

WABASH CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN



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August
2020

Wedding Bells

Mikayla and Nathan are getting married!

They have set a wedding date for Saturday, August 1, 2020 at 11am. There is an invitation on the bulletin board in the mailroom hallway. There will be a carry-in meal after the service, and all are welcome to both. In lieu of gifts, donations for honeymoon in TN are requested. If you are planning to attend, please RSVP to 260-578-4911 or genovesemj@gmail.com
Masks will be required per church re-opening policy.

We welcome all who are on the journey to know Jesus, who share in his love and who choose to embrace the diversity within this community of believers. As individuals we may be at different places along the path, but as a community, we are all traveling together in faith, trusting God to show us the way.

Many Thanks

From Karen and Johnny

Dear church family, Johnnie and I want to thank all of you for holding us in your prayers and thoughts in the passing of my mother. We so appreciate all of you!! There is much to do yet and I continue to spend most of the week in Bremen so that we can hopefully place her home on the market before winter. We also have a car to sell and furniture, etc. So we covet your ongoing prayers.



Wabash City Schools delivering lunches

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- And more!



Relational Evangelism

Pastor Doug Veal

For many of us, the idea of evangelism is one that is difficult, and generally speaking not one of our favorite topics in the Church of the Brethren. Now, I know that for different reasons that many of us are uncomfortable with the idea of evangelism. Too often, when we think of evangelism, we have a very

narrow understanding of it. I know that, in general, the first thing that usually pops into my mind is that of a street preacher standing on a corner calling folks to repent, or of people going door to door to talk with strangers about Jesus. On occasion, it's clear that such methods can be successful, but it seems to me that there must be a better way. After all, most Christians aren't going to engage in those kinds of evangelism.

So how might we approach evangelism in a different way? In a way that everyone can do? That's where this idea of relational evangelism comes in. At its core, this concept says that evangelism, sharing the message of our faith, occurs most effectively in relationships. When we already know and have developed a relationship with someone, it's more likely that they will be willing to listen to our story of faith. We must be in relationships with people outside of the church, getting to know them and to understand their own views of faith. But, we also must be willing to evangelize, or, in other words, to share the story of our faith with them. It is, in some ways, more work, but it is less threatening and something that everyone can do. For make no mistake, sharing the story of how Jesus has impacted our lives is the responsibility of every one of us.

Now, when we are forming relationships with new people, we can't simply view it as a way to get them to come to our church. We need to be willing to ask them to come at an appropriate time, and to tell them our stories of faith, but we must not simply be in relationship with someone to try to recruit them to the Christian faith. If, when you have an opportunity to share your own story of faith in Christ, and the person does not come to faith, it is imperative to continue in the relationship. Another opportunity may come, and if you are in relationship with just the purpose of finding one opportunity to share your faith, it will ring false.

In one sense, with all of the restrictions that are going on now in our community and in our world, it might strike a bit strangely for me to be talking about making new relationships, or working on building those we already have, to find ways to share about our own spiritual journeys. But in another sense, it seems to me that we have a wonderful opportunity to make these kind of connections right now, especially since many people have adopted a slower pace of life. And we don't have to do this in-person, but we can use many of the same technological tools that have come to the forefront allowing people to connect remotely. And indeed, sometimes something as simple as taking the time to call and chat with our friends and our neighbors offers opportunities for us to build relationship, and to talk about how our faith is helping us get through this difficult time in our lives. So perhaps there is an opportunity waiting for us right now to engage in this kind of evangelism. Be creative, and reach out, sharing the message of God's love to all.

Con't next page...

Hear Ye, Hear Ye!

Now, more than ever, we need stories of what is going on in our lives as we do our best to self-isolate and stay at home.

Have questions? See Michelle in the office, or send her a quick email.



Worship Schedule—August

	Pulpit	Worship Leader	Song Leader	Greeter	Head Usher	Children's Church	Musician
2	Pastor Doug: Doing Justice Micah 6:1-8		No singing			No CC	
9	Pastor Doug: Sighs too deep for words Romans: 8:26-39		Until further			Until further	
16	Pastor Doug: Feeding the five thousand Matthew 14:1-21		Notice			Notice	
23	Pastor Doug: Who do you say that Jesus is? Matthew 26:13-20						
30	TBA						

On a more personal note, I would like to extend a thank you to the congregation for the thoughts, prayers, and cards that Tasha and I have received over the last several weeks as I went through my surgery and initial recovery. We are very grateful to be part of such a loving community as we have walked through this time.

