

PASTOR'S PAGE

Over the past 6 weeks the Bethany Book Club has been reading "Faith In The Shadow Of The Pandemic." Pandemics aren't a new phenomenon. Disease and the death it causes have been around since the day that Adam and Eve were kicked out of Eden. This little book gives much insight on how Christians are to respond to pandemics.

I've mentioned before that when pandemics would spread over the Roman Empire. The Romans would head for the hills. They lived by the motto: "Everyone for themselves!" As they were exiting the town, they would side step the bodies of the inflicted, not lifting a hand to help their fellow citizens or family members. Ironically, it was the Christians that would come to the aid of those who were abandoned. The local house-churches would receive or set out to bring aid and comfort and with it the Gospel. These churches would live out loving their Savior by loving one's neighbor.

Martin Luther was no different. Much of Europe from time to time would have outbreaks of the Black plague. In 1527 Wittenberg suffered under such an outbreak. Many who contracted the "Black Death" would not survive. And those who would survive would be so weakened that they would end up succumbing to another ailment.

In 1527 Wittenberg was evacuated. Many of the residents left and those that couldn't leave stayed at home. However, Luther and his family and some of the students stayed behind to tend to those in need. Luther's wife, Katie, was pregnant and gave birth to a baby girl they named Elizabeth. Sadly, she died eight months later. Luther's son, Hans, contracted the "Black Plague" but survived. Luther and Katie made their home into a make shift hospital to tend to all who were sick. The mayor of Wittenberg's wife died literally in Luther's arms. Gravediggers were overworked and many showed up drunk to perform their grim tasks. Sadly, many husbands abandon their wives on account. This was life of as a German during Luther's day.

During this pandemic Luther received a letter from a pastor named Johann Hess. In the letter Hess asked Luther what was the faithful course of action. Luther responded with an open letter that was reprinted 27 times in the sixteenth century. In the letter Luther made this emphatic point. It is necessary that all Christians are to be prepared to die and meet their Lord and Savior. Pastors, medical workers, and the first responders of his day need to take the proper precautions. However, through their Christian vocation they are not to abandon the sick or dying. Christians are to do whatever is necessary to protect oneself, but don't abandon your neighbor in need.

Early on Luther wrote "The Freedom of the Christian (1520)". In this short paper Luther outlines how a Christian in both faith and love is to conduct themselves. "Through faith, the Christian lives outside of himself or herself in Christ. Through love, the Christian lives in the neighbor.

It is then both faith and love that come into play in Luther's letter to Hess. Avoiding both the impulsive heroism and cowardly avoidance Christians serve in both spiritual and earthly offices to exercise both faith and love. Luther wrote: "The Christian entrusts his or her life and well-being into the hands of a faithful Creator as we do in the catechism's morning and evening prayers. Christian caregivers are to act with prudence, but with wisdom that those who are suffering will not be abandoned." In this little pamphlet he also warns the reader not to tempt God by fearing the infection more than God himself. Remember Christ is present in those that are afflicted and Christ is also present in the one who is serving the afflicted.

It is said that Luther penned the hymn "A Mighty Fortress Is Our God" during or shortly after the Wittenberg plague. The hymn reminds us that Christ Jesus is by our side...the old evil foe may scowl fiercely...Nonetheless...Our victory has been won...The Kingdom ours remains. Luther no doubt wrote these words coming out of the 1527 plague. He lost much, his daughter Elizabeth, an ailing son Hans, the Mayor's wife dying in his arms and much more. Not to say the anxiety and isolation of such a pandemic played on the emotional, spiritual and physical being known as Martin Luther. Luther was very much human. Don't forget the Pope and the Emperor were breathing down his neck. They literally wanted his head on a stick.

Just like today, we are to take precautions, self-protection, but not at the expense of our neighbor. Be safe, these pandemics are used by God to wake the world up. The pandemics remind us that we are mortal. We are not going to live forever. Praise the Lord! Jesus has conquered all sicknesses, the evil world, the Evil One and death itself. The victory is ours. Again we "Praise the Lord!"

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele

BETHANY'S 2020 ANNUAL VOTER'S ASSEMBLY

Saturday, November 14, 2020

OR

Sunday, November 15, 2020

The voter's assembly will be held immediately after both church services. Part of the agenda will be approving the 2021 budget. Copies of the proposed 2021 budget can be found outside Pastor's office for you to review prior to the meeting.

THANKSGIVING EVE SERVICE

Our Thanksgiving service will be held on
Wednesday, November 26 at 6:00pm

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we enter our fall season, we think about what has changed so much in 2020. Our normal activities have seen so much change; one can hardly recognize what normal is anymore. One thing that has not changed is Bethany Lutheran Church. Our Church is still moving forward, even with all the changes, thanks to so many dedicated Members keeping our Mission Statement alive:

Bethany's Purpose

As A Loving & Caring Christian Congregation Is To:

+Glorify The Triune God

+Strengthen The Saved

+Offer The Hand Of Christ To All

Thanks to all of you that have kept your donations to Bethany up to date. Our E-Giving is increasing every month. Just an easier way to keep your donations coming to Bethany.

