

Bethany Beacon

March 2023



Dear Bethany Members and Friends,

We are into Lent and I look forward to our Wednesday evenings together as we hear faith stories from various Bethany members and consider our own faith journey in the process. Lent is all about THE JOURNEY, so I apologize now if you get tired of my repetition of THE JOURNEY.

As I mentioned in a sermon, keep in mind that the classic Lenten practices of fasting, giving and prayer are not the “tax” or the “toll” we have to pay into order to be acceptable to God during Lent. Rather, they are time-tested spiritual disciplines that serve to break down some of our crusty edges that keep us from connecting to God, or being open to real life in this world. Instead of reaching for our usual comforts when we are under stress or angry or just out-of-sorts, we intentionally take a moment and turn to God.

That’s the reprogramming bit of Lent as we take THE JOURNEY...remembering over and over again to turn toward God instead of turning toward our phones, “comfort food”, alcohol, online shopping, emotional escapism, destructive behavior. Turning toward God is the only way we can heal through a situation or have the freedom to be able to choose our action in the world (ex. CHOOSING to watch TV because you enjoy it versus HAVING to watch TV in order to zone

out). Some people turn toward God by taking a deep breath when they realize they are feeling a bit out of control. Some people have a routine prayer they say. Some people just talk to God as a friend. Some people take a walk. Some people focus on something beautiful in nature to reconnect to God’s Spirit instead of believing the voice that keeps saying, “Buy everything! Buy everything – and THEN you will be happy!! Mwahhahahah.”

This is not easy work, so that’s why we *do* Lent as a community with check-ins on Wednesdays and Sundays.

In other news, Council continues to try to follow Bethany’s 2023 initiative to focus on youth this year by supporting a newly formed Youth Team, meeting with Voyageurs Lutheran Ministry to consider a mutually beneficial shared ministry position, and considering how we can best support the very awesome young people in our congregation. The Youth Team is in fire after their Peer Ministry training and has assembled a group of high schoolers to attend “Cardia Deo” – a one-day synod sponsored event at Zion Lutheran Church in Grand Rapids. FYI – a lot of synod events happen at Zion because it is rather sizable and is the geographic center of the synod.

And finally, I wanted to share that Bethany continues to serve the community by being an emergency evacuation site for the high school, elementary school and for the community as needed.

Blessings on the journey all,

Pastor Lisa

LENTEN Highlights 2023

We will be having **Wednesday evening Lenten services** this year at Bethany followed by a soup and bread supper. Service will begin at 4:30pm – a time that will hopefully work for people finishing up at work AND for those who do not like driving too late at night. Thank you Jody Anderson for organizing the meals.

This year for **Maundy Thursday**, Rabbi Ron Grossman will be explaining the meaning behind the Jewish Seder meal. It is believed that Jesus was sharing a similar Passover meal for his “Last Supper” before his death. This was the time when Jesus instituted the practice of taking bread and wine as a way to commune in the “new covenant” with God. The Lord’s Supper or Communion holds an even deeper meaning when we consider the history of covenants and how God has always found ways to connect with humanity.

If you would be able to help organize the seder meal, please contact Pastor Lisa at bethany@paulbunyan.net or text her at 218-390-5489.

For those who would like to take their First Communion on Maunday Thursday, Pastor Lisa will provide a **First Communion Class** – the practice and meaning – on Wednesday, March 29th at 5:15pm (following the Lenten service). Soup and bread will be on hand for dinner while we learn. Anyone wishing to learn more about communion is welcome to join this class, and it will be instructed on a 3rd grade level. Please email bethany@paulbunyan.net or text 218-390-5489 to reserve your/your family’s spot – the RSVP is greatly appreciated in order to prepare enough materials.

Second Harvest Volunteering Monday March 6th

Able to help at the food bank? Join the Bethany Team on Monday, March 6th from 1:30-3:30pm at Second Harvest, 2222 Cromwell Drive, Grand Rapids. Sign up in the narthex or email the church office at bethany@paulbunyan.net.

