

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

March 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

Easter is usually thought of as an April holiday. This month is unusual for us because the celebration of Easter is on Sunday, March 31st. This is not a calendaring mistake. Easter is celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon that occurs on or after the spring equinox. Christians have been following this pattern since the Council of Nicaea met in 325CE. Although the date does seem early, my understanding is that Easter can come almost a full week earlier than it does this year. This makes my March feel busy.

As I write this to you, it has just become Lent. This is the season that we as Christians use to prepare our hearts and minds for the celebration of Easter. We have already had some special events like our chili supper on Ash Wednesday and the Valentine's party celebrating the importance of love.

There is more still coming. We will again have Wednesday evening services during Lent. Early in March our congregation is hosting an afternoon at the movies at the Elroy theatre. This event will feature the film, "One Night With the King." This is a film featuring some big-name actors and is based on the book of Ester. I believe that this is a particularly timely film to watch in light of recent turmoil. There are tickets available in the church office. We ask that you get a ticket if you think you might want to come.

The story of Ester is also read aloud yearly in a festival called Purim. This year we will have a model celebration of Purim with a meal featuring some foods Jesus's people eat and an audience participation style reading of the book of Ester. One rabbi has stated that when 'the messiah returns, Purim will be the one feast in Judaism that still needs to be celebrated.' You are invited to come and find out why. In the tradition, Purim is celebrated for around a week. Our smaller model celebration will take place at 6:00pm on Sunday, March 24th. Because of the need for enough of the specific foods involved with this event, we ask that you sign up by March 17th. Look for a sign-up sheet on the kiosk in the entryway.

On Maundy Thursday, March 28th at 6:00pm, we will again have a presentation of the Last Supper, featuring actors from our congregation. We will start recruiting for this project very soon.

I hope that you are able to help, participate, or join us for some of these special events as we again ready ourselves for Easter this year. God Bless, Pastor Joan

From the President

Put up a long, heavy curtain rod the other day – by myself. What a disaster! It kept falling apart and tipping. Sitting on the ladder I looked like a cat treed by a dog. I'm glad there isn't a video of it. Doing something with no help is discouraging. Many jobs at Bethany are never accomplished because it's down to one person to do it. In the past year, I have seen so many things accomplished that had needed doing for so long because two or more people banded together to get them done. Someone volunteered to help.

My message: Get involved. Make a difference at Bethany and it will end up making a difference in your life. - Dick

Lenten Lutheran World Relief Kits

Rather than donations of items for Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits, we are asking for monetary donations toward the cost of each kit.

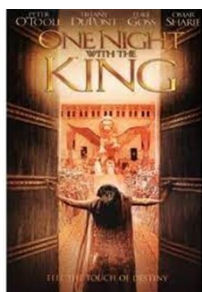
A Baby Care Kit costs approximately \$44.50 for all the items. I make the sweaters, so there isn't any cost for them.

A Personal Care Kit costs approximately \$8.45 for the items (does not include cost of a toothbrush).

We are asking for the donation of adult toothbrushes in their original wrappers.

We will collect this money in the month of March. A donation box will be in the narthex or you can give the money to me, Mary Pirwitz.

Thank you – So many people benefit from these donations. You can see that from the poster from LWR on the kiosk. - Mary Pirwitz



The Faith Development Committee is planning a **free movie** during Lent. We hope you can join us at the **Elroy Theater on Saturday March 2nd at 2:30 pm** for a showing of the movie **One Night With the King**. The movie is a dramatization of the Biblical story of Esther, who risked her life by approaching the King of Persia to request that he save the Jewish People. The movie is two hours long and rated PG. The doors will open at 2:00 pm with the show beginning at 2:30 pm. Concessions will be available for purchase. Invite your family and friends to come along too! This event is sponsored by Thrivent. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings and during the week during office hours on Monday through Thursday from 9:00 am-1:00 pm. Call the church office or Sheri Benson at 608-562-5112 with questions.

Scholarship Applications - The Bethany Endowment Committee will again be offering scholarships for students next year. Applications are due April 1, 2024 for the 2024-2025 school year. This scholarship is open to any member of our congregation who is pursuing post-secondary education. Students are eligible for any year they are enrolled and may only receive the scholarship once.

Applications are available in the church office or at your high school. More information is attached to the scholarship application. Submit it to the church office secretary by April 1. - Maynard Miller

March Community Dinner

Our next free community dinner will be on Sunday, March 10th, from 4:00-6:00 pm. 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 pulled pork sandwiches 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. Contact Kathy Marose or Sheri Benson for more information or if you would like to volunteer for this.

February 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

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The F & P Committee met on February 6th, 2024. Gary Gray, Jon Williams, Mike Borreson, Maynard Miller, Jim Miller, and Randy Fabian were present. Dick Pirwitz also attended the meeting. Gary welcomed the new members to the committee. The Committee approved mission support of \$1000 to the La Crosse Synod/ELCA, \$170 to Lutheran Social Services and \$170 to the Mauston Food Pantry since no payments were made in January.

- Thank you to Mark Behling and Teresa Ellerman for completing the Audit of the 2022 Financial records. Gary reported that there were no significant findings or deficiencies.
- Dick reported that Gray Electric installed outlets on the outside of the storage shed and in the Narthex.
- The committee would like to discuss the plans for the basement with the council. This will determine the extent and priority placed on the painting and finishing up the basement.
- Jim Miller will serve as the F & P Committee representative to the Church Council.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 12th.

