



Bethany Lutheran Outlook
October 2020

Serving God, Community, and Individuals





PASTOR'S REFLECTIONS

The Bethany Swedish Lutheran Congregation in Ishpeming, Michigan was formally organized on October 2, 1870, 150 years ago. October of this year, 2020, was supposed to have included a celebratory worship service and congregational dinner to culminate this 150th anniversary year. Instead, the year of 2020 will be remembered as the year of the COVID-19 pandemic with most church activities coming to a halt in mid-March as people were encouraged to “shelter in place” and in person gatherings were to include no more than 10 people. Among those cancelled activities were those that were to be part of the anniversary year including those scheduled for this month.

As of now, the plan is to reschedule things for next year, but even that is uncertain as it depends on what the virus does. From the get go, the “experts” haven’t agreed on much but they all seem to agree that there will be another wave later in the year so we’ll have to see how that plays out. For months, it seems that every conversation about this has ended with “We just don’t know,” and that is still the case.

As October begins, life here at Bethany still isn’t close to what we have thought of as normal in the past. In person worship did resume in mid-July and there has been an average of about 20 people in attendance. Most people are still choosing to worship virtually and that’s OK. The quilters have been meeting on Tuesdays, the Weight Watchers people are here on Wednesdays, some committee meetings have taken place in person including council meetings. In October we’ll start with confirmation and Bible study and see how things go. All in person activities are being done with masks and appropriate physical distancing as keeping everyone safe and healthy continues to be a priority.

For me personally, I’ve pretty much tried to continue with the same routine throughout these months. For a long time we weren’t gathering for worship but all along we’ve been recording and offering an online worship option so sermons still have to be written; now I have to have them done by Wednesday as we record on Thursday so that part of my routine has changed. Most of the groups and committees I’m involved with have continued to meet either by phone conference or by ZOOM. I didn’t know what ZOOM was before all this started but now I know not only what ZOOM is but also what ZOOM fatigue is as doing so much with a camera and a screen becomes tiring. On the other hand, without it, things would have been that much more difficult.

The biggest difference for me has been the restrictions on visiting people, especially in hospitals and residential facilities. It's harder to know what's going on in people's lives. On the bright side, there has definitely been a savings on travel and mileage! When I did make a visit to the hospital and they asked if I'd traveled outside of the country in the past two weeks, I said I didn't think I'd traveled outside of Ishpeming; Marquette and Gwinn, that's about it.

It most certainly has not been the anniversary year we anticipated. As I keep reminding myself and you though, we worship a God who brings new life out of brokenness. This year of 2020 has felt pretty broken but we trust that somehow God is at work and that something good will come out of it. As far as what that good might be...we just don't know.

Pastor Geier



Confirmation to be part of October 4th Service.



During the October 4th worship service, Faith Cain and Luke Holmgen will affirm their Baptism through the Rite of Confirmation. Please keep these young people in your prayers.

Join them in person or in spirit as they reach this new milestone which is a reminder of God's gift of love and grace in accepting them into the household of faith.

**God, thank you that by your power,
small things like seeds — and faith —
can grow big and strong.
Nurture our growth in you always.
Amen**

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

October 2020

1 Psalm 80:7-15	Jeremiah 2:14-22	Colossians 2:16-23
2 Psalm 80:7-15	Jeremiah 2:23-37	Philippians 2:14-18; 3:1-4a
3 Psalm 80:7-15	Jeremiah 6:1-10	John 7:40-52

4 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 5:1-7 Psalm 80:7-15 Philippians 3:4b-14 Matthew 21:33-46

5 Psalm 144	Ezekiel 19:10-14	1 Peter 2:4-10
6 Psalm 144	Isaiah 27:1-6	2 Corinthians 5:17-21
7 Psalm 144	Song of Solomon 8:5-14	John 11:45-57
8 Psalm 23	Isaiah 22:1-8a	1 Peter 5:1-5, 12-14
9 Psalm 23	Isaiah 22:8b-14	James 4:4-10
10 Psalm 23	Isaiah 24:17-23	Mark 2:18-22

11 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 25:1-9 Psalm 23 Philippians 4:1-9 Matthew 22:1-14