Holy Land Presentation March 12th

Are you thinking about joining the Buchanans on the Pilgrimage to Israel Jan-Feb of 2024? Pastors Ben and Lisa will be on hand after fellowship on Sunday, March 12th (around 10:50am) to give a brief overview of the trip, share their “why” of wanting to take a group trip and answer any questions. If you cannot make March 12th, the same presentation will be given at Zion Lutheran in Grand Rapids on Sunday, March 19th.

Holy Land Pilgrimage

Join Pastors Lisa and Ben Buchanan for a trip to Israel to tour the land that Jesus walked.

Scan the QR Code or check out Bethany’s homepage for more information. Kindly disregard the T-Rex in the middle of the QR Code. There will



probably not be any dinosaurs on the trip – Lisa is clearly still trying to figure out how to make codes.

Cabin Fever Reliever

Need a break from the winter?! Come on out to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church in Cohasset on Saturday, March 4th for a \$10 Chicken Kiev Meal. Social hour is from 5:30-6:30pm featuring “Adessa & the Beat”. Silent auction and raffle items.

Daylily Gifts Fun, Friends and Food Event

You are invited to the Essentia Health Deer River Surgery waiting room and Daylily Gifts area on Tuesday, March 7th from 4:30—7:00pm. It will be a great evening of laughter, treats, free specialty coffee, demonstrations for a new Foghat smoker, drawings great sales and a showing of new inventory from the Las Vegas World Market Spring Show.

Cardia Deo Synod Event for Youth

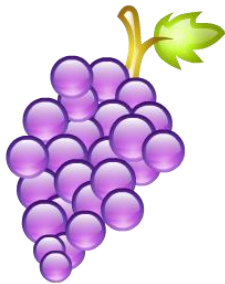
March 18, 2023
10:00am - 3:30pm
Zion Lutheran Church, Grand Rapids

This one-day Cardia Deo retreat brings together senior high youth and adults from across our synod to grow in faith and build new friendships. The highlight of this event is the small groups led by high school youth and college interns on the LYO Planning Team, where we talk about life and faith in real ways.

We are Called, Gathered, Equipped and Sent to share the Heart of God (*Cardia Deo*) in the world. This year we focus on what it means to be Gathered to experience and share the love of Christ in the world. Details and forms are now posted! *Please contact Amber Kongsjord if you'd like to go along with the Bethany group at 218-244-5681.* More info: <https://nemnsynod.org/cardia-deo/>

9th Annual Forward Health Gala *Under the Stars*

Morse Town Hall in Deer River will be transformed into a magical venue for Forward Health Foundation's 9th annual Gala on Saturday, April 22nd. Social hour begins at 4:30pm with dinner at 6pm, catered by Blackwoods. Jason Anderson will host the live auction at 7pm and "Adessa and the Beat" will rock the room from 8-10pm. Tickets are \$75 and can be purchased at Daylily Gifts or online at forwardhealthfoundation.org/upcoming-events



Upcoming Events at Bethany

Wed., Mar. 1

Lenten Service w/ Beth Anderson sharing, 4:30pm
Soup Supper Robbie Osse & Jeannine Jensen, 5:15

Sun., Mar. 5

Israel Trip (Jan. 2024) Info Meeting, 11am

Mon., Mar. 6

Second Harvest Volunteering, 1:30-3:30pm

Wed., Mar. 8

Lenten Service w/ Ron Olesen sharing, 4:30pm
Soup Supper Jen Drotts & Amber Kongjord, 5:15p

Wed., Mar. 15

Lenten Service, Speaker TBA, 4:30pm
Soup Supper Paul Shaw & Amy Carter, 5:15pm

Sat., Mar. 18

Cardia Deo, Synod Youth Event at Zion, G.R.

