

# BETHANY LUTHERAN

## Newsletter

### May 2023

#### **A Note from the Pastor:**

Right now, Bethany Lutheran Church is a busy place. This was abundantly apparent to me as I worked with church committees this past month to prepare for future activities. For example, this May our worshipping community will baptize a young person, hold a service of affirmation of baptism – confirmation, celebrate with our high school graduates, celebrate and remember mothers, remember those who have lost their lives in military service to our country, hold first communion training and first communion, and celebrate a milestone anniversary of the installation of the stained-glass windows. I feel certain I have missed something because the list is so long. These are just the things that are happening at worship! I have not listed out many of the special events happening this month here at Bethany Lutheran Church.

I know that for many people there is a strong preference to focus on one important topic or celebrate only one special thing on any given Sunday. It is really nice when we can do things that way. It can be challenging to focus on more than one important thing at a time. Surely each of the things on my list above deserves its' own moment. When we focus on more than one special thing at a time we risk mistakenly making the implication that we do not value each of those things the same way as when we would address them individually. This idea is unfair and untrue. The opposite is true. We are working to hold all of these things because we do value them and view them as important.

I have an idea. This May, let's allow ourselves to be glad that we are part of a worshipping community that cares deeply about so many people and so many different things. I also have some requests. In order to make all of these things happen in ways that make sense in our worship life, we are going to need to move things around or sometimes pause for a Sunday some weekly worship traditions. We will go back to our more 'normal' worship pattern soon. Please do your best to be the patient and loving people that God calls us to be, especially with church staff and volunteers that are doing their best to make all of these things possible. Please do your best to refrain from playing 'Monday morning quarterback' and instead honor the work of especially those volunteering. With so many moving parts and different people involved an unintentional error or two in bound to occur. Please respond to these with understanding, kindness, and good humor. But above all, let's be excited about the active and vibrant congregation we are all a part of.

Thank you and God Bless, Pastor Joan

#### **First Communion Training**

Second graders and above, join us on May 21st 8:15a.m.-9:15a.m for First Communion Training. Please register your children in advance so Pastor has appropriate materials. During the May 21st service, first communion will be celebrated!

#### **Lunch and Learn**

Join us May 22nd from 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m. for Adult Holy Communion Class. Bring your own lunch or talk with Pastor Joan about coordinating an order.

## **May Community Dinner**

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Our next free community dinner will be on Sunday, May 21st from 4:00-6:00p.m. These suppers are a joint effort between the Stewardship Committee and the Hospitality Committee. They are part of our continued effort to reach out to our members and the community sharing the love Christ has shown us. This month's supper is sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Festival Foods. Thank you to them for their support of our community efforts. Stop on by for a meal of Swedish meatballs and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family. Members who are unable to pick up a meal may contact the church office at 608- 847-6690 for a delivery. If you would like to be part of this ministry, volunteers and financial gifts are always needed. We also can use cases of water. These can be dropped off in the kitchen at anytime. Contact Kathy Marose or Sheri Benson for more information.

## **WELCOME to our New Members!!**

Bethany welcomed new members Kyle Aurit, Mandy and daughter McKenna Brockman, Andy Bobowski, Constance "Rusty" Lawrence, Myrna Kelley, Rod & Jen Pink, Kyle & Haylee Randall, Pauline Ravenscroft, Darryl Teske & Loana Rojas Corrales, Barbara Velez, Patricia Weisenhaus, and Beverly Collins.

We thank God for them and pray that the Spirit will bless them.

Pastor Joan prayed for them during the church service and they were introduced and honored during our fellowship hour. They were presented with a packet of information including our church history, offering envelopes, annual report and devotional booklets. They also received a small vase of tulips to take home.

## **Synod Assembly 2023 - Cultivating Life-Giving Relationships**

The Synod Assembly will be held in La Crosse June 9-11. Each congregation is encouraged to provide an offering of tangible items. The 2023 Tangible Offering will be new socks, underwear and bras to restock local Clothing Closets. There is a great need for these items which most of us take for granted. Bethany will collect these items throughout the month of May and our Synod Assembly voting members will take them to Assembly Worship on June 11th as a gift from our congregation. Bethany is setting a goal of 500 pairs. Please bring these items to church and put them in the tote in the narthex marked "Synod Assembly Tangible Offering". If you are unable to purchase these items and wish to make a monetary donation toward the project, please send this to the office clearly marked "Synod Assembly Offering" and these items will be purchased for you. Thank you for helping our congregation support those in need of simple necessities. This is how we do God's work with our hands.

## **Sunday School**

Thank you to our teachers during the 2022-2023 Sunday School year! Brody McCluskey, Aubrey McCluskey, Marcus Hansen, Sophie Grzenia. We appreciate you so much!

Congrats to our two students who earned the attendance award for Sunday school. In order to earn this achievement students can only miss 4 days of Sunday school.

Congratulations to Avi Bohnert and Bri Bohnert!

Keep watch in future communications for information on Vacation Bible School over the summer.

### Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on April 11th. Elley Dahlke, Gary Gray, Ed Rogers, Dave Kidd, and Jon Williams 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.

- A BIG THANK YOU to Mike Borreson and Randy Fabian for cleaning and refurbishing the wooden window sills in the Narthex and other areas of the Church.
- The committee approved the contract for mowing the Church grounds and Plymouth Cemetery. The vender is charging the same rate as last year which is a bargain.
- Elley reported that the upgrades to the lounge and youth rooms have been complete. She said that DONATIONS FROM THE MEMBERS COVERED ALL EXPENSES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROJECT!!!! THAT IS AWESOME!!!! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE. Everyone is encouraged to use these rooms and enjoy the relaxed and comfortable atmosphere they provide.
- Gray Electric will begin installing new LED lights in the hallways and Sanctuary April 19th.
- It is hoped that the landscaping and rain gutter project would be started around the end of April.
- The Committee is aware of the many issues we have with the sound system. We realize it is somewhat outdated and we want to consider new options. We may need to contact a professional to evaluate our current system and provide us with our best options.
- It is time for **Spring Cleanup** around the Church. A list of projects will be placed on the bulletin board near the Church Office. If you are interested in working on or helping with a project please sign up for that project. Thank you.

