

A Midweek Word: ABRUPT

It's been awhile since I posted A Midweek Word video clip. Now, we've got the midweek bulletin, and it just so happens that a noteworthy word did in fact come to my mind this week, and so I will use this printed medium to share it with you. Today, I present the word ABRUPT.

Abrupt almost is like it sounds. Short, immediate, quick, and not always gladly welcomed. Merriam-Webster agrees, and defines *abrupt* as "characterized by or involving action or change without preparation or warning; sudden and unexpected; rudely or unceremoniously curt; lacking smoothness or continuity."

Yep! That is what it is, and that is what the last nine months have given us, sudden and unwelcome change. This is something that we *ALL* agree on. We do not like this and we want this *DONE*. Isn't it nice to know that we *ALL* agree on something. It is. But, as we wade through this year of abruptness, at the same time, we disagree on how we do life in the midst of it. We disagree on how to handle it and we see on the news how many people respond to abrupt life episodes, and it isn't pretty. But as Christians, we have a guidebook on how to respond, and our guide does not give us the options that we often see on the news. Ephesians 4 is but one of many directives on how we are to respond. Here is what it says:

²⁹ Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, with whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. ³² Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.

When you make a big decision in life, sometimes that decision means you limit your options. Marriage is one of those. When you say, "I do," at that point, you have declared your one option. When we respond "Yes" to Jesus, we do something very similar, we say "no" to a host of other options. Take a lot of moments to read and reread your above option. Yes, that is your option if you said, "Yes!" to Jesus, and if any one of us have slipped into a lesser practice in the midst of this abrupt episode, according to verse 30, we are grieving the Spirit of God.

The MINNPOST Daily Coronavirus Update for Wednesday stated "A record 67 more Minnesotans have died of COVID-19." Due to this reality, and the reality of a state mask mandate, Bethany is adding an additional worship option, and surprise! We are doing it *abruptly*. Starting **THIS SUNDAY** at 9:00 AM there will be a **Mask Only / Mask Required** worship service. The Consistory unanimously voted to add this to our Sunday morning schedule. Following the 9:00 AM Mask Only Service there will be a service at 10:30 AM in which face coverings will be optional. At both services, additional safe practices will be expected, social distancing, hand sanitizing. Sanctuary & communal spaces will be sanitized between services.

This might be another opportunity for disagreement, but don't forget, our options are limited!

matthew mill

Bethany Church

Reach. Serve. Love.



SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 9:00AM - masks required

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP 10:30AM - masks optional

- **No Sunday School**
- **No Wednesday Night Classes**
- **Youth Group check the website**

Starting Sunday, November 22 and currently planned through Sunday, January 3

Every other pew will be roped off to help maintain proper distancing.

Sanctuary and communal spaces will be sanitized between services.

Disposable masks are available at the welcome center desk.

Facebook livestream times may vary. Notices will be sent out with livestream information.

222 MAIN STREET N | CLARA CITY MN

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 687

320.847.3322

Office email : bethany@hcinet.net

Bethany Prayer Chain email : info@bethanychurch-mn.com

[Give | Bethany Church - MN](#)

Anyone who would like a DVD of the services or know of someone who would like to receive one call the church office at 847-3322 or send an email to bethany@hcinet.net.

BETHANY DIRECTORY. <https://mobiledirectory.lifetouch.com/158305/bethany-reformed-church>

Access code is BRC20. The information can also be changed. If your contact information and anything else in your listing has changed, please contact the church office at 847-3322 or email at bethany@hcinet.net

SUNDAY GATHERINGS

“Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing...” Heb 10:25

Directives

Bethany will have disposable masks available.

Hand sanitizer is provided.

NO nursery or Children’s Church.

NO gathering in The Hub after the service.

Offering plates are set out at the back of the sanctuary.

Please exit the sanctuary after the service and visit outside.

Maintain proper distances while entering & exiting the sanctuary.

Please be seated in family groups and social distanced from others.

Remain in primary gathering spaces; sanctuary, entrance and bathrooms.

Singing is great! But not required.

If you are feeling sick or are anxious about returning, please remain at home and join in on our FACEBOOK PAGE LIVESTREAM

Directives for Gym Use

Gym space will currently not be used for group functions.

Directives for General Building Use

Please note that throughout the church building, rooms contain a spray bottle with a cleansing solution in it and a clean rag. Anyone using rooms during the week are asked to spray and wipe the areas used. Any questions can be directed to staff.

Executive Order 20-96

Parties, celebrations, receptions, or other social gatherings connected to private parties including gatherings before or after planned religious services, and other similar occasions that offer food or beverages must limit capacity as follows:

- Effective Nov. 27, 2020, at 10 p.m., these gatherings and events are limited to a maximum of 50 people.
- Effective Dec. 11, 2020, at 10 p.m., these gatherings and events are limited to a maximum of 25 people.

Stay Safe Guidance for Places of Worship

- Stay home when sick.
- Stay at least 6 feet apart from other people.
- Wear face coverings.
- Wash your hands often.
- Cover your mouth and nose when you cough or sneeze.

