



St. John Messenger

St. John Lutheran Church
V. 27, No. 7

168 Mound St.

Berlin, WI 54923
August, 2020

King David wrote these words in Psalm 37:
“Commit your way to the Lord; trust in Him and He will do this: He will make your righteousness shine like the dawn...” (Psalm 37:5-6)

Commitment is one of those words that cause us a bit of difficulty in our lives. It requires something of us. For young couples in love, commitment to each other is the first major step on the way to marriage. It's also one of the things necessary for their relationship to succeed after the “I do's” have been said. Commitment can also be more demanding. For Pat Tillman, a defensive back for the Arizona Cardinals, commitment meant giving up a professional football career and serving his country in Afghanistan as a soldier. It also meant dying for his country in the process.

One has to be very committed to something in order to die for that particular cause. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, knows a thing or two about commitment. And thankfully for you and me, Jesus was committed to us sinners. In fact, He was so committed to us, that He was willing to endure the humiliation of becoming a human being and allowing Himself to be tortured and executed to pay the penalty for our sins. He committed His very soul to His Father in heaven when he breathed His last and bowed His head in death. What a commitment God has made to us so that we can have our sins forgiven and enjoy the never-ending wonders of eternal life as a result.

Jesus' commitment to us didn't end with the cross. He promised to send us the Holy Spirit (the Counselor) to be with us throughout our lives. In John 14:15-16, Jesus says this, ***“If you love me, you will obey what I command. And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever.”*** The Holy Spirit has come to each one of us in our baptisms. And one of the functions of the Holy Spirit is to encourage us in Godly living. It is through the Holy Spirit that we forgiven sinners can begin to live lives of commitment to God. It is through the Holy Spirit that we can ***“Commit our way to the Lord...”***

Summer is drawing to a close and another school year is just a round the corner (sorry kids!) What better time to make a new and resolved commitment to our Lord then

when our new year kicks off? First and foremost commit yourselves to regular church attendance. Be here as often as you can to receive the faith strengthening gifts God offers us each Lord's day. We are continuing to offer 3 worship services each week so that we can practice social distancing. Every other pew is blocked off. The church is sanitized between each service. Hand sanitizer is readily available for all. Commit yourself to Bible class this year. There are opportunities on Sunday morning for adults and children. You don't need to be a Bible scholar to enjoy these classes. You won't be asked to read or singled out to answer a question – unless you want to! And you will learn something new in the process.

Parents, please make the commitment to send your kids to Sunday School this year. We hope to have a High School aged class this year as well, taught by our new 7th and 8th grade teacher, Mr. Timothy Pett. Remember, confirmation is not graduation from learning. High School age kids need the fellowship and spiritual growth offered on Sunday morning as well. Make the commitment as parents to do the God pleasing thing and come as a family to worship, Bible study and Sunday School. God **promises** blessings to you if you commit your ways to Him and place your trust in Him. What better gift can you possibly give your children than the legacy of a commitment to worship and growth in God's Word together as a family?

May God grant each of us the strength and courage to commit our lives to Him as we grow together in faith and service as the body of Christ at St. John.

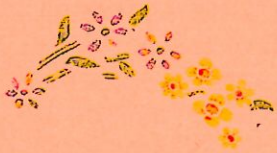
Pastor Mundinger



THANK YOU!

My family and I would like to give a special thank you to Pastor Mundinger for his visits, calls and prayers during Don's illness. We would also like to thank Human Care for the gift card and cards of encouragement, the Ladies Aid for their dinner, and my church family for all the prayers sent to the Lord on our behalf.

Linda Hertzberg and Family



From the President...

Members and Friends,

The Covid-19 pandemic and the ever-changing guidelines and restrictions put in place to try and contain it continue.

It is likely that we will continue with three services, one on Thursday and two on Sunday, for the foreseeable future. There may be a need to adjust the Sunday second service time to allow for Sunday School between services. Please watch for notices regarding changes.

Due to the inability to schedule a voters meeting for the 3rd quarter of our fiscal year, the Church Council approved a budget for 2020-2021 at their June meeting. This budget is substantially the same as the preliminary proposed budget published in the newsletter, with some minor corrections. However, the approved budget did not consider the hiring of a new 7th and 8th grade teacher or the implications of the Paycheck Protection Loan we received. We may have to schedule a special voters meeting to approve a revised budget to comply with School Choice Program requirements once (if) things become clearer.

