



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

September 2022						
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A Message From Our SAM

Helpful ideas from our NE MN Synod – think of other ways you can lift up instead of feeling bummed out.

Tell me if you can relate to these scenarios:

- You just took a number at the DMV and it looks like it’s going to be a while.
- You arrived 15 minutes early to pick up your child from practice and didn’t think to grab a book.
- There isn’t enough time to drive home between your two appointments so you have to spend half an hour waiting in the car.
- The pharmacy is backed up and it will take 20 minutes to fill your prescription.
- You’re stuck in bumper-to-bumper traffic and can’t pull out your phone.

I’m guessing you know exactly what I’m talking about when it comes to times of waiting.

So what’s your go-to activity for killing time? Do you play games on your phone? Check up on emails? Scroll through social media? Watch the people around you?

Another option, we could put that time to good use! Pastor Hollie M. Holt-Woehl has written a short but helpful outline for turning your waiting times into spiritually uplifting prayer sessions.

Since prayer has a way of changing our perspective from inward to outward, the waiting times that normally frustrate and anger us can be transformed into times of worship and ministry as we give thanks and lift up the needs of others to God.

Take a look at her “While You Wait” (<https://faithlead.luthersem.edu/while-you-wait/>) to get helpful ideas about when you find yourself on hold, in a queue, or with unexpected downtime. I hope this prayer card gives you one small way to help you make the most of it each and every day.



-Clara

WHILE YOU WAIT PRAY...

- ❖ For the workers at the place where you wait & the people waiting in line with you:
 - ❖ “Only you, O God, know what is going on in their life, make whole what is broken, give strength for whatever they face this day...”

AND PRAY SOME MORE...

- ❖ For family and friends, lifting them up one by one to Jesus:
 - ❖ “Jesus this is Sarah, Sarah this is Jesus.”

IF STILL WAITING PRAY...

- ❖ For medical personal & support staff, public servants; For people who are sick, alone, facing food/housing insecurity; Or for anyone who comes to mind:
 - ❖ *Use either suggested prayer starter above or another.*

TIME TO SAY “AMEN.”

- ❖ “May it be so,” leave it in God’s hands. God cares for you, strengthens you, and watches over you while you wait. (Isaiah 40:31)

September Worship Schedule

WORSHIP
with us

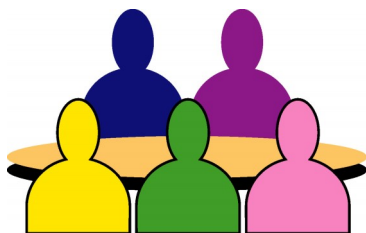
September 4 th Sunday Worship	Rick Gabriel	Worship 10 am
September 11 th Worship with Holy Communion	Kate Mensing	Worship 10 am
September 18 th Sunday Worship	Al Overland	Worship 10 am
September 25 th Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Don & Mike Petersen, Naevia, Iver, Meghan, Kerri, Tracy Jensen, Joni, Bob Katon, Chardae, Gavin, Jessica, Lynda, and their families.

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



COUNCIL MEETING

August 10, 2022
Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Bill Jansen, Sandra Pavelka, Yvette Maloney, Carolyn Steele, Denny Birkholm.

DEVOTION & OPENING PRAYER: Sandra led with a devotion.

ACCEPT MINUTES FROM JULY COUNCIL MEETING: Motion by Bill, 2nd by Sandra, motion passed.

JULY TREASURER'S REPORT: Discussion on where we are trending. Improvements noted over last month.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Clara provided a summary for her pastoral care from last month via e-mail.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Denny reported the prayer garden is in and cleaned up, but

there's a little more work to do. They discussed moving the bench to the front of the church. The elevator is again out of commission. The issue is the control panel operating the doors on main floor. Arrow Lift is sourcing parts for repair. The lights in the north side of the sanctuary aren't working. Drilling coming out to repair them.

- Family Ministry (Sandra)—No report.
- Music and Worship (Bill)—Team continues to meet and plan. Margaret Christensen has a conflict with the fourth Sunday in August; Bill is working through it.
- Circle of Faith (Carolyn)—National Night Out was very successful; served over 250 root beer floats. Next meeting this Saturday.
- Visioning Committee (Bill)—The last meeting's focus was developing a timeline and framework. Within the next month and a half a group will meet to dis-

cuss finances between the three parishes. They're also meeting with Colleen Bernu with the SALT parishes on their experience. The next meeting will be at Dell Grove in September. There will be some congregational meetings to discuss progress.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Secretary's evaluation—Sandra and Clara held Heidi's evaluation. Discussion to review job description and written evaluation and salary at next meeting.
- Microphone base unit—Bill ordering another base unit.
- Donation Letter—Denny had previously brought up sending a letter requesting donations in lieu of the Labor Day dinner. It was decided not to at this time.
- Church Pamphlets—Yvette and Clara have not met.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Amazon Prime account—Discussion on Heidi using her own

membership. Denny will talk to Heidi about this.

