



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

June 2020						
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May 24, 2020 The assigned texts are Acts 1:12-26, Psalm 68:1-10, I Peter 4:12-19; 5:6-11, John 17:1-11

Dear Friends at Bethlehem,

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

The second section of the reading from I Peter really caught my attention. Scholars believe that the apostle Peter was probably not the author of this letter, but it was common in that day to use another’s name. The letter was probably written about the year 64, and distributed to various Christian churches throughout the Roman Empire. The members of these churches were suffering in various ways because of their participation in this new religion – the Christian Church. Folks were suffering for their faith in Jesus, so it is a stretch to say these words apply directly to our lives in the time of the Coronavirus. Still, the words serve as a base for how we can think about our current problems.

“Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God so that he may exalt you in due time.” It is always good to remember that God is the one in charge. We humans will never have all the right answers. We need to trust God to deliver us from our problems, in God’s time.

“Cast all your anxiety on him, because he cares for you.” Many are feeling anxious in these days of uncertainty. Remember, God cares for you and God can handle your fears and frustrations when you tell him how you are feeling.

“Discipline yourselves, keep alert.” It would be so easy to just ignore the warnings of the CDC and become lazy about wearing a mask in public or to ignore social distancing guidelines. Sometimes we just have to force ourselves to do what is right.

“Like a roaring lion your adversary the devil prowls around, looking for someone to devour.” It seems like the virus is just prowling around; we don’t know where it is or who may be a carrier. Some folks spread the disease without ever feeling ill themselves. That’s why it is important for everyone to wear masks, we just don’t know who the virus may use as a transport system. It could be me.

“Resist him (the devil) steadfast in your faith, for you know that your brothers and sisters in all the world are undergoing the same kinds of suffering.” This is a worldwide epidemic. As we isolate, it is so easy to think that we are alone in our suffering. We aren’t. It is not just the United States that is dealing with this virus, but the whole earth has pockets of those suffering from Covid-19, and the worldwide economy has known its impact.

“And after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, support, strengthen, and establish you.” Here is a promise for us to cling to – our Gracious God will restore, support, strengthen, and establish us. God will not abandon us.

“To him be the power forever and ever. Amen.”

Let us pray:

Lord God of all the earth, we beseech you to bring an end to this disease that infects our world. We ask that you give guidance and wisdom to those who work to develop treatments and vaccines. We ask that you bless all workers with your strength and protection. We pray for wisdom for those in positions of leadership.

May you grant patience and hope to each of us as we await your perfect timing in all things. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen. God bless and keep us.

-Pastor Cindy Gray



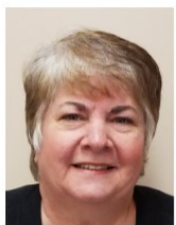
2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



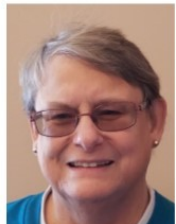
Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



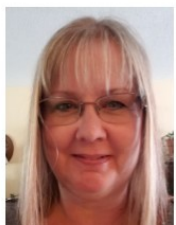
Chuck Moon



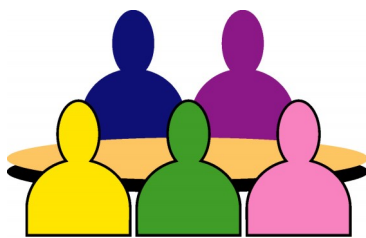
JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



COUNCIL MEETING

**May 20, 2020
Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: All members present.

CHECK-IN, DEVOTION AND OPENING PRAYER.

ACCEPT MINUTES OF APRIL COUNCIL MEETING: Motion to accept by Heidi, 2nd by Andy, motion carried.

APRIL TREASURER'S REPORT: Reviewed.

CALL COMMITTEE REPORT: Bill reported he talked with Ron Foss and there has been only one response to the Call Committee Survey that was printed in three of the weekly mailings.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Chuck spoke with Denny, basement carpet will be installed in June. Property is also making improvements to the east entryway. Tree stumps near the church and in the cemetery will be ground down. We are waiting for Denny to present a package with information on options for the parsonage.
- Family Ministry—No report.
- Music and Worship—Bill shared the phone survey results: Those currently worshipping, 21 yes, 2 no; should BLC start video service, 15 yes, 8 no, 2 other; would you watch, 16 yes, 7 no, 1 other; continue weekly mailing, 22

yes, 3 no; participate in evening prayer in sanctuary, 5 yes, 17 no, 1 other.

