

PASTOR'S PAGE

Jesus Is Dead?

This past March I've declared it to be "Pacemaker Month" Within 10 days, 2 of our members Steve Perry and Lee Gum received pacemakers. The implantable pacemaker was invented by Wilson Greatbatch. Today it is a 30 min procedure and it is done with a local anesthetic. Lee was awake during the procedure. He was in the hospital on Wednesday, home on Thursday and on Monday was a pall bearer for his friend and longtime Bethany member, Ron Hummitzsch. Since the 1960's this revolutionary device has pumped life into millions of people.

While visiting with Lee, he commented that another longtime friend had died. However, the report was erroneous. Throughout history, erroneous reports of people's deaths have popped up with exasperating regularity. As a kid growing up in the 60's and 70's there was "Fake News" back then because they reported that "Paul is Dead!"

The year was 1969, and many people were convinced that rock star Paul McCartney of the Beatles had died in 1966 and been replaced by a look-alike. Music fans played a song from The White Album backwards and heard the message, "Turn me on, dead man." They listened to the song "Strawberry Fields Forever" and thought they heard John Lennon say, "I buried Paul."

On the cover of the Abbey Road album, the four Beatles are crossing the street in what looks like a funeral procession. John Lennon is dressed in white like a heavenly figure. Ringo Starr, in black, is supposed to be the undertaker. George Harrison, in denim, is the gravedigger and Paul McCartney, barefoot and out of step with the others, is the corpse. A Volkswagen in the background has the license plate "28IF." Twenty-eight is the age that McCartney would have been, if he had survived.

The Beatles' press office quickly issued statements denying the rumor, saying that it was "a load of old rubbish." Paul was still very much alive, not killed in a car accident in 1966 after having an argument with his band mates. The Beatles had not replaced him with an orphan from Edinburgh, and Britain's security service, MI5, had not orchestrated the plot out of concern for what McCartney's death would do to his fans. Is Paul dead? Not according to the Beatles' press office and not according to Paul McCartney himself. In an interview, McCartney said to the BBC, "If the conclusion you reach is that I'm dead, then you're wrong, because I'm alive and living in Scotland."

On Friday of Holy Week, all the acquaintances of Jesus, including the women who had followed him from Galilee, stood at a safe distance from the cross and watched Jesus die (Luke 23:44-49). A righteous man named Joseph of Arimathea took the body of Jesus off the cross, wrapped it in a linen cloth and laid it in a rock-hewn tomb. The women saw the tomb, and then they prepared spices and ointments to put on the body (23:50-56).

They wondered whether Jesus was dead. Yes, he was. No doubt about it. Yes, a resounding yes. Jesus died on a cross. And when he was placed in a tomb, he was dead. Historically, the church has always considered any belief to the contrary to be heresy. Jesus had not fainted on the cross. He had not swooned. He was not in a state of suspended animation. Jesus was dead. Jesus did not have a pulse. No brain wave activity. Nothing. Jesus was dead. He was so dead that the soldiers who were about to break his legs to hasten a death by suffocation, decided not to waste their time and energy on a dead man.

And remember, the people of Jesus' day lived with death. These were rough times. They knew what "dead" looked like. They weren't fooled. His death was not just a rumor. This was not fake news. Jesus was quite emphatically dead, wrapped in a linen cloth and laid in a tomb.

Then they rolled a massive stone over the entrance to the tomb, effectively sealing it. Even if there were a strong, alive man inside, that stone was going nowhere. But it's a moot point. Jesus was dead.

On Easter morning, at early dawn, the women walked to the tomb with the spices they had prepared. They were expecting death, not life but when they arrived to anoint the body, they found the stone rolled away from the tomb. When they ran inside, they were unable to find the body, which left them perplexed (Luke 24:1-4).

But at the empty tomb, two men in dazzling clothes suddenly appeared. The women were terrified and bowed their heads, while the men said, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen" (Luke 24:4-5). Was Jesus dead — now? No, he was not, according to the men. "He is not here, but has risen."

Prior to the 1960's many like Steve and Lee would have fallen over dead. In fact, it was often said that men like these had worked themselves to death. But with this marvelous invention, their lives have been prolonged. In the case of Lee's friend, like Paul McCartney, it was "fake news". Not with Jesus...Easter we celebrate that Jesus who once was dead is alive! Praise the Lord! Hallelujah!

As Christians we believe and confess that Jesus was dead and is now alive. And someday those that die in the Lord will be risen bodily and reside with God forever. They will be praising him and maybe sliding a Ron Hummitzsch corny joke or two.

Have a Blessed Easter: He has risen...He has risen indeed! Hallelujah!

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Steele

Excerpts of this article came from March/April 2019 of Homiletics used with their permission.

