

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Connections October 2021

Semi-Annual Meeting

The Semi-Annual meeting will be held on Sunday, October 24th in the sanctuary immediately following worship. The purpose of this meeting is the election of 2022 Council and Committee leadership. The nominating committee has been convened and is diligently working to prepare a slate of candidates that are matched with their passion and a willingness to serve the church. Members will be asked to sign in as they enter church for worship. They will be handed a ballot once their eligibility to vote has been verified. Please plan to attend this important meeting.

Trunk or Treat 2021

Trunk or treat is almost here! We are excitedly planning our second Trunk or Treat for October 31 from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in our parking lot. Our first Trunk or Treat was a huge success with 13 vehicles and over 400 trick or treaters. This is a wonderful opportunity for Bethany to reach out to the community. We would like to make this year even bigger and better with more participation and some added fun events. There are many ways you too can be part of this fun day. We need people to bring their trunks and treats. If that's not your style we could use donations of candy, cases of bottled water or monetary donations to help with our costs. Please call the church office if you plan to be there. You can drop off donations at the church or call Sheri Benson at 608-562-5112 for more information.



Bethany Clean Up Week

October 4th-8th will be the fall Bethany clean up week. There are a variety of indoor and outdoor projects that need to get accomplished, and we are asking for everyone to step up to volunteer. These projects may be done as a group, or you can come on your own to do something. A list of projects that you can sign up for will be posted Sunday, Oct 3rd. Either Ruth Marose, our custodian, or a member of the properties committee will be here during the office hours of that week to provide guidance. If you can assist outside of these hours, please contact Ruth at 847-4381 to make arrangements. Many hands make light work, and working together, we can accomplish so much!



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interim Office Assistant

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Bethany is pleased to welcome *Brad Ellerman* to the position of interim administrative assistant in the office during Marie's absence. Brad has a strong background of experiences that will lend well to serving in this role. Please take an opportunity to welcome and thank Brad for his willingness to step into this temporary role and lend him your support and encouragement.

AmazonSmile

Did you know that making a donation to Bethany can be as easy as shopping on Amazon? If you shop at smile.amazon.com (sign in with the same account you use for Amazon) or turn on AmazonSmile in the mobile app, Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charity when you shop. Every little bit counts! To date, Bethany has received \$193.98 thanks to members who have selected Bethany Lutheran Church in Mauston as their charity.

Sound System Upgrade

When Bethany returned to in-person worship this past May, we discovered that our sound system had some issues. The audio mixing board had a bad main channel, so instead of two channels, we were down to one. If that one went bad, we would have no amplification for our services. (We would have to use a megaphone!) Joe McDonough called multiple sound equipment companies, and none of them thought it was feasible to repair it. Joe



also asked many of these companies about purchasing a new audio mixing board, and he was unable to locate one for under \$20,000. Reasonably priced audio boards are currently unavailable due to shortages. Not to be defeated, Marie started calling around looking for used ones that would work for us. She was finally directed to the New Life Assembly of God Church in Sparta, Wisconsin. They updated to a digital audio board last year, and their previous Allen and Heath analog board was just sitting in storage. They were waiting for a sign of what to do with it. When they received Marie's call and realized it was for another church, they met and agreed to sell it to Bethany for the super low price of \$250.00! They could have sold it for three times more than this, but they wanted to pass along God's grace to another faith community. In addition, they gave us a stereo graphic equalizer which, coupled with the new audio board, has improved sound quality significantly. People who previously had a hard time hearing the service have commented that they are now able to hear! Bethany would like to extend sincere gratitude to Joe and Marie McDonough for volunteering their time and energy to work on this project. Their donation of time has saved Bethany a significant amount of money in service calls. ***We DO have a God who provides!***

Gratitude and Trusting in a God who Provides

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Recently, Bethany has been the recipient of two significant gifts. These gifts come from members who have felt a strong connection to the church and their faith. Their faith in a God who provides allowed them to exhibit this trust through their generosity, knowing that God has important plans for Bethany.

