



The Fisherman

The Newsletter of the Florence Parish

June-July 2023

Volume 17 Issue 3



First Day of Summer - June 21st

The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)
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First Website: www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org
Bethlehem Website: www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor



Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

As I was thinking about my letter to you today, the words of Matthew 25:35-36 came to mind--

For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me (NRSV).

A visual representation of Matthew 25 can be seen in the photo accompanying this letter. I took this photo at Wartburg Theological Seminary, a Lutheran seminary in Dubuque, IA. It shows two pieces of a large bronze artwork that is located near the entrance to the chapel. While the full scripture passage (which I encourage you to read) is Matthew 25:31-46, the words of Matthew 25:40 appear in the photo--"**As you did it to one of the least of my own so you did it to me.**" The artwork serves as a reminder to all who see it, of God's word and our work in service to God and neighbor.

With these words in mind, I would like to tell you about an initiative of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), called the Matthew 25 movement. It is described as follows:

When we welcome others, we welcome Christ; when we bring together people who are divided, we are doing God's reconciling work. We are called to serve Jesus by contributing to the well-being of the most vulnerable in all societies--rural and urban, small and large, young and not-so-young. From affordable housing to community gardens to equitable educational and employment opportunities to healing from addiction and mental illness to enacting policy change--there is not just one way to be a part of the Matthew 25 movement.

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PARISH OFFICE



The Parish office is in the new wing of the First Presbyterian Church at 409 Lake Avenue. The office phone number is (715) 528-4851 and our email address is florpar@borderlandnet.net.

Barb Marden, our administrative assistant, will be in the office on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 am to 11:30 am and from 1:00 - 3:30 pm.

CONTACTING PASTOR CATHY

Pastor Cathy is normally in the office on Tuesday and Wednesday mornings. If you need her at other times, please text her or knock on the door at the pastor's residence.

The best way to contact her is by texting her cell phone at 608-865-1074 or emailing her at cathleenmorris@go.mccormick.edu.



Wednesday, June 21, 3:00 pm
Deacons' Meeting at First

Wednesday, June 21, 3:30 pm
Session & Deacons Meeting at First

Monday, June 26, 5:00 pm
"Come to Supper" at First

Thursday, July 13, 5:45 pm
Short Florence Parish Board Meeting at Bethlehem

Thursday, July 13, 6:00 pm
Bethlehem Council Meeting

Wednesday, July 19, 3:00 pm
Session Meeting at First

Friday, July 21, 10:00 am
Pastor Cathy leads worship at Florence Health Services

Monday, July 24, 5:00 pm
"Come to Supper" at First

Wednesday, July 26 6:00 pm
"Wildflowers and Their Community"
A Presentation by Larry Warren given at Bethlehem with Fellowship & Refreshments Following

Wednesday, August 16, 6:00 pm
"Death and Hints of the Hereafter"
A Presentation by Larry Warren given at Bethlehem with Fellowship & Refreshments Following



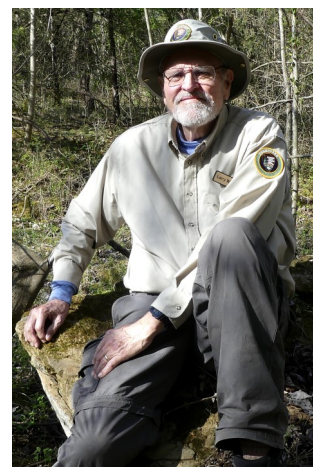
PRESBYTERY POINT
CAMP & RETREAT CENTER

OPEN HOUSE
JUNE 17, 2023
10 AM TO 4PM
REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED
(IN DINING HALL)

COME CHECK OUT OUR FACILITY - WALK THE PROPERTY!

WILDFLOWERS AND THEIR COMMUNITY

A wise man once said, “consider the flowers and how they grow.” Larry Warren has been studying wildflowers for most of his life. In April and May he volunteers as a “Wildflower Rover” in a very special location in The Great Smoky Mountain National Park. His task is to help protect this place which has wildflowers found nowhere else in the park and help visitors who come from all over the world protect and treasure it.



Larry will be presenting a program on “Wildflowers and Their Community” at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Wednesday, July 26 at 6:00 pm. He will share some pictures of the wildflowers found there and some important things they have to teach us about life on this third planet from the sun which is our home. Come and learn about what scientists are calling the “Wood-Wide Web” that not only delivers messages, but also nutrients. Larry will also show some of the beautiful wildflowers found in the great north woods. All are welcome, so please invite your friends and neighbors.