In Christ, *Pastor Doug*

Camp Mack Corner

Camper Connection

We Need YOU!

As we have shared in this newsletter, there are lots of things happening at Camp Mack this summer. The Camp Board and the staff will make certain this time is used to improve our programs, facilities, and outreach, so the mission of Camp can be spread further in our communities. The struggle, however, is that we have limited staff and even more limited funds.

Our facility work requires additional help throughout the summer. We need landscapers, outdoor cleanup, painters, carpenters, housekeeping, and general labor. Several new programs are being considered for the future, and we need help in planning. We will need office help periodically. Please watch your email and Facebook for opportunities to help. We would love to have you join us.

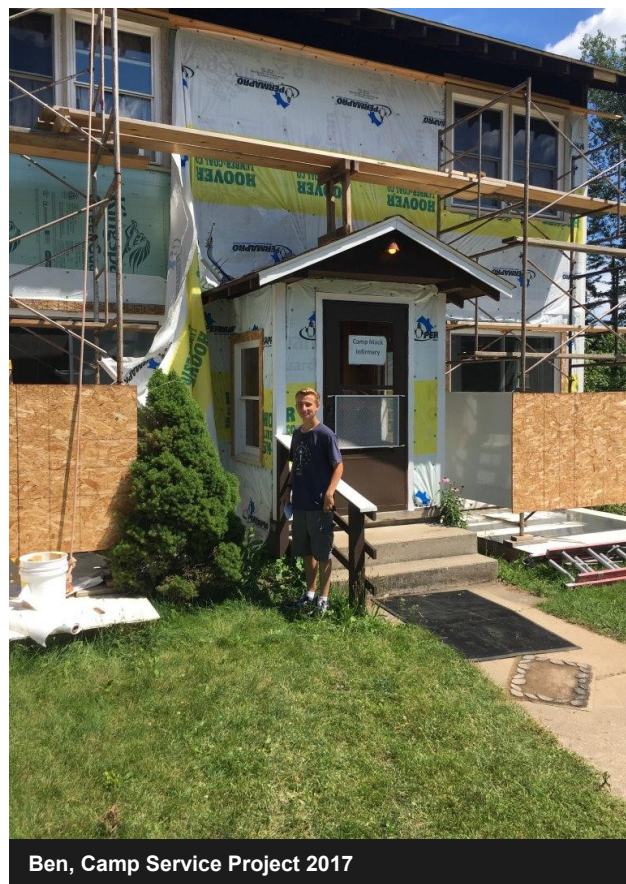
What is critical for us is that we lost all our spring rental income, amounting to about \$250,000. We also will not be able to have our usual summer income. A new budget has been developed by the staff and reviewed by the Indiana Camp Board Finance Committee, and it helps make up



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Website: www.campmack.org

the deficit, but it will still fall short. We have been blessed with one of the PPP loans to help us keep our staff through this

critical initial period. We recently had the planned harvest of a timber stand,



Ben, Camp Service Project 2017

Community Support

Church Food Pantry

Our local pantry is looking to supplement what we get from Milford each month. Additional items needed are:

Mac and Cheese boxes
Hamburger

Baked beans

Hamburger /Tuna/

Chicken Helper

Peanut butter

Canned meat (tuna, chicken, etc.)

Jelly

Pasta

Saltines

Bread

Soups

Canned fruits and veggies

Saltines

Cleaning Supplies

TP/Tissue

Personal Hygiene items



Zak at Camp, 2016

and the proceeds are also helping with lost income. Almost all our churches and many of our families donated part or all their summer camp fees easing our refund obligations. If our community (churches and individuals) continue to donate as usual, we will be able to make up a good portion of our lost income, but not all.

