



Bethel Beacon

Pastors:

Jake Dyrhaug

Erika Buller

♥ B E . T H E . L o v e

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

February 2021

Volume 57 Issue 2

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.

Dear Bethel friends,

The great prophets from Liverpool used to sing, “All you need is love” and also “Love is all you need”. Lots of things have been written and sung about love. In music, in movies, and in our Scripture as well.

The other famous Paul, the apostle Paul once wrote a letter to the church in Corinth about this topic of love. Which is kind of true; when Paul wrote a letter to the church in Corinth, most of the letter we know as 1 Corinthians was about the deep conflicts and cultural divides which were severing this newly formed Christian community. They were floundering as they were trying to figure out who and what was at their center. Paul write addressing lots of very particular statements about their conflict and by the time we get to the 13th chapter, you know the one you hear at weddings, Paul has worked himself into a bit of a tirade state – emphatically telling them explicitly what love is and what love is not. When I read this, I imagine him yelling. Maybe jumping up and down a little bit. He’s really worked up because the Corinthians really are not understanding what it is to love each other, to belong to one another and to belong to Christ.

So it is in that same spirit, we enter into Lent this year with love on our mind. Our theme for this Lent is “Love in Quarantine”. We will focus on the discipline it takes to actually love our neighbors and to belong to each other. We will also embrace the difficulty of this time—there’s a challenge to love each other when we are also told to stand 6 feet away, to put up a physical barrier, and to distrust each other’s carefulness. We will ask: “No really, what does it mean to love each other?” How do we faithfully live into the call of love?

I imagine we will, like the people of Corinth, have to wrestle with this a bit and not settle for easy answers. Lent rarely gives us easy answers. Lent points us always to the cross and the empty tomb, which are, of course, the answer of love God has for our greatest longings and our greatest needs.

Dear friends, we were made to love. May we be up to the challenge that calling has on our lives in these odd times knowing God is leading us to still greater understanding and still greater love.



Because like the Beatles say, “All you need is love. Love is all you need.”

Be well,

Pastor Erika

Love in Quarantine

2021 Lenten Worship Services

This year for Lent, our theme is “Love in Quarantine.” Because of the current pandemic, instead of meeting at the church on Wednesdays, we are inviting everyone to join us for an online Lenten service each week at 6:45 p.m. The service will be posted on the Bethel website at www.bethelwahpeton.com and also our Bethel Lutheran Church Facebook page and on our YouTube channel.

We are inviting everyone also to come by the church and pick up a kit to bring home available by February 7, 2021. In the kit will be items and activities for each week to provide for an awesome at-home Lenten experience. We will be talking about how to BE.THE.Love in a time when we have been more isolated, some in quarantine. We read about the true nature of Christ-like love in all circumstances in I Corinthians 13:1-13. This chapter is often called the “Love Chapter” of the Bible, with those well-known words at the end, “So faith, hope, love abide, these three, and the greatest of these is love.” Jesus taught us to love one another as he has loved us, and he finally journeyed to the cross to give his life for us out of the greatest love for all.

February 17 *“Burying the Past”*

February 24 *“Love Is Patient*

March 3 *“Love Does Not Envy”*

March 10 *“Love Is Not Rude”*

March 17 *“Love Does Not Rejoice in Wrongdoing”*

March 24 *“The Love of God”*



Special Dates

African-American History Month



Transfiguration Sunday, February 14, 2021

Valentine's Day, February 14, 2021

Presidents Day, February 15, 2021

 Ash Wednesday, February 17, 2021



Are you/your family being quarantined due to Covid-19? Please let us know so we can provide prayer and support. Call the office at 642-4472 or email us at: betheloffice@bethelwahpeton.com.



Why we lament

In 2020, the coronavirus pandemic struck America during the middle of Lent, a season associated with deprivation. Some people made light of the shutdowns, joking, “I didn’t mean to give up this much for Lent!” Others asked why the suffering was occurring in the first place.

Professor N.T. Wright, in an essay for Time, explains that asking “why?” but receiving no answer is key to biblical lamenting. Adding to the mystery, he says, is that God also laments — grieving at the wickedness of humans, despairing over Israel’s unfaithfulness. Jesus cries at a friend’s tomb; the Holy Spirit groans in anguish. “Part of the Christian vocation,” Wright concludes, is not being able to explain why but lamenting instead. “As the Spirit laments within us,” he says, “so we become, even in our self-isolation, small shrines where the presence and healing love of God can dwell. And out of that there can emerge new possibilities ... new hope.”

