

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2021 BEACON

**LIVESTREAM WORSHIP** is available on the Bethel Facebook page.

## From Pastor Kent's Desk

### *Easter and April Fool's Day in the same week!?*

Occasionally, these two days occur close together. Each time that happens I am reminded of this connection!

When I met Rebecca in 1998, we were introduced by a mutual friend through the exchange of telephone numbers. The internet was in its' infancy, so email correspondence was only incidental to the getting acquainted process. Mostly, we talked on the phone and exchanged pictures by "snail mail"! The first pictures she sent me were of her in "Heavy Make-up." That is, she sent me pictures of herself as a character you met last year at Big Top Bethel, GIGGLES THE CLOWN!

As you have discovered, Giggles is a delightful person with a ready laugh! She is always upbeat because she's so happy in Jesus! She has a beautiful white face, big red lips, a humongous red nose, gorgeous lavender hair, and size 21 shoes! That was all I had to go on, with regard to this new lady in my life!!! (she says it was perfectly fair since I sent her "skinny pictures"!

Rebecca developed her Giggles the clown character during one of the most desperate times of her life. Nothing seemed to be going right for her and despair was about to overwhelm her. She plunged herself into the local community VBS and the material called for a clown... Giggles was born!

Giggles is a cosmopolitan clown! She has traveled to Russia, where she visited children in "iron crib" orphanages. A portrait of her with one of those babies hangs in the entry of Men for Mission International headquarters in Indianapolis, Indiana. She has been to India where she has ministered to the poorest of the poor in the streets. In North America, she has been to Wisconsin, Iowa, Texas, Minnesota, and Mexico. She led worship for a Regional meeting of the Church of the Brethren in Iowa where she headed a processional featuring dozens of little children in Clown make-up and garb. They entered the church to a song by the Contemporary Christian artist Michael Card. The song is called "God's Own Fool!". Here are the words:

*It seems I've imagined Him all of my life, as the wisest of all of mankind!*

*But if God's holy wisdom is foolish to man He must have seemed out of His mind.  
For even His family said He was mad, And the priest said, "A demons to blame,"  
So God in the form of this angry young man Could not have seemed perfectly sane!*

*When we in our foolishness thought we were wise  
He played the fool, and He opened our eyes.  
When we in our weakness believed we were strong  
He became helpless to show we were wrong*

(cont.)

***Easter and April Fool's Day in the same week!?*** (cont.)

*And so, we follow God's own fool  
For, only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable  
come be a fool, as well*

*So, come lose your life for a carpenter's Son! For a madman who died for a dream!  
Then you'll have the faith His first followers had, and you'll feel the weight of the beam  
So, surrender the hunger to say you must know, have the courage to say I believe  
Let the power of paradox open your eyes, and blind those who say they can see!*

*And so, we follow God's own fool  
For, only the foolish can tell  
Believe the unbelievable  
Come be a fool, as well*

It may seem like casting Jesus as “God’s own fool” is disrespectful or sacrilegious. But in fact, Jesus was not afraid to go against the flow or cut against the grain.

It is when the Church refuses to compromise with the trends of the world, and is called foolish, that it has its’ finest hour. We must not be afraid to seem the fool. For only those who fully surrender to Jesus can fully experience his joy!

Happy Easter! He is Risen! Pastor Kent and Rebecca “Giggles”

**March 14, 2021 Church Council Minutes**

(to be reviewed at the April Council meeting)

**Present:** Kyle Rice, Lane Luhning, Jeff Jacobson, Greg Carolus, Sherry Brouwer, Lee Rients, Dale Krohn, Jeremy Paulson, and Pastor Wallace

**Call to order** by President Rice, “In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

**Devotions:** Dale Krohn

**Approval of the Agenda:** Add to New Business #4, approval to use the kitchen and reception room. Motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded & approved.

**Approval of the February Minutes:** Motion to approve the February minutes, seconded & approved.

**Approval of the Treasurer’s Report:** The Treasurer’s Report was presented. The council was told that a collection agency for Personnel Concepts, Ontario, Canada, PBX: 800-333-3795 contacted the Treasurer, stating that two bills had not been paid or were missing. Further checking indicated that the collection agency found one payment (\$5.95), but still hadn’t received the second. The second bill was for around \$210.00. More inquires will be made before a second check is sent. Motion to approve the Treasurer’s Report, seconded & approved.

(cont.)

## **March 14, 2021 Church Council Minutes** (cont.)

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Wallace provided a written report on his activities for the month of March.

