



Balaton United Methodist Church September 2020 Newsletter

BACK TO ?

Normally, this time of year would be filled with all of the “Back To’s” Back to School ... Back to J.A.M. ... Back to Confirmation ... Back to Fall Ministry plans .. Back to Narrative Lectionary.

Although all of these “Back Tos” are still happening as we step into September ... they sure will look different And how they look one week may not look the same the next. We all just have to be open minded and patient with the process.

Several have asked about J.A.M. – I have talked with Nancy and Denise briefly ... but so far the plan is to do FACEBOOK LIVE beginning WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd at 6:30pm (videoing at UMC Location). I will be gone the second Wednesday (Sept 16th) so this will give us another week after school starts at TMB on Sept 8th.

Vicar Rick Carlson (Trinity/Sillerud) begins officially on Sunday, Sept. 13th in both pulpits) He will be in worship Sunday, August 30/Sept 6) to observe. He and I need to get to know one another a bit, and visit about things before we make any plans ... and even with that ... plans may shift depending. *Please note, it will be important to address him as VICAR ... rather than PASTOR. It’s a Synod requirement, as he is not Ordained yet ... but in the process of ... and so his title is that of Vicar.

As I write, I am getting ready to log into Clergy Session of our Annual Conference which is today (Friday) and tomorrow (Saturday) Sue and I will be online most of the day for Annual Conference Session. ALL ... is held online this year due to the pandemic.

A few have asked ... when we will we resume worship in the Sanctuary? Well the answer is ... “I don’t know” But we will be worshipping outside for as long as September will allow us to. The COVID cases have not decreased in our area, in fact they have increased. It will be a waiting game.

For the record I’m “on it”. We Clergy have already been even rethinking Christmas Eve ... because friends ... let’s be REAL ... it is unlikely that we will worship together as we always have even on Christmas Eve ... so ... be gentle.

ALL of my ministry meetings for this Fall have been scheduled online – Licensed Local Pastor Group, the Fall Board of Ordained Ministry Retreat, Clergy Leadership Academy. Etc.

CLERGY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY – Something new. At least to me. I have been asked to be a Clergy Mentor for this ministry. I prayed about it, did some switching around of meeting dates, and said yes. It is a big commitment, but also a big deal to be asked. I will be leading a group of newer Clergy and also taking part in each general session (all virtually for now). I’m learning NEW right along with them ... in the midst of teaching/mentoring what I know in pastoring. I’m honored and humbled to be asked to serve in this capacity.

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As I was thinking about what to write to you this month ... my mind kept going "Back To" Old Testament Exodus from Slavery in Egypt. The Israelites grumbled to Moses "We want to go BACK TO Egypt" (emphasis mine, partially) because they were 1) mad at Moses and his leadership 2) even in slavery, and scarcity Egypt was comfortable and all they knew. In this grumbly moment ... Moses had about had it! In fact, he told God as much! I am done with all of this! Is basically what he told God.

GOD ... is LOVE. He SEES. He KNOWS. He GUIDES. Even when we grumble and don't think we can move forward.

The Promised Land ... wasn't looking so promising to the Israelites. The journey they were on? It was hard. It was uncomfortable. They couldn't worship in their Sanctuary (OK ... I added that ... grin) but, it was true ... they worshipped in a tent (Tabernacle) which was mobile.

Here's the deal. I KNOW this is hard ... believe me. Sometimes, I lie awake thinking about how can we do "X" ... safely. OR ... Not. We WILL get to the Promised Land eventually I just hope it doesn't take 40 Years like it did for them! Ha!

Hang in there. Be smart. Be safe. Be God's.

You're Doing Great!

We've had some Sheepies with health concerns. Continue to pray. Thank You for the prayers over my Mom. She is now home, weak, but recovering from her hospital stay.

Love in Jesus –
Pastor Lori (PL)

PL's Calendar~SEPTEMBER

Wednesday September 2nd PL at Hospice in Slayton (in person) 9am-11am

Thursday, September 3rd Loren Dunteman Auction 4pm (JAM to serve Lunch) PL's Family doing the Auction.

