



Cross Currents Newsletter April 2024

A Word or Two... by Pastor Mark

I used to be a weekend weatherman for KWWL Channel 7 in Waterloo in the early 1970s before I decided I wanted to be a pastor. I was a disc jockey on KWWL-AM radio weekdays, but the weekend weather guy quit and the general manager asked if anybody wanted the job. I figured what the heck, a chance to make a few extra bucks. You were required to wear at least a sports coat and tie (the anchor would sometimes wear shorts under his desk because he never stood up). I had neither, nor did I have any money. When I asked the GM if I could have a wardrobe allowance, I remember he said, "Geez, Wilms, you don't need that much stuff." So, I opened a charge account on my own and bought some clothes, including plaid sports coat my wife picked out and still remembers.

Back in those days we didn't have fancy computerized graphics like today. Before the broadcast, I had to get my weather boards ready by putting magnetic symbols on them: temperature numbers, clouds, sun, rain, high- and low-pressure systems, and so forth. I had a national map to do, a state one, and local forecast and conditions. During my weather report, on a verbal cue from me a stagehand would pull a rope attached to the current map so it would slide away revealing the next one. It was pretty primitive, although the "green screen" was just coming in and on some shots, I would have disappeared if using it, so I was cautioned not to wear green just in case. Also,

standard was the friendly banter between newscasters. I was used to talking on the radio, but I didn't like TV as much because you had the added dimension of appearance. I had to worry about how I looked and acted, not just how I sounded. As a consequence, I wasn't much of a jokester with the anchor and the sports person because I felt awkward.

Another part of my job was ripping the weather stats and forecasts from the wire service to prepare for the newscast. I wasn't a meteorologist (we had one, who normally didn't work weekends), but the extensive information we received from the National Weather Service was more than enough for a layman to put together a proper presentation. We also had a radar unit. Again, it wasn't the sophisticated radar that the smallest TV stations have at their disposal today (bear in mind there was no internet, not even home or office computers generally). It was a small, black and white screen. But if a bulletin about severe weather, like a snowstorm or a funnel cloud, came across, we could track the system. In the case of twisters, I was taught to look for the tell-tale "hook" echo that indicated a tornado's presence. If anything threatened the safety of our area, I was authorized to go on the air and warn people about it until our meteorologist could come in and take over.

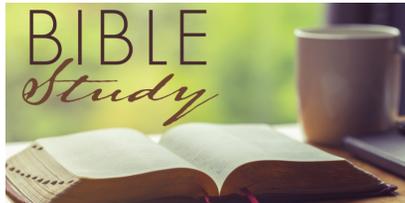
I am reminded of those days because April is usually a busy weather month. Because the climate is transitioning from cold to warm, all sorts of events take place. A beautiful warm and sunny week can suddenly turn cold. Surprise blizzards are not a surprise at all, although we are quick to comfort ourselves with the fact that the snow "doesn't last long." And, of course, there's the T word. Tornadoes are infrequent for any one spot in Iowa, but they are always a possibility, especially as warm weather systems move in to chase winter away. April through June are notorious for twisters and the destruction, even death, they can bring in their wake.

I'm glad that the love of God is not like April's weather. God does not change on a dime. He does not destroy or kill, although it is sometimes in His eternal plan to allow such to

happen. As our world churns with upheaval and we wonder if everything we held dear is being abandoned, you can fully trust that Christ will not abandon you. We need that reassurance as we head into the rest of the year, celebrating a Savior who died for our sins and proved His glory by rising from the dead. God made the weather and everything else. God made you. And through faith you will be kept safe in Him as we see His will unfold.

Prayers

- For good weather and good preparations for spring planting.
- Thanks to God for His risen Son!
- Thanks also for our new members joining soon.
- For healing power upon all who struggle with physical, emotional, or spiritual challenges this month.



Faith & Life Bible Study

Right now, our midweek Bible study, Faith and Life, is going through the history of the Christian Church in Bible study form. We are into the 1800s with

accounts of Christianity in the world in general, the church in America, and Lutherans in America.

Faith and Life Bible study is a “no threat” get-together, where you don’t have to have any special knowledge about the scriptures. It is informal, laid back, fun, and welcoming. And we have coffee and treats every week. We meet in the fellowship hall Monday nights 6:30-8:00 PM, or Wednesday mornings 9:30-11:00 AM (same content at both). Check it out! You won’t be disappointed.

Giving Minute

There’s no better month than April to feel gratitude for the blessings of God. Nice weather is ahead of us, planting is being started, gardens are envisioned, the sights and smells of spring are in the air. If it weren’t for Tax Day, the month would be almost perfect! The Lord gives us so much to be thankful for. As we celebrate that fact during this time of new growth, put your heart to work by giving your time and resources to spread the gospel of God’s love in Christ. You can find opportunities to do this every week, every day even. And God bless you for it.



