

# BETHANY LUTHERAN

## Connections March 2021

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### Stewardship for all Seasons "Going God's Way 2021"

While so much of the past year has been out of our control, we know that God is good and will guide and protect us, even in times of uncertainty. This is why we follow His direction and continue to go His way!

In March, the Stewardship for all Seasons Committee will be inviting you to join in this mission to follow where God is calling Bethany. The first week in March, members will receive a mailing laying the groundwork for "Going God's Way 2021". Each week in March as part of Sunday worship, the committee will be providing insight into what has been accomplished in the past year and share our goals for 2021! These initiatives come from Bethany's Mission Statement.

On Palm Sunday, you are invited to return your intent cards, thus making a commitment of support to Bethany through financial contributions, volunteer time, and most importantly, prayer support. A drive thru will be available from 10:30 - 11:30 AM for you to return your intent cards

and pick up a palm to celebrate Palm Sunday.

Think of one thing a month throughout 2021 you could "give" the cost of to the Lord : a meal out, a cup of coffee, a candy bar, a game of golf, etc. If each member prayerfully considers how much the Lord has done for them and returns God's blessings to the church, there will be an abundance! Please take the month of March to consider your blessings from God and pray about and consider what you can do in return to support His ministry through Bethany!

Stewardship for all Seasons Committee members: Sheri Benson, Tim Benson, Kathy Marose, Jacquie Puent, Jeri Shultis, Renee Miller, Interim Pastor Gloria Stubitsch

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Dear Members of Bethany Lutheran Church-Mauston,

2020 dawned with much hope for Lutheran Campus Ministry. Fourteen LCM students, two pastors of the La Crosse Area Synod, a UWL professor and our hosts at Metal Drum Ministries watched the sun rise over mountain peaks in Northern Thailand. We gave thanks to God for a new year and spoke words of hope and blessing to each other. 2020 seemed so fresh, bright and new. We did not know what the rest of the year had in store.

By February we watched as nation after nation became a new COVID hotspot. On March 13th our Universities gave word that all in person activities were cancelled. Lutheran Campus Ministry went online. The year that dawned with such optimism became the crucible which we have all endured. We made and changed plans, we shifted expectations, we endured successive waves of the virus. But that is not the whole story.

We also found new ways to be the body of Christ. Our community supported each other with online coffee hours, worship services, and pastoral care socially-distanced walks. Our building was closed but the church was open. And we did it, while staying financially viable, because of you. You faithfully supported our campus ministry in the biggest crisis that this young(ish) pastor and our young students have lived through. You were an answer to anxious prayers for the financial viability of Lutheran Campus Ministry in La Crosse. Your faithful generosity in uncertain times meant that students who lost so much were able to learn that the Gospel of Jesus Christ was meant for all times, but especially a time such as this.

We would like to thank you for your gift of \$100.00.

I cannot express my gratitude fully for your support for Lutheran Campus Ministry. Please know that the day is coming soon when our physical doors will be opened with a welcome as big as God's love and that you are always welcome to stop by for a cup of coffee or tea, and conversation with me and the students who call our ministry home. You are part of this place and this story, and we could not do this without you!



Peace, Pastor Ben Morris, Campus Pastor

701 Grove Street Mauston, Wisconsin \* 608-847-6690 \* [www.bethanymauston.com](http://www.bethanymauston.com)

Many thanks to Kathy Noe and Elwood Syverson for answering our call for quilt racks! These racks now hold beautiful prayer shawls and lap blankets which are available for anyone to take to share with a friend, neighbor, or family member who could benefit from a tangible reminder that they are held in prayer. Whether facing joy, sorrow, or hardship, it means so much to know we are seen, cared about, and not alone. Feel free to pick one up from our narthex whenever the Holy Spirit moves you to!



Dear Bethany, Thank you for the Kwik Trip gift card! I am not taking finals this year but am still studying and working hard. I will definitely use the card. I appreciate you thinking of me. I am so glad I had the opportunity to grow up in such an inviting and supporting church! Thank you again, Emily Wiese

THANK YOU

Thank you!

