

H E A D L I N E R

C H U R C H O F T H E B R E T H E R E N

SEPTEMBER

Newsletter

2020

“This, then, is how you should pray: ‘Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.’” Matthew 6: 9-10 NIV

The year 2020, so far, is looking very different from the year 2019. The global community is experiencing breakdowns in health systems, employment, supply chains, socio-economic inequalities, religious practices, education, social connections and the list could go on to include locusts in Africa, wildfires in California, and typhoons in the Pacific. The United States is especially battered, and to be even more specific as this is being written, southwestern Virginia is experiencing a surge in coronavirus cases that continues to challenge how the Virginia district, our congregations and our beloved Camp Bethel carry-out their missions and work in our communities. Even November's scheduled district conference is not going to be the same pre-COVID-19 gathering. Examining the plague stories in the Old Testament book of Exodus may seem more relevant as we are living in what is termed "the new normal." Where do we find God's kingdom when our personal and corporate earthly ones are being turned upside down?

Our district conference theme, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom", invites us to turn to that first century disrupter, Jesus. He knew about kingdoms which were turned upside-down. Jesus, the Galilean rabbi, would not be surprised by what we are seeing today. He came into a world two thousand years ago that saw struggles between the ruling political power, religious factions and the people living in occupied lands. That struggle led to periodic uprisings and rebellions, to the rise of political movements, religious extremists, and splintering divisions. The first Jewish-Roman revolt led to the destruction of the temple in 70 CE, and marked the beginning of other revolts to come.

So what did our Jesus do? His life and ministry showed that God's kingdom was not only something to look forward to, to pray for, but that the kingdom was a living, breathing relationship that could occur in the present. Jesus radicalized the relationship between God and God's people by showing that if we would just pay attention, truly look, turn around and reorient our actions, we could find that the kingdom was near, the kingdom was now. His followers

who loved God and acted for the welfare of others belonged to the earth-bound kingdom. Jesus wanted to get to the heart of relationships by showing the value of all people including persons who were marginalized in that contentious society: women, foreigners, the physically challenged, the poor. He was a disrupter noticing and loving the ignored and dismissed persons of first century Palestine. As David Brooks said in his July 5, 2020 sermon at the Washington National Cathedral,

"Jesus walked into a complex network of negotiated and renegotiated power settlements between various factions...he pierced through them and went right to the core...bringing access to the kingdom directly to the poor. He was offering triumph directly to the downtrodden...Jesus was love and beauty in the midst of muck and violence and the most difficult circumstances imaginable."

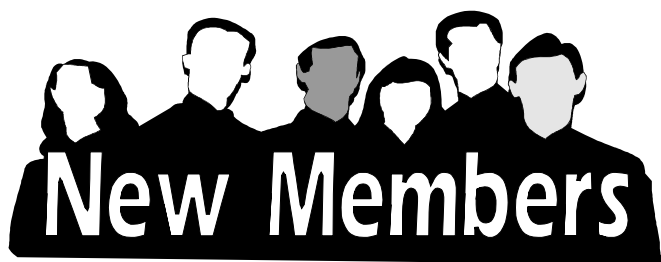
So this becomes the present challenge for people of faith. Where are we seeing love and beauty in our communities today? Where are we finding God-on-earth relationships? How are our actions creating heaven on earth? I am confident that each of us could share a story of where we have glimpsed the kingdom in our current circumstances. The 2020 district conference worship will be built around personal sharing of stories where our brothers and sisters have experienced Jesus's kingdom on earth. I challenge each of us, in the days to come, to look! Pay attention! Turn around! Find and belong to the earth-bound kingdom that is here and now. Pray that this becomes our "new normal".

Cathy S. Huffman
2020 District Conference Moderator

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ED AND SUSAN MCKIMMY, COORDINATORS OF DISASTER RESPONSE



Pleasant Valley - Robert (Bobby) Dowdy by baptism May 5, 2019. Ray Turpin and Linda Turpin by letter July 21, 2019. Colby Gearhart by baptism March 1, 2020. Granville Bishop and Jill Bishop by letter March 8, 2020.

