

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

July 2020 BEACON

Operation Cornerstone

In this current day and age, phrases, words and expressions are used in a different context than many of us may be familiar. This is largely driven by social media and online communications. The definitions of today's modern-day vocabulary may be found in an Urban Dictionary. What happened to Merriam-Webster? Is a real dictionary in existence? Possibly it vanished like cursive, map reading or other subjects have from school curriculums.

However, some vocabulary and communications withstand the test of time and remain unchanged. Cornerstone is one of these words. It means foundation or anchor. The cornerstone of something is the basic part on which its existence, success or truth depends. Wow, the perfect buzzword for our faith, our church family and our church structure!! As Christians, our cornerstone is essential. We cannot build a relationship with God without it. God is our cornerstone and our anchor!

For devout Christians, the church building is where we express our beliefs and worship together. It must be maintained much like our faith or we fall apart and lose our relationship with God. The June Beacon referenced "Operation Cornerstone." This project is being launched in July 2020 and revolves around our goal of obtaining contributions and/or pledges totaling \$30,000 before the project launches in the Spring of 2021. It is important to note, all funds received and earmarked for Operation Cornerstone totaling \$7,500.00 from July 1 – July 31, 2020 will be matched by an anonymous donor. Please consider your ability to contribute in July which would allow us to secure the matching funds! Our aim is to collect these monies above and beyond the general offering. An envelope is enclosed for your use and may be mailed to the church or placed in the offering plate.

A sincere thanks for your consideration of financially supporting this project.

Anchored in Christ,
Operation Cornerstone Committee

From Pastor Kent's Desk

Is it really Summer? With the weirdness of the last 4 months there is a certain sense of disorientation that I am experiencing. We lost half of Lent. We missed out on Holy Week and Easter. There was no Spring Training and no Baseball opener. There are no Prom pictures on Facebook or Instagram. No spate of Graduation open houses.

The events which usually mark the passage of time are absent...so I find myself wondering what day it is. As we reopened for regular Sunday worship, I got back a certain sense of my weekly routine, but my June Birthday snuck up on me and flashed by with little observation or fanfare.

In place of the normal we have had riots, looting, quarantine, and isolation.

To exacerbate the matter, we are in a new setting, in a new town, where we had just barely started to get to know one another. Thus, we have felt like strangers in a strange land, with no familiar landmarks to orient by.

But it has turned us toward the only thing that never changes...JESUS!

(cont.)

From Pastor Kent's Desk (cont.)

It has caused me to re-evaluate the markers of my life. It has driven me to Scripture to refresh my understanding of the prophecies of the End Times. It has reminded me that I am to live in a state of constant readiness... for the day of the Lord will come like a Thief in the Night!

As we slowly return to normal and see our weekly Sunday attendance steadily climb back to pre-quarantine numbers, I know that I will have a different sense of what really matters. If the marker of my life is my weekly worship of Jesus, then He will be both my goal and my longing! I find myself strangely refreshed at 10:30 am each Sunday because I have been both in the presence of the Lord and in the company of His Saints. You need that as much as I do!

So, I look forward to seeing you back in worship as soon as possible!

When Jesus is our focus, the rest of life will assume its proper perspective!

Pastor Kent

June 14, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the July 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: Added Tuckpointing and Mediacom to Old Business. Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the May Minutes: Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Treasurers Report was not available

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace provided an update on shut-in visits. Discussed the status of members who are ill. Pastor advised that home visits are increasing as members get more comfortable to receive visitors. Conversation on music ministry. Pastor Wallace will continue playing the guitar during the services until the piano/organ players feel more comfortable to attend services.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting. Gavin and Devon Bernard will be attending Village Creek Bible Camp in Lansing, Iowa.
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting
3. Property Committee: The entry/exit kitchen door of the church and the east door to the parsonage that were recently replaced were inspected by installers and will be fixed. The property committee had a spring cleanup day where they removed tree branches behind the church and repaired gutters on the parsonage. It was reported that the outside water fountain is leaking, and the handicap accessible door opener needs to be repaired. The committee also advised that the outside air conditioning units are going to be moved.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting
5. Social Concerns: No meeting
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: Committee members won't be meeting until the second quarter, 2020 is complete.

(cont.)

June 14, 2020 Church Council Minutes (cont.)

Correspondence/Bill Approval: Letter from Lincoln Savings Bank in reference to the Payroll Protection Program.

Old Business:

1. JoAnne Schwarz gave a report on updating the church directory.
2. Individual communion sets will be arriving on June 15th. The congregation will use the communion sets on June 21st in the pews.
3. Mediacom installed internet, basic cable TV, and phone to the parsonage to replace CenturyLink. Mediacom will be installed in the church sometime this week or next. The change was made because the maximum upload/download speed of the internet provided by CenturyLink was not satisfactory.
4. Karr Tuckpointing reported that they will not be able to begin tuckpointing the church until the spring of 2021. Operation Cornerstone committee will attempt to raise funds to pay for the entirety of the tuckpointing before the work is completed. An anonymous organization has agreed to match funds up to \$7,500.00. One criteria of the matching funds is that the funds will have to be paid to the church during the month of July 2020 in order for the matching dollars to take effect.

New Business: None

Motion to adjourn, second & approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

I HAVE A DREAM!... OR IS IT A VISION?

Proverbs 29:18 says, "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." In other words, without a long-term plan... without a vision... people are doomed to "wander aimlessly," or be "scattered" to the wind!

Dreams? Visions?... What is the difference?

