

## PASTOR'S PAGE

To the Saints at Bethany:

I've heard February referred to as the "longest shortest month of the year." It's only 28 days, but it sometimes feels much longer. As winter drags on, as the sun continues to set way too early for our liking, as each gray day seems to meld into the next, and as the joy and bustle of the holiday season is long receded, we wonder if things will ever change for the better, if things will ever become renewed with a sense of energy and excitement.

Perhaps this is what Jacob felt in the years after he was separated from his beloved son Joseph. Perhaps this is what Joseph felt like in the years of his captivity and his suffering in Egypt. Perhaps this is what the children of Israel felt like century after century as they were enslaved in Egypt. God's people have gone long stretches without noticing how anything was changing, how anything was being reinvigorated. And yet, we will see in the month of February that in each of these circumstances, God was in fact moving things forward. That even when His actions were imperceptible at the time, that each passing moment was meaningful and full of promise. As we finish the Epiphany season and move into the Lenten season, we will see how whether the days seem long or short, whether the days seem bright or gloomy, that no matter how we may feel, God's plan for all things to be made new through Christ is continuing apace. Take heart and have good cheer, even in the longest and shortest months!

Here is a list of worship services and themes for the month of February (all times 10 a.m. Sundays or 6 p.m. Wednesdays):

**Sunday February 1:** "Too Good to be True?: The Story of Jacob"

**Sunday February 8:** "What Men Mean for Evil: The Story of Joseph"

**Sunday February 15:** "Transfiguration Sunday: Listen to Him!" (Matthew 17:1-9)

**Wednesday February 18:** "Ash Wednesday: The Kingly Priest" (Zechariah 6:9-13)

**Sunday February 22:** "Good News!- God Hears and Answers Cries" (Exodus 2:23-25)

**Wednesday February 25:** Guest Pastor Rev. Alan Kretschmar (St. Paul Sheboygan) "Look at the One Who Was Pierced" (Zechariah 12:10-11)



### CHOIRS ARE COMING BACK!

The Joy Choir and Jubilate Ringers are starting up again! The vocal choir and chime group will be for anyone in 5th grade through adult age who is interested in praising our Lord through music here at Bethany! We will meet once a week and sing and ring during church services. The rehearsal day and time will depend on the availability of the group members. Remember, the notes for chime choir are color coded so no need to know how to read music. Anyone can play! Please contact Sara Cigelske at [scigelske@gmail.com](mailto:scigelske@gmail.com) or 920-286-3635 or talk with Sara in person if you are interested in joining us!

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

3 - Elsie Reinbacher  
Cindy Fisher  
5 - Richard Johnson  
7 - Peggy Keller  
11 - Kal Cigelske  
14 - Thomas Yang



15 - Andrew Kraus  
17 - Steve Perry  
23 - David Prange  
Noah Fibiger  
25 - Joe Wychesit  
28 - Madison Fibiger

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

8 - James & Barbara Herzog  
15 - Ken & Liz Buesing



Blessings to all that are celebrating this month!

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

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## **JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Orphan Grain Train**

During the months of January and February, all money collected from your "Designated Offerings" contribution envelopes will go **Orphan Grain Train**. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. For more information, visit their website at [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)

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## **LWML MITES - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION**



The change in your pockets or purses (pennies, nickels, dimes and quarters) can multiply to support Mission Grants that help spread the love of Jesus to the hurting, helpless, and unbelieving people of the world.

Pick up a small donation box or just put your change in the LWML Mite Box on the counter in the back of church. The large Mite Box will be out on the first Sunday of every month to collect your Mites (change in your pockets).

Some of the 2025-2027 Mission Grants:

- Portable laundry trailer, **Forged by Fire Services**, U.S.
- Reaching God's Children, **Trinity HOPE**, Haiti
- Christ Centered Hope for Cancer Patients, **Phil's Friends**, U.S.

***WILL YOU PLEASE HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION PROJECT?***

\*\*\* There is more information on the Mission bulletin board in the lower narthex\*\*\*

## THRIVENT ACTION TEAM GRANTS

Are you a Thrivent member? Did you know that every Thrivent member can apply for two "Action Team Grants" each year. These \$250 grants can be used for special events or projects at the church. The Board of Ed is working on creating a "Wish List" of projects that these grants could be used for. If you are interested in applying for one or two to sponsor any of these projects, please see Gina in the church office and she will help you with the process. A few things on the project list are:

- Lenten Meals
- Sunday School Outreach Events
- Youth Group
- Church Picnic
- Items for Youth Group Room in basement
- Churchyard spring clean up



This is just an example of some of the things an Action Team card can help with. A more extensive list will be posted in the back of church at some point. Thank you for your consideration!

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## LENT WORSHIP

The theme for this year's Midweek Lenten Worship is "It is Finished". Bethany is again participating in the pulpit exchange for our midweek Lenten services. The schedule is as follows:

- February 18 (Ash Wednesday) – Pastor Azor Cigelske
- February 25 – Pastor Alan Kretschmar (St. Paul, Sheb)
- March 4 – Pastor Jim Schulz (Our Savior, Sheb)
- March 11 – Pastor Matthew Shive (St. Paul, Sheb)
- March 18 – Bryan Osladil (Our Redeemer, Sheb)
- March 25 – Donald Johnson (Immanuel, Sheb)



## LENTEN MEALS – It's not just for soup anymore!

Please join us prior to each Midweek Lenten Service beginning at **5:00pm** for our Lenten Meals. This year we are renaming our midweek meals "Lenten Meals" to open up the choices to more than just soup. Hosts can provide any kind of dish they'd like. A free will offering will be taken each week to benefit a different group or organization.

