

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Christians Friends,

The Bethany Beacon went out without a pastor's page. I've decided to take the time to write you a letter. My boss, Gina, is doing a great job. She's getting everything out in a timely manner. I would like to thank Austin Fibiger for helping his mom and I upload the services to Facebook and YouTube. I want to thank Lee Gum for editing last Sunday's Service (3-29-2020). He did a remarkable job!

So, what's your status? As I write to you, President Trump has extended social distancing to April 30th. Are you going stir crazy? How are you handling all the family bonding? How many have had a new appreciation of your children's teachers? My daughter-in-law saw one of her student's parents the other day and she stated: "How uncontrollable her 2nd grader is..." My daughter-in-law just smiled. What kind of activities are you doing? I've driven around Kohler and have seen all the pictures and letters in the front windows. In fact, my mom's neighbor's kids put 2 pictures up at her house. Now, that was only week #1. What are the kids going to be doing for weeks #5 and #6? The weather has not been good so the kids are probably climbing the walls or maybe you as a parent will be pulling out your hair by the end of April.

Julie has done four 1000-piece puzzles and traveled to Evan's before they closed and bought two more 1000-piece puzzles. She misses the PGA and the NCCA BB tournament. Sadly, Pastor cannot stand putting together puzzles. I have been working on my basement remodel and binge watching "Law and Order".

So, what are to do? Take it to the Lord in prayer! Crack open your Bibles. If you have not done that yet, I would suggest starting with the Gospel of Mark. It is a short read and you should finish it by Easter Sunday. As you read about how Jesus was crucified, died and was buried. Remember Jesus took on everything the world could throw at him and he perfectly measured up. Then on the 3rd day, he conquered death. This victory has been given to each of you. By faith hold on to this victory. We don't know the day or the hour that we will succumb to death. Moreover, the grave has been overcome by Jesus. So....

What shall we say about this virus? Paul writes in Romans 8:31ff "If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or sword? As it is written, "For your sake we are being killed all the day long; we are regarded as sheep to be slaughtered."

No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

No virus will separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. I encourage all families post to our Facebook page (Bethany Lutheran Church Kohler, WI) how you are coping during this. Have your kids share what you as a family are doing to pass the time. Remember, God will never ever forsake us, but he is with us to the very end of the age! (Matthew 28:20).

Yours in Christ, Pastor Steele

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-01: Kale Schnettler
4-02: Kristi Luecke
4-04: Gina Fibiger
4-05: Bob Parnitzke
4-06: Rachel Johnson
4-07: Timothy Fibiger
4-08: Griffin Marotz
4-09: Amelia Hasler



4-11: Ella Albert
4-16: Ken Thompson
Diane Havlinek
4-17: Barbara Gumm
4-18: Juanita Hazen
Ashley Cox
4-22: Garrett Marotz
4-25: Ben Marotz
4-27: Conner Paltzer

4-28: LuEva Nytes
Ryan Mengel
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-16: Gary & Cindy Bartz
4-27: Doug & Kristi Luecke

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Bible Translators

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. To learn more about LBT, visit their website at www.lbt.org.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring is officially here. Usually that brings with it a sense of Hope and Joy. Not so much today. With the virus looming in everyone's minds, fear of the unknown is taking over much of our thoughts. The Good News is our Savior, Jesus Christ. He brings us Hope even though times are tough. As long as we put our Trust and Hope in Jesus, we have reason to believe this will end. Maybe not tomorrow, but someday. Our Pastor, Elders, and Church officers have had a number of meetings to make some very difficult decisions. The Elders have communicated these announcements to everyone. Today, March 21, they will all meet again to come up with ways we can communicate with all the members to bring the Message of Christ to all believers. Karen and I really enjoyed the Message Pastor gave on Facebook. This probably will be the way we can hear the Word while following all State mandates. I ask all of our fellow friends and believers to take advantage of this way of communicating the Word of Christ to all. That almost sounds like our Mission Statement, doesn't it? Hopefully soon, we will all be able to come together to Share the Good News of Jesus and his resurrection, but until then please pray that this virus will pass. Just remember no matter how difficult things seem to be, we all have one idea in common. Yes, Jesus is the Answer. Karen and I pray that all your families are safe and "free from all harm and danger". We hope to join everyone soon back in Kohler to someday sing Alleluia's to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ together. Praise be to God.

Even though many things are canceled, Bethany keeps moving forward. A big thank you to all the members that served the Soup Suppers. I heard they were great. Hopefully when the kitchen renovation is completed, we will be able to do more activities using the kitchen. We are still in contact with our Architect who has included all the changes we made in our January meeting. A contractor is using this information to gather costs, to give us an idea of where we are on costs. No contractor or business has been hired as of yet. We hopefully will be able to have a Long Range Planning meeting in late April to bring the committee up to date and then to advise the Members. Also, a big thanks to our Vice President, Todd Matte, who has been handling many more things with us being gone. One last point, please remember to keep Bethany and Pastor in your prayers, and please remember to continue your offerings to Bethany as our expenses continue. Blessings to all from Karen and I.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger, Council President.

INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICES

As most of you may already know, due to the Covid-19 virus, all church services and activities held at the church have been canceled until further notice. In the meantime, Pastor Steele has been video recording short services for the midweek Lenten services, Sunday morning services, and also a few children's messages. These can be found on Bethany's Facebook page and also on YouTube. Very shortly I hope to have them also uploaded to our website which is in the process of being upgraded.

Facebook: Search *Bethany Lutheran Church – Kohler, WI* on Facebook. Once you are on our page, make sure to "Like" and "Follow". The most recent service will be at the top of the newsfeed. Just keep scrolling down for past videos.