Rocky Mount, First - Linda Bridgman by letter February 16, 2020. Lily Johnson by baptism February 23, 2020.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILIES OF

Jane Marchant Wood, aged 87, was born in Seven Mile Ford, Va., March 24, 1933 and died in Boones Mill, Va., April 14, 2020. As a child she walked to Sunday School and developed a life long love for the Lord. She graduated from Marion High School and Marion College. She was a member of the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren. Jane served as church board chair, as a Sunday School teacher, as youth counselor and in many other roles. She worked in the district in several capacities and served the denomination on the former General Board.

Jane was an artist. She was a member of the League of Roanoke Artists and the Bald Knob artists group. She taught art to children and was a master flower arranger.

Jane lived most of her life in Boones Mill, Virginia following her marriage to David T. Wood on February 28, 1970. Together they farmed, producing apples and raising beef cattle. Jane had four passions; family, church, art and flower gardening. Since she had no children, she adopted many others.

Galen Dee Flora, aged 94 of Boones Mill, Virginia, departed from his earthly life for his heavenly home on Monday, July 6, 2020. He was preceded in death by his first wife, Betty Wray Flora and his second wife, Susie W. Guilliams Flora. He is survived by son, Wendell (Mary) Flora; daughter Harriet F. (James) Mills; son Charles (Lynn) Flora; three grandchildren, three great-grandchildren, two step-children, four step-grandchildren, three sisters, one brother and numerous other family and friends. Galen was a lifelong member of Bethlehem Church of the Brethren. He served as church treasurer for 36 years, taught Sunday School for 20 years, and sang in the choir. His livelihood was poultry, cattle, and orchard farming. He ran an egg route for 31 years, gathering around 200 dozen eggs per day. He had a very strong faith, loved his Lord and told his children, "When I die, I want to exalt God, not me." A graveside service was held on Wednesday, July 8, at the Bethlehem Church of the Brethren Cemetery.

HEADLINER DEADLINE ON SEPTEMBER 25, 2020
Deadlines for submission of material for the November 2020 HEADLINER is September 25th. All items for publication, either for the HEADLINER or for the E-HEADLINER, should be sent to <EHeadliner@aol.com>.

PASTORAL PLACEMENT REPORT

BETHANY - Part time position, no profile available - *Emma Jean Woodard began as interim pastor effective July 15, 2020.*

BETHLEHEM - Full time position, profile pending - *William J. "Bill" Hinton, Sr. has resigned effective September 30, 2020.*

EDEN, FIRST - Full time position, profile circulating (P/I-5) - Edward C. Woodard serving as interim pastor.

FRATERNITY - Full time position, profile pending - Harold E. Sonafrank and Robert L. Williard serving as interim pastoral team.

GREEN HILL - Part time position, profile pending - *J. Michael Varner begins as interim pastor effective September 1, 2020*

JETERS CHAPEL - Part time position, profile circulating (P/I) - Pulpit supply.

LIGHTHOUSE - Part time position, no profile available - Don D. Street, lapsed speaker from Mount Hermon, serving as pulpit supply.

LYNCHBURG - *Karen B. Cassell called on a part-time basis effective September 1, 2020.*

MAPLE GROVE - Part time position, no profile available - Brian Sink serving a pulpit supply.

MONETA, LAKE SIDE - Part time position, profile circulating (P) - Christian J. Becker (FGBC) continues as pulpit supply

NEW BETHEL - Part time position, no profile available - Pulpit supply.

NEWPORT NEWS, IVY FARMS - Part time position, profile circulating - Pulpit supply.

ROANOKE, IGLESIA CRISTIANA RENACER - Part time position, profile pending - Pulpit supply.

SAINT PAUL - Part time position, no profile available - Mark A. Bolt is serving as interim pastor.

SELMA - Part time position, no profile available - Alvis Jackson serving as pulpit supply.

SHELTON - Part time position, no profile available - Joseph D. Smith is serving as interim pastor.

TRINITY - Part time position, profile available by request (P) - Anne Mitchell serving as interim pastor.

