



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
June 2020

Serving God, Community, and Individuals

be thou my
vision
O Lord of
my heart



PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

During the past few weeks, here at the church we've received documents from, among others, the ELCA, the Northern Great Lakes Synod and our insurance company with guidance and/or things to consider concerning churches re-opening for in-person worship. In addition, I along with council members, have read articles and watched video presentations from "experts" who have shared their thoughts. A lot of it is quite overwhelming and along with that there's the fact that even the experts don't agree on everything, including not agreeing on the best way to proceed.

With all this in mind, the church council met on May 26th to discuss the immediate future. Despite the fact that we're hearing about some churches re-opening, following the advice we're getting from our church leaders, we've opted to go slow and not to open just for the sake of opening. The consensus is that right now, what we are able to offer online provides a more meaningful worship experience than what we could do in person.

To flesh that out, consider this; if we follow the recommendations we've been given, here's what in-person worship will look like: everyone wearing masks seated at appropriate social distance; no mingling in the narthex before worship; no singing or speaking in unison any parts of the liturgy (confession, Kyrie, Hymn of Praise, Gospel Acclamation, Lord's Prayer, creed); no singing of hymns; no choir; no gathering of the offering in the usual way; no sharing of the peace; no greeting people before or after worship (except at a distance); no coffee hour. There might be a way to celebrate communion using only wafers, but that is still not clear. Also, it is recommended that hymnals be removed from the pews and use of a paper bulletin is discouraged. Cleaning and sanitizing all surfaces would be required after every service (pews, door handles, railings, bathrooms etc.).

Whether we're talking 10 people or 50, what that leaves you with is the pastor or possibly an assistant reading the lessons, prayers and possibly other parts of the liturgy, a sermon and perhaps some hymns played on the organ. Taking all of this into account, for the council our best guess is that at least through June, nothing is going to change. We'll continue to provide the best virtual service we can. When gatherings of 50 are permitted **and** there is a way to incorporate Holy Communion into things, there could be value in offering an in-person option; we'll take that up at an appropriate time. An outdoor, parking lot service could be explored. As I write this though, we're still a ways away from that.

At this point our highest priority is making sure that everyone has access to what we're doing online or that they get a recording of it. If you have a computer, you should be able to go to www.bethanyishpeming.org and click on a link that will take you to the service. You **do not** have to be on Facebook, in fact Facebook hasn't always been working even for those who have it. If you're having trouble accessing the service on your computer (and you live in the metro-Ishpeming area) let the church know and we will send someone to help you with it.

If you don't have a computer but have a DVD player, DVDs of each service are available to be delivered to you on Monday. If you don't have a DVD player, radios with an audio recording of the service are available for delivery. You have to let us know though and don't feel like it's an imposition; it's not. It's part of caring for each other during a difficult time. This is a situation that changes almost daily and by the time you read this there could be new guidance available. As a council we will continue to monitor things and make decisions based on the best information we can gather. Your thoughts and ideas are welcome too, not just concerning re-opening worship but also in how to move forward with other ministries and programs.

When all this started, I naively anticipated a grand, pull out all the stops re-opening in a few weeks. Obviously, that didn't happen and it's not going to. What we always remember though is that our faith is about new life out of brokenness. Somehow God is at work in this and will see us through.

Pastor Geier

The Name Above Every Name

O what is Jehovah El Shaddai to me?
My Lord, God and Savior, Immanuel, He;
My Prophet, Priest, Sacrifice, Altar and Lamb:
Judge, Advocate, Surety and Witness, I AM;
My Peace and my Life, my Truth and my Way;
My Leader, my Teacher, my Hope and my Stay;
Redeemer and Ransom, Atonement and Friend;
He's Alpha, Omega, Beginning and End.

—Rev. John H. Sammis

DAILY LECTIONARY



The foundational premise of this set of daily readings is their relationship to the Sunday lectionary. The readings are chosen so that the days leading up to Sunday (Thursday through Saturday) prepare for the Sunday readings. The days flowing out from Sunday (Monday through Wednesday) reflect upon the Sunday readings.

