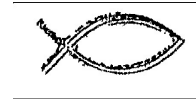


DECEMBER 2020

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6pm Bible Study	2 6pm Confirmation	3	4	5
6 10:30a Worship Facebook Live or Call-in	7	8 6pm Bible Study	9 6pm Confirmation	10 6pm Council Meeting	11	12
13 1030a Worship Facebook Live or Call-in	14	15	16 6pm Confirmation	17 6pm Worship Committee	18	19
20 10:30a Worship Facebook Live or Call-in	21 Fisher Deadline	22	23	24 7pm Christmas Eve Service	25	26 Pastor Mikayla Vacation
27 10:30a Worship Facebook Live Or Call-in Pastor Mikayla Vacation	28 →	29 →	30 →	31 →		



“The Fisher” December 2020

A newsletter for the members and friends of



Bone Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1101 255th Ave Luck WI 54853

Address Service Requested



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



The CRISIS of CHRISTMAS

Dear Members and Friends of the Northwest Synod of Wisconsin, Christmas 2020 will occur while we are living through of a series of crises. Here's the list: the pandemic, economic losses, protests against racial injustices, an ongoing climate crisis, and a divided country following a contentious presidential election. I'm not going to lie, it's been stressful for me, and I imagine it has been for you, too. As Christians, we have been moving through these crisis-filled days with the expectation that God is present and God's promises are true. We move forward with hope.

The two Chinese characters for the word "crisis," 危机, have often been translated as "danger" and "opportunity." Others say that a better translation is "danger" and "change point." What dangers do you see as your congregation moves toward celebrating the Birth of our Savior – Christmas - in a totally new way? What "opportunities" or "change points" do you see that could propel your church forward in a positive way into God's future?

Mary experienced a theological crisis when the angel Gabriel revealed to her God's plan to enter this world by the baby in her womb. Mary's body was the center of a theological crisis - much like the

theological crisis caused by a virus that has invaded the bodies of our loved ones, and the theological crisis of abused and broken black and brown bodies, and the theological crisis experienced in the misuse of this planet on which all bodies live. Where is God in the crisis? What does this mean? In a crisis, God comes to us. John 1:1,14 *In the beginning was the Word... and the Word was God...And the Word became flesh and lived among us.* Jesus is God, divine and human. God took up residence and moved into our neighborhood. God goes where God's people go and is who the people are. This is the theological promise of John's gospel. God is present with us in our times of crisis and suffering. This is the foundation of Luther's theology of the cross.

God is revealed through the crisis of Mary's pregnancy and Jesus' untimely birth in a Bethlehem barn. God is revealed in the crucifixion; through the body of Jesus, hanging on a cross. God is revealed through the risen body of Jesus on Easter Morning.

No matter how different Christmas is for you this year, no matter what crisis arises, God is there, present as promised, in the WORD made flesh. May the story of Jesus' birth bring you much needed joy and hope this holiday season and may the presence of God comfort you in the new year.

AMEN

Bishop Laurie Skow-Anderson

THANKSGIVING DRIVE-THRU DINNERS—Served: 86 Dinners



Kitchen crew



Dishing Up crew



Delivery crew

On November 30th, the "TRANSITION BACK TO CHURCH" team met via zoom.

Participating in the meeting were Nate White, Christina White, Danielle Buck, Sara Route, Shahla Brown, Pastor Mikayla, and Brenda Buck, with some of our resources provided by Tonya Eichelt and the Polk County Health Dept.

The council has asked us to study and research how and when we can safely start to meet for worship in person. Council is waiting for our recommendations to use when they consider these decisions. After some discussion and reading taken from various scientific authorities we came up with what we believe is a safe plan that we'll be recommending.

We are recommending that we continue to hold off on in-person worship until the following two criteria have been met in Polk county:

- 1) a 14 day average positivity rate of 5% or less and
- 2) a 14 day consecutive decline in the number of new cases.