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-01: Kale Schnettler
4-02: Kristi Luecke
4-03: Nicholas Froh
4-04: Gina Fibiger
4-05: Bob Parnitzke
4-06: Rachel Johnson
4-07: Timothy Fibiger
4-08: Griffin Marotz
4-09: Kyle Schnettler
Amelia Hasler
4-11: Ella Albert



4-12: Nicole Koci
4-15: Lisa Taylor
4-16: Ken Thompson
Diane Havlinek
4-17: Barbara Gumm
4-18: Juanita Hazen
Joe Johnson
Ashley Cox
4-20: Kaitlyn Kovacs
4-22: Garrett Marotz
4-25: Renee Rankin
Ben Marotz

4-27: Conner Paltzer
4-28: LuEva Nytes
Ryan Mengel
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-10: Roger & Barbara Strenger
4-16: Gary & Cindy Bartz
4-27: Doug & Kristi Luecke

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

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT...

The big news for March is that our new lift is in, has been inspected and was used for the first time on Ash Wednesday. Operating instructions are posted at both floors above the switches and inside the elevator/lift. One difference from this unit compared to the old one is that the doors open automatically now. These doors are required and will make access easier for those who use walkers and wheelchairs. The installation went very well and the final payment has been made. We received the bill from the electrician and it was less than the quote. Once again, thank you to all of you who worked on the committee (Bob Wuerzberger/Todd Matte - Committee Chairmen, Steve Perry and Tom Schnettler - Project Chairs; and committee members: Karl Kaeppler, Jerry Sabrowsky, Ray Ottman, Lee Gumm), to the contractors, the electricians, inspectors and the members who contributed so generously to make this all possible. Praise God for this "much needed" improvement to Bethany.



Barb and I attended the program on March 11 on Human Trafficking at St. Paul's in Sheboygan Falls. Now that the program is over, I am very glad that Bethany was a co-sponsor. The information was riveting and the audience was very attentive for the two-hour session. For those who were not able to attend, St. Paul's video-recorded the entire presentation. You may see it by going to St. Paul's Website - <https://www.stpaulfalls.com/>. If you do not want to watch it, there is an audio option you may click on. I was pleased to see quite a few of our members there.



I took this picture before going to the March 11 program at St. Paul's. It is quite a creation. This snowman even has hair. He was still having a good time when this photo was taken, but, although now more than a week later, it looks as if he has moved on. Robins are in the area waiting for a good helping of worms, squirrels are resurfacing and taking over the yards and it won't be long and we can all put away the shovels and grab the rakes. This snowman is an Everett Roeske creation. He and his parents, Tom and Jenna, live in the parsonage and probably helped the two-year old with building it. All that remains are the sticks that made up his hair. If you are interested in doing a little yard clean-up at Bethany, please see Ryan Brooks or Tom Schnettler. We will have a fair amount of branches to deal with plus all the other clean-up work. There will be more information coming on this. Hopefully there will be favorable weather so we can have things looking nice by the Anniversary.

Soups have been super, if you have not come for one of those Mid-week Lenten Soup Suppers, it is well worth the trip. Thanks to all who have been working on putting them together. They start at 5pm in the social hall. Four are in the books and we have had very good feedback on the soups and very good efforts by members to make it all available.

We continue to promote the 110th Anniversary celebration. Plan on attending on Palm Sunday. Pastor Mark Kreuger will be coming "back" to preach and he is very excited to see everyone. He served Bethany from 1981-1987. There will be a video about the original building and the construction of the current one. A catered dinner will follow. Everyone is invited. Please sign up on the sheet posted in the lower narthex. It will be a great day.



So Proud!
of the
Crusaders



Championship Game: Saturday, March 16
#1 Sheboygan Lutheran (27-2) 77 Points,
#2 Columbus Catholic (26-3) 69 Points



"And He Will Raise You Up On Eagle's Wings" ...We sang this song in church on Sunday, March 17. The next day, at the funeral of our Bethany Brother, Ron Hummitzsch, we sang that song again, hymnal page 727, it was one of Ron's favorite hymns. At the conclusion of the funeral service, his flag-draped casket was escorted out of the church by the six pallbearers, each with their hand on the closed cover. The funeral personnel then wheeled the casket down the ramp and out of the west doors to the waiting hearse. It was then placed inside of the hearse and the doors were closed. At that *"exact moment"*, someone said, "look up in the sky". All those who were already out or coming out of the church

witnessed a soaring bald eagle circling around directly above us. It went around several times and then flew off. It was a chilling sight, one you could ask, "was this just a coincidence....or did God use this as a message to let us all know that Ron has arrived safely to the Promised Land? It is something I will be thinking on for a while. It was compelling.