NEWS

The flower display in the sanctuary this Sunday, the 22nd, is in memory of LaVonne Grussing, who passed away 30 years ago, November 23.

Winter Weather Notifications. In the event of Sunday morning winter storms, closure announcements will be posted on the Bethany Facebook Page, the Bethany website, sent out via Prayer Chain, KDMA Radio in Montevideo or KWLM - Willmar and website: willmarradio.com

Library Books. There is a box of books on the table in the church library that are FREE for taking! Help yourself.

Gift of Hope is a project of RCA Global Mission. Feed children in Nicaragua, provide care for a child in South Africa, or care for a refugee family. All of these offerings are a possibility through Gift of Hope. Visit giftofhope.rca.org

Carris Health Helpline. Carris Health has created a conversation phone line for those who need to connect with somebody. Volunteers are available to chat with you if you are experiencing loneliness during this time of extended isolation. The line is for seniors and persons with disabilities. Call hours are Monday - Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM. Call: **1 (866) 777-0250**

GOAL: \$100 by DECEMBER 9

1

WEDNESDAY NITE KIDS

2

BRING AN OFFERING THIS MONTH

6

3

4

2

GIFTS FOR THOSE IN NEED

SAMARITAN'S PURSE

CALENDAR

Check the website for Covid updates regarding the current Youth Schedule!!

Due to the Distance Learning at MACCRAY starting Friday, November 18th we will not have Sunday School or Wednesday night classes until the beginning of January.

- **Youth Groups will zoom.**

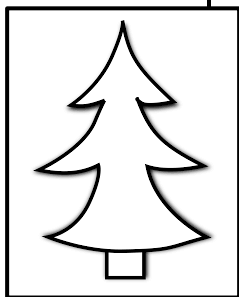
Congregational Meeting. Sunday, December 13. The meeting will be held immediately following the 10:30 AM Service in the sanctuary. Deacon Nominees: *Wade Buss, John Hagemeyer, Kim Sandry* and Elder Nominees: *Brad Hebrink, Scott Ruiter, Ron Thomton.*

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Thanksgiving Eve Service, November 25 — ONLINE ONLY

Christmas Eve, December 24 — ONLINE ONLY

Thank you to those who are providing care for Vivian Reiners as she travels through her radiation treatments: Donna Barney, Karen Bulthuis, Carol Forkrud, Marlene Harguth, Jolene Hebrink, & Carol Thomton.



MITTEN TREE GIFTS!!

In the narthex there is a table with “Trees” on it. If you feel led, please choose a Tree that has the age and gender of a child from our community and buy & wrap an item of clothing and/or a game/toy and return your gift by Sunday, December 13th with the tree attached and place it under the Christmas Tree. Please sign your name on the sheet of paper next to the number on the mitten you have taken. This way if any gifts are missing, we know who to call for which each mitten tag.
Once again THANK YOU for your help!

PRAYER

PRAYERS for STRENGTH & HEALING

- † Care Center & Assisted Living Residents
- † Job Seekers during this time of uncertainty & heightened layoffs
- † Our national anxiety and unrest to coronavirus, race relations & elections
- † Ruth Johnson
- † Deanna Meints
- † Milt Wubben
- † Calvin Harms is having knee surgery in St. Cloud on Friday, November 20.
- † Vivian Reiners has begun radiation therapy. Pray for peace to overcome anxiety.
- † Cindy Plowman returned home from the hospital with oxygen to help heal a hole in her lung. The Plowman family has also been battling Covid.
- † Bruce Hinrichs is at Mayo Clinic this week receiving a chemo infusion.
- † Clayton Vreeman continues to be hospitalized in Arizona and treated for Covid / pneumonia.
- † Jim & Audrey Koenen are in need of prayer. Jim has been diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. They meet with an oncologist this week to discuss possible treatment options.
- † Paul Childer's dad, Randy, is struggling with heart failure and multiple organ failure.
- † JoAnn Hagemeyer, wife of Jim, sister-in-law to Lee & Carin and Don & Julie, had successful surgery at Mayo to remove her kidney which has a cancerous mass.
- † Muriel Vestal goes to St. Cloud for a heart valve examination on Thursday, November 18.

BETHANY CONSISTORY.

Elders

Terry Epema
Lee Hagemeyer
Bruce Hinrichs
Chuck Ammermann
Chip Goeman
Dan Wrede
Chuck DeGrote
Calvin Harms
Roger Knapper

Deacons

Aaron Pauling
Scott Tomes
Travis Wubben
Mark Hilbrands
Keith Klinghagen
Dan Niemeyer
Riley Aeikens
David Hinrichs
Cory Sietsema

YOUTH NEWS

MACCRAY Cards: Senior High Youth will be selling the M cards again this year.

Rocky registrations are now open for all High School Students!! There is a link to the registration from the AFC page on our website under YOUTH/AFC, scroll down the page & click the red register button and follow the instructions. Once students are registered Todd will send out payment plans for the cost of the event. We will leave on July 30th at around 10 pm and be back in town on August 4 at around 3pm.

