

PASTOR'S PAGE

To The Saints at Bethany,

The Easter Season is upon us! The theologian N.T. Wright once remarked that he found it odd that the Church seems to put more of an emphasis on Lent than on Easter. Lent brings special services, a Holy Week, and vows to practice spiritual and physical disciplines. And then we get to Easter, we change the colors from purple to white, and we go back to business as usual. However, the fifty-day Easter season allows us the opportunity to rejoice and to celebrate, and also to cling to what propels us forward! The joy of Easter animated the Christian Church in ways that the believers would have never imagined. Every proclamation in the book of Acts includes the claim that Jesus rose from the dead. And precisely because He rose from the dead, God's people came to take a different understanding of life in this world. We are not biding our time, simply waiting to go to heaven. We are not waiting to be delivered from this world into some spiritual realm. Instead, we are a part of what the risen Lord Jesus is doing. Some of His last words in the Bible are these: "Behold, I am making everything new!" Death is losing its grip on this world. One day it will be put completely underfoot. Until then, we are agents of life! The Easter season is a time to proclaim and participate in the new creation already being born! This Easter season at Bethany we will continue to trace the story of God's work in the world through the Old Testament. We will see that even before Easter changed everything, we had hints and previews of not only the resurrection of our Lord, but also of the resurrection still to come! Here is a list of service themes in the month of April (all times 10 a.m.):

April 5: Easter Sunday: "Our Fasting Gives Way to Feasting" Zechariah 8:9-13

April 12: "Good News! God Sustains Us On Our Journey" Exodus 16:1-18, 35

April 19: "Meditate Day and Night: The Story of Joshua"

April 26: "Dying of Thirst: The Story of Samson"

APRIL BIRTHDAYS

4-02: Kristi Luecke
4-04: Gina Fibiger
4-05: Bob Parnitzke
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
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-19: Dave & Kelly Meyer
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.



BETHANY IS TURNING 117!

Join us after church on Sunday, April 12 for some cake and fellowship as we celebrate 117 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

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

March 29 – Palm Sunday at 10:00am w/Holy Communion
April 2 – Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm w/Holy Communion
April 3 – Good Friday Worship at 1:00pm
April 3 – Good Friday Tenebrae at 6:00pm
April 5 – Easter Worship at 10:00am w/Holy Communion



Easter Breakfast



The Bethany Youth Group is hosting an Easter Breakfast at 8:30 a.m. on Easter morning, April 5! All are welcome to attend. 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 host an **Easter Egg Hunt** for the younger children during the Easter breakfast. All children birth to 6th grade are welcome to join us.



MUSIC AT BETHANY

Thank you to the Joy Choir for singing for us on Palm Sunday and Maundy Thursday! We look forward to more music from the Joy Choir and music from Jubilate Chimes in the future!

Thank you also to Austin Fibiger who will be enhancing our Easter worship experience by playing his trumpet for us on Easter Sunday! Thank you for sharing your time and talents with us, Austin!

LENTEN MEAL UPDATE

Thank you to all that helped with this year's Lenten Meals! Each week we enjoyed delicious food and uplifting fellowship. We were able to collect \$663 which will be divided up to support: The Sunday School mission "Operation Christmas Child", Bethany's youth attending the National Youth Gathering in July 2028, Love Inc, and a young members class trip to Chicago. Thank you to everyone that helped prepare, serve, and clean up each week and to all that attended and donated to the free will offering each week.



1Timothy 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.

4:12 Student Ministries Is Bethany's Youth Group

This group is open to all youth in 7th grade through High School. Friends are always welcome! We have created a partnership with Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sheboygan to offer the youth more opportunities to engage. We will have our own youth groups and do things independently but also come together for some fun events and fundraising. We are looking forward to attending the National Youth Gathering in San Antonio, TX in July 2028!

Upcoming Events:

April 5: host Easter Breakfast at Bethany (fundraiser) and Easter Egg Hunt for birth-6th Grade

April 11: Mario Kart tournament and Bible Study from 2:00-4:00 p.m. at Bethany Parsonage

April 18: Game Night and Bible Study from 7pm-9:30pm at Immanuel

April 27 - May 1: Set up for rummage sale – need lots of help – 6pm-9pm at Immanuel

May 2: Rummage sale at Immanuel (fundraiser for all to attend)



Thank you to our Sunday School and Middle School Bible Study students for singing, playing percussion, reading scripture, and carrying palm branches during our special Palm Sunday worship service! Thank you for sharing your love for Jesus with us and helping us observe an important time when Jesus rode into Jerusalem to die and rise for our sins!

