



**Pastors:**

**Jake Dyrhaug**

**Erika Buller**

# Bethel Beacon

♥ B E . T H E . L o v e

B E . T H E . L i g h t

**October 2020**

**Volume 56 Issue 9**

## **Bethel Lutheran Mission Statement**

*Bethel Lutheran Church is a community of believers called by God to invite all people into a living relationship with Jesus Christ, build them up in the faith, and send them out to be witnesses in word and deed to the gospel of Jesus Christ.*

*“I am so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers.” – L. M. Montgomery in “Anne of Green Gables”*

When I was a little girl, I was quite a bookworm. This surprises none of you, I am sure. I was enchanted by the tales of spunky, imaginative girls which, oddly, usually had red hair: Caddie Woodlawn, Pippi Longstocking, and of course, Anne Shirley from L.M. Montgomery’s “Anne of Green Gables.” I loved these books. Anne was a kindred spirit—her imagination always seemed to get the better of her, but her compassion and concern for others would triumph in the end.

A few years ago, Michael and I took a vacation to Prince Edward Island, Canada immediately after Holy Week. We found the Eastern shore of Canada to be breathtakingly beautiful, but largely closed until tourism and lobster season would begin. To our bad luck, all the things opened the week after we left. But we were determined to enjoy ourselves. And in each beautiful place, I imagined I could see this through Anne’s eyes, her sensibilities were all over. Almost like chasing her shadow through the sunshine.

At last we got to Prince Edward Island, the setting of the beloved books. We checked into our charming hotel and planned our trip to the fabled Green Gables the next day. I went to sleep that night sure I would finally catch a glimpse of the beauty and mystery of Anne’s world in the morning.

And then it rained. Like a lot. Turns out Prince Edward Island looks a lot like Wisconsin, but with an ocean around it. Rolling hills, lots of cows, open fields dotted with small forest patches. Nevertheless, we were determined. We would visit Green Gables. We would walk the Lover’s Lane. We would drive the Great White Way. We would sip raspberry cordial and be delighted. I was determined.

And then when we got to Green Gables, it was closed. We could roam the grounds, but it was very wet and very cold. To remember this trip I have a single photo of me, shuddering in my raincoat, knocking on the door but leaving disappointed.

I tell this story for this purpose. I want to know: what’s beautiful in your world right now? It’s too easy these days to be caught up in what is disappointing. Plans cancelled. Expectations not met. Friends feeling far away, even if they are just next door. Days and days on end with little hope in sight. Meanwhile folks are nasty and divisive to each other, in person, on the news, on social media. It’s not what we hoped for, it’s not what’s “normal”. What I want to know is: what is beautiful?

Anne Shirley taught me that there is something beautiful in every day, it just depends on how we look at the world. And this is not just blind optimism, it’s not fantasy. God did not make such a beautiful world for us to ignore it. God does not daily chase us with grace and mercy for us to be so occupied with navel-gazing that we miss this gift. I do believe God is revealed to us in beauty. Whether that be in a toddler’s laugh, the bright red of the turning maples, a phone call from a beloved friend, or an unexpected mercy which just drops in our lap. In a (COVID) season dripping with disappointments, God is still speaking through beauty to reveal the goodness and the redemption still moving, still active, still very much here. Will you take notice of this with me?

In Christ and in crisis,  
Be well,  
Pastor Erika



**“Drive-In Worship”** will continue through October, 2020 at 10 am in the NDSCS Football Field Parking Lot.

Ruby’s Pantry is looking for volunteers to help set up and distribute food between 4 & 6 pm on the following dates:

October 26                      November 23  
December 28

If you are interested in helping, please contact Inspiration Church at 218-643-8610.

Wahpeton Deli Cards are still available for \$35. Proceeds will help fund the National Youth Gathering. If you would like to purchase one, please contact Lisa Bassingthwaite and she will get one to you.

**Update from the Bethel Staff**—Due to all the construction-related activity in the building, the doors will be locked. If you need to drop something off, please place it in the mailbox at the northeast entrance. Call the office at 642-4472 if you need to schedule an in-person appointment.