“The Bible is the cradle wherein Christ is laid.”
—Martin Luther

June 2020

1 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Joel 2:18-29	Romans 8:18-24
2 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29	Romans 8:26-27
3 Psalm 104:24-34, 35b	Numbers 11:24-30	John 7:37-39
4 Psalm 8	Job 38:1-11	2 Timothy 1:8-12a
5 Psalm 8	Job 38:12-21	2 Timothy 1:12b-14
6 Psalm 8	Job 38:22-38	John 14:15-17

7 Trinity Sunday

Genesis 1:1 — 2:4a Psalm 8 2 Cor. 13:11-13
Matthew 28:16-20

8 Psalm 29	Job 38:39 — 39:12	1 Cor. 12:1-3
9 Psalm 29	Job 39:13-25	1 Cor. 12:4-13
10 Psalm 29	Job 39:26 — 40:5	John 14:25-26
11 Psalm 100	Exodus 4:18-23	Hebrews 3:1-6



Readings for the Feast of St. Barnabas, Apostle

Isaiah 42:5-12 Psalm 112 Acts 11:19-30 ; 13:1-3 Matthew 10:7-16

12 Psalm 100	Exodus 4:27-31	Acts 7:35-43
13 Psalm 100	Exodus 6:28 — 7:13	Mark 7:1-13

14 Second Sunday after Pentecost

Exodus 19:2-8a Psalm 100 Romans 5:1-8 Matthew 9:35 — 10:8

15 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Joshua 1:1-11 1 Thessalonians 3:1-5
16 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 1 Samuel 3:1-9 2 Thessalonians 2:13 — 3:5
17 Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Proverbs 4:10-27 Luke 6:12-19
18 Psalm 69:7-18 Jeremiah 18:12-17 Hebrews 2:5-9
19 Psalm 69:7-18 Jeremiah 18:18-23 Acts 5:17-26
20 Psalm 69:7-18 Jeremiah 20:1-6 Luke 11:53 — 12:3

21 Third Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 20:7-13 Psalm 69:7-18 Romans 6:1b-11 Matthew 10:24-39

22 Psalm 6 Micah 7:1-7 Revelation 2:1-7
23 Psalm 6 Jeremiah 26:1-12 Revelation 2:8-11
24 Psalm 6 Jeremiah 38:1-13 Matthew 10:5-23

Readings for the Feast of St. John the Baptist

Malachi 3:1-4 Psalm 141 Acts 13:13-26 Luke 1:57-67 [68-80]

25 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Jeremiah 25:1-7 Galatians 5:2-6
26 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Jeremiah 25:8-14 Galatians 5:7-12
27 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Jeremiah 28:1-4 Luke 17:1-4

28 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

Jeremiah 28:5-9 Psalm 89:1-4, 15-18 Romans 6:12-23 Matthew 10:40-42

29 Psalm 119:161-168 1 Kings 21:1-16 1 Thessalonians 4:9-12

Readings for the Feast of St. Peter and Paul, Apostles

Acts 12:1-11 Psalm 87:1-3, 5-7 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18 John 21:15-19

30 Psalm 119:161-168 1 Kings 21:17-29 1 John 4:1-6

Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight
Be thou my armor, and be thou my might
Thou my soul's shelter, and thou my high tow'r
Raise thou me heav'nward, o pow'r of my pow'r

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art

High King of Heaven, my victory won
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun
Heart of my own heart, whate'er befall
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

-text: Iriah, 8th century; vers. Eleanor H. Hull, 1860-1935, alt.;tr. Mary E Byrne,
1880-1931

ELW #793



Fellowship Hall Floor original 1962 Will patch asbestos floor and put down
carpet squares which are replaceable if ruined.

Sanctuary original 1970 Carpet

Church Pews and Choir Chairs 1970 reupholster both

Behind the Hymn: Be Thou My vision

This month we are singing an ancient Celtic Hymn, “Be Thou My Vision.” It’s a powerful and profound hymn, on account of both its tune and its text. The tune, called “Slane,” is a traditional Irish ballad melody, first transcribed in the early 20th century but likely much older. The text is a translation of a medieval text attributed to [St Fallan](#), a 6th century Celtic monk, poet, and follower of St Columba (his feast day is January 29th). The text and the tune were combined in the Irish Church Hymnal in 1919, and it has spread round the world since.

St Fallan went blind in the middle of his life, and the opening verse of the hymn poignantly draws upon his experience:

Be Thou my Vision, O Lord of my heart;
Naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.
Thou my best Thought, by day or by night,
Waking or sleeping, Thy presence my light.

Though Fallan must have suffered much from his loss of sight, the effect of this forced darkness was to drive him back to God, his “best thought,” and, whether “by day or night,” his only remaining “light.” When we sing the hymn, we might try closing our eyes; perhaps by sharing just a taste of Fallan’s experience we will experience more deeply his reliance upon God.

