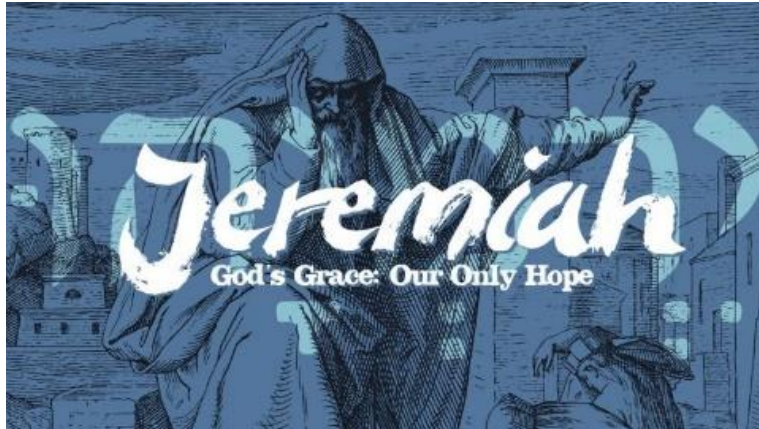


THE PARISH PULSE

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE BEAR LAKE CONCORDIA
& ST. PAUL LUTHERAN PARISH
April 2021



In Confirmation, we have been studying the Old Testament since Christmas. We recently studied the time when Israel was split into the two kingdoms—

The Northern Kingdom of Israel, and the Southern Kingdom of Judah. God's people had become so idolatrous and rebellious against God and faith that God finally showed them that there were consequences to their idolatrous and rebellious ways. The Northern Kingdom of Israel was obliterated by the Assyrians. There was almost nothing left there. The Southern Kingdom of Judah was pretty much destroyed also. The people of Judah were exiled into Babylon under the rule of King Nebuchadnezzar. God told the people of the Southern Kingdom that there would be **70 years** of exile in Babylon. Now--with this, there is bad news and there is also GOOD NEWS. The bad news is the Temple in Jerusalem was pillaged and burned and the city was destroyed. And--the people were taken to Babylon to serve the Assyrians. The Good News is--God promised them that this was for 70 years only and God made sure that they understood that there was a light at the end of the tunnel and a reason for HOPE during this period of captivity and exile (and restitution!). As our image shows above, God's grace truly was and is our ONLY HOPE.

The prophet Jeremiah had visions of a new Jerusalem that gave the people hope. We can read about that vision in Ezekiel Chapters 40-48. The final verse of Ezekiel is a powerful declaration of the importance of the new Jerusalem that God promised, and that Ezekiel announced:

*The circumference of the city [the new Jerusalem] shall be eighteen thousand cubits. And the name of the city from that time on shall be **THE LORD IS THERE**. Jeremiah 48:35 NRSV*

This is not simply a promise of the presence of God, this is a DECLARATION. It is a declaration for the people then--AND IT IS A DECLARATION FOR US--TO THIS DAY--that God is present and FAITHFUL TO GOD'S PEOPLE AND faithful to the lasting COVENANT THAT GOD HOLDS WITH GOD'S PEOPLE!!!

You know, WE, yes, WE, have not been exiled to Babylon, but we have been exiled in many and profound ways during this global pandemic. We have been separated and re-routed--distanced and segregated--banned from routine things--and kept from gathering for worship. Most of us are weary and ready for normal times. We want to see RESTORATION and signs of our "new Jerusalem--post pandemic". The Judeans needed hope and promise during their exile, which God gave them. Even, with the reality and implications of SEVEN DECADES of captivity and exile from their home and Temple, they were able to dig deep within themselves and their faith and cling to the HOPE OF GOD'S GRACE for ultimate salvation and RESTORATION of the Temple and their lives in their homeland. This is also our only hope today during this pandemic. There is no other hope than the hope of God's grace. It seems that we may be rounding the corner on this pandemic, but we are not out of the woods yet. Now, more than ever, is the time to cling to the hope and promise of God's grace to get us to the finish line with this pandemic and with the next pandemic or debilitating challenge that we will surely face.

