



In this issue:

Minutes of Meetings	Page 2
Activities and Events	Page 5
Max Lucado	Page 7
Lighter Side	Page 7
Calendar	Page 9
The Parish Paper (in separate attachment)	



Pastor's Column

Dear Friends in Christ-

Lent is here, and have you noticed that the texts for the past several weeks have been a lot more somber, and sometimes maybe even pointed and uncomfortable??? Not, what some of my Pastor friends might say, happy Jesus texts. Uff da! So, what do we do with such texts? Do we ignore them or skip them? Do we read them informationally only, and then real quickly say to ourselves, well that really doesn't apply to me? Do we beat ourselves over the head with them? In fact, what do we do when we hear Jesus' words to Peter, "Get behind me Satan," as Peter pulled Jesus aside and rebuked Him for saying what Peter did not want to hear about his idea of the Messiah?

Honestly, it would be really easy to skip over these texts, or to just read them for intellectual purposes only, and I don't think I could blame someone if they did that. It is really easy to do. And as a matter of fact, I think that part of the

worlds message to people is, aww, just go ahead and ignore the uncomfortable words of Jesus. After all, you are supposed to be happy, right? And yet, I think that as disciples of Jesus, we should not do this. But instead, we should enter into these texts with open hearts. And if after trying on the shoe, if it doesn't fit, then we don't have to wear it. But if we take an honest look at ourselves and find that maybe, just maybe the shoe sort of fits, how wonderful it is to know that the same grace that was available to Peter after his perfect denial of Jesus is available to us, too. And the same call of and to repentance that Jesus offers to Peter is available to us, just as the Apostle John reminds us of in 1 John 1:9, "If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." And I don't know about you, but to know that our Creator is not just just and true, but is also loving, merciful and forgiving, I believe is one of the greatest comforts that we as the created might have in this life...and the next. To know that we are no longer under the curse of sin's condemnation, but in Christ we are set free and ARE emphatically God's redeemed children.

So yes, Lent might be somber, but isn't it interesting that through such somberness, there might also be such a beautiful gift of joy and peace?! And so I look forward to continuing our Lenten journey together, as we bravely and steadfastly trust in the Lord. And as we move quickly toward the great joy of celebration that is His Easter rising.

God's many blessings to you all!

Pastor Jesse



Minutes of Meetings:

Bethany Church Council Meeting for February 21, 2018

Attendees: Barb Kesl, Norman Newton, Roland Newton, Mike Olson, Pastor Jesse Peterson, Cathy Potter, Chuck Potter, Jerry Ryerson, Kevin Winchell, Cheryl Kalsem

Devotions: Kevin Winchell

Additions/Deletions to Agenda: Added update on furnace

Consent Agenda: Pastor, Treasurer, and Committee Reports: Kevin moved to approve the Consent Agenda and Chuck seconded the motion. Motion approved.

Pastor's Report for the Consent Agenda for February 21, 2018:

- Lent is here, and much time in the past month has been spent on preparations for the Lenten season. I hope you all are able to take advantage of this purposeful time of preparation before Easter as you take time out to fast, pray, reflect, and to give of yourself in Godly and righteous ways.
- The Lenten Mid-Week series will focus on the question, "Who wanted Jesus to Die?" as we take a look at several of the players who played a role in Jesus' crucifixion and death.
- I had several Pastoral visits and meetings this past month regarding both church business and Pastoral care items.
- Cindy Shearer and I continue to collaborate on inner office items, including implementing Worship and Music's experiment with making all of the bulletins to include the various elements of the service including the readings. I have also worked with her in the preparation of the 2017 Annual Report. Thank you Cindy for all your hard work!
- Lots of prayer for the various needs of the church and her people.
- If you are foreseeing needs upcoming for your committee or group and need to meet and discuss it with me, please approach me sooner than later so we can get ahead of any items forthcoming. Thank you!
- Items for information and discussion in the Committees & Council:
 - o Mid-Week Lenten Offering dedication?
 - o Our next Heritage Sunday Pancake Breakfasts is scheduled for March 11, 2018.
 - o Another reminder for us all - 2018 is here, and if you have wanted to try out a committee, Staff and Volunteer as well as the various committees are looking for volunteers to help with the various Ministries of the church. We cannot do the Ministries we do without you. In particular, we are looking for members to serve on the Nominating Committee and the Auditing Committee. Auditing will oversee the audit of the 2018 Financial Records at the end of 2018 during the beginning of 2019. Please let S&V or the chair of the committee you are interested in know of your interest.
 - o Announcements – if you have an announcement you would like to be included in the bulletin, the email announcements, or the Banner, please email the details and how you would like it to read to bethanyofficemanager@huxcomm.net and copy me at bethanypastor@huxcomm.net. Please let us know where you would desire the information to be shared and for how long.
- A month in review of the Ministries to celebrate within the church:
 - o Adult Sunday School continues their walk through the history of the reformation as presented to us on Disc 3 – "A Man Named Martin – The Movement". It has been eye opening to see how the past 500 years have impacted Europe and America and how it continues to shape the current times. If you are interested in watching the DVD's, the first two are already in the Library and 3rd will join them when the lessons conclude.
 - o If you have any prayer requests you would like the Sunday Morning Prayer group lift up in their time of gathering, please email them to dolwil@huxcomm.net and bethanypastor@huxcomm.net. And, if you would like to receive prayer, please consider

