# Bethany Lutheran Church

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

Email: <a href="mailto:secretary@bethanykaukauna.org">secretary@bethanykaukauna.org</a>
<a href="mailto:http://www.bethanykaukauna.org">http://www.bethanykaukauna.org</a>

Rev. Rod Krueger, Pastor Violet Schmitz, Secretary

2022 Annual Report

## Bethany Lutheran Church 2022 Officers and Boards

President	•
Vice President	••
Secretary	Cheri Rietveld
Board of Elders	
	Mike Baarts
	Joe Kamien
	Ron Margelofsky
	Wayne Owen
	Dan Thorson
	Scott Schupbach
	Ryan Peterson
	Steve Schuelle
Board of Church	.Bob Wendt (Acting Director)
Properties	John Boldt
	Jason Fox
	Gary Holcomb
	Bill Jorgensen
	Dave Niesen
	Keith Petersen
	Richard Pomeroy
	Stacey Prodoehl
	Terry Stingle
Board of Family Ministry	Jessica Stingle (Director)
	Gretchen Krueger
	Bonnie Smith
Board of Finance	. Lisa Offerman-Cooley (Director)
	Barb Wendt Treasurer
	Gordy Anderson Financial Secretary
Board of Evangelism	.Amy Stingle (Director)
	Joan Borg
	Bruce Frederick

## Annual Meeting: Voters' Assembly

## November 13, 2022

- I. Opening Prayer
- II. Pastor Rod Krueger's Report
- III. Director's and Board Reports
  - a. Board of Elders: Bob Koehler
  - b. Board of Family Ministry: Jessica Stingle
  - c. Board of Church Properties: Bob Wendt (Interim)
  - d. Board of Finance: Lisa Offerman-Cooley
  - e. Board of Evangelism: Amy Stingle
- IV. Election of Council Officers:
  - a. President: Bob Koehler
  - b. Vice President
  - c. Director of Board of Elders: Mike Baarts
  - d. Director of Church Properties
  - e. Director of Family Ministry: Jessica Stingle
  - f. Director of Evangelism
  - g. Secretary
- V. Business: Discussion/Approval of 2023 Budget
- VI. New Business:

a.

VII. Read and Approve Minutes of Annual Meeting VIII. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

# Pastor's Report 2022 Bethany Lutheran Church Kaukauna, WI

Since my last report in November of 2021 Bethany has journeyed through most of another church year. We celebrated and gave thanks for God's many gifts at our Thanksgiving Eve service on November 23, 2021. Our Advent Season included a Midweek sermon series entitled "Wait Upon the Lord" and the Children's Christmas Service on Sunday, December 19, 2021. We celebrated the Birth of Christ with three services on Christmas Eve and one service on Christmas Day and closed out the calendar Year with a New Year's Eve service on December 31st.

In January and February, we collected household and toiletry items for Victory Lutheran Church in Gwinn, Michigan. The month of February also saw the return of the Chili Cook Off hosted by the Men of Bethany.

The month of March brought with it the first of two Prayer Service Events on Sunday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, Ash Wednesday, and the beginning of the Season of Lent. Midweek Lenten Suppers made their return to Bethany. Thank you to all those who hosted meals during the Season of Lent. Our Wednesday Midweek, Holy Week, and Easter services included a Sermon Series entitled: "Witnesses to Christ."

The month of April saw Bethany host an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup>. Approximately, ninety children from the congregation and community attended. During Holy Week Mel Tolliver led a Passover meal presentation for our congregation. On Easter Sunday, April 17<sup>th</sup> we celebrated the Resurrection of our Lord Jesus, and the Men of Bethany hosted Easter Breakfast.

In the Month of May Bethany hosted the Kaukauna Police Department for a couple of Office Training Sessions. Thankfully, we only lost one window, and the office involved escaped with only minor injuries.

