

Connections

May 2022

Love God.  Love People.

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

May 2022

From the desk of Pastor Marcia

March winds.... April showers... or is it that just more wind and no showers? There is one thing that never seems to change and that is the unpredictable weather in Nebraska. This year has been extreme it seems in abundance of wind and lack of moisture. So much so, that many areas of our state have faced the dire consequences of wind-blown wildfires. We keep all those affected in our thoughts, hearts and prayers. Bethany has started a financial donation drive to send to those in need because of the devastating fires. If you would like to contribute, please mark your donations for the "Nebraska Wildfire fund."

In this issue of "Connections" you will notice a new "connection." We have added a page to share news from Zion Lutheran Church in Macon. As I continue to joyfully serve the wonderful people at Zion along with the amazing folks at Bethany, I have looked for ways to "connect" the two congregations in an informal way. Sharing our news of activities, events, joys and sorrows seems to be a good one to explore. Perhaps, we can "connect" with some of the others' activities or events at times. There are no plans to further our relationship on any other levels, but yet there are many ways our relationship as God's children, as ELCA Lutherans can intertwine.

May brings one of these opportunities on May 15th. The Bishop of the Nebraska Synod, Bishop Brian Maas approached me some time ago asking when he would be invited to worship with us. He stated he had never been to Bethany or Zion. So, an invitation was extended and "The Bishop is Coming!" It just makes sense for us to gather together and welcome him and share in what makes us one, Worship of our Lord and Savior.

I am beyond excited for this day! I hope you are too! Bethany's choir will sing as well as the children from both congregations. Fellowship and coffee will be shared before worship with Bishop Maas present. What an opportunity to further our relationship with the Nebraska Synod, our two congregations that so generously share me, as well as our relationship with Jesus, the very reason for our existence.

I hope to see you all on the 15th! Just think what a great sermon you will get to hear!!!!

As we continue to celebrate the Resurrection of Christ this season of Easter may each of you find hope and peace in the gift of Christ in our lives in all the joys and challenges of life.

In the "Connection" of Christ's love,

Pastor Marcia

*In the same way, even though we are many individuals,
Christ makes us one body and individuals who are
connected to each other.
Romans 12:5*



Zion American Lutheran Church – Macon

1194 O Rd

Franklin, NE 68939

Pastor Marcia Dorn

308.380.4246

There will be NO Worship service at Zion on

Sunday, May 15th

Zion members will be joining Bethany/Axtell with the
Bishop of the Nebraska Synod ELCA,

Bishop Brian Maas leading worship at 10:45 am.

All children are invited to sing with Bethany's children
during worship. A brief practice will be held that
morning at 10:00 am at Bethany.

A time of coffee/fellowship will also be held at 10:00 am.

COME ONE! COME ALL!

Wednesday Church-Confirmation-Youth Group will
take a break for the summer.

Thanks and gratitude to all for the dedication to the
ministry of the young people of Zion!



Look who was at Zion!

Former Pastor Bud Christensen &
Pastor Marcia Dorn

Confirmation will be held
during worship on
Sunday, June 5th at 9:00 am.

Keep these young members in your
prayers as they affirm their faith in
the Confirmation Service.

*Rilynn Johnson
Paisley Hoffman
Sydney Hoffman
R.J. Largent
Cauy Twohig
Ona Wilsey*



ZION WORSHIP AND ALTAR COMMITTEE

Worship and altar committee members will be responsible for these tasks in the month indicated. A calendar with colors is posted on the bulletin board in the narthex or can be found in the green hymnal for the color of the paraments. Two people are assigned for each month with all members decorating for Christmas, Easter, and Mission Festival seasons. **If you cannot serve in a given month, please call another committee member to substitute for you.** Remember to prepare communion and also water plants.

	Worship/Altar	Deacon Service
MAY 2022	Kristi Fritson/Rhonda Herrick	Scott Herrick
JUNE 2022	Marilyn Fritson/Sherri Frerichs	Marilyn Fritson
JULY 2022	Marilyn Fritson/Sherri Frerichs	Marilyn Fritson
AUGUST 2022	Kristi Fritson/Rhonda Herrick	Kristi Fritson
SEPTEMBER 2022	Kathy Dorn/Savannah Johnson	James Adam
OCTOBER 2022	Taylor Herrick/Aly Sindt	Scott Herrick
NOVEMBER 2022	Marilyn Fritson/Sherri Frerichs	Mike Dallmann
DECEMBER 2022	Kathy Dorn/Savannah Johnson	Merle Dorn

