



The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Send Me, Lord!

Last Sunday I talked about the seed and the harvest – a parable.

Gramma asks, “What’s a parable?” Ally responds, “A way of Jesus to teach us.” Gramma asks, “What does the parable of the seed mean?” And Ally Traut answers, “That we grow in to God’s people, we grow in faith.” Beautiful truths from a child.

We, as God’s people, choose to grow in faith and bear much fruit. We like to say, “Not me, let someone else do it.”

An Agriculture teacher once taught me a 10-word phrase that contains only 20 letters. “If it is to be, it is up to me.” (I would add, “with the help of God.”)

I challenge every follower of Christ to do two or three things from the list below:

- Invite a neighbor to church
- Volunteer to help with the tech aspect of worship
- Be a home visitor
- Participate in Adopt-a-Bill
- Serve as Usher, Reader, Greeter or Communion Assistant
- Volunteer to be a Co-Sunday School Teacher
- Help with maintenance and upkeep of the Prayer Garden
- Volunteer to answer phones and help in the church office
- Volunteer to be a lawn mower here at church
- Host Coffee Hour
- Assist with Confirmation Classes
- Be an organizer of a Monday Night brat stand

- Join the Choir or the Praise Team...or both!
- Welcome a stranger in church
- Join a Committee
 - Property
 - Christian Education
 - Finance
 - Stewardship
- Sponsor a radio broadcast

A church is only as strong as its members. The Holy Spirit is with us as our guide and helper. Pray, then do. Send me, Lord!

Your humble servant,
Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

Note: if you desire spiritual help, please call the church office or, in an emergency, you can contact me at 608-697-9873.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

608-742-8502 or 608-697-9873

Mailing Address

The P.O Box is no longer use; please mail to
W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage WI 53901

Office Contact Info

Phone (608) 742-8502

Email bethluch@frontier.com

www.BethlehemLCportage.org – New Address!

From the Council...

We have included a summary of the agenda/minutes from the June church council meeting below. If you would like additional details, please review the posted copy of the meeting minutes which can be found on the council bulletin board in the narthex. The minutes from the June council meeting will be approved and then posted in the narthex after the July council meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to any member of council. Thank you!

Church Council
Meeting Minutes:
Summary
June 21, 2018



In Attendance:

Fred Reckling, Ann Ciske
(by phone), Angie Chappell, Cheri Dvorak, Ed Rohrbacher, Tania Anderson, Dan Pulsfus.

Congregational Meeting June 24th: We will be requiring a 2/3 vote from our voting members to proceed with the renewal process/renewal pastor. We are defining a voting member as any confirmed member that has communed and made a contribution of record within the last year. This has been confirmed with our constitution and the synod. We will vote by paper ballot. Two members of the congregation will assist council in tallying the votes. If the renewal process is approved, we will move forward with setting up a meeting with the renewal candidate for an interview. Both the renewal pastor and the traditional interim pastor are available to be at BLC by early August.

We have accepted Megan Jahoda's resignation, effective July 10th. We will have a celebration in her honor after the service on Sunday, July 8th.

Committee Reports:

a. Finance: The Adopt-a-Bill program list has been updated & will be distributed. Well over \$860 has been donated so far. The committee is looking into the minimum balance required in the savings/building fund. The committee is also creating a process for using the memorial funds on hand. They are preparing for the July 22nd congregational finance meeting.

b. Personnel: They will be setting up an exit interview with Megan and discussing the next steps for filling her position in the future (which may involve input from our next interim pastor). Also, a plan is in place for annual staff evaluations.

c. Stewardship: Council will be sponsoring a volunteer appreciation breakfast on Sunday, July 22nd from 8:00 a.m.-9:00 a.m. Any volunteer is welcome to attend.

d. Evangelism: It has been approved by council for BLC to participate in a community-wide event celebrating the International Day of Peace, the weekend of Sept. 21st. This event will involve other churches in the Portage area. Planning is underway; additional details will be coming soon.

e. Worship & Music: There will be no service on the 4th of July. There will be a contemporary service on Sunday, June 8th. There will also be an outdoor service on Sunday, July 29th. The projector is broken, and they received an estimate to fix it. The bill has been adopted and will be paid by Carla Gerhardt.

f. Property: We will be suspending our lawn mowing services for this year and will be creating a group of volunteers to mow the lawn on a regular basis.

g. We are trying to adjust the format of our council meetings to make them more efficient. Meetings have been running 2+ hours on average and we want to be respectful of everyone's time.