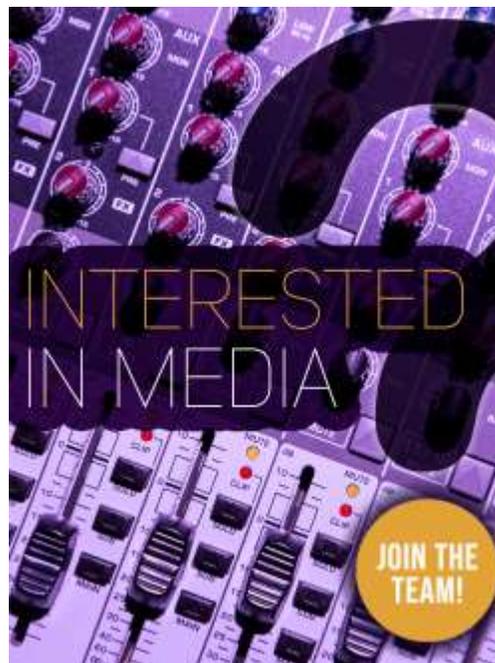
**Bible Study**—The “Pastors Buller” have returned to facebook.com/bethelwahpeton with Daily Devotions. They will be using each week’s lectionary text Monday through Thursday and will have “Viewer’s Choice” on Friday. Please contact us with scripture that speaks to you about hope/encouragement/struggle.

**Mask Making Mission**—We are collecting cloth face masks for NDSCS students. If you would like to donate some, please drop them off in the Bethel mailbox (NE entrance of the building) by October 23rd. If you have any questions, please contact Lois at 642-4472.

**Member Information**—If you have not received a letter from Bethel asking you to update your Household information as well as an information sheet for each person listed in your household, contact the Bethel Office. We would like to have the sheets with updated information returned to us by September 14, 2020 to the Bethel Office, by fax (701-642-2477), by phone (701-642-4472) or electronically to betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com.

**Communion / October 4 & 18**—Prepackaged communion kits will be distributed at the entrances of the NDSCS Football Field prior to service. Or, you can bring your own bread and/or juice.

**Baptismal Napkins**—We are looking for someone who can embroider (by hand or machine) the napkins we use for baptism. If you can do this, please contact the Bethel Office at 642-4472.



We are looking for individuals who could help with the sound board, Facebook Live videos, etc. Please contact Pastor Erika if you have questions or want to sign up.



8am-5pm      Monday-Thursday  
8am-3pm      Friday  
8am-11am     Sunday

**Contact Information:**

|                                   |                                        |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Phone: 701-642-4472               | Fax: 701-642-2477                      |
| Pastor Jake: 320-733-0257         | email: jdyrhaug@bethelwahpeton.com     |
| Pastor Erika: 952-454-6012        | email: ebuller@bethelwahpeton.com      |
| Lisa Bassingthwaite: 701-642-4472 | email: wschool@bethelwahpeton.com      |
| Lois Fenske: 701-642-4472         | email: betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com |
| Brian Finnie: 701-642-4472        | email: bfinnie@bethelwahpeton.com      |
| Joyce Johnson: 701-642-4472       | email: jjohnson@bethelwahpeton.com     |



## EMBRACING NEW BEGINNINGS!

Again, we continue with this theme as we attempt to make some sense of all the turmoil going on around us. How can we cope? Where is there hope? As with any challenge we face we can choose to face it and embrace it with courage and faith. Or we can choose to let it bring us down. As Christians, we lean towards embracing new beginnings with courage and faith. Isn't that what keeps us going each and every day? Change brings wisdom to our hearts and souls.

By now you should have received a letter regarding the fall campaign. Hopefully you enjoyed the bookmark. Please include Bethel in your daily prayers and consider giving generously when determining how to fill out the commitment card.

Whatever new beginning means to you, know that God is with us every step of the way and growth is around the corner. Allow yourself to dwell in the present moment, the one eternal gift of this life.