Following the presentation will be a time of fellowship with coffee, tea, and desserts provided. ♦

PASTOR'S LETTER (continued from page 2)

Make no mistake, Jesus is calling us to perform ordinary acts of compassion in daily life. In so doing, we continue Christ's work of proclaiming release to the captives and good news to the poor--the good news of God's righteousness, justice and peace for all. [Presbyterian Mission Agency, "Matthew 25 in the PC(USA): Join the Movement," PC(USA) online]

How is God encouraging us to participate in mission efforts in Florence, surrounding communities, the U.S. and throughout the world? Through prayer and discernment, let us consider ways in which we can lift up God and neighbor. With God's help, we can be faithful and faith-filled people of God, serving God and humankind. What is God calling the people of The Florence Parish to do for God and God's kingdom?

Blessings and peace,

Pastor Cathy

PRESBYTERY NORTH WESTERLY REGION* INAUGURAL MEETING

On Thursday, May 18, the pastors from the North Westerly Region* of the Presbytery held their inaugural meeting at the Kingsford First Presbyterian Church. Fellowship and laughter was shared over a meal, and they plan to meet monthly going forward. Pastor Mike March from Kingsford, Pastor Jan Reid from Escanaba, and Pastor Cathy were present. ♦



*The North Westerly Region includes Big Bay, Escanaba, Florence, Houghton, Iron River, Kingsford, Ishpeming, Marquette, Menominee, Munising, Sagola, Trout Creek, Bay de Noc Community College, Northern Michigan University, and Presbytery Point

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT POSITION

Our Parish Board is seeking applicants for our Administrative Assistant position due to the planned retirement of Barb Marden in August. This is a 20-hour per week position with usual office hours Tuesday-Thursday at the Parish office at First. Our ideal candidate would be a qualified person who is familiar with our Parish and the two churches. For more information, call the office at 715-528-4851 or speak with a Session or Council member or Pastor Cathy. ♦

ROSTERED LEADER DEVELOPMENT

A Candidate Leadership Development working group has been working on a process for candidacy that forms and supports



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in America

rostered leaders for the current and future church. All members of the ELCA are invited to hearings at which the working group will share its findings. There will also be an opportunity for response. More details will be shared at the hearings; you can find an executive summary of the team's work here. Please mark your calendars for one of the following hearings.

June 20, 7 p.m. Eastern/6 p.m. Central/5 p.m. Mountain/4 p.m. Pacific

June 22, 1 p.m. Eastern/12 p.m. Central/11 a.m. Mountain/10 a.m. Pacific

June 26, 2 p.m. Eastern/1 p.m. Central/12 p.m. Mountain/11 a.m. Pacific

June 28, 10 p.m. Eastern/9 p.m. Central/8 p.m. Mountain/7 p.m. Pacific

You do not need to pre-register. The hearings will be hosted via Zoom at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87625799447?pwd=Y2h3SkR5WnZ6YzdDL3BZK05heFNGdz09>

NOTICE

Bethlehem owns three lots of unbuildable land in Commonwealth that had been donated to the church in the past. An opportunity to potentially sell this land has arisen. Bethlehem wishes to advise the Parish about this potential sale in the event that anyone connected with either of our congregations has an interest prior to any action being taken.

Please contact Bob Friberg at 715-923-0002 no later than June 30 if you would like to find out the details. ♦

MEETING NOTES

Some members have asked that the notes from our congregational/parish meetings be included again in the newsletter. This issue includes the May Council and Session notes. Going forward, we will include the relevant notes for both months in the period. If anyone would still like copies from previous months, please contact the office. ♦

BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES



The meeting was called to order by President Bob Friberg. All council members were present. Pastor Cathy offered the opening prayer. Minutes from April 13, 2023 meeting were reviewed and accepted. Treasurer's report was reviewed and accepted. Pastor Cathy gave an update of the month's activities. The annual meeting of Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp was held and Pastor Cathy was in attendance.

She gave a brief summary of the meeting, including the request for volunteers to attend work days at camp and that they are looking for an 18-25 yr. old staff member to fill a vacancy.