joining the group, Sunday mornings from 9:00 to 9:15 in the Children's Sunday School room.

- o I am sure there is more. Sorry for anyone or anything I missed!
- Looking toward the future:
 - o Our Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled for March 4, 2018 after the service. More information will be forthcoming in the next month.
 - o We will be alternating between Shepherd of the Prairie and Bethany for our Mid-Week Services with the following schedule:
 - Wed. Feb.28th – Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service at Shepherd; Soup Supper at 5:30, Service at 7:00.
 - Wed. Mar.7th – Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service at Bethany; Soup Supper at 5:30, Service at 7:00.
 - Wed. Mar.14th – Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service at Shepherd; Soup Supper at 5:30, Service at 7:00.
 - Wed. Mar.21st – Mid-Week Lenten Soup & Service at Bethany; Soup Supper at 5:30, Service at 7:00.
 - Thurs. Mar.29th – Maundy Thursday Service at Bethany & Shepherd at 7:00.
 - Fri. Mar.30th – Good Friday Service at Bethany at 1:00 & Shepherd at 7:00.
 - Sun. Apr.1st – Easter Sunday Celebration Service at Shepherd at 7:00; Breakfast at Bethany at 8:00 & Celebration Service at Bethany at 9:30; No Sunday School
 - o Thank you to everyone who continues to support the Food Pantry and the Backpack Buddies program. Please continue to remember them in your prayers and as you shop for groceries this month. See the flyer posted on the bulletin board for Backpack Buddy monthly requests.

Pastor Jesse

Committee Reports:

Secretary Report: Approved via email for printing in *Bethany Banner*

Treasurer's Report: Email sent to all

Worship and Music Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Mike Olson Committee Chair

Worship and Music Committee had two recent meetings, January 17th and February 12th. Notes from each meeting follow:

January 17th Meeting (summarized notes from Joyce Peterson):

Following the cancellation of services on Dec. 31, 2017 it was noted that there is no policy regarding payment for musicians paid per service and for supply pastors when a service is cancelled. It seemed fair to set the payment at approximately ½ the regular substitute pay. After discussion, a motion was made, seconded and passed to set the pay for the church musician or a substitute at and \$50 and \$70 dollars for a supply pastor when a service is cancelled for any reason. A motion was also made, seconded and passed to pay Sarah H. retroactively for the Dec. 31 cancelled service. This policy needs to be revisited if the pay for musicians, substitutes, and supply pastors is changed.

Joyce Peterson will send thank you notes to Kjersten, Rilynn, Telea, and Ashley for their contributions to worship services. Consensus was to encourage them to participate in future services as they feel prepared to do so.

Ash Wednesday services will be held February 14 at 7:00 PM at Bethany. Midweek Lenten Services will be held in partnership with Shepherd of the Prairie. Soup suppers @ 5:30 with Lenten Services to follow at 7:00 PM. Usual Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday & Easter Sunday services will be held. At their meeting following ours the Council decided to provide Easter breakfast.

Joyce Peterson will order palms for Palm Sunday, prepare the signup sheet, and order the Easter Lilies. In the past, Blumsters has delivered the lilies without charging a delivery fee. A new vendor will need to

be found this year. A motion was made, seconded and passed to pay the delivery fee out of the Worship and Music Committee budget if a fee is charged.

The Spreadsheet for weekly hymn assignments is complete through May 27. Our goal is to have Lenten Hymns chosen by the end of January, and Easter hymns by Ash Wednesday. All other hymns should be chosen and added to the spreadsheet 6 weeks before the assigned date.

February 12th Meeting:

Plan to have additional kids' programs during the regular Sunday church service prelude, on April 8th and May 13th. Plan to have a song to practice by the end of February/beginning of March.

The TV screens are planned be used for Lenten services. The CCLI License song "How Deep the Father's Love For Us" will be used as the offering hymn during Lent.

