

# The Jewels



Summer 2020

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Sue Stuempfig and Byron Blackmore have announced their retirement after more than 2 decades service to our parish. We had planned to host receptions, on different Sundays, in the Parish Hall to honor their service. And now, we just aren't sure that's possible. In this space we intended to give you a schedule for those events - and we just can't do that, at least yet.

Whether we gather on a Sunday or not, the opportunity for you to recognize their service certainly exists - there will be a **basket in the office if you would like to send or drop off a card.** That's not as much fun as a party - but it's practical.



## Another Unusual *Jewels* by Pastor Phill, Sr. Pastor

Boy, I miss it. I tell you, I've for years taken for granted that I would always have access to it, for its comfort, its reassurance, its peace.

No, not toilet paper. Communion. There has never been in a period in the last 40 years of my life that I simply could *not* take communion with my church. Communion is not a requirement of the church or of the Christ - after all, He said "do this as often as you will" - He did not say do this every week or every month **or else**. In previous generations Lutheran churches might commune what we would call infrequently. We're used to the blessing of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis and when we're denied it, it makes us uncomfortable. Sad, even. We rely on it, don't we?

So, pastor - why can't we commune while the church is shut down? The suggestions have been many and varied:

- Let's commune remotely - you say the Words of Institution on our TV and we have bread and wine in front of us at home!
- Let's drive through the parking lot and you hand the elements in the car window!
- Let's come one at a time by appointment!

And I'm certain there are parishes that are doing each of these things. But - what is communion? The very word "communion" begins to answer the question. Here is Martin Chemnitz, writing in 1593 about the communion: "Christ did not want the use of this Sacrament to be bound either to a certain time or to certain days, except that Paul says that the *Lord's Supper is to be celebrated when the church gathers to commemorate the death of the Lord, 1Cor. 11:26.*" (Chemnitz' Enchiridion, #273) In other words, except in special circumstances such as ministering to home-bound or in hospital, the communion is for the community of the church, gathered together for the purpose of worship and celebration. Paul writing to Corinth criticized those early Christians because some, gathered for worship and communion, were segregated from others in the home in which they gathered.

In my heart the blessing of gathering electronically does not lend itself to long-distance instituting the communion to 300 different households - it is intended to be celebrated in the physical presence of the congregation as it was in the Upper Room in Jerusalem on Maundy Thursday. The Lutheran Hour has been broadcast for what, 70 years? In that time no one suggested Walter A. or his successors institute communion by radio...

In my heart, handing bread/body wine/blood in a car window does not constitute the community of the church either. Folks, I apologize for being so bull-headed on this issue of communion. By the faith in your heart in the Risen Christ, you are saved, by God's grace and not of yourselves. It is as though we are all marooned on an island somewhere and can't commune until we're rescued. God is in the process of rescuing us, day by

## From Your President

Brothers and Sisters in Christ, I pray this message finds you well.

In the past months this Covid-19 pandemic has caused panic, fear, anger, sadness, confusion and despair. It's like attending a horror movie that can't be turned off.

We may ask: why is this happening?  
And: where is God in all of this?

God gave us Jesus. Jesus continually sought out those who were sick. He cured leprosy, a woman's blood flow, a withered hand, blindness and more. Let us find comfort in knowing that when we pray to Jesus, we are praying to someone who understands us not only because he is divine; but because as a human, he experienced human things.

Let me assure you that COL is committed to the entire congregation not only now but continuing into the coming months. Pastors and various committees are hard at work with the objective of keeping COL strong while maintaining its current values. The November Voters' Meeting will be very informative. Please plan to attend.

May our Savior, Jesus the Christ, and the Almighty Yahweh be with you and watch over you in the coming months.

