

## **PASTOR'S PAGE – “Facts and Faith”**

[https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vwWW08\\_1wQYLro8Kx\\_5n5FxDcCrRmprJ/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vwWW08_1wQYLro8Kx_5n5FxDcCrRmprJ/view)

I would like every member to click on the “Google Doc” above. It is a good read for pastors and the layperson. Don't be intimidated with odd words. Some I don't even remember what they mean. It is an important read.

We, as pastors, have been struggling on how to minister to our church families during this world wide health crisis. People are dying from complications from the virus, one's underlying conditions, the lack of preventive care (elected surgeries), and depression.

The main mission of the devil is to isolate Christians. Many of us have watched “Animal Planet”, “Discovery”, “National Geographic” and the like. When a predator decides to go after its prey, it looks for the most vulnerable (the young, the injured, the diseased, and the elderly). The devil does exactly the same thing. The Bible teaches that the devil is a murderer and has always been a murderer. His goal is to murder as many as he can and he wants hell to be their resting place.

I would like to share reflections on two funerals I officiated this month. A few months ago, these funerals would not have taken place. The families gathered from all over the country to celebrate their loved one's new life in Christ. One was held at the cemetery in the shade on very hot Saturday morning and the other at Bethany. Friends and family honored these loved ones by celebrating their earthly life and their new life with our Lord and Savior. The loved ones honored their family member beautifully by creating Christ centered worship. This was very God pleasing. Thankfully we are slowly getting back to normal.

However, the devil does not want a return to normal. He wants Christians to be separated from each other. The devil thwarts Christians by creating fear, doubts and human complacency. We pastors have seen a cross section of our congregations not worshipping. Getting people to worship has always been an issue. Ironically, the least vulnerable among us, the young. Under normal circumstances the young are not beating down the doors of the church, but those who regularly or semi-regularly worship. They've been absent.

As pastors we wonder. Is it fear? Is it complacency? At these two funerals, young families mingled with the elderly members of their families. Again, these families were from all over the country. As they began to mingle the masks came off from both family and friends. Prior to the funeral many were hesitant (fearful) to have so many from all over come back. The fear dissipated when all gathered around God's Word as a community of believers, the family of God. The church is a family. We are all blood relatives. We have been washed and fed by the blood of Jesus.

As pastors, another issue since we have been slowly opening up is offering private home communions for the most vulnerable. Yes, nursing homes are still closed. As pastors we are trying to get the area ones to relinquish their strict guidelines. Some have begun to open up, thankfully. We as pastors take the necessary precautions to commune those that are vulnerable.

Finally, Bethany, our sound leadership has been working diligently to have worship restored fully but cautiously. Worship throughout history (during war, epidemic, and all out persecution) has and will be the center of our Christian life

There are changes that are occurring this fall. We will be adding another service. We also will be celebrating 1st communion for Ryan Mengel and Aidan Brooks on August 2nd. We also will be celebrating Confirmation for Grace Matte, Thomas Yang, and Annalise Hasler in September. Both rites had been postponed. They will go off on these days. The Church is moving forward for these young people. “May God be the Glory”

God's Richest Blessings

Rev Robert Steele

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...

Summer has arrived with heat and hope. Hope that the virus is slowing down, but the past few weeks it has come back with a vengeance in many areas. However, if we put our hope and faith in Jesus, he will lead us in the right direction. Our Church, Bethany, has been moving forward, although cautiously. Our Worship Services attendance has been good. This month we will start Holy Communion during the Service. It will be different as it will be at the end of the Service. Distribution will be different, sanitation a must, social distancing required, all done to error on the side of caution and safety. Thanks also to our Altar Guild for working with the Elders and Pastor to get this accomplished. Even with all this change, our Communion with our Lord and Savior still offers us the same. Forgiveness of our sins and a renewal of our Hope and Faith. Pastor Steele will still offer Communion to those that choose not to participate in our in-service Communion, and the Service will still be available on our Website. Speaking of our website, you will be getting more information on the site itself. The site turned out very user friendly and will be a wonderful tool to get information out to all.

Members will be seeing a survey from the Elder's checking your preference for a second Service after our Thursday Service ends after Labor Day. We will still need a second Service to avoid overcrowding the Church, allowing us to have good social distancing, and keeping everyone as safe as possible. Sunday School is still being discussed within the Education Committee. I would like to thank all the members of all our committees for meeting these challenges we are all facing and coming up with solutions and recommendations that keep all of us safe.

Our Organ Project is almost complete, but our Dedication Service will hopefully take place in September or October. The Kitchen Project is underway. More information is available in this newsletter from our Vice President, Todd Matte. Bethany's financial condition has been watched very closely by our Treasurer and Finance Committee. Thank you to all that have been keeping up with their pledges and donations. We need everyone's help in meeting our obligations.

As has been the theme since March, change, flexibility, and safety have been at the forefront in all our discussions and decisions. Please think of all our Members safety when attending Services and meetings. Make sure social distancing is used and follow our Ushers and Elders directions for our Communion Services. All this is being done to allow everyone a safe environment to worship and praise our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. To Him be given all the Glory.