- Flags in sanctuary—Denny has been asked why we don't have our flags up in front of the sanctuary. It was decided we will add to next month's agenda when Clara will be present.
- Non-participating members—Discussion about how we reengage our inactive members.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Sandra to ask Heidi to put job description and fundraising checklist in council members' boxes.
- Bill will get the synod guidelines for salary.
- Denny will talk to Heidi about Amazon, and get in touch with Clara about the flags.

Motion by Yvette, 2nd by Carolyn Steele, meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting is Wednesday, September 14, 2022 at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
-Yvette Maloney
Secretary

East Central Supply Drive



SCHOOL SUPPLY Drive

WOW!
Grace, Emmanuel, and Bethlehem's generosity was in full force! These pictures really don't do justice to all the supplies donated. The boxes are crammed full! Thanks to everyone for making this Thrivent project a success.

SEPTEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| Linda Jensen—3 rd | Nadine Loew—16 th |
| Dwain Ecklund—5 th | Hudson Fogt—26 th |
| Jan Ecklund—7 th | Phillip Jansen—26 th |
| Owen Petersen—8 th | Don Petersen—26 th |
| Thomas Willie—8 th | Keith Rolston—28 th |
| Denny Birkholm—9 th | Natlie & Tom Leuty—29 th |
| Tom Willie—10 th | Bob Katon—30 th |
| Lynette Leuty—11 th | Haley Loew—30 th |
| Michelle Peterson—11 th | |
| DJ Zinter—11 th | Happy Anniversary! |
| Mona Knapp—12 th | Randy & Cindy
Mortensen—28 th |



Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes – August 3, 2022

Call to order 7 pm. Present Amy Frazer, Clara Edin, Dwain Ecklund, Greta Detzler, Bill Jansen, and Laura McCaughan. Minister Clara Edin SAM opened with prayer.

Revisited gifts the church has to offer to allow for the Bethlehem members to touch more on it. Mentioned the parsonage recently sold, as well as the Cemetery. A nice meeting room, fellowship area, basement for activities, but all churches have those things. Minister Clara covered Bethlehem's gifts thoroughly last month.

Bill put together a framework for the committee to work from, ideas on directions to take and tasks to do. The following is an outline of the framework and the committee discussed what each of the following items are. In the months to come the committee will be discussing these topics in depth.

How long it will be that is unknown at this point, and what elements we want to see as this group continues to meet and discuss the future will continue to be evaluated, as this list was just brainstorming by Bill and brought to be discussed.

Elements: What the committee needs to discuss, think about, work together to share.

1. Congregational Involvement
 - a. Need to have regular communication with the congregations. Minutes to go into the congregational newsletters.
 - b. Not sure surveys are needed
 - c. Preliminary decisions
 - d. Final decision
2. Shared Ministries – what we're doing out here already (working on Fundraising together) – Different gifts of the different churches need to be brought up and shown. What can we do when we all get together. GREAT THING TO SHARE WHEN WE REPORT IN NOVEMBER.
3. Shared Leadership – Full time pastor? What will the pastoral leadership look like and could there be shared SAMS (Synodically Authorized Ministers). Minister Clara explained that in order to have any SAM they would have to be appointed and assigned by the Bishop and the Bishop's council.
4. Will music be shared? Many musicians between the churches. It would be good for the Worship and Music Committees from the churches attend each other's meetings.
5. Administration – Secretaries, treasurers, shared costs, shared duties. What would this look like?
6. Governance – Church councils, how do we incorporate them all and would need to look at constitutions.
7. Facilities and Land – What do each have and how to share?
8. Sunday worship coverage plan – Would need to come up with several options
9. Special Services (weddings, Easter, funerals, Christmas...)
10. Formal "Call" Process
11. Online Media Plan – How could we do that together (one site, 3 sites, video presentations, etc.?)

Minutes continued on page 5...

Minutes continued from page 4...

