

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

June 2023

A Note from the Pastor:

I write you this message toward the end of a month of very high activity for our congregation both from a worship and just a general activity in our congregation standpoint. It is noticeable to me that June brings summertime and a drop in some of that activity.

This does not mean that we are not busy people. This time of year is a busy season for some of you with tourism and agricultural based businesses. This is also a time of year when people spend as much time outdoors enjoying our state as possible. To quote a wise person, "We pay for June and July around here with January and February."

Many of you will travel and take vacations this month. You may find yourself traveling on a Sunday. If your travels allow, I encourage you to consider stopping briefly on Sunday mornings around 9:30am and taking some time for prayer, connection with the Lord, and to send blessings in your heart to our worshipping community back home.

Many of you will have opportunities to visit other congregations when you travel. I would appreciate hearing about the good things that are happening in other places and copies of any bulletins or literature they are handing out. Some great ideas for ministry sometimes come from seeing how something happens differently elsewhere. This can also help us appreciate the things we do like about the way things happen at our worship.

I also know that we at Bethany can expect to receive some people who are guests of our community that may not otherwise be connected to our congregation; perhaps because they are staying at a nearby campground, hotel or resort. I know that you will do your best to help me welcome these visitors. I know that we are working hard at Bethany to be the best possible worshipping community we can be with the gifts the God has given to us. I hope that these visitors see and hear about things happening at our congregation that they will want to tell their pastor about when they get home.

Thank you and God Bless, Pastor Joan

What is Bethany Providing?

What is Bethany providing to our members and community?

We are offering them, on gospel terms, what all human hearts rightly need—

a meaning that suffering can't take away,

a satisfaction not based on circumstances,

a freedom that doesn't destroy love and community,

an identity that doesn't elude you, crush you, or lead you to exclude others,

a basis for justice that doesn't turn you into a new oppressor,

a relief from shame and guilt without resorting to relativism,

and a hope that can enable you to face anything with poise, even death. - Dick

Lutheran World Relief School Kits

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Bethany is once again planning to collect donations for Lutheran World Relief School Kits, which will be assembled and sent in September. Lutheran World Relief School Kits contain essential supplies to help children — and in some cases, adults — continue learning in the face of serious obstacles.

As we know, education is one of the strongest tools a community has to help break the cycle of poverty. Ensuring that children attend school in countries that face political, economic, and cultural unrest can have a profound long-term impact on their lives. Having the necessary items for school is key to their learning.



Below is a list of items needed for the kits. By providing the list now, it will allow you to purchase supplies when back-to-school sales begin during the summer. Donations will be accepted through August.

A School Kit contains the following items, but you may choose individual items to buy/donate.

- FOUR 70-sheet spiral notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10 1/2"; no loose paper
- ONE 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ONE pencil sharpener
- ONE pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- FIVE unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- FIVE black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band
- ONE box of 16 or 24 crayons
- ONE 2 1/2" eraser
- ONE sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17" with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)

There will be a large basket in the Narthex to collect the Kit donations. Cash donations are acceptable and will be used to buy the school Kit items. Monetary donations may be given to Mary Kay Tardiff, Kathy Noe, or Elley Dahlke. "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

Thank You

Bethany has long participated in the community outreach of delivering Meals on Wheels. May is Bethany's month to do so. This could not be accomplished without great volunteers from our congregation who help deliver these meals. Thank you to Jerry and Lis Schroeder, Ruth Marose, Tammy Hansen, and Pat Lutz who participated for the entire month. Thank you also to Ed Rogers, Tim and Sheri Benson, Molly and Jeri Shultis, and Pat and Roger Dutzle for filling in when needed. Ruth Marose served as Bethany's coordinator organizing the delivery drivers. Please take a moment when you see these folks to express appreciation for sharing their time for this important ministry.

The Hospitality Committee wishes to thank everyone that has stepped up to help with fellowship hours, funeral luncheons, and special occasions. It has truly been a blessing to see so many different members participate. Please know that your time and efforts are sincerely appreciated.

The Stewardship Committee wants to take a moment to express gratitude to those who have helped prepare, serve, and deliver our community drive-through meals. Bethany is truly "letting our light shine" by providing these meals to our community.

Thank You!

Our May drive thru Community Meal was a success! We served 150 people in two hours. A huge thank you to the Bethany members who helped make this happen. We had 19 folks help with the prep, cooking, serving, and delivery of these meals. We couldn't do this without all of you willing to help us reach out to the community.

Thank you to our sponsors this month: Thrivent, Festival Food, and the many Bethany members who contributed financially. Thank you to the members who shared this event with their friends and neighbors. Our hearts are warmed by the gratitude of the people who drive thru and we are looking forward to our next one on August 23rd.

Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on May 9. Elley Dahlke, Gary Gray, Ed Rogers, Dave Kidd, Mike Borreson, and Jon Williams³ were present. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the LaCrosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services and \$85 to the Mauston Food Pantry.

