



THE BETHANY BEACON

Building on the Past – Confident in God's Future – We make Christ known!



MARCH 2024

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And so much more. . .



Change for Life

I am sure that most everyone that reads this would agree with me that they are more than ready for winter to be over, we had a few nice days, but then the cold wind came blowing in once again. Or perhaps for winter to make up its mind to stay or to go. Ready for a change to take place, a change that will offer us something different. Like a garden full of bright colored tulips, roses, or iris. A back yard shaded by large trees that allow you to enjoy the smell of freshly cut grass while the wind sways the branches of those trees in a way that the leaves come together in a song. This is a reminder of what we will be looking to in the future days.

This powerful image of the coming warmth is also found in our faith lives. There is a lot of gloom and darkness that makes up these forty days of Lent. I am looking forward to the new life that we will celebrate on Easter, the joy of everlasting life. This day is like the Super Bowl or the Daytona 500, the pinnacle of why we believe what we do. This event is a time to celebrate and grow. In the coming weeks we will learn more and more about this season of Lent. We will have many changes where we, through these days, grow closer to God; we enter into this time of Holy Week and Easter where we look at the triumph over death that takes place on the cross of Christ.

While this Lenten season we are keenly aware of the brokenness in our own lives. We take these things that have been a weight on our shoulders, and we lay them down for Jesus to carry; this burden that Jesus takes is celebrated this Easter, but not only for a day, but each day until we are reunited in death to our creator. As change happens through the season of spring, we change also; we grow closer in our relationship with God. Cliché as it may be, the butterflies that gracefully adorn the skies are a symbol of our renewed life with Jesus Christ. Gloom will be replaced by blue sky and warm sun, flowers will jet up through the dirt covered in mulch to become a beautiful garden, and through this we rejoice life. Let the cross of Christ sprout up in your life!

Peace, Pastor Chris

March Meeting

Thursday **March 7, 2:00 p.m.**

Leader: **Genevieve Bishop**

Hostess: **Sarah Circle**

Program **World Day of Prayer, Pastor Chris Deines**

Spec. Offering **World Day of Prayer Committee**

Bring **Nail Clipper**



PIECE ARTISTS

March 14
April 11
9:00 a.m.



CIRCLES TO MEET:

Sarah Circle: 9:30 a.m. March 20
Miriam Circle: 2:00 p.m. March 20
Rebecca Circle: 2:00 p.m. March 21

April Meeting

Thursday **April 4, 2:00 p.m.**

Leader **Maurine Johnson**

Hostess **Rebecca Circle**

Program ***Aging Matters* - Marcia MacLennan**

Spec. Offering **Bethany Church Library**

Bring **Towel**

JANUARY FINANCIALS FOR BETHANY CHURCH

Bethany Evangelical Lutheran Church Financial Review for the last Month Ending 12/31/2023

	<u>Dec</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Actual</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Budget</u>	<u>YTD</u> <u>Difference</u>
Contributions, general	\$ 33,202	\$ 33,202	\$ 31,271	\$ 1,931
Other Inflows	\$ 669	\$ 669	\$ 837	\$ (168)
Gross Inflows	\$ 33,871	\$ 33,871	\$ 32,108	\$ 1,763
Human Resources	\$ 22,106	\$ 22,106	\$ 23,531	\$ 1,425
Property	\$ 5,301	\$ 5,301	\$ 6,776	\$ 1,475
Other Expenses	\$ 3,095	\$ 3,095	\$ 4,589	\$ 1,494
Total Expenses	\$ 30,502	\$ 30,502	\$ 34,896	\$ 4,394
Net Surplus (Deficit)	\$ 3,369	\$ 3,369	\$ (2,788)	\$ 6,157

January was a positive month for member contributions, but less satisfactory for misc. & other sources of inflows. Total inflows were \$1,763.41 favorable to budget; the \$33,202.31 is only 8.64% of the annual budget amount (Specific Months Adjusted for Season Giving). Expenses were favorable by \$4,393.60, and January ended with a net favorability of \$6,157.01. The first month displays we are heading in the right direction for the year.