At this point, we believe we will have around \$86,000.00 to recover. There will be several opportunities this summer for all who are able to participate in giving events, beginning with our Day of Giving on June 7th. You can also use the services we will be offering, including cabin rentals, meals from the kitchen, and an online Gift Shoppe. You can register for our traditional fundraising events including the golf outing, 5K, and Camp Mack Festival. Even if we are not able to physically offer them, we will provide fun and engaging alternatives. In the end, we count on you as we always have. We are doing everything possible to make sure we will emerge from this year ready and able to continue our ministry. But our success is dependent on you—because you are who we are.

Mackabilia Volume 7, Issue 6

GOSPEL—Trail Thoughts

Greetings in the strong name of Jesus Christ!

It's no secret; the Church is often conflicted and polarized. But why? In part, it's because we differ in our understanding of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

For some, the Gospel is primarily Good News concerning life after death; for others, it is primarily Good News concerning life after birth. The Gospel, however, is both, as Jesus prays: "Thy Kingdom come [O God] on *earth* as it is in *heaven*" (Matthew 6:10 RSV; emphasis added).

The Gospel's archenemy is sin, for sin sabotages the prospect of life—either life after death or birth. Thus, adjacent to Jesus' call to Kingdom life today/tomorrow is a summons to address ungodly thought/action—sin. Forgive us our debts and trespasses (Matthew 6:12). We need to reckon with sin, acknowledging its severity, for any thought/behavior rebellious to God (e.g., sin) is deadly, poisoning every system of life. John Piper itemizes the atrocity. Sin is: "The glory of God not honored. The holiness of God not revered. The greatness of God not admired. The power of God not praised. The truth of God not sought. The wisdom of God not esteemed. The beauty of God not treasured. The goodness of God not savored. The faithfulness of God not trusted. The promises of God not believed. The commandments of God not obeyed. The justice of God not respected. The wrath of God not feared. The grace of God not cherished. The presence of God not prized. The person of God not loved." ¹

But here's the rub: sin is not only individual but systemic, not only personal but societal. Thus, as we "preach the Gospel," the Gospel is not only Good News for sinners, but those "sinned against," ² specifically, those sinned against by principalities and powers foreign to God. Systemic expressions of inequity such as racism loom large, blighting individuals and networks, sinning against vast numbers of persons and, in turn, the holiness, greatness, power, truth, wisdom, beauty, goodness, faithfulness, promises, commandments, justice, and person of God.

For some, connecting the Gospel to systemic sin is problematic, equal to affirming the social gospel movement of the early 20th century. That brings concern, for, as Elise Daniel points out, the social gospel movement inferred that "... God's Kingdom is built by us." But as Daniel goes on to note: "It's not. Every part of the Kingdom, from its establishment to its construction and eventual consummation, is carried out by Christ. [Yes, Christ uses] us...in this endeavor...[but] we aren't building the Kingdom. God is building it and using us." ³ It's a subtle distinction.

Central to the Gospel's advancement, then, is costly participation *in Christ*. Imperative to such bonding is dying to anything that captivates us other than the Savior. Paul portrays such surrender graphically: "I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20 NIV). Michael Gorman clarifies Paul's intent: as we're crucified with Christ, we meld with Christ, receiving "...God's gracious act of [deliverance] from the power of Sin and [restoration] to right covenant relationship with himself, the righteous/just God, through the Messiah's faithful, loving death and resurrection, giving [us] new life..." ⁴

As Gorman infers, restoration of relationship is central to the Gospel. Restoration to God is paramount, but biblically, restoration is also to occur with self, significant others, and all of Creation. For the goal of the Gospel, as made vivid in Revelation, is the restoration of *all* of life—New Creation. "I saw Heaven and earth new-created...Look! I'm making everything new" (Revelation 21:1,5 MSG). "Then the Angel showed me Water-of-Life River, crystal bright. It flowed from the Throne of God and the Lamb...The Tree of Life was planted on each side of the River...The leaves of the Tree are for healing the nations. Never again will anything be cursed...His servants will offer God service—worshiping...their foreheads mirroring God. Never again will there be any night...The shining of God...is all the light anyone needs. And they will rule with him age after age after age" (Revelation 22:1-5 MSG).