## HELP NEEDED!

If you are interested in hosting a meal, please sign up on the sheet in the back of church. Thank you to those that have already agreed to host. There are only a few weeks still open. If you are interested in helping serve & clean up or donate a dessert, you can sign up for that on the sign up sheet as well.

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Members of Bethany,



Words can't express the gratitude I have for all of the outpouring of thankfulness you showed me. I am so appreciative of the basket full of gifts, and the cake reception was very nice. It was great to visit with so many of you. I am so grateful for all of the love you've shown our family these past years. It was a blessing to serve the Lord with all of you.

Blessings,  
Julie Steele

# BETHANY YOUTH



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Please join us for Sunday School and Bible Study on Sunday mornings from 8:45-9:45 a.m. before church! Great things are happening for the 3K/Kindergarten, 1st-5th Grade, 6th-8th Grade, High School, and the adult classes! Come and be blessed as we learn more about our Savior and follow his command to study his word and pray constantly!

**The Sunday School children in 3K-5th Grade will ring kid's bells and chimes for the song "Jesus Loves Me" during the February 22 worship service! We look forward to hearing their beautiful music!**

## YOUTH GROUP

Exciting things are happening for our youth as Bethany is starting a youth group for grades 7-12! Our youth group will be teaming up with the Immanuel Youth Group for some events and activities. We are looking for parents at Bethany to be youth leaders. Youth events will be announced soon! We are also working on creating a youth space in the fellowship hall with comfy couches and chairs and things to do like air hockey and foosball.

***Anyone interested in being a part of the Youth Group or any adult interested in helping out as a leader, please contact Pastor Azor at 920-286-2635 or Sara Cigelske at 920-286-3635.***

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**NEW WAY COMMUNITY** - Meet new people, learn new skills, strengthen your faith.

New Way classes will run for 12 weeks starting February 5 on Thursday nights from 5-7pm at Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Sheboygan. There are 5 classes available:

- Affirming Potential
- Financial Habits
- Discovery Bible Study
- Boundaries
- Successful Living

Free classes, dinner, and childcare! If you know someone that could benefit from any of these classes, you can scan the QR code on the sheet on the lower narthex bulletin board or call Love Inc at 920-301-6117.

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2025

**Sunday, February 1**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Lee Gumm  
Ushers: Dan Fibiger, Jerry Sabrowsky  
Acolyte: Zak Cigelske  
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger  
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte  
Door Locker: Tom Schnettler  
Streaming: Andy Fibiger

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**Sunday, February 8**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang  
Ushers: Steve & Alaric Hazen  
Acolyte: Ezra Cigelske  
Altar Guild: Liz Buesing  
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen  
Door Locker: Ken Thompson  
Streaming: Brianna Meyer

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**Sunday, February 15**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke  
Ushers: Dave & Sue Prange  
Acolyte: Jocelyn Meyer  
Altar Guild: Lynn Luebke  
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger  
Door Locker: Andy Fibiger  
Streaming: Todd Matte

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**Wednesday, February 18**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion  
Ash Wednesday

Elder: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: Ray & Shirley Ottman  
Altar Guild: Sue Prange  
Streaming: Kal Cigelske

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**Sunday, February 22**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Ushers: Fibigers  
Acolyte: Steen Willadsen  
Altar Guild: Shirley Ottman  
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner  
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger  
Streaming: Madison Fibiger

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**Wednesday, February 25**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Todd Matte  
Ushers: Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann  
Streaming: Andy Fibiger

# February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>1</b></p> <p>8:45am Sunday School &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/HC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>2</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>3</b></p> <p>10:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6pm Elder Meeting</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>4</b></p> <p>3:30pm Bible Foundations</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>5</b></p> <p>7:15pm Dartball (home)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>6</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>7</b></p> <p>9am Dartball Tournament @ Immanuel</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>8</b></p> <p>8:45am Sunday School &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/HC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>9</b></p> <p>6pm Board of Education</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>10</b></p> <p>10:30am Bible Study</p> <p>6:15pm Board of Finance</p> <p>7pm Church Council</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>11</b></p> <p>3:30pm Bible Foundations</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>12</b></p> <p>7:15pm Dartball (away)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>13</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>14</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>15</b></p> <p>8:45am Sunday School &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/HC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>16</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>17</b></p> <p>10:30am Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>18</b></p> <p>3:30pm Bible Foundations</p> <p>5pm Lenten Meal</p> <p>6pm Ash Wednesday Worship w/HC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>19</b></p> <p>7:15pm Dartball (away)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>20</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>21</b></p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><b>22</b></p> <p>8:45am Sunday School &amp; Bible Study</p> <p>10am Worship w/HC</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>23</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>24</b></p> <p>10:30am Bible Study</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>25</b></p> <p>3:30pm Bible Foundations</p> <p>5pm Lenten Meal</p> <p>6pm Lent Worship</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>26</b></p> <p>7:15pm Dartball (away)</p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>27</b></p>	<p style="text-align: right;"><b>28</b></p>