Tania Anderson- *President*

Tim Kratz- *Vice President*

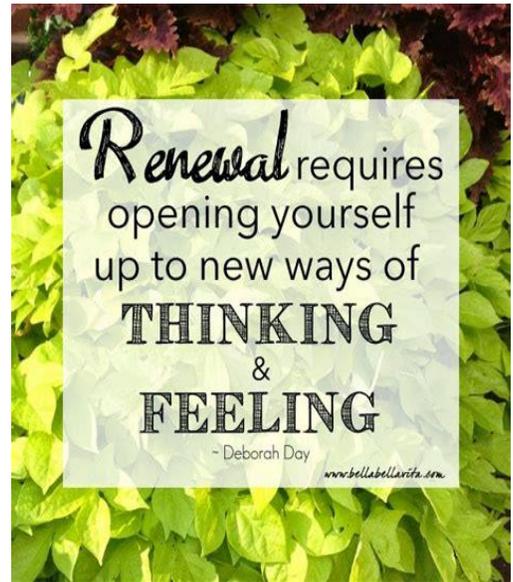
Angela Chappell- *Secretary*

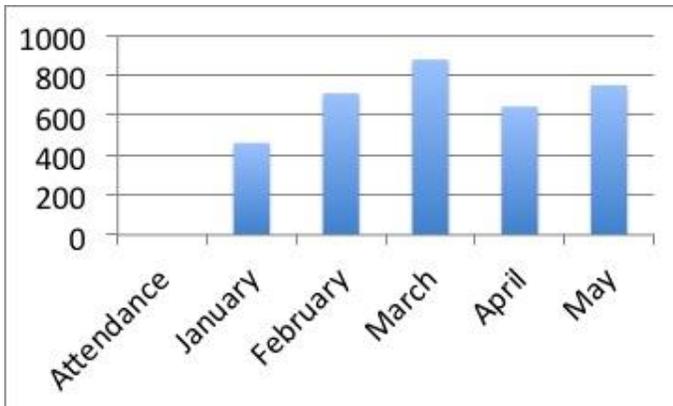
Ed Rohrbacher, Ann Ciske, Fred Reckling,
Cheri Dvorak, Kathy Tofson, Robin Kvalo

Hello and Welcome to our regular visitors! We're so glad to have you join us in worship and fellowship. We know many of you are interested in joining our BLC family "officially", and we can't wait for that to happen...but plans for future New Member Classes are temporarily on hold, just until we have a permanent pastor in place. Look for more info in the near future! In the meantime, please continue to join in the fun and don't hesitate to reach out to any member of the staff or Council with any questions you may have.

Results of the Congregational Meeting June 24th, 2018

Thank you to everyone that attended the congregational meeting on Sunday, June 24th. During the meeting, members of our congregation discussed the option of committing to the Church Renewal Process (as outlined in a letter sent out via email/mail) instead of using a traditional interim pastor. After meaningful discussion, a vote was made. With a result of 76 votes in favor of the renewal process and 14 votes against it, the decision was made to move forward with the Church Renewal Process. Council will be meeting with the candidate for a renewal pastor very soon and will keep the congregation informed about the process moving forward. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please contact a member of the council.





This chart shows a snapshot of attendance through the first five months of this year. Detailed numbers are listed below.

| Attendance | |
|------------|-----|
| January | 461 |
| February | 710 |
| March | 879 |
| April | 644 |
| May | 751 |
| Lent | |
| Holy Week | |



Join us for our contemporary service on July 8.

The projector will be working by then, so we will have improved sound and visibility. We are looking for volunteers to help run the computer for our services.

Hymn sing on July 15. Request your favorite hymn.

Sermon Broadcasts

Sign-Up sheets are available on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$38 and payment is made to the church. Your help in this area is greatly appreciated!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

7/1

Patrick & Kimberly Bue

7/8

Carla Gerhardt

7/15

Dan & Jennifer Garrigan

7/22

Jim & Kathryn Crawford

7/29

Dennis & Elaine Benson



Chancel Flowers

Sign-Up sheets to sponsor the cost of our chancel flowers throughout the year can be found on the big table in the Narthex. The cost is \$28 and you will be billed directly by Edgewater Greenhouse. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!

Thank you to this month's sponsors!

7/1

Stu & Carla Gerhardt to the glory of God

7/8

Cheryl & Larry Hebel in honor of their
35th wedding anniversary

7/15

Ron & Judy Donahue in memory of Mike

7/22

Kerry & Jeff Melby

7/29

Brandon & Stacy Macomber

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great tradition here at Bethlehem and we need everyone's participation to keep it going. It's a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church.

