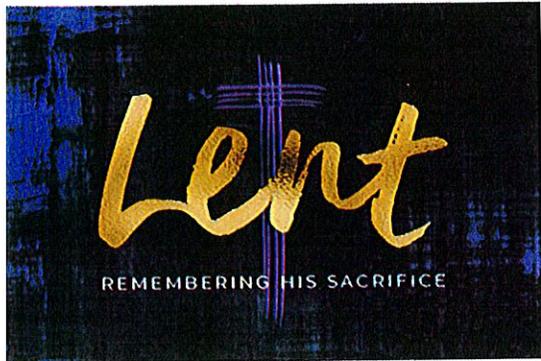


Bethany Lutheran Church
PO Box 459
380 W. 3rd Ave
Woodhull, IL 61490

Non-Profit Org.
US Postage Paid
Woodhull, IL 61490
Permit #7
Return Service Request

MARCH 2026

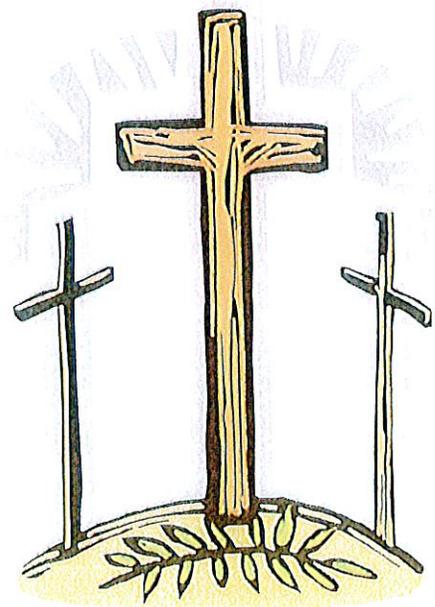


Name:

ON THE ROAD TO EASTER WORD SEARCH



Ash	Holy Week	Palm Branch
Wednesday	Holy Thursday	Forty Days
Sacrifice	Good Friday	Jesus
Almsgiving	Holy Saturday	Passover
Prayer	Easter	Foot Washing
Fasting	Palm Sunday	Resurrection
Lent	Purple	Love

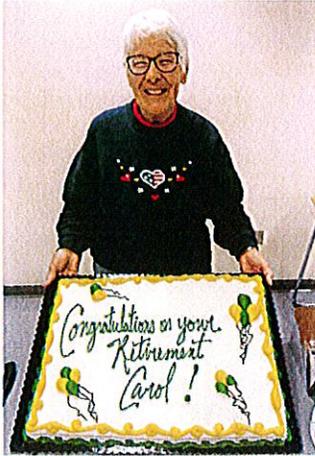


MARCH 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 9am Worship Bells @ 10:45</p> <p>T4T @5:30, Bethany</p>	<p>2 AIWood Food Pantry by reservation</p>	<p>3 9-12 Quilting</p> <p>AIWood Food Pantry Open 9:30-11 AM</p>	<p>4 MOW/United</p> <p>Lenten Worship Service @ 5:30pm New Windsor Presbyterian Church</p>	5	6	7
<p>8 9am Worship *Noisy Offering* Choir @ 10:45</p> <p>Carol Eiker Retirement Party 1-3pm</p>	9	<p>10 9-12 Quilting</p>	<p>11 MOW/ BETHANY</p> <p>Lenten Worship Service @ 5:30pm 1st Lutheran Church, Sherrard</p>	12	13	14
<p>15 9am Worship Bells @ 10:45 Council Meeting @ 11:30</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p>	16	<p>17 9-12 Quilting</p> <p>Happy St. Patrick's Day!</p>	<p>18 MOW/United</p> <p>Lenten Worship Service @ 5:30pm Swedona Lutheran Church</p>	<p>19 Hope Unit meet at 9:00 @ Clover library. Harriet Peterson to host</p> <p>Via de Cristo</p>	<p>20 Via de Cristo</p>	<p>21 Via de Cristo</p>
<p>22 9am Worship *Noisy Offering* Choir @ 10:45</p> <p>Via de Cristo</p>	23	<p>24 9-12 Quilting</p>	<p>25 MOW/ BETHANY</p> <p>Lenten Worship Service @ 5:30pm United Church of Woodhull</p>	26	27	28
<p>29 9am Worship Bells @ 10:45</p> <p>Last Day to order Easter Lily</p>	30	<p>31 9-12 Quilting</p>				

Time 4 Teens

T4T is March 1st at 5:30 pm at Bethany. We will be decorating canvas tote bags and creating cards for Meals on Wheels. Please feel to invite your friends!