Operating Funds Report:

	2023 <u>Oct</u>	2023 <u>Nov</u>	2023 <u>Dec</u>	2024 <u>Jan</u>
Checking Account at Peoples Bank & Trust	\$ 150,900.32	\$ 106,313.01	\$ 196,635.32	\$ 200,403.78
CD at Peoples Bank & Trust	\$ 150,380.17	\$ 150,380.17	\$ 150,380.17	\$ 150,380.17
Mission Investment Fund, Money Market	\$ 261,879.76	\$ 262,411.84	\$ 262,962.77	\$ 263,514.87
Petty Cash - Laundry Love			\$ 236.50	\$ 353.00
Petty Cash			\$ 7.79	\$ 38.03
Prepaid Insurance	\$ 18,471.85	\$ 15,833.02	\$ 13,194.19	\$ 10,555.36
Liabilities - Current Credit Card	\$ (2,211.86)	\$ (1,938.66)	\$ (950.99)	\$ (313.98)
Liabilities - Payroll	\$ (2,792.79)	\$ (2,187.49)	\$ (2,208.31)	\$ (2,606.14)
Less Designated Funds:	\$ (14,255.04)	\$ -	\$ (40.02)	\$ (2,106.93)
Less Memorials	\$ (17,236.28)	\$ (17,771.28)	\$ (13,692.00)	\$ (13,692.00)
Less Project Funds	\$ (571,680.66)	\$ (542,288.94)	\$ (577,390.35)	\$ (573,786.09)
General Funds Available	\$ (26,544.53)	\$ (29,248.33)	\$ 29,135.07	\$ 32,740.07

Check it out!
Scan this QR code with your
phone's camera and follow the link to
the give an offering to Bethany Church.



A message from Bishop Candea . . .



We have begun the season of Lent in the church year. There are many different images that describe this season.

It was originally a forty-day period of instruction and discipline for those individuals preparing for baptism at the Easter Vigil. It parallels the story of Jesus' forty days in the wilderness being tempted by the devil.

It is a time to repent and take on those disciplines that help us to face the temptations in our lives. When I was growing up, there was a lot of emphasis on "giving up something for Lent," although Sundays, as celebrations of the resurrection, don't count as part of those 40 days (Sundays in Lent and not of Lent) so technically whatever you gave up for Lent you could have on Sundays! Not sure how that technically was supposed to help!?

The image I have found the most helpful to understand Lent is one of a journey, an invitation to be intentional about our journey of faith, following the way of Jesus. We know how easy it is to "get off track" with all the things that come at us, the demands and expectations, the challenges and struggles. It is easy to react to things we hear or experience without stopping to think before we speak, not stopping to check out our feelings, not stopping to ask – how does my faith in Jesus impact how I receive and respond to what I am hearing, feeling, and seeing? What is the "treasure" in my life that I am honoring as I journey through this world? How is my heart reflecting the love of God? How is my heart these days? For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. (Matthew 6:21)

We know where God's heart is – in this world, in us, full of love and grace – desiring to renew "the face of the earth." (Psalm 104:30) We are the ones who keep straying from the love of God, who substitute other treasures for the treasure of love. So Lent is an invitation to return, to turn around, to repent, and to journey on God's path, to travel the way of Jesus where we will experience the true treasure of faith. How will you respond to that invitation? What will be part of your Lenten journey that will bring healing to your heart as well as to the "face of the earth?"

My prayer for the synod this Lenten journey is captured in the hymn written by Sylvia Dunstan, Bless Now, O God, the Journey. (ELW 326)

*Bless now of God, the journey that all your people make,
the path through noise and silence, the way of give and take.
The trail is found in desert and winds the mountain round,
then leads beside still waters, the road where faith is found.*

*Divine eternal lover, you meet us on the road.
We wait for lands of promise where milk and honey flow,
but waiting not for places, you meet us all around.
Our covenant is written on roads as faith is found.*

May this Lenten journey renew your faith as you travel the way of Jesus. Lead us all to still waters of peace and justice, blessed by our Divine Eternal Lover. Amen.

