

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

June 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

The cold, ice, and snow have left and the season of summer is now upon us. With the business of May and even early June, many folk are very ready to welcome this time of year.

Here in Wisconsin, we know that we have to squeeze every drop of rest, relaxation, and fun out of our summers. Many people will plan special vacations and travel. Many people will also take advantage of seasonal working opportunities. Because of all these things, I expect that we will once again miss some of your faces during our regular Sunday worship services.

I trust that while people are away, they will take opportunities to worship in small form as families or visit another worshipping community. We can, of course, still be joined for the livestream of our services over Facebook. You do not need to have a Facebook account to see these services. Here is a link <https://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Lutheran.Mauston/>. If you use this link during worship times you should find our service broadcasting to the site.

We will again offer some special opportunities for Bethany's youth during the summer. Look for information coming soon about this year's Vacation Bible School. It is not too late for a camper to sign up for a week at Bible Camp. Bethany will fund the cost of any young person who is also a member of our congregation to attend Sugar Creek. Here is a link to learn more, www.sugarcreekbiblecamp.org. Parents have reported that they have had an easier time registering with the camp over the telephone. A little birdie has told me that the camp is still looking for a few counselors and select other staff for the 2024 summer season.

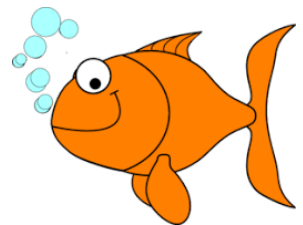
Whatever is on your agenda for this summer. Please continue to pray: for one another, for Bethany, for the larger church, for your own blessings and needs. God is with us wherever we go.

Blessings, Pastor Joan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

BE A GOLDFISH

On the TV program Ted Lasso, during soccer practice, Sam slipped on the turf and watched helplessly as his mistake turned into a goal against his team. The other players made fun of him. It was at this moment that his coach, Ted Lasso, called him to the sidelines: "You know what the happiest animal earth is? It's a goldfish. You know why? Got a 10-second memory. Be a goldfish, Sam."



The lesson Coach Lasso was passing on is important to all of us. We need to move on from mistakes and hurts rather than dwell on them. We are doing new things at Bethany and we will make some mistakes and some people may feel hurt. Don't let that stop any of you from trying new things.

The people of Bethany have been doing really great at keeping a positive attitude and offering constructive comments. Let's keep it up and be goldfish.

Dear Bethany Family: As school comes to a close, I want to remind everyone about our Lutheran World Relief School Kit Drive that we will again support. Last year, our goal was 50 school kits, and with the wonderful Bethany support we received, we achieved over 100 school kits.

Our School Kit Drive will occur July 1st through September 15th. Our goal this year is 75 kits. We want the drive to occur when school supply prices are at their lowest. We will set up a basket in July in the Narthex to start collecting the kit supplies. I have estimated that each kit costs about \$9.85. If you prefer, you can donate a dollar amount, this can guide you. Each School Kits includes:

- (4) 70 count notebooks
- (1) 12 inch ruler with both centimeter and inch markings
- (1) blunt safety scissors
- (1) pencil sharpener
- (5) unsharpened #2 pencils
- (1) 2 1/2 inch eraser
- (5) black or blue ballpoint pens
- (1) 18 or 24 count box of crayons
- (1) sturdy drawstring [approximately 14" x 17"] cloth backpack.

Thank you for your support in the project. Any questions, contact Mary Kay Tardiff, 608-547-6040.

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 Aubrey McCluskey. She is a graduate of the Mauston School District and plans to attend the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Aubrey has been active in a variety of activities in her school, community, and church and has work experience. Her area of study is psychology with a minor in Spanish.

Celeste Coller was also selected to receive a scholarship this year. She is a graduate of the Necedah Area Schools and will be attending the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in the fall. Celeste has had a variety of school accomplishments and has been involved with church and work experiences. Her area of study will be accounting.

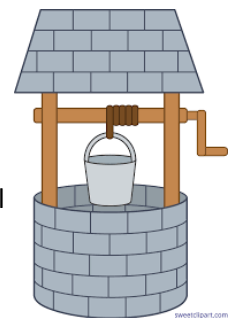
Good luck to all our graduates. Submitted by Maynard Miller

Water is Life

As you walk into the Narthex, you see a wishing well. This is a visual reminder of how important water is to our world. In the weeks ahead, the Mission Committee will continue to bring you information about water so that you will better understand how we take this precious resource for granted. You will hear personal stories, see a video, learn ways to conserve water and be encouraged to participate in the water question of the week.

Answer the question and return your answer to the bucket on the wishing well. One name will be drawn each week from the correct answers submitted. These names will be placed in a "grand prize" drawing at the worship in the park on July 14th. As you place your answers in the bucket, take a moment to thank God for the gift of water. Make a habit of thanking Him every time you access water. Consider sharing a financial gift toward our congregational goal

of \$10 per baptized member to provide clean water to those who do not have access to it. This project will culminate with our worship in the park on July 14th at Riverside Park. This will be a perfect setting to worship God, the creator of water and life, and have some fun and fellowship. Watch for more information about this and for more weekly information about the importance of water.



