

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Beloved Members,

My wife and I have prayerfully considered the next chapter in our lives. I am writing to notify you that I am going to retire on July 28, 2024, from my active God ordained call at Bethany. The date chosen happens to be 27 years and 1 day from my installation at Our Savior in Sheboygan. This was a very hard decision on account of the Christian love shown to me, Julie, Rachel, Sarah, and Nathan. It has been 18 wonderful years at Bethany.

According to Missouri Synod guidelines, as of July 28, 2024, I will no longer be the called Pastor of Bethany. This means that after that date, I will be removed from active roster status. Upon removal, I will no longer be able to serve Bethany in any capacity as Pastor. I will not be able to advise, preach, teach, perform weddings, baptisms, confirmations, or funerals for Bethany.

Bethany leadership, with the help of Rev. John Wille (South Wisconsin District President) and Rev. Alan Kretschmar (Bethany's Circuit Visitor) will assist the congregation in calling another Pastor. After July 28, 2024, Pastor Kretschmar will assign a vacancy Pastor. This Pastor will arrange pulpit supply and a visitation Pastor.

Upon retirement, I plan to take time to visit Nathan and Sarah and be grandpa to Ezekiel, Eli, and Evangelina. We do not plan to move from the area.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Robert Steele

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-01: Kale Schnettler
4-02: Kristi Luecke
4-04: Gina Fibiger
4-05: Bob Parnitzke
4-06: Rachel Johnson
4-07: Timothy Fibiger



4-08: Barbara Steele
4-11: Ella Albert
Russ Sholten
4-16: Ken Thompson
Diane Havlinek
4-17: Barbara Gumm
4-18: Juanita Hazen
Ashley Cox

4-27: Connor Paltzer
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-27: Doug & Kristi Luecke



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.

NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As I write this letter, Holy Week has just begun, and we finished our last Lenten service last week. I'd like to thank all the people who hosted a soup supper, cooked a soup, and helped clean up afterwards. I think I speak for all who attended when I say the soups were delicious and I really enjoyed them all! I'd like to also thank all the attendees for their generous donations that will benefit several charities. These suppers have become a great tradition that I hope to see continue.

I was very recently made aware that March was "Pastor's Wife Appreciation Month". Had I known this sooner, I would have made it a point to post this in last month's newsletter. Anyway, I'd like to recognize Julie Steele for everything she does for our church and congregation. We all enjoy the beautiful music she provides for all our services, but that is not all! Julie helps with a lot of "behind the scenes" stuff too, like altar guild, planning the services, and most recently, serving as secretary of the church council. Julie, you are a blessing to our church, and we appreciate all you do!!

By now, I'm sure most of you have heard Pastor's announcement of his upcoming retirement, which will be at the end of July. I'd like to personally thank Pastor for all his years of dedicated service here at Bethany. He has been a blessing to our congregation, not only as a leader, but as a friend to many. We would like to plan something to send Pastor off in style, so if you're interested in helping, please let me know. As for what comes next, I have been in contact with Pastor Alan Kretschmar, who will be guiding us through the call process, when the time comes. In the meantime, we will be preparing for that by putting together a call committee as well as possibly doing a "self-study" on the church, to assist the synod in picking candidates for us. I will bring more information forward as this progresses.

April 11th marks Bethany's 115th anniversary. What a blessing to continue being able to worship here after so many years! We will be recognizing this milestone at our April 21st church service as well as hosting a catered dinner in the church basement afterwards. If anyone is interested in helping, please let Gina know. I hope everyone can attend!

I hope you all have a blessed Easter!

Yours in Christ,
Andy Fibiger

BETHANY IS TURNING 115!

Join us after church on Sunday, April 21 for a catered lunch and program to celebrate 115 years of Bethany! Sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you can attend and also if you are able to volunteer to help with the dinner. Contact Gina if you have any questions.