- Circle of Faith—JoEllyn reported that Circle is sending out Round Robin letters to members on the prayer list.

OLD BUSINESS:

- SMART team/COVID protocols/building access—Discussed the stay safe at home order. Information received from Bishop Aiken. Discussed checking with Linda J. to see if she would be willing to be part of a SMART team.
- Community Meal—Bill reported that Shawn has taken all the classes and test for the Food Safe course. Community meal will be served Wednesday, May 27th. It will be cold sandwiches, cheese sticks, chips and rice cereal bars. The meal will be served outside with safety protocols in place. This will be drive-by pickup. Shawn has received donations from various businesses for the meal.
- Weekly letter/online presence—Bill reported he has created a Gmail account and YouTube channel for online services. We have the equipment that is needed. Pastors Racheal Wickstrom and Larry Anderson are willing to do the online services; Pastor Cindy Gray was not comfortable doing so. Weekly letters were very much appreciated by the congregation and will continue being mailed out. (They can also be found on our website at blaskov.com/events).

Members that were surveyed regarding starting online services commented that they were very happy with Pastor Cindy Gray's devotionals in our weekly mailings.

- Chris' food stand fundraiser—Jamie Fogt has checked with Chris's and is waiting to hear back from them, and what the Governor's orders will be.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Replace membership and financial software—Heidi stated current software is serving our needs, and there is no reason to spend money replacing at this time. Updated phone numbers from members are needed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Chuck to contact Denny regarding sign-in and safety protocols during carpet and ceiling installation.
- Bill to contact Linda J. about SMART team; contact Pastor Cindy Gray to see if she will continue to write weekly devotions.
- Heidi to publish safety changes; request for members to send her their current phone numbers.
- Those who did the phone survey should send their updated information to Heidi (Cheryl, Marilyn, Jo, Linda, and Arla).

Motion to adjourn by Chuck, 2nd by Marilyn, motion carried. Meeting was adjourned with the Lord's prayer.

Next meeting is Wednesday, June 10, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner
Council secretary*



- Hunter Jensen—1st
- Judy Peterson—3rd
- Megan Jensen—5th
- Carol Birkholm—6th
- Matt Klocke—16th
- Dan Larsen—17th
- Sara Willie—21st
- Melissa Jorgensen—26th
- Matthew Rolston—27th
- Bill Steele—27th
- Eva Willie—28th
- Kjersten Fossum—29th



- Bill & Carolyn Steel—1st
- Doug & Wendy Ecklund—6th
- Jo & Deb Jensen—11th
- Gerry & Jennifer Klocke—22nd
- Rob & Donna Sahlen—22nd
- Bob & Mary Johnson—24th
- Brent & JoEllen Jensen—25th
- Denny & Shari Jensen—26th

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

Community Meal Report



Under the direction of Shawn Jansen, with food safety protocol from Marilyn Krogh, community Meals were served by BLC Circle of Faith on Wednesday, April 22, 2020. 60 bag lunches were prepared in the kitchen at the BLC parsonage. Those helping Shawn were Emma and Bill Jansen, Jo and Ron Foss, Cookie and Herman Nielsen-Velsvaag.

Ron and Jo made up the sandwiches and prepared the bags. Two tables were set up outside. One table was for the bag meals and the other table was for library books. Shawn and Bill monitored the tables. Bag lunches were delivered by Cookie and Herman, Shawn and Bill Jansen.

The menu was ham or turkey sandwiches, with packages of sliced tomatoes and lettuce, mayo and mustard packets, assorted chips, celery and carrots, apples. Dessert was Little Debbie's or cookies.

On Friday, Shawn delivered cookies along with a card to the BLC youth, to let them know we miss them. Cookies were made by Jo, Shawn and Emma.

Thank You, Bethlehem Lutheran Church and Askov Community library for the meal + books! We also appreciate the "welcome" basket left at our house last w

The Linge Family



Church Access Effective June 1st

The church council has discussed allowing access to the church on a limited "need vs. want" basis, effective June 1, 2020.

If you have a *need* to access the church building, please contact the church office (320-838-3191) to receive permission to enter the building (or schedule a time).

If you are given permission to enter the building, *you must sign in!* There are sign-in sheets located directly inside every entrance of the church. Anyone accessing the building should have permission, and must sign-in.