Despite all the uncertainties the Lord continues to bless us with His Word and Sacraments and our mission continues.

Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work together for good to them that love God"

Rich

+In Our Prayers

Janet Ryerson

Kathy Wiese

Betty Freimark

Karen Schurk

Ramona Hrebik

Wilfird Polk

Marie Chellow

Dolly Doan

Orville Behm

Ken Schuett

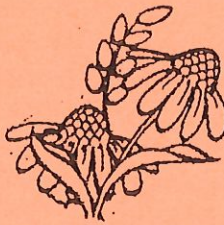
Cindy Schuett

Joan Parsons

Pat Durrant's sister and brother-in-law

Chad and Vicki Hunt

Delores Clark



In the Hospital

Owen Maas



Quarterly Voter's Meeting

Sunday August 2nd

Following the late service,
beginning at approx.

11:15 am.

Did You Know...



Sandy Gregor's birth was a real family affair. Not only were Sandy and her mother, Esther, in Fond du Lac's St. Agnus Hospital but right down the hall was her Dad, recovering from a broken leg. The date was January 18th 1947 and the Marshall family lived in Eden at the time. Sandy's dad, Gerhardt, worked at a dairy farm in the area which ironically was owned by the doctor who delivered Sandy. Gerhardt had been kicked by a cow during morning milking and wound up in the hospital. A local newspaper ran the following headline: "Reunited!! Farmer with broken leg joins wife and baby daughter in city hospital."

Soon after, the family moved back to Berlin where Sandy was raised with three younger brothers; Paul, Phillip and Alfred. She attended Koro Country School for her primary grades, then transferred to St John. During this time her Mother became very ill with gall bladder problems and was admitted to the hospital. Tragically, while she was there, she had a heart attack and 9 days later passed away. Now 13-year-old Sandy was needed to take over the household chores and became the care giver for her 3 brothers. "Phillip had severe asthma attacks; we didn't know what to do for him and just rubbed his back, trying to help him breathe. Many times, we thought he was going to die." School and her faith in God kept Sandy on the right track. She was just starting the 8th grade and St John had a brand-new gym. A basketball program began and the 8^h grade girls formed the very first cheerleading squad. Sandy was confirmed in 1961 by Pastor Arthur Schedler and 4 years later graduated from BHS.

Sandy was not afraid of hard work and had already found summer employment working her 16th summer at the pickle factory and at Ripon Good Cookie the

next summer. After graduating, it was Realist during the day for the next 10 years and waitressing at Mascoutin Country Club at night. "I always liked waitress work!" Sand Knit was next, the old Walmart and Greenings followed. One of her favorite jobs was working for a medical copy service company at 2 different hospitals. Dr Jones' office was also lucky enough to have her and housecleaning jobs filled in the empty spaces. She finished it up with Wilson-Hurd until she retired. Amazingly, she also found time to get married and had one son Tom Jr who is married to Kirsten Liptow. They celebrated their 21st wedding anniversary this year.

Sandy's Dad loved to fish. The year he turned 54, Gerhardt and some friends went to Canada fishing. One morning he was out in the boat when he had a massive heart attack and God called him home. He fell out of the boat and it took 3 days before his body was recovered. This was as a very difficult time for 33-year-old Sandy but God's love again kept her strong, her 2 ½ year son gave her great joy and she persevered. Tom Jr. attended St John school, graduated from BHS and is a very successful entrepreneur in the area.

When her son went to St John, Sandy enjoyed helping out at school, making treats and driving kids to games when she wasn't working. She has joined the Altar Guild at church and worked on the directory committee where she had fun getting to know a lot more of our church members.

After retiring, Sandy was faced with a dilemma. What was this hard-working lady going to do to keep busy!? She decided to volunteer at the hospital gift shop and she loved it!! Sandy would rearrange the entire store and lovingly use her special touch to wrap gifts for the customers. A crafter, she was able to

bring her craft items to the gift shop and sell them. Right now, the shop is closed and Sandy is anxiously awaiting its reopening.

