

# BETHANY LUTHERAN

## Newsletter

### September 2024

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

To the People of God at Bethany Lutheran Church,

It is going to be a busy month again here at Bethany. Among the regular fall planning and activities September brings to Bethany, we also have a re-installation of myself as pastor on the church calendar. I have gotten some questions about this re-installation from some of you. I would like to take some time to answer some of them.

Does this mean that Bethany has a fulltime pastor now? No. It does not. Our agreement for my time will stay largely the same. The types of things I do as your pastor will also stay largely the same.

Will you still have another job? Yes. I currently plan to continue my work with Lutheran Social Services. We have done an excellent job sharing my attention and time these last two years.

Why are we having this again if we did this already? The trigger for a re-installation is the movement from my accepting a 2 year term call to our congregation (which ends in September) to a regular call. Besides, this way we have an excuse to invite the Bishop over.

Term Call? Our synod allows congregations in certain circumstances to call a pastor to work beside them for a set length of time, after which the pastor typically leaves.

Didn't we take care of this a while ago? Yes. That special vote that the congregation had months ago is what allows us to now complete the process of issuing a regular call to me.

Will we need to keep doing this every couple of years? No. We should not need to do this again.

Does this mean you were not properly installed the first time? No. The installation completed two years ago was for that two-year term position. This installation is for the more permanent regular call. Think of it like purchasing a vehicle that had previously been leased instead of returning it at the end of the lease period.

So, this is different but the same? Yes. Exactly, we are keeping the same pastor with a substantially similar agreement. God Bless, Pastor Joan

#### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

The \$254,964.78 Crandall Trust Estate to Bethany was a complete surprise. It was given "to support and continue the work of the Lord," to enhance our ability to be God's presence in the world.

A small working group that includes Pastor and myself are establishing a way for you to voice your thoughts about how this gift could be used. It includes chances to give suggestions in writing or verbally.

The working group will then produce a report available to all Bethany members that lists all suggestions and will make recommendations. The report will be discussed at a special church council meeting where the recommendations will be "fine-tuned" and the council will approve a motion for it to be presented to the congregation at a special congregational meeting. At the special congregational meeting, adjustments will be made and the plan approved. Dick P.

## Lunch and Learn

2

Come and join fellow members over lunch and a discussion led by Pastor Joan. Our topics have varied but are always educational and thought provoking. Bring your own lunch and take part in the conversation on Thursday, September 12th, from 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

## 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.

## The Looney Lutherans

The Faith Development Committee is organizing a trip to the CAL Center in Reedsburg to see the show *The Looney Lutherans* on Sunday, March 23, 2025, 2:00 p.m. The Looney Lutherans are a trio of wacky gals who use music, comedy and some help from the audience to share their age-old wisdom for living a long and lively life, the Lutheran way – and you don't have to be Lutheran to love it! In this show, the "Loonies" go country in "Hotdish on the Range: All Hat. No Cattle". This country and cowboy themed show includes segments like "Cowboy Up" (practical tips for living off the land), Lutheran cowboy-ish wisdom, and hilarious parodies of classic country songs like, "I'm Falling to Pieces." Giddyup!



We have reserved a block of 30 tickets to this show (we need 20 to get this group rate). The total ticket cost is \$28. Please pay at the time you sign up. Checks should be made out to Bethany with "Looney Lutherans" in the memo line. Sign up by January 15th. Checks can be dropped off in the office. If you have questions contact Sheri at 608-562-5112.

## "Water is Life"

Join the Mission Committee in celebrating the "Water is Life" project with a pancake breakfast and the rescheduled "Water is Life Olympics" on September 15th following worship. The pancake breakfast is a fundraiser for the water project and will be a free will offering. Following breakfast, everyone is invited to participate in the Olympic games. These will be multigenerational team games and lots of fun! The winning team will be awarded a gold medal. Not to worry, the games are designed for all ability levels. Come join a team and compete to win the gold medal. We will also be drawing the grand prize winner from the water question of the week winners. Please bring family, neighbors and friends, including lots of children. We want to make this a celebration to remember. If you would like to volunteer to help with the breakfast or the games, please contact Kathy Marose.

## "Trunk or Treat"

Bethany Lutheran Church will once again be hosting the annual "Trunk or Treat" on Sunday, October 27th, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. in the church parking lot. This event has proven to be a great opportunity for Bethany to reach out to the community, as we have had hundreds of kids and their parents attend. Thanks to the generosity of many Bethany members (and others), our Trunk or Treat is one of the most successful Halloween gatherings in the area. Please consider helping out this year by setting up your own "trunk or treats" or by donating candy, bottled water, or a monetary contribution to help defray costs. If you plan to participate, please contact the church office. Additionally, you may also drop off donations at the office. If you have any questions, please call Elley Dahlke at 608-547-4484.

We are happy and grateful Ryker found a church family here in Mauston. It is an answer to our prayers. Sincerely, Karen & Chet Sumwalt (Gramma & Gramps)

### Thank you

Dear Bethany Lutheran Church, Thank you for sending me and Talia to Sugar Creek Bible Camp. I had an enjoyable time whenever I was at Camp or offsite. We did a lot of cool and enjoyable things including biking, swimming, canoeing, and bible studies. My favorite part was the Christ hike. We had two main counselors named Natalie and Emiliano and also two other counselors that would hang out with our group named Ollie and Faith. Overall, I had an enjoyable time. Sincerely, Ari Bohnert. P.S. Looking forward to going to camp next year.

