

BETHANY LUTHERAN

Newsletter

May 2025

A NOTE FROM PASTOR:

To the People of God at Bethany Lutheran Church,
As spring blossoms into full bloom, May invites us into a season of growth—not only in nature but also in our faith and community life. This is a busy time for many, with school wrapping up, gardens growing, and calendars filling up fast. Amid the hustle, if we look closely we will undoubtedly find the renewing presence of God, who walks with us always.

At Bethany this May, we will again celebrate milestones like Confirmation, Mother's Day, and Graduation Sunday, each one a chance to pause and give thanks for God's work in our lives. I am also thankful for our congregations many volunteers—those who help with Sunday School, serve on committees, share music, prepare communion, serve goodies at fellowship time, trim the apple tree and so much more. We do "God's Work" with "Our Hands" here at Bethany. Your time, your hands, and your hearts help shape our ministry and make our church a welcoming, vibrant home for all who walk through our doors.

Looking ahead, we're preparing for a joyful summer, including Vacation Bible School, service opportunities, and special gatherings. But before we rush ahead, let's stay present to the gifts May brings. Whether you're planting spring flowers, attending a graduation, or simply enjoying a quiet morning coffee, may you sense the Spirit's movement and the peace of Christ all around you.
God Bless, Pastor Joan

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Secretary Position Opening

Our secretary, Marie, will be retiring. We have begun the search for a replacement.

Marie has been working April to September and Julie October to March. They work Monday through Thursday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Julie is willing to continue doing her 6 months, but will retire if the new secretary wants to work 12 months-a-year.

Our secretaries do more than just clerical duties. They are our connection to congregation members, our community and vendors. We offer a competitive wage.

Talk to Dick Pirwitz if interested or if you have any questions. The Executive Committee will make the selection.

Save The Dates!

We have many events upcoming. More details will come as it gets closer but please take note of these important dates:

Vacation Bible School - July 7th-10th from 4:00-6:30 p.m.

Drive-Thru Community Supper - August 24th

"Films With Friends" will start up again on September 14th

Trunk or Treat - Sunday, October 26th, 3:00 -5:00 p.m.

Christmas on the Farm-A Clauson Christmas - Saturday, November 15th

Drive-Thru Community Supper - Sunday, November 16th

Sunday school has wrapped up for another school year. A special “thank you” to our teachers Marcus Hansen, Sophie Grzenia, Danielle Knutson, Ryker Jones, Emalee Bohnert and Preston Young. We appreciate you so much!

We had one student who earned the attendance award for Sunday school this year. In order to earn this achievement students can only miss 5 days of Sunday school. Congrats to Bri Bohnert!

Celebrating the Confirmation of Ella Rotzoll, Avianna Bohnert, and Andrew Dillin

Bethany will celebrate a momentous occasion on May 4th as we honor the confirmation of three remarkable young individuals: Ella Rotzoll, Avianna Bohnert, and Andrew Dillin. This milestone marks a significant step in their faith journeys, and we are excited to share in this joyous moment with them. Following the service, we invite all to come together in fellowship for cake and conversation.

“Boxing Day”

Don’t forget, the **“Boxing Day”** for our college care packages will take place on Monday, May 5th, at 11:00 a.m. to wrap, address, and mail the boxes. Everyone is welcome to join.

May Community Dinner

Our next free community dinner will be on Sunday, May 18th, from 4:00-6:00 p.m. These suppers are part of our continued effort to reach out to our members and the community sharing the love Christ has shown us. Spread the word to your friends, neighbors, and family. In March, our crew of 19 volunteers worked to call for deliveries, pack the bags, cook the food, package the meal, greet the community, provide meals through our drive-thru, and deliver meals to members. 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.

Bethany’s Garage Sale Fundraiser-Supporting Camperships at Sugar Creek Bible Camp

Bethany Lutheran Church is excited to announce its upcoming Garage Sale Fundraiser, taking place on **August 1st and 2nd**, coinciding with the **Mauston City-Wide Garage Sales**. This event is a wonderful opportunity to clean out your clothes, find new treasures, and support a great cause!



