

## Growth & Sharing Committee

\*The Growth & Sharing Committee met Thursday, April 22 at 7:15 PM. Pastor David & Liz Klappenbach, Julie Dawson, Linda Galbraith, Myles & Shirley Pedersen were present.

\*We will begin serving food at Coffee Fellowships on Sunday, May 30<sup>th</sup>. We recommend only serving 1-2 items. Donuts will be served on May 2<sup>nd</sup> & cake on May 23<sup>rd</sup>. Potlucks will begin in the fall on September 17<sup>th</sup>. Also, a Bethany picnic is being thought about for this summer. Watch for more information to come. Please check the coffee fellowship/potluck 2021 list for your serving date(s) in the 2020 Annual Report. Extra copies will be available near the offering plate.

\*The Samaritan Purse project will begin Sunday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>. A different approach is planned. A play pen will be placed in the fellowship hall for collecting the items that can be used in the boxes, so you may start purchasing at any time. Do you prefer to fill your own box...you can! Boxes are on the table in the fellowship hall. Please sign the sheet if you take a box. We recognize not everyone has the time to fill a box! We pray this will be a fun & interesting way to help children receive Christmas joy around the world and the USA. Watch the play pen fill with items! Helpful hints for various age groups are on the back table near the offering plate. Take a set today!

\*We discussed fund raisers. More decisions will be completed later.

\*Thank you for your participation in these projects. Questions? Contact one of the committee members. *God's Blessings, the Committee*

The Pocahontas Community Hospital will be offering a Grief Support Group for anyone experiencing the loss of a loved one. The compassionate educational discussions will be held **Thursdays, starting May 6-27 at 3:00 P.M.** at the Pocahontas Community Hospital Conference Room. Those wishing to attend will have to be screened at the hospital entrance, wear a mask and there will be social distancing. There is no cost to attend. Please call Rachel Olson, LBSW, at 335-3501 to register.

## BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

North American Lutheran Church

**Worship, Love, Accept – Together in Christ's Name**

213 S. Harrison, PO Box 151

Laurens, IA 50554

Pastor David Klappenbach

[www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org](http://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org)

Ph. 712-841-2181

Shirley McKiernan, Organist

**Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**May 2, 2021**

*To our visitors! Welcome to our Communion Sunday Service. All are welcome to receive the Lord's Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation. We are happy to have you sharing in our worship service and ask for the opportunity to meet you. We invite you to complete the Communion/Visitor card in front of you. Please come again!*

*An asterisk (\*) indicates when to stand (for those who are able).*

### ORDER OF THE SERVICE

PRELUDE / RINGING OF THE CHURCH BELL / WELCOME

### WORSHIP OF PRAYER & MEDITATION

\*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS *Pastor* P.56

\*OPENING HYMN: *"This Is the Day"* CH 209  
This is the day, this is the day, That the Lord has made, that the Lord has made.  
We will rejoice, we will rejoice, And be glad in it, and be glad in it.  
This is the day that the Lord has made. We will rejoice and be glad in it.  
This is the day, this is the day that the Lord has made.

\*GREETING / KYRIE *Pastor* P.57

\*HYMN OF PRAISE: *"He Is Lord"* CH 34  
He is Lord, He is Lord! He is risen from the dead and He is Lord!  
Every knee shall bow, every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.  
(Repeat)

\*PRAYER OF THE DAY *(in unison) Pastor*  
O God, form the minds of your faithful people into a single will. Make us love what you command and desire what you promise, that, amid all the changes of this world, our hearts may be fixed where true joy is found; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

*SS sing "Down in My Heart" & "This Little Light of Mine"*

**MEDITATION ON GOD'S WORD**

**FIRST READING: Acts 8:26-40 Shawn Oxenreider**

<sup>26</sup> Then an angel of the Lord said to Philip, "Get up and go toward the south<sup>l</sup> to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza." (This is a wilderness road.) <sup>27</sup> So he got up and went. Now there was an Ethiopian eunuch, a court official of the Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, in charge of her entire treasury. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup> and was returning home; seated in his chariot, he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup> Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go over to this chariot and join it." <sup>30</sup> So Philip ran up to it and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah. He asked, "Do you understand what you are reading?" <sup>31</sup> He replied, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he invited Philip to get in and sit beside him. <sup>32</sup> Now the passage of the scripture that he was reading was this:

"Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter,  
and like a lamb silent before its shearer,  
so he does not open his mouth.

<sup>33</sup> In his humiliation justice was denied him.  
Who can describe his generation?  
For his life is taken away from the earth."

