

PASTOR'S PAGE

Bethany Lutheran Church Worshiping Schedule Update

“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus” (Philippians 4:6-7 ESV).

Dear Brothers and Sisters of our Lord Jesus Christ,

I met with the Elders on Tuesday, May 19th. We have decided to open the church for services beginning Thursday May 28th, at 6pm. This coincides with the first Thursday of our summer service schedule.

For the safety and care of all, throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Bethany is offering a worship service in accordance with the CDC's recommendations and the guidelines of the State of Wisconsin. We will worship 60 members at a time. This is 25% of our sanctuary's capacity. This allows us to continue to gather safely during this pandemic while faithfully worshiping our Lord and Savior. The continued restrictions listed below are motivated by our genuine love and concern for our neighbor (particularly those who are most at risk from the virus). The Worship Service schedule along with service information and instructions are as follows:

Reviewing past summer's numbers, we should be able to maintain social distancing without the need to sign up for a certain service.

We will be seating people in every other pew, with one household per pew. The spacer pews will be marked so you know which ones to leave empty.

If your immune system is compromised, our recommendation is to be cautious and do what you feel comfortable doing. If you wish to stay home, that is ok, I will gladly make a home visit if you would like one. Otherwise, we will continue posting videos of the online services for you to attend from home.

If you feel comfortable wearing a mask, then wear a mask. A mask is not mandatory. We leave the decision up to the individual. Masks will be available in the narthex to those who did not bring their own and wish to wear one.

If you have a cold, cough, fever, or are prone to sneezing, please refrain from attending church.

Please do not shake hands, hug, or kiss — but know that we still love each other!

All pews' visitor/attendance/communion cards, pew Bibles, and hymnals will be removed from the pew racks.

The complete service will be printed in the service bulletin.

Clorox wipes are available in the narthex for your personal use.

Offering plates will be placed in the narthex. You may place your offering prior to entering the sanctuary. I would like to recommend using "Joyful Response" automatic giving. Please call the office to get a form.

There will be no Divine Service (**a service with Holy Communion**) the month of June. I will commune family or households privately at church if requested. Check with the church office for available times and days.

After the service, the **Pastor will not greet folks at the door.** As you exit the church, please spread out and move through the narthex, feeling free to converse outside. Try to prevent clusters of people of ten or more.

All in-person Bible Studies and Sunday School sessions have been canceled until further notice. However, we are offering a Tuesday Night Bible Study at 6pm via ZOOM.

We will be sanitizing all the pews and surfaces after each service.

As we learn more, we will adapt.

As a reminder, the Thursday church services are at 6:00 PM and the Sunday services will remain at 10:00 AM (we will not be going to an earlier service for the summer on Sundays).

If you have any questions or concerns, please call myself or an Elder of Bethany at the phone numbers listed below.

Elder Name	Elder Phone #	Elder Family Assignment
Brian Faucher	920-287-2085	Albert through Faucher
Andy Fibiger	920-912-7316	Fibiger through Hummitzch
David Hasler	319-541-7413	Johnson through Marotz
Steve Hazen	920-467-9459	Matte through Rousse
Jason Mengel	678-677-2154	Matte through Rousse
Shua Yang	920-254-0336	Sabrowsky through Yang
Pastor Steele	920-918-9915	

Yours in Christ,

Rev Robert Steele.

MAY/JUNE CHARITY OF THE MONTH – Vernacular Video Mission International (VVMi)

VVMi partners with and equips ethnic Christians who proclaim the Gospel through video and other media in their common language. Bethany has been blessed with visits from Colin Edwards in the past but with the current situation, he will not be able to visit us this spring. Karl and Barb Kaeppler spoke to Colin after his recent trip to the Philippines. He was there from February 20 – March 10 and he was very excited to tell them all the good that was done while they were there including lots of traveling, delivering equipment and audio Bibles, visiting leaders and church members, providing devotions, sermons and prayer as requested. To learn more about VVMi, you will find an information sheet at the end of this newsletter as well as helpful information on the Mission bulletin board at church. Please consider using your Designated Offering Envelope in the month of June to help VVMi provide much needed Bibles to those that have no way of hearing God's Word.