REMEMBERING THE WITNESS AND SERVICE OF

Pastor Preval Meritil, aged 79, died earlier this month at the home of his daughter in Miami, Florida. He was one of the original founders of the Haiti Mission Service and pastored a large congregation in Pernal, Haiti. Quite a few from our district, particularly from Patrick County and Henry County, have visited and volunteered labor.

Pastor Preval and his wife lived a simple life in a small house, each having a plate, a fork and a spoon. That was all they needed. They used their resources for those in need around them.

James C. "Jay" Tilley, aged 90, ordained minister of the Virlina District and member at Fraternity, died on Wednesday, July 21. He was a former pastor at Maple Grove and Shelton, as well as having served in the Southeastern District. Graveside rites were held on Saturday, July 24 in the Fraternity Church Cemetery.

N E W S & E V E N T S

NURTURING MIND, BODY AND SPIRIT -2020

An excellent collection of resources for individual and congregational use has been distributed by the Commission on Nurture of the Virlina District Board to all pastors and contact persons within the district. The Disabilities Ministries Committee, Children, Youth and Young Adult Ministries, Spiritual Development Retreat Committee, Children's Cabinet, and Family Life Ministries have collaborated to share activities and devotions that each congregation can use for educational ministries, newsletters and bulletins. A central feature is a three-month calendar (August - October 2020) to help those who are staying at home to stay fit mentally, physically and spiritually.

We believe that you as an individual and your congregations will find this collection to be helpful during this pandemic time. Both documents are identical except that one is designed for color reproduction and the other for black-and-white or gray scale reproduction. They may be found on the district website at <<http://www.virlina.org/>> or you may request a packet by e-mailing <virlina2@aol.com> or calling Mary Sink St. John at (540) 362-1816. Please take the time to view and use these excellent resources.

NEW DIGITAL PRODUCTS FOR FALL

Shine has produced two new digital resources to help your church keep connections strong with children, youth, and families no matter what setting is necessary for faith formation this fall.

Shine at Home is a new, simple option for families to do at home if regular Sunday school is not resumed this fall. It includes weekly mini-sessions, complete with a prayer practice, ideas for sharing the Bible story, questions and conversation prompts, media suggestions, and four activities that help kids and families explore the Bible story. Shine at Home was released August 1 as a downloadable PDF to email to interested families. A sample session can be viewed at <www.shinecurriculum.com>.

Shine Connect is a new free resource for teachers leading children through online Sunday school sessions. Shine Connect materials are included with the purchase of any Shine teacher's guide starting with the Fall 2020 materials. The materials are accessible through the QR code or URL found in each teacher's guide.

Shine Connect for Early Childhood includes an outline and tips for creating fun, online sessions for preschoolers using activities in the teacher's guide and storytelling pictures in the Resource Pack.

Shine Connect for Elementary is a more robust guide with weekly online session plans for Elementary children and accompanies the Primary, Older Elementary, and Multiage teacher's guides.

Shine Connect for Junior Youth provides a simple two-page framework and tips for facilitating discussion around the Bible story and connecting via the at-home devotional, Quest

Whether livestreaming or via video conferencing, churches can continue to teach children and youth using Shine teacher's guides, student materials, music, and storytelling resources.

PART TIME PASTOR; FULL TIME CHURCH

The new Part-Time Pastor; Full-Time Church program is a grant-funded initiative through the Church of the Brethren Office of Ministry designed to offer support and encouragement specifically for multi-vocational pastors. Pastors who participate are paired with a regionally based "Circuit Rider," a minister with gifts of deep listening and encouragement. Circuit Riders come alongside pastors to listen to their joys and challenges and then help to connect them with resources that will be helpful in their particular situation.

You can learn more about our program, see photos and bios of our Circuit Riders, and apply to participate here at <<http://www.brethren.org/part-time-pastor>> Angela Carr, pastor of the Laurel Branch Church in Floyd County, VA, is the Circuit Rider in our district.

