

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

October 2024

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

I recently received an invitation to study, read, and share thoughts about a new social statement that the ELCA is working on. Due to the busy nature of bi-vocational ministry, this opportunity is one I will be passing on. However, this experience made me think about two important things I would like to share with you. (1) It is healthy and good to have reasonable boundaries. (2) Our national church has many social statements and messages.

It is healthy and good to have boundaries. Having boundaries does not mean we never say yes. But, sometimes we need to say no to things. Especially when saying no to other tasks enables us to do well and be successful at the things we have said yes to. There is a spiritual process called discernment. Our denomination officially calls periods of time when clergy and congregations are considering a call, discernment. I have found that discernment, intentionally considering which activities I should say yes to, is good for my soul. My hope is that my own use of discernment signals to others that it is okay to have healthy boundaries. I also hope that it signals the trust I have in all of you and the leaders within our community.

The ELCA has taken a lot of time to consider and think deeply about various topics. When we choose to do this as a denomination we create a social message or social statement. The ELCA has official statements on caring for creation, being the church in society, criminal justice, the death penalty, economic life, education, genetics, health care, human sexuality, peace, race-ethnicity and culture, and sexism. Social messages have been issued on climate, government, human rights, gender-based violence, mental illness, people living with disabilities, terrorism, commercial sexual exploitation, suicide prevention, immigration, community violence, end of life decisions, and homelessness. These statements display that we have thought deeply together about these things and I believe our denomination has benefited greatly from these efforts. If you would like to see these statements they are all available at elca.org.

I hope that this makes some happy reading for many of you. I know that others may see this and engage in some healthy boundary drawing. This is okay too. God Bless, Pastor Joan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Join the excitement!

It is exciting times at Bethany. We are able to do so much for our community and our members. We have the ability and opportunity to expand what we can achieve because of the generosity of several estates. You can be part of the excitement. Just volunteer! Join the excitement!

We are electing some new committee members this month at the Semi-Annual Meeting. Thank you to all of our volunteers, whether in elected positions or helping the committees.

Sunday School

We are excited to announce that Sunday School will be starting on October 6th at 8:15 a.m., all children ages three through sixth grade are welcome! This fall, we will dive into the Creation Story, exploring how God made the world and everything in it. We'll also discuss how we can care for God's creations through stewardship and compassion. We look forward to seeing everyone there!

SEMI-ANNUAL MEETING

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Our Semi-Annual Meeting is Sunday, October 20th, following our worship. Besides the election, we will vote on an updated version of our Constitution Bylaws and accepting the latest audit report.

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.



Films with Friends

Bethany's Faith and Development Committee held the first "Films with Friends" (Oh, God!) on Sunday, September 8th. Based on reports from the attendees, it was a fun, worthwhile event for everyone.

Hoping to build on that success, the committee's next Films with Friends is scheduled for Sunday, December 1st, at 5:30 p.m., featuring the film, "Journey to Bethlehem". The movie is described as a "Christmas musical for the entire family that weaves classic Christmas melodies with humor, faith, and new songs in retelling the story of Mary and Joseph and the birth of Jesus: the greatest story ever told".

So, mark your calendars and join us for a night of popcorn, fellowship, and setting the mood for the season in which we celebrate the birth of our Savior.

"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.



"Water is Life"

The Mission Committee would like to thank all those who helped make our Pancake Breakfast for the "Water is Life" Project a big success. Thank you also to all who attended and donated toward the cause. We raised \$418.00. Congratulations to Lisa Hansen who was the grand prize winner for the question of the week. The "Water is Life" project will continue to accept monetary donations until Advent. Watch future newsletters for the final wrap up.

September 2024 Council Highlights

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- Finance reported that the anticipated financial audit will be completed prior to the congregational semi-annual meeting on October 20th.
- The September Food Pantry Sunday collected 39 pounds of food, in addition to the monetary donations of \$150.
- Bethany will be hosting the distribution site for Mauston Area Ministerial Assn. Christmas baskets. We will be seeking volunteers to assist.
- Hospitality Committee is looking into various local caterers to be able to offer more options to the families for funerals. They've been asked by the Worship Committee to assist with refreshments for the Thanksgiving Eve service.
- The contracts for bat removal and repairs to the front doors locking mechanisms were approved. Work on the bat removal has already begun.
- Faith Development Committee reported that personal notes are being mailed to eleven college students. Sunday School and Confirmation plans are underway as both begin in October.
- The August Drive Thru Supper served 163 people. We had a Thrivent grant plus a meat donation from Stone Ridge Meats and Kwik Trip. Next meal is November 17th.
- The Community Thanksgiving Eve service (November 27th at 7:00 p.m.) will be hosted by Bethany, as well as the Christmas Basket distribution in December. The Thanksgiving Eve service will have special music and an opportunity for the kids to play instruments! An email invitation will be sent to all possible Mauston area congregations. Our congregation will have the opportunity to provide refreshments following this community worship.
- Veteran's Day is a day of remembrance. Anyone can add to the Veteran's Book with their service information. They will be acknowledged at the Worship service.
- Christmas schedules remain the same – Christmas Eve services at 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., with Christmas Day service at 9:30 a.m.
- Reformation and All Saints Sunday services will remain the same as previous years as well.
- Pastor Joan reported that she has had some phone communication issues recently but believes it has now been resolved.
- Pastor recently went over the Thrivent projects list for the year. There have been over 20 projects already, resulting in \$5,000 of Thrivent support! If anyone has Thrivent but has not participated in writing a grant for matching funds on a project, please contact Pastor to be included in this fundraising opportunity.