Let's continue to pray for each other. Let's pray for our churches and our call committee. This is a special time of year as we begin to emerge from the COVID-19 phase of our lives and as we approach a new season of life and growing as we embrace Spring and Summer. Keep the faith and know that God's grace is there is hold us--like a soft blanket!!! Peace to you all. *Pastor Tim*

The New Jerusalem



Main Parish Phone Number: 507-852-3796.

Calls to Pastor's cell and urgent needs: 303-887-4513.

Parish website: www.blspelca.org.

Pastor email: pastorblspelca@gmail.com or oshieldst3468@gmail.com.

Our Confirmands for 2021 are:

Ean Bangert



Ean's favorite Bible verse is 1 Corinthians 16:13-14--**Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. Let all you do be done in love.**

About the candidate: Ean likes to ride his bike around town. He works at his Grandpa's farm on most Saturdays and at the antique shop in Alden. He enjoys playing video games and listening to music. Ean is in the eighth grade at Alden-Conger School. He is not really sure what he wants to be when he grows up—but, maybe a farmer or a mechanic, or both!

Hobbies: Video games, riding bike, playing cards with his friend, helping at the farm.

Who do you want to thank at this time of Confirmation? His parents and grandparents, Pastor Daphne, and Pastor Tim.

My one-liner faith statement: Ean says, "My church is full of family traditions and I can feel my family's love through the church."

What has church meant to you? "My church has been a place I can go to get closer to Christ."

Vivian Grunzke



Vivian's favorite Bible verse is Jeremiah 29:11--**For I know the plans I have for you, "declares the Lord", plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and future.**

About the candidate: Vivian says, "I have 5 people in my family, my 2 amazing parents, and 2 amazing siblings, and myself, of course." She goes to Alden-Conger Public School. She plays basketball, volleyball, and softball. Vivian says, "I think I am nice to most [others]. I like to joke around. I am always happy, crazy, always smiling, and helpful. When I grow up I want to go to college for volleyball. I want to be either a doctor or an athletic trainer."

Hobbies: Some of her favorite hobbies are cooking, baking. She also likes drawing, painting, hunting, fishing, and shopping.

Who do you want to thank at this time of Confirmation? "I want to thank my family for always being there for me and especially my Mom and Dad for taking me to Confirmation, and church, so I can learn more about God and his people. I also want to thank Pastor Daphne for getting me through my first year of Confirmation and Pastor Tim for almost completing my Confirmation."

My one-liner faith statement: Vivian says, "My faith is important to me because it brings me closer to God."

What has church meant to you? "Church means a lot to me. I get to learn about God and his people. It has made me grow in faith due to my Pastor. They both have taught me that [we will sin as humans], it is OK, but just talk to God and he will forgive me."



Andrew Wasmoen




CONFIRMATION
SUNDAY

April 25th, 2021

**9:00 am Worship at Bear Lake
No Sunday School**

10:30 am Worship at St. Paul

Andrew's favorite Bible verse is Deuteronomy 6:5—"Love your God with your whole heart and with your soul and with all your strength."

About the candidate: Andrew says, "I am not sure what to do when I get older. What I do know is that I want to follow God every step of the way. I go to school in Alden-Conger. My favorite sport is basketball, but I also enjoy playing football and baseball. I also like to hunt and fish."

Hobbies: Some of his favorite hobbies are football, hunting, fishing, baseball, and basketball.

Who do you want to thank at this time of Confirmation? "My Dad and Mom, my Grandparents, my church family, and my Pastor."

My one-liner faith statement: Andrew says, "I sin every day and God loves me no matter how many times I sin. I also believe God gave his only Son, so we can be saved from sin."

"What has church meant to you?" "I love to go to church because I get to learn about God. I also like to go because everyone in that building supports me in everything I do."

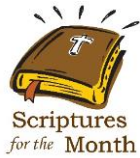


Please come and celebrate the confirmation of Ean Bangert and Andrew Wasmoen following the worship service on Sunday, April 25th at Bear Lake Lutheran Church. We invite you to a walk-by starting at 10:00 a.m. to congratulate the confirmands and grab a sweet treat to go. All are welcome!



You are invited to a Confirmation Open House honoring Vivian Grunzke from 2-4 pm on Sunday, April 25th at the St. Paul Lutheran Fellowship Hall. All are welcome!