It is God's vision of everything new—the healing of self, relationships, church, nations, creation, flowing from God and the Lamb (Jesus)—that we're to anticipate, contribute to, and preach. Such a synergy of

District Prayer List

August 2—Please pray with us for the Manchester CoB and the Atlantic Northeastern District congregations and staff.

August 13—Please pray with us for the Marion CoB and the Atlantic Southeastern District congregations and staff.

August 20—Please pray with us for the Mexico CoB and the Idaho District congregations and staff.

August 27—Please pray with us for the Northview CoB and the Illinois and Wisconsin District congregations and staff.

health is the Gospel of Jesus, in all its fulness, destined to transform all of life.

In *The Brothers Karamazov*, Alyosha notes the attraction of persons to an elder in the monastery Alyosha is frequenting. Alyosha did not "...wonder why they loved him so, why they fell down before him and wept with emotion merely at seeing his face. Oh! he understood that for the humble soul of the Russian peasant worn out by grief and toil, and still more by the everlasting injustice and everlasting sin, his own and the world's, it was the greatest need and comfort to find some one or something holy to fall down before and worship. 'Among us [Alyosha reflects] there is sin, injustice, and temptation, but yet, somewhere on earth, there is someone holy and exalted. He has the truth; he knows the truth; so it is not dead upon the earth; so it will come one day to us, too, and rule over all the earth according to the promise...' [And so, Alyosha concludes, the elder] 'carries in his heart the secret of renewal for all: that power which will, at last, establish truth on the earth, and all men will be holy and love one another, and there will be no more rich nor poor, no exalted nor humbled, but all will be as the children of God, the true Kingdom of Christ will come.' That was the dream in Alyosha's heart"⁵ as well.

I pray that dream is in our heart also. For Alyosha's dream is the Savior's dream, the very heart of Jesus—and in turn, the heart of the Gospel—that we're to proclaim, boldly, in Jesus' holy name!

With expectation,

Paul Munday, Moderator, Church of the Brethren

Discussion Starters / Questions

1. Moderator Paul affirms the Gospel is Good News for both life after death and life after birth. Give examples of how that is true, citing Scripture passages to document your conviction.
2. Reflect on John Piper's listing of the results of sin. Discuss how you've seen sin poison life both personally and socially; connect your thoughts to Piper's itemization of how sin is a grievous violation of God.
3. Reflect on ways we can avoid the mistake(s) of the social gospel movement in our quest to preach the whole Gospel of Jesus.
4. Describe your experience of being crucified with Christ. Talk about the difficulty of sacrificing/surrendering cherished but unrighteous parts of life in your quest to participate more fully with Jesus.

In the end, as Revelation points out, God does not create a new world but *recreates* our current world. How does such an emphasis on "New Creation/all things new" bring hope amid our current sense of crisis and disorder?



To Dig Deeper

Michael Gorman. *Participating in Christ: Explorations in Paul's Theology and Spirituality*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019.

Brenda B. Colijn. *Images of Salvation in the New Testament*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity Press, 2010.

Brian Hurst and Jeff Maguire. "Whiteboard Whole Church Whole Gospel Whole World." https://youtu.be/Z_4u8TRorUw

Christopher J.H. Wright. "Whole Gospel, Whole Church, Whole World." <https://www.lausanne.org/content/whole-gospel-whole-church-whole-world>

¹ <https://www.desiringgod.org/messages/what-is-sin-the-essence-and-root-of-all-sinning>

² This pithy phrase was first coined by Raymond Fung, former staff for evangelism for the World Council of Churches.

³ <https://tifwe.org/three-fallacies-of-the-social-gospel/>

⁴ Michael Gorman. *Participating in Christ*. Grand Rapids: Baker, 2019. p. 148.

⁵ Fyodor Dostoyevsky. *The Brothers Karamazov*. New York: Random House, 1984. p. 30.

