

PASTOR'S PAGE

Out from Behind the Mask

Slowly but surely the masks are coming off. Those who are vaccinated can go about freely showing their faces. A Lutheran High teacher reported the following: "For almost the entire year I recognized students by their eyes, forehead, and hair style." The masks came off and he declared: "There is a nose, mouth and cheekbones behind those cloth coverings."

Just prior to examination Sunday I told the confirmands it was ok to remove their masks. Ironically, there was great hesitation. In fact, it took much reassurance before they finally took them off. I don't like the masks. Not for the reason you might think. It is said: "The window to one's soul is through a person eyes" but the face reveals much more. I needed to see the entire face. Communication is muffled. For one who has a hearing problem lip reading becomes a necessary skill. Another reason is that it allows me to read the face, not just the eyes, to recognize if one understands, cares, is day dreaming, anxious, puzzled and the like.

I've taught that each of us live behind a mask. A facade weaved by our own making. These facades are constructed haphazardly. They're constructed to camouflage our darkest sin. These sins need to be covered up. It is said, "You can put lipstick on a pig, but it's still a pig". What lies underneath needs to be exposed for one to live. No matter how you mask it; it's still sin.

Throughout Jesus' ministry he was confronted by the "Evil One", Satan. Jesus tangles with Satan in the wilderness, but also Satan used those closest to him to attempt to deceive him. In one case Satan uses Peter. Immediately after Peter confesses Jesus as the "Christ, Satan tempts Jesus give up His mission to save the world. Jesus declares; ""Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man." (Matt 16:23).

Jesus also recognizes what lies behind the "Pharisee's mask" when they try to trip him up with a question dealing with paying taxes to Caesar. But Jesus, aware of their malice, said, "Why put me to the test, you hypocrites? Show me the coin for the tax." And they brought him a denarius. And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this?" They said, "Caesar's." Then he said to them, "Therefore render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's. (Matthew 22:15ff) Jesus exposes Pharisees. He does this throughout the Gospels. Jesus knows everything behind our masks. We, like all, cannot escape it.

However, Jesus needs to expose the "stuff" behind the mask. All of it needs to be paid. When he dies on the cross and cries out: "It is finished!" All sin is paid in full. Every dark crevasse from ear to ear is uncovered. He eradicates the "stuff", cleans it all up, and removes our masks. Jesus' blood cleans both the 'body and soul.

The Holy Spirit calls us out from the dark side of the mask. He creates a new life. The dark side is overcome with the Light of the World. In so doing God uses each of us to share the Light of Life. We are a new creation. We are created to live boldly. We no longer live behind the "mask". God has called us "out from behind the mask". We live maskless.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steele

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I'm so glad that things are starting to return to normal. This past weekend, we took a short trip to Whitewater to check out the UW-Whitewater campus, do some research of the area, and just spend some family time together. Luke is just finishing his junior year in high school so it's getting closer to the time that he will need to decide where he wants to go to college. When we go on vacations, we always try to find a local LCMS church to attend, which we enjoy to see how other churches worship. On Pentecost Sunday we attended Living Savior Church in Fort Atkinson, around 10 minutes from UW-Whitewater (the closest LCMS church). There were 21 people in attendance, not including the Matte family, and all attendees were older than Dori and me. Their Pastor David Emmrich quickly assured us after the service that 2-3 UW-Whitewater students had been attending when college was in session, and that before COVID 19, there was a weekly Wednesday service on campus. The Pastor and members were very friendly, but the church phone number and e-mail address on the website did not work when we tried to call/ e-mail ahead (I'm so thankful for the work Gina has done covering the office phones and updating our new website). It reminds me how important it will be for us to have outreach with younger members to have the next generation there to pass the torch when it is time. Looking at it through Luke's eyes, I could tell he was looking for someone in his age group to connect with. This is something we'll have to pray about in the coming year.

One of the areas that I believe Bethany must grow is in technology. Bethany recently applied for a Siebert Lutheran Foundation grant for technology upgrades. Bethany was awarded a grant up to \$2,200, with a technology assessment that David Hasler scheduled in June. The online services are taped today using a borrowed camera, and Andy Fibiger (and previously Lee Gumm) had been helping Pastor to manage the taping of the services which get posted on YouTube and our website. The next step is streaming services through Bethany's website. Yes, we always want people to attend and congregate, however, this is also another way to attract new members allowing them to check us out in advance. Just like we did for our trip to Living Savior, we Googled the church before going.

