

PASTOR'S PAGE

Encouragement

Many of you have seen those "Pass It On" commercials. They come from a group known as "The Foundation For A Better Life", a non-religious organization. Many billboards display celebrities, others common everyday people. Same goes for the commercials. One such commercial is entitled, "Encouragement!" In fact, it was one of the organization's first advertisements.

The ad goes like this: A young married couple comes into a concert hall. Each are coming to their seats in the same row from opposite directions. They meet and say frantically, "Where's Tommy?" The scene immediately shifts to Tommy, the curtains open, and Tommy is sitting in front of the concert grand piano on stage. Of course, the parents are embarrassed. Tommy begins to play "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Stars" on the piano. The camera shot shows the embarrassed parents sliding down into their theater seats. The audience gasps when suddenly, from behind Tommy, comes the concert pianist. He bends down, extends his arms around Tommy, and says, "Don't stop playing!" Tommy continues. The pianist embellishes Tommy's "Twinkle, Twinkle" melody. The duet ends with the parents cheering and a standing ovation from the audience. The commercial ends with the boy's narration: "Encouragement: Pass it On!"

Paul writes many letters to the fledgling churches in Asia Minor. The majority of the letters were written to address ongoing strife in these churches. The letters all start with words of encouragement. Then he addresses the point of disunity. Finally, he encourages the members to lay aside their differences and come together. The majority of these churches had members from different social-economic classes.

In Paul's first letter to the church in Corinth, he encourages women to cover their heads. Corinth was a very wealthy city. A woman's societal status was displayed in the braiding of woman's hair. The wealthier you were, the more gold strands were braided into the woman's hair. He encourages the women to cover their hair so no animosity would rise among the women by the displaying of their braided hair. While in church, the women covered their heads and as soon as the women went back out in public, the coverings would come off. In this small act Paul is encouraging unification of the women in this church.

My letter to you this month is a letter of encouragement. Upon the arrival of this letter, we will be in the midst of Holy Week. Last year at this time we were not worshiping at all. You were not here to hear God's declaration of forgiveness. You were not able to gather around Bethany's altar to receive the Body and Blood of Christ through which you receive forgiveness of sins, strength for your daily walk, and the reminder of your newness of life in Christ.

Communion is essential for the believer. Jesus' words are clear, "Where two or three are gathered in my Name, I am in the midst of them." The word communion comes from the word "community". Human beings were created to be in community. From the beginning, God stated that it was not good for man to be alone. So, God created Eve so that Adam would not be alone.

It is not good for us to be alone. We need to come together. This pandemic has run its course. The vaccines are out. Most of the "high risk" groups have been vaccinated, or will be soon. It's time to move out from our hovels and gather as a community around God's altar. The Psalmist cries: "Where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, Creator of heaven and earth." God's help comes to those who gather at Bethany.

God's help comes from where God's word is preached and the sacraments are distributed as our Lord and Savior commands. Lay aside your differences, it's time to come and worship our resurrected Lord and Savior. It is far better for us to rely on the Lord, than to rely on the politicians and bureaucrats. They are limited. Moreover, God does it all. He will protect and guide you on your way. If you wear a mask, come! If you do not wear a mask, don't judge one who does not. If you are anti-mask, don't judge one who wears a mask. God is God of all! God gives us those in the medical profession to heal us. They also can take us only so far! The true healing of both body and soul occurs when we gather around God's altar at Bethany. We can do this!

God will not hinder us from coming before Him as one community under the banner of the cross. God is with us wherever we go! He will not abandon us in this place. Come let us worship our risen Lord and Savior! Trust him! He will lead us through the shadows of Death!

Jesus rose for you! He conquered death for you! COVID will not separate you from the love of God found in Christ Jesus, our Lord and Savior.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steele

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Spring has sprung and the white stuff is melting. It feels like we are in sight of the finish line with Covid 19 where we can get back to normal. Soon it will be Easter, the season of Hope, where we can say, "Halleluiah!", again and thank our Lord and Savior for His sacrifice on our behalf.