Retirement Party For Carol Eiker

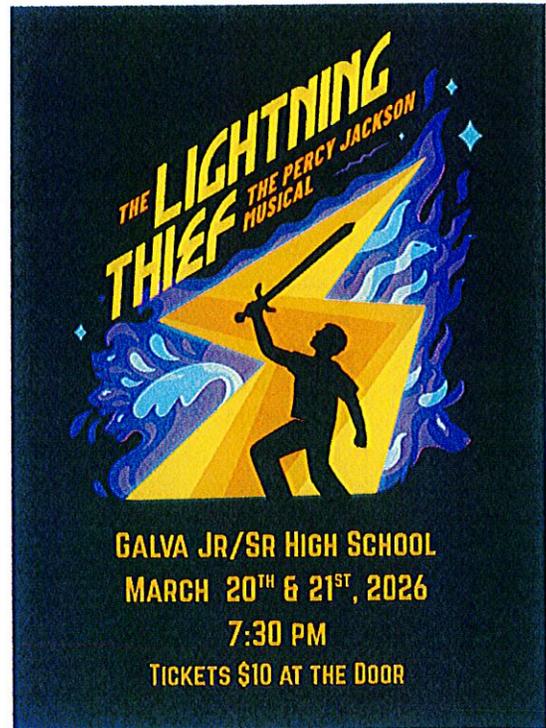
Come help us celebrate Carol Eiker's retirement from John Deere! We will be celebrating on Sunday, March 8th, from 1-3pm at Bethany Lutheran Church. Your presence is her gift!

Monmouth College Choir Concert

Lily McNally will be performing with her choir on March 21st at 7:30 pm. Mark your calendar!

You Are Invited! AlWood FFA Banquet

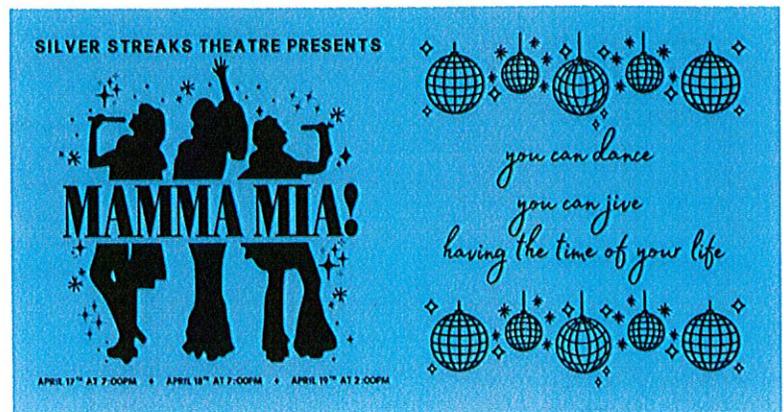
You are invited to attend the AlWood FFA Banquet that will be held March 20th, at 6:00pm. Please RSVP to Ella Berry by either email, or text. BERRY@ALWOOD.NET or (309) 714-4396. Please confirm by March 6th.



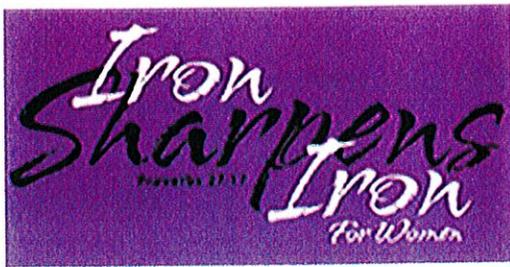
Come see Galva Jr/Sr High School perform The Lightning Thief March 20th and 21st!



Mark your calendars! AlWood High School will be performing PopStars March 13-15th!



Check it out! GHS Silver Streaks Theatre will be performing Mamma Mia! April 17th – 19th!



Iron Sharpens Iron (ISI) Women's Conference 2026

ISI is scheduled for April 18, 2026, from 8:30 am – 4 pm at Calvary Church in Moline, IL. Iron Sharpens Iron is an equipping conference for women. This event seeks to build up women and strives to help support the local church by providing seminars to equip women to minister to other women in their own church. Please contact Ellen Dalton for more details.



