

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter August 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

Once every three years the Lectionary reading cycle (the way we figure out scripture readings for worship in our church) brings us a five week block in which we hear all about bread. From manna to challah bread plays a role in our story. I look forward to us unpacking a little bit about what it means for us when Jesus says, "I am bread."

The Lord's Prayer contains language about 'daily bread.' This is because bread would have been considered a basic necessity. It was something that would have been made daily. No need for preservatives because bread would not typically be made more than a day in advance. Most religions that talk about daily bread will speak about manna. The special flat bread that God sent daily to his people as they wandered through the desert. The concept of daily bread and the spiritual concept of dependence on the divine are also often linked. The idea being that we depend on God not only for our most basic physical needs, but also for the spiritual food we need. We use flat bread in our worship on a weekly basis to remind us of the manna God sent the people.

There is also special bread that is eaten within the tent of Judeo-Christianity called challah. This is a beautiful braided bread consumed for sabbath observance weekly and during other religious observances by those with Judean cultural heritage. Challah is the bread that I think about when someone talks about a large golden loaf. Recipes that you may have for Easter bread are likely very close to those for challah. Easter breads are eaten as a reminder of resurrection and new life, one of the most special things modern Christians celebrate. Another way we might celebrate the resurrection with bread is with a hot crossed bun.

I think that these uses of bread remind us about God's love for us in both the ordinary every day and during special celebratory times. I invite you to join us for worship this month to hear much more about the religious significance of bread.

FROM THE PRESIDENT IT WAS A MIRACLE

It was a miracle! The early Sunday morning news on June 23rd reported that Apple Grove Lutheran Church in Argyle had been destroyed by a storm. We immediately decided to have a special offering during worship for Apple Grove. \$1,300 was raised just from what people had in their pockets. After that worship, we had the planned ice cream social fundraiser for the "Water is Life" project. I was concerned. People had already emptied their wallets so they wouldn't have anything to give. We raised \$111 for Water is Life! It was a miracle – Accomplished by a congregation with generous hearts. Dick P.

"CHRISTMAS IN THE DELLS" DINNER SHOW

The Faith Development Committee at Bethany is again planning a group outing to Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show in Wisconsin Dells. The show will be Sunday, November 3rd, at 1:00 p.m., dinner beginning at 12:00 p.m. The show was enjoyed by many of our members and friends last year. This year promises to be spectacular again with some new acts and some old favorites. Christmas in the Dells Dinner Show also includes a 4-course Christmas feast. From the mouth-watering ham and turkey to a delicious pumpkin pie, there is something for everyone to enjoy! They also offer Gluten free or vegetarian options if needed. The rate for this show if you purchase tickets on your own is \$94.00 plus fees/tax/tip, but if we have 15 or more adult members/friends attend, our rate will be a total of \$72.00. This rate includes tax, fee, and gratuity. Transportation will be on your own. There will be a sign up sheet on the kiosk beginning September 1st. Please make your payment when you sign up. Make checks payable to Bethany with "Dinner Show" in the memo line and drop off in the office. We hope you can join us for this fun event. Any questions contact Sheri Benson at 608-562-5112.

August Community Dinner

Our next free community dinner will be a cookout on Sunday, August 25th, 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. **We have had big turnouts the past two meals and are planning more food so we don't run out.** 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. You can contact Kathy Marose or Sheri Benson for more information.



Fun at VBS 2024

Tons of fun was had by all at our 2024 VBS "Splash". There were fifteen children that attended the four day event. The children had fun with Bible stories, crafts, boom whackers, a parachute, and water activities throughout the week. They also had time to bond during free play with Legos, painting, play dough, coloring, and games. Each night after free time we shared a meal together provided by Bethany members and then rotated through the story, craft, and activity stations. The finale on Thursday night was attended by parents, grandparents, and Bethany members who enjoyed the songs and dances the children learned. Bethany is blessed with many members who stepped up to make this week successful. Thanks to Pastor Joan for coordinating and leading the program. Thanks to the 24 adults and youth who were there to lead activities and crafts, participate in the free time activities or prepare the meals. It was a fun week for all ages. Our VBS program this year was sponsored by a grant from Thrivent Financial.

Films with Friends

Mark your calendars and join us for Bethany's first "Films with Friends" movie night on Sunday, September 8th, at 5:30 p.m. Depending on the number of people, we will either watch the movie in the lounge or in the Fellowship hall. Our night's feature is "Oh, God" starring George Burns and John Denver. The movie centers around an unassuming grocery store manager (Denver) who is chosen by "God" (Burns) to carry His message to the world. This light-hearted comedy also presents many spiritual questions to consider. Popcorn will be provided and feel free to bring your own drinks. Following the movie we will have a short discussion about the movie as it relates to our Christian faith.

This is the first of what we hope will be a semi-regular event for Bethany featuring films that have spiritual, faith-based themes. Please feel free to bring neighbors, friends, and family.

"Yesterday's Youth Program" at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Yesterday's Youth Program is a fun, interacting program for Senior Citizens. It is held at the Sugar Creek Camp Retreat Center. The next program is October 7, 2024. The program starts at 9:00 a.m. with coffee, followed by a program (to be determined). Lunch is served at noon with a musical program to follow. There will be an update on Sugar Creek Camp activities. Adjournment is at 2:30 p.m. Cost is \$15 per person payable on arrival. Registration should be made 1 to 2 weeks prior.

There will be a program on December 2, 2024 and again April 7, 2025. More information will be forthcoming. Thank you, Faith Development Committee

Rules at Plymouth Cemetery have been in place for decades but have been ignored and not enforced until recent months. Please see below the rules, in a nutshell, for Plymouth Cemetery.

