



The Fisherman

The Newsletter of the Florence Parish

August - September 2023

Volume 17 Issue 4



August 23 6:30 pm
First



September 9, 9:00 am
Bethlehem



September 13, 6:30 pm
Bethlehem

*The Florence Parish is a partnership in Christian Ministry of:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA & First Presbyterian Church, PC(USA)
P.O. Box 47 * Florence, WI 54121 * florpar@borderlandnet.net * (715) 528-4851
First Website: www.firstpresbyterianflorencewi.org
Bethlehem Website: www.bethlehemplutheranflorence.org
The Rev. Cathleen A. Morris, Pastor*



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Now there are varieties of gifts but the same Spirit, and there are varieties of services but the same Lord, and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." (1 Corinthians 12: 4-7)

In my recent sermons, you have heard me speak about community--our faith community, the larger community, and God's kingdom. You have heard about the early beginnings of Jesus' ministry proclaiming the Kingdom of Heaven. Jesus called the twelve disciples to their roles, but as the church grew, more servants were needed. That was true in the early days of Christianity, and it is true today; more servants are needed.

First, I would like to thank Barb Marden for her four years of service to The Florence Parish, as our Administrative Assistant. As you know, Barb will be retiring at the end of this month. She has been a tremendous help in her work on behalf of the churches and parish. She has handled multiple responsibilities and duties; often multitasking in order to complete everything on time. Barb has informed me that she intends to continue to help with specific duties, as a member of the parish. Thank you, Barb!

Along with this, we welcome Leanne Wilcox as our new Administrative Assistant! Leanne brings with her a variety of skills gained from working in offices and human services' settings. Barb is training her for her new duties, but as you know, there is a lot to learn when serving two churches of different denominations! Your patience and understanding during this time of transition is appreciated. Welcome, Leanne!

Now, to you-- there are many ways in which you can help! The parish committee tasked with selecting our new Administrative Assistant, has modified the position responsibilities.

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PARISH OFFICE

FROM
The 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.

Leanne Wilcox our new administrative assistant will be taking over for Barb Marden. Barb will be in the office through the month of August. Office Hours will be 8:30am-11:30am and 1:00pm-3:30pm Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

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. *She will be on vacation Aug. 19-25. If you have an emergency and need pastoral assistance, please call the office.*

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



Arts & Crafts at "A Summer Day at Camp"

Saturday, August 19,
Pastor Cathy on vacation until August 25

Wednesday, August 23, 6:30pm
GriefShare Begins at First

Monday, August 28, 5:00pm
Come to Supper

Saturday, September 9, 9am-11:30am
QPR Training

Wednesday, September 13, 6:30pm
Service of Hope and Healing for
Survivors of Suicide Loss

Friday, September 15, 10am
Pastor Cathy leads worship at Florence
Health Services

Wednesday, September 20, 3pm
Session Meeting at First

Wednesday, September 20, 6pm
Church Council at Bethlehem

Monday, September 25, 5pm
Come to Supper at First

Tuesday, October 17, 6:00 pm
Church Council Meeting at Bethlehem

Wednesday October 18, 3pm
Session Meeting at First

Wednesday, October 25, 6pm
Florence Parish Board Meeting
at First

UPCOMING FLORENCE PARISH "HOPE AND HEALING" EVENTS

The Florence Parish, has planned several special programs which we hope will be timely and helpful for people from our community. All events are free and open to the public.



On **Wednesday, August 23rd**, the **GriefShare** program will begin at **First Presbyterian Church, 409 Lake Avenue, at 6:30 p.m.** This is a 13-week non-denominational program which will offer understanding, help, and encouragement to those who have experienced loss. Each week a short video introduces the topic for the week after which the facilitator, Kim Richmond, will lead a time of sharing and group discussion. Each person will have a workbook which is used for personal reflection and study. There is no charge to participate in GriefShare, however, a donation can be made to defray the cost of the workbook if a person is able to do so. Future weekly meeting times will be determined by attendees. Participants can attend on a weekly basis, or as they are able, and they can begin at any time. **To register for GriefShare, please call the Parish Office at 715-528-4851.** You may leave a message at that number

