

Bethlehem Star

"Connecting People to Jesus"

July 2020

Dear Members and Friends

Our Transition Team has been going over the Governor's guidelines for congregations when we reach Phase 2. They have developed guidelines more specific to our situation here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. They are printed below. We are putting these out early, because we do not know when we will reach Phase 2 in order to begin in-person worship services again. Please read them over and if you have further comments or concerns please let Doris Roth know.

Thank you

Pastor Griesse

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Yakima Covid-19 Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines

In accordance with the direction of Gov. Jay Inslee the following guidelines for the phase two reopening of worship services at Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Yakima is hereby established.

1. A worship service will be limited to 50 attendees.
2. Attendees will be required to sign up in advance by phone or email to the church office to attend services. Once 50 have signed up (including ushers), that will be the limit for that specific service.
3. The handicap door (off the parking lot) will be the only entry and exit point (except in emergency cases).
4. Ushers will seat attendees by individual family groups as they arrive. The sanctuary will be marked to ensure that social distancing is followed. There will be areas for families, couples and singles. It is suggested attendees arrive earlier than normal to accommodate the seating process. The entry door will be locked when 50 people have arrived or when the service is scheduled to start (whichever is earlier). Late arrivers will not be allowed to enter.
5. Ushers will make sure attendees are made aware of all procedures.
6. Worship bulletins will be available on a table in the entry way. Bulletins must be taken home with attendees or placed in a receptacle at the exit
7. There will be an offering plate available in the entry way. Attendees shall place their offerings in the plate when coming or going.
8. Communion will be offered at the end of the service as attendees leave. There will be individual cups for both the bread and the wine. A receptacle will be available at the exit for depositing empty cups.
9. Face masks will be required to be worn upon entry and throughout the entire service and exit. Face masks will be available for those that do not have them.

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BLC Covid-19 Phase 2 Reopening Guidelines continued....

10. Hand Sanitizer will be available throughout the church building.
11. There will be NO fellowship downstairs. It is encouraged to visit at a social distance in the parking lot.
12. Prayer cards will be available at the entry and must be given to an usher or the pastor before the service begins.
13. Church announcements will be made at the beginning of the service.
14. Bibles, hymnals and prayer cards will be removed from the pews to prevent contamination.
15. All ushers shall be trained in all procedures in advance of reopening.
16. Singing will be allowed, but attendees are asked to not "project" their voices.
17. A copy of these guidelines will be provided for all church members.



FOOD BANK

Thank you

for continuing your contributions!

You have donated \$4,775.00.

Love INC PANTRY

All donations to our pantry help our TEAM participants, as well as provide cleaning and hygiene products to those in need.

Pantry Items needed.

- Pancake Mix
- Canned White/Navy Beans
- Canned Peas
- Canned Carrots
- White Vinegar
- Dish Soap
- Glass/Window Cleaner
- Shampoo & Conditioner

**If you have any items to donate, please call
Gail Jacobson or the church office**

The Reason For Your Existence

(Dedicated to all the Fathers and Father-figures)

Thank you for your poetry,
that you write by leading your life.
It is full of vision,
and will be there with each strife.

You give us meaning and purpose,
when things go down the hill.
The scary things we can't always count on,
with fear we must face by will.

I am happy to call you my father,
because you give us so much more.
You give us more to be thankful for,
each day more than before.

I've often wondered why I can't read,
all the poetry in between the lines.
It's because fathers like you were here on Earth
made to be only mine.

By--
Alisha Barik

Lord's Ten Commandments and our Ten Fingers

By- Archana Mala Barik USA

"Honor your father and your mother, so that you may live long in the land the Lord your God is giving you." – Exodus 20: 12

(Read--Exodus 20:1-17)

Lord, when made human beings, made ten fingers in our two hands. Both the hands are complementary to each other in all respect and need each other to do a job in the best way. In other words—a task gets done when both hands work using all ten fingers. If, just one finger is injured or has some problem in it, it is hard to do a job. Ten fingers are symbolic of completion and fullness. Similarly, why were just ten commandments given? First of all, commandments are caution/ warning/ guidelines to proceed to live a fair life. These 'ten' commandments are complete in covering all guidelines to lead a life that is what God wants us to live. The reason is each of the commandments is complete in itself. For example, the commandment: 'Honor your father and your mother...' implies that honor your father and mother by loving, helping, praying, and caring for your brothers and sisters as well. Serving elderly parents by providing them comforting words, presence and helping your siblings whom you grew up with so much love and affection all the time—this is about this commandment.

Recently, one of my friends, who is a grandmother shared to pray that her granddaughter was visiting overseas during the Covid-19. In the grandmother's words, this young granddaughter didn't care for the rest of the family...and did what she wished to do...This is the love of a grandmom. On the other hand, the grand daughter was self bound with the desire of her heart. Staying on the same page all the time, especially in the time of trouble and uplifting each other through comforting words is about this commandment. Importantly, for all human beings, Jesus is our father and mother; we need to honor Him.

Keep your all ten hands in front of you, and put each commandment on each of your finger—you will certainly see those Lord given guidelines. You may not want to cross over that boundary of your ten fingers that has written ten commandments on it.

Once you are saved, remember the warning Jesus gave to the woman who was about to be stoned, "Go, and sin no more!"

Lord has given us ten commandments and ten fingers. Let us protect ourselves within the commandments, and evil foe will never dare to enter His territory—you are protected; you are safe!

"Stay faithful until you die and I will give you the crown of life!"

Stay encouraged!

Prayer: My father, my savior, you are my creator and commander. Help me hear your serene voice that guides me, leads me, and protects me against the evil. Please grant me the Holy Spirit, and provide me the Holy Ghost who would surround me and chide me to watch my ten fingers where I have put your ten commandments to meditate on for the life you want me to live. I commend myself in your holy name, Amen.