

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter January 2023

A Note from the Pastor:

With the turn of the calendar year, many of you will be taking some time to think about new beginnings and resolution making. It is important to take time to look at how our lives are going, what we value, and make appropriate changes to our lives based on these things. Because I am still in the process of making a new beginning with you, this idea really resonates with me this year.

As we get to know one another better, I also feel that I should tell you that I continue to struggle to learn everyone's names. Please bear with me and keep in mind that all of you are important to me. Some things that you can do to help me learn names is to use one another's names and be patient about repeatedly telling me your names. I also ask that you do not allow me to call you or another person an incorrect name.

As this new year progresses, I will be making some invitations for you to come to events that are intended to help me get to know each of you better as an individual person. Please seriously consider coming to one or more of these events. Often people call their pastor because it is potentially 'one of the worst days of their life.' I take this part of my ministry very seriously and find that it is better if we have a connection before you may need to make that call. I would also appreciate invitations to community events as I learn the lay of the land.

I try my best to be very available via cell phone 920-226-0453. I encourage you all to program this number into your cell phone if you have one and send me a text message with your name in it if you have not already. There are times where you may need to call that number twice within three minutes to get through. This happens because I do sometimes turn my ringer off. If you do send me an emergency text or leave a voice message it is helpful that you let me know who you are and where you are.

Thank You and God Bless, Pastor Joan

Interesting Facts About Pastor Joan

I am good at claw machines.

I enjoy tabletop gaming. I have been to GenCon, the world's largest board game convention, three times. My favorite board games are currently Ticket to Ride and Munchkin.

I like to cook. I have lots and lots of different pots, pans, and cookbooks. I will read a cookbook in the same way that a lot of people will read a novel.

My siblings have occasionally accused me of spoiling my niece and nephews (Martha, Levi, Franklin, and Ellison). There are sometimes bonus children around because of participation in the foster care system.

I have a music minor from Carthage College in Kenosha, WI. My other minor subject areas were the Classics – with a language emphasis, Economics, and Philosophy.

I work at Lutheran Social Services in my capacity as an LPC-IT in the CCS program which provides clients high quality wrap around community-based care.

God Bless,
Pastor Joan

WHAT A GREAT YEAR IT HAS BEEN! 2022 was unbelievably great:

- We are back to in-person worship without masks
- We are back to communion at the rail with real bread
- We hosted several community drive-thru meals
- Members who we missed worshipping with us have come back
- Our giving has increased
- **We called an amazing pastor**

We all worked hard and kept the faith through 2022. Let's make 2023 even greater!

Dick

Worship Meeting December 7, 2022

Members present were Pastor Joan, Dick Pirwitz, R.J. Rogers, Jacquie Puent, Karen Fritz, Linda Bohner and Diane Huebner.

Kathy Marose has located Singers (Colwell girls) for the 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. We are also checking on amount of Communion bread needed for all the services for Christmas. Ruth and Kathy could use some help with setting up the candle holders on the pews. Kathy Marose is planning to provide special music at the 8:00 p.m. service.

Pastor Joan handed out draft copies of the bulletins for Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and possibly "A Service of Reflection for the Longest Night". (sadder version of a Christmas service).

Karen has lectors and Communion assistants (three at each) lined up for Christmas Eve services. She is currently working on getting lectors and Communion assistants for the New Year.

The Christmas Day service involves a number of carols and lessons. Kathy and Mark (and Elley) could read along with Pastor Joan. No Communion for Christmas Day.

Christmas Eve Service: includes Proclamation of the Birth of the Christ Child and Scripture readings for the candle lighting time. There are some glow sticks candles that may be a safer option for very little kids. There are a lot of familiar parts and some new ideas too. The bulletin is very thorough. We need to remind the congregation: "Stand up for the Silent Night and raise the candles for the final verse." Pastor will make a show when she is blowing out the candles.

Undecorating for the church will be Wednesday January 11 at 10:00 a.m.

Psalms plan for the New Year. The "Psalm Guy" quit making videos. We will have no Psalms until Lent and then they will be read responsively.

We need to get tech coverage for the Christmas services. Ellerman's will do Christmas Eve at 4 p.m. and Christmas Day service. January 1 will be a normal service and Pastor Joan may be gone.

Our next meeting will be Wednesday, January 11 at 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL CONGREGATION MEETING

The Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, January 22, 2023**, in the Fellowship Hall following the worship service.

The order of business at the January Annual meeting shall be:

- a) Opening devotion
- b) Approval of the minutes
- c) Reports of the pastor, president, treasurer, and others
- d) Approval of the budget
- e) Listed old or unfinished business
- f) Listed new business, and
- g) Closing prayer

Please plan to attend this important meeting.