November 14th and 15th will be our annual Voter's Meeting. We will hold a meeting after each Service. It is particularly important to attend this meeting so each Member family can understand what has happened in 2020, and what 2021 may hold true for Bethany. Thank you to all Members who have accepted positions on the various Boards and Committees. Without everyone's involvement Bethany would not be moving forward.

A special thanks to Pastor and Julie for putting together such a wonderful Service for our organ dedication. The Service truly highlighted all the capabilities that our organ now has. What a wonderful gift to use as we worship our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

If you have been in the Fellowship Hall lately, you may have noticed plastic sheets around the kitchen entrance. The kitchen project has begun. Please use caution around that area and avoid going into the construction area for the time being. We will keep everyone updated on the progress. It still looks like completion will be before Thanksgiving. A special thank you to everyone that helped move everything from the kitchen to our storage area. All the dishes, supplies, and equipment were moved without "breaking one coffee cup"! Thanks to Dori Matte, Sara Hasler, Karen Wuerzberger, and Lee Gumm for helping move ALL THAT STUFF! After everything was moved, the next item up was demolition of the kitchen. October 10th was the day everything came down. We had 17 Members (young and old) show up to help and complete the process. An incredibly special thanks to Lee Gumm, Ray & Shirley Ottman, Ben, Cooper, Griffin, & Garrett Marotz, Steve Marotz, Ken Thompson, Karl Kaeppler, Todd & Luke Matte, Andy, Austin, & Noah Fibiger, and David Hasler. What I thought would be an all-day event took about three hours. (see the end of this newsletter for some pictures of the progress!)

As we look forward to Thanksgiving and the Holidays, one thing is still certain. The Holidays will be different. Planning has begun here at Bethany, but I can say with some confidence they will be different. Seems that's the theme for 2020.

Karen and I wish you a warm and safe Autumn with the hope that this will all end soon. We all trust that Jesus will find a solution for this too, as we all know, Jesus is the answer.

Robert "Bob" Wuerzberger-President Bethany Church Council

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Bethany Lutheran Church has been truly blessed despite the struggles of 2020. The kitchen project is well under way. Since the effort was approved in September, we received confirmation that new sinks and accessories will be provided by Kohler Company – many thanks to Tom Schnettler for pursuing this donation. A separate account has been set up for the kitchen project for donations to purchase some of the “extras” mentioned during the church presentations. You may place your contribution in an Improvement envelope and write on the outside “Kitchen Project”. Thank you to everyone who has already contributed.

Bethany has also been blessed with many memorial gifts to the endowment fund over the past few years with a steadily growing fund balance and we also have several children attending parochial schools. The Endowment Committee has been reviewing the process for making funds available to Bethany families for Christian education over the past few months. The current process requires three committees, the Council, and a voter’s meeting approval to use interest earnings from the fund for education. Changes were proposed to streamline the process and create a schedule of actions by the Education and Endowment committees with Council approval for interest only withdrawals from the fund in supporting grade school through high school Christian education for active Bethany members. On October 10th, the Council unanimously approved the changes to the Endowment Bylaws and corresponding changes to the Constitution and will be brought to the Voter’s meetings for final approval. Details of all changes will be provided in the weekly bulletins at least two weeks in advance of the Voter’s meetings planned for November 14th and 15th. Marked-up copies of the Constitution and Endowment Bylaws will be available outside Pastor’s office for members to review, as well.

God’s blessings to you,
Todd Matte
Vice President

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

All Thrivent members at Bethany please remember to direct your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Bethany Lutheran Church if you have not already done so. Thrivent cards on the shelf near Pastors office will help guide you. If you are unsure if you have funds available to direct just call 1-800-847-4836 to check. Any questions please see Lynn Luebke, Dave Prange, or Mary Madden and they would help you also. Thanks to those who have already directed their dollars. These dollars help fund programs, events and missions for Bethany.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY

All Saints Day is November 1. During our services on Saturday and Sunday we will remember all the saints that have gone to their eternal resting place. We will especially remember those from our congregation that have faithfully departed since our last All Saints Day – Bill Gehrke, Jean Toepel, Pat Horness, and Caroline Ney.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

11-2: Aidan Brooks
11-5: David Hummitzsch
Blake Mengel
11-8: Ashleigh Wychesit
11-10: Steven Marotz

11-14: John Keller
11-18: Judi Strenger
11-20: Denis Schmideler
11-24: Karen Wuerzberger
11-25: Ryan Johnson
11-29: Mary Hummitzsch

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

11-3: DuWayne & Nancy Froh
11-9: Karl & Barb Kaeppler

CHARITY OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

During the months of November and December, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Lutheran World Relief**. Their development projects focus on issues at the root causes of poverty. These debilitating causes tend to domino into more and more problems that trap people in poverty. By the same token, attacking just one of these issues can help break the cycle, making people's lives better and freeing them from suffering in many ways. Lutheran World Relief helps by implementing projects all over the world that help with water purification, aiding in emergencies, agriculture, climate, health & livelihood and civic participation. To learn more visit www.lwr.org.



DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME ENDS – SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour on Saturday, October 31!

ADOPT-A-BAG UPDATE

A big THANK YOU to everyone that helped fill bags for the Adopt-A-Bag Food Drive. We took 25 bags of groceries to the Sheboygan Falls Food Pantry! They were very thankful for our donation.

FROM THE ALTAR GUILD PRESIDENT

Blessings Bethany.....at our Altar Guild meeting this month we were blessed with visitors wanting to learn more about what we do. We explained every week we clean the Altar area and, on the 1st, 3rd, and 5th Sundays of the Month we also set up and clean up Communion. Our new members showed interest in just being responsible on the "cleaning" weeks. What we discovered is maybe we have other members who would like to be scheduled just for cleaning on the non-communion Sundays and have a separate group responsible for Communion Sunday's. During COVID and multiple services Communion set up has been a little more challenging just as everything in our lives has temporarily become. God has blessed us at Bethany with many willing workers, so I would like to reach out to anyone else who thinks they might like to learn about Altar Guild cleaning. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask me or Gina.
Sue Prange – Altar Guild President

Honoring Our Veterans...Veterans Day, November 11, 2020

THANK YOU FOR SERVING



Gary Bartz – Air Force
Ken Buesing – Army
Lee Gumm – Army
Paul Havlinek – Army
Bob Kuehlmann – Navy
Steve Marotz – Army
Bob Parnitzke – Army
Steve Perry – Marines
Dave Prange – Air Force
Jerry Sabrowsky – Army
Tom Schnettler – Navy
Ken Thompson – Army
Kevin Werner – Marines
Bob Wuerzberger – Army
Joe Wychesit – Air Force
Shua Yang – Army

ACTIVE

David Hasler - Navy
Lisa Taylor – Air Force



When they served, where they served, how long they served are not what we celebrate...it is that they served willingly to preserve the freedom we all enjoy in the United States of America.

If you served but your name is not on the list, please contact the church office so we can update our list. Thank you!

KITCHEN PROJECT PROGRESS

Demolition



After Demolition



New Water Heater



LOVE INC NEEDS – There are a few gap ministries at Love INC that are in need of a few items.

- Sew Caring Ministry Needs:** Bath Towels – NEW, standard size, lightweight (No oversized towels, please)
- Bedding & Linens Ministry Needs:** NEW pillows
- Furniture Ministry Needs:** Small dressers, Kitchen tables and chairs – seating for 4 ideal size

Items can be dropped off at Love INC (807 Forest Ave., Sheboygan Falls) Monday - Thursday 8:30am-4:30pm or Friday 8:30am-12pm. Smaller items can also be dropped off at church in the gray Love INC tote near the book nook (outside elevator lift). If you have a larger item but need help transporting it, you can contact the church office or call Love INC at 920-783-6701.



November 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
01 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC All Saints Day	02 6:30pm Elders	03	04 3:15pm Confirmation 5-6 grade only	05	06	07 4pm Worship
08 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	09 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	10	11 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8grade	12	13	14 4pm Worship w/HC
15 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	16	17	18 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8grade	19	20	21 4pm Worship
22 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	23	24	25 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8grade 6pm Thanksgiving Worship w/HC	26 Thanksgiving Day	27	28 4pm Worship w/HC
29 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	30					

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2020

Saturday, November 7
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: #6 – Ottmans, MacKenzie
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, November 8
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: #5 – Gumm, S. Marotz, V. Hazen
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

Saturday, November 14
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: #1 – B. Marotz, Schnettler, I. & A. Hazen
Acolyte: Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild: Barb & Lee Gumm
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, November 15
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: David Hasler
Ushers: #8 - Matte
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

Saturday, November 21
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Steve Hazen
Ushers: #2 – Faucher, D. Fibiger, S. Hazen
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild: Debbie & Steve Perry
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, November 22
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: #3 – Luecke, Thompson, Kuehlman,
Rademacher
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Wednesday, November 25
6:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:

Brian Faucher
#4 – Prange, Sabrowsky
Maggie Faucher
Kristine & Maggie Faucher

Saturday, November 28
4:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Bulletin Folder:

Jason Mengel
#5 – Gumm, S. Marotz, V. Hazen
Aidan Faucher
Kristi & Doug Luecke
Dan Fibiger

Sunday, November 29
10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Usher:
Acolyte:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:

Shua Yang
#7 - Fibiger
Ella Albert
Todd Matte
Lee Gumm