The second verse expands on the discussion of God’s identity and his presence:

Be Thou my Wisdom, and Thou my true Word;
I ever with Thee and Thou with me, Lord;
Thou my great Father, I Thy true son;
Thou in me dwelling, and I with Thee one.

The focus seems to be the unity between God and us, between the Father and his son. In fact, there’s some half-hidden Trinitarian theology going on here, since “Word” is a designation of Jesus, and one who is “dwelling” in us is the Holy Spirit. So after the first verse, which calls out to God, this second verse draws us into the relational dynamic of Trinitarian love and indwelling.

There is a middle verse, not normally sung, which provides a lovely request of God to be a defensive and offensive support, evocative of [Ephesians 6:10-20](#):

Be thou my breastplate, my sword for the fight
Be thou my armor, and be thou my might
Thou my soul’s shelter, and thou my high tow’r
Raise thou me heav’nward, o pow’r of my pow’r

The third verse (fourth when the middle verse is sung) introduces the idea of God as an “inheritance” and a “treasure”:

Riches I heed not, nor man's empty praise,
Thou mine Inheritance, now and always:
Thou and Thou only, first in my heart,
High King of Heaven, my Treasure Thou art.

Because God is already present, we who sing realize we are rich! With the riches of God already in hand, we need no longer be anxious for the “riches” of the world, nor for the vanity of “man’s empty praise.”

The final verse draws out the implications of all that has come before, and ends with a restatement of the opening theme:

High King of Heaven, my victory won,
May I reach Heaven's joys, O bright Heav'n's Sun!
Heart of my own heart, whatever befall,
Still be my Vision, O Ruler of all.

Because the “High King of Heaven” is a treasure that we already have, our “victory” is already won. The only lasting thing that we lack is to finally “reach Heaven’s joys.” The reference to “bright heaven’s Sun” puts us in mind of the eternal “Son,” and “heart of my own heart” recalls the Spirit. Finally, as this song-and-trinitarian-dance comes to its ending, there is a return to the theme of Vision. When we come off the spiritual high of transporting moments of worship, still we look to God to rule and lead us in our everyday walk of faith.

-Peter Johnston





Message from Bishop Finegan

Dear Friends in Christ,

For several summers when I was growing up, my father would join an archaeological expedition to the Holy Land, Caesarea to be exact. For six weeks, he would dig through the dirt of ancient homes, roads, and towns, looking for artifacts and some sense of the world that people lived in so many years ago.

Volunteers were assigned to different archaeological groups who were sent to different sites or “digs”. One group found a beautiful mosaic which led to the discovery of a seaside villa. They were the envy of the other groups; one who had found a rather boring wall, and another who found an even more boring road - Still significant discoveries, but not nearly as exciting as a villa full of colorful mosaics. It was a common occurrence, as the dirt was gathered and sifted, to find small pieces of pottery, broken ancient glass, and pot handles. And invariably even the most novice archaeologist would find large pieces of oil lamps or the lucky find of a lamp that was entirely intact.

Oil lamps and their pieces were common as they were a staple for any ancient household just as a flashlight is today. Every home had lamps readily available for any member of the family that needed to walk a small distance in the dark. The small clay lamp fit easily in the palm of the hand, with a small bowl to hold the oil and a smaller opening at one end to hold the wick for burning. And this hand-held lamp would give off just enough light for the person holding it to take one more step. The light from this small clay bowl would not illuminate the whole path. But it would ensure that your next step would be safe as you would be able to see any immediate hazards, holes, uneven ground, or danger.



In Psalm 119:105, we read, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Through the open tomb of Easter, a believer in Christ will hear Jesus in these ancient words.

In December of 2019, I wrote a letter to NGLS congregations on the eve of 2020, declaring that our theme for the coming year was “Be Thou My Vision, 2020.” I shared that “the Word of God, that is, the word made flesh in Jesus, is the light that will show us our next steps, one step at a time. We will not, cannot, see the entirety of our future. But digging into the life of Christ in study, prayer, conversation, and worship will most certainly shine a light.”

At the time, I had no idea just how much this would prove true for the year 2020. It is more than a little ironic, that a year that is synonymous with perfect vision would be so severely lacking in it. In this time of pandemic, we cannot even see to next week, much less next month or further down the road. Our sight is very much limited to the here and now. We have what we need for the next step, not the whole journey.

