



The Echo

Glorifies God, Serves all people,
Welcomes everyone into Christ's family.

Volume 124

February, 2024

Number 2

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor Lily Brondyke
Office Administrator Kelly Blake
Financial Secretary Carole Beck
Custodian Rodney Spence
Kids Ministry Coordinator Brook Prins
Pastor Emeritus Rev. Dean A. Peterson
Organist Bill VanEffen
Choir Director & Musician/Tech Support John Beck
Pianist Kim Beck
Social Media Producer/Web Developer Kyra Beck
Usher Rodney Spence

FACEBOOK PAGE

www.facebook.com/belutheranescanaba

WEBSITE ADDRESS

www.bethanyescanaba.com

EMAIL ADDRESSES

Pastor.....pastorlily.bethany@gmail.com
Adminstrator . . . bethanysecretary.escanaba@gmail.com
Kyra.bethanysocialmedia.escanaba@gmail.com

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday 8:30am-2:30pm (lunch 12-1)
Friday.....8:30am-12pm

PHONE NUMBERS

Pastor Lily Brondyke 563-542-5746
Church Office 906-786-6642

February 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
4 10am Sunday Worship in person, Facebook live 11am coffee fellowship	5	6 11am-1pm Free Store 4pm-6pm- Free Store	7 9am Quilting 12pm Free Store Meeting	8 9:30am Bethany Beltes 10am Bible Study	9 10am Coffee Fellowship	10
11 10am Sunday Worship in person, Facebook live	12	13 9am Quilting 11am-1pm- Drive-thru Ashes 3pm-5pm-Drive-thru Ashes 6:30pm- Ash Wednesday Service	14 9am Quilting 11am-1pm- Drive-thru Ashes 3pm-5pm-Drive-thru Ashes 6:30pm- Ash Wednesday Service	15 10am Bible Study	16 10am Coffee Fellowship	17
18 10am Sunday Worship in person, Facebook live	19 6:30pm- Church Council Meeting	20	21 9am Quilting 4:30pm-Adult Formation Class 5:30pm- Lent Soup Supper 6:30pm-Mid-week Lent Service	22 10am Bible Study	23 10am Coffee Fellowship	24
25 10am Sunday Worship in person, Facebook live	26	27	28 9am Quilting 4:30pm-Adult Formation Class 5:30pm- Lent Soup Supper 6:30pm-Mid-week Lent Service	29 10am Bible Study		

PASTORAL PONDERINGS WITH PASTOR LILY



Greetings Friends!

On February 14th, we begin our journey through the season of Lent. Ash Wednesday prepares us for the forty days of Lent and culminates it's the three days of Holy Week. We hear, 'Remember you are dust, and to dust you shall return' and we mark our foreheads with ashes as a symbol of our need for God's grace and love in our lives.

Ashes symbolize multiplate aspects of being human:

- 1) An ancient symbol of repentance, ashes mark our foreheads as a sign of our need for God's forgiveness.
- 2) Ashes remind of us our own human fragility and the shortness of human life. One day we will all return to dust.
- 3) Ashes symbolize cleansing and renewal. On Ash Wednesday our foreheads are marked with the sign of the cross—the mark of our baptism! Even in our 'dustiness' we remember the hope and the promise of Easter!
- 4) Our ashes represent our need for repentance, confessions, and for God's forgiveness.

Ash Wednesday is full of ritual and symbolism to remind us of our need for the cross, the center of God's love, in our lives. Lent is journey to the cross, centered on the cross. On February 14th, and throughout Lent we will hear Psalm 51.

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit.

Psalm 51:10-12

We pray for God's transformative love in our own lives. "Create in me a clean heart, O God." God's love changes the world, and it changes us. Our own will and hearts become God's medium for life changing love and service. As we journey through Lent, we focus on the cross where God reveals this life changing love. We center ourselves on the cross of Christ, trusting in the promise of Easter hope.

This Lent Bethany is full of opportunities to worship, to engage in faith formation, to share in fellowship, and to join in communal spiritual practices. Be sure to read announcements, *The Echo*, and *The Monday Messenger* for all these opportunities.

And if you're thinking of asking someone to join you for worship on Ash Wednesday/Valentine's Day this year you can invite them with this lovely poem.

*Roses are red, violets are blue.
I want to remember my mortality with you.*

Peace,
Pastor Lily

2024 Radio & Floral Ministry Dates that are available!

Please contact the office to reserve, or mail your check with the date you are reserving



Radio Ministry

Each week our worship is broadcast on radio stations AM600 and FM 93.5. These broadcasts reach countless folks with our ministry and message. The cost to support a week is \$90. You may dedicate the broadcast for special events and memorials.

AVAILABLE RADIO SPONSORS 2024: Feb.-25; March-10,17,24; April-14,21; May- 5, 12,19,26; June-9,16,30; July-14,21,28; August-4,11,18; September-1,15,22,29; October-13,20,27; November- 17,24; December-15,22,24,29



Floral Ministry

Each week our altar is adorned with fresh flower arrangements. Two large vases of beautiful flowers help us prepare our altar for worship and are available to be picked up by those who sponsored them. The cost to support one week's floral ministry is \$17. Like the radio broadcast you may dedicate the flowers for special events and memorials.

