

Dekorra Lutheran Church

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Pastor: Sterling Lynk

JUNE 2021 Newsletter

*In the beginning was the one
who is called the Word.*

*The Word was with God
and was truly God.*

*From the very beginning
the Word was with God.*

- **John 1:1-2 (CEV)**

Hello Folks,

I have a confession.

There have been times during the last four weeks that I have felt awkward during worship. It happens while I am reading the stories about Jesus in the Gospel of John. Not only do I feel awkward, but I also feel worried that you all are feeling awkward these readings.

After all, on any given Sunday our usual schedule of readings gives us around 30 to 40 Bible verses spread out over three excerpts from three different books. Last Sunday (May 16th), Minister Jane and I read 117 verses which were the 5th and 6th chapters of John. That is about three times our usual amount of reading! One of my audio versions of the Bible says those chapters take nearly 14 minutes to read. Truth be told, if I were to plan this again with what I know now, I would try to only share a single story or a single chapter each week. That would take half a year, but it would not be so overwhelming.

So why are hearing the whole of this Gospel, instead of short excerpts? Well, first, we are hearing the Gospel of John because that is what the Bible study group is working on. (By the way, you can still join the study and choose between Wednesdays at 5p or Fridays at 10a). These folks are working so hard to experience Christ in this Gospel, that I figured the whole community would benefit.

Second, John is a collection of complete stories, and those stories are not well broken down into pity excerpts. That is one of the reasons why we get so little John in our reading schedule. The point of this Gospel is to have an experience of God as Jesus, as opposed to simply learning theology or doctrine or "truths". The collectors of these stories recorded them to be about a whole experience.

Maybe I should worry less, and instead give some room for the stories and the Holy Spirit to give each of us the relationship we need with our savior. I know I need that relationship, and I am guessing you do too.

Peace,

Pastor Sterling

May 18, 2021

P.S. – I have some bad news. We had to throw out most of the food being stored in the kitchen freezer. Unfortunately, the freezer door did not get closed all the way a few weeks ago, and that caused most things in there to melt. We saved what we could. I'm sorry. (This has to be the most practical, and least theological things, I have ever written in a pastoral column. LOL.)

From Your Council President:

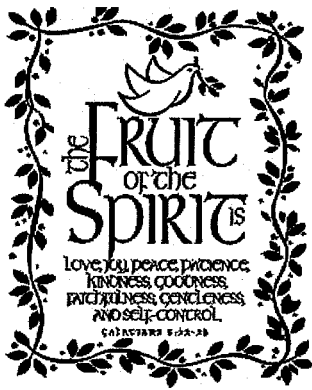
As I sit down to write this month's report, it's hard to decide where to begin. Lots of good things going on! I'll begin with May 16 and "first communion". What an awesome event. I'm not sure how many students were involved, but when the kids and parents went forward to commune it filled the alter area and down the center aisle. The sanctuary was sold out (60 persons) for the first time since the reopening and about 15 persons worshiped in the Fellowship Hall. Congratulations to the first communion participants and their families!

May 23 will be confirmation. Another monumental day in the lives of 4 young people and their families. I expect another sold-out sanctuary and some folks worshipping in the fellowship hall. Just a reminder to the conferments. This is not graduation, but the confirmation of your faith and commitment to your Christian faith journey. As of May 23, you are a voting member of Dekorra Lutheran Church, therefore I expect to see you attending congregational meetings and voting. You also have the opportunity to become a member of the Council and/or join a committee. I would be so excited to have youth on Council or on a committee. So please get involved or stay involved with the Church. There are lots of ways to participate, so sit down with your parents and make a commitment to participate!