Making it Personal

One mom's experience with racism

As the past and present racism of our country is brought to our awareness, I, Carol Horn, thought I would make it a little more personal by sharing part of a post from a friend. Let me give some background. My (four-year) MC/MU roommate and her husband entered BVS for two years after college, then had two biological girls, and later adopted two black boys. Fast forward to their daughter Deborah, the writer of this post, who then adopted three black children. She and her family have many experiences to share about their racially diverse families, but I will share only one in which her Jr. High son was jogging in their neighborhood, stopped for no reason, threatened, and thoroughly frightened. Deb is an attorney and VP of a large national company and they live in a suburb of Chicago. We might think it is a safe place, but it is not for black people. So, there is a lot of fear and hurt expressed in the (partial) post that follows.

"...There is another crisis in our country that has been ongoing for centuries, not just three months, and your silence is deafening. Racism. I believe that now is the time to grieve with those who grieve. And lament. And feel the deep sadness associated with what is happening. Equally, I believe that it is past time for the...church to rise up and fight for our black and brown neighbors. ...We are more concerned about riots than the systematic oppression that drives those riots. ...We have to speak up and speak out. We can ill afford to be silent anymore."



Women's Fellowship

Knowing that we all miss seeing each other, are there alternate ways that we can sit with each other? If you have ideas, please contact Michelle in the office.

Stewards Commission

Video Assistant Needed

Looking at a new and exciting way you can help the church? We are in need of a volunteer (or two or three) to help run the video streaming. A very positive outcome to sheltering in place is that we've been able to improve our ability to include family members who aren't normally able to worship with us, as well as reach beyond our community.

If you are interested, or know someone who would be, please contact Pastor Doug at pastordoug@wabashcob.org or Michelle at office@wabashcob.org.

Upper Room

July—August Edition

July-August Upper Room is available in the sanctuary. If you would like a copy mailed to you, please contact the office and please specify regular or large print. If you would like to pick one up the next time you are here, they are on the back table in the sanctuary.

Stewardship

July 5

General Offerings—\$720

Special Offerings—\$1153.50

July 12

General Offerings—\$1490

Special Offerings—\$3120

July 19

General Offerings—\$150

Special Offerings—\$850

July 26

General Offerings—\$740

Special Offerings—\$314.50

Special Offerings

August

This month, our giving goes to Deacon's Helping Hands. We use this funds to help members of our own church family, when they are going through rough patches. This can include anything from housing, to medical, to food.

Discussions

Zoom Opportunities hosted by Mark Cripe

Inspired by the Lafayette Church of the Brethren's participation in a coordinated effort among churches in our community to promote racial justice and healing, Mark Cripe and I will begin hosting via Zoom a study of Jemar Tisby's book and video series, *The Color of Compromise*, which aims to tell "the truth about the American Church's complicity with racism." The goal of Tisby's work, and of our study, is to promote Gospel-inspired racial justice in our community and beyond.

The study will take place weekly on Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm, beginning on August 6th. We anticipate that each session, devoted to a different chapter of the book, will take about an hour to an hour-and-a-half. We will begin by screen-sharing the appropriate episode of the video documentary and then proceed to discussion questions.

We would deeply appreciate and benefit from participation in this study from across our district. Please contact Mark Cripe at mark_cripe@yahoo.com or 765-652-2127 and he will provide the Zoom link.



Pastor Doug shares some hiking beauty

Brethren Leadership Institute

Practice of Ministry Day Opportunity

Instead of an in-person Practice of Ministry day session this year, the BLI Task Team has opted to encourage BLI students to participate in a webcast class being offered by the Brethren Academy, which will count as 1 Practice of Ministry Day session. Information about this class can be found below:

"The Brethren Academy is offering a training session with the new ethics material, Ethics for Set-Apart Ministry: Basic Course, created by James Benedict. This webcast training is for newly licensed ministers and others seeking basic clergy ethics training. The Zoom webcast will be held September 12, 2020 from 10:00-4:00 EST with a break for lunch.

The registration deadline to participate is August 31. This is the date the Brethren Academy office needs to receive the registration form and payment. This allows time to mail the workbooks to participants."

Contact the District Office (scindcob@gmail.com or 260-982-8805) for a registration form.



Brethren Disaster Ministries



Slowly Returning

It has been a long dry spell since BDM has been active at project rebuilding sites. Covid-19 has changed our disaster response patterns.

