

PASTOR'S PAGE

To the Saints at Bethany:

This year the entire month of March coincides with the Church season of Lent. The word "Lent" simply means "springtime." It is the month when winter loosens its grip on us—but not usually without a fight. So it is with our struggles against our spiritual enemies. Because of what Christ has done for us, victory is assured. We know that sin, death, and the devil have no hold on us and no claim over us. But these enemies continue to wage war against us. Lent is a time when these struggles and battles come into sharper focus. We become even more aware of our own powerlessness over them, that apart from Christ, we easily succumb to temptations, and we easily fall into despair. So Lent is a time to cling ever more closely to the only hope we have, but also the sure hope that we have in Christ Jesus—in His suffering and His death, and ultimately His resurrection for us. We have opportunities to worship more frequently during Lent. And we have more opportunities to be reminded of God's story, and how we fit into it. This year on Sundays, with the theme "Good News!," we will walk through the story of the Exodus, how God's people went from slavery to redemption—and we will see that every step of the way their experience sets the stage for the even greater work that God does in rescuing us from slavery. Meanwhile, on Wednesdays at Bethany we will once again participate in the "Round Robin" with other area pastors. The theme for Wednesday nights is called "It is Finished," where we will see how 500 years before Christ the prophet Zechariah predicted what would happen during Holy Week—and how we can have assurance that winter is on its way out!

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

- Sunday March 1: "Good News! - God Reveals Himself (Exodus 3:1-15)
- Wednesday March 4: Guest Pastor Rev. Jim Schulz (Our Savior, Sheboygan) "Return to Me" (Zechariah 1:1-6)
- Sunday March 8: "Good News! - God Sends a Deliverer (Exodus 4:1-20)
- Wednesday March 11: Guest Pastor Rev. Matt Shive (St. Paul, Sheboygan) "What's He Worth to You?" (Zechariah 11:7-13)
- Sunday March 15: "Good News! - God Passes Over in Mercy (Exodus 12:1-14)
- Wednesday March 18: Guest Pastor Rev. Bryan Osladil (Our Redeemer, Sheboygan) "Scattered Sheep" (Zechariah 13:7-9)
- Sunday March 22: "Good News! - God Makes a Way (Exodus 14:5-31)
- Wednesday March 25: Guest Pastor Rev. Don Johnson (Immanuel, Sheboygan) "The Truth, the Whole Truth, and Nothing but the Truth" (Zechariah 8:14-17)
- Sunday March 29: Palm Sunday: "Look Up to See Your King" (Zechariah 9:9-10)

Lenten Blessings,
Pastor Azor

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I had the opportunity to attend the "No Regrets" men's conference in early February. I never heard of this prior to Pastor Azor coming to our church. It is a very large event – 3000 men in attendance – located at the Elmbrook church, which is located just outside of Brookfield. It was approximately 5 hours long, beginning with a large group worship service with contemporary music provided by a full band. After the first session, there were three "break-out" sessions to follow, with a wide variety of topics that you could choose from. Then at the end, there was another worship service with music and a keynote speaker for the whole group. It was all very well put together with lots of amazing speakers who were very engaging and uplifting. I had a great time attending this and would recommend it to anyone interested in going next year!

Lenten meals were kicked off on Ash Wednesday. Thanks to the chefs who volunteered their time, talent, and food to share with us...it was delicious! I highly encourage everyone to come join us for dinner at 5:00 pm before church on Wednesday's during Lent. It's a great time of food and fellowship!

I'd like to thank the people who have spent much time over the past few weekends cleaning out the church basement. It looks so nice, organized, and much more welcoming! This helped make room for the new youth area which includes games like air hockey and foosball. Thanks to those who generously donated the funds to purchase these new games!

