



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

September 2020						
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HELLO, CHURCH!

By the time you read this, it should be official. I am joining your ministry team. The church council and I have set some goals. Those goals will be a challenge for all of us, but with the help of the Holy Spirit, we can meet the challenge. For those of you who have been attending outdoor services or watching online, my face isn't new. So far, you only know what you have seen on Sundays. Let me introduce myself more fully.

You probably already know that I live in Cloquet. I grew up there and have called Cloquet my home for most of my life. Even when I was living in places like Madison, Wisconsin or White Bear Lake, Minnesota, Cloquet was home. I hold a bachelor of arts degree from the University of Minnesota, Duluth with majors in business administration and accounting, and a minor in economics. I put that degree to work for some thirty-five years as an accountant, office manager, human resources manager, and director of finance.

That was my first career. In 2000, I felt the call to public ministry and enrolled at Luther Seminary in St. Paul. I have served a number of parishes since then as a Synodically Authorized Minister of Word and Sacrament. I "officially" retired in October, 2015. That lasted about nine months. One of my colleagues has for years said, "Larry, there is one thing you really suck at. Retirement." I am still learning that talent, and am happy to say that I am a very slow learner.

I am married to my best friend, Mona, and we have spent nearly thirty-four years supporting each other. We have a grown and very independent daughter. Rebecca and her husband, Brad, live in Minneapolis. We also had a son. We lost David to cancer in 2012, but thank God for every year we did have with that wonderful man. I am sure we will expand on that bit of biography as we get to know each other. That will be fun and I am looking forward to getting to know each of you.

This COVID thing has disrupted our lives over the past nearly six months. It hasn't been easy being isolated and being unable to fully be who we once thought we were. However, there is something amazing that is happening to us as church in this pandemic. Across the ELCA and most other denominations, we are learning to be church in new ways. We are also reaching far more people with the message of God's love than we could ever do in our sanctuaries. We are learning how to be "evangelical" in new and exciting ways. We are learning how to better live into God's mission. We are discovering what "God's work, our hands" really means. Praise God!

As we move forward together in this ministry let us never forget the words of the prophet Micah. "And what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God." (Micah 6:8b, NRSV)

God bless our ministry together.



Larry A. Anderson, SAM

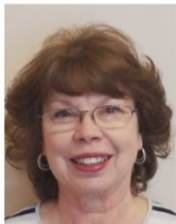


Larry & Mona

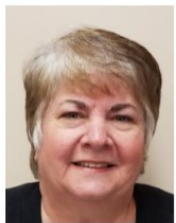
2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



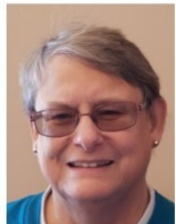
Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



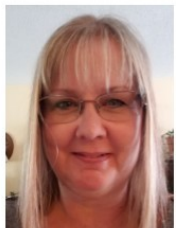
Chuck Moon



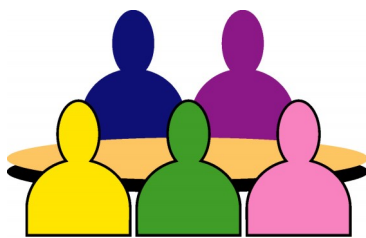
JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



COUNCIL MEETING

**August 12, 2020
Unapproved Minutes**

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

CALL TO ORDER, CHECK IN, DEVOTION AND OPENING PRAYER.

ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE JULY COUNCIL MEETINGS: Motion to accept July 8th minutes by Jo, 2nd by Heidi, motion carried. Motion to accept July 29th (special called meeting) minutes by Bill, 2nd by Marilyn, motion carried.

JULY TREASURER’S REPORT: Reviewed.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Chuck reported that insurance has been checked on, roofs for both the parsonage and the church were discussed, and hand sanitizer stations have been setup.
- Family Ministry—Jo reported that three activities were scheduled. One, a bike ride from Willow River to Moose Lake and back, two is games in the park. Both were well attended. Third, sidewalk chalk drawing for this evening, was cancelled due to the weather.

- Music and Worship—Bill is still working on scheduling music and services.
- Circle of Faith—Jo reported the BBQ and bake sale at Chris’s brought in close to \$900. The final tally is not in yet.

OLD BUSINESS:

- SAM/Bridge contract with Larry Anderson— Discussed with a motion by Bill to contract with Larry Anderson for one year beginning September 1, 2020, 2nd by Jo, motion carried. Motion by Heidi, 2nd by Bill to set up a meeting with Larry Anderson to go over the contract, motion carried.
- Weekly mailing—it was decided to discontinue the weekly mailings. Motion by Bill, 2nd by Chuck to have Heidi contact Cindy Gray, thanking her for her help and let her know that her last devotional will be next week, motion carried.
- Chris’ food stand— Waiting to hear from Jamie Fogt on final tally.
- Worship plan for September 6th and 13th— Motion by Heidi, 2nd by Bill to have outdoor services on both dates, motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Parsonage/Congregational meeting—Bill suggested we call a congregational meeting on Sunday, September 13th after the outdoor service. Motion by Bill, 2nd, by Cheryl to call a

special congregational meeting for the sole purpose of listing the parsonage for sale, motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Heidi will speak with Pastor Gray regarding weekly devotions; print special congregational meeting notice in next two mailings.
- Bill will speak with Larry Anderson regarding contract.
- Chuck will speak with Denny B. regarding parsonage.