VIRLINA WOMEN'S GROUPS CALLED TO ACTION

The women of our district, as organized fellowships or as individuals, have been invited by the Northern Area Women's Fellowship to put together "Individual Kits of Comfort" for children who are victims of disasters. The Church of the Brethren, through New Windsor Service Center, will be sending the kits to areas affected by disaster as a response while volunteers are prohibited from going to those areas in person due to COVID-19. Red Cross staff will hand out the kits at the designated child care areas. "Play brings a sense of normalcy and allows a child to explore their thoughts and feelings in a way that feels safe to them. When children are struggling, the best thing adults can do to help is to provide opportunities for play."

Green Hill Church of the Brethren will be the drop off point for completed kits. The delivery of the completed kits will be facilitated by the district. The list of supplies has been sent through the E-Headliner, in the Memo to Ministers, through the Commission on Nurture's resource packet, to Northern Area Women's Fellowship leaders and is available on-line at <www.virlina.org>. Green Hill has offered to help fill kits if there is difficulty buying just a few items. They have purchased enough supplies for one hundred kits. Groups are invited to come to the church at a reserved time to help put the kits together. A donation to the church of \$22.00 per kit is all that is asked. If gathering at Green Hill, no need to order supplies! A called reservation for kit building, social distancing, masks, and safe gathering procedures will be followed.

There is a pictorial guide found at <www.virlina.org>. Our denomination hopes to supply 2,500 kits. We challenge the women of Virlina to make three hundred kits. Each kit costs a bit more than the advertised \$17.00, so \$22.00 includes a few school supplies and small toys. Our deadline for collection is September 15. This will allow time to deliver them to New Windsor by September 30. Contact Mary St. John at (540) 362-1816 or <virlina2@aol.com> for information.



DISTRICT OFFICE
CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
 3402 Plantation Road NE
 Roanoke, VA 24012

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Continuing the work of Jesus. Peacefully. Simply. Together.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2020

3-4		CODE Executive Committee - Richmond, IN (DKS)
7		Labor Day - District Resource Center- Closed
8		Virginia Council of Churches Steering Comm. (DKS)
11	2:00 PM	Historical Committee (DKS)
14	6:30 PM	Disaster Response Committee (MSS)
15	1:00 PM	Council of District Executive - East (DKS)
	7:00 PM	Program and Arrangements Committee (MSS)
19	9:00 AM	District Board - Roanoke, Oak Grove (DKS/MSS)
20	11:00 AM	Bethel Church (DKS)
21	7:00 PM	Long Range Financial Planning Committee - W/D Process
25	7:00 PM	Long Range Financial Plannint Committee - Full Meeting
27	9:00 AM	Peters Creek 175th Anniversary Celebration (DKS)
28	6:30 PM	Lake Side Steering Committee (DKS)
29		Virginia Council of Churches Cabinet Meeting (DKS)

OCTOBER 2020

2	6:00 PM	Commission on Ministry (DKS)
4	AM	Topeco 175th Anniversary Celebration (DKS)
	PM	Prayers for Peace (Z) (MSS)
15	4:00 PM	Disabilities Ministries Committee - Oak Grove (MSS)
25	AM	Bethlehem 150th Anniversary Celebration (DKS)

*Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way
 and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea
 Psalm 46:1*

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

RADICAL HOPE



FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13

Ministers & Spouses Dinner

The Annual Ministers and Spouses Dinner has been cancelled for 2020. We hope to continue the tradition of eating and studying together in 2021.

Conference Registration

Delegates must preregister by paying the \$25.00 fee by September 21 to receive a booklet and to register as a voting member of the conference.

(Non-delegates may order a conference report booklet by September 21 for \$5.00 each.)

Exhibits

All agencies and District Committees who would ordinarily request Exhibit space are invited to include a poster or flier in the packet for delegate/congregations. Information must be delivered to the District Office by September 30.

Worship

A prerecorded worship service will be online at www.virlina.org. There will be a variety of special music. The speakers will include Moderator Cathy Huffman, David Radcliff, Adam Stultz, Ted Turner, Emily Laprade Van Pelt, and John Thompson.

Virtual District Conference November 13 - 14, 2020

In-person worship and sessions
have been cancelled.

Join us for videos online, with prerecorded DVDs,
and through booklets by mail!