- Dreams are images or visions that come while in a state of sleep. They can be divinely inspired by God, or the enemy or ourselves.

- A vision is a spiritual revelation coming to an individual while awake. This revelation can come in the form of an open vision or a mental vision.

Whether dream or vision, they are Biblical, and powerful in the leading of where we should go... or where we shouldn't!

Throughout these last months, it's been difficult to put into action definite plans!

I had thoughts of completing our Sunday School year with a celebratory party, summarizing and rejoicing in what we had learned. The Bible Superheroes, left in the middle of the Old Testament were printed on Facebook.

I started visualizing what we could do for the summer... Perhaps two, one/half-day learning activities where we would invite all of the children of the community to come learn about Jesus, and have fun while doing it!

(cont.)

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

Things were still uncertain when our quarantine ended late May, regarding large gatherings. So, I began envisioning one gathering for Summer.

These past few days another surge of Covid-19 has entered our community.

“What should we do Lord”?

I am not without hope!!... and I continue to “see” children filling Bethel Lutheran Church! Children who are joyful in Jesus, who are not intimidated by talking about Him to their friends, or even by praying out loud in the company of one or more!

Therefore, at this time I am hoping for one gathering towards the end of August, maybe even early September. (3–4 hours max.) This would be a combination VBS (of sorts) and Rally Day for Sunday school where kids/parents might register for Sunday School 20/21.

Brooke Paulson and I have talked about ideas and have come up with a circus/carnival theme. Most all of our local celebrations have been canceled for the summer, so this seems perfect.

There would be a “big top tent” for Bible lessons, animals, and children sharing what they’ve learned, several other pop-up tents with games, and maybe even “Clowning 101” where kids can dress up, have their faces painted, and dig through scripture to create their own “schtick” for others to see! As a former (Christian) clown, I’ve done this several times and have found that Kids love it!

But to pull something like this off, I need your help. I understand that people may fear getting too involved due to time, energy, or work constraints, and I have learned to create smaller jobs.... Many hands lighten the load! I ENCOURAGE TEENAGERS TO HELP OUT!!

PLEASE let me know if you can get behind this “vision” in some way. What would be your “best” time? Please text me at 715-296-0796 and let me know what you can do.

At this time, I see possible needs for:

Prayer warriors

Food

People to man games

People to wear costumes (2-3)

Face painters

Registrars

Ticket booth

Prize table

PR (Distribution of flyers around the community.)

Set-up

Tear down

Pastor Kent has agreed to be the ringmaster!! Yaaay!!!

“Ladies and gentlemen, children of all ages, welcome to the greatest show on earth!... Where you will experience The Bible as you never have before!... Amazing! Stupendous!”... You’ll walk, you’ll talk, you’ll crawl on your belly like a reptile!... Come one come all!”

So prayerfully get behind the vision!... And imagine the sounds of children joyfully experiencing Jesus and his people, at Bethel Lutheran Church, Parkersburg, Iowa!

Rebecca Wallace

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

	July 5, 2020	July 12, 2020	July 19, 2020	July 26, 2020
USHERS	Jeff Jacobson	Jeff Jacobson	Dan Frey	Dan Frey
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard			
ALTAR GUILD				
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann	Gavin Bernard	Corryn Mann	Evan Palmer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Marilyn Ingalls Allen Redman		Marilyn Ingalls Allen Redman	

June Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maint.
Sunday, June 7	38	\$189.90	\$2,114.10	\$0.00
Sunday, June 14	35	\$82.50	\$1,492.50	\$0.00
Sunday, June 21	36	\$31.10	\$1,349.90	\$0.00
January 1-June 22, 2020		\$3,354.09	\$45,107.10	\$250.00

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of July 5 – Dale & Candy Krohn, Henry & Janice Gerloff, Sandi Shepard, Dave & Sharleen Hubbard

Week of July 12 – Lance & Kim Marlette, Bill & Jackie Hager, Merle & Merna Schrage, Dennis & Karol Ellermann

Week of July 19 – Bob & Lista Patterson, Pastor Kent & Rebecca Wallace, Shannon & Natalie Spree & Ethan Allen, Bruce & Cindy Simon

Week of July 26 – Josh & Nora (Mann) Balvanz, Brad & Lindey Hedrick & family, Dan & Nancy Hemann & Nate

July Birthdays

4 – Beth Van Lengen
 5 – Pat Rule
 6 – Leah Ingalls
 8 – Connie Luhring
 13 – Shirley Bergman
 13 – Steve Brouwer
 13 – Evan Palmer
 16 – Benne Buss
 24 – Jean Scully
 26 – Michelle Stearns
 29 – Stacy Palmer
 31 – Bella Bernard
 31 – Lorna Bernard
 31 – Randy Luhring

July Anniversaries

1 – Eric & Rebecca Simmons (3)
 8 – Terry & Darla Drewelow (43)
 10 – Jeff & Diane Johnson (44)
 13 – Justin & Tessa Matherly (7)

Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com
 Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
 'Like' & 'Follow' us on Facebook

July 2020 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	6	7	8	9	10	11
12 9:00 am Worship 10:45 am Church Council	13	14	15	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	20	21	22	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Adult Bible Class	27	28	29	30	31	

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.

Jeff Jacobson	July 5 & July 12
Dan Frey	July 19 & July 26
Bruce Simon	August 2 & August 9
Steve Brouwer	August 16 & August 23
Dale Krohn	August 30 & September 6
Jim Schwarz	September 13 & September 20
Jim Lupkes	September 27 & October 4
Terry Mennen	October 11 & October 18
Lee Reints	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