We have suddenly become very present minded. Life has been boiled down to this day (and what day is it anyway?) or at the most, this week. The things I had been looking forward to and planning for have either been cancelled or postponed. Even events scheduled for September and October are subject to change. I didn't realize how much looking forward to things actually pulls a person forward. The rhythms of each day seem to lack momentum or a gathering sense of purpose. And yet, if we saw what the next weeks and months will bring, would it be too much? Aren't today's troubles enough for today?

As the year 2020 continues in all its foggy blurriness, there is blessing in only considering the path that is directly beneath your feet. I invite you to take this slow motion marathon one small step at a time. Let love, patience, and compassion be your guide. We are moving forward, and slowly, slowly, the hazy future will come into focus until the now is in hindsight, and we will see clearly that God has been with us all along.

Be well.
Bisho Katherine Finegan



Gar- den of Remembrance

Many thanks to Cathy and Keith Barton for creating and installing the beautiful sign in our Garden of Remembrance. We began seeking support for the garden on Memorial Day weekend in 2017 and since then the garden has been established and received generous gifts from 70 of our members, including a mail-in memorial for Pastor and Mrs. Bostrom. We have also had support from various folks in weeding and watering and some additional planting, with special thanks to Bernice Bruhnke, Bob Bucan and Mike Flynn. We'll need more of your help with those chores in the months ahead, so look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk or special announcements. Of course extra financial assistance is always welcome and ideas for improvements. Thanks again for your support and we look forward to beautiful blooms and blessed memories this summer.



“Are We in this Together?”

**“We are not all in the same boat. We are all in the same storm.
Some are on super-yachts. Some have just one oar.”**
-April 20, 2020 Tweet by columnist, Damian Barr

This tweet is from the same person who penned a poem about the pandemic that is making its rounds on social media. Here are some lines of that poem. There is a lot of food for thought. I’ve added some relevant Bible passages in parentheses for your consideration.

**“I heard that we are in the same boat.
But it’s not like that,**

We are in the same storm, but not in the same boat.

(“For you have been a refuge to the poor, a refuge to the needy in their distress, a shelter from the rainstorm and a shade from the heat. When the blast of the ruthless was like a winter rainstorm...” –Isaiah 25:4)

**Your ship can be shipwrecked and mine might not be.
Or vice versa.**

For some, quarantine is optimal: a moment of reflection, of re-connection.

Easy, in flip flops, with a whiskey or tea.

For others, this is a desperate crisis.

(“The night racks my bones, and the pain that gnaws me takes no rest.” - Job 30:17)

For others, it is facing loneliness.

For some, peace, rest time, vacation.

Yet for others, torture: How am I going to pay my bills?

Some have faith in God and expect miracles during 2020.

(“Then they cried to the Lord in their trouble, and he brought them out from their distress; he made the storm be still, and the waves of the sea were hushed. Then they were glad because they had quiet, and he brought them to their desired haven. Let them thank the Lord for his steadfast love, for his wonderful works to humankind.” - Psalm 107:28-31)

I'M REALLY SORRY BUT I CAN'T HELP YOU. THE CRISIS HAS AFFECTED EVERYONE, YOU KNOW: WE ARE ALL IN THE SAME BOAT !



**Others say the worse is yet to come.
So, friends, we are not in the same boat.
We are going through a time when our perceptions and needs are completely different.
And each one will emerge, in his own way, from that storm.
It is very important to see beyond what is seen at first glance.
Not just looking, more than looking, seeing.
See beyond the political party, beyond biases, beyond the nose on your face.
Do not underestimate the pain of others if you do not feel it.
Do not judge the good life of the other, do not condemn the bad life of the other.
Don't be a judge"**

("Do not judge, so that you may not be judged. For with the judgment you make you will be judged, and the measure you give will be the measure you get. Why do you see the speck in your neighbor's eye, but do not notice the log in your own eye?" - Matthew 7:1-3)

This distinction of being in the same storm of the pandemic but recognizing our own unique boats relates to the systems of dynamics of fusion and self-differentiation.

The very ubiquitous and universal nature of this pandemic draws us together. The fusion forces are very real - "We are in this together." I'm sure that I've used that phrase myself.

There are touching stories of the selfless sacrifice of health care workers on the front lines of this battle. Caring for others. People are putting themselves at risk as they live out their vocations.

We see the powerful fusion forces at work as we are drawn to each other - especially to those who are vulnerable and suffering. The narrative is often spoken that we are in quarantine especially for the most vulnerable in society. Genuine love has the power to draw us together.

Yet, as time passes, and the pandemic lingers, there are understandable rumblings of self-differentiation and realization that we are not all in the same boat.