Bethel Stewardship Committee

*"Therefore if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here!"*

*2 Corinthians 5:17*

## *Embracing New Beginnings*

September 17, 2020

Dear Bethel Family,

**Newly remodeled sanctuary, classrooms and offices**—it is a time of embracing new beginnings at Bethel Lutheran Church. Think of the new ways we can do ministry together with an updated facility, making better use of the space in our church building!

Our 2020 Fall Stewardship Campaign theme is **"Embracing New Beginnings."** It is about supporting the ongoing ministry at Bethel, the ministry that has the building as a mission center. It is a matter of seeking God's vision for us as a congregation year-to-year and with an open heart and mind asking, "What does God want to do through me through Bethel Lutheran Church?" Whether it is supporting educational ministries or youth ministry or in seeking new ways we can extend outreach in our community and through global missions, our giving helps make those things happen. In this year of COVID also, it has been a very challenging year, and many may not be able to contribute as they would like. Even so, God is bringing us together in many ways to be a part of the new things happening in our midst.

Over the next few weeks, we will be invited to prayerfully consider what God is calling each of us to give for the mission and ministry of our congregation. Enclosed with this letter you will find a Commitment Card. We invite you to complete and return your **Commitment Card on October 4<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup>** at the parking lot worship service. If you would prefer, you can email your information to: [betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com](mailto:betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com). Thank you again for your generosity and willingness to watch and listen for the ways God is calling us to continue to **BE.THE.Love** in the midst of all the new beginnings!

**Board of Stewardship**

*"See, I am doing a new thing!" Isaiah 43:19*



**REMINDER: Bethel does not notify families of memorials given directly to the church.**

The Memorial Committee's main objective is to be the resource for any one person or group of people that would like to give a memorial, honorarium, or commemorate an occasion to Bethel Lutheran Church. It is the committee's responsibility to formulate a catalog of specific items, keep a record of all memorials and to acknowledge those that have given gifts.

If you have any questions regarding memorial items or wish to give a memorial item or honorarium please contact committee members: Bev McRoberts @640-8876, Luther Sannes@642-5140; or Reeann Enderson@640-4230

**Thank you to the members of Bethel for your continued support.**

| <b>In memory of:</b>      | <b>Given by:</b>                                     | <b>In memory of:</b>     | <b>Given by:</b>              |
|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <b>Bethel Choir</b>       |                                                      | <b>Endowment</b>         |                               |
| Linda Azure               | Christa, Justin & Mindy Azure                        | Yoshiko Tollefson        | Marilyn Anderson              |
| <b>Bethel Youth:</b>      |                                                      | <b>Faith Toolbox</b>     |                               |
| Linda Azure               | Christa, Justin & Mindy Azure                        | Linda Azure              | Christa, Justin & Mindy Azure |
| <b>Building</b>           |                                                      | Linda Azure              | Clark & Gail Williams         |
| Linda Azure               | Robert & Sharon Jokumsen                             | Yoshiko Tollefson        | Sonja Christensen             |
| Linda Azure               | Joan Bauch                                           | <b>General Memorial</b>  |                               |
| <b>Capital Campaign</b>   |                                                      | Linda Azure              | Gloria Dohman                 |
| Philip Bjerkager          | Clare Byron                                          | Linda Azure              | Wayne Braaten                 |
| Kenneth Skoog             | Connie Sletten                                       | Phil Bjerkager           | Lorraine Dronnen              |
| Yoshiko Tollefson         | Connie Sletten                                       | Yoshiko Tollefson        | Carla Sheeley                 |
| Yoshiko Tollefson         | Carol Schmidt                                        | Yoshiko Tollefson        | Gro Alliance-Breckenridge     |
| <b>Children's Library</b> |                                                      | <b>Quilting</b>          |                               |
| Linda Azure               | Rene Drevlow, Judy Walton, Jan Gniadek, Bruce Tingum | Arline Hudson            | Sharon Kotnour                |
| Linda Azure               | Mr. & Mrs. Jeffrey Foster                            | Inez Lunde               | Sharon Kotnour                |
| Linda Azure               | Christa, Justin & Mindy Azure                        | Linda Azure              | Holly Close                   |
| Linda Azure               | Henry & MaryAnn Loock                                | Linda Azure              | Esther Braaten                |
|                           |                                                      | <b>Wednesday School:</b> |                               |
|                           |                                                      | Linda Azure              | Frank Azure                   |



