

Heartland Community Parish Newsletter June 2020



Farewell My Friends

So then, my dearly loved and longed for brothers and sisters, my joy and crown, in this manner stand firm in the Lord, dear friends. – Philippians 4:1

Dearest church. I must tell you that I am grieving. I am grieving that our time together is now over. I am grieving that we will be siblings in Christ that are called by God to continue in service the Kingdom in a different way. I am grieved that God's plan has been such to have us begin a good work together and wait for the completion of it at a later date.

But I am also rejoicing. I am rejoicing that I was allowed to be your pastor for the time we had together. I am rejoicing that we accomplished so much in such a short time. I am rejoicing that you and I have been able to get to know one another and be drawn closer as brothers and sisters. I am rejoicing that now God is going to keep blessing you through another preacher who will come to you and continue offering up to you the Word and the Sacraments.

You must know, as those for whom I was called to shepherd in God's Word and serve at the Table, you are my joy and crown. When one shall ask me of my ministry, I must tell them to look at you. To see that in you is the best example of my time as a pastor. Both in my areas of success and the areas in which I fell short. The areas in which my gifts bore fruit in you, and the areas in which I must and shall grow in my ministry.

Be sure in this, that God will continue to work in you. He will help you stand firm in him. That is the call of God upon you. To help you to grow in trust in him. To fear and love him above all things, as Luther tells us in the Small Catechism.

You will always be important to me. I will have fond memories of all we have shared, but I also know and trust that as God brought me to you and has led me to join in another ministry, so God will remain faithful and continue to shape you as the disciples of Jesus that you are.

May God's blessings always be upon you.

Your friend and brother in Christ,

Carleton

Dear Carleton

"There is an occasion for everything, and a time for every activity under heaven" Eccl. 3:1

It was with mixed emotions that we learned about your imminent departure from the Heartland Parish. Excited, because you are getting to move forward and experience new opportunities bringing the love and mercy of God to other congregations. Sad, because you have been a tremendous source of light and joy in our congregations and parish.

Farewells are always hard, but especially in these times when in person gatherings and the associated hugs and goodbyes are not in the best interests of the health and well-being of all. It is our hope that we can celebrate your new call and departure in a more appropriate manner later this year when the current pandemic is waning, and social distancing is no longer required.

Thank you for all you have done over the last four years. Your gifts of teaching, music, ingenuity, and leadership have left us all closer to our Savior. Your energetic interactions with youth and young families has been remarkable. In particular, your involvement of youth in our services have reinforced to all that regardless of age we are all important to the work of the church. You have provided comfort and support for everyone, whether a member or the Heartland Parish or not. We thank you for making us aware that we are not Lutheran, Methodist, Catholic, United Church of Christ or whatever. We are one body of Christ, and in that we celebrate your guidance.

Whether from the pulpit, discussions over pancakes and ham on Wednesday mornings, Bible study gatherings on Sunday evenings or podcasts through Treadweary, your insight into scripture and the associated lessons have instilled in us the knowledge that we need Jesus Christ in our lives. For that we thank you.

We wish you the best of luck in your future endeavors and may the light of Christ go with you in your journey!

God Bless,

The Councils of Heartland Community Parish

May the Blessing of Light be on you
(Scottish Blessing Prayer)

May the blessing of light be on you, light without and light within.

*May the blessed sunlight shine on you like a great peat fire,
So that stranger and friend may come and warm himself at it.*

And may light shine out of the two eyes of you,

Like a candle set in the window of a house,

Bidding the wanderer come in out of the storm.

And may the blessing of the rain be on you,

May it beat upon your Spirit and wash it fair and clean,

And leave there a shining pool where the blue of Heaven shines,

And sometimes a star.

And may the blessing of the earth be on you,

Soft under your feet as you pass along the roads,

Soft under you as you lie out on it,

Tired at the end of day; and may it rest easy over you when,

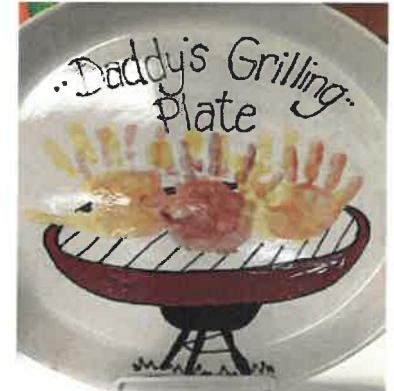
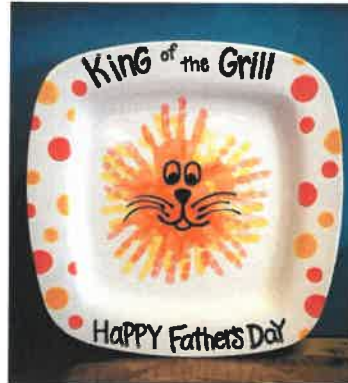
At last, you lie out under it.

