

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### Red Letter Challenge

People who are new to the faith have often asked: "How do I follow Jesus? What am I supposed to do?" Even people who have believed and followed Jesus for much of their life struggle to answer that question. The author of the "Red Letter Challenge", Pastor Zach Zehnder states: "As I explored Christ's words, I found that He asked His followers to do many things, but He spent a good portion of His time focused on five main principles."

1. Being
2. Forgiving
3. Serving
4. Giving
5. Going

The Challenge is organized to introduce these five principles over 40 days. There are 2 seasons in the church year that are 40 days long: Lent and Easter. Bethany is looking at doing the Red Letter Challenge during the Easter Season. The first 5 days of the Challenge focuses on the 5 principals. Then for the next 5 weeks the congregation will study each of these principals in depth.

Pastor Zehnder states:

*"By putting God's words into practice, you will find the life God has made for you! You will be led to spend more time with the God who loves you. You will serve and sacrifice more than you ever have before. You will forgive people you never thought you would be able to. (That person may even be yourself!) You will become a more generous person. You will be more bold and courageous in what you say and in how you live. And through the entire Challenge, you celebrate and enjoy the life God has given for you!*

*Another thing that will probably happen is you will fail! Sorry for the harsh words but I've never done the Challenge perfectly. There's been days I missed here and there or an idea that was too hard for me for a particular day. If this happens to you, I invite you to write down your thoughts for that day and why you struggled. You will find that perhaps you are stronger in some areas than others in your faith.*

*Being a follower of Jesus is not always pretty, and sometimes we mess up. We have forgiveness for those times and God urges us to come back to Him and keep following after Him. Whether you are experiencing success or failure, I want to encourage you not to get frustrated. Just keep moving on. What we are hoping to create is a new habit in your life."*

Old habits are hard to break. Paul writes "For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out. For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing...Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! (Romans 7:18-19; 24-25b)" When we begin to study the Word of our Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer for Bethany is that the Holy Spirit working through the Word expand our horizons in the community.

I personally see that the "Red Letter Challenge" will enhance our ability to extend the hand of Christ to all.

Blessings,

Pastor Steele

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Happy New Year to all our Bethany Members. 2020, in my opinion, will be a year of transition. One could almost say “a changing of the guard” from older members to younger members in leadership positions. With the new Council Members, I’m excited to see their involvement and dedication to their new positions. I would also like to thank all who served in 2019. Your leadership made 2019 a very good year for Bethany. I would also like to thank Todd Matte for putting together Bethany’s Annual Report which you can find in the back of church.

2020 will also be a year where new families will be coming to our Kohler Village with the new subdivision opening. I have asked the Council to think of ways we can get information about Bethany to our new residents. We are updating our website to be able to offer more information over social media. I just really think this is an opportunity to share Bethany with the community. What better way to emphasize part of our Mission Statement, “TO SHARE THE HAND OF CHRIST WITH ALL.” If you have an idea, let anyone on the Council know. No ideas are bad ideas!

Our Organ Project Update is nearing completion of Phase 1 and 2. Thank you to Julie Steele for her work during the service on January 19 that showcased the new sounds and instruments. Phase 3 will be started in late winter. Phase 3 is replacing pipes with new better sounding pipes that work well within our new system. I would like to thank everyone who contributed to the “Buy-a-Pipe” program. It was a total success. Lee Gumm will be working on a plaque to list and thank all who contributed and want to be acknowledged.

Our Kitchen makeover project is well on its way. The Long Range Planning Committee and Bethany Members who use the kitchen have met several times. These meetings have provided the LRPC with new ideas to improve the use and flow of the facility. Our goal is to have this become an open space where Members can meet and discuss plans and maybe have a cup of coffee too. The LRPC has hired an architect to put these ideas into a plan. His fee was donated by a family from Bethany. To date we have received initial drawings from the architect. All committee members met and discussed these plans and revised some ideas. The next step is to get costs of what these plans would be and prepare a budget. Even though we are still in the planning stages, I can feel the excitement from the group. More information will be presented to the Members as these plans are developed.