Rev. Susan Candea Bishop

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION

March 2024

Sunday School Lessons:

March 3 rd	The Ten Commandments	Exodus 20:1-17
March 10 th	The Light of the World	John 3:14 -21
March 17 th	No Sunday School due to Spring Break	
March 24 th	Holy Week	Mark 11 and 14
March 31 st	The Empty Tomb	Mark 16:1-8

Lent began on Feb. 14; the word **Lent** comes from the Anglo-Saxon word that means “*spring*” or “*springtime*”. Taken literally, the word means that this is the time of the year when the days lengthen. This season of the church year is a time of preparation, reflection, growth, and change. As God’s people take time to learn more about God and their relationship to God and to others, the season before Easter can be seen as the springtime of the soul—a time of growth in faith and a time to nurture the faith that is already theirs. (Before and After Easter –Aug./Fortress)

This year the children’s sermons in Lent will focus on prayer. Sunday School families, please check with Joyce to get the following prayer helps if you miss church.

Feb. 18th - scratch off prayer chart with SS families listed

Feb. 25th - prayer Candle – a reminder to pray each day for our church family

March 3rd -prayer Cube – different ways to pray

We’ve been learning the ASL signs for the Lord’s prayer, from this video. All learners are welcome to help. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bip5TAX00iI&t=50s>

Camp Tomah Shinga – On March 10 Jordan Valentine will be here from camp. Please come hear about camp. Talk to Ericka or Joyce if your child is interested in camp; Bethany will pay half the cost for members to attend camp. Register online <https://camptomahshinga.com/>

Remember the Lenten Offerings will go to pay one CTS counselor; thanks in advance for giving to this wonderful cause.

Easter Craft Morning – families are welcome to a light breakfast and craft morning on Saturday, March 30th, 9-11am. On Easter morning, we will have Sunday School and an egg hunt. Children are asked to bring an Easter basket.

Thanks for the Roy and Donice for the beautiful flannelgraph. The children have enjoyed using it to “retell” the stories to the K/Preschool Class. Sincere thanks.

Joyce Peterson, Christian Ed Director, 785.820.0034,
joycepeterson@sbcglobal.net



143rd Year
MESSIAH
festival of the arts

Holy Week Event

Altar Paintings
of the Smoky Valley

A Power Point Presentation by
Tom Holmquist & Bill Gusenius

Mon., March 25, 2024, 7:30PM
Bud Pearson Swedish Chapel,
Bethany College Campus

A self-guided tour of these altar paintings is available
on Sat., March 30, 1-5PM.



Free and open to the public



Global Missions

Every year the last Sunday in January is designated as Global Mission Sunday, and is celebrated with unique activities at Bethany Lutheran Church.

This year on January 28 the Global Mission Committee instigated a zoom forum meeting with our missionary to Russia, Bradn Buerkle. Because of the Ukraine war he is now in Germany. He said the Mission Board suggested he leave Russia. He first went to Turkey, then after getting the appropriate documents, he went to Germany. He thought it was good he left Russia because had he remained, the Russian Government would likely have harassed the Russian church members and would possibly have closed the church.

Bradn now writes and sends his sermons by internet to the Russian church. He is also involved in working with pastors in Africa and Indonesia by sharing his sermons and having study seminars also along with the Russian pastors.

His oldest son is attending College in Montana. His second son is attending a Ballet school in Berlin. His youngest son is attending a regular German school and is becoming quite fluent in the German language. There are many Ukraine refugees in Germany and his wife often translates for them at hospitals, schools, etc.

The January noisy offering was collected for Missionary Bradn in January. It came to \$349.50. Thank you for your continued support.

Verneda Bowman, Global Missions chair



STEPHEN MINISTRY



WE HAVE STEPHEN MINISTRY BECAUSE . . .

. . . IT AFFIRMS AND STRENGTHENS THE LEADERSHIP ROLE OF THE PASTOR AND CHURCH STAFF. The Bible speaks of the office of pastor and other offices in the church as gifts the Holy Spirit has given in order to build up the body of Christ for the work of ministry (Ephesians 4). We take this view seriously and seek to lift from their shoulders the burden of sole responsibility for providing quality pastoral care. Stephen Ministry adds a new and exciting dimension to the calling of full time church workers as they witness the effectiveness of lay people who are trained and supervised as caregivers.

A NOTE FROM BRADN:

How Does the World Look at Holy Week and Easter?

Best Practices from Across the Globe

Every year worship leaders face the challenge of designing their services for Holy Week and Easter in such a way that people can experience Christ's passion and resurrection anew.