### **Ministry Team Reports: Liaison Council Member**

1. Children & Youth: No meeting - Jeremy Paulson
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting – Dale Krohn, Kyle Rice
3. Property Committee: No meeting – Greg Carolus, Jeff Johnson – Dan Frey will fix the light in the lower entry way. The committee was asked to contact Henry and Janice Gerloff to see if they will be mowing the church and parsonage lawns again this year.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting - Lee Rients
5. Social Concerns: No meeting – Lane Luhning, Sherry Brouwer
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: Allen Redman & Jeff Jacobson met and made recommendations for financial gifts to non-profits. Suggestions included Aplington- Parkersburg Food Pantry - \$500.00, Ronald McDonald House - \$500.00, Northeast Iowa Food Bank - \$500.00, LCMC Lutheran Disaster Assistance Fund - \$500.00, Food For The Poor - \$500.00, Heifer International - \$500.00, and, Lutherans For Life - \$500.00. A motion to approve the recommendations by the committee was seconded & approved.

**Correspondence/Bill Approval:** Bill from Terry Drewelow for cleaning supplies. Submit the bill to Julie.

### **Old Business:**

1. Secretary Position – Kyle Rice will meet with Pam Jacobson and have her create an advertisement for a part-time and paid secretarial position at Bethel. The ad will be placed in the bulletin, Beacon, and announced during church services. The job description for this position will stay the same as the adopted version of 2019. Hours and pay will be negotiable.
2. Internet improvements and/or live stream services – Lee Reints will investigate and make recommendations to the council in regard to improving the live stream and internet.
3. Summer Fund Raiser/RAGBRAI – A tentative date of June 19<sup>th</sup> was decided upon for a Hog Roast Fund Raiser to be held at Dale Krohn's residence. Dale advised that the Pork Producers may supply the meat. Thrivent may provide matching funds. RAGBRAI is coming thru town sometime during the week of July 25<sup>th</sup> and July 31<sup>st</sup>. Kyle will contact Amy Truax, chairman for the event for the city. Kyle will contact Amy to add Bethel's name on the list to provide food during the bicyclist stay in town.
4. Easter Breakfast – Sherry agreed to organize the breakfast before Easter services. Cinnamon rolls and coffee will be served from 8 AM until 9AM.
5. Authorize signers on bank accounts – Jeremy Paulsen and Dale Krohn will be authorized to provide signatures for banking issues involving Bethel Lutheran.
6. Pastoral Visits – Pastor Wallace provided a written report in reference to individuals and families that he contacted by phone during the last month.

### **New Business:**

1. Organist for Easter – Kyle Rice will contact Amy Truax to ascertain if she could play for Easter services. Other possibilities maybe Jill Pilner or Sharlene Hubbard.
2. Ministry teams expectations/Mission Statements – Jeremy and Dale will research the responsibilities and duties of the current committees and report their findings to the council.
3. Dates and times of Lenten Services – Maundy Thursday @ 6 PM, Good Friday service at 6 PM, and Easter services begin at 9 AM.
4. The council approved the reservation of the Kitchen and Reception room for Cameron Luhning's high school graduation celebration.

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved. Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer  
Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

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

	April 1, Maundy Thursday	April 2, Good Friday	April 4	April 11	April 18	April 25
USHERS	Bruce Simon	Bruce Simon	Dan Frey	Dan Frey	Perry Bernard	Perry Bernard
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner					
ALTAR GUILD	Carol Chapman/Bonnie Gerloff					
ACOLYTES			Gavin Bernard	Ava Mann	Evan Palmer	Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeff Jacobson Lane Luhring		Jeff Jacobson Lane Luhring		Jeff Jacobson Lane Luhring	

### March Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
<b>Sunday, March 7</b>	52	\$203.60	\$2,594.40	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, March 14</b>	37	\$128.20	\$1,593.80	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, March 21</b>	39	\$87.70	\$1,259.30	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>January 1-March 21, 2021</b>		\$1,508.07	\$20,420.65	\$0.00	\$0.00

#### April Birthdays

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

#### April Anniversaries

12 – Darwin & Peggy Miller (52)  
 26 – Jeremy & Brooke Paulson (13)

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 Website: [www.bethelparkersburg.org](http://www.bethelparkersburg.org)  
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April 2021 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 6:00 pm Maundy Thursday Worship/Holy Communion	2 6:00 pm Good Friday Worship	3
4 8:00 am Easter Breakfast 9:00 am Easter Worship/Holy Communion/World Hunger NO SUNDAY SCHOOL	5	6	7 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	8	9	10
11 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Church Council	12	13	14 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	15	16	17
18 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	19	20	21 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	22	23	24
25 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	26	27	28 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	29	30	

### Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

**Week of April 4** – Jim & Eileen Lupkes, Colton & Abigail (Knock)  
Hamilton

**Week of April 11** – Ben Frieling, Bryce & Ruth Zacharias, Ian Muller

**Week of April 18** – Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff, Bruce & Cindy Simon,  
Larry & Carol Chapman

**Week of April 25** – Lee & Kathy Aalfs, Lee & Michelle Rients