Easter Lily Sign-Up

We are offering the opportunity to purchase Easter lilies in honor or memorial of your loved ones. The last day to order is March 29th. The cost is \$16.00. Please make checks out to Bethany Lutheran and mark your payment as Easter Lily. These can be placed in the offering plate.

Graduation Recognition

Please notify the Christena of any graduations in 2026 so that we can recognize the students at our Graduation Recognition Service on May 17th.



Via de Cristo (WAY OF CHRIST)

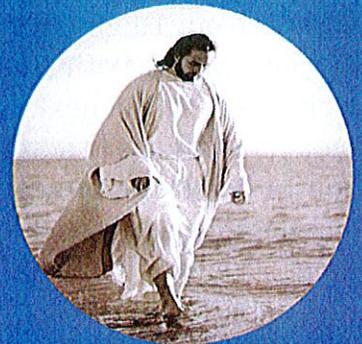
**JOIN US FOR THE NEXT VIA DE CRISTO
SPIRITUAL RETREAT WEEKEND #68**

March 19th – March 22nd - Camp Meno Haven

WE ARE THE BODY OF CHRIST.... CHRIST IS COUNTING ON US TO WALK IN THE WAY OF CHRIST; TO BE A DISCIPLE FOR CHRIST IN TODAY'S WORLD.

Via de Cristo gives those attending a new awareness of living in God's grace. Participants will enjoy music and singing, food and fellowship, a time for laughter and for prayer and reflection. Join us for an incredible weekend of spiritual renewal and FUN!

**Applications are available on the Fellowship Hall table
or ask Pastor Laurie (618)-980-9804.**



NOISY OFFERING!!!!

The Noisy Offering will take place on March 8th & 22nd during the 9am service.

Thank You!

Dear Congregation of Bethany Lutheran,
Thank you for your continued support of the AlWood Food Pantry. Your generosity allows us to continue to serve those in need in our community.

Thank you,
The AlWood Food Pantry Board

Many thanks to the choir members who sang carols for me!! Good to see familiar faces & wish I could have visited with you all. Miss you – come see me sometime 😊

Joanne Carlson

BETHANY BELLS and CHOIR 2026

The adult and bell choirs will be rehearsing after church and coffee hour from January until Easter. The rehearsal time will be Sundays from 10:45 until 11:30. We will alternate weeks, with adult choir for one week and bells the next.

If you have always wanted to be in adult choir or bell choir, but couldn't make it to weeknight rehearsals, here's your chance to join us! We would love to have some new faces in both choirs!

Diakonia Classes

Diakonia Classes are wonderful 5-week classes that engage in learning theological concepts, Biblical knowledge, and discipleship. Each course is \$65.00, and registration is through the Northern Illinois Synod. Please contact Pastor Laurie or Dave Crippen for more information.

PALS Lent Offering

The Midweek Lent services are a ecumenical partnership of the local Presbyterian and Lutheran churches. The offering at these services benefits the ministries of PALS helping people in our local communities. If you use a Bethany offering envelope for your offering at these services, please know that your offering will support PALS. If you prefer to designate your offering to Bethany and be credited to your giving record, please place your offering envelope in the offering plates at Bethany on Sunday.

Bethany Academic Scholarships

Bethany is committed to helping our youth in their academic endeavors after high school. All confirmed youth are eligible for an academic scholarship of up to \$1,500.00 per year for college or trade schools. The application deadline is April 30th, 2026, and the application requires 12 service activities to be completed prior to application. Helping with our worship services, Sunday School, or special events are excellent ways to earn service hours. Please contact Pastor Laurie for additional information.

Bethany Youth Sponsorship

Sponsorships in the amount up to \$300 per calendar year are available to Bethany baptized children ages birth to 18 years. Sponsorship applications are accepted for any learning activity, camp, or class available to Bethany children and approved by the sponsorship committee.

Terms of payment: The sponsorship will pay half of the class, activity, or camp at the time of approval and registration, with parent and/or guardian paying the other half. Upon completion of the requirements, the parent/guardian will be reimbursed for the portion paid by them up to 100% of the cost of the learning activity, not to exceed \$300.00.



IN OUR PRAYERS



For all those who serve our nation in this time of peril, for our President and our national leaders, and those who serve in the Armed Forces.

