

July 2019

The Bethany Banner



Bethany Lutheran Vacation Bible School!

Celebrating God!
Past, Present and Future

July 21 - July 24, 6-8 p.m.

Kids three years old through
entering sixth grade.

Please bring your friends!

Potluck & mini-concert on
Wednesday!

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Pastor Bob's Retirement!

All members of the congregation are invited to participate in celebrating with Pastor Bob his retirement. **His last service for Bethany will be Sunday, July 28, at 9:30 a.m.** A special liturgy and music will be part of this worship as we send Pastor and Nancy into the next chapter of their lives. A retirement luncheon will follow in the Fellowship Hall. The Fellowship Team will be serving hot roast beef sandwiches and members of the congregation are asked to bring side dishes and salads to share. Cake and ice cream will be served for dessert. **RSVP would be appreciated by signing up on the kiosk** for the luncheon. Let's show Pastor Bob and Nancy our sincere gratitude for their service to our Lord and Bethany.



Ponderings of the Pastor

**For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.
Ecclesiastes 3: 1**

This is well known wisdom from the book of Ecclesiastes. It fits with a well-known fact in modern life – that the only thing that doesn't ever change is change.

I have had the privilege of 38 years of ministry – working in a variety of ministry settings over the years. That includes the privilege of being pastor at Bethany for four years. There were difficult challenges to overcome, but that was outweighed by the privilege of being with so many good people, and of being part of the milestones of numerous people and families. I believe that Bethany now stands at an important threshold to the future.

The call to ministry is a mysterious process guided by the Holy Spirit. The burnout from dealing with a conflicted leadership started a process in me of looking at early retirement. This new direction my heart was taking me was noticed by my spiritual director at the Franciscan Spirituality Center in La Crosse. The combination of so many good people at Bethany that I enjoyed being part of, along with ongoing challenges, had me sitting on the fence for all of 2018.

In my ongoing discernment process, I began to realize that I was getting a consistent message that I had finished what I was called to Bethany to accomplish – bringing to light (with the help and guidance of others) the issues at Bethany and getting Bethany in a position to move forward into the future. I feel that Bethany is in a good place; it will take a strong determination, a creative vision, and perseverance to move forward into the future. My prayer is that you build on the hard work and progress you have already made.

I am looking forward to a new direction my life is taking into retirement. Nancy and I plan to stay in Mauston. We are staying in town, not, as you may have heard, moving out to the lake. So we will probably run into each other from time to time. Someone asked me, “what do we call you once you are no longer pastor?” I prefer simply “Bob.” If you are uncomfortable with that, you can stay with Pastor Bob.

The other main question I've been asked: “Can you still attend worship and help out at Bethany?” It is important to be clear about this issue. It may seem like former pastors are doing a favor when they return to do a baptism or a wedding or a funeral.

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But this is not the case; it divides loyalties and focus. I will no longer be attending Bethany as a member; and it is not appropriate for me to “help out” with baptisms, weddings, or funerals – or to fill in as a preacher – or hear complaints or give advice. It is a clear line the Lutheran Church draws to keep the issue of call – both to pastor and members – clear and well defined. It also helps the former pastor from having a divided heart about when to help or not help.

You have a great resource in the La Crosse Area Synod. The word “synod” literally means “to walk together.” Nancy and I have walked together with you for four years. We are both glad that we have been able to do that. It is not an easy thing for us to leave Bethany. You have helped us to grow as much as we hope we have helped you to grow.

Nancy and I pray for an ongoing vision for ministry at Bethany that reaches out to central Wisconsin. We pray that you take advantage of the opportunities that lie before you. You will remain in our hearts as we move to a new stage in our lives. God’s blessings go with you all.

-Pastor Bob & Nancy Thacker

Bethany’s 75th Anniversary ~ Celebrating Our Past!

