

PASTOR'S PAGE

Dear Christian Friends,

"I (Paul) thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philipians 1:3-7

When I arrived 18 years ago, Bethany was approaching its 100th Anniversary. The congregation had just finished an extensive remodel. You spent much time in the basement worshipping our Lord and Savior. As the construction dust settled, by God's design, through the Holy Spirit's orchestration I was installed the first Sunday in October of 2006 as your pastor. God sure works in mysterious ways. It was not the conventional way in receiving a divine call, but it was God's call non-the-less.

In fact, the late Rev John Wille, the SWD president, stated "Bob: you'll be my first and last vacancy pastor installation...Vacancy pastors are not to be called to the congregation they are serving." Ironically, God had other plans. I was Pastor Wille's 1st installation as SWD President. He had been serving the entire time I've been Bethany's Pastor. Now he is in the arms of our Lord and Savior no longer suffering with the cancer which he had battled these past 6 years. Jesus is the victory won for all who believe in Him.

One of the greatest aids in my ministry were the leadership meetings. This I credit to Bob Parnitzke and Roger Strenger, president and head elder at the time. Many probably don't know that each month the pastor meets with the congregational president, vice president and the head elder. These help the council and elder meetings run efficiently. They also helped in defining my tasks as pastor. Leadership, on the other hand, took stock in keeping the building up to date. They made sure that the brick and mortar of the building were sound. This helped me spend more time with you.

As pastor I was the mediator between Bethany and our Lord and Savior. This is the beauty of the holy ministry. The Lord called me, a lost and condemned person, to be your pastor for the past 18 years. Our Savior has given me the pleasure to Baptize, 1st Commune, Confirm, and visit the sick and shut-in, as well as perform many marriages. The privilege to absolve and place in your hands the body and blood of Christ are probably the most humbling experiences for a pastor. I did it all in the name and in the stead of Christ.

Somethings to reflect on during my time at Bethany: SportsLife Camp; Church Picnics with the famous dunk tank; 100th Anniversary; The Story; The Story Concert; sponsoring the 2017 Luther Movie; Mothers' Day children's programs; Christmas Programs; VVMI presentations; Food for the Poor; Hymns For Hymn; many Adult Confirmations; COVID; Streaming the Service, and Bethany Breads.

Finally, Julie and I want to thank you for everything. We were truly blessed by each of you. You received us with such grace and mercy. You were there with us when Patrick and Rachel lost the triplets, and my issues and the little sabbatical, my illness and surgery. Nathan's severe case of pneumonia. Just to name a few. You allowed us to take time with our families to mourn the passing of our fathers: Rev Edwin Narr and Kenneth Steele. You welcomed my mother, Barbara Steele into your midst. These are just a few of the many blessings received.

I, Rev Robert Steele, thank my God in all my remembrance of you, always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, because of our partnership in the gospel from Oct 2006 through July 2024. I, like Paul, am sure of this, that He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ.

Yours in Christ,
Rev Robert Steele

Reminder...

Together Let's Honor and Celebrate
the Retirement of Our Beloved Pastor

Rev. Robert Steele

Sunday, July 28, 2024
Bethany Lutheran Church
222 Church Street
Kohler, WI

Church Service: 10:00am

Featuring special music by various family and friends

Catered Dinner: following the church service

Bethany's Fellowship Hall

Reservations are Required

Sign up in back of church
Or RSVP to the church office

email: info@blckohler.com

phone: 920-457-4681

Please RSVP by July 15

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

On Wednesday, June 19, we attended Pastor's very last Bible study. As I reflect on all the years he has run these Bible studies, I am amazed at the depth of knowledge he has about not only the Bible, but history in general. He always had interesting facts about the way of life in Biblical times as it related to the scripture we were studying. Whether it was laws, customs, clothing, culture, food, etc. he always was a wealth of knowledge. I'm thankful for all the time we got to spend with Pastor Steele over the years and how the Lord worked through him to lead us and teach us about the scripture. Below is a picture of the group who attended the last class.



As we prepare to bid farewell to our beloved Pastor this month, I encourage you all to attend the last service on July 28th, as it will surely be special with Pastor's family providing music for the service. The service will be followed by a luncheon in the basement to celebrate the past 18 years we've had with Pastor Steele and wish him well on his retirement. I'd like to personally thank Pastor Steele for his many years of dedicated leadership and spiritual guidance, and just being a friend to so many. I wish you the best of many years of good health and happiness throughout your retirement and pray the Lord will continue to richly bless you and work through you to continue sharing the good news with others.

