

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

August 2020 BEACON

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP will be available on the Bethel Facebook page starting Sunday, August 2.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

Summer moves way too fast! Even this Summer...the weirdest Summer on record!

What a year 2020 has been. Nothing has gone the way we planned. Our routines have been broken and our traditions have been set aside. But guess what? We are still here!!!

Here we stand on the threshold of another school year and Fall program at church. So, let me share some thoughts.

Hebrews 10:23-25 Says:

Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful! And let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, NOT FORSAKING OUR OWN ASSEMBLING TOGETHER, as is the habit of some. But encouraging one another, and all the more as we see the day (of Jesus' coming) drawing near.

This time of isolation has taught me a very strong truth. It is nearly impossible to BE THE CHURCH without meeting together!

I am glad that we are back to holding live worship services since the first Sunday in May! We have had as many as 45 in worship with our average running between 25-30. While that is less than half of our regular attendance, it is a testimony to our community that we are not afraid!! We have opened up a new ministry with our video worship services and should have the ability to LIVESTREAM our services on our Facebook page by the time you read this newsletter.

We fully support and respect the fact that a great many of our regular attendees fall into the high-risk group and must exercise special care in protecting themselves. That is why we encourage that masks be worn by those with such concerns. We have plenty of room (especially in the front rows) for all the social distancing you would like!

As such, we are going to resume normal congregational life this Fall!

We will meet for both worship (9:00 am) and Sunday School (10:30 am)

We will provide Livestream or video replay of our worship for those who cannot yet attend in person.

We are going to have a 1-day VBS/RALLY DAY on Saturday, September 12! It will be outdoors with a circus theme, a Big Top with "wild animals", clowns, concession tents, and fun for all ages.

We will have Confirmation orientation on Wednesday, September 16 at 6:00 pm and class every Wednesday night thereafter.

We will have Adult Bible Class every Wednesday at 7:30 pm and Sunday at 10:30 am.

We will be here, running at full speed, whenever you feel safe enough to rejoin us!!

Pastor Kent

July 12, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the August Council meeting)

Present: Allen Redman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Dale Krohn, Greg Carolus, Marilyn Ingalls, Kyle Rice, and Pastor Wallace

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

Devotions: None

Approval of the Agenda: No additions. Motion was made, seconded & approved.

Approval of the June Minutes: Motion was made, seconded & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dudley will check on payments to Wells Fargo, CenturyLink, and Visa. Motion made to accept, seconded, & approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace advised that Rebecca plans on having Bible School on September 12. Confirmation orientation will be on September 16th with class every Wednesday night after that. The LCMC gathering has been reduced to 1 day. The meeting has been scheduled for October 5th from 10:00 AM until 6:00 PM in the St. Paul, Minnesota area. Discussion on the Pastor visiting the shut-ins and the difficulty in doing so because of COVID-19.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting. Devon Bernard attended camp, but the week was shortened because of a positive test of the COVID-19. Devon was quarantined and tested negative. Gavin will be attending Village Creek Bible Camp in Lansing, Iowa this week, but has not found out whether or not the camp is going to be held.
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting
3. Property Committee: No meeting
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting
5. Social Concerns: No meeting
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: The committee met and decided to ask the council for approval of sending Benevolence funds to AP Food Pantry, Lutheran Church Ministry, NE Iowa Food Bank, Friends of the Family, and MICA (Marshalltown tornado relief). A motion was made, seconded, and approved to send \$800.00 to each entity.

Correspondence/Bill Approval: None

Old Business:

1. Church Directory: No progress
2. Operation Cornerstone: Over \$8000.00 has been donated thus far. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to deposit proceeds from Operation Cornerstone into a separate account.
3. Mediacom update: Mediacom phone and internet will be installed in the church when Mediacom schedules us in.

New Business:

1. Pay Roll Protection Plan: Kyle advised that the completion of the PPP has been extended from 8 weeks to 24 weeks. The criteria may be changing again, so the council will hold off on any action.
2. Pastor's vacation time: The pastor advised that he has been at Bethel for about a year and hasn't used any vacation days (Sundays off) as of yet. The Pastor was advised that he needs to use his vacation. A discussion was had about Pastors that participate in pulpit supply. Pastor Wallace advised that he would notify the church council in writing when he requests vacation.
3. Masks in Church: Discussion about members wearing masks during the church service. Maybe more members would come back to Sunday Services if more people wore masks. The council decided that they would not require masks. Pastor Wallace advised that he will make a note in the Beacon that masks will not be mandated, but members should feel free to wear a mask if they feel more comfortable doing so.

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

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

When you receive this, it will likely be August!... Month # 8, of 2020!... We press on. Can we agree that this has been one of the strangest years of our lives? How has it affected you?

What about our kids? Some kids may think what's happening in our world is "normal" because they are so young. Some may have experienced parents being without work, anxiety and confusion about changing lifestyles. Some are not eating well. Some are sad and depressed. (The numbers are increasing.) Every day there are new reports of missing kids and youth.

My heart breaks for the kids and youth of today! Especially if they have never come to know Jesus as their Lord and Savior! Many of you wonder how you could ever have made it through the challenges of your life without knowing Him! I do too! Yet there are children in our community who have never heard. Some may have heard stories, but have yet to experience the reality of Jesus in their lives. Yes, the "fields are white"! (Read John 4:34-36)

What can we do, right here, right now?

First, let's segue to the last century, when "circus" meant, a big top tent, ringmaster, acrobats, animals, clowns, magicians, tightrope walkers, trained animals, and so much more! The performers made it look joyously and amazingly easy! But that was due to the non-stop hard work of "practice"! There was a lot of moving, packing, setting up, tearing down, and moving again! There were 2-3 shows daily, with rarely a day off. Circus performers had to be passionate, adventurous and courageous!