- The gutter project was completed and now the landscaping project should be starting soon. The hope is that these projects will address the water problems we are having in the basement.
- Gray Electric began work on the Sanctuary lights but was unable to complete it because the dimmer switch is on back order. The hallway lights will also be completed with a future visit. It was also suggested that we have another exterior outlet installed. Currently there are only two on the Church. The new one would be installed on the storage shed behind the Church. Grays will be contacted about installation.
- The committee has scheduled Spring cleanup/Workdays at the Church for Saturday, May 20th from 9:00a.m. – 12:00p.m. and Sunday, May 21st 1:00p.m.– 3:00p.m. The plan is to do some weeding, plant some flowers, and do some painting and other small jobs. There are also some indoor projects that may be tackled.
- The Committee is going to contact an audio/visual company from Reedsburg to evaluate our current sound system and determine what we need to do to address some of the problems we are having.
- The Committee has given Lynxx permission to run fiber internet to the Church at no charge to us.

The next F & P Meeting will be on Tuesday, June 6th at 5:30p.m.

May 2023 Council Highlights

- The La Crosse Area Synod staff sent Bethany a check for \$150 as a donation to our Community Drive Thru Dinners. At Christmas, the synod staff, instead of exchanging gifts, decided to take the money they would have spent and give it to a project or program at one of the synod congregations.
- A huge thank you to the Hospitality Committee, Marie and Pastor for doing so well throughout May with the unprecedented number of funerals and special events.
- The 25th Anniversary of the installation of the stained-glass windows will be celebrated on May 21st.
- First Communion class for 2nd graders and other students who have not had the class is May 21st. A Lunch and Learn Holy Communion class is May 22nd.
- A Swedish Meatball Community Drive Thru Dinner is May 21st.
- The Hospitality Committee is planning Confirmation Sunday, funerals, Mother's Day, graduation, and Sundays. Food and servers needed.
- The Synod Assembly is June 9th to 11th. New socks, underwear and bras are being collected for distribution throughout the synod. A basket is in the narthex for donations. Our goal is 500 items.

Scholarship Winners

To show our continued support and encouragement to the members of our congregation beyond their high school years, the Bethany Endowment Committee is pleased to congratulate this year's scholarship recipients. Each will receive a \$1,000 award after the completion of their first semester of post high school education. The Endowment Fund uses the investment returns from memorial gifts to fund scholarships and other causes.

- The first recipient of a scholarship is Brody McCluskey. He is a graduate of the Mauston School District and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Brody has been active in a variety of activities in his school, community, and church and has work experience. His area of study is computer science with a minor in history.
- Elizabeth Colwell was also selected to receive a scholarship this year. She is a graduate of the Reedsburg Area High School and will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Platteville (Baraboo) in the fall. Elizabeth has had a variety of music-related accomplishments as well as been involved with church and civic activities. Her area of study will be wildlife ecology and animal sciences.

Good luck to all our graduates! Submitted by Maynard Miller

Happy June birthday to....

Karli Denman	06/02
Ahren Heinrich	06/02
Lori O'Dell	06/04
Phyllis Goetz	06/04
Nancy McCullick	06/05
Christopher Flint	06/05
Avianna Bohnert	06/06
Jerry Staehling	06/06
Cheryl Fenner	06/07
Kendra Daniels	06/08
Preston Young	06/09
Landry Flint	06/10
Mark Tardiff	06/12
Mitchell Reigard	06/14
Richard Radcliff	06/15
Ivon Heinrich	06/15
Kyle Pokorney	06/15
Greg Smith	06/17
Chad Seebecker	06/18
Wayne McCullick	06/19
Crystal Cafferty	06/20
Dylan Bollig	06/20
Danielle Barnhart	06/22
Jake Arens	06/23
Nelson Brandt	06/24
Paul Zaidel	06/26
Mike Klein	06/27
David Broske	06/28
Teresa Cypert	06/28
Randy Fabian	06/28
Jennifer Pink	06/28
Dick Pirwitz	06/28

Please know that the office does not
have every member's information.

Please contact the office with correc-
tions and updates.

**Thank you for your understanding, pa-
tience, and help in keeping our records
up to date!**

608-847-6690

Happy June anniversary to...

Troy & Lisa Hansen	06/01
Joshua & Erica Horton	06/05
Richard & Kathy Noe	06/05
Maynard & Renee Miller	06/05
Brian & Wendy McGuire	06/07
Wayne & Linda Morris	06/09
Kraig & Tammy Zoller	06/10
Mark & Amy Behling	06/11
Don & Katrina Bollig	06/17
Mark & Ellen Dahlke	06/20
Derek & Cheryl Fenner	06/21
Jim & Cora Dillin	06/22
Doug & Bobbie Lindner	06/22
Ken & Jane Lalk	06/27
James & Elaine O'Keefe	06/27
Harold & Janice Seebecker	06/27
Bill & Doreen Collier	06/28
Larry & Bonnie Bonner	06/29
James & Judy Droster	06/29

*****Unless otherwise noted, all worship ser-
vices will be in-person and streamed on Face-
book with the recording available later.*****

Worship Reminders

June 4 Worship Service 9:30a.m.