As we look ahead to the future of our pastoral care, a vacancy pastor has already been named: Pastor Don Johnson from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Sheboygan. He will be our Pastoral leader and will take care of finding pastors to preach each week. We also have a call committee formed with the following members: Bob Wuerzberger, Beth Loree, Dori Matte, Gerry Luebke, Lee Gumm, Steve Hazen, Shua Yang and myself. I'd like to sincerely thank these members for agreeing to help with the call process and look forward to working with them all. Pastor Alan Kretschmar (circuit visitor) will be leading us through the call process, and we will be having our first meeting with him and LCMS South Wisconsin District vice president Bryan Osladil on Monday, July 8th. Please keep this group in your prayers that we may work cohesively and thoughtfully, with the Lord's guidance, to find our next pastor.

I hope everyone enjoys the summer!

Yours in Christ,
Andy Fibiger

JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-01: Cindy Bartz
7-04: Cheryl Prepster
Kashton Diehl
7-05: Zane Willadsen
7-08: Bob Kuehlmann
Megan Fibiger
7-16: Paul Havlinek



7-21: Mary Ann Fibiger
Jim Madden
7-23: Lisa Willadsen
Ann Walesh
7-29: Kya Diehl
Liz Buesing
Laura Tershner

JULY ANNIVERSARIES



7-05: Dave & Sue Prange
7-06: David & Sara Hasler
7-12: Tom & Joan Schnettler
7-28: Brian & Kristine Faucher
7-24: Steven & Diane Marotz

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.

JULY/AUGUST MISSION OF THE MONTH – Lutheran Deaf Mission Society (LDMS)

It is estimated that approximately ninety-eight percent of Deaf people in the United States do not attend church. This is, in part, due to the limited number of deaf churches. While the number of full-time pastors serving Deaf churches has decreased, the Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod has seen an increase in the number of Deaf pastors, deacons, deaconesses, and lay leaders who use sign language to communicate the Gospel message. This has happened because of programs like Deaf Pah and the Deaf Institute of Theology. LDMS will engage in evangelism and Christian education training to help Deaf Persons and their families see Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior and engage in stewardship and leadership training to help Deaf Persons serve Jesus Christ. To learn more, visit their website at www.deafjesus.org. Please use your Designated Offerings envelopes during the months of July and August to support this mission. Thank you for your support!



***** 8th Annual Putt Fore Love Mini Golf Outing *****

July 20 from 10am – 6pm at Harbor Pointe Mini Golf

**Join us for a fun-filled day of mini golf, slushies,
balloon pop game, lemonade stand, and more!**

New this year! Church Challenge Team Tournament with trophies and \$100 gift certificate to local restaurant! Register in advance and then bring your team of 4 any time on July 20. If there is a foursome from Bethany that would like to compete, the cost is \$48 and you can register by calling (920) 783-6701, ext.5101

All Proceeds benefit Love INC of Sheboygan County

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

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

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Steve & Diane Marotz
Altar Guild: Julie Steele, Rachel Johnson
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks
Streaming: Noah Fibiger

Sunday, July 14
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Steve Hazen
Ushers: Ken Thompson, Bob Kuehlmann
Altar Guild: Sue & Dave Prange
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Steve Marotz
Streaming: Steve Perry

Sunday, July 21
10:00 a.m.


Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Dan Fibiger
Altar Guild: Liz & Ken Buesing
Scripture Reader: Thomas Yang
Door Locker: Ken Thompson
Streaming: Thomas Yang

Sunday, July 28
10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion*

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Fibigers
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Andy Fibiger
Streaming: Madison Fibiger

*(communion was switched to the 28th due to that being Pastor's last service)

July 2024

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	01	02	03	04  Office Closed	05	06
07 10am Worship w/HC	08	09	10	11	12	13
14 10am Worship	15	16	17	18	19	20
			<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Church office closed</div>			
21 10am Worship	22	23	24	25	26	27
28 10am Worship w/HC 11am Pastor's Steele's Retirement Party	29	30	31			