

## PASTOR'S PAGE

### “WOKE”

The word “woke” was first used by the New York Times in 1962. “Woke” is the past participle of the word “wake”. “Woke” used to mean “conscious and aware” but more recently, the word “woke” has been redefined chiefly to mean “alert to racial or social discrimination and injustice.” Black Lives Matter, LGBTQ, and ANTIFA use this definition as a litmus test to determine who is “Woke”. Ironically, these groups definition is very fluid. When one is judged to be or not to be “Woke”, there is no rhyme or reason to who is “qualified” or “non-qualified” as “Woke”. If you are confused, you are not alone.

So, what does this have to do with Christianity? Words are being redefined throughout our culture. As of June 18<sup>th</sup>, we have a new national holiday, Juneteenth Day. This holiday is celebrated on June 19<sup>th</sup> to commemorate the emancipation of enslaved people in the US. The holiday was first celebrated in Texas, where on that date in 1865, in the aftermath of the Civil War, slaves were declared free under the terms of the 1863 Emancipation Proclamation. President Lincoln issued this Executive order that all slaves are free in all states, including the rebellious states. This proclamation led to the passage of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Sadly, President Lincoln never celebrated this political victory because he was shot dead in April. Andrew Johnson, Lincoln’s VP, signed into law that following December.

President Lincoln was an avid student of the Bible, though Lincoln never attended church services like many of the founding fathers of this great nation. Whether they were all believers, it’s not known, but many were and those who were not were still raised Christian. Christianity and its Biblical morality led to the phrase: “All men are created equal by their Creator...” The Founders understood that slavery would be a great tension in the young nation. So, to win the task at hand, The Revolution, the Founders punted the slavery issue down the road. The slave states, all in the south, would not support the Revolution.

Many of us fail to understand that slavery was instituted by the British Empire. This institution was forced on the colonists. Even from the beginning many if not all the Northern states rejected slavery. Since our founding fathers were British subjects, slavery was part of their culture. Ironically, the slave trade was abolished by King George III in 1807, some 53 years before the Civil War. Why no civil war in the British Empire? For the same reason we revolted. The King had absolute power and he ruled absolutely. If you disagreed, off with your head. Literally!

Are you “Woke”? Did you know that Christians fought against Christians in the Civil War? As a child I grew up believing that the Confederates were not Christian. I was not “Woke!” They all worshipped the same God and sang the same hymns. Even the enslaved were converted into Christianity. They converted to the religion of their slave masters. When freedom arrived, the former slaves held to their Christian faith. Over the years many a hymn was created and sung that came out of slavery. The slaves became “Woke” to Christianity and the true God. Only God can do such things! Praise the Lord!

As you read this newsletter article, the 4th of July is fast approaching. What was the battle that changed the fortune of our Civil War? If you answered Gettysburg, you would be correct. Do you know the dates this great battle was fought? It was on the eve of our nation's 87<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was fought July 1st through July 3rd, 1863. Remember Lincoln's Gettysburg Address "4 score and 7 years ago" A score is equal to 20 years (20 x4 = 80) plus 7 years = 87. Do you know the name of the ridge that General Meade's army held? At this ridge, General Pickett had roughly 6,000 casualties (dead and wounded). This was almost on-half of Pickett's division.

The ridge name was Cemetery. It was associated with the town's church and seminary, which so happened to be Lutheran, not Missouri though. Today, the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America and its Seminary still exists at Gettysburg. Are you "Woke" now?

Christians killed Christians over slavery. President Lincoln practiced the Christian faith. He gave up his life to free the slaves. The decisive battle was fought in the shadow of a Lutheran Seminary and its church. Sadly, the Civil War was decided by Christians. Our God wept upon all this slaughter. After the smoke clears many a Union "blue belly" and a Confederate, "Jonny Reb" passed together through the valley of the shadow of death. Now you are "Woke"!

I would like to thank my Junior High School Teacher, Mr. Lyson for the bulk of my being "Woke." I wonder if you test high schoolers today if they are "Woke" to US History.

Sadly, this will never be taught under CRT - Cultural Race Theory. So be wary of what's happening at our school board meetings throughout Sheboygan County. Don't be asleep - be "WOKE!"