All members help with Christmas Decorating and taking decorations down

JANUARY 2023	Taylor Herrick/Aly Sindt	James Adam
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Bill Fries	Otto Ervin Ingram	Mya Emerson
Diane Fries	Angel Dreher	Bailey Adock
Lela Frerichs	Rory Boston	Deb Wilbur
Phoebe Fritson	Carol Harms	
Barb Overleese	John Jelken	
Lori Weber	Deb Zade	
Family & Friends of Eunice Adam and April Schamp		

Opportunities for Worship and Fellowship in May

Sunday Schedule

10:00 am Sunday School & Coffee Fellowship

10:45 am Worship with Holy Communion

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

*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
Don Nelson*



Save the date!
Bethany's annual
Mid-Summer Picnic
will be celebrated June 17th

**Mid-Summer Picnic
Planning Meeting
Thursday, May 5th
at 6:30 pm**

May 15th will be a big day at Bethany with Zion joining us in Worship with Bishop Maas. Bishop of Nebraska Synod, ELCA leading Worship.

Special Music by the Bethany and Zion Sunday School children as well as the Bethany Singers



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 and Heidi Drew

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

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

Love God. Love People.

April Team Meeting

After Worship on April 3rd all teams of Bethany gathered in the Fellowship Hall.

Pizza, salad, and cookies were provided.

Faith Formation

- Last day for regular Sunday School will be May 8th.
- On May 15th the children will practice for singing in Worship this day at 10:00 am
- VBS will be July 12-15th in the evenings

Outreach

- A free will donation was collected at Easter Brunch with funds going to CrossRoads Mission and Kearney Area Animal Shelter

Stewardship

- Webinar with Timothy Siburg from the Nebraska Synod will be on May 12th from 7:30-9:00pm

Property

- Discussed underground sprinklers, grass, a new sign and for a landscaping project on the east side of the church building

Worship & Music

- Worked on special music for Easter as well as on May 15th for when the Bishop will be at Bethany
- Banner sorting and repair

Bethany Council Meeting

Monday, March 21, 2022

6:30 p.m.

Council Members Present:

Kathy Abrahamson, Scott Nelson
Kendra Brown, Josh Jelden
Heidi Drew, Jackie Gregory
Pastor Marcia Dorn

Council Members Absent:

Shawn Soderquist

Also Present:

Jessica Fulmer
Jon Abrahamson

Called to Order: Meeting was called to order by President Josh Jelden at 6:37 p.m.

Pastor Marcia opened the meeting in prayer.

Agenda was approved as presented

Secretary's Report/Minutes approved as written:

Approval of Treasurer's Reports:

General & MP Fund reports were approved as presented

Team Reports:

- ***Faith Formation*** – next meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022 following Lenten service.
- ***Outreach*** – have not met since Feb team meetings.
- ***Stewardship*** – have not met since Feb team meetings.
- ***Worship & Music*** – have not met since Feb team meetings.
- ***Property*** – have not met since Feb team meetings.

Old Business:

- ***Insurance/hail damage*** – Kathy has been in regular contact with the claims representative at Brotherhood Mutual. A new check has been sent, but still do not agree with their resolution.
- ***Church Pictorial Directory*** – Heidi is continuing to research and explore possibilities for a new directory.

New Business:

- ***Cancellation Policy*** – *Discussion was held in the event of the need to cancel worship or other events.*

Pastor's Report:

- Next team meeting date for all TEAM meetings was set for April 3, 2022 with pizza provided.
- Council installation scheduled for March 27, 2022 during worship.
- Pastor Marcia asked permission to have someone install an outlets in back porch of parsonage.
- Council agreed that she could contact K & D Electric to have that work done.

Next Meeting: April 18, 2022

Refreshments: Kendra Brown

Meeting Adjourned at 7:24 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer recited by all.

Bethany Council Meeting

Monday, April 18, 2022

6:30 pm

Council Members Present:

Kathy Abrahamson, Heidi Drew, Kendra Brown, Jackie Gregory, Josh Jelden, Scott Nelson, Shawn Soderquist, Pastor Marcia Dorn

Also Present: Jessica Fulmer

Called to Order: 6:33 pm by President Josh Jelden.

Agenda approved as written:

Meeting opened in prayer by Pastor Marcia

Secretary's Report/Minutes approved as written:

Treasurer's Reports: General & MP Fund reports approved as presented

Team Reports:

- **Faith Formation** – Last day for SS will be May 8th, but kids will practice on May 15th for the song they will sing during worship that day. VBS will be July 12-15 in the evenings following the same format as last year.
- **Outreach** – Discussion on continuing coffee fellowship with decision to continue. Free-will donation collected at Easter brunch (\$300) will be divided between CrossRoads Mission and the Kearney Area Animal Shelter (to match where the kids donated as part of their egg hunt). Expenses for brunch will be paid out of Outreach budget. Josh has talked to Habitat for Humanity about helping out with their projects by providing meals on Saturday workdays. This could be a joint project with Circle.
- **Stewardship** – Team will attend a Webinar with Timothy Siburg from the Nebraska Synod on May 12
- **Worship & Music** – Noted that Jan did a great job with music for Easter and has already started on special music for the May 15th worship when Bishop Maas is visiting Bethany.
- **Property** – April 3rd team meeting discussion included: underground sprinklers, grass, Bethany sign for the landscape project on east side of Church building. Discussion at council meeting about a possible workday, current mowing company and flag and light for the flagpole.

