

PASTORS PAGE

My interviews continue with the families of our elementary and middle school age students that attend Bethany. This month's student is Thomas Yang of Sheboygan. He is the youngest son of Shua and Kalia Yang. Kalia works for Aurora Health Center in Sheboygan. Shua is retired Army of 22 years. He has now taken on the role of stay at home dad, (though Kalia thinks he could do more) he volunteers and coaches Thomas' soccer team. He also referees soccer games. Thomas is a first generation American born of Hmong descent. Shua was sponsored by our own Sabrowsky family many years ago. In fact, the week that Shua transferred back we were celebrating Carita Klein's life in Christ. Shua was in the last class of 4th graders that Carita taught at St Paul's in Sheboygan.

Thomas is entering 7th grade at Horace Mann Middle School in Sheboygan. His new principal is Mr. Nic Collins (also a member of Bethany). His favorites subjects are science and gym. His favorite teacher is Mr. Korff, who happens to be his gym teacher. He likes science because of all the experiments you are able to do and he likes dealing with scientific theory and hypotheses. He also plays the trumpet. He is very active in the Sheboygan parks and recreation. He plays soccer, football, baseball and basketball. His favorite sport is soccer. He plays forward for his soccer rec. team and he also plays soccer during the winter in an indoor league. His dad happens to be his coach for many of his teams.

One of his fondest memories was living in El Paso, Texas. It was one of his dad's last stations before retiring. He had many friends and he enjoyed the El Paso environment. During the summer, he hangs out with friends but he also enjoys being with his family. After my interviewing Thomas, the family was headed for a Hmong family camping trip near the Wisconsin/Illinois state line. Being the youngest, he gets along well with his older brother, Josh (pictured right). His older sister Maggie...not quite as much. He states: "She sleeps a lot since she moved back home." Thomas also uses his free time to help out the extended family by babysitting his little cousins.

Since Thomas likes science, I asked if he was looking into a scientific field for a career. He said; "No! When I graduate from High School I am going to follow in my dad's footsteps and join the army". Already he works out with his dad in preparing for a life as a soldier. Dad instructs him in all kinds of military physical fitness regiments. Remember, Shua was a sergeant in the army and served in the 82nd Airborne. Sometimes I think he uses Thomas to get some chores around the house done. One exercise deals with a sod roller that is used to flatten out the lawn. Just like any military drill sergeant, there is a method to his madness. Only kidding...Thomas loves and respects his dad very much.



One of his favorite games is the video game, "Fantasy Shooter". He has shot a "BB" gun but that's about it. He'd like to target shoot someday with a real gun, but will have to wait. He is an excellent fisherman. He caught this bass in the Sheboygan river.

One of Thomas' special gift also deals with the military. Since he plays trumpet, he gets to play "TAPS" at local Hmong military memorial events. Thomas also sang a duet for Choir as well as a solo in a Talent Show. Thomas has many God given talents. Don't let the calm exterior fool you. There is a warrior underneath his meek facade. Thank you, Thomas for sharing! I'm looking forward to having him this year in confirmation class.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele

UPCOMING BIBLE STUDIES THIS FALL

➤ **Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study**

Starting Sunday, September 9th at 8:45am

The study is titled "I Believe but I Have Questions" and is based on the book by Jane Fryar. The book explores the process of spiritual growth and the way to apply the Christian faith in everyday life.

Here are some general topics:

Why doesn't trying harder work?

How can I get know God better?

Why don't I get more out of the Bible readings?

How can I find God's will in my life?

Why does life seem so unfair?

The following are other questions we are going to discuss:

What about million upon millions of years verses 6 days of creation?

Did God create the Devil and evil?

How do Christian understand "Light Years?"

Is there an E.T. (Extra Terrestrial) out there in the vastness of the universe?

How do Christians explain dinosaurs?

How does the Ice Age fit in with Christian thinking?

Should we be concerned about climate change?

How do Christians understand the "Image of God"?

Can a Christian participate in YOGA?

Each month I will publish what Questions we will be discussing. Each class will be a different topic.

September Questions: **9/9 Baby? Who's Baby? What does it mean to be born again?**
 9/16 How do Christians understand spiritual growth?
 9/23 What Does God Expect of Me?
 9/30 What Does the "Christian" do when they sin?"

I encourage young families whose children are in Sunday School to attend as well as adolescent or recent confirmands and of course I encourage are regulars to attend. It will be very low key. I have over 200 questions that I can cover in the class and these questions could spur on other questions.

