

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Sunday, April 21, Bethany recognized its 115th anniversary and celebrated with a catered dinner in the fellowship hall in the basement. All thanks and praise to our glorious Lord for the many blessings we've had over the years! We have much to be thankful for....a loving congregation that feels like family, Pastor Steele and all of our previous pastors for their leadership, financial stability, and a beautiful church building. Special thanks to the Altona Supper Club in New Holstein for providing such delicious food as well as all the volunteers who helped do the planning, set-up, and cleanup for the event. It was wonderful and enjoyed by all!



For those who were unable to attend the dinner, I thought I'd share a few of the fun facts about our church history that I shared with the group that day:

1. The first worship service was held on November 20, 1908, in a vacated Episcopal Church that was on the same property we are on today.
2. April 11, 1909 –which happened to be an Easter Sunday – Reverend George Burger officially founded the church, naming it "Bethania Gemeinde UAC".
3. At the time, our village of Kohler was known as "Riverside".
4. The newly founded congregation purchased the vacated church building and property for \$1100 and dedicated it on Jun 14, 1909.
5. It wasn't actually until 1941 that they started building our current church, finishing it in 1942 and dedicated it on August 9th that same year.
6. In 1948 they purchase the pipe organ we have today for \$9000 (today that would be approx. \$118K)
7. In 1950, they purchased and installed the bells in the bell tower for \$6050.
8. The church had an orchestra back in those days.
9. They had both German and English services.
10. We've had 10 pastors serve at this church. The longest serving pastor was Herbert Baker who served for 26 years from 1955 until 1981.

It's interesting what you find in the archives across from Pastor's office. If you're ever interested in learning more about our church history, stop in and peruse the binders that Betty Bawden worked so hard to put together for us. There is a lot of great information, including old photos, newspaper articles, and even church bulletins from back in the early 1900's stored in there. Check it out!

Just a little update on the church lawn...last fall, we had our snow removal service take care of the lawn, by thatching, aerating, and reseeding it. Gina worked hard to keep it watered for the first few weeks after the seeding. A little bit of grass grew back, but it still has a long way to go. The second part of this effort will begin in the near future. We just need the weather to stay above 45 degrees at night and to have a stretch of dry weather so the ground can harden up. Then he will come back to thatch and reseed again. Prayerfully, we'll have our yard looking nice again by next fall.

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger

PASTORS PAGE: Due to Pastor being with his son Nathan following his surgery in Missouri, there is no Pastor's article this month. He would like you to know that Nathan is doing well and recovering at home. Please continue to keep him in your prayers.

MAY BIRTHDAYS

- 5-03: Steen Willadsen
- 5-05: Dan Fibiger
- 5-06: Austin Fibiger
- 5-07: Julie Regutis
- 5-11: Shirley Mueller
- Grace Matte



- 5-14 Marilyn Buell
- 5-17: Ray Ottman
- Betsy Metscher
- 5-19: Jeremy Paltzer
- 5-20: Lexie Matte
- 5-22: Joshua Yang
- 5-26: Kristine Faucher
- 5-30: Ezekiel Johnson

MAY ANNIVERSARIES



- 5-01: Bill & Julie Regutis
- Rev. Robert & Julie Steele
- 5-11: Joe & Lori Wychesit
- 5-26: Patrick & Rachel Johnson
- 5-31: Bob & Karen Wuerzberger

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.

MAY/JUNE CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)



"Whether hiking hours into mountain ranges or going by boat to small islands, the Gospel is being shared in remote areas of the Philippines through video and Scriptures and hundreds of people are responding and being disciplined in places where the Lord has never before been praised." We can help by giving of our gifts to the May and June Mission of the Month. Our donations will be used to help purchase Bibles which have been translated and are printed in vernacular (heart) languages. Christian videos which have been dubbed into "heart" languages are also used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please be generous as you share in this important project.

CONFIRMATION

On Sunday, March 24, one of our young members, Katelyn Regutis, received the Rite of Confirmation. Congratulations, Katelyn!



ASCENSION SERVICE AT BETHANY

The Sheboygan Area Ascension Day Service will be held at Bethany Lutheran Church on Thursday, May 9 at 6:30pm. Pastor Steele will lead the service and Pastor Jeremy Hanson, Associate Pastor at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, will be the preacher. The offering will be designated for the Sheboygan County Hispanic Outreach.

BLESSING BAGS

A big thank you to all that donated items for the Blessing Bags. A group of us got together and filled 40 Ziploc bags with items such as toothbrushes, toothpaste, cleansing wipes, deodorant, granola bars, beef sticks, a refillable water bottle, and more. They were then taken to the Warming Center in Sheboygan and handed out to people in the community that are homeless or in need. They were very appreciative!



BUILDING HOPE
MEETING NEEDS
TRANSFORMING LIVES

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love.

Ephesians 4:2

Easter's Calling

"With great power the apostles continued to testify to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And God's grace was so powerfully at work in them all." ~ Acts 4:33

What does the empty tomb mean to you? How does the message of the resurrection bring you hope and joy? Are you ready to share that hope with others?

When the first believers were gathered together, they became empowered by the Holy Spirit to spread the good news. As fellow believers, we have access to that same power today. And Jesus calls each one of us to serve Him and others by boldly sharing His love...and He sends the Holy Spirit to guide us and to give us the words to speak.

Join the Love INC movement and put your love into action today! To volunteer, go to www.loveincsheboygancounty and click on "Volunteer".

Building Hope ~ Meeting Needs ~ Transforming Lives

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

Sunday, May 5
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Hazens
Altar Guild:	Jule Steele & Rachel Johnson
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Grace Matte

Sunday, May 12
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Steve & Diane Marotz
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Diane Marotz
Streaming:	Noah Fibiger

Sunday, May 19
10:00 a.m.
w/ Holy Communion

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlman
Altar Guild:	Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Ryan Brooks
Streaming:	Steve Perry

Sunday, May 26
10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Jerry Sabrowsky, Dan Fibiger
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz
Streaming:	Todd Matte



MAY 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			01 6:30pm Bible Study	02	03	04
			05 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC	06 6:30pm Elders	07 10am Bible Study	08 6:30pm Bible Study
12 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship Mother's Day	13 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	14 10am Bible Study	15 6:30pm Bible Study	16	17	18
19 8:45am Sunday School & Confirmation 10am Worship w/HC	20	21 10am Bible Study	22 6:30pm Bible Study	23	24	25
26 10am Worship	27 Memorial Day (Office Closed) 	28 10am Bible Study	29 6:30pm Bible Study	30	31	