Sunday, September 6th Communion

Monday, September 7th Labor Day

Tuesday, Sept. 8th First Day of Classes for TMB

Thursday Sept 10th Licensed Local Pastor Mentor Group via ZOOM 10:30am-11:45am

(LLP Group has now switched the SECOND Thursday of each month. Virtually/Online until we can meet in person)

Sunday, September 13th We begin back with the Narrative Lectionary Cycle. Also, Vicar Rick Carlson's first Sunday in Trinity/Sillerud Pulpits. *PL will attend Sillerud Worship this day to be supportive.

Monday September 14th – Wednesday September 16th Pastor Lori is out of town with Karla and Kathy (at Kathy's Home in Prescott, WI) – back late Wednesday.



Thursday September 17th – Friday September 18th Board of Ordained Ministry Fall Retreat (Virtually, ONLINE – PL attends)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 23rd – J.A.M. FACEBOOK LIVE @ 6:30pm – Meet Vicar Rick & we will talk about some plans moving forward.

Saturday, September 26th PRIVATE Family Baptism for Hailie Stibbe at Balaton UMC

Wednesday September 30th 9am PL at Hospice in Slayton.

LOOKING AHEAD

Thursday October 1st PL @ CLERGY LEADERSHIP ACADEMY (virtually, ONLINE)

Saturday, October 3rd PL in Jackson, MN to Baptize a Grandchild of a college friend.

Sunday October 4th Communion

Saturday, October 17th PL in Luverne to Officiate a Wedding of a High School Classmate.

Sunday October 25th is on track for Confirmation of our 10th graders at all three churches. More information as Vicar Rick and I discuss further.



Sunday November 1st is ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – as of now, we'll see how we'll do this safely. More as we near the day.

Sunday November 8th – HAM DINNER Still happening, but more than likely ALL CARRY-OUTS.

Words from the Board Chair~

Whew it has been a busy week! Have a hard time figuring out what day it is; they go by so fast. I went outside Friday morning, I think the heat is gone at least for a short time- the heat and humidity was very exhausting. Was nice to get some rain also.

I would like to thank Paul for cleaning up around the church and for cleaning out the rain gutters. Also, thanks to Paul and Greg for raising up the door by the steps going down to the basement. When we get our cement poured that should help keep the water out. We are still waiting for the cement work to be done hopefully this fall yet.

I have been busy canning pickles and tomatoes. Lids have been very hard to find this year, I hope I have enough to finish all I need to do. I bought some extras at Tracy food pride so grateful they had them.

Kids are going back to school, this year will be different for all schools. Hopefully we will be able get back to normal before too long. I pray that all our children and families stay healthy.



It was wonderful to hear Lori's Mom was able to come from the hospital, you always feel so much better when you get home. We all have to remember to be careful in the heat and drink plenty of water.

Loren Dunteman sale is coming up on September 3rd. JAM will be serving the meal; we are serving BBQ'S chips, bars and water. Stop on down and have supper. Mulder Auction is in charge of the sale. We have many people to pray for in our community and surrounding area. I am happy to say Stella is much better and back to the Stella we know.

Guess I had better get out and get chores done. I am sure the cattle will be happy it has cooled off also. That is all for this time. Remember to pray for all who are hurting.

Lois

A Note from Your Lay Leader~

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV: *For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.*



As Labor Day approaches, we celebrate the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Covid-19 has twisted the role working people play in the world today. Essential workers, work. Non-essential workers work too but their day has shifted from reporting to the office to working from home. Many of us wonder if office life will ever look the same again. As things continue to change, always remember the assurance we have as Christians in God's Word and his promise of heaven. God's love for us is constant, it never changes. As this

month of September unfolds with teachers, staff and kids returning to the classroom, as we contemplate the return to our sanctuary one day, as the Presidential election looms with all the political ads that drive us nuts, I want you to take some deep breaths. I want you to pray for all types of leadership in this country, in our state and our communities. Pray daily for the Lord's protection and pray for Pastor Lori. Pray for our church family, for your family, for your friends, our teachers, support staff, bus drivers and our children. Walk in faith, speak with kindness and watch out for each other. May God bless you!