Those with continuing health concerns:

Lucy Newman	Gary Nelson	Jami Maher
Betty Swanson	Barb McNeil	Bob Eiker
Elizabeth Ostrander	Dave Crippen	Seth Malcolm
Joanne Carlson	Donna Carlson	Wendy Johnson
Patsy Crippen	Lois Peterson	Marty Stachniw
Dick Larson	Reva Stachniw	Carol Eiker
Ruth Laabs-Wilcox	Lucille Bergstrom	Alissa Colburn
Dennis Colburn		

Thrivent Choice Dollars

The Thrivent Choice Dollars® Program will be having some exciting new changes coming in 2026! Currently, we are directing rolled over dollars from 2025 and clients have until March 31st to direct, as usual. However, come April of this year Thrivent will be allowing not only our Benefit Members to direct their dollars to a nonprofit, but for the first time ever, Associate members will receive \$25 to direct as well. The current program allows Benefit Members to get dollars throughout the year that they direct from January to March. However, come April, Benefit Members will instead get all their Choice Dollars all at once instead of the little bit here and there like they do now. This will also mean that clients will have from April 1, 2026, to December 31, 2026, to direct those 2026 Choice Dollars giving our clients more time. Come 2027 they will get all their dollars in January and have the entire 12 months until December 31, 2027, to direct their dollars. This is the part I want to make sure is clear **No new 2026 Choice Dollars will be designated in February or March.** Choice Dollars earned for December 2025 qualifying contract values and premiums will still be designated in January and expire March 31, 2026.

Thrivent members can direct their dollars by logging into their Thrivent account at www.thrivent.com, by calling Thrivent at 1-800-847-4836 and asking for the Thrivent Choice Department, or by calling my office at 309-341-0073. Please let me know if you have any questions.

Jennifer DeWolfe
Thrivent Financial

FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

JoAnne Hefner	1-Mar
Kelly McMeekan	2-Mar
Peyton Taylor	6-Mar
Greg Wright	6-Mar
Jodi Papini	8-Mar
Chase VerHeecke	8-Mar
Neal Nelson	9-Mar
Todd Swanson	9-Mar
Diane Grim	10-Mar
Barb Nelson	10-Mar
Jami Maher	10-Mar
Hayley McDowell	11-Mar
Ryan Bramlett	11-Mar
Charla Hollowell	13-Mar
Pam Eiker	14-Mar
Caden Elliott	15-Mar
Lilly Elliott	15-Mar
Dean McNally	16-Mar
Jill Nelson	17-Mar
Jeana Fors	18-Mar
Jerri Page	18-Mar
Ron Peterson	18-Mar
Rodney Swanson	18-Mar
Brynlee Wirt	18-Mar
Shannon McNally	18-Mar
Emersyn Wirt	20-Mar
Todd Anderson	21-Mar
Jason Borkgren	22-Mar
Max Larson	23-Mar
Lucille Bergstrom	26-Mar
Gary D. Johnson	28-Mar
Bryan Johnson	31-Mar
Byron Swanson	31-Mar
Haleigh McLean	31-Mar



FEBRUARY ANNIVERSARIES

3-05-16	Levi & Katie Mason
3-15-97	Casey & Jennifer Adamson
3-27-04	Philip & Amber Wirt
3-29-69	Dale & Connie Sundberg



Meals on Wheels is a not-for-profit organization. Listed below are the **Bethany Meals on Wheels menus** for upcoming weeks. If you can help with any of the slots, please sign up in the church fellowship hall or contact Barb Elliott, Pam Eiker, or Nancy Swanson!

March 11, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Chicken & Broccoli Alfredo, Breadstick
 Salad: Olive Garden Salad
 Dessert: Pistachio Dessert
 Cooks: Pam Eiker & Barb Elliott
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: Connie Sundberg
 Delivery #1: George & Patrice Wirt
 Delivery #2: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson

March 25, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Meatloaf, Baked Potato, Baked Beans
 Salad: Apple Salad
 Dessert: Chocolate Layered Dessert
 Cooks: Patty Colburn
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: **Needed**
 Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
 Delivery #2: **Needed**

April 8, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Pulled Pork Sandwich, Baked Beans, Pickles, Chips
 Salad: Slaw
 Dessert: Banana Bars
 Cooks: Darla Peterson
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: **Needed**
 Delivery #1: George & Patrice Wirt
 Delivery #2: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson

TIME & TALENT FORMS

We ARE the church! And it takes a lot of people power to do God's ministry as the church. If you have not yet completed a Time & Talent form for yourself or your family.... **PLEASE** complete one.