The first gift comes from Janet Fiala, a member who has lived the last several years in Fort Wayne, Indiana. Janet passed away in May of this year, and Bethany received a letter in June stating that the church is named as a beneficiary in her estate. While the total amount and receipt of the gift is pending based on estate transaction, it will be approximately \$48,000. It is incredible that Janet felt such a strong connection to Bethany that all these years after moving away, she wanted to share the impact our church had on her while she was here. She was grateful to God and knew he has plans for Bethany. She knew that God could use her gift to make a difference through Bethany. She trusted in a God who provides.

The second gift comes from a member who understands the difference her gift could make in the future of Bethany. Here is an excerpt from the letter received by our Treasurer and Financial Secretary.

RE: Bonnadean A. Crandall Designated Monetary Gift

*“Attached please find a check of \$53,000 payable to Bethany Lutheran Church. It is the intent and desire of Mrs. Crandall that this sum is used to pay off the line of credit at the Bank of Mauston. The advent of a new pastor is an exciting time in the history of Bethany Lutheran Church. Mrs. Crandall and myself prayerfully ask that **all** members of Bethany consecrate their hearts and minds to set aside all animosity and divisiveness. With prayer and dedication, Bethany of Mauston can and will become a vibrant and caring Beacon in our community once again.” Sincerely, Marlene M. Pelton, POA*

In conversation with Bonnie, she stated that her faith has been a large part of her life and she feels strongly about encouraging others to live in faith and love for one another. Her act of generosity is a testament to the faith she has lived and her trust in a God who provides what is needed, not necessarily what is asked of him.

How does Bethany express gratitude to these faithful women for their gifts and to a God who provides? Bethany expresses gratitude by following these ladies' desire to make Bethany a place where God works through his people of faith. Bethany expresses gratitude by making this church a place of true forgiveness. Bethany expresses gratitude by opening our hearts and minds to understand that faith makes things possible, not easy. Bethany expresses gratitude to God when members continue to give generously to the church so the work he sets before us is accomplished in his name.

Let the gratitude begin and never end!!

September Council Highlights

Treasurer's Report: The properties/finance team met on 9/7/21. All financial reports were approved. Our line of credit is down to \$51,358.16. The following was approved to be paid in August: Line of Credit: - \$500 building, \$300 parking lot, \$500 professional services; Missions - \$120 food pantry, \$125 LaCrosse Area Synod, and \$125 Lutheran Social Services .

Finance and Property Committee:

- ◆ The code for the Fellowship hall door was changed and will be changed monthly.
- ◆ October 4th-8th is Bethany fall clean up week (see article for details).
- ◆ A screen was placed inside the vent in the Men's restroom next to the furnace room, and it seemed to help with the bee issue.
- ◆ A resolution for the gift to Bethany from Janet Fiala's Estate is close to being completed.
- ◆ The televisions have been hooked up through the sound system, and the new-to-us audio mixing board has been installed as well.
- ◆ The concrete sidewalk to the Church by the pillars is uneven and there is no easy fix. It will need to be torn up and redone; local contractors will be contacted for price estimates.
- ◆ Snowplowing: While we are very happy with the current provider, as a "Best Business Practice" we will request bids for snow plowing the Church's driveway.
- ◆ Gray Electric was called to fix the cross lighting and the flood light by the Church sign.

Worship Committee: The committee recommends Christmas services as follows: one service on Christmas Eve with time to be determined; no worship Christmas day; Sunday, Dec 26th, 9:30 a.m. service.

Faith Development: Pat Dutzle has agreed to fill one of the open positions on the committee and she will need to be appointed by the council. Sunday School and confirmation plans are in place. Rally Day will be September 12th. Confirmation will begin the following Wednesday.

Hospitality Committee: Assisted with Community Drive Thru Cookout on August 25th. Planning Rally Day Outdoor Fellowship following worship September 12th.

Old Business:

- ◆ Based on results from the member information update and survey done last fall, giving envelopes will now come as monthly and special occasion (Holy Week, Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas). This will help Bethany be good stewards of financial resources and eliminate waste. Extra envelopes will be available in the narthex for those who wish to maintain weekly giving.

New Business:

- ◆ Pat Dutzle was appointed to fill an open position on the Faith Development Committee.
- ◆ The Semi-Annual meeting is scheduled for October 24, 2021, directly following worship. The nominating committee will be convened by Brian McGuire, VP, and they will prepare a ballot to elect 2022 church leadership.

