

THE SCRIBE



November-2020

On Reformation Sunday, Oct. 25. I spoke of Martin Luther and how God brought him from fear to freedom. Luther had pictured God as being distant and demanding, and wondered "How can I get right with God?"

That question was answered when he read Romans 3 where Paul says, "we are made right with God by his grace as a gift through the redemption that is Christ Jesus." Finally, Luther realized that we are not saved by climbing up to God but by his coming down to save us in the cross of Christ. It's all grace. All gift.

In the preface to his commentary on Romans, Luther pens these powerful words:

Faith is God's work in us which changes us...

Faith is a living, daring confidence in God and his grace, so sure and certain that one would stake his life on it a thousand times.

Because of it (God's goodness we can trust) a person is ready to do good to everyone, serve everyone, and suffer everything out of love and Praise to God.

In what ways does the Lord want to impact your life?

How does he want to give you a servant heart?

Join me on Sundays, 9:30a for a Bible Study: Stewards of God's Influence.

Didi Update

We are privileged to partner with the Panzo's in their ministry to the Congo. Thank you for helping Didi and Serefina purchase a used vehicle. We are sending to them over \$18,500. When Didi heard about it, he said "I cried".

Other Updates

Worship: If you haven't tuned into our online worship recently, tune in. We have improved our video and sound quality. Thank you to all who make it possible.

Thanksgiving: Mark your calendars for Wednesday, Nov. 25 for our Thanksgiving Eve service. Bring non-perishable food to be brought forward (safely) for our Black Forest Cares food pantry. Also, think of what you are thankful for during this unusual year. Kirsten Regennitter Bush will share what she is thankful for even though she is a 1/2 world away from her husband. Carson Bush, stationed in South Korea, will also join us online.

Call Process: You may wonder, 'What's taking so long?' in finding an associate pastor who can train and lead us in reaching out to our neighbors and community. Out of a dozen candidates, we considered 3 as good possibilities. 2 of these chose to stay in their present congregations and we are continuing our conversation with the third. COVID has restricted travel and has slowed the process. We continue to be open to applicants and are confident in God's leading.

'Unveiled': The North American Lutheran Church is holding an online mission event on Nov. 4-6. Tune in to hear Greg Finke (author of *Joining Jesus on his Mission*) as well as Gemechis Buba and others. Please register for this free event at: bit.ly/gcs-unveiled

Pastor Ken

BLACK FOREST CARES-starting Friday, Nov. 6 the food pantry will change hours to 12:00p-2:00p.

SUNDAY FLOWERS- We would like to have two flowers per Sunday, so we can put one in the sanctuary and one in the fellowship hall. Sign-up is in the fellowship hall on the bulletin board.

QUILT DRAWING-"Although we will not be able to have a Ladies Christmas Tea this year, we will still offer a handmade quilt (made by the Quilter's Group) to be won in a drawing. Beginning November 1 through November 22, anyone may purchase a ticket for \$1.00 and receive a pencil, tea bag and cookie. A drawing to determine the winner of the quilt will be held in early December. Also, our handmade plush dogs are available for purchase for \$12.00 and along with your dog you will get 5 tickets, tea bag and cookie. Stop by one of our tables to see the quilt and get your ticket between church services. We will be social distancing in the fellowship hall."

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Jessie Kieffer	3	Jan Henderson	4	Parker Johnson	5
Duane Steinke	5	Courtneyanne Kvale	7	Vincent Anderson	8
Ron Brown	8	George Cooper	8	Stephen Makowsky	8
William McGlothlin	8	Ruth Ann Regennitter	8	Vonda Dowdy	9
Jim Hormann	9	Andrew Wurster	9	Troy Beckman	11
Kristina Mahurin	11	Cody Buttermore	12	Janessa Corpus	12
Jasyra Corpus	12	Freya Coughlin	12	Kevin Devolve	12
Matthew Kleine	12	Raegan Petch	12	Steve Lord	13
Cindy Bohn	15	Dylan Gould	15	Tess Palten	15
Kelsey Mobley	16	Ken West	16	Janeen Anderson	17
Colin Schmeisser	17	Domenic Passarelli	18	Trinity Herrin	19
Barb Gurnett	20	Donna Ewers	22	Monty Sappenfield	23
Shane Swenson	24	Laura Knox	25	Wilda Nussbaum	25
Donna Hartley	26	Shelly Pratt	26	Bill Partridge	27
Terry Harrison	28	Roberta Hagmaier	29	Jim Kent	29
Luanne Spencer	29	Amy Churchill	30	Andi Lockwood	30

NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Matthew & Miranda Beckman	2	Audie & Tracey Debusk	5
Tom & Tina Passarelli	5	Austin & Ethel Cleis	12
Dave & Wendy Lisowski	16	Jack & Donna Yonce	19
Ray & Linda Sherrier	20	Dave & Betsy Wintermute	20
Don & Wendy Crist	21	Bill & Kris Partridge	22
Carson & Kirsten Bush	23	Jerry & Ginny Johnson	30

BIBLE STUDIES FOR 2021!