Sue Skramstad

UMW News:

Believe it or not we did manage to have a meeting in August.

Mike Benson, manager of Balaton Bay Clubhouse, said we could have a meeting out there so we did with social distancing and masks. We sat outside at a larger table. It was so nice and all of our members were present that day! It felt really good to get together for a meeting and spend some time just visiting too.

Sue Skramstad provided devotions for us that day. Thank you Sue. I served lunch.

We discovered that during the months we didn't meet some things may have gotten away from us. We need to catch up on gifts for the Graduates and also Confirmation gifts. We haven't forgotten you kids!! We are just trying to catch up. I'm hoping by our September meeting we'll have that accomplished! We also are planning on giving something to the church in memory of Betty Leversedge, but just not sure yet what that will be. Any Ideas?

We've been thinking about a fundraiser idea for this Fall. We haven't decided if a bake sale will be possible this year so September will be a busy month making decisions about several things. For the September meeting my program book lists Sue Skramstad devotions and to also serve the lunch. The lesson is from the "Sisterhood of Grace" and I am to give the lesson. The business meeting lists Elections of Officers and the ones due are Treasurer and Vice President. Verlaine Ross does a wonderful job as Treasurer and Sue is the Vice President so we're hoping they will both agree to keep their jobs.

The plan is to have the September meeting out at the golf course again. I have checked with Mike Benson and he gave us the OK to meet there in September. The meeting will be held on Thursday, September 13th at 1:30 p.m. I hope everyone can attend so we can make some decisions.

I would like to extend the invitation to anyone who would like to come to the meeting to please do so.

I hope to see everyone on Thursday, September 13th at 1:30 p.m. at the Balaton Bay Clubhouse.

Until then, Be Safe and God Bless!

UMW President,
June Terhark

UMW Note from Sue

We were blessed to meet as the UMW in August. It was a wonderful afternoon of prayer, devotions, catching up with each other and a lot of giggling. We talked about sharing memories of the UMW past for this month's newsletter. Although I don't have a lot of memories of the Balaton UMW, I certainly have memories of going to UMW with my Grandma Gibbons as a very little girl. Watching her comb her snow white hair and put on a little red lipstick and grabbing her worn bible before we got into her beautifully shined red 1968 Pontiac. I remember walking down to the church basement, hearing the sound of ladies chattering, the smell of coffee and looking forward to the meeting being OVER so we could have a sweet treat! Ha, ha. Those same memories hit me the first time I was asked to come to BUMC as your lay speaker. I remember going downstairs, hearing the chattering of happy people as I opened up the slider door with the smell of coffee and cinnamon bread being toasted hitting my nose. It absolutely made me feel like I was at home and brought back some very sweet memories. I am looking forward to making lots of new memories with these beautiful ladies of the BUMC UMW.



The One Year Bible - September Readings

*Here is an audio link if you are interested in following along that way: [One Year Bible - Audio](#)