To keep busy during this pandemic, she began exploring Pinterest and trying new things including painting on canvas. "Some of my paintings have turned out pretty good considering I am not an artist!" I have one of her floral paintings likes to cook, bake and eat pizza. She shares her goodies with the neighborhood and at Christmas time makes many trays of cookies and treats to give away. A "people-person" she enjoys shopping, talking, laughing and playing cards with friends. Sandy, your beautiful smile and friendly disposition cheer all who know you. We pray God will watch over you and keep you safe.



... but they who wait for
the LORD shall

renew their strength;

they shall mount up
with wings like eagles;

they shall run and

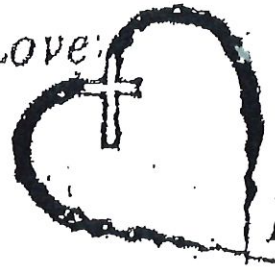
not be weary;

they shall walk and not faint.

Isaiah 40:31



Divine Love:



Human Care

Many years have passed since Ken pastored a small church in the Midwest. While at this church, however, some remarkable things happened. Pastor Ken seemed to have a remarkable gift for prayers and healing. People came to him for help and asked him to pray, and many were healed of long-term ailments. Pastor Ken knew that he was only a channel of something God was doing, but in moments of honesty and self-reflection, he admitted to a sense of worth and pleasure that came with this gift. He didn't like pride, but pride was indeed a problem.

One day, a parishioner of about 60 years of age came into Pastor Ken's office and said,

"Pastor, I have a problem."

Ken asked, "What's the problem?"

The older gentleman replied, "I am worried about my hearing."

Accordingly, Pastor Ken rose from his chair and walked around his desk and placed his hands over the ears of the man seeking his help. "Lord Jesus, you know your servant here before you today. You know about his hearing. We ask now in your name ... " And so the prayer continued, until finally, Pastor Ken removed his hands and asked, "How is your hearing now?"

The gentleman looked up at his pastor and said, "My ears and hearing are fine. I am worried about a court date I have next week. I might have to pay a fine!"

Pastor Ken told this story later in his life, and confessed: "I learned my lesson. Beware of your ego, lest it get in the way of what you are meant to do."

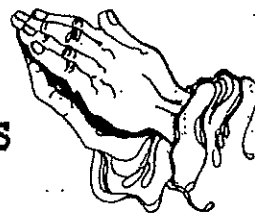
Prayer: Heavenly Father, forgive me for the times when I have put my own sense of importance to the forefront. Keep me mindful that it is not "I" but rather "You" that should be my primary concern. To You is the glory always. Amen.

August Birthdays



Ed Lonela	8/01
Tim Achterberg	8/02
Diane Gable	8/02
Ann Henriksen	8/02
Marlene Hobbs	8/02
Owen Maas	8/02
Sullivan Billington	8/03
Maurice Gallup	8/05
Leitha Kraus	8/05
Joann Behm	8/06
Bridget Freimark	8/06
Terri Van Dellen-Rausch	8/06
Laura Langenhorst	8/07
Daniel Sperberg	8/07
David Stertz	8/07
Jacob Henriksen	8/08
Amy McCormick	8/09
Silas Gilmour	8/10
Blaine Hartzke	8/10
Konnor Mehn	8/11
Kathleen Rodencal	8/12
Paul Maas	8/15
Charlee Scheps	8/17
Mason Nighbor	8/18
Tyler Radke	8/18
Joan Hardel	8/21
Mark Putzke	8/21
Elissa Ewald	8/22
Shawn Kaufman	8/22
Joshua Piechowski	8/22
Luke Piechowski	8/22
Gary Olson	8/23
Mark Schubert	8/23
Anna Stertz	8/23
Brody Weisensel	8/23
Adam Wilson	8/23
Steven Brooks	8/24
Brian Hartzke	8/24
Walter Schmudlach	8/24
Missy Gravunder	8/25
Gloria Larson	8/25
Jace Schilder	8/27
Bradley Thiel	8/27
Dana Ballard	8/28
Yvonne Wastrack	8/28
Ruth Eggert	8/29
Linda Nitz	8/30

