

THE SCRIBE



May 2020, Volume I

THANK YOU, REBECCA!

**Youth Events coming up:
Sidewalk Chalk Competition
Recognizing Seniors**

REBECCA

This week marks the end of nearly a year that Rebecca Hohag has served as our interim Youth and Family Ministry Director.

This is the third time in 10 years she has been willing to fill in in this area, which has been very helpful for us.

She has coordinated events, connected with youth and parents, used her gifts as a listener and encourager, and done a great job with children's sermons.

This year she has focused on building up our Education and Youth committees which we will be a great help to Jacob Oglesby, our new Youth and Family Ministries Director. Rebecca is very pleased with Jacob, his gifts and his experience and is confident that he is a good match for our congregation.

Thank you, Rebecca, for sharing your gifts with us this past year and for your willingness to be an ongoing resource for our congregation.

TOGETHER?

Many of you have asked: "When are we going to gather for worship?" My frustrating answer is: "I Don't know for sure."

Our worship committee, along with staff and church council, is weighing options so we can be ready to gather safely when state/county limitations are gradually lifted.

I am as eager as you are to be able to physically worship together, but it's likely we will need to wait until June.

As you are still at home, remember to keep your eyes on the Lord.

"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death I will not be afraid. For you with me." Psalm 23

RAINBOW TRAIL LUTHERAN CAMP ASKING FOR DONATIONS-Black Forest Lutheran Church has had a longstanding relationship with Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp. For many summers now, they have sent 4-5 counselors to our church to spread the love of Christ through song, games, and prayer as they led Vacation Bible School. In addition, we have sent our youth to their camp to experience a 'retreat.' And just last year we held a marriage retreat at the RTALC facility. *In this time of uncertainty, Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp is asking for donations to support their ministries and help pay its summer staff. Please, visit www.rainbowtrail.org if you want to donate.*

EASTER BASKET MISSION – CORONA STYLE

This year's Easter Basket Mission was anything from ordinary and definitely egg-strordinary! It started out with several well attended workshops led by Lavonne Hidy's creativity making hundreds of adorable egg wraps and bunny sacks. Everything was on track for our normal Palm Sunday bag assembly assisted by the Congregation. Then Corona Virus hit and we were at a standstill. I was out of commission with respiratory issues, Pam Wagner was on a mission trip to Nicaragua, and Lavonne was sheltering in place with lots of Easter basket supplies. Lavonne singlehandedly assembled each basket with love. Helpers ran errands for her to ensure each child would have the perfect Easter blessing. When Pam returned, she and her husband Duane drove 120 baskets to La Puente to be distributed to children in the San Luis Valley. 3 baskets went to Black Forest Cares, 8 to our Fostering Hope family, 6 to Home Church at Lake George, and 25 are waiting to be delivered to Tri-Lakes Cares as soon as they are accepting donations. At this time of instability, these children were able to experience some normalcy receiving God's blessings disguised as an Easter Basket.

Thank you to all that had a role in making this a reality! Francesca Wahlborg



COLLEGE GRADUATE-If you have or will be graduating from college in May please let the office know.

DIDI UPDATE

Didi and Serafina are in Minneapolis, at the World Mission Prayer League. He originally came to the US for eye surgery, home leave, and to meet with supporters. The quarantine has delayed most of that. They hoped to visit their daughter, Nicole, in Wisconsin. Eye problems and a detached retina required immediate surgery. The recovery has been slow.

Their work in Boma, DRC has centered primarily on domestic violence of women and on helping orphans. Both Didi and Seraphina provided counseling and training. They, with support from BFLC, also helped several farmer families to become more productive, thus better providing for his family. Didi was the main force in improving the seminary at Tshela. They have built a dormitory but have much more to do.

Didi would like us to pray for the DRC, especially as they are so ill prepared for the Corona Virus. We should also pray for Didi's improving eyesight; that he has the strength to recover and is able to follow the many medications and restrictions that come with it. Didi will be working on a plan to visit supporters, once our country recovers as well.

I can tell from his notes that he is a little lonely and he would much appreciate emails from you. His address is: dpanzo@wmpl.org

BLACK FOREST CARES SAYS THANK YOU!

This week they are in need of: Canned fruit and soup. You can drop off at the church office, Tuesday-Friday from 9:00a-2:00p.

GOING STIR CRAZY here are some things to do...

-At the church we have puzzles you can take home and do, we also have books out from the Book Stew if you would like to look through them and the church scrapbooks that Mary Montie did!

-Would you like to get out of the house? Would you like to help out while practicing social distancing? Good news! We have a growing "honey-do" list at church.

Here are just a few of the items on that list:

Clean out bugs in lights Paint Fellowship Hall Rake pine needles
Wipe down pews/door handles

Outdoor worship area: Clean off benches (not onto ground)

Take branches behind the shed to slash

If you want to help with any of these, please contact Lisa in the church office. She can help to identify a good time for you to come help out and provide details on these projects.

TITHING-Some of you have asked about your tithing. Here are some options: 1. we recommend that you either mail your check in directly to church or utilize the resources of your financial institution to donate. 2. Go to <https://www.bflchurch.org/our-church/stewardship/>. At the bottom of the page you'll see a Donate button. This will allow you to make a donation by credit card or PayPal. There is a note section where you will be able to designate where you'd like the donation to go. Please remember to add your member number, if you know it (we do get charged for this). 3. Or you can bring in any donations you may have once we resume a normal schedule.