12 Psalm 34	Exodus 19:17-20	Jude 17-25
13 Psalm 34	Amos 9:5-15	Philippians 3:13 — 4:1
14 Psalm 34	Song of Solomon 7:10—8:4	John 6:25-35
15 Psalm 96:1-9	Judges 17:1-6 3	John 9:12
16 Psalm 96:1-9	Deut. 17:14-20	1 Peter 5:1-5
17 Psalm 96:1-9	Isaiah 14:3-11	Matthew 14:1-12

18 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost

Isaiah 45:1-7 Psalm 96:1-9 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22

19 Psalm 98	Daniel 3:1-18	Revelation 18:1-10, 19-20
20 Psalm 98	Daniel 3:19-30	Revelation 18:21-24
21 Psalm 98	Daniel 6:1-28	Matthew 17:22-27
22 Psalm 1	Numbers 5:5-10	Titus 1:5-16
23 Psalm 1	Deut. 9:25 — 10:5	Titus 2:7-8, 11-15
24 Psalm 1	Proverbs 24:23-34	John 5:39-47

25 Reformation Sunday

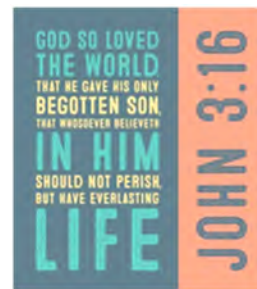
Jeremiah 31:31-34 Psalm 46 Romans 3:19-28 John 8:31-36

26 Psalm 119:41-48	Deut. 6:1-9, 20-25	James 2:8-13
27 Psalm 119:41-48	Deut. 10:10-22	James 2:14-26
28 Psalm 119:41-48	Proverbs 16:1-20	Matthew 19:16-22
29 Psalm 43	1 Samuel 2:27-36	Romans 2:17-29
30 Psalm 43	Ezekiel 13:1-16	2 Peter 2:1-3
31 Psalm 43	Malachi 1:6 — 2:9	Matthew 23:13-28

The Best Medicine

Near the end of his life, Protestant reformer Martin Luther suffered debilitating headaches. When told about a costly medicine that might offer some relief, Luther smiled and said, “My best prescription for head and heart is that ‘God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.’”

That Bible verse became a refrain for Luther on his deathbed. “What Spartan saying can be compared with this wonderful brevity,” he said of John 3:16. “It is the Bible itself!” After repeating the words that Gospel-in-a-nutshell verse three times in Latin, Luther claimed, “They are the best prescription for headaches and heartaches!”



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Enjoy the Poetry of Hymns

O for a Closer Walk with God

O for a closer walk with God,
a calm and heavenly frame,
a light to shine upon the road
that leads me to the Lamb!



Where is the blessedness I knew
when first I saw the Lord?
Where is the soul-refreshing view
of Jesus and his word?

What peaceful hours I once enjoyed!
How sweet their memory still!
But they have left an aching void
The world can never fill.

Return, O holy Dove, return,
sweet messenger of rest;
I hate the sins that made thee mourn,
and drove thee from my breast.

The dearest idol I have known,
whate'er that idol be,
help me to tear it from thy throne,
and worship only thee.

So shall my walk be close with God,
calm and serene my frame;
so purer light shall mark the road
that leads me to the Lamb.

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

Part 2 of The Hymns of William Cowper

The Story Behind the Hymn: “O for a Closer Walk with God”: 1772

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him.”
(Colossians 2:6)

Soon after William Cowper was discharged from Cotton’s mental asylum, he met Morley and Mary Unwin coming out of church. Morley, an evangelical clergyman, invited William to spend two weeks with them – and William ended up staying in the Unwin home for 22 years. He took up gardening as a hobby, which helped ward off his depressions.



When Morley was killed from falling off a horse, Mrs. Unwin, wanting to sit under the ministry of another evangelical preacher, decided to move to the village of Olney, population 2000, where John Newton was vicar. Newton, ex-scoundrel and slave trader, had become a celebrated preacher in England. William moved with her, and he and Newton were soon fast friends. They frequently met in the lawn between their houses, and William began assisting John in visiting the sick and dying, and in distributing benevolent funds.

In December, 1769, Unwin fell ill and appeared to be dying. William’s anxiety and depression returned with a vengeance. Mary, being quite a bit older than William, was a mother-figure to him. He prayed earnestly for her, and it was during this time that, examining his own spiritual condition, he wrote “O for a Closer Walk with God.”