Donations Needed

We are currently seeking donations of gently used items to sell at the garage sale. If you have items to contribute, please bring them to the **church’s basement**, where a designated room will be marked with a sign that reads **“Garage Sale”**. We ask that you do not leave items in the church’s entry or Narthex, as these spaces are reserved for other activities. Instead, please take your donations directly downstairs to the designated room to help keep things organized and running smoothly. Just a reminder, Bethany is open during office hours, Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

A Great Cause

The proceeds from the garage sale will go directly to support camperships for children attending Sugar Creek Bible Camp. These camperships help provide children with the opportunity to experience the joys of camp, fostering spiritual growth, friendship, and adventure. Your donations and purchase at the sale will make a lasting impact on the lives of young campers.

We look forward to another successful Bethany garage sale and are grateful for the support of our congregation. Don’t forget to mark you calendars for August 1st and 2nd - and bring your friends and family to find great deals while supporting a worthy cause! **Thank you for your generosity and support!**

Celebrating Our Graduates

3

On Sunday, May 25th, we will honor Bethany's graduates at the 9:30 a.m. service. All of Bethany's graduates are invited and encouraged to attend. This year's graduates are Taylor Bollig, Joshua Ellerman, Sophie Grzenia, Marcus Hansen, Ryker Jones, Danielle Knutson, Preston Seebecker, Alexys Smith, and Alexander Zoller. Following the service, we will continue to celebrate with cake and coffee at the Fellowship Hour. Please join us in wishing them well as they start a new chapter in their lives. If you know of a graduate that we inadvertently missed, please notify the office.

Plymouth Cemetery

Rules at Plymouth Cemetery have been in place for decades and will be enforced. 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 sub-contractor. Please do not put any flowers or decorations into the ground. These will be removed to allow our groundskeeper to properly mow and trim.

Plymouth Cemetery Committee: Tim Benson, Jeri Shultis and Alan Abramson

Spring Cleanup Day – Saturday, May 17th

Spring is here, and it's time to give our church grounds and building a little extra love! Join us on Saturday, May 17th, at 9:00 a.m., for our annual Spring Cleanup Day. We'll be working together to freshen up both the outdoor grounds and indoor spaces. Whether you're a master gardener, a handy helper, or just willing to lend a hand, we welcome everyone!

What to Bring: Please bring your own tools—rakes, gloves, trimmers, brooms, buckets, etc.—and wear clothes you don't mind getting a little dirty.

When: We'll get started at 9:00 a.m. and go until we've made our space shine! Come for an hour or stay for many hours—every bit helps.



Let's come together to care for the place we gather, worship, and grow. Many hands make light work, and it's a great way to connect with others in our church family. See you there!

Scripture Encounter: A Journey Through the Word

The Faith Development committee wants to thank all who were willing to try something new and who participated in our Lenten Scripture Encounter. There were 50 members who signed up in March to take the Lenten journey with us. In April we met to discuss our experiences so far and had 22 attend our first pizza night.

Due to popular demand, we're excited to continue our Scripture Encounter journey together in the coming months! This is more than a reading plan—it's a shared experience of diving deeper into God's Word, reflecting on His truth, and growing in faith as a community. Each month brings a new opportunity to explore the Bible in fresh and meaningful ways. Be sure to pick up the latest monthly Scripture list—available now on the kiosk—to stay in sync with the readings and reflections.

Our next group gathering will be Wednesday, June 11th, where we'll come together to share what God is teaching us, encourage one another, and continue building a rhythm of Scripture-centered living. Pizza will be served at 6:00 p.m. and all are welcome to attend. Whether you're just joining or have been walking through the Word with us from the start, we invite you to stay connected and inspired. Let's keep encountering the heart of God together.