Have you heard about **QPR training**? QPR stands for Question. Persuade. Refer. On **Saturday, September 9th, from 9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.** at this fundamental gatekeeper training, participants will learn about: current trends in the prevention of suicide; ways to separate fact from fiction surrounding suicide; basic communication skills to help start the conversation about suicide; steps to ask the suicide question, persuade someone to get help and refer them to help; and local, state and national resources to support suicide prevention. This program will be presented at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** by Mary VanHaute, who is a suicide prevention specialist and survivor of suicide loss. As with other programs, there is no charge to participate in QPR.



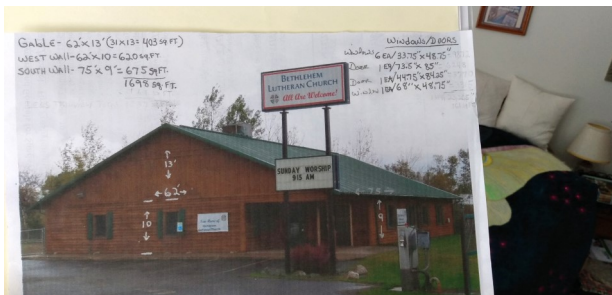
And then on **Wednesday, September 13th, at 6:30 p.m.** The Florence Parish invites all who have been impacted by the complicated grief of suicide loss to attend an **ecumenical service of hope and healing** led by Pastor Cathy Morris and Mary VanHaute at **Bethlehem Lutheran Church**. Attendees are welcome to bring a memento to honor their loved one that can be placed on a table of remembrance during the service. Everyone will receive a candle (which will be lit during the service) to take with them in memory of their loved one. We ask that only those who have experienced grief from a suicide loss, along with those who support them, be in attendance at this service.

BETHLEHEM'S NEW LOOK

You probably have noticed that Bethlehem is looking a little different these days. We recently installed TruLog log-look siding in place of the old wood exterior. After having searched for several years to find someone who could refurbish the original wood and not being successful, Bethlehem approved the new siding at our Annual Congregational Meeting at the beginning of this year.

Ben Lehto supervised the project and worked, along with Wayne & Mary Voelker, Evelyn Anderson, and Bill Fleming to remove the old siding. Frank DeCleene was kind enough to stop, as he was riding by, and help Ben put up the scaffolding. Bob Friberg helped with the electrical work and he unloaded two crates of siding materials, totaling 2500 pounds, from the semi trailer with his tractor. Diane Theis coordinated the purchase of materials.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in and supported this project. The new siding was installed by Barry Held, a local contractor, who was great to work with. We have received several compliments on the building's new look.



“HOLY MANNA” CONCERT AT FORTUNE LAKE BY BEETHOVEN & BANJOS

The musical group Beethoven and Banjos will present the program “Holy Manna” at Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp on Sunday, September 27 at 2:00 pm.

This program invites the audience into the practice of Sacred Harp (“shape note”) singing through listening and participation in this music’s tradition of communal singing, and through reflections on its history and the way it resonates in the contemporary world. In HOLY MANNA, the group presents reflections upon the different threads of music history that come together in The Sacred Harp’s music, and welcome you into its tradition of instrumental music and singing.

All are welcome and all concerts are come as you are, pay what you can. For more information visit: www.beethovenandbanjos.org

**FORTUNE LAKE***A place of grace in Crystal Falls, MI***PASTOR’S LETTER** (continued from page 2)

They realized that some of the previous duties could be taken on by parishioners, thereby allowing our Administrative Assistant more time for duties specific to her role. Some former duties were done on a weekly basis, and others on a quarterly or yearly basis. As such, there are many ways in which your gifts can be used. How is the Spirit leading you to help in the Parish Office, on Sunday mornings, or in other ways to further God's kingdom?

