

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

June 2020 BEACON

## When will it be safe to come back to Church?

One of my earliest memories is a Sunday afternoon at the gymnasium of Theodore Roosevelt Jr. High in Glendale, California. My Dad, Mom, brother Paul, Sister Pam, and myself standing in a quick moving serpentine line. Our goal was the procuring of a little white serving cup containing a "pink" sugar cube. It was so sweet I could barely swallow it! Mom and Dad made sure I swallowed every, last, crumb. Likewise, my little brother and sister. I was old enough to ask why and was told, "Polio!"

In the years to come I met several people who had contracted the polio virus. I marveled at the missionary pastor in a wheelchair who told us that Jesus would always be there for us even if we got sick! Then he reached down and picked up a leg at the knee and showed us how it would just swing back and forth. He invited us to touch the leg and discover how there was little to no muscle! He told us he had polio! I silently thanked God for the sugar cube!

What horrible fear there must have been before the discovery of a polio vaccine!! Yet, there was never any kind of shut down or national quarantine in the face of that virus.

At the beginning of March, I shared a post on my Facebook page which reminds us of all the things of which we were supposed to be afraid over the last 20 years! Here are a few reminders:

2000 Y2K was "gonna kill us all!" 2002 West Nile Virus... 2003 SARS virus... 2005 Bird Flu...

2006 E-Coli... 2009 H1 N1 Swine Flu... 2010 B.P. oil spill... 2014 Ebola Virus...

2015 Disney Measles... 2016 Zika Virus... Every time we feared the worst and every time it was nowhere near as bad as they predicted! But there will always be reasons to be afraid!

The reality is that the world is a dangerous place! No matter how careful you are!

So, the answer to my original question is simple... When will it be safe to come back to Church?

NEVER!!!

Going to church has never been a safe thing to do! Christians in India risk life and limb every Sunday as crowds of radical Hindus wait outside their meeting houses armed with 2x4 clubs. Christians in China risk arrest by authorities. Our LCMC partner churches in Viet Nam must change the location of their meetings each week or risk raids by the police.

None of these Christians are looking to die! All of them are very careful to exercise caution! But they have decided that the reward is worth the risk!

Now, we too must weigh the risk vs. the reward. The future of our church hangs in the balance. Video Christianity is not the same as meeting together! So, on the first Sunday of May we reopened for worship. When you are ready...we will be here!

Pastor Kent

## BLC Operation Cornerstone

In July 2020, Operation Bethel Lutheran Church Cornerstone will be launched. The cornerstone of any church is most importantly its people. Our Bethel Lutheran Church family needs a well-maintained building to call our church a home. The Operation Cornerstone planning committee plans to raise money for tuckpointing the church. The committee is hoping to raise \$30,000 before the work begins in the Spring of 2021. Prayerfully consider supporting this endeavor. More information will be included in the July Beacon.

## May 10, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the June Council meeting)

**Present:** Allen Redman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Sherry Brouwer, Greg Carolus, Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice, Pastor Wallace

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

**Approval of the Agenda:** Added tuckpointing and sanitizing the Church after services. Motion made to approve the amended agenda, second & approved.

**Approval of the April Minutes:** Tabled the April minutes due to the cancellation of the meeting due to the pandemic.

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Motion made, second & approved. Balance of \$74,384.51.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Wallace discussed problems with uploading the Sunday Services to the internet due to the slow uploading speed that is provided by CenturyLink. A decision was made to research the cost and internet speed that can be provided by Mediacom. Pastor Wallace advised that he visited with the shut-ins via telephone and that everyone seems to be doing well. JoAnne Schwarz said that members have asked if the Pastor could mention the names of the shut-ins, with their permission, during the service and report how they're doing.

**Ministry Team Reports:** No meetings held in April due to the pandemic.

### Other Discussion:

1. Greg Carolus has compiled a list of ushers that are willing to serve.
2. Discussion was held to research purchasing combination wafer and communion cups to be used during the pandemic. The Pastor said he had checked and they were back ordered.

**Correspondence/Bill Approval:** none

### Old Business:

1. The Pastor advised that there are no plans to restart confirmation until school starts again. There was a discussion about attendance issues.
2. Since Doralene retired, no one has volunteered to take her place. It was decided to put a notice in the next Beacon listing the job responsibilities.

### New Business:

1. Senior recognition is tentatively set for June 14, 2020. JoAnne will check with the quilters for quilts. Kolbi Rice and Ethan Allen are the graduates.
2. Tuckpointing: It was reported that Dan Frey was going to talk to Karr Tuckpointing about the possibility of postponing the work until 2021.
3. Cleaning and sanitizing the church after services was discussed. Allen Redman said he would talk to Terry Drewelow about wiping down the pews, door knobs, and other items as he sees fit to try and limit any exposure to the virus.
4. President Redman had a memo in regards to "Guidance for Spiritual and Religious Gatherings during the Covid 19" dated April 27, 2020.

