

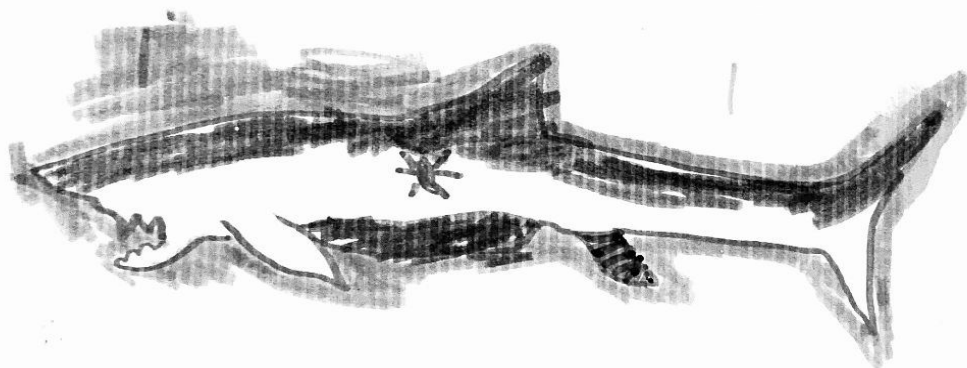
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B - E Friends

Newsletter of the Bethlehem — Eidsvold Parish



Some of us can remember back in 76 when the movie "Jaws" was brand new. It was one of those shows that could make you jump in your seat! When I hear Jaws talked about these days it's mostly about how much money it made, how the shark is kind of fake looking, and how the shooting star was serendipity. These days, for a lot of people, the movie has lost the ability to shock. It's ho hum.

I'm going to make a leap here... The Crucifixion of Jesus, for many, is like the terrifying movie Jaws... it doesn't terrify. Some people think the crucifixion is something made up and never really happened and so they don't care about it. Some think it is impossible because God, by definition, can not die and more than that, can not really suffer. Some think it makes for great paintings and jewelry. A lot of people, more and more it seems, don't really care that much about it. **We care.**

We care because, like the terrifying shark '**Death**', **it attacked and devoured OUR CHAMPION, JESUS.**

We care because **the crucifixion shows us what people can become**; how blame can turn callus and violent... like a shark.

We care because the innocent one, executed and buried, **CAME ROARING BACK WITH LOVE!**

I started this article in a light hearted way but as I wrote, the 70's Jaws shark reminded me there are sharks circling today. I will eat American hotdogs this month as I always have, I may even blow off some fireworks (Chinese?). But this year, in scary times, I want to depend more on The Love of Christ than any other would be champions. I want to pray more to be like Jesus. I want to trust Jesus more. I want to love everyone, Lord Help me!

For 2,000 years Christ has provided faith, hope and love for people who lived in scary times: people living under Kings, under other forms of concentrated power, and for people living in Democracies. **I am encouraged by that!!** This 4th of July I don't know where we as a country are headed or what shape we will be in in a few more July 4ths. Scary times. But I know where to find the faith, hope, and love required in these "interesting times"!

Celebrate! (Safely ☺) and Serve!

Pastor Mike

* "Shark" by my 6 year old Grandson, 2019



Birthdays

May you have a blessed
July birthday and a great year !
and a great year!

1 – Mary Whipple	20 – Jim Anderson
2 - Rita Anderson	21 – Casey O’Reilly
13 – Greg Anderson	22 – Odin Gilbertson
15 - Cheyenne Yotter	25 – Soren Gilbertson
16 - Cayden O’Reilly	29 – Ronny Johnson
17 – Loni Johnson	31 – Mike Whipple
18 – Riley Lacroix	31 - Levi Franklin
18 – Chloe Kaeder	31 - Blake Girdeen
18 – Kari Kuesel	

If your birthday doesn’t appear on our
monthly birthday calendars, please let
Phyllis know so she can add it.