Karen and I wish you and your families a safe and prosperous summer.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger, President Bethany Church Council

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### AUGUST BIRTHDAYS

8-03: Debbie Perry

8-06: Jim Herzog

8-08: Judy Albert

Daniel Menzer

8-09: Harriet Tershner

Dolores Gehrke



8-12: Lori Allmann

Roxanne Taylor

Charlotte Menzer

8-13: Barbara Herzog

8-15: Kieran Fibiger

8-18: Sara Hasler

8-25: Kyle Allmann

8-27: Maggie Yang

Conrad Hasler

8-30: Julie Steele

### AUGUST ANNIVERSARIES

8-12: Andy & Gina Fibiger

8-16: John & Laura Tershner

8-18: Ray & Shirley Ottman

8-23: Steve & Debbie Perry

If a birthday or anniversary has been missed, please contact the church office to let us know.

## **JULY/AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS)**

It is estimated that approximately ninety-eight percent of Deaf people in the United States do not attend church. This is, in part, due to the limited number of deaf churches. While the number of full-time pastors serving Deaf churches has decreased, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has seen an increase in the number of Deaf pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and lay leaders who use sign language to communicate the Gospel message. This has happened because of programs like Deaf Pah and the Deaf Institute of Theology. LDMS will engage in evangelism and Christian education training to help Deaf Persons and their families see Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and engage in stewardship and leadership training to help Deaf Persons serve Jesus Christ. To learn more, visit their website at [www.deafjesus.com](http://www.deafjesus.com)

### **‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY**

*In memory of Dorothy Dickelman:* An Improvement Fund gift was given by Bob Parnitzke. A Memorial Gift for the kitchen project was given by Bob & Karen Wuerzberger.

*In memory of Gertrude Perle (Strenger):* Memorial Gifts were given by Betsy Metscher and Elsie Reinbacher. An Improvement Fund Gift was given by Julie Schuman. An Endowment Fund Gift was given by Roger & Barbara Strenger.

If you would like to give a memorial gift in memory or in honor of someone, cards can be found on the counter outside Pastor's office as well as in the back of church.

### **‡ A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

On Thursday, July 23, Patricia Ida Horness was called to her Heavenly home. A Memorial Service was held at Bethany on Tuesday, July 28. Entombment followed at Greenlawn Memorial Park.

### **CHURCH SERVICE SURVEY**

The Board of Elders has decided that in order to keep with social distancing recommendations, we will need to continue with two church services for the entire year. They would like your input on which time would be the best to offer the second service. The below survey was made available in the bulletin the last two weeks at church but if you were not in attendance and would like to share your input, please email the church at [info@blckohler.com](mailto:info@blckohler.com). The Elders would like to have as many responses as possible by their meeting on Monday, August 3. Any responses received by email by 6:30pm on Monday, August 3 will be shared with the Elders. Watch for future decisions about the church services in the newsletter, bulletins and email.



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### **Worship Service Survey**

The following are the two service times the Elders are considering in addition to our 10 a.m. Sunday service. Please choose the one that you would most likely attend.

**Saturday - 4:00 p.m.**

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_


**Sunday - 7:45 a.m.**

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## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2020

<b>Sunday, August 2</b> 10:00 a.m. (Holy Communion)	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Jason Mengel #2 – Dan Fibiger, Aiden & Brian Faucher, S. Hazen Grace Matte Lexie Matte Sue Prange, Lois Schmideler Sue Prange Tom Schnettler
<b>Thursday, August 6</b> 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Brian Faucher #3 – Thompson, Rademacher, Luecke, Kuehlmann Maggie Faucher
<b>Sunday, August 9</b> 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Steve Hazen #4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Jerry Sabrowsky Aidan Brooks Sharon Werner Cindy & Gary Bartz Sue Prange Patrick Johnson
<b>Thursday, August 13</b> 6:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Shua Yang #5 – Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen Thomas Yang Liz & Ken Buesing
<b>Sunday, August 16</b> 10:00 a.m. (Holy Communion)	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Jason Mengel #6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzi Ryan Mengel Steve Hazen Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke Sue Prange Ken Thompson
<b>Thursday, August 20</b> 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Andy Fibiger #7 - Fibigers Madison Fibiger
<b>Sunday, August 23</b> 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Brian Faucher #8 - Mattes Kaleb Faucher Todd Matte Kristine & Maggie Faucher Sue Prange Dan Fibiger
<b>Thursday, August 27</b> 6:00 p.m. (Holy Communion)	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Steve Hazen #1 – Marotz, Schnettler, Hazens Ella Albert Shirley & Ray Ottman
<b>Sunday, August 30</b> 10:00 a.m. (Holy Communion)	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Altar Guild: Bulletin Folder: Door Locker:	Shua Yang #2 – Aiden & Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger, S. Hazen Winston Hasler Lee Gumm Barb & Lee Gumm Sue Prange Lee Gumm

# August 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
02 10am Worship w/HC	03 6:30pm Elders	04	05	06 6pm Worship	07	08
09 10am Worship	10 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	11	12	13 6pm Worship w/HC	14	15
16 10am Worship w/HC	17	18	19	20 6pm Worship	21	22
23 10am Worship	24	25	26	27 6pm Worship w/HC	28	29
30 10am Worship w/HC	31					