
Our Mission

Called and empowered by
God's grace in Christ Jesus,
we **WORSHIP** God,
grow in **FAITH**, and
REACH OUT to others

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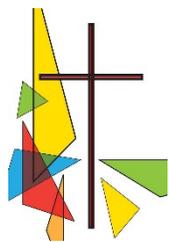
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May 2017 Bethany Messenger



From Pastor Steve



With the coming of May comes the close of our programmatic year. As I write my Annual Report and begin reviewing the reports we have received from the various ministry groups, committees and task forces, I can't help but be reminded again of all of the changes that have taken place this past year. This has been a very busy and productive year. My recent health issues have resulted in my looking seriously on the

past and doing some serious contemplation about the future. I know that this is usually something we do around the start of the new year, however, recent events have me doing this now and in some ways this is a good time for all of us to do this. Making changes in our life-styles, life-choices, and life-enhancing activities in the aftermath of Easter and as Spring blossoms is a perfect time to get caught up in all of the new life events. It is the time when we celebrate the resurrection and the greening of the earth, the blossoming of Spring flowers and the time for planting, as well as the time of the re-awakening of the earth and our lives from the long winter's hibernation. It is the time we exchange indoor activities for outdoor activities, sedentary activities for invigorating ones, candlelight dinners for picnics, and quiet, private times for get-togethers and celebrations.

What I would like to suggest, is that as we change our activities we consider WHY we are starting these new activities. Are these new activities truly those activities that are important to us, to our families, and most importantly, to our Lord. Are we making time for the activities that reflect what we value, prize,

and cherish the most? Maybe the more fundamental question is, have we determined what it is that is most important to us? Are we truly living out the Christian values and discipleship principles that we confess here at church as being those which define and describe us? If they are not, what do we need to change to become and practice what we believe, so that our faith becomes something that we live every day. A blessed Easter and Spring to everyone.

Respectfully,

Pastor Steve

From Beth



Another great story from Mikey's Funnies.

ON FAILING

By Dr. Michael A. Halleen

They went out and got into the boat, but that night they caught nothing. (John 21:3)

Jesus' disciples knew how to fish. They did it well and expected to be successful. But that night "they caught *nothing*." They failed. We know the feeling. Behind all of us lie some disappointments, and we can be sure there will be still more days ahead when our achievements fall short of our dreams. But FAILING does not make one a FAILURE. That happens only when we give up.

Winston Churchill failed sixth grade, but he was no failure as a leader of his nation. Thomas Edison failed all his classes in school and was sent home to work on his widowed mother's farm, but he was no failure as an inventor and creator of progress. David Livingstone fled from the pulpit of his first church in Scotland, a failure because he could not remember the text he was to preach on. From there he went to Africa and brought the Christian faith within reach of millions. Failing, in itself, is not the issue. It is what we do next that matters.

Some suggestions on what to do when failure comes:

~ Look for the presence of God. You have not been forsaken. God is at work in disappointment and failure as well as in success.

~ Learn all you can from it. Erma Bombeck was invited to a dinner for "highly successful people." Appalled at the idea, she nevertheless decided to go because she wanted to hear what successful people talked about. Later she wrote, "Every one of those people, every single one of those highly successful people, could only talk about their failures — and how they learned from them."

~ Get on with what's next. The Apostle Paul said, "Forgetting what is behind...I press on." The mark of the neurotic person is a perfect memory of every failing, while healthy people let it go and move ahead.

~ Challenge your idea of what is important. God has not called us to be successful, but to be faithful. God is not in the business of helping us to succeed, but of refining the soul, developing character, energizing the spirit. Success is only incidental to those ends.

They got into the boat, worked all night and caught...NOTHING. Then came the voice of a Stranger on the shore, telling them to keep going, keep putting the net into the water. The story was not finished yet. They found that, while they failed, God did a marvelous work — in the sea, yes, but even more in their troubled hearts.

