

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

March 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

To the People of God at Bethany Lutheran Church,

Here we are at the beginning of Lent once again. I have had the opportunity over the years to speak with family and friends who were once a part of a liturgical church like ours and for various reasons now participate in a non-liturgical denomination. Overwhelmingly these folks have reported to me that they miss faith practices surrounding Lent and Holy Week. This signals to me that there must be something important and special about this time of the church year.

Some important things about worship services... Once again, a reminder that we are going to be having an extended Holy Week this year. Our Palm Sunday service will happen on April 6th. This is a full week ahead of the April 13th date printed for the official holiday on most calendars. On April 13th we will have 'Good' Sunday. On this Sunday we will do all those things that are important surrounding Good Friday traditions here at Bethany. Some people are even working to replace Bethany's shroud for our cross. This change also means that we will have one fewer Lenten Wednesday service because our Holy Week will begin sooner. The ELCA conference pastors are working together again this year in order to have some unity and connection in our Wednesday Lenten Services.

Some important things about Lent in general... It is not unusual to take on a Lenten Discipline. This could take on the form of refraining from drinking soda or eating chocolate from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. I like to encourage people waiting to try a Lenten Discipline to consider taking something on during these 40 days. This should be something positive for your body, mind, or soul. If you do not already this could be as simple as adding extra time for prayer into your regular schedule. I once encouraged a father to stop and pray for just a moment before getting out of his car and joining his family in their home after his work day. He reported to me that this changed his relationship with his family. What would happen if we did this before we turned the computer or television screens on? If you have a little bit more time you might want to participate in all or part of our Scripture Encounter series. There is more information about that in this newsletter.

It is my hope that lots of meaningful things will happen among God's people at Bethany Lutheran Church this Lent. You are all welcome to come and experience as much or little of Lent as you would like again this year. If you have friends who miss Lent, know that they are welcome as well.

God Bless, Pastor Joan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

A YEAR OF JUBILEE

2024 was astounding – The blessings we received and the things we accomplished. We need to celebrate! (Said in a loud, official sounding voice) **"I therefore declare this a Year of Jubilee!"** [loud applause and cheering]

Jubilee comes from the Bible and it has many meanings. Some are:

It is a year of celebration.

It is a time to reset the economy, culture, environment, and community.

It is a year of generosity and thankfulness.

It is a time to envision new things and grow as a congregation.

It is a time when God restores his people, a time of celebration and freedom.

It is a time when God provides for those who are grieving and comforts those who mourn.

It is a time when God restores what has been lost and mourned over.

It is a time when God bestows beauty instead of ashes, joy instead of mourning, and praise instead of despair.

This is accomplished by God through us, by us.

How will you celebrate our Year of Jubilee?

"We are at our best, we are at our happiest, when we care for others."

FREE MOVIE

2

Please join us for our Free Movie at the Elroy Theater on Saturday, March 8th at 2:00 p.m. The doors will open at 1:30 p.m. with the movie beginning at 2:00 p.m. We will be showing the movie **Ordinary Angels**. 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, during the week in the church office, or at the door on the 8th.

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.

Lenten Scripture Encounter

A reminder to join us **Sunday, March 2nd at 6:00 p.m. for Custard at Culvers** as we kick off our Lenten Season by exploring topical scripture plans. We will have all the tools you will need and directions for getting started at Culvers, and the Custard's on us! If you can't make it to Culvers we will have materials available on Ash Wednesday or Sunday March 9th or call the church office to arrange to get your materials.

March Community Dinner

Our next free community dinner will be on Sunday March 30th from 4:00-6:00 PM. 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. This month's supper is sponsored by Thrivent Financial and Kwik Trip. Thank you to them for their support of our community efforts. Stop on by for a meal of spaghetti and meatballs and spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family. 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. Contact Kathy Marose or Sheri Benson for more information or if you would like to volunteer for this.

Lenten Lutheran World Relief Kits

Rather than donations of items for Baby Care Kits and Personal Care Kits, we are asking for monetary donations toward the cost of each kit.

A Baby Care Kit costs approximately \$44.50 for all the items. I make the sweaters, so there isn't any cost for them.

A Personal Care Kit costs approximately \$8.45 for the items (does not include cost of a toothbrush). We are asking for the donation of adult toothbrushes in their original wrappers.

We will collect this money in the month of March. A donation box will be in the narthex or you can give the money to me, Mary Pirwitz.

Thank you – So many people benefit from these donations. You can see that from the poster from LWR on the kiosk. Mary Pirwitz

Looney Lutherans

Just a reminder for those that have tickets for Looney Lutherans on March 23rd the show is at 2:00 p.m. at the CAL Center in Reedsburg. Transportation is on your own.

Scholarship Applications

The Bethany Endowment Committee will again be offering scholarships for students next year. Applications are due April 1, 2025 for the 2025-2026 school year. This scholarship is open to any member of our congregation who is pursuing post-secondary education. Students are eligible for any year they are enrolled and may only receive the scholarship once.

Applications are available in the church office or at your high school. More information is attached to the scholarship application. Submit it to the church office secretary by April 1. - Maynard Miller

Worship Committee: Linda Bohnert reported the plans for Holy Week. There will be no Maundy Thursday service this year, as the Reenactment Service will be conducted in the even years. Palm Sunday and Passion Sunday will be on different Sundays.

Mission Committee: Kathy M. reported the committee has not yet met this month, but will be working on plans for 2025. Food Pantry Sunday for February netted 85 pounds of food and \$106 in monetary donations!