Yours in Christ,
Andy Fibiger

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

3-1: Joanne Stangel
Milly Menzer
3-8: Ivan Hazen
Alaric Hazen
3-18: Pastor Azor



3-20: Joanie Schnettler
3-22: Shirley Ottman
3-23: Jerry Sabrowsky
3-25: Katelyn Regutis
3-26: Vicki Lindstrom



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

3-03: Bill & Judi Strenger

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.

Easter Breakfast



The Bethany Youth Group is hosting an Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Easter morning, April 5! Please see the signup sheet in the back of church to RSVP and to sign up to bring food and drink. We will have eggs, pancakes, doughnuts, orange juice, and coffee while we enjoy spending time together before the Easter Festival Service! The Youth Group will also do an Easter egg hunt for the younger children. Please join us as we celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH

Use your Designated Offering envelopes during the months of March and April to support **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



DON'T BE LATE FOR CHURCH!!

Daylight Savings is Sunday, March 8.
Don't forget to change your clock one hour ahead on Saturday night.



LWML MITES - LUTHERAN WOMEN IN MISSION

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

The LWML Mite box will be out on the table in the back of church on the first Sunday of every month.

Some of the 2025-2027 Mission Grants:

- Mercy Triumphs: LCMS Prison Ministry, SCMS Office of National Mission, U.S.
- Mission Opportunities for a New Generation, MOST Ministries, Global
- Proclaiming Christ in Honduras, Mission Evangelical Lutheran Confessional in Honduras, Central America

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION PROJECT!

LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP

Bethany continues the pulpit exchange for our midweek Lent services. The remaining schedule is as follows:

Midweek Services

- 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)

Holy Week

- March 29 – Palm Sunday at 10:00am
- April 2 – Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm w/Holy Communion
- April 3 – Good Friday at 1:00pm and 6:00pm
- April 5 – Easter Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt at 8:30am
- April 5 – Easter Worship at 10:00am w/Holy Communion



LENTEN MEALS

Please join us prior to each Midweek Lenten Service beginning at 5:00pm for a Lenten Meal. Enjoy homemade delicious food and fellowship. A free will offering will be taken each week to benefit a different cause.

The remaining Lenten Meal schedule:

March 4: Hosted by Youth Group. Proceeds will go towards the National Youth Gathering. On the menu: Pulled Pork sandwiches.

March 11: Hosted by the Hasler Family. Proceeds will go towards Conrad Hasler's 8th grade Bethlehem class trip. On the menu: Chicken Gnocchi soup and Cheesy Broccoli soup.

March 18: Hosted by the Hasler Family. Proceeds will go towards Conrad's class trip. On the menu: Chicken Noodle Soup and Chili.

March 25: Hosted by Sunday School. Proceeds will go towards the Operation Christmas Child mission of the year. On the menu: Tacos

**if you'd like to help any night, dessert donations are always welcome!

FROM THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

The beginning of 2026 brings with the New Year new challenges. A new budget is in place, new charities to contribute to, and new projects that Bethany's Council approved in 2025.

Bethany has a new excitement since Pastor Azor was installed in November. Everyone realizes our attendance and giving declined since our vacancy started and membership took a hit from Covid. Now would be a wonderful time for all Bethany members to prayerfully consider their pledges to Bethany and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. One way to help, would be to enroll in our Joyful Response E-Giving Program. This program helps our financial team forecast income needs against expenses. Another way would be to prayerfully talk to your family about your weekly giving amount. As we have all experienced, costs have gone up significantly. Our income has been flat for the last two years. If you are interested in the E-Giving program, see Gina to sign-up. The program already has a good number of members registered. Another way of growing our giving is to attract new members. If you know of anyone that may be looking for a Church, why not invite them to join us. If you see someone who is new to you at Church, talk and welcome them to Bethany.

Our Endowment Fund is doing well and is helping many families send their children to LCMS elementary schools or Sheboygan Lutheran High School. The Fund has grown enough to fund scholarships for Bethany's students of over \$17,500 per year. It's very easy to donate to our Endowment Fund, and Lutheran Legacy has a 20% match!