ALWOOD FOOD PANTRY

The AlWood Food Pantry will be open March 3rd, from 9:30-11:00am.

On the evening of March 2nd, there will be a distribution available by appointment only. Please contact Claudia Sage at 309-236-3650.

The Food Pantry is in the Oxford Township Hall in Alpha next to the Oxford Township Fire Department. Bethany contacts are:
 Jim Luallen 309-629-8103

Ruth Laabs-Wilcox 563-940-7714

The AlWood Food Pantry is requesting coffee, filters, hamburgers and hot dog buns.

Hope Unit

Hope Unit will meet at the Clover Library on March 19th, at 9am. Harriet Peterson will be hosting.

ALTAR FLOWERS

The **price** of Altar Flowers is **\$60 for 2 vases**. Checks will now need to be made out to Bethany Lutheran Church and in the memo please reference altar flowers. These can be placed in the offering plate.

We do receive free delivery.

Thank you so much for adding beautiful flowers to our Sunday morning worship and supporting a small, local business.

Altar Guild Schedule

- Mar. Marty Johnson & Donita Creek
- Apr. Lisa Nelson, Patrice Wirt, & Rhonda Miller
- May Patty Colburn & Chris Peterson
- June Kelly Luallen
- July Kelly Luallen

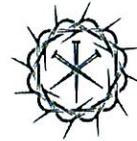
Funeral Committee

- Kelly Luallen 629-8103
- Rhonda Miller 629-9535
- Peggy Nordquist 334-2264



P.A.L.S.

Presbyterians and Lutherans Serving
Lent 2026: SYMBOLS OF LENT



Ash Wednesday Services: February 18, 2026

- 1:00pm Bethany Lutheran, Woodhull (brief service with ashes)
- 7:00pm United Church, Woodhull
- 7:00 pm 1st Lutheran Church, Sherrard

Weekly Wednesdays Lenten Worship Service

Service begins at 5:30 pm with dinner served following the service

February 25, 2026 - Host: Calvary Lutheran Church, New Windsor

Preacher: Andey Koresko – Symbol of the Towel & Basin

March 04, 2026 - Host: New Windsor Presbyterian Church, New Windsor

Preacher: Laurie Hensley – Symbol of the Rooster

March 11, 2026 - Host: 1st Lutheran Church, Sherrard

Preacher: Randy Willers – Symbol of the Dice

March 18, 2026 - Host: Swedona Lutheran Church, Swedona

Preacher: Stacy Christianson – Symbol of the Gavel

March 25, 2026 - Host: United Church of Woodhull, Woodhull

Preacher: Drew Nagle – Symbol of the Thorns or Spikes

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Maundy Thursday April 2, 2026

- 7:00 pm - Calvary Lutheran Church
- 7:00 pm - Swedona Lutheran Church

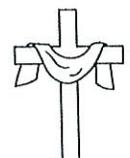
Good Friday April 3, 2026

- 7:00 pm - Bethany Lutheran Church, Woodhull

Easter Sunday April 5, 2026 – Each Congregation Hosts a Service



We look forward to observing Lent with you.



BETHANY BLESSINGS MARCH 26

Church Phone: 309-334-2144

Email: bethanylc@divcominc.net

Pastor Laurie Cell: 618-980-9804

Pastor Laurie Email:

pastorbethanywoodhull@gmail.com OR

vicarbethanylutheran@gmail.com

Christena's Office Hours

Friday: 9:00-12:00PM

Other Office hours as needed.

Pastor Laurie's Office Hours

Tuesday: 11:00-2:00PM

Friday: 9:00-12:00PM

Please feel free to call or text me anytime at (618) 980-9804

Please note – If you would like an announcement in the Sunday bulletin Pastor Laurie and/or the Communication & Outreach Coordinator must know **by Tuesday**, and you may contact them by phone or email. Due to new office hours and video work for each worship service we are printing the bulletin earlier than in the past. Thanks for your help as we are making these necessary changes. Newsletter additions must be into the Communication & Outreach Coordinator **by the 15th of each month.**

Tithe.ly – An Easy way for God's Offering

Bethany has partnered with Tithe.ly as an electronic giving platform. Gifts can be made from your bank account, debit card, or even Apple/Android pay. Please use the following links to set up your electronic giving profile:

Tithe.ly – www.tithe.ly/give and look up Bethany Lutheran Church, Woodhull or enter <https://tithe.ly/give?c=4352752>

