

A note from Pastor Laurie... 😊

Who is my neighbor? It is a question someone once asked Jesus. And instead of giving a simple answer, Jesus told the story of the Good Samaritan, a story that reminds us that our neighbor isn't defined by where they live, what they look like, or whether we even know their name.

Our neighbor may live just down the street. Our neighbor may be a child sitting in a classroom at AlWood. Or...our neighbor may live thousands of miles away in a place we may never visit.

This summer, I have been thinking about the many ways the people of Bethany have quietly and generously cared for our neighbors.

Throughout the summer, we provided food bags for AlWood students, helping make sure children in our community had food available when school was not in session. We continue to support the AlWood Food Pantry and help care for our neighbors in Woodhull and Alpha through Meals on Wheels.

Through the interest earned on our endowment funds, Bethany was also able to pay all of the outstanding past-due student lunch account debt in the AlWood School District. What a wonderful way to use the gifts entrusted to us to make a meaningful difference for families right here in our own neighborhood!

But our neighborhood doesn't stop at the edge of town....

Our Quilting Queens faithfully create beautiful quilts that are sent through Lutheran World Relief to people around the world. And once again, we are preparing school kits for Lutheran World Relief. This year our goal is 200 school kits, which we will assemble on God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, September 13. Each kit will eventually find its way into the hands of a student somewhere in the world, helping that child have the supplies needed to learn.

A bag of food. A school lunch. A warm meal delivered to someone's home. A handmade quilt. A notebook and pencils tucked into a school kit. None of these things by themselves seem enormous. But placed into God's hands, simple acts of generosity become acts of love.

Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor. And every time we feed someone who is hungry, help a child learn, provide warmth and comfort, or care for someone who needs a helping hand, we are living out that calling.

Continued -

Some of our neighbors have names we know. Others we will never meet.
But they are all our neighbors. And they are all beloved children of God.

As we move into September, there are many opportunities to worship, serve, learn, celebrate, and be together as the Bethany family:

- September 6 — Choir & Bells: Practices begin! Please watch for the rehearsal schedule.
- September 13 — God's Work, Our Hands Sunday: Wear your yellow GWOH T-shirt to worship! We will assemble our Lutheran World Relief school kits as part of our day of service.
- September 19 — WELCA Annual Convention: New Life Lutheran Church in Bolingbrook. This year's theme is *I Am Worthy, All Are Worthy*.
- September 20 — First Communion: During our Service of Holy Communion, we will celebrate with Easton Colburn and Colin Anderson as they receive their First Communion.
- September 20 at 5:00 p.m. — Blessing of the Pets: Bring your beloved pets and invite your friends and neighbors to join us!
- September 27 — Celebration of the Harvest/Creation: We will gather in thanksgiving for God's creation, the harvest, and all the gifts God so generously provides.

September will be a busy month at Bethany, but in the midst of everything we do, may we remember why we do it.

We love because God first loved us.

We serve because Christ came among us as one who serves.

And we care for our neighbors...near and far...because in Christ, there really is no such thing as a stranger.

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

Pastor Laurie

Cell: 618-980-9804

Bethany Church Council Minutes for August 16th, 2026

Bethany Council Meeting was called to order at 10:24 by Carol Eiker.

Members present: Lisa Nelson, Jillian Rodseth, Gene Colburn, Dave Crippen, Carol Eiker, Ryan Colburn, Pam Eiker, Megan Hancock, Kiersten Hancock, and Pastor Laurie Hensley.

Members Absent: Marion Calmer and Marty Stachniw.

Devotion: Dave Crippen gave the devotion and prayer.

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

Financial Secretary/Financial Report: The reports were reviewed. The motion to accept was made by Lisa Nelson and seconded by Megan Hancock. Motion carried.

Special Fund Report: Report reviewed. Motion to accept by Lisa Nelson and seconded by Ryan Colburn. Motion carried.

PASTOR'S Report: During this past month, Pastor Laurie Hensley did 18 visits and 4 community/school activities plus helped coordinate the summer lunch program and the LWR school kits. Pastor was the guest speaker at the Conference of Worship, Theology, and the Arts in July. Upcoming is the Professional Leaders Conference.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Worship & Music: Pet blessing service will be in September. Exact date TBD. "God's Work Our Hands" congregation service project will be September 13th. Founder's Day Brunch will be on October 11th with a theme of Swedish American Potluck, with a time TBD.

Witness & Service: No report given.

Stewardship: No report given.

Finance & Budget: No report given.

Youth & Learning: 2027 Youth Gathering theme is "Imagine More." Registration is open October 21st-November 11th with a \$520 registration fee per participant. This fee does not include lodging, meals, or other expenses. The Youth Gathering will be held from June 28th-July 2, 2027. Time 4 Teens held a mini golf outing and a gaga ball night during August.

