

Thanks for Volunteering for
January 2024



Bethany & Pilgrim
Lutheran Parish

Ushers

John & Jill Tinman

Lector

Jim Olson

Acolytes

Altar Guild

Colleen Skold & Kristin Kosloski

Video Technology

Jenelle Lindquist/Will White & Josh Formanek

Money Counters

Val Lindquist/ Kristin Kosloski/Jenelle Lindquist

Coffee Time Servers

- 1/7/23 Margaret Taylor/Mary Waschek/Wanda Flanigan
- 1/14/23 Marci Fohrenkamm & Amy Thiex
- 1/21/23 Jim & Sarah Brewster
- 1/28/23 Pastor Diane & Larry Blahauvietz

**I was asked to create a coffee hour schedule -if you are not able to serve when scheduled – please call the office- Thanks!

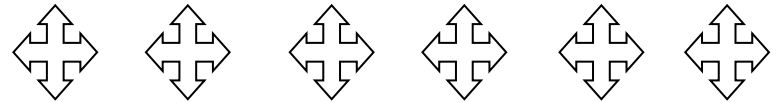
Kitchen Manager

Andy Peloquin



We are updating our “volunteer lists” for 2024 – if you are willing to help with any of the church activities- (Usher, lector, Altar Guild, Video, Counting or coffeetime serving) please contact Jane at 715-349-5280!

We appreciate giving your time to your church family!



February Volunteers

Ushers: Kyle & Val Lindquist

Lector: Amy Kopecky

Altar Guild: Colleen Skold & Kristin Kosloski

Prayer Reader: *Would you like to volunteer?*

Technology: *Please help!*

Coffee time servers:

- 2/4 Colleen Skold & Marge Peterson
- 2/11 Ralph & Nona Severson
- 2/18 Barb & Ernie Lyga
- 2/25 John & Jill Tinman

**I was asked to create a coffee hour schedule -if you are not able to serve when scheduled – please call the office- Thanks!



**The Prayer
Corner:**



Bethany & Pilgrim
Lutheran Parish

**Please keep the following persons
in your prayers:**

Elvina Wellnitz	Marilyn Smith
Claire Lidel	Greg Close
Lewis Clifton	Lona Nordgren
Aiden, Bonnie & Chris Fohser	Carol Buck
Dean Birch	Collin Eid
Karen Swanberg's Grand Daughter (Pilgrim)	

Thank you to all who gave generously to the "Giving Tree" and to Interfaith Caregivers, in order that local families could have a joyous Christmas and feel God's Love!



Thanks to Everyone that supported Ruby's Pantry for 2023

We were able to help with 51 "Thanksgiving bags" this year.

You have helped your neighbor in need with your support.

The need is great ~ we appreciate your continued support of families with their food needs.

Monetary support or donations of shelf stable items are always

welcome - and can be dropped off at the church.



Good Gifts are Due January 9th

Check the bulletin board in church to select a gift – help others in God's Global Barnyard!



Bethany Lutheran Church Inclement Weather Cancellation Policy

1. In the event of a Winter Storm or Extreme Cold, the following guidelines will be used to determine if church will be cancelled. If the temperature is 20 degrees below zero as absolute temperature, if the wind chill is 30 degrees below zero and/ or it has snowed 6 inches and is still snowing at 7 am on Sunday morning.
2. The Decision will be made by the members of the executive council.
3. The council will: post the notice on the church Facebook page, notify channel 4 WCCO for posting on TV
4. In circumstances that present the possibility of cancellation, church members are encouraged to look for notifications.



Council Meeting Minutes – 11/14/23

Attended: Kristen, Wayne, Mary, Jim, Cindy, Rick, Pastor Emily, Donna, Joan, Darren
Meeting was called to order by Rick at 6p.

Minutes from October meeting were received with changes m/s/c

Treasurer's Report was received

Pastor's Report was received

Old Business

1. Church Cleaning Update: have spoken with one person of interest so far. Wage would be \$25/hr (worker would provide own insurance)
2. Parish Worship Band will meet on the second Tuesday of the Month
3. Finance Update: \$1,000 to Synod yearly will be changed to \$500 for the time being.
4. Directory Update: proof book has been corrected and is almost complete. Hoping to have new directory by January.
5. LED Sign Update: Received 2 bids. One bid is favorable at around \$38,000. We are waiting for a reply from the contractor to move forward.
6. Sound System Update: Still waiting on a bid from business in Forest Lake. Verbally quoted around \$7,000.
7. Upcoming Events: Dec. 16th for youth to go to Timber Theater for "The Christmas Star", watch newsletter for December service times.

