

CHIMES Newsletter

JUNE 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 6

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

At our last council meeting I gave notice of my last day with the congregation. That day is Sunday, July 4th. I will be taking vacation and study leave until our contract is up on July 31st. In this last newsletter article I want to communicate to you all some important information about what will happen after our last service together.

When a pastor leaves a congregation she is responsible for establishing and maintaining healthy boundaries between her and her former congregation. These boundaries serve as a way to help the congregation move forward in relationship with their new pastor. These are the boundaries that I am establishing:

- After worship on the 4th of July I will not be your pastor. As such, I will not be available to you for any pastoral needs or requests.
- I will be unfriending BLC folks from my Facebook account.
- I will not initiate any contact with folks from BLC, and will not reply to any personal contacts or requests from you for 6 months.
- If we "run into" each other as we are out and about it is acceptable to greet one another.
- When we do see one another, it's appropriate to call me only by my first name.

Please do not take any of these personally. It is for your well-being that I set these boundaries. I care about you and want the best for you.

I am grateful for the time we've been together. I am hopeful for the future for Bethlehem and for me. I trust that God will continue to guide our steps along the way. Thank you, everyone.

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen

FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

To the Congregation:

As our time with Pastor Jen grows closer to her departure, she has informed us that July 4th will be her last day at Bethlehem allowing her time to heal, grieve, rest and renew as she prepares for her next journey in serving Christ.

The Transition Team is planning a celebration of our time together. If you would like to get involved in this planning, please let Barb Rothwell or Ann Ciske know. You can also let Julie know if the office.

As the Call Committee continues their interviews of potential candidates, Dan Pulsfus has stepped up to cover some Sunday services. At this time we



UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 1

Finance Meeting 5 pm

JUNE 2

Food Pantry Helpers

JUNE 3

Hybrid Ministry Webinar 9-11 am

JUNE 6

Outdoor Worship & Volunteer
Appreciation Fellowship

JUNE 10

Hybrid Ministry Webinar 9-11 am

JUNE 17

Council Meeting 6pm

JUNE 20 FATHER'S DAY

Outdoor Worship 9am
Brat Fry

JUNE 27

Good-bye Party for Pastor Jen 10 am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

W8267 Hwy 33 East

Portage, WI 53901

608-742-8502

Email: bethluch15@gmail.com

www.bethlehemLCportage.org



will temporarily suspend the Wednesday night service until we have a full time Pastor. This is a decision made with regret, but we find it necessary for the time being.
Church Council

OUR CHURCH

WORSHIP UPDATE



Outdoor Summer Worship

At All Committee Night we decided we would have outdoor worship on a regular basis for the summer months on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month,

starting June 6th. We will use the awning at the front of the church as we have done recently. Bring your lawn chairs to set up in front of the church. If it rains, we will be indoors.

COVID TASK FORCE UPDATES

The Covid-19 Task Force met Tuesday, May 25th to discuss the new recommendations for masks for vaccinated people put forth by the CDC. After a prayerful discussion, we will be making the following changes:

1. We have increased the capacity and you will no longer need to make a reservation or sign up to come to church. We do ask though that when you come you fill out a communion card. This will help if we need a list of who was there for contact tracing purposes.
2. Vaccinated: Masks and physical distancing will not be required for those who are vaccinated. This goes for any activity inside or outside the church building.
3. Unvaccinated: Masks and physical distancing are recommended for those who are not vaccinated, both inside and outside of the church building.
4. Singing will be allowed at the outdoor services
5. Food will be allowed outdoors following food safety handling protocols

If you have any questions about our current Covid policies, please contact a member of the team. Thank you. *Ann Ciske, Kerry Melby, Del Molden, Larry Sween, Dan Pulsfus, Janice Petersen, Julie Saalsaa, Melissa Bradbury.*

GOOD-BYE PARTY FOR PASTOR JEN

The Transition Team has planned a good-bye party for Pastor Jen on Sunday, June 27th after worship. The party is a week early to allow for more people to be able to come since Pastor's last day is July 4th. We will celebrate all Pr. Jen has done for Bethlehem Lutheran with a cake & refreshments. The Team will also be collecting donations for a gift. Please send your donations to the office. The gift will be presented on Pastor's last day.

PROPERTY UPDATE

Now that the grass is green, it will need mowing. Please consider signing up to be on the rotation list of lawn mowers for the church property. All help is appreciated. Contact Jack Paulson at (608) 698-0882.



CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



Call Committee Update

Since the last update, the committee has been working on reviewing candidate information from the Synod. Of the three candidates presented by the Synod, two were interviewed and the call committee has requested a second interview with one of the candidates. This interview will be conducted soon as we were impressed with their first interview responses. Again, we will keep you informed on interviews and progress in the pastoral call!