Please note access to the rest rooms and the church offices are restricted.

Currently, *we are not able to guarantee safe and sanitary use of the restrooms or building*, and for the safety of church staff, **there is no admittance into the church offices.**

CONTACT information



While trying to stay connected with our membership during the current situation, it has become apparent we are missing many current phone numbers for our membership.

Please take a minute to email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com (so we have your current email too!) or call the church office (320-838-3191) and leave your current phone number(s).

Thank you for helping us update our records!

Grab a Seat!

Basement Project Update

We are told that our bodies are our temples, but in recent years our basement chairs have treated our temples as garages. This became extremely clear at February’s congregational meeting. After sitting in those chairs for an hour and a half, the subject of chair replacement became a high priority topic of discussion.

After our successful kitchen remodel and floor-dewatering projects, we approved a plan to carpet the basement floor. We further decided that the next step in the basement improvement process should be replacement of the metal folding chairs with comfortable, stackable chairs.

While we approved funding for the carpeting, when it came to the chairs, our spirits were willing but our budget was weak. We are therefore initiating a fund- raising campaign to purchase approximately 80 to 100 new chairs at \$30 each and 10 to 12 new tables at \$130 each. Chairs and tables will be purchased locally through 23 Hardware for a total cost of approximately \$4600. Basement furniture will be purchased to arrive after carpet installation is complete in early June. Funds raised in excess of that required to purchase new chairs will be used to acquire new basement tables.

Please consider contributing to this project as you are able. Please detach and return the following form indicating your contribution to this long-delayed project. Make out your check to the church indicating “basement furniture fund” in the memo field, and mail to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, PO Box 188, Askov, MN 55704. Thank you for your support.

Use this form for your donation:

Name _____

Donation Amount \$ _____

Address _____

Phone _____

E-mail _____



Below are links to weekly streaming messages, for those who are on-line. If you find a worship streaming option you would like to share, please email the link to the church.

The link below provides a listing of all churches in the Northeast Minnesota Synod providing worship streaming services:

<http://www.nemnsynod.org/congregation-media-resources.html>

Our former parish, Transfiguration Lutheran, is live streaming services.

People may view live stream services at 10 am at <https://www.tlcmn.com/live.html> or view on YouTube the next day.

Blessings to you all, -Ron & Jo

Grace & Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Livestreaming—YouTube Channel

Pastor Kim Sturtz

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCmtJI2DCFK6qilMv00DnQQ?view_as=subscriber



CALL COMMITTEE

Call Committee Survey—Have you done yours?

The BLC Call Committee submitted a congregational survey in three parts, included in three consecutive weekly mailings.

Please take a minute to email or mail in your responses

You can email blccall@outlook.com if you no longer have your survey forms

BIBLE CROSSWORD I

Across

- 1 An ancient weight (6)
- 4 Seemed (8)
- 10 New Testament book (9)
- 11 Unit of length (5)
- 12 '...it is a ____ thing the king requireth' (Dan 2:11) (4)
- 13 Contemplation (10)
- 15 Abigail supplied David with one hundred clusters of these (7)
- 16 A son of King David (6)
- 19 Concurred (6)
- 21 Light sources (7)
- 23 Propitiations (10)
- 25 A false god (4)
- 27 Gather (5)
- 28 Abimelech was hit by this (9)
- 29 Instructors (8)
- 30 Hastily (6)

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by Philologus

© BiblePuzzles.org.uk

Down

- 1 Skilled animal workers (8)
- 2 Inspiring (9)
- 3 Compass point (4)
- 5 Intense emotion (7)

- 6 The words of Jeremiah said not to listen to these (10)
- 7 Jewish leader (5)
- 8 'He is proud, knowing nothing, but _____ about questions and strifes of words...' (1 Tim 6:4) (6)
- 9 Bread makers (6)
- 14 In this year of King Nebuchadrezzar's reign, Nebuzaradan arrived in Jerusalem (10)
- 17 Ancient city of Og, King of Bashan (9)
- 18 Stringed instrument (8)
- 20 Joseph, perhaps? (7)
- 21 Tiny amount (6)
- 22 Jesus did this with authority (6)
- 24 Last letter of the Greek alphabet (5)
- 26 Province of the Roman Empire (4)

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

Address Service Requested

Parish Visitor

June 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.*