Our reading list for the next several months is as follows:

|               |                     |                     |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| October 12    | Giver of Stars      | JoJo Moyes          |
| November      | Children for Sale   | Jasper West         |
| December      | Xmas book of choice |                     |
| January, 2021 | Necessary Lies      | Diane Chamberlain   |
| February      | Last to Tell        | Immaculee Ilibagiza |

Next meeting will be October 12 at the Band Shelter but it was decided an afternoon meeting would be more comfortable because of the coolness in the morn. We will meet at 1:30 p.m. to discuss "Giver of Stars".

No word yet as to when we can get back to church for our meetings but we are hopeful it will be soon. Please remember all are welcome and we have changed our day of meeting to the 2nd Monday of each month.

*"Rainy days should be spent at home with a cup of tea and a good book."*



# OCTOBER

These are Bethel members known to have birthdays in October. If you have a birthday in October and your name is not listed, please contact the church office so we may update our church records.

## Birthdays

|                                                                                              |                                                                            |                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 10/01 Aurora Krump<br>Henry Loock<br>Darlene Schuler                                         | 10/14 Kiara Bassingthwaite<br>Roza Ter-Grigoryan                           | 10/25 Marilyn Anderson<br>Madison Bell                              |
| 10/02 Eric Rosenberg                                                                         | 10/15 Noah Hagelstrom<br>Tracy Peterson                                    | 10/26 Renee Speidel                                                 |
| 10/03 Gail Beech                                                                             | 10/16 Sylvia Likness<br>Amanda Lunsetter                                   | 10/27 Mia Aakre<br>Cale Gilbertson                                  |
| 10/04 Chad Johnson<br>Alexis McGarry                                                         | 10/17 Mallory Anderson<br>Cindi Facey                                      | Jacqui Mauch<br>McKenna Steeves                                     |
| 10/05 Austin Blair<br>Stephanie Hoefs<br>Marlene Jorgensen<br>Patrick Pithey                 | 10/18 Kasen Bernstein<br>Jonathon Stone                                    | 10/28 Arlene David<br>Christina Shockley                            |
| 10/06 Jesse Medenwaldt<br>Gerald Mohs                                                        | 10/19 Amy Adolf<br>Sherri Bernard<br>Rick Hendrickson<br>Lucy Spiekermeier | 10/29 Kallie Grefsrud<br>Chelby Ward                                |
| 10/07 Trevor Bernstein                                                                       | 10/20 Darin Anderson<br>Susan Bronson<br>Logan Dimmer<br>Judy Oren         | 10/30 Lataya Lunneborg                                              |
| 10/08 George Erickson<br>Katie Erickson<br>Patricia Hudson<br>Luke Kasowski                  | 10/21 Drew Cvancara<br>Laurie Stone<br>Vicki Trappen<br>Mary Vosberg       | 10/31 Anika Birkelo<br>Linda Grochow<br>Harvey Link<br>Debra Redman |
| 10/09 Claryce Byron<br>Chelsy Filbert<br>Janice Kilber<br>Tyler Mitchell<br>Cassandra Munter | 10/22 Wayne Klose<br>Logan Meyer                                           |                                                                     |
| 10/10 Kash Cookman<br>Brooke Wallace<br>Amy Welch                                            | 10/23 Alexis Brito<br>Justin Formaneck<br>Brittney Long                    |                                                                     |
| 10/11 Lisa Braun<br>Shelly Grueneich                                                         | 10/24 Jenna Bassingthwaite<br>Oscar Good<br>Isaiah Ibarra<br>Isabelle Wahl |                                                                     |
| 10/12 Ashley Broderick<br>Rowan Krueger<br>Sharon Wixo                                       |                                                                            |                                                                     |
| 10/13 Baron Bjore<br>Brittany Thompson                                                       |                                                                            |                                                                     |

# Bethel Youth & Families

**ALL WEDNESDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION STUDENTS NEED TO FILL IN AN ON-LINE REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ON OUR WEB-SITE!** ([bethelwahpeton.com/children-youth](http://bethelwahpeton.com/children-youth) choose Print or Online Version of 2020-21 Programming Authorization Form)

We will begin to offer streaming confirmation and Wednesday School lessons beginning Oct 14. Watch for more information on Facebook or through email or text messages.