Yours in Christ,  
Pastor Steele

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### JULY BIRTHDAYS

7-01: Cindy Bartz  
7-04: Cheryl Prepster  
7-05: Zane Willadsen  
7-08: Bob Kuehlmann  
Megan Fibiger  
7-10: Cooper Marotz  
David Taylor



7-16: Paul Havlinek  
7-21: Mary Ann Fibiger  
Jim Madden  
7-23: Lisa Willadsen  
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  
7-31: Ben & Abby Marotz

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

### **BOARD MEETINGS IN JULY**

Just a reminder that the Board of Finance, Board of Elders and Council will not meet in July. The Board of Education WILL meet however on July 12 at 6:00pm.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

What a June it has been! Nathan (and Julie) Steele did an amazing job performing and creating the organ recital program held on June 6<sup>th</sup>. Nathan received a standing ovation from the attendees comprised of Lutheran church members from around Sheboygan County after entertaining them for nearly an hour and a half. The program was very educational providing details about the organ, and also the composers who wrote the music that was being played. The technician who upgraded the organ, John Jordan, was also in attendance to celebrate the work that he had completed for Bethany.



I'd also like to send a special thank you to Lee Gumm for his work on the plaques and Norman Wilbert portrait to commemorate the organ project and to Karl Kaepler for helping to hang them just in time for the recital. They are true works of art. Also, thanks to Lee who provided the photos above.

On an unfortunate recurring note, the new refrigerator has been delayed to September now. Thankfully our current refrigerator still works, but we'll be glad to see it go when the final piece of the kitchen arrives. ☺

In last month's letter I talked about technology. We are currently waiting for a quote to see how far the \$2,200 grant from Siebert Lutheran Foundation will go in meeting some of Bethany's technology needs. Thanks to David Hasler, Lee Gumm, and Pastor Steele for meeting with Faith Technologies on June 9<sup>th</sup>. In the June 14<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting we discussed adding a budget line item for technology starting next year, and we will bring a plan with more details to the congregation in the November's voters meeting.

As you may have seen in the bulletin, there is a fundraiser for Alaric Hazen to make a dream of his come true. Alaric and his family have had many tough days with his medical conditions which among many things affect his motor skills and balance. As mentioned in last weekend's bulletin, the Council approved a motion to provide matching funds to Bethany members for up to a total of \$1,000 from the Church. Please consider donating monetarily toward this fundraiser and/ or volunteering your time at the Balde farm on July 10<sup>th</sup>.

Have a great Independence Day, and remember those who have fought so hard for us to keep our freedoms.

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

## **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](http://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!

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**



**Bethany's Annual Church Picnic**

**Sunday, September 12**

**11:00am - 3:00pm**

**Bethany Lutheran Church**

*(watch upcoming bulletins for picnic details and  
volunteer opportunities)*

## **CHURCH PICNIC COMMITTEE LOOKING FOR DONATIONS**

Could you help out with prizes for games? We are looking for game prizes such as: small toys, crayons, school supplies, small snack items, candy, dolls, stickers, coloring books, small books, crafts, jewelry etc. These items should be new or very gently used and can be placed in the basket marked "church picnic prize donations" that can be found in the lower narthex. If you'd rather make a monetary donation towards prizes, you can place your money in the offering plate and mark it "church picnic prizes" or give to Gina in the church office. Thank you!

### **\*\*\* 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Putt Fore Love Mini Golf Outing \*\*\***

**July 31 from 10am – 10pm at Harbor Pointe Mini Golf**



**18 Holes of mini golf**

**Photo Booth**

**Hole in One Contests**

**Raffles**

**Lemonade Stand and Slushies**



**All Proceeds benefit Love INC of Sheboygan County**

## SUMMER CONCERT SERIES TO BENEFIT LOVE INC – HELP NEEDED!

Friends of Love INC at Bethany - I volunteered us to sponsor the Concert on **Wednesday, July 14th** at River Park in Sheboygan Falls. Some of you have said you would help, but I do need a few more volunteers and bakers. Please see me at Church or call me at 920-918-2116 if you can help a couple hours serving or bake some cookies, bars or a pie for July 14<sup>th</sup> (I will pick up any baked goods). This is perfect for Community Service hours for High School students! Also, don't forget to attend all the concerts on Wednesdays this summer and stop by the Love INC tent for a snack and drink. Enjoy live music while supporting a good cause!