AVAILABLE FLOWER SPONSORS 2024 (\$17.50): Feb.-18, 25; March-10,17,24; April-14,21; May-5,12,19,26; June-9,16,30; July-14,21,28; August-4,11,18; September-1,15,22,29; October- 13,20,27; November-10,17,24; December- 8,15,22,29



COFFEE FELLOWSHIP

Join us after worship on the **first** Sunday of every month for coffee and treats in the fellowship hall! Our next coffee fellowship date is **Sunday, March 3rd**.

We are in need of volunteers to help make coffee before worship and pick up donuts from Elmer's. Please let the church office know if you are able to help!



BETHANY BELLES

Will be meeting on Thursday, February 8th at 9:30a.m. in our conference room.



Bethany Lutheran Church Free Store News

The January Free Store was limited to one session in order to honor the memory of Karen Caswell. The steering team met on the 3rd of January and is currently developing operational guidelines to be posted on Free Store days as well as made available for all to review. These guidelines will help ensure that all shoppers and volunteers continue to be treated with fairness and dignity and that our neighbors and grounds continue to be respected.

Although we collect items (as well as monetary donations) all year long, Lent is the perfect time to focus on donating goods or money in order to help those in need. With this in mind, we will once again be doing a donation drive during Lent. A list of items will be posted soon.

This ministry offers care to those in need. Please consider volunteering for the Bethany Lutheran Free Store. One or two hours a month would be very helpful.



2024 LENTEN SOUP & SANDWICHES

Wednesday, February 21st at 5:30 PM will be our first soup and sandwich supper for the Lenten season.

Jacque Johnson and Maripatt Lindahl will be the coordinators. Once again, we will need soup, sandwiches, and dessert preparers.

Our groups/committees have been emailed their dates for serving and cleaning up. The dates are as follows:

2/21- Church Council
2/28- Youth Group
3/5- Church Staff
3/13- Property Committee
3/20- Social Ministry Group

If you have any questions or want to sign up to make food, contact Jacque at 906-280-3464, Maripatt at 906-280-2843 or Kelly in the church office. The binder with Signup sheets is available in the Narthex.

Thank you in advance for your participation!

Church Council Meeting Summary: January

- The Council, after a few clarifying questions, approved the 2023 financial report.
- The main item on the agenda was reviewing the first draft of the annual report. Several changes have been made to increase the report's readability such as highlighting key church statistics at a glance with larger print and charts.
- Changes were also discussed on how to make the meeting process more streamlined such as letting attendees read the committee reports ahead of time and then using a consensus vote for approving reports rather than go through each one separately.
- Church staff has also been working on a video presentation of Bethany's activities and accomplishments over the last year. Several projectors were purchased to better present the video at the annual meeting.
- The nominating committee reported that they have secured nominees for the upcoming vacancies on Council and for District 6 and Synod Assembly delegates. However, they are still looking for three people to volunteer for the Audit Committee. This year the Audit Committee will decide (and document) what parts of Bethany's books and financial processes need examination. It is the hope that each year the Audit Committee will slowly broaden the scope of their work.
- The next Council meeting will be held on February 19 at 6:30 p.m.



Please join the Sunday School children and their families on Sunday, February 11th as we "Tackle Hunger" in the Fellowship Hall. A soup lunch will be provided after the morning service, and we ask you to consider making a free will donation to benefit our local food pantry. This fun service project is part of the nationwide Souper Bowl of Caring, which has raised over \$193 MILLION in dollars and food throughout the US since it began in 1990. Bethany's youth are excited to once again be a part of this special service opportunity.

LENTEN FUNDRAISER



Bethany Lutheran
FREE STORE

*We're fundraising this Lent for our Free Store
to help local families in need!*

NOISY OFFERING

We will have a noisy offering time again during Sundays in Lent! Bring your spare change as our Sunday School kids help collect change for The Free Store.

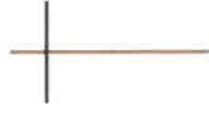
PRODUCT DONATIONS

In-kind items will be collected each Sunday during the offering. Keep an eye out for a list of which items we are collecting each Sunday!

OUR GOAL: \$6,000

**A BETHANY FAMILY WILL MATCH UP TO \$6,000
RAISED BY OUR CONGREGATION!**

*...and stay tuned to hear from our Free Store volunteers
each week in our Monday Messenger email newsletter!*



ADULT FAITH FORMATION

DEATH AND DYING AROUND THE CROSS

A CLASS ON PREPARING FOR THE END OF LIFE GROUNDED IN THE
HOPE OF RESURRECTION

WEDNESDAYS AT 4:30 PM AT BETHANY

FEBRUARY 21ST

THE PURPOSE AND HISTORY OF THE CHRISTIAN FUNERAL

FEBRUARY 28TH

TALKING WITH MARY ESP, OSF HOSPICE

MARCH 6TH (@ANDERSON FUNERAL HOME, ESCANABA)

TALKING KEITH ANDERSON, ANDERSON FUNERAL HOMES

MARCH 13TH

ACCOMPANYING AT TIMES OF DEATH

MARCH 20TH

PLANNING AHEAD WITH HOPE