Consider the heroes of the Bible. Forever known because they lived passionate, adventurous lives and exhibited supernatural courage! Because of the challenges of the days we currently live in, we will portray this virtue and the great heroes of our faith who taught us, in the four hours of our "Big Top Bethel", VBS!

Deuteronomy 31:6: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you."

Having said this, we (Brooke Paulson and I) excitedly, passionately and with courage, announce:

"BIG TOP BETHEL"

A carnival/circus for "kids of all ages"! Where Jesus will be proclaimed!

September 12, 2020

1:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.

This will tentatively include, but will not be limited to:

Clowning 101: Become a clown for Jesus!

The BIG TOP TENT: where we will present FUN Bible Lessons and ACTS of all kinds, including HOMETOWN CLOWNS, Lion taming (yes!), Elephant antics, and MORE!

Carnival Tents, including:

- 1) Pop Bottle Ring Toss
- 2) Balloon/Dart Toss
- 3) Squirt Gun/Moving Target
- 4) Ducky Pond
- 5) Fortune Teller (Prophecy/Scripture)
- 6) Bearded Lady

(cont.)

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little! (cont.)

7) Prizes (There will be many prizes.)

8) Face Painting (Yes, we'll be safe.)

9) Disc Drop/Clown Toss (No, we aren't tossing the clowns! LOL!)

AND #10) THE "pièce de résistance": OUR OWN HOMETOWN MAYOR OF PARKERSBURG: PERRY BERNARD, IN THE DUNK TANK!!!!

We'll have a roaming BALLOON TWISTER and "Pop-Up" contests like bubble gum blowing and hula-hoop twirling.

AND, We'll have a "FOOD TRUCK" (Actually The Mennens' motor home) where we'll be serving: Popcorn, Hot Dogs, Snow Cones, Lemonade...

As you might imagine, we have some needs!

STUFF:

~Pop-up tents to borrow

PEOPLE:

~Tent managers

~Refreshment servers

~Face painters

~CLOWNS (TO BE TRAINED, Kids of all ages, NO SCARY CLOWNS)

~Costume wearers (Lion, Elephant, & maybe a dog.)

~Helpers for CLOWNING 101

~Ticket Booth

~Set up Saturday a.m.

~Tear down Saturday p.m.

~Poster makers

So, please pray and invite your grandchildren,... invite ALL the children you know to attend this event!

And PLEASE pray about how you can be involved in this! We want to bless our community!... and glorify Jesus!

Rebecca Wallace

Usher Schedule for Remainder of 2020

The Church Council has set up the following usher schedule for the remainder of 2020. If you need a replacement, please call Dennis Gerloff at 319-415-6818 or Greg Carolus at 319-859-5151.

Dale Krohn	September 6
Jim Schwarz	September 13 & September 20
Jim Lupkes	September 27 & October 4
Terry Mennen	October 11 & October 18
Lee Rients	October 25 & November 1
Larry Chapman	November 8 & November 15
Perry Bernard	November 22 & November 29
Terry Drewelow	December 6 & December 13
Jeff Johnson	December 20 & December 27

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

	August 2, 2020	August 9, 2020	August 16, 2020	August 23, 2020	August 30, 2020
USHERS	Bruce Simon	Bruce Simon	Steve Brouwer	Steve Brouwer	Dale Krohn
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard				
ALTAR GUILD					
ACOLYTES	Eliza Buss	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann	Ava Mann	Evan Palmer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Sherry Brouwer Jeff Jacobson		Sherry Brouwer Jeff Jacobson		

July Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
Sunday, July 5	24	\$142.00	\$2,163.00	\$0.00	\$6,725.00
Sunday, July 12	30	\$133.33	\$1,789.97	\$0.00	\$3,420.00
Sunday, July 19	36	\$71.83	\$1,761.47	\$0.00	\$4,363.00
Sunday, July 26	44	\$107.85	\$1,325.70	\$0.00	*\$9,000.00
January 1-July 26, 2020		\$3,877.60	\$70,969.50	\$250.00	\$23,508.00
*Matching funds = \$8,000 included in this figure)					

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of August 2 – Beth Van Lengen, Pat Rule, Leah Ingalls & family

Week of August 9 – Shirley Bergman, Steve & Sherry Brouwer, Jeff & Stacy Palmer & family

Week of August 19 – Randy & Connie Luhring & family, Benne Buss

Week of August 23 – Jean Scully, Michelle Stearns

Week of August 30 – Perry & Adrian Bernard & family

August Birthdays

5 – Taylor Buss, Desiree Tomkins	14 – Norma Dudley
6 – Mary Fink	15 – Diane Buss, Pat Van Hauen
7 – Connie Rule	17 – Devin Bernard, Mike Neisen
9 – Hope Tomkins, Rebecca Wallace	20 – Kyle Rice
10 – Ethan Allen, Kim Marlette	23 – Wayne Dudley, Ava Mann
11 – Kolbi Rice	24 – Courtney Frey
12 – Brenda Everts	27 – Rylan Paulson
13 – Ken Beckman, Mark Buss	29 – Sara Deike

August 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Church Council	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	17	18	19	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	24	25	26	27	28	29 Morgan Rahm/Nate Huffman wedding
30 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	31					

August Anniversaries

4 – Chris & Nina Sweeney (8)	22 – Ryan & April Schrage (11)
10 – Dave & Sharleen Hubbard (46)	25 – Dan & Kay Frey (36)
17 – Dale & Jennifer Hansmann (46)	30 – Joseph & Christina Edwards (6)
17 – Jim & JoAnne Schwarz (57)	31 – Bryce & Ruth Zacharias (46)
21 – Steve & Sherry Brouwer (49)	

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