

Dear BLC Family,

I pray you are keeping well. Because of a number of things, mainly the on-going construction and Covid 19, our plans for a "traditional" VBS/Day Camp week need to change. Prior to the start of the pandemic, we had missed out on securing Sugar Creek Counselors to come as we have done in the past. This was partly due to not knowing the extent of the construction schedule timeline.

We would like to offer something and have been invited by ELC in Mount Horeb to join in with their online VBS/Day Camp experience. They will be offering this via zoom online from the comforts of your home. The detailed information is below. Please note this will occur the week of **June 15th-18th** and there are two separate 1 hour time slots for the different age groups. This is a neat way for us to be church together and team up with one of our local congregations. **THERE IS NO FEE** for registration but donations are accepted. They ask for sign up below because they need to know the amount of materials needed that you will pick up and use during that week. It's different. But it's something for our youth.

Let's be church together,

PJ

VBS/DAY CAMP VIRTUAL WEEK

Vacation Bible School, June 15 - 18, ZOOM time:
11am - 12pm (3 years old – Kindergarten)

Day Camp at ELC, June 15 - 18, ZOOM time:
9am - 10am (1st - 5th graders)

VBS: Boxes of all the supplies needed for the crafts for the week will be picked up at ELC or delivered. (Maybe some surprise items as well!) We will connect by ZOOM - to read our story, work on the craft together, listen to a song, etc.

DAY CAMP: Sugar Creek will provide links for online, so our youth can sing songs, hear a skit/story, all with safe distancing. Boxes will also be available for pick up for those crafts as well.

Please email, brenda.martin@elcmthoreb.org, the following information:

STUDENT NAME
AGE
GRADE

Which Program - VBS or DAY CAMP

Which do you prefer: PICK UP AT CHURCH or DELIVERY TO MY FRONT DOOR (for our craft boxes)

No summer registration fee is needed, although donations are accepted.

Congratulations to our High School Class of 2020



Will Arneson son of Bill & Marijean
7811 Hwy 18 E, Barneveld, WI 53507

Claire Brindley daughter of Deb & Jeff
105 S Grove Street, Barneveld, WI 53507

Aubree Danz-Fry daughter of Jessica & Shawn
205 W., Orbison, Barneveld, WI 53507

Kaylene Doescher daughter of Dan & Wendy
7772 Lakeview Rd, Barneveld, WI 53507

Macy Doescher daughter of Leo & Rachel
2155 Long Valley Rd, Hollandale WI 53544

Grace Gordon daughter of Jason & Missy
314 Corbin Drive, Barneveld WI 53507

Damon Hendrickson son of Bernie & Teri
506 Swiss Lane, Barneveld WI 53507

Jakob Koerwitz son of Judd & Jessica
2687 County Road H, Barneveld, 53507

Mikenzie Leahy daughter of Kari Z, & Mike L.
206 Quail Ridge, Barneveld WI 53507

Karley Moore daughter of Dennis & Kay
112 Quail Ridge, Barneveld, WI 53507

Reece Peterson son of Mike & Deann
106 Savannah Circle, Barneveld, 53507

Jadon Wagabaza son of Karla & Karl Pohlman
430 Ruste Road, Barneveld WI 53507

Whitney Waterbury daughter of Kari Anne & Tim
224 Cretney Street, Ridgway, WI 53582

Jordyn Whitish daughter of Bob and Sherry
7688 Lone Pine Road, Barneveld WI 53507

Dear BLC Family,

I recently read a poem called “Wild Geese” from Mary Oliver which caught my attention: “*You do not have to be good. You do not have to walk on your knees for a hundred miles through the desert repenting. You only have to let the soft animal of your body love what it loves. Tell me about despair, yours, and I will tell you mine. Meanwhile the world goes on. Meanwhile the sun and clear pebbles of the rain are moving across the landscapes, over the prairies and the deep trees, the mountains and the rivers. Meanwhile the wild geese, high in the clean blue air, are heading home again. Whoever you are, no matter how lonely, the world offers itself to your imagination, calls to you like the wild geese, harsh and exciting- over and over announcing your place in the family of things.*”



LARRY FANNING *Wild Geese*

I've asked myself what the poem means and came to the conclusion: *it means being yourself*. Just being you. Much of life is discovering who we really are- including the parts we have worked hardest to disguise and ignore. I for one have struggled with feeling I am not good enough. At anything. Ever. In every area of my life that mattered to me, personally and professionally, I fell short of my own expectations.

This poem invites us to think about *hineini* or “Here I am” from the Old Testament Hebrew. It's a special way of signaling readiness to meet expectations. From Abraham to Moses, they answer *hineini*. It's the verbal equivalent of jumping up or snapping to attention: “**at your service.**” In modern Judaism, people use *hineini* as a call to service: “We need volunteers.

Please let me hear your *Hineini*.” It carries a sense of obligation. Your presence is needed; please show up. But there is an additional way to understand *Hineini*: **I am here**. Right here, right now. Wherever I am, I'm already here. *Hineini* is not always a response to an external call, an external need. We also need to answer *Hineini* to ourselves, calling ourselves present right here, right now. When the body says “rest,” *Hineini*. When fear, sadness, anger poke and pierce us, *Hineini*: these are my feelings, they hurt, and they need my attention and acknowledgement. As I am called to pay attention to other people's needs, so I am also called present to my own. I need to show up for myself. This is a time for *Hineini*.



Some have asked when we will return to in-person worship. *The virus will make the decision for us; not the other way around*. In making any plans for considering a return to in-person worship, BLC will consider: legally binding orders; the safety of the community and congregation; recommendations from health officials and our Synod; and referring to our insurance policy and the insurer loss-control requirements. *That being said, I do not anticipate us gathering in-person for quite some time*. Loving God and neighbor might be best lived out from the comforts of our homes right now. Our Covid Response Team will meet and plan a course of action for our church family. *Hineini*.

For your safe well-being and spiritual nourishment, we continue to live-stream worship on Facebook on Sunday mornings at 9:00am (you don't need a FB account to tune in). Please stay connected to BLC through emails, Facebook, phone calls and newsletters. Let's make a difference together.

With you a Christian. For you a Pastor.

PJ