Memorials



IN MEMORY OF ELAINE HUMPHREY

For Human Care

From Linda Hertzberg.....\$ 20.00

From Betty Freimark.....\$ 20.00

IN MEMORY OF ARDENE PRIEN

For General Fund

From Russ & Robin Henriksen..\$ 25.00

For Human Care

From Gloria Grahn.....\$ 20.00

From Gary & Cindy Rowen.....\$ 20.00

From Dennis Rowen.....\$ 20.00

From Joe & Sue Formiller.....\$ 20.00

From Delbert & Barb Krause...\$ 20.00

From Family & Friends.....\$ 200.00

IN MEMORY OF DON HERTZBERG

For Human Care

From Linda Hertzberg.....\$ 50.00

IN MEMORY OF JEANETTE MITCHELLY

For Bell Tower

From Luella Huebner.....\$ 20.00

For General Fund

From Randy & Cheryl Behm....\$ 500.00

For Senior Choir

From Pat & Laurie Siegmund...\$ 20.00

For Human Care

From Delbert & Barb Krause....\$ 20.00

For LWML

From Family & Friends.....\$ 565.00

For Lutheran Hour

From Family & Friends.....\$ 600.00

.....

Prayer should be
our first response
rather than our
last resort.



Thanks from the Seminary!

Greetings from Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel IL

Hopefully, this letter finds you safe and healthy.

I've drug my feet a bit writing this last Adopt A Student newsletter, my last chance to thank you for supporting me as I have studied to be a pastor. Your prayers, encouragement and financial support have made the completion of my vicarage and studies at Concordia Seminary possible. Thank you again.

I am excited to complete my vicarage next Sunday and accept the call to serve the Lord here at Trinity Lutheran Church in Harvel. I will be ordained and installed as Pastor here on July 19, 2020 at 3pm CT. As we have been using Facebook Live to broadcast our worship services, I suspect we will do the same with the Ordination/Installation <https://www.facebook.com/groups/tlcharvel.org>.

However, I also have some very sad news. My beautiful wife Linda was called home to the Lord on Thursday, June 25, 2020 at 10:15pm. As she recovered from the latest complications of her idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis, she developed a blood clot which moved to her lungs. June 25th began with a phone call at 12:30am that her brother died of lung cancer which had spread very quickly throughout his body including into a brain lesion. I also received a phone call from my brother that his son had overdosed and died that morning as well. Linda had told me in early June that she would not see my ordination. She truly completed me. I am blessed to have my son and his family from Minnesota staying with me during this difficult time. The people of Trinity have been very supportive. Two elders were at the parsonage by 7:45 the next morning, before I could even ask for prayers for the family. Services for last and nex Sunday have been pushed back so they my supervisor could preach and preside, giving me more time for family and to address Linda's matters. Because of our deep roots in the St. Louis area, her funeral will be at our home congregation, Hope Lutheran Church in Granite City, on July 2 at 11am. We will inter her brother Friday, July 3 at 9am. My nephew will be buried on July 7.

As I offered last month, if you would like to keep in touch, please let me know. If at any time I can pray for you or be of assistance, call 314-517-6393 or email joenehring@yahoo.com (my personal email address instead of the seminary email

address) or US Mail (PO Box66,Harvel,IL 62538).

I truly appreciate your support, your prayers, your encouragement and your financial support. You have played a huge role in making this happen. Thank you! And thank you for all you do for your congregation and in service of our Risen and Ascended Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.
In Christ,

Joe

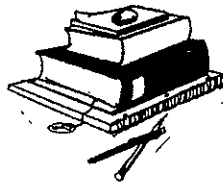
Joe Nehring, Seminarian III,
Concordia Seminary St. Louis
Vicar, Trinity Lutheran Church, Harvel, IL



August 3, 2007 - Michael & Kristy Herbst
August 5, 1995 - Richard & Lori Ryckman
August 15, 1981 - Pat & Laurie Siegmund
August 18, 2000 - Jerrod & April Lueck
August 20, 1976 - Harry & Gladys Nimmer
August 20, 2016 - Jonathon & Payton Phelps
August 22, 2015 - Joshua & Katie Weisensel
August 24, 1974 - Ray & Vickie Clark
August 26, 1995 - Ed & Brenda Marks
August 26, 1989 - David & Laura Stertz
August 31, 1979 - Robert & Marie Chellow



From St. John Lutheran School



Happy August to you all. It is hard to believe that summer is already winding down.