The spiritual practices of the worldwide church are a rich source for practices that bring a deeper understanding of the story of Jesus. It is with this in mind that my colleague, Indra, and I have planned a series of four online meetings (90 minutes each) to exchange ideas with ministers from ELM partner churches about liturgies on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday and Easter. The events start at 2 p.m. German time (quite early for the U.S., which is 7 a.m., Central Time) and last 90 minutes.

For each of these days, a draft worship service from one of the ELM partner churches will be presented by a colleague from the respective church. Afterwards, there will be an opportunity to discuss in small groups how the material might be adapted to your own context. The order of service with all prayers and texts will be made available to participants for their own use. We hope that through these materials, presentations and discussions you will come away enriched by the global Christian community for the good of your local congregations.

To take part in any or all of the online meetings, register by February 14 at the following address; <[www.elm-mission.net/en/holy-week](http://www.elm-mission.net/en/holy-week;)> you will then receive a Zoom link a few days before we meet.

Many blessings to Bethany Church and friends.

Let us continue to support one another in prayer.

In Christ, Bradn



Camp Tomah Shinga - Early Bird Discount

Register your child for Camp before March 31 and get a great discount. Because of a generous donation, Camp Tomah Shinga is able to offer this discount to anyone who signs up for Camp before March 31, 2024. Bethany will pay half the cost for members to attend camp. You may register online at <https://camptomahshinga.com/> and let Joyce or Ericka know that your child plans to attend.



MARCH/ APRIL BIRTHDAY LIST

March

Dan Hawkinson	3/1	Kelsey Brunsell	3/29
Ty McCullough	3/2	Lorraine Emler	3/29
Betty Nelson	3/2	Beth Crouse	3/30
Dave Crouse	3/3	Cynthia Leroy	3/31
Julia Train	3/3		
Joyce Shields	3/4		
Jennifer Hedrich	3/4		
Gary Shogren	3/5		
Joy Everhart	3/6		
Danelle Johnson	3/10		



April

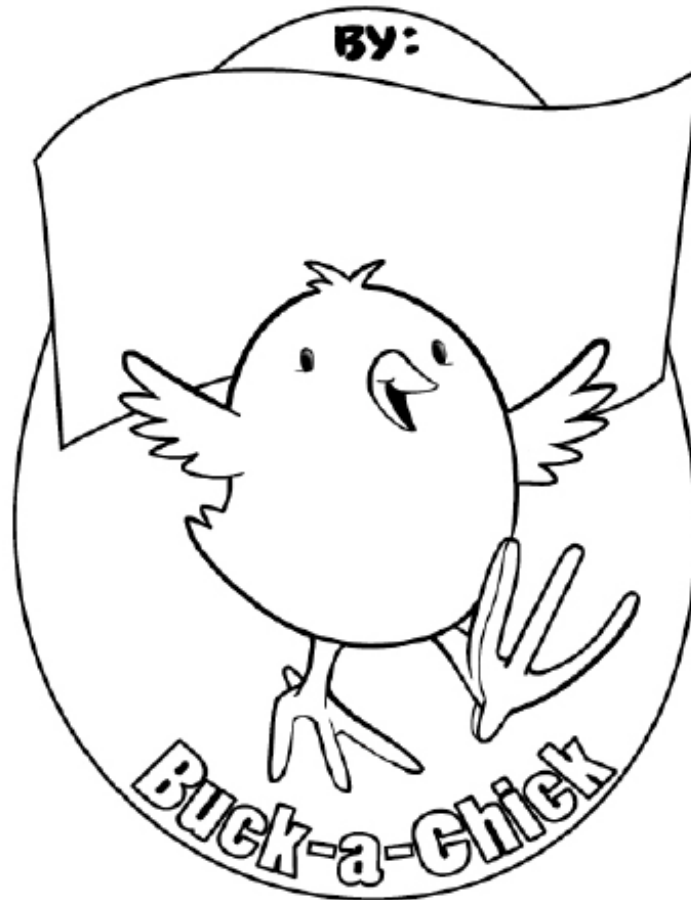
Dorothy Bengtson	3/11	Becky Chambers	4/1	Jeanette Peterson	4/26
Ryan DuMars	3/11	Evelyn Phillips	4/1	Karen Stugelmeyer	4/26
Jake McElroy	3/11	Chance Kruckenberg	4/4	Mika Hopp	4/27
Denise Romero	3/12	Trayton Miller	4/4	Darlene Handlin	4/28
Nancy Lysell	3/13	Vicki O'Steen	4/4	Jan Turner	4/28
Jonathan Reinecker	3/13	Cynthia Woodard	4/4	Justin Kelling	4/29
Jill Nolde	3/13	Olivia Bengtson	4/7	Haven Lysell	4/29
Vance Eckstrom	3/14	Jan Michael	4/7	Mary Parker	4/30
Ann Johnson	3/14	Delaney Johnson	4/9		
Jay Pearson	3/14	Craig Nelson	4/12		
August Brunsell	3/16	Camille Carlson	4/13		
Jane Glock	3/16	Brad Bengtson	4/16		
Adalyn Gustus	3/16	Brian Bengtson	4/16		
Drew Nelson	3/17	Lori Johnson	4/16		
Margaret Anderson	3/19	Ann-Christin Apel	4/17		
Jarrett Esping	3/21	Amy Dreier	4/18		
Lillie Brunsell	3/22	Scott Nelson	4/18		
Avery Kruckenberg	3/24	Susan Johnson	4/19		
Ron Michael	3/24	Linda Klatt	4/19		
Eugene Peterson	3/25	Laura Emler	4/20		
Harper Aldrete	3/26	Joshua Nelson	4/23		
Katherine Grit	3/26				
Mary J Peterson	3/27				



