

Connections

July 2022



For over 115 years Bethany Church has held its annual midsummer picnic on the church grounds. It is held around June 24 (the longest day of the year) and is called St. John the Baptist Day. Swedish food is served and a program is held. In the 1940's military personnel from Kearney were invited with around 1,000 people and 80 gallons of homemade ice cream was served. (Minden Courier March 14, 2001)

A monthly publication of Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church – Axtell
and Zion American Lutheran Church – Macon

July 2022

Summer Greetings,

I love Summer! I really enjoy being outdoors and basking in the warm sunlight. Another pleasure I enjoy is learning about the history of things I am passionate about. Bethany received an unexpected gift in the mail last week from a couple in Texas who came across a history book of the early years of Bethany. They were so kind as to send it to us. Maybe there is a copy of this book somewhere here at the church, but it was certainly new to me. And oh, how I have enjoyed it.

It is titled “After Eighty Years” and includes the well written and well-preserved historical facts from 1876 to 1956. I assume there are other copies in existence, more than likely one at the church, but I had never seen one. It is fascinating to read of the early history of Bethany. Some of the stories I have been verbally told, while others were new to me.

Learning some of this history came full circle for me following a random visit in May. A couple and their granddaughter had stopped at Bethany on their way home from vacation. The man’s great, great grandfather had served as the first leader of Bethany in 1876. His surname was Nelson and while he was not an ordained minister he had served as leader of Bethany as they organized as a church body. The man I was privileged to visit with was unsure if his relative was documented anywhere in the church records as the “first leader” of Bethany. It was in this history book that was so graciously gifted to us that I indeed discovered his name and the documented proof of his leadership!

This is just one example of the discoveries that brought me joy to learn. The history, the legacy and the impact of Bethany in the past seems to be immense. What a blessing it is to a part of this legacy at Bethany today!

Of course, this takes us to the present and how we look to the future. As I read about the early history of Bethany Lutheran Church, I was struck by the many challenges they faced with such courage and perseverance. The challenges of our day seem somewhat minuscular to some of the early threats faced. The resources and opportunities available today are vast and immense in the ability to spread the “Good News” of Christ!

Our challenge today seems to be how to best utilize these resources to spread the love of Christ for us to others through our words and our actions. The piece that really struck me was the commitment to one’s faith life that had to present in those early days. We have so many options for ways to spend our time in our world today it seems that “church” so often takes second or third or maybe even last place on our list of priorities.

As we look to the future as Bethany or Zion Lutheran churches may we find time to pray and discern our commitment to our individual churches in response to our God who loves us unconditionally. Our Lutheran emphasis on grace - the Good News that God offers us in a new life in Christ, not because of who we are, or say or do, but because of who God is and what God has done for us – is a message that people need to hear now as much as ever! May we find ways to continue the rich legacy of the past as we commit to the future in each of our faith journeys.

In God’s abundant grace,

Pastor Marcia

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. Philippians 2:3-4



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Council met on June 20th at 6:30pm

Council will meet on July 18th at 6:30pm

June Meeting minutes were not available
to be included in this printing.



Thank you to all of those that serve our church in their own way. Be it on a TEAM, Council or in ways that only God knows. We thank you.



The Nebraska Synod of the ELCA met in Assembly on June 3-4, 2022 at the Younes Conference Center in Kearney, NE. There were 530 voting members present (170 rostered ministers and 360 lay members).

We gathered under the theme of 'Let Your Light Shine'. The theme verse was from Matthew 5:15-16. It was under this theme that we remembered and celebrated all that is made possible as God's people and through God's work with our hands, minds, hearts, and whole selves. Kendra Brown and Jackie Gregory attended as delegates from Bethany. Ron and Kristi Fritson attended as delegates from Zion.

Blaine Jelden a member of Bethany was elected to serve on the Nebraska Synod Council!

Rev. Scott Alan Johnson elected as Bishop!

Rev. Scott Alan Johnson of Fremont, Nebraska was elected to serve a six-year term as bishop of the Nebraska Synod. Pastor Johnson was elected on the fifth ballot with 315 votes. Johnson was born and raised in Nebraska and currently serves as the Director of Campus Ministries at Midland University. Johnson will officially take office on September 1, 2022. He will be installed on September 24, 2022 at 1:00PM at First Lutheran Church in Kearney, NE.



Bethany's Annual Midsummer Picnic, Friday June 17th was a roaring success!

Mother Nature won this year as the picnic was moved indoors due to the extreme heat.

Over 100 people were served the meal including a great variety of side dishes
and of course Swedish meatballs and Ostakaka!

