

BETHANY LUTHERAN Page 1

Connections

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Worship with Bethany this Holy Week!



Palm Sunday—March 28

Online worship focusing on Jesus's entry to Jerusalem and a "walk" through Bethany.

Stop by Bethany from 10:30—11:30 am to drop off your Giving Intent Card and pick up a palm!
(We have extra intent cards in case you misplaced yours.)

Maundy Thursday—April 1

Online worship focusing on Jesus's radical invitation, welcome, and service including stripping of the altar and reading of Psalm 22



Good Friday—April 2

Online, contemplative service focused on the passion narrative and exploring its meaning for our lives.

Easter Sunday—April 4

Online worship featuring many of your favorite Easter hymns, celebrating the promise of our new life in Christ!

****Throughout Holy Week, visit Bethany and help the cross on the church lawn "bloom" with colorful artificial flowers. If you are unable to get to church or would like a flower placed for you, contact Kathy Marose at 608-343-4381**



All of our services can be found on our "Bethany—Mauston" Facebook page and YouTube channel and on our website www.bethanymauston.com

The Millennial Mystery

You hear it in many congregations: where are the young adults? In the 50 years since mainline churches hit their peak in membership, our culture has undergone a sweeping change. As a whole, people think differently about faith, God, and religion than they did in 1967, and yet for the most part our churches haven't adapted to the new landscape. The millennial generation embodies the new attitudes about church and spirituality, and better understanding them may help us transform our congregations to help meet the needs of people in the 21st century. The information shared here comes from "The Millennial Mystery: A generation distanced from the church, yet longing for community" from the December 2017 issue of Living Lutheran magazine.

Current records from the churchwide organization reflect this trend: 9 percent of ELCA members are millennials while 84 percent belong to previous generations. Rev. Seth Nelson has researched and published the book The Church Unknown on this topic and observes that churches aren't alone. Many membership-based institutions are not being embraced by millennials as they were by previous generations.

These institutions used to be a central meeting place for adults. While research shows millennials are very interested in spirituality and community, many are finding the personal sharing and support that once came from a church community at the gym, through special-interest groups, or other associations, whether it is fitness, politics, music, video games, or something else.

Rather than dwell on low numbers, Nelson asserts that in order to grow, the church needs to "focus on why people would want to come and be part of our communities."

When we listen to millennials, we might be surprised to hear what they are looking for. Many young adults, Don Romsa, ELCA program director for campus ministry said, "really aren't hungry for more church structure, or smooth programming, or better praise bands, or fun social activities — they are hungry for

the radical Jesus they discover in the Bible. In this Jesus, they see a God who is real — present on the margins, willing to shake things up, on the side of the lowly, choosing to die without status, and always radically loving us and the world.” The more congregations that proclaim this Jesus, the more the church will find opportunities to engage millennials, Romsa said.

People and places that reflect the radical, inclusive love of Jesus are what today’s young adults are searching for in a congregation, said Romsa. “Some of our students who graduate and leave campus ministry programs have difficulty finding a congregation home in which they feel warmly accepted and affirmed for what they have to offer,” Romsa said.

In his work, Nelson observed that ELCA congregations struggle to create spaces for these real connections to be made because “there’s a resistance to vulnerability.”

Instead, millennials look elsewhere for spiritual nurture. In fact, a 2014 Barna Group study of 834 millennials found that 2 out of 5 millennials say they find God outside of church walls.

Questions to consider:

- There was a time when there were many more young members at Bethany. What has changed since then?
- How might Bethany be more inviting/welcoming/comfortable for millennials and other younger members? Have a conversation with some of our younger members and ask them what they like about church and what they would change if they had the opportunity.
- How has community and socializing changed in this country? Why? Has the community aspect of Bethany experienced change?
- Young adults frequently report that they want to see “authenticity” in a congregation and its leaders. What does authenticity mean in a congregational context? What are some ways Bethany can improve its authenticity quotient?
- How do longtime leaders at Bethany pass their knowledge on to new leaders?