New Business

1. New Kitchen Floor: Northern Interiors came and quoted us \$3,500 to install vinyl plank flooring in the kitchen and the area outside of the kitchen meetings up to the carpet. We also had a member of the church that has offered to install plank flooring if we purchase it.
2. Parish Board Update: 2024 Budget will be finalized at Feb./March Meeting. Confirmation: Bethany has 5 students currently attending. We will not be going with Church Trac.
 - a. Pastor's compensation was voted/passed by parish board to go with the Synod's suggestion for increase. M/S/C by Bethany Council for Compensation Package agreement.
3. Decorating the Church for Advent will be by Sunday, Nov. 19th and Nov. 28th.

Committee Reports

Servanthood: Giving tree is up, shoebox gifts in process, will hit 50 bags for Thanksgiving Dinner meals through Food Shelf.

Discipleship: Christmas program has been picked out for December.

Stewardship: Southeast tree has been removed, some outside lights repaired
Strategic Planning Meeting has been scheduled for January 7th, 2024 at 11:30a.
December Council meeting will be held on December 19th at 6p
Meeting was adjourned at 8:24p. M/S/C

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Council Minutes for December 10, 2023**

Attended: Kent, Joan, Rick, Pastor Emily, Donna, Jim, Cindy, Kristin, Wayne

Guest: Jenelle Absent; Darin, Mary

Meeting called to order 6:11 p.m.

Minutes from November meeting received, m/s/c

Treasurer's Report was received

Pastor's report was received

Old Business:

1. Finance & 2024 Budget Update - discussion of QR codes in the pews, looked at initial Budget
2. Directory update - hope to see them by the end of the year
3. LED Sign update - we have 2 runs of power - one run it is unknown where it runs to, Greg Daniels is doing electric, we are moving ahead with proposal
4. Sound System / Computer update - Jenelle passed out a quote for a new computer and sound system, we have donations from the Book Club and from the Capital Fund. Motion to approve the purchase of computer laptop/ desktop as the Book Club agreed to or Jenelle will discuss w/them and go with quote less the things we can add later from the Book Club donation and Capital Fund and Memorial Fund m/s/c
5. Upcoming events were discussed - Christmas Program
6. Confirmation update - 6th graders have been coming to confirmation which is earlier than normal, still will not be able to be confirmed until 9th grade as stated in the policy.
7. Cleaning update - Kari Fox - will be starting in December

New Business:

1. Event Discussion - We have lots going on, we are looking to see about our facility use form
2. No other new business

Committee Reports:

Get your annual reports ready!

Stewardship - We have all the Christmas stuff up, except in the park

Servanthood - Giving Tree, Interfaith Caregivers

Discipleship - Program

Strategic Planning To-Do List Updated (Joan) - Council has a get together on January 7th planned

Thank you notes: Dan Strabel, Max Lindquist, Annabelle Benson

Next Council Meeting: Tues, Jan 9th 6 p.m.

Adjournment and Lord's Prayer m/s/c Respectfully submitted, Kristin K.

Sundays in January ~ Lectionary

January 7th

Prayer of the Day: Holy God, creator of light and giver of goodness, your voice moves over the waters. Immerse us in your grace, and transform us by your Spirit, that we may follow after your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Genesis 1: 1-5

Acts 19: 1-7

Psalm: 29

Gospel: Mark 1: 4-11

January 14th

Prayer of the Day: Thanks be to you, Lord Jesus Christ, most merciful redeemer, for the countless blessings and benefits you give. May we know you more clearly, love you more dearly, and follow you more nearly, day by day praising you, with the Father, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

1 Samuel 3: 1-10(11-20)

1 Corinthians 6: 12-20

Psalm 139: 1-6, 13-18

John 1: 43-51

January 21st

Prayer of the Day: Almighty God, by grace alone you call us and accept us in your service. Strengthen us by your Spirit, and make us worthy of your call, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Jonah 3: 1-5, 10

1 Corinthians 7: 29-31

Psalm 62: 5-12

Gospel: Mark 1: 14-20

January 28th

Prayer of the Day: Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Deuteronomy 18: 15-20

1 Corinthians 8: 1-13

Psalm: 111

Gospel - Mark 1: 21-28

January Birthday's

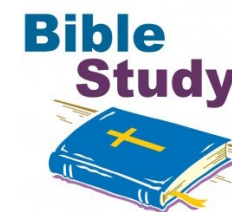
Happy Birthday

Vincent Wiltrout	1 /4
Opal Johnson	1/5
Morry Westphal	1/6
Calvin Brewster	1/10
Carol Chladil	1/12
Bev Flanigan	1/12
Joel Roen	1/12
Mike Mattison	1/12
Neil Olson	1/13
Chelsey McIntyre	1/14
Nathan Martin	1/14
Travis Stanford	1/15
Janis Wegner	1/16
Cassidy Formanek	1/16
Nathan Thiex	1/17
Laura Jensen	1/18
Olen Brewster	1/18
Sam Vasatka	1/20
Sydney Erickson	1/20
Lee Moritz	1/21
Caitlin Flanigan	1/24
Jerry Stypula	1/31

A few things to
remember~

Tuesday Morning
Bible Study will meet
at Pilgrim during January
at 10am.