ALTAR GUILD

Since communion is not being served during the month of June, Altar Guild groups have not been scheduled. We will resume our scheduling as soon as communion starts.

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

The church will now be open during regular hours. Monday -Thursday from 8am – 12pm.

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Memorial Day is approaching as of this writing, but it sure looks like this will be totally different from any Memorial Day we have known. I'm sure the grills will be going, cooking burgers and brats, but will it seem the same? Summer cabins and family get togethers will happen, but will they be the same? Graduations for the class of 2020 will happen, but will that be the same? The answer is, they will probably will be different. A SPECIAL shout out to Bethany's Graduates, Austin Fibiger, Lexie Matte, and Aiden Faucher. Your achievement is awesome. With the Lord's help your dreams will be fulfilled and accomplished. Congratulations from all of us. The new "norm", whatever that may be, seems to imply we are "kinda" making things up as we move along. However, one thing remains constant among all of us at Bethany, our faith in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, will get us through all this change and uncertainty.

Our beloved Bethany is moving forward with all the change. Our video services are very inspiring and gives us all a chance to still worship our Savior in a safe environment. Even when we open, we will continue the online services. Thanks to Pastor and Julie for the message and beautiful music, and Lee Gumm for his innovative recording and editing. Communion has happened three (3) times and has been well attended. Wasn't it so neat to put on a "nice" pair of slacks and a dress shirt and actually go somewhere and be with someone? Church business is continuing and being conducted usually with video meetings. Donations are coming in, but we are somewhat behind in our receipts. Thank you to everyone that have kept up their giving. Please pray that our expenses, charities, and missions will be met by our members continued donations. More details can be found in the Financial section of this newsletter.

Pastor has been meeting with other Pastors and Synod leaders concerning the opening of Churches. If anything is decided it will be in this newsletter (see Pastor's Page for details). The ultimate decision will be made for what is in the best and safest interests of Bethany and its members. Please pray that this comes to pass. Will our services be the same? As is the theme of this letter, probably not. Whether we are sitting in assigned seats, having to make a reservation for what service we will attend, or worshipping at home, we all have our faith and knowledge that our Lord and Savior will lead us in the right direction.

Karen and I wish everyone a safe Memorial Day, we wish our Bethany Graduates congratulations and success in your future endeavors, and we remember all who have served in our armed forces and especially to those that have given us our freedom through their ultimate sacrifice. To God be given all the Glory.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger, Council President

✠ A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY

Jean Toepel was called to her heavenly home on Tuesday, May 5, 2020. A funeral service was held on Tuesday, May 12 at Woodland Cemetery in Kohler.

✠ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

A Memorial gift in memory of Jean Toepel was given by Pat & Joanne Stangel.

If you would like to give a 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.

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

6-3: Jack O'Keefe
6-4: Rachel O'Keefe
Winston Hasler
6-7: Lynn Luebke
Isaac Hasler
6-8: Austin Madden
6-9: Jill Mengel



6-10: Victor Hazen
Pat Stangel
6-11: Audrey Sabrowsky
6-16: KaoKalia Yang
6-17: Betty Hahn
6-19: Barbara Kaeppler
6-20: Nancy Froh
6-29: Jason Mengel

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6-2: David & Tamra O'Keefe
6-15: Jim & Mary Madden
6-17: Steve & Juanita Hazen
Todd & Dori Matte
6-20: Jeremy & Kelly Paltzer
6-22: Kevin & Sharon Werner
6-24: Lee & Barbara Gumm
6-26: Bob & Sandy Kuehlmann
6-30: John & Peggy Keller

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

HAPPY 25th ANNIVERSARY!

On June 17, both Todd & Dori Matte and Steve & Juanita Hazen will be celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary. Congratulations and many more happy years to you all!