As our worship schedule changes to one service at 9:00 a.m. on Sundays, coffee hour will follow.



Please consider joining with some friends or teaming up with another family to host Coffee Hour and share some treats and smiles with the congregation here at Bethlehem. It's really pretty simple and it's a great way to meet people and get to know each other better. If you need more information, just ask one of the staff members or someone else who has hosted before!

The Sign-Up sheet can be found in the Narthex, along with some instructions that may answer any questions you might have.

Thank you to everyone who signed up to host coffee hour for this month!

7/1

Marj Margelowsky & Betty Biech

7/8

Margaret & Del Molden and Angela Pace

7/15

Ed & Marie Rohrbacher and Duane & Joan Meister

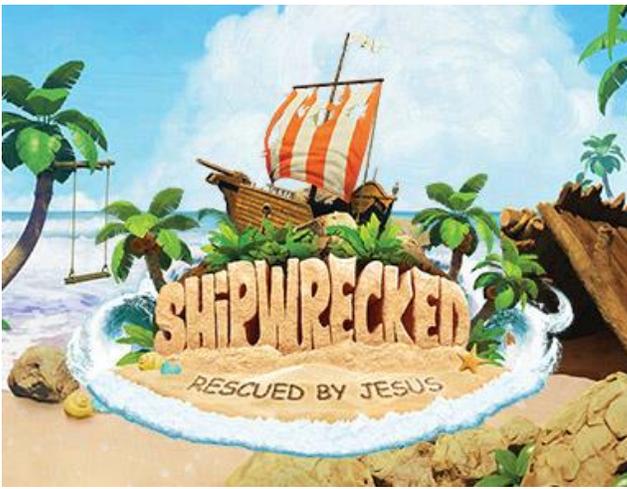
7/22

Dianna Bush

7/29

The Wagner Family





Vacation Bible School:
July 30-August 3rd

The following items have been assigned to Bethlehem Lutheran Church to provide for VBS this year. Please donate items as you are able to - thanks!!

Imagination Station:

- plastic bottles (Smooth bottles with lids like VOSS – 100 total)
- Stiff straws (non-bendy)
- Rice (enough for approx. 3 cups per bottle... 3 cups x 100)

Ship Rec Games:

- Plastic Dropcloths (3 total)
- Large Plastic wading pool (1 total)
- Pool noodles (6 total)
- 1” thick large Styrofoam sheets (2 per wading pool – 6 total)

Bible Discovery:

- Red washable paint (A few bottles)
- 2 empty paper towel tubes
- red and yellow cellophane (2 rolls of each)
- 2 flashlights
- black or gray duct tape (2 rolls of each)
- plastic greenery
- small white indoor/outdoor lights
- Carpet tubes (need 6 for a DIY project making crosses)

Tropical Treats:

- 140 vanilla pudding cups
- 4 boxes vanilla wafers
- 4 lbs red Swedish fish gummies (140)

MAKE A SPLASH AT SHIPWRECKED VBS THIS SUMMER!

Venture to an uncharted island where kids discover the truth that Jesus carries them through life's storms.

Portage United Methodist Church or mail
 Register at: your registration to the address listed below
(church name)