We will attempt in person, in the church Wednesday programming once the church has finished its “day at the spa”, stay tuned.

## **10th Grade confirmation students!**

Confirmation will be October 25 for our 10th graders.

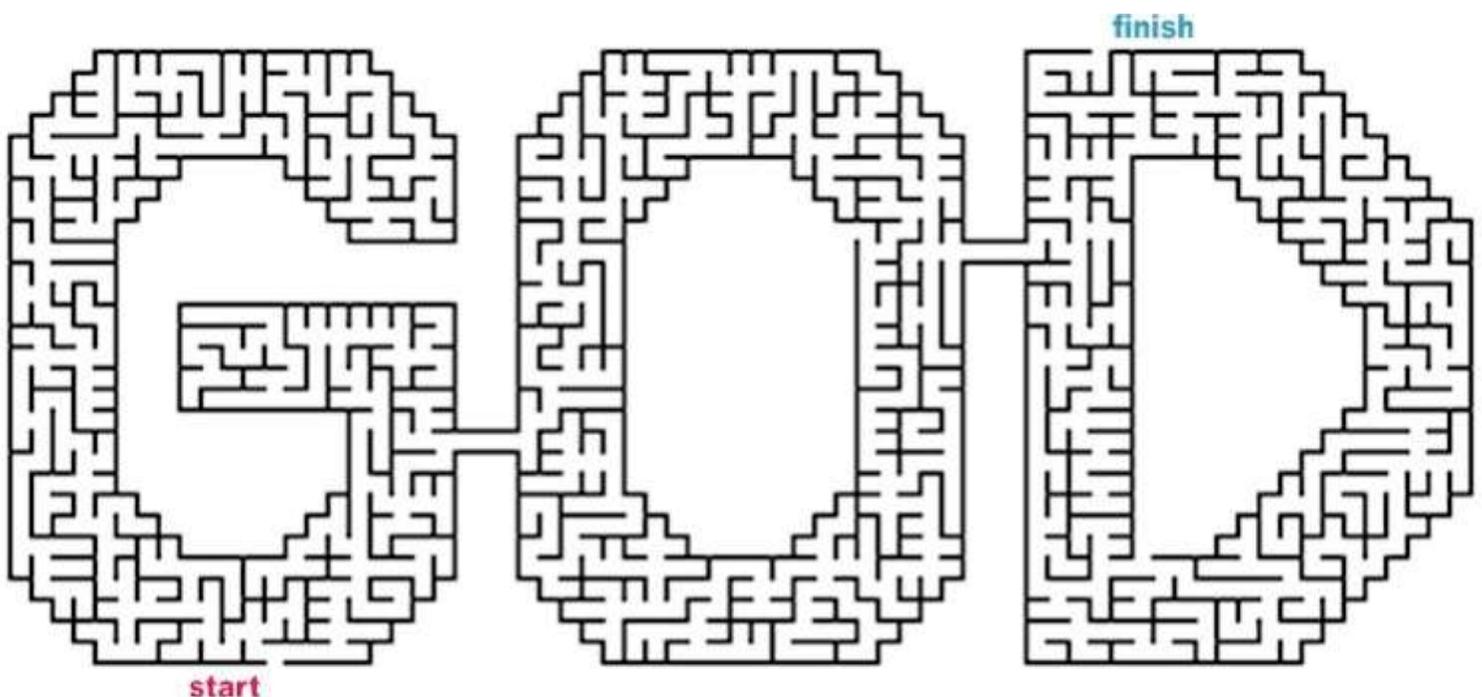
## **National Youth Gathering Information!**

After much prayer and consideration, the team working on The ELCA Youth Gathering had decided to postpone next summer’s ELCA Youth Gathering to 2022 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new date is July 24-28, 2022, in Minneapolis, MN. Youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration.

