

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

February 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

To the people of God at Bethany Lutheran Church,

It is difficult to believe that February is here. For me, it feels like the holiday season just finished. The end of the holiday season winds some things down here at Bethany. We will put away our decorations and begin to look toward Lent and the Easter season.

This year we are going to be trying something different out for our Lenten season and Holy Week. I want you to be aware of these changes well in advance. I trust that we can work together to make sure that everyone who ought to know about this information gets the word. I am thinking especially of those of you who may travel or host visitors during the Spring holidays.

In the past several years I have heard feedback that people would like to have a Palm Sunday service that is only upbeat in tone, as opposed to the Palm/Passion Sunday we have been doing. I have also heard calls for a resurrection of some of Bethany's Good Friday traditions. In order to facilitate meeting the wishes of both of these groups we are going to elongate Holy Week.

Palm Sunday will be an intentionally upbeat celebration of Jesus' entry into the city of Jerusalem. This will happen on Sunday, April 6th, 2025. Please note this is a full calendar week before what your calendar likely lists as Palm Sunday. We will have palm branches and sing those Palm Sunday hymns.

The following Sunday, April 13th, 2025 we will celebrate what I am labeling Good Sunday. We will focus this Sunday on the passion narrative and remember the sacrifices that Jesus made for us. We will do many of the things we used to do during a Good Friday. This service will be sober and sad. There are some folks within our fellowship who have a great need for the emotional space to connect with the events of Jesus' death. This will be an opportunity to do just that.

The Maundy Thursday service and Easter Sunday services are expected to be at the regular times. We will also be having 7:00 p.m. Wednesday Lenten services.

You will also find some information coming soon about a chance to lean into some scripture verses together this Lent. This activity is meant to be accessible and spiritually useful for people of all ages. The kickoff for this event will involve free ice cream at Culver's!

God Bless,

Pastor Joan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

THE CRANDALL ESTATE

The Crandall Gift Team will start the process to sift through the suggestions submitted. There are some tough decisions to be made. We will communicate our recommendation to the Church Council who will make adjustments, and then we will have a Congregation Meeting that will finalize how the gift will be used. I welcome your questions and suggestions. - Dick

Looney Lutherans

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Tickets are sold out for Looney Lutherans on March 23rd at 2:00 p.m. at the CAL Center in Reedsburg. If you have signed up Sheri will be getting you your tickets. We have 30 members attending this fun event.

Lunch and Learn

Come and join fellow members over lunch and a discussion led by Pastor Joan. We had a low turn-out in January so it has been rescheduled for February 11th at 11:30 a.m. Our discussion will continue on the Big Five World Religions. Bring your own lunch and take part in the conversation.



The Faith Development Committee is again planning a free movie during Lent. We hope you can join us at the **Elroy Theater on Saturday, March 8th, at 2:00 p.m.** for a showing of the movie **Ordinary Angels**. The movie is a 2024 film inspired by the incredible true story of a hairdresser who single-handedly rallies an entire community to help a widowed father save the life of his critically ill young daughter. The movie is two hours long and rated PG. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m. with the show beginning at 2:00 p.m. Concessions will be available for purchase. Invite your family and friends to come along too! This event is sponsored by Thrivent. Tickets are available on Sunday mornings and during the week during office hours, Monday - Thursday 9:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m., or at the door on the 8th. Call the church office or Sheri Benson at 608-562-5112 with questions.

Celebrate Love at our Bethany Valentine's Gathering

The word "valentine" comes from the Latin word "valens", which means "worthy, strong, or powerful". In the Bible, the word "valentine" is used about God's love for us. He is the ultimate Valentine who loved us so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to die for our sins. We will celebrate the love that God gives us and the friendships we share on Sunday, February 23rd, at 5:30 p.m. **All** adult members of Bethany are invited to join us for fun, food, and games. This is not just a party for couples but for all. We will have some pre-dinner activities followed by a dinner and Valentine games. Games are rated G for general audiences and will be fun for all in attendance. Please sign up on the kiosk so we know how many to plan food for. It's sure to be a fun filled night!

