



# Bethany Beacon

*May 2023*



Dear Bethany Members and Friends,

Slowly, slowly, spring may be coming...or rather, weather that feels like spring. I commend us all for the fortitude it took to make it through the last few rounds of snow. At our last council meeting, we talked about having all of our summer plans in one place so that you and visitors will be able to mark your calendar early and attend. You'll see those events further on in the newsletter. We will also be dropping some flyers with our summer schedule at local resorts so that people on vacation know they are very welcome at Bethany.

Again, if you would like to gather at Bethany for a regular group meeting (book club, kids play while parents visit group, coffee talk group) please know that the building is available for members to use to foster community. Just clear the dates and times with the office and we'll get you on the schedule. Summer could be a great time to try something out for a few months.

I have also been trying to attend Chamber of Commerce meetings to keep up to date with what's going on in the community and there are SO many offerings this summer. They just launched a beautiful new website ([www.deerriver.org](http://www.deerriver.org)) if you want to check out "Paddle the River", "Party in the Park" or other great ways for people to get together.

For those who were able to attend, I hope you enjoyed and learned a lot at the Seder Meal with Rabbi Ron Grossman. I thought it was such a great way to see how various pieces of history and

scripture inform our theology and practice today, especially surrounding communion. Perhaps you also heard how Jesus' institution of communion is an opportunity for freedom for us, just like the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt. God continues to break through what binds us so that we can be free to live life with love and grace.

Just a few other notes before I wrap up. As you can imagine, with all the extra snow this "spring" our plowing bills went rather overbudget. If you would like to make a special gift to offset that extra, unforeseen cost, it would be greatly appreciated. We are very grateful to Steve Kongsjord for his tireless work in keeping our parking lot clear and accessible for worship and special events. You'll hear from Marty Christensen later in this newsletter about how Steve's work to remediate water issues in the church last fall is really paying off now.

And finally, I wanted to let you know that we will not be able to distribute scholarships this year for post-high school education. It has everything to do with how the market is currently. In the past, we would skim the interest off the principal and distribute that equally to all applicants. Currently, the fund is \$15k below the regular mark of \$100K. Council is working on a plan to help regulate the proceeds from the fund so that there is more consistency in distribution from year to year should another dip occur.

May this spring be one of renewal and spiritual deepening for you and yours,

Pastor Lisa

## CAMP SUNDAY Make-up – May 7<sup>th</sup>

Trisha Peterson from Camp Hiawatha is feeling much better after an unexpected illness that cancelled last month's Camp Sunday. She is available to join us on Sunday, May 7th and bring greetings from camp and share a little bit about what will be going on this summer. Please be sure to bring the young people in your life to excited about camp this summer. Choir will also be singing.

## VBS Volunteers Needed

Several volunteers are needed to help make this year's VBS (July 10-13) the best yet! Please prayerfully consider how you can help to support this important time in our kids' lives. Children will rotate between different activities so we need two leaders (buddy system!) to help prepare and lead each activity (suggestions will be given to you from the curriculum). Some sections are: art, music, storytelling (telling Bible stories in a way kids can understand), nature and science, games and service projects. We will also need help with the registration table and "floaters" for jumping in as needed. A sign-up sheet with the various positions is available in the narthex, or please email the office at [bethany@paulbunyan.net](mailto:bethany@paulbunyan.net).

## SPRING WORKDAY – May 23<sup>rd</sup>

It's time to wipe those registers and deep clean the church building. Please join the cleaning crew on Tuesday, May 23rd beginning at 9am. A list of projects will be provided from which to choose. Coffee and donuts will also be provided.

## Sumer Concert Series Kicking Off at Bethany

"Adessa and the Beat" will be the first concert of the season for the Summer Concert Series in Itasca County on Tuesday, June 6th at noon. Hosted at Bethany, the concert is free, with a freewill offering being taken to support local musicians in school. A luncheon will be held afterward for \$7/person.



## Summer Use of Building

Have you always wanted to be part of a book club? A woodworking group? Have you dreamed of having your next birthday in the Bethany fellowship hall? Remember that as a member, this is your church building, so feel free to organize a weekly group (like the Quilters have done) or to reserve a room for a special event for free. Maybe you want to try something for the summer only? Just be sure to check with the office so we can get you on the calendar: [Bethany@paulbunyan.net](mailto:Bethany@paulbunyan.net).

## Maintenance Updates from President Marty Christensen:

For the past two years, the spring snow melt and rain seeped into the church's floor heating ducts (not a good situation). The landscaping around the building last fall and along with extending downspouts now appears to have corrected that problem.

Also, the work we put into our driveway last fall, including new gravel, paid off. There were no potholes, and we had a smooth driving surface all spring!

The garage now has a keypad entry system. The 4 digit code is the same as the back door and the key (if you choose to use one) is also the same as the back door. Just ask at the office if you forget.