Motion to adjourn, second & approve.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

## Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids!

Matthew 18:1-6

Who Is the Greatest?

18 At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 And calling to him a child, he put him in the midst of them 3 and said, "Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Whoever humbles himself like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 "Whoever receives one such child in my name receives me, 6 but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him to have a great millstone fastened around his neck and to be drowned in the depth of the sea."

Jesus Christ was attempting to teach his disciples to be humble (amidst other things). Though he called a child to himself as a perfect example, was He speaking of ALL those without power or status in the community of faith? The answer is "yes"!

Not only is it necessary to become a "little one" to enter the kingdom of heaven, but there is a dire warning for any who would lead these "little ones" astray. Throughout Matthew's Gospel, Jesus places a special burden on those who would be leaders in the community. Woe to those who, instead of embracing "little ones," cause them to stumble or lose their faith.

I see with utmost clarity what is expected of us as "Christians"!... If someone is weaker in faith than you, and by your sin, whether it be sin of omission or commission, you cause them to "backslide," there will be consequences!

There are many scriptures we like to avoid in the Bible! According to today's "politically correct" jargon, many of the scriptures would be labeled "unkind"!

We read in 2 Timothy 3:16: "All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness",...

Matthew Henry, renowned minister, theologian and writer of commentaries from the 1600s writes: "Children, when very young, do not desire authority (over others), do not regard outward distinctions, are free from malice, are teachable, and willingly dependent on their parents. Surely, we need to be daily renewed in the spirit of our minds, that we may become simple and humble, as little children, and willing to be the least of all. Let us daily examine our own spirits."

Prayer: Lord in these days of confusion, I pray that we would all develop a burning passion in our hearts for you, Our Father, and in Your Word which is our ONLY escape from tyranny!

And all God's Kids said... AMEN

~Rebecca

## Worship Assistant Schedule for June--Worship Service 9:00 am

	June 7, 2020	June 14, 2020	June 21, 2020	June 28, 2020
USHERS	Greg Carolus			
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD	Marilyn Ingalls			
LECTORS	Dan Frey	Julie Dudley	Diane Buss	
LITURGISTS	Dale Krohn	WOV	Bonnie Gerloff	
ACOLYTES	Eliza Buss	Evan Palmer	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Dale Krohn Kyle Rice		Dale Krohn Kyle Rice	

## May Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maint.
<b>Sunday, May 3</b>	22	\$280.50	\$3,089.50	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, May 10</b>	23	\$118.50	\$2,196.50	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, May 17</b>	21	\$84.00	\$2,006.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, May 24</b>	25	\$222.60	\$3,143.40	\$0.00
<b>January 1-May 25, 2020</b>		\$2,931.00	\$38,559.30	\$250.00

### Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

**Week of June 7** – Virgil Lindaman, Aaron & Angie Ellermann & family, Jay & Angi Herter & family

**Week of June 14** – Ken & Ranae Knock & family, Ken & Karla Beckman & family, Bill & Irene Senne

**Week of June 21** – Jeff & Stacy Palmer & family, Allen & Rachael Redman & family

**Week of June 28** – Matt & Nora Stahlhut & family, Faye Tuitjer

### June Birthdays

3 – Dale Krohn  
 5 – Henry Gerloff  
 5 – Sandi Shepard  
 6 – Dave Hubbard  
 7 – Lance Marlette  
 10 – Jackie Hager  
 11 – Merna Schrage  
 15 – Dennis Ellermann  
 18 – Bob Patterson  
 18 – Pastor Kent Wallace  
 22 – Natalie Spree  
 23 – Bruce Simon  
 23 – Nora (Mann) Balvanz  
 29 – Mystica Harreld  
 29 – Lindsey Hedrick  
 29 – Nancy Hemann

### June Anniversaries

8 – Kory & Deb Walters (36)  
 11 – Kyle & Mary Rice (26)  
 16 – Mark & Marilyn Buss (14)  
 17 – Larry & Carol Chapman (53)  
 22 – Terry & Janet Mennen (46)  
 23 – Lane & Eisha Luhring (2)  
 24 – Jay & Angi Herter (25)

June 2020 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:45 am Church Council	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	29	30				

### Quilting

The Aplington-Parkersburg Quilters have been making masks and gowns. Two hundred seventy masks and thirty-eight gowns have been sewn by the quilters. Fabric for the gowns were furnished by multiple people including Emergency Management of Butler County to be given to Nursing Homes.

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