For anyone who would like any additional information on the Call Committee's efforts please contact any **Committee** member. We will be happy to answer your questions, discuss the process we have prayerfully followed, and provide information on decisions made on behalf of the congregation. Our numbers are below.

Peace. Jeff Melby

Review of Call Committee Timeline since October 2020:

A Ministry Site Profile for Bethlehem was created from responses to the congregational survey completed in December 2020. The MSP was then submitted to the council and the Synod and approved. The MSP expresses information for finding a matching relationship with our congregation and a new pastor. Considering the many factors from the survey and MSP, this led to the committee decision (from the congregation's input) that we would be seeking a new pastor this year. Pastor Jen has done wonderful work as a renewal pastor for the past two and half years and we

have greatly appreciated her efforts especially during the disruptions in life the pandemic continues to put forth. Pastor Jen's ministry efforts for our congregation continue until July of this year and we are grateful for her service.

The Call Committee's goal is to have good communication with congregation members of Bethlehem throughout the call process. We will strive for frequent communication to you via announcement updates, the Chimes, the church website, etc. The pastoral call is not simply the committee's decision. We are reaching out to members of Bethlehem of all ages to help and guide us as we determine a profile for our church life and find the optimum fit for a pastor we will call.

The committee members are Bonnie Dixon (Chairperson), Jeff Melby, Melissa Bradbury, John Denhartigh, Kathryn Crawford, and Tina Thomas. Council Member Jack Paulson is the liaison between the committee and Church Council.

Bonnie Dixon	608-697-9579
Jeff Melby	608-697-8347
Melissa Bradbury	608-697-4972
John Denhartigh	262-308-1027
Kathryn Crawford	608-697-5262
Tina Thomas	608-577-6607

SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS



We are looking for a person or a group of people who would be interested in organizing our Summer Outdoor Movie Nights. We have raised money to purchase the equipment to make this happen. We believe this will be a great opportunity to bring not only our members back together after a very long year, but also the members of our community. Contact the church office if you're interested.

THANK YOU!



Thank you to Dick Olson & Barb Rothwell for all the work they do on the Prayer Garden.

BRAT FRY, JUNE 20TH



We are planning a brat fry for June 20th after our outdoor worship service. We are looking for volunteers to help: money takers, cooks, servers. Contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999 if you're willing to help out.



FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

On Sunday, May 16th following the church service we had some outside activities for children and families. We had a scavenger hunt, hand painting, planting a vegetable or flower to take home, painting stones, and some games. We had a treat bag for each child to take home with them.

We had a BINGO scavenger hunt. The highest number found was 19 by Senne. Second highest with 18 was Lindsey. A fun time was had by all.

If you are interested in helping with Sunday School, please contact Jeanette Gessner 608-617-5228 or the church office.

PUMPKIN PATCH CARE

We will once again be growing pumpkins. All youth (or adults) are encouraged to sign up with their families to help water and weed and get volunteer hours. You can sign up here:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-pumpkin>

MISSION KITS

The Local and Global Missions is restarting the Mission Kit Ministry. You can help in multiple ways.

1. We are collecting individual items for the kits. A supply list and collection boxes are in the Narthex.
2. You can assemble your own kit. Directions for School, Personal and Fabric kits are on the display in the Narthex.
3. When we have collected enough items to construct the kits, you can volunteer to help make them.

For more information call Janice Petersen: 608-742-8502 or Jeanette Gessner: 608-617-5228

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION, JUNE 6TH

2020 has been a hard year for us all. It has taken a lot of creativity, time and hard work to make it through. It couldn't have been done without the time and talent of our volunteers! And there are many people who really stepped up to help make worship and activities happen. BLC Staff are extremely grateful to you for your help and we would like to thank you for your efforts. All are welcome to a special fellowship time after the outdoor worship on June 6th for coffee/tea and treats.



ALTAR FLOWERS



We will once again resume ordering altar flowers starting in June. Sign up for altar flowers is in the Narthex. Please note the change in price and billing:

1. \$40
2. Payment required at time of sign up—payable to the church, as the greenhouse will now bill the church

ADOPT A BILL

BLCs Adopt-a-Bill is back. This program is a way to connect with the church and give back financially, above and beyond your current offerings. You can donate toward bills, either multiple bills or just a partial amount of a bill. See the attachment in this month's Chimes.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison May 1-24, 2021