Dear Bethany Family,  
Thank you so much for the gift card and wonderful words of encouragement. I truly appreciate all the support over the years. This year has truly been unique, so thank you again for everything.  
Sincerely, Allison Colwell

Bethany Members, Thank you so much for the Kwik Trip gift card, it was such a thoughtful surprise. I apologize for responding so late, I thought I had written another letter, but I lost it and then forgot about it. Sorry, and thank you again!! Emily Reigard

THANK YOU

*Thank  
you*

Thank you, you are sincerely  
appreciated.  
Enjoyed the Chili!!  
Thank you and God Bless.  
Virginia Farrand

To the good people of Bethany,  
We want to thank everyone involved in the  
wonderful community supper drive-thru.  
It is so kind of folks to volunteer all the  
cooking time, the package and delivery  
(out in the cold!) and the Pastor to offer  
prayers and ashes.  
The chili was SO DELICIOUS and hot!  
You provide great uplift at a troubled time.  
Sincerely, Martin and Mary Schultz



Bethany is working to strengthen our partnership with  
the Community Sharing Food Pantry!  
In a time when hunger and food insecurity are prevalent  
in our community, there is no time like the present to  
reach out with care and compassion to our neighbors.

Our goal is to increase access to healthier meals. You can support the  
Community Sharing Food Pantry by:

- making a financial gift with your offering. Just designate "Food Pantry".
- by dropping off food items at the church or calling the church office to request a volunteer pick up items from your home.
  - by volunteering to help transport donations to the pantry.
  - by sharing your ideas on how to strengthen this partnership!

## Sunday School

In February, our remote learning Sunday School included lessons about the meaning of Ash Wednesday. We talked how the sign of the cross that we receive on Ash Wednesday is a reminder of our baptism, that we are children of God.

As a continuation of our January lessons about Jesus' compassion, students were encouraged to make thank you cards for first responders. Those cards were then distributed to members of our community in February. We discussed acts of kindness such as doing your chores without being reminded, shoveling snow for a neighbor, etc.

The February Sunday School bags included snacks, Bible themed Valentine's Day cards to make, a Lenten countdown calendar, the story lesson cards to color, a camel clothespin craft, and other fun crafts.

In March, we will be discussing Matthew 25 and how we show our love for Jesus by caring for others. We will also be celebrating Palm Sunday and Easter with homemade palms, songs, and, of course, the story of Jesus' death and resurrection!

**Reminder: There will be no Sunday School recording or Zoom Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4!**



## Youth Ministry

**CONFIRMATION** During Lent, the weekly Confirmation videos are not produced. Instead, students should view the weekly Lenten service on the Bethany Facebook page or on YouTube.

**WISE WORDS WHEN YOUR CHILDREN TALK BACK** Here are some wise words when your children talk back.

**“That’s not fair!”** Children like to believe the only just way for them to be treated is exactly the same as their siblings or friends. But fair isn’t the same as equal or identical.

**Dad Response:** “I will always try to treat you and your brothers and sisters fairly, but I won’t always treat you the same. That’s because you are each different, just like everyone in the world is different from each other.”

**“Everyone else gets to do it!”** Kids like to pressure parents by comparing them to other parents.

**Dad Response:** “Well, what other parents choose to do may not be right for us. In our family we believe \_\_\_\_\_, so that’s how we’ll decide about this too.”

**“You don’t trust me.”** Older kids will try to guilt parents who set boundaries by acting as if the implied lack of trust is damaging your parent-child relationship.

**Dad Response:** “Even if I trust you, which I do, my main job is to keep you safe. So in this case, it’s not about trusting you. It’s about keeping you safe and/or looking out for what you need.”

**“I don’t have to do what you say.”** This is one of those cases of backtalk that shows defiance and disrespect and should be dealt with accordingly.

**Dad Response:** Dad looks behind the kid and says, “Who are you talking to? I know you’re not talking to me.” That’s the *give the kid a chance to correct his or her attitude* approach. You can follow it with, “OK, maybe you want to try that again.” If your kids don’t get the point and keep talking back, take a stronger approach, “I am your parent, and whether you think I’m right or wrong, you owe me respect and obedience. Because your attitude and words are showing neither, your consequence is…” (Note: This only has value if the consequence has an impact and you have the backbone to enforce it.)

**“Mumble, mumble.”** This is the ploy of the child who wants to get the last word. You’ve said your piece, but the kid won’t let it drop. He or she either keeps pushing or mumbles under his or her breath. Either way, it’s a power play.

