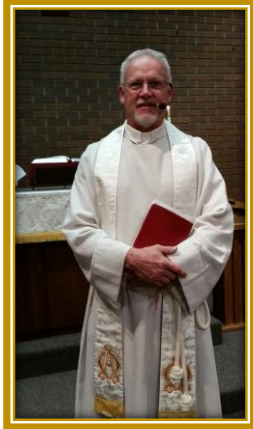




KLC NEWS



JANUARY 2021



Pastor Jeffrey Holter

Email:

jholter@kenwoodlutheran.org

Office:

218-724-9291

Cell (call or text):

218-310-7617

Unmasked by Christmas!

Most everyone we talk to these days is unhesitant in expressing how anxious they are to be free from their masks. This sentiment is not a passing emotion but a deep-down visceral feeling that has tapped into the very essence of who we are. There is a feeling of being trapped that seems to be a part of wearing a facial mask. Not at all the experience of wearing a mask, for instance, during Halloween where we put on a mask to escape or cover up. No, these masks are a sort of imprisonment that keeps us from expressing our true selves. Like a person without a face, which seems to be just a body without a personality. And what is a person without a personality? What is a person without a good way to express love, fear, anger or care and compassion? We have been diminished to a raised eyebrow or muffled groans, or the shaking of our heads. Up and down for yes, side to side for no.

Unmasked by Christmas is not about the Corona19 virus however. It is not about the strained relationship between a shopper and cashier going through the line at Super One or about wanting to express hope and joy while watching a Sunday morning worship service. **Is a person truly hopeful or filled with joy if no one is there to worship with them?** It's that same old adage about the tree falling in the woods. Unmasked by Christmas has everything to do with a God who wanting to express His/Her love to us and takes a very huge risk and removes the mask and shows us just exactly who God is. This Christmas story unmasks God for us. God shows us all of God's self in this little child. This "Jesus" born in a stable. This Emmanuel- "God with us".

Maybe this sounds like a great story. Look; there is God and, surprise, it's just a little baby. Dig a little deeper and we may be convinced to let this story die. God with us, just one born like us, suffering just like us. Come on! We don't need another weak and incapable politician type God. We need a power broker, someone willing to do as we please and get us what we want. We need a ruler! We need a God of action. By action, I mean someone capable. A God who when he/she takes off their mask, people knows who's in charge.

See, this is why this story unmasks us. This story unmasks our addiction to power, our fear that someone or something like a pandemic is going to expose our deepest fear about our lives. Fears we have so far unsuccessfully tried to hide. We are mortal, we live and we die and it appears that this infant child God cannot save us.

Funny how wrong we can be about appearances, right? I mean beneath our masks we still do love our grandchildren. Eyes brows raised, heads wagging beneath it all our love is still very real. Beneath the story of the infant child born in a manger is the real love of God revealed not in power but definitely in conviction. The kind of true love that in years to come will disclose God's willing to give everything to save a people frightened and without hope. A people who having witnessed God's unmasking openings their lives to being unmasked. Opens their lives to face their fears about being mortal and to face their deepest hope that love, and not power, can deliver them from the choking prison of despair. To discover this story at Christmas is "**Joy to the world the Lord has come!**"

Peace to Everyone!

Pastor Jeffrey P. Holter



the
President's
Message

Happy New Year!!!

President:

Lori Robison

Email:

Momrules62@msn.com

Cell:

218-269-2927

Wow, it's January already. I hope this message finds you happy, well, and safe. The days are getting longer and we are all still here, anxiously awaiting when we can return to in-person worship. It will be soon, I promise. There is a light at the end of the tunnel.

Is there anything you would like to see more of or less of while we are distant from one another? More online devotions, more content to the online service, less content to the online service? What can council or Pastor can do to help you feel more "connected" during this time? I have heard from several of you that you would like to see a more personal online service. Please let me know your thoughts, and I will be happy to help them along to council.

Pastor and I were privileged to attend the Synod's SMART Team meeting, which was very informative. We learned what the Synod thinks about the current test positivity rate, and their thoughts on worshipping alternatives.

The Annual Meeting of the congregation will be January 31st, via Zoom. For those who don't have internet or the necessary technology to attend virtually, there will be a number where you can call in and attend via telephone. There will be more on that in the next couple weeks.

