

Dear Friends in Christ:

²³Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends greetings to you, ²⁴and so do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my fellow workers.

²⁵The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit.”

These words are the concluding blessing to the book of Philemon. It is one chapter used once I believe in the lectionary and studied back in 2004 by the women of the church in their circles meetings. While Mark and Luke are familiar names to many, Epaphras, Aristarchus and Demas may not be. It reminds me how often people behind the scenes get little recognition for the work they do. Watching a sporting event in the bitter cold or extreme conditions makes one realize this even more especially when you think of camera operators.

As we are in the heart of the summer season it is a good time to pause and consider those who go about doing their assigned task faithfully but often without the visibility of those who hold higher offices. Everyone has a gift to be used in service of the Lord. It is important to acknowledge some of those whose positions carry less visibility but no less significance.

Besides officers and offices in the leadership roles of the church there are some of those who work quietly but diligently behind the scenes.

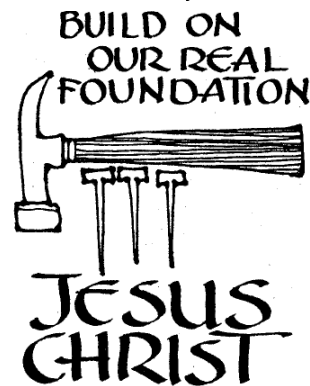
The Sunday School superintendent and assistant both work to organize and lead the Sunday School program dealing with selecting materials and teachers, class lists and schedules, and the Christmas program.

When you come to worship each week an usher hands you a bulletin, someone may greet you. Behind the scene is the person(s) who dress the altar, prepare the communion, ring the bell before and after worship, takes a count of people attending worship and enlists others to help in these tasks.

In addition to those tasks someone enlists people to serve as a reader. After the worship someone makes sure the lights are off the doors are locked and things are in order. The janitor or people who volunteer for that are often not visible to the general members but are nevertheless there working to make the worship space and building clean.

The parsonage and interchurch committee have representatives from both congregations. It is their task to maintain and deal with issues related to the parsonage and maintain the church office, located in the parsonage. Barum provides the treasurer for interchurch, which deals with expenses and paying bills related to joint parish costs. Big Elk Creek supplies the treasurer for the parsonage. Here all expenses are 50/50.

Barum cemetery is not related to the church but for years members of Barum have mowed and



maintained the grounds. BEC cemetery has a committee. They are there to see to it that the grounds are also maintained. They also organize the grave sites and make sure graves are dug when needed. They also do record keeping relating to the cemetery.

Besides this let's not forget the quilters, the deacons, the trustees the youth, WELCA and a host of people who serve with limited visibility but somehow the work gets done and ministry moves forward. This is a good season of the year to recognize the dedication and hard work of so many servants who put in time and tireless effort to build up the body of Christ.

Thanks be to God,

Pastor Hal

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Pastor Hal: 715-828-1112
Email: harkihear@gmail.com

If you are hospitalized, know someone who is, need pastoral assistance, a prayer request, home visit, private communion, or other pastoral service contact Pastor Hal at any of the above.

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BAPTISM

Chase Isaac Holzwarth- Barum

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Fourth Sunday after Pentecost
July 03, 2022
Isaiah 66: 10-14
“A Mothering God”

Fifth Sunday after Pentecost
July 10, 2022
Deuteronomy 30: 9-14
“Renew and Recommit”

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost
July 17, 2022
Genesis 18: 1-10a
“Finally, after all these Years”

Seventh Sunday after Pentecost
July 24, 2022
Genesis 18: 20-32
“Abraham, Attorney for the Defense”

Eighth Sunday after Pentecost
July 31, 2022
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14; 2: 18-23
“Vanity of Vanities, All is Vanity”



Outdoor Worship



Big Elk Creek has resumed their summer worship in the pavilion on Sundays now moving forward at 10:30. You are invited to join us each week as we experience the Creator present in His creation.

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WEDNESDAY
AUGUST 31, 2022
Barum Lutheran Church 6:30 p.m.

Confirmation Orientation for the year 2022-2023 will be held at Barum Lutheran. Grade 8 and incoming Grade 7 students and parents should plan to attend.

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To non-believers, talk of finding freedom through complete dependence on Jesus must sound foolish. How can surrendering your desires, time, heart — indeed, your entire life — lead to anything but bondage? The answer is evident in Jesus’ own life and ministry, writes Michael Card in Immanuel: Reflections on the Life of Christ. In a twist on Julius Caesar’s motto “Veni, vidi, vici” (“I came, I saw, I conquered”), “Jesus lived by the motto, ‘I came, I saw, I surrendered,’” Card notes. “By living out this unorthodox pronouncement, Jesus demonstrated that what the world regards as power is really impotence. True victory is only through surrender.” During the 16th century, St. Ignatius of Loyola wrote this prayer of surrender that’s still relevant today: “Take, O Lord, and receive my entire liberty, my memory, my understanding and my whole will. All that I am and all that I possess, Thou hast given me: I surrender it all to Thee to be disposed of according to Thy will. Give me only Thy love and Thy grace; with these I will be rich enough and will desire nothing more. Amen.”