	TOTAL				
	MAY 1-24, 2021	MAY 1-24, 2020 (PY)	APR 1-24, 2021 (PP)	JAN 1 - MAY 24, 2021 (YTD)	JAN 1 - MAY 24, 2020 (PY YTD)
Income	\$20,368.45	\$13,075.71	\$19,784.00	\$98,983.06	\$103,225.44
GROSS PROFIT	\$20,368.45	\$13,075.71	\$19,784.00	\$98,983.06	\$103,225.44
Expenses	\$12,269.60	\$19,535.26	\$11,729.30	\$90,813.29	\$105,044.97
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$8,098.85	\$ -6,459.55	\$8,054.70	\$8,169.77	\$ -1,819.53
Other Income	\$3,200.00	\$313.39	\$2,250.00	\$10,831.42	\$4,811.00
Other Expenses	\$3,099.25	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,364.50	\$4,595.87
NET OTHER INCOME	\$100.75	\$313.39	\$2,250.00	\$466.92	\$215.13
NET INCOME	\$8,199.60	\$ -6,146.16	\$10,304.70	\$8,636.69	\$ -1,604.40

Cash basis Monday, May 24, 2021 10:50 AM GMT-05:00

Can Recycling Tips!

FIRST - A big THANKS to congregation members and others who recycle their aluminum cans to help with funds for youth group programs. (The drop off bin for cans is located on the left side of the church near the side entry door). Bob Rehdantz began the can recycling many years ago and he designated the funds collected for youth. Bob was a big supporter of our younger members!

Now for the helpful Can Recycling Tips:

During a recent trip to the recycling center in Portage it was requested that **ALUMINUM CANS SHOULD NOT BE MIXED WITH ALUMINUM FOIL, ALUMINUM PIE "TINS" OR COOKING PANS**. Foil, pie tins, and cooking pans can still be recycled but in a separate bag. In other words, bags should contain "Cans Only" or "Foil, etc. Only". Thanks for your help with this small request. Otherwise, they need to be separated by persons taking bags to the recycling center (a time-consuming effort).

One Bag:



Another Bag:



Thanks for your help and support of youth program funds!

P. S. – Another helpful tip would be to pull off can tabs to also collect just the tabs in a bag. It's a wonderful Sunday School Program that tabs are collected to support Ronald McDonald House Charities! Tabs only could be dropped off at church office!





ADOPT-A-BILL

This program is a way to connect with the church and give back financially, above and beyond your current offerings. You can donate toward bills, either multiple bills or just a partial amount of a bill.

Below are a list of current bills. If you choose to donate indicate Adopt-A-Bill and what bill in the memo section



Name	Amount
Alliant Energy (gas/electric)	\$1063.73
Brotherhood Mutual (Insurance)	\$1708.75
GFC Leasing (Copier)	\$208.02
GFL Environmental (Garbage)	\$176.14
Rhyme (office supplies)	\$146.68
TH Stemper (communion supplies)	\$85.20
Thrivent (mortgage)	\$5613.00
Vanco (simply giving fee)	\$27.29

Name	Amount
QuickBooks (financial software)	\$40.00
Frontier (phone/internet)	\$301.83
Concordia 360 ^D (church member software)	\$650.00
1517 Media (Word in Season Devotionals)	\$59.36
1517 Media (Sundays and Seasons Worship description)	\$536.90
Wisconsin State Lab of Hygiene (annual water test)	\$30.00

Questions?

Call Janice or Julie at the church office: 608-742-8502



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

June 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 5:00 pm Finance	2 8:30 am CASA Training 10:30 am Tai Chi - Music Room 5:30 pm Worship In person	3 9:00 am Hybrid Ministry Webinar	4 10:30 am Tai Chi	5
6 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person - <u>Outdoor</u> 10:00 am Volunteer Appreciation Fellowship 	7 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 3:00 pm SREA Board Meeting - Music Rm 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	8	9 8:30 am CASA Training 10:30 am Tai Chi - Music Room 5:30 pm Worship In person	10 9:00 am Hybrid Ministry Webinar	11 10:30 am Tai Chi	12
13 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person TO OUR VOLUNTEERS!	14 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	15	16 8:30 am CASA Training 10:30 am Tai Chi - Music Room 5:30 pm Worship In person	17 6:00 pm Council Meeting	18 Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	19
20 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person - <u>Outdoor</u> 10:00 am Brat Fry 	21 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:00 pm SREA meeting - Music Rm 6:30 pm Card Club	22	23 8:30 am CASA Training 10:30 am Tai Chi - Music Room 5:30 pm Worship In person	24	25 10:30 am Tai Chi	26
27 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person 10:00 am Good-bye Party for Pr. Jen 	28 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	29	30 8:30 am CASA Training 10:30 am Tai Chi - Music Room 5:30 pm Worship In person			

