- Dave & Ann Rote—April 10th
- Owen & Betty Petersen—April 11th
- LeRoy & Joyce Larsen—April 25th



Circle of Faith met February 20, 2021 at church. The members in attendance were: Shawn Jansen, Tracy Zinter, Carolyn Steele, Elaine Smith, Jo Foss, Bev Oderkirk, Cookie Nielsen, Beth Sand and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order.

Devotions: The devotional program presented by Jo, "Standing Knee-Deep in a River and Dying of Thirst". By taking family, friends and strangers for granted we lose out on the blessing we have right now. "We have everything we need in life to make us happy but simply lack the conscious awareness to appreciate it."

Reports: Secretary minutes from January's meeting were read by Mary. Motion was made to approve by Jo,

2nd by Cookie, approved. Treasure's report read by Mary, \$128.25 in checking and \$636.08 in savings.

Old business: Corrections to January 2021 meeting: Jo also helped make desserts for the January Community Meals. Tracy asked for assistance in designing the banners for Community Meals. Carolyn offered to help.

New business: Jo asked to have the shut-in mailing list and the circle membership list updated. Community Meals in February will be dine in and take out. Menu is ham and bean soup and ginger carrot soup, with a tossed salad rolls and Rice Krispies bars. Thank you to Shawn for all the work she puts into coordinating and preparing the meals. Decision regarding Easter lilies was put on hold until our March meeting. Tracy read a thank you card from the Forga family for the welcome basket given to them. A plant was given from Circle to Josephine Jessen for her 100th birthday. A gift card was given to the Birkholm family toward funeral expenses for Evelyn.

Card mailing: Cookie in February, Tracy in March and Mary in April.

Motion to adjourn was made by Bev, 2nd by Mary, carried. The meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be at church on Saturday, March 20, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Mary Johnson,
Secretary*

Congregational Meeting



UNAPPROVED Minutes February 28, 2021

CALL TO ORDER: Marilyn Krogh, Council President.

ESTABLISH A QUORUM: There were 22 voting members present (21 in person and 1 by remote access).

OPENING PRAYER: Larry Anderson, SAM.

APPROVE THE AGENDA: A motion was made to accept the agenda, 2nd, motion carried.

APPROVE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING MINUTES: Motion by Larry Anderson to approve the February 9, 2020, and

Action Group Leaders & Sunday volunteers are needed!

If you are willing to serve on an Action Group, either as a caller/leader, or a volunteer, please send an email to the church office:

blcaskov@gmail.com or call and leave a message: 320-838-3191

With the return to in-person worship, and fears of the COVID virus, we understand not everyone will be comfortable worshipping in person, or volunteering to usher, read, or serve coffee.

Please let us know if you would be willing serve!

Congregational Meeting Minutes

Continued...

the special called September 13, 2020 congregational meetings' minutes; second by Shawn Jansen, motion carried. (There was no October quarterly meeting held due to COVID risk levels).

2020 TREASURER'S REPORT:

Reviewed.

APPROVE PROPOSED

2021 BUDGET: Motion by Denny Birkholm to approve the proposed 2021 budget, 2nd by Tim Tabor, carried. Denny Birkholm asked why the insurance was higher than last year. Larry Anderson explained we do not have a bill for the insurance yet, and took into consideration that it could be higher after selling the parsonage.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

Motion by Denny Birkholm to accept ministry reports in packets as written, 2nd by John Petersen, carried. Reports not in packet listed below:

- Pastor's report—Larry Anderson, SAM gave a verbal account of his report.
- Property Committee—not submitted.
- SMART team—not submitted.
- Call Committee—not submitted.

ELECTION OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY DELEGATES:

Shawn and Bill Jansen volunteered to attend the remote Synod assembly. Motion by Chuck Moon to have Shawn and Bill

attend the assembly, 2nd by Judy Petersen, carried.

2021 NOMINATING COMMITTEE; APPOINT SOMEONE TO FILL COUNCIL MEMBER VACANCY:

Denny Birkholm, Judy Petersen and Arla Budd volunteered to be on the nominating committee. Linda Jensen volunteered to fill the current vacancy on the council for the 2021 year. Motion by Chuck Moon to accept Linda on council, 2nd by Carolyn Steele, carried. There was discussion beforehand by Denny Birkholm on changing the terms of council members to one year. Chuck Moon stated that it could be changed to one or two year terms. Bill Steele brought up that they used to have members decide if they wanted to do a one or a two year term and rotate. Chuck Moon also brought up changing the number of council members to between five and seven. These changes would have to be changed in the constitution and voted on by the congregation at another meeting of the congregation.

Bill Steele stated he will come to a council meeting to discuss how to rotate council member terms for one and two years, and how to sign up. Motion by John Peterson to reappoint Marilyn Krogh to the Council, 2nd by Larry Anderson, carried.

CALL COMMITTEE

UPDATE: Marilyn Krogh updated members in

Ron's absence that he had drafted a letter that will be going out this week to area congregations to see if there would be any interest in joining together. The letter was sent to Grace, Emmanuel, Oak Lake, Trinity, and Cloverdale Lutheran churches.

CHRIS' FOOD STAND:

Marilyn Krogh volunteered to be the coordinator. Jamie Fogt, Linda Jensen, and Shawn Jansen volunteered to help with the food stand.

LABOR DAY DINNER:

Denny Birkholm stated they have been discussing getting a pig, and other items that need to be addressed to put on the dinner. It was stated that putting on the dinner depends on the Governor's orders regarding Covid.

PARSONAGE UPDATE:

The parsonage has been sold and discussion was held on where the money should go. Marilyn Krogh brought up that we should look into CDs, creating an endowment fund, repairing or replacing the church roof, and purchasing electronic equipment. Bill Jansen brought up purchasing a high end projector. Shawn Jansen talked about various ministries that some money could go into. Tim Tabor asked if there was someone who could explain to us how creating an endowment fund, etc. would work. Larry Anderson explained that we could contact Thrivent or Rollie Bockbrader of

the NE MN Synod for help with this. Chuck Moon will check into the financial aspect of this. Denny Birkholm stated that the money from the sale of the parsonage should go into a dedicated account and not stay in the General fund. Motion by Denny Birkholm to place the money from the sale of the parsonage into a dedicated account, 2nd by Tim Tabor, carried. Denny Birkholm went over the basement air exchange system with us.

UPDATES TO CHURCH

CONSTITUTION: Larry Anderson explained the updates to the constitution and that we also need to create Bylaws. (Copies of the constitution with changes to the language were mailed out to all members before the meeting). Motion by the council to accept the updates to the constitution, 2nd by Shawn Jansen, carried.

An announcement was made by Cheryl Kohner that Circle of Faith would be providing cake and coffee on Sunday, March 7th after church to say "Goodbye and thank you," to Larry Anderson, who has been with us since September 2020 as our SAM. You will be missed, Larry!

Motion to adjourn the meeting by Bill Jansen, 2nd by Joyce Tabor, carried. Meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Swanson-Kohner*