

A note from Pastor Laurie...

As the days grow longer, the school year comes to an end, and summer begins to settle in around us, June invites us into a new season of life and ministry. Summer often brings a different rhythm...vacations, family gatherings, cookouts, and more time spent outdoors enjoying God's beautiful creation. Yet even in the busyness and fun of summer, the work of sharing God's love continues in powerful ways here at Bethany.

One of the most exciting ministries taking shape this summer began back in March through our partnership with the Innovation Lab of the ELCA. A LEAD Incentive Team was formed and tasked with using design-thinking skills to discover a need within our community and imagine ways the church could respond. Through conversations, listening, and prayerful discernment, one need became very clear: many students in the AlWood School District face food insecurity during the summer months when school meals are unavailable. In response, our team launched a weekly supplemental summer food bag ministry. Beginning this summer, we are preparing and packing more than 50 food bags every week for local students. What an incredible witness to God's love in action! This ministry is only possible because of generous hearts and willing hands. Please continue watching the newsletter, bulletin, and announcements for volunteer opportunities and times to help pack and distribute bags throughout the summer.

June will also be filled with opportunities for fellowship, learning, and fun. On June 13, we invite everyone to join us for Luau Bingo, a fundraiser supporting our youth as they begin preparing for the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering in Minneapolis. It promises to be a fun evening filled with laughter, fellowship, and support for our young people.

Please also keep the Northern Illinois Synod Assembly in your prayers on June 12 and 13 as congregations from across the synod gather for worship, learning, and discernment together.

And of course, one of the highlights of the summer will be our Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School, taking place June 22-26. We are excited to welcome children into a week filled with music, stories, crafts, games, and opportunities to grow in faith and discover the love of Jesus. Be sure to invite children, grandchildren, neighbors, and friends to be part of this exciting week.

As summer begins, may we remember that every season is an opportunity to share the love of Christ. Invite a friend to worship, bring a neighbor to an event, or simply share kindness wherever you go. Sometimes the simplest invitation can open the door for someone to experience God's love in a new way. 😊

We are the body of Christ...We are the Church...We are the Bethany Family! ❤️

In Christ's Peace,

Pastor Laurie

Cell: 618-980-9804

Bethany Church Council Minutes for May 17, 2026

The Bethany Council meeting was called to order at 10:42 AM by Carol Eiker.

Members present: Lisa Nelson, Carol Eiker, Ryan Colburn, Pam Eiker, Marty Stachniw, Megan Hancock, Kiersten Hancock, Jillian Rodseth

Members absent: Dave Crippen, David Anderson, Christena Anderson, Gene Colburn, Marion Calmer

Devotion: Lisa Nelson

Adoption of Agenda as Revised: A motion to adopt the agenda was made by Ryan Colburn and seconded by Lisa Nelson. Motion carried.

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Pam Eiker and seconded by Megan Hancock. Motion carried.

Financial Secretary/Treasurer Report: The reports were reviewed. The motion to accept the reports was made by Jillian Rodseth and seconded by Ryan Colburn. Motion carried.

Special Fund Report: Report was given by Carol Eiker. The motion to accept the report was made by Lisa Nelson and was seconded by Megan Hancock. The motion carried

PASTOR'S Report: The report was presented by Pastor Laurie Hensley. The report included 13 visits and 7 community/school activities. She participated in the LEAD coaching session and a LEAD meeting. She was the keynote speaker for the WELCA Spring Retreat, as well as the speaker for the AIWood High School Baccalaureate. She also attended the VDC Secretariat Meeting. There were two official acts.

COMMITTEES:

WORSHIP & MUSIC: A service is being offered by LOMC. There was a discussion about potential dates and whether to have an outdoor picnic service. The date being considered is July 19th. Other considerations include an outdoor church service starting at 10am with a picnic following at 11:15am. This is pending per confirmation from LOMC.

WITNESS AND SERVICE: The Blanket Sunday is planned in recognition of Father's Day. The blankets will be available for donation at the cost of \$10.00 each. The donated blankets will be donated via CWS Global. Witness and Service will be offering the blankets before Church Service on May 31st, June 7th, and the 14th.

STEWARDSHIP: No report given.