As you may know, your church council has spent several long, grueling meetings assessing the proposals they received to improve the audio/visual systems within the church building. We finally hashed out a proposal to present to you, the congregation, at the June 6 congregational meeting. The proposal should accomplish a number of items that have been a struggle, especially during the pandemic. Even though we did some minor updates and replaced some microphones two years ago, the main soundboard is 20 years old. I think we all know how technology has changed in the last twenty years, therefore it is simply outdated. Using screens in the sanctuary will save the cost of printed bulletins and should help those who cannot read the small print. Announcements can be scrolled prior to service, so Pastor can move directly into the worship service. Ease of use has been an ongoing issue with the existing system. Obviously, there will be a learning curve on how to use the new system. We will need some tech people to be trained, therefore the proposal includes training. This is a nearly \$40,000 project. Therefore, the council proposes to finance **up to** \$30,000 from Hometown Bank in Poynette. There is currently \$10,642.27 in the "screen fund" which will be used as well. Dekorra will need your financial support to pay down the loan as we did for the roof and flooring. You will be receiving the detailed information via mail so you can review it prior to the meeting as per our Constitution. I ask that you keep an open mind, get your questions answered, and support the proposal. The Buckley family has our annual "week at the lake" during this period, therefore I will not be available for the June 6 meeting. No, I'm not copping out! If I were 2 hours away instead of 5 I would be at the meeting! We made our reservation a year ago, well before knowing I would be council president. I truly apologize for missing the meeting. William Schliechert will be conducting the meeting and I have complete confidence in William to conduct this meeting.

God's Speed Always,

Bill Buckley



Galatians 5:22-23 The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

This month's Fruit of the Spirit is self-control.

2 Peter 1:5-9 "For this reason, make every effort to add to your faith goodness; and to goodness, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, perseverance; and to perseverance, godliness; and to godliness, brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness, love. For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and

unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

But if anyone does not have them, he is near-sighted and blind, and has forgotten that he has been cleansed from his past sins.

Vacation Bible School

We are looking for volunteers who would be interested in assisting with a summer vacation bible school. At this point, we need to brainstorm what you would want VBS to look like taking COVID restrictions into account. Please contact Sheila Gempeler sdgemp1949@gmail.com or 608-712-2771 if you would be willing to attend a meeting to talk about this, We encourage ideas and volunteers and especially need some input from parents.!

DLC Book Club 2021

Discussing + Listening + Contemplating

The DLC Book Club is excited to begin its **FIFTH** year of discussion, food, and fellowship with the following selections:

September 15 - *Small Great Things* by Jodi Picoult

October 20 - *The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

November 17 - *Family Tree* by Susan Wiggs

Book Club takes a break in June, July and August, but will be back in September with ***Small Great Things*** by Jodi Picoult. With incredible empathy, intelligence, and candor, Picoult tackles race, privilege, prejudice, justice, and compassion - - and doesn't offer easy answers. A timely read.

Check out the DLC website and click on the Book Club tab to find book list information and a link to the South Central Library System to check them out! Hope to see you in September!

Please remember in your prayers...Nancy Salenius; Margo Holzman; Ayers family; Sharon Zeimet; Joanna Hall (daughter of Mary Dibble); Angie Satter (daughter of Bill & Jill Emmons)

Prayers for those serving our country in the military...Nicholas Paske (great-nephew of June Fiske); Bill Warren (son of Cheryl Lytle); Quinten Case (great-nephew of June Fiske); Moira McCormack (granddaughter of Renate Lokotz).

Covid Update:

Council has updated the Covid protocol for Dekorra Lutheran Church. Windows can remain closed, masks can be lowered during communion, lay readers return and groups may meet without masks if all participants have been fully vaccinated. I expect we will be relaxing the requirements each month as long as Columbia County numbers decline and more people get vaccinated.

Food Pantry Up-date –June 2021

By Karen Bender

Thank you, Dekorra, for your continued generosity! We had 33 bags to deliver to the Food Pantries last month! Here are the items that they have identified as being key at this time.

Arlington has a specific need for:

Canned pineapple	Cereal	Juice	Baking mixes
Canned tuna, chicken and ham			Pasta and pasta sauce

Poynette has a specific need for:

Household items (powder laundry detergent, bleach, liquid dish soap)	
Toiletries (deodorant, shaving cream, toilet paper – travel sizes of any products are okay)	
Healthy cereal (Cheerios, Chex, Raisin Bran, etc)	
Rice (instant white or brown)	Boxed Pasta (mac ‘n cheese, noodles, sides, etc)
Peanut butter	Canned fruit and vegetables*
Canned soup, stew + ravioli*	Canned meat: tuna, chicken, chili*

*Please purchase easy-open cans.

