

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

## April 2020 BEACON

It's Friday...But Sunday's a comin'...

Can you believe this? Lent 2020 will live forever in the minds of those of us who experienced it. The old adage, "What are you giving up for Lent?" was never imagined to be answered by, "total contact with the outside world!!"

At this writing we are currently 9 days into our 15-day suspension of Bethel church activities. We plan to re-evaluate our situation, in conjunction with the national recommendations, on Monday March 30. My fondest hope is that we will be able to convene for Worship again on Palm Sunday April 5. Following that, we will have a communion worship on Maundy Thursday, a service of reflection on Good Friday, and a joyous celebration of Victory over Sin, Death, and the Devil on Easter Sunday April 12!!

However, there is a chance that those plans may have to be adjusted based on the circumstances of the day. We will keep you informed by every means possible. This newsletter will be the baseplate but stay tuned to your text messages, Bethel Lutheran Facebook page, or email. If you are at all confused, please feel free to call me at 715-296-0797 with any questions and I will do my best to give you the latest news.

This experience has highlighted our human vulnerability! In pioneer days folks lived day to day with a sense of vigilance for danger. They knew, only too well, how fragile human life can be. That awareness caused them to live with a reliance on the protection and blessings of Almighty God.

The incredible advancements in science and technology of the last century have understandably resulted in a sense of false pride and invulnerability. This mindset is behind much of the decline in Faith and Worship. But chaos and catastrophe drive people to their knees.

In 2001, the 9-11 attacks led to the highest Sunday attendance in America's churches since World War 2. But that has gradually diminished as the years have gone by. Now, here we are at another crisis point!

Thus, I expect church attendance to be high when we finally get the green light to hold public assemblies again. It's my job to keep the lines of communication open in the meantime and be prepared with a message of hope when we can finally be together again face to face.

We have been living in a darkness similar to that which those first disciples must have experienced from Good Friday afternoon through that first Easter Saturday night. The difference is that they had no idea what was coming that early Sunday morning...we do!

The Victory is ours! We know the outcome! Whatever happens to us now is only temporary!

It may seem like Friday afternoon.

Jesus may look dead as they take him down from the cross.

But Sunday is Coming!!! Are we ready?

Pastor Kent

## **March 8, 2020 Church Council Minutes**

(to be reviewed at the April Council meeting)

**Present:** Allen Redman, JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Sherry Brouwer, Jeff Johnson, Greg Carolus, Marilyn Ingalls, 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:** Motion made, second & approved.

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

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** Motion made, second & approved. Balance of \$60,945.79.

**Pastors Report:** Pastor Wallace reported that 5 or 6 children have participated in Sunday School since Rebecca Wallace has begun teaching recently. Marilyn Ingalls advised that she has heard positive comments from attendees. There was also a discussion about youth involvement in confirmation.

### **Ministry Team Reports:**

1. Children & Youth: Marilyn Ingalls - No meeting. Marilyn advised that Adrian Bernard has received information about upcoming Bible camps for youth.
2. Outreach & Fellowship: Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice - no meeting
3. Property Committee: Greg Carolus, Jeff Johnson - The window on the front door of the parsonage is cracked and needs to be fixed. The deadbolt on the outside entry/exit door to the church kitchen has not been replaced. There is a need to modify the inside door of the entry/exit door to the kitchen so it swings freely. The carpenter that made the installation will be contacted. A storm door has been installed on the kitchen entry/exit door.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: JoAnne Schwarz - The committee met and discussed the Lenten Services, Holy Week, and Easter.
5. Social Concerns: Sherry Brouwer - no meeting
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: Jeff Jacobson, Allen Redman - no meeting

**Correspondence/Bill Approval:** none

### **Old Business:**

1. Ushers - Members that have agreed to usher either verbally or signed up via the time and talent sheet will be assigned services to be responsible to usher. If a person or family who is assigned for a particular service is unable to do so, it is their responsibility to procure a replacement. Greg Carolus agreed to make the assignments.

### **New Business:**

1. RAGBRAI - Motion made, seconded, and approved to conduct a fundraiser the day that RAGBRAI visits Parkersburg. A chairman/committee was not established as of yet, but the subject will be broached during the Tuckpointing Fundraising meeting on March 11th.
2. Easter Breakfast - An Easter Breakfast will be hosted by the Church Council on Easter day. Breakfast will be held from 7:30 AM until 8:45 AM, with Easter Morning services beginning at 9 AM. Sherry Brouwer agreed to contact Diane Buss and be responsible for decorations and setup.
3. Possible change to Treasurer's Report. There was a discussion about additions possibly being made to the Treasurer's Report. The final product has not been completed, but will be presented for council approval upon completion.
4. Committee to check with employees: The property committee will talk to the janitor about setting the thermostats and lights in a timely manner before and after church. Motion made, seconded, and approved.

(cont.)

## **March 8, 2020 Church Council Minutes** (cont.)

5. Spring Cleaning (Inside and Outside) - An outside clean-up day was tabled until the April meeting. Pastor Wallace advised that he would mow inside the fence in the backyard of the parsonage. There was a discussion about the inside cleaning. It was decided that it was the janitor's responsibility to clean the inside of the church except the kitchen.