December Council Highlights

The Annual Meeting will be Sunday, January 22nd, in the Fellowship Hall after worship.

The Council accepted the 2023 budget from the Finance and Properties Committee and it will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. The budget is based on \$157,000 in offering in 2023, which is in line with giving since Pastor Joan came. Budget expense amounts were based on past history adjusted for inflation.

The La Crosse Area Synod was given \$500, Lutheran Social Services \$45, and the Mauston Food Pantry \$55.

The Finance and Properties Committee approved bids for new lighting in the altar area and the hallways in the basement and office area. New gutters were also approved that will help with drainage issues that result in water problems in the basement.

The Stewardship Committee is working on a time and talents list to give to the committees.

Sunday School News

In December we had a youth fellowship activity – lots of crafts, hot cocoa and fun!

Sunday school in December was all about preparing for the Christmas program. Thank you to everyone who helped this year. Special thanks to Diane Huebner for leading and directing our program this year! Thank you to everyone who donated birthday cake supplies during the Birthday Party for Jesus.

Sunday school resumes on January 8th. Our lessons will come from the curriculum “Joining God at Work in the World” – and our first several lessons will be from the book of Genesis.

January Birthdays

Dorothy Pierce	01/01
Andrew Dillin	01/02
Adam Heinrich	01/02
Gene Ramer	01/03
Nicole Turner	01/03
Teri Webster	01/03
Mildred Holmes	01/05
RJ Rogers	01/06
Chelsee Seebecker	01/08
Cora Dillin	01/10
Elizabeth Colwell	01/11
Darriane Thomas	01/12
Kane Kennedy	01/14
Sheri Benson	01/16
Roger Dutzle	01/19
Jerry Busch	01/18
Elaine Barton	01/20
Arika Hutchinson	01/20
Kara Kidd	01/21
Jenna Maki	01/21
Terry Broske	01/22
Judy Droster	01/22
Lauryn Jones	01/22
Julianne Sanford	01/22
William Potter	01/23
Lynn Lyman	01/24
Jordy Tabbert	01/24
Kathy Wollmer	01/27
Marina Bauer	01/28
Marlene Shultis	01/28
Cameron Goetz	01/29
Carter Seebecker	01/30
Allyson Arens	01/31
Donald Miller	01/31
Alaina Morris	01/31
Chris Pufahl	01/31

January Anniversaries

Steven & Laurel Miller	01/18
John & Dawn Hess	01/21

Thank you for all the Christmas cheer, cards, gifts and well wishes this Christmas season.

*Thank
You!*

May the New Year bring many blessings to our congregation and your families.

Pastor Joan



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

Tricia Demmin, Larry Purvis, Chris Bradley, Raina Nava, the family and friends of Kirby Knutson, Rod Pink, Angela Bollig, Randy Mullenberg, Dianne Peterson, Ken Plants, Terry Prescott, Donna Christensen, Dennis Stark, Bill Voltz, the Dillin family, and the people of Ukraine.

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).

*****Unless otherwise noted, all worship services will be in-person and streamed on Facebook with the recording available later.*****

Worship Reminders

January 1 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector: Jim Miller

Communion Assistant: Maynard Miller

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

January 8 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector: Becky Colwell

Communion Assistant: Kathy Marose

Usher Captain: David Kidd

January 15 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector: Barb Handrich

Communion Assistant: Karen Fritz

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

January 22 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector and Communion Assistant: Rosemary Dellamuth

Usher Captain: Jeri Shultis

January 29 Worship Service 9:30 a.m.

Lector: Elley Dahlke

Communion Assistants: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: Bethany Youth

January Altar Guild: Jeri and Molly Shultis



*** Giving	Cash/Check
November 6, 2022	\$2,598.00
November 13, 2022	\$1,894.00
November 20, 2022	3,319.00
November 27, 2022	1,576.00
** Online Giving Total for November 2022	\$2,023.72

*** The chart above reflects the financial counts each week from the offering and money that's been sent in and online donations to include: designated funds (Building, Memorial, flowers, etc) and special projects (Ukraine, Mercy Ships, Farm, Toys for Joy, etc).

** Online donations will be reported once a month due to posting issues. Near the end/beginning of the month the weekly amounts were not always accurate.

* The below receipts reflect money available for operating budget AFTER deducting designated giving.

Gen Fund	November 2022	November 2022	November YTD	November YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$10,295.34	\$12,500.00	\$151,784.79	\$137,500.00
Disbursements	\$12,501.89	\$16,533.00	\$96,684.93	\$181,863.00

Church Office Hours

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 Pastor Joan at 920-226-0453 or Dick Pirwitz, council president, at 608-548-5982. If not immediately available, they 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