Reach Out Lodi is requesting:

Green peas	Applesauce	Misc. snacks	Oatmeal
Sugar	Brown sugar	Cooking oil	Coffee
Natural Peanut butter (crunchy)		Popcorn	Graham crackers
Ketchup	Mustard	Kool-Aid	Juice (large & small)
Spices	Evaporated milk	Chocolate chips	

PERSONAL ESSENTIALS:

Diapers size 6	Bleach	Body lotion	Paper towels
Dish soap	Sponges	Maxi pads (all sizes)	Women’s razors
Women’s shaving cream		Shampoo/Conditioner	Band-aids
Garbage bags (30 gallon)		Lip balm	Cough drops

Please see the Reach Out Lodi website for clothing needs: www.reachoutlodi.org

If you choose to purchase or donate any of the items listed and bring them to the Church, you can mark your donation for a specific Pantry, OR we will sort it there and deliver it where we think it should go. Of course, you can always deliver right to the Pantry, if you wish.

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday, May 13, 2021

Call to Order: President Bill Buckley called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. in fellowship hall. Pastor Lynk opened the meeting with council checking in with their highs and lows since our last meeting. Pastor then led us in prayer.

Present: Al Bilsle, Joen Bilsle, Bill Buckley, Larry Johnson, Ellen Keller, Paul Knuteson, Jane Manke, Bill Schleichert, John Weingandt, and Pastor Sterling Lynk. **Absent:** Judy Brownrigg, Lyle Hendrickson, Paul Lowenhagen. **Guest:** Jerry Carncross

Approve Agenda: Motion by John Weingandt to approve the agenda, seconded by Joen Bilsle. Motion carried.

Approve April 2021 Council Minutes: Motion by Al Bilsle to approve the minutes, seconded by Bill Schleichert. Motion carried.

Pastor's Report: (Sterling Lynk)

1. Pastor performed one baptism. No funerals or weddings to report.
2. Four new members were welcomed.
3. Pastor finished the training he was taking along with other pastors.
4. Four confirmation students have finished the requirements and confirmation is set for Sunday, May 23. Grant Geyer, Lexie Birchler, Kristiana Hinzmann, and Summer Rake will be confirmed. Motion made by Bill Schleichert to accept Pastor's recommended candidates for confirmation. Ellen Keller seconded. Motion carried.
5. First Communion training is finished and will be held Sunday, May 16.
6. Wednesday and Friday Bible Study groups have been meeting and going well.

President's Report:

1. Bill attended the new membership meeting and gave a synopsis of the council's duties.
2. Bill signed a request to use church tables and chairs for an outside event.
3. A resignation letter was received from Sharon Hatch, Music Director at DLC. Bill thanked her for her wonderful service. Sharon's last Sunday will be June 13. Motion by Bill Schleichert to present Sharon with a gift from the congregation and that gift to be taken from the church budget. Seconded by Jane Manke. Motion carried. This will be in conjunction with a sending service for Sharon.
4. Bill put together a DLC Music Director's agreement for Ann Carncross which was accepted by Ann. Bill sent the information to the Personel Committee. She will officially take over after Sharon leaves.
5. Jenny Rake continues to work on live streaming. New cables were needed to help her with this project.
6. Bill Schleichert will preside over the June council meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

1. Lyle emailed the April 1 – April 30 treasurer's report to council members as Lyle was unable to attend the May council meeting.
2. Checkbook balance on April 30, 2021 was \$32,363.07, an increase of \$2,995.41 from the end of March.
3. Easter giving for April 4, 2021 was \$7,644.
4. Motion by Paul Knuteson to accept the treasurer's report, seconded by Jane Manke. Motion carried.

