

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

October 2020 BEACON

LIVESTREAM WORSHIP is available on the Bethel Facebook page.

From Pastor Kent's Desk

October is my favorite month of the year. The nip in the air. The fields ready for harvest. The diminishing daylight giving way to campfires. My dad, my brother, and my daughter Krista were all born in October. It's a month of celebrations.

For the last 16 years October has also revolved around our annual LCMC National Gathering. I haven't missed one since my first in 2004! Initially they were like a balm to a wounded heart. I had finally found my kindred spirits in the Lutheran Church! Every year, with only 2-300 people in attendance, was like a family reunion. But as LCMC grew so did the attendance at the Gatherings. Things became more impersonal and packaged. Crowds in the hallways and huge assembly rooms made chance meetings with friends more difficult. Often, when you did see them, you would only have time for a handshake or hug. Worse yet, some friends just stopped coming!! The absence of those friends blunted the joy of the gathering. Bigger is NOT always better!

This year the Gathering is in St. Paul, Mn. The pandemic and the Minneapolis riots have caused many to opt out. The normal attendance of nearly 1,000 people is now limited to 250 max. I wonder if there will even be that many people who show up. But Rebecca and I will be there and looking forward to the fact that there will be time and possibilities for reconnecting with old friends and making new ones. We really need this conference as Spiritual refreshment each year.

This reality affirms the most important lesson I have learned in the last 6 months. The power of a church body comes from the time we spent TOGETHER! Just like the parts of a physical body must be connected and touch each other to function, so the Body of Christ needs to be WITH each other to thrive!

Each week more and more people are returning to worship. The Bethel Big Top VBS was a giant encouragement to all who attended. The last two Sundays there have been kids in our Sunday School! We had our first Wednesday night Bible Study with 5 in attendance! Suddenly, I feel revived! I now know how much I need that fellowship and interaction.

You need it too! Even if at a safe distance. So, when you are ready, we look forward to the addition of your presence in our meetings and worship. You are missed!! Your absence is felt! We are the less without your presence! We know you need to be careful and we understand your concerns. Perhaps it is a comfort to consider that our system seems to be working! After 5 months of careful worship there has not been one case of the virus being contracted at Bethel. We no longer pass the offering plate. We skip the exchange of peace and the shaking of hands. Communion is continuous; social distancing is observed. Communion Assistants wear gloves and masks. Only they and you touch the elements!

We have done what we can. Only you can decide when to come back! Until that time...please call and check in. (715-296-0797)

Let me know what I can do to meet your needs.

We are the body of Christ!

Pastor Kent

September 13, 2020 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the October Council meeting)

Present: JoAnne Schwarz, Jeff Jacobson, Dale Krohn, Greg Carolus, Kyle Rice, Sherry Brouwer, and Pastor Wallace

Call to order by Vice President Dale Krohn, "In the Name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Devotions: None

Approval of the Agenda: Church Directory added to Old Business. Motion to approve the Agenda, seconded & approved.

Approval of the August Minutes: Correction on August minutes. Add to minutes that a motion was made to approve Jill Pliner as an Intern for Bethel Lutheran Church and monitored by Pastor Wallace, seconded & approved.

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Dudley presented the Treasurer's Report. Clarified that the new Money Market account for \$24,060.90 is the account holding funds for Operation Cornerstone. Motion made to accept, seconded & approved.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Wallace advised that Youth Sunday School started this AM and updated the success of the Carnival held on September 13th. Pastor Wallace advised that Confirmation orientation is scheduled to be held on Wednesday, September 16th, with confirmation classes continuing every Wednesday thereafter. Pastor Wallace stated that Intern Jill Pliner will preach on October 11th.

Ministry Team Reports:

1. Children & Youth: No meeting
2. Outreach & Fellowship: No meeting
3. Property Committee: No meeting. Discussion of needed electrical updates on the east church basement door, and the east entry door window of the parsonage has not been fixed. Greg advised that he would contact Dan Frey for the electrical work and Harken Lumber to fix the parsonage door window. Greg Carolus received an estimate to resurface the Church parking lot. Weicher's Construction's bid was \$1,459.00. Heartland Asphalt and Jones Brothers did not submit an estimate. A motion to allow Weicher's Construction to complete the project at the estimated price was made, seconded and approved.
4. Worship & Music Ministry Team: No meeting
5. Social Concerns: No meeting
6. Mission/Benevolence Ministry Team: No meeting

Correspondence/Bill Approval: A letter from Faith and Freedom Coalition. No action taken.

Old Business:

1. Confirmation update: A discussion was held in regard to the next Rite of Confirmation. Pastor Wallace advised that the next Rite of Confirmation would not occur until the Spring of 2021.
2. Church Directory: A discussion was held on the criteria for having a person's name listed in a new Church Directory. It was decided that everyone's name that is currently included in the Church Directory will remain in the new directory.

New Business:

1. Discussion on drive-up communion. It was decided that drive-up communion would be held on the 3rd Sunday of September and October and then reevaluated. Motion made, seconded and approved.
2. Kyle advised the Council that he is going to apply to have the PPP loan forgiven.

Motion to adjourn, seconded & approved.

Closing Prayers/The Lord's Prayer

Submitted by Jeff Jacobson, Recording Secretary

Hey Bethel Lutheran Kids – BIG or Little!