A more compassionate perspective recognizes - like the sentiments found in the poem - that for some this quarantine is a blessing of self-reflection, almost a vacation from the fast-paced world before the pandemic; yet, for many, often those already at the margins of society, they can't easily social distance and this is a desperate time.

For some people in rural areas, they question the wisdom of government policy of strict isolation based on more densely populated areas. Indeed, one could argue we are not all in the same boat, but the storm of this pandemic is no respecter of human contrived boundaries.

We see tragic flare-ups of the virus even in rural areas. Pray for all our leaders who are making extremely difficult decisions.

The poem ends with these lines:

“Let us not judge the one who lacks, as well as the one who exceeds him.

We are on different ships looking to survive.

Let everyone navigate their route with respect, empathy and responsibility.”

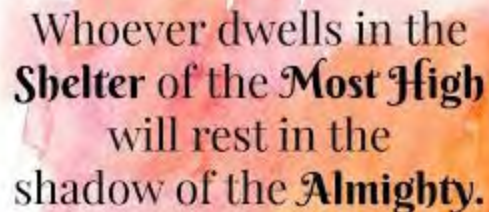
(“And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ has forgiven you.” - Ephesians 4:32)

So, while the forces of fusion and self-differentiation can't be avoided, humble thinking beckons us to seek respect and empathy along with our responsibilities to each other. We must not forget that our actions do affect the lives of others even as we have to make our own decisions.

Be kind to yourself and each other. Seek sustenance in God's Word. The Psalms are particularly powerful as they express the full gamut of human emotions. Read the Psalms which often speak of lament while also declaring God's faithfulness. Psalms 23, 91, and 147 are great places to start meditating upon.

No matter your perception of your own boat during this pandemic, God remains in your boat. God's love in Christ the Lord is certain.

Grace and Health,
Pastor Jim Duehring
Assistant to the Bishop/DEM



Whoever dwells in the
Shelter of the **Most High**
will rest in the
shadow of the **Almighty**.

~Psalm 91:1~

Saints, Notables and Holy Days for June
(From the ELW)

June 1 Justin Martyr c. 165

As a young man Justin was raised in a pagan family and environment. As a student he found no satisfaction in Greek philosophies, but when he discovered one preaching the Good News, he was immediately drawn to the writings of the prophets and



the apostles. He studied voraciously and wrote eloquently to the emperor in defense of his newfound faith. His explications of Christian worship are among the earliest remaining witnesses to the liturgy of the early Church. He and a number of his followers were martyred under the Prefect Rusticus, first being scourged and then beheaded. His famous statement before his executioners is, “You can kill us, but you cannot hurt us.” (words to ponder!)

June 7 **Trinity Sunday**

June 11 **St. Barnabas, Apostle**

June 14 **Basil the Great, Bishop of Caesarea, 379**

As a powerful bishop, Basil fought the heresy of Arianism against the Emperor Valens. He used his organizational abilities to the formation of a useful form of monasticism placing less emphasis on asceticism and more on practical charity. His “rules” became the basis of St. Benedict’s monastic reforms and the pattern for Western monasticism. He



opened the first hospitals in the Christians world as well as hostels for travelers. As one who saw the whole person, his thought encompassed both the abstract and the concrete: not only did he defend dogma, he encouraged the arts, and ladled soup for the hungry.

June 25 **Philipp Melanchthon, renewer of the church, 1560**

Philip Melanchthon was a German Lutheran reformer, collaborator with Martin Luther, the first systematic theologian of the Protestant Reformation, intellectual leader of the Lutheran Reformation, and an influential designer of educational systems. He stands next to Luther and John Calvin as a reformer, theologian, and molder of Protestantism. He was chief architect of the composition now known as the *Augsburg Confession* which was laid before the Diet of Augsburg in 1530, and would come to be considered perhaps the most significant document of the Protestant Reformation. While the confession was based on Luther's *Marburg* and *Schwabach* articles, it was mainly the work of Melanchthon; although it was commonly thought of as a unified statement of doctrine by the two reformers.



June 28 **Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, c. 202**

Irenaeus was a student of Polycarp who was himself a student of the Apostle John. His great work was his *Against Heresies*, with one statement of special note to Lutherans re: the Lord's Supper. He said, "For as the bread, which is produced from the earth, when it receives the invocation of God, is no longer common bread, but the Eucharist, consisting of two realities, earthly and heavenly..." thus affirming the Lutheran teaching that in the Eucharist the bread and the wine are present together with the body and blood of Christ.