The Board of education has been holding extra meetings to formulate our "re-opening" plans to submit to the county health department for approval. Our intent is to open face to face, five days a week starting September 1. We have been Zooming and Google meeting with South Wisconsin Lutheran administrators and Green Lake county public and parochial school leadership teams along with health officials to assess what must be in place to safely open in the fall. (in the next month)

Right now, we are planning on using three entry points for different grade levels, social distancing as much as possible, masking as is necessary, hand sanitizing, lots of hand washing, and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with our students and families in person. The school day may look a little different, but the message will be unchanging, just like our Savior's love for us.

I would like to thank the Board of Education for their efforts and extra time to formulate a safe reopening plan. You cannot imagine how much time, research, planning and communication goes into this process.

I would also like to thank The Board of Trustees and Mr. Gehrke for everything they have been doing to prepare the school for the safe return of students and staff. They have been in the school moving furniture,

cleaning floors, adjusting desks, researching sanitizing procedures, and hiring a new custodian.

It was amazing, the other night, to watch all these wonderful volunteers giving of their time to be about the mission of St. John to share the Good News of Jesus Christ in their own ways. The trustees were moving desks and tables back and forth between the school and church while the Board of Ed folks were wrestling with policy and procedure issues at the same time. Each group was giving of their time and talents to be about His work. We are blessed to have such fantastic people.

We are happy to announce that Mr. Timothy Pett has accepted the 7th and 8th grade teaching position. He comes to us from the Racine area. We welcome him to our staff. He is looking for a one-bedroom apartment with his two cats. If you have any leads, please let us know.

Have a great August as we wrap up another summer and finish up preparations for the beginning the new school year.

God bless you all. I am yours in Christ's service.

A stylized, handwritten signature that reads "Curt Gow".

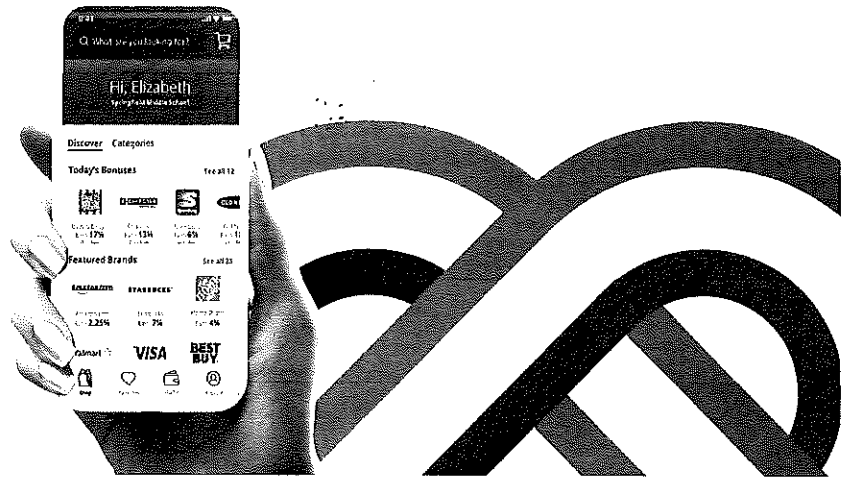
A hand-drawn laurel wreath with leaves and berries, framing the text on the right.

... do not be anxious
about anything,
but in everything
by prayer and
supplication with
thanksgiving let
your requests
be made
known to God.

Philippians 4:6



Simply the Right Way to Fundraise



St. John Enrollment Code: 8DCL39F617727

The new RaiseRight™ mobile app makes fundraising easier

Shop gift cards from more than 750 top brands—right from your phone. Whether you're at home or at the store. Get started with on-the-go fundraising that creates opportunities for the people that matter most to you.