➤ **Tuesday Morning Men's Bible Study**

Starting Tuesday, September 18th at 8:00am.

This Men's' Bible Class has been meeting for several years. Over the past few years we have been using studies written by Timothy Keller. We will change things a little this fall and will be doing the study "Who are you? Groper, A Griper, A Grouper, or A Gripper. - A Call for a Christian Lifestyle." by Donald L. Deffner.

➤ **Bethany Book Club**

Starting Tuesday, September 18th at 7:00pm

This fall we will be reading "Redemptive Compassion" by Lois M. Tupy. It is a 6-week Bible Study for churches and church members involved in Love INC (Love in the Name of Christ). Bethany is affiliated with the Sheboygan County chapter of Love INC. We have members who actively volunteer for Love INC. I've been working with Katie Popp of St Paul's Sheboygan Falls who is the Executive Director of Love INC Sheboygan County to offer this class. I encourage all to attend. Love INC does so much in our community. Everyone has been given a spiritual gift let's learn together what God does through each of us

➤ **New Bible Class for Young Women and Moms – Led by Rachel Johnson**

Attention young women and moms! Time for an hour away from the kids! Come spend some time with fellow moms and young women studying the women of the Bible. The goal of the study is to help women understand what the Bible says about being a woman. Since our culture has plenty to say about this subject, the course aims to help you identify the teaching of the world we live in and to defend, with confidence, the teaching of the Bible when the two stand in opposition. It also helps give us, as women, confidence to apply the Bible’s truths in our daily lives and see that God’s will is always for our best and His glory. Mark your calendars (and the hubby’s) for Thursday, September 20th at 6:30pm. The first class will be held at Bethany in the basement but future class locations will be discussed on the first night. We hope to meet once a month. In preparation for the first class, you can read Genesis chapters 1&2. Looking forward to seeing you!

CHOIRS

- Bethany’s Joy Choir will begin rehearsals on Wednesday, September 19 at 6:00pm. Anyone who is interested in singing with the Joy Choir is welcome to join us!
- Bethany’s Chimes will again be enhancing our services this season. The Jubilate Ringers will begin rehearsals on Tuesday, September 18 at 6:00pm. This group needs a few more members. If you have any interest in joining us, there will be a practice session on Tuesday, September 11 beginning at 6:00pm for any new members. Please know that you do not have to have any musical talent. The notes are color coded so you do not have to be able to read music. Please consider joining this fun group and enhancing our worship services with music!
- Contact Julie Steele if you have any questions about the choirs.



SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH – Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

During the months of September and October, any money received in the “Designated Offering” contribution envelope, will go to **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** – Transforming lives behind bars here and around the world. By bringing the Holy Gospel to inmates, they are reaching those others may have forgotten. To learn more about Good News, visit their website at www.goodnewsjail.org

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 9-04: Kathy Goldman
- 9-05: Kathryn Miller
- 9-07: Doug Luecke
- 9-11: Steve Hazen
- 9-13: Kasey Lacerda
Marc Luecke
- 9-14: DuWayne Froh
Lisa Kraus
- 9-15: Hailey Mueller



- 9-16: Bob Wuerzberger
- 9-17: Gerry Luebke
- 9-20: Dane Madson
- 9-21: Katherine Edler
- 9-23: Andy Fibiger
Lee Gumm
Isabella Hasler
- 9-26: Shelby Werner
Tamra O’Keefe
- 9-27: Gary Froh

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 9-14: Jerry & Audrey Sabrowsky
- 9:15: Dan & Summer Menzer
- 9-19: Bruce & Cindy Fisher
- 9-21: Ron & Mary Hummitzsch
Gerry & Lynn Luebke
- 9-25: Denis & Lois Schmideler
- 9-30: Shua & KaoKalia Yang

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

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Sunday, August 20, we welcomed Connor Paltzer into the Bethany Family through his Christian Baptism. The proud parents are Jeremy and Kelly, with William the new "Big Brother".

The Bethany Church Council does not meet in July. Now that it is August, we are back at work and met on Monday, the 20th. We have our sights on into September and beyond now as summer is winding down. The budget process is beginning and will be the focus for the next two months. We have a new secretary on the council, Jill Mengel, who enthusiastically agreed to fill out the term of Lynn Litt (exp 12-31-19). Thank you, Jill, for accepting this position, the council and I welcome you to our team.