Finance and Budget: Reports were reviewed.

YOUTH/LEARNING: 3D will be hosting a Bingo Night on June 13th. It will be a luau themed evening. There will be a pulled pork supper. There was a discussion regarding Vacation Bible School.

PROPERTY: The concrete approach for the North garage door has been completed. The plan is to finish landscaping at the parsonage this week. This was followed by a discussion on landscaping border options. The smoke detector project is still ongoing.

MEMORIALS: No report was given.

Mutual Ministry: No report was given.

The motion was made by Pam Eiker and seconded by Ryan Colburn to accept the Committee reports. Motion carried.

OLD BUSINESS: Elevator inspection is still in process of being scheduled. An update on the school sack lunch project was given. Once a week throughout the summer, Bethany will package and distribute the summer lunches. This will be a 12-week project. Genisio's donated lunch bags for the project More logistics will be announced as the project develops.

NEW BUSINESS: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: Two thank you notes were received. The first from Alpha Mobile Meals regarding Bethany's donation. The second thank you was from LOMC regarding their donation received from Bethany.

The motion to adjourn was from Ryan Colburn and was seconded by Kiersten Hancock. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:25 AM. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for June 28th, at 10:30 AM. Gene Colburn will lead the devotion.

Respectfully submitted by Jillian Rodseth

BETHANY BLESSINGS JUNE 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:

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

Or Scan the QR code:



JUNE PEOPLE POWER

6-7-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers

Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

6-14-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

6-21-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

6-28-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers

Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

7-5-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

7-12-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service (communion)

Lisa Nelson & Connie Kremer
Marty Stachniw
Ruth Laabs Wilcox & Marty Johnson
Zack Hancock
Needed
Dean, Chris and Cameron

9am Service (communion)

Doug and Nancy Swanson
Jeana Fors
Bob Eiker & Chever Harkey
Remi Page
Carol Eiker
Needed

9am Service (communion)

Barb & Gene Colburn
Dave Crippen
Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Colin Anderson
Gene Colburn
John & Jerri Page

9am Service (communion)

Dennis & Patty Colburn
Denise Eiker
Makenna Walker & Marty Stachniw
Kiersten Hancock
Ryan Colburn
Logan & Mary Stiers

9am Service (communion)

Sebastian Rodseth & Gary Johnson
Nancy Swanson
Logan Stiers & Landon Rodseth
Easton Colburn
Dave Crippen
Needed

9am Service (communion)

Dale & Connie Sundberg
Megan Hancock
Greg Miller & Carson Taylor
Logan Brinson
Gene Colburn
Needed



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!

June 3, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Swedish Meatballs, Mashed Potatoes/Noodles, Glazed Carrots, Rye Bread
 Salad: Pickled Beets
 Dessert: Rhubarb Crisp
 Cooks: Dean and Chris Peterson
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: Connie Sundberg
 Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
 Delivery #2: **Needed**

June 17, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Veg
 Salad: 3 Bean Salad
 Dessert: Strawberry Shortcake
 Cooks: Pam Eiker and Carol Eiker
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: Patsy Crippen
 Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
 Delivery #2: George & Patrice Wirt

July 1, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Grilled Burgers or Pulled Pork, Pickles, Baked Beans
 Salad: Potato Salad
 Dessert: Pie
 Cooks: Kristi VerHeecke
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: Patsy Crippen
 Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
 Delivery #2: George & Patrice Wirt

July 15, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Tacos or Taco Casserole or Taco Salad, Lettuce, Tomato, Sour Cream
 Salad: Fresh Fruit
 Dessert: Lemon Bars
 Cooks: **Needed**
 Salad: St John's
 Dessert: Lisa Nelson
 Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
 Delivery #2: George & Patrice Wirt



ALWOOD FOOD PANTRY

The AlWood Food Pantry will be open June 2nd, from 9:30-11:00am. On the evening of June 1st, there will be 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 June 18th, at 9am. Connie Sundberg 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

June Kelly Luallen & Patrice Wirt
July Kelly Luallen & Patrice Wirt
Aug. Patty Colburn & Chris Peterson
Sept. Marty Johnson & Donita Creek

Funeral Committee

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

IN OUR PRAYERS

**Our condolences to the family and friends of
Craig Willett and Betty Swanson.**

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
Allen Nordquist	Barb McNeil	Bob Eiker
Elizabeth Ostrander	Dave Crippen	Kathy Anderson
Joanne Carlson	Donna Carlson	Wendy Johnson
Patsy Crippen	Lois Peterson	Marty Stachniw
Dick Larson	Reva Stachniw	Carol Eiker
Ruth Laabs-Wilcox	Lucille Bergstrom	Doug Peterson

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.