New protocols are now in place. You will find details in the attachments I have included with this email.

There are four items for you to note. 1) There is a short term project in Nebraska responding to the flooding that happened there last summer. 2) BDM is asking for help with providing face masks for volunteers. 3) A new project is beginning in Dayton, OH, rebuilding after the tornadoes of Memorial Day, one year ago. 4) Children's Disaster Services is requesting help assembling Kits of Comfort.

More details: CDS has been sending Kits of Comfort to children impacted by disasters when it has been impossible to send volunteers to be with children facing the trauma after hurricanes, airplane crashes, or other disasters. The last pdf attachment has the information needed to assemble and send those kits.

The Dayton project needs volunteers the two weeks of August 23-29 and August 30- September 5. S/C Indiana District is to also supply volunteers November 29 - December 5 in conjunction with IL/WI District. Volunteer numbers may be smaller than usual because of distancing protocols. No volunteers will be accepted at the project without agreeing to the much more stringent protocols set in place to protect home owners, hosting congregations and other volunteers.

The third attachment is the request and patterns for sewing masks that volunteers will be using as they work and live at the rebuilding sites. BDM needs many masks!

In Nebraska volunteers will need to cover costs of travel with assistance from our district BDM travel fund. The time is August 16-29 or parts thereof. Please contact Kim Gingerich, bdmnorthcarolina@gmail.com or 717-586-1874, before making plans to go.

So, many things are happening. BDM needs people for rebuilding and meal preparation. BDM and CDS need folks to make masks and assemble kits. Where would you like to plug into these ministries of our church? Please respond to the email or call me at 260-982-2971. Blessings of peace to you! Cliff Kindy

Your Course, Your
Camp: Camp Mack
Golf Outing

August 1–31, 2020

Golf at your home
course and benefit
Camp Mack. Participants will receive a thank you package with golfing goodies.

\$50 per person

**Registrations
coming soon**



Individual Kit of Comfort (IKOC)

You can help by building the needed kits!

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, CDS volunteers are not able to deploy and respond to the needs of children after a tornado, flood, hurricane, fire or other disaster damages their homes and disrupts the lives of their family. In response, the Individual Kit of Comfort was created to promote

a sense of normalcy – an opportunity for the healing power of play. While CDS teams are not able to deploy to disaster sites, the IKOC will be handed out to children where they shelter after the disaster by Red Cross staff from the local area.

Appeal – Our goal is to build 2,500 newly designed Individual Kit of Comfort (IKOC).

Packs are designed to be given to children between the ages of 4-10.

Collection Plan - Beginning immediately through September 30, 2020, CDS will be collecting IKOC packs to be distributed to children affected by disasters.

Contents of each IKOC

The contents of the kit are designed to have multiple uses and come with an activity guide for creative ideas to use the contents, along with resources for parents helping their children begin the healing process.

Please note: Each kit needs to meet these specifications so that children can all receive an equal play kit.

Please do not add or substitute items. (see visual list for examples)

Mesh A4 Pencil Pouch – holds the materials in each pack – the items requested all fit nicely inside the A4 pouches, measuring 13.5 x 9.5 inches

- 1 dough (2 oz.)
- 1 clay cutter
- 2 rulers (12-inch)
- 1 mini-deck of cards
- 1 small beach ball (5-inch)
- 12 paper plates (6-inch plain white)
- 2 animal finger puppets
- 2 simple small wooden cars
- 2 small bean bags (3.5 inch)
- 3 rolls of washi colored tape (1/2 inch (10 mm) wide)
- 1 child-sized jump rope
- 1 watercolor paint set (8 colors with brush)
- 1 small 3x5 notebook
- 1 colored gel ink pen
- 2 washable markers
- 1 stuffed plush dog (not larger than 4 inch)
- Activity/Trauma idea guide (supplied by CDS)

Funds – The more packs we can produce in the next few months, the more children we can provide packs for – this may take a bit of creativity in funding and working together!

