

PASTORS PAGE

A New Way to Teach

A new school year is upon us and nothing is the same. Everything has changed. "Masks Required", "Social distancing", "Virtual Learning", and "Face-to-Face Learning" are the word phrases of the day. As good Lutherans, we follow in the footsteps of Martin Luther and ask the catechetical question: "What does this mean?" Truthfully, I don't know "what all this means..." The only certainty is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. Despite the upheaval, we have no choice but to move forward. No matter what: "Time is marching on...Come Lord Jesus, Quickly Come!" Amen!

I'm going to take an approach to Adult Education much like our schools. - Sunday morning Bible study will be held "**Face to Face**" and a "**Virtual**" Study on Tuesday Evenings at 6pm.

8:45 Adult Education Hour: (Face to Face)

We have enough room in the lower fellowship hall to meet "face to face". This will happen on Sunday mornings at 8:45am starting on September 13. We will be able to social distance. Masks are required in this setting; however, if one is not wearing a mask, I will assume an underlying condition exists. I cannot force you to reveal the condition because that violates the HIPAA laws. The Law supersedes a governor's mandate. No One will be denied a time to study, worship or pray because he or she is not wearing a mask. I will not hinder anyone from approaching God's house. If you are immune compromised, please stay home and follow CDC guidelines.

We will be using the Insight Series: "I AM". The Gospel of John uses these famous prefixes to give us insight on who Jesus is. This series will run approximately 8 weeks. At the end of these 8 weeks the participant would have read the entire Gospel of John. John's Gospel is an easy read, but these "I Am" statements have a direct correlation on how this prefix was understood by the people of Jesus' day. This study will bring a deeper understanding why John records these words of Jesus.

Virtual Weekly Bible Class - Tuesday Evenings at 6pm using "ZOOM".

The pandemic has allowed another platform for studying God's word that is ZOOM, a web-based video conferencing tool. Over the summer I dabbled in doing a ZOOM Bible Study. We studied the first epistle of Peter. This epistle was appropriate because churches of Peter's day were in flux. The churches of Asia Minor (Modern day - Turkey) were suffering under persecution, plagues, natural disasters, and false teachers. One of the features of ZOOM is that you can record the class. If 6pm on Tuesday does not work, you can view the class at your leisure. Instructions on how this will occur will be explained at a later date.

The ZOOM class will be entitled "Faith in the Shadow of the Pandemic". My prayer is that everyone in the congregation will participate. This study is very new. As I am writing to you it just has been released by CPH. I'm kind of excited about it. It's a bold step by CPH to get something out this current and so expediently. The little I've read brings great comfort to the body of Christ.

As with most schools they are blending the school week: 2 days face to face; and 2 days virtual instruction. I believe it gives us the opportunity to present Jesus in different way. The method may have been modified but the message is always the same: Jesus lived, died, rose and ascended. This was done for the entire world. If you know of someone who is struggling with living in the shadow of a pandemic, extend your virtual hand to bring comfort to those in need.

Praise the Lord that the message of Jesus never changes.

Yours in Christ,
Pastor Steele

NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT

August is coming to a close along with moving into fall in September. This year, 2020, will be remembered as a year of uncertainty. One item that has been certain is our Church, Bethany Lutheran, has moved forward. One of our biggest challenges for this year of uncertainty is to keep our programs intact, provide a safe place of worship, and to continue to meet the expectations of our Mission Statement. We can all be assured this is continuing at Bethany. All our Board and Committee Chairpersons and their Members have done a remarkable job keeping our programs up to date. I want to thank all of them for their devotion serving our Members and our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Without their efforts, we as a Church, would not have succeeded the way we have.

Since our last Beacon update, several important events have happened or will happen in the near future.

