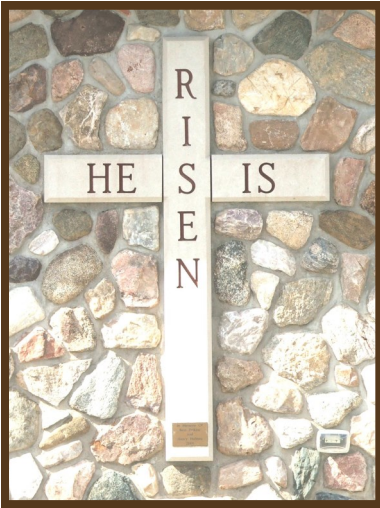


May 2021



The Bethany Messenger

The newsletter of Bethany Lutheran Church

130 O'Dill Drive, Norway, Michigan 49870 906-563-8472

Rev. Dave Johnson, Pastor

www.norwaybethany.org office e-mail: bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com

Bethany is best known as the village outside of Jerusalem where Lazarus, Mary and Martha lived. The word "Bethany" is from the Hebrew for "place of welcome." Our mission statement reflects the good news of our message to all: "Joyfully we profess our faith through God's unconditional love. Here and now God dwells in all our lives, bears our sins on the cross, and forgives us all."

Mighty God,

you breathe life into our bones, and your Spirit brings truth to the world.

Send us this Spirit, transform us by your truth, and give us language to proclaim your gospel, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

PENTECOST SUNDAY MAY 23

The Festival of Pentecost comes 50 days after Easter Sunday and typically falls between mid-May or early June. The season of Pentecost is the longest one of the church year, extending until the first Sunday of Advent. in late November or early December. While the other seasons of the church year (Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent and Easter) emphasize some aspect of the life of Jesus, Pentecost emphasizes the life of the Spirit-infused church—disciples in action.

Visitors welcome anytime!

**Northern Great Lakes Synod Assembly
Online May 10-15, 2021**

Special thanks to Diane Gendron and Erv Sparapani for serving as Bethany's delegates to the 2021 Synod Assembly.



Visitors are welcome at all events, including the workshops. You do not need to register in advance to observe or take part in conversations. Links to the workshops and the business meeting will be available on the synod website. See page 3 for more information and find full details at:

<https://nglsynod.org/assembly>

PASTOR'S PROFOUND PONDERINGS

Exodus 20:8 — “Remember the Sabbath day to set it apart as holy.”

Psalms 46:10a — He says, “Be still, and know that I am God;”

Matthew 11:28 – 28 — “Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”

Rest. (Take one minute to close your eyes and just breathe)

Do you feel rested today? I am not talking about how much sleep you got the night before or whether you have spent the last few days tossing and turning. This goes much deeper than your sleep schedule or how many hours of sleep you get at night. What does your schedule look like? What about your projects, do they keep on piling up and there's not enough time in the day? How about work, does it just seem to never end; do you find yourself working even during your time off? So often we consume what little time we have in our lives with projects, deadlines, schedules, and work. So much so that there is no time to truly find rest. Do you feel rested today?

Rest. (Take one minute to lift up to God the demands that you feel are placed on your shoulders today)

There is a need for Sabbath in our lives. This is the gift from God we read about in the 10 commandments, to have the permission to take one day once a week and simply just be. We are given the gift to remember the Sabbath and keep it Holy. The reason that I say that this is a gift is because even Jesus says that the Sabbath was created for humanity. Or in other words that we as humans created in God's image can so easily become consumed with the work, troubles, and worries that this world can bring that we forget to focus on the things that truly do matter in this world. So the Sabbath is a day (24 hours) that is set aside so you can find the rest that you need.

Rest. (Take one minute to breathe in and out and simply be still)

Sabbath is meant to be a day for you to set aside and just be. The first two words in Psalm 46:10 are “Be still,” or “Just be”. No matter what the demands are that weigh you down in this world, no matter the amount of work that you feel needs to be done, and no matter the worries, fears, and anxieties that make you stress about what is to come next, you are called on Sabbath to “Just be.” Not once has God ever wanted any of those things to define who you are or to suffocate the life out of you. The moment you “Just be” is remembering that the only thing that defines you is that you are God's child worth more than life itself in God's eyes. Set aside a whole day where you can “Just be” reminded who you are and Whose you are.