Property: Discussed potential re-assessment of the church building and the parsonage to verify that both are insured at the accurate value. Lisa Nelson reported on the progress regarding the parsonage landscaping. Motion that up to \$10,000 of the designated memorial fund be allocated towards this landscaping project. Motion to accept made by Dave Crippen and seconded by Ryan Colburn. Motion carried. Carol Eiker and the Council extended a "thank you" to Ryan Colburn, Gene Colburn, Dennis Colburn, and Jim Luallen for their lawn work. The parsonage continues to have water rising through the basement drains.

Memorials: No report given.

Mutual Ministry: No report given.

The motion was made by Lisa Nelson and seconded by Megan Hancock to accept all committee reports. Motion carried.

Old Business: Carol Eiker continues to communicate with elevator inspection companies to arrange a yearly elevator inspection.

New Business: An ice cream social will be held on August 30th to fundraise towards the 2027 Youth Gathering. The custodian Heath Rodseth requested that any long-term signage posted on the glass front doors be laminated for durability and aesthetics. Council discussed the ELCA billboard near I-17, with an eye towards potential updating. Gene Colburn and the property committee will discuss further. There are two vacancies on the church council. John Page has volunteered to complete David Anderson's council term. The motion was made by Pam Eiker and seconded by Lisa Nelson to welcome John Page into this position. Motion carried.

Communication: Thank You, cards were received from Landon Rodseth, regarding his Bethany youth activity scholarship and from McKenna Walker regarding her Bethany college scholarship. A thank you card was received from Lutheran God Gifts for Bethany's donation of \$640 towards mosquito nets. A thank you letter was received from Alwood School District for Bethany's donation towards unpaid student lunch accounts. Bethany's donation was paid out of our special funds and endowment interest, and the donation wiped out all remaining student lunch balances at the elementary and high school levels, ensuring that students began school this year with a fresh start.

The motion to adjourn was by Dave Crippen and seconded by Lisa Nelson. The motion was carried and the meeting adjourned at 11:27 am. The meeting was closed with The Lord's Prayer. The next meeting is scheduled for September 20th at 10:30 am. Carol Eiker will lead the devotion.

Respectfully submitted, Jillian Rodseth

BETHANY BLESSINGS SEPTEMBER 26

Church Phone: 309-334-2144

Email: bethanylc@divcominc.net

Pastor Laurie Cell: 618-980-9804

Pastor Laurie Email:

pastorbethanywoodhull@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:



SEPTEMBER PEOPLE POWER

9-6-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Jim & Kelly Luallen
Dave Crippen
Greg & Rhonda Miller
Emerson Frakes
Carol Eiker
Elizabeth Ostrander's 100th Birthday!

9-13-26

Greeters

Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Ruth Laabs Wilcox & Kathy Shemwell
Jeana Fors
Gary Johnson & Landon Rodseth
Logan Brinson
Jillian Rodseth
Dean & Chris Peterson

9-20-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Ellen Dalton & Lisa Nelson
Ruth Laabs Wilcox
Jason & Zack Hancock
Colin Anderson
Dave Crippen
John & Jerri Page

9-27-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service

Dale & Connie Sundberg
Patty Colburn
Keegan Taylor & Carol Eiker
Kiersten Hancock
Megan Hancock
Needed

10-04-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Coffee Hour

9am Service (No Communion)

George & Patrice Wirt
Megan Hancock
Dale Sundberg & Chever Harkey
Easton Colburn
Needed

10-11-26

Greeters
Lector/Prayers
Ushers
Acolyte
Communion Assistant
Coffee Hour

9am Service (Founders Day)

John & Jerri Page
Jillian Rodseth
Logan Stiers & Logan Brinson
Carson Taylor
Lisa Nelson
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.**

September 9, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Chicken/Biscuits or Chicken/Noodles, Vegetable
Salad: Three Bean Salad
Dessert: Strawberry Pretzel Dessert
Cooks: Dean & Chris Peterson
Salad: St John's
Dessert: Rhonda Miller
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: Ruth Laabs Wilcox & **Needed**

September 23, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Meatloaf, Cheesy Potatoes, Green Beans, Roll
Salad: Cottage Cheese w/ Fruit
Dessert: Apple Pie
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: **Needed**
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**

October 7, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Ham Balls, Sweet Potatoes & Veg of Choice
Salad: Jello Salad
Dessert: Cake of Choice
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: Connie Sundberg
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**

October 21, 2026- Bethany

Meal: Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes/Gravy, Candied Carrots
Salad: Pea Salad
Dessert: Lemon Bars
Cooks: **Needed**
Salad: St John's
Dessert: Ruth Laabs Wilcox
Delivery #1: Dale Sundberg & Gary Johnson
Delivery #2: **Needed**

ALWOOD FOOD PANTRY



The AlWood Food Pantry will open Sept 1st, from 9:30-11:00am.

