Connections

June 2022

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From the Desk of Pastor Marcia

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Photo by Pastor Marcia

FOR, LO, THE WINTER IS PAST,

the rains are over and gone; the flowers appear on the earth; the time of the SINGING OF BIRDS has come.

SONG OF SOLOMON 2:11-12

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

Finally.... Finally, the signs of spring have appeared! It seems like it took an extra-long time this year. Buds and blossoms, green leaves and green grass, birds singing and laying eggs in nests, flowers blooming and filling the air with their sweet fragrance are all signs of the newness of spring. The faithful farmer who plants seeds in the fertile soil and hopes for growth can see the beginnings, the sprouts of their work. Yes, this is indeed the sights I have seen to give me the hope of not only spring once again but hope in all things. The long, awaited rain refreshed our dry and parched land with much needed nourishment. We pray hopefully and passionately for more rains to come and yes, less wind.

Just as Spring brings hope each year with signs of new life, we continue to celebrate our new life in Christ through the Resurrection of Jesus on Easter. The picture found on this month's cover of Connections was taken on one of those stormy nights in May. The beauty and majesty of our world seems to be captured in the unedited colors that appear so brightly in this photo of our grounds and church building. There is so much to be grateful for as children of God.

And grateful I am! What a joy, what hope I found on Sunday, May 15th as I looked out at the congregation gathered for worship. To see so many faces with joyful smiles from both Bethany and Zion together truly warmed my heart. And of course, having Bishop Brian Maas of the Nebraska Synod-ELCA with us was an added plus! Of course it was a blessing, a gift and a privilege to have Bishop Brian with us in fellowship and worship. The message he brought to us was both inspiring and hopeful.! We wish him all the best in prayer and thanksgiving as he answers a new call in the Kingdom of God serving God and others.

As you have already surmised Spring is my favorite season of the year and renews my hope in life. May you find signs of new life in our world that reminds you of our NEW LIFE in Christ. For this and so much more that proceeds from this gift to fortify and nourish our lives, we give all glory and thanks to our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Renewed and hopeful,

Pastor Marcia

"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." 2 Corinthians 5:17



Photo by Josh Jelden



Bethany Council Meeting

Bethany Council met on Monday, May 16, 2022 at 6:30 pm

Members of Bethany's Congregational Council

Josh Jelden

President (308)-830-3273 joshjelden@gmail.com

Kendra Brown

Vice President (308)-830-3291 kbrown@kchs.org

Kathy Abrahamson

Secretary (308)-999-8136 jonandkathy@gtmc.net

Heidi Drew (402)-239-2700 hdaubendiek@gmail.com

Jackie Gregory (308)-631-1779 j.gregory6@hotmail.com

Scott Nelson (308)-991-7101 sdnelson444@gmail.com

Shawn Soderquist (308)-830-0080 soda6402@gmail.com Council Members Present: Kathy Abrahamson, Kendra Brown, Heidi Drew,

Josh Jelden, Shawn Soderquist, Pastor Marcia Dorn

Council Members Absent: Jackie Gregory and Scott Nelson

Pastor Marcia – opening prayer

Approval of Agenda as written

Approval of Secretary's Report/Minutes as written

Approval of Treasurer's Report: General Fund and Multi- purpose Fund

Team Reports:

Faith Formation – Curriculum for VBS has been decided on with the theme "Makin Waves".

Outreach – haven't met but should meet to discuss summer and fall events.

Stewardship –Will meet to view a Synod webinar. Considering a pilot program for Stewardship by the churchwide ELCA we have been selected to participate in.

Worship & Music – have not met. The music during the worship with Bishop Maas was exceptional. Plan to meet to work on the banner project.

Property – team members have discussed landscaping, underground sprinklers, and sign options. Council approved the purchase of a new flag and solar light for the flagpole.

Discussion was held concerning better use of our facility. This included providing a sink for Altar Team in the back room and converting a basement classroom to storage for some of the items stored in the fellowship hall closet for easier access to items needed more often.

Old Business:

- Insurance hail damage/trees April wind damage Brotherhood Mutual requested a bid for all of the current damages from a contractor to reevaluate what they have sent as a claim payment (the bid is a much higher number than they have offered to pay so far). Bid was sent to them 4-22-22. Contractor and insurance agent have been informed of wind damage incurred since the bid was written. Conversation with agent again today to have them follow up with Brotherhood Mutual.
- Church Pictorial Directory Photographer, dates and times are set for new directory in June.
- *Midsummer Picnic* Date and Entertainment are set. Will be like last year. Pastor Marcia will line up people to help.
- *Update on Copy Machine* working well with an attachment that staples and folds. New computer and dual monitors have been purchased for the office.

New Business:

- **BYG** A discussion was held regarding communication issues with BYG. Council voted to close the checking account and have all accounts run through the office.
- *Team Meetings* scheduled the next team meeting date for June 5th, after worship, with pizza provided. **Pastor's Report:** Filled in for Don Nelson funeral as Hildreth Pastor was ill. Worship with Bishop Maas went well with exceptional music and hospitality! Plans to share with congregation new ideas from a webinar from the Synod with Ann Overleese on ways to be more welcoming to visitors.

