

## PASTOR'S PAGE

**"I said I will confess my sins, and you forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalm 32:5**

Prayer as an act of faith.

This Lent, we have been learning again the meaning of the Lord's prayer. Prayer is an act of faith for Christians. We can't see God or hear directly from Him apart from His written word, yet every day, we direct our needs and concerns to God, confident that He hears and answers our prayers.

Prayer is an act of faith also because what we see with our eyes is often the opposite of what we pray for. Instead of peace, we see war; instead of love, we see anger. Instead of forgiveness, we see hatred. Instead of mercy, we all too often see judgment. Instead of kind words, we all too often hear only slander. Yet we continue to pray for all those things because we believe that God's will is that all evil will be brought to an end.

Prayer is also an act of faith because we know we have allowed ourselves to be on the wrong side of God's will and commandments. We see the harm caused all around us by our sins. Our sins deserve God to be angry with us and to punish us for them. Just like any child in a family who sins against their parents deserves to be punished, so do we by God for our sins.

Yet, we continue to pray to God. We pray because of Christ and what He has done for us and the faith and trust that what Christ has done has earned for us forgiveness of our sins. Our chief prayer as Christians is to confess our sins to God. We boldly confess our sins to God and to our own consciences because faith in Christ tells us that on Good Friday, Jesus earned for us forgiveness for every one of our sins.

One of the blessings of God in our lives is that He has given us the Holy Ministry. It is through this Ministry that we hear the Words of God directed to us. The Absolution is God's response to our confession of sins. "If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness." (1 John 1:9) We hear again that truth in our ears so that we don't have to wonder or guess if we have been forgiven; we know that in the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, we are forgiven.

Knowing this great and wonderful gift that is given to us drives us as Christians to pray even more for all of our needs. God who took care of our biggest need by having His own Son die for us, how will He not give to us every need of body and soul. This is what faith is. To believe that because of Jesus we have a Father who hears and answers our prayers always for our good.

Faith also tells us that when we don't see the answer for our prayer in the way we want or in our timing, we don't despair. We have an advocate with Father, Jesus, (1 John 2:1) and we know the Spirit groans for us in words that we don't understand. (Romans 8). They bring our prayers to the Father, and He answers them through them and their work in our lives in the way that is best for us and our neighbor eternally.

So, the Christian life of faith is always expressed in prayer. Prayer looks to God for help, leaves things to God's direction, gives us peace and rest for our days, reassures us through trouble and difficulty, and delivers us from temptation and despair. What a great and wonderful gift prayer is!

Pastor Johnson

### **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

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.

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## **NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT**

I'd like to start out by thanking everyone who attended the March 2<sup>nd</sup> voters meeting, where we unanimously approved the call to Pastor Nicholas Schram from Lutheran Church of the Resurrection in St. Louis, MO. He has since visited us that following weekend and even worshipped with us that Sunday morning. It was truly a pleasure to meet him and his family! Another big thanks to all who attended church that morning and made him feel welcome! He has since informed me that he also received a call from St. John's Lutheran Church in La Grange, IL, since his visit. Please keep Pastor Schram in your prayers, that the Lord will provide wisdom and guidance in this difficult decision. I will let everyone know as soon as we receive an answer to our call.

I had the pleasure of attending the 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Lenten Musical Meditation service at Immanuel Lutheran Church this past Sunday afternoon. It was a special service with a wide variety of music in the forms of hymns, piano sonatas, vocal choir, bell choir, and even a couple of upbeat, Christian contemporary songs on a 12-string acoustic guitar with percussion accompaniment. The music was absolutely AMAZING! Immanuel's organist, Max Becker, is an exceptionally talented musician, having played the organ, piano, and guitar, as well as sang. John Jordan did a wonderful job of arranging this concert and leading the choir. This is something everyone should hear and I can't recommend it enough. Do yourself a favor and attend next year, if you are able. You won't be disappointed!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger



### **BETHANY IS TURNING 116!**

Join us after church on Sunday, April 13 for some cake and fellowship as we celebrate 116 years of Bethany!



## **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](http://www.lbt.org)

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## **LENT AND HOLY WEEK WORSHIP**

We continue our Lenten Pulpit exchange with Holy Week following. The remaining schedule is as follows:

### **Midweek Services**

March 26 – Pastor Jim Schulz (Our Saviors)

April 2 – Pastor Matthew Shive (St. Paul, Sheb.)

April 9 – Pastor Alan Kretschmar (St. Paul, Sheb.)

### **Holy Week**

April 13 – Palm Sunday at 10:00am w/Holy Communion

April 17 – Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm w/Holy Communion

April 18 – Good Friday at 1:00pm and 6:00pm

April 20 – Easter Worship at 10:00am w/Holy Communion



## **LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS**

Join us for our remaining Soup Suppers beginning at 5pm prior to the midweek Lenten services. March 26, April 2, and April 9.



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## **FROM THE BOARD OF EDUCATION**

It is with a heavy heart that the Board of Education, along with Pastor Johnson, have decided to temporarily discontinue Sunday School due to declining enrollment and attendance numbers. Please know that this was not an easy decision to make. We have loved spending time with the children of Bethany and teaching them about the love of Jesus each week. We use the word “temporarily” because the hope is that we will get more interest in our Sunday School and we will be able to start back up in the future.