- Our last Thursday evening Service will be September 3rd, 2020. Beginning September 12th, we will be starting our 4PM Saturday Service. This was decided on a vote conducted by the Elders in late July. A 46-18 vote was the result.
- Our Treasurer, Derek MacKenzie, was able to secure a PPP (Payroll Protection Program) loan in the amount of \$23,000 from Bank First. This loan, which is a forgivable loan, provides us cash to keep our Church working by helping with salaries, and utility costs Bethany incurred while we were closed during the early stages of Covid-19. I know Derek put in many hours to achieve this payout and deserves a huge thank you from all of us.
- Our Board of Education has been investigating opening of our Sunday School in September. Here again safety has been the main issue. A survey was conducted by the Board to parents of our children involved in Sunday School. Most parents responded favorably to starting the program. Start date is September 13th. Class size will be 6-8 children so social distancing can be achieved along with other safety measures.
- Confirmation will take place in September. Grace Matte, Thomas Yang, and Annalise Hasler will be confirmed. We thank God for allowing these young adults to confirm their faith in Jesus.
- In August, Bethany received a gift of \$27,728.15 from the Wilbur Knoop Estate. We thank Shirley Mueller for her work with Pastor to distribute the available dollars to three (3) charities according to the wishes of the Estate. Bethany's Endowment Fund was one of the three charities chosen to receive these funds. This will further enhance our Funds ability to help partially offset some of the costs while pursuing a LCMS Christian education. From all our Members, we thank you Shirley for your efforts to recognize this especially important endeavor Bethany supports.
- The Long-Range Planning Committee presented its plans for our kitchen remodeling project to the Council. The Council approved the project, not to exceed \$75,000. This project will be paid for from the Betty and Clyde Bawden gift to Bethany from their Estate. This was a designated project the Bawden Estate detailed. Construction will hopefully start in late September. I will be presenting an detailed account of the project after the services on September 12 and 13.

Finally, I want to thank Pastor for all his work and love he has shown all of us since the pandemic has started. It has not been easy for him to not be able to visit shut-ins, to see our Church closed, Bible and Sunday School classes cancelled, and the entire daily routine of our Church changed. He has kept all of us focused on the main reason we come together each week. To worship and serve our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. When all is said and done, this is truly why we are here, to "Spread the Gospel to Everyone". Thank you, Pastor Steele.

We as a Council would also like to thank all our Members that have continued their Giving during this time of uncertainty. We will need this more than ever to keep our beloved Bethany moving forward.

In closing, as you can see, there are many exciting and wonderful things happening at Bethany. Even during a pandemic our Members have taken the challenge to keep our Church viable and moving forward.

Karen and I wish all of you and your families a safe and wonderful September.

Robert (Bob) Wuerzberger-President

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

9-04: Kathy Goldman
9-05: Kathryn Miller
9-07: Doug Luecke
9-11: Steve Hazen
9-13: Marc Luecke
9-14: DuWayne Froh
Lisa Kraus
9-16: Bob Wuerzberger



9-17: Gerry Luebke
9-20: Dane Madson
9-21: Katherine Edler
9-23: Andy Fibiger
Lee Gumm
Isabella Hasler
9-26: Shelby Werner
Tamra O'Keefe
9-27: Gary Froh

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9-14: Jerry & Audrey Sabrowsky
John & Lisa Willadsen
9:15: Dan & Summer Menzer
9-19: Bruce & Cindy Fisher
9-21: Gerry & Lynn Luebke
9-25: Denis & Lois Schmideler
9-30: Shua & KaoKalia Yang

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

SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER MISSION OF THE MONTH – Good News Jail & Prison Ministry

During the months of September and October, any money received in the "Designated Offering" contribution envelope, will go to **Good News Jail and Prison Ministry** – Transforming lives behind bars here and around the world. By bringing the Holy Gospel to inmates, they are reaching those others may have forgotten. To learn more about Good News, visit their website at www.goodnewsjail.org

NEW WORSHIP SERVICE TIME

Our last Thursday summer service will be Thursday, September 3. Starting September 12, Bethany will be offering a Saturday service at 4:00pm in addition to the Sunday 10:00am service. The purpose of having the two services is to allow for social distancing in the pews. There is no need to "sign up" for a certain service. The hope is that by offering two services, we will get enough people at both to be able to spread out. Thank you everyone for your patience and understanding as we adjust to this new structure.



CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

All children ages 3 years – 8th grade are welcome to join our Sunday School. We meet every Sunday at 8:45am beginning on Sunday, September 13th. An email was recently sent to all the Sunday School families with a link to register your student. If you haven't had a chance to do that yet, please do so by September 1. If you misplaced or didn't get the email, please contact the church office. Thank you!

CONFIRMATION

Janine Bergeron will be teaching confirmation class for our 5th and 6th graders on Mondays at 3:15pm starting September 16th. Pastor Steele will be teaching our 7th and 8th graders also on Mondays at 3:15pm.



ADOPT-A-BAG FOOD DRIVE

Bethany's 2020 Adopt-a-Bag Food Drive will be held during the month of September. Bags will be available soon in the lower narthex of church and can be brought back to church anytime during the month of September. Donations will be taken to the Sheboygan Falls Area Food Pantry which serves Sheboygan Falls, Kohler, Howards Grove and Oostburg. Barb and Lee Gumm are the Bethany coordinators for our Adopt-A-Bag program.

