

PASTOR'S PAGE

The Cancel Culture

I lived my youth during the Vietnam War. This dates me because many parents of children today weren't even born during this time in history. I remember each week when TV anchors locally and nationally would read the number of casualties of this conflict. Many young men were drafted and sent off to the jungles of southeast Asia. Many were MIA (Missing in Action), killed, or crippled (mentally and physically). It was the first war that the United States ever lost! Why did this happen? The will to fight was "CANCELLED!". President Lyndon Johnson was told, "Mr. President, you've lost Walter Cronkite." Within a few years of that statement: "Saigon Fell" and the war was over. Sadly, all those who served in the military were "CANCELLED." The media and the political leaders turned their back on all those coming home. Ironically, the media and many of those same political leaders were the ones who sent them there in the first place. The mass distribution of information changed the hearts and minds of the American citizen. Some of these same citizens protested the Vietnam Veterans, calling them baby killers and literally spitting in their faces. My belief is that these soldiers believe they are still being "Cancelled".

Back in the Vietnam era, it took years to sway the American public against the war. Today, public opinion happens at lighting speed, as fast as a Facebook post or a tweet. Cancelling is cyber bullying on steroids with the touch of a finger. To be CANCELLED, is to be isolated and removed from the societal norm.

As Lutherans (In our Catechism) we ask the question: "What does this mean?" What does it mean to be CANCELLED? Cancel culture is the practice of withdrawing support (canceling) of public figures or companies after doing something offensive or something deemed so. Who determines such canceling? These are shadowy figures working within social media. Sometimes it's the tech giants themselves. What determines if one is offensive? This is where it gets murky. It's totally subjective in nature.

How does it happen? If one speaks against the "social" norm the individual or group is targeted. This begins by isolating them from the culture. This happens by sending "bots". A "bot" is a series of programs that are run with certain parameters attacking the target to be CANCELLED. These programs produce the negative information. Once identified groups are mobilized to descend upon the individual, company or city. The same information is sent to media outlets. The media and those mobilized arrive at the same time. Many families with young children have been subjected to verbal and physical terror. To avoid such terror many individuals and companies have become silent. The "Cancel Culture" is perfecting this technique.

Again, "What does this mean?" Let's look at the 10 commandments. The first one that comes to mind is the 8th commandment. You shall not bear false testimony against your neighbor. Luther's definition reminds us that we should not lie, slander or hurt our neighbor's reputation. The "Cancel Culture" uses a litmus test of what is culturally correct. The "CANCELLED" are subjected to isolation and terror. As Christians we shouldn't participate in these activities.

Christians are to speak well of our neighbor. And the 5th commandment reminds us that we are not to harm our neighbor in his body, but befriend him and help him in every physical need.

The “Cancel Culture’s” next focus will be the church. The church is anti-culture. Our Biblical stances on abortion, homosexuality and other cultural issues set the church up to be “CANCELLED”. Remember the religious societies (Little Sisters of the Poor) that were being forced into medical plans that used abortifacient drugs and procedures. Remember the flower shops, photographers and bakeries that would not make cakes or service a same-sex marriage ceremony. These groups are still being CANCELLED, even though the courts have ruled in their favor.

What are we to do? We are to come to the aide of those who have been “CANCELLED!” Whether individuals are in the right or the wrong, we are to aid the stricken. We are to protect our neighbor from mobs. In Israel, God allowed for sanctuary cities for those who had committed serious crimes, or those who had been falsely accused. These sanctuary cities were established to hinder “mob” justice or “mob” rule. It allowed for cooler heads to prevail. These cities were put into place so that the innocent and the guilty were treated with justice.

What is the church to do? Continue coming to the aide of all. Use the means that our society gives to combat the “Cancel Culture”. These means are our courts and petitioning local and national leaders. The most important thing to do is trust in God above all things. Christ is the only true sanctuary. Even when and if “Cancel Culture” becomes the norm, the Church will survive. God’s promises, “I will not forsake you, or abandon you. Nothing will separate us from God’s love.” The “Cancel Culture” is manmade! Those who have and will be “CANCELLED” have a safe haven in which to dwell. “Surely the Lord of Hosts is with us, the God of our Salvation!”

