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Pastor's Column

Dear Friends in Christ –

Does a particular text from the past several weeks stand out to you? Well, sometimes a text or series of texts really stays with me for a while after we study it...Kind of like when our Youth sang this little light of mine. But I digress. As you all know, we have been working our way through the letter of Ephesians as we continue discussing ways that we are to be the church, Christ's body in the world. Last week we wrapped up Ephesians talking about Paul's message about how God gives us His armor so that we might be able to walk the walk of faith and sometimes, when we can't continue to walk, He give us that same armor so that we just might be able to stand.

Now what stands out to me from the past few weeks is Paul's call to walk, not as unwise, but as wise. Now one might say, what's so special about that? Well, when Paul says, "walk not as the unwise", then I start to wonder, what does unwise look like. And to that question, we read in God's word, in Psalm 14:1 and 53:1, "The fool says in his heart, 'There is no God.'" It's kind of like the old saying, a person who represents them self in court has a fool for a client. Not only are they most often arrogant, but more often than not, they are going to lose! The fact is, just because someone denies a truth, doesn't mean that it makes what they think, feel, or believe, to be true. And conversely, it does not make that which is

true, untrue. God is very much real. If the Devil and the spirits know that God is real, then we have to wonder why folks want to continue to deny Him and His reality. And even though there are those that wish to deny His existence, that does not change the fact that in the end, we will all go before Him. And it will not be a good enough answer to say to God when He asks, "How will you atone for your sins", for them then to say, "I don't believe in you therefore you are not real therefore I do not need to atone for anything."

Basically, it's the idea that I believe it therefore it must be true. So, I surmise, that this is what a real fool looks like. One who is foolish toward God, denying Him, His justice, His mercy, His grace, His Son. And for that, sadly God's word is clear, and the fool will have heaped condemnation upon them self.

Now on the other side of the coin is what does it look like to be wise in the Lord? Well, back to God's word. Again, and again, we hear, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom..." (Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 15:33, Job 28:28, and my favorite – Psalm 111:10). See, we as disciples of Christ know the fear of the Lord. The fear that comes like the words of Amazing Grace sing, "T'was Grace that taught my heart to fear, and Grace my fear relieved." See, we should truly stand in awe and fear of the One who truly has the power to forgive or to not forgive...and who really does forgive. And as a matter of fact, it should really put us in awe, as we reflect on the sacrifice that God took upon Himself so that we might be able to be forgiven. He didn't have to, but He chose to because of the deep and abiding love that He has for us, His creation. And from this, we in turn should in some way be moved to honor Him as we live our lives as His ambassadors to this world. And that brings me back to the beginning. See, Paul delivered God's message to His people as he let them know that God does not leave us alone to either walk or stand on our own strength as we live lives as ambassadors to this world. No, God wants us to be successful. He wants us to know that He has us covered. He gives us His armor, and as if that wasn't enough, He gave us His only Son, and now He sends us His Holy Spirit anew, day by day. To empower us, to lead us, to guide us and to strength us to both walk and stand. And that is the truth.

Isn't our God awesome? So, let us sing with our whole hearts, "All praise, glory and honor be to You, Heavenly King, Almighty God and Father. You are the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. And we praise You, and we praise Your Son, Jesus Christ, and we praise Your Holy Spirit...One God, Now and Forever...Amen and Amen!!!"
May God bless you all!

Pastor Jesse



Minutes of Meetings:

Bethany Lutheran Church Virtual Council Meeting for August 15, 2018

Attendees: Barb Kesl, Mary Nehring, Norma Newton, Roland Newton, Pastor Jesse Peterson, Cathy Potter, Chuck Potter, Jerry Ryerson, Kevin Winchell, Cheryl Kalsem

The Meeting was called to order by President, Roland Newton

Devotions: Barb Kesl

Agenda: 1) Sunday School
2) New member orientation

Additions/Deletions to Consent Agenda: None

Additions to Agenda: 3) Parsonage
4) Windows
5) Help Wanted
6) Updated on finances

Consent Agenda Reports: Pastor, Treasurer, and Committee Reports: Barb made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda and Chuck seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report for the Consent Agenda for August 15, 2018:

