

April 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday	2 Good Friday	3
4 10:30aWorship Outdoor Service Facebook Live or Call-in EASTER	5	6 Spring Election	7 Confirmation	8 6pm Council Meeting	9 -	10
11 1030a Worship Indoor Service Facebook Live or Call-in Holy Communion 6pm Book study	12 6:30pm Resolution Meeting	13	14 Confirmation	15 Synod Assembly	16	17 Synod Assembly
18 10:30aWorship Indoor Service Facebook Live or Call-in 6pm Book Study	19 Fisher Deadline	20 6pm Bible Study Town of BL Annual Meeting	21 Confirmation	22 Earth Day	23	24
25 10:30a Worship Indoor Service Facebook Live Or Call-in HOLY COMMUNION 6pm book study	26 Pastor Mikayla Vacation	27 6pm Bible Study →	28 Confirmation →	29 →	30 →	



“The Fisher” April 2021

A newsletter for the members and friends of



Bone Lake Lutheran Church (ELCA)

1101 255th Ave Luck WI 54853

Address Service Requested

Swans are returning with their gray feathered young from last year all grown up. Photo courtesy of Joan Sorenson



FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

.¹² Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech and conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.¹³ Until I arrive, give attention to the public reading of scripture, to exhorting, to teaching.¹⁴ Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you through prophecy with the laying on of hands by the council of elders. 1 Timothy 4:12-14

Dear Saints of Bone Lake Lutheran,

In this letter from Paul to Timothy, Paul is warning Timothy and his community to not be led astray by false teachers and teachings. Instead, Paul encourages them to continue to practice their faith and remember all that they have been taught about their faith and Jesus. Paul encourages them to “set an example in speech, conduct, love and faith”. All of this is to be done so that others can see their faith, take an interest in it, and expand their community of believers.

I would imagine that if Paul were around today, he would encourage our communities to do many of the same things. We too would be encouraged to practice the faith that we have been taught and to set an example for other believers. But not only does this call us to practice what we already know, but it also calls us to try some new things, to adapt to our context, and embrace the opportunities that we have to learn and teach others about Jesus.

With our returning to in person worship, we will continue to learn and grow in our faith, but I am challenging us now, as the community of Bone Lake Lutheran, to not just return to the “normal” or the ways that we have always done things. This past year has been an opportunity for us to experiment, to try new things, and to really evaluate what matters to us and how we can best spread the love of Jesus. Because ultimately, that is what we are called to do, to preach the Good News of Jesus’ love for us and the whole world.

We’ve tried some new things; we’ve embraced the use of technology and we’ve seen how far reaching we can be with people from all over the country joining us for worship throughout the week. We’ve used Zoom to continue to meet and connect with each other. We’ve tried some new practices that we’ve learned together over the internet. We will continue some of these practices while we add some other things as well.

Perhaps this past year has revealed to you what really matters in your life and in your faith. And while our physical gathering may be an important part of your faith life, I would challenge you to not let that limit you. This past year has been a great opportunity for us to see how we can be Church throughout our community and beyond the four walls of our sanctuary. Bone Lake Lutheran isn’t just the building at 1101 255th Ave. Bone Lake Lutheran has the chance to be a community that is relevant and meaningful to a more far-reaching population. We have the chance now to use some of what we have learned to really connect with the community around us and to meet the needs we find outside of our building.

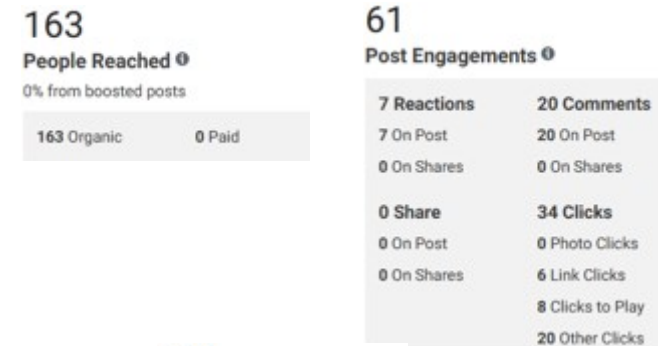
Because that is what being Church is all about. We are called as members of the Body of Christ to spread the news of Jesus’ love for us, to tell others that they are treasured creations of God. And sometimes we have to stretch ourselves a little to answer that call. Lots of great things can and do happen at Bone Lake, but let’s use all that has happened in the past year to expand our imaginations and get out there. Let’s be brave and trust that God has something great in store for us.

