

## CHIMES Newsletter

MAY 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 5

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### MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

When my cousins, brothers, and I were young we were fortunate to be able to spend a lot of time with each other. We were all fairly close in age and there were so many fun things to do together. One of our favorite things was to all be together and Grandpa and Grandma Johnson's home in Argyle, WI. We'd climb trees, play wiffleball, or hide and seek if we were outside. Inside there was a cabinet full of games and toys we could play with. My favorite was the card game, "Authors".

Playing together inside was neat because we got to talk with Grandpa and Grandma. I don't remember the words of our conversations, but I do remember how it felt to spend that time together. I think one of the biggest feelings was knowing that we mattered. Our being with Grandpa and Grandma was so important to them that they adjusted their daily routines to spend as much time with us as possible. That's not how we understood it as kiddos; we just knew that when we were there they spent time with us. We will never know what they sacrificed for us or missed out on with their usual routine because we were with them.

One of the questions I was asked when I was discerning the Call to Minister of Word and Sacrament was about who most influenced my faith when I was young. The seemingly obvious answer was my Grandpa Guequierre, who was a Lutheran pastor. Grandpa and Grandma Guequierre certainly had an impact, as I also spent a lot of time with them. But the time I spent with them in Lake Geneva, WI was different than the time spent in Argyle. With Grandpa and Grandma Guequierre we accompanied them in their daily routines. We even had chores that we were expected to do. It wasn't bad, but it was different. And as child I needed what Grandpa and Grandma Johnson gave us. I needed to know that I mattered. [I don't fault you if you think I'm whining about my past. It's okay with me. 😊] That feeling of mattering so much that they were willing to sacrifice their lives for our relationship was the greatest faith influence I had as a child. They didn't talk about faith; they lived it. They showed it. They shared it. Grandpa and Grandma Johnson witnessed to the Gospel with their living and loving.

I wonder, are words alone enough to convey love to someone? As a comparison, I do know that words alone have the power to hurt someone. I've seen that happen all too often. But do words alone have the power to build someone up, to bolster confidence, to convey how much someone matters? Maybe, just as faith without works is dead, love without works is an empty word. I know all of my grandparents loved us. That isn't even a question in my heart. It's just that the quality of love, if there is such a thing, seemed different. One love was assumed and understood. The other was expressed with what seemed like every fiber of their being. To me, Grandpa and Grandma Johnson's love reflected the love of God in Christ Jesus.

We were fortunate to know such love. Not everyone has known that

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1

BLC Spring Fashion Show 1 pm

MAY 2

Blessing of the Council at Worship  
9am

MAY 4

Finance Meeting 5 pm

MAY 5/6

Food Pantry Helpers

MAY 9

Mother's Day

MAY 10

Dwelling in the Word 2 pm  
ALL Committee Meeting 6:30 pm

MAY 13

Dwelling in the Word 7:00 pm

MAY 16

High School Senior Blessing at  
Worship 9am  
Plant Sale 10 am  
Sunday School End of Year Gathering  
10 am

MAY 20

Council Meeting 6 pm

MAY 27

Dwelling in the Word 7:00 pm

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**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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kind of love before, sadly. We didn't even know how fortunate we were then. We are grateful now, certainly. Why is Christ-like love a fortunate thing? Why don't we all love like that? What's preventing us all from fully giving of ourselves? My Norwegian grandparents embodied the love of Christ! You'd think if a stoic Norwegian could express love in such a way that anyone could, right???

I pray that my grandchildren know the love of Christ by my living witness. I pray that someday they are able to look back and find that kind of love was the norm in their childhood. I pray that they will continue the legacy of love.

Watch for deer,  
Pastor Jen

p.s. Amen, amen, amen!

## OUR CHURCH

### HYMN REQUESTS



Carla will be playing hymns during Communion time that are requested by you. To request a hymn please contact Carla or the church office so she can plan ahead.

### PRAYER LIST



Do you have someone you like to have added to the prayer list that we print in the bulletin? If so, just let Pr. Jen, Janice Petersen, or the office know.