Women of the Parish Bible Study

We will meet Wednesday, July 21 at 1:30 p.m. at
Bethlehem. Our theme is “Just Truth” as we look at
Paul’s life changing transformation and Jesus’
teachings on truth. Come– share in the discussion!

WORSHIP IN THE BUILDING

- Families and those that are fully vaccinated can sit together and do not need to wear a mask.**
Those who are **NOT** vaccinated should wear a mask and also social distance from others. Those eligible but not yet vaccinated, are encouraged to get vaccinated to protect yourself, your family, your church community, and the community at large. Having the vaccine adds another layer of protection for everyone.
- At July worship in our buildings, we will receive our offerings in a basket during worship. At Eidsvold, those who sign up for inside registration will also be the ushers for offering.
- Public Health says we can sing at outdoor worship so we will sing at Worship in the Park on July 11th.
- If the congregation is 70% vaccinated we can sing indoors. I don’t know what our vaccinated percentage might be but I’m sure it’s less than 70%. But occasionally we will sing one hymn in the building.
PLEASE do NOT sing with full gusto—let’s take this slow and easy as we don’t want to be known as the congregation that sang hymns in the building and spread the virus.
- We will continue to use the sign-in sheets throughout the summer, perhaps longer. If there is a covid situation, we will know who was at worship and will be able to contact you.

CARING FOR OUR FAITH COMMUNITY

Giving of our time and talents is one
way of serving our faith community.

Thank you to the following individuals who will
be serving this faith community during July.

Bethlehem

Altar Guild: Ann Whipple

Church cleaning: Ann Whipple, Lora Drenth

Eidsvold

*A sign up sheet for July and August weekly
assignments of cleaning, inside registration,
including ushering and parking lot registration
will be passed around at worship on June 27th
and at July worship services. Please offer your
assistance for worship.*

JULY READERS:

Bethlehem

July 4 - NO WORSHIP

July 11 - Joint Worship at Park in Esdaile

July 18 – Leah Johnson

July 25 – Phyllis Beaström

Eidsvold

July 4 – NO WORSHIP

July 11 - Carol/Angie Peterson at Esdaile Park

July 18 – Justin Mandelkow

July 25 – Judy Lacroix



July Worship Schedule

July 4 – **NO WORSHIP**—Pastor will post a video on our You Tube channel—use this link from your internet: “the B-E Church Channel”

Joint Services in Esdaile Park:

July 11 – Joint service 9:00 a.m. **Esdaile Park**

Followed by ice cream treat

August 1 - Joint service 9:00 a.m. **Esdaile Park**

Worship for July 18th and July 25th will be held in both buildings. Times below:

Eidsvold Worship

9:00 a.m. In the building and 93.1 FM transmission to the parking lot

Bethlehem Worship

10:30 a.m. In the building. Bethlehem will **NOT** have FM transmission to the parking lot.

Council will discuss August Worship at their next council meeting.

JOINT COUNCIL MEETING June 23, 2021

- Parsonage committee recommended purchasing furnace and air conditioning from Walter's/Eaton's at proposed cost of \$6,120. Council approved. The payment will be taken from the parsonage account.
- Discussed storm damage at parsonage and reviewed insurance coverage
- Discussed option of selling the parsonage—will get more information for next meeting
- Determined July worship schedule

Join us for

Joint Worship in

Esdaile Park

Sunday, July 11th &

Sunday, August 1st

at 9:00 a.m

Bring your lawn chair

If you know of someone interested in joining us, please invite them!

If rain or weather concerns worship will be at Eidsvold church.



Thank you Kathy Sears, Dodee Bloomstrand, and Samantha Sears for the beautiful table setting and delicious confirmation banquet.



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Anne Girdeen is updating our **Parish Facebook and creating a Website with worship times, pictures, news.** If you have anything to submit, please text Anne at 715-307-0359 or e-mail her at amgirdeen08@gmail.com. When website link is live, I'll let you know. Link for Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem.Eidsvold/>