Yours in Christ,

Beth

Worship God

May Lessons

Easter 4: May 7th

† Acts 2:42-47
 † Psalm 23
 † 1 Peter 2:19-25
 † John 10:1-10

Easter 6: May 21st

† Acts 17:22-31
 † Psalm 66:8-20
 † 1 Peter 3:13-22
 † John 14:15-21

Easter 5: May 14th

† Acts 7:55-60
 † Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
 † 1 Peter 2:2-10
 † John 14:1-14

Easter 7: May 28th

† Acts 1:6-14
 † Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
 † 1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
 † John 17:1-11

May Music

May 7th,	9:00am	Festival Choir	
May 14th,	9:00am	Festival Choir	
May 21st,	9:00am	Ministry Sunday	All Choirs

Good Shepherd Sunday

- **Sunday, May 7th**
- In honor of the **150th Anniversary of Lutheran Social Services of Illinois (LSSI)**, David Novak, Vice President of Advancement / LSSI will preach at the **9:00am** worship service

Summer Music



We are looking for people to sing/play for the **9:00am** worship services **this summer**. A piano piece, a duet with a friend or parent, an instrumental piece – we would love to have you be part of the worship service. If you need some assistance in selecting a piece, Beth would be glad to help. This is open to everyone. Please share your gift of music in worship this summer.

Ministry Sunday in May!

There will be only one service on **May 21st at 9:00am** as we begin our summer schedule. After service, please attend the important Congregational Meeting. Join us for brunch before the meeting.

Synod Assembly News

This year's Metropolitan Chicago Synod Assembly will take place in **Tinley Park** on **June 9th and 10th** at the Tinley Park Convention Center. Lynn Dreymler, Doug Clark and Charlene Boehm will serve as the Voting Members from our congregation. Beth Lawniczak is serving once more as the chair of the Assembly Planning Committee that is responsible for overseeing all of the logistics of this event, and Pastor Steve currently serves as the Secretary of Metropolitan Chicago Synod. Please keep our voting members and all of those attending the assembly in your prayers that God's work may be accomplished.

Grow in Faith

Circle Meetings

Grace Circle	Wednesday, May 3rd	7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Charity Circle	Wednesday, May 3rd	9:30am	Holmstad
Peace Circle	Tuesday, May 9th	1:00pm	Various member's homes
Hope Circle	Thursday, May 11th	11:00pm	McAlister's Deli, Geneva
Kindness Circle	Thursday, May 11th	11:30pm	East China Inn, W Wilson St, Batavia

Join a Circle now! Enjoy fellowship, fun and spiritual growth with other women

Mission Trip

- **June 18th – 23rd**
- **Niagara Falls, NY**

Bethany's Youth will have the opportunity to experience two sides of life in Niagara Falls – both the beauty and the brokenness most tourists never get to see. YouthWorks partners with a wide variety of service organizations in this city, giving you the experience of an urban environment without the intensity and fast pace of a larger metropolitan area. Serve through work projects, partnering with soup kitchens, homeless shelters and senior centers, and volunteering with children's programs. In the evenings youth will get to experience the rich beauty and culture of Niagara Falls by visiting the Falls and enjoying ice cream from a local favorite, Twist of the Mist. They will also enjoy all the beauty Niagara offers through several options of cultural or historic engagement such as visiting Historic Fort Niagara or Fort Niagara State Park. End the week with local residents at Historic Holy Trinity by enjoying fellowship through a community meal. Please pray for our group as they embark on this important ministry. Please pray for our youth as they become God's hands to people in need.

Confirmation Camp

Several of our Confirmation students will be attending Confirmation Camp at **Lutherdale** the weeks of **June 18th** and **June 25th**. Please pray for our confirmands as they play and pray and learn more about their faith.

From Our Parish Nurse

The Spirituality of Weight Loss

We are told in scripture that we are the temples of the Holy Spirit, so therefore we must build strong foundations in minds, hearts and bodies in order to welcome Christ's presence in our lives. Here are some spiritual stages of weight loss that may help on the journey.

