

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Connections

July 2022

Jan Reynolds Memorial

Everyone is invited to Jan Reynolds Memorial Service, Friday, July 1, at 5:00 p.m. here at Bethany.

*** SPECIAL CONGREGATION MEETING July 10th ***

There will be a special congregation meeting Sunday, July 10th, after worship to consider calling a pastor.

Vacation Bible School

Treasured - Discovering You're Priceless to God

July 24-27, 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Ages 3 through 6th grade

Treasured VBS is filled with learning through Bible Adventures, Kid-Vid Cinema, Imagination Station, snacks, games, and singing. Each day activities will allow students to discover the treasures of faith. Four fun evenings of learning and building friendships with Jesus and each other! Invite your friends, bring your neighbors, and your relatives. Let's Connect and Celebrate as we discover our value in Christ! Wednesday, July 27, will be a potluck and mini-concert.



Synod Assembly Mission Project

Bethany stepped up in a big way to help with the Synod Assembly Mission Project. The project was to collect socks and underwear to take to the assembly. These in turn will be distributed to our homeless shelters and food pantries to share with those in need. Bethany set a goal of collecting 150 pair. After all was collected, Bethany collected 75 pair of underwear and 168 pairs of socks for a total of 243 pairs. Thank you to everyone who donated these items or a monetary donation to help Bethany exceed our goal by 93 pairs!! Jesus asks us to reach beyond our walls and share his love through serving others. This project is just one of the ways Bethany shows our love of Christ!!

Why Do We Worship?

We choose to worship in response to what God has done for us.

We participate in worship to confess our sins and hear a word of forgiveness.

We worship to hear God speaking to us in the scripture.

We worship to receive the bread and wine, and to feel the water.

We worship to be made into a community of faith in which we support one another and to work together to show God's love to the world in word and deed.

There is something unique that happens in worship that takes us beyond our individual experiences and reminds us we are the people of God.

Worship is giving thanks to God,

hearing about God's love and forgiveness,

having our hearts and wills changed as the Word makes us over,

and being equipped for discipleship in the world.

We gather to worship with other believers because we can't do any of this on our own. - Dick

Thank You

Thank you very much for selecting me as a recipient of the Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship! I have been a member of Bethany since before I can remember. From my baptism to my confirmation, Bethany Lutheran has always been the church my family has chosen to attend. Although throughout the years I have become increasingly busy with school, extracurricular activities, and sports, my appreciation for Bethany has not diminished. I believe that Bethany is a great source of community in Mauston, and it seems every time I go out, I see a member of the congregation volunteering their time for important causes. As a result, I am grateful to have been chosen by Bethany Lutheran Church for this opportunity. Thank you very much for your contribution towards my future! Sincerely, Ally Fenner

The Impact of Religious Belief

Rodney Stark is one of the most celebrated and respected sociologists of religion in the world. In one of his books, he sketched out some fascinating conclusions based on detailed sociological data that are so contrary to popular opinion and the assumed narrative of the post-Christian West that most will greet them with a filter of suspicion, or outright disbelief.

That doesn't mean they aren't true – only that we may be victims of our own self-selected confirmation biases, fooled by our own carefully curated news, opinions, and information. He concludes that religious people:

- Are primary source of secular charitable funds that benefit victims of misfortune whatever their beliefs
- Dominate the ranks of blood donors and other prosocial behaviors
- Are much less likely to commit crimes
- Far more likely to donate their money and time to socially beneficial programs and to be active in civic affairs. (The impact of religious people on volunteering alone is an estimated \$47 billion annually in the United States alone!)
- Enjoy superior mental health – are deemed happier, less neurotic, and far less likely to commit suicide
- Enjoy superior physical health – have an average life expectancy more than seven years longer than that of the irreligious
- Read more than their irreligious friends and neighbors
- Are less likely to believe in the occult, UFO's, Bigfoot, etc.
- More apt to marry, less likely to divorce, and report higher degrees of satisfaction with their spouse.
- Religious husbands are far less likely to abuse their wives or children. This is of course contrary to the story that religions create systems of oppression in the home because of 'male patriarchy'.
- Religious fathers are more likely to be involved in youth-related activities such as coaching sports teams or leading Scout troops, etc.
- Religious students perform better on standardized achievement tests, are far less likely to drop out of school, obtain better jobs upon graduation, and are far less likely to be on unemployment (the studies for all of these and especially this one and all surrounding crime stats, etc., factor in races/geographies across the U.S.)
- In 247 studies done between 1944 and 2010: Religion has a positive effect on society in regard to crime, deviance, and delinquency.
- Crime rates in the US compared to the decidedly less religious countries of Western Europe are glaringly less in many categories, with the exception of homicide rates: Denmark has nearly two-and-a-half times as many burglaries per 100,000 people, and is exceeded by Austria, Switzerland, the U.K., Sweden, Belgium, and the Netherlands. The same is true for theft, and assault rates.
- Urban stats going from present-day back to the 1920s shows that the higher a city's church membership rate, the lower its burglary, larceny, robbery, assault, and homicide rates.

