

BETHANY LUTHERAN Connections July 2021

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Church Office Hours

The church office is open **Monday – Thursday from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.** Messages left on the church voicemail are only checked during office hours. For urgent messages and emergencies, contact Kathy Marose, council president at 608-343-4381. If not immediately available, she will answer as soon as possible.

TREASURED! Discovering You're Priceless to God!

Please join us for Vacation Bible School July 25th-28th from 6:00-8:00pm. We will be finding God's treasures in each of you. Each night we will have a Bible Point, songs, games and crafts. Please call the church office at 608-847-6690 if you're interested. Bring a friend!!!



2021 Bishop Election

The Rev. Felix J. Malpica, from Janesville, Wis., was elected on the fifth ballot on June 13 at our Synod Assembly to serve a six-year term as bishop of the La Crosse Area Synod. Rev. Malpica has served as pastor of Faith Lutheran Church in Janesville since 2017. Prior to that, he served as associate pastor of Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church in Austin, Texas, from 2014 to 2017. He earned his BA from Luther College in Decorah, IA, in 2009 and his Master of Divinity degree from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, MN, in 2013. His installation will take place on Sept. 26.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Volunteers Needed

Technical Support

Bethany needs tech savvy folks to assist with live streaming and video projection for our worship services. Please contact the office if you could assist with this as we would like to have several folks trained so the workload can be shared.



Altar Guild

We also need more people to be trained for Altar Guild. If you are willing to help, please call the church secretary at 608-847-6690 (remember, you have to dial the entire 10 digit number!)

Thank You Notes

Dear Bethany, Thank you for the scholarship. I will use it towards my next years tuition and expenses. The support you guys give does not go unnoticed and is very appreciated. **Sincerely, Trey Honnold**

Dear Bethany, Thank you for selecting me to receive the Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship. I will be attending U.W .Oshkosh in the fall with a major in electrical engineering. Your generous scholarship will help me pursue my dreams of becoming an electrician. I have taken many tech-ed classes in high school and am eager to continue my learning. Thank you for supporting higher education. **Sincerely, Ian Flint**

Dear Bethany, Thank you so much for the generous scholarship that you have given me. I appreciate it very much. I plan to use this for my education in Political Science at UW Madison. I am going to work extremely hard and put this scholarship to good use in my endeavors. Again, thank you for selecting me for this gift. **Sincerely, Nelson Brandt**

Dear Bethany Church Family, Thank you so much for selecting me for your scholarship. This money will greatly help me in my education and journey. I know God will help and guide me through this step of my life. **Thanks again! Emily Wiese**

Dear Bethany, Thank you to all the beacons who sent cards and calls. I will be going to Touch of Home, Assisted Living in Tomah soon. **Marcella Schroeder**

Late Spring-Early Summer Clean Up Thank You

The Finance and Properties Committee would like to extend a huge thank you to members who helped with some of the clean up projects around church. Jacquie Puent, Renee Miller, Mike Borreson, Ed Rogers, Brian McGuire, Josh Behling, Darren Honnold, Tim Benson, Sheri Benson, Jon Williams, and Ruth Marose all pitched in. The Fellowship Hall carpet was cleaned, tables and chairs scrubbed, pews and windowsills wiped down, courtyard weeded, and various other tasks were accomplished. Working together, we can accomplish so much!! Thank you to Ruth Marose for coordinating many of these projects. There are some projects remaining to be completed. If you have some time you and would like to assist, please contact Ruth, Tim Benson or Jon Williams, and they will put you to work!

Re-Opening Task Force Updates

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The task force would like to thank the congregation for their patience and understanding during the re-opening process. Although we never were “closed,” it is good to be back in our sanctuary and worshiping in person. A huge thank you goes to our usher teams who have worked extremely hard to provide guideline direction to members entering church for worship. This has expedited entry and exit, keeping our members as safe as possible. Please extend a thank you to them for their hard work.