He said, “(Mary) is the chief of blessings I have met with in my journey since the Lord was pleased to call me...her illness has been a sharp trial to me. Oh, that it may have a sanctified effect...I began to compose these verses yesterday morning before daybreak, but I fell asleep at the end of the first two lines. When I awaked, the third and fourth verses were whispered to my heart in a way I have often experienced.”

The hymn begins, “O, for a closer walk with God, a calm and heavenly frame,” then goes on to ask:

*Where is the blessedness I knew, / When first I saw the Lord?/
Where is the soul refreshing view / Of Jesus and His Word/*

*Return, O holy dove, return, / Sweet messenger of rest! /
I hate the sins that made Thee mourn / and drove Thee from my breast.*

*The dearest idol I have known, / Whate'er that idol be /
Help me to tear it from Thy throne, / And worship only Thee.*

Fortunately, the danger passed, William prayers were answered, and Mary recovered.

--Robert J. Morgan, The Sings My Soul; 300 of the world's Greatest Hymn Stories



A Singular Fo-

cus

When we try to focus on too many things at once, sometimes we end up doing nothing well. During a visit to their house (see Luke 10:38-42), Jesus tells Martha that only one thing is needed and that Mary has chosen rightly. Surely Jesus doesn't mean that quiet devotion is needed while serving others is not. But when we let ourselves get “worried and distracted by many things,” we may lose sight of the one crucial thing: love.

St. Francis is credited with the following quote: “God came to my house and asked for charity. And I fell on my knees and cried, ‘Beloved, what may I give?’ ‘Just love,’ God said. ‘Just love.’”

And in Galatians 5:6 (NRSV), St. Paul writes, “For in Christ Jesus ... the only thing that counts is faith working through love.” Amid all the worthy pursuits that fill your days, remember to choose rightly — by choosing love.



Remembering the Saints, 2020



During the month of October the Church celebrated saints' days for St. Francis of Assisi (4 Oct) and St. Luke the Evangelist (18 Oct) and prepared for the celebration of All Saints Sunday on Nov. 1st. In past years, the Bethany choir celebrated All Saints Day with the anthem "We are surrounded with a great cloud of witnesses" and those saints of Bethany who have died in the past year are remembered in the prayers.

In recent years we have extended those memorials to **all** the departed saints of Bethany...those members of our families who have joined that great cloud of witnesses. To make this memorial more visible, we invite you to bring a photo of someone you would like to remember and it will be displayed on special tables which will be set up in the sanctuary. Due to the CoronaVirus limitations, there will not be congregational participation in the lighting of candles... they will be lit before the service...nor will there be a choir. Please leave your photos in the church office from 25 October onwards (pick them up any time after Nov. 1st). You might also choose to make a donation to our Memorial Garden by using the Bethany ELCA gift envelopes available in your pew; choose **Memorial Fund for..... Garden**. Please consider joining us in this addition to our All Saints celebration. Especially in these confusing days, we need the encouragement provided by those witnesses!



Gardening

Season 2020 ends sometime this month (October). It's been a colorful summer! You may already have cleaned up your home gardens and now it's time for Bethany! There will be a short working bee to put the garden to sleep for the winter. Keep your eyes open for an announcement on FaceBook or in Pastor's Sunday announcements. Many hands make light work! Be sure to bring some sharp clippers! And MANY thanks to our faithful watering crew! Keenan



*I am about to do a new thing;
now it springs forth, do you not perceive it?
I will make a way in the wilderness
and rivers in the desert. ~Isaiah 43.19*

Dear Northern Great Lakes Synod,

God is indeed doing a new thing, and if we are not perceiving it, we haven't been paying attention. While bingeing Netflix certainly has its place, especially during a pandemic, there is value in taking a break now and again, to consider what God is up to in these days.

I see God at work as the Church discovers again what is necessary and what can be dispensed with. Many of our congregations have taken a hiatus from in-person worship at some point. Some still are, as cases continue to rise in their counties making in-person, inside worship irresponsible. But what I think we have discovered is how much we miss in-person, inside worship. We miss the gathering, seeing each other, the liturgy, the rhythm, the fellowship, the food, and more. For something that we took for granted in pre-pandemic days, we now know, without a doubt, that no matter how necessary online worship is, it will never completely replace the blessing of being together as the community of faith in worship.

I believe online worship is here to stay. But we will eventually be able to gather again as we did, with singing and trumpets and sharing the peace with hand shaking and hugs shared. Not yet, but someday. We would do well to be patient as that day will not come soon, even though we are well past wanting it to be today.