- **Readiness:** Our readiness to come in the fullness of our mind-body-spirit connection with God requires practicing self-examination and self-care. We pray for the inner promptings to make good choices.
- **Starting the journey:** Faith and effort will connect us as we re-create our health habits with small evolutionary changes.
- **Understanding:** Live one step at a time. Gather spiritual support through the insights of others and decrease the burdens that weight us down.
- **Deepening:** The dilemma with unhealthy weight gain is both universal and deeply personal. The ability to adjust is key, stay flexible and open to what life brings.
- **Be patient:** Plateaus occur in weight loss. Persevere in spirit to remain steadfast to losing weight.
- **Unlimited spiritual potential:** The art of measuring means to be mindful of not taking too much, but do receive enough, so we can give enough to others.
- **Deepen our relationship with God:** Realize God dwells with us now and pursue greater understanding. Learn the skills that prepare us to maintain our weight loss.
- **Balance:** The spirituality of mindful vigilance leads to eating with mindfulness and pleasure, and stopping when we are full.
- **Revelations:** Will power is about the partnership of divine love as it relates to self-care.
- **Hope for inner peace:** "May the God of hope fill you with joy and peace in believing that through the power of the Holy Spirit you may have hope in abundance" Romans 15: 13. Rejoice in success and encouragement, live our lives as blessing to others, and kindness will motivate and surround us.

As we also celebrate Mother's day in May, I also wish each of our mothers, future mothers, adopted mothers and those fill in mothers who open their hearts to each of us, a day filled with love, peace and joy! If I can be of assistance to you or someone you know, leave me a message at the church office 630-879-3444 or E-mail me at mary.stola@presencehealth.org.



Peace,
Mary Stola, RN, Faith Community Nurse

Reach Out to Others

Meals Needed

- Karl is just home from the hospital, and needs help with meals
- Go to takethemameal.com
- Recipient name "Holzl Sr.," password "Bethany" to sign up

Mutual Ground

Mutual Ground serves survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault through many avenues including but not limited to: shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, prevention in schools, and medical advocacy.



With the current budget crisis in Illinois, we are asking for the following items:

- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Clorox Wipes
- 13 gallon and drum garbage bags
- Floor cleaner
- Bathroom cleaner
- Window Cleaner
- Pledge
- Laundry soap-soap pods
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Kleenex
- Paper plates and bowls
- Swifter pads, dry, wet mops
- Quart/gallon Ziploc bags

THANK YOU! to those who have already GENEROUSLY contributed.

There will continue to be a bin available in the **Lower Narthex** for donations.

Help Feed Those in Need - Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Serving

Our Bethany family provides volunteers to staff the Batavia Food Pantry on the **second Friday** of **each** month. Can you help? Haven't done it before? No problem. New Volunteers always welcome!

- **Friday, May 12th**
- **9:45am-Noon**
- **Batavia Food Pantry, 100 Flinn St., Batavia**



Sign up on the yellow sheet if you plan to attend. Call the church office or Deb Petges (630-482-9578) if this is your first time volunteering or if you have questions.

Donated items may be dropped off at the shopping cart in the **Lower Narthex**. You may also visit their website: bataviafoodpantry.org

\$1 donation buys \$8 food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Money donations are always appreciated.

CURRENT NEEDS

- Cereal
- **Fruit Juice**
- **Canned Stew**
- **Canned Chili**
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Plain Pasta
- Spaghetti
- Macaroni and Cheese
- **White Rice**
- **Rice Mix**
- Condensed Soup (vegetable, chicken noodle)
- Ready to Eat Soups (all types)
- Ramen Noodles
- Ketchup and **Mustard**
- **Salad Dressing** (Ranch and Italian)
- Baby Food – all stages
- Baby Formula
- Diapers – all sizes
- **Salt & Pepper**
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- **Tomato Paste**
- **Spaghetti Sauce (jar)**
- **Canned Black Beans**
- **Canned Kidney Beans**
- **Canned Fruit** (all types)
- Peanut Butter
- Strawberry and Grape Jelly
- **Canned Tuna**
- Canned Chicken
- **Kitchen Garbage Bag (13 gallon)**
- **Ziploc Bags – all sizes**

- Paper Napkins
- Aluminum Foil
- **Laundry Detergent**
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body wash
- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Toothpaste and **toothbrushes (medium)**
- **Diapers** (all sizes)
- Feminine Products (pads/tampons)