Those are both general guidelines that the CDC, World Health Organization and the White House have recommended. These numbers for Polk County are posted and updated M-F on the Polk County Health Dept Covid Dashboard <https://polkcowi.maps.arcgis.com/apps/opsdashboard/index.html#/ecf6b4dac5f744c3881c22b3791f3d26>

When our Polk county 14 day positivity rate gets to 10-12% our team will meet again to start discussing and planning for what adaptations and changes we'll need to have in place when we do start meeting in-person (extra sanitation, social distancing, etc.) We understand waiting until our COVID-19 numbers are at a safer level means we don't have a specific date and we also recognize how much we ALL miss being together. If you have suggestions or new ideas for reaching out or engaging virtually with our church family please share them with Pastor Mikayla or someone on council. Council will be reviewing our recommendations at their next regular meeting.

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND SERVICES

DECEMBER Birthdays

Gage Steffan	12/02
Justin Strusz	12/03
Julie Pedersen	12/04
Tiffany Brown	12/04
Tony Johnson	12/05
Melissa Rock	12/05
Mike Boland	12/05
Charles Hoehne	12/06
Dianne Dueholm	12/07
Joe Christensen	12/07
Susan Gregorash	12/08
Kim Erickson	12/08
Lynda Olds	12/08
Shahla Brown	12/08
Nick Kuechenmeister	12/08
Kris Mattson	12/09
Mason Brown	12/09
Jacob Pedersen	12/09
Jaxen Pedersen	12/09
Brendan Fenning	12/10
Rhonda Bazey	12/11
Broc Carter	12/11
Dorothy Roberts	12/13
LeRoy Buck	12/14
Easton Jones	12/16
Irene Ogilvie	12/16
John Denny	12/17
Cody Ince	12/18
Kristi Fenning	12/19
Lynn Albee	12/20
Kristin Jones	12/20
Sharry Swenson	12/23
Katie Pfaff	12/27
Samantha Harvey	12/28
Alayna Snider	12/28



Food shelf food that was donated.



Virtual Christmas Eve Service at 7:00pm

FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

All donations for 2020 must be in the office by December 30th, to be counted in the current year.

All requests for reimbursement need to be in by DECEMBER 28TH to be paid.

All outstanding checks from the church need to be cashed by December 31st.

All Committee Leads: please submit your report for the annual report by December 31st.

Dear Saints of Bone Lake Lutheran,

With winter upon us and the Christmas season fast approaching, we all have holiday traditions and worship on our minds. Here is an update on what the council and I have decided is the safest option possible for Bone Lake Lutheran this winter and holiday season.

We have decided that we will continue with virtual worship through the end of the year. Because of rising numbers of COVID cases and deaths, local schools and businesses closing down, and the stress we are beginning to see on our health care system, worship inside of our building is not deemed as our safest option at this time. We do, however, have many ways that you all can continue to worship with us in a safe way. We will continue to livestream our worship services on Facebook, they are available to view at a later time on Facebook and YouTube, you can listen over the phone, and we are in the process of being able to transmit over the radio (see further information on these options below).

This also means that Christmas Eve will also look a little different this year. Christmas Eve worship will also be virtual with one service at 7PM. That means you have the option of staying home and viewing worship from the comfort of your couch or as we will have the ability to transmit over the radio, you can come to worship in the parking lot. As we get closer to Christmas Eve, we will make more information available.

In the best interest of our community, we feel that this is how we can keep everyone safe and healthy. I know that this is a difficult time and we're all fed up with the way our world is right now. The council and I are working to make worship and our faith lives together the best they can be given the circumstances, please continue to be patient with us. We also ask for your prayers and want you to know that you are in ours.

Also know that there are many sources we are getting our information from. We are trying our best to have a well-rounded idea as to what the best practices for safety and health are right now. We are listening to science, taking recommendations from local and state agencies, and are in prayerful consideration with the synod and other church bodies.

