

BETHANY LUTHERAN Connections August 2021

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Community Drive Thru Cookout

The Stewardship Committee, with assistance from the Hospitality Committee, will be hosting a drive thru community cookout on Sunday, August 29th from 4:00pm – 6:00pm. This open to everyone in the community! Brats, hot dogs, chips, a sweet treat and bottled water will be served. Deliveries will be made to members who request one. Please call the church office at 608-847-6690 to be placed on the delivery list. Volunteers who are willing to prepare, serve, deliver or clean up would be appreciated. Please let the church office or any member of the Stewardship Committee know of your availability.

Ball Brothers Concert, Sunday, August 8th, 9:00am and 2:00pm

The Mauston United Methodist Church is bringing the Ball Brothers, A Christian Quartet from Chattanooga, GA here on Sunday, August 8th. They will do a Worship Service at 9:00am and then a Community Outreach Concert at 2:00pm. No tickets are required, just a free will offering.



2021 Council Installation

Sunday, August 8th during the 9:30am service, Bethany will hold the formal installation of the 2021 Council and Committees. Assistant Bishop Libby Howe will be leading worship and is most excited to do the installation. Please plan to attend this worship service to support this meaningful event!

Sunday School Meeting

There will be a Sunday School meeting Monday, August, 9th at 6:00pm.
Anyone interested is encouraged to attend!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Celebrating Assistant to the Bishop Libby Howe

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Sunday, August 8th, Bethany will be privileged to have Pastor Libby as our fill-in preacher. She has served the La Crosse Area Synod for twelve years and will be leaving her post as Assistant to the Bishop on August 31st. Pastor Libby has worked closely with Bethany in many ways, always leading with support and encouragement. On this Sunday, Bethany will surprise her with a thank you gift and an outdoor fellowship to celebrate her ministry. Everyone is invited to attend worship that Sunday and enjoy some time together outdoors following worship (weather permitting). Let's greet her with thanksgiving and prayers for her next call in ministry.

Sugar Creek Bible Camp Annual Golf Tournament

Sugar Creek Bible Camp is holding its annual golf tournament, Monday, August 23rd, at the Viroqua Hills Golf Course. Registration & check-in will start at 11:00am, a shotgun start at 12:30pm, with supper at 5:00pm. Cost is \$75 per golfer, which includes 18 holes, cart, prizes, a light lunch and a delicious post-evening meal. Put together a team of four and join them for this fun day. Or, if you don't golf, you can be a sponsor with a contribution of at least \$50. Contact Sugar Creek, 608-734-3113 for more information or download a registration form at www.SugarCreekBibleCamp.org. Please Register by August 17, 2021.

Temporary Job Opening

Looking to have something to do during the winter months? Bethany is seeking a person or persons to work in the office during the absence of our current office administrator. This opening would be Monday thru Thursday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. from November thru March. The executive committee would consider a job share to cover these hours. If interested, please contact the church office for more information.

Free Summer Concerts

Bring a chair and enjoy free concerts at Riverside Park in Mauston, shows start at 6:00pm.

Monday August 2nd: *Gin, Chocolate & Bottle Rockets* (Folk-pop)

Monday, August 9th: *Richie Yurkovich and Polkarioty* (Polka)

Monday, August 30th: *KG and the Ranger* (Western)

On Wednesday, August 25th at the Mauston High School, music by *Alive and Kickin* and the *Remember Project* will perform. They will change your way of thinking about aging and brain health. Registration required. Call the ARDC at 608-847-9371 to register.

Bringing Us Together in Christ

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As Bethany prepares for calling a new pastor, the church council and its leadership have taken initial steps to address some recurring issues that have had negative effects working with our pastors in healthy, productive ways. Some of these concerns have been discussed with us by the assistant bishop and past bishops of the La Crosse Area Synod. This is an all-encompassing effort, meaning it is imperative that the congregation takes part in developing a plan to improve and grow. The goal of this plan is to bring us together in Christ. This can be a positive undertaking as there are so many great people at Bethany. Good things have, and continue to, happen here. One of the first and most glaring challenges for us is to stop allowing negativity to overshadow the positive things going on in our church. Will this be easy? It depends on the congregation. Christ calls His people to love, support, and encourage one another. Consequently, our focus needs to be on the ministry Christ has asked His people to do. Our success and survival as a congregation depends on everyone stepping up to do their part. Over the weeks ahead, please think about your role as a member of Bethany. Ask yourself, "Why am I a member of Bethany?" and, "How can I help bring us together in Christ?" Bethany has a wonderful opportunity to have a new beginning, with a new pastor, a positive and uplifting culture, and goals to reach out to our members and the greater community in Christian love. Let's plan to work hard together to get this done!