Finance & Property Committee:

The F&P Committee met on June 7, 2022. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the LaCrosse Synod/ELCA, \$65 to Lutheran Social Services and \$60 to the Mauston Food Pantry. Several gifts were received for Mercy Ship support and that money will be sent in a single check from Bethany.

The Committee will follow up on getting new hallway lights by the newer bathrooms.

Executive Committee:

The Call Committee reported that they have a meeting with a possible candidate.

Hospitality reported coffee hour is going well, but more volunteers are needed.

Worship reported that the list of duties for the Altar Guild and ushers are being updated. Kathy Marose will be training Altar Guild volunteers. Jeri Shultis will be doing the usher duties updates. The worship leader list is filled through September, as are the lectors.

The first chapter of the Crucial Conversations book was discussed.

Greetings from the Bethany Call Committee!

No one knows better than the Bethany Call Committee that the Call Process is a long process.

The ELCA currently is short 1,000 Pastors. Yikes !!!

This is an update from the Call Committee and a few reminders.

No one except the Call Committee members may see or know anything about candidates.

Confidentiality is paramount! Nothing about age, gender, where they live, etc.

This is for both the protection of the candidates and to respect the work the call committee has been elected to do on behalf of the congregation. If people ask for information we, the committee, will be saying something like "I'm glad you're invested in this process with us. Please hold us in your prayers during this time". We do have exciting news! We have a name and have set up an interview. Please pray for us! There is no guarantee we will feel a candidate will be good fit for Bethany but we, the committee, are hopeful and going into the interview with high hopes that this will work for the candidate and for Bethany. Again, please do not ask, as we cannot give out any details regarding this... but please pray for us!....All of us!

Mauston Tribute Tree Program, Part 2

In a recent issue of Connections, an article about a tree memorializing Emil Skorik was shared. In previous years, other members of Bethany have also been recognized including a tree in honor of Brian McGuire for his contributions to the community. Trees were also donated in memory of Charlie Lutz and Win and Elaine MacDonald.

Trees donated by other area residents this year include one in memory of Walt and Dorothy Lenorud, a tree given by Bob Firlus in memory of his dog, and a memorial honoring Mike Kelley's years as a Lions Club member.

These trees and the accompanying stones are planted by Mauston Public Works and can be found throughout the city in public places.





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
Elley 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



George & Dorothy Pierce	07/02
Michael & Tammy Voltz	07/05
Marie & Joe McDonough	07/07
Jerry & Cindy Busch	07/14
Gene & Dawn Ramer	07/16
Donavan & Penny Cannegieter	07/17
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

In Our Prayers

~~ Dawn Carter, Ron Engevold, Gary Barr, Jr, Dennis Stark, Emery Hobleman, Dave Lenorud, Diane Peterson, Ken Plants, the Dillin family, the people of Ukraine and those who are helping them.

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.

Bethany's Prayer Chain Coordinator is Audrey Gierhart
(608-847-4106).

If you have an urgent prayer request, call her to share the request.

Worship Reminders

July 3

**In-Person Worship at Bethany and Worship streamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM.
Recording available later.**

Lector: Jim Miller

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

July 10

**In-Person Worship at Bethany and Worship streamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM.
Recording available later.**

Lector: Brian McGuire

Usher Captain: David Kidd

July 17

**In-Person Worship at Bethany and Worship streamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM.
Recording available later.**

Lector: Mary Pirwitz

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

July 24

**In-Person Worship at Bethany and Worship streamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM.
Recording available later.**

Lector: Karen Fritz

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis & Harold Seebecker

July 31

**In-Person Worship at Bethany and Worship streamed on Facebook at 9:30 AM.
Recording available later.**

Lector: Marjo Staehling

Usher Captains: William Potter Jr and Youth

July Altar Guild: Teresa & Aubrey Ellerman



Giving	Cash/Check	Online	Total
May 1, 2022	\$4,071.90	\$ 714.57	\$4,786.47
May 8, 2022	\$1,906.00	\$ 264.74	\$2,170.74
May 15, 2022	\$1,919.00	\$ 312.53	\$2,231.53
May 22, 2022	\$ 478.00	\$ 164.63	\$ 642.63
May 29, 2022	\$1,910.00	\$ 114.57	\$2,024.57

Gen Fund	May 2022 Actual	May 2022 Budget	May YTD Actual	May YTD Budget
Receipts	\$11,023.05	\$12,500.00	\$62,536.21	\$62,500.00
Disbursements	\$6,681.39	\$16,533.00	\$39,093.27	\$82,665.00

Church Office Hours

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.

The church office is open **Monday – Thursday from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 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.

Has your contact information changed? Be sure to let us know!
(608) 847-6690
bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com