*Jay Nelson*

## June Birthdays

2 Barbara Carns  
2 Myron Holen  
2 Wiley McAfee  
2 John Zimburean  
3 Wade Monreal  
4 Sue Senne  
5 Kari Johnson  
5 Dick Rasmussen  
5 Clay Zimmerman  
6 Kathy Beilstein  
6 Nora Maloy  
6 Jerilyn Pearson  
7 Bob Gehrke  
7 Gerry Harpt  
7 Lynne Rose  
8 Gordon Kloha  
8 Lowell Koelling  
8 Paul Plapp  
9 Jerry Denzin  
9 Al Knutsen  
10 Bud Burgess  
10 Karen Murphy  
11 Karen Jellison  
12 Rev. Vern Ermeling  
12 Denise Trevarrow  
13 Jerry Ford  
15 Karan Bellemare  
15 Nee Hieb  
17 Norma I. Miller  
18 Ray Landskroner  
18 Roberta Rasmussen  
19 Joyce Rieck  
19 Candace Warner  
20 Ted Barnes  
20 Gary Frankeberger  
22 Ralph Reinke  
22 Larry Senne  
23 Nyla Waite  
25 George Schwartz  
26 Carl Van Peeren  
27 Elden Bender  
27 Ingrid Oberdieck  
27 Emil Tomazin  
28 Larry Hieb  
29 Darlene Happel  
29 Judy Meyer  
29 Kay Schumann  
30 Orvillena Neal  
30 Beverly Turk



## June Anniversaries

1 Ralph & Jane Colrud  
1 Mike & Sue Krischler  
1 Walter & Jeanette Martin  
1 Ernie & Kathe Schmidt  
2 Dave & Christine Roberts  
5 Lewis & Doris Leibbrandt  
7 Willard & Rochelle Mears  
8 Dick & Ruth Anderson  
8 Rev. Robert & Lucille Holstein  
8 Paul & Phyllis Naumann  
8 Wade & Barb Simpson  
9 Dale & Nola Gehn  
9 Marty & Margaret Irwin  
11 Gary & Lynda Frankeberger  
11 Dick & Joyce Hassan  
13 Larry & Linda Maass  
13 Clay & Nancy Zimmerman  
14 Ralph & Carole Reinke  
15 Ed & Loretta Ebel  
15 James & Gerry Schave  
18 Don & Aleta Rasmussen  
18 Dave & Linda Sawyer  
20 Don & Carol Dupras  
21 Rick & Femmie Gratian  
22 Elden & Bev Bender  
23 Gordon & Karen Gonyo  
24 Bud & Lou Burgess  
24 Roger & Betty Clodt  
25 Don & Judy Johnson  
25 Eugene & Madeline Renico  
26 Paul & Diane Bodjanac  
26 Wes & Eleanor Horen  
28 Rev. Doug & Patsy Bock  
29 George & Sandra Maul  
29 John & Carolyn Sauter

## Joining the Church Triumphant

MaryLou Blackmore  
May 21

Maurene (Mo) Longstreth  
April 23

George Nuss  
April 30

Roger Smith  
April 29

We celebrate the victory won for the faithful dead, but we grieve for our beloved as well, knowing that God honors our tears.

## July Birthdays

1 Larry Brown  
 1 Mary Heimbuch  
 1 Sandra Hoecker  
 1 Tim Jehn  
 1 Bill Nance  
 1 Don Nicolay  
 1 James Shumate  
 1 Beverly Towne  
 5 Al Bronner  
 6 Altha Clay  
 6 Bradford Leavitt  
 6 Marilyn Swanson  
 7 Jeanne Ford  
 7 Dee Harries  
 7 Don Johnson  
 7 Doris Rutledge  
 7 Bob Stachwick  
 8 Audrey Blanke  
 8 Linda Maass  
 8 Frances Spreitzer  
 9 Dean Braatz  
 10 Clarice Groeling  
 10 Linda Howry  
 10 Bob Stoppelmann  
 11 Mark Gosseck  
 11 Bob Mansfield  
 11 Bill Springman  
 12 Marlene Brown  
 13 Barbara Aden  
 13 Ruth Ferg  
 14 John Jolin  
 14 Al McDuffee  
 14 Geraldine Tilbert  
 15 Darrell Kuchta  
 16 Donna Ash  
 16 Kathy Ermeling  
 16 Larry Jessen  
 17 Gisela Brown  
 17 Janice Raridon  
 17 Valerie VanNess  
 17 Cora Weiss  
 18 Judy Johnson  
 18 Debra Jung  
 18 Randy Tilbert  
 18 Rich Weber  
 19 Judy McCall  
 20 Carol Brown  
 22 Gaille Holiday  
 22 Monica Senkbeil  
 23 Rev. Ron Luedemann  
 23 Vi Pope  
 23 Carol Reinke  
 24 Joel Block  
 24 Walter Martin  
 24 Ethel Molitor  
 24 Jerry Sandmann

