

Bethany Messenger

Bigfork, Montana

From Pastor's Desk

Volume 26

July/August

Bethany Staff

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- Council President - Jan Olson
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Office hours are:
8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Tuesday—Thursday

*Joyfully reaching out
to others by sharing
the hope and love of
Jesus Christ!*

I am writing this newsletter on June 28, knowing that Independence Day is right around the corner. For most of us that means hamburgers, hotdogs, watermelon, and lighting off some fireworks. It also means a really cool downtown parade. For one day people are sporting the good old red, white, and blue and I think it's great. However, like Christmas and Easter, the meaning of Independence Day has been lost. I think most people under the age of 30 couldn't even tell you which country we declared independence from, which is sad. Why was independence so important to our Founding Fathers? Because they knew freedom was a God-given right. The Declaration of Independence reads, "We hold these truths to be self-evident...that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." What made this country special was an idea of limited government. Why? Because a government with too much power becomes a god and God will not play second fiddle to anything or anyone. Exodus 34:14 says, "for you shall not worship any other god, for the Lord, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God."

As a nation, we have forgotten our roots because the generations before us failed to teach the next generation. God told the Israelites to teach His decrees to their children and grandchildren, but they failed in carrying out their duty. Consequently, the mighty deeds God did in Egypt and into the Promised Land were forgotten. They became myths, not history. The same thing is happening today.

We read about Valley Forge and the Boston Tea Party like they're fiction, but they are not. There really were men who believed in a cause greater than their personal comfort and made a commitment to fight against tyranny. These were men of passion! And many of these men could not have done what they did without women providing much-needed support.

I think we have lost our passion for freedom because we haven't lived any other way. We've become spoiled and forgotten that the Lord is the One who gave us this freedom. It's up to us to protect it. Just as God took His hand away from the Israelites due to neglect, God can take His mighty hand away from us too. He will only bless us for so long. It's up to Christians to stand up, stand up for Jesus and preach His Word in season and out of season. If we end up in exile like ancient Israel, we will have no one to blame but ourselves. It's not too late to turn this ship around. Like the Apostle Paul wrote in 2 Timothy 4:7, "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith." Keeping fighting the good fight and worship the One who blessed us far more than we deserve.

Pastor Shawn



**Bethany's Free
Community Dinners**

Every Wednesday at 6:00pm.

Want to help? Contact Pastor Shawn.

Treasurer's Report — April 2023

June 2, 2023

Financial Information can be obtained in the Church Office.

Council Highlights

June 15, 2023

We have a short term elevator fix solution, but because of its age and scarcity of parts, we are looking at a major expense in the future.

The Property Committee has worked hard on sprucing up the church grounds...thank you to all who helped

VBS was Stellar, thanks to Nan and Crew! It was a great intergenerational endeavor, with 40 kiddos from around the Valley, BLC youth helping and gaining leadership experience, moms with tots and moms with teens pitching in, and "experienced" older folks lending their hands. Kudos to all!

Annual meeting is July 23 immediately following worship service.

Next Council meeting—July 13, 2023

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Fresh or frozen fruits and/or vegetables, hot dogs, pancake mix, pancake syrup, cereal, condiments, pasta sauce, Ramen noodle, spaghetti noodles, Rice a Roni, rice (white & brown), crackers (any kind), toilet paper. *Perishables can be dropped off Monday mornings between 9-10:30am.*

**Please check the expiration date on donated food. Federal law will not allow the Food Bank to give away outdated food items.**

# Youth & Family July/August 2023



- 2 ~ Deb Jorgenson
- 3 ~ Ann Dearman
- 6 ~ Rick Bagley
- 6 ~ Ruth Pinkerman
- 10 ~ Aaron Crutsinger
- 15 ~ Kathy Buffington
- 16 ~ Mark Schurke
- 20 ~ Karen Bradstreet
- 22 ~ Brooklyn Farrell

Note: Only birthdays of members who have given permission to print their birth dates have been included. If you would like to be included, please sign up on the Birthday Chart on the bulletin