‡ GIFTS GIVEN TO BETHANY

In memory of Gertrude Perle: Memorial Fund gifts were given by Pat & Joanne Stangel and Rayola Madson, An Improvement Fund gift was given by Bill & Judi Strenger, and an Endowment Fund gift was given by Lee & Barb Gumm.

In memory of Dorothy Dickelman, an Endowment Fund gift was given by Lee & Barb Gumm.

In memory of Pat Horness: Memorial Fund gifts were given by Ken Thompson, Julie Schuman, and Dave & Sue Prange (also in memory of Lloyd Luecke). 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.

LRPC UPDATE

It's been some time since the newsletter has had an update on the Long Range Planning Committee projects. A lot of work has been going on behind the scenes.

First, let's talk about the organ. All three phases of the organ project are now complete. The organ has new life, and hopefully you have been enjoying the new sounds the organ can produce. The project came in under budget by about \$1,000 (the budget approved by the congregation was \$60,000) after months of work by fellow Lutherans John Jordan and his daughter Clara. The project was funded through memorials from the Bawdens and Norb Sternitzky, as well as, congregation members through the Buy-A-Pipe program. We will have a dedication service for the organ Sunday, September 27th.

The kitchen project has been moving along too. Thank you to Bob Wuerzberger who has been gathering bids for the construction project. The Council approved a not-to-exceed budget of \$75,000 on July 13th as recommended by the Long Range Planning Committee. The project will be funded by the Bawden Memorial, as well as, other donations that have been received since the project was taken on. A presentation will be given after the services on September 12 and 13 to inform the congregation of more details.

Thanks to fellow Long Range Planning Committee members; Bob Wuerzberger, Lee Gumm, Jerry Sabrowsky, Ray Ottman, Tom Schnettler, and Steve Perry.

Our congregation has been greatly blessed to have these projects funded and will last for decades to come.

God's blessings,
Todd Matte – Vice President



LOVE INC DINNER AUCTION

Love INC of Sheboygan County has made the decision to pivot their "Living Out Love" 3rd Annual Dinner Auction to a virtual event this year. Please join us as we gather for a lively online event, on Friday, October 23rd. Watch future church bulletins and the October Newsletter for details about the event and registration information.

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

Thursday, September 3

6:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: #3 – Luecke, Thompson, Rademacher, Kuehlmann
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild: Gina Fibiger, Rachel Johnson

Sunday, September 6

9:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: David Hasler
Ushers: #4 – Prange, Sabrowsky
Acolyte: Aidan Brooks
Scripture Reader: Sharon Werner
Altar Guild: Shirley & Ray Ottman
Door Locker: Ryan Brooks

Saturday, September 12

4:00 p.m.

Elder: Brian Faucher
Ushers: #5 – Gumm, Marotz, Hazen
Acolyte: Maggie Faucher
Altar Guild: Debbie & Steve Perry

Sunday, September 13

10:00 a.m.

Elder: Andy Fibiger
Ushers: #6 – Ottman, MacKenzie
Acolyte: Madison Fibiger
Scripture Reader: Steve Hazen
Door Locker: Steve Marotz

Saturday, September 19

4:00 p.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Steve Hazen
Ushers: #7 - Fibiger
Acolyte: Kaleb Faucher
Altar Guild: Sue Prange, Lois Schmideler

Sunday, September 20

10:00 a.m.
w/Holy Communion

Elder: Shua Yang
Ushers: #8 - Matte
Acolyte: Ella Albert
Scripture Reader: Todd Matte
Door Locker: Tom Schnettler

Saturday, September 26

4:00 p.m.

Elder: Jason Mengel
Ushers: #1 – Marotz, Schnettler, Hazen
Acolyte: Ryan Mengel
Altar Guild: Cindy & Gary Bartz

Sunday, September 27

10:00 a.m.

Elder: David Hasler
Ushers: #2 – Faucher, Fibiger, Hazen
Acolyte: Winston Hasler
Scripture Reader: Lee Gumm
Door Locker: Patrick Johnson

September 2020

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01	02	03 6pm Worship w/HC	04	05
06 10am Worship w/HC	07 Labor Day	08 6:30pm Elders	09	10	11	12 4pm Worship
13 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	14 5:45pm Bd of Ed 6:15pm Finance 7pm Council	15	16 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	17	18	19 4pm Worship w/HC
20 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship w/HC	21	22	23 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade	24	25	26 4pm Worship
27 8:45am Bible Study Sunday School 10am Worship	28	29	30 3:15pm Confirmation 5-8 grade			