Community Sharing Food Pantry

Our year end stats are in. With your help, we:

- served 600 different households, providing up to 14 days of food/month
- distributed a total of 291,427 pounds of food
- distributed 880 senior boxes w/ 26,400 pounds of additional food

Your generous support during this Covid crisis allowed us to purchase a new refrigerator, a new carport for safer distribution of food, a new trailer so we can pick up more food, and new shelving allowing more food storage. We are also using a professional cleaning company for Covid safety in our building and have purchased a lot of disinfectant, gloves, and masks. We would not have been able to achieve these accomplishments without your thoughtful kindness.

We are grateful for the help of our volunteers. They put their own safety aside and dedicated their mornings to help feed those in need. What a wonderful group of people to work with!

We are excited to announce a new Pantry Project! It is time to redo the parking lot to make it safer for unloading food, create more parking for pantry clients and make it safer for those driving up to pick up food, and allow easier garbage pick-up. One project and Four much needed fixes — what a goal! We will be Providing matching funds for anyone who wishes to donate to this **“Park-It at the Pantry”** project. You can just write “Park-It” on your check and your donation will be matched. Watch for more details in next month’s newsletter.

Thank you so much for your support during 2020. Let us all continue to pray for 2021 to be a calmer year. Kathy Greene, Food Pantry Director

Mauston Pantry Taxi Tokens

The pantry has taxi tokens available to help our patrons transport their food home. This cab ride is for 1 person. The cab will go up to 5 miles out of Mauston city limits. You still need to get yourself to the pantry. The token will cover the ride and mileage home. This service is available for anyone who qualifies for the Mauston/Lyndon Food Pantry to use once per month.

701 Grove Street Mauston, Wisconsin * 608-847-6690 * www.bethanymauston.com

Confirmation

Class videos will resume Wed. April 7. Watch for the email and text.

April 28th at 6:30 PM - 8th graders will meet to rehearse for the Confirmation Service. (7th graders do not need to attend. We will see you again in Sept.!)

The Confirmation Service will take place on **Sunday, May 2nd, 9:30 AM**. Each confirmand can invite up to 6 guests. Everyone is required to wear a mask while in the church building. The service will be shared online as part of our May 9th worship service so that everyone can share this important milestone. This is consistent with what we did last year.

Sunday School

Through March we continued to learn about compassion. We studied Matthew 25:31-40, better known as the Parable of the Sheep and the Goats. We learned that serving others is how we also serve Christ and that Jesus's compassion is for everyone, especially those most easily overlooked or forgotten.

On March 21 and 28, we focused on the story of Palm Sunday and Holy Week. We made our own palm leaves and resurrection scenes. Ask a Sunday School student to show you theirs and tell you the story of Easter!

In the videos, our children sang along with songs about the Triune God and the 10 Commandments Boogie! And we watched a "Lego" version of the Holy Week story. Pastor Gloria says Stormtroopers make great Roman soldiers! Reminder, there is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 4th. We hope you enjoy time with your family that day.

April 18th will be our final Sunday School class for the year, and it is a Zoom day. We have some games planned. So, be sure to pick up your April bag so you have the supplies you will need!

Thank you to all our children and families for their flexibility and participation this year. In a year when we had to do a lot of adapting and trial & error, we are proud that we were able to give our children a safe place to be themselves and experience the love of the church — and learn about Jesus's compassion, too!

Stewardship for All Seasons

A huge "THANK YOU!" to everyone who has returned their intent cards to church. If you have not yet made your commitment to Bethany, there is still time! A tally of commitments received will be presented during online worship on Sunday, April 18th. Please consider stepping up in faith to help Bethany continue to "Go God's Way" by sending in your intent card today! Where God guides, God provides!

A very special thank you to Brian McGuire and "Flying by the Seat of our Pants" Production Company for the videos highlighting our 2021 goals.