- I officiated at the Marriage Ceremony of Dana Hill and Kevin Douglas who were married on August 11th, 2018. Please be in prayer for them as they start this new chapter of life together.
- We also look forward to Maggie Sullivan's Bridal shower that will be hosted at Bethany on Saturday morning August 18th from 10 to 12.
- The Bulletin Template project with Worship and music has wrapped up and is moving into its maintenance and minor adjustment phase.
- I had a few pastoral meetings and visits over the past month.
- We were blessed with special music from Lowell Accola & his daughter Maddy on August 5th. A special thank you to them as well as Ann Staudt and Eileen Primmer for handling the arrangements. What a blessing it was.
- Are you scheduled for one last trip this summer and also scheduled to serve? If so, please find your substitute and then please email someone on the Volunteer and Staff committee and Office Manager Cindy (with a copy to me) letting her know so that she can update the schedule. By the way, most folks do an exchange. It may take a call or two, but someone is usually more than willing to help.
- We are still looking for volunteers to help for the upcoming LCMC International Convention to be held in Des Moines this fall...Please consider lending a hand as you are able. By the way, it would be really great if we as a church body could supply a team of 4 people to help as Communion servers for the gatherings service.
 - o Also, this is a great chance to see what LCMC is really about and I would encourage anyone who is able to please sign up and attend. I will be limited in my attendance due to a limited amount of vacation from my other job. But if you'd like to go and then share what you learn, that would be great!
- We continue our way through the summer with messages from Paul on how to walk the walk of Faith.
- We are a diverse group of people here at Bethany and we hail from many different families and many different places in and around the church...Question, how well do you know your fellow brother or sister who attends Bethany? As we have received several new brothers and sisters over the last few years, I would encourage you to introduce yourself to someone you may not know very well, or even ask them over for lunch after church or something and take some time to get to know one another.
- Another friendly reminder, if you are foreseeing needs upcoming for your committee or group and would like to visit about them, please approach me sooner than later so we can get ahead of whatever it is you are considering. Also, I know that everyone is aware that because of the part

time nature of my schedule, I am not able to do all of the things a full time pastor might be expected to do. That being said, I am here to be a resource to you and to help you be successful in the various Ministries the Lord has called you all to.

- Items for general information:
 - 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.
 - Also, if you have items you would like to see go onto the Bethany FaceBook page, please contact Ashley Nehring.
 - 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.
- Looking toward the future:
 - o The Fall is coming, and it is never too soon to be thinking about all the fun event that fall can bring and how we might partake of them together. Also, I would encourage the Committees and their Chairs that if the Chairs are rolling off the committee at the end of the year, please begin training up the next in line to help fill your shoes. And by the way, thank you to all of the Committee Chairs for all of the work you all have done over the past year(s)! Bethany would not be who it is without all of its wonderful volunteers who minister in their own ways.
 - o Thank you to all who continue 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 request.
- I am sure there is more..Enjoy the end of the summer and all of God's many blessings all!

Pastor Jesse

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

Treasurer's Report: Email sent to all

Committee Reports:

Worship and Music Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Mike Olson Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Outreach and Service Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Submitted by Cathy Potter Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Facilities Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Submitted by Kevin Winchell Committee Chair

With the chimney down, cleaned up, the roof patched in and the fascia, soffit squared up. Along with the old landscaping removed. Windows in and the siding all but finished up, it's a project with a lot of planning, meeting and prep man hours. A project well worth it, makes our church look well cared for.

The A/C on the other hand keeps coming in with issues. Found the mother board bad not telling the blower motor to run fast enough, causing the unit to freeze up. Also found the filter on the line set plugged, causing the compressor to shut down. Both of these issues are temporarily fixed until the parts come in to be fixed correctly.

Staff and Volunteer Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Submitted by Barb Kesl Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Christian Education Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Submitted by Mary Nehring Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Finance Committee Report for Council meeting 15 August 2018

Jerry Ryerson Committee Chair

Nothing to report.

Action Items:

- 1) Sunday School: Start September 30th with Rally Day. Ashley will teach the children and recruit additional teachers. Scheduled the Live Nativity scene for Saturday, December 8th and alternative snow/ice/cold date December 15th.
- 2) New member orientation: see 5
- 3) Parsonage: Past renter's dealings with Triplet.
- 4) Windows: Other parts are in and will be installed on Friday. Sidewalk/landscaping work with Thrivent/Facility report back next month.
- 5) Help Wanted: Members to take new members under wing and encourage them into congregation. Also to start and lead new member orientation with support of pastor and council. Council to encourage people to welcome people.
- 6) Update on finances: Received final from Chelsvig estate. Check from Shepherd of the Prairie for the orphanage. Closed Cemetery account and Choir account. Funds are tracked in the accounting system. Closing the ELCA Mission fund.

Norma made the motion to adjourn the meeting and Chuck seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Cheryl Kalsem

The Collection Plate:

Offerings for July -----\$7,965.10

Needed monthly -----\$7,081.75 (2018 budget divided by 12 months)

----Norma Newton, Treasurer

Note from Council: We would like to tithe from the generosity we have recently received. The Council is looking for ideas on how to donate this money and share this blessing. Think locally, nationally and globally. The Council would like input to determine how best to give. We would like to finish collecting suggestions by October 1st, 2018 (this fall) so we can put in in budget for 2019. Rilynn is making a suggestion box that will be placed on the piano to place your ideas in. If you have any questions you can talk with anyone on council. Thank you.