February 2024 Council Highlights

- Pastor's Report: Pastor discussed the March Purim meal. The serving of alcohol was approved. Sheri B. and Elley D. have agreed to work on fixing up the kids' area.
- Worship Committee: Linda shared the plans for the approaching Ash Wednesday and Lenten services. Kathy M will organize the Maundy Thursday reenactment. Liturgy settings will switch following Easter.
- Mission Committee: Kathy M. reported a need to update mission/job description. Dick and Pastor will clarify requirements of Bylaw changes. Several projects are being considered. The Faith Circle has agreed to again manage the School Kits.
- Properties Committee: Jon asked that each committee representative discuss with their committee any plans they may have for usage of the basement, as this will determine decisions made going forward with finishing work in the rooms and hallways.

Wisconsin Nice

"Wisconsin nice" is a term often used to describe the stereotypical behavior of people from Wisconsin, showcasing their generally friendly, polite, and amiable nature. This concept reflects a broader Mid-western trait characterized by a welcoming attitude, a tendency to avoid confrontation, and a helpful spirit. People described as "Wisconsin nice" are known for their neighborly behavior, willingness to go out of their way to assist others, and a preference for maintaining harmonious relationships.

(ChatGPT)

Is Wisconsin Nice why we forgive others?

"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind and your neighbor as yourself." – Mark 12:31

"Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you." – Ephesians 4:32

"And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive our trespassers." – The Lord's Prayer

If someone at Bethany, someone I trusted, hurts me, am I supposed to forgive them? These verses say Yes, but it still hurts. What do I do? (Don't worry, no one has hurt me). Do I just use my Wisconsin nice? - Dick

Maundy Thursday Drama

Bethany will once again be recreating the Last Supper via the drama "Surely Not I" at the Maundy Thursday service. Volunteers are needed to serve as the 12 disciples and a narrator is also needed. A sign-up sheet will be on the kiosk in the narthex. A rehearsal will be held the night before (March 27th) at 6:00 p.m. Consider participating in this meaningful part of Holy Week. Please direct questions to Kathy Marose at 608-343-4381.

Happy March birthday to....

Erica Horton	03/1
Marie McDonough	03/1
Dorothy Pierce	03/2
Cyndi Randall	03/2
Stefanie Voltz	03/2
Jacob Preuss	03/3
Rodney Pink	03/3
Matthew Brown	03/3
Darren Honnold	03/4
John Hess	03/4
Geri Bauer Nockerts	03/4
Annette Olson	03/5
Sophie Grzenia	03/5
Donald Hoffmann	03/6
Donavan Cannegieter	03/6
Ardis Enderle	03/7
Tammy Voltz	03/8
Brianna Lalk	03/8
Nichole Preuss	03/9
Talia Hansen	03/9
Boston Holzberger	03/11
Katie Steinke	03/12
Courtney Tomany	03/12
Darryl Teske	03/12
Kerri Schiller	03/12
Brianna Giebel	03/13
Nicole Hess	03/13
Karen Fritz	03/14
Allen Sunday	03/14
Michael Lutz	03/15
Kathleen Turner	03/15
Bob Treland	03/15
Joann Emery	03/16
Pat Dutzie	03/16
Hilda Zuberbuehler	03/16
Lilith Johnson	03/17
Yvonne Rotzoll	03/17
Steven A. Miller	03/18
Sandra Potter	03/19
Landon Olson	03/20
Emerson Giebel	03/22
Amanda Holmes	03/23
William Potter	03/24
Tom Reigard	03/27
Michel Sullivan	03/29
Charles Theis	03/29
Karen Bell	03/30
Michael Tucker Jr.	03/30
William Voltz Jr.	03/31



Happy March anniversary to...

Adam & Amie Heinrich

03/19

Food Pantry Sunday

The Mission Committee is declaring the first Sunday of every month as Food Pantry Sunday. Members are encouraged to bring a single non-perishable food item which will be collected during our offering as visible gratitude to our Lord for the blessings of food to share. Also available on these Sundays will be a Food Pantry envelope for monetary donations. These envelopes will be on the ushers table for members to pick up on their way into church and can be placed in the offering plate. Thank you in advance for serving the Lord by giving generously.



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

Tammy Brown, Patti Thomas, Mary Jean Cauley, Maureen Hickey, Donna Voltz, Bridget Wells, Duane Weisenhaus, Jim Henry, Ken Plants, Elwood Syverson, RJ Rogers, 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 at 9:30 a.m. and streamed on Facebook with the recording available later.*****

March 3 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Lis Schroeder
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

March 10 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marjo Staehling
Usher Captain: David Kidd

March 17 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Molly Shultis
Usher Captain: Bill Potter

March 24 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Sheri Benson
Gospel Readers: Karen Fritz and Mark Dahlke
Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

March 28 Maundy Thursday Service 6:00 p.m.

Lector: Elley Dahlke

March 31 Worship Service

Lector: Mary Pirwitz
Communion Assistant: Dick Pirwitz and Mark Behling
Usher Captain: William Potter

All Lenten Services are at 6:00 p.m. on Wednesdays.

March Altar Guild: TBD



*** Giving	Cash/Check
January 7, 2024	\$3,478.00
January 14, 2024	\$807.00
January 21, 2024	\$3,084.00
January 28, 2024	\$2,304.00
** Online Giving Total for January 2024	\$2,226.58

*** 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	January 2024 Actual	January 2024 Budget	January YTD Actual	January YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$11,958.78	\$12,500.00	\$11958.78	\$12,500.00
Disbursements	\$14,526.37	\$16,863.00	\$14526.37	\$16,863.00

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