There are several examples of ways you can serve listed on page 7 of this newsletter. If a task is new to you, we will offer training and even help with modifications, as needed. The gifts that you have been given by the Spirit are meant to be used! We use our gifts, when we help others to use their gifts. God calls us, each one of us, to the work of God's kingdom. More servants are needed. Please join us!

Peace,

Pastor Cathy

POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER TASKS

- Being a reader (can do seated if necessary)
- Making sure readers are scheduled for Sunday and have the readings
- Being a greeter
- Folding and assembling bulletins for First;
- Mail bulletins to a few shut-ins (weekly)
- Fold and assemble bulletins for Bethlehem;
- Copy large-print bulletins;
- Mail bulletins to a few shut-ins (weekly)
- Enlarging intercessory prayers from Sundays and Seasons (could be done once per year, once we have the “Sundays and Seasons” book)
- Folding, sealing and mailing newsletter
- Serving as “on call” assistant for various tasks
- Copying, assembling and stapling First's annual report (once per year)
- Copying, assembling and stapling Bethlehem's annual report (once per year)
- Update and maintain websites (ongoing)
- Lawn mowing and snow shoveling
- Other ideas we haven't thought of

BETHLEHEM COUNCIL NOTES



The July 27th meeting was called to order at 6:21pm. Present: Bob Friberg, Bill Fleming, Deb Fleming, Diane Theis, Connie Walther, Mary Voelker, and Pastor Cathy. Pastor Cathy offered the opening prayer. Minutes and Treasurer's report were reviewed and accepted.

- Pastor Cathy advised the Council that worship at Florence Health Services was July 21.
- 11 children have signed up to go to “A Summer Day at Camp.” Barb and Pastor to attend as well. Other adults are expected to also attend.
- She provided an update on the Administrative Assistant position and plan to advertise the children and youth coordinator position in Florence Mining News.
- She handed out the Parish “Articles of Agreement” for council members to review before the next Parish Board Meeting.

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COUNCIL MEETING NOTES (continued from page 7)

- She also reminded members about the “Death and Hints of the Hereafter” presentation by Larry Warren on August 16th.
- Pastor Cathy will be on vacation August 19 – August 25, 2023
- In Synod and ELCA News, Bill continued discussion from last council meeting regarding the his group study of the Faithful Innovations book. Congregations need to get out of the church into the community and look for opportunities and expand on those opportunities. Possible ideas for Bethlehem were to have a table at the county fair. Another idea was to encourage people to think about the good things that are happening around them. It takes all of us to change things. The only way to fail is to not learn from our failures.
- The Synod Fall Theological Conference will be September 17 to 19, 2023 at Fortune Lake. Pastor Cathy will attend.
- The exterior siding is mostly done with a few items to be completed. Soffit and gutters will also be repaired.
- The Social Ministry Committee met (Barb Marden, Marsha and Richard Peterson-Jones and Jo-Anne Friberg). The group will connect with some outside organizations such as Light at the Inn and Feeding America about possible partnership and/or volunteer opportunities and continue to look for opportunities to work with local organizations such as St. Vincent de Paul. No date for next meeting, but will attempt to meet again sometime in August.
- After discovering that no one in the congregation is interested in purchasing the land Bethlehem owns, the council voted to proceed with the sale of the land.
- Diane is working on organizing the cleaning supplies and providing information about where things are located.
- A request has been made for possible use of Bethlehem for Head Start Program. A meeting has been scheduled for August 3, 2023. Deb and Mary (possibly) will assist Pastor Cathy with a tour of the building.
- The dates for next 2 council meetings are August 17th at 6:00pm and September 20th at 6:00pm. Next Parish Board meeting will be on October 25th at 6:00pm at First.
- Meeting was adjourned at 7:21pm. All joined in reciting the Lord’s Prayer.

FIRST’S SESSION NOTES

Rev. Cathleen Morris called the July 19th meeting of the Session to order in the Conference Room at 4:00 p.m. and opened with prayer. All ruling elders were present.



The minutes of the June 21st meeting of the Session and Deacons which had been e-mailed prior to the meeting were approved.

