

Mission: We are called to be Christ's Light...in all things we are committed to seeking & following God's will and not our own. Believe It! Live It! Come to it!



Sunday August 16th and 30th

9:00 am

BLC OUTDOOR WORSHIP

As a way for us to physically remember who we are as a faith family, we will host

OUTDOOR service on the church lawn.

- Check your temperature: if you have one, stay home.
- We recommend you have a face covering to bring and wear.
- Bring a chair or blanket. (only a few (6-10) chairs will be set up.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to use.
- Please observe and maintain safe physical distancing at all times from arrival to departure.
- The building will be closed and thus no access to restrooms, (Plan ahead)

If the weather is inclement, the service will be canceled

and PJ will stream a short service on Face Book.



The renovations are completed!! Well mostly. The damage covered by insurance is completed and looks good. The fellowship hall is freshly updated with no more sagging ceiling due to truss damage.

The kitchen is completely revamped with new cabinets, flooring, dishwasher, countertops, ceiling tiles and light fixtures.

The outside staining of the building is done, with new gutters being installed this past week and the painting of light poles is still in the works for summer of 2020. It should be noted that the church had its complete electrical service updated to code as it was needed. Although the building is closed, it will be waiting for all to see when we can convene inside again.



Dear BLC Family,

There was old Cherokee chief who was teaching his eight-year-old grandson about life. He told him, "A fight is going on inside me. It is a terrible fight and it is between two wolves. One is evil – he is angry, envy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, resentment, fear, panic, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, worry and ego." "The other is good – he is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, trust, wisdom, benevolence, empathy, generosity, truth, forgiveness, compassion and faith." The chief continued, "This same fight is going on inside you – and inside every other person, too." The grandson thought about this for a minute, then turned to his grandfather and asked. "Which wolf will win?" The wise old chief turned to his grandson, smiled knowingly and replied simply, "**The one you feed.**"



In our faith life and relationship with God – What are those areas, those obstacles that may keep us from being the person we want to be? What are those areas that block what is really important in living out the Christian life? Which wolf are we feeding at this moment in our lives as we together face the continuing challenges of COVID-19? Fear? Panic? Failure? Rejection? The unknown? These things can block the Lord's presence, thus making us not free and not our real selves. It is Jesus alone who brings us peace.

Hate can block the Lord's presence. If a person is filled with hate or anger, they are not free. Some time ago, I spoke to a college-aged girl who hated her father for leaving home. Hate can own us – hate and an unforgiving heart can keep us from totally loving. Forgiving isn't easy, but hatred can haunt a person. **Forgiving doesn't change the past - it changes the future.** It is Jesus alone who brings us life.

I pray all of us- especially in these challenging times- feed the good wolf so that joy, peace, love, hope, empathy, trust and faith sustain us. Remember, it is Jesus alone who brings us hope.

Synod News:

Later this month, our Synod will gather virtually to elect a new Bishop. The four nominees are all women: Rev. Ramie Bakken, Rev. Stacie Fidler, Rev. Naomi Garber and Rev. Joy Mortensen-Wiebe. One of these women will be elected as the new Bishop. Please pray for the delegates casting votes and for the candidate who will be our new Bishop!



The July outdoor service went well so we have planned to offer two more--- Sunday, August 16th and 30th. I do realize there are many opinions and viewpoints in our congregation as regards gathering in person in the sanctuary. Our Council, Covid Safety Team and I are always open to hearing your thoughts. My personal operating premise is to keep everyone safe as well as wanting to celebrate a full worship with everyone present where we can do the things we are used to doing (peace, communion, singing, etc). Right now, we can't do those things. Personally, I had a scare from a gathering I was part of and I needed to get tested for Covid-19. Thankfully the test came back negative but it was yet another realization of how real and serious this pandemic is to be taken by all of us.

We continue to 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. Feed the good wolf in you.

With you a Christian. For you a Pastor.

PJ