May 2024 Council Highlights

3

- Elley reported that our Compassion Child, Agnes, has graduated. We now have Mercy, who is 3 years old. Her picture is on the bulletin board above the water fountain.
- Special meeting of April 28th follow-up: The Bishop reported to Pastor that he had received our paperwork on Michael's behalf and asked if Bethany would pay the \$500 entrance fee required to submit the application. The Council agreed that Bethany should pay this fee in full. The Endowment Fund may be able to provide the funds, as supporting future faith leaders is part of their charter.
- The next drive thru supper is lasagna on May 19th, 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.
- The graduation celebration is May 26th , with 8 graduates being honored.
- The next Lunch & Learn will be July 16th at 11:30 a.m.
- VBS will be led by Pastor July 8th-11th, with the focus on Water. Spread the word!
- Currently there are 2 students attending Sugar Creek.
- Movie day is September 8th .
- Pastor reported they will be doing the Plymouth Steeple blessing after church, possibly on Aug 25th .
- The outdoor service at Riverside Park is the Sunday following VBS, July 14th.

May 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on May 7th. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the La Crosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services and \$85 to the Mauston Food Pantry.

- Fundraising for the asbestos remediation and the audio system is doing well. \$15,135 have been collected so far. Thank you to all of those who have contributed.
- Spring cleanup has been scheduled for Saturday, May 18th. Everyone is encouraged to stop by and help as much as they are able. Some cleaning supplies will be provided but if you have items you like to use please bring them. Some of the jobs planned are cleaning the flower beds and courtyard, washing windows, weed trimming, and any other things that can be addressed inside and outside of the church.
- The F & P Committee is looking for 3-5 individuals that would like to help plan the vegetation, ground cover, and use of the courtyard. Please contact the office, or a F & P committee member if interested in being on the committee or if you have ideas for the courtyard.
- The committee approved the purchase of new bathroom heaters.
- Several other projects were discussed and completed.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th.

Caring for God's Creation

The Bethany Mission Committee is making available to you reusable grocery tote bags to challenge you to be better stewards of the earth God created for us by using it when you shop. Have you ever stopped to think about how many plastic bags are used in a visit to a store? The average visit to the grocery store will send you home with 4-5 plastic bags.

These bags are complimentary to you, however, if you wish to make a donation, your gift will be given to the "Water is Life" project. Donations would be sincerely appreciated!

Our hope is that it will get you to think about other ways you care for the world in which we live!

Share how you help care for God's creation on the display in the narthex. Perhaps what you share will spark others to do the same which will in turn show God our gratitude for his creation!





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

Happy June anniversary to...

Troy & Lisa Hansen	06/01
LeRoy & Marlene Weber	06/03
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 Coller	06/28
Larry & Bonnie Bonner	06/29
James & Judy Droster	06/29

Remember Food Pantry Sunday is the first Sunday of every month. Bring a non-perishable food item that can be collected during offering or make a monetary donation using a provided envelope available on the ushers stand.



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

5

~~~ Charlyn Walter, Janice Seebecker, Julianne Sanford, George Pierce, the family of Mary Jean Cauley, Pete Komay, Michael Voltz, Tammy Brown, Patti Thomas, Donna Voltz, Bridget Wells, Duane Weisenhaus, 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.

### Thank you

Thank you Bethany for donating your eclipse glasses. They will go to Argentina's social services to be distributed prior to their eclipse of the sun on October 10, 2024.

### Thank you

May was Bethany's month for Meals on Wheels. Monday - Thursday, every week in May, someone from Bethany delivered meals to those who have trouble getting around. A big "Thank you" to the following people for making those deliveries: Sheri & Tim Benson, Jerry & Lis Schroeder, Pat Lutz, Ruth Marose and Joe Buttner.

### Thank you

Bethany Congregation, Thank you very much for your support as I attend the University at UW-Madison. I have really appreciated the care packages you have sent to me, especially around finals season. I am very grateful to feel such support from my congregation. Thank you very much and God Bless, Ally Fenner.

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

### June 2 Worship Service

Lector: Jon Williams  
Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke  
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

### June 9 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Mike Borreson  
Usher Captain: David Kidd

### June 16 Worship Service

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

### June 23 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marjo Staehling  
Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

### June 30 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Lis Schroeder  
Usher Captain: William Potter



| *** Giving                            | Cash/Check |
|---------------------------------------|------------|
| April 7, 2024                         | \$4,134.00 |
| April 14, 2024                        | \$4,064.00 |
| April 21, 2024                        | \$3,387.10 |
| April 28, 2024                        | \$1,636.00 |
| ** Online Giving Total for April 2024 | \$2,239.30 |

\*\*\* 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.

\*\* 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      | April 2024 Actual | April 2024 Budget | April YTD Actual | April YTD Budget |
|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|
| * Receipts    | \$14,268.01       | \$12,500          | \$64,327.28      | \$50,000         |
| Disbursements | \$12,318.26       | \$16,865.00       | \$54,329.30      | \$67,456.00      |

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**