**Dad Response:** “OK, I’ve listened to what you have to say and I’ve asked you to stop talking.” From there, you either can say, “If you want to get to do \_\_\_\_\_, you will not say another word.” Or, “If you say another word about this, I will \_\_\_\_\_.”

## In our prayers

— John Griffin, Jimmy Hoilien, Bonnie Robinson, Phyllis Held, George Pierce, Meryle Henry, Tricia Demmin, Joe Griffin, The Dillin Family, Ken Plants, Bill Voltz, Ronald Miller, Tim Seebecker, Julie, Leona Clark, the Vanderhoof Family, Donna Voltz, and Tammy Brown.

— Major Kyle Pokorney, Ben Murphy, Spence Dallman, Kevin Berg, Mitchell Brown, and all who serve their country.

— For all those impacted by severe weather and global climate change. May our care and concern for one another move us to advocate for environmental protection and sustainable development.

— For the Nominating Caucus for the La Crosse Area Synod Bishop Election, being held on March 14, that capable, faithful leaders are named and willing to serve in this important time and for voting delegates who will soon be making important choices. For the La Crosse Area Synod through this time of transition.

— For Bethany's Call Committee as it enters the next stage of their important work. For Bethany's next Pastor. God of all that is and all that will be, may the work we do today prepare us for the future you imagine for us. May we, individually and collectively, listen for your guidance amid the noise and keep our focus on what is most important as we seek to serve you and our neighbors in need.



Bethany's Prayer Chain Coordinator is Audrey Gierhart (847-4106).  
If you have an urgent prayer request, call her to share the request.

**Bethany Lutheran Church**  
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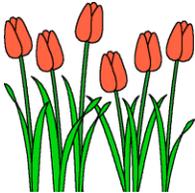


Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
	1 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM	2	3 Lent Worship No Confirmation	4 Faith C Church,
7 Online Worship Zoom Sunday School 9:00 AM	8 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM  Sunday School Team 6:00 PM	9 Property & Finance 5:30 PM	10 Lent Worship No Confirmation  Worship Cmte 6:00 PM	11 Council 6:30
14 Online Worship Recorded Sunday School  Bishop Election Nominations 3pm	15 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM	16	17 Lent Worship No Confirmation	18 
21 Online Worship Zoom Sunday School 9:00 AM	22 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM	23	24 Lent Worship No Confirmation	25
28 Palm Sunday Online Worship Recorded Sunday School Stewardship Drive Thru 10:30-11:30	29 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM	30 	31 No Confirmation	



Interim Pastor Gloria Stubitsch  
 E-mail Pastor: [gstubitsch@gmail.com](mailto:gstubitsch@gmail.com)  
 Pastor's Cell: 608-712-3510  
 Office Hours: 10am—2pm Mon.—Thurs.  
 or by appointment

*Bethany continues to worship online due to the Covid-19 health emergency.*

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
 Church Circle at Arch, 7:00 PM	5 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	6
Council Meeting 6:30 PM	12 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	13 
	19 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	20
	26 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	27

**March 7**

Exodus 20:1-17  
 Psalm 19  
 1 Corinthians 1:18-25  
 John 2:13-22

**Reader: Molly Shultis**

**March 14**

Numbers 21:4-9  
 Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22  
 Ephesians 2:1-10  
 John 3:14-21

**Reader: Jerry Shultis**

**March 21**

Jeremiah 31:31-34  
 Psalm 51:1-12  
 Hebrews 5:5-10  
 John 12:20-33

**Reader: Teresa Ellerman**

**March 28**

Isaiah 50:4-9a  
 Psalm 31:9-16  
 Philippians 2:5-11  
 Mark 15:1-39

**Reader: Karen Fritz**

Online Worship Services are posted to Facebook, YouTube, and our website.  
 You can find services at: <http://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Lutheran.Mauston/>  
 or [www.bethanymauston.com](http://www.bethanymauston.com)

## Happy March Birthday to....

Erica Horton	3/1
Marie McDonough	3/1
Stefanie Voltz	3/2
Cyndi Randall	3/2
Jacob Preuss	3/3
Matthew Brown	3/3
Darren Honnold	3/4
Annette Olson	3/5
Sophie Grzenia	3/5
Donald Hoffmann	3/6
Ardis Enderle	3/7
Tammy Voltz	3/8
Brianna Lalk	3/8
Nichole Preuss	3/9
Talia Hansen	3/9
Bonnie Crandall	3/11
Katie Steinke	3/12
Courtney Tomany	3/12
Kerri Schiller	3/12
Nicole Hess	3/13
Karen Fritz	3/14
Allen Sunday	3/14
Michael Lutz	3/15
Kathleen Turner	3/15
Randy Brandt	3/15
Bob Treland	3/15
Pat Dutzle	3/16
Joann Emery	3/16
Hilda Zuberbuehler	3/16

