

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

October 2023

A NOTE FROM PASTOR

There are many jokes about change within the Lutheran Church. Most of these jokes poke fun at the idea that we like things the way they are. We want our congregation to feel and look the same each time we enter the doors of the church building. We are comfortable here. That familiarity can be like a comfy, warm blanket of God's love on a cold day in an ever changing world around us. The world is ever changing.

Perhaps it is the recognition of this that makes us so slow to make changes within our house of worship. Recently we had some meetings about some necessary and much needed updates to the church basement and the audio system in our sanctuary. These updates will cause some changes to how both the basement and the sanctuary look. Carpeting may need to be replaced and updated and certainly the floor in the basement will look different. Some of the things our congregation owns that are housed in the basement will need to find homes upstairs while the basement is being worked on. We may even have to worship for a Sunday or two (or three or four) in the fellowship hall.

We will be decorating with some artwork made by the Sunday School children in the sanctuary and placing a large themed back drop in the fellowship hall. These things may be more childish than we are used to seeing upstairs in our building. All of these things will be outer space themed, as that is the theme we are using this Sunday School year. It is meant to teach our congregation's children about our great, mighty, awesome, and wondrous God who made both us and the universe. If you have a grade school aged child in your life that is not already participating, we welcome them to come.

October and November 2023 may be challenging for those of you who desire the comfort of sameness from Bethany Lutheran Church. I invite you to rise to the challenge of opening your heart to your inner child and to embrace those parts of the children's ministry here that might have gone unseen if we had not had work going on in the basement. I invite you to be patient and merciful with myself and the leadership of Bethany Lutheran Church as we wade through other projects involving our physical building. I even invite you to come during this season of change into our space just to check out what is going on. God Bless, Pastor Joan Marie Wittrock

FROM OUR COUNCIL PRESIDENT

When I served in the military, we had teams of inspectors come with checklists and see if we were fulfilling our duties properly.

This is what our constitution says. As a congregation, how would we do?

"To participate in God's mission, this congregation as a part of the Church shall:

Serve in response to God's love to meet human needs,
caring for the sick and the aged,
advocating dignity, justice, and equity for all people,
working for peace and reconciliation among the nations,
caring for the marginalized,
embracing and welcoming racially and ethnically diverse populations,
and standing in solidarity with the poor and oppressed, and committing itself to their needs.

Nurture its members in the Word of God,
so as to grow in faith and hope and love,
to see daily life as the primary setting for the exercise of their Christian calling,
and to use the gifts of the Spirit for their life together and for their calling in the world"

So how are we doing? Dick Pirwitz

Community Dinner News

We had another successful drive through meal for the community in August. We served 156 meals and had a lot of fun grilling, packing, delivering and visiting with our "customers". We couldn't do it without the many folks who help out packing bags, cooking the meal, serving our guests, telling their family and friends and delivering to our members. These suppers are a joint effort between the Stewardship Committee and the Hospitality Committee and are part of our continued effort to reach out to our members and the community sharing the love Christ has shown us. The August supper was sponsored by Stone Ridge meats, Kwik Trip and many generous Bethany members. Our next drive thru meal will be November 12 and we will be serving Chili.

Bethany Memorial Foundation

The Bethany Memorial Foundation was founded in 1967 to give Bethany members the opportunity to give a memorial gift that can keep working for the church. Anyone who is a member of Bethany and makes a contribution of any amount to the Memorial Foundation becomes a voting member. Non-members can also contribute however they cannot vote.

The memorials received by the Foundation are invested in the ELCA Mission Investment Fund based in Chicago. This money is loaned to start mission churches. The interest that accrues from these loans is returned to the Memorial Foundation. This interest money is what the Foundation is allowed to spend on the needs of our local church as voted on by Foundation members.

Most recently, the Memorial Foundation voted to match \$37,000 in fundraising by Bethany toward the church basement asbestos remediation and the installation of a new sound system for the sanctuary.

At the August 2023 meeting of the Memorial Foundation, a new president was elected. Karen Fritz will serve a three-year term replacing Myra Syverson who stepped down from this role. Norma Miller was elected trustee replacing the vacancy that occurred when Bonnie Crandall passed away. Remaining officers are Carol Purvis, treasurer; Ruth Marose, secretary; Harlow Gierhart and Kathleen Marose, trustees. Meetings are usually held once per year or more often if the need arises.

Church members are encouraged to contribute memorial gifts to the Memorial Foundation. These gifts will help continue to assist mission churches as well as provide for needs of Bethany. Contributions may be sent to Bethany Memorial Foundation, attention Carol Purvis at Bethany Lutheran Church. Please note the Bethany Memorial Foundation is a separate entity from the Endowment Fund which is managed by the church.