"This then, is how you should pray:

*"Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done on earth
as it is in heaven."
Matthew 6: 9-10*

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14

Children's Activities & Youth

Our artwork for the booklet was drawn by Lauren Kelley, an eighth grader in Graphic Arts class at The Gereau Center for Applied Technology in Rocky Mount, Virginia. The Program and Arrangements Committee invites all children and youth of Virlina to draw their vision of the conference theme, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom". Send all artwork to Mary St. John at virlina2@aol.com or to 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. The art will be featured in our recorded on-line conference events.

Youth: Join Joy Murray and the IYC from Bridgewater College on www.virlina.org for a Jr/Sr High recorded Bible lesson.

Prerecorded Business and Worship

The prerecorded business and worship video will include opening remarks by 2021 Annual Conference moderator Paul Munday, all balloting results, and installation and prayer for Virlina's 2021 leadership.

**Join us as we hear about
"RADICAL HOPE:
Glimpses of the Kingdom."**

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

~ DELEGATES ~

PRE-REGISTRATION FOR DELEGATES

A registration form has been mailed or emailed to the pastor or contact person of every congregation. Please send the completed registration form and a check for \$25.00 per delegate, made payable to VIRLINA DISTRICT to Virlina District Office, 3402 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, VA 24012. Registration deadline for delegates is September 21. To receive a delegate packet, and to qualify to vote for the nominees who have agreed to serve in 2021, delegates and pastors must register.

~ NON-DELEGATES ~

NON-DELEGATES REQUESTING A REPORTS BOOKLET

Registration for non-delegates will be \$5.00 this year to help cover the cost of the printed conference reports booklet and postage. If non-delegates would like a booklet mailed to their church or home, the order must be made by September 21.

~ WHAT YOUR REGISTRATION FEE COVERS ~

Even though we will not be meeting in a "brick and mortar" facility this year, your registration fee is still needed to 1. Ensure your delegate voting slot; 2. To help pay for printing of materials for delegates and congregations; 3. To help pay for postage; 4. To ensure the Director of District Conference covers additional expenses such as staffing, DVDs, envelopes, travel, etc.

~ CONFERENCE BOOKLET~

Booklets will be mailed to congregations by the first week of October. Pastors or contact persons are asked to distribute the booklets to the delegates. One ballot per registered delegate will be included in the mailing. These are due back by mail or hand-delivered to the District Office by October 30. Included in the mailing is an opportunity to affirm the 2021 budget, left unchanged from the 2020 budget voted on at the 2019 District Conference. The 2019 District Conference Minutes will be in the 2020 booklet.

Also, in the booklet are reports from District Staff; Camp Bethel Staff; Commission Chairs of Ministry, Nurture, Stewardship, and Witness; Ministry Formation; Continuing Education; Disaster Response; Pilgrimage; New Church Development; Steering Committees; Historical Committee; and Outdoor Ministries Committee. Others having reports in the 2020 booklet are Nominee Biographical Information, Church of the Brethren agencies, Ecumenical Partners and Christian Growth Institute.

We will order booklets this year based on how many delegates register by the September 21 deadline, with the registration fee of \$25.00. A number of booklets may be ordered and purchased by non-delegates for a fee of \$5.00. The officers of District Conference will receive a booklet, as well. Portions of the booklet will also be available on the website once those pages are finalized.

~MEALS~

MINISTERS AND SPOUSES DINNER

The Annual Ministers and Spouses Dinner will not be held this year. Please join us all in prayer as we seek an end to the Coronavirus. We look forward to the next time we can all gather again in person.

~GENERAL INFORMATION~

There will be no exhibits this year; however, there will be posters, bulletin inserts, and fliers in the delegate packet. Please share this information with your church leadership through newsletters, bulletins, mailings, or postings at your individual congregation.

