

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

August 2023

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

Life is sometimes difficult and challenging. I have noticed that I have been saying this more recently in my preaching at Bethany. It is true, this worldly existence has rough patches.

This past Sunday a member of our worshipping community told me a story about a sparrow. The sparrow had fallen and was sitting behind the wheel of a car at a restaurant. It appeared that the bird could no longer fly. The person who saw this said she couldn't help thinking about the church song, 'His Eye Is On The Sparrow.' They felt moved to prayer for the welfare of the sparrow. When they finished in the restaurant another sparrow was seen flying nearby and then approaching the first. The pair then flew away together. I can't help but think that sometimes this is what we need more than anything else when we are having a hard time of it. Just for someone to come near.

The surgeon general of the United States recently made national news headlines by announcing that loneliness, diminished social connection, is a national epidemic. It seems to me that congregations like Bethany are places in which we can help one another with that.

In 2002, The US Dept. of Health and Human Services, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration published a list of things we, as people, can do to help ourselves feel better during times of difficulty. SAMHSA's list encourages people to engage in activities that are either fun or creative, engage in exercise, and do things that feel normal and routine. It encourages people to learn new things, wear something that makes themselves feel good, and find something small to accomplish. Other things on the list include: not immediately responding to others with a 'gut reaction,' being present in the moment, looking at something beautiful, playing with a pet or children, engaging in relaxation exercises, taking a bath, smelling something pleasant, listening to music, making music, and singing. Early in SAMSHA's list 'in different print' is a recommendation to try using your spiritual resources. I think this may be because spiritual resources include prayer, service attendance, and reaching out to others in your faith community.

Sometimes in this life we are each going to feel a little bit discouraged, sad, or lonely. It may be hard to feel hopeful during those times. You are not alone. Our God, who loves us, does indeed keep his eye even on sparrows. In Luke, Chapter 12, Jesus tells us that we are of more value than many sparrows and that God cares about us. If we allow it, even during our hardest times God will come near. God Bless, Pastor Joan

WHO WE ARE AND WHAT DO WE DO

Been doing a lot of thinking about keeping Bethany vibrant and ensuring Bethany will still exist in 10 years. Then I had a startling thought – What right do we have to expect that we should be around in 10 years? If we had to justify our continued existence, what would we say? What do we do that is so essential, so important?

The ELCA Church Council in 2022 approved some changes to the Model Congregation Constitution and we are considering making some of those changes to our constitution.

A couple in one section grabbed my attention.

On the last page of this newsletter is a full-page edited version of those paragraphs, titled "Bethany." Please take time to read it slowly and think about what each sentence is telling you about who we are and what we do. Then you will know why it is so important that Bethany still exists in 10 years. - Dick

July Finance and Property Meeting

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The F & P Committee met on July 11th. Gary Gray, Tim Benson, Ed Rogers, Mike Borreson, 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.

- The landscaping project should be completed this week. We will need to start watering the new seeding so it starts growing.
- Gray Electric has completed the lighting projects in the sanctuary and the hallways. We plan on contacting them to install an external outlet on the outside of the shed so we have electricity on the backside of the church.
- Mike Borreson volunteered to make a welcome sign for the entrance to the parking lot to replace the existing sign and to also install a new access door for the storage unit because the frame and sill has started to rot. Funding has been approved for both projects.
- The committee is looking for two additional vendors that could install a new sound system for the church. Peak Systems group has submitted proposals and in order to approve such a project in excess of \$5,000 the committee wants to have competitive bids in order to make a proposal to the council and congregation.
- The committee will do some research to determine what the maintenance schedule should be for the parking lot. This would include resealing, seal coating, and repainting the lines.
- Some smaller projects were also discussed.

The next F & P Meeting will be on Tuesday, August 8th at 5:30 p.m.