Trunk or Treat 2023

Trunk or treat is right around the corner! We are excitedly planning our fourth Trunk or Treat for October 29th from 3:00-5:00 p.m. in our parking lot. We have again decided to move our event to Sunday so we can be set up for families during daylight hours and allow our members and friends to participate and not conflict with a work day. Last year's Trunk or Treat was a huge success with 28 vehicles and 350-400 trick or treaters. This is a wonderful opportunity for Bethany to reach out to the community. There are many ways you too can be part of this fun day. We need people to bring their trunks and treats, but if that's not your style, we could use donations of candy, cases of bottled water or monetary donations to help with our costs. Please call the church office if you plan to be there. You can drop off donations at the church or call Sheri Benson at 608-562-5112 for more information.



Sunday School

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IT'S OCTOBER! That means the start of Sunday school will be just around the corner.

Important Notes:

- FIRST DAY will be OCTOBER 15th at 8:15 a.m.
- Parents – be on the lookout for a more detailed letter coming in the mail.
- Save the date for the Christmas program – December 17th.

This year we will have a variety of teachers: high school students, congregation members, and confirmation students – all using a STELLAR curriculum!



Mission Committee

God's Work Our Hands – Thanks to Kathy and Ruth Marose for the breakfast and Peruvian snacks. They were tasty and we raised over \$400. Thanks to Kathy and Rick Noe for delivering 107 school kits, 14 baby care kits and 25 health kits to Madison. They will go to Lutheran World Relief and be distributed to people experiencing wars, floods, fires refugee status and many other disasters. Thank you – Many hands make light work. Many of you bought supplies and packed those items. Mary Pirwitz

September Finance and Property Meeting

- The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the LaCrosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services and \$85 to the Mauston Food Pantry.
- Discussed the need to get hallway and rooms emptied for asbestos remediation project.
- Money was approved and okay given to proceed with purchases for the "Prayground" area.
- Discussed audio system and securing final two bids.
- Plans in place for replacement of garage walk-in door.
- Discussed fund raising for the asbestos remediation and sound system projects.
- The next F & P Meeting will be on Tuesday, October 10th, at 5:30 pm.

September 2023 Council Highlights

- We have made the down payment to have the asbestos floor tiles removed from the old Sunday school rooms and hall in the basement. Work should start in early October.
- The second bid for the sound system has been received, but will require a meeting with the company as it is a very complicated technical document.
- At the end of the year, we will evaluate whether we can make a special donation to Sugar Creek Bible Camp - and adding Sugar Creek in our 2024 budget will be included in our normal budget discussion.
- Semi-Annual Meeting October 22nd after worship in the Fellowship Hall.
- The Peruvian Brunch last Sunday raised approximately \$400 and 43 people were served.
- Thanks to Kathy and Rick Noe for delivering 107 school kits, 14 baby care kits and 25 health kits to Madison.
- Christmas Eve is on a Sunday this year. There will be a 9:30 a.m., 4:00 p.m. and 8 p.m. service. On Christmas - Monday - there is discussion about a 9:30 a.m. service with a meal followed by activities for those who haven't any plans for Christmas Day.

Confirmation Meeting Via Zoom

There will be a confirmation meeting with parents/caregivers/students of 7th and 8th graders to discuss confirmation classes for the 2023-2024 school year on Wednesday, October 4th at 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be via Zoom. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom and would prefer to meet in person, Pastor can help access the meeting at church. The Zoom link is: <https://lsswis-org.zoom.us/j/3446734897>. We intend to have confirmation classes on Sunday mornings, although this could change. Please call Pastor Joan at 920-226-0453 for any questions/discussion.

God's Work. Our Hands. Companion Synod of Peru Support Breakfast

God's Work. Our Hands Sunday was celebrated at Bethany by hosting a free-will offering breakfast with the proceeds to benefit the LaCrosse Area Synod companion synod in Peru. A delegation from the synod Peruvian delegation came to share information about the church in Peru. The breakfast raised \$400.00. A special thank you to all who came and supported the breakfast and to the volunteers who helped with set up, serving and clean up for the breakfast. Thrivent Action Teams provided seed funding for this event used to purchase the supplies for the breakfast. There truly were many hands doing God's work to make this event a success. Recipes for the Peruvian deserts served at the breakfast will be available in the narthex for those who would like a copy.

Living Faith Partnership

At synod assembly early this summer, each ministry site (congregation) was assigned a faith partner to encourage fulfillment of our synod mission; to cultivate **life-giving relationships rooted in God's love**. Bethany has been assigned Our Savior's Lutheran Church of West Salem. To establish this relationship, we will share "our stories" with each other on our visits with one another. We will share where we have been, where we are now, and where we would like to be in the future.