The parable of the lost ring

Only three years after Paula and Joe Walter married, her wedding ring was lost as she played catch with their son. Naturally, she was heartbroken. Over the years, whenever family and friends gathered in the back yard, she urged everyone to look for the ring — but to no avail. Because the yard borders on woods, Paula feared the ring had flown into the trees, never to be seen again.

But just before the couple’s 40th anniversary, landscapers hired to do work in the yard brought her a surprise: They’d found the ring — right where Paula had been playing with her child so long ago! Like the woman in Jesus’ parable who finally found her lost coin (Luke 15:8-10), Paula rejoiced. God too searches until every person who has strayed or been flung away from the faith is found.

Sometimes the place we rediscover faith is right where we’ve looked before. What makes the difference? A different person helping us search? Light shining in a different way? We may never know. We simply rejoice — and so does God.

—Heidi Mann

Celebrating love

For 80 years, a couple in Ecuador was an exceptional example of marital love. Julio Cesar Mora Tapia, 110, and Waldramina Maclovia Quinteros Reyes, 104, were wed on February 7, 1941. Until Julio’s death last October, they were reportedly the world’s oldest married couple. Their large family includes nine great-great-grandchildren!

Good News Network recounts: “Julio Cesar fell in love with Waldramina’s beauty, her conversation, and her big heart.” Meanwhile, she found in him “a poet with a young spirit.” The couple says the formula for a lasting marriage is “love + maturity + mutual respect,” as well as patience, compassion and hard work.

That calls to mind Paul’s words, often read at weddings: “Love is patient and kind; love does not envy or boast; it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrongdoing, but rejoices with the truth” (1 Corinthians 13:4-6, ESV).



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.

| In memory of: Given by: | | In memory of: Given by: | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| Bethel Choir: | | General Memorial: | |
| Dave Engstrom | Jeff and Steph Beyer | Dave Engstrom | Coleen Krohn |
| Bill Bair | Greg and LaRuth Buboltz | Ralph Oehlke | Doug and Judy Peterson |
| Capital Campaign: | | Irva Sederstrom | Judy McDaniel |
| Linda Grochow | Nicole Grochow | Arline Hudson | Wilbur and Connie Caspers |
| Irva Sederstrom | Blake and Tracy Peterson | Doug Hudson | Wilbur and Connie Caspers |
| Irva Sederstrom | Gail Williams | Praise Band: | |
| Clark Williams | Eric and Julie Rosenberg | Dave Engstrom | Blake and Tracy Peterson |
| Clark Williams | Paul and Char Oehlke | Dave Engstrom | Greg and LaRuth Buboltz |
| Ralph Oehlke | Paul and Char Oehlke | Quilting: | |
| Bill Bair | Paul and Char Oehlke | Irva Sederstrom | Carol Anderson |
| Faith Tool Boxes: | | Angie Juven | Bev McRoberts |
| Irva Sederstrom | Henry and Mary Ann Look | | |



Since you get more joy out of giving joy to others, You should put a good deal of thought into the happiness that you are able to give. Support your local non-profit organizations.

Bethel Stewardship Committee

Christian symbol—Fountain

A fountain, or well, symbolizes Jesus, our living water. Jesus told the Samaritan woman at the well that everyone who drinks the water he gives will never thirst again. It “will become in them a spring of water gushing up to eternal life,” Jesus said (see John 4:14, NRSV).



Living Lutheran: Davey and Goliath

For many children of the 1960s and 1970s, it was a familiar scene: Sunday-morning sunlight pouring in through the window as they sprawled on the living room floor. From the TV, a voice bellowed: “Oh, Da-a-a-vey.” The voice belonged to young Davey’s talking dog, Goliath, in the stop-motion animated series *Davey and Goliath* that premiered 60 years ago, in February 1961. Some audiences knew of its connection to the Lutheran church, but for millions of people around the world today, Lutheran or not, *Davey and Goliath*’s legacy continues. *Living Lutheran*’s feature story “An Animated Anniversary” lifts up what the iconic series did for the church and includes a timeline of milestones and quotes from Lutherans about what the series means to them. (“Congratulations, *Davey and Goliath*, on 60 years of not only entertaining children but showing love and grace and heart.”)



