Bethany Lutheran Church

124 W. Tenth Street Kaukauna, WI 54130 (920) 766-1452

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Rev. Rod Krueger, Pastor

2020 Annual Reports

Bethany Lutheran Church 2020 Officers and Boards

President	
Vice President	
Secretary	
	Joe Kamien
	Ron Margelofsky
	Wayne Owen
	Dan Thorson
Board of Church Properties	andy Weiland – Director Jason Fox
	Billy Jorgensen
	Dave Niesen
	Keith Petersen
	Richard Pomeroy
	Stacey Prodoehl Terry Stingle
	Amos Vanden Heuvel
	Bob Wendt
Board of Family Ministry	Kris Popp – Director
	Verna Hibbard
	Danelle Klaver
	Bonnie Smith
Board of Finance	ev – Director/Treasurer
	on – Financial Secretary
Board of Evangelism.	

Pastor's Annual Report 2020

My service to Bethany began on August 25 and was followed closely by my installation on Sunday, August 30. Since beginning my time as Pastor at Bethany I have been busying myself with service planning, visiting those who are homebound, attending adult Bible studies, teaching 8th grade catechism class, leading worship, calling on members, monthly meetings, a hospital visit, and a circuit meeting via zoom. Oh, and I almost forgot, several drive-through communions among other things.

I have been working with many of our lay leaders, Bruce Frederick, Bob Koehler, Sandy Weiland, and Kris Popp (just to name a few), in order to get the lay of the land here at Bethany. All of them have been very helpful. On Thursday, October 22 and Sunday, October 25, we remembered and celebrated Reformation Day at Bethany. Sunday, October 25 also gave us the joyous opportunity to present Bibles to our third grade students and their families. On October 30, I attended an online Advent Workshop hosted by Concordia, St. Paul. During the Advent and Christmas seasons this year, I will be doing a Midweek Sermon Series based on the Book of Micah. I pray that it will be a blessing to all of us during these seasons of the church year and beyond.

In November and December, I will be visiting members of Bethany individually. These visits will be done in person or virtually depending on member preference. I would also anticipate that these visits would continue well into 2021. Bethany will also host a Thanksgiving Eve service on Wednesday, November 25 at 6:30 p.m. As we continue to deal with the realities of the Corona virus pandemic, we are currently seeking input from members of Bethany regarding our regular worship schedule and our holiday worship schedule. I encourage every member of Bethany to participate in providing us with the requested information, so that we can determine how to best serve our membership and community during this challenging time.

I believe the Pandemic is going to be with us well into 2021, but that does not mean that we cannot continue to serve God, each other, and our community. As we continue to live in the midst of the pandemic, I would like to see us continue to care for one another as Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I also want us to consider how we might serve our neighbor in need in the midst of the pandemic and even beyond.

And just to give you a heads up we will be doing some celebrating in 2021. On Sunday, January 17, 2021, we will be remembering Bethany's charter Sunday as part of our 75th anniversary celebration. In addition, in the spring of 2021 we will celebrate the Rite of Confirmation for several of our students at Bethany.

Thank you for the warm welcome that we have received to Bethany. Thank you for the good meals that were prepared, the kind words, and your thoughts and prayers.

May God Bless and keep you all! Pastor Rod

Board of Elders Annual Report 2020

Current Board Members: Joe Kamien, Bob Koehler, Ron Margelofsky, Wayne Owen, and Dan Thorson.

The Board of Elders meets monthly to discuss the spiritual needs of the congregation. Areas of discussion also include worship service schedules, ushering, baptism, communion, confirmation, and church membership.

Church Service attendance year-to-date 2,874 (as of 9/16/20) 7,379 in 2019

Worship Schedule

Regular Worship Schedule for November-April: Saturdays-4:30 p.m.

Sundays-9:00 a.m.

Regular Worship Schedule for May-October: Thursdays-6:30 p.m.

Sundays-9:00 a.m.