Karen noted that the Florence County ADRC (Aging and Disability Resource Center) will be receiving \$15,703 of federal Emergency Food and Shelter Program funds. Previously those funds have been used to provide boxes of food and gift cards to be used for food.

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SESSION MEETING NOTES (continued from page 8)

In her Minister's Report, Pastor Cathy shared:

- We celebrated the Lord's Supper during worship on Sunday, July 2nd.
- She will lead worship at Florence Health Services on Friday, July 21st.
- "A Summer Day at Camp" scheduled for August 8th has 7 children enrolled as of today; others are expected. A school bus and driver are available.
- We continue to advertise for our Parish Administrative Assistant.
- Our revised Parish Articles of Agreement will be handed out at the Special Parish Board Meeting.
- The Presbytery North Westerly Regional Meeting group will convene again in the fall.
- Rev. Larry Warren's "Wildflowers and Their Community" presentation is set for 6:00 p.m., Wednesday, July 26th, at Bethlehem. Refreshments to follow. He will also do a presentation of August 16th on "Death and Hints of the Hereafter" at Bethlehem at 6:00 p.m.
- Our Parish Outdoor worship service will be at the Keyes Lake pavilion, Sunday, August 13th at 10 a.m. Session agreed to having Communion during that service instead of our usual first Sunday.
- Kim Richmond will offer the "GriefShare" program starting on Wednesday, August 23rd at 6:30 p.m. in Fellowship Hall at First. Those attending will determine future days and times.
- Mary VanHaute will provide QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) training on Saturday, September 9th from 9 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at Bethlehem. Community, Health, and School personnel, and other persons will be invited to participate.
- She will be on vacation August 19th - 25th. Sarah Sleeter will lead worship on August 20th.

Frank commented on last Sunday's sermon which was based on Matthew 13: 1-9, 18-23 and stated he thought it was "very good". Others agreed the message challenged us to reach others in our community in a variety of ways – "scattering seeds".

We then reviewed our treasurer's report as of June 30, 2023 noting all balances. Of note is that new garage doors have been purchased for the manse garage and a new lock installed on the side door. Thank you to Frank for shopping for us and also contacting a person to install the doors. The radiator cover has been installed by Sikora's in the upstairs bedroom of the manse.

Janell reported that our Deacons have planned coffee hour for the months ahead and they will be assisting with the "Come to Supper" meals. The next meals are set for Monday, July 24th and August 28th.

Karen noted that the Presbytery had shared that Tom Olson, former longtime director of Presbytery Point Camp, had passed away while visiting in the Kingsford area. He and his family have lived in Humble Texas, in recent years. A funeral service will be held at First Presbyterian Church in Kingsford on Saturday, August 19th.

The Florence County Extension agency is looking for space for their "Strong Bodies" exercise program. Consensus was to offer the use of Fellowship Hall. Pastor Cathy will arrange for them to view our space.

Property Committee items discussed included:

- A review of the list of projects done and needing to be done at the manse and church.

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SESSION MEETING NOTES (continued from page 9)

- Only those needing access to the manse garage for use of the lawn mower will have keys to the door. The weed whacker is also stored there. Most other items in the garage belong to Pastor Cathy.
- Jim offered to paint the trim on the garage.
- Thanks to Howard Smith for removing the dead bat in the sanctuary.
- Karen will check with Barb regarding whether St. George Glass had checked the loft window.
- The exterior trim on the loft window needs painting. None of our members should attempt that project. (Note: Karen has called St. George Glass about painting since one pane needs to be replaced. No reply yet.)

Consensus was that a small bin of paper with one clean usable side can be made available for anyone wishing to take some for personal use at home. Barb will set that up.

Session will meet on Wednesday, August 16th at 3 p.m. and in September on the 20th.

The meeting was then adjourned and we closed with our Lord's Prayer in unison.

Karen Wertanen,
Clerk of Session

(Please note that if you have any questions or wish to read the complete minutes of previous meetings of the Session, contact Karen at 715-528-4744 or 906-282-7302.)