May it rest so lightly over you that your soul may be out from under it quickly,

Up and off and on its way to God. And now, may the Lord bless you and bless you kindly.

HAPPY FATHER'S Day!

A Father's Day Craft for the Kids: HAND PAINTED GRILL PLATTER



Materials Needed:

white ovenproof platter

ceramic paint

ceramic paint pen

small artist brush

oven

Write Message to Dad on Platter

Before writing on platter, kids should practice writing their message on scrap paper using the ceramic marker. Once comfortable with marker and letter spacing, write Father's Day message on rim of platter. Once paint has dried to the touch, flip platter over and sign and date the back of platter.

Decorate Platter

Using ceramic paints and an artist brush, help kids paint a design on rim of platter. Allow paint to dry for 24 hours or amount of time specified in manufacturer's instructions. **Tip:** If you wish, decorate platter with images representing Dad's favorite hobby, like fishing, golf, or football.

Bake Platter

Preheat oven to 300 degrees and bake platter for 35 minutes to set the paint. Once cooled, platter is dishwasher safe and ready to use.

Dad's Hands by Mary Fairchild

Dad's hands were king-size and strong.

With his hands, he built our home and fixed all the broken things.

Dad's hands gave generously, served humbly, and loved mom tenderly, unselfishly, completely, unendingly.

With his hand, Dad held me when I was small, steadied me when I stumbled, and guided me in the right direction.

When I needed help, I could always count on Dad's hands.

Sometimes Dad's hands corrected me, disciplined me, shielded me, rescued me.

Dad's hands protected me.

Dad's hand held mine when he walked me down the aisle. His hand gave me to my forever love, who, not surprisingly, is very much like Dad.

Dad's hands were the instruments of his great big, rugged-tender heart.

Dad's hands were strength.

Dad's hands were love.

With his hands he praised God.

And he prayed to the Father with those big hands.

Dad's hands. They were like Jesus' hands to me.



Northwestern Minnesota Synod

Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

22 May 2020

Greetings faithful leaders of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod,

If you have watched or read local and regional news the past couple of days, you have heard that the [Minnesota's Catholic Conference](#) and the [Minnesota North and South Districts of The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod](#) have chosen to reopen, in defiance of our states "[Stay Safe Order](#)". And just today, President Trump gave an address telling churches to gather in-person this weekend.

Our vision as a Synod is "a people being set free by the gospel to be wholly devoted to Jesus and our neighbor in love". You have continued to demonstrate love for Jesus and your neighbor even in this difficult time, thank you for your faithful ministry.

In a letter sent out just nine days ago, with the other five [ELCA Bishops from Minnesota](#), we articulated the values that we believe should guide your decisions to returning to in-person worship. Which could be summarized as faith, facts, and love:

We the six bishops of the ELCA in Minnesota share particular values as we live and lead together - with you in this pandemic reality. We continue to engage with and listen to state and local officials. We look to scientists and epidemiologists to guide our decision making. We keep ever before us a commitment to the wellbeing of our neighbors, those in our congregations, communities and beyond. We remain focused on our shared vocation of proclaiming the gospel. It is the good news of Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, that anchors our hope.

I know that you are longing to be with your congregations in person. I am too. You may be feeling pressure from people to return to in-person gatherings and ignore the clear advice of public health officials here in Minnesota. As your bishop, and in alignment with both Presiding Bishop Eaton and Governor Tim Walz, I urge you to refrain from in-person worship except for groups of 10 or fewer until such time as Minnesota officials have informed us that it is safe to do otherwise ([drive-in worship](#) is also a way that you have been finding to gather that is considered safe). [Here are some resources](#). My prayer is that you continue to look to those most vulnerable in your community and that their safety be paramount in your decisions around in-person gathering, people who the CDC calls "[People Who Need to Take Extra Precautions](#)". Thank you for your faithful leadership, and do not hesitate to contact your synod office with questions or concerns.

Pastor Bill Tesch
Bishop of the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA

Kristina Johnson Dernier
Director for Communications, Events, and Youth Ministry
for the Northwestern Minnesota Synod of the ELCA
Regular Office Hours: M-F 9:00-4:30
She/Her/Hers

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2020 Graduates!