Thank You Note

Thank you for the free meal at the community sharing supper. It was a real treat especially when you are elderly and live alone. The pocket prayer shawl was awesome, what a great idea! Thank you and God Bless! (note was unsigned)

Call Committee

As everyone knows, waiting can be difficult, and waiting is what the call committee has been doing for the last couple of months. With everything in place we continue to wait for names from the La Crosse Area Synod so we can begin interviews. The good news is Pastor Libby is hopeful she'll have one or two possible candidates for us by the end of September.

In our Prayers

The family of Phyllis Held, the family of Joe Griffin, the family of Wilma Miller, Kathy Noe, Norma Miller, Cam Goetz, Louie Voltz, Jimmy Hoilien, the Dillin family, Mike King's father, all military service members, Afghani refugees, the people affected by the devastation of natural disasters, first responders and health care workers who are weary from the persistent pandemic.

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.



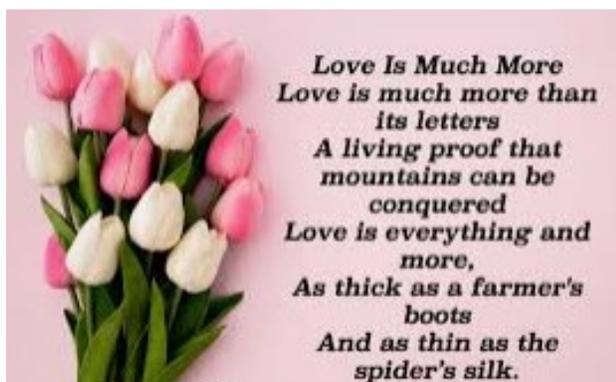


Happy October Birthday to...

Deanna Rose	10/03
Derek Fenner	10/03
Vaughn Wilberg	10/03
Troy Hansen	10/04
Cynthia Preuss	10/06
Greta Anderson	10/06
Amanda Staniger	10/09
Bill Langer	10/09
Tim Benson	10/11
Lois Olson	10/11
Leanna Hagen	10/12
Amy Behling	10/13
Nicole Nava	10/14
Stephanie Minard	10/15
Melanie Gray	10/15
Madree Rotzoll	10/15
Mark Dahlke	10/17
Alan Abrahamson Jr.	10/17
Dan Anderson	10/17
Eva Ragan	10/18
Paul Merk	10/19
Grayson Tomany	10/19
Ian McIntire	10/20
Sarah Schiller	10/20
Barb Klein	10/22
Gabriel Morse	10/23
Zachary Preuss	10/23
Amie Heinrich	10/26
Norah Serstad	10/27
Blake Nelson	10/28
Lisa Hansen	10/30
Don Bollig	10/30

Happy October anniversary to...

Rob & Linda Householder	10/03
Josh & Madree Rotzoll	10/03
Melanie & Jeff Gray	10/05
Vaughn & Laura Wilberg	10/06
Greg & Norma Smith	10/08
Roger & Pat Dutzle	10/13
David & Cathy Kidd	10/15
Brian & Karen Bell	10/17
Alex & Courtney Tomany	10/17
Paul & Jacqueline Maki	10/19
Dan & Alyssa Holzberger	10/29



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 8/31/2021	
Parking Lot:	\$20,772.16
Professional Services	\$23,663.00
Repairs & Updates	\$ 6,923.00
Total: \$51,358.16	



Thank you for your continued financial support!

Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
August 1, 2021	\$3,109.00	\$469.20	\$3,578.20
August 8, 2021	\$1,890.00	\$729.28	\$2,619.28
August 15, 2021	\$2,134.00	\$466.79	\$2,600.79
August 22, 2021	\$ 646.00	\$421.71	\$1,067.71
August 29, 2021	\$1,452.00	\$229.57	\$1,681.57
		August Total	\$11,547.55

Gen Fund	August 2021 Actual	August YTD Actual	August 2021 Budget	August YTD Budget
Receipts	\$10,839.80	\$84,660.08	\$12,500.00	\$100,000.00
Disbursements	\$6,841.86	\$78,688.18	\$16,924.75	\$136,205.00

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