~ Sue Prange – Bethany's Love INC Rep



*Love Is All You Need*



## Summer Concert Series at River Park

**375 Buffalo Street & 1st Street, Sheboygan Falls**

Free concerts hosted by Sheboygan Falls Chamber-Main Street

**VISIT THE LOVE INC FOOD TENT  
AND SUPPORT OUR CAUSE!**

**SERVING 5:00PM-8:00PM**

**SOFT PRETZELS W/ CHEESE  
BAKED GOODS  
CHIPS  
BOTTLED WATER**

**\* CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED!**

CONCERTS	6:00 - 8:00PM
6/9	BELLA MUSIK
6/23	TONIC ROOTS
7/14	II COOL
7/28	6 O'CLOCK BLUES
8/11	BIG BASS TRIO
8/25	THE ORDINARIES

**Our Mission: Mobilizing local Christian churches to transform lives and communities through relationships, In the Name of Christ.**

[www.loveincsheboygancounty.org](http://www.loveincsheboygancounty.org)

Food Tent Sponsored By:



## **ALARIC'S DREAM FUNDRAISER**

Alaric Hazen has a dream. He would love to take a train ride around the Grand Canyon. As Alaric Hazen's health issues continue to progress, he applied for a wish through the Make-a-Wish foundation but it was not approved at this time due to his rare disease not being on their list. When some friends at the food pantry where Alaric volunteers heard about this, they decided to have a fundraiser to make Alaric's wish come true. The event will be held at The Balde Farm (5628 Brunner Rd in Manitowoc) on Saturday, July 10 from 10am – 4pm. It will include a brat fry, concessions, games, petting zoo, bounce house, games, a silent auction and more. Fun for everyone! You can find all the details on **The Balde Farm LLC** Facebook page under the Events tab (the event also shows up on the top of their home page). There are many ways you can help:

- Volunteer at the event (lots of opportunities to still help!)
- Bake items for the bake sale
- Donate a basket for the silent auction
- Attend the event and have fun!
- Make a monetary donation (see below for matching gift opportunity)
- Continue to pray for Alaric

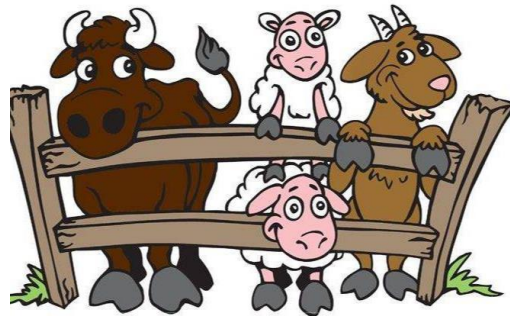


There are links for volunteer signups posted in the comments on the Event page. If you are unsure of how to do this or are not on Facebook, please don't hesitate to contact Juanita Hazen or Gina in the church office and we can assist you. Please keep in mind that in order to qualify for the matching gift, any monetary donation should be made through Bethany and not through the Facebook link.

As his disease progresses, it will get harder for Alaric to physically do the things he loves so please consider making this dream of his come true. Alaric and his family are very thankful for your support!

### **\*\*\* MATCHING GIFT OPPORTUNITY \*\*\***

For any Bethany member that makes a monetary donation towards Alaric's Dream, Bethany Church will match that donation (up to \$1,000). If you'd like to give a donation, you can simply put your gift in the offering plate marked "Alaric". Any checks can be made out to "Bethany Lutheran Church".



## **THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JULY 2021**

<b>Saturday, July 3</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b> w/Holy communion	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Lee Gumm Jerry Sabrowsky, Derek MacKenzie Aidan Brooks Lynn & Gerry Luebke
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<b>Sunday, July 4</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> w/Holy Communion	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger Hazens Madison Fibiger Steve Hazen Ryan Brooks
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<b>Saturday, July 10</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Brian Faucher Ottmans Maggie Faucher Liz & Ken Buesing
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<b>Sunday, July 11</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Shua Yang Mattes Isaac Hasler Lexie Matte Steve Marotz
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<b>Saturday, July 17</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b> w/Holy Communion	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Gerry Luebke Steve Marotz, Ben Marotz Cooper Marotz Shirley & Ray Ottman
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<b>Sunday, July 18</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b> w/Holy Communion	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Andy Fibiger Fibigers Winston Hasler Todd Matte Dan Menzer
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<b>Saturday, July 24</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b>	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Jason Mengel Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman Ryan Mengel Barb & Lee Gumm
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<b>Sunday, July 25</b> <b>9:00 a.m.</b>	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Lee Gumm Pranges Katelynn Regutis Sharon Werner Ben Marotz
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<b>Saturday, July 31</b> <b>4:00 p.m.</b> w/Holy Communion	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Altar Guild:	Brian Faucher Brian Faucher, Dan Fibiger Kaleb Faucher Kristine & Maggie Faucher
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# July 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
				01	02	03 4pm Worship w/HC
04 9am Worship w/HC 	05	06	07	08	09	10 4pm Worship
11 9am Worship	12 6:00pm Bd of Ed	13	14	15	16	17 4pm Worship w/HC
18 9am Worship	19	20	21	22	23	24 4pm Worship
25 9am Worship w/HC	26	27	28	29	30	31 4pm Worship w/HC