### **Other Business:**

1. Motion made, seconded, and approved that the April council meeting will be held on April 8th, at 4 PM.
2. There was a discussion about the fact that the funds to pay for Youth church camp should come out of the youth fund and not the general fund.
3. A discussion was held in regards to updating the addresses, phone numbers, and email addresses of all the church members. JoAnne Schwarz agreed to take care of this request.

Motion to adjourn, second and approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

## **Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids!**

By the time you read this, (or your parents read it to you) it will only be a few days until Easter Sunday!

Holy Week is the week before Easter. We begin with "Palm Sunday" (The Sunday before Easter). That is the Sunday that we wave Palm branches and sing or say "Hosanna, blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" (Matthew 21:9)

Later in the week is "Maundy (Mawn -dee) Thursday", when we remember the Lord's supper and Jesus' washing of the disciples feet. At the end of that service everything is removed from the altar in the front of the church. That is to remind us of Jesus being stripped by Roman soldiers prior to his crucifixion on the cross. (John 19:23)

The Friday after Maundy Thursday is called "Good Friday." It is the day we remember Jesus' crucifixion or death on the cross. It is usually a service of darkness and quiet. This is because after Jesus' death on the cross it became as dark as night in the middle of the day. (Matthew 27:45)

All of this leads up to Easter Sunday, which is a day of celebration for the Christian because Jesus won a great victory for us by defeating sin, death, and the devil! He lives forever with his father in heaven, and as a believer, we will someday live in heaven with him.

(1 Corinthians 15:57)

One way or another, whether we meet at church or stay in our homes, we WILL remember Our Savior, Jesus! I will also send a project to you that will be FUN, AND a "work of art"!... You'll see!



- Each child will need 2 egg cartons.

May Jesus bless you always!

Rebecca, Your Sunday School Director

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

	April 5	April 9, Maundy Thurs.	April 10, Good Friday	April 12	April 19	April 26
USHERS	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff	Dan & Kay Frey	Dan & Kay Frey	Dan & Kay Frey	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard					
ALTAR GUILD	Carol Chapman/Bonnie Gerloff					
ACOLYTES	Corryn Mann	Gavin Bernard		Ava Mann	Eliza Buss	Evan Palmer
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS		Jeff Jacobson JoAnne Schwarz		Jeff Jacobson JoAnne Schwarz	Jeff Jacobson JoAnne Schwarz	

### March Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maint.
<b>Sunday, March 1</b>	70	\$275.90	\$2,547.10	\$0.00
<b>Wed., Mar. 4 &amp; Sun., Mar. 8</b>	45/75	\$215.70	\$2,516.30	\$0.00
<b>Wed., Mar. 11 &amp; Sun., Mar. 15</b>	30/48	\$113.33	\$1,274.98	\$0.00
<b>March 18 – March 29</b>	0	\$103.50	\$2,161.50	\$0.00
<b>January 1-March 29, 2020</b>		\$1,748.90	\$22,530.40	\$250.00

#### Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

**Week of April 5** – Dennis & Julie Dudley, Ryan Dudley & family, Wayne & Norma Dudley, Joe & Christina Edwards & family, Angie & Aaron Ellermann & family

**Week of April 12** – Bob & Brenda Everts, Dan & Kay Frey & family, Ted & Fay Tuitjer, Lee & Pat Van Hauen, Beth Van Lengen, Leona Wallbaum

**Week of April 19** – Kory & Deb Walters, Lee Walters, Leah Ingalls, Jason Uhlenhopp, Carol Warneka, Arlo Williams, Sandra Briggs.

**Week of April 26** – George Miller, Darwin & Peggy Miller, Justin & Tessa Matherly & family, Dennis Muller & family, Kirk & Suzanne Neuroth & family, Mike & Penney Neisen, Jeff & Stacy Palmer & family

#### April Birthdays

- 1 – April Schrage
- 5 – Roger Renken
- 6 – Joyce Hoffman
- 16 – Julie Dudley, Chelsie Luhning
- 21 – Irene Senne
- 22 – Sharleen Hubbard
- 23 – Larry Chapman
- 27 – Lisa Luhning
- 28 – Pam Dohrn, Megan Luhning
- 29 – Becky Simmons

## April 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5 9:00 am Palm Sunday Worship/ World Hunger Sunday 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	6	7 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	8 4:00 pm Church Council 6:15 pm Choir	9 7:00 pm Maundy Thurs./ Holy Communion	10 7:00 pm Good Friday Service	11
12 7:30-8:45 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Worship/Holy Communion 10:00 am Coffee	13	14 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	15 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	16	17	18
19 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	20	21 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	22 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	23	24	25
26 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	27	28 9:30 am Ladies Bible Study	29 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 6:15 pm Choir 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	30		

### Easter Garden

With the uncertainty of worship services for April, we're not going to do the Easter Garden this year.

Email: [bethelparkersburg@gmail.com](mailto:bethelparkersburg@gmail.com)

Website: [www.bethelparkersburg.org](http://www.bethelparkersburg.org)

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### April Anniversaries

12 – Darwin & Peggy Miller (51)

26 – Jeremy & Brooke Paulson (12)