God’s Blessings on this endeavor,
Pastor Mikayla

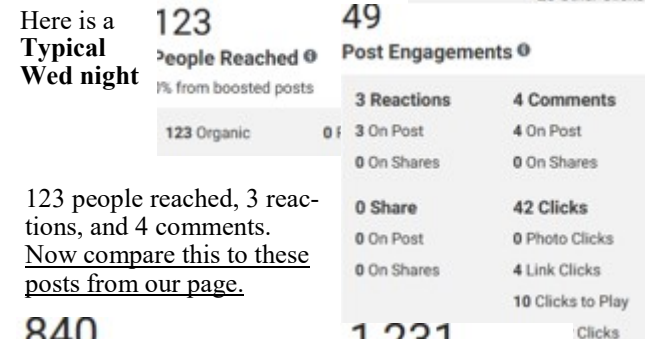
BONE LAKE LUTHERAN CHURCH MINISTRIES

This has been a difficult year for many of us for many reasons. And unfortunately, COVID hasn’t spared our church either. But, as the saying goes when God closes a door he opens a window. Here is one window that I see that is wide open.

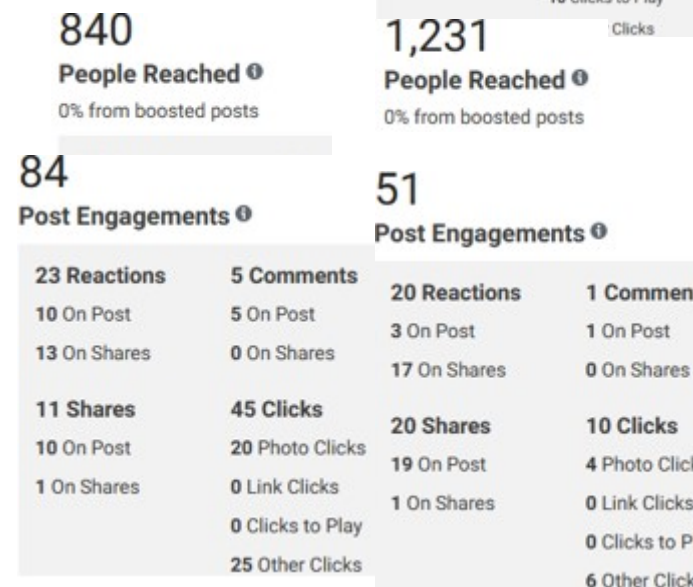
First off some numbers, Facebook is pretty good about getting us stats from posts and videos. Here is a typical Sunday.



As you can see, we have reached 163 people, gotten 7 reactions, and there were 20 comments.



123 people reached, 3 reactions, and 4 comments. [Now compare this to these posts from our page.](#)



Do you notice the difference? We have over 4 times the reach on the smaller of the 2 posts. So what is the difference? It is in part the number of shares. There are a total of 31 shares on these 2 posts. Compared to 0 on the two services. And in looking through most of the Facebook posts I haven’t seen a single share on a service yet.

In my eyes, we have been so focused on returning to “normal” that we have forgotten that we are supposed to focus not only on knowing Jesus but also on making Jesus known. In this hyper focus of “let’s get back in the building” we have been missing opportunities to make Jesus known. We all know people that have become disengaged, whether that is because of distance, schedules or lack of habit, we now have the ability to reach people and re-engage people that we were never able to before. Know some people that have been interested in church? Invite them to watch. Send your kids, grandkids, friends a message before church reminding them. Know someone that must work on Sunday morning or just does not want to get out of bed that early? Invite them to watch later. You do not need to share everything that we do, but if something speaks to you it might speak to someone that you know. All we need to do is put some effort into it.

Here’s to making Jesus known,
Chad Strege

SPIRITUAL GIFTS AND SERVICES

APRIL Birthdays

Caleb Nick	04/02
Mandy Lemme	04/03
Owen Measner	04/03
Debbie Lensman	04/05
Liberty James	04/05
Sharon Moore	04/06
Kylie Rich	04/06
Ava Ince	04/06
Cassie Moore	04/07
Terri Knowlan	04/11
Dana Paulsen	04/11
Sandy Bartlett	04/14
Dick Olds	04/14
Velma Broome	04/15
Janet Jarzembinski	04/15
Tammy Brenizer	04/16
Linda Svoboda	04/16
Sara Route	04/17
Pam James	04/18
Brandon Hostrup	04/18
Miranda Strusz	04/18
Mike Marek	04/19
Jamison Strege	04/19
Jesse Roberts	04/20
Lori Pfaff	04/22
Lane Kuechenmeister	04/22
Logan Grey	04/23
Kevin Bradwell	04/24
Jillian Peterson	04/25
Pat Neumann	04/28
Sherri Livingston	04/29
Lucas Kuechenmeister	04/29

Easles and crows eating thawed fish winter kill . —————>

THANK YOU!

Thank you for all the cards, letters, phone calls and prayers during my many hospital stays over the past year. They were all much appreciated.

Sincerely, Steve Tonnar

INDOOR SERVICES

Beginning Sunday, April 11th, indoor worship services will resume, with Covid-19 precautions followed and enforced.

Masks will be required, there will be no singing or spoken responses, and no paper bulletins, as all worship details will be on the screen.

