

# BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

May 2021 BEACON

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

## From Pastor Kent's Desk

Consider Jesus...

He came as a child...think about that...He didn't just appear as an adult!

He could have...but He didn't...He became a human the same way we do...He was born of a woman!

He was worshipped as a child... by the Shepherds...by Anna and Simeon...by the Magi...

He was amazing as a child...the elders marveled at His wisdom!

By telling us these stories of Jesus as a child, Luke and Matthew are telling us that Jesus values childhood!

But it does not stop there!!!

In Matthew 18 & 19, Jesus does two drastic things that set him apart from previous rabbis and prophets.

He takes a small child and places him in the middle of His circle of followers and says,

"Unless you are converted and become like children YOU CANNOT ENTER THE KINGDOM OF GOD!!

Whoever then humbles himself as this child, HE IS THE GREATEST IN THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN!

And whoever receives one such child in My Name, RECEIVES ME!!

But whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, IT WOULD BE BETTER FOR HIM TO HAVE A HEAVY MILLSTONE HUNG AROUND HIS NECK AND TO BE DROWNED IN THE DEPTH OF THE SEA!!!

Next, Jesus rebukes His disciples for turning away children as if they were a needless bother and says,

"Let the little children alone and DO NOT HINDER THEM...FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD BELONGS TO SUCH AS THESE!!!"

In light of these powerful and well-known events, how is it that so many congregations focus their attention on the needs of the adults while ignoring their children?

Having served in over a dozen congregations, I have been amazed to see how some treat the children as an afterthought while others treat them as "the future of the church"! In the former congregations, adults get first dibs and the Kids need to be satisfied with the leftovers! Predictably, those congregations are now struggling to survive. For they traded away their future to maintain the status quo!

Last September we hosted over 200 local children at our BIG TOP BETHEL VBS. As a result, the children of Parkersburg began associating our congregation with fun, coolness, and laughter. We followed that up with the ANGELS IN THE ATTIC Christmas program and filled our Sanctuary with family and visitors and put MERRY CHRISTMAS smiles on many faces.

These events showed us that Bethel Lutheran CAN be renewed and have a bright future...IF WE WANT IT!! Our yard and Sanctuary were nearly filled with visitors...but markedly missing were many of our regulars and stalwarts!!!

(cont.)

## **From Pastor Kent's Desk** (cont.)

On Sunday May 16 there will be another opportunity for us to show our children and youth how much we cherish them. Our worship that day will mark 3 life milestones. We will begin with presenting Bibles to 4 of our elementary Kids, Lorna, Bella, Stella, and Henry. We will follow that by honoring our graduating Senior, Cameron Luhring. Then we will hold the Rite of Confirmation for Gavin Bernard and Evan Palmer, followed by congregational communion served by our confirmands.

Your presence in worship that day will be a statement of your love and support for these young members of our Bethel Fellowship!! Filling our Sanctuary with members, family, and friends lends a big boost to the Spirit of the Day. There will be a cake and coffee reception in the Library immediately following the service. Stop by and congratulate each of them on your way out.

Do not underestimate the power of your presence and encouragement on our kids. Knowing that you care means the world to them! They ARE the future of our church!!

Pastor Kent

## **April 11, 2021 Church Council Minutes**

(to be reviewed at the May Council meeting)

**Present:** Kyle Rice, Jeff Jacobson, Greg Carolus, Sherry Brouwer, 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:** None

**Approval of the Agenda:** Add possible approval of a 2nd PPP Loan to new business. Motion to approve the agenda as amended, seconded & approved.

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

**Approval of the Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer's Report was presented by Julie. The interest rate on the two CD's that the church currently has were decreased to .052 % interest. The CD's will be renewed for a year if there is no action. Jeff has been in contact with a collection agency in reference to a bill from Personnel Concepts out of Ontario, Canada who sent us Labor Law posters that we aren't required to have. They claim that we owe them approximately \$210.00. According to the Better Business Bureau this company has had numerous complaints with similar circumstances. The council consensus was to dispute the charges. Motion to approve the Treasurer's Report, seconded & approved.

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

### **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 – Greg noted that Henry and Janice Gerloff agreed to mow the church and parsonage lawns again this year. The Oven range was replaced, and a new dishwasher is on order for the parsonage. Harken's Lumber has yet to replace or fix the east parsonage door. Greg agreed to contact them. The property committee is having a workday on Saturday April 24<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 AM. Members will receive a text reminder.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting - Lee Rients
5. Social Concerns: No meeting – Lane Luhring, Sherry Brouwer
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No meeting - Jeff Jacobson

(cont.)

