

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, September 6th & 20th
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 not healthy, stay home.
- We recommend you have a face covering to bring and wear.
- Bring a chair or blanket.
- Hand sanitizer will be available to use.
- We will maintain safe physical distancing at all times from arrival to departure.
- The building will be closed and thus no access to rest-rooms. (Plan ahead) If the weather is inclement, the service will be canceled and PJ will stream a short service on Face Book.

Quilt Blessing for L.W.R.!

We blessed 58 quilts at worship August 23rd that will now go to Lutheran World Relief to be used around the world.

Thanks to all our women quilters at BLC!



Sunday School, Bridge & Confirmation News!

We plan on offering hybrid versions of each program that will begin in October. Please see email registrations that have been sent out regarding information for each program.

Sunday School = K - 4th grade

Bridge = 5th - 6th grade

Confirmation = 7th - 8th grade

"You have asked to have your child baptized. In doing so you are accepting the responsibility of training him in the practice of the faith. It will be your duty to bring him up to keep God's commandments as Christ taught us, by loving God and our neighbor. Do you clearly understand the commitment you are undertaking?" -Question asked at Baptism

Dear BLC Family,

Happy September. Eating a peach, perfectly ripe, is pure magic. But also messy. Oh, sure, you can eat peaches before they're ripe and they might drip less, but they're not nearly as good. The best peaches are always messy. Now I'll admit it and you can ask Amy and the kids: I prefer clean and tidy. I like the structure of a good plan. I feel good when the dishes are done and the counter is cleared. I'm easily disturbed when piles stay piles for too long.



That said, I think we can all agree that 2020 has been less than tidy. Many of the goals we set for the year have become either irrelevant or impossible. These past 6 months have been a real mess of confusion, conflict, and anxiety. Covid-19 has caused school, sports, work, vacations and even church to be pretty messy and untidy.

But can I let you in on a secret? I suspect we might look back on this year as one of the best years of our lives. It might take a few years to fully own that, but I can already see hints of its truthfulness. This pandemic has strengthened my relationship with God in untold ways. It brought my family closer together. It has pushed Amy and I into making changes in how we parent, work and do family. It forced us into trying new things and learning new skills that will yield new fruit in the years to come. We all have things outside of our control that work against us, obstacles that rise up to thwart us. But the bigger the obstacle, the bigger the opportunity. Our attitude, our mindset, the frame we choose to operate within, is entirely within our control. You can feel under attack and choose to not play the role of victim. You can feel anxious and choose to not cower in a corner and give in to despair. You can feel like everything is a mess and still choose to look for

beauty. Anna learned to ride her bike without training wheels and Peter took on his

balance bike like a pro. This didn't happen without some falls or messes. Seeing with new eyes isn't about ignoring the mess. It's about choosing to sort through it to find something good. It's been fun to see them ride with the wind after encountering the falls.



Sometimes the greatest blessings spring forth from the biggest messes. Jesus took 5 loaves and 2 fish and fed a massive crowd. He took illness and turned it into wellness. He took despair and turned it into faith. He took death and turned it into new life. Remember, grace helps turn our mess into God's message!

Bishop Election News:

On August 29th the Synod elected our new bishop in a virtual assembly gathering. Because of the deadline for printing this newsletter, I will share the news of our new Bishop via the weekly email. Let's pray for the new Shepherd our Synod!

Our outdoor services will continue Sunday, September 6th and 20th at 9:00am. Linda will be present and we'll gather in a safe way to celebrate together. Mark your calendars!

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. **Sometimes the greatest blessings spring forth from the biggest messes.**

With you a Christian. For you a Pastor.

PJ