***-FORGIVING WHAT YOU CAN'T FORGET-* Starting Tuesday, Jan. 5 at 6:30p, meet every other week.**

You deserve to stop suffering because of what other people have done to you. Have you ever felt stuck in a cycle of unresolved pain, playing offenses over and over in your mind? You know you can't go on like this, but you don't know what to do next.

Lysa TerKeurst has wrestled through this journey. But in surprising ways, she's discovered how to let go of bound-up resentment and overcome the resistance to forgiving people who aren't willing to make things right. With deep empathy, therapeutic insight, and rich Bible teaching coming out of more than 1,000 hours of theological study, Lysa will help you: Learn how to move on when the other person refuses to change and never says they're sorry. Walk through a step-by-step process to free yourself from the hurt of your past and feel less offended today. Discover what the Bible really says about forgiveness and the peace that comes from living it out right now. Identify what's stealing trust and vulnerability from your relationships so you can believe there is still good ahead. Disempower the triggers hijacking your emotions by embracing the two necessary parts of forgiveness. **Let Lisa know if you would like to join her.**

***-REDEEMING LOVE* by Francine Rivers Starting Thursday, Jan. 7 at 6:30p, meet weekly.**

We will be doing the companion study on the book Redeeming Love by Francine Rivers. It's a "powerful retelling of the story of Gomer and Hosea, Redeeming Love is a life-changing story of God's unconditional, redemptive, all-consuming love." Quote from Amazon book description.

The book is available through the library in 3 formats: book, ebook and audiobook. **Let Paige Summerfield know if you would like to join them.**

THANKSGIVING AND CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES-WE NEED YOUR INPUT

We are trying to plan holiday services, and we need your help, please answer the questions below, and let Lisa know:

1. Plan to attend Thanksgiving Eve Worship on Nov. 25 at 7:00p.

Name, # Attending, Or undecided, Or do not plan on attending

2. Plan to attend Candlelight Christmas Eve Worship on Dec. 24.

At the: 3:30p, 5:30p, 7:30p

Name, # Attending, Or undecided, Or do not plan on attending

Thank you so much for your help with this, and I know plans change but if you could give us your best guess, it would be appreciated.

IT'S A BOY! John & Dinah Kress welcomed the arrival of their new grandson **Wyatt Ryan Westhoff** on October 18, 2020. He weighed 8 pounds 1 ounce and 21 1/2 inches. Parents are Amy & Kevin Westhoff.



Dear BFLC friends,

It's hard to believe this time of year is here again. Leaves are changing, daylight hours are getting shorter and the air feels crisper. It's also a time of year when things start to grow. Here at BFLC it is a time we focus on stewardship and how we can grow in different ways. Instead of simply asking our members to give this year, we want to celebrate you! We want to celebrate each of you and how your generosity has blessed our congregation, our community and our missionaries.

Our stewardship emphasis this year is titled Stewards of God's Influence. It's a time to celebrate God's generosity by responding with our own generosity. You have already received the Stewardship Committee's request for prayer (in the Scribe) as we turn our focus on being Stewards of God's Influence. We've all heard about the power of prayer, and I truly believe that this is a key part of the process. It will ensure that we focus on God's will for our congregation, and that as members we are listening to God's call in our hearts. I believe that prayer is critical this year, in particular, because we are facing unprecedented circumstances as we are renewing our vision and plans for our church. We want to make sure we are staying focused on what God wants our church to be and do, and prayer is the best way to help that happen. I ask you to pray for the BFLC congregation and the Stewardship team as we prepare our hearts to fully be Stewards of God's Influence.

Serving in his Name, Ken West, BFLC Council President

PS: You can pick up an "Estimate of Giving" form in the church office.

TELL ME ABOUT THE MISSION ENDOWMENT FUND COMMITTEE!

Many members have heard of this committee but are not sure what it does. The Mission Endowment Fund (or MEF) is managed by one of the standing committees of the congregation, authorized by the congregation's constitution. The purpose of the MEF is to provide for mission work beyond the operational budget of the congregation. That means it doesn't receive funding through the annual budget but through over-and-above gifts from members and often from proceeds from wills and estates. The MEF Committee ensures its resources are used to further our church in evangelism, education and/or social ministry.

Presently, the five-member committee meets quarterly to review its investment holdings held at a brokerage house and to review and approve expenditures that align with God's purposes. Currently, expenditures have been helping Pastor Albert in Madagascar obtain a master's degree, required by the Lutheran Church there.

