



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Rev. Peder J. Johanson, Pastor

June & July 2019

Though we have been hearing exclusively from John's gospel during the Easter season, our lectionary has us mostly in Luke's gospel this year. (We'll be returning to Luke in a few weeks and will stay with him until Advent.)

One of the aspects of the Christian faith that Luke, in particular, highlights with his narrative of Jesus' life and ministry is the importance of community. Nothing about the faith – as far as Luke is concerned – is personal/individual. Rather, the good news and the life it brings is communal and corporate.

In Luke's story, for instance, sin is not presented as some condition of a person's heart and mind, a brokenness to overcome within themselves by themselves. Instead, sin is embedded in the life of the community.

Jesus doesn't move through Luke's story preaching personal morality, but instead dines with those who are labeled "sinners" by the more powerful and privileged in an unjust society. He doesn't call individuals to turn aside from impure thoughts and unholy activity, but instead proclaims and enacts a radical transformation of the whole community.

For the Jesus we meet in Luke's gospel, sin is corporate and communal. It is a brokenness of the shared life, manifest in corrupt systems of injustice and cultural norms that cause harm and division. It causes the most harm to those with the least power, but affects everyone. It is like the sins of racism and sexism, or the vast economic injustice and violence that infect so much of our shared life today.

The *Sin* of the world which Jesus lives to redeem isn't about our individual mistakes or personal failures. It's so much bigger than that. Overwhelming to think about, isn't it? But so is the good news of this gospel.

Just as sin is presented as a communal reality, so too is forgiveness. So is healing. In every instance of Jesus restoring a broken body and spirit to wholeness, he restores that person to the community as well. Forgiveness and healing and redemption – even if started within a personal encounter between Jesus and



FROM OUR
PASTOR

an individual – are always ultimately for the benefit of the whole.

Luke shows us again and again that Jesus has come to save us *all*. *Together*. Our sin is communal and our salvation is communal.

Likewise, the ministry of the Church, gathered as Christ's beloved community and born of the Spirit at Pentecost, is communal. We are called, gathered, forgiven and sent *together as a community* for the continued mission of God to reconcile and heal the whole world to itself and to God.

Luke's gospel (and the ways it highlights this truth about God's activity among us and the life we receive through the healing grace of Jesus Christ) is especially important for us who live in a culture that places so much attention on the individual. It reminds us that there is more to this life of faith than the common (and unbiblical) definition of "accepting Jesus as a personal Lord and savior."

This faith is about trusting in the overwhelming goodness of God's grace as it holds us and all creation in the healing forgiveness of Christ's mercy and the radical hope of God's justice and peace. It's about experiencing that grace together in our worship and our service to God and neighbor. It's about knowing that our hope and our joy in Christ are not ours alone, but a gift to share with the world around us – as a beloved community.

As we enter these summer months of busy weekends and travels that keep our community from seeing each other as often or as regularly as we'd like, know that we are forever bound by the grace that makes us one community in faith. And as you are able to come for worship, be it here or in another church with friends and family, may you be blessed with the experience and opportunity to share this blessed life together for the sake of all.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Peder



Thank you to all those who sponsored special gifts during the month of May.

Bulletins were given...

May 19: by Bob and Priscilla Bump in memory of our son, David Bump.

Communion elements were given...

May 19: by Bob and Priscilla Bump in memory of our son, David Bump.

May 26: in memory of Jo Pinnow, honoring her birthday, May 29.

Sanctuary lamp was given...

May 12: remembering Jesse Boozier's birthday.

May 19: by Bob and Priscilla Bump in memory of our son, David Bump.

Sanctuary flowers were given...

May 12: by the Boozier/Falk family in memory of Jesse Boozier for his birthday; and moms and grandmothers.

May 26: single rose on altar given in memory of Jo Pinnow, honoring her birthday, May 29.

Congratulations on Your New Baby!



Congratulations to Steve and Samantha Pipkorn on the birth of their daughter, Madelyn, on May 2, 2019.

We welcome into the body of Christ and into the mission we share:



Keaton Charlie Jarvis, son of Nicholas and Bethany Jarvis; sponsors are Jordan Schlittler and Josh Jarvis. Keaton was baptized May 19, 2019.



Dawn Walmer
May 10, 2019
The funeral was May 16 at Bethlehem Church.

With deepest sympathy we hold in prayer, Lavonne Pinnow and family of Lavonne's father, David Kamholz, who died May 16, 2019.



If you need a ride to church or a church activity, contact one of our "Share-A-Ride" volunteers.

Doug Bliss
Renata Olsen

897-4618
558-4969

EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE

Thank you for the cards and calls following my fall. It is greatly appreciated. —Joanne Coplien

Skaalen Nursing & Rehabilitation Center gratefully acknowledges your gifts in April 2019 (\$200.00) and in May 2019 (\$200.00). Thank you for these gifts that will help us care for all who reside here for years to come. —Kris Krentz, President/CEO

Thank you for supporting our mission of "Building lives in Christ". Your gift of \$200.00 in support of Lutherdale's ministry is a blessing and greatly appreciated. Thank you for your ongoing support. —Jeffrey A Bluhm, Executive Director, Lutherdale

Thank you for your recent \$200.00 donation. Your support since the beginning of our mission has been a source of encouragement. —Family Promise of Green County

Thank you for your generous contribution to AMMPARO, helping advance our work and accompanying and protecting migrant children and families. Yours in Christ—Mary B Campbell
Program Director, ELCA AMMPARO

Affirmation of Baptism

On Sunday, June 2, 2019 three young people will affirm the faith received at their baptism.