<sup>34</sup> The eunuch asked Philip, "About whom, may I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?" <sup>35</sup> Then Philip began to speak, and starting with this scripture, he proclaimed to him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup> As they were going along the road, they came to some water; and the eunuch said, "Look, here is water! What is to prevent me from being baptized?"<sup>l</sup> <sup>38</sup> He commanded the chariot to stop, and both of them, Philip and the eunuch, went down into the water, and Philip<sup>l</sup> baptized him. <sup>39</sup> When they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord snatched Philip away; the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup> But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he was passing through the region, he proclaimed the good news to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

*SS sing "12 Disciples"*

**THIS WEEK AT BETHANY**

<b>Today: May 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <b><i>Fifth Sunday of Easter</i></b> 9:15 – Adult SS 9:30 – Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 – Worship w/Communion, SS Program, & Honor Graduates NO Youth Group <b>Monday: May 3<sup>rd</sup></b> 4:00 – W/M Mtg. 6:30 – Discipleship Class <b>Tuesday: May 4<sup>th</sup></b> 6:30 – Defibrillator/CPR Refresher Class	<b>Sunday: May 9<sup>th</sup></b> <b><i>Sixth Sunday of Easter / Mother's Day</i></b> 9:15 – Adult SS 9:30 – Youth SS & Coffee Fellowship 10:30 – Worship 3:00 – 4-H Club Mtg. 4:00 – Youth Board Mtg. at UMC 5:00-6:30 – Youth Group at UMC
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**Prayer Concerns:** Bethany Lutheran Church members, nursing home residents, Iowa storm victims, those battling COVID-19, Pat Murray, Scott Frye, Dorothy Sandvig, Hannah Brandt, Tom Steinkoenig, Phyllis Anderson, Jennifer Edge, Pastor David Steffenson, Pastor James Puotyuual, Carol Schmidt, Gloria Bell, Cenon Zarzoso, Helen Dodge, Patricia Bentsen. Our youth, parents & teachers, our military & missionaries. The Family of Rich Newgard.

**Lectors:** Elizabeth Runneberg & Shawn Oxenreider  
**Ushers:** May 2 – Myles Pedersen  
May 16 – Dean Armstrong  
**Acolytes:** Bethany Youth

**Weekly Budget Needs: \$2600.00**

Faith Promise	\$1149.00	Worship	.30
Easter	\$20.00	Sunday School	\$8.00
		SS	10

***Birthday: May 2 – Linda Bieri; 7 – Lacey Carlson; 8 – Isabella Johnsen, Lorie Hudson;***

**\*\*\*Please note that the blue CH (Celebration Hymnal) is located under the pew in front of you.**

**Emergency contact information:**  
In the case of an emergency or are in need of a visit/call, please contact Pastor David Klappenbach at 419-603-8350 (cell), 712-841-2181 (church), 712-841-2532 (parsonage).

**MAY:** Altar Guild = Shirley Kruse & Eloise Armstrong  
**Fellowship** = Coffee Fellowship w/food to start up again on May 30.  
= No potlucks until fall.  
= May 2 = Graduate Reception w/Donuts  
= May 23 = Confirmation Reception w/Cake  
= May 30 – Dean & Eloise Armstrong, Doug & Becky Baker

**SUNDAY SCHOOL STUDENTS & STAFF**  
**May 2, 2021**

**Nursery, Preschool, First, & Second Grade:** Niels, Jens, Isabella & Raelyn Johnsen  
**Middle School:** Michelle Gordon  
**Teachers for Nursery-Second Grade & MS:** Linda Bieri, Tammy Oxenreider, Jean Swanson, Rich Ehlers, Pastor David Klappenbach

**High School:** Shawn Oxenreider, Elizabeth Runneberg, Cole Runneberg

**Music:** Marilyn Ehlers & Shirley McKiernan  
**Sunday School Leader:** Linda Bieri

As we close the Sunday school year, we recognize the following students for attendance pins:

Raelyn Johnsen: 5 year pin  
Isabella Johnsen: 4 year pin  
Jens Johnsen: 2 year pin  
Michelle Gordon: 1 year pin

\*\*\*This means the student missed three or less Sundays this school year!!!

Congratulations to these dedicated students and their parents!

**A special recognition** to Niels Johnsen: The end of February, Niels started Sunday School as a three year old and has attended faithfully the last seven Sundays!

**We are always grateful** when we can call on Shawn Oxenreider & Elizabeth Runneberg for reinforcements!

**We honor and congratulate** our high school, & college graduates today.

*HS graduate: Elizabeth Runneberg, Cole Runneberg, & Payton Roling*

*College graduates: Hannah Runneberg*

*We wish God's blessing on each of you as you enter the world of college and/or the business world.*

**SPRING TIME ~ 10:30 AM Worship services at Bethany – We will be following the COVID-19 Guidelines with the social distancing, etc. We welcome all to come as you feel comfortable to attend.**

**Communion:** We plan to have communion on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays in the months to come. Please note that we will continue to follow the COVID-19 Communion Guidelines.