Library News

When Darold and I attended an auction a few months ago, we bought a box of 30 books for \$15. The box mostly contained religious fiction books. We read a series together called Song of Alaska. It includes three books, Dawn's Prelude, then Morning's Refrain and finally Twilight's Serenade. They are easy to read and follow a story about Lydia Sellers who inherits her husband's entire estate. Her adult step-children battle to regain the fortune for themselves. So Lydia travels to Alaska to visit her aunt, loves it there and stays. She meets sawmill owner Kjell Bjorklund, a Swedish immigrant to Alaska and also finds out she is pregnant with her dead husband's child about the same time. The second book covers the life of her first husband's child and his family and the last book covers three generations. Norma Holland also read the books and enjoyed them. Check them out in the Fiction section of the library.

BWOW News

Faith Bible study will be held at the Kelley Historical Hall this month at 1:30 on Tuesday, September 18. Eileen Primmer will lead Lesson 6 on Balancing Love and Obedience. Barb Finch will be the hostess. We invite everyone to join us.

Activities and Events

Those Who Serve in September:

Greeters: September 2 – Kevin & Julie Winchell; September 9 & 16 – Marilyn Osterhout; September 23 – Darold & Eileen Primmer; September 30 – Barb Kesl

Usher: Darold Primmer

Klokker: September 9 – Norma Newton

Lectors: September 2 – Morey Hill; September 16 – Erika Peterson; September 23 – Dolores Williams; September 30 – Darold Primmer

Communion Preparation: September 2 – Jean Finch

Communion Assistant: September 2 – Bob Ryerson

Cookies: September 2– Carole Begg & Rhonda Hill; September 9 – Dolores Williams & Ashley Nehring; September 16 – Norma Newton & Eileen Primmer; September 23 – Lorraine Kennedy & Julia Sullivan; September 30 – Deb Osterhout & Norma Holland

Hospice Cookies: September 20 - Charlotte Nutty

Visits to less than mobile members:

September 1 to 15 – Jerry & Joyce Peterson

September 16 to 30 – Need Volunteer

Dates to Note on Your Calendar:

Saturday, September 1: Retirement Party for Dave & Jan McDermott (see invite below)

Monday, September 3: Labor Day

Saturday, September 8: Bethesda Lutheran Church 1st Annual Oktoberfest (see invite below)

Tuesday, September 11, 9:30am: Service Group meets – Hostess is Charlotte Nutty

Sunday, September 16, 1:00-3:30pm: Madrid Home Fall Festival Open House (see info below)

Tuesday, September 18, 1:30pm: Faith Circle meets at Kelley Historical Hall

Friday, September 14: Letters to India are due

Wednesday, September 19, 7:00pm: Church Council Meeting

Saturday/Sunday, September 22-23: Riverside Women's Retreat (see info below)

Sunday, September 23, 12:00-2:00pm: Gilbert Lutheran Church 45th Pig Roast Dinner (see info below)

Wednesday, September 26: Deadline for September Banner

Sunday, September 30: Sunday School Rally Day

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 **September 14!**

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 September is Hamburger Helper. Also, gift cards to stores such as Walmart, Aldi's and Fareway, etc. are greatly appreciated.

SAVE THE DATE: **Retirement Party for Dave & Jan McDermott!** Please join them as they celebrate this new adventure. Saturday, September 1 at Riverside Dining Hall (3001 Riverside Rd, Story City) from 1:00-4:00pm (open house). There will be a program at 3:00pm. No RSVP is necessary. Refreshments will be provided.

You are invited: Bethesda Lutheran Church in Ames is having their 1st Annual Oktoberfest on Saturday, September 8th from 12-5pm at 1517 Northwestern in Ames. Food will be provided along with games, face painting, polka lessons, dancing and Blue Stem Billows Band will be entertaining us. You are also welcome to stay and worship with them at 5pm.

Please Join Us: Madrid Home Fall Festival Open House will be held on Sunday, September 16th from 1:00-3:30pm. Come tour the new renovations to the buildings. We will have live music, balloon twisting, face painting and refreshments.

You are invited: The Gilbert Lutheran Church is having their 45th Annual Pig Roast Dinner on Sunday, September 23rd from 12:00-2:00pm located at 135 School St in Gilbert. Free will donations will be accepted, suggested prices are: Adults \$10, Senior Citizens & Military \$8, Children 6-12 \$5 and 5 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit the GLC Building and Grounds for improvements and repairs.