Lilith Johnson	3/17
Yvonne Rotzoll	3/17
Steven A. Miller	3/18
Sandra Potter	3/19
Landon Olson	3/20
Amanda Holmes	3/23
William Potter	3/24
George Gould	3/26
Tom Reigard	3/27
Michel Sullivan	3/29
Charles Theis	3/29
Karen Bell	3/30
William Voltz Jr.	3/31

## Happy March Anniversary to....

John & Debbie Benson	3/17
Adam & Amie Heinrich	3/19

*Please contact the office with any  
corrections.  
608-847-6690*

**Bethany's Faith Circle** would like to extend an invitation to women of the congregation to join us the **first Thursday of every month at 7:00pm at Bethany**. We all wear masks and maintain social distancing in the Fellowship Hall. The current lesson plan is a book entitled *It's Not Supposed to Be This Way* by Lysa TerKeurst. Please direct any questions to RJ Rogers, 608-547-8169.

**Scholarship:** The Bethany Endowment Committee is again offering scholarship opportunities to any member of our congregation who is attending post secondary education. Applications are available either by email or at the church office, and must be received by the church by May 1, 2021 for consideration. Please direct any questions to Audrey Scholl, 608-562-6189.



We invite you to a virtual advocacy event organized by the Wisconsin Faith Coalition for Climate Justice comprised of the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in Wisconsin, Wisconsin Council of Churches, Wisconsin Faith Voices for Justice, and Wisconsin Power & Light.

Faith Advocacy for Climate Justice

March 18, 2021, 10:00 AM—12:00 PM

Keynote Speaker: Lieutenant Governor Mandela Barnes

Register at: <https://www.loppw.org/events/>

The congregations of Peace in Tomah, Middle Coon Valley, Coon Valley, the Cashton Three Point Parish, and Bethany Lutheran in Mauston are partnering for a five-week Wednesday Lenten worship. Worships will be available each Wednesday (Feb. 24-March 24) via YouTube link for any congregation to view. Worships will include scripture, hymns, and a message from one of the pastors around the theme of Resilience: An act of Faith and Hope. Hear the biblical stories of Anna, the bent woman, the midwives in Exodus, and more and be assured that God is with us, leading us, guiding us, and empowering us to live in the grace and promise of Christ.

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## **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**

God's work. Our hands.

Going through the call process is always a learning experience. One piece of feedback we received through the surveys is that Bethany's members state, "we don't know what the ELCA is, what it does for us, or what we do for it." With that in mind, we plan to include some information and stories in our upcoming newsletters to tell the story of who we are and what we do. This month, we start with some basics:

The Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) is one of the largest Christian denominations in the United States, with about four million members in nearly 10,000 congregations in the United States, Puerto Rico, and the US Virgin Islands.

The ELCA was formed through the merger of three other Lutheran denominations in 1988: the American Lutheran Church, the Association of Evangelical Lutheran Churches, and the Lutheran Church in America.

We trace our roots back through the mid-17th century, when early Lutherans came to the Americas, settling first in the Virgin Islands and later the area that is now New York. Later, large Lutheran immigrant groups settled together, establishing many of the church that continue to today. Even before that, Martin Luther sought to reform the church in the 16th century, laying the framework for our beliefs.

Today, the ELCA is a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. As members of the ELCA, we believe that we are freed in Christ to serve and love our neighbor. With our hands, we do God's work of restoring and reconciling communities in Jesus Christ's name throughout the world.

The ELCA is often described as one church in three expressions. In other words, from the graphic on the next page, you can see that the churchwide

organization, the 65 synods, and each local congregation is each an equal part of the ELCA. Each expression is the ELCA, and each expression is the ELCA in partnership with the others.

Bethany is part of the La Crosse Area Synod, with 72 other congregations. The La Crosse Area Synod is home to Sugar Creek Bible Camp, Bethel Nursing Home, Lutheran Campus Ministries of La Crosse, and other ministries covering south western Wisconsin and south eastern Minnesota.