## July Birthdays *continued*

24 Jerry Sandmann  
 25 Martha Denny  
 25 Sandra Maul  
 25 Rev. Gary Smith  
 27 Marilyn Hansen  
 27 Rochelle Mears  
 28 Gary Meyer  
 28 Arline Orchowksi  
 28 Margaret Schwartz  
 28 Sandy Wentworth  
 29 Rick Gratian  
 31 Gracie Dill

## July Anniversaries

2 Myron & Lillian Holen  
 3 Gordon & Marilyn Kloha  
 3 Al & Joan Thiese  
 4 Bob & Charlotte Stoppelmann  
 8 Jim & Deb Haar  
 8 Emil & Margaret Tomazin  
 9 Clark & Gretchen McCaslin  
 11 Mark & Debbie Gosseck  
 12 Richard & Kathleen Hauck  
 14 Doug & Colleen Doede  
 14 Tom & Kari Johnson  
 14 Randy & Maria Winfrey  
 15 Randy & Geraldine Tilbert  
 19 Mel & Linda Howry  
 19 Gene & Ilene Kuebler  
 20 Karl & Lorry Neuman  
 22 Rollie & Linda Mann  
 23 John & Sue Thomas  
 23 Don & Nada Workman  
 25 Bruce & Myrna Borchert  
 25 Neil & Mary White  
 27 Rev. Vern & Kathy Ermeling  
 27 Jay & Jan Nelson  
 31 Gerald & Mary Fritz  
 31 John & Kathryn Houck  
 31 Woody & Sue Woodworth



## Unusual *Jewels*

*continued from cover*

day. Interesting, for example, that he held off this silly virus until we had electronic means to worship at a distance. He's done this sort of thing before – think of the Dead Sea Scrolls. He did not allow their discovery until the means to understand them began to emerge, so that they were not destroyed or misunderstood. That's a lame comparison to the current distancing, I suppose but – I see God's hand holding at bay the devil's viral handiwork. The devil thinks he won a round by closing churches; God actually won the round by bringing churches into our living rooms. And yet, I do believe He intends for the Sacrament of the Altar to be celebrated in the presence of the worshipping community.

So please – in your faith, and in God's great grace, have patience. We will gather together for communion soon. He promises.

*Pastor Phill*



## Thoughts from Pastor Gary

The effort of government and business to cover up wrongdoing is not new. Just look at what we face today. COVID-19 cover ups. Spy gate cover ups. Sometimes I just want to lay in bed and cover up and pray that God will take this all away.

Ever since the fall, people have tried to cover up sin or to misdirect attention by transferring the blame elsewhere. In the Garden of Eden Adam blamed Eve for his disobedience, and Eve blamed the serpent.

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## Thoughts *continued*

Judas Iscariot covered up not only his thefts from the disciples' treasury, but he also disguised his intent of betrayal by asking in the upper room, "Surely not I Rabbi?" (Matt. 26:25). In the Garden of Gethsemane he tried to conceal his bitter enmity against Jesus by a simple kiss.

The cover-up of sin doesn't work. The writer of Proverbs (28:13) declares, "He who conceals his sins does not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them find mercy." The right way to deal with sin is to repent of it and confess it to God, who make atonement for the sins of the whole world. Oh, what a friend we have in Jesus, for He bears all our sins and griefs! Because He has taken away our sin, we forsake it, leave it behind, and no longer worry about it. Not the cover-up of sin but the open acknowledgement of it in repentance and faith opens us to God's forgiving grace.