Larger quantities ordered of supplies will provide more cost savings

Church groups, Sunday school groups, families are encouraged to participate

CDS has some grant funds set aside for the IKOC project

Matching funds initiative in place with current funds available as needed

With the current material list, the price per pack is approximately \$17



Advisory Board Meeting

Advisory Board meeting has been cancelled since April. We will be looking to reconvene when the Stay at Home order has been lifted. In the mean time, we have been communicating via email to see how we can best serve.

Packing –

Follow social distancing guidelines currently in effect for your geographic area.

Safety is a priority for all!

It works best to do quantities of 12 in ordering online, some bulk items are cheaper in larger quantities (100). The Mesh Pouch on Amazon comes in quantities of 24.

Recommend one person do the purchasing and tracking for group

We have additional supporting documents to help with group packing, order tracking, and engagement of congregation if interested.

Shipping Completed Packs

Save some of the boxes you receive materials in for repackaging completed packs

Once packs are completed and ready for shipment – contact Lisa @ CDS for information on shipping. lcrouch@brethren.org

Monetary Donations

Gifts to the Emergency Disaster Fund are an important way to support CDS disaster efforts and can be specified to sponsor IKOC's.

Donate online at <https://churchofthebrethren.givingfuel.com/cds> with IKOC in comments

Or mail check to Emergency Disaster Fund, 1451 Dundee Avenue, Elgin, IL 60120 with a note indicating IKOC-CDS

For More Information: cds@brethren.org or call 410-6335-8734.

Reading through the Bible in a year: Daily readings for July

1 2 Kings 21-25	9 Psalms 93-95	17 Proverbs 17-18	25 Hosea 1-7
2 Psalms 90-92	10 Proverbs 16	18 Daniel 7-12	26 John 7-9
3 Proverbs 14-15	11 Daniel 1-6	19 John 5-6	27 2 Timothy 1-2
4 Ezekiel 43-48	12 John 3-4	20 1 Timothy 4-6	28 Numbers 9-12
5 John 1-2	13 1 Timothy 1-3	21 Numbers 5-8	29 1 Chronicles 15-19
6 2 Thessalonians	14 Numbers 1-4	22 1 Chronicles 10-14	30 Psalms 102-104
7 Leviticus 25-27	15 1 Chronicles 5-9	23 Psalms 99-100	31 Proverbs 20-21
8 1 Chronicles 1-4	16 Psalms 96-98	24 Proverbs 19	

Letters from our District Executive

Beth Sollenberger

Greetings,

It's a gray, rainy day as I write this. One of the flowers on our deck has bloomed profusely in the hot sunny days of summer. This morning all the blooms are tightly closed against the damp dreariness. It made me consider the temptation to close up, hunker down and hibernate when life gets difficult.

Yesterday, while listening to yet another Zoom "opportunity," one participant went on a bit of a rant because churches aren't proclaiming clearly that God is in control and it is time to get back to normal.

My conviction is that the church is called to live somewhere between those two perspectives. We can't hide our heads until pandemics and protests and rainy days go away. Nor can we continue as we've always been because the current reality is different than we have ever known.

My prayers are with you as you navigate what it means to be the church, provide care for each other, offer Good News to your neighborhood and the wider world in these days and in new ways.

Blessings,

Beth

New Courses from Bethany Seminary

Theology and Ministry in Response to Crisis

August Intensive – Dr. Russell Haitch

"This course will consider the opportunities for ministry presented by crises of various kinds – personal, churchwide, national or even global. Students will learn different approaches to talking, listening, and praying with those who are experiencing crises or are recalling past trauma. As a resource for discussion, students will be encouraged to reflect on their own experiences of crises, including the coronavirus pandemic."

The Shape of Ministry in a High-Tech World

Fall Semester 2020, Dr. Dan Poole

"This course will explore how ministry can remain grounded in the core principles of pastoral care and discipleship in the digital age. Students will ponder healthy use of electronic platforms and social media in church communities, the role of technology in ministry, and how to maintain healthy Sabbath practices in a 24/7 connected world? The class participants will examine the responsible engagement of these digital tools in the work of serving God's people as ministers of the Gospel."



Bethany Alumni can audit a course for free and those within five years of graduation can audit two courses at no cost. If interested, contact Lori Current at currelo@bethanyseminary.edu or 765-983-1832.