The SMART Team continues to review the COVID-19 numbers and meets on a weekly basis. These numbers will determine when our return to Sanctuary worship is. It was determined at our last meeting that the earliest we would be able to return to Sanctuary worship is MAYBE mid-January. This recommendation needs to be approved by Council. Again, **if you can answer "YES" to any of the following questions, please refrain from coming to Sanctuary worship or any in-person church-related activities:**

1. Have you traveled out of the United States in the past 14 days?
2. Have you attended a gathering where social distancing and masks were not observed in the past 14 days?
3. Do you have any new loss of taste or smell?
4. New headache?
5. New muscle aches?
6. New sore throat?
7. Been within 6 feet of someone for 15 minutes or more who is awaiting COVID test results in the past 14 days?
8. Have a household member who has a positive test result in the past 14 days?
9. New shortness of breath?
10. New fever or feeling feverish?
11. Chills?
12. New cough?

Thank you so much for your support this past year, it has meant the world.

In Christ,

Lori Robison

Council President

Community Ministry

Most recent coin offering for LSS Center for Changing Lives was \$29.89, bringing the total for the year to \$406.05.

A generous delivery of hygiene products was delivered to the Union Gospel Mission – Thank You!

The box for Salvation Army's Toyland Express was overflowing with toys when it left Kenwood Lutheran. Thank You!

The LSS Duluth Crisis Nursery provides up to 3 days and nights of emergency care for children from birth through age 12. **During January, diapers and supplies will be collected for the Nursery.** The following are frequently needed items:

- **Diapers:** sizes 4, 5 or 6
- **Baby wipes**
- **Diaper ointment and baby skin care items**
- **Other baby hygiene items**



If your birthday is not listed, call or email the church with your birthdate including the year!

JANUARY

- 4 - Harry Podgorski
Nancy Koss
- 8 - Alanna Stokes
- 9 - Janice Podgorski
- 12- Cindy Peterson
- 16 - Kristin Randall
- 18 - Sonya Skar
- 20 - Carol Kolari
- 23 - Sandy Burgstahler
Celeste Reich
- 24 - Nancy Andrews
- 27 - Brad Kamphenkel
- 28 - Anssi Rannikko
- 30 - June Randall
- 31 - Eric Saksa
Michael Rasch

**Happy
Birthday!**

January Worship Responsibilities at Kenwood Lutheran Church

Worship Responsibilities will not be listed this month, as we will be worshipping online. If we do get to the point where we have sanctuary worship, we have ushers trained for that procedure. If you are interested in being trained for ushering procedures, please contact the church office.

Upcoming Events:

****Scheduled events are subject to change or cancellation due to the COVID-19 pandemic situation. Please check with the church office if you are wondering about a particular event.****

Our Annual Meeting-will take place (virtually) Sunday, January 31. Information regarding the time and the platform to be used will be sent out as it is received.

Please remember during your prayers this month:

- Justin, Jessi, Fayth & Austin Stokes
- Deb & Sid Jarvis
- John, Jamie & Wyatt Moerke
- Elsa Hagen
- Peggy Pruden
- Jean Olson
- Sandy Nervick
- Calvin Polla
- Paul & Marie Glaesemann
- Anssi & Anneli Rannikko
- Jerry & Brenda Uecker
- Dolores Carlson
- Steve & Sue Teske
- Ernie & Meredythe Dornfeld
- Matt, Kathleen, Owen & Greta Privette
- Ian, Christina, Ben & Emily Johnson
- John & Jody Glendenning
- Eugene Niemi
- Gary Polla
- Jim, Megan, Julianna, Cecilia & Georgina Barg
- Bruce & Lynn Hegrenes
- Trevor, Amy, Treston & Alanna Stokes
- Terry, Dawn, Matt & Morgan Erickson
- Josh & Logan Holter
- Charles & Nancy Schumacher
- Amy Kranig and Lauren, Gillian & Sonya Skar
- John, Courtney, Ben, Carly & Ethan Senich
- Tom & Susan Muehlberger
- Karla Payne
- Tom & Cindy Peterson



COUNCIL MEETING - KENWOOD LUTHERAN CHURCH
October 8, 2020

Members Present: Lori Robison, Lynn Hegrenes, Pastor Jeff Holter, Barb Lucia, Diane Irving, Scott Goutermont, Cindy Peterson, and Susan Muehlberger

Guest(s): Theresa Williams

1. The meeting was called to order by President Lori Robison at 7:35 p.m. with devotions and prayer led by President Robison.

2. Minutes from the meeting held on September 10, 2020, and from the Special Council meeting held on September 17, 2020, were approved as submitted.

3. Treasurer's report = \$10,612.55 balance in the checkbook at the end of September 2020. All bills have been paid and are current. Capital Improvement Fund = \$19,483.61 and \$19,482 in Long Term Savings. Approximately \$7,700 has been transferred from Capital Improvement and \$845 from Long-Term Savings to meet all monthly obligations. The borrowed funds have not yet been transferred back to these accounts as enough funds have not been collected through weekly giving to meet monthly obligations. KLC fund raising efforts are down this year as well due to the pandemic.