BETHANY'S 2020 GRADUATES

Aiden Faucher — Aiden is graduating from Sheboygan North High School. He plans to continue working at Fleet Farm and as a farm hand until he leaves for the United States Marine Corp boot camp on November 2nd.

Austin Fibiger — Austin is graduating from Kohler High School. He will be attending UW Green Bay Sheboygan Campus for two years to earn his general education credits and then will transfer to UW Whitewater to major in Computer Science.

Lexie Matte — Lexie is graduating from Howard's Grove High School. She will be attending St. Norbert College where she will major in Biology and minor in Spanish. Lexie received the St. Norbert Trustee Distinguished Scholarship, the St. Norbert Music Scholarship, and the Kohler Company Scholarship.

Congratulations and Good Luck to all our Graduates!!

FROM THE BOARD OF FINANCE

As we continue to have limited gatherings and interaction, this update on church financial matters is intended to keep our communication going and our members informed. In last month's update we talked about the status of our expenditures, the CARES Act application, and giving options. As a whole, the status within each of these three categories is mostly stable or unchanged. This means the plan for expenditures, remaining slightly below budget, is on track and appears well matched to our needs and abilities. The CARES Act application was attempted and will continue to be pursued, but has not been processed or accepted by any financial institution as of yet. Giving also appears very much in line with normal seasonal expectations. After only a very short adjustment period the trend recovered and month end results were strong and encouraging. Bethany remains a place for physical worship, which is set to resume in many ways coming soon, but also targets outreach and missions as part of our everyday business. Thank you for your support and dedication to the commitments Bethany makes both to its members and community.

Treasurer — Derek Mackenzie

Board of Finance — Ben Marotz

THOSE SERVING IN GOD'S HOUSE THE MONTH OF JUNE 2020

Please note: if you do not feel comfortable attending church yet or you are unable to work on your scheduled shift, please call the church office (457-4681) and a replacement will be found.

Thursday, June 4 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Shua Yang #1 – Ben Marotz, Tom Schnettler, Ivan & Alaric Hazen Thomas Yang
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Sunday, June 7 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	David Hasler #2 – Dan Fibiger, Steve Hazen, Brian & Aiden Faucher Annalise Hasler Lee Gumm Steve Marotz
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Thursday, June 11 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Jason Mengel #3 – Doug Luecke, Ken Thompson, Karl Rademacher Ella Albert
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Sunday, June 14 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Brian Faucher #4 – Dave & Sue Prange, Jerry Sabrowsky Kaleb Faucher Steve Hazen Tom Schnettler
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Thursday, June 18 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Andy Fibiger #5 - Lee Gumm, Steve Marotz, Victor Hazen Winston Hasler
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Sunday, June 21 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	Steve Hazen #6 – Ray & Shirley Ottman, Derek MacKenzie Grace Matte Todd Matte Patrick Johnson
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Thursday, June 25 6:00 p.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte:	Shua Yang #7 – Andy, Austin, Noah Fibiger Thomas Yang
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Sunday, June 28 10:00 a.m.	Elder: Ushers: Acolyte: Scripture Reader: Door Locker:	David Hasler #8 – Todd, Lexie, Luke Matte Madison Fibiger Lexie Matte Ken Thompson
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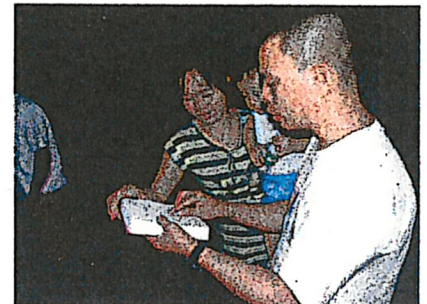
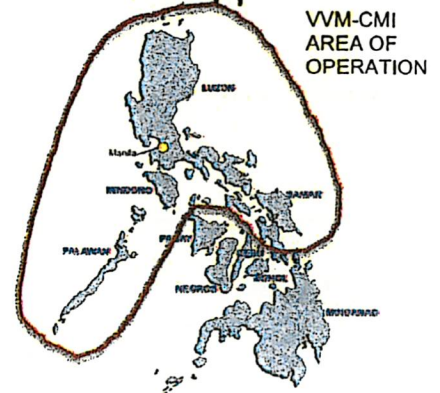
THE POWER OF THE WORD IN THE HEART LANGUAGE!