Seating will be socially distanced and limited to one household per pew. When available seating is filled, anyone remaining will be invited to worship in their car. Please be patient with us as we work to make our system as smooth and usable as possible. To see the full list of guidelines, please check our website or Facebook.



FROM THE CHURCH COUNCIL

Greetings Bone Lake Lutheran!

I appreciate the chance to be writing to you; it is a great pleasure to serve God and Bone Lake Lutheran. God’s creation is splendid and very evident during spring time. Spring is a time of warming weather and nature coming back to life. As flowers bloom and animals are born, we are reminded of the innocence and beauty that exists in this world and that there is new life all around us. As Christians, we are given new life and new mercies every morning. Spring wonderfully reminds us that we should be living a full life and leaving the old dead parts of life behind. There is always hope during the coldest, darkest winters of life. Spring will come and new life will arise! In Deuteronomy 32:2 Jesus says, “Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants.” Please prayerfully focus on this season of new growth, regrowth, and the renewal of life. Also, please continue to keep Bone Lake Lutheran in your prayers. I hope to see your squinty eyes from mask covered smiles soon!

In Christ’s Love, Ben Buck

CHURCH FINANCE UPDATE

February offering/income: \$8,828.29

February expenses/outgoing: \$8,922.31

We were able to apply for the second round of PPP loans. We are eligible due to our decline in income in 2020. These funds are to assist us in continuing to pay wages. As long as we use the funds as required, the loan will be forgiven. We received this in March.

Council Treasurer- Brenda Buck

BONE LAKE LUTHERAN COUNCIL

Bone Lake Lutheran Church “Knowing Jesus—Making Jesus Known” Council Meeting Thursday, March 11, 2021

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

Meeting Called to Order:

Devotions: Leora

Highs and lows-

Devotions in April-Ben

Secretary’s Report: Motion by Brenda, seconded by Leora to approve secretary’s report as submitted

Pastor’s Report: Pastor Mikayla

Worship:

- continuing with online/dial worship until COVID numbers are better as decided by Transition Team (5% positivity rate, 14 consecutive days of positive number decline)
 - Drive-in worship planned indefinitely (reports that transmitter works very well)
 - Drive up Communion planned for 2nd and 4th Sundays of the month, weather permitting
 - working on finding families/individuals to record music for worship
 - Wednesday Lent services continue through 3/24
 - Palm Sunday planned for 3/28
 - Maundy Thursday service planned for 4/1
 - Good Friday service planned for 4/2
 - Luther Point Bible Camp has Easter Vigil planned for 4/3
 - Easter Service planned for 4/4
- (Weather permitting, we’re leaning toward having services for Palm Sunday/Easter in the parking lot)

Pastoral Care

- sending cards, publications, etc to home bound members
- calling those on the prayer chain
- Communion visits to homebound and nursing home residents

Education

- Confirmation students, for Lent, are required to attend Wednesday services, taking a break from classes for the season
- Conference wide book study on Racial Justice for Lent, well attended by our congregation

Other

- planning for Easter family activities after worship

Worship Report: Leora-Planning for Palm Sunday and Easter services. Piano is being repaired and won’t be available for Holy Week. Easter service will be at 10:30 with rolls and coffee being given out after service in a COVID friendly way.

Education Report: Confirmation students are required to do homework after Lent services.

Property Report: Spring clean-up if weather stays nice.

Old Business:

Special Donation request from member was discussed. Council decided best course at this time is to not involve the church.

Council positions: Council in agreement that all positions will remain. Motion by Danielle and seconded by Tonya to keep all positions the same. Motion carried.

Covid-19 update: Lengthy discussion around when to open church. At this time Polk County is still in a high category for cases with no significant change. Once the disease trajectory begins to go down and Polk County is at least a medium case activity rate, council will revisit the discussion.

Membership update Pastor, Ben, and Leora. Pastor can coordinate.

New Business:

In-person Worship Guidelines

Covid-19 case numbers and %’s: Tentative re-opening April 11 if numbers continue to go down: Discussion around re-opening guidelines. Will work with local Health Department and State on recommended time for re-opening. Motion by Tonya, seconded by Jon to consider re-opening with restrictions of social distancing and other non-pharmaceutical interventions if the numbers continue to show downward trajectory of positive cases in Polk County and area. Postcard to announce potential re-opening with criteria that needs to be met in order to re-open.

Piano Plan-

Piano will be taken over to Twin Cities for repair the week of Holy Week for repair. Thrivent will help with repair if more than \$300.

Other items for discussion-

Town Board has gotten a new voting machine. Would like to build a storage cabinet as it is really hard to move. Will follow up with Darrell about best placement of the cabinet.

Treasurer’s Report:

The church will be eligible for a PPP(Payment Protection Plan) loan. Brenda has applied and submitted a second PPP loan application. Loan will be forgiven as long as the church uses the funding on payroll related expenses.

Treasurer’s report approved as read.

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021 at 6:00 p.m. (in person)

Closing Prayer: Lord’s Prayer