Motion to adjourn by Heidi, 2nd by Bill, motion carried. Adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting will be on Wednesday, September 9, 2020 at 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner
Council secretary*

There will be a special called Congregational Meeting held immediately following the outdoor worship service on Sunday, September 13th

The sole purpose of this meeting will be to vote on listing the church parsonage for sale

Masks are required to attend



- Linda Jensen—3rd
- Dwain Ecklund—5th
- Jan Ecklund—7th
- Owen Peterson—8th
- Thomas Willie—8th
- Denny Birkholm—9th
- Tom Willie—10th
- Lynnette Leuty—11th
- Michelle Peterson—11th
- Mona Knapp—12th
- Nadine Loew—16th
- Matt Klocke—19th
- Hudson Fogt—26th
- Phillip Jansen—26th
- Don Peterson—26th
- Natilie Leuty—29th
- Tom Leuty—29th
- Ardis Jensen—30th
- Bob Katon—30th
- Haley Loew—30th



Randy & Cindy Mortensen—
September 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.

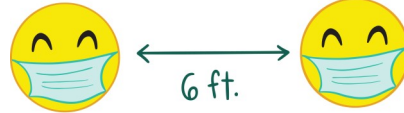
If you would like to add someone to this weekly list, please email the church office at bcaskov@gmail.com



Outdoor Worship

Join us for Outdoor Worship on Sunday, September 6th & 13th

under the pavilion at 10:00 am with Larry Anderson



EVEN THOUGH WE ARE OUTDOORS, MASKS ARE STILL REQUIRED TO ATTEND

**If you don't have a mask, one will be provided for you
Please practice proper social distancing; sitting together only with your own family group**

In case of inclement weather—the services will be cancelled

The following information is being made available for your review prior to our special called congregational meeting

on September 13, 2020



Annual parsonage expenses when VACANT:

Electricity	\$ 518.00	
Fuel Oil	3,452.00	
Water and sewer	384.00	(minimum charge by the City without water usage)
Insurance	1,682.00	(parsonage portion only)
Maintenance	120.00	(keeping clean, etc.)
Snow plowing	_____	(figure not available)

\$6,156.00 / year when unoccupied



During this time of 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.bcaskov.com/online-giving

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

Thank you for your continued support!

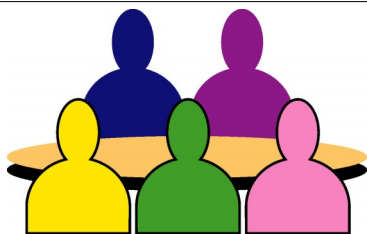
TO GO!

Free Community Meal

September 23, 2020
4:30 to 6:30 pm

All meals served to-go, pickup under the pavilion





COUNCIL MEETING
Special Called Church
Council Meeting
August 19, 2020
Unapproved Minutes

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

ALSO PRESENT: Larry
 Anderson, SAM.

OLD BUSINESS:

- SAM/Bridge Contract with Larry Anderson— A discussion was held to go through the details of the contract with Larry Anderson regarding hiring him as our Bridge beginning on September 1, 2020, and ending August 31, 2021. A motion was made by Heidi to accept the contract with items changed and agreed on, 2nd by Marilyn, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn.
 Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner
Council secretary



Masks, In Person & Distance Learning Tips for Kids

Mask tips for kids

- Kids' masks should cover their mouth and their nose.
- Do not touch your mask when it is on.
- Only touch the straps or ear loops when putting on or taking off your mask.
- Always wash your hands before and after touching your mask.
- Keep masks clean and off of the floor.
- Remember which side of the mask is the inside and which is the outside.
- Remind kids that their mask is their own and they should not share with their friends.
- If masks are uncomfortable for your child, here are some tips to make masks easier to wear: [How to make masks more comfortable for kids.](#)

In-person learning tips

- Teach your child what 6 feet apart looks like.
- Send your child with their personal hand hygiene, like a hand sanitizer, and teach them to use it frequently. Watch our video together to brush up on your hand cleaning skills!
- Children should have their own school supplies and should not share them with classmates.
- Consider other transportation options if your child's school bus is crowded.
- Complete a [wellness check](#) at the start of each day.
- Keep kids home when they are sick, even if their symptoms are mild.
- Stay up-to-date on vaccines like the flu shot. Schedule a [well-child check-up](#).

Distance learning tips

- Try to keep a routine for your children. Have them wake up early enough to engage in online classes: Get ready for the day, out of pajamas, and out of bed, just as they would if they were attending school in-person.
- Create a separate school area where your child can focus on learning.
- Turn off their phone, tablet or television if they are not needed for school.
- Take breaks to be active during the day. Make sure they move around in between online classes, just like when they would have walked from one class to the next one.
- Ask your child's teacher for help to personalize their education as needed.
- Prioritize [mental health](#) and recognize that distance learning is stressful.



We need your help finding disinfecting wipes!

We have been busy working toward making our church building safer during the pandemic. One of the items we have been unable to locate are sanitizing wipes. There is currently a nationwide shortage of them, so, we're asking if anyone has a "stock pile" of wipes, and would be willing to donation one or two unopened cans, to please let the office know (320-838-3191) Thank you for your help keeping our building safe!