Volunteers Needed

Looking for volunteer hours or just interested in helping out with worship service? Consider running the computer for worship services. Please reach out to Teresa Ellerman, 815-520-4976, if interested.

Scripture Encounter

The Faith Development Committee encourages everyone within our congregation to participate in a simple program meant to assist us in encountering scripture together. This will not take years of academic study or hours of reading. Instead, we will focus on one small piece of scripture every day. There will be journals and other tools available to people who enjoy those sorts of things. But, you will not need to be a writer to fully participate! This activity is suitable and interesting for people of all ages. The journey will kick off with custard at Culver's on Sunday, March 2nd, at 6:00 p.m. Your custard is on us!

Remember the 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.

January 9, 2025 Council Highlights

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- Letter from Ruth Marose: Kathy M. shared Ruth's request for leave of absence without pay while she recovers from her injury in the coming weeks. Kathy explained that she will take over the weekly tasks, including soliciting volunteers to assist as needed during Ruth's absence.
- Worship Committee: Since Christmas Day service was attended by only sixteen, it was recommended to not conduct this service in 2025.
- The committee is looking ahead to the upcoming Lenten schedule. Attendance will determine future scheduling of these services. Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday will be on different Sundays. Further explanation to the congregation will follow.
- Mission Committee: Kathy M. reported on the success of the Angel Tree and the additional family sponsored through the generous donations of our congregation. Thank you to Julie Graewin for taking care of the last-minute shopping for this second family!
- Food Pantry Sunday for January netted 46 pounds of food and \$122 in monetary donations.
- Properties Committee: Jim M. reported the committee reviewed a list of items in need of repair throughout the church. Some items will be actively addressed while others will be tabled due to cost feasibility or further investigation. The purchase and installation of the required Knox Emergency Access Box will be addressed. The committee approved the purchase of a new laptop to replace the one, which has died, used for displaying to the TV screens during church services. We are investigating the use of a Roomba for the sanctuary, as it comes highly recommended by other churches. The fellowship hall carpeting project is on Hold until after the budget approval at the January 19th Annual Meeting.
- Faith Development Committee: Jeri S. reported on the numerous events on the calendar. Keep an eye on the monthly newsletter and church service bulletins for these events.
- Sugar Creek information will be sent home with Sunday School and Confirmation students in the next few weeks. We have a group discount code that parents may use when registering their child. Families do not need to make a payment or down payment – Bethany will be billed.
- Sunday School curriculum is being reviewed. Plans are being made for upcoming children's programs in the Palm Sunday/Easter services.
- Pastor's Report: Pastor was approached regarding the possibility of providing a contribution from Bethany to help pay for funeral expenses for the young girl who was enrolled in Mauston schools. Following discussion, it was decided we would ask the congregation for a free will donation during service on Sunday, January 12th.

January Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on January 7, 2025. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the La Crosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services and \$85 plus \$122 in donations to the Mauston Food Pantry.

- The committee reviewed a list of items that were in need of repair throughout the Church. Some members of the committee said they would look into specific items. Several items were tabled due to cost or lack of information.
- The committee will look into the purchase of a Knox Rapid Access Solution Box. The purpose is to provide a secure location to store an entry key for the fire department or police to access the building in the event of an emergency.
- The Committee approved the purchase of a new computer to use during the church service for projecting the screens on to the monitors during a church service. Dick will take care this.
- The fellowship hall carpeting project is on hold until after the budget approval at the January 19th annual meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11th, at 5:30 p.m.

Happy February birthday to....