Make plans now to attend the first of our three celebrations for Bethany's 75th Anniversary. On Sunday, August 11, at Plymouth Cemetery we will begin our celebration with worship at 9:30 a.m. Our special guest preacher that day will be Pastor Glenn Borreson. Come and enjoy the beautiful outdoors at the location of Bethany's roots. Bring your own chair for the church service. We want everyone to feel welcome to attend this special event and will have a crew on hand to help with valet parking for those that may not be able to navigate the uneven ground. We also will provide a shuttle service from Bethany for anyone not wanting to drive to Plymouth. If you need a ride from church, please call Sara in the office to get put on the list.

Following the worship, we will have an old-fashioned cookout. Shade tents will be provided and picnic tables available along with games for the kids. Please spread the word to your family members and past members who might like to attend. We want to celebrate everyone that has helped shape Bethany over the years.

Make sure to check out our display of Bethany's history in the narthex and pick up a copy of our 75-year history book beginning August 4!

July 2019 BETHANY BANNER - YOUTH MINISTRY

WE'RE ON FACEBOOK Look for Bethany Youth & Family on Facebook - get the newest updates.

QUALITY TIME OR QUANTITY TIME WITH YOUR KIDS? Some argue for a handful of high-quality interactions with a child each month, while others argue the important element is to spend a lot of hours with children, regardless of whether or not it's "quality time."

The fact is—an adult cannot simply orchestrate "quality time" with a kid, especially if that kid is an adolescent. You just can't engineer it on a given day. In fact, the more you try to fabricate it, the less likely it is to happen. So, what is a caring adult to do?

Pursue planned *quantity times*. By this I mean, when you plan enough times to simply be together, the more likely you'll experience one or two genuine interactions. Quality conversations and epiphanies come more readily as an adult and teen spend lots of time truly connected. Familiarity brings comfortability and safety, when handled well. Teens feel safe to open up when there have been enough episodes of togetherness.

The main point: Plan quantity times and look for quality moments inside those times.

Five Practical Ideas to Foster Quality Interactions During the "Quantity" Times

1. Go to games, matches, meets and shows to watch your kid in action as often as you can. Talk to them to ensure they know you participated and saw them. It is paramount to cross into their territory and see them on their home turf.
2. Plan at least three dinners a week where you eat with your kids. Meal times are one of the best times to put phones away and actually talk. Kids can both answer questions and overhear parents sharing their viewpoints.
3. Identify a new opportunity where you and your child can share something in common that you both enjoy, be it a hobby, tradition, annual trip or game. This creates a personal history you share together that no one else shares with them.
4. When you experience shared time, be fully present, with your phone put away. This speaks volumes to your child, who is very aware of parental distractions, but may never say so. Your full attention actually fosters quality time.
5. Look at your calendar and schedule times you can "push pause" and join your kid somewhere in their routine. Even if it means you grab that time when it's good for them and make up your work time later than night.

-Dick

An Update on the Line of Credit...

On August 28, 2016, a Special Meeting of the Bethany congregation was held. The Church Council presented a list of projects to be completed and was seeking approval from the congregation.

The council also explained that we would need to borrow money to complete all or some of these improvements. The council recommended that we create a line of credit from the bank in the amount of \$200,000. We would draw funds as needed during the completion of these projects.

The members attending this meeting approved the line-of-credit plan as proposed and approved completing seven of the ten projects that had been presented. Listed below are those projects.

Fellowship Hall Roof	\$68,730	Garage Roof	\$2,500
Bell Tower Repairs	\$ 3,000	Parking Lot	\$67,726
Refrigerator/Freezer	\$ 5,000	Phone System	\$2,100
Fence at Plymouth Cemetery	\$ 3,200		

The total cost of these seven projects was \$152,256. The line-of-credit secured at the Bank of Mauston was used as needed to complete these projects.

Work began on these projects and progressed nicely, except for the parking lot. It was discovered that the base beneath the existing blacktop was not suitable. Deep and large pockets of mushy clay had to be removed.

A second congregational meeting was held on Sunday, December 10, 2017. Council informed the members that the cost of the parking lot had increased to \$212,491.60. This was an increase of \$144,765. We also needed to increase our line of credit with the bank to \$250,000. **The total cost for all these projects was now \$297,021.00.** The membership approved the increases as presented by the council.

