

Pastor article for October 2020 “The 2020 Virus”

This article is not about Covid 19 and all of the extreme changes it has brought to us these past months. I want to talk about the other virus we are dealing with which is doing as much damage and even in more dramatic long-term ways. We have a virus of “hate and mistrust” which has infected our culture, nation, community, church and sometimes even our families.

Each day brings us new dynamics of brokenness and division with in our world. What simply amazes me is that God’s name is raised up as reason we are positioned against one another. With strong declarations of what our understanding of God’s love and acceptance looks like, we place others down and spread judgements about their actions and beliefs. Our beliefs about God’s expectations for us are proclaimed on both sides of each disagreement. We never admit that we have strong opinions based on what the devil tells us to do. We do not try and listen and understand how another person can possibly believe as they do. The interesting dynamic on both sides of all issues of the conversation is the feeling that we are following God’s word. We let those strong convictions turn into actions and words of hate and mistrust.

Without respect, it would seem to me that the way we interact with one another becomes sinful in itself. For example, In John Chapter 4, Jesus confronted the Samaritan women at the well naming the man she was living with was not her husband. But he did these actions with great respect and compassion. In return for how respectful he treated her, she went and told others about this Jesus. She returned with others to learn more about this special one.

When we label, hate or put down others with differing opinions or understanding than ours, do we yearn to help or hurt? Is it most important to be right or to be compassionate? Is our goal to honor the other person as a child of God, or do we feel empowered to be the judge of right and wrong? Why do some feel condemned if they don’t make an effort to clarify differences in what others believe and hold as truth? Might we listen to ourselves; dialog of disrespect, hateful remarks, and labels only divide and become the action of the devil. We love to point out the sin of others so it makes our sin look better! I’m sorry, sin is sin, and we all fall short of the glory of God.

Do we pray for guidance in showing compassion and respect? We need to use words of compassion and understanding. We all fall short of the glory of God; we can honor another thought’s and viewpoints with respect without endorsing. We

can let God be the judge and pray for those who we disagree with. But we must stop short of hatred! The most important commandment is to love your neighbor as yourself! That means even when they totally disagree with our impressions of how the world should operate. We are called to love your enemies as yourself. That is pretty clear. So, what happens with an election around the corner? Do we respect one another and work for the betterment of all? Do we refuse to listen to another’s concerns and grow through that experience?

Philippians 4:7 says it best. May the peace of God which surpasses all understanding, guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus. May we spread the love of God through respect and honoring one another. Nothing can destroy this virus of hate faster than kindness and compassion. We can’t change the world, but we can change each of the thoughts of our hearts and the words from our mouth.



There will be NO sewing in October. Please continue to watch for updates!

September Offering

06	\$3,874	13	\$.4,683
20	\$2,981	27\$
Electron Giving		\$8,799 Online Giving \$502	



Thank you seems so inadequate to express our thanks to all who collected items or gave me money to buy the items for the school kits. Your generosity is overwhelming! A special thank you to Betty Frantsvog who has sewn all the bags and to all who put cords in them. We will give you a total later. Many children will be able to go to school because of your gifts. Please continue God’s work by praying for the recipients of all these kits. Thanks again.

Sue Taft

Sept 2020 Memorials:

In Memory of **Roger Iverson**

Ministry of Care from Sylvia Iverson,
Rick, Jonelle & Brendon Watson.

Music from Rick, Jonelle, & Brendon Watson,
Bryan & Nadine Holmly.

In Memory of **Janet Preskey**

Undesignated from Don & Jennifer Lafontaine

Foundation Memorials for Aug/Sept 2020

In Memory of **Janet Preskey**

Alma Lee, Wallace & Mary Berning,
Steve & Cindy Beutler

In Memory of **Arland Fiske, Pastor Marv Odland,
and Phyllis Oldland**
Duane & Sharlene Tollefson

In Memory of **Rosella (Rosie) Tollefson**
Eileen Skowronek, Mary Carlson, Roger Tollefson,
Lawren & Lynette Wold

In Memory of **Rhonda Willenbring**
Greg Simonson, Steve & Cindy Beutler



Bethany Lutheran Foundation

To benefit the ministry of
Bethany Lutheran Church
now and to sustain it for
future generations

A GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

For more information - call church office
838-5196



Bible Presentations

On November 4th the 5 year old's, will be given their own personal Bibles, and on November 18th the 3rd graders will be given their own personal Bibles.

September Ministerial Acts

New Member: Sherry Cunningham

Baptism: Autumn Angell, Alexander Angell,
Oliver Decoteau



Domestic Violence Crisis Center October Cause of the Month

Our cause of the month is mission support for Domestic Violence Crisis Center. Use the global mission envelope in your offering box to support this cause. DVCC provides comprehensive services in a four-county area in north-central North Dakota. The counties DVCC serves are: Ward (including the Minot Air Force Base), Pierce, McHenry, and Renville. Their mission is to reduce Domestic Violence by educating the public about its effect and the company overview is to provide services to victims and their families of domestic violence and sexual assault. Phone: 701-852-2258 or email: www.courage4change.org

Pastor Janet's Joke of the Month

A young couple had a fatal car accident on the way to their wedding. When they met St. Peter at the Pearly Gates, they asked if it was possible for them to marry in heaven. He said he would get back to them. A year later, St. Peter found the couple and told them they could get married. "Could we get a divorce if it doesn't work out?" they wanted to know. "Good grief!" Peter exclaimed. "It took me a whole year to find a preacher up here – and now you want me to find a lawyer."