Don't see your name on the list?
 Contact the church office.

BUCK -A- CHICK

Global Missions and Christian Education invite YOU to help fight against World Hunger. **One Dollar** is all it takes to provide a family living in poverty with a little chick. Soon, the chick will begin to produce eggs. Its eggs make nutritious, protein-rich meals and they can be sold at the market place for income. Chicks help a family fight hunger! Color a chick, give a dollar & email, postal mail or bring it to Bethany Church to show your support for this hunger project.



Your gift of a chick makes a world of difference! It provides a family in need with eggs to eat and sell at the market. With this gift you can help a family escape hunger for good.

www.elca.org/goodgifts



ELCA World Hunger
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Check off a “Chick” from every state! Encourage your family and friends to participate in this activity and we will place a chick on our map for every state represented.

Our postal address is, Bethany Church, 320 N. Main, Lindsborg, KS 67456. Our email address is office@blclindsborg.org.

Our goal is to raise \$500 starting now until March 31, 2024, Easter Sunday.

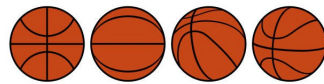


GIVE TO BETHANY VILLAGE

March 21, 2024

Make a donation to Bethany Village . The Foundation will match your gift up to 50% in the form of an instant cash grant from a \$313,000 match pool to Bethany Village to use for current needs. Give on Thursday, March 21, 2024.

Donate online at www.matchmadnessgscf.org, donate in person at the Salina Fieldhouse; 140 N. 5th street, Salina or mail your check to the Community Foundation at PO BOX 2876, Salina Kansas 67401 with a postmarked of March 21.



YOUTH GROUP

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Sunday, March 3, 4:00 p.m.

We will gather at Messiah Church to have snacks, a bible study and make T-Shirt bags for The Dala Pantry.



Sunday, March 31, 8-10 a.m.

EASTER BRUNCH - Bethany Youth will serve in the basement of Bethany Church.



Sunday, April 7, TBD

Activities are being planned, keep this date on your calendars.

March Servants



Acolytes

March 3 Teagan Miller
March 10 Anders Deines
March 17 Teagan Miller
March 24 Milea Friesen
March 31 David Garber

Assisting Ministers

March 3 Both Natalie Nelson
March 10 Both Rose Marie Wallen
March 17 TBD
March 24 Both Jim Ruble
March 31 Both Mike Wallen