Forms and information are available online!
<http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>

CAMP BETHEL

LABOR DAY FAMILY WEEKEND - SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2020

The weekend will be different (no pool, no pot-luck, music-at-a-distance), but we'll be together... sort of! Pack your facemasks! Please register or reserve meals as soon as possible at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/LaborDay>

"CAMP BETHEL PEP! 5K" - SEPTEMBER 5, 2020

The "Safe and In Person" Camp Bethel Pep - 5K Run/Walk will be held at Camp Bethel on Saturday, September 5, 2020. In-person safety adaptations include "wave-starts," physical distancing, pre-wrapped food, and more at our annual 5K fundraiser for "the PEPPIEST gang around!" Plans, sponsors, and registration may be found online at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/5K>.

BENEFIT GOLF TOURNAMENT - SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Golfers and sponsors needed on Wednesday, September 23 for our "Safe and In Person" adapted 2020 Golf Tournament at Ashley Plantation Golf Course. Tee off is at 12:30 p.m. The \$75 per person includes green fees, cart, and dinner. Updated plans and safety adaptations, plus registration and sponsor information is found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/golf>.

HERITAGE DAY FESTIVAL - OCTOBER 3, 2020

The 2020 Heritage Day Festival is currently scheduled for Saturday, October 20. Whether this will be a "Safe and In Person" event at the camp or an alternative plan has not been determined. Either way, we ask that you prepare for and participate in this vitally important fundraiser for Camp Bethel. Updated plans, forms, fliers, and information may be found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/Heritage-Day>, or available by e-mail at <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com> or by telephone at (540) 992-2940.

FALL VOLUNTEER WORKDAY IS NOVEMBER 7, 2020

We need your help on Fall Volunteer Day on Saturday, November 7. The day begins in the Ark at 7:30 a.m. with free breakfast and includes a free lunch at 1:00 p.m. Your help is needed to prepare camp for the winter season. There are workday projects (rain or shine; indoor and outdoor) for all skill levels and all ages. RSVP meals by October 31 by calling (540) 992-2940 or e-mail <CampBethelOffice@gmail.com>. Details may be found at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org>.

"ONWARD WE GO!" BIBLE STUDY VIDEOS

We're bringing Camp to you with interactive Bible Study videos produced by and featuring our 2020 Summer Staff. Day 1 = Blessed as We Go. Day 2 = Led as We Go. Day 3 = Walking Together as We Go. Day 4 = Challenged as We Go. Day 5 = Rejoicing as We Go. Day 6 = Sent Onward We Go! <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/CampAtHome>

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES CONTINUE

The 2020 Pandemic has challenged us deeply. All aspects of our mission and day-to-day operations have been greatly altered. Campers, staff alumni, and supporters from across many decades have responded generously. Dozens of individuals and families have given. Several congregations donated their budgeted 2020 "Good as Gold" camper funds. Such generosity has been inspiring. Your gift can help us pivot

our programming, adapt our food services, and safely open for facility rentals. Please give and encourage others to give at <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/donate>. Thank you!

"SCHOOL'S OUT, CAMP'S IN" FALL DAY CAMPS

We combine the best activities of an Outdoor Learning Center; a Forest School, and our own Small Group Camping model into an excellent new program now through December for students in 3rd-8th grades to attend on days they are not in school. Individualized attendance is available. \$55 per day for immersive, active, safe, and engaging outdoor learning experiences on our 470-acre campus with dedicated and trained adult counselors. <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/soci>

CAMP BETHEL IS OPEN FOR FAMILIES AND GROUPS

In accordance with Virginia's Phase 3 guidelines, facilities and RV/Tent campsites are available to reserve. Hiking/biking trail maps and Self-Guided Adventure packets are on our office porch. For more information go to <www.CampBethelVirginia.org/groups>

PEACE AFFAIRS ON-LINE EVENT - OCTOBER 4, 2020

Our annual September worship tradition of gathering and praying for Peace has been cancelled in person in an attempt to reduce risk and eliminate the spread of the Coronavirus. We are very excited, however, to offer an online Peace Worship Service that will feature music from the young people of Antioch Church of the Brethren, the Brethren Beats, and guest speakers from Virlina's newly formed Race Education Team. We may also feature, if possible, a representative from the Roanoke City Police Department.

