

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT**

At the time of writing this we are about to enter the Thanksgiving holiday. There is so much to be thankful for! I'm thankful for the freedom our veterans fought for in the past so we can worship our Lord and Savior. I'm thankful for the fellowship of our congregation. I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve the Lord.

We had our voter's meeting, and I want to thank everyone who was able to attend. I also want to thank the members who gave input and asked clarifying questions at the meeting. The voter's meeting is one of the forums for a candid and interactive conversation between the Council and the congregation. I'm also thankful for the Council members who put the effort into preparing and presenting for that meeting, and who do their best to make good decisions on behalf of the congregation every month as we meet. If you were unable to attend, minutes of the meeting are available in the church office, just contact Gina.

In the voter's meeting it was mentioned that the weekly giving is down, and the Council and Board of Finance attempted to reduce expenses for next year, but it will not be enough on its own to bring expenses in line with the current giving level. The Board of Finance and Council will be working to develop a giving campaign starting next year to ask the congregation to prayerfully consider increasing giving levels. To continue the long history of Bethany we will need to find additional funding. Please consider the e-giving option if you aren't using it now which allows regular giving to help with forecasting giving and managing cash flow for the church. We know the country's economic situation is not the best right now but pray for things to improve. We will also be working to organize outreach efforts to grow church membership.

I would like to mention a need for the Board of Education supporting Sunday School. Earlier this year we upgraded the Wi-Fi in the Fellowship Hall (Sunday School area). There is a need for a 42" Smart TV (Wi-Fi capable) and a DVD player plus cables. Today, short streaming videos which support the day's learning topic are played on a laptop computer or an iPad which are designed for individual use rather than a classroom. The children are used to much better technology in their classrooms, so I am asking the congregation to consider donating for Sunday School A/V (audio/ visual) to purchase equipment to enhance the Sunday School experience. This could also be used for movie nights in the Fellowship Hall which can assist in outreach efforts when friends of members are invited. You can designate giving to Sunday School A/V on your church envelope if this is a cause you would like to support.

In December, we begin the new church year celebrating Advent and the coming of our Lord. We also are looking forward to Pastor Steele returning on December 11<sup>th</sup>. On December 18<sup>th</sup>, there is a children's program planned, and we look forward to the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services celebrating the birth of Jesus. Dori and I wish everyone a Merry Christmas!

God Bless and to God be the Glory!  
Todd Matte - Council President

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## **2023 CONTRIBUTION ENVELOPES**

2023 Contribution Envelopes will be available in the lower narthex starting December 4. It is very important that you do not use them until January 1, 2023. Any contributions for 2022 need to be in by Sunday, December 25, either in the offering plate or in the Financial Secretary mailbox in the communication room. If you would like to consider automatic giving through the Joyful Response giving program, you can find registration forms on the counter outside Pastor's office. See Gina in the office with any questions.

## DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS

12-1: Bill Strenger  
Luke Matte  
12-3: Devon Brooks  
12-4: Rayola Madson  
12-5: Kaleb Faucher  
Julie Schuman  
12-6: Jonathan Albert  
12-7: Celestina Duran



12-10: Nancy Johnson  
12-14: Dori Matte  
12-15: David Hasler  
12-16: Rebecca Tershner  
Diane Marotz  
12-17: Marilyn Kirchenwitz  
12-18: John Tershner  
12-21: Esther Bennig  
Shua Yang

12-22: Karl Rademacher  
12-23: Cory Luecke  
Brad Cox  
12-25: Kevin Werner  
12-31: Ken Buesing



## DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

12-26: Kurt & Kathryn Miller

If a birthday or anniversary has been missed, please let the church office know.

## CHARITY OF THE MONTH FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER

During the months of November and December, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Lutheran World Relief**. Their development projects focus on issues at the root causes of poverty. These debilitating causes tend to domino into more and more problems that trap people in poverty. By the same token, attacking just one of these issues can help break the cycle, making people's lives better and freeing them from suffering in many ways. Lutheran World Relief helps by implementing projects all over the world that help with water purification, aiding in emergencies, agriculture, climate, health & livelihood and civic participation. To learn more about Lutheran World Relief, visit their website at [www.lwr.org](http://www.lwr.org).