The Synod assembly will be held on May 18th to 20th. Bob and JoAnne Friberg and Pastor Cathy will represent Bethlehem Lutheran Church. There are pre-assembly workshops available for members to attend.

The exterior siding will be removed by members of Bethlehem and the contractor is to begin on May 15th and will be completed by June 15th, 2023.

Several possibilities for "God's Work, Our Hands" projects were discussed. The feasibility of completing the projects was discussed. Small projects will be able to be completed, but larger projects would not be possible, due to the resources of Bethlehem.

Pending items included Social Ministry meeting, Videotaping of services, Prayer Ties, and the Website Platform update.

Wild Rivers Quilt Guild requested to use Bethlehem's physical address and P.O. Box. The physical address was agreed to, but the guild will need to get their own P.O. Box.

The council reviewed contact sheet and new Membership request forms. Suggestions were made and the forms will be updated.

Next council meeting will be on June 14, 2023 and the July meeting will be held on July 13, 2023. Both meetings are at 6:00 pm. The next Parish Board meeting will be held at Bethlehem beginning at 6:00 pm on May 31st, 2023.

Meeting was adjourned and all joined in reciting the Lord's prayer. ♦

FIRST'S SESSION NOTES

The Rev. Cathleen Morris, who moderated, called the May 24, 2023, meeting of the Session to order in the conference room of the Church at 3:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. Ruling elders present were: Debra DeMuri, Frank DeCleene, Jim Gehlhoff, Janice Roberts, Janell White, and Karen Wertanen, who is also Clerk of Session.



A quorum was declared and a motion to approved the agenda was duly made, seconded and carried.

Jan Roberts will do our Ministry of Service for June and Frank DeCleene volunteered for July. The minutes of the April 26th meeting of the Session were approved by a motion duly made, seconded and carried.

Karen shared that she has purchased and donated a new minute book in memory of her husband, Richard Wertanen. Also, to be noted is that the Florence County ADRC will receive \$5,531 from the EFSP for food boxes for those in need.

For the record, Connie (nee' Taff) Davis was received into membership during worship, Sunday, May 7th.

In her report, Pastor Cathy noted:

- We celebrated our Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, May 7th.
- She led worship at Florence Health Services on Friday, May 26th.
- Malenda and Michael Smith have requested to have their son, Lucas, baptized on Sunday, June 25th. Pastor Cathy will be meeting with them on May 25th. A motion was then made by Debra DeMuri, seconded by Janell White, that Lucas be baptized. The motion carried.
- We may have a youth interested in going to Presbytery Point camp. After brief discussion, a motion was duly made, seconded and carried that a full fee scholarship be provided.
- She led the Pastors' Text study on Tuesday. The group will be in recess until fall.
- She reviewed a handout announcing "Faithful Innovations", a program led by Rev. Jim Duehring, Assistant to Bishop Finegan, that is beginning June 17, 2023 at Fortune Lake. Consensus was to consider participation at another time, as it is quite a time commitment.
- She attended the Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly held in Marquette.
- She attended a "Holy Cow!" meeting of regional pastors held in Kingsford.
- Summer Day at Camp- no update at this time. (Please note: Brochures are now available.)
- A committee is working on the Parish position description for the Administrative Assistant. The Parish Board will discuss next steps at its upcoming meeting.
- The Brent Vernon presentation was held on April 27th at Bethlehem
- She attended that grade school spring program on Friday, April 28th. Perhaps some of the students listed could perform musical selections at church in the future.

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SESSION MEETING NOTES (continued from page 7)

Copies of our current Parish Articles of Agreement were distributed for Session to review and suggest updates.

Session then reviewed the report of our treasurer as of April 30, 2023: the monthly transaction report, general checking, and all account balances. There was no activity in the building checking fund.

An annual audit of our treasurer's records needs to be done, so Janell White volunteered and will ask Joan Churchill to join her.

Pastor Cathy and Karen reported on their attendance at the virtual Zoom meeting of the Presbytery of Mackinac held on Wednesday, May 17th, at 6:00 p.m. our time. The meeting minutes will soon be available from the Presbytery Office.

Janell reported for our Deacons noting that they sponsored coffee hour after worship on May 21st. They also assisted with our "Come to Supper" meal which was held on May 22nd and attended by 34 folks.