### **ELCA Mission and Vision:**

#### **Our Mission**

Together in Jesus Christ, we are freed by grace to live faithfully, witness boldly, and serve joyfully.

#### **Our Vision**

A world experiencing the difference God's grace and love in Christ makes for all people and creation.

#### **Our Values**

Our values are grounded in faith, in our biblical and Lutheran confessional sources, and our love of God and neighbor. They speak to the way this church lives and practices our faith, and they will guide how we journey forward in Christ as church together.

Watch next month's newsletter for the theological principles that uniquely shape the ELCA: forgiveness and reconciliation; dignity, compassion, and justice; inclusion and diversity; courage and openness to change; and faithful stewardship of God's creation and gifts.

We are a church that shares a living, daring confidence in God's grace. For us as the ELCA, this faith comes through the good news of Jesus Christ and gives us the freedom and courage to wonder, discover, and boldly participate in what God is up to in the world.

## ELCA World Hunger’s Global Farm Challenge is Back!

Each congregation in the La Crosse Area Synod has been challenged to symbolically “Adopt A Farm” in time for Synod Assembly this June.

Each farm represents a donation of \$715.

How can Bethany support ELCA World Hunger’s efforts to end hunger for good?

Designate a portion of your offering to World Hunger, use a World Hunger offering envelope, or pick up a Farm Bank to contribute loose change.

As our total grows, watch Bethany’s barnyard fill during Sunday worship services! **Together, we can make a difference!**

<b>BLC Line of Credit Balance as of 1/31/2021</b>			
Parking Lot:			\$23,022.16
Professional Services:			\$27,738.00
Repairs and Updates:			\$10,073.00
<b>Total:</b>			<b>\$60,833.16</b>
<b>Giving</b>	<b>Cash/Check</b>	<b>Online</b>	<b>Total</b>
Jan. 15, 2021	\$7,268.00	\$1,516.87	\$8,784.87
Dec. 30, 2020	\$3,030.00	\$800.43	\$3,830.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$10,298.00</b>	<b>\$2,317.30</b>	<b>\$12,615.30</b>



<b>General Fund</b>	<b>January 2021 Actual</b>	<b>2021 YTD Actual</b>	<b>January 2021 Budget</b>	<b>2021 YTD Budget</b>
Total Contributions	\$11,212.61	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Total Disbursements	\$13,292.09	\$13,292.09	\$17,025.75	\$17,025.75

## **Council Highlights—February 11, 2021**

**Treasurer's Report:** Finance and Property Committee did not meet this month due to inclement weather and schedule conflicts. Financial report and disbursements to Line of Credit and Partner Ministries will be reported at March meeting. Gary is working with Bank of Mauston to complete application for Paycheck Protection Program Loan/Grant. Bethany will be able to receive approximately \$18,000 in Federal funds again this year.

**Stewardship for All Seasons Committee Report:** Calendar of Events for 2021: February 17 Ash Wednesday Chili Supper; May 23 Spaghetti Supper; August 29 Cook-Out; October 31 Trunk or Treat.

“Going God’s Way 2021” Stewardship emphasis month will be held in March this year. Members will receive a letter with details. The Team is preparing short videos to include in Sunday worship. Members will be invited to return giving intent cards on Palm Sunday, March 28.

Committee will contact members who did not respond to Nov. survey.

The Committee encourages additional members to join the committee. Renee Miller has agreed to join as a representative from the Hospitality Committee.

Each Council Committee now has a representative on the Stewardship for All Seasons Committee.

**Call Committee:** Council reviewed Ministry Site Profile prepared by Call Committee. Council identified a couple areas needing additional explanation to be fully understood by someone who does not know Bethany well. Council members will review additional comments. Council met Feb. 18 and approved changes.

**Executive:** Ardis Enderle has resigned from Property and Finance Committee and as Altar Guild Chair. Committee thanks Ardis for her years of faithful service.

**\* The 2020 Annual Report is available from the Church Office! \***

701 Grove Street Mauston, Wisconsin \* 608-847-6690 \* [www.bethanymauston.com](http://www.bethanymauston.com)

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Return service requested

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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.



**Has your contact information changed? Be sure to let us know!**  
**(608) 847-6690—bethluth2@frontier.com**