



THE BANNER

May 2021

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

As we head into the month of May, warmer weather is upon us, and the planting season is going full force. School is finishing another academic year and with that graduations will be taking place. It is also the month when we honor high school graduates, celebrate another year of Sunday School, observe Mother's Day and Memorial Day. In the month of May we are bringing to conclusion the Great 50 Day Easter celebration with the Festival of Pentecost and the Rite of Confirmation (May 23rd), and on the following Sunday is the Festival of the Holy Trinity (May 30th). May looks jammed packed here at Church. I hope, even with your busy schedules, to carve out that time on Sunday mornings for worship. Worship the most important activity that takes place here at Bethany. When you are absent from the fellowship of believers, we are less that what we can be. The church is stronger and more complete when you are present.

Pentecost is the Celebration of the Holy Spirit. Fifty days after the resurrection of Jesus Christ a rush of a mighty wind filled the room where the Apostles were gathered. Tongues of fire also settled on their heads and they began to speak in tongues proclaiming the mighty acts of God to all foreign visitors using their native languages. They all heard the Good News of God in Christ Jesus plainly from these men who had never spoken in a foreign tongue before. Before it was all over 3,000 were baptized that day and the Church was born. So, in a way Pentecost is the birthday celebration of the Church. I believe I read somewhere that in the great Festivals of the Church Year, Pentecost would be the third slightly behind Epiphany at number two and of course Easter, what many would consider the number one festival. But if you think about it, every Sunday a celebration the resurrection of Jesus Christ, thus making the rest of the Sundays "Little Easters."

But that is beside the point. Pentecost is always a reminder that we would not even have the gift of faith in Jesus if it were not for the work of the Holy Spirit in our lives. I believe that I cannot come to faith in Jesus Christ through my own strength or reason, but it the Holy Spirit calls, enlightens me through the gospel brings me to faith, and in the same way calls, gathers and enlightens the Christian Church and keep it in the one true faith (from Martin Luther's Small Catechism, paraphrased). I know the day does not lend itself to the sweet memories of Christmas or the triumph of Easter. If anything, it might convey a sense of longing and incompleteness. It may well be a great time for us to acknowledge our fears and anxiousness in this day and time in church life, and longing for what we can be as congregation on fire for Christ. It happened 2,000 years ago with 12 apostles gathered in an upper room waiting for the promised power from on high. And when it came the world was changed. I pray it can happen here.

In Christ's Service,

Pastor David

Bible Reading Plan for the Disciples of Bethany

...standing firm in one spirit, with one mind striving side by side for the faith of the gospel... Philippians 1:27b

Saturday, May 1	2 Corinthians 4:1-6
Sunday, May 2,	2 Thessalonians 2:13-17
Monday, May 3	Jeremiah 32:1-15
Tuesday, May 4	Jeremiah 32:16-25
Wednesday, May 5	Jeremiah 32:36-44
Thursday, May 6	Jeremiah 33:1-13
Friday, May 7	Romans 14:13-23
Saturday, May 8	Romans 15:1-13
Sunday, May 9	1 Timothy 3:14-4:5
Monday, May 10	James 1:1-15
Tuesday, May 11	James 1:16-27
Wednesday, May 12	James 5:13-18
Thursday, May 13	Matthew 28:16-20 <u>THE DAY OF ASCENSION</u>
Friday, May 14	Ezekiel 1:-3:3
Saturday, May 15	Ezekiel 3:4-17
Sunday, May 16	Ezekiel 3:16-27
Monday, May 17	Ezekiel 4:1-17
Tuesday, May 18	Ezekiel 7:10-15, 23b-27
Wednesday, May 19	Ezekiel 11:14-25
Thursday, May 20	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32
Friday, May 21	Ezekiel 34:17-31

Saturday, May 22
Sunday, May 23

Monday, May 24
Tuesday, May 25
Wednesday, May 26
Thursday, May 27
Friday, May 28
Saturday, May 29
Sunday, May 30

Tuesday, May 31

Ezekiel 43:1-12
Isaiah 11:1-19 **THE DAY OF OF PENTECOST**
2 Timothy 1:1-14
2 Timothy 1:15-2:13
2 Timothy 2:14-26
2 Timothy 3:1-17
2 Timothy 4:1-8
2 Timothy 4:9-22
Deuteronomy 6:1-15
THE SUNDAY OF THE HOLY TRINITY
Romans 12:9-16



Request to Provide Altar Flowers for 2021



If you wish to provide altar flowers for church during 2021, please complete this form. Please place it the offering plate or mail it to: Shirley McKiernan, 313 2nd St., Laurens, IA 50554 *Thank you.*

Name of person providing flowers: _____

Date desired: _____

Do you want to provide flowers on this same date from year to year? yes no

Information needed for Sunday bulletin:

Altar Flowers in Loving Memory of: _____

From: _____

Or Altar Flowers

From: _____

Please contact Shirley McKiernan, 841-2637, if you have any questions.