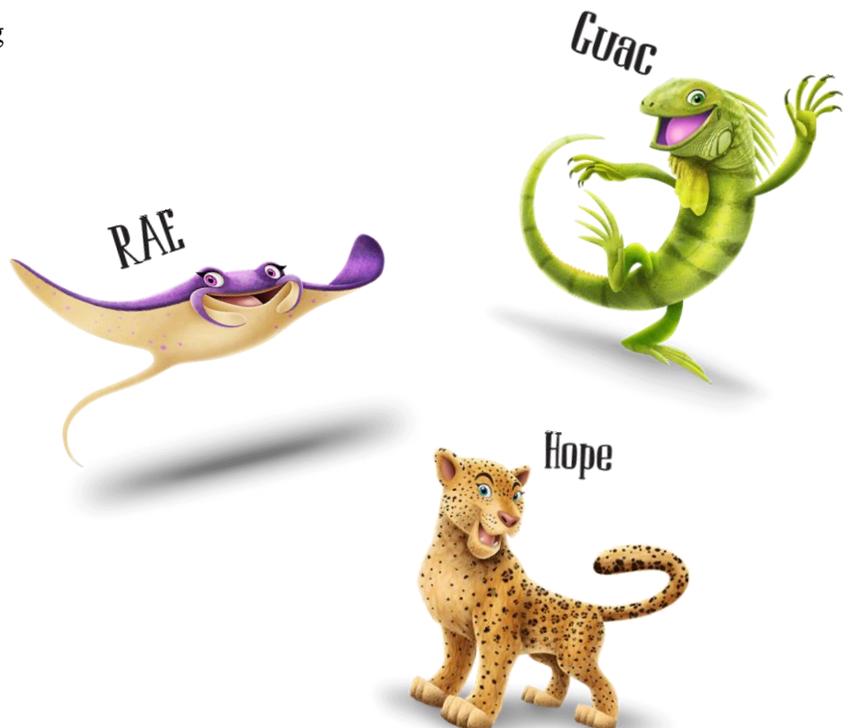
VBS dates: July 30th-August 3rd, 2018

VBS times: 8:30 am - 11:30 am

For more information, call: 608-742-2107
 or speak to your church's VBS leader

VBS is held at Portage United Methodist Church,
 1804 New Pinery Road, Portage, WI 53901

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A Note from Megan...

With summer here, I hope everybody has been enjoying time with family and friends and loving the weather. As I know it is a very busy time of year with graduation parties and family vacations, it has also been pretty busy here as well!

With the preparation for the ELCA Youth Gathering, we have been doing a lot of packing and prepping. Thank you to the Jenatscheck family for opening their house to the kids and families going on the trip to get to know one another and enjoy the pool! Now the trip is here and we are all excited to see what God has in store for us down in Houston!

We will be in Houston June 27th – July 2nd, please continue to keep each of us in your prayer and we look forward to telling you all about it when we return! Be sure to come to church on July 8th to hear all about our trip as the kids tell you all about their experience.

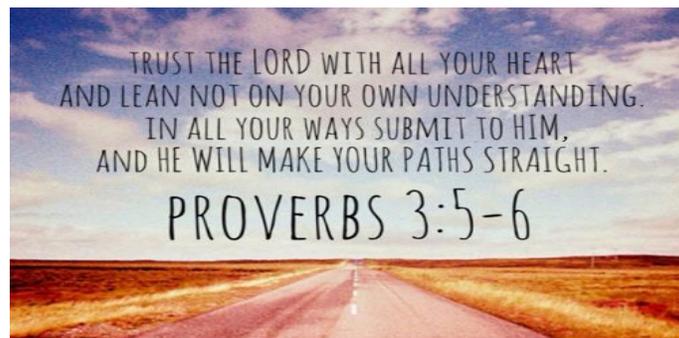


I want to thank each of you for all of the support and encouragement this last year. Our congregation has been incredible, and it has been such a blessing to get to know each of you. Unfortunately, my time here has come to an end and I will be moving back to New York this July. This decision has certainly not been an easy one and I am so grateful that I got the opportunity to get to know everyone here. We have an amazing group of people in this church and I am so grateful to have been surrounded by such a great group of people.

In my position as Youth and Family Ministries Coordinator, I got the chance to spend a lot of time with the youth. In doing so, I have enjoyed every youth group, lock in, every Wednesday night Confirmation, attending sporting events and dance recitals, the Culver's chat, and each of the fundraising events that took place this last year.

I want to encourage each of you to continue to give back and be leaders in this church. This is what will make a difference. Be the encouragement we need. Don't be timid to make a phone call and invite someone to worship. Offer to help during coffee hour or go sit next to someone you don't know very well. We often talked about helping others and how important that really is, and each of you made it clear that was something you wanted to do – give back to others. You are always looking for ways to make a difference and that to me is one of the best things to see in our youth.

It has certainly been a blessing to have had the opportunity to become a part of this congregation and it is something I will miss a lot, and I am looking forward to several visits (probably sooner than you think). Thank you for this opportunity and thank you for allowing me to grow in my faith with each of you. I will be seeing you soon!



Megan Jahoda
Youth & Family Ministries Coordinator

* ADOPT-A-BILL PROGRAM*

Thank You!

We're so excited to have kicked off our 2018 Stewardship program Growing In Faith Together (G.I.F.T.) to such a great reception!

Thank you to everyone who has participated so far! We are very thankful for your thoughtful questions and suggestions, your generous hearts and your can-do attitudes!

Here is a quick recap of the Adopt-a-Bill offerings through June 14th. As gifts are continuing to come in, we will post another update next month.