There is so much to look forward to and be thankful for. In March, we've been enjoying the soup suppers with our new kitchen. We plan to have "to go" cupcakes for our 112th Anniversary after services April 10th and 11th. Pastor is starting a new study series called Red Letter Challenge in April, too. We have four children (Ella, Madison, Zakary, and Zane) being confirmed in May celebrating a major milestone in their Christian life. And, in June, Julie and Nathan Steele are planning an afternoon recital to demonstrate the new features and sounds of the organ. Like I said, so much to look forward to.

Thanks to everyone who serves Bethany, and if you're not currently involved in something at church, I encourage you to do so. It's a great way to use the gifts God gave you and connect with like-minded people who care about you. Please consider being a Sunday School teacher this coming fall, to bring the next generation along.

Be Well, God Bless and to God be the Glory!
Todd Matte - Council President

HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

April 1: Maundy Thursday at 6:00pm w/Holy Communion

April 2: Good Friday at 1:00pm **and** 6:00pm

April 3: No Service

April 4: Easter Service at 8:30am **and** 10:00am w/Holy Communion

(you do not need to sign up for which service you plan to attend)



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: Griffin Marotz
4-09: Amelia Hasler
4-11: Ella Albert



4-16: Ken Thompson
Diane Havlinek
4-17: Barbara Gumm
4-18: Juanita Hazen
Ashley Cox
4-22: Garrett Marotz
4-25: Ben Marotz

4-27: Conner Paltzer
4-28: LuEva Nytes
Ryan Mengel
4-29: Tom Schnettler

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

4-4: Paul & Diane Havlinek
4-16: Gary & Cindy Bartz
4-27: Doug & Kristi Luecke

If we missed a member's birthday or anniversary, please contact the church office and let us know.

MARCH/APRIL CHARITY OF THE MONTH – 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.

Why We Celebrate Easter

a poem by Lenora McWhorter

We celebrate the resurrection
and hail the risen Christ.
We kneel before the rugged cross
where Jesus gave His life.

We lift our hands in total praise
and give thanks to God above
for the great sacrifice He made
to declare His unfailing love.

If we look back to Calvary
where Jesus was crucified,
we can see His nail-pierced hands
and the wounds in His side.

We marvel at Christ's suffering
and give thanks for His sacrifice
'cause it was for us that Jesus died
so we could have eternal life.

But God raised Jesus from the dead!
And with gratitude we can say,
"Our sin debt has been paid in full,"
so we celebrate Resurrection Day!





THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS

Thank you to all that have directed your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Bethany! These funds are being used in many wonderful ways to help many people. If you a charity or an idea of where these funds could go, please contact one of our Thrivent Bethany Reps.

Lynn Luebke, Dave Prange, Mary Madden



Don't forget to pick up your Red Letter Challenge book in the back of church. The "40 Day Life Changing Experience" begins on April 11. Pastor's weekly sermons will follow this study. There is also a Biblical Reading Plan that includes prayers and activities to do each day. You can find this on the table in the back of church, on the counter outside Pastor's office, and also on the Home page of Bethany's website.

LOVE INC NEWS

Easter Blessings Friends at Bethany



Each year the Staff at Love INC picks a word for the year to celebrate and focus on, this year our word is RENEW.....such a perfect word for all of us as we put 2020 behind us and lift our hearts up instead to what lies ahead. The one thing we Christians ALL know for sure is God's great love for us as we journey through His Sons suffering, death and resurrection, so we as poor sinners are saved by God's Grace alone.

2021 - RENEWING FAITH, HOPE, & LOVE

JOIN LOVE INC OF SHEBOYGAN COUNTY AS WE RENEW OUR FAITH IN CHRIST, OUR JOY OF SERVICE, AND OUR HOPE FOR THE FUTURE. MAY GOD RENEW YOUR STRENGTH IN 2021!

PSALM 23:3 - HE RENEWS MY STRENGTH. HE GUIDES ME ALONG RIGHT PATHS, BRINGING HONOR TO HIS NAME.

Please take a couple of minutes to view the video below that was put together for our Living Out Love Virtual Event last October. We have our challenges ahead of us in Sheboygan County but "Together in Christ" we can help raise awareness of needs and solutions in our county.