Money was drawn from the line-of-credit loan as needed. All projects have been completed.

In addition, to using the line-of-credit funds, other funds were used to help pay for some of these costs. For example, the refrigerator and freezer were paid for by special offerings from members, the kitchen fund and building fund. The building fund has helped a lot to pay some of these costs.

A special parking lot fund raising campaign was started in the fall of 2018. This is a three-year project. It will be completed at the end of 2021. Some members gave an up-front lump sum contribution while others choose to make weekly, monthly or annual payments to fulfill their pledges.

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Bethany Lutheran Church
 701 Grove Street
 Mauston, WI 53948
 Phone: (608) 847-6690



July 2019

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu
Any donation to the pantry is most appreciated. Our special needs for the month of July are canned peas and canned baked beans, juice, soup, mac & cheese.				
	1 8:30 am Coffee & Bible Group at Daily Grind	2	3 6 pm Dinner Worship	4 
7 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Hour 10:40 am Congregational Conversations	8 8:30 am Coffee & Bible Group at Daily Grind 7 pm Mauston Community Band	9 5:30 pm Finance Committee Mtg.	10 6 pm Dinner Worship	11 9 am Wome Breakfast at Park Oasis 6:30 pm Cot
14 Food Pantry Sunday! 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Coffee Hour / Beacon Mtg.	15 *Newsletter Articles Due! 8:30 am Coffee & Bible Group at Daily Grind 7 pm Mauston Community Band at Fairview Nursing	16	17 6 pm Congregational Meeting with Bishop Arends	18
21 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Fellowship Coffee Hour Vacation Bible School July 21 through July 24! 6-8 PM	22 8:30 am Coffee & Bible Group at Daily Grind 7 pm Mauston Community Band	23	24 6 pm VBS potluck and mini-concert	25
28 Pastor Bob's Last Day! 9:30 am Holy Communion 10:30 am Pastor Bob's Retirement Luncheon	29	30	31 6 pm Dinner Worship	

E-mail Office: bethluth2@frontier.com
E-mail Pastor: revrgt@outlook.com
Web address: www.bethanymauston.com

July 2019 Assistants

Greeters:

- 7 - Jon & Nancy Williams
- 14 - Jeri & Molly Shultis
- 21 - Larry & Chris Arens
- 28 - Jacquie Puent & Nancy Thacker

Lectors:

- 7 - Norma Smith
- 14 - Ed Rogers
- 21 - Mark Dahlke
- 28 - Lis Schroeder

Communion Assistants:

- 7 - Teresa Ellerman
- 14 - Pat Dutzle
- 21 - Karen Fritz
- 28 - Wally Feldman



Assisting Ministers:

- 7 - Dick Pirwitz
- 14 - Mary Pirwitz
- 21 - Marie McDonough
- 28 - Kathy Marose

Altar Guild:

Doreen, Calista & Celeste Coller
 Bread: Bethany Youth

Usher captains the week of:

- 7 - Roger Dutzle
- 14 - Ken Lalk
- 21 - Bill Potter
- 28 - Harold Seebecker & Jeri Shultis

	Fri	Sat
	5 Office Closed!	6
Women's st at Mauston isis n Council	12 Pastor's Sabbath	13
	19 Pastor's Sabbath 4 - 12 pm Relay for Life	20
	26 Pastor's Sabbath	27

Congregational Conversations!

As Bethany prepares for a transition in pastoral leadership, there is an urgency to discern what **God** has in store for us. The leadership of Bethany wants to hear from the congregation what members think **God** wants us to do. Over the coming weeks and months, members will be invited to join in open conversations about Bethany. Our hopes, vision for the future and most importantly, our mission to serve Christ above all others. These meetings will begin with prayer to center us on Christ. Although meant to be open and honest, these meetings are not a place to air personal grievances or criticisms. They are meant to gather ideas, information and talk about how we can truly work together despite differences of opinion. **The first congregational conversation will be held on Sunday, July 7, following worship service at 10:40 a.m.** The location will be determined by the size of the group however we will start in the lounge. Grab a cup of coffee and treat and join us! Watch the bulletins and *Banner* for future Congregational Conversations.