Hospitality Committee: Kathy M. indicated plans are underway for the Ash Wednesday Chili Supper. The committee is continuing to recruit volunteers to host Sunday Fellowship coffee hour. It is being discussed to split the responsibilities between servers and bakers. This may meet the needs of those wanting to host- to serve, or bake/provide funds to purchase treats, or bake and serve.

Properties Committee: The fellowship hall carpeting project is completed. It is necessary to be cautious when sliding chairs, as they may catch edges/corners of the tiles and pull up or damage the carpet. The bill came in a bit less than budgeted at \$15,162.24. Tim B. is conducting an audit of keys and sign-outs. Anyone who has not returned keys, will be contacted.

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! Upcoming event: Valentine's Party – Sunday, February 23rd at 5:30 p.m. Dinner will be provided followed by games. All members are welcome.

Executive Committee: Dick P. explained with the breakers being shut off for Gray's work, one of the sanctuary TVs did not come back up except static. If this occurs, power off, unplug for 30 sec. and then try again. The secretary's computer has been having some software issues. BSoft was able to correct the problem.

Pastor's Report: Pastor Joan reported that Mark Dahlke will be covering for her the last Sunday in March, while she is off getting married! Pastor was contacted by Bishop Malpica regarding the possibility that Bethany may need to host Michael Pechman as his field ministry site if another suitable placement isn't found. Pastor doesn't feel this would add a burden to her schedule, but that Bethany would need to consider that Micheal would need to be paid for this ministry. More information may be forthcoming.

Next meeting: Thursday, March 13, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

**February Finance and Property Meeting
February 11, 2025**

The F & P Committee met on February 11, 2025. Mike Borreson, Randy Fabian, Maynard Miller, Tim Benson, and Jim Miller were present. Dick Pirwitz also attended the meeting. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the La Crosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services, \$85 plus \$132 in donations to the Mauston Food Pantry, and \$100 to the Mauston Ministerial Association.

The committee reviewed ongoing projects including needed repairs to the snowblower, replacing the toilet in the ladies' restroom, the consideration of a purchase of a Roomba, new door knobs for the newer restrooms, and electrical repairs to be performed by Gray Electric.

The need to update the list of keys that are checked out will be performed.

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

Thank you

I want to take a moment to thank Bethany members for their concern, prayers, cards and phone calls since my injury. A special thank you to all who have helped cover my custodial duties while I am off. All of this support means so much and I am grateful for my Bethany family. Ruth Marose

Happy March birthday

to....

Erica Horton	03/1
Marie McDonough	03/1
Dorothy Pierce	03/2
Cyndi Randall	03/2
Stefanie Voltz	03/2
Jacob Preuss	03/3
Rodney Pink	03/3
Matthew Brown	03/3
Darren Honnold	03/4
John Hess	03/4
Geri Bauer Nockerts	03/4
Annette Olson	03/5
Sophie Grzenia	03/5
Donald Hoffmann	03/6
Donavan Cannegieter	03/6
Ardis Enderle	03/7
Tammy Voltz	03/8
Brianna Lalk	03/8
Nichole Preuss	03/9
Talia Hansen	03/9
Joanne Stark	03/10
Boston Holzberger	03/11
Katie Steinke	03/12
Courtney Tomany	03/12
Darryl Teske	03/12
Kerri Schiller	03/12
Brianna Giebel	03/13
Karen Fritz	03/14
Allen Sunday	03/14
Michael Lutz	03/15
Kathleen Turner	03/15
Bob Treland	03/15
Joann Emery	03/16
Pat Dutzle	03/16
Hilda Zuberbuehler	03/16
Lilith Johnson	03/17
Yvonne Rotzoll	03/17
Steven A. Miller	03/18
Sandra Potter	03/19
Emerson Giebel	03/22
Amanda Holmes	03/23
William Potter	03/24
Tom Reigard	03/27
Michel Sullivan	03/29
Charles Theis	03/29
Karen Bell	03/30
Michael Tucker Jr.	03/30
William Voltz Jr.	03/31



Happy March anniversary to...



Adam & Amie Heinrich

03/19

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.

Ash Wednesday services will be March 5th at 7:00 p.m. There will be a Chili Supper from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.

Lenten Services will be on Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m.

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

The family and friends of Nancy Pharo, Barb Knudsen, Jerry Schroeder, Jacquie's sister, Nancy, Kevin Trute, all those affected by the wildfires in California, Gary Gray, Wally Feldman, Michael Pechman, 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.*****

March 2 Worship Service

Lector: Molly Shultis

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

March 5 Ash Wednesday Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Karen Fritz

Usher Captain: TBD

March 9 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Jim Miller

Usher Captain: David Kidd

March 16 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marjo Staehling

Usher Captains: Bill Potter

March 23 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Brian McGuire

Usher Captains: Jeri Shultis and Harold Seebecker

March 30 Worship Service

Lector: Mary Pirwitz

Communion Assistant: Mark Dahlke

Usher Captains: William Potter

March Altar Guild: Linda Bohnert & Amy Behling



*** Giving	Cash/Check
January 5, 2025	\$3,044.00
January 12, 2025	\$2,279.00
January 19, 2025	\$516.50
January 26, 2025	\$1,570.00
** Online Giving Total for January 2025	\$2,761.36

*** 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	January 2025 Actual	January 2025 Budget	January YTD Actual	January YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$8,859.71	\$14,583.00	\$8,859.71	\$14,583.00
Disbursements	\$13,564.91	\$16,771.27	\$13,564.91	\$16,771.27

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