On the evening of August 31st, 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 September 17th, at 9am. Peggy Nordquist 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

<u>Sept.</u>	Marty Johnson & Donita Creek
<u>Oct.</u>	Lisa Nelson & Rhonda Miller
<u>Nov.</u>	Jeana Fors
<u>Dec.</u>	Jeana Fors

Funeral Committee

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

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

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 September 13th and the 27th during the 9am service.

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

9-20-90	Scott & Tory Garrett
9-21-13	Dain & Megan Luallen
9-25-76	Dean & Chris Peterson



SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Alison Blaine	1-Sep
Sandie LaMantia	1-Sep
Stephanie Lawson	1-Sep
Jason Dertz	3-Sep
David Lindsey	4-Sep
Elizabeth Ostrander	4-Sep
Nancy Jateff	5-Sep
Aaron Willett	5-Sep
Jeremy Bramlett	7-Sep
Ruth Laabs Wilcox	8-Sep
Richard Larson	9-Sep
Kathy Peterson	9-Sep
Forrest Schauer	9-Sep
Brad Fetters	10-Sep
Morgan Wirt	11-Sep
Charles Brown	12-Sep
Brent Litton	12-Sep
John Olson	14-Sep
George Wirt	14-Sep
Jocelyn Larson	15-Sep
Andy Johnson	16-Sep
Brandi Nelson	16-Sep
Emerson Frakes	16-Sep
Pam Edwards	19-Sep
Chever Harkey	19-Sep
Gaylen Elliott	20-Sep
Shirley Swanson	21-Sep
Duncan Adamson	22-Sep
Sam Shemwell	22-Sep
Kurt Barman	23-Sep
Shirley Holton	23-Sep
Janice Maher	23-Sep
Natalie Stanfield	23-Sep
Kara Lindquist	26-Sep
Brandon Brinson	27-Sep
Easton Colburn	27-Sep
Cameron Goben	29-Sep
Mark Peterson	30-Sep
Denise Barman	30-Sep

Sunday School

Sunday School begins again September 6th!
We can't wait to see you all there!

Confirmation Class

Confirmation Class will be on September 13th and 20th from 4:30 – 5:30pm. These classes will be right before Time 4 Teens.

Time 4 Teens

Time 4 Teens will be September 13th and 20th beginning at 5:30pm.
Watch for more details!

Bethany Youth Sponsorship

Sponsorships in the amount of up to \$300 per calendar year are available to Bethany baptized children from 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 listed below, 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.

*Upon completion of the class/activity/camp, the child will be required to complete the following (parent/guardian may assist depending on age of child):

1. Write a thank you for the sponsorship that will appear in the newsletter and bulletin. Give a brief explanation of what was experienced/learned from the class, activity, or camp to the congregation during worship announcements.
2. Complete the service activities. (2 activities for each \$50 awarded, for example: 4 activities = \$100 sponsorship)

FIRST COMMUNION

Please join us on September 20th for the First Communion of Colin Anderson and Easton Colburn.

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you looking for a church home? A place where you can belong? A place to sink your roots into the good soil of faith? Are you intrigued with what you've experienced at Bethany? In membership, you'll count yourself among those committed to the work of the Lord and a part of the Bethany family. Please visit with Pastor Laurie if you have any questions or to RSVP for the class.

The next new member class will be held September 16th, 6:00 – 8:00pm.



Blessing of the Pets

The Blessing of the Pets will be held on September 20th, at 4:00pm on the side lawn. Please bring a folding chair



God's work. Our hands.



God's Work. Our Hands

God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday is September 13th. Please let Christena know if you would like a t-shirt to wear that Sunday.

The cost of the t-shirt is \$15.00.

THANK YOU

We would like to thank the congregation of Salem Lutheran Church located in Sycamore, Illinois. They have gifted us beautiful candelabras for our altar.

Dear Bethany,
Thank you for sponsoring my week at Camp Menne Haven! I learned a lot of things about God at camp. Including things like how God is one cornerstone to life, and how He will always give us exactly how much we need. I also had a lot of fun and made lots of friends!!

Sincerely,
Landon Rodseth

Bethany Lutheran Church,
Thank you so much for all of your support, including my scholarship, to help me get through college. It is all much appreciated!

-Makenna Walker

100th Birthday!