The summer months saw the return of a number of events to Bethany in 2022. In June two of Bethany's young people participated in the Rite of Confirmation, confessing their faith in Christ as Lord and Savior. Gary Reimer and I attended the North Wisconsin District convention on June 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> in Rothschild, WI. We closed out the month with about thirty members attending a Wisconsin Timber Rattlers game. Sadly, the game was rained out after 2.5 innings, but everyone who attended received a rain check for another gamer during the 2022 season.

The month of July saw the return of Vacation Bible School to Bethany from July 11 through the 15th. He had an excellent group of kids from our congregation and community. Thank you to all of our VBS volunteers, and to all those who donated. Your efforts made for a wonderful week of Vacation Bible School. At the end of July, Bethany hosted an outdoor worship service and church picnic at La Follette Park, here in Kaukauna. The Praise Band led us in song during the outdoor service. Following the outdoor service, we enjoyed the church picnic with hamburgers, hot dogs, and too many delicious sides and desserts to mention. We played bingo, and there were games and activities for the kids too.

In early August, the youth of our congregation hosted a Car Wash at Bethany. They washed 25-30 cars and took in more than \$250 in donations. Later in August, the youth made a trip to Tundra Lodge for an afternoon at the Water Park. Last, but not least, the summer months gave Bethany an opportunity to participate in the Kaukauna Farmers Market. On four occasions we were able to set up a table at the Farmer's Market sharing information about Bethany, inviting families to Vacation Bible School, Sunday School, and most recently to our community meal. We had Bibles on hand to give to anyone who wanted one. We also shared water and fruit snacks with many who attended the Farmer's Market. Thank you to Bruce Frederick, and all our volunteers for making our presence at the Farmer's Market possible.

In the month of September Bethany hosted a Back to School Prayer service at River View Middle School. Participants braved rain and drizzle to pray for district staff, families, and students for a successful and safe school year. The very next day, Sunday, September 11th Bethany opened another year of Sunday School for the children of our congregation and community. On September 18<sup>th</sup> Bethany hosted the first of our community meals serving about forty-five people, and we closed out the month of September with a motorcycle ride to Green Bay and back with a nice lunch in the middle.

In October, the Board of Elders hosted a Brat Fry, and we recognized New Members in each of our services on October 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup>. On October 16<sup>th</sup> we hosted our second Community meal serving about forty people. In addition, we kicked off Operation Christmas Child this month. At this writing more than sixty boxes have been signed out, and we have raised more than \$500 dollars to help cover the cost of shipping the boxes around the world. We will close the month of October at Bethany by hosting a Trunk or Treat for our community, and by celebrating Reformation Sunday.

Thank you all for your service and participation in our church family during 2022. I look forward to continuing the Lord's work here at Bethany and in our community in 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Pastor Rod

## **Board of Elders Annual Report**

## 2022

**Current Board Members**: Joe Kamien, Wayne Owen, Scott Schupbach, Dan Thorson, Ryan Petersen, Steve Schnuelle, Mike Baarts and Bob Koehler.

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

Church Service attendance year-to-date 5,200. (As of 9/30/22)

3,996 in 2021.

#### **Worship Schedule**

Regular Worship Schedule for November-April: Thursdays-6:30 pm,

Wednesdays-6:30 pm during advent and Lent

Sunday- 7:45 am

Sunday-10:00am

Regular Worship Schedule for May-October: Thursdays-6:30 pm

Sundays-9:00 am

## Special Worship Services scheduled for this fall/winter:

-Thanksgiving Eve Service-November 23, 2022

-Advent Services- Nov. 30, Dec. 7, 14, 21 2022

-Christmas Eve Services (Dec. 24: 3:00pm, 5:00pm)

-Christmas Day Service (12/25/22 9:00am)

## **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 service, Greeters, Readers, Altar Guild, Sunday School/Midweek Teachers, Contemporary Band Members. If you have an interest in serving the Lord's house as a Greeter, elder, teacher, singer

and coffee/snack assistant, please contact the church office or any member of the Board of Elders.