All Committee Reports:

Education

1. Jean continues to add newsletter items.
2. Sheila will contact Oleg to update the newspaper with current processes.
3. Confirmation families have received tickets to reserve seats in the sanctuary for confirmation Sunday.
4. VBS will be discussed at next meeting. An email was sent to parents.
5. Tuesday, May 18, at 9:00 is work day for the library.
6. First communion class is scheduled for May 15 with Pastor. Currently 9 children are signed up.
7. Plans are underway to start in person Sunday School in September for 4K through 6th grade. Curriculum for fall will be "Friends with God".
8. DLC book club will take a summer break (June July, August).

Worship

1. Preparations were made for Pentecost Sunday on May 23. Several members of the congregation will speak in tongues.
2. May 23 is also Confirmation Sunday. Confirmands have tickets, a section of pews will be reserved for family, and ushers will seat any remaining worshipers.
3. We will try to obtain a second plastic screen so additional speakers can do readings.
4. Summer worship hours will remain the same, 10:00 a.m.
5. Depending upon where COVID numbers are, we hope to schedule an outdoor picnic.
6. We changed our meeting time to 11:00 a.m. on the first Wednesday of the month.

Property

1. Some emergency lights will be replaced.
2. There was a request to fertilize the church lawn.
3. New light pole will soon be installed in the parking lot.

Social Ministry

1. This committee will meet soon. Members plan to stay on the committee.

Mutual Ministry

1. Bill Schleichert and Pastor Sterling are in the process of deciding what direction this committee should take.

Hospitality

1. Gift bags were given to new members.

2. Welcome back church signs were installed by the sanctuary front door.

Old Business:

1. After discussion was held the council decided on the following COVID-19 changes regarding the continued opening of the church. Motion made by John Weignandt, seconded by Al Bilse that Dekorra Lutheran Church update its covid-19 restrictions to include that masks may be removed to receive communion in the pews, windows to be closed for warmth and noise, fans continue to run, no singing allowed in church, and groups can meet with masks off if all have been vaccinated. Motion carried.
2. Lengthy discussion was held regarding the new video/audio system proposal. Motion made by Bill Schleichert, seconded by John Weingandt, to present Fearing's proposal to the congregation for approval at the special congregational meeting on June 6. If this proposal is approved, we would finance with Poynette's Hometown Bank up to \$30,000.
3. Motion made by Bill Schlerict, seconded by Al Bilse, to move the carpet fund money into the screen fund. Motion carried. This gives a screen fund balance of \$10,641,47.
4. The live stream process is not going as well as planned. Hopefully, the new video/audio proposal will help.
5. The Constitution Committee has met three times. They are presently going through the parts that can't be changed and then will go through the parts that can be changed. The resolutions and bylaws will also be looked at.

New Business:

1. Next council meeting will be held June 10, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. in fellowship hall.

Ellen Keller moved to adjourn, seconded by Joen Bilse. Motion carried.

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Respectfully submitted, Joen Bilse

Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Balance Sheet as of April 30, 2021

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account # Account Name

YTD Balance

Assets

Church Operating Funds

100.001	Gen checking - Hometown Bank	32,363
100.002	Money Market Savings-BOP(Restricted Asset)	58,732
	Total Check & Savings Assets	\$91,095

Organization Funds

100.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund(Restricted Asset)	91,580
100.040	Dekorra Men For Christ (Restricted Asset)	8,671
100.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA(Restricted Asset)	3,299
100.070	Mission of Hope (Restricted Asset)	3,958
100.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund (Restricted)	60,539
100.100	Dekorra Lutheran Youth Group(Restricted Asset)	4,564
100.115	2021 Youth Gathering Fund	0
115.080	Memorial Fund (Restricted Asset)	18,159
	Total Organization Accounts	\$190,773

Total Assets \$281,869

Liabilities

200.010	Accounts Payable/Vendors	0
210.001	941 Taxes Payable	0
210.002	State Taxes Payable	120
210.003	Miscellaneous Deductions	0
215.001	Roof Bank Loan Remaining Balance	0
	Total Liabilities	\$120