CONFIRMED
In Faith 



April 1 Maundy Thursday

1st Reading Exodus 12:1-4[5-10] 11-14

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19

Gospel John 13:1-17, 31b-35

April 2 Good Friday

1st Reading Isaiah 52:13---53:12

2nd Reading Hebrews 10:16-25

Psalm 22

Gospel John 18:---19:42

April 4 Easter Sunday

1st Reading Acts 10:34-43

2nd Reading 1 Corinthians 15:1-11

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

Gospel Mark 16:1-8

April 11

1st Reading Acts 4:32-35

2nd Reading 1 John 1:1---2:2

Psalm 133

Gospel John 20:19-31

April 18

1st Reading Acts 3:12-19

2nd Reading 1 John 3:1-7

Psalm 4

Gospel Luke 24:36b-48

April 25

1st Reading Acts 4:5-12

2nd Reading 1 John 3:16-24

Psalm 23

Gospel John 10:11-18

IN PERSON WORSHIP AT BEAR LAKE AND ST. PAUL!

**Social distance, wash your hands, and wear your mask.



Please remember in your prayers:

Brian Venem, Mary Jo Ditlevson, Bryan Lair, Bud Morgan, Darlene Behr, Janae Clausen, Rob Kruger, Erma Nelson, and Dick Doppelhammer.

Bear Lake is planning on having their yard cleanup day on Friday, April 16th starting at 4:00 pm. There will be a BBQ supper outside after the work is done. Please bring your own lawn chair. The meal(drinks included), plates and utensils will be provided. Please come if you can. The more, the merrier, and the quicker we'll get done 😊!



at First Lutheran Church in Albert Lea

The Social Ministry Commission WILL be hosting a Spring Lutheran World Relief Ingathering on Saturday, May 15, 2021 from 7am-12noon. Follow the Enter & Exit signs as you enter the parking lot off of St. Mary's St. on the east side of the church. COVID-19 guidelines will be followed. There should be no need for you to leave your vehicle.

Items greatly needed to fill empty warehouses are Mission Quilts, Personal Care Kits, Baby Care Kits, Sewing Kits, & School Kits. Guidelines for kit contents & packing instructions can be found at 1wr.ore Please use sturdy & easy-to-handle boxes & heed the 40 pound limit!

LWR no longer collects Fleece-tied Blankets or Bulk Soap.

Monetary donations for the Quilt & Kit Shipping Fund will be forwarded to Baltimore. Make checks payable to Lutheran World Relief.

Crossroads Trailer of Albert Lea will be delivering the truckload(s?) to the LWR warehouse in St. Paul.

We look forward to seeing you



Parish Twins Game

On Saturday, July 10th our parish has tentative plans to attend a Twins game. It is at 1:10 pm vs. the Detroit Tigers. We hope to be able to go with necessary precautions. A sign-up sheet will be sent around later in May.



Kind hearts are the gardens.

Kind thoughts are the roots.

Kind words are the flowers.

Kind deeds are the fruits.

Take care of your garden

and keep out the weeds.

Fill it with sunshine,

kind words and kind deeds.

—Henry Wadsworth Longfellow



April 1
April 2
April 3

Virgil Schewe
Bryn Westrum
Carter Jacobs
Andrew Wasmoen

April 10
April 12
April 16

Linzy Reicherts
Amanda Gore
Linda Erickson
Deb Gabriel

April 21
April 23
April 26
April 27
April 28
April 30

Jeff Wichmann
Logan Reicherts
Carrie Hershey
Lindsay Claussen
Carla Lindeman
Lori Brune
DeAnn Wichmann



April 11
April 13
April 18
April 20

Rich & Barb Wichmann
Luverne & Kelli Brune
Chris & Katie Lee
Wayne & Sue Erickson

WELCOME TO OUR NEWSLETTER!

Main Parish Phone Number: 507-852-3796

Calls to Pastor's cell and urgent needs: 303-887-4513

Parish website: www.blspelca.org.

Pastor email: pastorblspelca@gmail.com.