Or Scan the QR code:



MARCH PEOPLE POWER

3-1-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Confirmation Assistant
Sunday School
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

Dale and Connie Sundberg
Kathy Shemwell
Bob Eiker and Makenna Walker
Colin Anderson
Lisa Nelson
Megan Hancock
Makenna Walker & Brynlee Wirt
Jeana Fors & Barb Fors

3-8-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Confirmation Assistant
Sunday School
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

Kathy Shemwell & Ellen Dalton
Dave Crippen
Gene & Barb Colburn
Zack Hancock
Needed
Rhonda Miller
Needed
Ruth Laabs-Wilcox & Kathy Shemwell

3-15-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Confirmation Assistant
Sunday School
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

George & Patrice Wirt
Nancy Swanson
Jason Hancock & Landon Rodseth
Easton Colburn
Marion Calmer
Needed
Needed
John & Jerri Page

3-22-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Confirmation Assistant
Sunday School
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

Carol Eiker & Makenna Walker
Christena Anderson
Chever Harkey & Rich Maher
Axel Anderson
Dave Crippen
Needed
Needed
David, Christena, & Axel Anderson

3-29-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Confirmation Assistant
Sunday School
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

Jess, Peyton, & Keegan Taylor
Megan Hancock
Logan Stiers & Marty Stachniw
Zack Hancock & Carson Taylor
Dave Crippen
Needed
Needed
Needed

Bethany Church Council Minutes for February 22, 2026

The Bethany Council meeting was called to order at 11:28 AM by Carol Eiker.

Members present: David Anderson, Christena Anderson, Lisa Nelson, Jillian Rodseth, Dave Crippen, Carol Eiker, Ryan Colburn, Pam Eiker, Megan Hancock, Marty Stachniw, Kiersten Hancock

Members absent: Marion Calmer, Gene Colburn

Devotion: David Anderson gave the devotion

Adoption of Agenda: A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Dave Crippen and seconded by Ryan Colburn. Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes, as revised, was made by Pam Eiker and seconded by Lisa Nelson. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary/Treasurer Report: The reports were reviewed. There was a motion to transfer \$20,000.00 from the general fund to the money market fund made by Dave Crippen. The motion was seconded by Lisa Nelson. The motion carried. The motion to accept the reports was made by Christena Anderson and seconded by Megan Hancock. Motion carried.

Special Fund Report: The report was given by Dave Crippen. A motion was made to accept the report given by Ryan Colburn and it was seconded by Lisa Nelson. The motion carried.

PASTOR'S Report: The report was presented by Pastor Laurie Hensley. The report included 9 visits and 3 community/school activities. She participated in First Call Theological Education, two Via De Cristo worship and training events, Continuing Education Classes, a Southwest Conference Meeting, Professional Leaders Conference Committee Meeting, LEAD Facilitators Meeting, and T4T. She also conducted Ash Wednesday services at both Bethany and United. There were no official acts for the month. She will be conducting a service for the PALS Midweek Service. She will be attending the Congregational Resourcing Event, the Southwest Conference Meeting, and will be the Spiritual Director for the Via De Cristo retreat in March. She will be attending and conducting during Holy Week and the Easter Service. She will be attending the Cornerstone Foundation Meeting, the Southwest Conference Meeting, and be the keynote presenter at the WELCA Spring Retreat. She will be attending First Call Theological Education. She will be conducting Confirmation on May 3rd. She will be attending the Southwest Conference Meeting, where Bethany will be the host.

COMMITTEES:

WORSHIP & MUSIC: They will be participating in the Lent/Holy Week worship. They are planning Children's Sunday/Graduation Recognition for May 17th. Easter Service is April 5th, and we will be hosting the PALS Good Friday service on April 3rd. Confirmation will be held on May 3rd.

WITNESS AND SERVICE: There was a thank you to the committee for planning and hosting the Annual Meeting Lunch. They are planning cakes for 2 confirmands for after Confirmation on May 3rd. They will also organize cakes for the graduates on Graduation Recognition on May 17th. There are 6 graduates being planned now with more possible.

STEWARDSHIP: No report given.

Finance and Budget: Reports were reviewed.

YOUTH/LEARNING: The need for Sunday School teachers and Confirmation Assistants was expressed. Pam Eiker will be ordering new Sunday School materials.