As I thought about Jill and how she volunteered to accept this opportunity to serve Bethany, I thought it to be a good time to recognize *all* of our servants. We have truly been blessed at Bethany over the years in so many ways. Soon Sunday School will be back in session, so thanks to the leadership and staff who make that all happen. Then as we look at the weekly bulletin we see many volunteers listed who carry on the work to assure us of seamless week-to-week church services to include the Elders, Ushers, Organists, Altar Guild and Acolytes. Next month we will begin to hear the different choirs perform, again, volunteers giving to Bethany. There are other groups like the Quilters, Love INC., the yard crew, cleaning personnel and a variety of committees. Beyond that we have those entrusted with leadership duties on the different Boards, and as officers. I would like to borrow a few paragraphs from a LCMS - St. Louis Publication I came across a few months ago. I customized it to fit our congregation, but the message is the same. Here it is:

To all Bethany volunteers:

Your servant's heart, enthusiasm and joyful service are truly felt by all those Bethany reaches in fulfilling its mission throughout the community and maybe the world. Thank you for the ways you serve in the life of this 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. Thank you all for embracing service and investing in sharing the mission. You truly DO make a difference!

We have scheduled two Voter's meetings to which I request you to attend. The first is to ratify the changes and additions to the Constitution and Bylaws. This will be held immediately after the service on Sunday, September 23. The second is the Annual Voter's Meeting to be held immediately after the service on November 4. This is to approve the budget and conduct elections. After the Annual Meeting, there will be a Pot Luck dinner in the social hall. Watch for a sign-up sheet posted for this one in October.

Remember to mark your calendars for the Church Picnic – September 9. The picnic committee is doing a great job organizing it and they still need some help. See the sign-up sheet, call the office or stop in to see what you can do to help.

May you all reflect on the times of the summer of 2018 as we approach Labor Day. On that day, celebrate the labors of the millions of people who make our lives what they are. May we all appreciate the many inventions and progress that man's ingenuity (through God-given talents) have elevated mankind to. Let us pray for positive uses for those things that we have and "peace through progress" in the years to come. "Happy Labor Day".

Lee Gumm

President, Bethany Lutheran Church

WORSHIP TIME CHANGE

Mark your calendars! August 30 is our last Thursday evening service for the summer and Sunday, September 2 is our last 9:00am service time. Sunday, September 9 starts our 10:00am worship time.

A SPECIAL GIFT

Clyde and Betty Bawden left the remainder of their Estate to Bethany Lutheran Church. It is a significant amount and Karl Kaepler (Personal Representative of the Estate) has been working with the Church Council and the Finance Committee for future distribution of these funds according to the wishes of Clyde and Betty.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY

SPECIAL VOTER'S MEETING

The Constitution Committee has finished revising the Constitution and Bylaws. There will be a brief Voters' Meeting on Sunday, September 23 immediately following the service to approve these changes. If you would like to preview the changes before the meeting, there are two Constitution Revision Binders on the cabinet across from Pastor's office. You are welcome to read them at church but if you'd like to read them at home, an electronic copy can be emailed to you or printed for you upon request by contacting the church office. For those who receive the newsletter by email, I have attached a copy of the revisions as well. If you have any questions about the changes and would like to talk with someone on the Committee about them, please contact the church office or you can bring your questions to the Voter's Meeting on the 23rd.

ADOPT-A-BAG FOOD DRIVE

Bethany's 2018 Adopt-a-Bag Food Drive will be held during the month of September. Bags will be available next week in the lower narthex of church and can be brought back to church anytime during the month of September. Donations will be taken to the Sheboygan Falls Area Food Pantry which serves Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, Howards Grove and Oostburg. Barb and Lee Gumm are the Bethany coordinators for our Adopt-A-Bag program.



NEW SEASON OF FELLOWSHIP TABLES

Join us for coffee, treats and fellowship the second Sunday of each month following our church service. Our first Fellowship Table of the year will be held on Sunday, October 14. If your board of group would like to host a fellowship table, you can sign up on the sheet that is posted on the lower narthex bulletin board. Contact Gina in the church office if you have any questions about hosting a table.