### 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

Over the past month the committee has met and made minor revisions to interview questions after suggestions during the "mock interview" with Pastor Enstad from Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Madison.

The committee has also since received three potential names of pastors seeking a call and we met to start to review their information. Our next step is to communicate with the Bishop in contacting someone selected to interview or seek more information on others. The Bishop will keep us updated on more potential candidates seeking a call as well. The committee also encourages any Bethlehem

congregation member who would have a connection or know of a potential pastor candidate, to please contact us! One member did so this past month which was appreciated. 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

## SPRING FASHION SHOW



**Featuring Fashions from Theresa's Boutique**

**When:** Saturday, May 1st at 1pm

**Where:** Bethlehem Lutheran Church

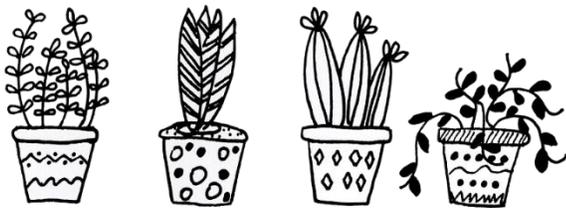
**Tickets:** \$10 purchase at church, our website or from Theresa's

Boutique

We are looking for people to help the day of the show: taking tickets, behind the scenes help, ushering



## PLANT SALE MAY 16<sup>TH</sup>



It has been a few years since we have had our last plant sale. The date will be Sunday, May 16th. Bring in your perennials or other plants you want to sell to church starting the week before the sale. Please identify your plant with: name, growing conditions, care, any special instruction. Any questions, please contact the office.

## MISSION KITS

### MISSION KITS ARE BACK!!

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) reaches people in poverty around the world to help them adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihood and well-being, with the goal of becoming self-reliant. One way they do this is through their Quilt and Kit Ministry. BLC has long been



Personal Care Kits

active in their Quilt ministry, and now we are going to participate in the Kit Ministry.

LWR Kit Ministry collects kits assembled from congregations to support people in these challenging situations. BLC will collect items for:

**School Kits:** a backpack filled with basic school Supplies to educate a child.

**Personal Care Kits:** a light towel wrapped with basic hygiene items.

**Fabric Kits:** two pieces of coordinating thread to help people learn a reliable, marketable skill.

We will be collecting the items at church and in the Narthex. A complete list of the items is attached to the Chimes. You can assemble a kit or kits yourself or bring donated items to church and we will assemble later. No items with religious, patriotic, American Flag or military symbols can be used.

If you have questions, you can call Janice 608-742-8502 or Jeanette at 608-617-5228.



Fabric Kits



## 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

During this time of COVID-19 as we have been unable to meet in person, we have been doing bags for each child. These include a lesson for each week, with a craft project, activity sheets or coloring sheets and sometimes some extra goodies. These have been delivered to each family. We hope you have found these to be educational. May will be the last month of these bags. Our hope is to be able to meet in church by the Fall.

On Sunday, May 16th following the church service we will be having some activities for children and families. Anyone is welcome to attend. This will all be outside, weather permitting. We will be having a scavenger hunt, forehead painting, planting a vegetable or flower to take home, painting stones, possibly a few other things. We will have a treat bag for each child to take home with them. We look forward to seeing you at this event.

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

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation students resumed in-person classes on April 7th. Students were given a virtual option if needed. It's such a great feeling to have the presence of the youth back in the church! We are continuing to study the New Testament. Eight graders will begin working on their confirmation project as they approach being confirmed. We will be ending the year on May 19th with a bonfire and outdoor games with the current 5th graders to welcome them.