Fund Balances

300.001	General Balance	57,805
300.002	Missions Balance	(27,586)
	General Operating Funds	\$30,219
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,221
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	915
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	11,115
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	839
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	4,033
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance(Restricted)	10,335
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	12,059
320.008	Special Appeals Balance	0
332.009	Carpet Fund	5,121
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	5,520
332.013	Jaime Benson Seminary Appeal Balance	593
	Money Market Funds	\$60,755
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	91,580
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance(Restricted)	8,671
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance(Restricted)	3,299
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,958
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	60,539
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	4,564
305.015	2021 Youth Gathering Fund Balance	0
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	18,159
	Total Fund Balances	\$281,748

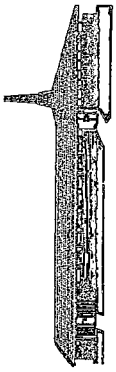
Total Liabilities and Fund Balances \$281,869

**Dekorra Lutheran Church - Poynette WI
Consolidated Fund Activity Report for April 2021**

Tuesday, May 4, 2021

Page 1 of 1

Account #	Account Name	Beg Balance	Receipts	Disbursements	Transfers/JE's	End Balance
300.010	Dekorra Mission Endowment Fund Balance(Restricted)	91,580.86	0.00	0.00	0.00	91,580.86
300.040	Dekorra Men For Christ Balance(Restricted)	8,671.60	0.00	0.00	0.00	8,671.60
300.060	Dekorra Women of the ELCA Balance(Restricted)	3,299.30	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,299.30
300.070	Mission of Hope Balance	3,958.29	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,958.29
300.090	Mitchell Scholarship Fund Balance	60,539.78	0.00	0.00	0.00	60,539.78
305.001	Youth Fund Balance(Restricted)	4,564.07	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,564.07
305.015	2021 Youth Gathering Fund Balance	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
315.001	Memorial Fund Balance(Restricted)	18,159.64	0.00	0.00	0.00	18,159.64
320.001	Capital Improvement Balance(Restricted)	10,201.09	20.00	0.00	0.00	10,221.09
320.002	General Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	915.58	0.00	0.00	0.00	915.58
320.003	Building/Grounds Balance(Restricted)	11,015.07	100.00	0.00	0.00	11,115.07
320.004	Lowenhagen Scholarship Balance(Restricted)	839.77	0.00	0.00	0.00	839.77
320.005	Choir Balance(Restricted)	4,033.41	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,033.41
320.006	Thrivent Choice Dollars Balance(Restricted)	8,312.45	2,023.00	0.00	0.00	10,335.45
320.007	Misc. Contingency Balance(Partial Restriction)	12,059.24	0.00	0.00	0.00	12,059.24
332.009	Carpet Fund	5,096.49	25.00	0.00	0.00	5,121.49
332.011	Church Screens Fund Balance	4,955.78	565.00	0.00	0.00	5,520.78
332.013	Jaime Benson Seminary Appeal Balance	588.57	5.00	0.00	0.00	593.57
	Total	<u>\$248,790.99</u>	<u>\$2,738.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$251,528.99</u>