- Building Assessment Report: Dick P. shared the estimate for the electrical repairs, at a cost of \$2,176. Dick made a motion that we hire Gray Electric to complete these repairs. Jim M. reported the HVAC (heating and air conditioning) estimates are pending. Mike B. is following up on these.
- We are looking for someone to assist in the planning of the Christian concert by the Scally Brothers at the Fairgrounds in August.
- For future services including the use of Boom Whackers, printed sheets will be handed out so everyone can read the color-coded music, since the image on the screens was too small to follow along.
- Kathy M. indicated they are still in need of volunteers to host Sunday Fellowship coffee hour. The sign-up is in the fellowship hall. We are looking for volunteers to do Meals on Wheels delivery for the month of May. The calendar signup sheet is on the kiosk.
- Spring Cleanup Day has been scheduled for Saturday, May 17th, beginning at 9:00 am. There are indoor and outdoor projects to be done. Bring your favorite tools/supplies! Bring your own lunch and drinks.
- Seven children are registered for camp at Sugar Creek! Upcoming events: Spring College Care Packages will be boxed May 5th at 11:00 a.m. There is a box in the narthex for donations. Graduation Sunday is May 25th for ten students. VBS will be July 7th-10th from 4:00 – 6 :00 p.m.
- Dick P. reported we are discussing the Office Secretary position. Marie is retiring in the fall.
- Pastor Joan reported that she has had conversations with Pastor Hardy regarding East Lemonweir using Bethany's space when their church is inadequate for an event, such as wedding/funeral. We have agreed to offer access to the church, but Pastor Lucy will be in charge and if a luncheon is involved, their group is also to handle it. If they require our Hospitality group to assist, they will ask.
- Lyle and Jennie Onsager have agreed to represent Bethany on the Food Pantry Board!
- Pastor will be changing her licensing to her husband's last name – Breazeale (Bray·zeal)

April Finance and Property Meeting

The F & P Committee met on April 8, 2025. The Committee approved mission support of \$500 to the La Crosse Synod/ELCA, \$85 to Lutheran Social Services, \$85 plus \$77 in donations to the Mauston Food Pantry, and \$100 to the Mauston Ministerial Association.

- BTU Management had examined the boilers and the entire heating system for possible upgrades but have not yet received a quote. It was also suggested that we obtain a second quote from Hometown Heating.
- Ongoing projects will be completed: fixing the back entry door, the pavers around the shed, and the replacement of door handles on the west bathrooms are on the list.
- The Knox Box has been ordered. An assessment will be made about proper installation.
- Spring cleanup is set for Saturday, May 17th, 9:00 a.m. Bring your own tools and food and beverage.

Next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at 5:30 PM.

In Our Prayers

*In Our
Thoughts
and Prayers*



The family and friends of Jerry Schroeder, the family and friends of Larry Purvis, Ruth Marose, John Green, James Gray, Janet Laukant, Jane Madsen, Barb Knudsen, Cindy, 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.

Food Pantry Sunday!



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.

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

May 4 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Darryl Teske
Usher Captain: Roger Dutzle

May 11 Worship Service

Lector & Communion Assistant: Marie McDonough
Usher Captain: David Kidd

May 18 Worship Service

Lector: Al Abrahamson, Sr.
Communion Assistant: Mark Behling
Usher Captain: Bill Potter

May 25 Worship Service

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

May Altar Guild: Diane Huebner



*** Giving	Cash/Check
March 2, 2025	\$3,141.00
March 9, 2025	\$1,245.00
March 16, 2025	\$3,136.50
March 23, 2025	\$988.00
March 31, 2025	\$1,280.00
** Online Giving Total for March 2025	\$2,727.91

*** 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	March 2025 Actual	March 2025 Budget	March YTD Actual	March YTD Budget
* Receipts	\$11,106.81	\$14,584.00	\$34,825.67	\$43,750.00
Disbursements	\$14,504.77	\$16,769.35	\$62,943.31	\$50,513.97

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 they're 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