Faith Pen Pals

Between now and October 5th, Bethany members are encouraged to write a letter to a member of Our Savior's sharing a bit about yourself and your faith. Share a favorite bible verse or a story about your connection to Bethany. Include your name and if comfortable, your address. The purpose is to introduce yourself to an Our Savior's member and begin a **life-giving relationship**. Those travelling to Our Savior's on October 8th will take these letters to members there and distribute them. We will ask Our Savior's members to return a letter to you. As your faith pen pal friendship grows, it is our hope that you will share stories about it with other Bethany members.

**Please return your letters to the basket marked
Faith Pen Pal in the narthex by October 5th.**

In Our Prayers

~~~ Emalee Bohnert, Pastor Wendall Williams, RJ Rogers, the family of Josh Madsen, Judy Droster, Louie Voltz, Peter Komay, Sharen Wittrock, Cindy Preuss, Alan Peterson, Shawn Nemitz, 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.



### Happy October birthday to...

|                     |       |
|---------------------|-------|
| Deanna Rose         | 10/03 |
| Derek Fenner        | 10/03 |
| Vaughn Wilberg      | 10/03 |
| Troy Hansen         | 10/04 |
| Cynthia Preuss      | 10/06 |
| Bill Langer         | 10/09 |
| Tim Benson          | 10/11 |
| Lois Olson          | 10/11 |
| Leanna Hagen-Kovach | 10/12 |
| Amy Behling         | 10/13 |
| Gavin Tomany        | 10/13 |
| Nicole Nava         | 10/14 |
| Stephanie Minard    | 10/15 |
| Melanie Gray        | 10/15 |
| Leo Vodvarka        | 10/15 |
| Madree Enderle      | 10/15 |
| Mark Dahlke         | 10/17 |
| Alan Abrahamson Jr. | 10/17 |
| Eva Ragan           | 10/18 |
| Paul Merk           | 10/19 |
| Grayson Tomany      | 10/19 |
| Ian McIntire        | 10/20 |
| Sarah Schiller      | 10/20 |
| Barb Klein          | 10/22 |
| Gabriel Morse       | 10/23 |
| Zachary Preuss      | 10/23 |
| Myrna Kelley        | 10/23 |
| Amie Heinrich       | 10/26 |
| Blake Nelson        | 10/28 |
| Lisa Hansen         | 10/30 |
| Don Bollig          | 10/30 |

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



### Happy October anniversary to...

|                                |       |
|--------------------------------|-------|
| Josh Rotzoll & Madree Enderle  | 10/03 |
| Melanie & Jeff Gray            | 10/05 |
| Vaughn & Laura Wilberg         | 10/06 |
| Greg & Norma Smith             | 10/08 |
| Roger & Pat Dutzle             | 10/13 |
| Nathanael & Juanita Rutherford | 10/13 |
| David & Cathy Kidd             | 10/15 |
| Brian & Karen Bell             | 10/17 |
| Alex & Courtney Tomany         | 10/17 |
| Dan & Alyssa Holzberger        | 10/29 |

**\*\*\*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

#### October 1 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Jim Miller  
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

#### October 8 Worship Service

Lector: Jon Williams  
Communion Assistant: Karen Fritz  
Usher Captain: David Kidd

#### October 15 Worship Service \*\*\* Rally Day \*\*\*

Lector & Communion Assistant: Mike Borreson  
Usher Captain: Bill Potter

#### October 22 Worship Service \*\*\*Semi-Annual Mtg\*\*\*

Lector & Communion Assistant: Alan Abrahamson Sr.  
Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

#### October 29 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marie McDonough  
Usher Captain: William Potter

**October Altar Guild: Mark & Elley Dahlke**





| <b>*** Giving</b>                             | <b>Cash/Check</b> |
|-----------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>August 6, 2023</b>                         | \$4,299.00        |
| <b>August 13, 2023</b>                        | \$1,775.00        |
| <b>August 20, 2023</b>                        | \$1,065.00        |
| <b>August 27, 2023</b>                        | \$3,011.00        |
|                                               |                   |
| <b>** Online Giving Total for August 2023</b> | \$2,302.24        |

\*\*\* 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>August 2023 Actual</b> | <b>August 2023 Budget</b> | <b>August YTD Actual</b> | <b>August YTD Budget</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <b>* Receipts</b>    | \$12,015.68               | \$13,083.00               | \$110,161.08             | \$104,664.00             |
| <b>Disbursements</b> | \$12,984.16               | \$14,964.00               | \$107,432.83             | \$123,182.00             |

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 608-548-3561. 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**