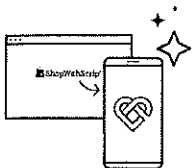
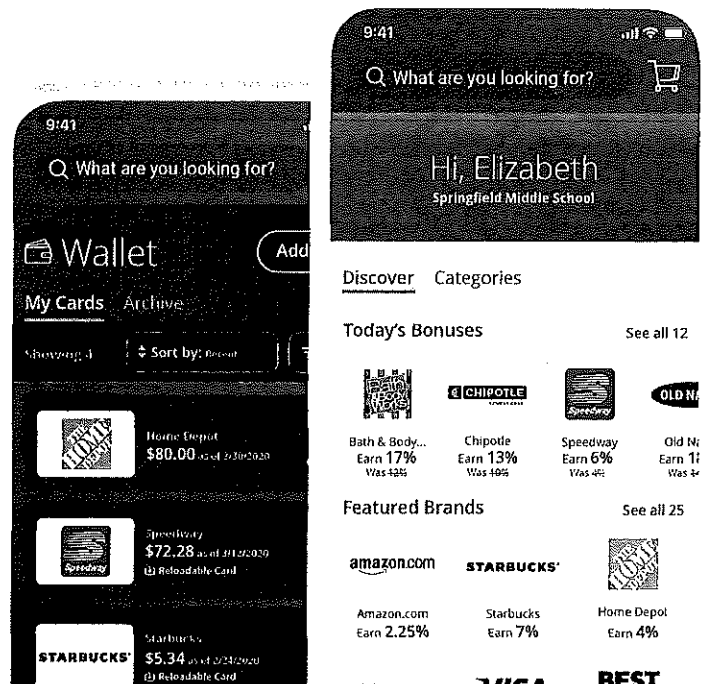
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St. John Lutheran Church Council Meeting

Date: July 22, 2020

The July meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Bob Young. Pastor Mundinger opened with prayer.

Present: Kevin Koch, Bob Young, Pastor Mundinger, Curt Snow, Debra Thiel, Rich Wallner, Bill Brooks, Bob Radliff and Amy Radliff.

Secretary's Report submitted by Amy Radliff

- Clarification of June minutes; New Business to read, Motion by Brooks/Koch to approve bonuses and pay increase, *as included in the budget.*

Motion by Wallner/Brooks to accept June minutes with clarification. Motion approved.

Financial Secretary's Report by Bob Radliff

	<u>June 2020</u>	<u>June 2019</u>
General Fund	\$38,674.16	\$46,443.21
Children's Fund	\$ 4,496.61	\$ 6,757.19
Elderly Fund	\$.00	\$.00
Memorials	\$ 4,930.01	\$ 2,290.58

Attendance 165 per week 217 per week

- June income and attendance low due to Covid-19 social distancing restrictions.

Motion by Snow/Koch to accept the Financial Secretary's report. Motion approved.

Treasurer's Report by Debra Thiel

Square Account June 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$1,276.46	Income:	\$1,897.11
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$3,173.57

Hot Lunch Account June 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$3,353.14	Income:	\$.00
Expenses:	\$ 412.00	Ending Balance:	\$2,941.14

Elderly Fund June 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$6,702.28	Income:	\$1,000.00
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$7,702.28

Children's Fund June 2020:

Beginning Balance:	\$76,238.27	Income:	\$ 4,496.61
Expenses:	\$.00	Ending Balance:	\$80,734.88

Motion by Wallner/B Radliff to accept Treasurer's report. Motion approved.

Board of Trustees Report by Bill Brooks

- School preparation continues for start of classes.
- Summer projects of school office window replacement and doorway to boy's locker room will be completed by the start of the school year.
- Conducting interviews with (3) candidates for the position of janitor.
- Cleaning and disinfecting needs for Covid-19 in the classroom will be coordinated with staff and trustees.

Motion by B Radliff/Snow to accept Trustee's report. Motion approved.

Board of Elders Report & Pastor's Report

Official Acts: Baptism – Adeline Rose Beardsley, daughter of David and Heidi Beardsley. Deaths – Ardene Prien, Donald Hertzberg and Jeannette Mitchelly. Junior Confirmation – Trinity Abitz, Noah Bending, Kasten Ewald, Karsen Kaufman, Adeline Voigtlander, Kody Wiese and Brock Wilde.

Communicant Members 476

Baptized Members 552

Church Families 292

- Services will continue with one Thursday and 2 on Sunday per week. Pastor continues to follow county guidelines for social distancing and maximum number of people in a setting.

Motion by Koch/Brooks to accept Elder's and Pastor's report. Motion approved.