Special Worship Services scheduled for this fall/winter:

-Thanksgiving Eve Service - November 25, 2020

-Advent Services - December 2, 9, 16, 2020

-Christmas Eve Services at 3:00 p.m., 5:00 p.m.

-Christmas Day Service at 9:00 a.m.

Ushers, Elders, snack counter and collection plate

Bethany's congregation is very blessed to have members who have shared their time and talents throughout the year. We give thanks for the volunteers who assist in both the worship services, fellowship snack area, as well as counting the offerings we receive. If you have an interest in serving the Lord's house as an usher, elder, collection counter, or coffee/snack assistant, please contact the church office or any member of the Board of Elders.

2020 Worship Year in Review

We ended 2019 under a pastoral vacancy with Pastors Ronald Raddatz, Vernon Heim, and Marvin Ahlborn. During the first six months of 2020, Pastor Marvin Ahlborn led worship services. The church elders visited shut-ins monthly January through March, while we were without a full-time shepherd. Bethany and our community experienced a different obstacle when a virus invaded our midst. Covid-19 forced the church to close worship from mid-March to the end of June 2020. Shut-in members were also not visited from March to the time of this writing, per the Health Care Communities recommendation. Bethany Lutheran Church was able to begin online worship services with Vacancy Pastor Ahlborn. In addition, we performed "drive thru" communion under the church awning. Members received the Body and Blood of our Lord beginning with Pastor Ahlborn. In-person worship using social distancing and pew spacing began at the end of June 2020. One church service on Thursday and one service Sunday were utilized and video streaming of Sunday worship continues. At the time of this writing, drive-up communion also continues on the first and third Sunday, in addition to communion offerings in the church sanctuary.

The Bethany Call Committee met in late spring, called, and Pastor Rod Krueger accepted our call. He was installed on August 30, 2020. We rejoice that our prayers were answered and a full-time Pastor is in our midst. A heart-felt thank you to all the pastors that continued to spread God's Word prior to Pastor Rod's installation.

Thanks to all those who prayed for our church and reached out in Christian love to one another. As a result, the Lord provides us strength and courage to continue spreading His Word.

Lastly, Bethany has many giving people who dedicated countless hours during this year of "Different". My heart warms as I think of all the wonderful people that make up Bethany Lutheran Church.

Yours in Christ; Bob Koehler, Director-Board of Elders.

Statistical Changes through October 26, 2020

2010	2018	2019	2020
1086	719	526	509
786	562	443	428
29	7	8	3
11	12	3 1000	5
279	189	170	78
	1086 786 29 11	1086 719 786 562 29 7 11 12	1086 719 526 786 562 443 29 7 8 11 12 3

Board of Finance and Stewardship Annual Report 2020

Finance: In review, our previous 12-months (October '19-September '20) offerings were \$91,506 more than our expenses. Even though this sounds great we must remember several items that were very different about this year from other years. 1.) without FTE Pastor 2.) without FTE DFM and 3.) COVID-19.

Each of these on their own can cause unrest but having all 3 took a lot of unique thinking and planning. All of them decreased the total expenses that the church incurred over the year — therefore, benefiting us when Covid shut us down, we rose to the challenge. Providing online church services for our congregation was a fantastic opportunity for us to stay strong and be there for each other, drive through communion — what a great idea, it allowed us to feel like we were still communing together. COVID has taught us a lot, Covid has cost us a lot, Covid has made us change our lives to the not-so-normal. But Bethany is a survivor, we stood strong and stayed strong and look where we are at today! We have a new Pastor and we have a fresh look on a new year to bring glory to our Lord.

We've adjusted some of the budget totals to allow us to grow instead of fall back. Our 2021 Offerings budget is being set about 22% less than last year due to a decrease in offerings received and the unknown future of offerings – offerings for the 2021 budget have been set at \$224,350.