Many of you know by now that I had a health issue on March 13 that ended up with me being transported to Grafton with a heart problem. Three minutes into a stress test in Sheboygan my heart stopped momentarily, then restarted on its own. This is not normal, it is not good either. After I was in Grafton for several hours, it was my turn to go in for a Cardiac Catheterization. Vessels were all good, so the remaining issue was that the electrical function within the heart was misfiring, and the routine fix for that is being fitted with a pacemaker, which I now have. I was home the next day and have been on the mend and feeling fine. I do want to thank everyone for your concerns, well wishes, cards, calls and most of all your prayers.

With that, Barb and I wish each and every one of you a blessed Easter. May you never lose site of the tremendous price that Jesus paid so that we may have eternal life.

The Lord's Blessings to all of you.

Lee Gumm
President, Bethany Lutheran Church

‡ A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Ron Hummitzsch was called to his heavenly home on March 13, 2019. His funeral was held at Bethany on March 18 with the burial taking place at Greenlawn Memorial Park in Kohler following the service.

‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

The following gifts were given in memory of Robin Ottman: Improvement Fund gifts from Lee & Barb Gumm and Julie Schuman. Endowment Fund gift from Dave & Sue Prange.

The following gifts were given in memory of Ron Hummitzsch: Improvement Fund gifts from Julie Schuman, Lee & Barb Gumm, and Ray & Shirley Ottman. Endowment Fund gift from Roger & Barbara Strenger. Memorial Fund gifts from Bob Parnitzke, Steve & Diane Marotz, and Dave & Sue Prange

If you would like to give a 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

LENTEN/EASTER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

4/3	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who Thirsts" (Rev Chris Gugel, Good Shepherd Sheb.)
4/10	6 pm	Midweek Worship – "A God Who Prays" (Rev Matthew Shive, St. Paul Sheb.)
4/14	9 am	Palm Sunday
4/18	6 pm	Maundy Thursday w/Holy Communion
4/19	1pm / 6pm	Good Friday
4/21	10 am	Easter Sunday w/Holy Communion



FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Listed below are the financials from the month of February, 2019 as well as the year-to-date totals.

February Income	Yr. To Date Income
\$10,614.68	\$25,353.67
February Expenses	Yr. To Date Expenses
\$15,031.55	\$26,105.18
February Net Gain/Loss	Yr. To Date Gain/Loss
(\$4,416.87)	(\$751.51)

Steve Marotz	Ben Marotz
Chairman - Board of Finance	Member – Board of Finance

*** Please consider using the Electronic Giving program "Joyful Response" to simplify and budget your giving. Registration forms can be found on the counter outside Pastor's office or see Gina in the church office. ***

APRIL MITE BOX

The Large LWML Mite Box will be out on Sunday, April 29. Your donations will support the "Concordia Seminary, St. Louis Food Bank". By supporting this grant, you will make a difference in the lives of seminarians and their families as they prepare for the Holy Ministry and to one day serve congregations like our Bethany church here in Kohler. Thank you for your support!

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Bible Translators

The mission of Lutheran Bible Translators is to help bring people to faith in Jesus Christ by making the Word of God available to those who do not yet have it in the language of their hearts. To learn more about LBT, visit their website at www.lbt.org.

2019 Ash Wednesday

Soup Suppers



As you can see, everyone has been enjoying the Lenten Soup Suppers being held before the Lenten services each week. Please join us for the last two remaining suppers starting at 5:00. A free will offering is collected each week.

- The April 3 Soup Supper will be hosted by Sue Prange, Diane Marotz and Judi Strenger with the money collected going to help pay for Soup Supper supplies.
- The April 10 Soup Supper will be hosted by the Sunday School teachers and families with the money going to their mission of the year which is Anchor of Hope.



APRIL NEWS FROM LOVE IN THE NAME OF CHRIST

LOVE BUCKETS PRODUCT DRIVE

Please support the Love INC Product Drive for the Love Buckets Ministry. Your generous and heartfelt contributions will be shared with our Neighbors across Sheboygan who are in need of cleaning supplies! Thank you Everyone!!

Items will be collected in the gray Love INC bin in the lower narthex at church for the whole month of April.

