



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

August 2020						
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July 26, 2020

The assigned texts: Deuteronomy 7:6-9, Psalm 125, Romans 8:28-39, Matthew 13:44-52

Dear Friends at Bethlehem,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

I am a parent through adoption. My two daughters were born in India and placed in an orphanage as newborns. They arrived in Minnesota, exactly two years to the day apart. We refer to September 2nd as “Gotcha Day” – it was the day we got each other. It is also the time when I became a Mama Bear. Although I could be rather passive in accepting the things that happened to me, I became ferocious if most anything threatened my daughters’ well-being. The receptionist could not make me wait a month for an appointment with the doctor when my eldest arrived. I had prearranged with him as a pediatrician, and I persisted until I had an appointment within four days. That was the beginning when I realized there was a change in me, brought on by the love and protection I felt for my children.

I think most parents can identify with those feelings. There is nothing we won’t do to help our children grow into happy, healthy and responsible adults. We may have different philosophies about how to do that, but we have similar goals. Our love and protection are intense.

The passage in Deuteronomy speaks of the love that God has for us as his people. God chose us, because he loves us. The Lord keeps his promises to us, because he loves us. When we keep his commandments, his love intensifies. God loves us.

The familiar words of Romans reminds us that nothing can separate us from the love of God – not hardship or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword; neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, (nor coronavirus), nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus, our Lord. God loves us, God treasures us.

In the assigned text from Matthew we read three short parables. The first compares the kingdom of heaven to a treasure buried in a field, which the finder hides again, and then is willing to sell all his belongings to buy that treasure. Are we the treasure?

The second compares the kingdom of heaven to the merchant who is seeking a fine pearl, and is willing to sell all he has to buy it. Are we the pearl God is seeking to buy?

Are we the ones that God is willing to give his all to have? God gave his only son Jesus to purchase our redemption. Jesus gave himself so that we might be forgiven and live with God for eternity. That is how much God loves us – you and me.

As a child, I learned this song:

*For God so loved the world, he gave his only Son,
To die on Calvary’s tree, from sin to set me free,
Some day he’s coming back, What glory that will be!
Wonderful, his love for me.*

In times of uncertainty, may we remember how much God loves us.

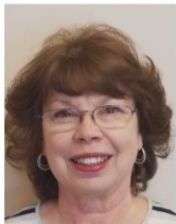
-Pastor Cindy Gray



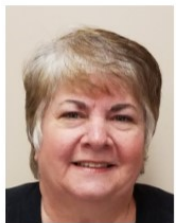
2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



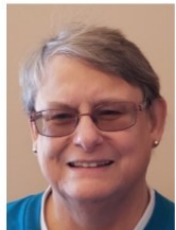
Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



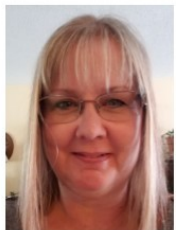
Chuck Moon



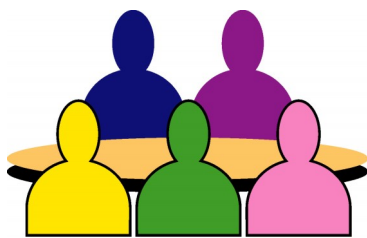
JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



COUNCIL MEETING

**July 8, 2020
Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jo Foss, Andy May, Chuck Moon, Heidi Moon, Cheryl Kohner, and Marilyn Krogh. Absent: Bill Jansen

Check-in, Devotion and opening prayer.

ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE OF JUNE 10 COUNCIL MEETING:

Motion by Chuck, 2nd by Heidi, motion carried.

TREASURERS REPORT:

Reviewed.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Chuck reported that a new door mat was purchased for the back entrance.
- Family Ministry—Jo reported there will be scholarships available for the youth gathering, and they are looking for volunteers to help. She also reported they have two activities planned this summer: A community game night is planned for July 15th in the Village park, and a bike ride is planned for July 29th. More information will be available in the weekly letters.
- Music and Worship—Marilyn reported for Bill that there is an outdoor service planned for July 19th, with social distanc-

ing protocols in place. More information will be available in the weekly letters.

- Circle of Faith—Jo reported that the community dinner in June served 72 meals. They are planning the July community dinner. They are still sending cards to those who are shut-in and to those on the prayer list. COF gave a donation to a family who had recently lost a family member.
- SMART Team—Chuck reported he drafted a letter to go in the weekly mailing about the outdoor service on July 19th and the protocols that will be in place. Motion by Heidi to approve the outdoor service, 2nd by Marilyn. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Synod communications regarding Larry Anderson as a Bridge—Motion to continue pursuing Larry Anderson as a Bridge for BLC by Chuck, 2nd by Heidi. Motion carried.
- Chris' Food Stand fundraiser—Jamie Fogt has been in contact with Chris's, the dates available are August 7-8th

NEW BUSINESS:

- Old tables and chairs—Discussed keeping the old tables and chairs from the dining area. Motion by Chuck to keep the old chairs and tables and allow members to use without cost, 2nd by Andy. Motion carried.

- Parsonage info from Denny—Tabled.
- Labor Day Dinner—There will be **NO** Labor Day Dinner this year. Chuck will talk with Property Committee to compose a letter to seek donations for the property fund, in lieu of a dinner.

