**BETHLEHEM-ZION LUTHERAN PARISH**

***Pastor – Rev. James Norton, (715)514-5478 or cell 1(217)725-2487***

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**JUNE 2019**

**Mark Your Calendar**

***Worship Services* are held:**

 **Sunday at 9am @ Zion, & 10:30am @ Bethlehem**

***Communion* is on the 2nd, 4th, & 5th Sundays of the month**

**Upcoming events:**

June 5 – Zion Ladies Aid @ noon

June 6–Council meetings @Bethlehem 7pm June 13 – Bethlehem Ladies Aid @ noon

June 16 – Happy Father’s Day

June 23-27 -Bethlehem VBS Sunday 9-10:15; Monday thru Thursday 6-8pm

**June Birthdays:**

6/6 Joan Boyea, Marianne Kiesow

6/7 Camryn Grunewald, Ronald Wiese

 & Michelle Pilgrim

6/9 Duane Hermann, Ken Kiesow, Cory McCann, Erin Pilgrim

6/11 Donald Berlin

6/12 Peyton Berlin

6/13 Jeffrey McCann, Linda Glenz

6/14 Karen Stensen

6/16 Beckett Berlin, Breleigh Berlin

6/17 Telia Dekan

6/18 Lucas Hermann

6/21 Spencer Pilgrim

6/22 Susan Stephan

6/23 Wade Anderson

6/28 David Knuth, Mary Jo Greene

6/29 Jesse Weggen



 ***Happy Anniversary***

6/1 Darrel & Diane Goss

6/6 Donald and Pat Berlin

6/11 Duane & Jolene Hermann

6/14 Penny and Bradley Schmidt

6/14 Theodore & Patricia Biegel

6/15 Mike & Christina Hausmann

6/30 Tom & Diane Woodford



***BAPTIZED IN JUNE***

6/6 Ted Biegel

6/7 Kenzie Bauch

6/10 Carol Sperber

6/14 Pat Biegel

6/20 Norm Luedtke

6/23 Christina Hausmann

6/24 Marianne Kiesow

6/25 Arlene Anderson

6/25 Mikayla McCann

6/29 Ronald Wiese

* **Let us know additions or corrections**

**A Word from Pastor Norton:**

YOU ARE ALREADY CHOOSING YOUR CHILDREN’S RELIGION

Being a father or mother is a lot like being a pastor. Whatever faith----or lack thereof----you as parents affirm, you’ll spend about 18 years conducting a profoundly influential worship service in the lives of your children. Parenting is basically the Liturgy of Child rearing.

Through thousands of ordinary, daily decisions, moms and dads orient young hearts toward what matter most in life. This usually happens unconsciously. By example, practice, habit and speech parents are saying to their children, “This is what life is all about.” Parents teach their children what to love in life, what to rely upon to find fulfillment in life, and most importantly, what to believe about creation and their relationship with God.

The question, then, is not: should you choose your child’s religion for them? Rather, the question is: which religion are you already choosing for your child? Because, dear parents, you are already choosing your child’s religion. That what or who you teach them matters most, that what to love and trust and find fulfillment in---that is their G/god.

Whatever faith parents embrace, and however they practice that faith, parents are teaching their children to do the same things, to love the same desires, to act in like manner as their role models in life. This is why the Commandments of God speak about honoring parents. Parents are the pastors within the home; they are the ones who teach and direct the compass of their children’s hearts either toward, or away from, God.

All parents always choose their children’s religion---without exception. It’s just that, in most cases, this religion operates under a different name(my time off, my day to relax, my day to enjoy whatever I want to do.)

Our children’s spiritual life and relationship with God is a reflection of our own. Every act of parenting is a religious act. Every decision we make for us and for our children forms a tiny part of the liturgy of life we are conducting in the 18-yeart-long shaping of our children’s vision of who and what is their god.

If worshiping God is only a once-in-a-while, unimportant event in a parent’s life, while the rest of the days are spent around the altar of materialism and what’s the next fun thing to do, well, take up your cross and follow Me, will be replaced with ‘take up your desires and pursue them first.

If worshiping God is important to us as parents, it will be important to our children. It will show in our daily practices of what comes as first importance and what matters most in what we do. As Christians, do we schedule our week around the hearing of God’s Word and being in His presence, so as to build a better understanding and a closer relationship with Him? Do we impress upon our children the importance of an eternal life with our Savior an Creator?

Do we teach them to love God in all that we do and in all our ways, and love one another as God has first loved us? These are the rituals and habits God’s children teach their own children, if they are indeed valued as important. And the children learn by imitating what is important to their parents, hopefully well beyond the years they live at home.

So as important as worship on Sunday morning is, the life-shaping liturgy doesn’t begin or end when we walk in and out the church doors. It begins at home, and hopefully never ends until we are all with our heavenly Father in glory for all eternity.

