

# BETHANY LUTHERAN

## Newsletter

### July 2024

#### **A NOTE FROM PASTOR:**

It is my hope that this newsletter will find each of you doing well and enjoying another beautiful Wisconsin summer.

If you have been to worship in the last month or so, you probably already know that we are focusing some attention on a project of the La Crosse Area Synod seeking to raise funds for and awareness about communities lacking access to safe, clean drinking water. This focus will peak for our congregation with two events, “Splash” – a water themed Vacation Bible School and an outdoor worship service at Riverside Park.

This summer’s Vacation Bible School will be patterned similarly to last year’s. We will once again be meeting evenings and serving an evening meal to the children. Many of you may remember a time when congregations would host a day camp styled VBS. I, myself attended one of these as a child and enjoyed it very much. I still remember some of the art projects and conversations I experienced. The format we have chosen for VBS allows us to support many of the things that children loved about those camp style opportunities: time with each other, indoor and outdoor games, dance and music, and crafts. The format also is a way in which congregations like Bethany are adapting to the changing needs of children and their families. This adaptation is a way in which Bethany models the virtue of hospitality for these younger people. One thing for certain has not changed. Bethany continues to care about the needs of the children God has sent to us. We are still in need of adults, middle school, and high school aged people to serve as extra hands and support Monday-Thursday evenings during VBS. Of course, if you know a person who is grade school aged whom you think would enjoy our VBS, please let them know that they are welcome. Plenty of extra VBS sign up forms are available at the church.

A water themed outdoor worship service will be held at the band shelter at Riverside Park in Mauston on Sunday, July 14th. This worship service will focus on some of the things we have learned together about the importance of water these past few months. There are some places to sit at Riverside Park, however I encourage you to bring a lawn chair to sit on. We will also have a potluck brunch following the worship service with time for fellowship and games. You are invited to bring a dish to pass and dishes and silverware to eat with. Please consider a lack of refrigeration and limited availability of electricity when planning what to bring with you to the park. Should the weather be poor that morning we will meet in the fellowship hall at Bethany so that we can worship surrounded by the theme and decorations associated with VBS. We will also be able to see the rain better through the windows.

Whether you are joining us for VBS or our outdoor worship this summer, I hope you have been blessed to see God at work in the world around you. God Bless, Pastor Joan Wittrock

#### **FROM THE PRESIDENT TO BE HUMAN**

Watching a documentary on tv, *A Brief History of the Future*, a pastor defined “To Be Human” as:

To Care	Caring of others
To be Connected	Connected with other people
To be Compassionate	Compassionate in our togetherness

As Christians at Bethany, we are the role models, showing people surrounding us how to be human. What have you done today to be human?

### June 2024 Council Highlights

- A thank you letter was received from the La Crosse Area Synod for the undesignated funds the Bethany congregation has donated.
- Kathy Marose reported that reusable tote bags are still available in the narthex for members to take one or more and use them wherever you shop. Also, jot down how members help care for God's creation and place it on the board in the narthex. Any donations received for the bags are designated to the "Water is Life" project.
- "Water is Life" project is to share information about the importance of water in our world. The Synod goal is to raise \$10 for each baptized member to be donated to ELCA World Hunger to provide clean drinking water to those in need. We continue with the "water question of the week" in the bulletin through July 14th. Pastor has designated VBS to focus on water, as well as the Worship in the Park service on July 14th at Riverside Park.
- Members of the congregation are asked to save 1 gal. plastic milk jugs and bring them to church by July 12th for part of the July 14th service. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with the worship service or games, please see Pastor or a member of the Committee.
- Faith Circle will again spearhead the school kits project. The specific needs are listed in the June Newsletter. Please shop accordingly.
- The committee will be hosting "Ice Cream Sundae" following the June 23rd service. Members are asked to bring their favorite toppings to share. A free will offering will be taken for the "Water is Life" project.
- The outside railing at the Fellowship Hall entrance has broken, so it has been removed until it can be replaced. Please use the main entrance as appropriate for safety.
- Watch the August-September newsletters for more information on the upcoming "Films with Friends" group, "Yesterday's Youth" at Sugar Creek, and "Christmas in the Dells" on November 3rd.

#### **Dick Pirwitz reported on Synod Assembly:**

- Synod Budget Resolution: The synod has been giving 46% of their income to the Churchwide ELCA. Beginning in February 2025, this will be reduced to 30%. At the end of their fiscal year, they will give from their net income up to the goal of 46% to Churchwide. Note: We give \$500/month to the Synod.
- Care of God's Creation: Congregations are asked to create a Creation Care Team and do tangible acts, selecting specific measures to care for creation. Our team is the Mission Committee and our members.
- A Resolution passed that urges the Synod, congregations, and individuals to support state and federal legislators to get an amendment to the U.S. Constitution limiting political spending.
- Pastor Joan is currently working on recruiting enough help for VBS. She is still in need of the Wednesday evening meal and 2 projects (Tuesday), as well as some volunteers and extra hands to help out. The kids can arrive as early 4:00pm, the meal is at 5:00pm, done at 6:30pm.

### June 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on June 11, 2024. 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. An additional \$190 in donations was also collected for the food pantry, making a total donation of \$275.

- Fundraising for the asbestos remediation and the audio system is slowing down and we are still several thousand dollars short of our goal. Please contribute if you can, and thank you to all of those who have contributed.
- The status of several other projects were discussed.
- The contractor mowing the Cemetery asked if there were rules regarding flowers on the ground at grave sites as this makes it difficult to trim around headstones properly. This was referred to the Cemetery Committee and for a response to the contractor. Persons placing flowers at the Cemetery are encourage to use Shepard hooks or something else to elevate plants off the ground so the headstones can be maintained properly. Thank you.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 9th.

