



LET YOUR LIGHT SHINE, SO OTHERS CAN SEE YOUR GOOD WORKS! *MATT. 5:16*

Star on the Hill

June 2020

IN THIS ISSUE

Preparedness Plan and Rules for In-person Worship

Since the end of May, the church council has been working on two documents prescribed by the state of Minnesota and endorsed by the Southeastern Minnesota Synod. These documents ensure we provide a safe and healthy worship and meeting place for our pastoral staff, support staff, parishioners, and guests when we return to in-person worship.

The first document is a COVID-19 Preparedness Plan. This plan lays out our procedures for identifying sick church workers and guaranteeing they stay home; church worker hygiene, physical distancing; church building, cleaning, and disinfecting; protecting parishioners and guests; managing occupancy; and worship service rituals.

This document is too long to be included in this newsletter but will be posted in a couple of locations in our church building should you wish to view and read it.

The second document is a list of the rules you as members (and visitors) will have to follow to attend a worship service in our church. This document will appear in two editions: a 2-page more detailed description of the rules, included in this newsletter, and a 1-page version which will be handed out to every service attendee—both church member and visitor—before entering the sanctuary.

PLEASE NOTE: No Date Has Been Set for Worshipping In Person.

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Expectations and Rules For Protecting Parishioners and Guests During the COVID-19 Pandemic

A list of the requirements for attending a worship service at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, and guidelines for worship practices

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Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist

Church members and visitors will be asked to use this checklist provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to quickly evaluate the current state of their health.

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Church in Sylvan Park Sunday, July 19

We are planning to have church in Sylvan Park on Sunday, July 19, at 9 a.m., weather permitting, of course. You are more than welcome to attend in person or watch live on Facebook.

Because of COVID-19, there will be some restrictions for this outdoor gathering.

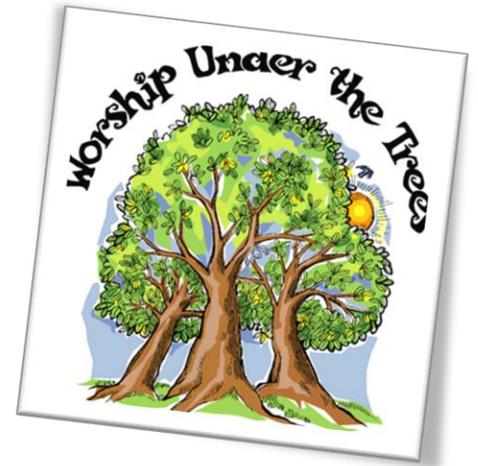
You can park your car in the spaces closest to and facing the gazebo, stay in your car, roll down your windows and give praise!

Or ... you can sit in lawn chairs on the grass. If you chose this option, then you are strongly encouraged to wear a mask or face covering. Two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with 6 feet of empty space on all sides of your group.

Attendees not in the same household also must keep a distance of at least 6 feet from others.

This includes keeping this distance with people next to you, in front of you, and behind you.

More information to come in the next few weeks.



worship
WITH US
via  livestream
SUNDAYS at 9:00 am

For now, on our Facebook page
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Lanesboro

Bethlehem Lutheran Church's Expectations and Rules For Protecting Parishioners and Guests During the COVID-19 Pandemic

➤ **Sick Church Members and Visitors — Please do not attend!**

- Church members and visitors are asked to self-check, that is, to self-monitor for signs and symptoms of COVID-19, and to stay home if you have symptoms.
 - Symptoms of COVID-19 can include fever greater than or equal to 100.0 degrees Fahrenheit, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, chills, repeated shaking with chills, muscle pain, headache, sore throat, or loss of taste or smell. Other less common symptoms include gastrointestinal indications like nausea, vomiting, or diarrhea.
- Church members and visitors will be asked to use the Minnesota Department of Health's (MDH) Visitor and Employee Health Screening Checklist to self-evaluate. This screening also addresses close contacts with confirmed cases and quarantined cases, and recent out of continent travel. Church members and visitors must stay home if they have had any exposure.
- Notices will be posted stating that if church members and visitors do not feel well, have any symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or any other illness, then they should not attend services.
- Church members and visitors who may be at higher risk for severe illness are strongly encouraged not to attend services.
 - The at-risk population is anyone 65 years old or older, and anyone with chronic lung disease; moderate to severe asthma; chronic heart disease; severe obesity; diabetes; chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis; liver disease; or weakened immune system.
- If a church member has even one household member experiencing symptoms compatible with COVID-19, or any other illness, then the entire family unit must stay home.
- If a church member or visitor begins to feel unwell while in the building, they should leave immediately, return home, and isolate themselves.