In His Name,

Lisa Offerman-Cooley Director of Finance

Budget Assumptions for the Year 2020

Salaries & Benefits:

We will carry a total Salaries budget of \$107,750 this year, this total includes us applying for an intern DFM. If we are lucky enough to get a DFM we would not get one until June 2021 so the budget reflects 6 months salary this year and the other 6 months salary will be included in the 2022 proposed budget. Our Benefits budget increased due to adding a FTE pastor to our staff this year and not having that cost while without a Pastor.

Office Expenses:

Office Expenses are projected to be about 8% lower this year.

Education:

Not being able to foresee when we will be getting children back to classrooms, we have decreased the total Education budget by 52% - this was capable through material previously purchased and the ability to use in the future. Currently, we are offering virtual Sunday School materials for our children.

Properties:

We are budgeting the same for the Utilities in the church – due to not having as many services we are seeing lower bills this year.

Maintenance budget is staying the same. We were able to pay back the cost of the Elevator last year and by utilizing multiple generous gifts we were able to complete some much needed projects around the church.

Total Expenses:

The budget shows a decrease in projected expenses from our 2020 Budget right at 22%.

Board of Family Ministry Report 2020

Members: Verna Hibbard, Bonnie Smith, Kris Popp (chair)

Sunday School

For 2019-20, we had an enrollment of approximately 30 enthusiastic Sunday School students. Once March 2020 rolled around, Sunday School was suspended for the rest of the education year. In September, we launched an "at home" Sunday School which made resources available to our families on the church website. We continued using the "Enduring Faith" curriculum which was first adopted in 2019. It is our hope to resume in-person Sunday School sometime in 2021. Thank you to our dedicated Sunday School teachers and helpers. You are a great blessing to our church.

VBS

In early 2020, we made plans to offer "Rocky Railway" Vacation Bible School in July. However, like so many things, we had to put VBS on hold. Right now, the plan is to offer VBS in July 2021. Thank you to Stacy Karle for your leadership in the VBS program.

Midweek

In November 2019, LeAnn Johnson started teaching our "Bible Basics" class for 5th and 6th graders. The purpose of this class is to prepare the children for catechism study and introduce them to practical ways to live out their faith. Sadly, these classes also were suspended starting in March 2020. LeAnn was able to get together with her class a few times over the summer. The class resumed in September 2020. LeAnn is a true servant leader and we so appreciate her sharing her talents with our students and their families.

Youth

Our Wednesday night Youth Bible Study was going strong at the beginning of 2020. Like other programs, we had to suspend in-person sessions of this group in March. Stacy Karle kept meeting with the kids via zoom throughout the spring and summer. The group started meeting in person again in September with Jim Smith. Thank you so much to Stacy and Jim for all your work among our older youth.

Confirmation

In fall 2019, we had four students begin independent confirmation studies with support from Jim Smith and their families. The intent had been to confirm these students in October 2020. Given the current health situation, the students have elected to delay their confirmation until spring 2021.

This September, Pastor Rod began a catechism class for anyone looking to pursue the right of confirmation. Anyone who has not been confirmed in the Lutheran church is welcome to join this group.

Adult Bible Studies

We have three adult Bible studies going at this time. Tuesday morning, Wednesday early evening and Monday night (Men of Bethany). We hope to bring back our Sunday morning Bible study in 2021.

2021 hopes/goals/plans

Like everyone else, my prayer is that 2021 looks more "normal" than 2020 has. Our biggest goal for the year ahead is to work on filling our vacant Director of Family Ministry position. This is a high priority task for early 2021 now that Pastor Rod has had a few months to settle in at Bethany. We pray that we are able to resume in-person Sunday School and Sunday Bible study. We also hope that we can go ahead with VBS in summer. I am reminded that we don't know what the future holds, but we know that God holds our future.