**** Plan Ahead: Our next Free Community Drive-Thru Supper will be held on Sunday, May 23rd! Help spread the word!**

Invitation to Lunch with Pastor

I know that many members are disappointed that we cannot safely be together for worship (yet). I also know many Bethany members have received their Covid-19 vaccines and are slowly venturing out more (myself included!)



So, I talked the Hospitality Committee into helping me try something new! Join me for a socially-distanced "Easter Lunch" on Wednesday, April 7th, at 11:30 am in the Fellowship Hall. The lunch will be catered by Log Cabin Deli and include 1/2 sandwich (choice of ham, roast beef, or turkey) and a bowl of soup. Attendance is limited to the first 10 members who call to sign up. Please be prepared to share your lunch choice when you call.

If this lunch goes well, additional lunches will be planned. We are hoping this can be a time for conversation, community, and support.

Good food strengthens the body, and good company strengthens the spirit!

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, Tammy Brown, and Marcus Brown.

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

— For the family of Kirsten Baxter, after her unexpected death on March 23.

— For Bethany's Call Committee and the important work they are doing.

— For the La Crosse Area Synod's Bishop election process, and especially those who have been nominated:

- Rev. Meg Eiben Hoversten, Middle Coon Valley, Chaseburg, WI
- Rev. Elizabeth "Libby" Howe, Director for Evangelical Mission/Assistant to the Bishop, La Crosse Area Synod, WI
- Rev. Felix Malpica, Faith Lutheran, Janesville, WI
- Rev. Steve Meyer, Immanuel Lutheran, Caledonia, MN
- Rev. Rebecca Piper, Calvary Lutheran, Rapid City, SD
- Rev. Anna Sorenson, French Creek Lutheran, Etrick, WI
- Rev. Becky Swanson, Advent Lutheran, Morton, IL

Bethany's Prayer Chain Coordinator is Audrey Gierhart (847-4106).
If you have an urgent prayer request, call her to share the request.
Please contact the church office (847-6690) or Pastor Gloria (608-712-3510)
with any Pastoral Care needs or requests.

Our prayers may be awkward. Our attempts may be feeble.
But since the power of prayer is in the One who hears it and
not in the one who says it, our prayers do make a difference.
- Max Lucado

Bethany Lutheran Church

701 Grove Street Mauston, WI 53948

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E-mail Office: bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com

Web address: www.bethanymauston.com



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
<p>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</p>				<p>1 Maun Thursda Online Wc Faith 7:00</p>
<p>4 Easter Sunday Online Worship No Sunday School</p>	<p>5 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM Sunday School mtg. 6:00 PM</p>	<p>6 Property & Finance 5:30 PM</p> 	<p>7 Lunch w/ Pastor 11:30 Call to RSVP Online Confirmation</p>	<p>8 </p>
<p>11 Online Worship Recorded Sunday School</p>	<p>12 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14 Online Confirmation</p>	<p>15 Council 6:30</p>
<p>18 Online Worship Zoom Sunday School 9:00 AM</p>	<p>19 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM Grace Circle 1:00 PM</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 Online Confirmation</p>	<p>22 Earth D Pastor Boun Trai 9AM-</p>
<p>25 Online Worship</p>	<p>26 Bible & Coffee 8:00 AM</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 Confirmation Rehearsal for 8th Grad- ers 6:30 PM</p>	<p>29</p>



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

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Maundy Thursday Worship Faith Circle 7:00 PM	2 Good Friday Online Worship Office Closed	3 Holy Saturday
	9 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	10 
Council Meeting 6:30 PM	16 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	17
Birth Day Pastor Gloria in boundaries Training AM—3PM	23 Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	24 
	30 Arbor Day Office Closed Pastor's Sabbath	

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

April 1: Maundy Thursday

Exodus 12:1-14
 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
 John 13:1-17, 31b-35
Reader: Karen Fritz

April 2: Good Friday

John 18:1-19:42

April 4: Easter Sunday

Isaiah 25:6-9
 Acts 10:34-43
 John 20:1-18
Reader: Elley Dahlke

April 11

Acts 4:32-35
 1 John 1:1-2:2
 John 20:19-31
Reader: Karen Fritz

April 18

Acts 3:12-19
 1 John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36b-48

Reader: Kathy Noe

April 25 Good Shepherd Sunday

Lutherans Restoring Creation
 Special Service
 Acts 4:5-12
 1 John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18
Preacher: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton



Happy April Birthday to....