See the list to the right for the current needs →

Love Buckets Ministry Needs

Underlined = currently most needed

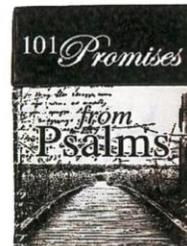
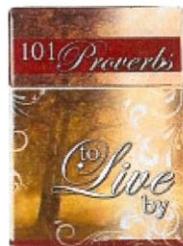
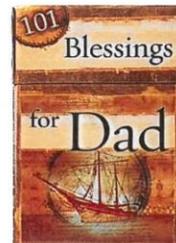
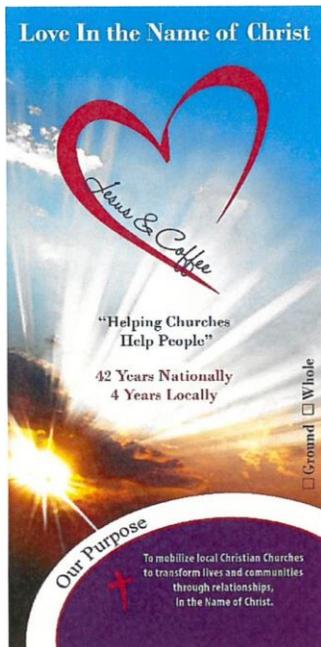
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|--------------------|------------------------------|
| ♥ <u>Buckets</u> | ♥Sponges |
| ♥ <u>Mops</u> | ♥Scratch Pads (SOS) |
| ♥ <u>Broom</u> | ♥Dish Detergent |
| ♥Dust Pans | ♥Window Cleaner |
| ♥Toilet Paper | ♥ <u>All-Purpose Cleaner</u> |
| ♥Paper Towels | ♥Toilet Bowl Cleaner |
| ♥Dish Towels | ♥Toilet brushes with caddies |
| ♥Wash Cloths | |
| ♥Laundry Detergent | |

♥♥ JESUS AND COFFEE ♥♥

Love INC has been Blessed with an opportunity to partner with Torke Coffee for a fundraiser we are calling ♥ "Jesus & Coffee" ♥.

We are putting together ready to give Gift Bags that will include a bag of Torke Breakfast Blend Coffee in our custom designed bag along with a Box of Blessings for you to enjoy daily. What a perfect gift for a Mother, Father, Sibling, Grandparent or Friend for a Birthday, Anniversary or any occasion a quick gift is needed.

Watch for more info.....our plan is to have these Gift Bags available for \$15 each at Bethany right after Easter.....just in time for an easy Mother's Day Gift.



Any Love INC questions please see Sue Prange. We Thank ALL of our Friends in Christ at Bethany for your support and commitment to our mission of "Helping Churches Help People"

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2019

Wednesday, April 3

6:00 p.m.

Elders: Steve Hazen
Ushers: Group 7 – Andy, Austin, Noah Fibiger
Acolyte: Grace Matte

Sunday, April 7

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elders: Brian Faucher, Shua Yang
Ushers: Group 8 – Todd, Lexie, Luke Matte
Acolyte: Thomas Yang
Scripture Reader: Lexie Matte
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman
Bulletin Folder: Joanie Schnettler
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

Wednesday, April 10

6:00 p.m.

Elders: Jim Madden
Ushers: Group 1–Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler, Ivan & Alaric Hazen
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher

Palm Sunday, April 14

10:00 a.m.

Elders: David Hasler
Ushers: Group 2–John Keller, Dan Fibiger, Brian & Aiden Faucher
Acolyte: Ella Albert
Scripture Reader: Cindy Bartz
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder: Joanie Schnettler
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

Maundy Thursday, April 18

6:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elders: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Group 3–Doug Luecke, Ken Thompson, Karl Rademacher
Acolyte: Annalise Hasler
Altar Guild: Barb Gumm, Rayola Madson

Good Friday, April 19

1:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m.

Elders: Gerry Luebke **(1pm)**, Steve Hazen **(6pm)**
Ushers: Group 4–Dave & Sue Prange, Jerry Sabrowsky **(1pm)**
Group 5–Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen **(6pm)**
Acolyte: Isabella Hasler**(1pm)**, Grace Matte **(6pm)**

Easter Sunday, April 21

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elders: Shua Yang, Jim Madden
Ushers: Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte: Thomas Yang
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Bulletin Folder: Joanie Schnettler
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

Sunday, April 28

10:00 a.m.

Elders: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Group 7 – Andy, Austin, Noah Fibiger
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Altar Guild: Sue Prange, Lois Schmideler
Bulletin Folder: Joanie Schnettler
Door Locker: Lee Gumm

April 2019

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	2	3 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm Joy Choir	4	5	6 
7 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	8 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 6:30pm Elders	9 9:30am Quilting	10 3pm Confirmation 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lenten Worship 7pm Joy Choir	11	12	13
14 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship 11am 110 th Anniversary Dinner Palm Sunday	15 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	16 6pm Bethany Book Club	17 3pm Confirmation 6pm Joy Choir	18 6pm Worship w/HC Maundy Thursday	19 1pm Worship 6pm Worship Good Friday	20
21 10am Worship w/HC Easter	22 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	23 9:30am Quilting 6pm Bethany Book Club	24 3pm Confirmation 6pm Joy Choir	25	26	27
28 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	29 3:30pm Confirmation 5/6 grade	30 6pm Bethany Book Club			