Maybe instead of looking at this year as a year of different and hard things, it can be an opportunity for us to embrace creativity and growth. Perhaps we will find some new and fun traditions that work for our community. If there is something you'd like to try or if you have any ideas please feel free to reach out. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me or someone on the council.

Continued blessings to you in the season and God's peace,
Pastor Mikayla
715-207-5173
bllepastor05@gmail.com

Ways to worship...

Facebook: Search for Bone Lake Lutheran Church to view Live and past videos
YouTube: Search for and subscribe to BLLC for the latest worship videos
Dial-In: Dial 715-472-0890 and enter 076582#
FM Radio: More info to come as this is set up

BONE LAKE LUTHERAN COUNCIL

Bone Lake Lutheran Church “Knowing Jesus—Making Jesus Known” Council Meeting Thursday, November 12, 2020

Present: Ben Buck, Danielle Buck, Brenda Buck, Jon Erickson Leora Dueholm, Pastor Mikayla, Tonya Eichelt, Dana Paulson

Meeting Called to Order:

Devotions: Brenda

Devotions in December-Danielle

Highs and Lows: discussed what we are thankful for

Secretary’s Report: Motion: Brenda, seconded by Leora, carried

Dana Paulson: Dana in attendance to discuss current concerns among members regarding COVID protocols over worship not being live. Members are encouraged to voice concerns to Pastor or a council member. COVID transition committee will reconvene to plan for next steps as we continue to adapt to the pandemic.

Regarding any concerns, members are encouraged to talk directly to Pastor and/or a council member.

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Mikayla

Worship:

Led/planned for worship throughout the month

Finished up outdoor worship

October 25 -Affirmation of Baptism and Reformation Sunday celebration.

Met with worship team to discuss All Saints Sunday and Advent plans

beginning to plan worship for Advent and Christmas

Education:

Continue with Tuesday Evening Bible Study (Exodus)

Began Confirmation classes October 7. Collaborative with other area churches

Attended All Conference Gathering/Continuing Ed on Racial Justice Training

Attended First Call Theological Event/continuing ed.

Other:

Packed bags and helped with Trunk or Treat Event Oct. 31

Recorded several videos for the synod to be used throughout the year

Attended synod Mission Table Meeting

Recorded “Church Chat” video with Luther Point staff

Continuing to mail items/call shut ins and other members

Worship Report: Trunk or treat went well, very successful! Discussed Advent packets will be available to families.

Education: Confirmation a little rocky. Hard to get kids engaged with virtual. Will consider some in person classes. Not sure what it will look like.

Property Report:

Have only caught one mouse since the first big bunch on the first day of traps.

Jon purchased the spray for the Aian Beetles, but with the weather change, the spray was not applied..

Jon texted Nate Bell about plowing snow this year. Have not heard back from him yet.

Question: has the restart up committee come up with any building or interior changes that will need to be made before we can restart, (when the time is right)?

Old Business:

Review membership to contact inactive members and remove them from congregational roles. There are payments being made based on membership.

Pastor Mikayla’s annual review. Ben and Jon conducted the review.

Motion: Jon, seconded by Danielle to accept review and adjust pay accordingly.

Laurene’s annual review. Ben and Jon conducted the review.

A request has been made to use the church kitchen for Thanksgiving dinner drive up style. Volunteers will follow COVID guidance.

Reflections of Grace has requested to use the building for bible study. Council is ok with this as long as everybody practices physical distancing (6 feet apart, sanitizing, face coverings, etc).

New Business:

Discussion on Pastor’s letter and worship options. Council decided to purchase technology to enable service to be broadcast over the radio. Members will be able to drive in to the church for Christmas Eve service Drive-In style. **Motion by Brenda, seconded by Danielle** to purchase transmitter. **Motion carried.**

Annual meeting: Discussion on how to hold meeting virtually, if needed.

Amazon Prime account: We have been using Laurene’s. **Motion by Jon seconded by Leora , carried.**

Treasurer’s Report: Accepted as presented.

Next Meeting: December 10 at 6:00.