September 1st

Job 40:1-42:17
2 Corinthians 5:11-21
Psalm 45:1-17
Proverbs 22:14

September 9th

Isaiah 3:1-5:30
2 Corinthians 11:1-15
Psalm 53:1-6
Proverbs 22:28-29

September 17th

Isaiah 25:1-28:13
Galatians 3:10-22
Psalm 61:1-8
Proverbs 23:17-18

September 25th

Isaiah 45:11-48:11
Ephesians 4:1-16
Psalm 68:19-35
Proverbs 24:3-4

September 2nd

Ecclesiastes 1:1-3:22
2 Corinthians 6:1-13
Psalm 46:1-11
Proverbs 22:15

September 10th

Isaiah 6:1-7:25
2 Corinthians 11:16-33
Psalm 54:1-7
Proverbs 23:1-3

September 18th

Isaiah 28:14-30:11
Galatians 3:23-4:31
Psalm 62:1-12
Proverbs 23:19-21

September 26th

Isaiah 48:12-50:11
Ephesians 4:17-32
Psalm 69:1-18
Proverbs 24:5-6

September 3rd

Ecclesiastes 4:1-6:12
2 Corinthians 6:14-7:7
Psalm 47:1-9
Proverbs 22:16

September 11th

Isaiah 8:1-9:21
2 Corinthians 12:1-10
Psalm 55:1-23
Proverbs 23:4-5

September 19th

Isaiah 30:12-33:9
Galatians 5:1-12
Psalm 63:1-11
Proverbs 23:22

September 27th

Isaiah 51:1-53:12
Ephesians 5:1-33
Psalm 69:19-36
Proverbs 24:7

September 4th

Ecclesiastes 7:1-9:18
2 Corinthians 7:8-16
Psalm 48:1-14
Proverbs 22:17-19

September 12th

Isaiah 10:1-11:16
2 Corinthians 12:11-21
Psalm 56:1-13
Proverbs 23:6-8

September 20th

Isaiah 33:10-36:22
Galatians 5:13-26
Psalm 64:1-10
Proverbs 23:23

September 28th

Isaiah 54:1-57:14
Ephesians 6:1-24
Psalm 70:1-5
Proverbs 24:8

September 5th

Ecclesiastes 10:1-12:14
2 Corinthians 8:1-15
Psalm 49:1-20
Proverbs 22:20-21

September 13th

Isaiah 12:1-14:32
2 Corinthians 13:1-14
Psalm 57:1-11
Proverbs 23:9-11

September 21st

Isaiah 37:1-38:22
Galatians 6:1-18
Psalm 65:1-13
Proverbs 23:24

September 29th

Isaiah 57:15-59:21
Philippians 1:1-26
Psalm 71:1-24
Proverbs 24:9-10

September 6th

Song of Solomon 1:1-4:16
2 Corinthians 8:16-24
Psalm 50:1-23
Proverbs 22:22-23

September 14th

Isaiah 15:1-18:7
Galatians 1:1-24
Psalm 58:1-11
Proverbs 23:12

September 22nd

Isaiah 39:1-41:16
Ephesians 1:1-23
Psalm 66:1-20
Proverbs 23:25-28

September 30th

Isaiah 60:1-62:5
Philippians 1:27-2:18
Psalm 72:1-20
Proverbs 24:11-12

September 7th

Song of Solomon 5:1-8:14
2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Psalm 51:1-19
Proverbs 22:24-25

September 15th

Isaiah 19:1-21:17
Galatians 2:1-16
Psalm 59:1-17
Proverbs 23:13-14

September 23rd

Isaiah 41:17-43:13
Ephesians 2:1-22
Psalm 67:1-7
Proverbs 23:29-35

September 8th

Isaiah 1:1-2:22
2 Corinthians 10:1-18
Psalm 52:1-9
Proverbs 22:26-27

September 16th

Isaiah 22:1-24:23
Galatians 2:17-3:9
Psalm 60:1-12
Proverbs 23:15-16

September 24th

Isaiah 43:14-45:10
Ephesians 3:1-21
Psalm 68:1-18
Proverbs 24:1-2

Shared by Phyllis Swanson

SIX LITTLE STORIES WITH LOTS OF MEANINGS

- (1). Once all villagers decided to pray for rain. On the day of prayer, all the people gathered, but only one boy came with an umbrella. That is faith.
- (2). When you throw babies in the air, they laugh because they know you will catch them. That is trust.
- (3). Every night we go to bed without any assurance of being alive the next morning, but still we set the alarms to wake up. That is hope.
- (4). We plan big things for tomorrow in spite of zero knowledge of the future. That is confidence.
- (5). We see the world suffering, but still, we get married and have children. That is love.
- (6). On an old man's shirt was written a sentence 'I am not 80 years old; I am sweet 16 with 64 years of experience.' That is attitude.

Have a happy day and live your life like these six stories.
Remember - Good friends are the rare jewels of life,
difficult to find and impossible to replace!!

WHO IS GOD TO YOU?