September 2024 Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on September 10, 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 \$150 in donations was also collected for the food pantry making a total donation of \$230.

- The status of several other projects was discussed.
- Mike Borreson and Randy Fabian painted new stripes on the parking lot but still have some additional items to finish up.
- The F & P committee approved a contract for bat removal from the Church and also approved repairs to the front door locking mechanism. The vendor has already begun working on the bat removal and hopes to be done by the end of September.
- The committee will review the fee schedule for events such as weddings and funerals held at the church at the October meeting.
- Pastor's interim contract ended August 31st. Now that Pastor Joan has been installed as a permanent pastor at Bethany, her salary will need to be adjusted. The Bishop has provided us the Synod's salary guidelines. This will be done at the October meeting and the adjustment will be retroactive to September 1, 2024.

The next meeting is scheduled for October 8th at 5:30 p.m..



Happy October birthday to....

Deanna Rose	10/03
Derek Fenner	10/03
Vaughn Wilberg	10/03
Troy Hansen	10/04
Cynthia Preuss	10/06
Frank Mielneczek	10/07
Bill Langer	10/09
Tim Benson	10/11
Leanna Hagen - Kovach	10/12
Amy Behling	10/13
Gavin Tomany	10/13
Nicole Nava	10/14
Stephanie Minard	10/15
Melanie Gray	10/15
Leo Vodvarka	10/15
Madree Enderle	10/15
Mark Dahlke	10/17
Alan Abrahamson Jr.	10/17
Eva Ragan	10/18
Paul Merk	10/19
Grayson Tomany	10/19
Ian McIntire	10/20
Sarah Schiller	10/20
Barb Klein	10/22
Gabriel Morse	10/23
Zachary Preuss	10/23
Myrna Kelley	10/23
Amie Heinrich	10/26
Blake Nelson	10/28
Lisa Hansen	10/30
Don Bollig	10/30

Happy October anniversary to...

Josh Rotzoll & Madree Enderle	10/03
Melanie & Jeff Gray	10/05
Vaughn & Laura Wilberg	10/06
Greg & Norma Smith	10/08
Roger & Pat Dutzle	10/13
Nathanael & Juanita Rutherford	10/13
David & Cathy Kidd	10/15
Brian & Karen Bell	10/17
Alex & Courtney Tomany	10/17
Paul & Jacqueline Maki	10/19
Dan & Alyssa Holzberger	10/29

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

A big "Thank You" to Bethany and all the sponsors for the delicious community supper meal. I always look forward to coming. Have a great day, God Bless! (anonymous)

Thank You

Dear Bethany Family, Thank you for the tremendous response in donations toward School Kits, Health Kits, and Baby Kits. They will be sent out soon, and without your support, we would not have achieved the gift that is going to Lutheran World Relief.

We packed up 103 School Kits, 14 Health Kits, and 4 baby kits.

Special thanks to Mary Pirwitz who coordinated the Health Kits and Baby Kits. Also thank you to Diane Huebner for applying for a Thrivent grant for us. Mary Kay Tardiff, Faith Circle



In Our Prayers

Charlyn Walter, Pat Dickman, 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.

October 6 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Kathy Marose

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

October 13 Worship Service

Lector: Alan Abrahamson Sr.

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: David Kidd

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

October 20 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Danielle Knutson

Usher Captain: Bill Potter

October 27 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Sheri Benson

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

October Altar Guild: Mark & Elley Dahlke



*** Giving	Cash/Check
August 4, 2024	\$4,196.00
August 11, 2024	\$1,869.00
August 18, 2024	\$1,445.00
August 25, 2024	\$3,236.00
** Online Giving Total for August 2024	\$2,575.72

*** 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	August 2024 Actual	August 2024 Budget	August YTD Actual	August YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$266,778.13	\$12,500.00	\$370,876.81	\$ 100,000.00
Disbursements	\$14,929.91	\$15,189.00	\$112,048.62	\$131,643.00

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