Bethany Community Supper

- **Friday, May 26th**
- **5:00-7:00pm**
- **Menu: Ham with Scalloped Potatoes and Green Beans**
- Sundae Bar, children's menu and "To Go" are available
- Can you help? Sign up in Fellowship Hall
- Want to just eat? Sign up on the yellow sheet if you are planning to attend
- Blood pressure screenings will be available.
- **Wanted:** Your donations of travel sized personal hygiene products such as soap, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, laundry detergent, deodorant, etc. These items will be made available to attendees of the Community Supper
- Thank you for your prayers, your donations, and your help toward Bethany Community Supper

The Community Supper ministry appreciates your donations of baked goods and travel sized personal hygiene products

Last month we served **203** meals

Faith Build / Habitat for Humanity Opportunities

- T-Shirt Fundraiser
- Anyone can purchase a t-shirt to help support the Faith Build 2017
- Cost \$15 a shirt- sizes Adult S, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2XL, and 3XL
- Orders will be taken every month

Are you interested in working on the Faith Build home? Purchase a shirt and wear it the day you are working. If you are the leader, you can purchase a red shirt. All Church leaders and construction leaders will be in red. Everyone else in yellow.

For information on forming a group to work on the Faith Build home please contact Barbara Zegiel at Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity. 630-206-5038.



Wall Raising for Faith Build 2017

- Habitat for Humanity needs volunteers **May 19th, 20th & 21st**
- Raising walls at 1555 Solfisburg
- Register first on volunteerup.com
- Take construction quiz by following the link on page two of the Church volunteer policies and procedures
- Print off a waiver, sign it and bring it the day you are going to build
- Additional information on www.foxvalley.habitat.org

In Our Prayers

Last month we prayed for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns, especially:

Keith	Dale	Sandi	Eleanor Sue
Judy	Karl	Pam	Diane
Luke	CJ	DeAnna	Glenn
John	Sue	Lorrie	Cindy
Pastor Steve	Paulette	Joan	

Please pray for those in care facilities, especially:

Maxine	Jennings Terrace, Aurora
Marilyn	Park Manor, Holmstad
Eleanor Sue	DuPage County Care Center
Roz	Heritage Woods, South Elgin
Carol	Bria, Geneva
Wilma	Asbury Garden, Aurora
Lorraine	Bickford, St. Charles
Shirley	Hawthorn Assisted Living, Holmstad
Irma	Maple Assisted Living, Holmstad Marilyn Thryselius Bria, Geneva
Mariann	Heritage Woods, Batavia

Please pray for those homebound, especially:

Nancy	Lois	Mary	Elaine
Karl	Vie	Martha	Pat
Joyce	Ken		

Please pray for those in military service, especially:

Xander
Andrew
Matt

Last month we prayed for our family and friends, especially:

Judy	Friend of Sue & Bob	Teri	Sister of Sue & Bob
Heather	Friend of Cindy	Linda	Sister of Dennis
Mark	Son - in - law of JoAnn	Serena	Daughter of Cindy
Mary	Daughter of Nita	Cindy	Sister - in - law of Pam
Tina	Sister of Jackie	Catherine	Cousin of Tara
Bob	Father of Becky	Debbie	Friend of Ruth
Connie	Friend of Maureen	Hayden	Friend of Joan
Ava	Neighbor of Sue	Ross	Relative of Holly

Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:

Joy, daughter of Bill	March 30th
Margaret	March 18TH
Edward	March 18th
LaVergne	April 13th

Anniversaries This Month

May

5	Werner & Rose	18	Matt & Carrie	25	Steve & Suzanne
6	Mike & Carol	19	Barry & Sue	27	Bob & Judy
7	Mark & Diane	19	Cody & Jessica	27	Larry & Marcia
11	Joe & Kelley	20	Jason & Tracy	30	Virden & Mary Von
12	Tim & Sue	21	Jon & Marsha	31	Ken & Betsy
14	Lyn & Sandra	24	Don & Pauline	31	James & Karen
16	Brian & Tara	24	Mike & Nancy		
17	Bill & Cheryl	24	Dave & Christy		

Birthdays This Month

May

1	Lisa	9	Karl	13	Maggie
2	Katie Ann	9	Matthew	14	Kate
4	Joseph	10	Ed	15	Maddie
4	Kyle	11	Kimberly	15	Alan
5	Sue	11	Linda	16	Tyler
6	Xander	12	Megan	17	Matt
6	Jamie	12	Lisa	18	Dale
6	Erica	12	Jerry	18	Marsha
6	Joan	13	Lyn	18	Janna
6	Al	13	Carie	18	Kathy
6	Lila	13	Karin	20	Ben
7	Amanda	13	Tracy	20	Bob