Here is the original list we started with for Adopt-a-Bill. The bills that have been paid for are noted. In addition, a few items were paid for that were not included in the list distributed to the congregation:

\$100.00 for the extra picture directories was paid 5/24

\$40.00 for congregational letter bulk mailing was paid 6/8 (directly to post office; did not come through church acct)

Administrative Costs:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Copy Machine Lease | \$455.26 / month |
| Telephone & Internet | Approximately \$300.00 / month |
| Copy Paper | \$82.00 for 2 cases of paper – Pd in full 6/14; by someone who is NOT a member |
| Communion Cards | \$39.00 for one batch of 1,000 cards |
| Payroll Processing | \$42.57 and \$45.95 |
| Bulk Mailing for CHIMES | Approximately \$30.00 / month - \$30.00 pd 5/21 |
| Simply Giving Processing | \$29.29 – Pd in full 5/17 |

Building & Property Costs:

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Mortgage | \$5,983.00 / month |
| Alliant Energy | \$757.52 |
| Advanced Disposal Trash Service | \$126.55 – Pd in full 5/29 |
| Parking Lot Plowing / Salting | \$1,150.00 for March & April (Crazy weather, right?!) - \$100.00 pd 5/21 |
| Lawn Mowing | Approximately \$725.00 / month (rate is \$145/hr) |
| Custodial Supplies / Paper Products | Approximately \$30.00 for a case of paper towel rolls Approximately \$40.00 for a case of bath tissue Approximately \$15.00 for a case of hand towels |
| Required Water Testing | \$29.00 for April testing |

Christian Education:

| | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Word in Season Devotionals | \$50.00 / quarterly – Pd in full 5/17 |
| Spark Family Magazine | \$17.90 / quarterly |

Worship / Altar Guild Supplies:

| | |
|------------------|--|
| Communion Wine | \$251.70 (3 cases) – Pd in full 5/14 |
| Communion Wafers | \$51.08 (2 boxes wafers, plus shipping) – Pd in full 6/14 |

An updated list was distributed during the service on Sunday, June 24th and also included in the weekly email. If you have not seen a copy and would like one, please contact Lisa in the office. A few of the items that have been added are listed below:

| | |
|--|------------------------|
| Weed control & pruning around church (weed/grass killer) | Approximately \$100.00 |
| Replace deceased plants/shrubs & planting annuals where needed | Approximately \$200 |
| Fertilizer & Preen & insect control where needed, all shrubs/trees | Approximately \$150.00 |
| Semi-Annual Pest Control | \$140.00 |
| Simply Giving Processing | \$27.89 |

Summer Community Meal

We served 65 meals to the people of Portage at the Episcopal Fellowship Hall. It is something that has been done once a month for over 20 years. Our church has done it 4 years. We provided the workers, and Thrivent's Action Grant bought the food. Thanks to Thrivent's members for supporting it. Special thanks to Ann Ciske for organizing the food, while Marj Margelowsky found the workers. Mark Goldsworthy is the leader of the program. We had 18 from church working and seven more brought desserts. Special thanks to the following people: Marie & Ed Rohrbacher, Joan & Duane Meister, Tania & Kory Anderson and children, Barb Rothwell, Dick Olson, Ann & Mark Ciske, Elayne Hanson, Nick Ciske and children from MN, Bobbi Goodman, Betty Levzow, Dahlia Werner, Kathy Crawford, Annette Monthey, Tania Anderson, Carol Kluender, and Marj Margelowsky. It is a great service to our community. We are signed up to do it in June of each year. I am stepping down from helping, so I am asking for someone to call Ann and say you will help her next year. It is a fun day doing for others.

Marj Margelowsky

Mark your calendars for an
Outdoor Worship Service

Sunday, July 29th at 9:00 a.m.

Bring a chair,
bring a pop-up tent,
bring a friend...

to outdoor worship at Bethlehem Lutheran!
Additional details will be coming soon.



2018 RESULTS FROM HELPING HAITI WORK FUNDRAISER

Thank you again for opening up your hearts to the work Dr. Leslee Jaeger does through her medical mission and organization Helping Haiti Work. The members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church donated \$1,025.00 by purchasing a \$5.00 card, donating a twenty-dollar bill or writing a check for a full \$200.00 business loan sponsorship. You are all amazing! I felt encouraged by your support of this fundraiser and spoke to others in Portage who also contributed an additional \$620.00 to this cause. This year we sent a total of \$1,645.00!

I feel blessed when I'm used by the Holy Spirit to do God's work. Thank you all. Please look up www.helpinghaitiwork.org to meet the women you help and to learn more about what Dr Jaeger is accomplishing with your help.