Deborah Circle
will meet again on January 9th &
January 16th 4:30pm for this month
@Bethany



Bethany office Hours:

M-F 8:00ish - 4:00ish

I may be doing church cleaning at times throughout
the week, so if you can't reach me - call again, or
leave a voicemail message. Thanks! Jane



Like us on
Facebook



**Hello
January**

New Year

New Month

New Chapter

New Beginning

New Focus

New Opportunity

New Results

@therandomvibez



*Remember our
"Father Daughter" Dance of past
years?*

It's back again this year!

February 10th 5-9pm

Call or text Sarah

Brewster at

715-791-0602



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year!



Remember last year – lots of snow?!



Epiphany 2024

Traditionally around Epiphany (Jan. 6) we pray to God to bless us and keep us in his grace throughout the new year. We gather around the main entrances of our homes, nursing home rooms, hospital rooms, churches, and ask God's blessing on these dwellings and on all who live or visit there.

Below is a service you can hold by yourself or with your friends and family! Chalk is available at both churches or use simple chalk. Examples of “chalking the door” are below. *The Leader's part (L) can change from person to person or remain the same person.*

- L: Peace be to this house and to all who enter here.
- L: A reading from Proverbs: "By wisdom a house is built, and through understanding it is established; through knowledge its rooms are filled with rare and beautiful treasures."
- L: Let us pray: Gracious God, as a shining star once guided the magi to the birthplace of the infant Jesus, so enable those who dwell here to be your light in the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. C: Amen.

Using chalk people are invited to inscribe on the horizontal frame above the door with the inscription shown below. The letters C M B come from the Latin "Christus Mansionem Benedicat" which means "May Christ bless this dwelling!" It is also ascribed by tradition to be the names for the "three kings" -- Caspar, Melchior & Balthazar. Each person is afforded a turn to make one or more of the marks. The year 2024 is bookended on either side of the blessing. In between each marking is a little cross that signifies our salvation:

20 + C + M + B + 24

L: A reading from Isaiah: "The effect of righteousness is peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and quiet places." People may



join hands or extend their hands outward and upward for the prayers
(*however you feel comfortable praying*):

L: Let us pray: Sovereign God, we pray that you will bless this home and all who live here with your gracious presence, that your love may be our inspiration, your wisdom our guide, your truth our light, and your peace our benediction; through Jesus Christ we pray. C: **Amen.**

L: Lord, remember your children and teach us to pray (pray the Lord's Prayer): C: **Our Father...**
People may make the sign of the cross in remembrance of their baptism.

L: May the Lord watch + over our going out and our coming in, from this time forth and forevermore. C: **Amen.**

What Is Epiphany?

Epiphany (also called Three Kings' Day) is a global Christian holy-day commemorating the first manifestation of Jesus to gentiles (those who are not Jewish).

The shepherds in the Nativity represent the Jewish tradition and is the link between the Old and New Testament, much like Mary and Joseph's lineage does. The Three Kings or Wise Men represent the gentiles as they were not Jewish. Epiphany also reflects on the baptism of Christ, the beginning of his ministry, and the overall epiphany (or revelation) that Jesus (God) is incarnate (human). It is a sort of second Christmas for many around the globe. The time after Epiphany is considered "ordinary time" and as such, the color is green. January usually plays out like this: 2nd Sunday of Christmas, Epiphany Day, Baptism of our Lord Sunday, all following Sundays until Transfiguration of our Lord Sunday are known as "ordinary Sundays".

Quilt Drawings!

Our ambitious quilting crew held a Raffle during our Christmas Events for 3 quilt items:

A Christmas Tree Skirt ~
won by Mary Waschek



A lap quilt - won by
Cindy Johnson

A full size "Purse Quilt" ~
won by Val Lindquist

Then a special drawing was held ~from all the visitors cards & names (with addresses) listed in our visitors book ~from the past 6 months.



Paul & Bonnie Muus from Grand Marais, MN won the lap quilt! They were visitors at Bethany in 2023!



CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES!
**Bell Ringing - Community Christmas
Celebration for Kids!**



Community Christmas Concert!
A yearly Event!