 Pastor James E. Norton



**BETHLEHEM HAPPENINGS**:

 

God so loved the world that He sent His only son that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16 “Miraculous Mission - Jesus Saves the World!!” Come and learn how Jesus did it at Vacation Bible School!!

June 23-27 - We start Sunday 9:00-10:15 and then will have a *potluck kickoff meal after church*.
Monday- Thursday 6:00-8:00 p.m

You are invited to *a closing program at 7:30 p.m.* *Thursday* for singing and Bible lesson sharing!

Enroll now! 715-877- 3249

Come 1 day, 2 days or all 5 days!

 **YOUTH** – The June Youth Group Meeting will be on Sunday, June 9, at 6:30pm.

**Congratulations to all of our High School Graduates!!!** God bless you all in this new stage of your lives! Let Him be your guide on the new paths you take. Graduates are Ryan Pilgrim, Ryan Grunewald, and Kyle Gerken.

**BETHLEHEM LADIES AID**



The Ladies Aid met May 9th. After enjoying a potluck lunch, Pastor Norton led the Bible study “Nameless Women of the Bible.” We had an interesting discussion on women’s roles in the church.

 We were informed that since 1942 the LWML has sent $100 million to 43 countries through their mites!

 We have 116 quilts completed. We will display some of them before we pack them up to ship.

 If anyone has a wedding dress they no longer want, contact Lois. Her daughter is involved in “Brooklyn’s Gift,” a project to support grieving families after the loss of a baby. They make gowns, wraps, caps, and booties from the dresses.

 We will meet at *11am* on June 13th. We will pack the quilts before our regular meeting. The Bible study will be “Running the Race” on page 20 in the Spring Quarterly. Visitors are always welcome.

**GREETING CARDS:**

There is an awesome greeting card selection available in the fellowship hall. greeting cards are 75 cents; or you can purchase a box of cards. Prices are extremely reasonable.



 LIBRARY

We have a great selection of books in our library. Both biblical and christian fiction selections are available & also DVD’s.

**GET EXCITED! READING CONTEST THIS MONTH! *Prizes* will be drawn for adults and children who use materials this month. Names will be drawn at the end of the month from those who use the library. Have fun!** There is a card in the back of the book or DVD, put your name and the date you borrowed the item on it. Leave the card on the table by the library.

**Did you know?** gluten free communion wafers are available. They are served each time communion is offered. Feel free to speak with Pastor or an elder if you need the special wafer.



**The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you; the Lord lift up his countenance upon you and give you peace.**

**So shall they put My name upon the people . . . . . and I will bless them.**



Dad..”What?”

Son…”Know what God’s first name is??”

 Sister..”It’s in mommy’s favorite hymn!”

Kids start singing: “ANDY walks with me, ANDY talks with me, ANDY tells me I am his own…”

 *(Dad*. . . .”and I thought I was her favorite Him”)

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**Monthly Council Meeting Minutes**

**May 2, 2019**

**Board of Education Report:**

1.) Beaver Creek Field Trip – on April 12th as a kick-off to VBS was well attended. There were 22 total in attendance.

2.) VBS – the staff is assembled and there will be a **potluck lunch after church on Sunday, June 23rd which is the first day of VBS.**

3.) Last day of Sunday School– is May 19th when awards will be handed out.

4.) Enduring Faith Cirriculum – is a new option from Concordia for Sunday School lessons. The decision to stay with Growing in Faith was made after the Sunday School staff and Pastor reviewed it at the last teachers meeting.

5.) Co-op Credit Union Sunday School Account – Sharon would like to add Joan Drehmel’s name to the account for the Library and Sunday School funds.

**Old Business:**

1.) Parsonage Rental Update – Marv reported that there are some items that have to be addressed before the congregation votes on the plan to rent the parsonage:

- Contact the assessor regarding the tax exempt status of the property,

- Obtain contractors and fees for replacing copper pipes, installing dishwasher and water heater, and repairs to the well pump,

- Determine lease terms, fees, and rental manager

A work day has been schedule for Saturday, May 4th. The walls that partitioned the basement into rooms will have to be removed because of water damage. Any cleaning with water will have to wait until after the plumbing repairs have been completed and the water is turned back on.

The quilting supplies will be moved to the church basement.

**New Business:**

1.) Microsoft Upgrade – Karon received notice that the current version of Windows 7 will be no longer supported by Microsoft, which means new updates are no longer offered (after January 2020). The computer is still working fine, just something to keep in mind.

2.) Inactive Members List – Pastor noted that Earl Jaenke suggested both congregations work on their lists and devise a plan to reach out to inactive members. This is always a difficult subject to bring up with the individual, and can cause hard feelings with active members. The inactive member may not attend church anywhere else, but they still consider themselves a member of the church. Discussed visiting the individuals, assuring all parties that no records will be destroyed, and then placing the name on an “inactive” list only. This will also help reduce the Synod’s request for membership lists that determine how much each congregation has to pay for yearly Synod fees.