Current COVID Guidelines for Bethany

Many people have asked about the need for Bethany to continue to wear a mask during worship. While there has been progress with vaccination, our children under 12 are still not eligible for the vaccine. There is also a steady increase in the state of cases of the Delta variant, which has been impacting kids. This is why we are continuing our current practices of masking, no corporate singing and no indoor fellowship or meals. Please understand that while no one WANTS this, we need to do so for the time being to keep the vulnerable safe. The situation will continue to be re-evaluated each month.

1. 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.

July Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: The properties/finance team met on 7/6/21. All financial reports were approved. Our line of credit is down to \$54,508.16. The following was approved to be paid in July: Line of Credit - \$350 building, \$350 parking lot, \$1,350 professional services; Missions - \$50 food pantry, \$200 LaCrosse Area Synod and Lutheran Social Services \$150.

Stewardship Committee: The next drive-thru community supper will be August 29th, 2021 from 4-6pm.

Worship Committee: The Worship Team will be meeting the second Wednesday of each month at 6:00pm.

Finance and Property Committee: The church has been re-keyed; however the code for the Fellowship hall door did not get changed for July, but will be changed for August. The plan is to have certain groups such as circles, employees, or Committees be assigned a specific code that won't be changed. A general code will be given to anyone wishing to use the facilities that will be changed as necessary.

Church Mutual Insurance (CMI) - A risk assessment was completed of the church grounds on June 15th. There were only a few issues raised that have no impact on our rate or insurance premium. They are strictly for us to address the concerns. The official report will be emailed to Tim Benson.

We also have, through CMI, a service that warns the church of problems with the HVAC system or water issues.

There was a 2020 audit completed on July 7th & 8th by Linda Dahlman and Mike Borreson. There were no major findings and a full report will be presented to the council in August.

There are a couple of issues with the bathrooms by the furnace rooms that need to be evaluated. Once the committee has a repair proposal, a plan will be established to complete the repairs as funding allows.

Hospitality Committee: They're working with the Stewardship Committee to help with the next Drive-Thru Community Supper on August 29th.

They're also planning an outdoor "Thank You" fellowship for Assistant Bishop Libby Howe August 8th following worship. Please see page 2 for entire article.

Faith Development Committee: Vacation Bible School was held July 25th - 28th.

More information will be forthcoming concerning Rally Day and Confirmation for the 7th and 8th graders this fall.

Pulpit Supply Update: We currently have coverage through the end of August.

Correspondence: The church was notified by letter that Bethany had been designated as a beneficiary of the Estate of Janet Fiala, who had been a member of Bethany.

Announcements: Pastor Glenn Borreson and Pastor Bob Thacker were recognized at Synod Assembly for their years in ministry. Pastor Glenn for 50 years and Pastor Bob for 40 years.

Open Council/Committee Positions

Bethany leadership is reaching out to the congregation to ask for help filling open positions on committees. There is a member of each committee willing to serve on council and we thank them for their willingness to serve. Needed are members to support council members on committees. Right now, Bethany needs every member to consider how they can support leadership and step up to help. If you have ever thought about giving back to the church as a volunteer, this is your opportunity to make a difference. Contact any council member for more information.

Faith Development – Jeri Shultis , 2 vacancies

Finance and Properties – Tim Benson, Jon Williams, Jerry Schroeder, 2 vacancies

Hospitality – Pat Lutz, Ruth Marose, Renee Miller

Mission – Roger Dutzle, Wally Feldman, 1 vacancy

Worship- Karen Fritz, Jacquie Puent, RJ Rogers

Endowment- Audrey Scholl, Jim Henry, 1 vacancy

In our Prayers

Marcus Brown, Wayne Morris, Ron Engevold, Cam Goetz, the Dillin family, Emil & Sheryl Skorik, the Lyman Family, the family of Marcella Schroeder, the family of John Griffin, Louie Voltz and Larry Voltz

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.