Bethany members and several guests were filled with the delicious food and then entertained by the delightful and very talented Kevin and Heidi Cheng. The Cheng's provided music of many genres including the audience in guessing the origins of their tunes.

A huge thank you to so many that helped make this annual tradition a successful and entertaining Outreach for Bethany and friends!



TEAMS at Bethany

Faith Formation

Members: Jackie Gregory*, Ann Overleese, Nicole Cederburg, Mandy Strolberg, Patricia Youngmark and Lois Thurber

OutReach

Members: Shawn Soderquist*, Josh Jelden, Stephanie Cederburg, Bryan Danburg, Dudley Nelson and Deeon Cederburg

Worship & Music

Members: Kendra Brown*, Jan Schneider, Travis Arner, Amy Behrhorst and Clark Abrahamson

Property

Members: Scott Nelson*, Blaine Jelden, Al Schneider, Tom Brown, Eric Nelson, Connor Strolberg, Josh Jelden, Brad Youngmark, Jon Abrahamson and Wyatt Abrahamson

Stewardship

Members: Kathy Abrahamson*, Matt Strolberg, Heidi Drew, Michael Roche and Nichole Roche

Thank you to the council representatives * and all members of Bethany Teams for 2022 for their time and service to Bethany

Bethany TEAMS met on June 5th to discern God's work through Bethany

OutReach

- Updated Fellowship Coffee list
- Confirmed date for Habitat for Humanity in November
 - Bethany will serve a meal and provide labor
- Brainstormed ideas for "God's Work-Our Hands" Day
 - September 11 – Will ask around about needs
- Plan to grill for a meal after worship in late July or early August
- Hand out water in Axtell to people outside on Saturday, June 25th @ 1:00pm

Worship & Music

- Banners were assessed for cleanliness, use and tatters
- Discussion was held regarding Communion assistants, children's music and sound system

Faith Formation

- Discussion and plans made for VBS to be July 12-15
- Planned a meeting for June 22nd @ 7pm for anyone interested in helping with VBS

Stewardship

- Discussed pilot program offered by the Synod Bethany will be using beginning this fall.
- Set date for Tuesday, June 28th to view webinar on the basics of Stewardship

Property

- Pastor will call and have the grounds sprayed prior to MidSummer's Picnic
- Discussed mowing and bids on landscaping and sprinklers being installed

The next TEAMS meeting will be Sunday, August 7th after worship in the Fellowship Hall.



Community Bible Study

There will be a meeting twice this summer to watch a movie on Abraham.

The first viewing will be on Tuesday, July 19, at 4:00 in the fellowship hall.

Anyone who would like to watch the movie and/or join the group is welcome to attend. Please call Jeanie at 308 830 0927 if you have any questions.



Are you interested in looking at the **basics of the Bible?**

Pastor Marcia is planning a ***Bible 101 Journey of Faith*** opportunity for anyone interested.

Please let Pastor Marcia know if you are interested and we will set a time that works for all!

Bethany Prayer Team

Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am
Prayer Team uses a Zoom meeting online.
Let Pastor Marcia know of your interest to join the Prayer Team.

Prayer Requests

Please contact Pastor Marcia to have your prayer request added to the list.

Prayer requests can be added to the public prayer list or shared only with the Bethany Prayer Team.



The Chosen

No meetings in July



Bethany Circle

Wednesday, July 6th

6:30pm ~ Bethany Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Amy Behrhorst & Amy Nelson

Chapters 4 and 5 of DARE TO BE

Books are available at the church

We would love to have you join us!
If you have questions, please reach out to Amy Nelson (402) 224-0065



Thank you to so many that took time to have your picture taken for our new Bethany Pictorial Directory. It will be good to have an updated picture resource of our Church Family.

If you were unable to make a time offered to work for your family, please submit a photo via email or bring one to the church office by July 15th.

A huge thank you to our resident photographer, Carissa Stritt for sharing her talents with us and for being so very flexible with everyone's schedules.

Bethany Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Coffee Fellowship

(No Sunday School during summer months)

10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion



LaVon Abrahamson
 Joyce Almquist
 Rod Behrhorst
 Ron Bergstrom
 Bob Freeland
 Calvin Gleason
 Lanette Gleason
 Beverly Carlson
 Randy Lemmon
 Marshall Poole
 Jim Lindau
 Cortny Purvis
 Leo Purvis
 Kim Dale
 Bonita Nelson
 Ron Fries
 Carson Hansen
 & family

We welcome into our family of faith

Nichole and Michael Roche

Through the Through transfer of membership
 Sacrament of Holy Baptism: and Affirmation of faith:

Nichole Roche



Michael Roche

Love God.