Easter Lilies are going to be purchased from Hy-Vee, and including delivery, will cost \$10 each. Motion passed by committee to purchase flowers from Hy-Vee.

Recommendation was made from Jesse to put entire church service order in bulletin, instead of only on Communion Sundays. The committee discussed and decided to give it a try. Motion passed by committee.

Outreach and Service Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Submitted by Cathy Potter Committee Chair

Committee met Jan 22 and Feb 12th. Work on directory is progressing.

Ben Potter called in to discuss new website page, Google adware, the new Facebook page and using periodic mailers to invite the greater community to join us. An Easter mailer will go out to the Kelley zip code addresses 2 weeks prior to Easter Sunday. Ashley Nehring has volunteered to be Facebook editor. She is doing a fabulous job!

Facilities Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Submitted by Kevin Winchell Committee Chair

The siding project is slowly moving along. One company has been re-scheduled because of weather, another company no response. Have a couple others we want to contact for estimates.

The focus right now is to get this furnace issue remedied. Had found some issues with how the exhaust and intake pipes were put together, this has been fixed. The problem is still there, have a couple other areas to look into.

Staff and Volunteer Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Submitted by Barb Kesl Committee Chair

Staff and Volunteer- Committee report submitted for Annual Report.

Christian Education Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Submitted by Mary Nehring Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee Report for Council meeting 21 February 2018

Jerry Ryerson Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Action Items:

The 2018 list of Bethany Church Council and Council Committees was sent by email to the Council members. Norma made the motion to approve the list and Kevin seconded the motion. Motion approved.

The draft copy of the Annual Report was reviewed and several corrections were noted. Pastor Jesse asked that the council members review their submissions as well as the rest of the report and report any

corrections to the office manager and to him by Friday, February 23rd. The final copy is to be printed Friday.

Kevin gave the Council an update on the issues of the furnace. Kevin will summarize action(s) taken to repair furnace. Norma will collect all invoices from Harvest Heating and Cooling. Jerry Ryerson will take all this information and have discussion with Harvest and report back to the Council.

Mike Olson submitted a photo of his sister's church in Germany that will be used for the cover of the 2017 Annual Report. Thank you, Mike.

The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,

Cheryl Kalsem

The Collection Plate:

offerings -----\$5,153.00

Needed monthly -----\$7,053 (*per tentative 2018 budget divided by 12 months*)

---Norma Newton, Treasurer

BWOW News

Nothing Reported

Library News

Nothing Reported

Staff and Volunteer (S & V) Committee News

Nothing Reported

Activities and Events

Those Who Serve in March:

Greeters: March 4 – Ann Stensland; March 11 & 18 – Chuck & Cathy Potter; March 25 – Steve & Barb Kaltenheuser

Usher: Jerry Ryerson

Klokker: (March 11) – Roland Newton

Lectors: March 4 – Chuck Potter; March 18 – Carol Ryerson; March 25 – Joyce Peterson

Communion Preparation: (March 4) – Julie Winchell

Communion Assistant: (March 4) – Kevin Winchell

Cookies: March 4 – Ann Stensland & Eileen Primmer; March 11 – Deb Osterhout & Marilyn Osterhout; March 18 – Joyce Peterson & Norma Newton; March 25 – Barb Kaltenheuser & Marcia Berrett

Hospice Cookies: Julia Sullivan

Visits to less than mobile members:

March 1-15 – Ron & Jean Finch

March 16-March 31 – Need

Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

Sunday, March 4: Annual meeting following Worship Service. No Adult Sunday School.

Wednesday, March 7: 5:30pm – Soup Supper; 7pm Lenten Service at Bethany.

Sunday, March 11: 8-9am – Pancake Breakfast

Tuesday, March 13: 9:30am – Service Group Meets. Hostess: Norma Holland

Tuesday, March 13: Letters/Easter Cards to India are due.

Wednesday, March 14: 5:30pm – Soup Supper; 7pm Lenten Service at Shepherd of the Prairie.

Tuesday, March 20, 1:30pm - Faith Circle. Lesson Leader: Joyce Peterson. Chapter 1: "The Juggling Act" in Living a Life of Balance book. Hostess: Cheryl Kalsem.

Wednesday, March 21, 5:30pm – Soup Supper; 7pm Lenten Service at Bethany.

Wednesday, March 21, 8:00pm – Church Council Meeting.

Tuesday, March 27 – Deadline for Bethany Banner

Thursday, March 29 7pm – Maundy Thursday Service

Friday, March 30 – Good Friday Service: 1pm Bethany Lutheran Church; **7pm** Shepherd of the Prairie.