### Faith Circle 2024-2025

Faith Circle will begin a new book study on Thursday, September 5th, at 7:00 p.m. in the church lounge. New members are always welcome! We generally meet at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month. From September through May we will be reading *Mostly What God Does*, by Savannah Guthrie. If you have any questions, feel free to contact Wendy McGuire or the church office.

### August 2024 Council Highlights

- Dick P. reported receipt of a letter and check to Bethany for \$254,964.78, from the Crandall Trust, to support and continue the work of the Lord. A small task force will make recommendations to the Congregational Council as to the best way Bethany can honor the Crandall's and their wishes and the Lord in the investment of this generous gift.
- Updating Bylaws - Continuing Resolutions. Council members reviewed the submitted revisions to the Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions. The Bylaws were approved as written. The Continuing Resolutions require just a few wording edits. With these minor corrections, a motion was made by Kathy M. to approve the Continuing Resolutions. Second was made by Jim M. The Church's Bylaws and Continuing Resolutions were approved for submission for congregational approval at the October 20th Congregational meeting.
- Mission Committee: Kathy Marose reported the "Water is Life" Question of the Week concluded in July. The grand prize drawing and the previously scheduled "Water Olympics" were postponed until September. Monetary donations to this project are always welcome as we work toward meeting our goal of \$10 per baptized member. The congregation is asked to continue to save their gallon jugs and bring them to the church for the water project. The remaining reusable tote bags will be used for the August 25th drive-thru supper.
- Food Pantry Sunday continues to be a success. This month, \$145 and cart full of non-perishable food were collected!
- Faith Development Committee: Jeri S. reported VBS was successful with 15 students and 25 helpers throughout the week. Over 50 people attended the closing dinner and program!
- Watch the monthly newsletters for more information on the various upcoming events and their dates, such as "Lunch and Learn", Community Supper on August 25th, "Films with Friends", "Yesterday's Youth", "Christmas in the Dells" and "Looney Lutherans" at the CAL Center. When signing up to attend ticketed events, please pay for your tickets at the time you sign up, in the check memo line write what it's for.
- Brian M. reported that he and Wendy attended Michael Pechman's installation at Trinity Lutheran in Hustler. It was a memorable service with some beautiful music. Michael would like Bethany's congregation to know he is very appreciative of all Bethany's support in his journey.

### August 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on August 6, 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 \$145 in donations was also collected for the food pantry making a total donation of \$230.

- 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 was discussed.
- Mike Borreson and Randy Fabian completed the repainting of the basketball hoop and court and plan on painting new stripes on the parking lot if they can get their schedules to work out.
- Jimmy Miller completed the replacement of the railing for the entrance to the fellowship hall.
- Great work, Mike, Randy, and Jim. Thank you for all of your time and effort.

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10th at 5:30 p.m.



## Happy September birthday to....

Alyssa Holzberger	09/01
Russell Emery Jr.	09/02
Anna Johnson	09/03
Ashley Tabbert	09/03
Jessica Kastner-Cox	09/04
Atley Pufahl	09/05
Taylor Bollig	09/06
Bowdyn Pokorney	09/06
Danielle Knutson	09/07
Sadie Tabbert	09/08
Reece Gray	09/10
Anne Miles	09/11
Shane Schiller	09/12
Lindsi Hagen	09/14
Michael Voltz	09/14
Pamela Bagnowski	09/14
Tanya Kennedy	09/15
Mary Pirwitz	09/15
Jim Muchenberger	09/15
Nancy Williams	09/18
Avery Chavez	09/20
Madeline Kennedy	09/20
Ed Rogers Jr.	09/20
Ally Fenner	09/21
Barbara Handrich	09/22
Joshua Bell	09/22
Marge Hoffmann	09/23
Ruth Pfaff	09/24
Carol Purvis	09/25
Aubrey McCluskey	09/26
Linda Bohnert	09/27
Paul Huebner	09/28
Joseph Bagnowski	09/30
Susan Midthun	09/30
Tina Miles	09/30

## Happy September anniversary to...

Jerry & Lis Schroeder	09/01
Karen & Larry Fritz	09/03
Christopher & Mindy Flint	09/07
David & Terry Broske	09/08
Dustan & Jessica Vodvarka	09/12
Jon & Nancy Williams	09/12
Tim & Dawn Seebecker	09/14
Mike & Barb Klein	09/14
Rodney & Jennifer Pink	09/14
Nichole & Zach Preuss	09/14
Paul & Deb Zaidel	09/20
Brian & Rebecca Colwell	09/28
Kyle & Laura Aurit	09/30



**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

Tony Seebecker, 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.

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

### **September 1 Worship Service**

Lector: Mary Pirwitz  
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

### **September 8 Worship Service - Pastor Joan's (Re) Installation with Bishop Malpica**

Lector: Karen Fritz  
Usher Captain: David Kidd

### **September 15 Worship Service**

Lector & Communion Assistant: Brian McGuire  
Usher Captain: Bill Potter

### **September 22 Worship Service**

Lector & Communion Assistant: Jim Miller  
Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

### **September 29 Worship Service**

Lector & Communion Assistant: Teresa Ellerman  
Usher Captain: William Potter

**September Altar Guild: Jerry & Lis Schroeder**



*** Giving	Cash/Check
July 7, 2024	\$2,815.00
July 14, 2024	\$1,876.00
July 21, 2024	\$2,409.00
July 28, 2024	\$3,374.00
** Online Giving Total for July 2024	\$1,730.08

\*\*\* 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	July 2024 Actual	July 2024 Budget	July YTD Actual	July YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$11,086.45	\$12,500.00	\$104,098.68	\$ 87,500.00
Disbursements	\$16,277.03	\$16,387.00	\$97,118.71	\$116,454.00

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**