3.) Flower Bed in New Lawn – Joan Drehmel asked and was granted permission to install a flower bed next to the sidewalk on the north end of the new addition. It was also suggested that a small flower bed could be installed under the kitchen windows on the south side of the building.

The Lord's Prayer was prayed in closing. Joan Drehmel, Secretary

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**Please remember in your prayers:** Pat Berlin,Brynda Raether,Vivian Huff, Dorothy (Noel) Smith, Bev Curler, Penny & Olivia Schmidt, Martha Jaenke, Pastor Jones at Zion-Chippewa, Diane Goss, shut-ins and members living in Care Facilities.

 Reminder – both Zion and Bethlehem have prayer chains, that is people who will pray for someone who is ill, in need of a job, or need God’s loving support in another way. Zion members can call Betty Woodford @ 715 877-3225 & Bethlehem members can call Sharon Tumm @ 715 877-2402, with a prayer request for yourself or for anyone else.

There are also “Prayer Request Boxes,” paper, and pencils available in the narthex. You may write down any request and put it in the box provided.

Remember to always designate where you want your offering to be used by writing the amounts on the front of your envelope. This is very helpful to the committee who is opening the envelopes, as they need to know which account to put the totals in for our church use.

**Zion Lutheran Church** 

Joint Council Meeting is at Bethlehem June 6, beginning at 7:00, followed by each congregation’s council meetings, and then the Elder’s meeting.

**Vacation Bible School, at Zion, will be held August 4th through August 8th. Be sure to get your child registered. Contact Deb Prill, 715-464-1002. Donations toward materials would be appreciated. Monetary donations can be put in an envelope, labeled VBS and placed in the offering plate, or given to Deb Prill. These envelopes can be found near the bulletins as you enter the church proper. Thank you for your support of this vital ministry.**



Autumn Harvest Dinner, September 29, 2019. Mark your calendars.

Are you on Facebook? If you have not already, please check out and “like” our Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/Zion-Bethlehem](http://www.facebook.com/Zion-Bethlehem) Lutheran Church). You will find information about what is happening at our church, as well as encouragement and inspiration. Also be sure to check us out on the web ([www.zion-bethlehem.org](http://www.zion-bethlehem.org)).

Looking for a way that you can **serve our congregation? Zion is still looking for someone to volunteer to take the position of *Church Treasurer.*** This is a vital position on our Board to continue the operation of this congregation. Please prayerfully consider if this is something that you could do. Anyone interested is encouraged to speak with Dave Kiesow.

**Anyone interested in being on the Prayer Chain at Zion? Please contact Betty Woodford (715)877-3225), to be added to the list. Your help is appreciated.**

**Council Meeting Highlights**

**Council Meeting Minutes May 5, 2018**

President Dave Kiesow called the meeting to order at 7:15pm. There were 11 members present.

**Secretary’s Report:** The minutes of the last meeting were read.

**Treasurer’s Report:** The treasurer’s report for April was read.

**Elder’s Report:** Average attendance for April was 59, 8 children, and 46 for communion. There was discussion about when to consider a member inactive. It was decided that all the elders of both churches should have a meeting so that Bethlehem and Zion would agree on what qualifies as inactive.

**Trustee’s Report:** A correction was made to the trustee’s report of the last meeting. The cast iron pans were seasoned-not the new pans. The Department of Health took water samples. The samples tested acceptable. The septic system has been pumped. It was said that when Hwy Q is worked on that would be the best time to pave our parking lot. It was decided that we could get an estimate from the Monarch Co. who is paving Hwy Q and we should also get an estimate or estimates from other companies. It was discussed that blue granite could also be an option for our parking lot. The gutters have been cleaned out and snow cleaned off the roof. It was requested to have caller ID on our phone plan.

**Old Business:** Sue Stephan and Elton would donate the blue granite that was discussed at the last meeting, for a path from the parking lot to the basement door to make it easier for people in wheelchairs.

**New Business:** Brian from Eau Claire Energy called and told him they will be moving the power poles 60 feet because when Hwy Q is worked on the road will be widened and that he should meet with representatives from our congregation. Therefore there was discussion about where a yard light should or could be placed as far as best lighting for our parking lot and church. It was decided that a committee meet with Eau Claire Energy and decide the pole and yard light issue. Brenda Thompson asked if we are planning on the harvest dinner again this year. It was decided we will. Paying Randy Horlacher for plowing snow was discussed. It was suggested that we pay Randy Horlacher $300.00 for plowing snow. It was mentioned that there are several people that have keys to our church and office that no longer hold a position that they should have keys. It was mentioned that to keep things uniform all church groups should have the same ledger.

**ADJOURNMENT:** We closed with the lord’s Prayer.