YouTube: Search *Bethany Lutheran Church Kohler* to find our YouTube page (if you don't see the round circle with a picture of the church in it, try searching *Bethany Kohler*. When you click on the page, you should see a list of videos that Pastor Steele has recorded.

Website: www.bethanylutherankohler.org. The website is in the process of being updated. The web address will remain the same. Note: if you open our website and the home page is mostly white, that is the old website. If the home page is mostly blue, that is the new website. The new site will hopefully be "live" by the end of the month.

If you have any questions about any of these options, please call the church office phone number (920-457-4681). I will be in the church office sporadically but I have the option to answer the phone remotely and am happy to help however I can.

OFFERINGS DURING THIS UNCERTAIN TIME

We want to remind you that even though we are not able to meet at church during this time, it is still important to remember your offerings. They are crucial for the ministry at Bethany in order to continue to care for our people and workers.

Options for giving:

- Mail offerings to: Bethany Lutheran Church
222 Church St.
Kohler, WI 53044
 - Joyful Response: If you sign up for Joyful Response, your offerings are automatically withdrawn from your checking account. I have included a Joyful Response enrollment form with this newsletter as well as attached it to the email (for those that receive their newsletter that way). Fill out the enrollment form and mail it back to church, along with a void check or deposit slip from your account. After things get back to normal, you can continue Joyful Response to make your giving easier or you can cancel at any time. If you have any questions, call the church office number.
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EASTER FLOWERS

As of right now, it appears likely that we will not be having church on Easter Sunday. For those that ordered flowers, they will be delivered on Good Friday, April 10 between 9 and 11am and will be kept in the lower narthex along with a list of what everyone ordered. There are a few options of how to get your flowers:

1. If you know how to get into the building, you are welcome to pick them up at any time.
2. Call the church office number to verify when the building will be open.
3. Call the church office to request a delivery. I have a few people that offered to help deliver if needed. Because the health and safety of our members is most important, a drop off time will be arranged and the flowers will be left at your door without any contact being made.

Thank you to all who ordered! We hope your flowers will bring you a little joy during this uncertain time as we remember the most important thing: **Jesus is our Savior!!**

CALENDAR AND THOSE SERVING

Because of the uncertainty of the near future regarding our church services, I did not add an April calendar or Those Serving Page to this newsletter. In the event that we do have church services in April, this will be communicated by the ways described below.

STAY INFORMED

All communications regarding church services will be handled by email, our church website, Facebook, and phone calls. If you have not received any emails from the church recently, but would like to, please get in touch with the church office and give Gina your email address. Here is all the contact information for Bethany:

Email: info@blckohler.com

Phone: 920-457-4681

Website: www.bethanylutherankohler.org

Facebook: Bethany Lutheran Church – Kohler, WI

YouTube: Bethany Lutheran Church Kohler (if this doesn't work, use Bethany Kohler)

During this uncertain time, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding as we navigate through this. Please continue to pray, worship online, read devotions, and care for yourselves and your loved ones. With the help of God, we will get through this and be stronger in the end. Thank you to a friend who shared the below message with me:

*When this is over,
may we never again take for granted:
A handshake with a stranger
Full shelves at a grocery store
Conversations with neighbors
A crowded theater
Friday night out
The taste of communion
A routine checkup
The school rush each morning
Coffee with a friend
The stadium roaring
Each deep breath
A boring Tuesday
Life itself.*

*When this ends, may we find that we have become more like the people we wanted to be,
we were called to be, we hoped to be, and may we stay that way –
better for each other because of the worst.*

Below, is a letter that was received from the chairman of the VVMI Board. Please remember that VVMI is Bethany's Charity of the Month for May and June but your support and prayer is needed any time of the year.



Vernacular Video Mission International

P.O. Box 22394 • Minneapolis, MN 55422 USA

Web Site: www.vvmi.org

March 21, 2020

Dear Partners,

This note is not a request, but a promise.

First, thank you for your support through prayer, finances, and physical efforts. Because of your efforts, we together have been able to encourage and equip our native partners in the critical work of spreading the word of God, planting churches and Bible studies, and raising up spiritual leaders for the Lord and his church. I wish that every one of you could have been with us these past few weeks and seen what we saw happening in the Philippines. Two new groups were mobilized and equipped with projectors and Bibles they requested so that the work could grow even more. While we were there, I learned that the need for Bibles has now grown to over 500,000 because of these efforts. Praise God and thank you for your service to the Lord.

Now the promise. The world is collapsing around us. The efforts being taken to curtail the rapid spread of this virus are affecting travel, jobs, normal routines and the gathering of the church. The thing we need most at this time is our mutual supportive prayer as the church. I have travelled in 14 countries, and the best place I have found to be is worshipping and fellowshiping with believers, wherever our physical location may be. Fear of this virus, though rightly placed, has caused us to not meet together. The promise I give you is that the VVMI Board of Directors is with you in prayer as you have been with us. Whatever happens, let us not forsake one another. Let us lift up one another as if we were suffering with each other (see Hebrews 13:3). Whether you are in chains, in the hospital, or alone in your homes on a lonely Sunday morning, we are with you in fellowship and in prayer.

I also promise that however God's plan unfolds, Lord willing, VVMI will continue to carry out His mission in partnership with you and our overseas partners. We will be prayerfully considering what form and manner these efforts may need to take. I praise God for his blessings and I ask Him to give us mercy and wisdom and lead us in the ways that we can take advantage of whatever situation we are in for His glory, the benefit of His church and the proclamation of His word throughout the common languages of the whole world using media of all kinds.

May God bless you and help you weather this storm.

If you have any official business with VVMI, please address it to Colin, but if you would like to talk or pray together or have special prayer requests, feel free to send me an email at lgioja@vvmi.org.

From the VVMI Board,

Les Gioja, Chairman