At this point in time, the COVID numbers in Juneau County continue to remain low. Many of our members are now fully vaccinated. This is good news! However, despite the progress that has been made, the pandemic is still not over. The task force continues to monitor the information from the Health Department and follow the recommendations put forth by the Wisconsin Council of Churches. The task force will continue to monitor the recommendations and update guidelines as needed.

Effective July 1st, here are the COVID guidelines Bethany will follow:

1. Folks will **no longer need to call ahead** for worship; however, we will continue to take attendance at the door for possible need of contact tracing.
2. We will continue to require masking or face shields, hand sanitizing and social distancing.
3. We will continue to forgo corporate singing and have a hymn singer.
4. We will continue communion in the pews.
5. Windows no longer need to be open.
6. Continue to encourage visiting in the parking lot after worship and minimize the chatting in the narthex before worship.
7. Live streaming will continue for those who are ill or do not feel comfortable attending live worship.
8. Offering will continue to be placed in the box at the sanctuary entrance.

In our Prayers

Marcus Brown, Wayne Morris, Ron Engevold, Cam Goetz, Harlow Gierhart, the Dillon family, Emil & Sheryl Skorik and Marcella Schroeder.

Please call the church office, 608-847-6690, if you know of someone who needs to be added to our prayer list or with any Pastoral Care needs/ requests. This list is different than our prayer chain, see below.

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

The 2021 Budget as well as all reports were approved. Kathy Marose, Council President, thanked Gary Gray for all his hard work obtaining the Payroll Protection Grants that Bethany received in 2020 and 2021.

There are currently 6 council committee openings. Kathy is grateful to those who have volunteered their time; including Teresa Ellerman from Faith & Development (virtual Sunday School), Norma Miler and Linda Bohnert from Properties and Finance, Sharon Pufhal from Mission, Dorothy Pierce from Endowment, and Vice President Mark Dahlke as they complete their council/committee service.

New Business: Mark Dahlke shared that the Church Council decided at June's council meeting to develop a course of action to address some long-standing concerns at Bethany. Following Pastor Gloria's resignation, both Interim Bishop Boerger and Assistant Bishop Libby Howe met with both the Executive and Call Committees.

Specific concerns were shared: Bethany's history of struggles with pastors, specifically supporting and retaining them; our current environment does not lend itself to attract prospective pastoral candidates; and, as a congregation, we have some difficulties respecting the authority of the pastor and lay leadership.

Both the Call and Executive Committees agree with the bishops that Bethany needs to take steps, with the synod staff's assistance, to develop a solid, healthy relationship with our next pastor.

We will engage in specific steps for goal setting and feedback for both the pastor and the congregation at regular intervals for up to two years.

Additionally, we will pursue the development of a plan for Bethany to re-focus its energy and resources on the mission of Christ's work.

The Council is committed to making this process transparent and open. Participation and input from the congregation in this initiative is imperative and expected.

Please watch for further information in the Connections newsletter and other special mailings.

The call committee continues to meet and prepare for the calling of a pastor to Bethany. Bishop Boerger and Assistant to the Bishop Libby Howe met with the executive committee upon learning of Pastor Gloria's resignation to discuss the best way to move forward. The call committee also had the opportunity to meet with Assistant Bishop Pastor Libby to determine our path forward. We are all in agreement that it is critically important to find the right pastor for Bethany at this time. We also agreed that we need to take steps, with the synod staff's assistance, to develop a solid, healthy relationship with our next pastor. To do this we will engage in specific goal setting and feedback processes for both the pastor and the congregation at regular 3-6 month intervals for up to two years. At that time, a decision may be made to negotiate a permanent/extended call to the pastor or to go our separate ways. The "churchy" word for this type of call is a "term call." The goal is to address important issues immediately and openly so that a good foundation is established for ministry to thrive. Both the pastor and the congregation will work together to build a mutual partnership that respects the authority of the pastor and lay leadership and empowers and energizes the congregation for service. Assistant Bishop Pastor Libby stated that she will do her best to have at least one candidate for us to consider for this term call before the end of July. There are no guarantees, but we all appreciate your prayers and patience for the process to continue well.