Twyla Pufahl	02/01
Danica Flint	02/04
Jason Madsen	02/04
Sophia Brummund	02/05
Daniel Dellamuth	02/05
Sharon Barclay	02/05
Debra Klapps	02/07
Hailey Nockerts	02/07
Bobbie Lindner	02/11
Adam Seebecker	02/12
Vanessa Klein	02/13
Mary-Corinne Cox	02/14
Harold Seebecker	02/15
Sandra Treland	02/19
Laurel Miller	02/21
Zoey Brandau	02/21
Judy Mueller	02/23
Jerry Wiese	02/23
Linda Householder	02/24
Brody McCluskey	02/24
Kalon Kustief	02/24
Mitchell Brown	02/26
Ron Paul	02/26
Alan Peterson	02/26
Joshua Ellerman	02/27
Elaina Her	02/27
Margaret Abrahamson	02/28
Karolin Potter	02/28
Meagan Voltz	02/28



In Our Prayers

The family and friends Kaleb Penfield, Kevin Trute, Gary Gray, all those affected by the wildfires in California, Wally Feldman, the family and friends of Dale Pollock, the family and friends of Elizabeth Kolba, Alexandria Taylor, Skyla Sorenson, Michael Pechman, the family and friends of Edward Wittrock, the family and friends of Glen Schroeder, Darren Honnold, Charlyn Walter, Pat Dickman, George Pierce, Pete Komay, Tammy Brown, Patti Thomas, Duane Weisenhaus, Ken Plants, Elwood Syverson, 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.*****

February 2nd Worship Service

Lector: Alan Abrahamson Sr.
Communion Assistant: Maynard Miller
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

February 9th Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Kathy Marose
Usher Captain: David Kidd

February 16th Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Darryl Teske
Usher Captain: Bill Potter

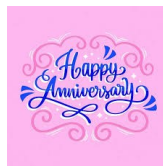
February 23th Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Danielle Knutson
Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

February Altar Guild: Joanne Stark and Karen Fritz

Happy February anniversary to...

Tom & Hazel Reigard	02/01
Alan & Margaret Abrahamson Sr	02/04
Ken & Julianne Sanford	02/10
Bryce & Noah Hollis	02/22



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



*** Giving	Cash/Check
December 1, 2024	\$3,829.00
December 8, 2024	\$4,426.00
December 15, 2024	\$2,342.00
December 22, 2024	\$2,792.00
December 24, 2024	\$5,013.00
December 29, 2024	\$1,643.00
** Online Giving Total for December 2024	\$2,660.82

*** 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	December 2024 Actual	December 2024 Budget	December YTD Actual	December YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$25,612.29	\$12,500.00	\$438,751.75	\$150,000.00
Disbursements	\$15,042.95	\$15,439.00	\$170,793.49	\$193,643.00

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

Bethany Lutheran Church

701 Grove Street Mauston, WI 53948

Phone: (608) 847-6690

Office Email: bethanymaustonelca@gmail.com

Web address: 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: http://www.facebook.com/Bethany.Lutheran.Mauston/ at 9:30 a.m. Sunday mornings. A video of the service will be remain available after the live event.</p>							1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:15 a.m.	Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m.	11 Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m-12:30p.m. Property & Finance 5:30 p.m.	Faith Development 10:00 a.m. Faith Circle 7:00 p.m.	Women's Breakfast at the Oasis 9:00 a.m. Council Mtg 6:30 p.m.	Office Closed	Office Closed	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:15 a.m.	Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m.	11 Lunch & Learn 11:30 a.m-12:30p.m. Property & Finance 5:30 p.m.	Worship Team 6:00 p.m.	Women's Breakfast at the Oasis 9:00 a.m. Council Mtg 6:30 p.m.	Happy Valentines Day Office Closed	Office Closed	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:15 a.m.	Presidents Day Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m.	PRESIDENTS DAY	Worship Team 6:00 p.m.	Office Closed	Office Closed	Office Closed	
23	24	25	26	27	28		
Worship 9:30 a.m. Confirmation Class 8:30 a.m. Sunday School 8:15 a.m. Valentine's Gathering 5:30 p.m.	Bible Study & Coffee 8:30 a.m.		Mauston Sharing Supper at Mauston High School 5:00-6:00 p.m.	Office Closed	Office Closed		