## 2022 Worship Year in Review

We ended 2021 under the pastoral leadership of Pastor Rod Krueger. Our church services were one service on Thursdays and 2 services on Sundays. Pastor and Elders wore Face coverings when distributing Holy Communion until fall 2022. Our community and church were returning to "Normal" following 2021, year of Covid 19. We continued to Host Drive Thru communion until September 4. 2022. After which, members wishing to receive Holy communion and not comfortable coming to church were encouraged to call Pastor and make arrangements. A greeter program was started in September, prior to services volunteers welcomed worshippers and helped guide those entering God's house. At the direction of our congregation, we have begun the process of calling a Church worker for youth and families and we should continue to pray for God's will to be done for the families of Bethany.

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 to our congregation, families and church. 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.

CLATICAL	Cl	1 la la	NI I	4 2022
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	2010	2020	2021	2022	
Baptized Members	1086	509	432	447	
Confirmed Members	786	428	401	384	
Baptisms	29	3	3	3	
Funerals	11	4	8	22	
Average Weekly Worship Attendance	279	78	103	130	

## Bethany Lutheran Church 2022 Annual Voters Meeting Properties Committee Report

The state of Bethany Lutheran Church buildings and grounds over the last 12 months is vey4r good. In the past 14 months, we have had a new forced air furnace installed. Currently, we are looking at having to replace our AC units in the near future. We have 3 out of 4 units working, but at 22(+) years old, they need to be replaced. The cost to replace the entire system could be in the \$100,000 range.

We need to start budgeting for a new roof in the next 10-15 years. This, too, is a high dollar item.

I'm very thankful for the custodian and maintenance work of John Schroeder in the past year. John has moved on and Gary Holcomb has agreed to take on the position again. Thanks Gary.

The Properties Committee is looking for members to step up and join our committee. Many have been involved for a lot of years and would like to share the volunteering with new blood. Currently, there are eight members on the committee. Anyone is welcome to join.

Properties Director position is needed again this year. PLEASE consider taking on this role. Contact Bob Wendt at 920-716-1115.

Always Praying
Bethany Director of Properties
Bob Wendt

## **2022 Board of Family Ministry Annual Report**

Members: Jessica Stingle, Bonnie Smith, Gretchen Krueger

This was my first year as Bethany's Director of Family Ministry. I have really enjoyed getting to know all the young people and their families in this congregation. We are so lucky to have you all here. It was a bit of a transition in the beginning, but the role quickly became a passion of mine. We have done so much in 2022 and I cannot wait to continue in the future years!

In Sunday school, we started this September with a new curriculum. It is through Group, which is who we get our VBS materials from. The Pre-K through 3rd graders are learning from the Simply Loved curriculum, and our 4th through 6th graders are learning from the Be Bold curriculum. They are all really enjoying the change with the fun lessons, bible buddies, and singing every Sunday! We started at the beginning of the bible this quarter and will continue working through the stories of the bible in future quarters! We currently have 18 children enrolled.

Also on Sundays, Gretchen Krueger started a youth bible study. It is called Lies Youth Believe. The bible study focuses on the lies we believe to be true, and the truths that set us free! We are hoping more youth join her on this journey in the future!

When it comes to our Wednesday night education classes, we have Gretchen Krueger teaching our 5th and 6th graders bible basics, Pastor Rod Krueger is teaching our confirmation class, and Jim Smith is teaching our high school students.

For the 2021-2022 education year, we had 2 youth confirmed.

We were able to bring back VBS this summer from July 11th-15th. We had 20 children join us on the Rocky Railway. It was a great group of kids. Lots of fun was had, lots of friendships were made, and they all walked away loving Jesus even more!

Our youth have been participating in lots of events this year as well. We hosted a community Easter egg hunt, had our end of education year picnic, held a tie dye event, car wash, went to Tundra Lodge, held an end of summer/beginning of our education year bonfire, painted pumpkins for shut ins, held trunk or treat, and had many other fun youth nights where we connected and grew in Christ in between. It really has been an amazing year!