NOISY OFFERING!!!!

The Noisy Offering will take place on June
7th and the 21st during the 9am service.

Birthday Cards for Cameron Renwick

Cameron Renwick is turning 10 years old on
June 9th! A little secret – Cameron LOVES getting
mail! He would love receiving your birthday
wishes!

Cameron Renwick
C/O Dean and Chris Peterson
301 Marlane Dr
Alpha, IL 61413



JUNE BIRTHDAYS

Jack Miller	1-Jun
Dallas Peterson	3-Jun
Steve Sundberg	4-Jun
Kim Colburn	4-Jun
Ashley Colburn	5-Jun
Robert Eiker	5-Jun
Jennifer Adamson	5-Jun
Danelle Larson	13-Jun
Richard Mason	14-Jun
Marty Stachniw	14-Jun
Dirk Larson	15-Jun
Mark Pearson	16-Jun
Brendan Bolduc	16-Jun
David Anderson	18-Jun
Alex Willett	19-Jun
Aaron Miller	20-Jun
James Swanson	23-Jun
Bristol Wirt	26-Jun
Timothy Blaine	28-Jun
Adam Peterson	29-Jun
Kim Sundberg	29-Jun
Jason Peterson	30-Jun



JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

6-13-09	Kyle & Misty Borkgren
6-04-77	Rodney & Lolly Swanson
6-05-65	Rich & Janice Maher
6-14-14	Mike & Lyndi LeMay
6-17-78	Neal & Jeni Nelson
6-22-02	Shannon & Jodie McNally
6-24-00	Matt & Hilary Fairbrother

THANK YOU

The Northern Illinois Synod Assembly will be June 12th and June 13th. Our representatives are Pastor Laurie, Kathy Shemwell, Jeana Fors, Pam Eiker, and Ruth Laabs Wilcox. Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedules to represent Bethany Lutheran in this important event.

Thank you to everyone that helped make the Youth Service/Graduation Recognition Sunday so special! We would especially like to thank Pastor Laurie, Denise Eiker, Pam Eiker, and the Witness and Service Committee for all their hard work!

Alpha Mobile Meals would like to thank you for your generous donation. We take pride in fixing a great meal and this donation helps in so many ways

Thank You!
Alpha Mobile Meals

Dear Bethany Community,
Thank you for your generous support of LOMC! Your gifts make it possible for us to welcome people of all ages to be formed in faith, spirituality, community and leadership-things our world is yearning for. Truly, we could not do this work without you. So, thank you dear Bethany Church! This makes a big difference!

Sincerely,
Clyde Walter
Executive Director

Thank you to all the volunteers that helped put together the lunch bags for the summer lunch program! Many hands made for light work!



Blanket Sunday

We will be celebrating Blanket Sunday on Father's Day, June 21st. You can share love and warmth with a survivor in the aftermath of a disaster or emergency with the gift of a blanket. Blankets and other supplies are distributed to those who have lost their homes and belongings – **providing comfort, rest, and a reminder that someone cares. You can learn more by visiting, www.CWSblankets.org.**

If you would like to donate by purchasing a blanket in "honor of" or "memory of" a special father, a member of Witness and Service will be in the narthex before service on May 31, June 7th, and June 14th. The cost is \$10.00 per blanket.



Jenny Lind Vesper Services

The Jenny Lind Vesper Summer series is here. Area Pastors, along with their congregations, will be conducting a brief Sunday evening worship service. Each service will begin at 7:00pm.

June 14 - Pr. Randall Swanson

June 28 - Pr. Laurie Hensley, Bethany Lutheran, Woodhull

July 26 - Pr. Liz Kuster, Augustana Lutheran, Andover

August 30 - Pr. Randy Willers



Vacation Bible School

Sign-up

It's time to register for Rainforest Falls VBS! This weeklong, FREE event is open to the entire Community. Please join us for a fun adventure!