I also think we would do well to acknowledge the power of grief and lament in these days. Grief is a powerful force, even when it is unacknowledged. In these last months, we have experienced significant loss. Even if you have not lost a loved one to COVID-19, even if you have not had to navigate what a funeral looks like in these days, there is still loss.

Church is not the same. Gathering with family and friends is not the same. Work and school are not the same. Visiting is not the same. We can't sing, even if we do gather. Meetings are canceled or online. "You're on mute" has become the most frequently uttered sentence in all of history. We feel ourselves stretched thin. We sigh more often. We have trouble making decisions. There's maybe a lack of motivation. A lack of patience, a lack of energy, of having a shallow emotional stamina to cope with anything else that comes at us. Maybe you feel your reserves are spent, wrung out, dried up, close to tears more often than you'd like to own. This, my dear synod, is grief.

When a person is grieving, it helps to see that the shadow that is cast, is indeed the power of loss over our lives. This is your cue, to be gentle with yourselves. And since we are all experiencing grief in some capacity, then please be patient and gentle with each other as well. Grief can present as anger, as a quick temper, as impatience. So I ask you again, breathe deep, and exhale. Do not let fear, or grief, or all that comes with it, steal your joy, undermine your faith, or add to your worry. God is up to something. God is at work. And God is with you, and your congregation, and your pastor, and your leaders, as you together figure out, in prayerful discernment, how to meet our current challenges.

As we continue to journey through these wilderness days, these days darkened by the shadows of death and loss, be comforted as it is precisely at these times that Christ our Lord promises to be with you. Though we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Christ is with you. And God will indeed make a way in the wilderness and will guide us along that way toward all that we are becoming and all that God would have us be.

I pray that you have such a sense of God's presence with you, that your spirit will find peace, that your fears will be at rest, and you will be surprised by joy and unexpected blessing.

Yours in Christ,
Bishop Katherine Finegan

That you were born
and you will die.
That you will sometimes love enough
and sometimes not.
That you will lie
if only to yourself.
That you will get tired.
That you will learn most from the situations
you did not choose.
That there will be some things that move you
more than you can say.
That you will live
that you must be loved.
That you will avoid questions most urgently in need of
your attention.
That you began as the fusion of a sperm and an egg
of two people who once were strangers
and may well still be.
That life isn't fair.
That life is sometimes good
and sometimes better than good.
That life is often not so good.
That life is real
and if you can survive it, well,
survive it well
with love
and art
and meaning given
where meaning's scarce.
That you will learn to live with regret.

That you will learn to live with respect.
That the structures that constrict you
may not be permanently constraining.
That you will probably be okay.
That you must accept change
before you die
but you will die anyway.
So you might as well live
and you might as well love.
You might as well love.
You might as well love.

“The Facts of Life” from *Sorry For Your Troubles* by Pádraig Ó Tuama is © 2018 by Pádraig Ó Tuama. Published by Canterbury Press. Used with permission of the author.

A PLANTING PARABLE

Jesus had to explain his Parable of the Sower to the confused disciples.

Directions: Use the word bank to answer the clues. Then fill in the correct words below to complete Matthew 13:23, NIV.

WORD BANK: sow, soil, wither, root, thorn, crop, seed, farmer

1. Plant part that absorbs water _____
2. Contains what's needed to grow a plant _____
3. To plant _____
4. Sharp part of a plant _____
5. What is harvested. _____
6. To dry up and shrivel _____
7. Person who plants _____
8. The earth a plant grows in. _____

“But the _____₂ falling on good _____₈ refers to someone who hears the word and understands it.

This is the one who produces a _____₅, yielding a hundred, sixty or thirty times what was _____₃ n.”

M A T T H E W 1 3 : 2 3 , N I V



October

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 0 auto; width: 80%;"> <p>“Start by doing what’s necessary; then do what’s possible; and suddenly you’re doing the impossible.” —Unknown</p> </div>			
4 10 :30 Worship	5	6 9:00 Quilters	7 6:30 Worship & Music
11 10 :30 Worship 6:00 Confirmation	12	13 9:00 Quilters 10:30 Social Ministry	14
18 10 :30 Worship	19	20 9:00 Quilters 630 Council	21
25 REFORMATION SUNDAY 10 :30 Worship 6:00 Confirmation	26 Deadline for the November Outlook	27 9:00 Quilters	28

• 2020



Thu	Fri	Sat
1 6:30 Bible Study	2	3
8 6:30 Bible Study	9	10
15 6:30 Bible Study	16	17
22 6:30 Bible Study	23	24
29 6:30 Bible Study	30	31



Happy Birthday!