If you have any questions, please give me a call at 608-320-9733.

Anne Marie Crawley



Volunteer/Staff Appreciation Breakfast **Sunday, July 22nd, 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.**

The church council would like to say "thank you!" to all of the staff and the volunteers that help out on a regular basis. Please join us for a light breakfast before worship on July 22nd. Look for additional details over the next few weeks in the weekly emails and the church bulletins. A sign-up sheet will be posted soon in the narthex. Please sign-up if you plan on attending so that we can have a general head count by Wednesday, July 25th. Thank you for everything that you do!

JULY 2018 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

| Date | Time | Greeters | Ushers | Readers | Communion Assistants | Altar Guild | Acolyte |
|----------|---------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| Sun 7/1 | 9:00 AM | Gail & Linda Otto | Margaret & Del Molden | Beth Johnson | Darlene Anderson-Prest, Joan Swift | Cindy Frank & Bobbi Goodman | Shayna Cox |
| Wed 7/4 | 5:30 PM | | | | | Diane Grueneberg | Brett Zellmer |
| Sun 7/8 | 9:00 AM | Kerry & Jeff Melby | Marj Margelowsky | Bonnie Dixon | Bobbie Goodman, Bonnie Dixon | Minta Brandsma & Marie Kucksdorf | Katherine Rieckmann |
| Wed 7/11 | 5:30 PM | | | | | Judy Donahue | Ella Swenson |
| Sun 7/15 | 9:00 AM | Ed & Marie Rohrbacher | Robin & Mike Kvalo | Darlene Anderson-Prest | Pam Mueller, Marie Rohrbacher | Minta Brandsma & Marie Kucksdorf | Ava Wohlfert |
| Wed 7/18 | 5:30 PM | | | | | Kathy Lawrence | Tyler Zabler |
| Sun 7/22 | 9:00 AM | Dianna Bush | John & Ellen Denhartigh | Beth Johnson | Emily Tennier, Carol Pulsfus | Cara Druckrey & Kari Johnson | Emily Johnson |
| Wed 7/25 | 5:30 PM | | | | | Cheryl Hebel | Alex Schilling |
| Sun 7/29 | 9:00 AM | Jerry & Julie Saalsaa | Larry & Sandy Sween | Bonnie Dixon | Tom & Barb Steinhaus | Cara Druckrey & Kari Johnson | Payton Bryan |

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

July 2018

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|--|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|-----------|
| 1 9:00 am 9:15 am National Youth Gathering -- Houston Worship Blood Pressure Screening | 2 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm National Youth Gathering -- Houston Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre | 3 | 4 10:30 am NO Worship Tai Chi | 5 | 6 10:30 am Tai Chi | 7 |
| 8 9:00 am Worship | 9 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre | 10 5:30 pm Finance Committee | 11 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship | 12 | 13 10:30 am Tai Chi | 14 |
| 15 9:00 am Worship | 16 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Chimes Articles Due Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre SRA meeting | 17 | 18 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship | 19 6:30 pm Council Meeting | 20 10:30 am Tai Chi | 21 |
| 22 9:00 am 10:00 am Worship Financial Update | 23 10:00 am 10:30 am 5:30 pm 6:30 pm 6:30 pm Staff Meeting Tai Chi Faith Formation All Committee Meeting Euchre | 24 | 25 10:30 am 5:30 pm Tai Chi Worship | 26 | 27 10:30 am Tai Chi | 28 |
| 29 9:00 am Worship | 30 10:00 am 10:30 am 6:30 pm VBS Staff Meeting Tai Chi Euchre | 31 VBS | | | | |

*“My Lord God, I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself, and the fact that I think I am
following your will does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you, does in fact, please you.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this, you will lead me by the right road,
though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, I will trust you always,
though I may seem to be lost and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, for you are ever with me,
and you will never leave me to face my perils alone.*

-Thomas Merton

Thomas Merton OCSO was an American Roman Catholic convert, writer, theologian and mystic. A Trappist monk of the Abbey of Gethsemani, Kentucky, he was a poet, social activist, and student of comparative religion. On May 26, 1949, he was ordained to the priesthood and given the name Father Louis. Merton wrote more than 70 books, mostly on spirituality, social justice and a quiet pacifism, as well as scores of essays and reviews. Among Merton's most enduring works is his bestselling autobiography. - Wikipedia

Submitted by Chaplain Dan Pulsfus

BECAUSE
*You Are
with me*
I Will Not Fear.
Psalm 118:6