- 21 ~ Anastacia Fincher
- 23 ~ Brach Thomson
- 24 ~ Lisa Ohrn
- 25 ~ Leoma Taylor

## **Bethany Lutheran's Annual Meeting**

Mark your calendars for our annual meeting on  
**Sunday, July 23, 2023**

## **Flathead Lutheran Bible Camp Activities**

### **2023 Retreats & Events**

- July 28-30 Wild Women on the Water
- Sept 1-4 Labor Day Work/Family Retreat
- Oct 14 Harvest Festival with dinner & auction
- Oct 20-22 Grief Retreat
- Oct 29-31 Flathead Theological Conference
- Nov. 9-12 Crazy About Quilting and Crafts Retreat

**The Special Offering for July is  
Sparrow's Nest**

**And for August is the  
Lighthouse Christian Home**

## **Red Cross Blood Drive**

**Tuesday, August 1, 2023**

10:00am—5:30pm in the Fellowship Hall .



### **The Bethany Quilters**

On summer break. Will return to meeting on 2nd & 4th Thursdays in September 2023



### **Bethany's Prayer Shawl Group**

Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month at 10am in the Prayer

## Ushers for June 2023

### July 2

Reader: Ray Wykoff  
Ushers: Dietrich & Otto Schurke  
Greeters: Betty Stuart & Kathy Buffington  
Communion Assist: Kelly Jorgenson, Michael Waddell, Doug Buffington  
Prayers: Deb Jorgenson  
Sound: Mike Nelson  
PowerPoint: Chris Miller  
Video: Ken Olson

### July 9

Reader: Karyl Gopp  
Ushers: Ray & Karen Poston  
Greeters: Ray & Aneda Wykoff  
Prayers: Bev Ostroot  
Sound: Art Crane  
PowerPoint: Brooklyn Farrell  
Video: DeAnn Farrell

### July 16

Reader: Ron Harapat  
Ushers: Bill & Nancy Lester  
Greeters: Jan & Jerry Wiedebush  
Prayers: Kelly Jorgenson  
Sound: Phil Sauer  
PowerPoint: Kathy Buffington  
Video: Shelli Riedesel

### July 23

Reader: Sarah Beach  
Ushers: Jan & Jerry Wiedebush  
Greeters: Bev Ostroot & Betty Stuart  
Communion Assist: Nancy & Bill Lester, Art Crane  
Prayers: Ron Harapat  
Sound: Ken Olson  
PowerPoint: Jan Olson  
Video: Doug Buffington

### July 30

Reader: Nancy Lester  
Ushers: Kellen & Bryson Dahlman  
Greeters: Linda Johnson & Lisa Thomson  
Prayers: Deb Jorgenson  
Sound: Phil Sauer  
PowerPoint: Linda Dahlman  
Video: Doug Buffington

**Altar Guild - July Chris Miller & Karen Irwin  
August Marge Bagley**

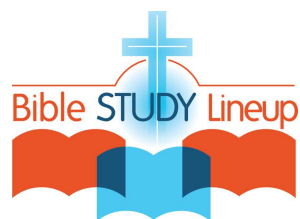
**NOTE:** Please be here at least 20 minutes early. If you are

### Care Team Ministry



The Care Team is anxious to help you: rides, meals, visits & respite care.

Call us: Sharon Lorang , 837-3769  
or Bev Ostroot, 837-6767.



*Men's Breakfast Bible Study meets on  
Tuesdays at 7:00am in the Fellowship Hall.*

### Women's Groups

**Rachel Circle** - Summer break.

**Friendship Circle** - Summer break.

Both groups will begin again in September.



Bethany's Prayer Ministry meets every **Tuesday** at 7:00PM for prayer and devotions in the church library.  
For more information contact Kelly Jorgenson, 837-1467.

### **Bethany Congregational Potluck**

**We would like a family to sign up each month to set up and clean up.**

**For more information, contact Bill Hagen at [wnhagen@outlook.com](mailto:wnhagen@outlook.com)**

**Dates: July 9, Aug. 13, and Sep. 10**