- 3 Kris Hough
- 3 Paul Sundberg
- 6 Kay Frederickson
- 6 Tori Nault
- 6 Michael Toivonen
- 10 Ryan Lusardi
- 11 Bruce Bussone
- 12 Donald Meyer
- 14 LaVerne Koski
- 14 Paul Sandstrom
- 15 Griffin Argall
- 15 Penny Kipling
- 15 Wendy Koski
- 15 Jim Kinnunen
- 16 Jennifer Johnson
- 18 Greg Meyer
- 18 David Niemela
- 18 Matthew Waters
- 19 Bren Balzarini
- 19 Ryan Anderson
- 19 Barb Holmgren
- 22 Kristen Rasmussen
- 23 Courtney Allen
- 24 Jessica Dobson
- 26 Robert Bucan
- 27 Michael Harrington
- 27 Mark Slown
- 28 Jan Swanson
- 30 Sarah Vekaria



Happy Anniversary!

Marvin & Jan Swanson
10/7/1972 48 years

Ken & Carol Carlson
10/8/1971 49 years

Duane & Marlene King
10/13/1962 58 years

Bob & Cindy Warner
10/13/1984 36 years

Robbie & Susan Dobson
10/15/1988 32 years

James & Wendy Penhale
10/15/1994 26 years

Michael & Donna DuBord
10/24/1981 39 years

FORTUNE LAKE LUTHERAN CAMP'S
2020 ANNUAL

FALL FEST



**VIRTUAL SILENT AND LIVE
AUCTIONS!**

**BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 23
CONCLUDING OCTOBER 3**

See reverse for details!

www.fortunelake.org

**Silent
Auction: Sept. 23—Oct. 3**

Auc-

Bidders will be encouraged to register to Fortune Lake's safe, secure platform early to participate in the silent auction which will begin on September 23 and go through October 3. The silent auction will contain most of our items, and you'll have plenty of opportunity to make your selection and set your maximum bids.

Live Auction: Oct. 3 (9:00 am—2:00 pm CST)

A few select items will be held over for a live virtual auction on October 3, during which Fortune Lake invites all its supporters to join them online for a grand event celebrating the camp we all love.



Saints and Notables for October (from the ELW)

- 04 Francis of Assisi (1226) Renewer of the Church
- 06 William Tyndale (1536) English Translator, Martyr
- 07 Henry Melchior Muhlenberg (1787) Pioneer Pastor to N. America
- 15 Teresa of Avila (1582) Teacher, Renewer of the Church
- 18 Luke, Evangelist
- 28 Simon and Jude, Apotles
- 31 Reformation Day

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg 1711 - 1787

Henry Melchior Muhlenberg was the principal organizer of American Lutheranism. He was born in Einbeck, Germany, in 1711, and studied at Goettingen and at Halle. Lutherans in America at that time were found in a few scattered communities, of various national backgrounds, with no central organization, and with a grave danger of factionalism. Several congregations wrote to Halle University, asking for a pastor to take charge. Hermann Francke, a Lutheran leader of the Pietist movement at Halle, chose Muhlenberg and sent him to America. He arrived in Charleston on 23 September 1742. He was soon accorded widespread recognition by Lutheran churches, German, Swedish, and others, as the senior Lutheran pastor in America. He set the tone for the Lutheran community in what was to be the United States, and almost all Lutheran Churches in America today use liturgies which are developed from the one that he proposed for



American use. He valued greatly the gift of music in worship, at times serving as his own organist. His plans for local church government, presented to congregations that had been accustomed to a great deal of government control, eased the transition to the "free church" model, and form the basis for plans of local church government in American Lutheran churches today. His dream was that one day there would be one Lutheran hymnbook, one Lutheran liturgy used by one Lutheran Church in all of North America. That dream still awaits its fulfillment. Henry Melchior Muhlenberg died 7 October 1787, and is buried at Trappe, Pennsylvania. His epitaph (in Latin) reads: "Who and what he was, future ages will know without a stone."

It is also worthy of note that his sons were prominent in the early days of the United States. One served as a general under George Washington in the War of Independence. Another, Frederick Augustus Conrad Muhlenberg, became a member of the Continental Congress, and first speaker of the House of Representatives.



