

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2021 BEACON

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP is available on the Bethel Facebook page.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

And just like that Covid-19 has been our scourge for a year! In earlier times the onset of a "plague" caused people to turn back to God. Strange and virulent illnesses remind us of our human vulnerability and cause us to ponder both death and eternity!

As I write this, we are about to observe Ash Wednesday 2021. The Lenten call to Repentance begins with the words...REMEMBER THAT YOU ARE DUST...AND TO DUST YOU SHALL RETURN! There is no phrase that the Human condition hates more than this one!

Look at how we live! As children we tentatively explore ourselves first and then, inch by inch, we begin to extend our range. By the time we are two we pretty much think we have the world by the tail...but just look at the face of a toddler each time they discover a new power or force which they do not expect nor can they control.

It is a look of shock and then fear, then tentative exploration again, then a growing sense of confidence as the force or power is understood, managed, and even conquered! By the time we hit our 20's, 30's, and 40's we are tempted to feel we are bulletproof! But there is one power or force...one enemy...that defies our attempts to dominate it.

That enemy is Death.

In the Apostle Paul's masterful essay on Death and Resurrection in 1 Corinthians 15 he calls Death, "THE LAST ENEMY"! Because of its annoying inevitability, most people live a life of denial in the face of death. As a pastor, I never cease to be amazed at the shock, dismay, and amazement which surviving family and friends display at a funeral. It is as if they have never heard of death! As if death is the last thing they ever thought would happen to the dearly departed.

How can this be?

As our culture has become more and more unchurched, individuals at large have become less aware of the basic tenants of Christianity. If we are to become a growing congregation we must not only know these basics for ourselves but also build up the courage to feel confident in sharing this hope with neighbors and friends in the teachable moments surrounding us.

The death of a loved one is one of the few moments that there is a crack in the shell of denial. For a nano-second there is an opportunity of vulnerability where folks are seeking answers. Jesus has those answers!! But for us to share them we must first appropriate them for ourselves.

When you hear the words, "Remember that you are dust!" are your first feelings fear or hope?

The only hope for the world is the confidence that comes in the forgiveness of Sin and the Promise of Resurrection! Once you believe that...telling others about Jesus becomes as easy as sharing your favorite recipes!! I promise!!

Pastor Kent

February 14, 2021 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the March Council meeting)

Present: Kyle Rice, Lane Luhring, Jeff Jacobson, Greg Carolus, Sherry Brouwer, Lee Rients, Dale Krohn, Jeremy Paulson, and Pastor Wallace

Call to order by President Rice, "In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Devotions: Kyle Rice – "What Love Is"

Approval of the Agenda: Motion to approve the agenda, seconded and approved.

Approval of the January Minutes: Motion to approve the January minutes, seconded & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: The Treasurer's Report was presented. The council was advised that the CCLI (copyright coverage) needed to be paid. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded & approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace reported that he officiated the funeral of Leona Wallbaum and the baptism of Leighton Luhring. He stated that visits with members slowed because of the weather the last couple of weeks. He advised that he spent a lot of time studying and preparing, stating that he was working through the supernatural unseen realm around us, as well as the spiritual realm.

Ministry Team Reports: Liaison Council Member

1. Children & Youth: No meeting - Jeremy Paulson
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting – Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice
3. Property Committee: No meeting – Greg Carolus, Jeff Johnson
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team Lee Rients
5. Social Concerns: No meeting – Lane Luhring, Sherry Brouwer
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No meeting - Jeff Jacobson

Old Business:

1. Secretary Position – Kyle Rice will meet with Pam Jacobson on the need of establishing a job description, as well as hours and duties for a paid part-time secretary.
2. Internet improvements and or live stream services – Pastor Wallace will meet with a member this week who is willing to donate an I-pad and components, which will have the capability of moving the screen picture during the service for members and others as they are watching the service online.
3. Church thermostats – Dale Krohn and Jeff Jacobson will meet with Terry Drewelow and discuss protocols on weekly settings for heat in the church.
4. Pastoral Visits – Discussion in reference to the Pastor conducting more visits with members of the congregation, whether it be by phone because of the pandemic or face-to-face visits. The Pastor explained some of the difficulties he has experienced but agreed that he will attempt to do more with assistance.

New Business:

1. Authorize signers on Bank Accounts – Kyle Rice will check with the bank to ascertain whether or not a conflict would exist with Kyle signing checks and loans involving the church. A motion was made, seconded and approved that if there is a conflict, Vice President Dale Krohn and Council Person Jeremy Paulson will be authorized to sign checks and loans for Bethel Lutheran Church.
2. Committee Liaisons – See Ministry Team Reports.
3. Protocol for Communion Assistants – Due to Covid-19, Communion Assistants, acolytes, and the Pastor will partake in communion after the distribution of the Sacraments are completed for the rest of the congregation.
4. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper/Easter Breakfast – There will be no Ash Wednesday Supper. Easter Breakfast tabled.
5. Summer BBQ Fund Raiser – Dale Krohn has agreed to host a fund raiser sometime during the middle part of June with proceeds going to the Tuckpointing project. The council was agreeable.
6. RAGBRAI - Tabled

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved. Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

The Greek word translated “fellowship” in the New Testament is *koinonia*, meaning partnership, sharing in common, or communion. Fellowship with God is at its most basic, ... agreement with Him in all things. The New Testament assures believers of this partnership. Not only do we have fellowship with God the Father, but we also have fellowship with His Son and the Holy Spirit. (1 Corinthians 1:9, 2 Corinthians 13:14, John 1:3)

It is important to know that fellowship with God comes exclusively through Jesus Christ. Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6), yet throughout the ages man has attempted to devise other paths to God through false religions or to live in such a way as to merit His approval, ... i.e., good deeds.