To God be given all the Glory.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger-Council President

---

## JANUARY/FEBRUARY CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Orphan Grain Train

During the months of January and February, all money collected from your “Designated Offerings” contribution envelopes will go **Orphan Grain Train**. Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that shares personal and material resources with needy people in America and around the world. Grain Train volunteers gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, food, Christian literature, and other aid to meet real needs. For more information, visit their website at [www.ogt.org](http://www.ogt.org)

## **FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS**

2-03: Elsie Reinbacher  
Cindy Fisher  
2-05: Richard Johnson  
Lois Schmideler  
2-07: Peggy Keller  
2-14: Thomas Yang  
2-15: Andrew Kraus



2-16: Colin Mengel  
2-17: Steve Perry  
2-18: Caleb Cox  
2-23: David Prange  
Noah Fibiger  
2-25: Joe Wychesit  
2-26: Jeremy Barthels  
2-28: Madison Fibiger

## **FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES**

2-1: Brant & Nicole Koci  
2 - 8: James & Barbara Herzog  
2 -15: Ken & Liz Buesing

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

## **SOUP SUPPERS TO BEGIN ON ASH WEDNESDAY (FEBRUARY 26)**

Please join us in the fellowship hall prior to each Lenten Service beginning at 5pm for a soup supper. Join together for a time of fellowship sponsored by Thrivent Choice Dollar funds. Anyone wishing to bring a dessert to share is welcome to do so. We will again be having different groups "hosting" each of the Soup Suppers. A free will offering will be taken each night to help raise money for various charities as well as to cover some of the cost of the supplies. If you are interested in hosting one of the Suppers, please contact Gina in the church office.



## **VALENTINE BREAKFAST FOR SUNDAY SCHOOL CHILDREN**

On Sunday, February 9, the Sunday School children will be enjoying a breakfast prepared by the Sunday School teachers and Board of Education while they create Valentine cards that will be given to Bethany's shut ins.

## **A BIG THANK YOU TO BETHANY'S CHRISTMAS ELVES**

Bethany always *GLOWS* at Christmas.....I hear it from Kohler residents who attend the Christmas Walk and anyone who visits us during the Holidays plus so many of our Bethany Family. It is truly a lot of work and many of us or should I say most of us have become Senior Elves so we are grateful when we have a few of our Junior Elves step up to help.

Altar Guild somehow became the Decorating Committee several years ago so that is another reason we are always looking for new members to join us or if you are interested in just decorating we would love to add you to that list to help at Christmas and Easter, especially if you are willing to go on the high ladder to get the trumpets up.

Blessings, Elves for your faithful service to the Lord!

Sue Prange - Altar Guild President



## † A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Bill Gehrke was called to his heavenly home on December 18, 2019. A private family memorial was held on December 19, 2019.

## ‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

In memory of Bill Gehrke, Memorial Fund gifts were given by Julie Schuman, Betty Hahn, and Delores Gehrke. An Endowment Fund gift was given by Lee & Barb Gumm.

In remembrance of Glen Schuman, an Improvement Fund gift was given by Julie Schuman.

If you would like to give a memorial gift in memory or in honor of someone, cards can be found on the counter outside Pastor's office as well as in the back of church.

## FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

Listed below are the financials from the month of December, 2019 as well as the year-to-date totals.

December Income	Yr. To Date Income
\$19,031.95	\$165,226.50
December Expenses	Yr. To Date Expenses
\$20,859.09	\$192,969.23
December Net Gain/Loss	Yr. To Date Gain/Loss
\$(1,827.14)	\$(27,742.73)

Ben Marotz	Laura Tershner
Chairman - Board of Finance	Member – Board of Finance

## FEBRUARY MITE BOX

The Large LWML Mite Box will be out in the back of church on Sunday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>. This month's grant is designated for Refuge Renovation at the "Place of Refuge Ministries" which is located in Milwaukee. There is a need to renovate two emergency exit stairs and repair 2<sup>nd</sup> floor overhang and roof overhang. This grant will provide secure and safe lodging for single mothers and their children, as well as expectant mothers. Please help make these improvements a reality as this ministry also shares the Gospel message of faith in Christ our Lord and Savior.

## SONGS OF THE SEASON CONCERT

It is with great joy and thanksgiving that we invite you to the 20th and final Songs of the Season concerts: Feb. 2 at 2:00 p.m. at First Congregational Church 310 Bluff Ave. and Feb. 9 at 2:00 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1121 Georgia Ave. The selections of songs will consist of some favorites from previous years as well as some that are new. A hymn composed by Nathan Steele will begin the second half of the concert. (He will be at the Feb. 9th concert to direct the choir for this piece.) Sandy Kasten directs the choir, accompanied by Bill Born. Many instruments will accompany the choir at the Feb. 9th concert. A free will offering will be collected. Four of Bethany's choir members are participating: Annalise Hasler, Rachel Johnson, Pastor and Julie Steele.