**Just be —
still**

and be

Various versions of the following sentiment are posted online: "I am a human being, not a human doing. It's okay to just *be* sometimes." Many of us get anxious if we think we're not *doing* enough, but peace activist Thich Nhat Hanh insists it's not a waste of time to just be: "To be alive, to be peaceful, to be joyful, to be loving ... is what the world needs most."

During the pandemic, when people were urged to stay home to slow the virus' spread, we had to think hard about how to continue being the church while limited in what we could go out and "do." Yet church leaders reminded us that we were actually loving our neighbors by staying home — by being less active.

It's sometimes okay — ideal, even — to just be. In quieting our bodies, minds and hearts, we may find ourselves more often in prayer, more aware of God's presence and more nourished for when the time is right to again take up more active forms of ministry, peacemaking and love. "In quietness and trust is your strength" (Isaiah 30:15, NIV).

—Heidi Mann

Bishop Eaton's Labor Day Message

September 3, 2020

Our calling from God begins in the waters of Baptism and is lived out in a wide array of settings and relationships. Freed through the Gospel, we are to serve others through arenas of responsibility such as family, work, and community life. Although we continue to be ensnared in the ambiguities and sin of this world, our vocation is to seek what is good for people and the rest of creation in ways that glorify God and anticipate God's promised future. —ELCA social statement Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, page 7.

The origins of Labor Day, established as a federal holiday in 1894, lie in the labor movement's persistent organizing for the rights and recognition of American workers. This year's impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has revealed the heroics and faithfulness of the many we now know to be essential workers.

While all workers are essential, especially during this pandemic, we give special thanks on this Labor Day for those workers who, despite challenges and dangers to their health, plant and harvest and deliver our food, keep store shelves stocked with essentials, nurture and teach our children, and care for the sick. In honor of their contributions to our country's well-being, they deserve our support and accompaniment so they can do their jobs safely with dignity and respect.

Our church's social teaching reminds us that work is a way we serve God and our neighbor. The ELCA social statement Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All states: "In Genesis, work is to be a means through which basic needs might be met, as human beings 'till and keep' the garden in which God has placed them (Genesis 2:15). Work is seen not as an end in itself, but as a means for sustaining humans and the rest of creation" (page 8).



Labor Day, like many holidays, marks the passage of time, the change of weather, the return to school, the end of the growing season. It also marks our eighth month of collectively facing the challenges of this time together. Dear church, we need to also acknowledge the extra labors these last months have required in what is turning out to be a marathon with a long way to go. The multiple hardships of this year have touched every one of us.

We know this crisis has been disruptive and destructive — as it has been elsewhere in the world — with so many suffering and facing uncertainty through a staggering loss of millions of jobs and no end in sight. The coronavirus also has exposed the inadequacy of an economic system for workers who live paycheck to paycheck, many of whom are disproportionately people of color. It has pulled back the veil of long-held racial disparities in income and opportunity and within the health care system. Communities of color have borne the brunt of death and illness in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Racial and economic injustices deprive people of the fruits of their work (Proverbs 13:23), which benefits our economy more than the workers' sustainable livelihoods.

Furthermore, gender discrimination has placed women of color in low wage, front-line positions at heightened risk. Many vulnerable women of color work as personal care aides, nursing assistants, cashiers and retail salespeople. In addition to their vulnerability, these front-line workers are disproportionately underpaid for their work. The average woman earns 82 cents for every dollar earned by men. Black women, Native American women and Latinas earn 62 cents, 57 cents and 54 cents, respectively, for every dollar earned by white men, according to the National Women's Law Center.

These systemic issues continuously challenge and obstruct the well-being of many and deny God's desire for us to execute justice for the oppressed (Psalm 146:7). As church together, God calls us to accompany our neighbors who have lost livelihoods or income, supporting our siblings through prayer, service and advocacy. Our nation's leaders must not forget that responding to the needs of those who have lost jobs or income is now critical. Our accompaniment also must take shape as we prayerfully heed God's call to build economies that enable life in all its fullness; dismantle disparities in health, income, racial equality and privilege that trouble human community; and act together toward a more just society where all can live out their vocations and sustain their families with dignity.