The psalmist exclaims, "Blessed is he whose transgressions are forgiven, whose sins are covered" (Ps. 2:1) – indeed not covered up by deceit but fully covered by the forgiveness Jesus has earned. If you are haunted by past sins, confess them and know that God has dealt with them by covering them with the forgiving blood of Jesus Christ.

What sins do you seek forgiveness from? Is it malice against another? Is it something in your past (just like mine) that we hang on to? Jesus went to the cross, he bore each of our sins (past, presence, and future). So why do we hang onto a sin that Jesus has already died and redeemed?

This morning I got down on my knees and thanked Jesus for removing all my sins—ALL MY SINS, so that I can begin a new life in Jesus! It felt so good and renewing. Will you also get on your knees today and confess your sins (past, presence, and even future)? I pray you do in Jesus' name!

## August Birthdays

1 Karen Block  
 1 Jan Nelson  
 1 Karen Swinko  
 1 Marilyn Waldron  
 2 Frank Lohr  
 2 Rev. Ray Mirly  
 2 Herman Moser  
 2 Christine Roberts  
 3 Janice Keitel  
 3 Gayle Wehrli  
 5 Paul Bodjanac  
 5 Adeline Schott  
 6 Gloria Michel  
 6 Charlotte Stoppelmann  
 8 Dianne Parent  
 9 Shirley Jannusch  
 9 Karen Sheppard  
 11 Jean Bor  
 11 Sherie Schultz  
 12 Jane Bowker  
 12 Kim Warwick  
 13 Faye Toepel  
 14 Dick Hassan  
 16 Lana Bublitz  
 17 Evelyn Gaddey  
 19 Larry Bonrud  
 19 Lola Leshney  
 19 Sue Woodworth  
 20 Loren Scheer  
 21 Dave Sawyer  
 21 Doris Van Peeren  
 22 Anne Luedemann  
 24 Arlene Doepke  
 24 Dawn DuRocher  
 25 Gerry Thiel  
 26 Lowell Janssen  
 27 Linda Beck  
 27 Bill Karas  
 27 Margaret Tomazin  
 29 Linda Snyder  
 29 Nancy Zimmerman  
 30 Paul Brown  
 30 Gary Groeling  
 30 Jeanette Hagemann  
 31 Betty Aderhold  
 31 Cheryl Anderson  
 31 Lori Bronner  
 31 Doug Doede  
 31 Tom Leshney  
 31 Marlys Lohr

## August Anniversaries

1 Ken & Becky Stinar  
 3 Richard & Jean Lange  
 3 Paul & Judith Schmidt  
 5 Paul & Carol Brown  
 5 Tom & Diane Mertins  
 6 Bob & Jane Bowker  
 6 David & Faye Toepel  
 9 David & Sandy Wentworth  
 10 Tom & Lynn Johnson  
 10 Gary & LeeAnn Michaelis  
 11 Rev. Gary & B.J. Smith  
 11 Michael & Linda Snyder  
 13 Bud & Gloria Redburn  
 13 Bob & Marilyn Thanepohn  
 14 Ken & Joyce Christensen  
 16 Wayne & Marilyn Luksik  
 16 Donald & Janice Raridon  
 17 Roger & Dawn Ferch  
 18 Jim & Darlene Happel  
 18 Dave & Joann Jones  
 19 David & Marilyn Matz  
 20 Tom & Lola Leshney  
 21 Gary & Virginia Meyer  
 21 Carl & Doris Van Peeren  
 22 Rick & Connie Droescher  
 22 Jerry & Jeanne Ford  
 22 Rob & Monica Senkbeil  
 23 Dean & Donna Braatz  
 23 Bob & Gloria Mansfield  
 25 Gerry & Janna Thiel  
 26 Lane & Betty Landercasper  
 26 Ray & Jan Landskroner  
 26 Dale & Barb Stoltenow  
 27 Joe & Karen Jellison  
 27 Tom & Nancy Lorenzen  
 28 Richard & Linda Clancy  
 28 Gary & Clarice Groeling  
 29 Gordon & Gloria Adams

Be the reason  
 someone smiles  
 today!

Have a GREAT DAY!