Lectors

3 8:00 Marcia MacLennan
10:30 Alice Buschbom

10 8:00 Joy Everhart
10:30 Cindy Couchman

17 8:00 Josh Nelson
10:30 Natalie Nelson

24 8:00 Julia Train
10:30 Becky Anderson

31 8:00 Jim Parker
10:30 The Janzen/Garber
Family

Ushers

3 8:00 Shannon & Joy
10:30 Karl & Wanda; Dan & Katie

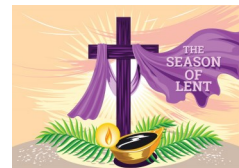
10 8:00 Shannon & Joy
10:30 Merle & Terri; Mark & Ken

17 8:00 Ron & Jan
10:30 Larry & Rebecca
(2) needed

24 8:00 Julie & Cindy
10:30 Nate & Cynthia, Joel & Freda

31 8:00 Mary & Jim
10:30 Ron & Jim

LENT/EASTER SCHEDULE



Midweek services	March 6, 13, 20	6:30 p.m.
Maundy/Thursday	Thursday, March 28	6:30 p.m.
TACOL Good Friday	Friday, March 29	Messiah Lutheran Church
Easter Services:	Sunday, March 31	Resurrection of Our Lord
	Sunrise Service	6:45 a.m. (Elmwood)
	Regular Worship	8:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Our 2024 Lenten/Easter Offerings will go to help fund a Camp Counselor
at Camp Tomah Shinga.



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE



March 2	9 a.m.to 1 p.m. Breakfast provided Worship, Apostles' Creed & Communion
March 3	9 a.m. Art Walk, with Rose Marie Wallen
March 3	6:30-8 p.m. ~ Sundaes on Sunday Mentors and Confirmation youth
March 13	1-3:00 p.m., <i>Son of Man</i> , movie
May 5	Confirmation Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 a.m. (participate in both services)
June 2 - 6	Confirmation Camp @ Tomah Shinga Scholarship are available, upon request

Got questions? Contact Pastor Chris, christopherdeines@gmail.com or Ericka Lysell, erickalysell@gmail.com.

CENTRAL STATES SYNOD

The 2024 Central States Synod Assembly will be June 6-8 at the Embassy Suites in Olathe, Kansas. Four delegates are needed from each congregation to attend. 2 men and 2 women.

“The Holy spirit calls, gathers and enlightens the whole church to keep us in one true faith. We are called to gather and breath in the very spirit of Christ. Let us all come together and participate in God’s Mission.” *Rev. Susan Candea, Bishop*

In addition to gathering, there will be discussion on the business of the whole church. Adopting a budget, an election, discussing resolutions, and making time for prayer, Bible study and conversations.

More information can be found at css-elca.org/assembly, visit with your Executive Council or Pastor Chris to sign up and serve.

*Spirit Breathed;
Spirit Blown*



Join us for a National Faith + Climate Forum; Live Stream

April 16, 2024 ~11 a.m. to 4:15 p.m.

Bethany College, Lindsborg Kansas



Scan the QR Code to register and learn more.

Together we will:

Activate Clergy: Equip and support clergy members and faith leaders with knowledge and resources to integrate creation care and climate justice into preaching, teaching, and pastoral work.

Engage Congregations: Explore practical ways to engage our congregation in creation care through denominational and faith and climate programs.

Expand the Faith and Climate Community: Network with local and national faith-based leaders who share a common interest in advancing faith and climate work.

Bolster Congregational Collaboration: Join us in person to cultivate collaboration within our community and across the nation.

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

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LINDSBORG KS 67456

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March 2024

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PERMIT NO. 04



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VISIT US AT OUR WEBSITE: <http://blclindsborg.org>

2024 Bethany Church Staff

Pastor Christopher Deines

Organist, Genevieve Bishop

Office Manager, Melanie Rishel

Property Manager, Butch Gibson

Christian Education, Joyce Peterson

Youth Group, Ericka Lysell

KICK Co-Coordinator, Chelsea Deines

Men's Choir, Leah Ann Anderson

Bell & Chancel Choir, Britney English

Children's Choir, Lori McKinney

2024 Bethany Church Council

Trampas Miller Pres. Karen Carlson

LeAnna Dewitt, VP Elly Ostlind

Natalie Nelson, recording secretary

Doug Malm Jayne Norlin

Sean Nelson Gail Gustafson

Arlone Grimes Mark Lindley

Pastor Chris Deines

**Noah Lackey, Susan Lundstrom,
Treasurer Financial Secretary**