# Happy July birthday to....

Summer Seebecker	07/01
Allison Colwell	07/01
Juanita Rutherford	07/02
Regina Langer	07/04
Teresa Voltz	07/05
Ryan Williams	07/05
Kevin Kustief	07/07
Donna Voltz	07/07
Garron Brandt	07/08
Dawn Seebecker	07/10
Dione Davidson	07/11
Ian Flint	07/11
Aubrey Ellerman	07/13
Maynard Miller	07/13
Katrina Bollig	07/13
Janice Seebecker	07/14
Ken Lalk	07/14
Bonnie Bonner	07/15
Bev Collins	07/15
Renee Miller	07/15
Brelee Nelson	07/15
LaVonne Voltz	07/17
Deb Zaidel	07/17
Robert Pfaff	07/17
Elley Dahlke	07/19
Kou Her	07/20
Tim Seebecker	07/21
Tammy Brown	07/21
Gary Gray	07/22
James Wollmer	07/22
Barbara Knudsen	07/23
Justin Jones	07/23
Raina Nava	07/24
Michael Tucker	07/24
Phyllis Edgerton	07/25
Alan Abrahamson Sr.	07/26
Ericka Chavez	07/26
Trevor Lalk	07/27
Nevaeh Thompson	07/27
Tina Tucker	07/27
Camron Brandt	07/28
Elaine O'Keefe	07/28
Tristin Thomas	07/28
Kraig Zoller	07/28

Jon Williams	07/29
Rylie Honnold	07/29
Molly Wiese	07/30
Skylar Daniels	07/31
Kendra Grzenia	07/31

# Happy July anniversary to...

George & Dorothy Pierce	07/02
Michael & Tammy Voltz	07/05
Marie & Joe McDonough	07/07
Jerry & Cindy Busch	07/14
Gene & Dawn Ramer	07/16
Donavan & Penny Cannegieter	07/17
Dale & Cindy Preuss	07/20
Adam & Summer Seebecker	07/20
Dick & Mary Pirwitz	07/22
Larry & Christine Arens	07/24
Bob & Sandra Treland	07/27
Paul & Diane Huebner	07/28

**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

### Thank you

4

Thank you so much for the Bethany Lutheran Church Scholarship for helping me pursue my education at Montana State University, I greatly appreciate it. I am so incredibly thankful for the opportunity you have given me. Thank you again, Celeste Coller.

### Thank you

Dear Bethany Luthern Church, Thank you for your support and generosity throughout the school year. Your care packages helped me get through finals much happier! I am keeping all of you in my thoughts and prayers, today, tomorrow, and always. Thank you so much! Sincerely, Brody McCluskey

### In Our Prayers

~~~ LaVonne Voltz, Charlyn Walter, Janice Seebecker, Julianne Sanford, George Pierce, Pete Komay, Tammy Brown, Patti Thomas, 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).

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

#### **July 7 Worship Service**

Lector: Becky Colwell

Communion Assistant: Mark Behling

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

#### **July 14 Worship Service**

Lector & Communion Assistant: Darryl Teske

Usher Captain: David Kidd

#### **July 21 Worship Service**

Lector : Brian McGuire

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

#### **July 28 Worship Service**

Lector & Communion Assistant: Molly Shultis

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

**July Altar Guild:** Teresa & Aubrey Ellerman



| *** Giving                          | Cash/Check |
|-------------------------------------|------------|
| May 5, 2024                         | \$3,356.00 |
| May 12, 2024                        | \$2,709.00 |
| May 19, 2024                        | \$1,174.00 |
| May 26, 2024                        | \$4,813.00 |
| ** Online Giving Total for May 2024 | \$2,197.24 |

\*\*\* 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.

\*\* 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      | May 2024 Actual | May 2024 Budget | May YTD Actual | May YTD Budget |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|----------------|
| * Receipts    | \$13,086.17     | \$12,500.00     | \$77,413.45    | \$ 62,500.00   |
| Disbursements | \$12,258.23     | \$16,219.00     | \$66,587.53    | \$83,675.00    |

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: [bethanymaustone1ca@gmail.com](mailto:bethanymaustone1ca@gmail.com)

Web address: [www.bethanymauston.com](http://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**

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                    |                                                       |                         |                                                                                                         |                     |                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>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.<br/>                 Sunday mornings. A video of the service is available on Facebook after the live event.</p> |                                                    |                                                       |                         |                                                                                                         |                     |                                                                                        |
| 1                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Bible Study & Coffee 8:30a.m                       | 2                                                     | 3                       | 4<br><br>Office Closed | 5<br>Office Closed  | 6<br> |
| 7<br>Worship 9:30a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Bible Study & Coffee 8:30a.m.<br>VBS 4:00-6:30p.m. | 9<br>Property & Finance 5:30p.m.<br>VBS 4:00-6:30p.m. | 10<br>VBS 4:00-6:30p.m. | 11<br>Women's Breakfast Oasis 9:00a.m.<br>Council Mtg 6:30p.m.<br>VBS 4:00-6:30p.m.                     | 12<br>Office Closed | 13<br>Office Closed                                                                    |
| 14<br>Worship 9:30a.m.<br>***At Riverside Park at the Pavilion***<br>Potluck brunch to follow                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | 15<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30a.m                 | 16<br>Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m.                        | 17                      | 18                                                                                                      | 19<br>Office Closed | 20                                                                                     |
| 21<br>Worship 9:30a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 22<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30a.m                 | 23                                                    | 24                      | 25<br>Mauston Sharing Supper at Mauston High School 5:00p.m. -6:00p.m                                   | 26<br>Office Closed | 27                                                                                     |
| 28<br>Worship 9:30a.m.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | 29<br>Bible Study & Coffee 8:30a.m                 | 30                                                    | 31                      |                      |                     |     |