4. Action Items:

- a. Welcome back to Sanctuary Worship video. Great idea. Theresa Williams will put this video together, accepting volunteers from the Council and others in church for the video production. Needs to include a family unit of more than two people.

A **motion** was made by Scott Goutermont and **seconded** to create our own "Welcome Back to Worship" instructional video. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**

- b. Purchasing a "fogger" for the church facility. Asset Management agreed and can use memorial money to make this purchase. Can be used if we need to meet twice on a Sunday. Opens new options to re-use a space if needed for two church services. Other churches in the area have made this purchase and are using on a regular basis.

A **motion** was made by Scott Goutermont and **seconded** to purchase a fogger for the church. Discussion followed. **Motion carried.**

5. Discussion Items:

a. Communication:

- c. Group Use of Building – several outside groups are asking if they can go forward with meeting at KLC. How many groups? How often will they meet? Groups will have to disinfect when they are finished with their meetings. Limit attendance in the facility. Sign a liability release and follow guidelines (signed copy) of our preparedness plan. It was decided that when church is back then the groups will be able to come back and meet at the facility.
- Memorial Garden: Site needs to be prepared for the ashes when someone is to be buried in the Garden. Measuring consistent. One person needs to oversee this task. Appeal to Council/Personnel to fill this position. The task needs a job instruction sheet. Pastor Holter will follow through to see what has previously been done.

6. Boards, Ministry Teams, Standing Committees:

a. Asset Management Board

- Finalized spaghetti dinner plans; can use the Youth to assist.
- Kitchen window vent covers almost completed.
- Parking Lot Bingo may be scheduled in November to be tied in with virtual silent auction.

- Old office area – add some insulation in this area - estimate a cost of \$10,000.
 - Adding insulation in the secretary’s office area.
 - Turned the furnace on for the season.
- b. Mutual Ministry and Stewardship Board
- Annual Stewardship Campaign: “Alive in Christ” congregational letter was presented and discussed; the letter was approved and will be sent out next week.
 - “Gifted for Service” congregational letter – send on November 1.
 - “Blessed to be a Blessing” congregational letter – send out with pledge cards by November 29 to be returned by December 6.
- c. Personnel Support Board
- No new report.
- d. Christian Education Ministry Team
- No new report.
- e. Community Ministry Team
- LSS coin offering for the month - \$16.41; \$307.88 in coin offerings to date.
 - CHUM:
 - Delivered 27 pounds of groceries to the CHUM Food Shelf.
 - Men’s and women’s socks and underwear collected during September were delivered.
 - October fundraiser in support of CHUM Outreach Program.
 - October: Cold weather clothing donations are being collected for Damiano Center.
 - November: collecting hygiene products.
 - November/December: Toyland Express donations for Salvation Army.
- f. Fellowship Ministry Team
- Will assist with spaghetti dinner.
- g. Worship Ministry Team
- Advent begins on November 29, looking at liturgy and music.
 - October 18 – no Parking Lot service and no Sanctuary service.
 - November 8 – Pastor Holter will be gone; possible to record early.
 - All Saints Day – lighting of candles for those who have died during the past year.
- h. Youth Ministry Team
- Working through the confirmation program; Synod has not cancelled the Cardia Deo retreat to date.
 - Youth gathering still in planning to date.
7. Pastor’s Report:
- Pastor needs to make a trip to Houston (his mother is not doing well) next week.
 - Discussions were held regarding the Fall Bible Study on First Thessalonians. It will be delayed one week. The E.L.C.A. is planning to offer a Bible Study during the Advent Season – more to come.
 - What are we doing for Christmas – will the Sunday School do a program??
 - Suggested setting up an outdoor display during Advent at church for people to come and see, i.e. telling the story in an outdoor display – possibilities might include – Mary - birth, Shepherds, Wise Men with light, etc. Pastor will secure straw to provide a stage for this and he will build a creche for this display. Council will commit to doing the first display item. Church members will be invited to participate.
 - Visitation schedule for September/October will be sent out later.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m. with prayer by Pastor Jeff Holter.

Respectfully submitted,
Lynn Hegrenes, Secretary

January

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4	5 8:30 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	6 8:00 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00 PM Confirmation	7	8	9
10	11	12 8:30 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	13 8:00 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00 PM Confirmation	14 6:30 PM Boards and Teams 7:30 PM Council Meeting	15	16
17 Newsletter Deadline	18	19 8:30 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	20 8:00 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00 PM Confirmation	21	22	23
24	25	26 8:30 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly)	27 8:00 AM TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) 5:00 PM Confirmation	28	29	30
31 Annual Meeting						