## ADVENT & CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Advent Services – Wednesday November 30, December 7, 14 at 6:00pm  
Children's Christmas Program – Sunday, December 18 at 10:00am (no H/C)  
Christmas Eve Service – Saturday, December 24 at **4:00pm**  
Christmas Day Service w/Holy Communion – Sunday, December 25 at **9:00am**



*\*\*Note: there will be no Sunday School or Adult Bible Study on December 25 or January 1\*\**

## CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Sunday School Christmas program "One Night in Bethlehem" will be on Sunday, December 18 during the 10am church service. Please note, because of the program, there will not be communion. There will be communion on Christmas Day.



## CHRISTMAS DECORATING HELP NEEDED

Bethany's Altar Guild will be decorating the church on Saturday, December 3 starting at 8:30am. Anyone who would like to pitch in and help would be greatly appreciated. There is especially a need for someone who is willing to climb the tall ladder.

## ‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

Memorial Gifts were given by Julie Schuman in memory of Don Koball and by Lee & Barb Gumm in memory of Phyllis Zellmer, Michael Henschel, and Genevieve Regan.

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.

### THANK YOU!

A huge thank you to all who donated money for my trip. I went to the National Youth Gathering, which was held in Houston, TX this year. I was able to worship God every night along with 20,000 other kids my age. I also was able to see NASA, the aquarium, and Galveston Beach. Again, thank you for your support-because of you I was able to have an amazing Christ centered trip. -Isabella



### OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

The Sunday School children had a great time shopping for gifts to fill shoe boxes for Operation Christmas Child. We were able to fill 12 boxes that were dropped off and shipped to children all over the world.



### LWML MITES

Your mites make a difference in this world, reaching out to share Christ's love to all people far and near. Please consider making an end of year gift bringing your mites and placing them in the mite box on the counter in the back of church. There are always grants that need to be funded. To find out about these grants and other things about our South Wisconsin District LWML

go to their website: [www.lwml-swd.org](http://www.lwml-swd.org) Remember that all members of Bethany can save mites (coins) to help with this mission. If you'd like a Mite box to collect your coins, there are some available near the box.

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF DECEMBER 2022

**Sunday, December 4**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Brian Faucher  
Ushers: Steve & Alaric Hazen  
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher  
Altar Guild: Maggie & Kristine Faucher  
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm  
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger  
Streaming: Kaleb Faucher

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**Wednesday, December 7**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: Mattes  
Streaming: Grace Matte

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**Sunday, December 11**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder: Shua Yang  
Ushers: Ray & Shirley Ottman  
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks  
Altar Guild: Karl & Barbara Kaeppler  
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen  
Door Locker: Diane Marotz  
Streaming: Thomas Yang

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**Wednesday, December 14**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Gerry Luebke  
Ushers: Dave & Sue Prange  
Streaming: Madison Fibiger

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**Sunday, December 18**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
Children's Program (no HC)

Elder: Lee Gumm  
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie  
Acolyte: Katelynn Regutis  
Altar Guild: Rachel Johnson & Julie Steele  
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks  
Streaming: Austin Fibiger

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**Saturday, December 24**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Elder: Brian Faucher  
Ushers: Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger  
Acolyte: Elanore Faucher  
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman  
Streaming: Todd Matte

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**Sunday, December 25**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: Fibigers  
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks  
Altar Guild: Gina & Madison Fibiger  
Streaming: Noah Fibiger  
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

# December 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03 8:30am Christmas Decorating
04 8:30am Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	05 6:30pm Elders	06	07 3:15pm Confirmation  6pm Advent Worship	08	09	10
11 8:30am Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship 4pm Christmas Walk	12 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	13	14 3:15pm Confirmation  6pm Advent Worship	15 10am Bible Study	16	17
18 8:30am Bible Study 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship Children's Program	19	20	21 3:15pm Confirmation	22 10am Bible Study	23	24 4pm Christmas Eve Worship
25 9am Christmas Worship w/HC	26	27	28	29	30	31  