Dates: June 22nd – 26th, from 9:00 until Noon, with preschool dismissing at 11:30.

Ages: 3 years old through 5th grade completed.

Crew Leaders: ages 6th through 12th grade completed.

Register at: www.vbspro.events/p/whull26

Hosted by Bethany Lutheran Church and United Church of Woodhull.

There will be a VBS Staff get-together on Wednesday, June 17th beginning at 6:00 at United Church. Come have a light meal, meet the other staff, and find out about VBS week. Sandwiches and drinks will be provided. Bring something to share. Contact Patty or Sally with any questions.

Augustana Leadership Lab

Registration is now open for Leadership Lab 2026, a week-long leadership and faith formation experience for youth and adults taking place **June 22–27, 2026**, at **Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois**. See Pastor Laurie for more details.

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.

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.

DIAKONIA SUMMER COURSE OFFERINGS

Cost is \$65.00 for each 5-week course.

COURSE	INSTRUCTOR	ORGANIZATION MEETING DATE
Living Out Our Baptismal Promise	Pr. Kenn Storck	Tuesday, June 2 @ 7:00 p.m. CDT
First Testament Prophets	Pr. Fred Reklau	Saturday, June 6 @ 11:00 a.m. CDT
Gospel and Letters of John and Other Early Gospels	Dr. Trenton Ferro	Wednesday, June 17 @ 7:00 p.m. CDT
Basic New Testament Greek for Everyone	Dr. Trenton Ferro	Saturday, June 20 @ 10:00 a.m. CDT



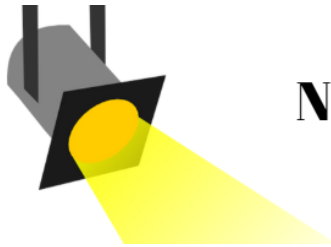
Luau Bingo



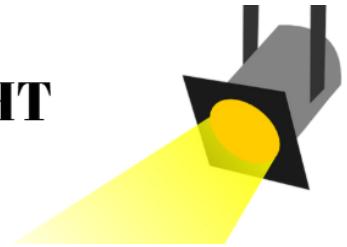
Join us for a fun night of Hawaiian themed Bingo!

This fundraising event is June 13th at 5:30pm. There will be a pulled pork dinner followed by Bingo! Everyone is invited!

All funds raised will be used to help support our teens go to the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering!



NEW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT HEATHER LOCANDER



What keeps you busy during the day?

I spend a lot of time volunteering within the community with my oldest daughter, along with spending time with our many animal friends.

What do you like to do for fun?

I enjoy taking pictures of my adventures, especially things in nature!
I also enjoy martial arts and am very close to my 2nd degree black belt!

What makes you smile?

Spending time with my friends and family.

Tell us a little about your family.

I have a husband Mike, and two daughters:
Janey who is 23 and Alison who is 21, along with our cat Patches.

Tell us about your work background?

I am a recently retired teacher who has taught every subject under the sun, but primarily special and behavioral education.
I also have coached and reffed sports.

What is your favorite book?

I can't choose! I'm always looking for recommendations.

What is your favorite movie?

Short circuit.



June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 AlWood Food Pantry by Reservation	2 9-12 Quilting AlWood Food Pantry Open 9:30 -11:00AM	3 MOW Bethany	4	5	6
7 9am Service (communion)	8	9 9-12 Quilting	10 MOW United	11	12	13 Luau Bingo 5:30pm
14 9am Service (communion)	15	16 9-12 Quilting	17 MOW Bethany	18 Hope Unit 9:00AM @ Clover Library	19	20
21 9am Service (communion) Council Meeting 11:30 Happy Father's Day!	22 VBS 9-12	23 9-12 Quilting VBS 9-12	24 MOW United VBS 9-12	25 VBS 9-12	26 VBS 9-12 VBS Potluck to Follow	27
28 9am Service (communion) Jenny Lind Vesper Service 7:00pm	29	30 9-12 Quilting				

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

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JUNE 2026