1. Cemetery is open sunrise to sunset.
2. All flowers/decorations must be affixed to the monument or foundation.
3. No glass decorations or containers.
4. Planting of trees, shrubs or plants is not permitted and will be removed.
5. Flowers and decorations will be removed by November 1st and April 1st.
6. Anything deemed unsightly or that hinders maintenance shall be removed.

These rules are posted on the fence at the front corner of the cemetery. The enforcement of these rules will help keep the cemetery neat and will also ensure a more efficient, cleaner mowing and trimming job by our subcontractor.

In the upcoming months we hope to finalize plans to reach out to families of people buried at Plymouth Cemetery to straighten monuments that have settled into the ground and level some sunken markers. Plymouth Cemetery is owned and maintained by Bethany Lutheran Church and is the site of our originating roots.

There are burial sites available at Plymouth for members of Bethany Lutheran Church, Mauston. Please feel free to reach out to Tim Benson (608-547-5112) if interested in more information regarding a plot at Plymouth Cemetery. Thank you, Plymouth Cemetery Committee -- Tim Benson, Jeri Shultis and Alan Abramson

July 2024 Council Highlights

- Council reviewed suggested changes to the Bethany Bylaws. Council will approve any changes at the August council meeting and the congregation will vote on them at the October Semi Annual Meeting.
- The synod has extended the "Water is Life" project until Advent. The project will continue fundraising efforts to meet our goal of \$10 per baptized member.
- The reusable tote bags are still available in the narthex for members to take one or more and use them wherever you shop. A suggestion by Mary Pirwitz is to take a bag or two shopping with you and give them to someone as a gift from Bethany.
- Food Pantry Sunday continues to be a success. This month, \$85 and 50 pounds of food were collected. The kids have been happy to participate in the collection process!
- The outside railing at the Fellowship Hall entrance has been replaced. Jim Miller did an exceptional job.
- Jeri S. shared they have signed up 6 youth ushers for fifth Sundays, with more calls yet to be made. If anyone knows of a youth that is interested, please let Jeri know.
- Diane Huebner has agreed to coordinate the Christmas program again this year!
- The Faith Development Committee is working on updating addresses for our college students for our first mailing in September.
- Working with Juneau County ADRC to get the word out about their food pop-up events. There are flyers in the narthex, and we will be adding flyers to the Community Dinner bags in August.
- Dick Pirwitz asked what we'd like to do to represent Bethany to the family of Suz Smolik-Hagen, who passed away unexpectedly. Following discussion, it was decided to send a \$100 memorial gift to the family.
- Michael Pechman has an official contract! Pastor Joan has signed to be his mentor pastor. Brian and Wendy McGuire will be attending his installation to represent Bethany.

July 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on July 9, 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 \$170 in donations was also collected for the food pantry making a total donation of \$255.

- 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.
- Tim Benson met with the committee and informed them of the rules regarding the use of the Plymouth Cemetery. A sign with the rules has been placed at the cemetery showing the rules. Families will be given until the end of the year to bring their grave sites into compliance.

The next meeting is scheduled for August 6th at 5:30 p.m.



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
Dale Preuss	08/12
Paul Maki	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 Aurit	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
Calli Smith	08/24
Baylor Holzberger	08/24
Nolan Wilberg	08/24
Caleb Flint	08/25
Christine Arens	08/25
Ethan Giebel	08/28
Barbara Hoilien	08/30

Happy August anniversary to...

Chris & Kim Pufahl	08/01
Jerry & Christine Wiese	08/02
Mark & Mary Kay Tardiff	08/04
Ethan & Brianna Giebel	08/05
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
Shane & Kerri Schiller	08/28
Rich & Gladys Radcliff	08/29

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

THANK YOU

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Dear Bethany Lutheran Church, Thank you for helping me get to go to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. I had so much fun. I did a program called "Pedal and Paddle". The first day we drove to Wilton and set up a tent at the campground. After a couple of hours we went bike riding on the Elroy-Sparta bike trail. My counselor's name was Natalie. She was the best counselor. I miss her so much. The second day we went bike riding to Norwalk. The tunnels were so muddy. On Wednesday we were going to go canoeing on the Kickapoo river but it was too flooded. We ended up driving back to Sugar Creek. After a while we drove to Sidie Hollow County Park to canoe. Avi and I got stuck multiple times but it was still fun. That night we had Christ hike. I learned about the disciples and the crucifixion of Jesus. We had worship after that. That night of worship, we prayed with our counselor. Thursday we had a thing called "Tough Questions". It's basically when you write down questions about life or faith anonymously. We had high school worship that night. We learned how God created you to be you, not someone else. During my time at camp I got really close to Natalie. We did lots of cards, bracelet making, and bible study. Once again, thank you so much for helping me grow my faith in God.

Talia Hansen.

In Our Prayers

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).
If you have an urgent prayer request, call her to share the request.

August 4 Worship Service

Lector: Elley Dahlke

Communion Assistant: Maynard Miller

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

August 11 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Sheri Benson

Usher Captain: David Kidd

August 18 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Danielle Knutson

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

August 25 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Rosemary Dellamuth

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

August Altar Guild: Sheri Benson & Diane Huebner

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



*** Giving	Cash/Check
June 2, 2024	\$2,246.00
June 9, 2024	\$3,607.21
June 16, 2024	\$2,515.00
June 23, 2024	\$2,445.00
June 30, 2024	\$1,064.00
** Online Giving Total for June 2024	\$2,105.36

*** 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	June 2024 Actual	June 2024 Budget	June YTD Actual	June YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$15,598.78	\$12,500.00	\$93,012.23	\$ 75,000.00
Disbursements	\$14,254.15	\$16,392.00	\$80,841.68	\$100,067.00

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