

## PASTORS PAGE

To the Saints at Bethany,

The Holy Spirit helps us to begin to understand things that we could never even start to comprehend on our own. And one of the methods that He uses throughout Scripture is an English teacher's favorite: metaphor. Jesus was particularly fond of metaphors, comparing the hidden and incomprehensible Kingdom of God to everyday objects and experiences. Some of the most frequently employed metaphors in Scripture are those of "growing" or "building." Anyone who has seen a garden grow or tackled a DIY project around the house knows that these processes are not always clean, not always predictable, and not always according to how they first look on paper. The Kingdom of God, as it is growing in the world and growing in our souls, can be messy. It does not always follow predictable patterns. And the Kingdom of God comes in ways that we often would never think it would. In our worship services in the month of May, we will continue to explore how the Kingdom of God worked through some figures of the Old Testament. The month of May is a time to consider growth in both the world and in our spiritual lives, and we will see how the Kingdom of God still grows. Towards the end of the month, we celebrate the Feast of Pentecost, one of the most important holidays in the history of the world, and the birthday of the Christian Church. The days after Pentecost were days of great growth for the Kingdom, and we will see how God continues to grow His people through His Word! Here is a list of worship themes and services in May (all Sunday services 10 a.m.):

May 3: "From a Cave to a Palace: The Story of David"

May 10: "When Wisdom Suffers a Mid-Life Crisis: The Story of Solomon"

May 14: Ascension Thursday service at Good Shepherd, Sheboygan (6:30 p.m.)

May 17: "When the Journey is Too Hard: The Story of Elijah"

May 24: Pentecost Sunday: "The Spirit Flows and Life Grows" (John 7:37-39)

May 31: Holy Trinity Sunday: "What God Thinks of You" (Proverbs 8)



### JOIN US FOR THE SHEBOYGAN LCMS ASCENSION SERVICE

**Thursday, May 14 at 6:30pm**  
**Good Shepherd Lutheran Church**  
**1614 South 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Sheboygan**

Our Guest Preacher is the Rev. Dr. Tobias Schütze of the Lutheran Theological Seminary, South Africa (The Mission Offering will support the education of pastoral candidates at the South African Seminary.)

Participating congregations: Bethany (Kohler); Bethlehem; Christ, Grace (Haven); Good Shepherd, Immanuel; Luther Memorial; Our Redeemer; St. Mark; St. Paul; St. Thomas (Waldo); Trinity (Wilson)

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings! I hope you all enjoyed Easter with your family and friends, as we celebrated the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus. I really enjoyed the food and fellowship at our Easter breakfast before the service this year. A big "THANK YOU" to all the people who donated the food and volunteered to help! It was well attended and enjoyed by all. I hope to see that become a new annual tradition.

On Thursday May 28<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm, a representative from LCEF (Lutheran Church Extension Fund) will be visiting us to share some demographic information. His presentation is free of charge to the church and will take place in the council meeting room downstairs. The information he is sharing will help us to better understand our community and how we can use LCEF resources to help with things like ministry opportunities and outreach. Anyone who is interested is welcome to attend. I would especially encourage those who are already in leadership positions to attend this.

In a past newsletter, I mentioned the feedback we received on how friendly and welcoming Bethany is when visitors worship with us. I just want to reiterate how important that is to fuel our growth. Just a friendly smile and greeting with some small talk can go a long way to make them feel welcome and possibly want to return. Ask their names, where they are from, what brings them here, etc. I understand it can be awkward sometimes but just remember that they are in a place where they don't know anybody. I've noticed a lot of visitors lately and I hope we are continuing to be that welcoming presence and reflection of God's love! Keep up the great work!

Yours in Christ,  
Andy Fibiger

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### MAY BIRTHDAYS

5-03: Steen Willadsen  
Lilian Giertz  
5-05: Dan Fibiger  
5-06: Austin Fibiger  
5-07: Julie Regutis  
5-10: Jocelyn Meyer  
Deb Giertz



5-11: Shirley Mueller  
Grace Matte  
5-14: Marilyn Buell  
5-17: Ray Ottman  
Betsy Metscher  
5-18: Ryan Brooks  
5-22: Joshua Yang



### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5-01: Bill & Julie Regutis  
5-11: Joe & Lori Wychesit  
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.

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## **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.

***We look forward to a visit from Colin Edwards from VVMi on Sunday, May 31. Colin will be at our service to share an update on the mission of VVMi.***



## 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:

- The Perpetual Call for Pastors and Teachers – LCMS Office of Pastoral Education, U.S.
- Light of Christ to Unwed Homeless Mothers – A Place of Refuge Ministries, Wisconsin
- Building a Place of Care, Dakota Boys and Girls Ranch, North Dakota

***THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP WITH THIS IMPORTANT MISSION PROJECT!***

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## BETHANY YOUTH

**End of the Year party** - The Sunday School and Middle and High School Bible Study will have a party and teacher appreciation ceremony on May 17 from 8:45-9:45 in the fellowship hall. We will have snacks, games, activities, and prizes!



**Sunday School Music** - The Sunday School kids in 3K-5th grade will also ring kid's bells and chimes during church at 10:00 on May 17. They will ring "I am Jesus' Little Lamb."

**Last Day of Sunday School** - Sunday, May 17 will be the last Sunday of Sunday School and Sunday morning Bible study for this school year. We are blessed to have started up Sunday School again and started up Middle and High School Bible Study. We are thankful for our students, our student's families, teachers, teacher assistants, the Board of Education, Pastor Azor, and our supportive congregation. We are also thankful to those who have donated items and have prayed for our children and youth.