Elaine Bollig	4/1
Sue Engevold	4/1
Kirstin Grzenia	4/1
Dianne Peterson	4/1
Kathleen Marose	4/4
Audrey Scholl	4/6
Emily Wiese	4/7
Debbie Benson	4/8
William Marose	4/9
Dan Remington	4/9
Audrey Gierhart	4/10
Mara Hansen	4/10
Jacob Muchenberger	4/10
Betty Benton	4/11
Mike Borreson	4/11
Trey Honnold	4/11
Ella Rotzoll	4/11
Carissa Huebner	4/12
Calista Coller	4/12
John Griffin	4/14
Phyllis Field	4/14
Emalee Bohnert	4/14
Norma Smith	4/15
Kari Lalk	4/15
Brad Ellerman	4/15
Elliott Wilberg	4/15
Nancy Blixt	4/18
Bergen Brandt	4/18
Chase Seebecker	4/20
Douglas Lindner	4/23

Dawson Dearth	4/24
Kim Reigard	4/27
Brady Nelson	4/28
Laura Wilberg	4/29
Patricia Lutz	4/30
Lauren McIntire	4/30



Happy Anniversary to....

Jeri & Molly Shultis	4/18
Brad & Teresa Ellerman	4/23
Steve & Kendra Grzenia	4/23



Please know that the office does not have every member's information. Any omissions or errors are not intentional. Please contact the office with corrections and updates. Thank you for your understanding, patience, and help in keeping our records up to date!
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.

Bethany's Grace Circle is starting to meet again, **every third Monday of month at Bethany at 1:00 pm**. We wear masks and maintain social distancing in the Fellowship Hall. Our April meeting (and maybe our May meeting, too) will be spent catching up with one another after a year apart. All women of the church are invited! Contact Molly Shultis with any questions or for more information, 608-548-6874



La Crosse Area Synod School of Theology

Our second Spring course for 2021, **Care of God's People**, will take place on Thursdays, April 22— May 27. Fee is \$20. Register by contacting Melanie at office@lacrosseareasynod.org

Lutheran World Relief

For three generations, you've extended God's mercy through the warmth of nearly 27 million mission quilts and countless kits of care. Each quilt sewn and each kit packed is a statement of faith, hope, and love.

Inspired by the love you share with our neighbors in need around the world,

Lutheran World Relief created the Quilt and Kit Affinity Pin to say "Thank you" for your love and generosity. Sign up to receive the pin at lwr.org/qkpin or call 800-597-5972. They are shipping this spring.



La Crosse Area Synod WELCA—Save the Date

Mark your calendar now for **July 31st** as Women of our Synod will gather in **Cashton** for worship, elections, an important program on the theme of racial justice, and lunch. Watch for the summer issue of *Crosswinds* for details.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

God's work. Our hands.

Imagine that a neighbor has moved in next door. One day as you are both out planting spring flowers, you start talking about life and faith. Your neighbor has never heard about the ELCA.

How would you summarize what makes the ELCA distinct in a world with so many denominations?

How would you describe what makes Bethany unique in Mauston?

Beyond music or worship or activities, what would you say we believe and teach as a church?

Our shared mission, vision, and values remind us
WHO we are and, more importantly, **WHY** we are.

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.