Call Committee!

The council is in the beginning stages of forming a call committee. There is much work to do as we prepare to enter the call process. This Bishop will explain the details when he meets with the congregation. We will be looking for a cross-section of Bethany members to participate on this committee, meaning that we want a variety of members. If you have an interest in serving in this capacity, please contact a member of the executive committee for consideration. Please know that not everyone who is interested will be selected and that the selection process isn't personal. The council will make every attempt to obtain a balanced committee willing to put in the long hours and hard work that lies ahead. Please pray for this process and ask God to be our guiding light!



75th Anniversary T-shirt Orders

Want to show your support for Bethany and celebrate our 75th Anniversary? Order a specially designed 75th Anniversary t-shirt! These shirts will come in two bold colors, orange and blue and have the anniversary logo printed on the front. The cost is **\$10** for youth sizes and small, medium, large and x-large adult sizes. Extended sizes 2xl, 3xl are **\$13**. Our member, Darren Honnold, has graciously agreed to print these shirts for us. **Order blanks will be available in the narthex with an order deadline of July 31.** Shirts must be paid for at the time of the order. Hurry and order yours today!

Bethany Garage Sale is Huge Success!

As we reflect on our recent garage sale, we are reminded of the verse *"For the body is not one member, but many."* 1st Corinthians 12:14. We were so blessed to have so many members of Bethany working together to make this project happen. We had 30 different members help us during the four days of set up and sales. Together we supported each other, had lots of fun and laughs and were able to raise \$3,161.50 for our parking lot. In addition to those that were able to help us during the sale, there were countless Bethany members who generously donated items to sell and spread the word to their family and friends who also brought in donations. We were blown away with the donations we received which started out being stored in one unused Sunday School room and by the end took up six rooms and the whole hallway. God was truly working through us as we welcomed members from the community into our church. They were able to buy needed items for a great price and see our members' kindness and servant attitudes at work. How else but *"God at work"* could explain why a worker during our set up decided to move the children's toys to a different table that was right in front of the windows to the sanctuary. On Friday when a young boy was looking at toys, he looked through the windows at the lighted cross and said, *"Wow, there's the church."*



I've never been in a church before!"

The blessings didn't end when our sale was over. We donated our unsold items to the Hatch Public Library, Bethany New Lisbon Quilters, Mauston School District, Touched Twice Clinic and the United Methodist Church who were generous enough to let us use their racks and shelves.

~Sheri Benson and Elley Dahlke

Congregational Meeting ~ Wednesday, July 17 @ 6 p.m.

Bishop Arends would like to meet with our congregation to explain how we prepare for the call process and to discuss the time frame for obtaining an Interim Pastor and ultimately a new Pastor. This meeting will be held on **Wednesday, July 17, at 6 p.m.** All members are encouraged to attend to have their questions addressed. A potluck meal will held at **6 p.m.** with the meeting to follow. Mark your calendars for this important meeting!

Line-of-Credit Update...

(Continued from page 5)

Members have given approximately \$135,000, to date. We have reduced the loan at the bank by \$133,200 with these contributions. There are approximately \$37,000 of unpaid pledges. The pledges are being met as planned.

Occasionally, members will make a contribution even though their original contribution was paid in full. Please know that you are encouraged to give more if you can. We would be very grateful if members who have not given and can afford to would do so.

It's been written in this report, that together all of these projects total almost \$300,000. All the bills have been paid, the roof doesn't leak, we have a nice new refrigerator and freezer, the parking lot is awesome and much more has been done.

It's remarkable that our loan balance is less than \$85,000! With continued enthusiasm, thoughtful and prayerful giving and all of us working together; we can and will eliminate this debt.

"We Can Do all Things Through Christ Our Lord!"