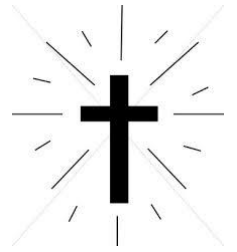
Love People.



Volunteers needed to make coffee and
 serve goodies on Sunday mornings from
 10:00 – 10:30am.
 There is a sign up sheet in the Narthex

Zion American Lutheran Church – Macon
1194 O Rd
Franklin, NE 68939
Pastor Marcia Dorn
308.380.4246
mardorn61@gmail.com

ZION NEWS



Zion Sunday Schedule

9:00am Worship

Communion offered the 1st and 2nd Sunday of the Month



Prayer Requests

*Bill Fries
Lela Frerichs
Phoebe Fritson
Lori Weber
Otto Ervin Ingram
Angel Dreher
Rory Boston
John Jelken
Deb Zade
Mya Emerson
Bailey Adock
Deb Wilbur*



There will NOT be a Worship Service

at Zion on Sunday July 10th.

Members are encouraged to
worship with others at the

Franklin County Fairgrounds inside
the Ag Center Building at 9:30 am

welcome
to our church family

We welcome into our family of faith,

Austin, Amanda and Bracelynn Fouts

Mark your Calendars!

VBS will be held at Zion on July 13th and July 15th!

Kids will gather on Wednesday the 13th for fun and learning!

Kids and ALL members of Zion will gather on the 15th
for fun and a movie!

Plan to attend and bring a friend!

More information to come!



—STAYING— CONNECTED

Our website: <https://bethanyaxtell.org/>



Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA - Axtell, NE @axtellbethanylutheranchurch



Zion American Lutheran Church – Macon @zlcmakon

Unable to attend Worship?

Each Sunday Bethany's Worship Service

is recorded and available on

Bethany's website under

the **Worship and Devotion** tab

<https://bethanyaxtell.org/>

Would you like to see *Connections online??*

Visit: bethanyaxtell.org

To arrange for notification of the online
Connections newsletter, Please contact the
office at BethanyAxtell@gmail.com to be
added to the email list.

Bethany Contact Information



Pastor Marcia Dorn

308-380-4256

Church Office Manager

Jessica Fulmer

Church Office

308-743-2597

Bethany Email

BethanyAxtell@gmail.com

**Connections... share your good news with
Bethany!**

Communication is important.

Items for the newsletter are due to the church office by the third
Monday of the Month.

Please email an announcement to bethanyaxtell@gmail.com or
provide a hard copy of your announcement to the church office.

Submissions may be edited due to space available.

*We are only able to publish items of which
we have been made aware of.*



Vacation Bible School

July 12-15 from 5:30 -8:00 pm

Makin' Waves

Sharing adventures from the Bible

Noah and the Ark - Jonah and the Whale

Jesus walking on Water

Learning time - July 12, 13, 14

5:30 to 8:00 pm with a meal provided!

Picnic and program for family and friends

July 15 - 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Anyone and Everyone from ages 3 to 6th grade welcome!

We are asking all who plan to attend
to please register by July 1st on our website: bethanyaxtell.org
or pick up a registration form at the church.

Needing helpers to assist in the various stations and
accompany kids as they venture through the
waters of learning about God's love!

Please contact Pastor Marcia or the church office
if you would like to be a part of this
fun and exciting ministry!





Zion Confirmation June 5, 2022.
 Tammy Adam, Sydney Hoffman, RJ Largent, Cauy Twohig,
 Pastor Marcia Dorn, Ona Wilsey and Rilynn Johnson



Mid-Summer Picnic entertainment
 Kevin & Heidi Cheng perform!



Matt, Simone, Hope & Alexandra Weber
 lead worship at Bethany!

02



Ostakaka making by the pros!



Special Friends reunite!

MAKIN' WAVES

Sharing adventures from the Bible

Vacation Bible School

July 12-15

5:30 -8:00 pm



*Noah and the Ark
Jonah and the Whale
Jesus walking on Water*

Learning time - July 12, 13, 14
5:30 to 8:00 pm with a meal provided!

Picnic and program for family and friends
July 15 - 5:30 to 8:00 pm

Anyone and Everyone
from ages 3 to 6th grade welcome!

Please register by picking up a form or online at www.bethanyaxtell.org as soon as possible.

Bethany 
Lutheran Church
Axtell
Love God. Love People.

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