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

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS UPDATE

Thank you to all that helped make this year's Lenten Soup Suppers a success! To all those that helped by making soups, set up and clean up, serving, those that donated desserts, and to all that attended each week. The fellowship before our Lenten services was uplifting and enjoyable. Thanks to the many donations of food, and also a Thrivent Action Team Grant, all of the free-will offerings that were collected were used to benefit a few different groups. We gave \$151 to Project Angel Hugs, \$151 was given to the Lutheran High School Performing Art Center Campaign, \$146 is being used to purchase kitchen items for the Love INC kitchen kit ministry, and \$175 was given to Anchor of Hope. Thank you again to everyone!

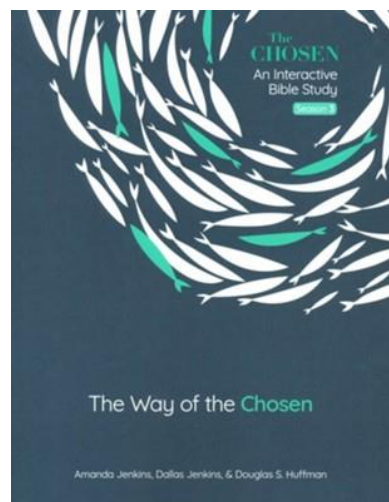


LADIES OF BETHANY

You are invited to the **Bethany Women's Fellowship Luncheon**. Wednesday, April 10 at 12:30pm at Café Bella (725 Indiana Ave, Sheboygan). Join us for an afternoon of good food and fellowship. Please sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you can attend. If you'd like to attend and need a ride, please contact Barbara Kaepler at 920-234-2342.

THE CHOSEN BIBLE STUDY

Pastor Steele will be leading a Bible Study on The Chosen - Season 3. The times will be **Tuesdays at 10:00am and Wednesdays at 6:30pm**. It will begin the week of April 16th and 17th and run for 8 weeks. If you'd like to purchase the DVD and Bible Study book, they are available on Amazon.com. The Chosen Season 3 DVD - \$13.99 and The Way of the Chosen (Volume 3) Bible Study Series - \$15.98. The Chosen season 3 is also available to watch for free on Amazon Prime Video if you subscribe to that as well as online at: <https://watch.thechosen.tv/>. If you have any questions, or need help ordering the book, please call the church office. **Sign up on the sheet in the back of church if you are able to attend.**



The Meaning of the Widow's Mite

During the time of Herod, mites were the smallest denomination coin in Judea. The term “widow’s mite” is based on Luke 21:1-4:

As Jesus looked up, He saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins. “Truly I tell you,” He said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others. All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in all she had to live on.”