The online event, will be posted on <www.virlina.org> beginning Sunday, October 4. This recorded service will stay on the website through October 31. We invite you and your family to watch it at your convenience. The Peace Affairs Committee hopes to provide a safe alternative to gathering, while we continue to pray for peace and healing in our congregations, communities and the world.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VIDEO ON DISTRICT WEBSITE

Staying at home, isolation, joblessness, and growing depression have increased the risk for the occurrence of domestic violence. A useful video with worship and information about Domestic Violence is found at <www.virlina.org>. The Family Life Ministries Committee, a part of Virlina's Commission on Nurture, has sponsored this helpful resource.

If you are a victim, a pastor, a counselor, a child advocate, or are in need of help and guidance, this video, features private phone numbers and help hot-lines. The video will remain through the end of the year and can be viewed anonymously.

OUR SYMPATHIES TO THE FAMILY OF

Earl W. Carlson, aged 101, of Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin died peacefully on Easter Sunday, April 12, 2020. He faithfully served the Lord as an ordained minister for 75 years in eight congregations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). He was the father of Naomi C. Powers, co-pastor of the Daleville Church of the Brethren.

VIRLINA DISTRICT CONFERENCE

~ PROGRAM AND ARRANGEMENTS~

The 2020 Program and Arrangements Committee, voted on by the delegates of District Conference, has been thoughtful and prayerful in the meetings leading up to the decision to cancel the in-person conference. Even though November seems like it is far into the future, it actually is very close when we consider the time it takes to print booklets, mail ballots, organize meeting spaces, secure children's leadership and activities, and reserve caterers for meals.

The September issue of our newsletter, the HEADLINER, has traditionally been used to inform the District of all of the plans and fees associated with District Conference. Since at the time of this printing we are still, as a society, battling the unknown due to restrictions and the spread of the Coronavirus, the Program and Arrangements Committee, the officers of District Conference, and the Director of District Conference, Nurture and Witness made the difficult decision to move all business and worship to online recorded sessions, and to supply the booklets and ballots by mail to each congregation and registered delegate. Please lift up a prayer of thanksgiving for the work of the Program and Arrangements Committee and pray that we will all be able to meet again in person at the 2021 District Conference.

~CONFERENCE INFORMATION SHARING~

The recorded sessions of the worship and special music, the ballot, affirmation of the budget, passing the gavel of leadership, introduction of the 2021 theme and any other recorded aspect of the 2020 District Conference will be available beginning November 13 on the virlina.org website to be viewed at your convenience. There will also be DVDs of the program mailed to any congregation who requests them.

~CONFERENCE OFFERING~

The 2020 offering will be used to offset conference expenses and to help support the work of Virlina District. Our Commissions and committees are still working during this time to provide means for spiritual growth as a district body. Please indicate your contribution is part of the conference offering and mail or deliver to 4302 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia, 24012. Thank you for your support.

~AGE GROUP ACTIVITIES~

CHILDREN:

The Children's Cabinet will miss the opportunity to provide a fun day with the children of Virlina. In an effort to keep the children involved, we invite all children and youth to study the theme of this year's conference, "Radical Hope: Glimpses of the Kingdom", based on Matthew 6: 9-10 and to draw their interpretation of this theme. All artwork will be included in our online presentation either through the virtual worship or the business portion of the pre-recorded conference. These videos will be available on the virlina.org webpage beginning November 13, 2020. On the front of the art, please include your name, age, and congregation and send it to virlina2@aol.com or mail the art to Mary StJohn, 4302 Plantation Road, NE, Roanoke, Virginia, 24012. Art is due by October 15, 2020.

MIDDLE SCHOOL AND SENIOR HIGH YOUTH: 6TH - 12TH Grade

Joy Murray, Director of Children, Youth, and Young Adults, is planning an online Bible Study with special guests from Bridgewater College. This will be a recorded message beginning on November 13, so feel free to watch it at your convenience! We miss our in-person events and look forward to the day when we can join together again at retreats, picnics, and work projects.

**ALL REGISTRATION FORMS AND INFORMATION
ABOUT DISTRICT CONFERENCE ARE AVAILABLE ONLINE!**

<http://virlina.org/district-conference.html>

In addition, each congregation has been sent forms to print and share.