20	Jim	25	Nancy	27	Nancy
20	Joe	26	Lois	28	Kelley
21	Ralph	26	Leslie	28	Danise
21	Paul	26	Ryan	29	Olivia
21	Anna	27	Katie	29	Pam
21	Joan	27	Todd	29	Aaron
23	Sue	27	Sharon	30	Zachary
24	Ann	27	Amy	30	Owen
24	Valentina	27	Dan	30	Ryan

Upcoming Events



Youth Flower Orders will be available for pick up:
Wednesday May 10th, after 9:00am

Café Bethany

- **Wednesdays, 5:00pm – 6:15pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**
- Suggested donation is \$4.00 per senior or child, \$5.00 per adult, \$14.00 per family cap
- Menu and sign-up sheet are posted in Fellowship Hall, the weekly update and on the yellow sheet

Prayer Shawl Ministry

- ❖ **Thursday, May 25th, at 2:00pm**
- ❖ **Panera in Batavia**
- ❖ Can't knit? We'll teach you! Bring your knitting needles or crochet hook and join the fellowship and fun

Sunday School News



- **Planting the Vegetable Garden!**
- **Sunday, May 7th, 10:30 – 11:30am** (during Sunday School)
- The children and their families will care for the garden throughout the summer and into fall. Please consider signing up for a week to help water, weed, and harvest. *Sign-up Genius* coming soon!
- The produce will be donated to our Community Supper ministry and to the Batavia Food Pantry

Sunday School News Continued...



- **Sunday School Dance Party!**
- **Sunday, May 14th, 10:30 – 11:30am** (during Sunday School)
- **Ministry Center Gym**
- Let's celebrate! Families are encouraged to join us!
- DJ Doug will provide the tunes

Sunday School flew by this year, because of all the fun the kids and teachers had learning about Jesus! **Thank you so much!!** to our wonderful Sunday School teacher's helpers and subs this year.

Victory Over Hunger Garden

Sunday School families have been blessed with a planting area to grow produce for those served by the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Community Supper! The students have decorated a rain barrel, created stepping stones and crafted plant markers. Now it's time to plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and onions!! Starting in **May**, families can sign up to tend the plants, water and weed on a weekly basis. See sign ups in the Ministry Center or contact Jennifer to volunteer.

Lunch Bunch

- **Monday, May 15th**
- **12:00pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**

Musical Program by Heather Braoudakis. Heather will sing show tunes and songs about mothers. Suggested donation for lunch is \$5/person. Enjoy food and fellowship with other 50+ years young members. Sign up on the yellow sheet and indicate if you will need the Bethany Bus.

Join the Bethany Softball Team This Summer!

- **Sunday** afternoons beginning **May 14th**
- Watch Sunday Messenger Update for time
- **Peck Farm Softball Fields, Geneva**
- Contact Steve for more information
- Spectators are invited. Come join the fun!

If you play softball and are sixteen or over, join us as we battle other church teams in the area **each Sunday afternoon**. All games are played at **Peck Farm Fields in Geneva**. We ask that each player pay \$30 to help cover the registration fee.

Organ Concert at Bethany

- **Sunday, May 14th**
- **3:00pm**
- **Sanctuary**

Not only is it Mother's Day, but it will be special musically. That afternoon, Beth and I and Alan W. will present a recital, perhaps about an hour in length, featuring our wonderful Aolian-Skinner organ and Kawaiii piano. What makes this day most special musically is our visitor Alan W.. Alan has been organist at a number of prestigious churches, and is now organist at the Rockland Congregational Church in Rockland, Maine, which is the summer vacation church that Judi and I attend when we visit Maine. Alan has kindly allowed me to use their pipe organ for practice, and, this past fall, we worked out arrangements for him to visit Batavia to play at Bethany.

Alan is one of the most creative musicians I have ever known. Since we agreed on the trip, he has composed more than ten original pieces for organ or organ and choir, and he will direct the choir in one of his original works Sunday morning, May 14. He will also play two original pieces that afternoon. You will learn more about Alan W. as the date approaches, but I hope you will look forward to a most interesting visit from a truly talented visitor.