Blessings to you and your families,

Jessica Stingle
Director of Family Ministry

## **BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS FOR THE YEAR 2023**

#### **SALARIES & BENEFITS**

We will carry a proposed total Salaries budget of \$127,818 into 2023. This total includes Bethany's search for a DFM through the call process and its related salary and expenses being based on a 6 month term. Total Benefits budget is increased this year as we are including the cost of a DFM and spouse in addition to our Pastor and his family.

## **OFFICE EXPENSES**

Office Expenses are projected to be a little less than we budgeted for last year – this is due to coming in lower on some categories and removing the mileage allocation for Pastor.

#### **EDUCATION**

Christian education is a very important category for the Church. We budgeted \$4,600 in 2022 and only used a bit over \$2000. That being said, we reviewed what was spent in 2022 overall and lowered our proposed 2023 budget to \$3900. This is still allowing for an increase in the VBS budget amount for new material. We feel confident that even though the total Education budget is lower than 2022, we have accounted for our needs and the needs of educating our Sunday School children, our Youth and Adult members of the congregation.

## **EVANGELISM**

We have a 30% increase in our Evangelism budget – this is exciting news as we now have an Evangelism leader on our council and have implemented some new and exciting ideas and events bringing our faith stronger with each other. The Evangelism budget is normally based on 10% of total offerings, this 10% tithe is given to the District in monthly payments. Due to the addition of a DFM salary and benefits that we didn't have in 2022 this amount is higher.

## **PROPERTIES**

We will only see a 4% increase in the Properties budget for 2023. Due to increases in utility costs and maintenance issues we are projecting a bit higher budget for 2023. Most of the bigger property items were taken care of in 2022 with the many donations that the church received throughout the year. Our church family is very blessed in so many ways by this.

We raised our giving to the Sinking Funds for Air Conditioning Units and Boilers, a Building Improvement Fund and a Parking Lot Improvement Fund.

### TOTAL EXPENSES

The budget shows an increase in projected expenses from our 2022 Budget right at 20.85%. This again, is due to the addition of a DFM salary and benefits to our budget that we need to account for in offerings.

Lisa Offerman-Cooley Director-Board of Finance

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH 2022 Budget Proposal									
11/04/2022	2017 Budge t	2018 Budget	2019 Budge t	2020 Budget	2021 Budget	2022 Budge t	Oct21 -Sep2 2	2023 Budget	Chang e from 2022 Budget
Total 400 Weekly Offerings	281,821	263,151	256,173	288,805	224,350	225,466	224,98 5	271,194	20.28%
Expenses	7.		,		,	,		,	
500 Salaries & Benefits									
501 Salaries									
5001 Pastor Salary	59,771	57,346	37,999	69,785	64,000	66,000	65,748	69,000	
5002 DFM Salary	28,791	38,375	15,037	34,560	12,000	12,000	0	21,250	
5005 Secretary Salary	15,236	14,955	15,537	15,925	14,400	15,926	13,365	16,324	
5006 Organist Salary	9,388	9,914	9,840	12,709	8,600	11,945	12,944	12,244	