Youth Groups will start zooming after the Thanksgiving break. Christmas Small Group Party will be cancelled on December 16th....instead we will do a zoom.

WORSHIP NOTES

*Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances;
for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.*
Thessalonians 5:16-18

November

1st
8th
15th
22nd
29th

Sound

Benny Miller
Jerry Schwitters
Lee Hagemeyer
Garrett Struxness

Projector

Renae Epema
Brenda Schwitters
Carter Tomes
Megan Struxness

There are opportunities to serve in the area of videography as well. Contact Cory Sietsema if this is an area that interests you.

Thank you, too, for all the vocalists who have led in the music ministry. Anna & Matt Miller, Rachel DuHoux, Connor Hagemeyer, Carter Wrede, Ella & Annie Bourne, Ashley & Mari Sietsema. We look forward to Jeff & Brooks Asche and Alison, Elizabeth & Sadie Koenen. We appreciate, too, Vicky Hinrichs, Carly Hagemeyer and Ashley on the keyboard, Andrew DuHoux on drums, Joyce Hinrichs with the bass guitar, and Matt Miller and Ella Bourne on guitar. It's an honor to worship together . . . it really is!

Clara City Assisted Living
1012 Division Street N
Clara City MN 56222

Leonard & Kathryn Klinghagen 213
Gert Kløver 208
Kenneth & Emma Koenen 203

Prairie Park Place
1100 Warrings Avenue
Clara City MN 56222

Gordon & Geneva Grussing 120
Esther Kløver 115
Muriel Vestal 113

Clara City Care Center
1012 Division Street N
Clara City MN 56222

Stanley Ammermann 141
Sharon Asche 145
Betty Bohlsen 139
Marie Jansen 155
George Kløver 149
Allan Meints 90
Phyllis Peterson 153
Conrad & Vera Rozeboom 138
Bernice Westendorp 115

Alice Korn
Bethesda Grand Care Center
901 Willmar Ave SE - Room 124
Willmar, MN 56201
320-214-5688

Millie Tebben
Copperleaf Senior Living Community
1550 1st N - Room #212
Willmar, MN 56201
320-894-4363

Arlyne Berghuis
Copperleaf Senior Living Community
1550 - 1st N - Room #208
Willmar, MN 56201

Gladys Williams
Sunrise Village Assisted Living
1125 9th St SE #103
Willmar, MN 56201

Richard & Velma Feldman
RenVilla Health Center
205 Elm Ave SE
Renville, MN 56284
320-329-3737

Darlene Andresen
The Legacy of Farmington
22300 Denmark Ave #327
Farmington, MN 55024

In the Bethany Directory:

Alice Brouwer 320-321-1290
Agnes Carlson 320-222-0680
Harlis Emkes 320-269-6698
Pauline Freiborg 320-295-1494
Elva Hinrichs 320-847-3341
Verna Janssen 320-847-2926
Ethel Gabbert 507-485-3181
Sondra Groen 320-847-2173
Ed Jansen 320-847-3242
Ruth Johnson 320-847-3040
Eunice Onnen 320-262-3596
George Poppen 320-847-3293
Vivian Reiners 320-847-2352
Anna Marie Seeman 320-894-4143
Russel Sietsema 320-967-4469
Lois Sweep 320-847-3502
Jennie Tebben 320-847-2531

**Remember our
members with
Christmas Greetings!**



DECEMBER

Anniversaries

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 Stan & Donna Barney | 10 Milt & Deb Wubben |
| 1 Nate & Terese Bourne | 17 Phil & Lanae Pieper |
| 4 Dan & Jen Dirksen | 17 Conrad & Vera Rozeboom |
| 4 John & Rachel DuHoux | 18 Ryan & JoLinda Niemeyer |
| 5 David & Mindy Hinrichs | 19 Larry & Eunice Hinrichs |
| 7 Loren & Deb Stomberg | 27 Erv & Mary Ahrenholz |
| 8 Travis & Bailey Wubben | |

Birthdays

- | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| 1 Milt Wubben | 15 Jim Koenen | 23 Mary Ahrenholz |
| 1 Austin Sweep | 15 Deb Slagter | 23 Eunice Brouwer |
| 2 Jennie C. Tebben | 15 Cindy Plowman | 23 Anna Pieper |
| 2 Cooper Klinghagen | 15 Darren Westerman | 24 Sheila Westerman |
| 5 Maddy Zurn | 17 Jerry Kluver | 26 Stan Barney |
| 7 Sydney Schwitters | 17 Darrell Schoep | 26 Kyle Boike |
| 7 Boyd Pauling | 18 Rachel DuHoux | 26 Korra Childers |
| 8 Leonard Klinghagen | 19 Deanna Stutelberg | 27 Riley Aeikens |
| 11 Harlan Ruitter | 19 Bruce Johnson | 28 Randy Janssen |
| 13 Brooks Wubben | 20 Jerry Schwitters | 28 Cameron Tebben |
| 14 Renae Satre | 20 Kristy Enger | 29 Gracie Slagter |
| 14 Aaron Pauling | | 31 Eli DuHoux |