Non-Lectionary Scripture for April

Our monthly message on scriptures you may not have heard preached before resumes on April 14 with a steamy story of lust and betrayal: Joseph and Potiphar’s wife. Found in Genesis 39, the incident takes place after Joseph was sold into slavery by his brothers, who were fed up with his arrogance. Sold to a high Egyptian official, Joseph serves him as house manager. But the official’s wife is enamored by his good looks and invites him to bed repeatedly. To his credit, Joseph repels her advances, asking her how he could betray the trust her husband has in him. Angry at being refused (one suspects she is not used to the word “No”), she takes a piece of clothing he left behind and cries rape to her husband when he returns home from work. Enraged, but evidently not a little suspicious of his wife, knowing

her character, the official doesn't have Joseph executed but instead puts him in prison. This is a story of sexual harassment and staying true to one's principles that is as relevant today as it was then.

April Mission of the Month – Grand Avenue Medical Clinic

Items needed include: antibacterial wipes and paper towels



Coffee Fellowship

Volunteers Needed for April

If you (or you & a friend) would like to share rolls, cookies, bars, or other goodies during Sunday fellowship, please sign up on the

calendar on the bulletin board outside pastor's office. Plan to bring enough to serve 75 people.

April 7 – Joyce Kruse

April 14 – Volunteer Needed

April 21 – Volunteer Needed

April 28 – Volunteer Needed

Upcoming Scripture Reader Chairpersons

April – Lisa Shiley

May – Vicki Witte

June – Michelle Essing

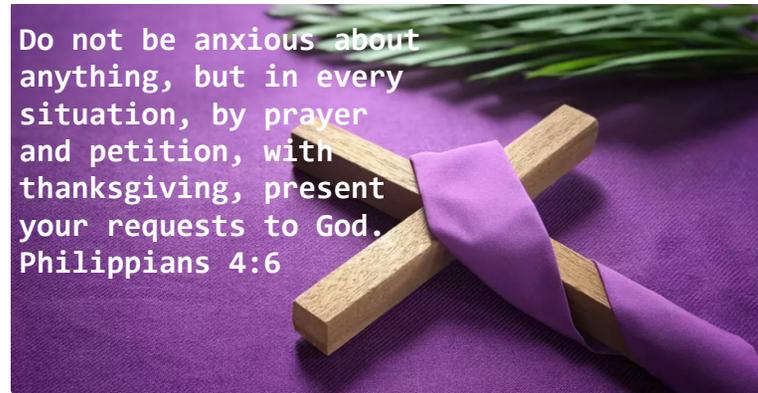
Bridal Shower – Sat., April 27th, 9:30-11AM

There will be a Come and Go Bridal Shower for Lanae Shiley, bride elect of Matthew Burke. Lanae and Matthew are registered at Amazon. They will be married June 8th in Montana.

Scripture for April

I don't know about you, but I find it easy to get tangled up in worry about "life" and everything it throws at us. Here is a gentle reminder to lay it all at His feet, coming first in Praise and Thanksgiving. It's the best way to deal with those things that can distract us from the

*unending grace and glory of our Heavenly Father.
His blessings to all -- Stacy*



Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. Philippians 4:6



March BLC Council Meeting Minutes

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Meeting was called to order at 7:08 P.M. on Wednesday, March 20st, 2024 with

Devotions lead by Pastor Mark Wilms. Members present were Lisa Shiley, Clint Hoerman, Dayton Brugman, Jade Woodall, Michelle Essing, Mark Joenks, Jim Christensen, and Amanda Muggle.

Secretary's Report: The February report was reviewed. A motion to approve was made by Lisa, seconded by Jade, and carried by council.

Treasurer's Report: The February report was reviewed. The floors were waxed in February, the costs for this were put under the maintenance budget. A motion to approve was made by Dayton, seconded by Michelle, and carried by council.

Youth Report: Youth are all working well together.

Pastor's Report: Maundy Thursday service we will celebrate 1st Communion. The young women's ministry will host Easter morning breakfast beginning at 8:15. The Confirmation banquet will be held April 21st.

Tech/Outreach Report: We will be updating how the Church service is broadcast on the local Royal television channel. This is due to the new company that has purchased Royal Telephone Company. Looking at adding events and the calendar to the Facebook page. The scripture reader chairs positions have all been filled. Looking at updating the member directory. Linda Yungbluth is starting a card ministry to reach out to those that are home bound. A group of 2 to 3 people may be needed to look over our

current website and see what changes need to be made. A motion was made by Dayton to approve the need of making a committee to oversee the website. The motion was seconded by Lisa and carried by council.

Finance Report: No updates.

Education Report: Currently prepping for Holy week at Kings Kamp. The Kings Kamp spring program will be held Sunday, April 28th during the normal Sunday service.