5007 Custodian Salary	3,945	3,642	4,971	5,240	6,750	4,545	6,417	7,500	
5029 Contract Labor-Guest	2,614	2,385	5,450	2,000	2,000	2.000	1,100	1,500	
Total 501 Salaries	119,746	126,617	88,835	141,238	107,750	112,416	99.574	127,818	13.70%
502 Benefits	110,740	120,011	00,000	141,200	101,100	112,410	00,014	127,010	10.7 0 70
5040									
Moving\\Recruiting Expense DFM			2,387	7,500	0	0	0	6,500	
5041 Employers FICA	2,925	2,181	2,339	2,669	2,276	2,391	2,486	2,759	
5049 Bonus Pastor	236.12					0	0	0	
5051 Concordia Plan Pastor	30,629	27,510	2,361	24,111	39,238	34,196	35.773	39,238	
5052 Concordia Plan				•	39,230		/		
DFM	7,217	14,378	5,149	11,981		0	0	13,360	
Total 502 Benefits Total 500 Salaries &	40,927	44,069	12,236	46,261	41,514	36,587	38,259 137,83	61,857	
Benefits	160,673	170,686	101,070	187,499	149,264	149,003	3	189,675	27.30%
510 Office Expenses									
5031 Mileage Pastor	2,292	1,800	1,781	2,000	2,000	2,000	32	0	
5150 Office Supplies	2,823	2,823	2,695	3,500	3,500	3,000	2,480	2,750	
5151 Postage	573	551	1,814	1,200	1,200	1,200	898	1,000	
5159 Computer Hdw, Sfw & Support	1,255	1,337	2,166	1,000	1,000	1,000	2,778	1,000	
5165 Advertising	172	326	326	300	300	300	21	300	
5170 Conventions Pastor	2,000	-3,024	0	500	500	500	360	500	
5171 Conventions DFM	500	187	0	200	0	0	0	0	
5172 Mileage DFM	0	0	0	500	0	0	0	0	
Total 510 Office Expenses	9,616	4,000	8,782	9,200	8,500	8,000	6,569	5,550	-30.63%
511 Worship									
5101 Church Supplies	4,074	3,166	3,733	3,000	3,000	3,000	3,409	3,500	
5104 Music		784	175	500	500	500	3,892	1,000	
Total 511 Worship	4,074	3,950	3,908	3,500	3,500	3,500	7,301	4,500	28.57%
512 Youth									
5107 Youth Outreach	368	581	157	1,000	0	0	148	350	
5109 National Youth Gathering		1,325	0	1,325	0	0	0	0	
Total 512 Youth	368	1,906	157	2,325	0	0	148	350	
520 Education									
5201 Sunday School	3,560	3,559	1,196	4,500	2,000	2,000	677	1,200	
5202 Mid Week	479	385	153	500	250	250	0	250	
5203 Youth Adult	503	794	69	500	250	250	0	250	
5204 Vacation Bible School	811	0	254	750	300	300	664	800	
5205 General	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
5206 Bibles & Library	204	11	12	350	300	300	100	200	
5207 Cradle Roll	8	0	0	400	200	0	0	0	
5208 Confirmation	482	1,113	413	450	250	250	137	200	
5209 Family Ministry	857	1,221	35	1,450	750	750	174	500	
5210 Adult Education	1,393	719	486	1,100	500	500	284	500	