For Property Committee concerns:

- Karen noted that the Clean Kill Pest Control Co. treated the outdoor area on May 16th.
- The lawn care list has been updated and is available for volunteer sign up. We thank Ken Johnson for clearing the edges along the sidewalks and those who have been mowing.
- It would be handy to have a riding mower at the church, so it was suggested that we place an announcement in the Sunday bulletins asking if anyone has a used mower to donate.
- The Committee (Debbie, Jim and Frank) will do a 'walk around' the buildings on June 6th at 10 a.m. of items to consider in a long-term maintenance plan. Others are welcome.

Since there are occasions when assistance is needed for serving Communion, the Session affirmed their previous practice according to the Book of Order W-3.3614-d, "The bread and cup may be served by those in the ordered ministry of the church, or by other church members on invitation of the session or authorizing council." Accordingly, the Session does authorize the Ruling Elder responsible for setting up Communion to invite an active member (or members as needed) of the congregation to assist him or her in serving the meal. Motion carried.

Session was pleased to have had our Presbytery Point Camp Director, Peggy Kenn-Osborne, and her husband attend worship and visit our church recently.

We thank Debbie for preparing an insert for our Sunday bulletin with information about and congratulations to 2023 graduates who have a connection with our church.

The next meeting of the Session, our annual meeting with our Deacons, is set for Wednesday, June 21st at 3:30 p.m. Session will also meet on Wednesday, July 19th at 3:00 p.m.

There was no additional business, so the meeting was declared adjourned at 4:20 p.m. and we closed with our Lord's prayer in unison. ♦

DEACONS' MEETING NOTES

The Deacons met at 5:30 pm on Wednesday, April 19, 2023.

There was discussion related to graduates with connections to First - no gift presentation will be done at a church service as attendance by those graduating in the area is uncertain. Cards will be mailed to them.

Coffee hour was rescheduled to May 21st rather than second Sunday, as it would fall on Mother's Day and people may have others plans on that date. Janell and Lois Ann are scheduled for May, Joan and Kelly for June 11, Debbie and Wendy for July 9. August was not scheduled as there may be an outdoor service that month.

Joan Churchill presented the treasurer's report. It was noted that the funds remaining from the Adopt-a-Family program were given to two families that were identified as in need. Related to the treasurer's report, Joan stated that Pastor Doug Johnson's name is still on the account and with his retirement, another person needs to be added to the account and Pastor Doug's name will be removed. Janell White agreed to be added to the account and the bank will be informed of the change that needs to be made.

There was a discussion related to the Youth Coordinator position that will be created for next fall and also the Administrative Assistant position that needs to be filled soon, enabling the new worker to be trained by the outgoing person. These positions will be advertised by the Parish.

Come to Supper will resume on May 22 and Pat Christian will set up a date in early May for those involved in planning the menu.

The next meeting date for the Deacons was set for June 21, 2023, 5:30 pm (changed to 3:00 pm at a later date). ♦

PARISH BOARD MEETING NOTES

The Parish Board met on May 31, 2023 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Rev. Morris called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. All six Board members from Bethlehem and four members from First Presbyterian were present. Janice Roberts was excused and Frank DeCleene was absent.

Karen Wertanen volunteered to do the minutes of the meeting.

Larry Warren was welcomed as a guest and presented information on three topics that he has prepared for presentations: "Wildflowers and Their Community," "Church and Community," and "Death and Hints of the Hereafter." The Board was interested and will set places, dates and times, which could include a light lunch or potluck.

In her Pastor's Report, Pastor Cathy listed her activities for the month, some of which are detailed in the meeting reports for the Session and Council in this newsletter. In addition, she:

- attended the Florence High School graduation ceremony on May 26th

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FLORENCE PARISH MEETING NOTES (continued from page 9)

- offered prayer at the Woodlawn Cemetery Memorial Day service on May 29th
- attended the Senior meal and program on Independent Living Services and Equipment at the Aurora site and CPR and AED training at the Library on May 31st
- conducted a committal service for Neil Dunsmoor at the Aurora Cemetery, May 26th at 1:00 p.m.

The Administrative Assistant Position Description has been revised and updated, thanks to Debbie DeMuri and Debbi Fleming. Barb had prepared a list of the functions of the office. The Board voted to establish an interview committee which will include two people from each church and Barb Marden. Debbie DeMuri, Janell White, Debbi Fleming and Connie Walther volunteered for the committee. A timeline was established with the hope that we will have advertised, interviewed applicants, and have a new person hired by July 14th.