PROPERTY: The shelving in the garage has been completed. The two basement windows have been received, and David Anderson will be installing them. There are two new garbage cans. There was a discussion that the largest garbage should be used as a last resort, as it is too heavy for the waste disposal employees to pick up by hand. The front doors and the North facing fire door have been weather stripped. There was an issue with the hot water heater freezing over on the outside of the building. David Anderson has corrected the situation and has added two carbon monoxide detectors in the church as a precaution. The first is located in the fellowship hall between the bathrooms and the other is in the Sunday School room outside of the furnace room.

MEMORIALS: No report was given.

Mutual Ministry: No report was given.

The motion was made by Dave Crippen and seconded by Megan Hancock to accept the Committee reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: There was a discussion of the need for Council members to sign-up to be Communion Assistants, and lead devotions during the meeting. There was a discussion that the elevator should be inspected annually. There was a motion made by Lisa Nelson to approve an annual elevator inspection. Dave Crippen seconded the motion. The motion passed. Pastor Laurie Hensley gave the contact information to Carol Eiker. Carol Eiker will contact the inspector.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion of Lenten offerings made during a PALS service. There was a motion made by Christena Anderson that all funds given during a PALS service will be donated to the PALS ministry programs, including Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. The motion was seconded by Dave Crippen. The motion carried. It was decided that Council meetings will continue to be held at 11:30 on the 3rd Sunday of the month. Dave Crippen made a motion that Christena Anderson will remain the Council Secretary. Lisa Nelson offered a second. The motion carried. Dave Crippen made a motion that Carol Eiker should remain Council Vice-Chair. Lisa Nelson offered a second. The motion carried.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

The motion to adjourn was from Lisa Nelson and was seconded by Dave Crippen. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 12:47 PM. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15th at 11:30 am. Dave Crippen will lead the devotion.

Respectfully submitted, Christena Anderson, Council Secretary

A note from Pastor Laurie.....

As we begin the month of March, we continue our Lenten journey. And during this season of Lent, we are invited to do something deeply personal and profoundly communal: to travel with Jesus. For forty days, we walk where He walks, listening more closely to His words and watching His interactions. We pay attention to the love in His voice and the steady resolve in His steps as He moves toward Jerusalem...and toward the cross.

Long before the final week of His earthly ministry, Jesus called disciples to follow Him. They did not fully understand who He was or where the journey would lead, but they followed. And Jesus did more than gather them; He formed them. He taught them through parables and sermons. He showed them compassion in healing and welcoming the outcast. He corrected them when fear and pride surfaced. He prayed with them and for them. He shared meals and revealed the heart of the Father.

As the cross drew nearer, Jesus began preparing His disciples for what was to come. He spoke of suffering, betrayal, and death. They struggled to understand and were afraid. Yet Jesus remained patient. He continued to teach, to love, and to prepare them.

In many ways, Lent is our time to sit with those first disciples. We, too, are present-day followers of Jesus. Lent is not simply a countdown to Easter; it is a season of formation. It is a time when God shapes our hearts and teaches us what it means to trust and follow Him more deeply. During these forty days, we prepare our hearts.

We prepare through prayer, making space to speak with God and listen for His voice.

We prepare through Scripture, letting the story of Jesus guide us.

We prepare through devotions and reflection, slowing down in a hurried world.

We prepare through music, singing the faith that steadies our souls.

In these practices, God does His quiet work within us. He softens what has grown hard, strengthens what has grown weary, and draws us closer to Himself.

The journey deepens during Holy Week.

On **Palm Sunday, March 29th**, we journey with Jesus into Jerusalem, waving palms and singing "Hosanna," even as we know the cross is near.

On **Maundy Thursday, April 2nd**, we gather in the upper room, remembering His command to love and the gift of Holy Communion.

On **Good Friday, April 3rd**, we stand at the foot of the cross and remember the depth of His love.

And on **Easter Sunday, April 5th**, we rejoice in Christ's resurrection. The stone is rolled away. Hope rises.

During Lent we walk the road together, so I invite you to be intentional in your Lenten journey. Set aside time each day for prayer and Scripture. Join us in worship. Let these weeks be more than routine...let them be relational.

As Jesus still says, "Follow me."

May this season draw us closer to Him, shape us as faithful disciples, and prepare our hearts to stand at the cross... and to rejoice at the empty tomb.

We are family...we are the Bethany Family! 

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Laurie

Cell: 618-980-9804