God keeps your days stable and secure—Isaiah 33:6 - The Message

To God be the Glory +

In Christ, Kris Popp, Board of Family Ministry, Chair

Board of Church Properties Annual Report 2020

2020 Summary of Church Properties Completed Projects

Finished roof repair and installed heat trace
Jason Fox installed backsplash tiles in basement kitchen
Purchased one new forced air furnace servicing the church offices
Had parking lot resealed
Completed a number of small electrical projects
Completed our technology upgrade and phone system upgrade project
Addressed a number of plumbing issues and replaced some fixtures and toilets
Replaced exterior old wooden cross with a new aluminum cross
Hired Gary Holcomb as our custodian after Terry Kass resigned
Had repairs and maintenance services done to our boiler and air conditioning units

Future Projects

Tenth Street Sign - LED Lighting retrofit for main (top) portion of the sign
Install new furnace that services the offices
Begin LED Lighting Retrofit throughout the building to replace fluorescent lighting
Replace the remaining three forced air furnaces funded with a \$25,000 October 2020 gift
Compile and publish a monetary gift catalogue of projects identified by Bethany Church
Properties, including estimated costs. Donors will be able to look at the catalogue and choose what projects they want to fund.

2021 Church Properties Budget

Adding \$10,000 to Contract Services to support the LED Lighting Retrofit Project; all other church properties line items to remain the same as they were for 2020.

Board of Evangelism Annual Report 2020

The Board of Evangelism has been without a Chairperson for the entire year of 2020. We do have some past members of the board willing to continue this activity. Please consider giving your talents to this much needed part of the ministry at Bethany.

We did have some wonderful activities related to the Board's mission of *sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with others*. Thanks to Joan Borg we had a "Giving Tree" during the Advent time last year. Many of you participated by donating gloves, hats, mittens and scarves to share with needy people in Fox Cities. Members donated 239 pairs of socks, 108 hats, 98 gloves/mittens, and 37 scarves. Donations were evenly distributed between the *Clothes Closet* in Menasha and *Pillars* in Appleton.

A plan is now being made for another Giving Tree during the Advent period this year asking for donations of home staples for our homebound and shut-ins. More information on this activity is coming in the church announcements and newsletters.

A final activity to report on was our "Lenten Denial Offerings" campaign that was to assist Victory Lutheran Church in Gwinn, Michigan. Members were asked to prayerfully consider contributing to the mission of Victory Lutheran Church and its ongoing struggle to bring the Good News of Jesus to its community. We raised \$1,340 in this effort. Victory Lutheran was very thankful to everyone who contributed.