➤ **Hand Washing and Sanitizing — Please do it!**

Church members and visitors must wash and/or sanitize their hands upon entering the church and frequently while in the building. Handwashing can be done in the lavatories/restrooms and at one sink in the kitchen. Hand-sanitizer stations and containers will be available at entrances and in the pews. Church members and visitors are strongly encouraged to bring their own hand sanitizer.

➤ **Face Coverings and Masks — Wear one! — Please bring your own!**

Church members and visitors are required to wear a face covering or mask when in the building and during services when they are able. A limited supply of extra masks will be available for people who do not arrive with one.

➤ **Physical Distancing — Worshippers must be at least 6-feet apart!**

- Church members and visitors must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet from people not in the same household. This includes keeping this distance with people next to you and in front and behind you. This means that two or more members of the same household can sit adjacent to one another, with 6 feet of empty space on either side of the group, and worshippers must leave approximately every other row empty.
- Ushers will direct church members and visitors entering and exiting the sanctuary to maintain proper physical distancing. Seating will be blocked off and clearly marked to ensure adequate spacing of worshippers.

➤ **Occupancy Limits — No more than 90 worshippers!**

Sanctuary occupancy will be reduced to maintain the required physical distancing of at least 6 feet between people who do not live in the same household. Occupancy will not exceed 25% of our total capacity or a maximum of 250 people. These limits include leadership, assistants, and worshippers.

➤ **Worship Aids — Hymn books, no; bulletins, yes; projection, yes!**

- Hymnals and Bibles will not be available in the pews.
- A full-service bulletin will be placed on the pew where an individual worshipper may sit but it should not be shared.
- The order of worship, prayers, liturgy, readings, and lyrics will be projected on a screen.
- Electronic copies of the bulletin will be available for worshippers to access on their personal devices prior to the service.

➤ **Worship Practices — Some restrictions!**

- There will be no shaking of hands, hugging, fist-bumping, high-fiving, etc., to greet one another before, during, or after services, whether in the building or elsewhere on the church premises.
- Speaking and singing will be permitted but only while wearing a face covering or mask.
- There will be no passing of offering plates. Plates will be located at entrances/exits where you can simply drop your offering into the plate or other container without touching it. You are strongly encouraged to make use of pre-arranged giving through your bank, Vanco Payment Solutions, and/or their personal device application, "GivePlus Mobile".
- There will be no celebration of Holy Communion until further notice.

➤ **Coffee Hour, Faith Formation Classes, and Other Activities**

Fellowship, coffee hour, snacks, Bible studies, Sunday School, Confirmation, WELCA, and all other after worship meetings, gatherings, and programs are still suspended until further notice. Bible studies and other faith formation may take place online.

➤ **Virtual Worship — When in doubt, stay home and participate remotely!**

Worship services will be live-streamed or recorded and posted online to accommodate vulnerable church and community members. "At risk" church staff, church members, and visitors are strongly urged not to attend services and to participate remotely, if possible.

Church members and visitors will be asked to use this checklist provided by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) to quickly evaluate the current state of their health.

VISITOR AND EMPLOYEE HEALTH SCREENING CHECKLIST

CONDUCT HEALTH SCREENING EACH TIME
VISITORS OR EMPLOYEES ENTER THE FACILITY.

You may also opt to conduct temperature screening if it can be done with proper social distancing, protection, and hygiene protocols. However, temperature screening is not required.

If a visitor or employee answers “Yes” to any of the screening questions, they are advised to go home, stay away from other people, and contact their health care provider.

Have you had any of the following symptoms since your last day at work or the last time you were here that you cannot attribute to another health condition?

Please answer “Yes” or “No” to each question. Do you have:

- Fever or feeling feverish?
- Chills?
- A new cough?
- Shortness of breath?
- A new sore throat?
- New muscle aches?
- New headache?
- New loss of smell or taste?

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting
Minutes from May 5, 2020 meeting

Members present: Dave Ruen, Brett Clark, Carrie Hanson, Kate Glor, Susie Bradley, Julie Jensson, Karen Dahl, Elve Albrecht.

Also present: Pastor Kerry, Cindy Cordes-Eversole, Ed Taylor.