## **Fundraising opportunities to support the youth of Bethel!**

- † The youth going to the National Youth Gathering are willing to flamingo yards...what a great way to spread a little happiness when we are all stuck at home. Spend \$20 to flamingo someone else’s lawn.
- † We still have Wahpeton Deli Cards available for purchase. The cards are \$35!
- † Get your BE.THE.Love face mask \$12 a piece or two for \$20.

Contact Lisa on her cell phone, 701-899-2060 or at church if you would like to flamingo a yard, purchase a deli card or face mask.



**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES  
September 8, 2020**

**CALL TO ORDER** – Kelly Voss

**Roll Call**

|                                      |   |                                        |   |
|--------------------------------------|---|----------------------------------------|---|
| Kelly Voss                           | x | Cyndy Kolle, Board of Lay              | x |
| Kathy Johnson                        | x | Mike Bassingthwaite, Board of Property | x |
| Dee Jensen                           | x | Pastor Jake                            | x |
| Cindy Borchert                       | x |                                        |   |
| Erika Buller                         | x |                                        |   |
| Blake Peterson, Board of Outreach    | x | Guests:                                |   |
| Dana Kasowski Board of Education     | x | Brian Finnie                           | x |
| Linda Johnson , Board of Stewardship | x |                                        |   |

**SPIRITUAL DIRECTION** – Dee Jensen

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Cyndy moved & Dee seconded to approve. Motion carried.

**TREASURERS REPORT:** Mike moved and Dana seconded to approve. Motion carried.

| <b>2019</b>                   | <b>January</b> | <b>February</b> | <b>March</b>     | <b>April</b>   | <b>May</b>      | <b>June</b>     |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <i>Envelope offering:</i>     | \$36,498.48    | \$33,928.50     | \$30,378.50      | \$31,087.00    | \$26,194.00     | \$26,002.34     |
| <i>Income/Balance:</i>        | (\$7,171.10)   | (\$12,900.72)   | (\$28,732.36)    | (\$35,542.91)  | (\$25,781.41)   | (\$34,785.49)   |
| <i>Checking acct balance:</i> | \$1,710.47     | (\$4,019.15)    | (\$19,850.79)    |                | (\$32,746.00)   | (\$25,903.92)   |
| <b>2019</b>                   | <b>July</b>    | <b>August</b>   | <b>September</b> | <b>October</b> | <b>November</b> | <b>December</b> |
| <i>Envelope offering:</i>     | \$27,759.00    | \$23,724.00     | \$40,032.21      | \$34,791.00    | \$28,390.00     | \$64,524.05     |
| <i>Income/Balance:</i>        | (\$32,965.35)  | (\$7,214.33)    | \$21,380.28      | \$21,169.19    | \$1,666.92      | \$33,872.80     |
| <i>Checking acct balance:</i> | (\$24,083.73)  | \$16,095.90)    | \$30,261.85      | \$29,061.42    | \$10,548.49     | \$42,754.37     |
| <b>2020</b>                   | <b>January</b> | <b>February</b> | <b>March</b>     | <b>April</b>   | <b>May</b>      | <b>June</b>     |
| <i>Envelope offering:</i>     | \$28,480.00    | \$36,284.00     | \$34,073.00      | \$24,397.11    | \$29,192.00     | \$28,101.00     |
| <i>Income/Balance :</i>       | (\$13,438.91)  | (\$19,336.94)   | (\$20,267.87)    | (\$28,689.78)  | \$15,193.73     | \$10,725.30     |
| <i>Checking acct balance:</i> | \$29,315.46    | \$23,417.43     | \$22,486.50      | \$14,064.59    | \$57,948.10     | \$53,479.67     |
| <b>2020</b>                   | <b>July</b>    | <b>August</b>   | <b>September</b> | <b>October</b> | <b>November</b> | <b>December</b> |
| <i>Envelope offering:</i>     | \$21,512.00    | \$24,417.00     |                  |                |                 |                 |
| <i>Income/Balance:</i>        | (\$5,886.09)   | (\$16,313.71)   |                  |                |                 |                 |
| <i>Checking acct balance:</i> | \$36,868.28    | \$26,440.66     |                  |                |                 |                 |