In the meantime, all children are invited to attend Sunday School at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. They begin at 8:45 and would end in time for families to still make it to Bethany for service. They would understand that you would still be members at Bethany but would be happy to have any of our children participate at Immanuel.

Thank you to all of the staff and Bethany families that have been a part of Sunday School over the years. Please keep them in your prayers for the hope that we will continue again.

## **DEREK MACKENZIE: MOVED, MARRIED, AND TRANSFERRING MEMBERSHIP**

Hi Bethany friends! 2011 – 2024 was a fantastic chapter of my life. I grew in so many ways and was able to explore an astonishing amount of God's creation for a guy who could be found inside the 1-mile triangle between my house, church, and work 90% of that time... You have all influenced me in incredibly positive ways.

As an official update, I have moved to Minneapolis, my wife Alicia and I married in October, and now I'm ready to transfer my church membership. We go to the church she grew up in and things have been going very well for us. I also still work for Kohler Co. remotely and visit during the week sometimes. I might not have a 1-mile triangle anymore, but I'm okay with that and looking happily forward. Good wishes to all of you and thank you for being a wonderful home of faith.

~ Derek MacKenzie



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## **Bethany's Steve Marotz to be inducted into the Dartball Hall of Fame!**



To be eligible for the hall of fame, one must be at least 50 years old, have at least 25 years of playing Dartball, and be nominated by someone. The Wisconsin State Dartball Committee then looks over the players' complete body of Dartball work to determine who will be selected.

Steve is currently the captain of the Bethany Bombers Dartball team. He will be honored with his Hall of Fame Induction during the State Dartball Tournament in Oshkosh, April 5 – 6.

**Congratulations Steve!!**

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## **EASTER FLOWERS**

Did you still want to order Easter flowers? Call the church office at (920-457- 4681) by noon on Thursday, March 27 and you can still get your order in.



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



Check out the new LWML Mite Box display on the counter in back of church! Here you can pick up an empty Mite Box, drop off your filled Mite Box, and grab a card with a list of grants that are being funded by our Mites.

***Thank you for your support of the LWML Mite Box program!***



## Kitchen Kit Ministry Lead Needed at Love INC...

### A Heartfelt Thanks and a New Chapter for Our Starter Kitchen Kit Ministry

We want to extend our heartfelt thanks to **Bethel Orthodox Presbyterian Church of Oostburg** and **Gap Leader Lisa Roerdink**, for their faithful leadership of our Starter Kitchen Kit Ministry. For many years, they have managed the collection, cleaning, and preparation of kits, and we are deeply grateful for their efforts.

The Starter Kitchen Kit Ministry supports our neighbors who are rebuilding their lives after experiencing homelessness, domestic abuse, or other challenging circumstances. By providing essential kitchen items, we help ease their transition and offer a tangible expression of hope and care.

While Bethel OPC has stepped down from their leadership role, **Bethany Lutheran Church of Kohler** will continue delivering the kits, and we are now seeking new volunteers to take the lead in managing inventory and assembling the kits. Your help would be a blessing as we continue this important ministry!



# 10 AM - 2 PM BAKE SALE & BRAT FRY

## 12

April  
2025

Mentink's  
Piggly Wiggly

118 NORTH 9TH STREET  
OOSTBURG, WI 53070

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

**Wednesday, April 2**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Lee Gumm  
Ushers: Ray & Shirley Ottman  
Streaming: Noah Fibiger

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**Sunday, April 6**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke  
Ushers: Fibigers  
Altar Guild: Julie Steele, Rachel Johnson  
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte  
Door Locker: Ken Thompson  
Streaming: Madison Fibiger

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**Wednesday, April 9**  
**6:00 p.m.**

Elder: Shua Yang  
Ushers: Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlman  
Streaming: Todd Matte

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**Palm Sunday, April 13**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Ushers: Dave & Sue Prange  
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman  
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner  
Door Locker: Steve Marotz  
Streaming: Brianna Meyer

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**Maundy Thurs, April 17**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Todd Matte  
Ushers: Steve & Alaric Hazen  
Altar Guild: Gina & Andy Fibiger  
Streaming: Andy Fibiger

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**Good Friday, April 18**  
**1:00pm & 6:00 p.m.**

Elder: **1pm** Lee Gumm    **6pm** Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: **1pm** Steve & Diane Marotz    **6pm** Mattes  
Streaming: **6pm** Madison Fibiger

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**Easter Sunday, April 20**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke  
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Dan Fibiger  
Altar Guild: Sue & Dave Prange  
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen  
Door Locker: Andy Fibiger  
Streaming: Todd Matte

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**Sunday, April 27**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder: Steve Hazen  
Ushers: Sue & Dave Prange  
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaeppler  
Scripture Reader: Mary Ann Fibiger  
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger  
Streaming: Brianna Meyer

# April 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 6pm Elder Meeting	2 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	3	4	5
6 10am Worship w/HC	7	8 6pm Bible Study 6:15pm Board of Finance Meeting 7pm Church Council Meeting	9 5pm Soup Supper 6pm Lent Worship	10	11	12
13 10am Worship w/HC	14	15 10:30am Bible Study	16	17 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/HC	18 1pm Good Friday Worship 6pm Good Friday Worship	19
20 10am Easter Worship w/HC	21	22 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Bible Study	23	24	25	26
27 10am Worship	28	29 10:30am Bible Study	30			