Today, Sunday, September 20, 2020 in Kids Sunday School, we talked about the Apostle Paul. Specifically, 1 Corinthians 4:10 "We are fools for Christ's sake, but you are wise in Christ! We are weak, but you are strong! You are distinguished, but we are dishonored." (Of course, we know that he was speaking to the Church at Corinth which had become so much like the surrounding culture, that it was hard to tell them apart.)

Have you ever wanted to be one of those fools Paul spoke of,... Christ's Fools?

Big Top Bethel was a perfect day to be a "Fool for Christ" wasn't it? Especially for the clowns!... or the grown men who donned the costumes of a pink tutu-wearing elephant, and a sweet, not-so-fierce looking lion! And dare I forget our muscleman, Samson, or our "gospel preaching" Ringmaster!... God bless you all!

But ANYONE who participated in "Big Top Bethel" ministered to those who came! You served! You loved! You laughed!

(In the New Testament, ministry is seen as service to God and to other people in His name. Jesus provided the pattern for Christian ministry!... He came, not to receive service, but to give it! Matthew 20:28; Mark 10:45; John 13:1-17).

Some of you served joyfully in the concession stand, some manned games; more importantly, you happily engaged children. You listened to multiple scripture recitations, and even though many of them were "Jesus wept," you cheered them on! There was the lady in the ticket booth who greeted everyone with tickets and a smile, ladies in the very popular "prize store" gave out over 400 prizes!! "Dan the Prophet" gave every child a scripture of promise. And to the pastor who provided our sound,... You rocked it!

Many people came, not quite sure what to expect. What they found was Jesus ~ FUN ~ Laughter ~ and Love!

They heard the Word of God; there were calls given for those who had never received Jesus and to those of us who had.

Yes, the God of all Creation wants to see US, exchange our puny faith for BIG, have the courage to grow His Kingdom, and to enlarge our witness! He wants us to realize that we can do all things through Him who strengthens us! (Philippians 4:13) ...He wants US to become Fools for Him!

It might mean putting on a clown nose just to bring a smile to someone's face; it might mean being brave enough to tell someone that God loves them so much that he sent his only Son, Jesus, to save them.

Yes, telling someone the truth about God while dressed in a clown suit, or being "His Fool" by having the courage to stand alone, might bring some teasing or laughter, or even make you feel a bit foolish at first. But being a "Fool for Christ" can save someone's life; AND it can change them,... forever.

To my precious Sister-in-Christ, Brooke, I thank you from the bottom of my heart, for "catching" this vision, for working so hard, for praying, for acknowledging the many miracles, for building me up when I was down, and for giving all the glory to God! I love you, and I can't wait until next year!

Rebecca Wallace

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

	October 4, 2020	October 11, 2020	October 18, 2020	October 25, 2020
USHERS	Jim Lupkes	Greg Carolus	Greg Carolus	Lee Rients
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jill Pliner			
ALTAR GUILD	Beth Van Lengen/Pam Jacobson			
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann	Evan Palmer	Eliza Buss	Gavin Bernard
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Jeff Johnson Kyle Rice		Jeff Johnson Kyle Rice	

September Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Parsonage Improvements	Operation Cornerstone - Tuckpointing
Sunday, September 6	30	\$103.83	\$1,279.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, September 13	51	\$57.83	\$1,090.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, September 20	34	\$100.83	\$2,077.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
Sunday, September 27	43	\$65.83	\$1,332.47	\$0.00	\$0.00
January 1-September 27, 2020		\$4,848.57	\$68,138.23	\$250.00	\$24,058.00

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

Week of October 4 – Jay & Angi Herter & family, Matt & April Kressley & family, Greg Carolus & family, Randy & Connie Luhring & family

Week of October 11 – Dan & Nancy Hemann & family, Jeff & Stacy Palmer & family, Rex & Hope Tomkins & family, Tom & Sara Mann & family

Week of October 18 – Sharon Knudson, Terry & Darla Drewelow, Bob & Lista Patterson, Joan Schuck

Week of October 25 – Randy & Janelle Gorter & family, Leona Wallbaum, Sam & Ami Cordes & family

BLCW NEWS

October is our annual Bakeless Bake sale to replenish the account so we can continue to keep the kitchen stocked with coffee and paper products. We also pay the quarterly fees for the Portals of Prayer and Christ in Our Home devotional booklets available for your daily devotions at home and buy flowers for the Graduates. The Bakeless Bake sale envelopes will be in with your Beacon. We will also have some envelopes next to the guest book in the Narthex. Please place your donation in the provided envelope and place it in the offering plate or leave it in the church office during the month of October. Thank you so much for your help and have a healthy and blessed fall season.

October Birthdays

5 – Sherry Brouwer
 6 – Vern Ingalls
 9 – Shirley Cassidy
 9 – Chad Redman
 9 – Kassi Rice
 12 – Candy Krohn
 15 – Adrian Bernard
 23 – Jeremy Paulson
 26 – Gavin Bernard
 26 – Darwin Miller
 28 – Dale Hansmann
 28 – Morgan Knock
 28 – Kaitlin Marlette
 28 – Ryan Schrage
 28 – Jim Schwarz

October 2020 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/ World Hunger Sunday 10:15 am Sunday School & Adult Bible Class	5	6	7 6:00-7:00 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 6:00-7:00 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 6:00-7:00 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 6:00-7:00 pm Confirmation 7:30 pm Adult Bible Class	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.

Lee Rients	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

October Anniversaries

6 – Dennis & Karol Ellermann (58)
 14 – Ken & Karla Beckman (42)
 17 – Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff (39)
 24 – Bob & Lista Patterson (5)

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 Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org
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