

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

March 2020 BEACON

Lent?

Wednesday February 26 was Ash Wednesday! We are officially in the Church Season of Lent. My hope springs eternal... but I fear I'll be disappointed again.

What I mean by that is that I always hope that folks will be motivated to show up at Midweek worship services planned around the theme of Repentance, reflection, Confession, forgiveness, and appreciation for the incredible gift of what Jesus has done for us!

But in the end ...for the last 20 years...I've been consistently disappointed!

Perhaps I have been spoiled by serving large congregations. Perhaps I am still influenced by a Father who made sure that our family was in attendance whenever our church doors were open for worship.

I remember full sanctuaries, deep times of teaching on the nature of Sin and the power of forgiveness! I remember having the chance to ask my pastor questions or plunge even deeper into Scripture. Wednesday night Lenten Services were an amazing change of pace.

Many are unaware that the 40 days of Lent... do not include Sundays!! Go ahead! Get your calendar and count each day from Ash Wednesday February 26 to the Saturday April 11, the day before Easter... skipping the Sundays... see??... 40 days!!

Same number of days Noah endured the rain on the Ark...

Same number of years Israel wandered in the Wilderness before entering the Promised Land!

Same number of days Jesus fasted in prayer before being Tempted and tested by the Devil!!

Lent is to be a time for us to slow down and simplify. A time to change our eating habits so that meal preparation takes less time... giving us more time for prayer!

But on Sundays we are to be reminded not to despair! Sundays, for the Christians, are ALWAYS EASTER!!! Sundays in Lent are not supposed to be depressing. On Sunday we still focus on the victory over Sin and Death through the reality of the Empty Tomb. So, I'll say it again, "EVERY SUNDAY IS EASTER...ALL YEAR LONG!!!"

Thus, the 40 days of Lent... are anchored by a stripped down and solemn Wednesday worship service. Those mid-week services are a deliberate discipline intended to elevate the sense of our slavery to Sin, our fear of Death, and the horror of the Cross. I would go so far as to say that without the 40 days of Lenten reflection, Easter can easily become nothing more than a celebration of Spring!

So, if you are a serious Christian who is grateful to Jesus for his Gift of Forgiveness...HOW CAN YOU SKIP LENTEN SERVICES??

But most of you will!

Unless... this article pierced your heart! See you in Church!!! Pastor Kent

Daylight Saving Time

The second Sunday in March of **2020** is when **Daylight Saving Time begins**. Please remember to set your clocks forward one hour before bed on Saturday night, March 7th.

February 16, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the March Council meeting)

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

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

Election of Officers: Jeff Jacobson volunteered to be the Recording Secretary. Motion made, second, and approved to nominate Allen Redman as President of the Congregation and Dale Krohn as Vice President.

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the January Minutes: Correction made in the January minutes. The council decided during the January meeting that the President of the Congregation and the Pastor would make the final decision on cancellation or postponement of Sunday services. Motion made, second & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer Report: Motion made, second & approved.

Pastors Report: Pastor Wallace summarized his progress in the first six months of his ministry at Bethel. Pastor Wallace also noted that he has completed first time visitations and has gotten more acquainted with members of the congregation. A discussion was had about current confirmation students not attending church, unless they are acolyting. The Pastor was aware of the issue.

Ministry Team Reports: Liaisons appointed.

1. Children & Youth: Marilyn Ingalls
2. Outreach & Fellowship: Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice
3. Property Committee: Greg Carolus, Jeff Johnson
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: JoAnne Schwarz
5. Social Concerns: Sherry Brouwer
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: Jeff Jacobson, Allen Redman

Correspondence/Bill Approval: Approved payment to the Parkersburg quilters for batting.

Old Business:

1. CD Player - Tabled. Dale and Michelle Krohn will be working with Sharleen Hubbard to make this purchase as soon as individuals can get together.

New Business:

1. Ash Wednesday Soup Supper - Motion made, second, and approved to not have the Ash Wednesday Soup Supper. Ash Wednesday Services will be held at 7:30 P.M. with Choir Practice at 6:15 P.M.
2. Lenten Service - Motion made, second, and approved to have Wednesday night Lenten Services at 7:30 P.M. and Choir at 6:15 P.M. Confirmation classes will not be held during Lent.
3. Tuckpointing funding - A discussion was held about fundraising to pay for the upcoming tuckpointing of the church. It was decided to emulate the fundraising committee from 2013, when we raised approximately \$35,000.00 to pay off a loan. It is expected to cost approximately \$31,000.00 to pay for the current improvements. Jeff Jacobson and Kyle Rice will chair the committee.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Superheroes for Jesus? ... OR: The Faith to DREAM BIG!

Merriam-Webster

Faith: allegiance to duty or a person: Loyalty, fidelity to one's promises, sincerity of intentions, acted in good faith, belief and trust in and loyalty to God. Belief in the traditional doctrines of a religion, firm belief in something for which there is no proof, complete trust.

Bible

Faith: Hebrews 11:1 (Living Bible) What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us, even though we cannot see it up ahead.