Alan

Singles Supper Club

- **Sunday, May 21st**
- **3:30pm**, we will meet at Bethany and take the bus
- **Bonefish Grill, Algonquin**

Sewing Sisters

- **Saturday, June 3rd**
- **10:00am – 4:00pm**
- Sewing projects & fellowship! Bring a sack lunch, or we can order in.

Summer Camps at LOMC – Fingerprints, Our Mark on God's Creation

- **Lutheran Outdoor Ministries, Oregon, IL**
- **815-732-2220**
- Join LOMC this summer as we explore God's never-ending love and learn how to share it with those around us. We are looking forward to another great year. Choose from a variety of camps to fit your child's interests.
- Download the 2017 LOMC Summer Brochure, register online, and read about all the camps at www.lomc.org
- **Brochures available on the Welcome Desk**

Congregational Picnic



- **Sunday, June 4th**
- **11:00am** Worship Service
- **Fabyan Forest Preserve**, enter parking lot from Rt 31, Geneva
- Picnic following the worship service
- Games and activities for the kids & adults
- Bring a salad side dish or dessert to share
- Famous pie/cake auction with renowned auctioneer Steve Mickelson

You are invited to our annual Church worship and picnic. The worship service will begin at **11:00am** with Holy Communion and a picnic to follow. Please bring a dish to pass, lawn chair and friends! Hamburgers, brats and hotdogs along with lemonade will be provided. The ever-popular pie auction will take place before lunch, fun and games for the kids & adults! Sign up on the yellow sheet if you are attending the picnic. Also sign up on the yellow sheet to make a pie or cake for our famous pie auction.

Please note: the 9:00am Worship Service will take place as usual at Bethany on the day of the picnic.

Save the Date

Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering

- **July 13th – 16th**
- **Minneapolis Convention Center**, in Minneapolis, MN

The theme is "All Anew". It will be a wonderful gathering. There will be Bible study, worship, small group presentations, hands-on projects, and so much more. There are 4 from Bethany who have already signed up. Would you like to join us? We will have a wonderful time together. Women of all ages will be attending as well as women from every state and region. Please think about joining us on this adventure. If you want to learn more and see a registration booklet, contact Ruth Beck.

VBS – Go the Distance Sports Camp



- Vacation Bible School will be **Monday through Friday, July 17th to July 21st**
- **9:00am – 12:15pm**
- Christian coaches • quality sports instruction • positive role models • daily bible times • skits & fun!
- Every camper will receive a T-shirt & daily take home Bible studies
- Choose from the following activities:
 - Basketball
 - Cheer
 - Soccer
 - Fine arts
 - Ultimate Frisbee
 - Team 45
- Registration will be available on the website soon!

Summer Fun for Preschoolers and Their Families!

- **June 20th – 22nd & August 8th – 10th**
- **9:00am – Noon**
- **Enlightened & Empowered Kids Preschool, Inc., NFP**
- **Bethany Lutheran Church/ Ministry Center**
- For more information, go to enlightened-empowered-kids.org, or facebook.com/eande.kids

Important Stuff

Sunday's Messenger Update is Now Online



- Did you miss reading the weekly "Update" on Sunday?
- It is now also available on the website: www.bethanybatavia.org/bethany-news

Sign up to Serve at Coffee/ Fellowship Hour on Sundays, it's EASY!



- Our Sunday Coffee Hour depends on our volunteers!
- Volunteer alone or get a few friends to join you
- Bake or purchase the goodies
- Don't want to serve? Just donate goodies instead
- You may be reimbursed for what you purchase
- Coffee Hour is a flexible volunteer opportunity
- Call the Church office if you have questions or to find out how you can help

Bethany Scholarships



Once again, Bethany will be offering scholarships for the upcoming school year. These scholarships are available to students who are members in good standing at Bethany, and are attending an ELCA College, University, or Seminary. A minimum of twelve credit hours is required for eligibility.

Students who received awards in previous years are required to reapply each year. An application is available in the church office and must be completed by **June 1, 2017**.