Sunday, April 1 – Easter Sunday: Celebration Service at Shepherd at 7am; Breakfast at Bethany at 8am & Celebration Service at Bethany at 9:30am. No Sunday School

Don't forget the food pantry – food or dollars. The second Sunday of each month (Heritage Sunday) has been designated as the time to bring items for the food pantry.

Letters to India: Your letters to India are due on **March 13!** Can include Easter cards.

Backpack Buddies: The fourth Sunday of the month has been designated for donations for the Backpack buddies program, which will begin collection for the following month. The item of request for March is Marconi & Cheese. Also, gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Aldi's and Fareway, etc. are greatly appreciated.

Happy Birthday:

March 5 – Carole Begg; March 9 – Rilynn Nehring; March 12 – Larry Kallem; March 15 – Ann Lem & Ashley Nehring; March 22 – Barb Kesl & Cyndi Ringgenberg; March 26 – Jerry Peterson

Anniversaries :

None

Affiliated and Neighboring Organizations

Madrid Home Communities News

Nothing Reported

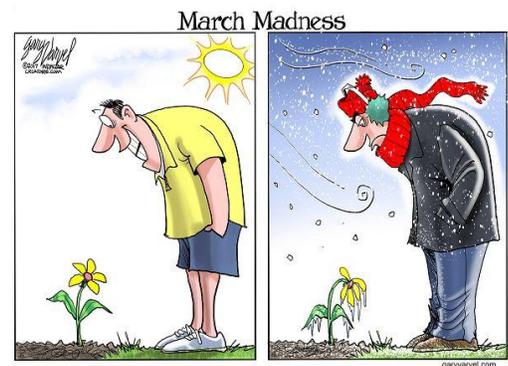


What's Your Word?

If you summarized your emotions regarding the return of Christ what word would you use? Discomfort...denial...disappointment...or hope? Maybe your word is *discomfort*. After all, the Book of Life will be opened, and names will be read. How could the thought of His return bring anything but discomfort? Maybe it's *denial*? We prefer answers and explanations, and the end of time seems short on both. Or how about *disappointment*? A mother-to-be wants to hold her baby; an engaged couple want to be married. A soldier overseas wants to go home before he goes... *home!*

Discomfort. Denial. Disappointment. All possible feelings. But here is the one feeling Christ wants us to have— trust! Jesus says, “Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God and trust in Me” (John 14:1).

The Lighter Side



During a recent discussion with a friend, she articulated her feelings about Christianity by making the statement, "I am more of a "God" person--not really a "Jesus" person." She went on to relate that she identified more with God than with Christ, even though she still considered herself a Christian.

Sadly, I knew exactly what she meant. I thought of the numerous times in the past where I have felt uncomfortable upon hearing someone exclaim, "Praise Jesus!" Or when I witnessed someone praying out loud, "Help me, Jesus." And I have to ask myself: *why* should their obviously-close relationship with Christ create an awkward situation for me? Shouldn't praying to Jesus be just as natural as praying to God?

I have often been guilty of falling back on God rather than referring to an active, living relationship with Christ. This conversation with my friend got me to thinking—have we become so "politically correct" that even amongst ourselves as Christians, we find it is easier to talk about "God" rather than "Jesus"?

And as we approach Easter—the central foundation of our Christian faith... the day that Christ rose from the dead... the day that we celebrate the LIVING Christ—shouldn't it be a day that we confirm Christ living in US? On this Holy Day, I think it is important to ask ourselves, "Are we keeping Christ alive in our lives?"

"My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. I am not one of those who treats Christ's death as meaningless..." ~ Galatians 2:20-21

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love



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March 2018 at Bethany Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4 Worship at 9:30 a.m. Communion No Adult Sunday school 10:45 a.m. Annual Meeting Following Service	5	6	7 Soup Supper 5:30pm Lenten Service 7pm @ Bethany	8	9	10
11 Pancake Breakfast 8-9am Worship at 9:30 a.m. Heritage Sunday Sunday school for all ages 10:45 a.m. Daylight Savings Time	12	13 Service group 9:30am Letters/ Easter Cards for India Due	14 Soup Supper 5:30pm Lenten Service 7pm @ Shepherd of the Prairie	15	16	17
18 Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday school for all ages 10:45 a.m.	19	20 Faith Circle 1:30pm Spring begins	21 Soup Supper 5:30pm Lenten Service 7pm @Bethany Church Council 8pm (after Service)	22	23	24
25 Worship at 9:30 a.m. Sunday School for all ages 10:45 a.m.	26	27 Deadline for submitting for April Banner	28	29 Maundy Thursday Service 7pm	30 Good Friday 1pm service @Bethany 7pm service @ Shepherd of the Prairie	31