“Like and Share”

Happy Wednesday Everyone!

 This week’s reflection is both a play on words, and a sincere request. If you were to watch a video by any content creator on Facebook, Youtube, or some other digital platform, they likely in their video at some point would invite you to “like and share” the content you were watching. “Likes” and “shares” rebroadcasts content (pictures, videos, polls, recipes, etc.) and expands one’s digital reach on any given platform.

 For several years now, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has attempted to be a faithful presence, mostly utilizing Facebook, YouTube, and of course our church website: [www.bethlehemhickory.org](http://www.bethlehemhickory.org). You may have noticed in the past couple months that the website has been updated, and that our Facebook page has been A LOT more active. Not only has the church Facebook page broadcasted a livestream of Sunday worship. We’ve shared midweek reflections like this one, announcements, invitations to church events, promotional material for big events (like the video based on Psalm 30 that was posted Easter morning), and more.

 We often talk about “sharing our faith in Jesus,” and friends, there is an easy way that you can do that digitally. “Liking” and “sharing” posts on social media, or sharing information that can be found on the church website is an easy and impactful way to share the good news with your neighbors! So I invite you/ challenge you the rest of this year…Try once a week to “like and share” as many posts and as much information about what God is up to at Bethlehem online! And if you’re really up for a challenge…rather than counting up how many things you did share…what if you made it a goal to be able to easily count how many things you didn’t “like & share.” That would be awesome!

 Speaking of “liking” and “sharing,” many of us gathered for a study on Andy Stanley’s book “Not in it to Win it” throughout the season of Lent! I didn’t just like that study, I LOVED it! And I’m glad to hear that many of you did as well! In our last gathering, many folks offered that they’d like to keep the fun rolling with doing another bible or book study. And a topic that gained a lot of energy was around the book of Revelation. So, I hope you will “like” and share the news with friends and family that on Monday’s in June at 7pm, we will gather for an **in-person** bible study at Bethlehem, titled, “The Revealing of Revelation.” And don’t worry, if you want to participate, but can’t make the drive there will be a zoom link available. Several of our rooms at church have the capability for folks to gather both virtually and in-person simultaneously!

 Lastly, I hope many of you will “like” the news that we are still on track to be back live at Bethlehem for worship on May 11th! “Share” the news with others! There is a lot of exciting celebrations coming up quickly: a baptism on May 18th, a celebration of graduates & new drivers on May 25th, an installation for our new music director on June 1st, and the celebration of Pentecost on June 8th! Like I said, there is a lot going on and a lot to be excited about! Also in the midst of these busy weeks ahead is the celebration of Mother’s Day on May 11th and synod assembly (May 29th-31st). Pray for Anna Peller, Johnny & Sara Coffey, and myself as we travel to Greensboro as a delegation on behalf of Bethlehem and as we enter into the sacred space of electing a new bishop. We look forward to “sharing” with y’all what develops from that assembly.

Go in peace to like and share what God is up to!

Pastor Vern