June 29 **St. Peter and St. Paul, Apostles.**

A Note from Linda Dahl

We are in an unprecedented time when we are bombarded by difficult and trying news. Sometimes it's hard to not let this take over our minds and hearts. We need to laugh, smile, and appreciate that there is a lot of humor in life. Humor is healthy, especially when we can laugh at ourselves. On the next few pages I hope you will enjoy some Lutheran humor. Take time to laugh. Take time to chuckle.

Lutherans

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed, also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like they do.

If you ask an audience in New York City, a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of 'Michael Row Your Boat Ashore,' they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

Lutherans are bred from childhood to sing in four-part harmony. It's a talent that comes from sitting on the lap of someone singing alto or tenor or bass and hearing the harmonic intervals by putting your little head against that person's rib cage. It's natural for Lutherans to sing in harmony.

We're too modest to be soloists, too worldly to sing in unison. When you're singing in the key of C and you slide into the A7th and D7th chords, all two hundred of you, it's an emotionally fulfilling moment.

I once sang the bass line of "Children of the Heavenly Father" in a room with about three thousand Lutherans in it; and when we finished, we all had tears in our eyes, partly from the promise that God will not forsake us, partly from the proximity of all those lovely voices. By our joining in harmony, we somehow promise that we will not forsake each other.

I do believe this:
These Lutherans are the sort of people
you could call up when you're in deep distress.
If you're dying, they'll comfort you.
If you're lonely, they'll talk to you.
And if you're hungry, they'll give you tuna salad!

—Garrison Keillor



"I know we're trying not to be stuffy around here,
but let's not refer to 'A Mighty Fortress' as
'Martin Luther's Greatest Hit.' "

You might be a Lutheran if...

- You're watching Star Wars and when they say, "May the force be with you," you reply, "and also with you."
- You sing "Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus" while sitting down.
- It takes you ten minutes to say good-bye.
- Your church library has three Jell-O cookbooks.
- You feel an uncontrollable urge to sit in the back of any room.
- A meeting isn't a meeting unless it takes three hours.
- You feel guilty about not feeling guilty.
- The church is on fire, and you rush in to save the coffee pot.
- www.oldlutheran.com is one of your bookmarks.
- Your idea of an affirmation is "This is most certainly true."
- The most mail you receive all year is from the Stewardship Committee.
- Change means wearing your brown instead of your blue suit to church.
- Donuts are in the official church budget.
- They have to rope off the last pews in church so the front isn't empty.
- You hear something really funny and smile as loud as you can.
- The only mealtime prayer you know is "Come Lord Jesus."
- Sharing the peace during the service takes more time than the sermon.



- All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia or Augustana.
- The pastor skips the last hymn to make sure church lasts exactly 60 minutes.
- You only serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color for the season.
- During the entire service you hold your hymnal open but never look down at it.
- A midlife crisis is when your church changes hymnals.
- You carry silverware in your pocket to church...just in case there's a potluck.
- You hum "All Mighty fortress" while mowing the lawn.
- You think butter is a spice.
- You think hotdish is one of the major food groups.
- You forget to put water in the baptismal font but never in the coffee pot.
- Your house is a mess because you're saved by grace not by works.
- When you were little you actually thought the Reverend's first name was "Pastor."
- You think Garrison Keillor's stories are totally factual.
- Your mother reminds you often that she wishes you'd studied the organ.
- You think that an ELCA Lutheran bride and an LCMS groom make for a "mixed marriage."
- You might be a Lutheran if during communion you hum the hymns so you can see who's at church that Sunday.
- And finally, you know you're a Lutheran when: *It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service.



Church Council

Even though we are in a stay-at-home lockdown, the church council has been busy doing the business of our church. In light of the fact that we are not worshipping and sharing fellowship hour every Sunday, we don't get to share church news/gossip on a regular basis. Therefore the council decided that we should put together a newsletter article informing you about some of the "big ticket" items we are working on during the lockdown.

1. Change in Outlook mailing policy. Effective 1 Jul 20 (or later if we are still in the lockdown mode), there will be a change in how we distribute the monthly newsletter, the Outlook. A paperwork reduction survey was circulated amongst the congregation members to see who would prefer to receive the Outlook electronically (e-mail or website), pick it up at church on Sunday or continue to receive it via U.S. postal service. These preferences will be instituted beginning with the July Outlook distribution. We stand to save significant money by saving on the cost of paper, postage and wear & tear on the copier. From a big picture viewpoint, we want to be good stewards of the earth and not create paper waste and waste electricity. If you don't get a copy of the July Outlook or want to change how you receive it, see Carrie or leave her a note so she can update the distribution accordingly. We appreciate your patience while we work the bugs out of this new method of distribution.

2. Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) application. The church council discussed and voted by e-mail to approve for submittal an application for a Small Business Administration PPP loan through our bank, mBank. We were successful in our application and received \$26,100 through the program on 5 May 20 to be used for payroll and building expenses. If we spend the money per the rules of the loan program, which we will, it is forgivable and we don't have to pay it back.

3. New website design underway. We have entered into a contract with TV6 to redesign our website with more of a marketing approach. The plan is to continue with what we liked about the current website and integrate our Facebook activity with the website. In order to make our website more effective and engaging, we'll need a group of people to receive training and help maintain the site. We are thinking that a team of 2-3 people should manage and update the website & Facebook page on a regular basis. If you are interested in being a part of that team, please let a council member know. We can't just "fire and forget" the new website. We need to keep it current and changing to hopefully draw attention to our great church and grow our membership and outreach to the community and WORLD. (How's that for thinking big!)

4. The posting of sermons and services on our Facebook(FB) page the past month, has resulted in a lot more traffic on our FB page. We are thinking we will continue this “live” presence on our FB page and website into the future, even after the lockdown has eased. It’s a great evangelism tool. I ask that everybody give a big thank you to Pastor, Linda Hurrell and Gary Sundblad for their hard work and efforts to make all this happen during the lockdown for the benefit of all of us!

5. Financial update:

Income - Jan thru April: actual, \$56,487.....budget, \$63,380

Expenses - Jan thru April: \$69,608.....budget, \$71,557

Net Income, (\$12,217).....budget, (\$6,747)

Building Loan balance, \$62,900.....\$1,079 per month payment

Note: The PPP loan amount will not appear in the financial report until the end of May.

6. PayPal option coming soon to the new redesigned website. The intent is to make donating to the church more user friendly by using PayPal. A lot of people use PayPal to pay for goods purchased through the internet. This option will allow them to use their existing PayPal account to support our church and its mission.

7. Constitution/bylaws updating. Our constitution and bylaws are wholly outdated and need rewriting. We are in the process of using the ELCA “model constitution” to bring us into compliance with the ELCA’s constitution. We also have drifted away from following our bylaws, for whatever reasons. We are editing them to either reflect how we are actually doing business or refocusing to follow the ones that still make sense but haven’t been followed. This is a big job and we could use help in brainstorming some of the more difficult portions. If you want to help, please contact Tom Perry to volunteer.

8. 150th Anniversary Celebrations: Due to the unknown nature of the current pandemic lockdown and its end date, all 150th anniversary celebration events are being postponed for a year.

9. The council will meet the last week in May to start the discussions about how we phase in the resumption of worship services.

On behalf of the church council, thank you for being a member and helping out to make our church so successful. Be safe. Look out for one another. Perform random acts of kindness!

Tom Perry
Council President



Global Awareness

Directions: This is a rearrangement or unscrambling exercise. Each set of letters when rearranged will spell out the name of a country. Answers below.



1. A D E K M R N

2. G R B A A I L U

3. H P E I T I A O

4. D A U R O H N S

5. O A N M A R I

6. G L E D A N N

7. S H I N I N E C L T E E T

8. H F N N A A S T G A I

9. Y N G A R M E

10. S A T N K P I A

Happy Birthday!

- 1 Edmund Holmgren
- 1 Thomas Holmgren
- 1 Hannah Skewis
- 2 Eric Nault
- 3 Peter Lemire
- 4 Jackson Jarvi
- 5 Curtis Hosking
- 5 Luke Holmgren
- 7 Josie Connors
- 8 Jacob Christopherson
- 8 Katie Johns
- 9 Jean Johns
- 10 Kara Harrington
- 10 Karen Johnson
- 10 Avery Horne
- 13 Clara Carlson
- 14 Elaina Kaukola
- 16 Faith Cain
- 16 James Penhale
- 17 Denise Clark
- 19 Hadley Riutta
- 21 Donna Day
- 21 Ashley Chartre
- 21 Lois Palkki
- 22 Jill Carter
- 23 Andrew Goldsworthy
- 24 Michael DuBord
- 25 Barbara Kinnunen
- 26 Susan Dobson
- 26 Katelyn Hough
- 26 Ryan Jarvi
- 26 Eric Horne
- 27 Sarah Waters
- 27 Sherri Holmgren
- 27 Dale Toivonen
- 28 Donna DuBord



Happy Anniversary!