Action Items:

- Marilyn will do next month's devotions.
- Heidi will print letter in weekly mailing about the outdoor worship service on July 19th.
- Chuck to talk to Property about letter announcing Labor Day Dinner cancellation.

Motion to adjourn by Cheryl, 2nd by Heidi. Motion carried. Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Next Meeting will be Wednesday, August 12, 2020 at 6:00 pm (in the church).

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner
Council secretary*



Free Community Meal

August 26, 2020
4:30 to 6:30 pm

All meals served to-go, pickup under the pavilion



- Brenda Zinter—3rd
- Donna Norgaard—7th
- Bruce Storrar—7th
- Hope Loew—6th
- Scott Peterson—6th
- Simon Ecklund—8th
- Dorla Clark—9th
- Sandra Pavelka—11th
- Lois Sahlen—18th
- Adalyn Fogt—19th
- Marion Clausen—21st
- Rosalie Nelson—21st
- Bruce Christensen—22nd
- Nick Ecklund—23rd
- Mark Maloney—23rd
- JoEllen Jensen—29th
- Kelly Leach—29th



- Tim & Joyce Tabor—14th
- Tim & Nadine Loew—16th
- Tony & Connie Ecklund—20th

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

- Millie Sorensen,
- Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen,
- Dorla Clark, Donna Norgaard, Ann Olson,
- Ardis Jensen, Jo Jessen,
- Tony Ecklund, Shirley Lund,
- Joyce Schaumburg,
- Chase & Elizabeth Moon
(in the Philippines)
and their families.

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



Class of 2020

Hope Larissa Loew

Come celebrate Hope's graduation from East Central High School at our home (40363 Partridge Drive, Askov MN) on Saturday, August 22nd from 1pm-5pm.



During this time of disruption and distancing due to COVID-19, we still need your help to make certain we continue to fulfill our mission and meet our budgetary needs!

We have a process for making 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!

From the Council President

Dear BLC Family,

It is July 22 and I have a message of hope and challenge. It was March 17th when the council voted to suspend worship services due to the risk of Covid-19. That seems so long ago now. Through these many weeks I trust you've been encouraged and supported by each other and through the weekly messages of Cindy Gray. Let us remember that God will sustain us in our time of need.

Today I spoke with Bishop Aitken over the phone and he reiterated his support for Larry Anderson to serve as a Synodically Authorized Minister (SAM) for our congregation. Larry is not a rostered/ordained minister but is a well educated and trained lay minister who has serviced multiple congregations as a SAM since 2002. The church council is hoping to soon complete a contract with Larry to serve BLC as a "Bridge" until we can form an agreement with other congregations to enter into full-time ministry. And, just a few hours ago, this month's community meal wrapped up with a total of 92 meals distributed! **Hope!**

Also today, the Governor announced a state-wide mask mandate to curb the further spread of Covid-19, and tomorrow the SMART team will meet again to further develop a plan to keep our members safe while engaged in church activities. **Challenge.**

Each day brings new hopes and challenges, and while we may be tired, we are not defeated! Let's be reminded of the scripture Cindy recently quoted "... all things work together for good for those who love God."

May God bless you and may we continue to work for good!

Bill Jansen
Church Council President



Chris' Food Stand

BLC has reserved the Chris's Food Center stand on August 7th and August 8th for a BBQ fundraiser.

Proceeds will go toward community programs or services. If you are willing and interested in volunteering your time, there are 2-3 hours slots available on both days. You can sign up by going to:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445ACAF2AAFA7-blc>

or by contacting **Jaime Fogt at 218-349-9888**. We will also be selling baked goods, so if you are able to prepare some tasty treats, that would be wonderful. If there is not enough interest/volunteers, we will cancel this year. We will make that decision by July 31st. BLC will adhere to CDC guidelines and other state mandates that are implemented at the time.



67th Annual Labor Day Dinner & Auction

After much discussion among the members of the Labor Day Committee, it was decided to cancel our 67th Annual Labor Day Dinner and Auction this year, due to COVID-19.

The money raised from the Labor Day Dinner and Auction has always gone towards maintaining our church building, and the parsonage. We are hopeful nothing will go wrong with either during the coming year, and we can cruise through to next year with the money we currently have in the Property Fund. We would greatly appreciate it if you would consider a little extra with your regular offerings throughout the year, to help maintain this much-needed fund.

Please keep your craft and raffle items this year, and we look forward to our 2021 Labor Day Dinner and Auction! Thank you,

-BLC Labor Day Committee



The new basement tables and chairs have arrived! Thank you to everyone who so graciously donated and helped make this beautiful space possible!

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
P.O. Box 188
Askov, Minnesota 55704

Address Service Requested

Parish Visitor August 2020

Check us out on the web:
www.blcaskov.com
Office Phone: 320-838-3191
Email: blcaskov@gmail.com



MISSION STATEMENT

*We are a family of Christian believers who:
GATHER together in fellowship,
GROW spiritually through God's word,
prayer, and sacraments,
GO into the community reaching out to welcome
and serve with compassion in Christ's name.*