

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Easter Sunday service was special, we have come to expect it to be, thanks to all those who were part of it and made it happen again. *Hallelujah, He has risen, he has risen indeed!*

April 8 was the day we observed Bethany's 109th Anniversary which was on April 11. My thanks to Barb Strenger for her role in our presentation and also to my wife, Barb, the kids and Gale Litt for making this traditional event a meaningful experience for everyone. Additional thanks to Gina Fibiger and Lynn Luebke for taking care of the cake, coffee and juice. As part of the Anniversary celebration, I felt it to be fitting, this day, to have Ben Marotz, Board of Finance Chairman, to announce that the roof loan had been paid off. His message is also in this issue and I would also say "Thanks Bethany for this great blessing".

After Ben was finished, Karl Kaepler had more good news. The Endowment Incentive that was announced in November has surpassed its goal of an additional of \$10,000 to Bethany's Endowment Fund. Meeting that incentive earned us an additional \$5,000. We will always welcome additional donations in the future to this fund which helps with financial aid to Bethany's young people who are attending local parochial schools. It is truly the gift that "keeps on giving".

Before Karl could return to his pew, Pastor Steele asked him to come back to the front. It was at this time that Karl was recognized for his many service-packed years to Bethany. We presented him with a certificate which highlighted a few of his accomplishments, one, which included his wife Barb, for their caring assistance to Clyde and Betty Bawden in recent years. "Good Job, Karl and thank you for your faithful service".



Expectations in life include the subject of weather. For example, three weeks after the beginning of Spring, we "expect" weather that looks and feels like Spring. Well, I know there are times when expectations do not come close to what actually happens. This photo was taken on Sunday, April 15, 2018, yes that is Bethany with a fresh, heavy and very wet, blanket of snow. My hat is off to the 70 people who showed up for church that day. Caleb Cox gets the award for

bringing in the most people to that service. It was his baptism and he had quite a following who attended on his behalf. Congratulations to the Cox family as we "weather-beaters" all witnessed this sacred event on a snowy day in Kohler, Wisconsin.

On April 16, at the Council Meeting, fresh copies of the updated Bethany Policies were handed out. The Council also reviewed the Constitution and Bylaws at that meeting. After a few more revisions, the document was approved for recommendation to go before the congregation in the near future. The congregation will be given ample opportunity to review the contents and a date will be set for the Voter's meeting with at least a two week notice.

As we close out the last full week of April, the nation observes National Administrative Assistants Week (April 23-27). Congratulations to Gina Fibiger, our church Secretary and Derek MacKenzie our Treasurer. I appreciate all that these two do to keep things in order, our paperwork done, our bills paid and all the needed day-to-day chores that keep Bethany rolling along. I also want to recognize Shirley Ottman, who has served as the Financial Secretary for many years and her counters Gary and Cindy Bartz, Dave Prange and Barb Gumm for doing a good job as they meet every Monday morning to count the offering money, record it and put it in the bank. Gary and Cindy have decided to retire now and will be replaced by Marilyn Kirchenwitz and Rayola Madson. Thank you Bartzs for your years of counting and welcome aboard Marilyn and Rayola.

May 13th is Mother's Day. Motherhood is something that you get to keep once you become a mother. Some mothers become "Grammas", and even, "Great-Grammas". To all of you who are Mothers and beyond, may God Bless you on your special day and know that you were given one of life's toughest jobs.



(And, from the LCMS I am passing this along) To all LCMS volunteers:

[Your servant's heart, enthusiasm and joyful service are truly felt by all those we reach in fulfilling our mission throughout the world. We are so grateful to you for the ways you serve in the life of the Church and share Christ with others.

You greatly enhance all that we do. You share your God-given gifts to do good in a troubled world. You ignite enthusiasm in others, and your efforts inspire and model service for future generations. By sharing your gifts, you are building the Body of Christ. You become the advocate, the voice and the spirit of Christ among us.]

Enjoy the Spring Weather.