A student is eligible to receive a maximum of four undergraduate awards, with three additional awards being available to students attending Seminary. The amount of the award will be determined by the Congregation Council based on the funds available. The maximum annual award will be \$1,000 per student.

Seeking Small Frost Free Refrigerator

The Energy Builders crew are looking for a donation of a small frost free refrigerator for the Sunday School. If you can help, please contact the church office or Steve Mickelson at 630-770-5000.

Non-Pictorial Directory

It is our hope that within the next four to six weeks to publish a new 2017 Non-Pictorial Directory of our members. If you need to update your contact information before we publish it, please contact the church office either by phone (630-879-3444) or by e-mail (office@bethanybatavia.org). We plan on publishing addresses, preferred telephone numbers, and preferred e-mail addresses. If you do not want information included, please let us know that as well. This information will only be distributed to other members of our congregation to help facilitate communication.

2017 Flower Calendar



Would you like to donate flowers for the altar in honor of someone, to celebrate a special occasion, or perhaps in memory of a loved one? There are still a lot of open dates. If we do not have a sponsor, we will not have altar flowers on that Sunday. The sign-up chart is posted on the Bulletin Board in the **Fellowship Hall**, or you may call the church office (630-879-3444) if you are interested. Please indicate your name and the occasion celebrated or the individual to be honored or remembered. Flowers may be taken home after worship on the date of donation.

Recycled Eyeglasses



In many areas, people are unable to work or even be involved in routine activities because of vision problems. Eyeglasses are not readily available or are simply unaffordable.

Our Reach Team collects old eyeglasses and sends them to the Lions/Lioness Club for distribution to those in need.

Please put your cast-off glasses and sunglasses (*no loose lenses or empty frames*) in the special box on the Coat Rack next to the Main Office. Thank you to all who filled the box over the past several years!

In the Community

Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners Plant Sale

- **Saturday, May 13th**
- **8:00am - 1:00pm**
- **Ministry Center Gym**
- Fundraiser to support community garden projects that are run by Batavia Plain Dirt Gardeners

51st Annual Pancake Breakfast

- **Sunday, May 7th**
- **7:30am – noon**
- **Valley Sheltered Workshop**, 325 Main St, Batavia
- Silent Auction, Raffle Baskets, Cash Drawing
- \$7, 3 & under free

Golfing for Good

- **Friday, June 9th**
- **Mill Creek Golf Club in Geneva**

Benefit for St. Charles Kiwanis and Lazarus House. Enjoy a day of golf with raffles, games & camaraderie. Not a golfer? No problem, come for the auctions, entertainment and dinner! Early bird golfer packages are \$150 per golfer before May 2nd, \$175 per golfer after May 2nd. Dinner only reservations are \$55 per guest. Contact Jonathan at 630.584.7109 for sponsorship opportunities. Contact Darlene to donate for the silent and live auction. lazarushouseonline.com

Council Highlights

The following items were discussed and acted upon at the **April** Congregation Council Meeting:

- An AID rent increase to per month was approved for the three-year contract renewal beginning July 1st.
- The Parochial Report was distributed by Pastor. Our number of children is rising while our number of adults had dropped. Sunday worship attendance is holding steady.
- Personnel Manual revisions were approved.
- "Thank You" were shared by both Pastor Steve and President Rick McKiness to Beth Lawniczak, our substitute Pastors, our staff, the Council, and the congregation for stepping up during Pastor Steve's recovery.

Congregational Meeting

Sunday, May 21st - 10:45am

This is an official notice that Bethany Lutheran Church will hold its second regular Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, May 21st at 10:45am** in the **Fellowship Hall**. There will be **ONLY ONE SERVICE** that morning at **9:00am**. The Bulletin of Reports will be ready for distribution on **Sunday, May 7th** to give everyone a chance to review them prior to the meeting. All confirmed members of the congregation are urged to pick up and review the reports of our Ministry during the past year and then to attend this important meeting. Your commitment to the outreach and work of our congregation is what makes these ministries happen! There will be two important items of business at this meeting, the reception of the Annual Ministry Reports and the election of five Congregation Council Members.