To find out more about how you can donate to this fund, or include it in your estate planning, or to submit an idea for a beneficiary for the fund's investments, contact David Reily, chair of the MEF Committee.



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Did you know that Amazon donates 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the charitable organization of your choice and Black Forest Lutheran Church is a choice for the designated charity.

Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp

Summer Camp-Registration will officially open on Nov. 1. Registration for **all youth camps, family camps, and Labor Day is online**. Weeks will fill quickly! Spend a week of fun and growth as part of great Christian community in the beautiful Sangre de Cristo mountains!! Go to <https://www.rainbowtrail.org/summer-camps/>.

Adventfest is coming! Does the Christmas season make you crazy with all the hustling about and hurried shopping? Bring your family to AdventFest and start the season off right. AdventFest is December 4-6, 2020. This weekend is a wonderful spiritual weekend where we will walk through the four Sundays of Advent during our worship experiences. There will also be time to make great gifts such as stained glass, wooden lamps, pottery, pinecone wreaths, Cribbage Boards, or wooden candle holders just to name a few, that will be treasures for you to give. Let this weekend become part of your family's Christmas traditions. You can register online now at www.rainbowtrail.org/adventfest. Mark your calendars now!



Reverse Advent Calendar

Each Day add an item to a box.

On Dec. 13 bring in your box for Black Forest Cares.

Nov. 27	Box of Cereal	Nov. 28	Peanut Butter	Nov. 29	Stuffing Mix
Nov. 30	Boxed potatoes	Dec. 1	Mac-n-Cheese	Dec. 2	Canned fruit
Dec. 3	Chicken Noodle soup	Dec. 4	Canned tuna	Dec. 5	Cake Mixes/icing
Dec. 6	Applesauce	Dec. 7	Cranberry Sauce	Dec. 8	Box of crackers
Dec. 9	Spaghetti Sauce	Dec. 10	Pkg. of pasta	Dec. 11	Pkg. Oatmeal
Dec. 12	Canned Sweet pot.	Dec. 13	Canned pumpkin		



Hello all, Jacob here!

Youth and Family Ministries

Greetings all, Jacob here. Although we are still technically in the Fall season it is beginning to feel more and more like winter has already arrived! We've certainly been busy around here and I am excited to share some things that have been going on in the realm of youth and family ministries. Confirmation class continues to go well as we have now met for multiple sessions. I know both the students and teachers have enjoyed the Fall break but I always look forward seeing the students and having class together in person. We also had the opportunity to have our Confirmation Sunday on the 18th in which we confirmed the students who have met the criteria. I want to say congratulations to those whose hard work and dedication has paid off and I look forward to seeing what God has in store.

We also had the opportunity to have our annual Family Pumpkin carving here at the church on Saturday the 24th. It was a great time of fun and fellowship (at a distance) with over 15 families represented. It was a blast having the opportunity to share in some laughs as we all attempted to carve overgrown orange vegetables together! We will be putting some of the pictures on our website so be on the lookout for those.

As for other fun events we have a few that are coming up in the month of November. We are looking at having a **ceramic painting night with our more artsy teens and young adults**. This event will be sometime in late-November and will give the students an opportunity to show off their artistic skills in painting! I am also looking into the potential of doing more **sports nights and capture the flag as well as a table tennis tournament for the youth**. Included in these events are games, activities, and lesson plans for the coming months which I am looking forward to being a part of. As always If you are wanting to volunteer or help out with any of these events feel free to reach out to me and we'll see how we can get you plugged in!

We have also begun offering different Sunday programs. This includes providing a nursery space for parents with young children, wiggle worship, and Sunday school classes. Sunday school is offered at 9:30 and Wiggle worship will be offered after the children's message at the 10:30 service.

I was reminded this last week of just how great it is to be a part of a loving church community. Regardless of where you find yourself during these times of the unknown you have a place and a people here at Black Forest Lutheran Church.

For His Glory,
Jacob Oglesby



November 2020 SCRIBE

OUR STAFF

Pastor - Kenneth D. Hohag
Ministry Coordinator - Jeanette Gould
Youth/Family Ministries Director – Jacob Oglesby
Administrative Assistant - Lisa Regennitter
Organist - Barbara Gurnett
Choir Director - Melanie Hohag
Handbell Choir Director - Bill Fitzpatrick
Keyboard – Landra Decker
Ministers - All Members

OFFICE HOURS

Weekday Hours

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

9:00am-12:00pm Friday

(Closed Mondays)

Sunday Worship 8:00a & 10:30a (Mask required.)

OUR MISSION

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

CONTACT US

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BLACK FOREST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Recipient Name

Street Address

City, ST ZIP Code