



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

May 2020						
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April 26, 2020 The assigned texts are Acts 2:14a,36-41, Psalm 116:1-14, 1 Peter 1:17-25, Luke 24:13-35

Dear Friends at Bethlehem,

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

I'm not writing about the assigned texts, for today I need to "preach" to myself. A portion of a Bible verse has been running through my mind. I checked the concordance in the back of one of my Bibles to find it. For those of you who aren't familiar with the word "concordance", it is a list of words and where you can find them in your Bible. If you can only remember a part of a verse, you look up one of the main words. My word was "weary". The verse I wanted was Galatians 6:9a: "*So let us not grow weary in doing what is right.*"

I'm beginning to grow weary in doing what is right – staying home, not going to church or social events, always judging if I am six feet away from other people, always eating my own cooking, wearing a face-mask in the store and having my glasses steam up etc. How about you? Poor me.

Yet I also know that many of you are dealing with much more that I am. Some have children at home who grow more restless each day. Others must work from home and deal with new interruptions and distractions. Perhaps you have lost your job or worry about having no job to return to. Some must go to work and fear they may contract the coronavirus.

And yet others say "no" to the restrictions and recklessly ignore the recommendations of the CDC. I get as frustrated with them as I do with those who drive dangerously. Will we all have to stay home longer because their behavior may make the virus harder to contain?

I think my frustration and, sometimes, anxiety is why God has brought this verse to mind. I looked it up, because often the verses surrounding a given verse help us understand it better. Paul's words led me to more self-examination – actually made me feel a bit guilty. Starting at Galatians 6:1, he wrote:

"My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads.

"Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

"Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. *So let us not grow weary in doing what is right*, for we will reap at harvest-time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith."

Paul had just written about the works of the flesh (sins) and the fruits of the Spirit (Christian acts that give us life). I think his words also apply to my situation today, and perhaps to yours. Before I judge myself as better than the reckless, I had better examine my own behavior. How might I be breaking the rules? What else might I be doing to help others, besides staying home. Am I working for the good of all? His words prod me to get moving and do what I can do with each day God gives me, "whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all."

So if you, like me, find yourself feeling weary – pray. Ask God what you should do with this time. Then do it.

Yours in Christ,

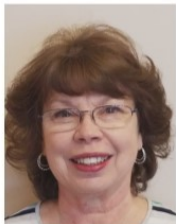
-Pastor Cindy Gray



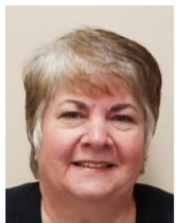
2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



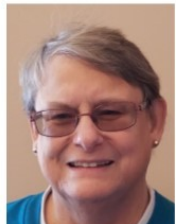
Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



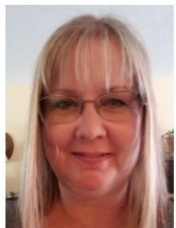
Chuck Moon



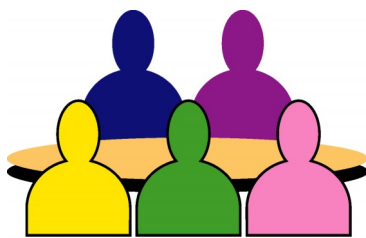
JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



COUNCIL MEETING

**April 8, 2020
Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Jansen, Marilyn Krogh, Jo Foss, Andy May, Chuck Moon, and Heidi Moon. Cheryl Kohner was absent.

ACCEPT MARCH MINUTES: March 11th, March 17th, March 31st. Motion by Heidi, 2nd by Andy, motion carried.

TREASURER’S REPORT: Reviewed.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

- Property—Chuck is keeping an eye on things. The dehumidifier in parsonage basement is turned on.
- Family Ministry—JoEllyn reported they’re focusing on how to stay connected with people in the congregation. Bill mentioned that sermon note forms should be emailed out to confirmants. Bill is to send Missy’s email to Heidi.
- Music and Worship—No report.
- Circle of Faith—JoEllyn reported they’re looking at ways to keep people connected.
- Call Committee—Ron submitted a written report via email. Plans are to submit a write-up in the Newsletter to inform everyone about how and what the committee is doing. A survey will be going in the weekly mailing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Internet/Phone—SCI was installed today (everything

working). The new church email is blcaskov@gmail.com. The former Frontier email will be routed to this Gmail account. The service provider change necessitates a service check on the printer to set up the Wi-Fi printing. Heidi has scheduled this.

- Constitution update—Volunteers were requested for a subcommittee to work on this (Jo and Bill volunteered, Cheryl will be asked if she would like to participate.)
- Goals—Some possible goals for the church were discussed. Jo: Keeping members of the community connected; Chuck: Stay healthy and stay safe; Marilyn: Get more members to be active; Andy: Have follow up with greeting cards for folks who have missed church; Bill: Encourage members to produce 40 masks within the next month.
- Folding chair replacement—Tabled.
- 2019 Audit—Bill needs to get in touch with Erica.
- Conference calling contract—Join.me (\$15.99/month) Bill covering costs for now.

NEW BUSINESS:

- FFCRA—Family First Coronavirus Response Act. Bill summarized this new federal law and will send information to Heidi and Diane.
- Worship—Briefly discuss what council members have been doing for worship.
- Outreach—Weekly mailing content/contributions should be submitted by Monday’s at noon. Council discussed getting more input from congregational

members. Bill suggested we could extend the mailing to friends and neighbors. Send addresses/emails to Heidi. Jo mentioned there were interesting ideas on the ECRL website. Briefly discussed putting regular information in the Askov American—tabled. Bill has started a BLC Facebook page and would like some assistance with it once it’s published. The Askov library page already exists and has reached a number of non-church members.