(to view the video: click on the link below or for those that receive a printed newsletter, go to YouTube.com and search "Love INC Be Part of the Solution". The first video that shows up is the Love INC video. It is 6:17 long)

<https://youtu.be/CJCthOruhNA>

God Bless - Sue Prange
Bethany's Love INC CMC

FROM THE BOARD OF ELDERS

Dear Friends at Bethany,

Over the past year, we have experienced a lot of changes at the church due to the ever-evolving safety recommendations for living in a pandemic. We understand many of you may not feel comfortable coming back to church yet and we pray that you are staying safe and receiving some sort of spiritual nourishment through the weekly church services that we are posting online. If there is anything the church can do to help or if you have any concerns that you would like to share with the church, feel free to reach out to your elder. Below is a list of name assignments for the 2021 elder group.

<u>Family Names</u>	<u>Elder</u>	<u>Elder Phone Number</u>
Albert – Faucher	Brian Faucher	920-287-2085
Fibiger - Hummitzsch	Andy Fibiger	920-912-7316
Johnson – Marotz	Gerry Luebke	920-287-7345
Matte – Rousse	Lee Gumm	920-458-9085
Sabrowsky – Yang	Shua Yang	920-254-0336

Jason Mengel is also available at 678-677-2154. If there is a particular elder you feel more comfortable talking with, feel free to contact that elder. We are all happy to talk with you!

Yours in Christ,

Andy Fibiger - Head Elder

KINDNESS ROCKS

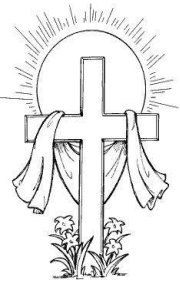
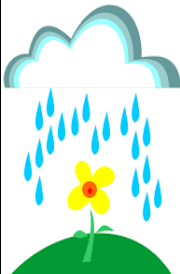
A few weeks ago, the Sunday School children spent the morning painting "Kindness Rocks". These rocks were included in gift baskets that were given to some of our members that are shut in or unable to come to church at this time. The children really enjoyed painting them and we hope they brightened the day of those who received them.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER NEEDED

Would you like to join the wonderful teaching staff at Bethany? We are in need of a Sunday School teacher for the 2021/22 school year. There is some flexibility as to which grades you would teach. Also, if you are interested in being a parttime or substitute teacher, that is an option as well. Please contact Gina Fibiger either in the church office or at 920-287-1009 for more information. Thank you!

April 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01 6:00pm Maundy Thursday w/HC	02 1:00pm Good Friday Service 6:00pm Good Friday Service	03 No Service
04 8:30am Easter Worship w/HC 10:00am Easter Worship w/HC	05 6:30pm Elders	06	07 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	08	09	10 4pm Worship
11 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	12 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	13	14 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	15	16	17 4pm Worship w/HC
18 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship w/HC	19	20	21 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	22	23	24 4pm Worship
25 8:45am Sunday School Bible Study 10am Worship	26	27	28 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	29	30 	

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021

Thursday, April 1
6:00 p.m.
Maundy Thursday
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Prange
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson

Friday, April 2
1:00 p.m.
Good Friday

Elder: Lee Gumm
Ushers: Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Acolyte: Zakary Willadsen

Friday, April 2
6:00 p.m.
Good Friday

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: Hazen
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger

Sunday, April 4
8:30 a.m.
Easter Sunday
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Altar Guild: Lynn & Gerry Luebke
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, April 4
10:00 a.m.
Easter Sunday
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: Matte
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Door Locker: Ben Marotz

Saturday, April 10
4:00 p.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher
Altar Guild: Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange

Sunday, April 11
10:00 a.m.

Elder: Gerry Luebke
Ushers: Fibiger
Acolyte: Ella Albert
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

Saturday, April 17

4:00 p.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Ottman
Acolyte:	Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Liz & Ken Buesing
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange

Sunday, April 18

10:00 a.m.

w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Jason Mengel
Ushers:	Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger
Acolyte:	Ryan Mengel
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Ken Thompson



Saturday, April 24

4:00 p.m.

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Acolyte:	Kaleb Faucher
Altar Guild:	Shirley & Ray Ottman
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange

Sunday, April 25

10:00 a.m.

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Prange
Acolyte:	Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Dan Fibiger