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele



The family of Private Aiden Faucher would like to thank the members of Bethany that reached out to Aiden with cards, letters, and prayers. Aiden has completed his basic training and Marine Combat Training in California and is now at his MOS (job training school) in Pensacola, Florida. Please keep all soldiers and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this time. For those who would like to write him words of encouragement, you can mail him at:

PVT Faucher, Aiden, L
211 Farrar Rd
MATSG-21, AMS-1 H
Barracks AO
Pensacola, Florida 32508

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is staying warm after the sub-zero days in February. The cold days allow us to appreciate the warmer days just a little more. At least that is what I tell myself while I'm shivering. We had a snow storm that almost cancelled a Sunday service, but by the grace of God we were still able to congregate. Remember to watch WTMJ4 and Bethany's website for news of cancellations.

On Ash Wednesday, February 17th we used the new Clyde and Betty Bawden Kitchen and Fellowship Hall for the first soup supper. Many thanks to everyone who helped organize and volunteer to put on the supper before church. Please consider volunteering to help set up, prepare soups, serve food, or clean-up. There are sign-up sheets in the Narthex. We had 31 people attend the soup supper, and the next one looks to be similar. We're so grateful to everyone who helped with the kitchen project. New stools are here, and next month a new refrigerator and microwave are coming thanks to extra congregation donations. A portrait of Clyde and Betty Bawden was painted and will be hung in the Fellowship Hall to commemorate their donation. Thanks to Pastor Steele and the Kaepplers for having a local artist paint the beautiful portrait from a photo.

I'd like to thank the Hasler family for taking on the task of cleaning our church. Isabella and Annalise have agreed to take over responsibilities from Sharon Werner. A clean church is an inviting one, and we have a very active church, so it is very much appreciated.

I've really been enjoying the Truth Project on Sunday morning Bible study before church with the 6th – 8th graders in Gina Fibiger's class. I encourage all members to attend as the video series explores how our Christian view differs from the world view. I'd also like to thank all of the Sunday School teachers for building the foundation of Christian education for the children in our congregation. I'd like to give a special thanks to KaoKalia Yang for the years of service as a Sunday School teacher. KaoKalia has decided this will be her last year teaching Sunday School. She always has the joy of the Lord in her smile. Please consider volunteering to teach a class starting next fall, as there are two open positions next year. One is for pre-school and the other for KaoKalia's class of 3rd – 5th graders.

Be Well, God Bless and to God be the Glory!

Todd Matte - Council President

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-1: Joanne Stangel Milly Menzer	3-18: Gilbert Sternitzky	3-26: Vicki Lindstrom
3-8: Ivan Hazen Alaric Hazen	3-20: Joanie Schnettler	3-29: Pastor Robert Steele
3-09: Elanore Faucher	3-22: Shirley Ottman	
3-11: William Paltzer	3-23: Jerry Sabrowsky	
	3-24: Barbara Vogt	
	3-25: Katelyn Regutis	

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3-03: Bill & Judi Strenger
3-18: Jason & Jill Mengel

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

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH

The March/April charity of the month is 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

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS

Please join us in the newly remodeled "Betty and Clyde Bawden Kitchen and Fellowship Hall" prior to each Lenten Service beginning at 5:00pm for our Lenten Soup Suppers. Enjoy homemade soups and fellowship. We will be taking extra Covid safety precautions such as more sanitizing, spacing table appropriately, and kitchen help wearing masks and gloves. **Please sign up on the sheets on the table in the back of church if you'd like to attend.** You can also email or call the church office to sign up. A free will offering will be taken each week.



HELP NEEDED!

Please take a minute to look over the schedule of Soup Suppers in the back of church. Lots of help is needed if we want to continue to hold a supper each week. Any help you can provide will be appreciated. Contact Gina in the church office if you have any questions.

*****DEADLINE TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS*****

MARCH 31st IS THE DEADLINE TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS FROM 2020, OTHERWISE THESE FUNDS WILL BE LOST.

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 as you can see outlined in the 2020 Annual Report.

✠ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

The following Memorial Gifts were given to Bethany in memory of Denis Schmideler:

Memorial Fund: Ken Thompson and Bill & Judi Strenger

Kitchen Project: Bob & Karen Wuerzberger

Improvement Fund: Julie Schuman

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.

LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF 2021 QUILT & KIT MINISTRY GUIDE BOOK

The 2021 LWR Guide Book for making quilts and kits is on file with Gina in the church office. *****PLEASE NOTE THIS CHANGE:** "Lutheran World Relief is no longer accepting fleece blankets, as we've received information that they cause environmental concerns. We encourage you to take any completed fleece blankets to a local shelter, hospital or nursing home in your community. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, and we deeply appreciate your kindness and generosity."



Love INC – Helping Churches Help People

Love Story.....You often hear about our Gap Ministries, but I wonder if you know how truly vital and impactful, they are? We are all about a hand up, but how are we doing this when we are giving out items from our Gap Ministries all the time? The truth is, the primary goal of every Gap Ministry is to continue developing our Christian relationships with each Neighbor. The relationship begins in the Clearinghouse when a Neighbor calls, but the Gap Ministries have the opportunity for face-to-face interactions, further strengthening our Neighbor’s trust in the Christian community. Here is what one Neighbor had to say about the Christian love poured out on her through two of our Gap Ministries, Furniture and Starter Kitchen Kits: “I love you guys; I love you guys! You helped me so much. One particular Volunteer really came through for me. She follows up with me. I am going to go to church with her someday. And the Volunteer who drove the truck was nice too.”

Who we are today: 41 Churches of 18 Denominations with 220 Volunteers.

How we did in 2020: 4057 Volunteer hours logged, not bad for a pandemic year (2019 was 5597 hrs.). 155 needs were met, 46 were unmet. Some Gap Ministries are on hold due to personal contact and paperwork. There are neighbors who reach out and then not follow through, they are not forgotten though. 10 Adults & 8 Children went through online life skill TM Classes (Transformational Ministry).

God continues to work through each of us as we continue to Help our Neighbors in the Name of Christ. During these still uncertain times please keep your neighbors close in heart and prayer.

Sue Prange – Bethany’s Love INC Representative



EASTER FLOWERS

It’s time to order Easter plants for decorating our church on Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase a plant, please fill out the form below, make check out to **Bethany Lutheran Church** and give or mail to Shirley Mueller, 1714 Autumnwood Ct. Sheboygan, WI 53081. They also may be placed in the Altar Guild box in the Communication Room. Plants may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service.

Deadline to order is Sunday, March 14.

Easter Lilies:

- ___ One Stem, 5+ blooms. \$ 9.50
- ___ Double Stems, 9+ blooms. \$19.00

Blooming Plants:

Please circle choice of color you prefer

- ___ 6" Hydrangea - pink or blue. \$18.50
- ___ 6" Mum Plants - yellow, lavender, white. \$10.00
- ___ 6" Azalea - red, pink, variegated. \$18.50
- ___ 6" Reiger Begonia - pink, yellow, salmon. \$12.00
- ___ 6" Tulips - red, pink, purple, yellow. \$ 9.00
- ___ 6" Hyacinth - pink, purple, white. \$ 9.00
- ___ 6" M. W. Geranium - burgundy, pink, purple. \$10.50
- ___ 6" Daffodils – yellow. \$ 9.00



Given by: _____

* In Memory of _____

* In Honor of _____

* Other _____

March 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 6pm Altar Guild 6:30pm Elders	02	03 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	04	05	06 4pm Worship w/HC
07 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	08 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	09	10 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	11	12	13 4pm Worship
14 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	15	16	17 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	18	19	20 4pm Worship w/HC
21 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	22	23	24 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	25	26	27 4pm Worship
28 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship Palm Sunday	29	30	31			

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

Wednesday, March 3
6:00 p.m.

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Fibigers
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger

Saturday, March 6
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy communion

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Ottmans
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild: Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, March 7
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Wednesday, March 10
6:00 p.m.

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Mattes
Acolyte: Winston Hasler

Saturday, March 13
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: K. Thompson, K. Rademacher, B. Kuehlman
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, March 14
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Hazens
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Lee Gumm

Wednesday, March 17
6:00 p.m.

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Pranges
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel

Saturday, March 20
4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte:	Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Kristine & Maggie Faucher
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

Sunday, March 21
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Jason Mengel
Ushers:	Fibigers
Acolyte:	Ella Albert
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Ryan Brooks

Wednesday, March 24
6:00 p.m.

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz
Acolyte:	Madison Fibiger

Saturday, March 27
4:00 p.m.

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Ottmans
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

Sunday, March 28
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Brian Faucher
Ushers:	Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Acolyte:	Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Dan Menzer