This relationship must be the basis of Christian fellowship. We can have friendships and relationships with unbelievers, but true Christian fellowship can only occur within the body of Christ. (The world-wide Body of Christ.)

You understand this if you have ever struck up a conversation with another Christian(s) who you have never met. Conversation comes easily. I can attest to this, as I have fellowshiped with “The Body of Christ” in many places. In India, a man garbed in a turban and short sarong, walked across the huge tent where we were doing medical/evangelical ministry. With outstretched arm, he boldly proclaimed, “Sister, there are no strangers in Jesus Christ!” ... And so, there are not!

We are truly united to one another by our common beliefs, purposes, and goals. Yet Jesus said that His Kingdom is not of “this world” (John 18:36). We know that we are yet strangers in this “world”, and we long for the time when we will be in our true home, ... heaven.

True Christian fellowship reinforces these things in our mind and helps us to focus on Christ and His desires and goals for us. As iron sharpens iron, in true Christian fellowship Christians sharpen one another’s faith and stir one another to exercise that faith in love and good works, all to the glory of God!

Our children need Christian fellowship also. Henceforth, Bethel Lutheran’s Sunday School Valentine’s Day Party. What pure JOY! We began with an indoor snowball fight. Criteria deciding whether a team was offensive or defensive was based on correct answers to questions about the 7 miracles in the Gospel of John which we have been studying for several weeks.

We also watched the movie, “Little Boy” which is about believing in miracles and the Power of God.

We ate pizza, popcorn, candy, and brownies, and...oh yes, fresh vegetables! (Smile.) Thanks to Brooke, Brittany, and Pastor Kent for helping out, and to the Bernards for bringing extra kids!

By the way, our Sunday School has grown! Yaay Jesus! We have varied ages, from 5 to 14. It’s like a one-room schoolhouse!

Because of this, I REALLY need people who can help out. One person per Sunday for now. I do the opening, show video, summarize lesson, lead an activity. What I need is for someone to do a craft with the younger kids while talking to them about the lesson. While contemplating this, please remember that you are planting “seeds” of hope and faith for a future generation! This is important business!

Speaking of future, our Spring curriculum will include New Testament heroes like James, Paul, Peter, and John the Baptist, to name a few. We will take a couple of Sundays to study and celebrate Palm Sunday and Easter.

God Bless you all, BIG and little, and be filled with the JOY of your salvation!

1 Peter 1:8-9, Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Rebecca Wallace

Worship Assistant Schedule for March--Worship Service 9:00 am

	March 7	March 14	March 21	March 28
USHERS				
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner			
ALTAR GUILD	Rachael Redman			
ACOLYTES	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann	Evan Palmer	Ava Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Sherry Brouwer Dale Krohn		Sherry Brouwer Dale Krohn	

February Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
Sunday, February 7	33	\$136.50	\$1,915.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, February 14	31	\$117.50	\$1,297.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, February 21	Pastor was ill; church services were canceled.			\$0.00	\$0.00
January 1-February 21, 2021		\$836.47	\$11,202.25	\$0.00	\$0.00

March Birthdays

5 – Jim Lupkes
 6 – Abigail (Knock) Hamilton
 7 – Ben Frieling
 7 – Ruth Zacharias
 11 – Ian Muller
 20 – Dennis Gerloff
 20 – Cindy Simon
 26 – Carol Chapman
 27 – Lee Aalfs
 31 – Michelle Rients

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March Anniversaries

5 – Bruce & Cindy Simon (39)
 12 – Bill & Irene Senne (60)
 17 – Bill & Jackie Hager (20)
 20 – Jim & Eileen Lupkes (55)
 24 – Randy & Connie Luhring (37)

March 2021 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3 6:00 pm Lenten Service (attendance required for Confirmation students) 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	8	9	10 6:00 pm Lenten Service (attendance required for Confirmation students) 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	11	12	13 SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD ONE HOUR BEFORE BED
14 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Church Council	15	16	17 6:00 pm Lenten Service (attendance required for Confirmation students) 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	22	23	24 6:00 pm Lenten Service (attendance required for Confirmation students) 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Palm Sunday/Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	29	30	31			

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of March 7 – Terry & Darla Drewelow, Lee & Pat Van Hauen, Arlo Williams & Sandra Briggs, Randy & Janelle Gorter, Carol Warneka

Week of March 14 – Kory & Deb Walters, Jeremy & Jennifer Buss, Klint Knock, Blake Carolus, Dennis Muller

Week of March 21 – Lance & Kim Marlette & family, Taylor & Brittany Buss & family, Dennis & Karol Ellermann, Joel & Diane Buss

Week of March 28 – Roger & Doralene Renken, Darwin & Peggy Miller, Mitchell Olson, Jeremy & Brooke Paulson & family