2020. The year of the pandemic, the year everyone was asked to stay apart. The year the last part of the school year was done from home. No Prom, No in-person Graduation. This will be the year to remember, however, even though this milestone was missed IN PERSON, doesn't mean it is missed completely. PLEASE, reach out to our graduates, send a card, send a message on Facebook, anything to help them realize that they are not alone and as Brother's and Sister's in Christ we NEED to help lift them up. So, to YOU our 2020 Graduates, CONGRATULATIONS and GOD'S BLESSINGS!

A Graduation Prayer

(pinterest.com)

Heavenly Father,

Give grace and courage to the ones who have worked hard and now greet this special time of graduation.

We thank you for protecting them and guiding them to this point.

All Praise and Glory to You!

Inspire the Graduates to put to good use all the knowledge, skills and life lessons gained through their education.

Most importantly, as they face unknown challenges moving on,

Help them to keep dear the greatest wisdom of all –

That of knowing Jesus and the power of the Cross!

A chapter has closed, and another eagerly awaits.

Pave their road with opportunities and inspire them to live

With hope in this incredible journey called life.

Continue to bless the graduates with love, protection, mercy, strength, and wisdom.

May they live passionately to honor and glorify your name.

In Jesus name, Amen.



Zach Norberg, son of Teresa Leshovsky & Jason Norberg.
Zach will be attending Minnesota State Community & Technical College for Power Sports



Liam Andress, son of Dave & Shawn Andress
Liam will be going into the work force

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



Kaia Dunham, daughter of Jana Dunham
Kaia will be attending University of Nebraska
for Human Development & Family Science



Jayden Vredenberg, daughter of Brandy Vredenberg &
Ron Vredenberg
Jayden will be attending University of North Dakota,
Grand Forks for Biology and Pre- Med.



Dee Zimmerman, daughter of Matt &
Rhonda Zimmerman
Dee will be going into the work force



Emily Westerdahl, daughter of Jennifer Sherman
& Tony Westerdahl.
Emily will be attending Dakota County Technical
College for Graphic Design.

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



Madeline Mitchell, daughter of Jon & Jennifer Mitchell.
Madeline will be attending University of Minnesota, Duluth for Biology/Pre-Med.



Bryana Hegg, daughter of Troy & Sebrina Hegg.
Bryana will be going into the work force.

All the 2020 Graduates from First Lutheran Church and Bethany Lutheran Church have or will receive a quilt. FLC graduates received theirs and are "Wrapped in God's Love".

LIFE IS NOT A RACE BUT INDEED A JOURNEY (Written by Bonnie Mohr)

*Be Honest. Work Hard. Be Choosy.
Say "Thank You", "I Love You", and
"Great Job" to someone each day.
Take time for prayer. Be Thankful.
Love your life and what you've been
Given, its not accidental. Search for
Your purpose and do it as best you can.
Dreaming does matter. It allows you
To become that which you aspire to be.
Laugh Often. Appreciate the little things
In Life and enjoy them. Some of the best
Things really are free. Do Not Worry.
Forgive. It frees the soul. Take time for
yourself. Plan for longevity. Recognize
the special people you've been blessed to
know. Live for today. Enjoy the moment.*

CONGRATULATIONS 2020 GRADUATES! WE ARE SO PROUD OF YOU!



The Annual Rummage Sale: The Annual Rummage Sale has been POSTPONED. Please watch for any updates in future newsletters and emails. Please, DO NOT bring any items to the church at this time that would have been for the rummage sale. Thank you.

Bethany Lutheran Church Women

This is an update on BLCW activities. We will keep you informed of any postponements, cancellations, or additions.

In Kind Physical Offering

Our 41 school kits, 68 personal care kits, and 18 mission quilts will be going to Wadena for shipping the first week in June. Thanks to all who helped collect, assemble, and box up these items.

Thanks to Del & Peg Odegaard for bringing these kits to Wadena.

Women's Outing

Our Women's Outing has been postponed until further notice.

Conference 4 Fall Gathering

Bethany will be hosting the Fall Gathering October 10. Jessica Burkhamer, President of the Rising Hope foundation will be our guest speaker. More information will follow in upcoming newsletters.

Women of the ELCA Gathering in Phoenix, Arizona

With no Covid-19 vaccine on the horizon, Women of the ELCA's executive board voted to postpone the organization's convention and gathering in Phoenix, Arizona until August 2021.

NW MN Synodical Women's Organization Annual Convention

Sept 18-19, 2020 Zion Lutheran Church 505 Main Ave N Thief River Falls, MN 56732

Love God, Love Your Neighbor

Matthew 22:34-40

The keynote speaker will be award-winning author, Dr. Jacqueline Bussie from Concordia College.

Rummage Sale

At this time, the rummage sale has been postponed. We will let you know if and when it will be held.