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

FEBRUARY

02/01 Kari Cvancara
Emily Devries
Brynn Ehlers
Michael Grefsrud
Sharon Humble
Linda Kocher
Charlene Oehlke

02/02 Jacob Goltz
Pam Hendrickson
Jaden Zaun

02/03 Richard Opoien
02/04 Thomas Bernotas

02/06 Bjorn Birkelo
Roy Hofmann

02/07 Brady Grefsrud

02/08 Alyssa Amos
Kevin Berger
Harriet BJORKE
Laikyn Mauch
Autumn Rossow

02/09 Sharril Birkelo
Kyler Flack

02/10 Ryan Hoefs
Cohen Lovik
Isaac Prochnow

02/12 Medora Good

02/13 Darci Eggen
Joann Ham

02/14 Kijia Homes
Aaron Stone

02/15 Mike Munter
02/16 Alvin Eckre

Wyatt Meyer

02/17 Josh Berg
Tenley Hills

Bailey Long
Brian Uhlich

02/18 Lisa Bassingthwaite
Sonja Christensen

Karen Pausch
Caitlyn Pithey

Brittany Scott

02/19 Deborah Loberg
Felisa Mastel

Donna Sherven

02/20 Jake Dyrhaug
Jessica Mastel

Carter Miller
Ryland Pauly

02/22 Mark Long

02/23 Corbin Cornelius
Ashlyn Johnson

02/24 Gregory Buboltz
Maggie Hendrickson
Shannon Herman

02/25 Eric Christianson
Michael Kemmet
Joncy Mastel
Catherine Prochnow

02/26 Johnica Bernotas
Myron Braun
Kelsey Darwin

02/27 Matthew Berger
Jay Townsend

02/28 Jace Johanson
Lori Meyer
Lyla Rendon



8am-5pm M-Th
8am-3pm Fri
8am-11am Sun

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Pastor Erika: 952-454-6012

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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

Bethel Youth & Families

ALL WEDNESDAY SCHOOL AND CONFIRMATION STUDENTS NEED TO FILL OUT AN ON-LINE REGISTRATION FORM FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE! Go to the Bethel Website to the drop down menu under ministries and click on children & youth.

Christian Education Update:

Wednesday school bags are available. They include materials for January 13, 20, 27, and February 3. Stop by the church to pick one up and join us each Wednesday on Facebook in the Wednesday School Group. All are invited to join. We will be adding the Wednesday school videos to our YouTube channel soon.

Confirmation Information:

The 6th, 7th and 8th grade confirmation classes continue meeting via zoom. Remember to be doing your sermon notes (6th grade needs 10, 7th grade needs 12, 8th grade needs 15). Sermon notes are due to me by April 15. Our sermon note form can be found on Facebook in the confirmation corner and our website www.bethelwahpeton.com when you go to the website on the top of the page you will find a drop down menu line. Go to “Ministries” and then go to the drop down menu “Child & Youth Ministry” you will find the sermon note paper there. You do NOT need to send a copy of the paper, just answer the questions, and email your answers to: sermonnotes@bethelwahpeton.com

Thank you to all the 9th graders and their families who attended the informational meeting. Here is a recap of the information we presented:

January—Focus on the “So you have to write a faith statement...” worksheet.

February—Read the book of Mark. We will be posting links to help you get through the reading in the confirmation corner group. Meet with your mentor twice! Send Lisa a selfie of the two of you 701-899-2060.

March—You will need to attend one of two movie nights which includes discussion after the movie. Movie dates are March 10 at 6:30 and March 21 at 6:30.

April—Time to put your faith statement into action! You will also need to schedule a confirmation interview with Pastor Jake, Pastor Erika or myself. Interview times will be posted closer to April.

National Youth Gathering Information!

We will be holding another Drive-In Bingo on February 14 at 3:00 in Bethel’s north parking lot. Watch for more information to come.



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. This will be for youth who are in 8th to 12th grade at the time of registration.

As always if you have questions/ suggestions/concerns, contact Lisa on her cell phone (701-899-2060) or at church.

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
PLANNING COUNCIL MINUTES
January 12, 2021**

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 Dyrhaug | x |
| Cindy Borchert | x | | |
| Pastor 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 – Dana Kasowski

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

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

| 2019 | January | February | March | April | May | June |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| <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) |
| 2019 | July | August | September | October | November | December |
| <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 |
| 2020 | January | February | March | April | May | June |
| <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 |
| 2020 | July | August | September | October | November | December |
| <i>Envelope offering:</i> | \$21,512.00 | \$24,417.00 | \$30,922.00 | \$35,612.50 | \$36,528.07 | \$38,103.81 |
| <i>Income/Balance:</i> | (\$5,886.09) | (\$16,313.71) | (\$24,151.70) | (\$29,462.09) | (\$31,833.64) | (\$33,268.40) |
| <i>Checking acct balance:</i> | \$36,868.28 | \$26,440.66 | \$18,602.67 | \$13,292.28 | \$10,920.73 | (\$20,514.03) |

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Implementation team update:
 - a. There are still some things that need to be taken care of.
 - b. The chairs are in the sanctuary (about 200 right now, with spacing)
 - c. Lois is now in her office.
 - d. The cabinets are in the sacristy.
 - e. Left over cabinets have been used in the youth room.
 - f. The height of the altar is 2'6" – may need to make it taller.
 - g. Soundboard training is coming soon.