Sun., Mar. 19

Camp Sunday, Trisha Peterson from VLM, 9:30am

Mon., Mar. 20

Church Council Meeting, 3:45pm

Wed., Mar. 22

Lenten Service, Speaker TBA, 4:30pm
Soup Supper Jody Anderson & Myron Hahn, 5:15p

Wed., Mar. 29

Lenten Service w/ Jane Sundin sharing, 4:30pm
Soup Supper Christensens & Sheila Maki, 5:15p

Sun., April 2

Palm Sunday Service, choir sings, 2pm

Thurs., April 6

Seder Meal w/ Rabbi Grossman, 6pm

Fri., April 7

Good Friday Service, choir sings, 5:30pm

Sun., April 9

Easter Sunday, choir and bells, 9:30am

Bethany Church Council Meeting **Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 4:15 p.m.**

- I. The meeting was called to order at Eagle Nest Lodge at the Council Retreat. Jody Anderson, Marty Christensen, Jennifer Drotts, Christopher Vogl, and Pastor Lisa Buchanan attended.
- II. The meeting began with a prayer by Pastor Lisa.
- III. There were no additions to the agenda.
- IV. Minutes from the December meeting were approved.
- V. Old Business
 - a. Custodian position vacancy- potential candidate no longer interested in the position. Pastor Lisa will reach out to another interested person.
- VI. New Business
 - a. Membership rolls were reviewed and updated. Letters will be sent to those individuals whose membership is in question.
 - b. Israel Trip 2024 was discussed. A Holy Land Pilgrimage with Prs. Ben and Lisa Buchanan will be available to Zion and Bethany members. Information is available at the church and there will be an upcoming meeting to gather information.
 - c. Lenten Services will be held weekly during Lent. Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, with no soup supper. “Sing with All the Saints” will be the theme. Services will begin at 4:30 on Wednesdays in March (1,8,15,22,29). A simple soup/bread meal will be served at 5:15. Choir practice will follow. We will have the opportunity to experience a Seder Meal on Maundy Thursday, April 6, with Rabbi Ron Grossman.

- d. Bethany as a disaster response site- it was discussed how Bethany could be utilized in the event of a community disaster to assist those with needs. Marty will contact the Emergency Director for Itasca County to offer our space. At one time Bethany was an evacuation shelter for Deer River High School. Jody will check with school officials to determine if this plan is still in place.

VII. The financial statement was not available.

VIII. The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 4:15 p.m.**

IX. Motion to close meeting

X. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.

Jody Anderson
Secretary

Please send your Bethany news to:

Jenna Lyytinen
maki.lyyt@gmail.com or 218-410-1957



Sunday Service Schedule



Date	Greeters/ Ushers	Reader	Fellowship	Communion
3/5/23	Marty & Janet Christensen	Marty Christensen	Robbie & Don Osse Nikki Osse	Diane Cook
3/12/23	Don & Robbie Osse	Kyle or Jenna Lyytinen	Sheila & Tim Maki Jenna & Kyle Lyytinen	
3/19/23	Rich Anderson	Jenna Lyytinen	Carol Bean Cindy & Darin Shevich	Robbie Osse
3/26/23	Andy & Paula Shaw	Lynette Schmidt	Mary & Jeff Grife Margie & Chad Schumacher	



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

March Birthday Wishes!

1 - Tim Maki
9 - Tanya Hebrink
13 - Arlen Bieganski
15 - Casey Jensen
19 - Jacob Osse

20 - Jane Sundin
24 - Colten Amy
28 - Jack Carter
Kristi Herme
29 - Dale Haiby



ANNIVERSARY WISHES

7 - Nikki & Jordan Osse

Bethany Lutheran Church
Box 218
Deer River, MN 56636-0218

Newsletter of Bethany Lutheran Church
Pastor Lisa Buchanan
Box 218 - 33297 State Hwy 6
Deer River, MN 56636
Office (218) 246-8398
Email: bethany@paulbunyan.net