~The Bethany Call Committee

Message from Council President

These next few months will be challenging as we face time without Pastoral leadership. Pastors willing to serve as pulpit fill are few and far between. Our conference Pastors are stretched within their own congregations and will try to help in emergencies, but that may not always be possible either. We may need to be flexible with our worship services, realizing that leadership is doing the best they can to provide a weekly service. Communion may not always be available. Sermons may need to be recorded and projected on the screen. Some services may be a simple prayer service. Realize that it is not always possible to "do what we have always done." Please accept what is and pray for what is to be. God has our back if we have faith and trust Him to provide.

~Council President, Kathy Marose

Ordination Anniversaries Celebrated

The LaCrosse Area Synod recognized two former Bethany pastors at the synod assembly for their length of ministry. Pastor Glenn Borreson was recognized for 50 years of ministry and Pastor Bob Thacker was recognized for 40 years of ministry. We are grateful for their service to the Lord and for the years they served as pastor at Bethany. Congratulations to each of them!

June Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: The properties/finance team met on 6/8/21. All financial reports were approved. Our line of credit loan balance is now down to \$55,808.16. From the PPP Grant (Payroll Protection Program) we received \$4305.59 in June. The following was approved to be paid in June: Line of Credit, \$500 building, \$350 parking lot, \$500 professional services; Missions, \$50 food pantry, \$250 La-Crosse Area Synod. Pastor's credit card was cancelled and one was ordered for the church's secretary to make necessary purchases for the church when needed.

Stewardship Committee: A grant will be coming for future Community Suppers.

Worship Committee: See page 3 for the new July in-person worship guidelines.

Finance and Property Committee: The church has been rekeyed. Please contact the church office to complete a key requisition to be reviewed by Executive Committee prior to dispensing the key. Door codes are given at discretion of office administrator and are changed on a monthly basis. All persons receiving keys or codes must sign for them.

The warning system for water and HVAC is currently being looked at. We are seeking a risk management assessment with our insurance company, Church Mutual, to ensure we are mitigating potentially costly risks..

Hospitality Committee:

Assisted the Stewardship Committee with preparing and serving the spaghetti for the drive thru community supper May 24th. The Confirmands were given small individual cakes and Bethany's graduates were given a "jumbo" graduation cupcake to take home as a Fellowship gathering could not be held due to COVID restrictions. An outdoor farewell gathering for Pastor Gloria was held on June 5th.

New Business: The Annual Meeting will be June 27, 2021. It will be held following the Sunday service, will need a quorum of 24 people.

Mark Dahlke, Vice-President, brought to new business a discussion about addressing some of the issues Bethany faces before calling a new Pastor. With council approval, this topic will be brought to the congregation at the annual meeting for input.

Happy July Birthday to....

Summer Seebecker	07/01
Allison Colwell	07/01
Mason Luehman	07/02
Juanita Johnson	07/02
Regina Langer	07/04
Teresa Voltz	07/05
Ryan Williams	07/05
Kevin Kustief	07/07
Donna Voltz	07/07
Garron Brandt	07/08
Dawn Seebecker	07/10
Dione Davidson	07/11
Ian Flint	07/11
Aubrey Ellerman	07/13
Maynard Miller	07/13
Katrina Bollig	07/13
Janice Seebecker	07/14
Ken Lalk	07/14
Bonnie Bonner	07/15
Renee Miller	07/15
Brelee Nelson	07/15
LaVonne Voltz	07/17
Deb Zaidel	07/17
Robert Pfaff	07/17
Ellen Dahlke	07/19
Kou Her	07/20
Tim Seebecker	07/21
Tammy Brown	07/21
Gary Gray	07/22
James Wollmer	07/22
Barbara Knudsen	07/23
Justin Jones	07/23
Raina Nava	07/24
Michael Tucker	07/24
Alan Abrahamson Sr.	07/26
Ericka Chavez	07/26
Trevor Lalk	07/27
Nevaeh Thompson	07/27
Tina Tucker	07/27
Camron Brandt	07/28
Tiffany Anderson	07/28
Kraig Zoller	07/28
Tristin Thomas	07/28