Rest. (Take one minute and think about what it means for you that you are a Child of God today)

There is a second part to taking a Sabbath Day of rest, and it ties into the rest of the sentence in Psalm 46:10, “and know that I am God.” Or as it says in the gift of Sabbath given in the 10 Commandments, “set it apart as Holy.” Sabbath is not just about rest and finding time to enjoy life, but this day is to be “set apart for a Godly purpose” (Definition of Holy). In other words, this is a day to rest, enjoy, and remind yourself of the blessings that God has given you. It's so easy to get bogged down by hectic schedules, worries, concerns, and work that we forget to remember the blessings that we've been given. However, on the Sabbath if we “Just be” and remind ourselves about all that Jesus has done for us, then we will find rest for our souls. If you take a day every week to simply be and go to Jesus with your heavy burdens, you will find rest; true rest.

Rest. (Take a minute to thank God for the blessings that you have been given this week)

In God's Peace,



Pastor Dave Johnson

Celebrating a graduation? If you or someone in your family is celebrating a graduation this May or June, please contact the church office to let us know.

Looking for Lectors Volunteers to read the lessons at worship at Bethany are needed for May, June and beyond. Call or e-mail the church office to take part in this weekly ministry, indicating Sundays when you are not available



Would you like to contribute flowers for Sunday worship? For a \$17.50 payment to Bethany Ladies Guild, flowers in memory of loved ones or in celebration of special events are set next to the altar and available to take home after worship or on Monday morning. Contact the church office to sign-up to offer flowers.

Call or e-mail Bethany Lutheran Church at 906-563-8472 or bethanyoffice@norwaymi.com

Blessed communion kits and bulletins

are available to pickup every Saturday afternoon from 1:00 – 2:00 and Sunday morning from 8:00 – 8:30 in the Bethany parking lot. Bulletins may also be downloaded from the Bethany web site. Please call Pastor Dave if you want to talk about home communion or the delivery of a communion kit to your door. Call or text him at 651-769-3365 or e-mail ftp565@yahoo.com.



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

NORTHERN GREAT LAKES SYNOD ASSEMBLY

2021 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

online May 10-15, 2021

Sunday, May 9-Saturday, May 15: Daily Prayfaithfully Video Devotions by Synod Conference Presidents & Representatives. View at nglsynod.org/prayfaithfully/daily-devotions.

Monday, May 10: 7 pm ET/6 PM CT: Opening Worship will premiere on website: nglsynod.org/assembly.

Tuesday, May 11, Wednesday, May 12 & Thursday, May 13: A choice of days, times, and interesting and inspiring topics will be explored in eight different workshops.

Thursday, May 13: 7 PM ET/6 PM CT: Live Installation Service of Rev. Grant Van Lishout & Deacon Lori Ward. Preaching Minister: Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton. View the livestream: nglsynod.org/assembly.

Friday, May 14: 7 PM ET/6 PM CT: Testing the Technology, Celebration of Anniversaries & Retirements, Fellowship, Enjoy Conversation with Bishop Elizabeth Eaton & Each Other. Attendance is required for voting members. (Voting members can join the Zoom from the Portal: nglsynod.org/assembly/submissions)

Saturday, May 15: 9-10 AM ET/8-9 AM CT. Synod Assembly Business Meeting from 9 AM-3 PM CT.

NGLS on Facebook: facebook.com/NorthernGreatLakesSynod

NGLS on YouTube: search for "Northern Great Lakes Synod"



Turning to God, our Strength and our Redeemer, we pray for the family of Ruby Burruss, Jim Trudeau, Tim, Barbara, and Ava Johnson Mitchell; For those who are having difficulties with being shut in for months because of COVID -19; for those who received prayer shawls and are in need of comfort; and for those who requested special prayers through our website.

If you have an update to our prayer list, please contact the church office.