Our Capital Campaign has grown to almost \$15,000 to replace the four air conditioners in the Church proper and replace the shower unit in the parsonage. The present air conditioners are over 20 years old, and one is totally unfixable. The old ones are obsolete with no parts available. We would like to replace these by summer.

To donate to The Endowment Fund or Capital Campaign just put your donation in an envelope and write Endowment Fund or Capital Campaign on the envelope.

Bob Wuerzberger - Finance Committee Chair



Mark your calendars for Sunday School Events for the Rest of the School Year!

- ▶ Wednesday, March 25 Operation Christmas Child Lenten Meal
 - ▶ Sunday, March 29 during 10 a.m. worship service: Sunday School provides music and readings 3K-7th
 - ▶ Sunday, April 5 at 8:30 a.m. Easter egg hunt on Easter morning
 - ▶ Sunday, May 17 - Sunday School End of the Year Party during Sunday School Hour
 - ▶ Sunday, May 17 during 10 a.m. worship service: Sunday School provides music 3K-5th
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1 Timothy 4:12 Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.

The Bethany and Immanuel Youth Groups are joining together. We will each host an equal number of events. We will have a mixture of servant events, fundraisers, and fun activities. We look forward to the National Youth Gathering in 2028 in San Antonio! We have already done a chili supper and dartball tournament concessions at Immanuel together.

This is our schedule for the remainder of the school year:

- ▶ March 4 Work at Lenten Meal at Bethany
- ▶ March 21st 7pm-9:30pm Youth Egg Hunt and filling the Eggs for Sunday School Easter Egg hunt at Immanuel and Bible Study
- ▶ April 5th host Easter Breakfast at Bethany and Immanuel (fundraiser)
- ▶ April 11 MarioKart tournament at Bethany and Bible Study
- ▶ April 18th Game Night 7pm-9:30pm and Bible Study at Immanuel
- ▶ April 27th - May 1st Set up for Immanuel rummage sale – need lots of help – 6pm-9pm at Immanuel
- ▶ May 2nd Immanuel / Bethany rummage sale at Immanuel (fundraiser for all to attend)
- ▶ May 16th Immanuel and Bethany groups go out to eat as a group 7pm-9:30pm
- ▶ June 20th Immanuel and Bethany Mini golf as a group 7pm-9pm

*Dates are subject to change - please watch Bethany Facebook and Instagram pages and Immanuel Facebook page and bulletin for changes.



Building Hope, Meeting Needs, Transforming Lives

For 11 years Love INC has been honored to walk alongside churches, volunteers, and neighbors sharing Christ's love through compassion, encouragement and hope.

Every act of kindness...every prayer...every helping hand...reminds us that no one is forgotten and no one walks alone. On February 15th, as we celebrated our anniversary, we thank God for His Faithfulness and for each of you who have made this ministry possible in Sheboygan County.

May your hearts be filled with His love today, and may His hope continue to shine through you all year long. *"Let all that you do be done in love!" 1 Corinthians 16:14*

Please find that LOVE in your heart and help us collect some greatly needed items during Lent 🙏❤️

- Full and Queen size Blankets (New or gently used)
- Bath & Hand Towels (New or gently used)
- Washcloths
- Baking Sheets & 9 x 13 Pans
- Cutting Boards (Plastic preferred)
- Dish Soap & General Purpose Cleaner
- Laundry Baskets (They are good for packing our Kitchen items)

****The Dollar Store is a great source for products****

Any donations may be placed in the lower Narthex in or near our gray bin. Thank you!

~Your Love INC Volunteers

"We love because He first loved us." (1 John 4:19)

*****DEADLINE TO DIRECT THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS*****

MARCH 31st IS THE DEADLINE TO DIRECT YOUR CHOICE DOLLARS FROM 2025, OTHERWISE THESE FUNDS WILL BE LOST.

All Thrivent members at Bethany have the opportunity to direct your "Thrivent Choice Dollars" to Bethany Lutheran Church if you have not already done so.