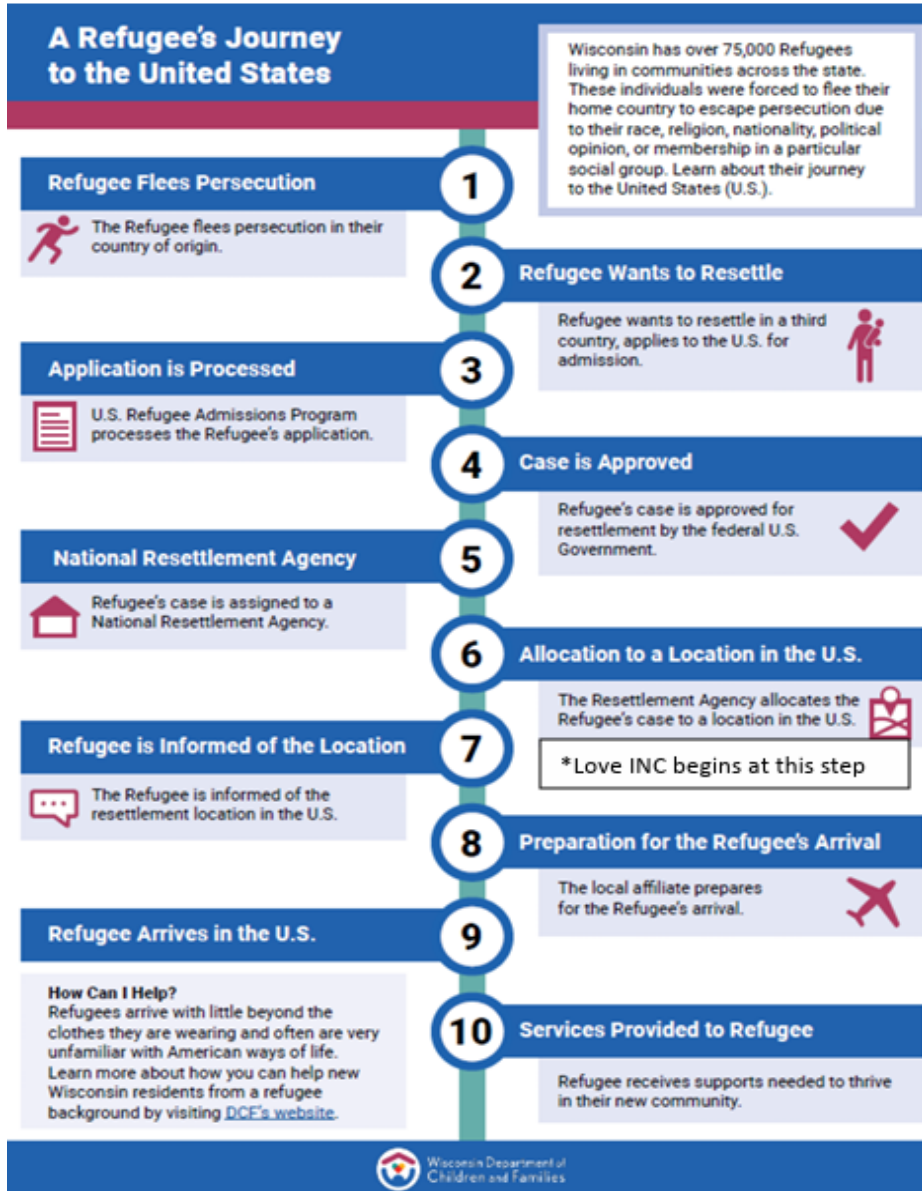
As the Bible reminds us, even small offerings can make an enormous impact. The Mite Box is intended for regular contributions of “mites” – offerings above and beyond the support given to congregations and the LCMS. Combined, these amount to millions of dollars for funding grants and providing ongoing support for various other Lutheran Women in Mission programs.

LWML Mites Lutheran Women in Mission



*Thank you for honoring
and sharing the gifts
God has given you!*





Did You Know...

- that the definition of a refugee is someone who is forced to flee their home country due to extreme persecution such as violence and torture?
- that there are over 35.3 million refugees worldwide?
- that Love INC of Sheboygan County is now approved to manage refugee resettlement in our community?

Learn more and help us welcome refugees!

We are motivated by the love of Christ to welcome and embrace people who have nowhere else to turn. Join us by becoming a volunteer today! Stay tuned for more information on this.

Building Hope ~ Meeting Needs ~ Transforming Lives

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024

Sunday, April 7
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Dave & Sue Prange
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz
Streaming:	Todd Matte

Sunday, April 14
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Fibiger
Altar Guild:	Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Patrick Johnson
Streaming:	Fibiger

Sunday, April 21
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Ray & Shirley Ottman
Altar Guild:	Gina & Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Fibiger

Sunday, April 28
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Matte
Altar Guild:	Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader:	Thomas Yang
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Thomas Yang



April 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01 6:30pm Elders	02	03	04	05	06
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;"> Pastor gone April 1- 14 </div>						
07 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC (Pastor Gudmundson)	08 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	09	10 12:30pm Ladies Luncheon @ Café Bella	11	12	13
14 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship (Pastor Gudmundson)	15	16 10am Bible Study	17 6:30pm Bible Study	18	19	20
21 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC 11am Bethany 115 Anniversary Lunch	22	23 10am Bible Study	24 6:30pm Bible Study	25	26	27
28 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship	29	30 10am Bible Study	