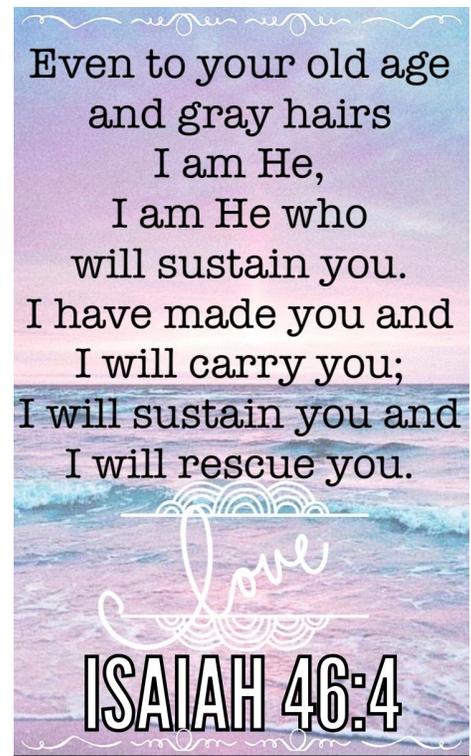
Jon Williams	07/29
Rylie Honnold	07/29
Molly Wiese	07/30
Skylar Daniels	07/31
Kendra Grzenia	07/31
Gloria Carr	07/31

Happy July Anniversary to....

George & Dorothy Pierce	07/02
Michael & Tammy Voltz	07/05
Jerry & Cindy Busch	07/14
Gene & Dawn Ramer	07/16
Dale & Cindy Preuss	07/20
Adam & Summer Seebecker	07/20
Dick & Mary Pirwitz	07/22
Larry & Christine Arens	07/24
Bob & Sandra Treland	07/27
Gary & Laurie Jensen	07/27
Paul & Diane Huebner	07/28

Please know that the office does not have every member's information. 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



Financial Updates

BLC Line of Credit Balance as of 5/31/2021

Parking Lot:	\$21,622.16
Professional Services	\$26,013.00
Repairs & Updates	\$ 8,173.00
Total:	\$55,808.16



**Thank you for your
continued financial
support!**

Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
May 17, 2021	\$5,380.00	\$1,596.97	\$6,976.97
1st In-Person Service	was May 16	this will now	reflect weekly totals
May 23, 2021	\$2,543.00	\$164.57	\$2,707.57
May 31, 2021	\$1,215.00	\$301.71	\$1,516.71

Gen Fund	May 2021 Actual	May YTD Actual	May 2021 Budget	May YTD Budget
Receipts	\$8,165.83	\$54,903.70	\$12,500.00	\$62,500.00
Disbursements	\$9,270.60	\$56,603.10	\$16,925.75	\$85,428.75
* PPP Funds	\$6,940.14			

Synod Learning Opportunities

Women of our Synod will gather at Trinity Lutheran Church in Cashton for worship, elections, lunch and an important program on racial justice. The date is **July 31**; the theme is “Just Love”

The School of Theology is offering stand-alone “conversations” on important social concerns. Synod pastors will lead the conversations using ELCA Social Statements to address each topic. Join any or all of these conversations as we consider how to extend God’s welcome to all. All conversations are free. Register w/ melanie@lacrosseareasynd.org

ALL classes on Thursdays from 6:30 - 9:30 pm via ZOOM:

- July 8 - The Church and Criminal Justice (2013 social statement) w/ Pr. Joanne Richmond
- July 15 - Economic Life: Sufficient, Sustainable Livelihood for All (1999 social statement) w/ Pr. Mark Solyst.

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