2021 Budget Proposal					for		
2021 Budget i Toposai							ranifer sure
11/06/2020	2017	2018	2019	Oct19- Sep20	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	Change from 2020 Budget
Total 400 Weekly Offerings	281,821	263,151	256,173	#REF!	288,805	224,350	-22.32%
Expenses							
500 Salaries & Benefits							101000000
501 Salaries						Constant	ESTREE S SOURCE
5001 Pastor Salary	59,771	57,346	37,999	10,741	69,785	64,000	Grade State Co. 12
5002 DFM Salary	28,791	38,375	15,037	925	34,560	12,000	
5005 Secretary Salary	15,236	14,955	15,537	15,474	15,925	14,400	Second States of
5006 Organist Salary	9,388	9,914	9,840	6,396	12,709	8,600	moster with a first first
5007 Custodian Salary	3,945	3,642	4,971	3,973	5,240	6,750	single section
5029 Contract Labor-Guest	2,614	2,385	5,450	15,975	2,000	2,000	S calebrate tags
Total 501 Salaries	119,746	126,617	88,835	53,485	141,238	107,750	-23.719
502 Benefits	110,740	120,017	00,000	55,405	141,200	101,100	20.71)
5040 Moving\\Recruiting Expense	0	0	2,387	4,458	7,500	0	PROMINE NO CE O
5041 Employers FICA	2,925	2,181	2,339	2,042	2,669	2,276	BRIM DENGES C
5042 Internship Expenses	157	0	0	0	0	1,000	180100176
5051 Concordia Plan Pastor	30,629	27,510	2,361	24	24,111	34,196	SOUTH PROBLEMS OF STREET
5052 Concordia Plan DFM	7,217	14,378	5,149	0	11,981	0	88079603
Total 502 Benefits	40,927	44,069	12,236	6,524	46,261	37,472	8 8 12 L 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
Total 500 Salaries & Benefits	160,673	170,686	101,070	60,009	187,499	145,222	-22.55%
510 Office Expenses	7 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	5 1 3.38 2	I tak	- 700			
5031 Mileage Pastor	2,292	1,800	1,781	2,147	2,000	2,000	A 8 108008181 801
5150 Office Supplies	2,823	2,823	2,695	2,603	3,500	3,500	BUTHEL SSE 10
5151 Postage	573	551	1,814	1,541	1,200	1,200	650000 (40 to
5159 Computer Hdw, Sfw & Support	1,255	1,337	2,166	8,398	1,000	1,000	1979(7)
5165 Advertising	172	326	326	76	300	300	95 23901100 100
5170 Conventions Pastor	2,000	-3,024	0	0	500	500	2 6 -1 -1 -0 -61
5171 Conventions DFM	500	187	0	0	200	0	S & CHEGON CH
5172 Mileage DFM	0	0	0	0	500	0	T STREET OF
Total 510 Office Expenses	9,616	4.000	8,782	14,767	9,200	8,500	-7.61%
511 Worship		.,	000				TOUT graterial TOUR
5101 Church Supplies	4,074	3,166	3,733	3,452	3,000	3,000	obiomoo ita vs.
5104 Music	0	784	175	459	500	500	emblo ked is
Total 511 Worship	4,074	3,950	3,908	3,911	3,500	3,500	0.00%
512 Youth		5 6 6 6 6					- Rozentady
5107 Youth Outreach	368	581	157	0	1,000	0	
5109 National Youth Gathering	0	1,325	0	0	1,325	0	
Total 512 Youth	368	1,906	157	0	2,325	0	-100.00%
The second of th	-		-				

11/06/2020	2017	2018	2019	Oct19- Sep20	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	Change from 2020 Budget
520 Education							30000000
5201 Sunday School	3,560	3,559	1,196	433	4,500	2,000	
5202 Mid Week	479	385	153	100	500	250	acac.
5203 Youth Adult	503	794	69	0	500	250	
5204 Vacation Bible School	811	0	254	218	750	300	AUG VOIGEVU DUA
5205 General	0	0	0	- 0	0	0	80
5206 Bibles & Library	204	11	12	0	350	300	ioned 5 espais
5207 Cradle Roll	8	0	0	0	400	200	estimise
5208 Confirmation	482	1,113	413	210	450	250	TAIRÉ INIBRY IUI
5209 Family Ministry	857	1,221	35	311	1,450	750	102 DEM Salary
5210 Adult Education	1,393	719	486	194	1,100	500	në vasterasë 80
Total 520 Education	8,296	7,802	2,618	1,466	10,000	4,800	-52.00%
530 Missions & Evangelism	1 679	8 1 150,	5,42	- I ase	8		2 mathodas 2 You
5301 NW District Payments	25,796	25,620	23,844	21,245	21,604	19,942	is a financia of the
5302 Evangelism & Local Missions	4,552	0 8 8	13	0	5,426	4,986	BalticisE 102 to
5303 SS & Midweek Missions	0	0	0	0	0	0	Benefits
5305 Stephen Ministry	76	62	283	0	350	0	antillonivatil dis
5306 Synodical	550	292	1,193	0	1,500	0	Lenevolene 191
Total 530 Missions & Evangelism	30,973	25,974	25,333	21,245	28,880	24,928	B-qirlentatal XM
540 Properties	6 1 43	196.5	018.5	629 2	08	Total Paris	Francisco Per
541 Utilities	1 10	1 641,0	1,378,1	7 715	7	11110.10	ez Concordia A
5404 Electric Church	6,777	8,045	5,280	5,032	7,500	7,500	st 902 Benefits
5405 Water Church	1,704	1,529	1,641	1,756	2,200	2,200	Sec Salaries & I
5406 Telephone Church	6,695	7,161	5,654	4,741	6,700	6,700	esaneco 3 eath
5407 Gas Church	3,669	4,429	4,722	4,043	5,200	5,200	t Militage Paeto
Total 541 Utilities	18,846	21,164	17,297	15,572	21,600	21,600	0.00%
542 Other] Net	h/8,	551 - J	63	Andrew Control of the	See Million Co.	apetao5 i
5401 Contract Services	4,160	3,696	4,296	4,896	5,000	5,000	obsistantia
5402 Maintenance Supplies	1,464	2,926	2,825	6,845	2,500	2,500	s Adverdsing
5403 Repairs & Supplies	1,026	1,758	3,981	5,802	2,800	2,800	0 Conventions
5410 Insurance Prop and Gen Liab	4,737	4,879	5,232	4,976	5,500	5,500	I znošnevac 2 i
5421 Building Improvements	3,000	2,250	0	0	0	0	2 Milence DEM
5423 Parking Lot Improvements Fund	2,000	1,500	0	0	0	0	ARB PSRO DIS
5424 Air Conditioning Fund	4,000	3,000	0	0	0	0	
Total 542 Other	30,387	20,009	16,334	22,520	25,800	15,800	-38.76%
Total 540 Properties	49,233	41,173	33,631	38,091	47,400	37,400	-21.10%
Total Expenses	263,233	255,492	175,500	139,490	288,805	224,350	-22.32%
Net Income	18,588	7,659	80,673	95,812	0	0	