These weekly events provide opportunities for fellowship, learning, and growing in Faith through Bethany Lutheran Church:

- Community Coffee, every Tuesday at 9 a.m. at Bethany;
- Women's Online Bible Study at 10 a.m. every Wednesday
- Men's Breakfast and Bible Study at 7 a.m. every Thursday at Bethany;
- Women's Bible Study at 10 a.m. every Thursday at Bethany

Happy Birthday

| | |
|---------------------------|---------------|
| Matt Mollick | May 04 |
| Diane Aune | May 08 |
| Susan Moll | May 09 |
| Dorothy Johnson | May 17 |
| Christina Anderson | May 20 |
| Shelby West | May 23 |
| Sue Raiche | May 28 |
| Jessica Manier | May 29 |
| Tori Trudeau | May 30 |
| Peggy Gattrra | May 31 |



Happy Anniversary

Lori and Duane Manier — May 7

Barb and Bill Rice — May 19

Bethany Lutheran Church Council 2021

Ray Anderson, President

Dave VanHolla, Vice President

Lisa Anderson, Secretary

Mike Randall, Treasurer

Sally Borga - Lori Dzik - Diane Gendron

Bethany Event Calendar

call or e-mail the church office or Pastor Dave to receive links to online events

906-563-8471, bethanoffice@norwaymi.com

Pastor Dave Johnson, phone and e-mail: 651-769-3365, ftp565@yahoo.com

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|-------------------|------------|---|
| Sunday, May 9 | 9 a.m. | Worship, in the great room and online |
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| Monday, May 10 | 6 p.m. | Opening worship, Synod Assembly |
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| May 11-May 15 | Varies | Online Synod Assembly, see details on page 3 |
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| Tuesday, May 11 | 9 a.m. | Community Coffee in the great room |
| | 9 a.m. | Cover Girls in the classroom |
| | 6:30 p.m. | Church council meeting, online |
| | | |
| Wednesday, May 12 | 10 a.m. | Online Women's Bible Study, Zoom |
| | | |
| Thursday, May 13 | 7 a.m. | Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in great room |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Women's Bible Study in the great room |
| | | |
| Sunday, May 16 | 9 a.m. | Worship, in the great room and online |
| | | |
| Tuesday, May 18 | 9 a.m. | Community Coffee in the great room |
| | 9 a.m. | Cover Girls in the classroom |
| | | |
| Wednesday, May 19 | 10 a.m. | Online Women's Bible Study, Zoom |
| | | |
| Thursday, May 20 | 7 a.m. | Men's Breakfast and Bible Study in great room |
| | 10:15 a.m. | Women's Bible Study in the great room |
| | | |
| Sunday, May 23 | 9 a.m. | Pentecost Worship, in the great room and online; Tentatively Graduation Sunday |
| | | |
| Tuesday, May 25 | 9 a.m. | Community Coffee in the great room |
| | 9 a.m. | Cover Girls in the classroom |
| | | |
| Wednesday, May 26 | 10 a.m. | Online Women's Bible Study, Zoom |
| | | |
| Thursday, May 27 | 7 a.m. | Men's Breakfast and Bible Study, great room |
| | | |
| Sunday, May 30 | 9 a.m. | Trinity Sunday Worship, in the great room and online |



Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church
130 O'Dill Drive
Norway, MI 49870

Return Service Requested

LET US PRAY. The ELCA Prayer Ventures for May 2021 include these suggestions and many more:

Pray for guidance for the leaders and voting members gathering online this month for the assemblies of the Northern Great Lakes Synod and other ELCA synods, that the Spirit will strengthen, guide and encourage them in choosing leaders, proclaiming the gospel, growing the church, serving our neighbor and doing God's work in an ever-changing world.

Give thanks to God for teachers and pray for all who are celebrating graduations.

Pray for leaders of outdoor ministries and congregational summer ministries as they ponder how to safely share the gospel, nurture faith, and serve children, youth and families this summer.

Ask God to renew our self-discipline, patience, empathy, and spirit of community concern and care as we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19 and respond to its impact.

Praise God that the Spirit is present in our lives, helping us remain faithful, equipping us for our baptismal journey, inspiring us to share the gospel, filling us with love and compassion, and guiding us in everything we do.

Remember, mourn and give thanks for men and women in the military who gave their lives for justice, peace and the freedom of our country and all nations.



**For the full monthly Prayer Ventures throughout the year,
visit <https://www.elca.org/en/Resources/Prayer-Ventures>.**