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



You are invited to a special worship service in your honor to celebrate your accomplishments and receive a special blessing during the 9 am worship service on May 16th. Congratulations to our seniors:

*Katelyn Cook  
Joseph Charles  
Genna Garrigan  
Olivia Gramer  
Hayes Hensler  
Sierra Kollath  
Emma Kreuziger*

*Britta McKinnon  
Avery Meierdirk  
Megan Pace  
Julia Rieckmann  
Chloe Saalsaa  
Olivia Schilling  
Abigail Zellmer*

DWELLING IN THE WORD

Dwelling in the Word will be offered the following days in May:



May 13<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm with Chaplin Mark  
In person meeting in fellowship hall at church

May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2 pm with Pr. Jen  
<https://zoom.us/j/92865189344?pwd=VVRycDdRcGZReHBTNk9QMctvRmVvdz09>

May 27<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 pm with Chaplin Mark  
In person meeting in fellowship hall at church

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS



We continue to have a lot of open spots for worship volunteers. We need ushers and readers. Also, if you are interested in learning how to run the audio/visual equipment for live streaming, please contact the office. Please sign up! You can do so by calling the office or on our website: [www.bethlehemlportage.org](http://www.bethlehemlportage.org). Thank you to all of the volunteers that have been helping throughout 2020 and into 2021!!

FINANCIAL UPDATE

March and April have proved to be a more challenging time for finances. We have had to transfer money out of savings to cover our routine bills. The church did successfully raise money to support an outdoor movie screen and camperships for youth.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison  
April 1-20, 2021

	TOTAL				
	APR 1-20, 2021	APR 1-20, 2020 (PY)	MAR 1-20, 2021 (PP)	JAN 1 - APR 20, 2021 (YTD)	JAN 1 - APR 20, 2020 (PY YTD)
▶ Income	\$19,484.00	\$21,142.60	\$13,829.75	\$74,701.92	\$81,764.64
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,484.00	\$21,142.60	\$13,829.75	\$74,701.92	\$81,764.64
▶ Expenses	\$12,254.41	\$10,795.75	\$12,944.14	\$70,924.12	\$76,841.13
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$7,229.59	\$10,346.85	\$885.61	\$3,777.80	\$4,923.51
▶ Other Income	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$31.42	\$6,231.42	\$4,472.61
▶ Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,891.50	\$4,269.25
NET OTHER INCOME	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$31.42	\$339.92	\$203.36
NET INCOME	\$9,479.59	\$10,346.85	\$917.03	\$4,117.72	\$5,126.87

Cash basis Tuesday, April 20, 2021 11:11 AM GMT-05:00



# SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Include the following items in each School Kit:

**Not needed**  
~~One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)~~



**x1**



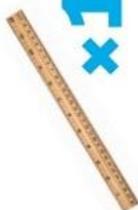
**x4**

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½", no loose-leaf paper



**x1**

One box of 16 or 24 crayons



**x1**

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



**x1**

One pencil sharpener



**x1**

One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



**x5**

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



**x5**

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



**x1**

One 2½" eraser

# PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



**x1**

One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20" x 40" & 52" x 27"), dark color recommended



**x2**

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



**x1**

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*



**x1**

One sturdy comb, remove packaging



**x1**

One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

## WHAT'S NEEDED FOR THE MISSION KITS

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						<b>1</b> 1:00 pm Spring Fashion Show 
<b>2</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person - Council Blessing 	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm Finance 6:30 pm Covid 19 Task Force Mtg	<b>5</b> Food Pantry 5th/6th 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th 	<b>6</b>	<b>7</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>8</b>
<b>9</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person 	<b>10</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 2:00 pm Dwelling in the Word w/ Pastor Jen 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:00 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm All Committee Meeting	<b>11</b> 9:00 am Quilters	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th	<b>13</b> 7:00 pm Dwelling in the Word Fellowship Hall Dwelling in the WORD 	<b>14</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person High School Senior Blessing 10:00 am Plant Sale 10:00 am SS End of Year Gathering 	<b>17</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Covid 19 Task Force Mtg	<b>19</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th	<b>20</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>21</b> Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>25</b> 9:00 am Quilters	<b>26</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th	<b>27</b> 7:00 pm Dwelling in the Word Fellowship Hall Dwelling in the WORD 	<b>28</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>29</b>
<b>30</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>31</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:30 pm Card Club 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club					