I also wanted to send a special thank you to Bob Wuerzberger, Karl Kaeppler, Pastor Steele, and Lee Gumm for their work on plaques and portraits to commemorate the new organ and kitchen projects the LRPC is nearly finished with. Lee is working on a custom wood plaque for the June 6th organ recital.

Bob and Karl just hung the Clyde and Betty Bawden Kitchen and Fellowship Hall plaque and amazing portrait in the kitchen on the north wall. Be sure to check it out.



We're hopeful to have the new refrigerator delivered soon. The delivery date has been changed three times now due to supply chain issues.

Be Well, God Bless and to God be the Glory!
Todd Matte - Council President

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6-3: Jack O'Keefe
6-4: Rachel O'Keefe
Winston Hasler
6-7: Lynn Luebke
Isaac Hasler
6-8: Austin Madden
6-9: Jill Mengel



6-10: Victor Hazen
Pat Stangel
6-11: Audrey Sabrowsky
6-16: KaoKalia Yang
6-17: Betty Hahn
6-19: Barbara Kaepler
6-20: Nancy Froh
6-29: Jason Mengel

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6-2: David & Tamra O'Keefe
6-15: Jim & Mary Madden
6-17: Steve & Juanita Hazen
Todd & Dori Matte
6-20: Jeremy & Kelly Paltzer
6-22: Kevin & Sharon Werner
6-24: Lee & Barbara Gumm
6-26: Bob & Sandy Kuehlmann
6-30: John & Peggy Keller

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

MAY/JUNE CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)

The Gospel is being shared in remote areas of the Philippines through video and Scriptures and hundreds of people are responding and being disciplined in places where the Lord has never before been praised. We can help by giving of our gifts to the May and June Mission of the Month. Our donations will be used to help purchase Bibles which have been translated and are printed in vernacular (heart) languages. Christian videos which have been dubbed into "heart" languages are also used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. **Are your donations appreciated?** Absolutely! Here are some testimonies from people that have received a Bibles in their heart language:



"I am very thankful to you all especially for the Bibles that were given freely to us. I am Viola Tindaan. The Word of God speaks clearly to us as it is in our heart language, Kalanguha. We will never forget your love and kindness, and we will pray that God would cause this to happen again." ~Viola Tindaan.

"One night, in my reading of the vernacular Bible, there was this flashlight-like light that shone on me. This was the beginning that I was enlightened about the power of the Bible, the Word of God, and guided me to receive such understanding. The light from understanding the Word of God is like a ladder that is leading me to a brighter destination going up to the presence of God. It's like going to paradise." ~Gaston Galiday, Kalinga Province

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

Just a reminder of our summer service time change. Sunday services are at 9:00am starting May 30. The Saturday 4:00pm service will continue through the summer and there will be no Thursday evening service.

LWML MITE BOX

The 2020 LWML in-person convention was cancelled last summer due to the global health concerns but 21 delegates from the South Wisconsin District zones adopted 14 missions for the 2020-2022 Biennium. Four of these missions have been fully funded because of mite collections. Please continue to save your mites so we can help fund the remaining missions. Bring them to church and either place them in the LWML box on the counter in the upper narthex or put them in the LWML mailbox in the communication room. Anyone from the congregation can help support these missions. Thank you for your support!

CONFIRMATION

Congratulations to our newest confirmed members of Bethany! Ella Albert, Madison Fibiger, Zakary Willadsen, and Zane Willadsen received the Rite of Confirmation during the church service at Bethany on Sunday, May 23. Congratulations also to Kaleb Faucher who celebrated his confirmation on Sunday, May 16 at Bethlehem where he attends school. God's Blessings to you all as you continue your faith journey.



THANK YOU!

Private Aiden Faucher would like to thank all the members of Bethany that have sent him cards, and well wishes while he continues his military career. He wanted to pass along his new address in case anyone would like to send him notes of encouragement, support, or prayer.

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VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES AT BETHANY

It is so wonderful to see everyone returning to church and filling our pews each week. With more attendance and activities happening, comes a need for more help. Whether you have a little time or a lot of time, there is a job for you! Here are a few of the opportunities that are available at this time:

- Sunday School Teacher – part-time or full-time opportunities
- Scripture Reader – High School aged or above please
- Usher
- Weekly Bulletin Folder
- Church Picnic Committee – It has been decided to plan the church picnic this year on Sunday, September 12th which will coincide with the first day of Sunday School. In order to make the picnic a success, we will need a committee that will help with the planning.