Easter Egg Hunt - All Sunday School kids, guests, visitors, family members, friends, any kids birth through 6th grade...You are all invited to our Easter Egg hunt on Easter morning during the 8:30 Easter Breakfast! The Bethany and Immanuel Youth Group has worked hard to fill all your eggs for you, and they are eager to have you find them!



Children's Bells - The Sunday School children will ring bells for church on Sunday, May 17! They will ring "I am Jesus' Little Lamb."



Camp LuWiSoMo

Camp LuWiSoMo is the fun, faith-filled camp for the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod's South Wisconsin District. (Bethany Lutheran Church is a part of this.)

Camp LuWiSoMo, on the shores of beautiful Round Lake, just 5 miles east of Wild Rose, Wisconsin. We are a Registered Service Organization of the Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod, providing a beautiful and peaceful environment to enjoy God's creation and grow in your faith and relationship with Jesus Christ.

Camp LuWiSoMo is blessed with 380 acres in which to relax, recharge, walk, camp, swim, worship, grow in faith, spend time together as a family, friends, small group or congregation, enjoy a campfire, or just be. Our Retreat Center is available year-round. Enjoy our quiet campground during the summer and early fall.

LuWiSoMo is dedicated to providing faith-growing opportunities for people of all ages in a Christ-centered outdoor ministry setting.

Camp LuWiSoMo has camps for children and youth in kindergarten through high school. They also have a Joyful Hearts camp for children and adults with special needs. High School students can also serve as CIT's (Counselors in Training), and College-age young adults can serve as counselors.

At Camp LuWiSoMo, campers swim, play on the beach, play gaga ball, canoe, build forts, play kick ball, gather around camp fires, tell spooky stories, share devotions, sing, do arts and crafts, go on nature hikes, play many various camp games and activities, and attend chapel.

Camp LuWiSoMo also will have a fun and fulfilling Family Day August 9.

There is also a family campground with cabins and lots for campers and tents.

Bethany Lutheran Church has an endowment fund that will assist in paying for Camp LuWiSoMo. This is a wonderful opportunity for your children! For more information about these camp scholarships, please contact Gina, Sara, or Pastor Azor.

For more information about Camp LuWiSoMo, please visit their website at luwisomo.org or talk with Pastor Azor or Sara.



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:

- Regional Disaster Response LERT Shower Trailers – LCMS Office of National Mission, U.S.
- Help for Ukraine's Orphans and Displaced Persons – Orphan Grain Train, Europe
- Growing Together to Share Braille and Large Print – Lutheran Braille Workers, U.S.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION PROJECT!

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

Maundy Thurs, April 2

6:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Altar Guild:

Streaming:

Andy Fibiger

Todd & Dori Matte

Shirley & Ray Ottman

Noah Fibiger

Good Friday, April 3

1:00pm & 6:00 p.m.

Elder:

Ushers:

Streaming:

1pm: Steve Hazen

1pm: Fibiger/Sabrowsky

1pm: Madison Fibiger

6pm: Todd Matte

6pm: Pranges

6pm: Kal Cigelske

Easter Sunday, April 5

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Streaming:

Shua Yang

Steve & Alaric Hazen

Jocelyn Meyer

Sue & Dave Prange

Lee Gumm

Ken Thompson

Zak Willadsen

Sunday, April 12

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Streaming:

Lee Gumm

Ray & Shirley Ottman

Ezra Cigelske

Barb & Lee Gumm

Kal Cigelske

Andy Fibiger

Andy Fibiger

Sunday, April 19

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Streaming:

Gerry Luebke

Andy & Gina Fibiger

Zak Cigelske

Liz & Ken Buesing

Todd Matte

Dan Fibiger

Brianna Meyer

Sunday, April 26

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:

Ushers:

Acolyte:

Altar Guild:

Scripture Reader:

Door Locker:

Streaming:

Steve Hazen

Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann

Steen Willadsen

Lynn & Gerry Luebke

Steve Hazen

Tom Schnettler

Todd Matte

April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 3:30pm Bible Foundations	2 6pm Maundy Thursday Worship w/HC	3 1pm Good Friday Worship 6pm Good Friday Tenebrae Service	4
5 8:30am Easter Breakfast/Easter Egg Hunt 10am Easter Worship w/HC	6	7 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Elder Meeting	8 3:30pm Bible Foundations	9 6pm Board of Education	10	11 2pm Youth Group Mario Kart Tournament @Bethany Parsonage
12 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	13 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	14 10:30am Bible Study 6:15pm Board of Finance 7pm Church Council	15 3:30pm Bible Foundations	16	17	18 7pm Youth Group @Immanuel
19 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	20 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	21 10:30am Bible Study	22 3:30pm Bible Foundations	23	24 7pm Dartball Banquet @ Pine Grove	25
26 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	27 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	28 10:30am Bible Study	29 3:30pm Bible Foundations	30		