Even though Sunday School and Sunday morning Bible Study will be ending on May 17, we hope to see all children and family in church this summer and for youth events! Mark your calendars for the start of Sunday school and Bible study on **Sunday, September 13<sup>th</sup>**.

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## *Music at Bethany*



The Joy Choir and Jubilate Ringers will sing and ring for the last time this season on May 17. We had a wonderful, abbreviated year as we started up our music groups this year! Thank you to our singers and ringers who have provided beautiful music in worship! We will start up again in the fall and new members are always welcome!





*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.*

### **4:12 Student Ministries Is Bethany's Youth Group**

This group is open to all youth in 7<sup>th</sup> 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!

- The Youth Group had fun playing MarioKart at the parsonage on April 11! They played the game and ate snacks while enjoying time together. We talked about how just like the racetracks were unpredictable and blue shells get thrown at us, all kinds of circumstances get thrown at us in real life. In life, we can trust God that all things work out for the good of those who love him.
- The Youth Group then enjoyed a fun game night hosted by Immanuel on April 18! They enjoyed games and snacks and had a Bible Study.
- Coming up, Immanuel will host a **rummage sale Sat., May 2 from 8 a.m.-2 p.m.** and a brat fry the same day from 9am -1pm. Youth from Bethany and Immanuel are invited to help. These are the dates and times youth, their families, and anyone else can help out **at Immanuel:**
  - Mon., Apr. 27 from 6-9pm - carry and sort items
  - Tues., Apr. 28 from 6-9pm - unbox, organize, and price items
  - Wed., Apr. 29 from 7:30-9pm - unbox, organize, and price items
  - Thurs., Apr. 30 from 7-9pm - unbox, organize, and price items
  - Fri., May 1 from 9am - noon and 2 pm - ? - unbox, organize, and price items
  - Sat., May 2 from 7:30am - 2pm and 2 pm - ? – Help during the sale and clean up after

### **Other Upcoming Youth Group Events:**

Saturday, May 9 from 2-4 p.m. - Card making workshop led by Lisa Willadsen

Saturday, May 23 – Dinner at Culvers. The youth group will meet at Immanuel at 7pm.



**Immanuel Lutheran**  
**Rummage Sale & Brat Fry**  
 1634 Illinois Ave, Sheboygan

**Saturday May 2, 2026**  
**Rummage Sale:** 8am-1pm  
**\$5 Bag Sale:** 1-2pm  
**Brat Fry:** 9am-1pm

**Support the Youth Group!**

**Proceeds from the rummage sale support the American Heritage Girls Troop, Trail Life Boys Troop, and Youth programs at Immanuel and Bethany Lutheran.**

## THANK YOU FROM THE YOUTH GROUP!



Thank you to everyone who attended, helped out in person, and donated items for Bethany's first Easter Breakfast in a long time! We enjoyed the delicious food and the fellowship together on the morning that we celebrate our Lord's resurrection!

The kids also had fun with the Easter egg hunt! Thank you to our youth for filling and hiding the eggs, and thank you to those who donated bags, eggs, candy, and other items!



***Together, We Are Love in Action***  
*"May God equip you with all you need for doing His will. May He produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to Him. All glory to Him forever and ever! Amen."*  
*~ Hebrews 13:21*

**Local churches from Oostburg & Cedar Grove are joining forces for a day of food, fellowship, and impact—and you're invited!**

Come out for the annual Brat Fry & Bake Sale and support Love INC of Sheboygan County—where every bite you enjoy helps change lives across our community.

**May 9, 2026**

**10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Piggly Wiggly, 118 N 9th St., Oostburg**



## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF MAY 2026

**Sunday, May 3**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Steve & Diane Marotz
Acolyte:	Ezra Cigelske
Altar Guild:	Gina & Andy Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Cigelskes
Streaming:	Noah Fibiger

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

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Todd & Dori Matte
Acolyte:	Jocelyn Meyer
Altar Guild:	Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson
Streaming:	Madison Fibiger

**Sunday, May 17**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/ Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Dan Fibiger
Acolyte:	Zak Cigelske
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Scripture Reader:	Kal Cigelske
Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger
Streaming:	Zak Willadsen

**Sunday, May 24**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Steve Hazen
Ushers:	Ray & Shirley Ottman
Acolyte:	Steen Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger
Streaming:	Andy Fibiger

**Sunday, May 31**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Steve & Alaric Hazen
Acolyte:	Ezra Cigelske
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Tom Schnettler
Streaming:	Kal Cigelske

# May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2 8am Immanuel Rummage Sale
3 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	4 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	5 10:30am Bible Study 6pm Elder Meeting	6 3:30pm Bible Foundations	7 6pm Board of Education	8	9
10 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC <b>Mother's Day</b>	11 6pm Choir Practice 7pm Chime Choir Practice	12 10:30am Bible Study 6:15pm Board of Finance 7pm Church Council	13 3:30pm Bible Foundations	14 6:30pm Ascension Worship @ Good Shepherd	15	16
17 8:45am Sunday School & Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	18	19 10:30am Bible Study	20 3:30pm Bible Foundations	21	22	23 7pm Youth Group (dinner @ Culvers)
24 10am Worship w/HC	25 <b>Memorial Day Office Closed</b>	26	27	28 6pm LCEF Presentation	29	30
31 10am Worship w/HC						