If you have any questions about what these jobs entail, or if you are interested in volunteering, please contact Gina in the church office (920-457-4681). All jobs can be flexible and we are happy to work around your schedules and availability. Thank you for considering!

Organ Recital

The organ recital featuring the upgrades made to Bethany's organ will take place on Sunday, June 6th at 3:00pm.

Nathan Steele has graciously agreed to perform this recital. It will include music from his upcoming graduate organ recital on the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin, which will be the culmination of his master's degree in church music. The program will feature some hymn singing and music from these composers: McKinley, Bach, Bruhns, Brahms, Cherwien, Vaughan Williams, and Vierne. Nathan is a Sheboygan Lutheran High graduate, completed his bachelor's degree in church music at Concordia Wisconsin, and is currently serving our Lord as cantor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Missouri. (The graduate recital will take place on June 24th at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Christ Triumphant.)

We are looking forward to hearing beautiful sounds from our organ, from a talented and blessed child of God.

In Christ,
Julie Steele

VBS ON FACEBOOK LIVE

Come join us for Facebook VIRTUAL VBS this summer. We will use our "Time Lab in Discovering Jesus from Eternity Past to Eternity Future." There will be an opening ceremony with prayer, lesson plans, singing, crafts and more. The date is **July 17, 2021 at 11 a.m.** and will last approximately one hour.

The Facebook link is: **LCMS Ministerio Hispano Condado de Sheboygan.**

Please register your child (ages 3 – 6th grade) for this event so we can plan materials that you can pick up from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, 1614 S. 23rd Street, Sheboygan, WI 53081 on July 10 at 11 a.m. for the "Time Lab" event. If you cannot make it on this day, please contact Pastor David Blas at (630)229-2455 to make arrangement for material pickup.



To register: Go to lutheranhigh.com and click on 'Summer Camps' under the 'Activities' tab. Scroll down to find Vacation Bible School and click on the words 'Please Register' to register your child. Note: (this VBS live will be in English.)

BAKERS AND HELPERS NEEDED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 14

Blessings Friends at Bethany.....Will you help? ❤️

This summer, Love INC will be taking part in the "Music in the Park" event in Sheboygan Falls. There will be 6 Outdoor Concerts - 2 in June, 2 in July and 2 in August. I have signed Bethany up to help on Wednesday, July 14th, so I am reaching out for a few volunteers to help that night or some of our Bethany bakers to bake some goodies.

We will have a trailer and canopy set up in the Parking Lot by the Falls YMCA selling warm pretzels & cheese, chips, bottled water, and baked goods (pie, large cookies or bars). If you can bake, I can pick up the items and individually wrap them that day at Church. Shifts to help that night would be: 4:30-6:00 or 6:00-8:30. This will be new for us, so once we start in June I will know more as to what is selling best and how much is needed. Watch for updates in the June newsletter and bulletins.

Please see me in church if you have more questions or call me at 920-918-2116. I wanted to plant the seed with you to see if this is something you might be able to help with. This would be a great opportunity for your teenagers to do some community service work!

Thank you!
Sue Prange – Love INC Representative



THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JUNE 2021

Saturday, June 5
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy communion

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Sabrowsky, MacKenzie
Acolyte: Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild: Kristi & Doug Luecke
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, June 6
9:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Mattes
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Scripture Reader: Lexie Matte
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

Saturday, June 12
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Ottmans
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild: Gary & Cindy Bartz
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, June 13
9:00 a.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Hazens
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

Saturday, June 19
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild: Sue & Dave Prange
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, June 20
9:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Prange
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger


Saturday, June 26
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Faucher, Fibiger
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaepler
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, June 27
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Fibigers
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Lee Gumm

June 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03	04	05 4pm Worship w/HC
06 9am Worship w/HC 3pm Organ Recital @ Bethany	07 6:30pm Elders	08	09	10	11	12 4pm Worship
13 9am Worship	14 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	15	16	17	18	19 4pm Worship w/HC
20 9am Worship w/HC  Father's Day	21	22	23	24	25	26 4pm Worship
27 9am Worship	28	29	30		