12. Youth Activities
 - a. Sunday School
 - b. Confirmation
 - c. Youth Group

Process: How the committee is going to get these things done

1. Monthly meetings – agreed to
2. Homework – somethings need to happen between meetings, like work groups, or other tasks, etc.,
3. Spokesperson – The people that bring the information back to each of the congregations.
4. Workgroups – Subgroups to complete some of the tasks between meetings.

Financial Review: How will the congregations pay for things and share financial responsibility

1. Current Budget and Assets Review
2. Review of Debts and Obligations
3. Proposed Joint Budget

Timeline: How long the committee will be working on things along with setting goals

1. Vision/Mission Statement
2. Draft Agreement
3. Presentations to congregations
4. Joint Congregational Meeting
5. Final Decision
6. How long will this take – All of the churches have ministry coverage through the end of the calendar year.

Progress updates every three months to the congregation...

Thinking of October Deadline, what do we want done to discuss October. Would like to have a budget review and active membership report for each of the churches to report to the churches in November.

Maybe have a sub group, one member from each church, to put together the three churches to present what we would have as a whole.

Financials needed are the big picture of proposed budgets, actual expenses, assets and liabilities, active members, obligations. Dwain and Greta will work put together birds eye view of the whole picture.

Amy will ask Colleen Bernu to bring contract from SALT and Bill to get southern MN contract for our committees to review how those two multi-parishes set up to function.

Social calendar exchanges, making sure to include all three churches into activities and planning.

To Do's

1. Financial Committee to get together to go over financials and membership (Dwain & Greta)
2. Obtain examples of other contracts from multi-point congregations (Amy & Bill)

Next Meeting: September 13, 2022 6:30 pm at Dell Grove Emmanuel Lutheran Church; Deacon Colleen Bernu will be attending.

Closing – Laura led the committee in prayer.

Adjourned 8:30 pm



2022 Northeastern Minnesota Synod Fall Theological Conference



September 18 - 20
Sugar Lake Lodge, Cohasset (formerly Ruttger's)

A conference for rostered ministers, synod authorized ministers (SAMs), deacons, and directors of youth & family ministry – a hybrid format is offered (in-person and via Zoom)

“Re-membering the Body: Healing after Covid’s Crisis Phase”

Rev. Dr. Benjamin Stewart, Presenter

As we rise again as church after the initial crisis phase of COVID, how can the theological motif of healing help orient us to this moment and to the challenges of the future? In our time together, we recount stories of God’s healing power, scrutinize abusive conceptions of healing, look toward a healed future, and practice healing in the present through recreation in a beautiful natural setting.

Sessions

The power of healing

How have we experienced God’s healing power during this era in our synod and as a global church—especially in public health, racial justice, and ecological renewal? This session equips us to steward these experiences as sacred stories.

When “healing” is the wrong word

Healing is a powerful theological motif, but sometimes it is the wrong word at the wrong time, even contributing to cycles of abuse. We will explore scriptural motifs that help us know when to challenge shallow conceptions of healing.

Healing (in) the future

Our peoples’ hope is being challenged by difficult realities, inadequate solutions, and growing nihilism. In this session we consider theological resources for building courageous, honest hope in this challenging era.

Information (Click on hyperlinks or go to the Synod website to register)

Sugar Lake Lodge (formerly Ruttger’s Sugar Lake Lodge) is hosting the conference.

- Conference registration fee for all participants is \$75 and paid via Eventbrite. People are encouraged to be in person at the conference, but not everyone is able to do so. The hybrid option is for those wishing to join the conference via Zoom. [Register and payment click here](#) or see Synod website <http://www.nemnsynod.org/events>.
- In-person participation (conference, meals and lodging): Complete the Sugar Lake Lodge registration ([link here](#)), print, and return it to Sugar Lake Lodge to reserve your place.
- Day Commuters: Register directly with Sugar Lake Lodge using the same form. Registration cost must be paid in advance to Sugar Lake Lodge.
- See Synod website for most current information, schedule and registration. Registration is open until September 9.
- If you have questions about lodging and food allergies, contact Sugar Lake Lodge 800.450.4555.
- Childcare is not provided.

Covid-19 Protocols & Preparedness Plan

COVID-19 numbers continue to fluctuate on a weekly, if not daily, basis. Vaccinations are strongly recommended. We are requiring all participants to take an at home rapid test on Sept. 18 before you depart. Face coverings are not required. However, participants are always welcome to wear a face covering, even if it is not required. For information: <http://www.nemnsynod.org/2022-fall-theological-conference-nemnsynod.html>