Lector: Mary Pirwitz

Communion Assistant: Dick Pirwitz

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

June 11 Worship Service 9:30a.m.

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marjo Staehling

Usher Captain: David Kidd

June 18 Worship Service 9:30a.m.

Lector and Communion Assistant: Marie

McDonough

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

June 25 Worship Service 9:30a.m.

Lector & Communion Assistant: Teresa Ellerman

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

June Altar Guild: Renee & Maynard Miller and
Wendy & Brian McGuire

In Our Prayers

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~~~ RJ Rogers, Hannah Tourdot, Steven Potter, the Dillin family, David Dellamuth, Duane Weisenhaus, Elwood Syverson, Lois Olson, Randy Mullenberg, Ken Plants, Donna Christensen, Dennis Stark, and those who suffer with war and disaster.

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.

### THE STORY OF BETHANY'S WINDOWS

The story of the stained glass windows dedicated at Bethany on May 24th, 1998, had its beginning nearly 85 years ago. The windows were part of Plymouth Evangelical Lutheran Church, five miles west of Mauston on Johnson Road.

In July 1941, the rural Plymouth congregation prepared for a Homecoming Celebration, a two-day festival and reunion. The church was "remodeled and redecorated from steeple to basement," according to the congregation's fiftieth anniversary booklet. At this same time, eight families each bought a stained glass window in memory of loved ones. Family names in the windows included Benson, Knutson, Larson, Foss, and four others (whose names we have not learned).

A member of one of the families recalls that each of the original Plymouth windows cost \$35. She said "There were seven of us who each gave \$5 to pay for our window."

In 1959, the Plymouth congregation voted to disband and many of its members transferred to Bethany. A few years later, the building was dismantled, and the steeple was subsequently erected where the building had stood since 1897. The Crandall family stored the windows all those years and Bethany is grateful to them for the safekeeping which made their use possible.

Bethany's Executive Committee was doing long range planning in 1994, and recommended to the Church Council that the sanctuary windows needed to be replaced in the future. At the same time, it was suggested that the medallions or symbols from the Plymouth stained glass windows might be included in the project.

In March 1995, Council President Karl Opprieht named a Windows Committee to look into the Executive Committee's recommendation. The members were Marilyn Falbe, Maxine Grefe, Don Hoffman, Maynard Miller, and Dorothy Pierce, along with Pastor Borreson.

One year later, the Committee had decided on Hauser Studios of Winona, Minnesota, to do the project, with an estimate of \$5,100 to \$5,700 per window. In June of 1996, the Council authorized proceeding with the project, with the understanding it would be financed exclusively by gifts and memorials. The Committee hoped we'd perhaps have enough to put a window or two in place in three to five years.

Already by June 3, 1997, sufficient funds had been received that the Council made the decision to authorize Hauser to proceed with the three southside windows. By September 4th, we were "only" about \$10,000 short of financing the entire project, so the Council took the seemingly bold step of signing a contract for the remaining three windows. The two contracts for all six windows totaled \$34,575.00.

On November 25, 1997, Hauser Studios picked up six of the Plymouth windows to begin work on them. On March 25, we received a call from Hauser's that the windows were ready for installation.

What wonderful timing the window installation was! We have all six windows in place for our 1998 Holy Week and Easter services—six windows which through light, color, and cut glass tell the Christian story.

What a blessing these windows will be to our worship life! We thank all who had a hand in their creation, especially Hauser Studio's beautiful work, and the gifts and memorials of many generous people.

*(This information was taken from a 1998 bulletin, and updated.)*

*see pictures on last page of newsletter*



| <b>*** Giving</b>                            | <b>Cash/Check</b> |
|----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>April 2, 2023</b>                         | \$3,639.00        |
| <b>April 9, 2023</b>                         | \$4,618.00        |
| <b>April 16, 2023</b>                        | \$ 764.00         |
| <b>April 23, 2023</b>                        | \$1,849.00        |
| <b>April 30, 2023</b>                        | \$2,423.00        |
| <b>** Online Giving Total for April 2023</b> | \$2,466.86        |

\*\*\* 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.

| <b>Gen Fund</b>      | <b>April 2023 Actual</b> | <b>April 2023 Budget</b> | <b>April YTD Actual</b> | <b>April YTD Budget</b> |
|----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>* Receipts</b>    | \$11,379.92              | \$13,083.00              | \$60,542.76             | \$52,332.00             |
| <b>Disbursements</b> | \$12,463.15              | \$15,294.00              | \$55,949.64             | \$62,989.00             |

### **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 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.

**Has your contact information changed? Be sure to let us know!**  
**(608) 847-6690**