**PSALM: 150 Michelle Gordon**

<sup>1</sup> Praise the LORD! Praise God in his sanctuary; praise him in his mighty firmament!<sup>[a]</sup>

<sup>2</sup> Praise him for his mighty deeds; praise him according to his surpassing greatness!

<sup>3</sup> Praise him with trumpet sound; praise him with lute and harp!

<sup>4</sup> Praise him with tambourine and dance; praise him with strings and pipe!

<sup>5</sup> Praise him with clanging cymbals; praise him with loud clashing cymbals!

<sup>6</sup> Let everything that breathes praise the LORD! Praise the LORD!

*SS sing "My God Is So Big"*

**SECOND READING: 1 John 4:1-11(12-21) Elizabeth Runneberg**

<sup>4</sup> Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup> By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup> and every spirit that does not confess Jesus<sup>[a]</sup> is not from God. And this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming; and now it is already in the world. <sup>4</sup> Little children, you are from God, and have conquered them; for the one who is in you is greater than the one who is in the world. <sup>5</sup> They are from the world; therefore what they say is from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup> We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us, and whoever is not from God does not listen to us. From this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. <sup>7</sup> Beloved, let us love one another, because love is from God; everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup> Whoever does not love does not know God, for God is love. <sup>9</sup> God's love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup> In this is love, not that we loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the atoning sacrifice for our sins. <sup>11</sup> Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. <sup>12</sup> No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us. <sup>13</sup> By this we know that we abide in him and he in us, because he has given us of his Spirit. <sup>14</sup> And we have seen and do testify that the Father has sent his Son as the Savior of the world. <sup>15</sup> God abides in those who confess that Jesus is the Son of God, and they abide in God. <sup>16</sup> So we have known and

believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. <sup>17</sup> Love has been perfected among us in this: that we may have boldness on the day of judgment, because as he is, so are we in this world. <sup>18</sup> There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love. <sup>19</sup> We love<sup>[b]</sup> because he first loved us. <sup>20</sup> Those who say, "I love God," and hate their brothers or sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> are liars; for those who do not love a brother or sister<sup>[a]</sup> whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen. <sup>21</sup> The commandment we have from him is this: those who love God must love their brothers and sisters<sup>[a]</sup> also.

**SS sing "Zaccheus"**

**\*THE HOLY GOSPEL: John 15:1-8 Pastor**

**15** "I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. <sup>2</sup> He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes<sup>[a]</sup> to make it bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup> You have already been cleansed<sup>[b]</sup> by the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup> Abide in me as I abide in you. Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine, neither can you unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup> I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup> Whoever does not abide in me is thrown away like a branch and withers; such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup> If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask for whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup> My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit and become<sup>[a]</sup> my disciples.

**\*GOSPEL RESPONSE: L: The Gospel of our Lord. C: Thanks be to God!**  
**SS sing "The Fruit of the Spirit"**

**SERMON SKIT BY CHILDREN David Fights Goliath Skit**

*Narrator ~ Rich Ehlers, Soldier ~ Linda Bieri, Guard ~ Marilyn Ehlers,  
Goliath ~ Isabella Johnsen, David ~ Raelyn Johnsen,  
Brother ~ Shirley McKiernan, King Saul ~ Michelle Gordon*

**SS sing "Only a Boy Named David"**

**BRIEF REFLECTION Pastor David Klappenbach**

**HYMN: "Jesus Loves Me"  
Pin Recognition & Graduate Recognition**

**CH 185**

**\*NICENE CREED** P. 64  
**\*THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**  
**Leader: "...Lord, in your mercy," Response: "hear our prayer."**  
**\*THE PEACE**

**OFFERING OURSELVES TO GOD**

**OFFERING / "God Please Bless Our Offering"**

**God, please bless our offering,  
Help them spread your care.  
And our Savior's story  
Here and everywhere.**

**\*OFFERTORY PRAYER** P. 67  
**\*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING** P. 68  
**\*WORDS OF INSTITUTION** P. 69  
**\*THE LORD'S PRAYER** P. 71  
**\*LAMB OF GOD** P. 72  
**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**  
**\*BLESSING** P. 72  
**\*POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE** P. 72

**OUR SENDING**

**\*BENEDICTION** P. 74  
**\*HYMN "Father, I Adore You"** CH 191  
**Father, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!  
Jesus, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!  
Spirit, I adore you; Lay my life before you. How I love you!**  
**\*DISMISSAL**

**Thank you for joining us this morning for worship.**

**May you have a blessed day and week ahead.**

**We invite you to come again and worship with us.**