The Lord's Blessings to the Bethany Family

Lee Gumm
President, Bethany Lutheran Church

MAY BIRTHDAYS

5-01: Annalise Hasler
5-03: Ashley Buell
5-04: Traci Barthels
Gary Bartz
5-05: Dan Fibiger
5-06: Austin Fibiger
5-07: Julie Regutis
5-11: Shirley Mueller
Grace Matte



5-14 Marilyn Buell
5-17: Ray Ottman
Betsy Metscher
Ron Hummitzsch
5-19: Jeremy Paltzer
5-20: Lexie Matte
5-22: Joshua Yang
5-25: Robert Nytes
5-26: Kristine Faucher
5-29: Caroline Ney

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5-01: Bill & Julie Regutis
Rev. Robert & Julie Steele
5-09: Bob & LuEva Nytes
5-11: Joe & Lori Wychesit
5-26: Patrick & Rachel Johnson
5-27: Chuck & Elizabeth Keller
5-29: Lynn & Gale Litt
5-31: Bob & Karen Wuerzberger

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

The snow is barely melted but believe it or not, we have to think about summer worship times. Starting Sunday, May 27, service will be at 9:00am. The first Thursday night service will be Thursday, May 31 at 6:00pm.

MAY/JUNE CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)

“Whether hiking hours into mountain ranges or going by boat to small islands, the Gospel is being shared in remote areas of the Philippines through video and Scriptures and hundreds of people are responding and being discipled in places where the Lord has never before been praised.” We can help by giving of our gifts to the May and June Mission of the Month. Our donations will be used to help purchase Bibles which have been translated and are printed in vernacular (heart) languages. Christian videos which have been dubbed into “heart” languages are also used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please be generous as you share in this important project.



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP BREAKFAST

TUESDAY, MAY 15, 2018

8:30 AM

WHISPERING ORCHARDS

W1650 COUNTY RD MM

CLEVELAND, WI

THERE IS A SIGN-UP SHEET ON THE LOWER NARTHEX BULLETIN BOARD, OR
CONTACT KARL KAEPLER - 920-565-2432 - kbkaeppler@gmail.com

WELCOME TO OUR NEWEST BETHANY MEMBER

Caleb Charles Kenneth Cox born on February 18, 2018 became our newest member when he was baptized during the service on April 15, 2018. Congratulations Caleb and parents Brad and Ashley Cox!

‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

In memory of Jim Tershner: Memorial gifts were given by Audrey Nikisch, Bill & Judi Strenger, and Jerry & Audrey Sabrowsky. An Improvement Fund gift was given by Lee & Barb Gumm and Endowment Fund gifts were given by Julie Schuman, and Roger & Barbara Strenger.

A memorial gift was also received from Cheryl Prepster in memory of Rayola Madson's brother.

If you would like to give a memorial gift in memory or in honor of someone, cards can be found on the counter outside Pastor's office as well as in the back of church.

LWML MITE BOX

The Large LWML Mite Box will be out Sunday, May 20 and will support "Sharing Jesus with People with Disabilities". This grant will make it possible for our Bethesda Lutheran Communities to enhance the lives of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities with services that share the Good News of Jesus Christ with over 1,900 people at 300 program sites in 13 states, including our own Bethesda in Watertown, WI. Many of the people in these communities receive little support because their family and friends have already left this world and are with God in heaven. Your donation will support this 114 year old ministry and fulfill Jesus' words from the Gospel of John 13:34 "Love one another; as I have loved you, so you must love one another". (An added note, this will be the last Mite Box Sunday until we resume in September.)

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

A BIG THANK YOU goes out to the members and supporters of Bethany Lutheran as we have fully paid off our roof loan! This is a time to celebrate since this was no small task. We paid off the roof loan in April 2018 which was originally taken out on June 26th, 2013 for \$115,000. This project was very important to ensure the quality and longevity of our building structure. Our Long-Range planning committee is continuing to meet to determine our next building improvement project, if you have recommendations, please share with your Elders. Additionally, we want to share that our church financials remain in good health and we maintain approximately \$60,000 in our savings and checking to ensure we have funds to cover 2 months of our financial commitments. Thank you for your continued donations.

Ben Marotz
Chairman – Board of Finance

Steve Marotz
Member – Board of Finance

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

*****Thank You Bethany Thrivent Members***** With that March 31st deadline to direct 2018 Choice Dollars, the Bethany Thrivent Committee was once again BLESSED with additional funds that we will be able to use to help support Special Events at Bethany or Special Mission work in the community & abroad. Any questions about Thrivent Projects or Action Teams please see your Bethany Committee members Lynn Luebke, Dave Prange or Mary Madden

END OF THE SEASON DATES

Please note the last day of:

Joy Choir practice – Wednesday, May 2

Men's Bible Study – Tuesday, May 8 (Men's Breakfast – Tuesday, May 15)

Adult Bible Study – Sunday, May 13

Sunday School – Monday, May 13

Confirmation 5/6 grade – Monday, May 14

Bethany Book Club – Tuesday, May 15



YOUTH SUNDAY

On Sunday May 13 (Mother's Day), Bethany will be having a special "Youth Sunday". All of the Sunday School students will be contributing musically to the service. Our students will also be helping with the ushering and scripture reading duties for the day. After the service, we will enjoy some treats and fellowship at the table hosted by Bethany's Joy Choir. We hope you will all join us for this special service.