Two ministers died and went to heaven. St. Peter greeted them and said, "Your condos aren't ready yet. Until they're finished, you can return to earth as anything you want."

"Fine," said the first minister. "I've always wanted to be an eagle soaring over the Grand Canyon." "And I'd like to be a real cool stud," said the second. Poof! Their wishes were granted. When the condos were finished, St. Peter asked an assistant to bring back the two ministers. "How will I find them?" the assistant asked. "One is soaring over the Grand Canyon," St. Peter replied. "The other may be tough to locate. He's somewhere in Minot, ND – on a snow tire."



Bethany LYO NEWS

As we start off this fall, we have been asked to keep our LYO functions with the zoom format. We are hoping that this will be a short period of time, and will keep everyone informed of any updates as to when we can again be together in the Church again. Parents we are hoping to get your help on reminding your teens to join in the group each week as I know it is easy to forget what day, or even what time it is during these crazy covid times. Our goal is to still provide a place of faith for teens, and to let them know God's love. Often our time together is an outlet for them to vent and let go, and we sure miss their excitement.

October Schedule:

October 7- Zoom Catchup night. Tune in to talk about what you did all summer, how school is going, or share some things you just need to talk about.

October 14-Gods work our hands-social distance style. Tune in to talk about something that you did since October 7th that helped someone or something that you did that made a difference in the world.

October 21-Bon Fire-social distance style. Tune in, and share your own bonfire, or if you do not have a fire, you can share one of ours. We will share favorite camp stories, and maybe try and figure out how to sing camp songs via zoom.

October 28-Pinterest with Shelley-Fall project that you can do at home during our time together.

Donna will still be sending out the zoom information each week. If you are new to LYO, and want to join our great group, let us know, and we will get you in our messaging system.

Also, for those teens that are in grades 9-12 the Fall Western North Dakota LYO Gathering will be virtual gathering. The dates for this event will be October 22-23. Donna, Shelley or Jacob will have information on how to register & participate. Our own Krista Permentier and Grady Duchscherer are a part of the Synod committee who has put this even together. If there are any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Donna, Shelley, or Jacob. Please continue to pray for us as we start our year with the social distancing format.

Miriam Bible Study

Oct 8th @ 2:00pm
(Fellowship Room)

SUNDAY MORNING
CIRCLE
SUNDAY (OCT 11TH) @ 9:30 am
(Activity Room)

Ruth
Circle

Mary Circle

October 20th at 9:30am
(Fellowship Room)



Bethany Birthdays! October:

- 2nd –Zoe Hodenfield
- 3rd –Viona Mindt, Samuel Richter
- 4th –David Anderson, Jayden Stober,
Sharlene Tollefson
- 5th –Barbara Anderson, Christine Thompson,
Brenda Van Berkom
- 6th –Michelle Bower
- 7th –Ariah Evanoff, Patrick Farrell, C Stuart Larson,
London Opperude, Julie Thrailkill
- 8th –Ben Berg, Max Howard
- 9th –Faith Miltenberger
- 10th –Margaret Fix, Betty Frey, Payton Schell,
Samantha Walter
- 11th –Kinley Brentrup, Grace Walker
- 12th –Jace Olander, Shanon Polsfut, Lesley Walker,
Jasmine Wallin
- 13th –Jessica Grunewald, Jennifer Malachowski,
Tyler Wold, Breanna Zietz
- 14th –Shelley Duchscherer, Barbara Gehring,
Tanner Mehl, Steven Pederson
- 15th –Lauren Ballantyne, Melissa Field,
Parker Hummel
- 16th –Adeline Bergeron, Kyla Fisher
- 18th –Kathryn Swanson
- 19th –Audrey Stevick
- 20th –Gary Brown
- 21st –Charlotte Hill
- 22nd –Cameron Abel, Dawsyn Williams
- 23rd – Emma Fassbender
- 24th –Brinley Filipek, Brody Nelson, Nora Westmeyer
- 25th –Duane Aase, Dakota Larson, Robbie Opperude,
Cody Randash, Donna Schonberger
- 26th –Haidyn Enget, Jordan Thompson
- 28th –Laura Berg, Jay Grosz, Edward Steier
- 29th –Dalyce Leslie, David Myers, InDee Thunshelle
- 30th –Kendra Klimpel, Jerry Sanden
- 31st –Ariel Daluge, Kalli Schell, Harold Stolt

Also, Happy Birthday to anyone whose name is not on the list. If your name is not on the list then we don't have it, so please call the office with it. Thank you!

Pastor Appreciation Month!
The BLCW is inviting everyone to send a card to the Pastors! Due to Covid-19 we are not having an in-house celebration.



Ministry of Care Notes

Grocery Gift cards will be given out at Thanksgiving and Christmas to those in need. If you know of someone to be considered please let the office know. Thank you!

Starting October 4th!
For the immediate future, the 8:30am service will remain the same, but the 10:30am service will move into the fellowship room and masks will be required!



The Church Council has cancelled the Lutefisk Dinner for this year!

EDUCATION NEWS

The first Wed of each month at 6:00pm, Church School 3yr old's-2nd grade will meet, along with their parents. Also, confirmation will meet at that time. The third Wed of each month at 6:00pm, Church School 3rd – 5th grade will meet, along with their parents. Also, confirmation will meet at that time.