- Service/Stewardship—Giving campaign tabled; mask making/grocery running will be encouraged. Shawn to call Carol Birkholm about materials.
- April community meal—Shawn J. submitted a proposal for doing takeout meals for April 22nd community meal. Several council members expressed concern that this was not keeping to the church closure. Motion by Bill that the proposal be approved as long as meals aren’t prepared in the church building, 2nd by Marilyn, motioned carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Heidi to send sermon note form to Missy.
- Bill to send Missy’s email to Heidi; contact Erica about audit.
- Jo will prepare devotions for next meeting.

Motion to adjourn by Bill, 2nd by Andy, motion carried. Adjourn with the Lord’s prayer.

Next Meeting will be via teleconference on April 29th at 6 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Bill Jansen*



Graduation Cards and notes of congratulations to BLC Senior Hope can be sent to:

Hope Loew
40363 Partridge Dr. E.
Askov, MN 55704



This is never how I imagined my senior year would turn out, but I am trying to make the best of it. I am very grateful to have an amazing family and home to be in during this quarantine. I am sad that my senior year is over, but this just means a new chapter of my life is starting! I will be attending St. Scholastica this fall to do my generals then I will be starting the nursing program. I have had an amazing high school experience. I have been on the A honor role every quarter of my high school career thanks to my amazing teachers. I also completed a CNA course provided by the school which has actually changed my life. Once I got on the registry as CNA and started working, I fell in love with taking care of people. Being a CNA has definitely influenced my decision on wanting to be a nurse. I am so thankful for the school to give me the opportunity to take that course during high school. I am very thankful for the time I spent at East Central, the bonds I shared with the students and staff, and the endless memories that I will always have to share. Eagles Strong!

- Hope Loew



As with most of us these days we hear a lot about the people who are keeping this country running during these pandemic times. Heroes they are called – and they are !

It got me to thinking about those right here in our own backyard at BLC. For example, Heidi Moon who has added a weekly mailing to her duties to keep us all connected even though our church building is closed. And Chuck Moon who has been monitoring both the church and parsonage during these times to make sure there are no problems. Shawn Jansen has continued to plan and provide community meals, albeit more simple in nature, because she sees a need.

In these stressful times, I see positives. Our church has moved forward.

Bill Jansen has created a new Facebook page for us all to continue to be connected and informed, and your council continues to work for you, meeting via teleconferencing 2-3 times a month instead of just once, to take care of the needs of our church family.

Lastly, to you our congregation who has texted, emailed, and telephoned neighbors and friends, keeping lines of communication open, checking on needs and wellness, and on those who may be feeling isolated.

You are all heroes to me. THANK YOU!

-Marilyn Krogh

PANDEMIC HOPE - A FAMILY DEVOTIONAL FOR LIFE DURING COVID-19

W E E K 7

READING

Psalm 85

MONDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Go on a nature walk and hunt for signs of Spring together.

Can't go out? Watch this video:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1nXm1DejoHk>

READING

Psalm 103

TUESDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Learn a new song from the Hymnal Handwashing Hits (included) to sing while you wash your hands

READING

Acts 16:12-15, 40

WEDNESDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Talk about women who have taught you about Jesus' love. Give thanks for Lydia and other women of faith!

READING

Acts 2:1-13

THURSDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Time for a science experiment to show us how the Spirit sends us out to spread the good news of Jesus!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rqQSIEViNpk>

READING

Galatians 5:22-26

FRIDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Listen to the Fruits of the Spirit Song and share how you practice the Fruits of the Spirit.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rezg4jYFojo>

READING

Matthew 7:24-27

SATURDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Use Legos, Duplos, or other building blocks to illustrate the story, then say a prayer <http://flamecreativekids.blogspot.com/2015/03/lego-or-duplo-prayers.html>

READING

John 10:1-10

SUNDAY

FAITH PRACTICE

Make sheep using cotton balls or pancakes and talk about Jesus, our shepherd. How does Jesus lead us? How do we hear Jesus' voice?



- Sophia Ecklund—1st
- Evelyn Birkholm—6th
- Linda Schaumburg—8th
- Shirley Lund—14th
- Mariah Balut—15th
- Joe Jensen—19th
- Dale Jensen—26th
- Paul Maloney—27th
- Tim Tabor—27th
- Ovid Jensen—28th
- Millie Sorensen and Stetson Bieder—30th
- Nate Ecklund—31st



Mark & Yvette Maloney—
May 28th

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



Earth Day Promise
I promise to take care of the Earth. I will not litter or pollute. I will work to make the world a better place for everyone.

Addy

Hayden Loew, Sophia Ecklund, Addy Fogt, and Hudson Fogt colored pictures for parishioners.

Addy's and Huddy's remind us to take care of God's creation on this 50th anniversary of Earth Day this past week.

This week the youngest members of our congregation received cards and cookies made by the Family Ministry Team as a way of saying, "We miss you!"

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

Address Service Requested

Parish Visitor

May 2020

Check us out on the web:
www.blcaskov.com
Office Phone: 320-838-3191
Email: blcaskov@gmail.com
Church Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 10 am to 3 pm



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.*