In a child's mind, he/she can become a superhero with just the donning of a cape and a mask. Dreaming is natural to a child. Nothing is out of reach. Faith is unquestionable. Believing in the supernatural, believing anything is possible is the way their mind processes. If they can imagine it, it can happen! They want to 'be' like their heroes! And their first heroes are their parents. They will develop the attitude we portray to them about everything.

A childlike faith is absolutely necessary for living in the kingdom of God. The Pharisees had complicated their faith with elaborate answers to simple questions. The "Rich Young Man" was trying to bargain with God in order to hoard his wealth. In this world of scheming and rationalizing, children approached Jesus with pure and simple faith.

If God's kingdom were about religion and rules, Jesus would have told the children, "**SEE... This is a Pharisee! ... Pharisees like many rules... Pharisees are like actors who put on a show... Be like a Pharisee.**"

Instead, the Pharisees are told to become like the children!

The more we complicate our faith, the greater the danger that we will become legalistic and hypocritical like the Pharisees. The greater our wealth and position, the greater the danger that we will make idols of these things instead of following Jesus. There is no other way to live and thrive in God's kingdom than with a childlike faith in Jesus.

Mark 10:

13 And they were bringing children to him that he might touch them, and the disciples rebuked them. 14 But when Jesus saw it, he was indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God. 15 Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God like a child shall not enter it." 16 And he took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands on them.

Sign up to visit Sunday School one Sunday, and be blessed like Jesus was!

Rebecca Wallace, Sunday School Director

Quilting

In the 2 months we have been quilting, we completed 58 and gave quilts to Cedar Valley Hospice of Waverly, Friends of the Family, Timothy Christian School Auction and one to Social Concerns for a total of 28 quilts.

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

	March 1	March 8	March 15	March 22	March 29
USHERS	Larry & Carol Chapman				
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard				
ALTAR GUILD	Rachael Redman				
GREETERS	Terry & Darla Drewelow	Dennis & Karol Ellermann	Henry & Janice Gerloff	Carol Warneka Shirley Cassady	Steve & Sherry Brouwer
LECTORS	Darla Drewelow	Lee Rients	Candy Krohn	Dave Hubbard	Steve Brouwer
LITURGISTS	Sharleen Hubbard	WOV	Dale Krohn	JoAnne Schwarz	Hymn Sing
ACOLYTES	Corryn Mann	Ava Mann	Eliza Buss	Gavin Bernard	Evan Palmer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Sherry Brouwer Allen Redman		Sherry Brouwer Allen Redman		

February Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements
Sunday, February 2	55	\$139.05	\$1,633.71	\$0.00
Sunday, February 9	NO CHURCH DUE TO ICY WEATHER			
Sunday, February 16	62	208.30	\$3,124.70	\$0.00
Sunday, February 23	66	\$188.40	\$2,515.60	\$0.00
Ash Wednesday, February 26	34	\$16.94	\$214.44	\$0.00
January 1-February 26, 2020		\$1,040.47	\$14,030.52	\$250.00

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of March 1 – Brad & Lindey (Buss) Hedrick & family; Greg & Blake Carolus; Sam & Ami Cordes & family; Shirley Cassady; Larry & Carol Chapman

Week of March 8 – Jeff & Angie Church; Zach Church; Brandon & Dara Dietz; Pam Dohrn; Lane & Eisha Luhring; Randy & Connie Luhring, Chelsie & Cameron; Vada Luhring

Week of March 15 – Jim & Eileen Lupkes; Tom & Sara Mann, Ava & Corryn; Josh & Nora (Mann) Balvanz; James & Sara Deike & family; Lance & Kim Marlette, Kaitlin & Erica

Week of March 22 – Terry & Janet Mennen; Sandi Shepard; Bruce & Cindy Simon; Kyle Simon; Aaron & Lori Simon, Jack & Max

Week of March 29 – Dale & Jan Stearns; Rex & Hope Tomkins, Desiree & Blake; Terry & Darla Drewelow

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
 28 – Harvey Peters
 31 – Michelle Rients

March 2020 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	2 2:00 pm Bingo, Allison Rehab. Center	3 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	4 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Lent Service Acolyte: Gavin Bernard	5 9:00 am Quilting	6	7 SET YOUR CLOCK FORWARD ONE HOUR BEFORE BED
8 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Children's Sunday School (No Adult Bible Class this Sunday) 10:45 am Church Council	9	10 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	11 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Lent Service Acolyte: Evan Palmer	12 9:00 am Quilting	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	16	17 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	18 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Lent Service Acolyte: Corryn Mann	19 9:00 am Quilting	20	21
22 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	23	24 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	25 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Lent Service Acolyte: Ava Mann	26 9:00 am Quilting	27	28
29 9:00 am Worship/Hymn Sing 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	30	31	1 (April) 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Lent Service Acolyte: Eliza Buss			

Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com
 Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
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<p>March Anniversaries</p> <p>5 – Bruce & Cindy Simon (38) 8 – Ted & Faye Tuitjer (61) 12 – Bill & Irene Senne (59) 17 – Bill & Jackie Hager (19) 20 – Jim & Eileen Lupkes (54) 24 – Randy & Connie Luhning (36)</p>
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