Pastor Tim O'Shields – cell #303-887-4513

emails – oshieldst3468@gmail.com or

toshields001@luthersem.edu

Linda Mattson – secretary – 507-265-3343

email - lmattsec@wctatel.net

Jean Wichmann – BL president – 507-951-0729

email – jeanwichmann@centurytel.net

Jeremy Johnson – SP president – 507-383-1630

email – jeremy@congermeatmarket.com

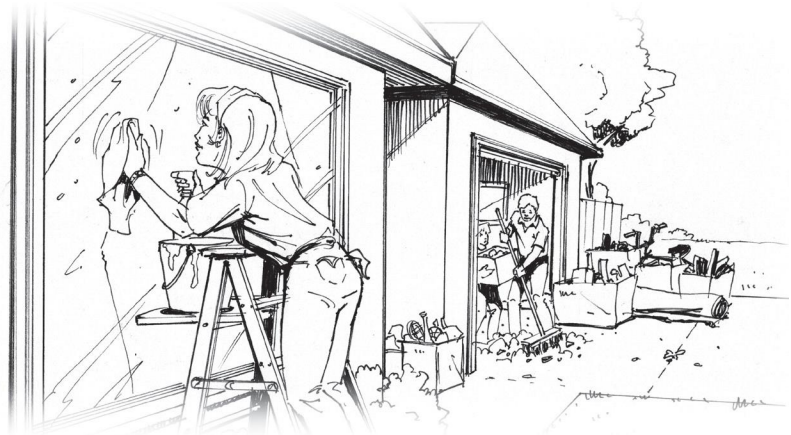
SPRING CLEANING

FIND AND CIRCLE THE WORDS ON THE LIST..WORDS MAY BE FOUND ACROSS, DOWN, OR *DIAGONALLY*
--FORWARDS, BACKWARDS, AND SOMETIMES OVERLAPPING. HAVE FUN!

WORDLIST

ATTIC
BACKYARD
BASEMENT
BOXES
BUCKET
CAR
CEILING
CLEAN
DRYER
FRONTYARD
GARAGE
GARBAGE
GLOVES
GUTTERS
LADDER
LAUNDRY
LAWNMOWER
MIRRORS
MOP
ORGANIZE
PAINTBRUSH
RAKE
SHED
SORT
SPONGE
VACUUM
WATER
WALLS
WASHMACHINE
WINDOWCLEANER

M	G	A	R	A	G	E	G	N	O	P	S
V	Z	B	W	D	R	A	Y	K	C	A	B
C	E	N	I	H	C	A	M	H	S	A	W
F	R	O	N	T	Y	A	R	D	G	R	H
U	L	A	D	D	E	R	Z	Y	E	B	S
N	B	W	O	R	A	K	E	T	G	L	U
R	A	U	W	S	L	L	A	W	A	A	R
E	S	E	C	Y	Q	W	G	W	B	U	B
Y	E	Z	L	K	P	X	N	C	R	N	T
R	M	I	E	C	E	M	I	S	A	D	N
D	E	N	A	Z	O	T	L	R	G	R	I
P	N	A	N	W	T	R	I	E	X	Y	A
O	T	G	E	A	P	O	E	T	R	Y	P
M	I	R	R	O	R	S	C	T	Z	R	Q
G	L	O	V	E	S	M	U	U	C	A	V
B	O	X	E	S	H	E	D	G	E	C	S





2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 Maundy Thursday Services 12:00 Noon at BL 7pm at SP (Living Lord's Supper)	2 Good Friday Services (Service of Tenebrae) 12:00 Noon at SP 7pm at BL	3
4 Easter Worship - Communion at all 3 8:00am BL (Gr.2) 9:15am BL (Gr. 1) 10:45am St. Paul	5	6 Anna Circle at Diane Wichmann's 6:30 pm	7 Confirmation at Bear Lake 7 pm	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Confirmation at Bear Lake 7 pm	15 Bear Lake Council at church 6:30 pm	16 Yard Clean-up at Bear Lake 4:00 pm BBQ Supper outside following	17
18 St. Paul Council following worship	19	20	21 Confirmation at Bear Lake 7 pm	22	23	24
25 Confirmation 9:00 am at Bear Lake 10:30 am at St. Paul Communion at both services	26	27	28 Confirmation at Bear Lake 7 pm	29	30	

Bear Lake Concordia Lutheran Church
St. Paul Lutheran Church

9:00 am Worship
10:30 am Worship

10:00-10:45 Sunday School
9:00 am Sunday School