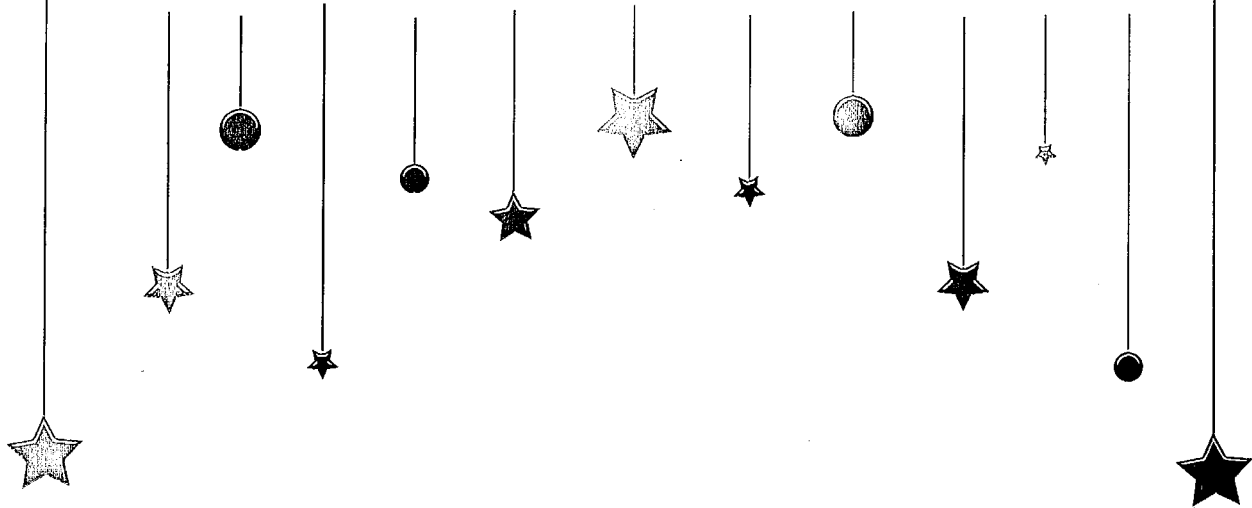


June 2021

Dekorra Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 1:00pm Healing Worship	2 1:00pm Hope Circle 1:00pm Worship Committee Mtg. 5:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Constitutional Mtg.	3 1:00pm Quilting	4 10:00am Bible Study	5
6 10:00am Worship Inside or Parking Lot and Congregational Mtg.	7 Pastor's Day Off	8 1:00pm Joy Circle	9 9:30am Christian Ed Mtg. 5:00pm Bible Study	10 1:00pm Quilting	11 10:00am Bible Study 8:00pm AA	12
13 10:00am Worship Inside or Parking Lot Sharon Hatch Sending	14 Pastor's Day Off	15 1:00pm Tentative Healing Worship	16 5:00pm Bible Study 6:30pm Constitutional Mtg	17 1:00pm Quilting 6:30pm Council Mtg.	18 10:00am Bible Study 8:00pm AA	19
20 10:00am Worship Inside or Parking Lot Ann Carncross Instalation	21 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter Deadline</u>	22	23 5:00pm Bible Study	24 1:00pm Quilting	25 10:00am Bible Study 8:00pm AA	26
27 10:00am Worship Inside or Parking Lot	28 Pastor's Day Off <u>Newsletter Mailing</u>	29 1:00pm Tentative Healing Worship	30 5:00pm Bible Study		8:00pm AA	

HAPPY BIRTHDAY



Brandon Doebert	06/01	Maya Houdek	06/17
Jeremy Smith	06/01	Sharon Kuyper	06/18
Janet Haakenson	06/02	Jody Gotzion	06/19
Joen Bilse	06/06	Alisha Haakenson	06/20
Segan Cartwright	06/06	Ann Rice	06/20
Seth Beyer	06/07	Bert West	06/20
Lexi Zellmer	06/07	Abby Gregorich	06/24
Kyle Hofstetter	06/08	Kia Schroeder	06/24
Korreena Kamps	06/11	Susan Wellnitz	06/24
Brody Weichmann	06/11	Pete Kamps	06/27
Jerry Carncross	06/12	Jalen Knuteson	06/27
Jeanne Flickinger	06/12	Alice Lanzendorf	06/27
Penny Judd	06/12	Kristine Millard	06/27
Sara Simplot	06/13	Kristiana Hinzmann	06/27
Randall McNicol	06/14	Brenda West	06/29
Deanna Loewenhagen	06/15	Kira Wilson	06/29
Stephanie Wipperfurth	06/15		

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N3099 Smith Road
Poynette, WI 53955-9435

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53955
PERMIT #5

JUNE HIGHLIGHTS

June 1	1:00pm	Healing Worship
June 2	1:00pm	Worship Committee Meeting
June 2	6:30pm	Constitutional Meeting
June 6	10:00am	Worship and Congregational Meeting
June 9	9:30am	Christian Ed Meeting
June 13	10:00am	Worship with Sharon Hatch Sending
June 16	6:30pm	Constitutional Meeting
June 17	6:30pm	Council Meeting
June 20	10:00am	Worship with Ann Carncross Instalation
June 27	10:00am	Worship
June 28		Newsletter Mailing