This Labor Day remember that God is at work in our economic life, which “is intended to be a means through which God’s purposes for humankind and creation are to be served” (Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All, page 3). Throughout this pandemic, we have risen to many challenges. We have reimagined almost everything in our lives and churches, including worship, workplace, education, child care, vacations, communication, service, advocacy, faith formation and much more. God’s sustaining love for all of us is even more abundant than our imaginations and is providing us with the creativity and grit to try, try again so that Christ is proclaimed and our communities are served. Together, we can solve what seems unsolvable. Together, we can strive for each person’s dignity to be recognized and treasured, remove disparities in health care, achieve racial equity, defeat poverty and work together with all people to overcome this virus.

As you take time to observe this year’s Labor Day, may you find time to rest and renew yourselves for the work ahead. As is stated in this church's economic life social statement: "Our vocation is to seek what is good for people and the rest of creation in ways that glorify God and anticipate God’s promised future" (page 7). Below you will find information and resources to advocate for our neighbors and communities to build a just economy for all:

- ELCA social statement Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All
- Hungering for Justice, a study guide on Martin Luther and the economy
- Action Alert on COVID-19 response
- Interfaith Worker Justice, an ELCA partner organization

A prayer from Evangelical Lutheran Worship:

God of justice, we remember before you those who suffer want and anxiety from lack of work. Guide the people of this land so to use our wealth and resources that all people may find suitable and fulfilling employment and receive just payment for their labor; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton

Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America





Bible Study Resumes

The Thursday night Bible Study group will resume classes beginning on October 1 at 6:30 pm.

Masks must be worn and social distancing will be observed.

Pastor Appreciation

Many churches observe October as Pastor Appreciation Month. Given the reluctance of many pastors to call attention to themselves, it's not likely that they will mention anything about being appreciated.

Were someone to ask a pastor, however, what might be done to show appreciation to him or her, the answer would likely be, "Pray for me."



St. Paul never asked for anything for himself except that others pray for him. To the church at Rome, he wrote, "I appeal to you, brothers and sisters, by our Lord Jesus Christ and by the love of the Spirit, to join me in earnest prayer to God on my behalf, that I may be rescued from the unbelievers in Judea, and that my ministry to Jerusalem may be acceptable to the saints, so that by God's will I may come to you with joy and be refreshed in your company" (Romans 15:30-32, NRSV).

Encourage your pastor by assuring him or her of your prayers and love.

Bethany appreciates you, Pastor Geier.



Birthday Blessings

Happy Belated 91st Birthday
Ray Leverton

Council Highlights—September 2020



- Thank you letters have been forwarded to the appropriate board
- Update given on change in Outlook mailing
- Paycheck Protection Program update
- Update on the church constitution and bylaws—rough draft will be ready Sept. 30
- Pastoral Acts: funeral: Doris Pellonpaa 9/4/20
- In person worship is going well. Average attendance is around 20.
- Confirmation begins on October 10.
- Sunday School packets were sent home.
- Thanks to Pam Allen for her help with the funeral
- Habitat for Humanity lunch is coming up.
- Need to purchase licensing for streaming and online recordings
- Confirmation Sunday is Oct. 4. Faith Cain and Luke Holmgren will be confirmed.
- Planning for 150th anniversary will resume in spring.



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.



Walk. Give. Change the world.

Lutheran World Relief Kits



Answer to Puzzle—A Planting Parable:

**Root, seed, sow, thorn, crop, wither, farmer
soil, seed, soil, crop, sow**

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.

October: Toilet Paper (packages of 4 or 6 rolls)

Worship



Options



In person worship at Bethany begins at 10:30 am each Sunday.

A worship service is also available on line each Sunday.



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,
Ray Leverton (recuperating)

Mill Creek: Marilyn Pontti, Betty Geier



- Amanda Bivins
- Jerry Plaisier
- Pauli Kniivila
- Paul Kish
- The family and friends of Doris Pellonpaa who mourn her loss
- The Mariani family who mourn the loss of Sheree's mother Adeline Johnson
- Garrett Frustaglio, D.J. Bivins, & Blake Forbes who are serving in the military
- 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
- Roy & LaVerne Koski
- Marilyn Pontti
- Sandee Sundquist
- Cindy Warner
- Loreth Johnson
- Emilie Brown
- Bob Maki
- Mark, Kathleen, and Karmen Slown
- Ray Chartre
- Roger & Ruth Solberg
- 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.

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CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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Parish Planning Council:
Exec. Director, Tom Perry
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