# LOVE INC

- Love INC is Celebrating 5 Years of Blessings - On Sunday, February 9<sup>th</sup> the Fellowship Table will be hosted by Bethany's Love INC Volunteers as we have cake to celebrate the 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in Sheboygan County. God is Good and he has indeed blessed this Mission as we continue to grow and Help Churches Help People.
- You will continue to hear more and more about the "Transformational Ministry Program" and classes that are now being offered for our neighbors on Thursday evenings at Calvin Christian Reformed Church in Sheboygan. These classes can guide them in ways that can change their lives, teaching Affirming Potential, Faith & Finance, and Nutrition with more classes to come. When you see an opportunity for helping please consider it. Your continued support when one of the Gap Ministries are collecting items to fill a need for a neighbor are also appreciated. Please watch for postings as these needs arise. God Bless.....and remember "*If not YOU, then Who*"
- We will be partnering with some of our Neighbors in Sheboygan Falls again for Valentines week so we hope you will find time to visit one or more of them during that week and support our Ministry (see the flyer below). If you do...PLEASE remember to THANK them for their support of Love INC and we Thank YOU for your support also.



**February 10~15, 2020**

**For every purchase at these neighboring businesses a percentage will go to Love INC Clearinghouse Ministry, (Call Center), to support our Neighbors In Need.**



Love INC  
Love In the Name of Christ  
of Sheboygan County

920-783-6701  
[www.loveincsheboygancounty.org](http://www.loveincsheboygancounty.org)

*Our Purpose*

To mobilize local Christian Churches to transform lives and communities through relationships, In the Name of Christ.

<p>10% of Sales on Products &amp; Spa purchases <b>All Week</b> (Excludes Gift Card Purchases)</p>	<p>10% of Jewelry purchases <b>All Week</b> from Love INC visitors (Exclusions Apply)</p>	<p>10% of Sales on <b>Tuesday Feb 11</b></p>	<p>7.5% of Sales on <b>Wednesday Feb 12</b></p>	<p>10% of Sales on <b>Thursday Feb 13</b></p>	<p>1% of Sales on <b>Saturday Feb 15</b></p>	
						

**As you are visiting these businesses please remember to thank them and MENTION your support of Love INC**

## THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2020

**Sunday, February 2**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Andy Fibiger, Steve Hazen  
Ushers: Group 2 – Dan Fibiger, Steve Hazen,  
Brian & Aiden Faucher  
Acolyte: Winston Hasler  
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm  
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Sue Prange  
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange  
Door Locker: Ken Thompson

---

**Sunday, February 09**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elders: Jason Mengel  
Ushers: Group 3 – Doug Luecke, Ken Thompson,  
Karl Rademacher  
Acolyte: Grace Matte  
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte  
Altar Guild: Kristine & Maggie Faucher  
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange  
Door Locker: Dan Fibiger

---

**Sunday, February 16**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Shua Yang, Brian Faucher  
Ushers: Group 4 – Dave & Sue Prange,  
Jerry Sabrowsky  
Acolyte: Thomas Yang  
Scripture Reader: Norm Giertz  
Altar Guild: Marilyn Kirchenwitz, Lynn Luebke  
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange  
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

---

**Sunday, February 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elders: David Hasler  
Ushers: Group 5 - Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz,  
Victor Hazen  
Acolyte: Annalise Hasler  
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner  
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman  
Bulletin Folder: Sue Prange  
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

---

**Wednesday, February 26**  
**6:00 p.m.**  
Ash Wednesday  
w/Holy Communion

Elders: Andy Fibiger  
Ushers: Group 6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman,  
Derek MacKenzie  
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger  
Altar Guild: Barb & Lee Gumm

# February 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						01
<b>02</b> 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC	<b>03</b> 6:30 Elders	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b> Confirmation 3:00 – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 3:15 – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 4:00 – 6/7 grade  6:00pm Joy Choir	<b>06</b> 5pm Early Communion Class  7:15pm Dartball Bethany @ Good Shepherd	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>
<b>09</b> 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School  10am Worship	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> Confirmation 3:00 – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 3:15 – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 4:00 – 6/7 grade 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:00pm Trustees 6:00pm Joy Choir 6:15pm Finance 7:00pm Council	<b>13</b> 5pm Early Communion Class	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>16</b> 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> Confirmation 3:15 – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade	<b>20</b> 7:15pm Dartball Bethany @ St. Paul, HG	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>23</b> 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> Confirmation 3:00 – 8 <sup>th</sup> grade 3:15 – 5 <sup>th</sup> grade 4:00 – 6/7 grade  5pm Soup Supper <b>6pm Ash Wed w/HC</b> 7pm Joy Choir	<b>27</b> 5pm Early Communion Class	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>