Women's Retreat: Ladies you are invited to Riverside Bible Camp in Story City on September 22-23rd. Speaker will be Erin Port, her passion is to encourage women to live a simple purposeful life so we can enjoy a full, fine life! Erin is excited to discuss the unlikely people God uses to do His mighty work- people like David, Ruth, Esther, Mary and Paul. There is a flyer and sign up information on the bulletin board.

Happy Birthday:

September 8 – Vivian Nerness; September 11 – Eileen Primmer; September 20 – Marilyn Osterhout; September 21 – Ann Stensland; September 25 – Pastor Jesse Peterson

Anniversaries :

September 2 – Dean & Deb Osterhout; September 11 – Jerry & Bonnie Ballantyne



FACING A WALL OF FEAR?

Perhaps standing before you is a wall of fear. Brick upon brick of anxiety and dread. Haunting you are the kings of confusion. Thanks to them, you've struggled with your identity and

destiny. You've bought the lie that life has no purpose...that life has no absolutes. As a child of God, it comes down to a simple decision to believe and receive your position as an heir of God and coheir with Christ.

The Scriptures say in 1 John 4:17, "In this world we are like Jesus." Our inheritance is every bit as abundant as that of Jesus himself. What he receives, we receive. What message are you carving on that wall of fear? What words are you writing? Choose hope, not despair. Choose life, not death. Choose God's promises. You are a new person. Live like one! Because God's promises are unbreakable, our hope is unshakable!

The Lighter Side

A lady went to the pastor and said, "I won't be attending church anymore." He said, "May I ask why?" She said, "I see people on their cell phones. Some are gossiping. Some just aren't living right. They are all just hypocrites." The pastor got silent and he said, "Okay...but can I ask you to do something for me before you make your final decision?" She said, "What is that?" He said, "Take a glass of water and walk around the church two times and don't let any water fall out of the glass." She said, "Yes, I can do that". She came back and said it is done.

He asked her three questions. 1. "Did you see anybody on their phone?" 2. "Did you see anybody gossiping?" 3. "Was anybody living wrongly?" She said, "I did not see anything because I was so focused on the glass, so the water would not fall."

That is why Jesus said "Follow me." He did not say follow Christians. Don't let your relationship with God be determined by how others relate with God, let it be determined by how focused you are with God. Jesus did not say "Follow Christians." He said, "Follow me."

Humbly submitted by a fellow Christian.

Bible Trivia –

1. In what city was Jesus born?
2. How many books are in the New Testament?
3. What type of insect did John the Baptist eat in the desert?
4. Who were the first apostles called to follow Jesus?
5. How many people did Jesus feed with five loaves of bread and two fish?
6. After Jesus was arrested, which apostle disowned him three times?
7. Who recognized Jesus as the Messiah when he was presented at the Temple as a baby?
8. Who asked Pilate for Jesus' body after the crucifixion?
9. Paul was shipwrecked on what island?
10. What is the shortest book in the New Testament?
11. Who is the author of the Book of Revelation?
12. Matthew was a _____?
13. To what city was Saul traveling when he encountered a great and blinding light?
14. Who was the first person to come upon the injured man in the parable of the Good Samaritan?
15. Finish this verse. "In every battle you will need faith as your _____ to stop the fiery arrows aimed at you by Satan."

Answers to Trivia: 1. Bethlehem; 2. 27; 3. Locusts; 4. Peter and Andrew; 5. About 5000 men; 6. Peter; 7. Simeon; 8. Joseph of Arimathea; 9. Malta; 10. 2 John; 11. John; 12. Tax Collector; 13. Damascus; 14. Priest; 15. Shield
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2018 at Bethany Lutheran

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 Retirement Party for McDermott's 1-4pm@ Riverside Story City
2 Worship at 9:25 am Communion Sunday	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8 Bethesda Lutheran Church Oktoberfest 12-5pm at BLC Church in Ames
9 Worship at 9:25 am Heritage Sunday	10	11 Service Group 9:30am	12	13	14 Letters to India are due	15
16 Worship at 9:25 am Madrid Home Fall Festival Open House 1- 3:30pm	17	18 Faith Circle 1:30pm	19 Church Council 7pm	20	21	22 Riverside Women's Retreat Sept 22-23 at Riverside Bible Camp
23 Worship at 9:25 am Gilbert Lutheran Church Pig Roast in Gilbert 12-2pm	24	25	26 Deadline for submitting to October Banner	27	28	29
30 Worship at 9:25 am Sunday School for all ages 10:45 am Rally Day						