July 2023 Council Highlights

- The congregation received thank you cards from Avi Bohnert and Talia Hansen for scholarships to attend Sugar Creek Bible Camp.
- Prudent use of the Bonnie Crandall estate was discussed. Several long-delayed projects such as water in the basement and asbestos remediation were on the list.
- Dick has asked Wendy McGuire to form a constitution update team to incorporate items from the 2022 ELCA Congregation Model Constitution. The changes are only updated wording.
- Teresa Ellerman will continue to be Sunday School Superintendent and Diane Huebner has volunteered for the Christmas program. Sunday school will be October through April.
- A “playground” area for 3-year-olds and younger is being created on the lectionary side of the worship area in front. The modesty railing and one or two pews will be removed. It will be a space for children to quietly play during worship. This will encourage parents to attend worship and make clear our long-standing policy of welcoming children in worship.
- We are still collecting school supplies for Lutheran World Relief. School supplies that are on the list or monetary donations can be given.
- Stewardship Committee is making videos of each council committee to show for eight weeks starting in July. The committee members describe on the video what they do and how Bethany members are sharing their time and talents.
- The next Lunch and Learn with the Pastor is July 24th from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. with the topic of Baptism.

Thank you

Thank you so much for this incredible scholarship! It means so much to me as you are all helping me achieve my dreams. I've always held a great love for the Earth and all of God's creatures. I sincerely believe that it is God's plan for me to help the creatures and care for them. This scholarship helps pave the way for my higher education into a career into veterinary medicine. I'm so grateful for this generous act! Thanks again! Sincerely, Elizabeth Colwell



Happy August
birthday to....

Sharon Pufahl	08/01
Jacob Cafferty	08/01
Larry Bonner	08/04
Sean Muchenberger	08/05
Cindy Busch	08/07
Myra Syverson	08/10
Izzabela Lutz	08/10
Gayle Hempel	08/10
Dale Preuss	08/12
Paul Maki	08/14
Mason Hess	08/14
Christine Wiese	08/16
Norma Smith	08/16
Lis Schroeder	08/16
Jessica Vodvarka	08/18
Rowen Horton	08/18
Penny Cannegieter	08/19
Laura Dahlke	08/19
Stacey Klein	08/19
Josh Behling	08/20
Linda Morris	08/21
Preston Seebecker	08/21
Alex Zoller	08/21
Johana Horton	08/21
Autumn Townsend	08/22
Doreen Coller	08/23
Baylor Holzberger	08/24
Nolan Wilberg	08/24
Caleb Flint	08/25
Christine Arens	08/25
Barbara Hoilien	08/30



Happy August anniversary
to...

Chris & Kim Pufahl	08/01
Jerry & Christine Wiese	08/02
Mark & Mary Kay Tardiff	08/04
Cameron & Phyllis Goetz	08/11
Gerald & Marjo Staehling	08/14
Tim & Sheri Benson	08/15
Harlow & Audrey Gierhart	08/16
Jim & Norma Miller	08/17
Bill & Reggie Langer	08/20
Wayne & Nancy McCullick	08/26
Charles & Barbara Theis	08/27
Shane & Kerri Schiller	08/28
Rich & Gladys Radcliff	08/29

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,
patience, and help in keeping our
records up to date!**
608-847-6690

Bethany Garage Sale, Bake Sale, and Brat/Hot Dog Sale

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Bethany will be sponsoring a garage sale fundraiser August 4th from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and August 5th from 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., which coincides with the Mauston city-wide garage sales.

If you are interested in donating items, please bring them to the church basement designated "Garage Sale" area. Please take your items downstairs and do not leave them in the Narthex.

Volunteers are needed, as well as bakers for the bake sale! If you wish to volunteer, please contact Lori O'Dell at 608-548-1413. Bakers, please have your baked goods priced and wrapped and ready to sell when you drop off either Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - Noon, or Friday morning.

August Community Dinner

Our next free community dinner will be a cookout on Sunday, August 27th, from 4:00-6:00 p.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. Stop on by for a freshly grilled brat or hotdog meal 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 delivery. If you would like to be part of this ministry, volunteers and financial gifts are always needed. You can contact Kathy Marose or Sheri Benson for more information.

Plymouth Cemetery Blessing

On August 13th following the regular worship service, Pastor Joan will take interested members to Plymouth Cemetery for prayers and blessings at the original site of our church. Plan to attend!

*****Unless otherwise noted, all worship services will be in-person at 9:30 a.m. and streamed on Facebook with the recording available later.*****

Worship Reminders

August 6 Worship Service

Lector: Elley Dahlke

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

August 13 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Brian McGuire

Usher Captain: David Kidd

August 20 Worship Service

Lector and Communion Assistant: Rosemary Dellamuth

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

August 27 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Sheri Benson

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

August Altar Guild: Diane Huebner & Sheri Benson

In Our Prayers

~~~ Pat Lutz, Louie Voltz, Peter Komay, Sharen Wittrock, Cindy Preuss, Alan Peterson, Shawn Nemitz, RJ Rogers, 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.



| <b>*** Giving</b>                           | <b>Cash/Check</b> |
|---------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>June 4, 2023</b>                         | \$3,868.00        |
| <b>June 11, 2023</b>                        | \$4,300.00        |
| <b>June 18, 2023</b>                        | \$1,248.00        |
| <b>June 25, 2023</b>                        | \$ 812.00         |
|                                             |                   |
| <b>** Online Giving Total for June 2023</b> | \$1,786.88        |

\*\*\* 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>June 2023 Actual</b> | <b>June 2023 Budget</b> | <b>June YTD Actual</b> | <b>June YTD Budget</b> |
|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>* Receipts</b>    | \$10,949.64             | \$13,083.00             | \$85,867.93            | \$78,498.00            |
| <b>Disbursements</b> | \$12,982.99             | \$14,966.00             | \$80,974.25            | \$93,253.00            |

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.

**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.

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

# Bethany Lutheran Church

701 Grove Street Mauston, WI 53948

Phone: (608) 847-6690

Office Email: bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com

Web address: www.bethanymauston.com



## Office Hours:

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.

Mon.—Thurs.

or by appointment.

**Sun**

**Mon**



**Tue**

**Wed**

**Thu**

**Fri**

**Sat**

| <div> <div> We will be live-streaming our worship services on our Facebook page:<br/> <a href="http://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Lutheran.Mauston/">http://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Lutheran.Mauston/</a> at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. A video of the service will be remain available after the live event. </div> </div> |                                      |                                   |                             |                                                                           |                     | <div> <div> ***Unless otherwise noted,<br/> all worship services will be<br/> in-person and streamed. *** </div> </div> |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 1                                    | 2                                 | 3                           | 4                                                                         | 5                   | Bethany Garage Sale 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. Office Closed                                                                   |
| 6<br>Worship 9:30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | 7<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m.  | 8<br>Property & Finance 5:30 p.m. | 9<br>Worship Team 6:00 p.m. | 10<br>Women's Breakfast at the Oasis 9:00 a.m.<br>Council Mtg 6:30 p.m.   | 11<br>Office Closed | 12                                                                                                                      |
| 13<br>Worship 9:30 a.m.<br>Plymouth Cemetery Blessing following service                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 14<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m. | 15                                | 16                          | 17                                                                        | 18<br>Office Closed | 19                                                                                                                      |
| 20<br>Worship 9:30 a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 21<br>Bible Study & Coffee           | 22                                | 23                          | 24                                                                        | 25<br>Office Closed | 26                                                                                                                      |
| 27<br>Worship 9:30 a.m.<br>Community Drive Thru Dinner 4:00-6:00 p.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 28<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m. | 29                                | 30                          | 31<br>Mauston Sharing Supper at Mauston High School 5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. |                     |                                      |