Next Meeting: June 20, 2022 Refreshments: Heidi Drew

Adjournment: Lord's Prayer by all in attendance.

^{*}Detailed minutes are available upon request



Thursday May 26th at 1:00pm will be **Church Workday at Bethany!**

Please plan to come and join others in sprucing Bethany's property for Memorial Day!

Mowers – weed eaters – Tree trimmers and whatever else may be helpful are needed!

The YOUNG – OLDER OR SOMEWHERE in the MIDDLE ARE ENCOURAGED TO HELP!

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



All TEAM Members

Please plan to attend June 5th after Worship for more fellowship and to work together as Teams to do God's work at Bethany.



The Nebraska Synod ELCA, 2022 Synod assembly will be held in Kearney June 2, 3, 4th.

Please, keep the following delegates from Zion and Bethany in your prayers as they attend and discern decisions to be made including voting on a new Bishop!

Zion – Ron and Kristi Fritson Bethany – Kendra Brown and Jackie Gregory



Congratulations to all our area graduates!

Lexie Anderson – Axtell Community School

Reagan Nordhausen – Axtell Community School

Sara Fritson – University of Nebraska at Kearney

Gavin Peterson – University of Nebraska at Lincoln



Entertainment in the Sanctuary at 7:30pm!

Kevin and Heidi Cheng

are returning to provide our entertainment this year!

This talented musical duo share their talents
through the piano and violin.

If you were able to hear them last year you will want to again!

If you were not able to hear them last year you NEED to!

Kevin and Heidi are not only extremely talented but their presentation is both charming and calming.

What a great way to end the evening of Bethany's annual Midsummer Picnic!





Be sure to be included in Bethany's New Church Photo Directory

You may sign up for a time slot on our website www.bethanyaxtell.org or at the church.

These will be 15 minutes for each family so please, try to be prompt for your appointment.

There will be an opportunity for you to purchase one of the photos taken or to schedule a complete session with Carissa our photographer.



The following times have been set for photos to be taken in the Fellowship Hall.

June 12 - 9:30 to 10:30 am

11:45 to 1:00 pm

June 14 - 3:00 to 5:00 pm

June 15 - 3:00 to 5:00 pm

June 17 - 4:00 to 8:00 pm

Community Bible Study

No meeting in June

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.



Bethany Circle

Wednesday, June 1st

6:30pm ~ Bethany Fellowship Hall

Hostess:

Chapters 2 and 3 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



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!



The Chosen

No meetings in June



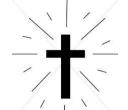
Wednesday mornings at 8:00 am
Prayer Team uses a Zoom meeting online.
Let Pastor Marcia know of your
interest to join the Prayer Team.

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.

ZION NEWS



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

Zion Confirmation students and their chosen Bible verses

Paisley Hoffman Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Sydney Hoffman Psalm 60:12

With God's help we shall do mighty things, for he will trample down our foes.

Rilynn Johnson Psalm 32:8

I will instruct you (says the Lord) and guide you along the best pathway for your life; I will advise you and watch your progress.

R.J. Largent Psalm 19:2

Day after day they pour forth speech; night after night they reveal knowledge.

Ona Saathoff Matthew 22:37

Jesus replied: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.'

Cauy Twohig Philippians 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

Confirmation

Sunday June 5, 2022, we celebrate the Christian Festival of Pentecost

Each year this major festival is celebrated on the Sunday that falls on the 50th day of Easter. It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and other disciples following the Crucifixion, Resurrection, and Ascension of Jesus Christ found in the Acts of the Apostles, Chapter 2, and it marks the beginning of the Christian church's mission to the world.

Wear **RED** to celebrate!

This day we will also celebrate the completion of the Confirmation studies of six young members as they affirm their Baptism in the rite of Confirmation.



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

Zion Sunday Schedule

9:00am Worship

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

Love God.



Love People.

Bethany Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship 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 Diana Moore Amy Nelson Marshall Poole Jim Lindau Tierney Peterson Cortny Purvis Leo Purvis Kim Dale Family & Friends of Roland Nyquist



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Options for Giving Offerings



Access the online giving portal through our website at Beth any Axtell.org

VANCO All transactions are processed by Vanco, which complies with PCI level 1 standards, the highest standard of security in the payment processing industry.





Download the Vanco Mobile app to manage electronic giving on your smart device.



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

STAYING → CONNECTED

Our website: https://bethanyaxtell.org/

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Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA - Axtell, NE @axtellbethanylutheranchurch

f_z

Zion American Lutheran Church - Macon @zlcmacon

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.

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.

Bethany Contact Information



Pastor Marcia Dorn

308-380-4256

Church Office Manager

Jessica Fulmer

Church Office

308-743-2597

Bethany Email

BethanyAxtell@gmail.com





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

Vacation Bible School will be held in the evenings

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.

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







Mid-Summer Picnic









903 25 Road Axtell, NE 68924 308-743-2597 bethanyaxtell@gmail.com www.bethanyaxtell.org

Address Service Requested

Non-Profit Organization U.S. Postage PAID Permit Number 1 Axtell, NE 68924