2. Worship discussion and communion possibilities:
 - a. Pastor Jake and Kelly met to put together guidelines for the type of worship we will have based on the county risk levels. Wearing of masks is subject to CDC and ND health guidelines. We will let staff decide the number and times of services. Blake moved and Mike seconded to accept these guidelines. Motion carried. These will be posted on the website and on the doors of the building.
 - b. We will resume in-person worship on January 24, 2021 at 10:00 am. Pastor Erika will put together an announcement regarding this decision.
 - c. The Theme for Lent is "Love in Quarantine". There will be weekly kits provided with prayers, instructions, a multi-generational lesson in a bag to be picked up at church or can be delivered.
 - d. There may be in-person services during Holy week.

3. Annual Budget:
 - a. Discussion on the Annual Budget for 2021 included:
 - i) Assistant Custodian needed with COVID and the new building
 - ii) Capital Campaign amounts included loan payments
 - iii) This sets a goal of faith and is visionary for growth in the future
 - b. Mike moved to present this budget to the congregation and Dee seconded it. Motion carried.

4. Nominating Committee:
 - a. New Board members are:
 - i) Board of Property: Keath Borchert and Lara LeKang
 - ii) Board of Outreach: Lori Pithey and Julie Carlson
 - iii) Board of Education: Dana Anderson and Mary Vosberg and one more
 - b. Outreach and Education need chair positions. Kathy and Dana will meet with these boards and make a plan for that to happen.
 - c. They are also looking for ideas for leadership training.

5. ICON – technology access:
 - a. Tabled for next meeting.

6. Audit Committee:
 - a. Carla Sheeley and Dale Formanek will continue on this committee for one more year and Sheila Dolan will join the committee for a three year term.
 - b. Dana moved and Cyndy seconded to appoint these people to the audit committee. Motion carried.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Board Reports:

Board of Stewardship: Linda Johnson

- * They are winding up their activities from the fall campaign.
- * They are planning to do a “Fill the trunk” event each month throughout the year.

Board of Property: Mike Bassingthwaite

- * The new video system id paid for by the Endowment Board.
- * They feel good about the new board members.

Board of Education: Dana Kasowski

- * Wednesday School bags have been very well received and are considered to be successful.
- * There will be another “Drive-In-Bingo” on February 14, 2021.
- * there will be a confirmation meeting next week.

Board of Lay: Cyndy Kolle

- * Advent Bonfire was poorly attended.
- * The Drive By “Live Nativity” was a blast. They are considering expanding it for next year with times from 4 to 6 pm and maybe have hot cider or hot chocolate.
- * Christmas Service had plenty of music with lots of variety. Maybe next year have some in-person and some virtual services.

Board of Outreach: Blake Peterson

- * They were busy getting kits together for quarantine outreach and then it dropped off. They have figured out an easier way to do this for future needs.
- * The mail outreach continues.

2. Lenten Theme:

- a. Lent 2021: Love in Quarantine
 - i. February 17: “Burying the Past”
 - ii. February 24: “Love is Patient”
 - iii. March 3: “Love Does Not Envy”
 - iv. March 10: “Love Is Not Rude”
 - v. March 17: “Love Does Not Rejoice in Wrongdoing”
 - vi. March 24: “The Love of God”
- b. Each Board and Executive Committee will select a week to be the presenters for each service.

3. Continuing Resolution for Annual Meeting:

- a. Dana moved and Blake seconded that we adopt Continuing Resolution: C10.01A20 that will allow us to have a virtual annual meeting. Motion carried.
- b. The Resolution states: This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.
- c. This is a short-term solution and we may need to change our constitution to update it to include this item.

1. Other:

- a. The annual meeting agenda was presented and approved.
- b. Kelly presented a draft letter regarding the annual meeting and zoom practices. Pastor Erika will check with the Synod about how to register for Zoom.
- c. The letter will be sent to all confirmed members. If you don't get an email or letter, call Lois at the church office.
- d. Encourage all board members to attend the annual meeting.

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

Dates and notables:

February 9, 2021 - TBC group will start meeting in our Centennial Room

February 14, 2021 – Drive-in BINGO

February 17, 2021 – Lent Begins

February 18, 2021 – Pastor Jake will begin a Bible Study on the book of Acts

Closing with the Lord's Prayer

Spiritual Direction December – Mike Bassingthwaite

Next meeting February 9, 2021

Respectfully Submitted:

Cindy Borchert, Secretary/Treasurer