UPDATE ON APPALACHIA MISSION TRIP-It is with a heavy heart that we have received notice that the Appalachia program has been canceled for the summer of 2020. Due to COVID-19, Appalachia is putting its ministry on hold. We are grateful for your support and monetary donations. Please, keep us in your prayers as we decide on future mission trips. (Picture is from our Spaghetti Fundraiser.)

HOW ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME BEING QUARANTINED? Email Lisa and we would love to share with others!

My best ideas for Quarantined time from Debbie Stepp:

1. I challenge everyone to help 4 people a day. My family is all doing this from seniors to youngest. Ideas can be calling someone, telling someone a story, drop off groceries or write a short note using snail mail.
2. I sent a picture I received from my great nephew Jack. Also, from 2 great nieces. My trick is to include a self-addressed stamped envelope so they can write back easily.
3. Virtual time with friends either Facetime or zoom. I do this once a week with old buddies from 4 different states. We laugh so hard and check in with each other. This week we are doing a show and tell.
4. I am helping with a few lessons Jack 8 yrs. old so his parents can work from home. So fun! We play math games, did posters of our states....and just talk and tell stories. One afternoon he practiced his guitar for me.
5. I have enjoyed sorting pictures and making photo albums.
6. Try a new recipe.

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

Paul & Judy Burke	2	Chuck & Pat Holte	2	Johnathan & Tiffaney Brooks	5
Shane & Lauren Swenson	5	Jim & Debbie Kent	7	Greg & Esme Wilhelm	8
Richard & Carolyn Byrnes	23	Bob & Margaret Zancanella	23	John & Paige Summerfield	26
Dwight & Francesca Wahlborg	26	Harold & Sunny Wilson	27	Bob & Joyce Witte	27
Jacob & Emily Wolfe	27	Todd & Tara Cook	30	Juan & Vanessa Corpus	30
Randy & Marcia Johnson	31				

MAY BIRTHDAYS

Lorraine Wallace	2	Karla Olson	3	Whitney Otis	3	Tara Cook	5
Sean Cook	7	John Poss	7	Mark Robinson	8	Zahcary Sanders	9
Sean Williams	9	Ben Turechek	10	Shari Kraus	11	Tracey DeBusk	12
Ekaterina Dirks	12	Jeanne Leitte	13	Amelia Falldorf	14	Ric Maxson	14
John Hartley	16	Stephany Knox	16	Avelyn Ullom	17	Aileen Sanders	18
Alex Kieffer	23	Randy Pierce	25	Janet Masek	28	Sue Vigil	28
Kirsten Hinderberger	29	Keith Kraus	30	Mike Woods	31		



Hello one and all, Jacob here!

As many of you know I have officially joined staff as of April 15th and this is my first scribe entry. I am looking forward to the future here at BFLC and am excited to see where God leads us. I have enjoyed diving right in and keeping busy even in this time of social distancing. A couple of things that I have been up to in my time here so far is calling and meeting many of the youth and families digitally. Although we cannot yet meet safely in person, I have enjoyed talking to many of the families that I now have the privilege to serve. We have also been busy coming up with different plans to try to meet and do ministry at a distance. These have included doing conference call confirmation classes, working on making the website more accessible and easier to navigate, and doing Bible studies online as well.

We also have been busy planning a few events for your families as well! These include VBS, Confirmation camp, as well as planning other youth events. We are also planning a **sidewalk chalk competition for families that will start Friday, May 8 at 9:00a-Saturday, May 9 ending at 2:00p** to participate in you can come during any of that time. We are knowing and believing that we will be able to resume events soon and as always your prayers are appreciated.

We are also planning to have a **High School senior send off**. We understand that it will look different than it has in the past but it is important to us to honor them. If you haven't yet please submit information on your senior's future plans, current grad date/location etc. Please share so we may be praying for them during this time of transition.

While we continue to be responsible with our social distancing it is important to know that our **outdoor facilities are still open**. If you want to be active feel free to use our basketball goal, volleyball court, and playground. I have found that the outdoor church area is a great place to pray or sit in silence. **We have also started a Chalk mural near the entrance that we would be very excited if you and your family chose to keep adding to (supplies are in the shed to the North of the Church entry doors).**

While sitting in the outdoor worship area this week I was reminded of Matthew 6:26 "Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they?"

In all things let us remember that regardless of where we are or what we are going through that God is faithful.

-A resource for you <https://www.bflchurch.org/kids-corner/>



OUR MISSION

Black Forest Lutheran Church glorifies God through worship, prayer, education and service as ambassadors of Christ.

CONTACT US

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Web site: bflchurch.org

OUR STAFF

Pastor - Kenneth D. Hohag

Ministry Coordinator - Jeanette Gould

Interim Youth/Family Ministries Director - Rebecca Hohag

Administrative Assistant - Lisa Regennitter

Organist - Barbara Gurnett

Choir Director - Melanie Hohag

Handbell Choir Director - Bill Fitzpatrick

Ministers - All Members

OFFICE HOURS

Weekday Hours

9:00am-2:00 pm Tuesday-Friday

(Closed Mondays)

Sunday Worship 8:00 & 10:30 am

Sunday School Classes 9:30am

BLACK FOREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

12455 Black Forest Road

Colorado Springs, CO 80908

Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code