## OLD BUSINESS:

1. Implementation team update
  - a. Most of the work should be done by the end of September, but not all of it.
  - b. Sanctuary should be done soon..
  - c. New lights and ceiling in the youth room have been added to the project.
  - d. Some things in the sacristy had to be replaced because of wet and mold.
  - e. There have been issues with the cabinets in the office area.
2. Procedure Audit from Julson: Joyce has met with Julsons and she received a few recommendations and was told that the way they are doing things looks good.
3. Worship discussion and communion possibilities:
  - a. We will continue using the parking lot at the NDSCS football field for worship through October
  - b. We will have only the 10:00 worship service until we are back in the Sanctuary.
  - c. If inclement weather, we could use the North end of Fellowship Hall for the Pastors and leaders and members would park in the church parking lot or view from home on the website.
  - d. Communion on September went well with one car bringing their own and there was a request for gluten free wafers.
4. Discuss volunteer coordinator:
  - a. Job description exists, but is old.
  - b. Step 1 would be to check out the need for this position and then create a new job description.

## NEW BUSINESS:

### 1. *Board Reports:*

#### **Board of Stewardship:** Linda Johnson

- \* Fall Campaign theme – “Embracing New Beginnings” and will take place October 4, 11 and 18.
- \* They are contacting people to give “Temple Talks” each of those Sundays.
- \* A mailing for the Fall Campaign will be sent out by September 21 with information about the campaign and will include a bookmark that they have designed and ordered.

#### **Board of Property:** Mike Bassingthwaite

- \* The North Dakota Economic Resiliency Grant application has been submitted.
- \* An assistant custodian, Levi Prochnow, has been hired.
- \* Brian has put in the window blinds in the office area.

#### **Board of Education:** Dana Kasowski

- \* Pastor Erika and Lisa are working hard on ideas for fall programming and how it will work.
- \* The National Youth Gathering has been moved to the year 2022.
- \* Adult Education is featuring “The Big Bethel Read” with books to read and discuss who is thy neighbor and how we are serving God.

#### **Board of Lay:** Cyndy Kollé

- \* Worship and communion plans were discussed earlier in the meeting.

**Board of Outreach:** Blake Peterson

\* Sonja Christensen attended and asked if the board would be willing to sponsor a card writing campaign to congregational members on special occasions. The board agreed to do this and provide the logistical and financial support.

\* “God’s Work, Our Hands” might have to be moved to the spring.

\* They will continue to work on the details for the fire victims supply and fund.

**1. *Virtual Synod Assembly Report:***

- a. Everything worked well and the technology worked well. There was a great cheer at the end when they stated, “All of this worked!”
- b. We elected a new Bishop, Tessa Moon Leiseth. She will be installed on October 31, 2020 at First Lutheran Church in Fargo at 11:00.
- c. The presiding Bishop made a point of being a part of the assembly and help to make it dynamic.

**2. *Staff Retreat Update:***

- a. They had wonderful food and played a fun “Icebreaker” game at Lisa’s house.
- b. They have chosen to set up the calendar plans by month – September will feature “Community, October “New Beginnings” and so on.
- c. They were able to set their goals for the year.

**3. *Other:***

- a. We now have a Zoom account for Bethel Church. The boards will be sent information for setting up their Zoom meetings.

Board Reports – each board email minutes to Bethel office to review prior to Planning Council meeting.

***Dates and notables:***

Summer Worship will continue being held at the NDSCS parking lot through October.

“Big Bethel Read” – check the Beacon or Facebook for information

A weeklong clergy workshop is available on racial justice

Our new Bishop, Tessa Moon Leiseth will be installed on October 31, 2020

October is “Stewardship Emphasis” month

Closing with the Lord’s Prayer

Spiritual Direction October – Pastor Erika Buller

Next meeting October 13, 2020

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Borchert, Secretary/Treasurer