Elizabeth Ostrander is turning 100 years old on September 4th! Let's celebrate her by sending cards to her at:

Elizabeth Ostrander
1900 10th St. Apt. 242
Silvis, IL 61282



SR. CHOIR & BELLS



Welcome back to another year of making music for the Glory of God at Bethany! We will begin rehearsing on Sundays after the children's music time from 10:45 - 11:30 starting Sept. 6th! Please check the newsletter calendar or Facebook for the the rehearsal times, and a hard copy will be given at the first rehearsal. We look forward to making music again with you! If you know of anyone that might be interested in joining either of the choirs, please invite them to join us! The bells will kick things off rehearsing on Sept. 6th!

See you soon!



Founder's Day Swedish/American

Smörgåsbord

It's time to dig into your recipe box to find some of your favorite Swedish recipes. Don't worry if Swedish cuisine is not your thing, any recipe that you make will be enjoyed! The Witness & Service Committee will be hosting the Smörgåsbord after Service on October 11th. Be sure to look for sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall.

Lutheran World Relief Supply Items

For God's Work, Our Hands Sunday, we will be assembling both school bags and personal care kits for Lutheran World Relief. Our goals are for 200 school kits and 20 personal care kits.

School Kit Information



The Lutheran World Relief School Kit campaign has begun! We are going to bring back the \$5.00 donation, which means no worrying about finding the right supplies and hauling them in! Each \$5.00 donation will purchase a complete school kit. There will be a volunteer collecting donations in the Narthex before service. We will be assembling the school bags on September 13th.

Personal Care Kit Information

Donations are now being accepted for the World Relief Personal Care Kit Project. We ask that you bring in items from the accepted Personal Care Kit List. Only items that have been approved by Lutheran World Relief are able to be shipped. Donations may be dropped off in the marked basket located in the Narthex.

✦ Personal Care Kits Include: ✦

- ☐ 1 light -weight bath size towel, dark color preferred, 20"x40" or 52"x27" in size.
- ☐ 2 or 3 bath-size (4-5 oz.) bars of soap (equaling 8oz to 9oz), any brand in original wrapping.
- ☐ 1 adult size toothbrush in original wrapping.
- ☐ 1 sturdy comb, remove packaging.
- ☐ 1 metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Growing in Faith: The Diakonia Program

After over 40 years of success in providing quality lay education in 11 synods across the ELCA, the national board has taken on the monumental task of re-designing the program to meet the needs of our 21st century churches and students. The new program consists of a 2-year program with flexibility to suit the interests and needs our students.

Diakonia is an exciting opportunity which provides a spiritual journey to lay individuals who wish to become more involved in their church or who want to better understand their faith.

Diakonia meets once each week for two years during the school year (September through April or early May). Individuals are joined by other students and teaching pastors from around the Northern Illinois Synod to talk about the Bible, Christian Doctrine, Christian Ethics, Lutheran Faith in the American Context, and other topics. Students are also given the opportunity to discern what spiritual gifts they might have to use in service to God's people.

This course of study prepares students for the task of showing God's love in their workplaces, neighborhoods, families, and schools, as well as their local churches. Diakonia graduates are called to share the light of Christ in the world.

Anyone who is looking for a deeper spiritual connection with Christ is encouraged to try diakonia. Please feel free to talk with Dave Crippen or Kathy Shemwell

Classes are once a week (Tuesday or Thursday) for 5 weeks and the cost is \$65.00 per course.

Via de Cristo (WAY OF CHRIST)

JOIN US FOR THE NEXT VIA DE CRISTO

SPIRITUAL RETREAT #69

Oct. 15th – Oct. 18th - 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. Bethany has a scholarship available for those attending.



SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 AlWood Food Pantry Open 9:30-11:00AM	2	3	4 Elizabeth Ostrander's 100th Birthday!	5
6 9am Service Sunday School Begins Bells 10:45	7	8 9-12 Quilting	9 MOW Bethany	10	11	12
13 9am Service Noisy Offering God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday Confirmation Class 4:30- 5:30 Time 4 Teens 5:30	14	15 9-12 Quilting	16 MOW United New Members Class 6:00-8:00pm	17 Hope Unit 9:00AM @ Clover Library	18	19
20 9am Service First Communion Choir 10:45 Council Meeting Blessing of the Pets 4:00pm Confirmation Class 4:30- 5:30 Time 4 Teens 5:30	21	22 9-12 Quilting	23 MOW Bethany	24	25	26
27 9am Service Noisy Offering Celebration of Harvest Bells 10:45	28	29 9-12 Quilting	30 MOW United			

Bethany Lutheran Church
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Woodhull, IL 61490

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SEPTEMBER 2026