Family Dinner/Movie Night

Bethany Lutheran Church
Friday, May 18 at 5:30 pm



We will be enjoying pizza and root beer floats followed by popcorn and two movies choices!

"Ferdinand" OR
"Mercy Rule"



Bring your bean bags, blankets and pillows
Anyone can come and bring a friend!

Sign up in the lower narthex to let us know you can make it.

GOOD NEWS JAIL AND PRISON MINISTRY

On Tuesday, April 24, seven Bethany members attended the Good News Jail and Prison Ministry Partner Banquet. The Prison Ministry is supported by Bethany as the September/October charity of the month. We thank everyone who supports this organization that helps bring the message of God to inmates. Watch for more information about the Prison Ministry in the September Newsletter. One of the members that attended the banquet wanted to share the following poem that was printed in the program:

*Push back dark shadows from a sinful past
As I lift my head from its downward cast.
No longer will I stumble blindly around
For a new strength and wisdom, I have found.
To my Father's house I am bound.
Bath me with the Holy Spirit through a ray of light
As I praise my Lord in His enemies' sight.
I shall yield not to obstacles in my way,
Serve God I will, till my final day.
Onward I go to the best of my ability
With millions of Brothers and Sisters of grace and tranquility.
I fear not those who ridicule me
Because just as sure as I stand before you, God has set me free.*

~written by "J"...an inmate

THANK YOU TO TEXAS ROADHOUSE!!

A big THANK YOU goes out to Sheboygan's Texas Roadhouse! They donated soup, salad, and rolls for 5 weeks of our Lenten Soup Suppers, they donated salad and rolls for the potluck that was held for the Luther Crest Mission team. They also donated Mac & Cheese, salad and rolls for a dinner that Pastor and Julie held for some of the families with young children. They have always been more than willing to help out with anything that we've needed. They are a company that is dedicated to helping the community. If you are looking for a good place to eat with good food and a fun atmosphere, please consider choosing Texas Roadhouse. If you're able to go on a Sunday and you bring a Bethany church bulletin, they will donate 10% of your total food bill back to the church! Yet another way that they are helping. Thank you to those who have already done this. We have received a few checks already from these Sunday visits.



A Memorial Day Prayer

On this Memorial Day, we pray for those who courageously laid down their lives for the cause of freedom. May the examples of their sacrifice inspire in us the selfless love of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Bless the families of our fallen troops and fill their homes and their lives with Your strength and peace.



THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF MAY 2018

Sunday, May 6
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Jim Madden, Steve Hazen
Ushers: Group 7 – Andy & Austin Fibiger
Jerry Sabrowsky
Acolyte: Thomas Yang
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Altar Guild: Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, May 13
10:00 a.m.

Elders: Todd Matte
Ushers: Group 1 – Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler,
Ivan Hazen
Acolyte: Luke Matte
Scripture Reader: Barbara Strenger
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, May 20
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Gerry Luebke, Nic Collins
Ushers: Group 2 – John Keller, Aiden Faucher,
Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Acolyte: Isabella Hasler
Scripture Reader: Gale Litt
Altar Guild: Debbie & Steve Perry
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, May 27
9:00 a.m.

Elders: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Group 3 – Doug Luecke, Ken Thompson,
Karl Rademacher, Ron Hummitzsch
Acolyte: Grace Matte
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Altar Guild: Sue Prange, Cheryl Prepster, Lois Schmideler
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Thursday, May 31
6:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Jim Madden
Ushers: Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Lexie Matte
Acolyte: Annalise Hasler
Altar Guild: Cindy & Gary Bartz

May 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1 8am Men's Bible Study 6pm Jubilate Ringers 7pm Bethany Book Club	2 6pm Joy Choir	3	4	5
6 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	7 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	8 8am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 6pm Jubilate Ringers 7pm Bethany Book Club	9	10 7pm Ascension Service @ Good Shepherd	11	12
13 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship Mother's Day	14 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 6:30pm Elders	15 8:30am Men's Breakfast 6pm Jubilate Ringers 7pm Bethany Book Club	16	17	18 5:30pm Movie Night	19
20 10am Worship w/HC	21 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	22 9:30am Quilting	23	24	25 	26
27 9am Worship	 Memorial Day	29	30	31 6pm Worship w/HC		