Vernacular Video Ministry – Church Mobilization Initiative (VVM-CMI), headquartered in Baguio City, Luzon, Philippines, has been VVMI's ministry partner from the beginning. VVM-CMI has been "mobilizing" local church groups – empowering them with video and Scripture tools – in the mountain provinces of northern Luzon since mid-2008. Starting in 2010, the VVM-CMI began expanding ministry partnerships to other islands south of Luzon. The VVM-CMI movement now has over 25 active mobilized partner groups working in the northwestern two-thirds of the Philippines. Hundreds of indigenous Christians are ministering together across language and denominational lines for the purpose of sharing the Gospel through heart language videos and Scripture. New Bible study groups and church plants are a normal result of this cooperation as local churches utilize media tools and Scripture to assist mission efforts designed to produce multiplying disciples.

No matter how "good" a vernacular movie is, without inclusion of the Word of God *in the film*, and without Bible preaching and intentional disciple-making by local churches *following the movie*, film showing efforts are reduced to entertainment and do not carry *the power and promise of God* like His Word. Providing Bibles helps local churches make true and lasting disciples.

That's why VVMI and VVM-CMI are working together to get minority ethnic language and trade language Bibles to those people who really want and need them. In fact, tens of thousands of economically challenged but spiritually hungry Filipinos are begging for Scriptures. While this project has been very effective since October 2007, the need has consistently outweighed supply. Each year donations to this project have provided between 3000 and 5000 full Bibles and New Testaments. However, (1) many pastors and church leaders still do not have Bibles; (2) the waiting lists of *families* hoping for a single copy contain *nearly 100,000 names*; (3) *another 200,000+* Bibles are needed for inmates and guards in jails and prisons; AND (4) over 200,000+ *students* attending public schools in VVM-CMI ministry areas don't have access to Bibles – and interestingly, the Bible has now become a textbook for many classes! What's even more amazing is that the latter two CMI ministry target groups are resultant from the government's invitation for Christians to assist with "moral development" programs. **Add all this up, and total Bible need is actually over 500,000 copies! So, this is a real "God-sized" opportunity that you can be involved in through your prayers and gifts!**

The Philippines



ABOVE: AN EVANGELIST PROVIDING A BIBLE TO A RELATIVELY NEW BELIEVER EXCITED TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ONE TRUE GOD
BELOW: COMMITTING TO BE INVOLVED IN A LOCAL CHURCH BIBLE STUDY



HELP VVMI AND VVM-CMI CONQUER THE PHILIPPINES FOR CHRIST BY GIVING TOWARDS THIS PROJECT!

THE CURRENT COST TO PURCHASE AND DELIVER FULL, HARDBOUND VERNACULAR PRINT BIBLES (WITH BOTH TESTAMENTS) AVERAGES \$10 PER COPY; NEW TESTAMENTS ARE TYPICALLY LESS THAN \$1.50/EACH

IMAGINE HOW MANY SOULS CAN BE PROVIDED THE ETERNAL WORD THROUGH YOUR PARTNERSHIP WITH VVMI AND THE VVM-CMI!



MANY OLDER PEOPLE CAN'T SEE TO READ BECAUSE OF WEAK EYES, SO THE VVM-CMI ALSO ASSISTS BIBLE RECIPIENTS WITH LOW-COST READING GLASSES THROUGH THIS PROJECT. IT DOESN'T DO ANY GOOD TO HAVE A BIBLE IF ONE CAN'T SEE THE WORDS!

VVMI partners with and equips ethnic Christians who proclaim the Gospel through video and other media in their common language.

VVMI
P.O. Box 22394
Minneapolis, MN 55422

Web Site: www.vvmi.org