## **April 11, 2021 Church Council Minutes** (cont.)

### **Old Business:**

1. Secretary Position – Kyle Rice presented an ad for a part-time and paid secretarial position at Bethel. Pay is negotiable. The ad will be placed in the bulletin, Beacon, and announced during church services. Motion to approve the ad was seconded & approved.
2. Internet improvements and/or live stream services – Lee Riens and Jeff Jacobson met with Kelly Eilderts who made recommendations in regard to the church 's streaming capabilities. A report will be provided next meeting.
3. Summer Fund Raiser/RAGBRAI – June 19, 2021 is the date of the Hog Roast Fund Raiser to be held at Dale Krohn's residence. Dale advised that the Pork Producers and Dale will supply the meat. Dale advised entertainment will include music and Karaoke and would like some participation from the youth to help with games. According to the paper, RAGBRAI will not be routed by the church, so participation by the church is not certain. Kyle will contact Amy Truax, chairman for the event for the city.
4. Ministry Team expectations – Discussion on the church's policy in reference to the ministry teams and what church member belongs to which committee. Dale will make some contacts to see who was on a committee in the past and/or present and compile a list. Suggestion that committees should meet before the council meetings providing input for the council.

### **New Business:**

1. Confirmation/Senior recognition – Confirmation for Gavin Bernard and Evan Palmer is set for May 16<sup>th</sup>. Also on the 16<sup>th</sup>, will be senior recognition and provide bibles to the youth that haven't received them yet.
2. Baccalaureate – Baccalaureate is scheduled at the Congregational Church. Pastor Wallace advised that he agreed to help if needed.
3. Review insurance - Sherry and Kyle will meet with Kevin Truax and review the Church and Parsonage insurance coverage.
4. CCB Renewal – See Bill Approval
5. Prayer Chain Procedure – Prayer Chain Procedure was discussed.
6. Keys to Office – Discussion of location of duplicate keys.
7. PPP Loan – Kyle advised that the first PPP Loan has not been forgiven as of yet and a 2<sup>nd</sup> loan can be applied for if needed. Kyle said that May 31, 2021, is the deadline to make that 2<sup>nd</sup> application. The consensus of the council was to apply for the second loan. There was a motion and a second to authorize Dale Krohn to sign for the 2<sup>nd</sup> PPP Loan. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

### **Help Wanted**

Bethel Lutheran Church is looking to hire an Office Secretary 10-15 hours per week with days and hours negotiable. A job description is available upon request. Contact Kyle Rice (319-939-1733) or Dale Krohn (319-529-0545) for more information.

### **Sunday School**

The last day of Sunday school will be on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will have an "End of Sunday School Party" with date, time, and activities to be announced.

In the next few weeks, we will be studying the "Twelve Disciples of Jesus."

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

	May 2	May 9	May 16	May 23	May 30
USHERS	Allen Redman	Allen Redman	Larry Chapman	Larry Chapman	Steve Brouwer
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner				
ALTAR GUILD	Shirley Cassady/Carol Warneka				
ACOLYTES	Evan Palmer	Gavin Bernard	Gavin Bernard Evan Palmer	Ava Mann	Corryn Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeremy Paulson Kyle Rice		Jeremy Paulson Kyle Rice		

### April Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone – Tuckpointing
<b>Sunday, April 4</b>	89	\$197.70	\$2,406.30	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, April 11</b>	41	\$104.50	\$1,685.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, April 18</b>	51	\$115.50	\$1,519.50	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Sunday, April 25</b>	36	\$108.00	\$1,582.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>January 1-April 25, 2021</b>		\$2,380.07	\$31,292.65	\$0.00	\$0.00

#### May Anniversaries

13 – Randy & Janelle Gorter (43)  
 17 – Dan & Nancy Hemann (24)  
 22 – Vern & Marilyn Ingalls (51)  
 27 – Dennis & Julie Dudley (43)

#### May Birthdays

5 – Angie Ellermann  
 8 – Kielinn Herter  
 10 – Emilie Herter  
 16 – Kelsie Knock  
 27 – Bill Senne  
 28 – Clayton Palmer  
 29 – Rachael Redman  
 30 – Faye Tuitjer

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May 2021 Calendar						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Easter Worship/Holy Communion/World Hunger 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	3	4	5 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	6	7	8
9 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School 10:45 am Church Council	10	11	12 6:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	13	14	15
16 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/Bible Presentation/Senior Recognition/Confirmation/Noisy Nickels 10:15 am Sunday School 10:15 am Reception	17	18	19 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	20	21	22
23 9:00 am Worship 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	24	25	26 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	27	28	29
30 9:00 am Worship	31					

### Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

**Week of May 2** – Ryan & April Schrage & family, Roger & Doralene Renken

**Week of May 9** – Dennis & Julie Dudley, Chelsie Luhring, Bill & Irene Senne

**Week of May 16** – Dave & Sharleen Hubbard, Larry & Carol Chapman

**Week of May 23** – Jerry & Lisa Luhring & family, Pam Dohrn

**Week of May 30** – Joyce Hoffman, Becky Simmons & family