In addition to advertising within our church bulletins and the newsletter, advertisements for both the “Administrative Assistant” and “Children and Youth Coordinator” positions will be placed in local newspapers and job search sites. Diane Theis will check into Facebook ads.

The Board is currently reviewing our Parish Articles of Agreement which need updating.

First has a committee in place to develop a long- range maintenance plan for the manse and their church facilities. The Lutheran Synod has helpful guidelines regarding housing for Pastors which Pastor Cathy will provide to the committee.

A motion was made and carried to remove the internet service to the manse which will result in some savings. Jim Gehlhoff volunteered to follow up on this.

Our annual outdoor worship service was set for Sunday, August 13th at 10 a.m. at a place yet to be determined.

The Board reviewed the financial reports to date prepared by Barb.

The next meeting of the Parish Board was set for July 13th at 5:45 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran church. We then adjourned and closed with our Lord’s Prayer in unison. ♦





June & July Birthdays & Anniversaries



AT FIRST

6/18 - Dianne Olive
 6/21 - Lois Ann Johnson
 6/26 - Chris Trudell Klescewski
 6/26 - Gina Gehlhoff
 6/28 - Evelyn Vassar
 7/1 - Patty Knispel
 7/6 - Clyde Olive
 7/11 - Wendy Gehlhoff
 7/15 - Scarlett Schomer
 7/15 - Sophia Schomer
 7/18 - Ken Johnson
 7/20 - Dennis Christian
 7/23 - Kelley Johnson
 7/27 - Ann Brolin
 7/28 - Connie Davis
 7/30 - Dominic DeMuri
 7/31 - Russell Soderberg

ANNIVERSARIES

6/22 - Ann & Jim Brolin
 7/6 - Kristopher & Amy Johnson
 7/14 - Heintz & Edie Teichert
 7/16 - Greg & Lisa Novak
 24 - Howard & Pam Smith

AT BETHLEHEM

6/5 - Kathy Friberg
 6/11 - Jackie Lehto
 6/11 - Connie Walther
 6/25 - Missy Lison
 7/2 - Steve Friberg
 7/4 - Kay Campbell
 7/6 - Bob Friberg
 7/7 - Tina DeCremer
 7/16 - Kolton Campbell
 7/18 - Denise Foltz
 7/23 - Pat Bonales
 7/27 - Kay Pector
 7/29 - Lois Mertes
 7/31 - Mary Voelker

ANNIVERSARIES

6/10 - Don & Melissa Lison
 6/25 - Pastor Doug & Elaine Johnson
 7/9 - Lois & Tom Mertes
 7/30 - Steve & Lori Friberg

MEMBERS OF OUR CHURCH COUNCIL, SESSION, & DEACONS

BETHLEHEM COUNCIL

Bill Fleming
 Deb Fleming
 Bob Friberg
 Diane Theis
 Mary Voelker
 Connie Walther

FIRST'S SESSION

Frank DeCleene
 Debbie DeMuri
 Jim Gehlhoff
 Jan Roberts
 Karen Wertanen
 Janell White

FIRST'S DEACONS

Joan Churchill
 Wendy Gehlhoff
 Kelly Johnson
 Lois Ann Johnson
 Lisa Novak
 Janell White

The Florence Parish

PO. Box 47

Florence, WI 54121

A Partnership in Christian Ministry of:

First Presbyterian Church & Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Rev. Cathleen Morris, Pastor

Address Service Requested

If anyone has a favorite recipe to share, Please e-mail or send it to Barb



2023

CHERRY BARS

Barb

Ingredients:

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 4 large eggs, room temperature
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon almond extract
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 2 cans (21 ounces each) cherry pie filling

Glaze:

- 1 cup confectioners' sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 2 to 3 tablespoons 2% milk



Directions:

1. Preheat oven to 350°. In a large bowl, cream butter, sugar and salt until light and fluffy, 5-7 minutes. Add eggs, 1 at a time, beating well after each addition. Beat in extracts. Gradually add flour.
2. Spread 3 cups dough into a greased 15x10x1-in. baking pan. Spread with pie filling. Drop remaining dough by teaspoonfuls over filling. Bake 35-40 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely in pan on a wire rack.
3. In a small bowl, mix confectioners' sugar, extracts and enough milk to reach desired consistency; drizzle over top.