Pledge Report					
January - March, 2017					
Totals		Breakdown			
			Pledges	Total Gifts	Over/Under
Total Pledges	\$118,486.00	Overpaid Pledges	\$17,270.00	\$26,953.00	\$9,683.00
Total Giving	-\$115,100.00	Underpaid Pledges	\$36,779.00	\$23,710.00	-\$13,069.00
		Paid Pledges	\$64,437.00	\$64,437.00	\$0.00
Difference	\$3,386.00	Difference	\$118,486.00	\$115,100.00	-\$3,386.00

Thank you

Dear Friends at Bethany,

We want to thank you for all of your prayers for us. We also want to thank the gentleman Volunteer who brought us an Easter Basket for Easter. He was a very kind & patient man! Bless him and Bethany Friends!

Dale & Sandi Christianson

To the Energy Builders:

Thank you for all the repairs and work the Energy Builders have done to provide a safe and welcoming environment for Sunday School families. We are VERY grateful!

Bethany's Sunday School Teachers

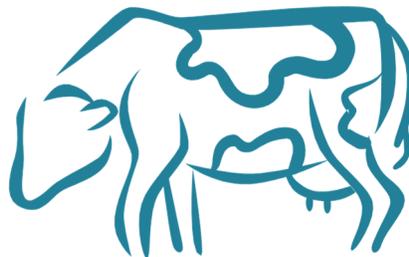
Penny Palooza Results are in!

WINNER!! Grades 6 – 8

The most Cash: PreK – K
 The most Quarters: Grades 1 – 2
 The most Nickles: Grades 3 – 5

It was a CLOSE race!

Congratulations! You all raised **\$282.44** that will be donated to God's Global Barnyard.
 Thank you to everyone who participated.



Staff & Council

Church Staff:

Senior PastorRev. Steve Srock
 Visitation Pastor*Rev. Kimberly Riebe
 Administrative Assistant*Kathi Gorlewski
 Administrative Assistant*Darlene Hutchens
 Office Assistant*Lura Dreymiller
 Financial Secretary*Maureen Scollon
 Sexton..... Steve Hayes
 Director of Music/Shared Ministry Beth Lawniczak
 Organist* Alan Spear
 Parish Nurse* Mary Stola
 Nursery Attendant* Brittany Gyoerkoes
 (* Part-time)

Congregation Council:

Rick McKiness..... President
 Lynn Dreymiller Vice-President/Worship & Music
 Charlene Boehm..... Secretary/Personnel
 Steve Mickelson Treasurer/Finance
 Charley Andersen..... Memorial Gifts
 Doug Clark Adult Discipleship
 Dale Howard..... Youth
 Ted RichozService
 Dennis Schuett.....Property
 Charlene Boehm..... Evangelism
 Jori Toles..... Children & Family
 Sue WhitsonStewardship

8 South Lincoln Street, Batavia, IL 60510 - 630.879.3444 office@bethanybatavia.org - **Office Hours: 9:00am – 4:30pm**

Website: www.bethanybatavia.org

View recent sermons, Sunday's Update/weekly news, The Messenger

Like us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/BethanyBatavia/

Share your Bethany events, post your pictures, see what's new

Worship Broadcast

BATV Cable Channel: Bethany's worship services are broadcast on BATV Cable channel 17 on Mondays 4:30pm & 10:30pm, Tuesdays at 10:30am/pm, 4:30am/pm and Wednesdays 4:30am & 10:30am. Access programming online at: mybatv.com. BATV is available on Comcast Channel 17, and on AT&T U-verse Channel 99 across N. Illinois.

Bethany's Favorite Links to Local Resources and Events

- Aurora University Events
alumni.aurora.edu
- Elderday Center
www.elderdaycenter.org
- Enlightened Empowered Kids Preschool Inc.,NFP
www.enlightened-empowered-kids.org
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
www.ELCA.org
- Fermilab Public Events
events.fnal.gov
- Hesed House
www.hesedhouse.org
- Lazarus House
www.lazarushouseonline.com
- Living Lutheran
www.livinglutheran.org
- Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago
www.lstc.edu/lstc-life/events
- Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
www.lssi.org
- Metropolitan Chicago Synod ELCA
www.mcsela.org
- Mutual Ground
www.mutualground.org





Bethany's Roof Project in Progress

Making Homemade Sausage for Easter Breakfast