If we do not have a rummage sale, we will need to organize something which will raise money for such expenses as our compassion child and other items in our budget. Any ideas? Please let us know.

God's Blessing and Peace to each of you.

Your Sisters in Christ,

Lonnie Peterson and Jacky Lien



A question for you, 'what am I and the people in my family doing to protect this beautiful earth?'

- Are you combining errands so you can do as much as possible on one trip to town?
- Are you separating recyclables from your trash and putting them in the correct receptacle?
- Are you buying food and other goods with less packaging?
- Are you composting?
- Are you using non-disposable kitchen ware and storage containers?
- When you take a walk, are you picking up litter along the road?
- Are you careful to conserve water doing laundry, when washing your car, washing dishes, washing your hands, brushing your teeth?
- Are you writing your legislators to tell them how you stand on water and air quality issues?
- Are you thanking God every day for this earth and all he has given us?

Bethany Lutheran Church Women Pray, Praise



In a time where many people are alone. In a time where we are told to not meet for worship or fellowship. In a time of pure uncertainty..... we still have hope, we still have Jesus. The one thing that we can continue to do for one another, regardless of whether we are together or not, is to pray. Pray for the needs of those in our community. Pray for the needs of our friends and family. Give Praise for the God who knows all, sees all, hears all and IS ALL. Remember not only is the sun shining but the SON is SHINING!

- * If we are all strong and keep our faith, we will get through this together. Renee B
- * I am praying for my niece Morgan, administrator of a nursing home. Praying for her, her staff, and residents.
- * I pray for peace and comfort to all the families who have lost a love one due to the Covid-19 virus. Jacky L
- * Praying for the graduating class of 2020, may they feel and seek the love of Christ as they start a new journey in life.
- * The outdoors and the fresh air have not been cancelled. Take a BIG breath of fresh air and exhale the staleness of isolation, loneliness, and separation. – Jenny S.
- * Praying for those that are working on the “frontlines” Especially, nurses, doctors, nursing home employees, grocery store workers, pharmacy workers, postal workers, EMS, Police Officers, Firefighters.
- * Praying for those who are not able to work during the time of COVID 19 or have lost their job due to the pandemic.
- * I praise God for new life – the new leaves on the trees, the baby animals, the green grass, and the bright sunshine.

Some food for thought (during this time of uncertainty.)

"One of the ways that our faith expresses itself is by our ability to be still, to be present, and not to panic or lose perspective. God still does his best work in the most difficult of circumstances." ~ Tim Hansel

"God has spoken very boldly about his desire to be a presence in our lives. If I want to heal the ache and loneliness in my own life, one of the things I need to do is get away, alone with God. . . . In the silence God will speak to you most powerfully. Too often his words to us get muffled, lost, or covered by the crowd of many noises both inside and outside of us. We must have a quiet heart in order to hear God's distinctive message to us." ~ Tim Hansel

"Jesus is steering, we are just pedaling. Believe that and breathe."

One of my dear friends Marilyn told me this and I will hold it dear, especially during the difficult times in life, such as the time we find ourselves in right now. The quotes above certainly hold clear and speak loudly. Now, when we find ourselves isolated from the busyness of everyday life, are we taking the time to be still, to be present? Or are we filling our time with new ways to be busy? When this “stay at home” first was put into effect, I took it as my chance to do my “spring cleaning” (wash walls, shampoo carpet, etc.), what I determined in the end was, I was busying myself to keep from pure panic, instead of putting my trust in a God who knows ALL things, sees ALL things, I definitely wasn’t allowing myself to be still. Being still does not necessarily mean to sit doing nothing.... but, to hear we must listen, to listen we must be present, to be present, we must be still. This is perspective, not fact, that I have learned in this isolation/quarantine journey. A perspective that (I wish I would have seen prior to this) probably would have made this time much less stressful.

Take the time to be still, to be present, to listen. When that little thought pops in your head about a person you have not been able to see, call them, send them a card. Maybe they need a word of encouragement, and YOU are just the right person to do it. Let God work in you and through you, especially now.

PRAYER CHAIN UPDATE



Jennifer Sherman has accepted the coordinator's position for the Bethany Prayer Chain. Please send all prayer requests to her at shermanjennifer@outlook.com or 218-255-4392. Thank all of you for putting up with my efforts over these last many years. I feel blessed by each and every one of you and you will all continue to be in my prayers. Connie Stennes

As always, any prayer requests will remain confidential. If you are a part of the prayer chain and no longer want to take part or if you would like to be added as a prayer warrior, please contact Jenny.