He is my HEALER (Psalm 103:3)
He is my REDEEMER (Isaiah 59:20)
He is my DELIVERER (Psalm 70:5)
He is my STRENGTH (Psalm 43:2)
He is my SHELTER (Joel 3:16)
He is my FRIEND (John 15:15)
He is my ADVOCATE (1 John 2:1)
He is my RESTORER (Psalm 23:3)
He is my EVERLASTING FATHER (Isaiah 9:6)
He is LOVE (1 John 4:16)
He is my MEDIATOR (1 Timothy 2:5-6)
He is my STRONGHOLD (Nahum 1:7)
He is the BREAD OF LIFE (John 6:35)
He is my HIDING PLACE (Psalm 32:7)
He is the EVERLASTING LIGHT (Isaiah 60:20)
He is a STRONG TOWER (Proverbs 18:10)
He is my RESTING PLACE (Jeremiah 50:6)
He is the SPIRIT OF TRUTH (John 16:13)
He is my REFUGE FROM THE STORM (Isaiah 25:4)
He is ETERNAL LIFE (1 John 5:20)
He is the LORD WHO PROVIDES (Genesis 22:14)
He is the LORD OF PEACE (2 Thessalonians 3:16)
He is the LIVING WATER (John 4:10)
He is my SHIELD (Psalm 144:2)
He is my HUSBAND (Isaiah 54:5)
He is my HELPER (Hebrews 13:6)
He is my WONDERFUL COUNSELOR (Isaiah 9:6)
He is the LORD WHO HEALS (Exodus 15:26)
He is my HOPE (Psalm 71:5)
He is the GOD OF COMFORT (Romans 15:5)



Shared on Facebook



2020 Balaton UMC Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 6 9:00 am Worship Communion	 7	1 Daniel & Ashley Taveirme Anniv 8 TMB school begins	2 PL at Hospice, Slayton 9-11 am Phil Skramstad B-day Ron & Linda Stibbe Anniv 9 Pat & Ashley Hunt Anniv	3 Loren Dunteman Auction 4 pm (JAM serving) PL family Auctioning Marie Smidt & JJ VonHoltum B-days 10 Licensed Pastor Mentor Group Zoom mtg Dianne Scherbart & Dave Kaup B-days	4	5 Darrell & Denise Crumrine Anniv  12	
13 9:00 am Worship Tabor & Denise Hoek Anniv Chris Maher B-day	14 PL out of town--Prescott, WI	15 PL out of town--Prescott, WI	16 PL out of town--Prescott WI Justin Johnson B-day	17 Board of Ordained Ministry Fall Retreat (virtually) Deacon Cusher B-day Travis & Kelsey Lustsfield Anniv	18 Board of Ordained Ministry Fall Retreat (virtually)	19	
20 9:00 am Worship	21 John & Wanda Scharfe Anniv	22	23 JAM Facebook Live @ 6:30 Meet Vicar Rick Carlson Pam Chandler B-day Kyle & Cassie Stibbe Anniv	24 Amanda Ray B-day	25 Joel & Crystal Marron Anniv Jill Bruns B-day	26 Private Baptism of Hallie Stibbe @ BUMC	
27 9:00 am Worship	28 Kate & Tyler Hruby Anniv Delton & Ruth Sanderson Anniv	29 Stella Swanson & Kathy Taveirme B-days	30 PL @ Hospice, Slayton				



This flower-Canna-is just beautiful in bloom and it is the first thing you see when you drive up to the back church entrance.

Thanks Lois for planting and taking care of all the flowers around our church.

Relay for Life

The Fight against Cancer won't be Postponed! Starting August 20th, let's paint Lyon County Purple to show those affected by Cancer that we are supporting them!!

At the church we have started decorating our doors and windows. We have pictures to color. We will have these available on our website to print off and color, we will have some at our outdoor Sunday Worship for you to grab and Pastor Lori will also add to her packets she delivers on Saturday. Drop off at the church or contact Denise and she will come pick up when you are finished.



To learn more details about your Community Event on September 24th at the Lyon County Fairgrounds or to donate or learn how to get involved go to: www.relayforlife.org/lyoncountymn

Balaton United Methodist Church

Lori VonHoltum, Pastor

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**Remember our Nursing Home Residents: Prairie View Senior Living-Tracy: Mert Holm
Avera Morningside Heights Care Center-Marshall: Neva Manguson
Remembering & praying for Brandon Swanson..... missing from his family since May 2008**