LWML MITE BOX SUNDAY

The large LWML Mite Box will resume its monthly opportunity for Bethany members to support both our Districts Mission grants as well as the National grants on Sunday, September 30. You can watch for the Mite Box in the back of church on the last Sunday of every month. Since the beginning of this year, we have collected \$382.82 to further God's kingdom around the world. These grants are selected by delegates at district and national conventions. September's donations will be designated for the "Church Worker Student Grant". By supporting this grant, you will make a difference in the lives of SWD students who desire to serve the Lord and become full-time church workers by attending one of our Synodical Colleges or Seminaries.

CALLING ALL LADIES OF BETHANY

Altar Guild would like to reach out to ALL of you to prayerfully consider joining us on Monday, September 10th at 6:00 PM for a Pot Luck Dinner. We would like to share with you what we do as Altar Guild Members and hope you will then see it is not difficult and consider serving the Lord as a member of this team. If you are able to attend, please sign your name on the sheet posted in the lower narthex. There is no need to bring anything as the current Altar Guild members will take care of the food. Thank you for considering joining us!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children ages 3 years – 8th grade are welcome to join our Sunday School. We meet every Sunday at 8:45am beginning on Sunday, September 9th. Besides their Bible lessons, the children will also be singing as well as playing the bells and chimes under the direction of Julie Steele and will perform periodically during the church service.

CONFIRMATION

Janine Bergeron will be teaching confirmation class for the 5th and 6th grades on Mondays at 3:30pm starting September 17 and Pastor Steele will be teaching confirmation class for the 7th and 8th grades on Wednesdays at 3:00 starting on September 19th.

13th Annual Bethany Neighborhood Picnic

- When?** Sunday, September 9
Time? 11:00am – 3:00pm
Where? Bethany Lutheran Church (lunch in the basement, fun outside)
What? Lots of games and fun for all ages
Cost? \$2.00 Hamburger/Hot Dog meals. Games all cost one ticket to play. Tickets cost 25 cents each or 6 for \$1.
Why? Food, Fun and Fellowship for all. All the proceeds from the picnic will go to Project Angel Hugs which is an organization that ministers to the needs of children with cancer and their families by sending cards and gifts to children all over the country that have been touched by cancer.
Who? EVERYONE!! Members and non members of all ages are welcome and we hope you bring a friend!
Can I Help? Yes! There are some volunteer opportunities still available. You can check the sheets posted in the lower narthex at church to sign up. Prize donations are also very welcomed. There is a box under the picnic sign up sheets for any prize donations. Monetary donations can be placed in the offering plate or sent to the church office marked "Picnic" or "Picnic Prizes".

If you have any questions regarding the picnic, please contact Gina in the church office.



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

Sunday, September 2

9:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders:	Gerry Luebke, Brian Faucher
Ushers:	Group 3 – Doug Luecke, Ken Thompson, Karl Rademacher, Ron Hummitzsch
Acolyte:	Isabella Hasler
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Altar Guild:	Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange
Door Locker:	Ryan Brooks

Sunday, September 9

10:00 a.m.

Elders:	Nic Collins
Ushers:	Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Lexie Matte
Acolyte:	Ella Albert
Scripture Reader:	Cindy Bartz
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz

Sunday, September 16

10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders:	Jim Madden, Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Group 5 – Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen
Acolyte:	Annalise Hasler
Scripture Reader:	Norm Giertz
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange
Door Locker:	Tom Schnettler

Sunday, September 23

10:00 a.m.

Elders:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte:	Thomas Yang
Scripture Reader:	Barbara Strenger
Altar Guild:	Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange
Door Locker:	Patrick Johnson

Sunday, September 30

10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elders:	Group 7 – Jerry Sabrowsky, Andy & Austin Fibiger
Ushers:	Grace Matte
Acolyte:	Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson
Altar Guild:	Sue Prange
Bulletin Folder:	Ken Thompson
Door Locker:	

September 2018

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2 9am Worship w/HC	3 Labor Day	4	5	6	7	8
9 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Picnic	10 6pm Altar Guild Potluck 6:30pm Elders	11 9:30am Quilting	12	13	14	15
16 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	17 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grades 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	18 8am Men's Bible Study 6pm Jubilate Ringers 7pm Bethany Book Club	19 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grades 6pm Joy Choir	20 6:30pm Young Women's Bible Study	21	22
23 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship 11am Voter's Meeting	24 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grades	25 8am Men's Bible Study 9:30am Quilting 6pm Jubilate Ringers 7pm Bethany Book Club	26 3pm Confirmation 7/8 grades 6pm Joy Choir	27	28	29
30 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC						