

## PASTOR'S PAGE

"I 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"

*Philippians 1:3-5*

As many of you know Julie and I are now without our home. On Maundy Thursday, April 1st, we had a house fire that started in our basement. It damaged the majority of the basement consuming our finished basement, taking out all the electrical, finished ceiling, and many of the first floor's support beams and sub flooring. Thankfully the fire never made it through the subfloor. However, we suffered much smoke damage in basement and the first floor.

This part of the basement was decorated with much of our kids elementary art. These simple little art works will never be replaced. They will just be memories.

This little fire reminded us that we bring nothing into this world and we take nothing out of this world. This reminded us about these Red Letter words spoken by our Lord from the Sermon on the Mount:

*"Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:19-21)"*

Many have asked how Julie and I are doing. Do you need anything? What can we do to help? Your gracious outpouring has been well received. There are many things to be thankful for. No one was hurt in the blaze. There was no loss of life. My neighbors, the Seer's, had no smoke or fire damage. Our duplex has a well-constructed firewall. It did its job. Our dog and the quail I've been raising are all safe. The quail are now living in the backyard aviary soon to be released into the wild.

Finally, we thank our God for you the members of Bethany. Over the years we have always remembered you in our prayers. For the times when you suffered a loss. You see, we are in a partnership to support each other in time of needs. Our partnership in the Gospel has brought the Good News of Jesus Christ into Kohler, Sheboygan, Sheboygan Falls and beyond. This brings Julie and I great joy because of such a partnership. Julie and I hold each of you in our heart.

How do we get through such tragedies? Prayer. Being with our Lord and Savior, sitting at his feet. Julie and I would like to let you know your prayers are getting us through this valley along life's way. Again, thank for all your uplifting notes and cards. The Bethany family is truly a blessing to us. Again, thank you for keeping us in your prayers. They do help. They do not go unanswered.

Yours in Christ,

Rev Robert and Julie Steele

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The Elders have decided to continue offering the Saturday 4pm worship service throughout the summer months. There will be no Thursday evening service. Worship time on Sunday will change to 9:00am starting on Sunday, May 30.

## NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope everyone is getting into the Red Letter Challenge and devoting some time each day to God. I have to admit that with our family's varying schedule it has been difficult to find a consistent time to sit down and read each day, but that's kind of what the Challenge is about. Day 9 of 40 says "We need to say 'No' to many good things, so we can say 'Yes' to the best thing". It takes about 20-30 minutes to read through each day, and then there is a challenge for you to grow closer with the Lord. We've enjoyed the conversations with our kids afterward. The video clips on our website also do a very good job of setting up each week of the challenge, and I recommend watching those as well. I encourage you to make the Red Letter Challenge part of your daily routine. You'll be surprised how much you enjoy it.

For those who may not be aware, Pastor and Julie have been displaced from their home due to a fire that happened on Maundy Thursday (morning). The composure that Pastor and Julie have had with all that has happened - during Holy Week (of all times) is unbelievable to me. Their commitment to the church and faith are great examples for us all. Please pray for them as they go through the weeks and months of home repairs and salvaging of their things. They need our support like they always support the congregation in our church.

Ella, Madison, Zakary, and Zane are being confirmed on May 23<sup>rd</sup>, celebrating a major milestone in their Christian life. Please make sure to celebrate with them and congratulate them for their hard work of preparation and learning. The future of the church depends on bringing up the next generation, and it is a true blessing to have children and young adults in our church.

I'd like to wish all of the mothers a "Happy Mother's Day"! Sometimes I think one day is not enough to thank them for all they do. Another blessing from God. And, I would also like to thank all of the veterans who are and have served our country as we observe Memorial Day at the end of May. Without their service we would not be able to worship our Lord and Savior or enjoy the many things that define what our country is all about.

Be Well, God Bless and to God be the Glory!

Todd Matte - Council President

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### MAY BIRTHDAYS

5-01: Annalise Hasler  
5-03: Ashley Buell  
5-04: Traci Barthels  
Gary Bartz  
5-05: Dan Fibiger  
5-06: Austin Fibiger  
5-07: Julie Regutis  
5-11: Shirley Mueller  
Grace Matte



5-14 Marilyn Buell  
5-17: Ray Ottman  
Betsy Metscher  
5-19: Jeremy Paltzer  
5-20: Lexie Matte  
5-22: Joshua Yang  
5-26: Kristine Faucher  
5-30: Ezekiel Johnson

### MAY ANNIVERSARIES

5-01: Bill & Julie Regutis  
Rev. Robert & Julie Steele  
5-11: Joe & Lori Wychesit  
5-26: Patrick & Rachel Johnson  
5-31: Bob & Karen Wuerzberger



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

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

“Whether hiking hours into mountain ranges or going by boat to small islands, the Gospel is being shared in remote areas of the Philippines through video and Scriptures and hundreds of people are responding and being disciplined in places where the Lord has never before been praised.” We can help by giving of our gifts to the May and June Mission of the Month. Our donations will be used to help purchase Bibles which have been translated and are printed in vernacular (heart) languages. Christian videos which have been dubbed into “heart” languages are also used to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Please be generous as you share in this important project.



### **‡ A LOSS IN OUR CHURCH FAMILY**

On Thursday, April 20, Gilbert Sternitzky was called to his heavenly home. Funeral arrangements are pending.

### **‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY**

A Memorial Gift in memory of Rita Burfeind was given by Bill & Judi Strenger.

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



**Sunday, May 9 will be the last day of Sunday School. We will celebrate a great year with some breakfast treats, Bible Bingo, fun, and prizes!**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER STILL NEEDED**

Would you like to join the wonderful teaching staff at Bethany? We are still in need of a Sunday School teacher for the 2021/22 school year. There is some flexibility as to which grades you would teach if you have a preference. Also, if you are interested in being a part-time 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. Please consider helping our Sunday School students continue to learn about Jesus! Thank you!



Join us on Sunday, May 23 when four of our young members will receive the Rite of Confirmation during the church service. Congratulations to Ella Albert, Zane Willadsen, Zakary Willadsen, and Madison Fibiger! (The students will be examined during the church service on Sunday, May 16)



*Love Inc – Mobilizing Christian Churches to transform lives and communities through relationships in the Name of Christ.*

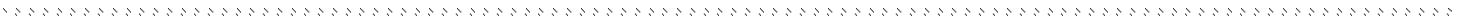
Blessings Friends at Bethany.....Will you help? ❤️

This summer, Love INC will be taking part in the "Music in the Park" event in Sheboygan Falls. There will be 6 Outdoor Concerts - 2 in June, 2 in July and 2 in August. I have signed Bethany up to help on Wednesday, July 14th, so I am reaching out for a few volunteers to help that night or some of our Bethany bakers to bake some goodies.

We will have a trailer and canopy set up in the Parking Lot by the Falls YMCA selling warm pretzels & cheese, chips, bottled water, and baked goods (pie, large cookies or bars). If you can bake, I can pick up the items and individually wrap them that day at Church. Shifts to help that night would be: 4:30-6:00 or 6:00-8:30. This will be new for us, so once we start in June I will know more as to what is selling best and how much is needed. Watch for updates in the June newsletter and bulletins.

Please see me in church if you have more questions or call me at 920-918-2116. I wanted to plant the seed with you to see if this is something you might be able to help with. This would be a great opportunity for your teenagers to do some community service work!

Thank you!  
Sue Prange – Love INC Representative



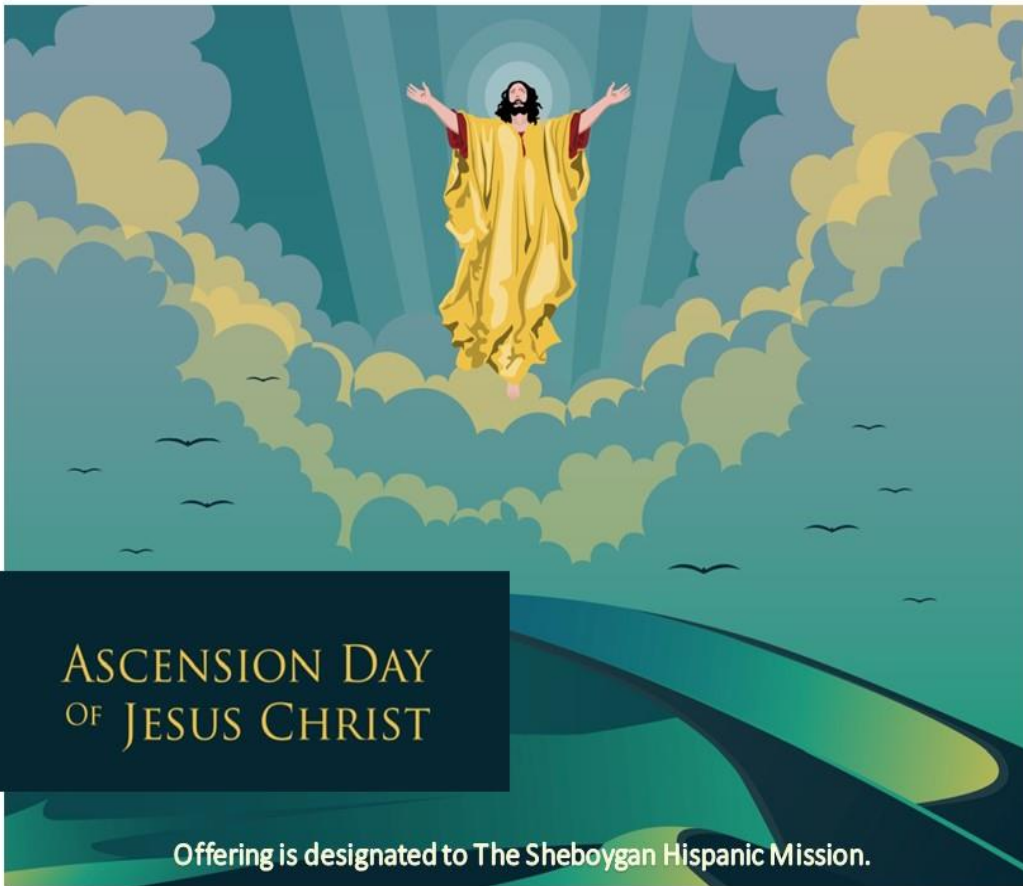
**Long Awaited Organ Recital**

When John Jordan completed the rebuilding of our pipe organ, I played a service that described and highlighted the different sounds and changes that were made to the organ. Typically, a recital is given as well. However, in the midst of the coronavirus pandemic, with limited capacity, the council decided to postpone this event. Without further delay, the organ recital has been scheduled, and Lord willing, will take place on June 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m.

Nathan Steele has graciously agreed to perform this recital. It will include music from his upcoming graduate organ recital on the campus of Concordia University Wisconsin, which will be the culmination of his master's degree in church music. The program will feature some hymn singing and music from these composers: McKinley, Bach, Bruhns, Brahms, Cherwien, Vaughan Williams, and Vierne. Nathan is a Sheboygan Lutheran High graduate, completed his bachelor's degree in church music at Concordia Wisconsin, and is currently serving our Lord as cantor at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Perryville, Missouri. (The graduate recital will take place on June 24<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. in the Chapel of Christ Triumphant.)

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to me or Pastor. We are looking forward to hearing beautiful sounds from our organ, from a talented and blessed child of God.

In Christ,  
Julie Steele



Join us in worship,  
as we celebrate the  
Ascension of our Lord,  
on Thursday, May 13<sup>th</sup>  
at 6:30 p.m. at

*The Lutheran Church of  
Our Redeemer*

3027 Wilgus Ave., Sheboygan, WI

Preacher: The Reverend Patrick Niles



Area LCMS congregations involved in this service  
are: Bethlehem, Christ, Good Shepherd, Immanuel,  
Luther Memorial, Our Redeemer, St. Paul-  
Sheboygan, Trinity-Wilson, St. Thomas-Waldo,  
Grace-Haven, and Bethany-Kohler.

### **A Prayer for Memorial Day – Monday, May 31**

We remember, O Lord, all those men and women who have made the supreme sacrifice for our country. Do not let us breathe the air of freedom or claim the right to justice or enjoy the privilege of worship without remembering with great gratitude those who gave the last full measure of devotion – their very lives – for our benefit. May they now know the peace of eternity and the joy of your presence. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



# May 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						<b>01</b>  4pm Worship w/HC
<b>02</b> 8:45am Sunday School  10am Worship w/HC	<b>03</b> 6:30pm Elders	<b>04</b>	<b>05</b> 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	<b>06</b>	<b>07</b>	<b>08</b>  4pm Worship
<b>09</b> 8:45am Sunday School 10am Worship  <b>Mother's Day</b>	<b>10</b> 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b> 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	<b>13</b> 6:30pm Ascension Service @ Our Redeemer	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>  4pm Worship (NO H/C)
<b>16</b>  10am Worship (NO H/C)  <b>Confirmands            Examination</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b> 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>  4pm Worship w/HC
<b>23</b>  10am Worship w/HC  <b>Confirmation</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>  4pm Worship w/HC
<b>30</b> 9:00am Worship w/HC (note worship time change)	<b>31</b>  <b>Memorial Day</b>					

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

**Saturday, May 1**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy communion

Elder:	Brian Faucher
Ushers:	Sabrowsky, MacKenzie
Acolyte:	Maggie Faucher
Altar Guild:	Barb & Lee Gumm
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange

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

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Hazen
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Scripture Reader:	Lee Gumm
Door Locker:	Lee Gumm

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**Saturday, May 8**  
**4:00 p.m.**

Elder:	Lee Gumm
Ushers:	Gumm, Marotz
Acolyte:	Zakary Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Kristine & Maggie Faucher
Bulletin Folder:	Sue Prange

**Sunday, May 9**  
**10:00 a.m.**

Elder:	Jason Mengel
Ushers:	Matte
Acolyte:	Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader:	Sharon Werner
Door Locker:	Ryan Brooks

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**Saturday, May 15**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
NO Holy Communion

Elder:	Shua Yang
Ushers:	Prange
Acolyte:	Aidan Brooks
Altar Guild:	Barb & Karl Kaeppler
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

**Sunday, May 16**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
NO Holy Communion

Elder:	Andy Fibiger
Ushers:	Fibiger
Acolyte:	Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader:	Mary Ann Fibiger
Door Locker:	Steve Marotz

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**Saturday, May 22**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Ottman
Acolyte:	Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild:	Debbie & Steve Perry
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

**Sunday, May 23**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Brian Faucher
Ushers:	Hazen
Acolyte:	Kaleb Faucher
Scripture Reader:	Steve Hazen
Door Locker:	Dan Menzer

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**Saturday, May 29**  
**4:00 p.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Gerry Luebke
Ushers:	Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlman
Acolyte:	Zane Willadsen
Altar Guild:	Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson
Bulletin Folder:	Dan Fibiger

**Sunday, May 30**  
**9:00 a.m.**  
w/Holy Communion

Elder:	Jason Mengel
Ushers:	Faucher, Fibiger
Acolyte:	Ella Albert
Scripture Reader:	Todd Matte
Door Locker:	Ben Marotz