-Parking Lot Committee

DOLLARS — May 2019 **SENSE**

<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Offering</u>
<u>May 5</u>	
118 + 35 (5-1)	\$4,198.00
<u>May 12</u>	
108 + 20 (5-8)	\$2,318.00
<u>May 19</u>	
71 + 18 (5-15)	\$2,623.00
<u>May 26</u>	
78 + 17 (5-22)	\$1,512.56
<u>May 29</u>	
38	\$305.50



Congratulations to Twyla Pufahl for graduating from the Dubuque Community College Culinary Program. In addition, she also earned her SERV safe Food Protection Manager Certificate! Twyla is the daughter of Chris & Kim Pufahl.

PARTNER\$ in Finance Making Ministry Possible
With Your Financial Gifts

Income and Disbursements for Month Ending May 31, 2019

	May -19 Actual 4 Sundays	2019 YTD Actual	May -19 Budget	2019 Budget
Total Receipts	10,932.52	72,034.47	17,000.00	195,000.00
Total Disbursements	11,644.75	82,612.86	17,020.00	199,982.29

Parking Lot Fund: \$4,449.77
Building Fund Reg: \$30,679.54
TOTAL: \$35,129.31

Memorial Designated: \$26,713.85
Memorial Undesignated: \$6,011.01
Average Sunday attendance in May: 94

June 13, council summary: New Council Structure moves forward

*Open Forum for Congregational Concerns: Harlow Gierhart asked Kathy Marose to suggest that Bethany spruce up the exterior and landscaping of the church building for the 75th anniversary. This will be a lot of work and council should seek funds to pay the cost. *Treasurer's Report: Our income for May was \$10,932 falling short of the budgeted income of \$17,000. Our year-to-date expenses are \$82,612 and budgeted year-to-date expenses are \$82,657. We have spent \$10,578 more than we've received this year. Gary will be cancelling Pastors credit card. Finance recommends that we take \$7,000, from the Parking Lot Fund and \$10,000, from the Building Fund and pay on our loan. It was discussed and decided that council approval is not needed for this transaction. The negative balance in the Plymouth Steeple Fund was discussed. Pastor has returned his Helping Fund checkbook. Linda Bohnert reported that the Finance Committee would like to have known about the use of the E.P. Kuehn Memorial Funds for the stewardship program. Kathy clarified that the Finance Committee, as are all

current committees, are advisory and council has the authority to act in the best interest of Bethany. *Old Business: Council Structure/Constitutional Committee Update. Rich Morgan discussed the proposed amendments and the structure they represent. The next steps are up to council. Motion made to approve the proposed amendments and send to Synod for their review. The next steps are a Special Congregational Meeting. A second Congregational Meeting to ratify is required for the Constitution amendment. Kathy Marose will handle meeting. 75th Anniversary Planning Update: The past group has done a great job of planning for Plymouth Worship to be held on Sunday, August 11. Festival Foods to be a sponsor of event. Commemorative shirts \$10-\$13 will be available. Pastor's Retirement Celebration Update: Roast beef from WI River Meats planned for the celebration dinner, members to bring salads. Rich Morgan has been asked to sing some GIFT music. *New Business: Nomination of Jeri Shultis to fill Leadership Team vacancy. Motion to approve and carried. Next meeting: July 11.

Bethany Lutheran Church
701 Grove Street
Mauston, WI 53948

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Return service requested

The Bethany Banner

We at Bethany Lutheran Church, Mauston,
seek to build unity by instilling hope through:

ENGAGING

all generations in the practices and teaching
of Jesus,

WELCOMING

each other,

REACHING OUT

to our greater community.

Bethany Lutheran Church

701 Grove Street
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Pastor Thacker's cell phone:
608-548-3385

Our Staff:

Pastor: Robert Thacker
President: Kathy Marose
Administrative Assistant: Sara Hanko
Financial Secretary: LaVonne Voltz
Treasurer: Gary Gray
Custodian: Ruth Marose

Pastoral Acts:

Funerals:

Pearl Jermier - May 30
Carl Knudsen - June 21
Paul Olson - June 22

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