THANK YOU

Dear Bethany, Thank you so much for supporting my dream of becoming a health-care provider (nurse). I truly appreciate the scholarship from the bottom of my heart!

Yours truly, Future nurse/Preschool teacher, Izzabela Lutz

YOUTH MINISTRY

COVID-19 AND TEENS It's been a tough time for young people's (15-24 year-old's) mental health. It has worsened significantly in 2020-21 due to the pandemic.

Schools closed and school provides structure and routine to the lives of students. Following the routine of getting up at a certain time, going to classes at specific times and coming home at a certain time provides a sense of normalcy in their lives. They didn't have the normal social interactions they normally have at school, and they needed it even more last year, leading to increases in anxiety and depression. Some amount of fear and worry is a normal reaction to this abnormal situation, but they felt it even more. What can we do now?

The first thing we should do, regardless of age, is to maintain good self-care.

Eat good food. Human bodies and minds work better and feel better when they're being fueled by healthy, nutritious meals.

Get enough sleep. When we're tired, we are more vulnerable to irritants, anxiety and depression. It is hard to learn, listen, concentrate and solve problems when we're sleep deprived. That's why it is important to set and stick to regular bed and wake up times. According to The National Sleep Foundation, research has shown that teenagers need 8-10 hours of sleep a night.

Exercise. All of us need exercise to release those hormones that brighten how we feel.

Pray and talk to your children about your personal faith. Help your teen by pointing out positives every day.

Pay attention to stories about people being kind, helpful or supportive to each other. These things are happening and news about them is out there. Identify something that you enjoyed or found to be beautiful.

Practice gratitude. In times like these, it is easy to get worn down by all the things that we are missing out on or can't do. A powerful way to counter this is by intentionally taking time to appreciate the things, people, abilities and opportunities that we do have.



Happy August birthday to....

Sharon Pufahl	08/01
Jacob Cafferty	08/01
Larry Bonner	08/04
Sean Muchenberger	08/05
Cindy Busch	08/07
Myra Syverson	08/10
Izzabela Lutz	08/10
Gayle Hempel	08/10
Haylee Brandau	08/11
Dale Preuss	08/12
Paul Maki	08/14
Mason Hess	08/14
Christine Wiese	08/16
Norma Smith	08/16
Lis Schroeder	08/16
Jessica Vodvarka	08/18
Rowen Horton	08/18
Laura Dahlke	08/19
Stacey Klein	08/19
Josh Behling	08/20
Leona Jahncke	08/21
Linda Morris	08/21
Preston Seebecker	08/21
Alex Zoller	08/21
Johana Horton	08/21
Autumn Townsend	08/22
Doreen Coller	08/23

Baylor Holzberger	08/24 ⁷
Nolan Wilberg	08/24
Caleb Flint	08/25
Christine Arens	08/25
Barbara Hoilien	08/30
Brandis Schuh	08/30

Happy August anniversary to...

Chris & Kim Pufahl	08/01
Jerry & Christine Wiese	08/02
Cameron & Phyllis Goetz	08/11
Gerald & Marjo Staehling	08/14
Tim & Sheri Benson	08/15
Harlow & Audrey Gierhart	08/16
Jim & Norma Miller	08/17
Bill & Reggie Langer	08/20
Wayne & Nancy McCullick	08/26
Charles & Barbara Theis	08/27
Shane & Kerri Schiller	08/28
Rich & Gladys Radcliff	08/29

Happy Anniversary



**Love bears all things, believes all things,
hopes all things, endures all things**

(Corinthians 13:4-8)

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 6/30/2021

Parking Lot:	\$21,322.16
Professional Services	\$25,513.00
Repairs & Updates	\$ 7,673.00
Total:	\$54,508.16



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

Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
June 6, 2021	\$1,978.00	\$903.35	\$2,881.35
June 13, 2021	\$1,558.00	\$179.57	\$1,737.57
June 20, 2021	\$1,767.00	\$461.91	\$2,228.91
June 27, 2021	\$1,630.00	\$421.71	\$2,051.71

Gen Fund	June 2021 Actual	June YTD Actual	June 2021 Budget	June YTD Budget
Receipts	\$9,697.62	\$64,601.32	\$12,500.00	\$75,000.00
Disbursements	\$8,696.92	\$65,300.02	\$16,925.75	\$102,354.50
* PPP Funds	\$4,305.59			

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.

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**