President Dave went over the letter he had received from Merchants Bank regarding the PPP(Paycheck Protection Program), sent to businesses, if you don't need the loan, the check should be returned. Bethlehem Lutheran Church received a loan of \$22,900, deposited 4/24/20. Seventy-five percent of this is to be used for payroll and remainder can be used for utilities.

Present Dave called the meeting to order and read the minutes from the April 8 Zoom meeting.

Motion by Kate Glor to approve minutes and seconded by Julie Jensson. Motion carried.

The position of Council secretary has not been filled. Susie Bradley was acting secretary but declined the position. Elve Albrecht volunteered with the option of the position being reviewed in 3 months.

Treasurer's Report was presented by Ed Taylor. He and Lee Peterson had reviewed the bills on Thursday prior to the Council meeting.

Motion by Julie Jensson to approve the Treasurer's report, seconded by Carrie Hanson. Motion carried.

Devotions by Pastor Kerry read from the Synod meeting scheduled to be streamed to three locations on April 26, 2020, "Renew Ministry Together-Hope for a New Day." Meeting was cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic

Regarding money to be donated to the Preston Food Shelf motion in March, a motion by Elve Albrecht via email was made to donate \$100, seconded by Karen Dahl. Motion carried. Check was cut and delivered to the Food Shelf.

Pastor Kerry noted that the May newsletter had not gone out yet awaiting additional information on worship and offering. Dave will prepare a letter regarding the PPP loan, information about the Give Plus App for offering electronically and further worship information to be included in the May newsletter.

Council will determine guidelines for in-person worship upon what Governor Walz recommends regarding this to determine a date to resume. Things to consider will be social distancing, no singing, no coffee hour, no handshaking, whether to wear masks for not. Those who feel at risk should consider staying at home. Virtual church service will continue even after in-person service resumes. Pastor Kerry brought up how those that did not have access to the virtual service could have access to them. A buddy-system with another person with access was mentioned.

Senior recognition: This was designated for May 17 with a reception after church but will not be happening thus other options were discussed how to recognize the seniors. Bethlehem has 7 seniors this year. Brett will put together a slideshow which can be run during service. Julie offered to help if needed.

Dave participated in a Zoom meeting that the Synod had arranged for council presidents.

The Synod contribution was discussed and will continue at the same amount of \$300 as in March. Motion made by Julie Jensson, seconded by Susie Bradley. Motion carried.

Cindy mentioned that the service group had not met yet, and they will need guidelines and duties with the changes due to COVID-19.

The next Council meeting is scheduled for June 9th at 6:30.

A motion was made by Brett Clark to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Kate Glor. Motion carried.

We closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Minutes submitted by Elve Albrecht, Council secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

General Fund Summary

May

	May 2020	May 2019	Yr To Date 2020	Yr To Date 2019	Annual Budget	Percent of Budget Expended
Income:						
400 · Sunday Offering	5985	5554	37584	38377		
401 · Simply Giving(GF)	3150	3200	16466	15550		
481 Fountain Reimbursement	1500	1500	7500	1500		
410 · Other Offerings & Gifts			40			
480 · Miscellaneous Income	33	91	1993	2746		
Total Income	10668	10345	63583	58173	0	

Expense:

500 · OUTREACH MINISTRY	300	550	1826	2750	7000	26%
550 · WORSHIP MINISTRY	636	530	1787	1202	5000	36%
600 · YOUTH & FAMILY MINISTRY	376	71	488	142	1500	33%
700 · PASTORAL MINISTRY	8746	8580	43701	39733	106000	41%
750 · OFFICE MANAGEMENT	447	483	2209	2397	5500	40%
800 · FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT	358	314	1974	1676	5100	39%
850 · OTHER EXPENDITURES	0	0	61	721	2500	2%
900 · PROPERTY MANAGEMENT	1637	1421	11929	12980	23600	51%
Total Expense	12500	11949	63975	61601	156200	41%
Net Gain or Loss	-1832	-1604	-392	-3428		

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION
STD MAIL
US POSTAGE PAID
LANESBORO, MN
PERMIT NO. 16

**Inside are
Important
Updates
on worshipping
in person.**

**NO DATE has
been set yet.**

Now, more than ever,
we need your email
address and cell phone
number so we can
connect with you more
easily and more often.
Send them to
kbeversole@yahoo.com
507-951-3954.