Old Business:

- **Insurance / Hail damage** – Kathy is still in regular contact with the claims representative at Brotherhood Mutual and the agent in Holdrege. Contractor was here last Friday measuring and putting together a bid to fix all of the current repairs for Kathy to send to the claims representative.
- **Church Pictorial Directory** – Heidi has talked to a member about doing the photos and continues to explore options for a new Directory.

New Business:

- **MidSummer Picnic** – Date set for June 17, 2022. A committee meeting will be held in May inviting those in the congregation who wish to be involved in planning and hosting.
- **Worship Time** – Discussion held about changing worship time to 9 am for the summer months. No action taken but council members encouraged to listen for comments from the congregation and can revisit discussion if necessary.

Pastor's Report:

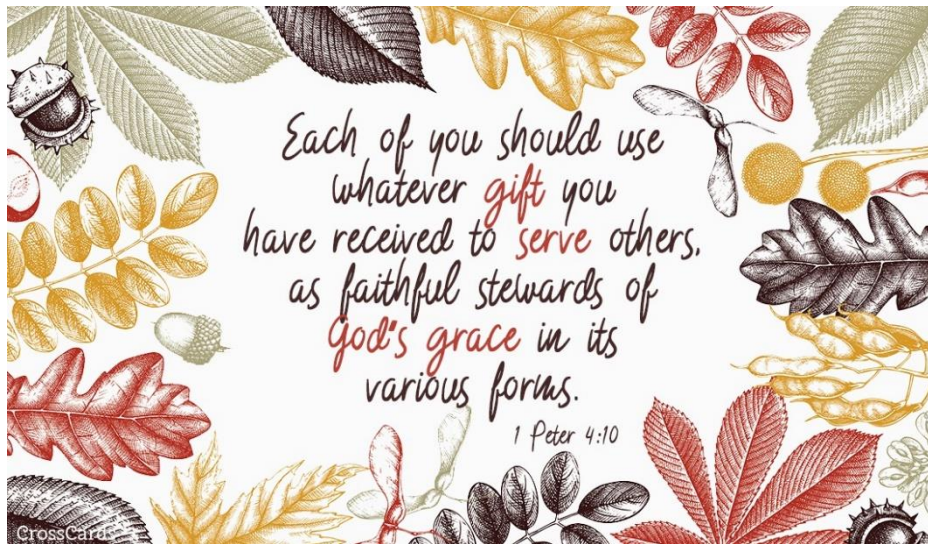
- **Rogation Sunday** – April 24, 2022
- **Funeral** – for Zion member this week
- **Wedding** – small wedding this weekend for new Bethany members
- **May 8, 2022** – dedication and blessing of the new quilt for the fellowship hall made by women of the church
- **May 11, 2022** – Axtell baccalaureate service will be held at Mosaic (this is new this year- joint effort by all churches in the community)
- **May 15, 2022** – Bishop Maas will be visiting Bethany for worship. Zion will join the worship service
- **Zion news** – discussion about including a page in our newsletter for Zion announcements.

Next Meeting: May 16, 2022

Refreshments: Josh

Meeting Adjourned with the Lord's Prayer recited by all.

**Detailed minutes are available upon request*



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



The Bishop is Coming!

Our Nebraska Synod ELCA Bishop Brian Maas will be at Bethany on Sunday May 15th.

The Bethany and Zion Congregations will be worshiping together at Bethany on this Sunday at 10:45 am.

Fellowship coffee will be held at 10:00 am with Bishop Maas present. Children from both congregations will sing during worship with a practice time at 10:00 am.

Bishop Maas will be retiring as Bishop of the Nebraska Synod ELCA in September. Don't miss this opportunity to greet Bishop Maas and worship together with him as our leader.



Sunday, May 8th during worship this quilt made by several women of Bethany will be blessed and dedicated. This beautiful quilt shows many of the aspects of Bethany and our Lutheran and Swedish heritage through the years and will hang in the fellowship hall for all to enjoy!

Opportunities to serve at Bethany in May



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

Options for Giving Offerings

The logo for VANCO, with the word "VANCO" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

Give Offerings Electronically with Vanco

The logo for VANCO, with the word "VANCO" in a bold, purple, sans-serif font.