Just for Fun

Sleepers and Nonsleepers

- 1) Who had surgery performed on him while he slept?
- 2) Who was killed as he slept in the tent of Jael?
- 3) Who slept in the bottom of a ship as it rolled in a storm?
- 4) Who suggested to Jezebel's priests that Baal was sleeping on duty?
- 5) Who slept at Bethel and dreamed about angels?
- 6) Who could not sleep on the night after Haman built a gallows for hanging Mordecai?
- 7) Who had troublesome dreams that kept him from sleeping?
- 8) Who was visited by an angel of the Lord while sleeping?
- 9) Who slept while Jesus prayed in Gethsemane?
- 10) Who sneaked into Saul's camp while he was asleep?
- 11) Who spoke to Abram while he was in a deep sleep?
- 12) Who did not sleep well while Daniel was in the lions' den?
- 13) Who slept through a haircut?
- 14) Who slept during a storm on the Sea of Galilee?
- 15) Who fell asleep during Paul's sermon and was later raised from the dead by Paul?
- 16) Who was sleeping between two soldiers when an angel came to release him?
- 17) Who was awakened from a deep sleep by an earthquake that toppled a prison?
- 18) According to Jesus, this person was not dead, but only sleeping. Who was it?
- 19) Who told Laban he had gone 20 years without a decent sleep?
- 20) According to Proverbs, what does it take for the wicked to sleep well?
- 21) Which epistle tells sleepers to rise from the dead?
- 22) Which epistle uses sleep as a metaphor for physical death?
- 23) What boy was called out of his sleep by the voice of God?
- 24) Which epistle urges believers to be alert, not asleep?
- 25) Who was in a deep sleep as the angel Gabriel explained a vision?
- 26) Who slept at David's door while he was home on furlough?



- 2. Connie Stennes
- 2. Zachary Strickland
- 2. Eric Hilden
- 3. Hudson Richter
- 4. Betsy Hjelseth
- 10. Eastynn Anderson
- 10. Paula Dormanen
- 11. Larry Smith
- 14. Kinsey Markert
- 14. Gail Levenson
- 14. Jennifer Mitchell
- 17. Larry Meinert
- 21. Chuck Visher
- 21. Tom Synstegard
- 22. Jenny Sherman
- 26. Grace Gilmore
- 28. Halvard Korsberg
- 30. Marilyn Meinert
- 31. Patty Forsberg

4. Larry and Julie Smith	43 years
5. Bill and Barry Buggert	49 years
5. Carleton & Carry Smee	21 years
7. Jeff and Annette Walker	17 years
12. Peter & Margaret McEwen	49 years
13. Jerry and Gail Levenson	39 years
19. Steve and Sarah Lindow	10 years
21. Del and Peg Odegaard	57 years
21. Bruce and Suzanne Smith	23 years
22. Robert & Kristen Gilmore	7 years
23. Robert & Diana Schwenke	58 years
24. Carl & Linda Anderson	16 years
28. Ron & Dawn McLaen	38 years
29. Gil & Carole Ann Morris	57 years

****There is NO calendar for June****

Fun things to do as a family while social distancing/isolation is in effect



- 1)Read a new book
- 2)Call a friend
- 3)Make a family scrapbook
- 4)Have a family dance party
- 5)Go for a walk
- 6)Exercise
- 7)Learn a new language
- 8)Do a puzzle together
- 9)Color or paint a picture
- 10)Bake
- 11)Cook dinner as a family
- 12)Write a letter to someone
- 13)Have a family game night
- 14)Have a family movie night
- 15)Plant a garden

JUNE 2020 NEWSLETTER

HEARTLAND COMMUNITY LUTHERAN PARISH

BETHANY-NEVIS

100 3rd Ave, PO Box 137
Nevis, MN 56467

1st LUTHERAN AKELEY

10 Pleasant Ave. NE. PO Box 98
Akeley, MN 55433

Bethany's Church Office Hours

Tuesday—Friday
9:00AM—12:00PM
Phone: 218-652-2030
Fax: 218-652-3355
Jenny Sherman – Secretary
218-255-4392
shermanjennifer@outlook.com
secblc@arvig.net
www.bethanylutherannevis.org

First Lutheran's Office Hours

Tuesday—Thursday
9:00AM—12:00PM
Phone: 218-652-3335
firstchurchl@arvig.net

Worship Schedule

All Services are suspended until further notice. Please continue checking your email and social media for virtual services.

Mission Statements:

*We are followers of Christ equipped with gifts by the Holy Spirit,
sharing the Biblical witness with all people. (Bethany)*

Blessed with the Spirits gifts; Growing in Christ's grace; Caring for God's creation. (First)