Brett Groebner
Gavin Pinnow
Joe Ross

May God richly bless them as they continue on their faith journey.



**Don't miss our
summer Faith
Nights!**

**Wednesday, June 12
Wednesday, July 10
Wednesday, August 14**

We will be meeting once a month during the summer months from 5:30 to 7:00. Each night will begin with dinner and then we will move into a Bible story with some fun outdoor activities. We will end each night with a campfire, songs, and prayers.

We hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer!



**SAVE THE DATE!
THURSDAY, JUNE 13
NOON**

~WELCA SPRING SALAD LUNCHEON~

Women of Bethlehem Church are asked to bring a salad to serve at least 10 as we invite women from other churches and the community. A signup sheet is on the table in the narthex.

In addition to the delicious array of salads and yummy desserts, we will take a "Journey in the Holy Land," presented by Helen LaBorde who will share her inspiring trip with us as through word and slides. We hope you will join us for this special afternoon!

If you or someone you know would appreciate help with a meal once a month, contact the church office or one of the H.O.M.E. Meal Team members. The next delivery date is Wednesday, June 19. The July delivery date will be Wednesday, July 17.



WOMEN OF BETHLEHEM

We hope you are using your Thankoffering boxes to share your coins for those moments when you feel especially thankful. Your generous Thankofferings help support the ongoing ministries of the ELCA churchwide women's organization. Boxes will be collected in the fall when we have our Thankoffering service. If you do not have a box, they can be found in a basket in the narthex.

Family Promise Week Begins June 16th

Watch for the signup board coming soon! We will need helpers for the week and hope you are able to lend a helping hand.

**You are invited
to a special Coffee Hour
celebrating the
60th Anniversary of
Ordination for
Rev. Ron Massen
Sunday, June 30
following the
worship service.**



BRODHEAD BLOOD DRIVE



**Tuesday, July 2
Noon—5:00
Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

Blood supplies are especially low during the summer months. Please give as you are able. If you would be interested in helping during the blood drive, contact Debbie Malcook.



Stay Connected To Synod Happenings, News, & Events!

Grow in your faith and leadership! Stay connected to exciting events and stories of our faith in action in our synod! To sign up for synod news, please email Assistant to the Bishop for Media, Communications & Leadership Development, Deacon Vicki Hanrahan at vickih@scsw-elca.org to be added to "What Matters."



PENNIES FOR A PURPOSE

We continue to collect donations of your spare pennies to help women in the Brodhead community. A container is in the narthex for your donations. Thank you for sharing!

Are You Interested in Volunteering at YOUR Synod Office? It's easy and fun and you can sign-up below. If you have questions please call Robyn Zimmerman at the synod office, 608.270-0201.

<http://signup.com/go/urPBwwv>

General Office Volunteer Work

Your synod staff would love the chance to get to know you and this a fun way to do just that. You choose the hours you are able to help.

AGRACE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS IN ROCK COUNTY

Agrace Hospice & Palliative Care is seeking volunteers in Rock County to visit local hospice patients or help at its Janesville thrift store. Volunteer orientation is scheduled for **Monday, June 10, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, at Agrace in Janesville. Before volunteers attend orientation, they will complete an application and interview about their skills and interests. Call (608) 314-2922 to register.

New Neighbors for Bethlehem Church!

You may have noticed the earth moving equipment across the road from church on the south side. We have been told they are building senior living townhomes.

Community Clothes Closet is

open every Saturday from 10am—2pm. The Clothes Closet is located at the old Power and Light Building, 1108 11th St. All items at the Closet are free and is staffed by volunteers.



Healthy Eating, Healthy Living—The Senior Nutrition Program of Green Co. provides balanced

nutrition to seniors. For a Dining Center reservation, contact Brodhead Senior Center: 897-4796.

White Gift food pantry hours are from 10—11am

on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The pantry is located behind the Senior Center. If you have a need, please contact Vickie Krattiger at 897-6466.

HEAL Grief Support Group

HEAL grief and education group offers sessions open to anyone 18 yrs and older who has experienced the death of someone special. Learn about the grieving process and ideas for coping and healing in a safe and a supportive setting.

Six week sessions

June 5—July 10, 2019

Wednesdays 6:00—7:30 p.m.

Monroe Clinic Hospice

St. Camillus Center

2101 Sixth Street, Monroe

There is no cost to attend. Space is limited. To register or express interest in attending this program, call 608-324-1230. You may also visit: monroeclinic.org to learn more.



June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. People all over the world are doing things to raise awareness about this ever-growing global issue. Green County is not immune to this issue—138 cases

were reported last year alone.

The EAP needs your help! We hope that members of your church can support victims of elder abuse by keeping them in your thoughts and prayers—particularly on June 15th

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Worship: Sundays at 9:00 a.m.

Family Faith Night: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.
September through April

Office Hours: Monday—Thursday 8am—1pm



June/July 2019

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**Join us for
Summer Faith Night!
June 12 & July 10
5:30—7:00**

**Worship with us
Sunday mornings
at 9:00**