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BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH: "DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY"

The purpose of this document is to define spending approval limits for various groups or individuals at Bethany in order to provide a functioning congregation with proper "due diligence" in decision making for expenditures.

- 1) The Voters have the ultimate authority to approve funds for any expenditure, at any level. A simple majority of voters at a meeting can approve expenditures. However, the congregational Bylaws (Article 111-Number 5) states that "A two-thirds majority of votes cast shall be required for the approval of building construction, the purchase of property, or the sale of property." Property is defined as building or land.
- 2) The Council, acting on behalf of the Congregation, shall be given the authority to approve expenditures of budgeted or non-budgeted items other than building or land to the <u>maximum of \$7,500</u>. Above that amount, the approval of the Voters will be sought.
- 3) The only exception to number 2 is if the Council is dealing with an emergency request or situation which demands immediate action or if the situation is funded through emergency funding by the congregation. (Example: Roof repair)
- 4) The Director of the Board of Church Properties shall have the authority to approve emergency expenditures up to \$5,000 without approval from the Council or Voters to ensure a proper functioning building or land. Expenditures above that amount must follow all of the above principles.
- 5) Staff of Bethany (secretary and custodian) can expend funds for normal supplies for daily operations. However, they cannot spend more than \$100 for items beyond normal supplies without the approval of the Treasurer.
- 6) Called Staff of Bethany can expend funds for their normal supplies for daily operation. However, they cannot spend more than \$250 for items beyond normal supplies without the approval of the Council. (Exceptions to this include expenditures for Council approved travel such as hotel and airfares.)

February 2020: Delegation of Authority

Annual Meeting Voters' Assembly November 8, 2020

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Pastor Rod Krueger Report
- III. Director and Committee Reports
 - a. Board of Elders Bob Koehler
 - b. Board of Finance Lisa Offerman-Cooley
 - c. Board of Family Ministry Kris Popp
 - d. Board of Church Properties Sandy Weiland
 - e. Board of Evangelism -
- IV. Election of Directors
 - a. Board of Elders Bob Koehler
 - b. Board of Finance Lisa Offerman-Cooley
 - c. Vice President -
 - d. Board of Evangelism -
- V. Business Concerns Approval of 2021 Budget
- VI. New Business
 - a. Delegation of Authority Bruce Frederick
 - b. LED Lighting Project Sandy Weiland
 - c.
- VII. Read and approve minutes of Annual Meeting
- VIII. Adjournment and Closing