Forgiveness and Reconciliation

We are reconciled to God by God's forgiving mercy. Forgiveness and reconciliation flow from what God has made us to be in Jesus Christ and what God is doing with us in the world. As a people of God, we embody forgiveness

in speech, action, and relationships, and our ministry in reconciliation is foundational

Dignity, Compassion, and Justice

Each person is created in God's image. We respect this God-given right to dignity and, inspired by the life of Jesus, show love and compassion for all people. Through proclamation of the gospel, through worship and as servants of God working for healing and justice in the world, we uphold and seek to protect the dignity and human rights of all people.

Inclusion and Diversity

As Christ's church, we value the richness of God's creation and offer a radical welcome to all people, appreciating our common humanity and our differences. We are a church that does not view diversity as a barrier to unity. We recognize and will challenge dynamics of power and privilege that create barriers to participation and equity in this church and society — for women, people of color, minority ethnic groups, people with disabilities, people who are marginalized or living in poverty, and the LGBTQ community.

Courage and Openness to Change

Because we trust in God's promise and understand faith to be a living, daring confidence in God's grace, we are emboldened to embrace learning and change in our spiritual and institutional journey as church. This means we are open to new ways and willing to take risks to discover God's plan for this church.

Faithful Stewardship of God's Creation and Gifts

As church together, faithful stewardship is about holding to God's purpose and ensuring the responsibilities and resources that God has entrusted to us are used with great care and with accountability to God, to each other and those served by this church.

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.

As of March 20, Bethany has raised \$340 toward this goal!

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!**

BLC Line of Credit Balance as of 2/28/21			
Parking Lot:			\$22,022.16
Professional Services:			\$26,738.00
Repairs and Updates:			\$9,573.00
Total:			\$58,333.16
Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
Feb. 15	\$4,046.00	\$1,225.05	\$5,271.05
Feb. 26	\$3,742.00	\$645.51	\$4,387.51
Total	\$7,788.00	\$1,870.56	\$9,658.56

General Fund	February 2021 Actual	2021 YTD Actual	February 2021 Budget	2021 YTD Budget
Total Contributions	\$8,491.71	\$19,704.96	\$12,500.00	\$25,000.00
Total Disbursements	\$12,942.13	\$26,234.22	\$17,025.75	\$34,051.50

Council Highlights—March 11, 2021

Treasurer's Report:

- Received notification from Bank of Mauston that Payroll Protection Program funds will begin disbursement in April.
- Continue to make payments on Line of Credit loan and to partner ministries monthly.

Old Business:

- Stewardship Committee is planning Drive-Thru Spaghetti Supper on May 23rd free for community. Beginning to discuss "Parking Lot Retirement Party" when Line of Credit loan is paid off.
- Council passed a continuing resolution to postpone Annual Meeting due to on-going Covid-19 health emergency. Proposed new day is June 27th. Council will re-evaluate the safety of holding a meeting as the new date approaches.
- Council has appointed a Task Force to discuss when and how to resume in-person worship in our sanctuary and how to communicate decisions with the congregation. Task force members are Pastor Gloria, Kathy Marose, Mark Dahlke, Kathy Noe, Ruth Marose, Jeri Shultis, and Jacquie Puent. These members have been selected due to knowledge in this area and/or holding congregational positions that are essential in planning and executing a safe plan. Additional members may be added as needed.

New Business:

Council reviewed and adopted policy regarding church keys and door code.

During the pandemic, the Bethany Church Council has continued to work hard and do the best they can in difficult times. The new structure allows for one committee member to serve as the council representative for their committee. There are currently several committee openings that need to be filled. If you have ever felt the Holy Spirit moving you to serve, now is the time. **Bethany needs you!** Please prayerfully consider serving on one of these committees so that those currently serving do not burn out! If you are interested in helping on one of the following committees, please contact Pastor Gloria, or a member of the executive committee.

Finance/Properties

Mission

Faith Development

Bethany Lutheran Church
701 Grove Street
Mauston, WI 53948

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Return service requested

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—bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com**