In case of emergency contact
 Pastor David Klappenbach
 712-841-2181 (Office)
 712-841-2532 Home)
 419-603-8350 (Cell)

Services are currently being live streamed on Facebook

Visit us @ <https://www.bethanylutheran-laurens.org>

April Birthdays and Anniversaries


Name	Marriage	May	
Ekstam, Franz		5-01	
Bieri, Linda		5-02	
Van Sickle, Lacey		5-07	
Hudson, Lorie		5-08	
Johnsen, Isabella		5-08	
Kruse, Don		5-10	
Hudson, Sami		5-11	
Hawley, John		5-13	
Raasch, Kyle		5-15	
Jamison, Cara		5-17	
Oxenreider, Shawn		5-19	
Henderson, Steven		5-22	
Baker, Heidi		5-22	
Sandvig, Dorothy		5-26	
Nomann, Margaret		5-27	

Ushers

May 2 Myles Pedersen
 May 16 Dean Armstrong

Altar Guild for May Shirley Kruse & Eloise Armstrong

May 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Bethany Lutheran Church Adult SS- 9:15 Youth SS- 9:30 Worship-1030				1
2 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	3 4:00 W/M Mtg 6:30-Discipleship Class	4 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship	10	11 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 Worship w/ Holy Communion	17 6:30-Discipleship Class	18 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	19	20	21	22
23/30 10:30-Worship	24/31 6:30-Discipleship Class	25 8:30AM Prayer Group 9:30AM Coffee @ BLC	26	27	28	29

Council Meeting
Bethany Lutheran Church
March 10, 2021 7:00 PM

Present:
Dean Armstrong
Rich Ehlers
Jim Hodgell
Pastor Klappenbach
Myles Pedersen
Linda Galbraith
Jean Swanson

Absent:
Mark Raasch
John Runneberg
Julie Dawson

Others in attendance: Marilyn Ehlers, Shirley Pedersen

Rich Ehlers noted that we had a quorum and called the meeting to order.

Pastor Klappenbach provided an opening prayer.

Jean Swanson moved to approve the minutes with noted changes, Jim Hodgell provide the second. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary:

Shirley Pedersen noted that we received \$120.00 from the Bertha Olson Memorial.

Treasurer:

Marilyn reported as of February 28, 2021 we had a balance of \$200.74 and that the balance as of this meeting is \$1272.51.

Jim Hodgell moved to approve the Financial Reports. Myles Pedersen made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Pastors Report:

Pastor Klappenbach reported he led 6 services 4 Sunday, Ash Wednesday, and 2nd Wednesday in Lent. He had 15 visits, 7 home, 2 office, 1 work and 4 by phone, 4 community visits, 4 classes and 6 meetings. February 22nd & 23rd he attended the STS Retreat in Schuyler, NE. He is targeting Pentecost Sunday 2021 for Michelle Gordons confirmation.

Jim Hodgell moved to approve the Pastors Report, Myles made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Old Business:

1. CPR retraining. Dean Armstrong called Garthlene Bell twice since the last meeting and has gotten no response. Dean will continue attempting to get a hold of Garthlene in March.

New Business:

1. Jason and Kerrie Aschenbrenner asked to use 125 chairs from the Fellowship Hall chair supply for a wedding in Marathon June 26, 2021. Dean Armstrong moved to permit the use of the chairs. Jim Hodgell made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Committee Reports:

1. Christian Education; Jean Swanson reported that Niels Johnsen is now in the Sunday School Class. Jean said that she is working with Raelyn Johnson in Bible study.
2. Growth and Sharing; Shirley Pedersen reported that there was no meeting during the month of March and is planning to have a meeting shortly after Julie Dawson returns from her training classed.
3. Tech: no Report
4. Stewardship: No Report
5. Property and Farm: Parsonage walk thru is scheduled for the week of March 21st.
6. Worship and Music: Worship and Music would like to have Lenten Soup Suppers at 5:30-6:30PM on the 17th and 24th of March. Dean Armstrong moved to have the first one on March 17th. Linda Galbraith made a second to the motion. Motion carried.

Worship and Music also requested that the worship times change to Spring-Summer hours from May 30, 2021 to September 5, 2021. Worship time will begin at 9 AM.

1. Memorial: Rich mentioned that the council gave him the ok to buy a new 50" TV. He found that there were none in Walmart or online. He will try Best Buy next.

Jim Hodgell made a motion to adjourn with the Lord's Prayer. Dean Armstrong provided a second to the motion. Motion carried

Dean Armstrong
Recording Secretary