Total 520 Education	8,296	7,802	2,618	10,000	4,800	4,600	2,036	3,900	-15.22%
530 Missions &	0,200	1,002	_,010	10,000	.,	.,000	,		10.2270
Evangelism 5301 NW District							131		
Payments	25,796	25,620	23,844	21,604	19,942	19,596	19,682	22,119	
5302 Evangelism & Local Missions	4,552	0	13	5,426	4,986	1,200	824	5,000	
5303 SS & Midweek		0							
Missions	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	
5305 Stephen Ministry	76	62	283	350	0	0		0	
5306 Synodical Total 530 Missions &	550	292	1,193	1,500	0	0		0	
Evangelism	30,973	25,974	25,333	28,880	24,928	20,796	20,637	27,119	30.41%
540 Properties									
541 Utilities									
5404 Electric Church	6,777	8,045	5,280	7,500	7,500	7,500	4,093	5,500	
5405 Water Church	1,704	1,529	1,641	2,200	2,200	2,200	1,693	2,200	
5406 Telephone Church	6,695	7,161	5,654	6,700	6,700	3,500	3,576	3,600	
5407 Gas Church	3,669	4,429	4,722	5,200	5,200	6,200	5,799	8,000	
Total 541 Utilities	18,846	21,164	17,297	21,600	21,600	19,400	15,161	19,300	-0.52%
542 Other									
5401 Contract Services	4,160	3,696	4,296	5,000	5,000	3,000	4,149	4,200	
5402 Maintenance Supplies	1,464	2,926	2,825	2,500	2,500	1,500	1,452	1,500	
5403 Repairs &		2,920	2,023	2,300	2,300	1,500		1,500	
Supplies 5410 Insurance Prop	1,026	1,758	3,981	2,800	2,800	2,000	7,108	2,500	
and Gen Liab	4,737	4,879	5,232	5,500	5,500	5,600	5,567	5,600	
5421 Building Improvements	3,000	2,250	0	0	0	3,000	2,250	3,000	
5423 Parking Lot						,			
Improvements Fund 5424 Air	2,000	1,500	0	0	0	1,000	750	1,000	
Conditioning/Boiler Fund	4,000	3,000	0	0	0	3,000	2,250	3,000	
Total 542 Other	30,387	20,009	16,334	25,800	15,800	19,100	23,526	20,800	8.90%
Total 540 Properties	49,233	41,173	33,631	47,400	37,400	38,500	38,687	40,100	4.16%
Total Expenses	263,233	255,492	175,500	288,805	228,392	224,399	213,21 1	271,194	20.85%
Net Income	18,588	7,659	80,673	0	-4,042	1,067	11,774	0	
230 Sinking Fund		9/30/22							
Balances		3/30/22							
2300 Missions Fund		3,407							
		3,,							
2310 Building and Grounds Fund		53,597							
2320 Conv/Training Fund Pastor		-							

2321 Conv/Training Fund DFM	248			
2323 Parking Lot Imp Sinking Fund	4,250			
2324 Air Conditioning Sinking Fund	9,250			
Total 230 Sinking Funds	70,751.3 2			
Balance in Prudent				
Reserve	150,000			
Calculation of Mission & Evangelism budget				
Total budgeted		244,07		
expenses		5		
Offererings needed to		244,07		
pay expenses		5		
Add: 10% for				
missions/evangelism		27,119		
Total offerings budget		271194		

## Board of Evangelism 2022 Annual Report

Members: Amy Stingle, Joan Borg, Bruce Frederick

Starting my role as Director of Evangelism in January 2022, I realized that I may be involved in this board, but it is you, Bethany's members, that make it a success! It is obvious how much we all love our church and serving God.

Our first order of business was setting up a greeter program. We created a folder filled with information about our church welcoming all who show an interest in joining Bethany. Our Elders are handling this program and we still are looking for folks to greet!

The Easter egg hunt was another success. It is estimated that over 90 children attended this event.

There were four Saturday mornings spent at the Farmer's Market in Kaukauna. Bruce and other members gave away Bibles, pens, visitor folders, cups, crosses, invitations to some of our events, the LIFE book, cold water and fruit snacks for the kiddos! It was a great outreach to our community.

On July 31st, we had a church picnic at LaFollette Park. What a beautiful day! Starting with Pastor's message and the Contemporary Band playing all under the pavilion at the park. This was truly a joint effort with those that brought the cookers and tables and chairs to and from church, setting up our altar, cooking the meat prior to the picnic, setting up for and taking down the food tables, purchases things needed, and all the good food everyone brought to share, and setting up and managing the games! Approximately 100 joined us that day! What a fun day!

Our latest project, Samaritan's Purse – Operation Christmas Child, has totally blown me away. We set our goals on 50 shoeboxes and I am so thrilled to report that we have approximately 70 boxes filled! The members of this congregation are so giving; we are so very blessed! Somewhere around the world, seventy young faces will smile and feel God's touch! Thank you for all your kindness!

In conclusion, good things are going on here at Bethany thanks to you, her members. We are anxious for the new year and what it brings.

Amy Stingle Director of Evangelism