

# BETHANY LUTHERAN

## Connections March 2022

### Scholarship Opportunity

The Bethany Endowment Committee is again offering scholarship opportunities to any member of our congregation who is attending post secondary education. Any full-time college or technical school student may apply. You may not apply a second time for this scholarship. Applications are available either by email or at the church office, and **must be received by the church by May 1, 2022** for consideration. Please direct any questions to Maynard Miller at 608-847-6358.



### Come Celebrate!



As many of you know, Bonnie Crandall turns 100 on March 11, 2022! To celebrate her birthday and to keep her, the residents, and the staff of Cottage Care safe, there will be a drive through observance.  
(Sound familiar? This was done for George Pierce's 100th in November 2020.)

#### HERE IS THE PLAN:

Meet in the parking lot of Bethany Lutheran Church in Mauston,  
1:00 p.m. on March 11, 2022.

We will drive in unison to Cottage Care Circle. Bonnie will be thrilled to see all of you!



### President's Article

A retired pastor in Canada commenting on the ELCA Facebook page said that the ELCA congregation she attends has not had a pastor for a long while and they have stopped looking. "I think the congregation is preparing to die, frankly." When the pandemic started, she offered to put her congregation's worship online, but they refused. They had given up. How sad!

[In a LOUD voice] Let me make this extremely clear: The leaders of Bethany remain optimistic about what's ahead. We have NOT stopped looking for a pastor and we see the current situation as temporary - a chance to grow and find new ways to be the People of God. We are Called! - Dick

### Ash Wednesday Service

On March 2nd at 7:00 p.m. begin your Lenten journey with us at our Ash Wednesday service, when our foreheads are marked with ashes and we share in Holy Communion, a sign of repentance and renewal. As we receive our ashes, we are reminded again: "Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." Don't miss this deeply moving experience.



## Annual Meeting held January 23, 2022

2

The agenda and the minutes were in the 2021 Annual Meeting booklet, along with the Pastoral activity report, 2021 Statistical Report, 2021 Bethany Staff, and reports from all the church committees. The congregation had the opportunity to read the Annual Report before the meeting started.

The Bethany Church 2022 Proposed Budget was included with an oral report from Treasurer Gary Gray. He enclosed a balance sheet and reported the church was, for the first time, not in debt because of 3 factors: the PPS from the government, donation from Bonnie Crandall and donation from the estate of Janet Fiala.

The 2022 budget and the written reports were all approved.

The call committee was asked about finding a new pastor. There are still no names to report to the congregation, and they are still trying.

### February Finance & Property Highlights

The F & P Committee met on February 8, 2022. All members were present as well as Elley Dahlke. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the LaCrosse Synod/ELCA and \$50 to the food Pantry.

Tim had follow-on conversations with the Mauston Fire Department Chief regarding options for emergency access such as using the key pad on the door to the fellowship hall. This is being looked into so we will not do anything until we hear back from the fire department.

Gary reported that the IRS mileage rate increased to \$.585 per mile effective January 1, 2022. This is the rate to be used to reimburse relief pastors for their mileage when they lead the church service.

The next F & P Meeting will be on Monday, March 7th, since Tim and Jon will both be unavailable on the normal meeting night, Tuesday, March 8th.

### February Council Highlights

**Correspondence:** A letter was received from the Lutheran Diaconal Association with a check for \$1652.17 as a grant for continuing our Community Drive-Thru Meals.

**Executive Committee:** Worshippers do not have to register at the table as they come in, but will have to wear a mask. Social distancing is encouraged. Four important areas the congregation, especially the council, needs to address are: 1) communication with the people of Bethany, 2) long range planning, 3) the Bethany constitution and bylaws, and 4) getting people engaged in the work of the congregation, providing training and support.

**Faith Development:** The older kids are going to be working on a mural project in the nursery.

**Worship Committee:** The Lenten program is "Unraveled." There will be a different pastor or leader each week. After consulting with the congregation's Covid Team, the hymnals, Bibles, and communion cards are back in the pews. There will be one worship service for Easter at 9:30 a.m. There will not be services on Maundy Thursday or Good Friday due to limited worship leadership and low attendance.