DEACONS' MEETING NOTES

The Deacons met in the Fellowship Hall at 3 PM on Wednesday, July 12, 2023.

Joan Churchill presented the treasurer's report. Currently the balance is \$519.95. Recent expenditures included graduation cards, a baptism gift, and a condolence cash gift to the Schuls family.

Coffee hour was discussed. It was noted that the second Sunday in August will be an outdoor service for both congregations taking place at Keyes Lake park. The pavillion has been reserved for August 13. In September Kelly and Lois Ann will serve, Joan and Janell will serve in October.

Come to Supper will be July 24. A few of the Deacons will assist with prep, serving and clean up.

It was noted that no applications have been received for the parish administrative position. Everyone is encouraged to spread the word about the opening and hopefully this position will be filled soon.

The Deacons will not meet in August, the next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, September 14, subject to change if necessary.



August, September & October Birthdays & Anniversaries



AT FIRST

8/7 - Braden Boettcher
 8/13 - Jeffrey Boettcher
 8/19 - Billy McCoy
 8/30 - Scott Wertanen
 8/30 - Kristopher Johnson
 9/1 - Kathy Wertanen
 9/1 - Linda Johnson
 9/6 - Barb Soderberg
 9/12 - Edie Teichert
 9/13 - Evan Johnson
 9/16 - Pam Smith
 9/23 - Janell White
 9/25 - Kenzi Gummin
 9/27 - Samantha DeMuri
 10/3 - Karen Wertanen
 10/6 - James Brolin
 10/8 - Christy Boettcher
 10/10 - Sue Gustafson
 10/10 - Rev. Cathy Morris
 10/15 - Mat Gummin
 10/15 - Jeff DeMuri
 10/28 - Jan Roberts

Anniversaries

10/26 - Dale & Sue Gustafson

AT BETHLEHEM

8/9 - Gail Valine
 8/13 - Lorelee Springer
 8/15 Jerry Wolfgram
 8/21 - Barb Marden
 8/22 - Wayne Voelker
 8/23 - Kaden Campbell
 9/2 - Margriet Nelson
 9/19 - Elaine Johnson
 9/24 - Mark Springer
 9/26 - Bill Pestor
 9/28 - Timothy Schwanz
 9/29 - Laura Schwanz
 10/10 - Rev. Cathy Morris
 10/17 - Diane Theis
 10/17 - Michael Theis

Anniversaries

8/19 - Mark & Lorelee Springer
 8/22 - Chris & Margriet Nelson
 8/27 - Bill & Kay Pestor
 8/28 - Bob & JoAnne Friberg
 8/29 - Ben & Jackie Lehto
 9/12 - Curtis & Joan Spears
 10/19 - Eric & Tina DeCremer

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

August



September

2023

CREAMY GRITS CASSEROLE

Barb

Ingredients:

- 1 ¼ cups uncooked regular grits
- 2 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon Salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground red pepper
- ½ cup butter (cut into cubes)
- 1 (10-ounce) block sharp cheddar cheese (shredded)
- 1 4-ounces Smoked Gouda Cheese (round, shredded)
- 2 large eggs (lightly beaten)



grits into the water, stirring constantly, and return to a boil. Cook over low heat, stirring frequently, until the grits are just tender, about 30 minutes. Season generously with salt and pepper and cook, stirring, until the grits are very thick and tender, about 10 minutes longer. Off the heat, stir in the butter and cheese, then stir in the eggs.

1. Preheat the oven to 350°. Butter a 13-by-9-inch baking dish. In a large, heavy pot, bring the water to a boil. Sprinkle the grits into the water, stirring constantly, and return to a boil. Cook over low heat, stirring frequently, until the grits are just tender, about 30 minutes. Season generously with salt and pepper and cook, stirring, until the grits are very thick and tender, about 10 minutes longer. Off the heat, stir in the butter and cheese, then stir in the eggs.
2. Pour the mixture into the prepared dish and bake for 1 hour, until bubbling and the top is golden. Let the grits casserole cool for 20 minutes before serving.