Board of Education Report by Kevin Koch

- Interviews have been conducted with candidates for the position of 7th/8th grade teacher. A contract offer has been extended to one candidate. Moving expenses will be added to the contract, not to exceed \$4,000. The candidate has until July 25th to respond.
- The plan for the reopening of school amid the pandemic is for in-class instruction 5 days per week, in coordination with the public school plan. Mr. Snow has been working with the SW District Principals, Green Lake County Health Department, Dr. Cartwright – Berlin School Administrator and the Green Lake County Nurse. The county nurse will assist with a school walk-thru to make any safety recommendations. A reopening plan is required to be submitted to the county health office before start of class. The public school maintenance department has offered guidance on cleaning and disinfecting equipment. Thermometers, face shields and masks have been ordered.
- 3K will not be offered at the start of the school year. Due to COVID-19, instruction is not feasible during the first trimester. Plans for class will be reviewed as the school year progresses.
- ESSER Funds (Federal Cares Act) may be available to the school in August. The designated amount has not been determined as there is currently a case before the courts for interpretation.

Motion by Wallner/B Radliff to accept the Board of Education report. Motion approved.

Old Business: (none)

New Business:

- Regarding the Paycheck Protection Program, we have not had to ask for forgiveness on any of these funds at the present time. We have been able to maintain the monthly average employee payroll. The funds are to be used within 24 weeks after receiving it. Originally, the plan allowed just 8 weeks.

Meetings next month: Trustees – Monday, August 10th. Board of Education – Tuesday, August 11th.

Elders – Tuesday, August 11th. **Council – Wednesday August 19th– 6pm.**

Quarterly Voter's Meeting – Sunday, August 2nd following the late service

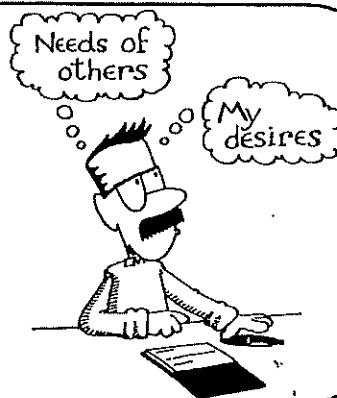
Motion by Snow/Wallner to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 6:31 pm. Meeting closed with The Lord's Prayer

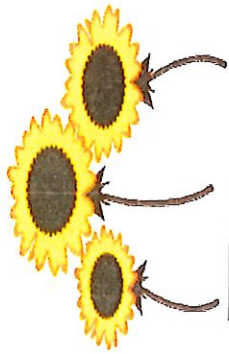
*Respectfully submitted,
Amy Radliff, Secretary*

****Note:** These minutes have not yet been reviewed by the Council and are subject to revision and correction at the next meeting.

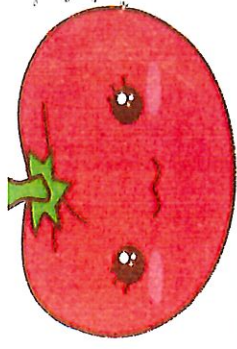
**IT MATTERS WHAT WE DO WITH
OUR GOD-GIVEN TIME, TALENTS,
AND TREASURES.**

“Each one should use whatever gift he has received to serve others, faithfully administering God's grace in its various forms” (1 Peter 4:10).





August 2020



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 8 am Worship/HC 10 am Worship/HC Voters meeting after	3	4	5	6 6:30 Worship/HC	7	8
9 8 am Worship/HC 10 am Worship/HC	10 7 pm Trustees	11 6:00 Elders 6:00 Bd. of Ed.	12	13 6:30 Worship/HC	14	15
16 8 am Worship/HC 10 am Worship/HC	17	18	19 6 pm Council Mtg.	20 6:30 Worship/HC	21	22
23 8 am Worship/HC 10 am Worship/HC	24	25	26	27 6:30 Worship/HC	28	29
30 8 am Worship 10 am Worship	31					



LWML News

Our LWML South Wisconsin District 2020 Fall Retreat is scheduled for September 11 & 12, 2020 and we need your help! We are asking for donations for our Ingathering to Benefit: Concordia Theological Seminary Food & Clothing Co-op

- Over the counter children medication
- Diapers
- Baby wipes
- Baby shampoo and soap

There will be a bin in the card room for you to drop off your donations. Thanks in advance for your help.