Click the Vanco button above to give through the secure site.

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

A purple circle with a white "V" inside.

Available on the App Store

GET IT ON Google Play

Access the online giving portal through our website at BethanyAxtell.org

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



Vacation Bible School

July 12-15th

Planning updates coming soon!

VBS wouldn't be the success it is without those that give their time and talents.

Picture Directory Planning Meeting

May 9th @ 6:00 pm

It has been seven years since our last picture directory. It is time to put together a new one.

If anyone is interested in helping with this project, please let Heidi Drew know and attend this planning meeting.

We will be taking pictures soon, so be looking for more information on how to sign up.

Contact Heidi to help or if you have any questions. 402-239-2700



—STAYING— CONNECTED

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



Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA - Axtell, NE @axtellbethanylutheranchurch

Connections... share your good news with Bethany!

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.

Would you like to see
Connections in **COLOR?**

Visit: bethanyaxtell.org

To arrange for notification of the online *Connections* newsletter, Please contact the office at BethanyAxtell@gmail.com

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/>

Bethany Contact Information



Pastor Marcia Dorn

308-380-4256

Church Office

Manager

Jessica Fulmer

Church Office

308-743-2597

Bethany Email

BethanyAxtell@gmail.com

Easter at Bethany

*Easter lilies and tulips were shared
by the following families, honoring those listed*

<i>Pastor Marcia</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Steve & Elma Nelson</i>	<i>In memory of Sarah</i>
<i>Dan & June Wiese</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Michael & Nichole Roche</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Shirley Ann Nelson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Bryan & Trish Danburg Family</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Rob & Jackie Gregory</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Leroy & Roberta Lammers</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Clark & Lavon Abrahamson</i>	<i>In honor of loved ones</i>
<i>Ellery & Joyce Peterson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Nellie Anderson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Josh & Deeon Cederburg</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Marshall & Jeanie Poole</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Dudley & Marge Nelson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Kurt & Amy Behrhorst</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Charles & Linda Anderson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Scott, Amy, Sam, Luke & Britta Nelson</i>	<i>In memory of loved ones</i>
<i>Ed & Roxanne Sorenson</i>	<i>In honor of Audra & Jeremy, Kathryn, Michael & Misty, Breckin & Brayden</i>

Great music on Easter Sunday is tradition at Bethany. This year a brass quartet was joyfully included in our Worship service along with the amazing voices of Bethany Singers.

Sharing their talents in the brass quartet were Mary Olson, Connor Strolberg, Cody Arner and Zach Arner.

Thank you to all that contributed to the Easter Worship service.



Fellowship Opportunities at Bethany this month

Community Bible Study

Monday, May 2nd at 4:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.

We will be watching a movie on the book of Ruth since we have finished the lessons.

Contact Jeanie Poole for more information at 308-830-0927



Bethany Circle

Wednesday, May 4th

6:30pm ~ Bethany Fellowship Hall

Hostess: Janice Soderquist

Introduction and Chapter 1 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

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.



6:30pm on
Wednesdays

"The Chosen" is a series of videos and discussion time centering on the life of Jesus.

In the alley behind the Village Office and the Presbyterian Church in Axtell.



Every Sunday at 10:00 am



VILLAGE OF AXTELL CLEANUP-2022

SATURDAY, MAY 7TH

9-12 AM BY THE TENNIS COURTS

AXTELL TOWN RESIDENTS ONLY – NO BUSINESSES

THE TREE DUMP WILL BE FREE AT THAT TIME FOR LIMBS, YARD AND GARDEN WASTE.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE VILLAGE OFFICE

THANK YOU TO SOUTH CENTRAL SANITATION FOR SPONSORING!



AXTELL MEMORIAL DAY CELEBRATION

SATURDAY, MAY 28TH – MONDAY, MAY 30TH



**Axtell Donate Life 5K Walk/Run in memory of Sarah Nelson will take place at
1:00 pm on Sunday, May 29th**

We will welcome Bishop Maas in a joint service with Macon at Bethany on May 15th at 10:45 am.

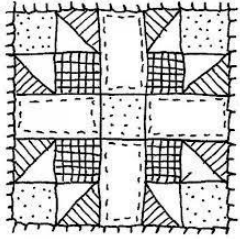
No Worship at Zion. Both congregations will worship at Bethany.

Children are invited to sing together in Worship and will practice at 10:00am



**Mid-Summer Picnic
June 17th**

Planning meeting May 5th at 6:30pm



Quilt Blessing

May 8th

Sunday School takes a break for the summer

Zion – April 27th

Bethany – May 15th

Bethany 
Lutheran Church
Axtell
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903 25 Road
Axtell, NE 68924

308-743-2597

bethanyaxtell@gmail.com

www.bethanyaxtell.org

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