David and Katherine Finegan
6/4/1988 32 years

Keith and Sherri Holmgren
6/5/1999 21 years

William and Anne Carne
6/9/1963 57 years

James and Barbara Kinnunen
6/12/1982 38 years

Mark & Kathleen Slown
6/12/1976 44 years

Paul and Diana Sandstrom
6/15/68 52 years

Daniel and Sharon Argall
6/19/71 49 years

Tim and Patricia Nault
6/21/86 34 years

Special Days in June

- Trinity Sunday, *June 7, 2020*
- Flag Day, *June 14, 2020*
- First day of summer, *June 20, 2020*
- Father's Day, *June 21, 2020*

Check It Out!

Bethany's calendar, newsletter and Sunday's sermon are available on our website:

Bethanyishpeming.org

You could also just Google Bethany Ishpeming.



A Note from the Social Ministry Board



Although we are not meeting for worship during the corona virus crisis, it's important that we don't forget that everyone is suffering in some way at this time; some more than others. One way we can help is to continue bringing non-perishable food items to the table in the narthex, where it will be collected every Thursday morning by Doug and Jill Carter. The church will be open during regular office hours, Monday through Thursday from 9 A.M. to 12 P.M.



The Right Road

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think that I
following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.



am

But I believe that the desire to please you does, in fact, please you.
And I hope I have that desire in all that I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road, though I may know
nothing about it.

Therefore will I trust you always, though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of
death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me, and you will never leave me to face my perils
alone.

—Thomas Merton

Thank You for the Masks

Special thanks to Barb Kinnunen, Marian Medlyn, and Ruby Kaukola for making face masks. Judy Kitchen also helped with the project. The face masks are available in large, medium, and child sizes. . If you need a mask, please stop in and pick one up at church. Pastor Geier also has delivered masks to Snyder's Drugs in downtown Ishpeming so they would be available to their customers who didn't have a mask. They have been very grateful to receive these masks.



The New Free Store

The New Free Store is an interfaith non-profit group supporting people who express a need for free clothing, linens, hygiene and cleaning supplies. Anyone in need is welcome. Free things are offered as “in God’s economy there is always enough.” The Free Store is located at 1420 East M28 next to Lakestate Industries. It is open Wednesdays Noon-4PM (1st, 2nd 3rd weeks of month) and the fourth Monday of the month 6:00-8:00 pm. Facebook@thenewfreestore.

There is a collection box in our church entry. Donation requests rotate on a monthly basis.

**June: Razors for both males and females
Shaving Cream for both males and females**



Answers

to Global

Awareness:

1. Denmark,
2. Bulgaria,
3. Ethiopia,
4. Honduras,
5. Romania,
6. England,
7. Lichtenstein,
8. Afghanistan,
9. Germany,
10. Pakistan

**“It is pleasing to the dear God
whenever you rejoice or laugh
from the bottom of your heart.”**

—Martin Luther



Bethany’s Website
www.bethanyishpeming.org

To view the latest edition of
the Outlook in color, please
visit Bethany’s website.



Keep In Your Prayers

Remember our home-bound and nursing home residents:

Valente: Roy Koski

Jacobetti: Carol Waters

Teal Lake Senior Living Community: Jean Johns, Annette Larson,
Adeline Johnson

Mill Creek: Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier



- Amanda Bivins
- Paul Kish
- Those who have contracted COVID-19
- Those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19
- Those who are on the front lines caring for the sick
- Those sheltering in place
- Lindsey Cain
- Roy & LaVerne Koski
- Marilyn Pontti
- Sandee Sundquist
- Jerry Plaisier
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- Doris Pellonpaa
- Judy Hogan
- Mark
- Zander Atkins
- Jim Bjorne
- Angie Kempainen
- Those in the military that they may remain safe



Please **PRAY** for those
affected by **COVID-19**

If you would like to make a submission, contact **Linda Dahl** by phone, e-mail, or by dropping a note in the newsletter mailbox at church.

485-1625
linkarzig@gmail.com

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Asst. Exec. Director, Mark Slown
Christian Education, Amanda Bivins
Finance, David Leverton
Personnel, Jim Bjerne
Property, Robert Bruhnke
Social Ministry, Jill Carter
Stewardship, Ann Sundblad
Worship & Music, Keenan Tunnell



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
Northern Great Lakes Synod

Worship
with us
from
HOME