Property Report: Bats have been witnessed entering the peak of the Church. The property committee will look at closing off the larger openings with chicken wire. The middle, North room furnace was howling, the motor was going out. A new motor was replaced with free labor by Gary Gunnerson. Currently looking into the cost to replace the sanctuary furnace.

New Business: The drainage assessment may need some costs paid. Jim will report back about possible delinquent taxes due on the property next to Bethlehem that was gifted to the Church. An investigation into a letter of non-renewal from Hasting Mutual Insurance will be made.

Old Business: The missions committee is coming together; the current members are Lyle Witte and Sandy Johnson. They will meet 2 times per year.

Talking Points:

A motion to adjourn was made by Dayton at 8:06P.M., seconded by Jade and carried by council while closing with The Lord's Prayer.

The next council meeting will be held Sunday, April 21st, 2024 following the confirmation dinner.

Respectfully Submitted, Amanda Mugge, Secretary

COMMUNICATIONS

- **Pastor:** Rev. Dr. Mark Wilms
- **Church Office:** 712-933-2229
- **Pastor's E-mail:** pmamlw@royaltelco.net
- **Pastor's Cell Phone:** 507-251-8993
- **Pastor's Home Phone:** 712-933-5545
- **Lynn Wilms Cell Phone:** 507-251-9242

- **Secretary's E-mail:** blc@royaltelco.net
- **Secretary's Office Hours:** Thurs 3-6p/Sat 9-12
- **Website:** www.royalbethlehemlutheran.com
- **Kitchen and Hallway Phone:** 712-933-2244

milestones

BAPTISMAL ANNIVERSARIES:

Emma Rinehart, Alexander Betz, Kay Schmidt, Matthew Kruse, Stephanie Jacobs, Bradley Day, Cassandra Day, Derrin Day, Kathleen Day, Joshua Kruse, Alice Roghair, Kent Means, Andrew Schmidt, Aaron Stafford, Donald Nelson, Paulette Madson, Kelly Spiker, Arlene Wimmer, Emilee Haroldson, Samantha Sible, Macie Decker, Ann Johnke, Donna Schmidt, Anthony Franker, Nicole Samuels, Maggie Schoelerman, Dana Brugman, Mattie Prescott, Dalayna Brugman, Douglas Santage, Nicholas Christenson, Isabel Woodall, Ashley Dillinger, Caitlin Haroldson, Nicholas Toft, Laura Showalter, Matthew Eggenberger, Stefani Eggenberger, Alex Francis, Chris Francis, MaKayla Francis, Michael Stroud, David Jespersen, Jessika Haroldson, Nate Kruse, Henleigh Stephens, Kathy Hegwer, Lauryn Fletcher, Rell Peterson, Kimberly Spengler, Stephanie Hoermann, Alexander Spengler, Nash Roghair **WEDDING**

ANNIVERSARIES: Casey & Alecia Tolzin, 7 years, Mike & Jodi Wimmer, 29 years

OUR MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is committed to making disciples for Jesus Christ through our thoughts, words and deeds.

OUR VALUES STATEMENT

We are a discipleship driven ministry, inviting all people to become disciples for Jesus Christ, nurtured by scripture and prayer. We are a community of caring and forgiving people who create a nurturing and Christian environment where everyone feels welcomed. Working cooperatively, we serve as a leader in partnering with families, businesses and other churches to maximize the outreach services available to the Christian community. We strive to serve as a cornerstone of the community.

March Acolytes

April 7 – Grant Meyer
April 14 – Daniel Boblit
April 21 – Khloe Combs
April 28 – Zander Burks

Altar Guild

Sherry Toft, Julie Christensen

Liturgical Colors

April 7 - White
April 14 - White
April 21 - White
April 28 – White

Ushers

Don Helmkamp & Clint Hoermann

Scripture Reader Chair

Lisa Shiley

April

2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 6:30 pm Bible Study	2	3 9:30 am Bible Study 3:45 pm King's Kamp	4 1:00 pm Altar Guild	5	6
7 9:30 Worship & Communion 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation	8 6:30 pm Bible Study	9	10 9:30 am Bible Study 3:45 pm King's Kamp	11	12	13
14 9:30 Worship W/Steffen Baptism 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation	15 6:30 pm Bible Study	16	17 9:30 am Bible Study 3:45 pm King's Kamp	18	19	20
21 9:30 Worship-New Member Sunday 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation 5:00 8 th Grade Confirmand Banquet 7:00 Council Meeting	22 6:30 pm Bible Study	23	24 9:30 am Bible Study 3:45 King's Kamp	25	26	27 9:30-11:00 Bridal Shower for Lanae Shiley
28 9:30 Children's Spring Musical 10:30 Fellowship 11:00 Confirmation	29 6:30 pm Bible Study	30	30 9:30 am Bible Study	1	2	3