Thrivent cards on the shelf near Pastors office will help guide you. If you are unsure if you have funds available to direct just call 1-800-847-4836 to check.



Thanks to those who have already directed their dollars. These dollars help fund programs, events and missions for Bethany.



The church office will be closed the week of March 9 – 12 while Gina is on vacation. I will be back in the office on Monday, March 16. If you need assistance, you can call Pastor Azor at 920-286-2635.



EASTER FLOWERS

It's time to order Easter flowers to decorate our altar area for Easter Sunday. If you would like to purchase a flower, please fill out the form below and place it in the Altar Guild mailbox in the Communication Room, in the offering plate, or drop off in the church office.

Plants may be taken home after the Easter Sunday service.

*****Please make checks out to *Bethany Lutheran Church******

Deadline to order is Wednesday, March 15.

Easter Lilies:

- One Stem 5+ blooms \$10.50
- Double Stems 9+ blooms \$21.50

Blooming Plants:

Please circle choice of color you prefer

- 6" Hydrangea – pink, blue, white \$21.00
- 6" Azalea – pink, red, variegated, white \$21.00
- 6" Mum - yellow, purple, white \$12.50
- 6" M. W. Geranium - pink, purple. \$12.50
- 6" Reiger Begonia - pink, yellow, orange, white. . . \$12.50
- 6" Tulips - red, pink, purple, yellow. \$10.50
- 6" Hyacinth - pink, purple, white. \$10.50
- 6" Daffodils – yellow. \$10.50

Given by: _____

* In Memory of _____

* In Honor of _____

* Other _____

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	10:30am Bible Study 6pm Elder Meeting	3:30pm Bible Foundations 5pm Lenten Meal 6pm Lent Worship	6pm Board of Education 7:15pm Dartball (home)		
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	10:30am Bible Study 6:15pm Board of Finance 7pm Church Council	3:30pm Bible Foundations 5pm Lenten Meal 6pm Lent Worship	7:15pm Dartball (home)		
Church office closed						
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	10:30am Bible Study	3:30pm Bible Foundations 5pm Lenten Meal 6pm Lent Worship			7pm Youth Group @ Immanuel
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	10:30am Bible Study	3:30pm Bible Foundations 5pm Lenten Meal 6pm Lent Worship			
29	30	31				
8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Palm Sunday Worship w/HC	6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	10:30am Bible Study				

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF MARCH 2026

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

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Steve & Diane Marotz
Acolyte:	Zak Cigelske
Altar Guild:	Gina & Andy Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Kal Cigelske
Door Locker:	Tom Schnettler
Streaming:	Andy Fibiger

Wednesday, March 4
6:00 p.m.

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Todd & Dori Matte
Streaming:	Noah Fibiger

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

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Dan Fibiger, Jerry Sabrowsky
Acolyte:	Ezra Cigelske
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Kal Cigelske

Wednesday, March 11
6:00 p.m.

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Steve & Alaric Hazen
Streaming:	Todd Matte

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

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Dave & Sue Prange
Acolyte:	Jocelyn Meyer
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

Wednesday, March 18
6:00 p.m.

Elder:
Ushers:
Streaming:

Todd Matte
Ray & Shirley Ottman
Noah Fibiger

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

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:
Streaming:

Shua Yang
Andy & Gina Fibiger
Steen Willadsen
Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Steve Hazen
Dan Fibiger
Zak Willadsen

Wednesday, March 25
6:00 p.m.

Elder:
Ushers:
Streaming:

Lee Gumm
Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann
Kal Cigelske

Sunday, March 29
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:
Ushers:
Acolyte:
Altar Guild:
Scripture Reader:
Door Locker:
Streaming:

Gerry Luebke
Steve & Diane Marotz
Zak Cigelske
Sue & Dave Prange
Sharon Werner
Tom Schnettler
Brianna Meyer