## Scheduling Events and Meetings

3



Please let our secretary know when you are planning an event or meeting at Bethany so she can put it on the calendar outside her office. This will prevent frustration and embarrassment when, for example, two groups expect to use the kitchen or Fellowship Hall at the same time. Thank you.



### Lutheran World Relief World Relief Lenten Project

We are asking you to contribute items for Lutheran World Relief school kits, health kits, and baby kits during Lent.

A school kit may provide the only supplies for children returning to school after the disruption of war or other disasters. School kits help parents continue their children's education, even while living in a refugee camp. A school kit may also be used in adult literacy classes.

People who must flee their homes quickly often do not have time to pack essential items. A health kit can help women, children, or men who are refugees maintain personal hygiene while living in exile. Items may also contribute to a new start for those who can return home.

In refugee camps, hospitals, and villages around the world, baby kits convey a warm welcome to newborns and their mothers.

Each week of Lent we are asking for special donations:

March 6 - Bath Towels or Hand Towels (dark color recommended) (New)

March 13 - Bath Size Bars of Soap (New) or Nail Clippers (New)

March 20 - Spiral 8 x 10" Notebooks (70 pages) or Eraser (2") (New)

March 27 - T-Shirts (long/short sleeves) or Pants (9-24 month) (New)

Items can be put in the large basket in the narthex.

Money may also be donated to buy needed items, just get it to Mary.

'Truly, I (Jesus) say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me' Matthew 25:40

- Mary Pirwitz 608-548-3561

## March 2022 Sunday School

We can't believe there are only 2 months left of Sunday School! Recently we were able to give a check from our offerings and congregation's noisy offering to the Carl W Nelson animal shelter for \$329.88!! We even made a big check to present to them.



The students have also started a project in the nursery. They are creating a mural on several walls. They started by cleaning the walls and then traced their pictures. Next up will be painting. We are excited to do a big reveal to show the congregation when we are finished.



In February we learned about the parable of the sower and the creation story. Coming up in March we will learn about Jonah and the big fish and the parable of the lost sheep.



# MARCH

## Birthdays

Erica Horton	03/1	Sandra Potter	03/19
Marie McDonough	03/1	Amanda Holmes	03/23
Cyndi Randall	03/2	William Potter	03/24
Stefanie Tessling	03/2	George Gould	03/26
Jacob Preuss	03/3	Tom Reigard	03/27
Matthew Brown	03/3	Michel Sullivan	03/29
Darren Honnold	03/4	Charles Theis	03/29
Annette Olson	03/5	Karen Bell	03/30
Sophie Grzenia	03/5	William Voltz Jr.	03/31
Donald Hoffmann	03/6		
Ardis Enderle	03/7		
Jessica Kramer	03/7		
Brianna Lalk	03/8		
Tammy Voltz	03/8		
Nichole Preuss	03/9		
Talia Hansen	03/9		
Bonnie Crandall	03/11		
Katie Steinke	03/12		
Courtney Tomany	03/12		
Kerri Schiller	03/12		
Nicole Hess	03/13		
Karen Fritz	03/14		
Allen Sunday	03/14		
Michael Lutz	03/15		
Kathleen Turner	03/15		
Randy Brandt	03/15		
Bob Treland	03/15		
Pat Dutzle	03/16		
Joann Emery	03/16		
Hilda Zuberbuehler	03/16		
Lilith Johnson	03/17		
Yvonne Rotzoll	03/17		
Steven A. Miller	03/18		



Adam & Amie Heinrich 03/19

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

Thank you for continuing to  
give generously!



Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
January 2, 2022	\$771.00	\$488.25	\$1,259.25
January 9, 2022	\$1,613.00	\$200.22	\$1,813.22
January 16, 2022	\$1,227.00	\$295.00	\$1,522.00
January 23, 2022	\$1,502.23	\$313.69	\$1,815.92
January 30, 2022	\$1,659.30	\$443.47	\$2,102.77

Gen Fund	January 2022 Actual	January YTD Actual	January 2022 Budget	January YTD Budget
Receipts	\$7,009.01	\$7,009.01	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00
Disbursements	\$8,555.82	\$8,555.82	\$16,530.00	\$16,530.00

### 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 Dick Pirwitz, council president, at 608-548-5982. If not immediately available, he 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](mailto:bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com)**