The next F & P Meeting will be on Tuesday, May 9th at 5:30 pm.

### April 2023 Council Highlights

- Pastor is looking at grants to improve the sound system and add a coil to broadcast to hearing aids.
- A small team is being created to select and order flowers for Christmas, Easter, and other special occasions. It is NOT to take care of altar flowers.
- Confirmation will be Sunday, May 7th. Yvonne Rotzoll and Scarlet Smith are being confirmed.
- Sunday school attendance is at 6 to 8 children each week. April 30th is the last day of Sunday school.
- First Communion class for 2nd grade and older children will be Sunday, May 21st, at 8:15-9:15a.m. Children will be invited to take their 1st Communion at worship that day.
- Adult Holy Communion Class will be offered as a Lunch & Learn on Monday, May 22nd from 11:30a.m. - 12:30p.m.
- The Hospitality Committee thanks all the volunteers who made the Easter Brunch possible, especially Ruth and Kathy Marose. There were 55 people that attended and \$115 in donations.
- The Mission Committee thanks everyone who contributed to the LWR kits. For the Synod Assembly, we will again collect new socks and underwear. There will be a box in the narthex for donations.
- From the Worship Committee, dates to remember: May 7th – Confirmation, May 14th – Mother's Day, May 21st – First Communion, May 28th – High School Graduation.

### Thank You



At Christmas time I received a beautiful card and inside was an incredible gift. I am so blessed! Thank you for this wonderfully generous surprise! Lori O'Dell

### Subscriptions to Bethany Available

Everything seems to be moving to subscriptions. People subscribe to Netflix for \$9.99 a month. Even restaurants. Panera, for example, has started offering unlimited tea and coffee for \$8.99 a month.

What if we experimented with inviting people to “subscribe to Bethany?” We could offer different levels of subscription. You could have the Basic Subscription that offers one Sunday worship a week. The Prime Subscription could include up to three desserts at Coffee Hour and one beverage. Finally, the Heavenly Subscription would include total forgiveness of sins and everlasting life, plus Pastor would never mention you in a sermon. Okay, not my greatest idea.

What do you get at Bethany?

Love

A happier, longer life (what research has shown is true)

Meaning

Hope

A bottomless cup of Forgiveness

Friends

Caring

An engaging sermon every week

And the subscription fee? What your heart tells you.

### Happy May birthday to....

Elwood Syverson	05/01
Jacqueline Maki	05/02
David Kidd	05/03
Teresa Ellerman	05/03
Gloria Noe	05/04
Rebecca Colwell	05/04
Camron Cafferty	05/05
Russ Jones	05/06
Donna Morris	05/07
Austin Her	05/08
Brian Bell	05/10
Emily Reigard	05/10
Gavin Gray	05/10
Ian Fenner	05/10
Kim Pufahl	05/11
Brenda Bryant	05/13
Diane Huebner	05/14
Karen Olson	05/16
Jackson Preuss	05/16
Joshua Horton	05/17
Harlow Gierhart	05/21
Jane Madsen	05/22
Jeri Shultis	05/22
Gladys Radcliff	05/22
Michael King	05/22
Kathy Noe	05/23

James Droster	05/24
Dylan Dearth	05/24
Jerry Schroeder	05/26
Rosella Barton	05/27
James Henry	05/28
Alexis Ramer	05/28
Rosemary Dellamuth	05/29
Lorrie Schultz	05/29

### Happy May anniversary to....

Joe & Pamela Bagnowski	05/05
Ed & RJ Rogers	05/21

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

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The family of Russell Dillin, the family of Ron Engevold, Hannah Tourdot, Steven Potter, David Delamuth, Duane Weisenhaus, Elwood Syverson, Lois Olson, Randy Mullenberg, Ken Plants, Donna Christensen, Dennis Stark, Bill Voltz, 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.

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

## Worship Reminders

### **May 7 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. \*\*\*Confirmation\*\*\***

Lector and Communion Assistant: Jim Miller

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

### **May 14 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. \*\*\*Mother's Day\*\*\***

Lector: Elley Dahlke

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: David Kidd

### **May 21 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. \*\*\*First Communion & Stained Glass Window 25th Anniversary\*\*\***

Lector and Communion Assistant: Mike Borreson

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

### **May 28 Worship Service 9:30 a.m. \*\*\*High School Graduates\*\*\***

Lector: Al Abrahamson, Sr.

Communion Assistant: RJ Rogers

Usher Captain: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

**May Altar Guild:** RJ Rogers and Sophie Brummund



<b>*** Giving</b>	<b>Cash/Check</b>
<b>March 5, 2023</b>	\$6,805.19
<b>March 12, 2023</b>	\$2,380.95
<b>March 19, 2023</b>	\$2,801.00
<b>March 26 2023</b>	\$2,802.00
<b>** Online Giving Total for March 2023</b>	\$1,707.51

\*\*\* 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>March 2023 Actual</b>	<b>March 2023 Budget</b>	<b>March YTD Actual</b>	<b>March YTD Budget</b>
<b>* Receipts</b>	\$12,895.31	\$13,083.00	\$49,162.84	\$39,249.00
<b>Disbursements</b>	\$13,985.61	\$15,902.00	\$43,486.49	\$47,695.00

### **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**