## BETHANY SUMMER SCHEDULE 2023

### WEEKLY

#### **Worship**

Every Sunday, 9:30am  
Fellowship at 10:30am

#### **Quilting Group**

Wednesdays, 10am – 2pm  
All are welcome  
Bring your own project and lunch  
Quilts to tie for those who do not sew

#### **Yoga on the Beach**

Every Wednesday at 9am  
June 14 – Aug 9  
Eagle Nest Lodge beach, Deer River  
Open to all – all levels  
Please bring a mat  
Instructed by Lisa Buchanan

### SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Itasca Community Concert Series**

Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at noon  
“Adessa & the Beat”  
Luncheon to follow at \$7/person

#### **Worship Unplugged**

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> at 9:30am  
Musical service led by Peg Greenside, Chris Vinson,  
Paula Shaw and Pastor Lisa

#### **Vacation Bible School**

for kids entering Grades 1-5  
July 10-13  
9am – 1pm (lunch provided)  
\$10/child for the week

#### **Pontoon Flotilla on Deer Lake**

Adults only please  
Wednesday, July 19  
Depart at 5pm from Carter House  
Inquire at 218-246-6245

#### **All Church Picnic**

Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>  
Following Worship  
Location TBA

## **Bethany Church Council Meeting Monday, March 20, 2023, 4:15 p.m.**

- I. The meeting was called to order. Jody Anderson, Marty Christensen, Jennifer Drotts, Christopher Vogl, and Pastor Lisa Buchanan attended.
- II. The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Lisa.
- III. Additions to Agenda: h. Scholarship Fund i. Lock on garage
- IV. Minutes from the February meeting were approved.
- V. Old Business
  - a. Lenten Services Review- Faith Talks enjoyed by all thus far. Numbers are low and time may conflict with work schedules. April 6<sup>th</sup> Seder Meal with Rabbi Grossman- planning for 50 people and serving brisket. Thrivent Action Team donation will pay for the meat.
  - b. Extra money from 2022- add to April agenda for discussion as recommended by Jen.
  - c. Summer VBS Dates/Curriculum- tentative dates July 10-14. “Operation Restoration” curriculum has been purchased.
- VI. New Business
  - a. Request for donations- Lisa made a motion, seconded by Marty, to donate \$200 to March Food Shelf Campaign.
  - b. MDH drinking water test- recent analysis show samples compliant with EPA.
  - c. Synod Assembly Representatives- (2) members are invited to Cragun’s April 2830.
  - d. Party in the Park Food/Vendor Booth- August 12, 2023. Possible ideas were discussed to host a booth in support of the community.
  - e. Night to Shine February 2024- a proposal to host a formal prom for individuals with disabilities. Bryan

and Sue Harris have great ideas on how to make this a special event for local students.

- f. Pastor Lisa vacation- Tuesday, April 11- Wednesday, April 19. Pastor Vicki will provide pulpit supply on Sunday, April 16.
- g. Shared Youth Worker position with VLM- with concerns over the number of youth that we currently have, and a proposed cost of ~\$11,000 by VLM for nine months of youth programming, the council is not interested in entering into a contract with VLM at this time. The Council would like to meet with the Youth Team in April for further planning and discussion.
- h. Scholarship Fund- discussion on regulation of the fund. Lisa and Jody will meet to look at how to sustain student support in times of volatile markets.
- i. Garage lock- the lock on the garage has been not working properly.

Marty will purchase another number lock and install it.

- VII. The financial statement was presented by Jen Drotts
- VIII. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 26, 2023, at 4:15 p.m.**
- IX. Motion to close meeting
- X. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Jody Anderson  
Secretary

# Sunday Service Schedule



Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Reader	Fellowship	Communion
5/7/23	Rich Anderson	Ann Hedquist	Barb & Barb Baker Rich Anderson	Robbie Osse
5/14/23	Beth Anderson	Beth Anderson	Sheila & Tim Maki Jenna & Kyle Lyytinen	
5/21/23	Doug Kutschat Anne Webber	Anne Webber	Diane Cook Chris Vinson	Chris Vinson
5/28/23	Ron & Shirley Olesen	Chuck Elton	Ron Drake Sandra & Dale Wick	



Volunteers appreciated! If you would like to take a turn serving coffee for fellowship, greeting, ushering, reading or assisting with communion, please let Diane Nelson know so you can be added to the list

## May Birthday Wishes!

1- Brandon Jensen  
3 - Karen Haiby  
4 - Steve Jensen  
5 – Mike Guthrie  
7 - Rich Anderson  
8 – Abby Kuschel  
19 –Tucker Jensen

26 – Larry Nixon  
27 – Bobbi Hemphill  
David Peterson  
Linda Peterson  
Maggie Swanson  
29 - Jeannine Jensen



## Anniversary Wishes

8 - Wayne Krueger & Vicki Taylor  
23 – Lisa & Ben Buchanan

28 – Kyle & Jenna Lyytinen  
27 - Marty & Janet Christensen

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