

THE BETHANY

# BEACON

JUNE - JULY 2019

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"Let your light shine before others" (Matthew 5:16)



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*The Christian Church has been blessed with many marvelous hymns in the last 2000 years. In recent months, Pastor Prange's newsletter articles have been sharing insights on some of the greatest hymns of Christendom and how they emphasize the great paradoxes of our Christian faith. This month we consider the triumphant hymn, Crown Him with Many Crowns.*

## **Great Paradoxes in Christian Hymns: Many Parts and One Body Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord**

*"The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body" (1 Corinthians 12:12-13a).*

America is described as the world's melting pot. From its inception, the United States has been a conglomeration of different peoples and cultures, yet the very name suggests that its citizens remain united.

Upon further reflection, however, America has not always been as united as its name suggests. Invariably troublesome issues have arisen, resulting in factions and divisions. The nation even once resorted to Civil War. True unity has been nearly impossible to find. There are simply too many disparate parts!

At first glance, we might say the same thing about the Christian Church. Though in the Nicene Creed, Lutherans confess to believe in "one holy Christian and apostolic Church," we also see the Church visibly divided by false doctrine and practice. Just within American Lutheranism alone, there are an astonishing number of different church bodies. Division reigns.

Despite these visible divisions, however, a unity exists within the Christian Church that cannot be found anywhere else in all creation. Though believers in Jesus are often visibly and sadly separated into many parts, there still exists an essential, though invisible, "unity of the Spirit,"

the unity of Christian faith. In Jesus, all faithful Christians in heaven and on earth share “one hope ... one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father” (Ephesians 4:3-5). The Church has many parts yet remains one body. What a paradox!

Martin Luther recognized this paradox and prayed fervently that true unity in Christian faith and life might visibly exist among all Christians on the basis of God’s Word. He showed this desire by authoring the Pentecost hymn, “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord” (CW 176), an ardent prayer for Christian unity.

In stanza one, we pray that the Spirit would pour out his blessings on all believers and that “by the brightness of your light in holy faith your church unite.” Stanza two describes how such unity is accomplished: when the Spirit causes “the Word of life to shine” and keeps us free “from ev’ry error.” The final stanza looks forward to that Day when all believers will be perfectly united in heaven forever.

Until then, our Christian faith is one of paradoxes: the many parts make up one body!

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## 🎵 GRACE NOTES 🎵

### Preparing for Worship at Bethany

The **Summer Worship Schedule** began on Memorial Day weekend. Saturday evening worship will continue to take place at Kenosha beginning at 5:30 p.m. As is our normal practice, Holy Communion will be celebrated on the second and fourth Saturdays of every month. On Sundays through Labor Day weekend there will be just one Sunday service at Kenosha beginning at 8 a.m. Communion will be celebrated on the first and third Sundays at Kenosha. There will also be a 10 a.m. service at Somers with Communion being celebrated on the second and fourth Sundays. Then in the months of June, July, and August, we will add a Wednesday evening service at our Somers location beginning at 6:30 p.m. This will be a slightly shortened service and will include a weekly celebration of Holy Communion. Please note that there is no Wednesday service on September 4. This midweek service will only take place on the Wednesdays of June, July, and August.



**Pentecost Sunday is Sunday, June 9.** Pentecost recalls the day when Jesus kept his promise to send the Holy Spirit upon his New Testament church and all believers in a very special way. Through his giving of the Spirit, Jesus bestows the necessary spiritual gifts to his people to carry out the important task he had calls us to do. He said, “Go and make disciples of all nations,

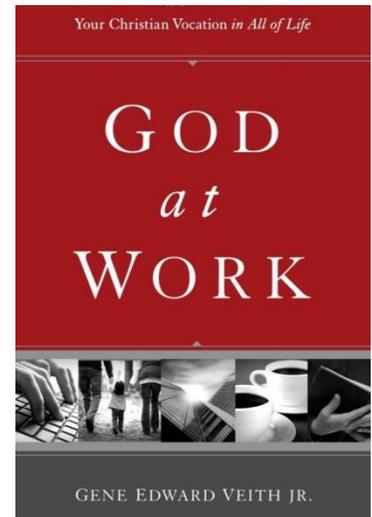
baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you” (Matthew 28:19-20). Without the gifts and empowerment of the Holy Spirit, we would be unable to live up to that noble and eternal work. But through the Spirit, Jesus blesses us with the necessary tools of Word and Sacrament to preach repentance and forgiveness of sins to all nations. Both that calling and the gifts to carry out that calling are beautifully illustrated in the miracle of that first Pentecost. The disciples of Jesus—apparently the whole congregation in Jerusalem, both men and women—were given the gift of being able to speak in languages they had never known or learned. Why? So that the visitors to Jerusalem that day—who had come from just about every nation in the Mediterranean world to celebrate the Jewish Feast of Weeks (see Acts 2:9-10)—would hear and understand the good news about Jesus and exclaim, “We hear them declaring the wonders of God in our own tongues!” (Acts 2:11). Today Jesus bestows different but equally rich spiritual gifts so that we can have the same privilege of announcing eternal salvation in the name of Jesus, and so it is good and right to celebrate his continual giving of the Spirit and his gifts.

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## PARISH EDUCATION

*Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of Our Lord Jesus Christ*

- **Summer Book Club** Pastor Prange is planning to lead a book club discussion this summer on "**God at Work: Your Christian Vocation in All of Life,**" by Gene Edward Vieth. The author will guide participants to discover God’s purpose and calling in seemingly ordinary, everyday areas of life by providing a spiritual framework so that we can carry our divine callings out with a changed and joyful perspective. If there are enough interested participants, the plan will be to begin discussion of the book at our Somers location on four consecutive Tuesdays beginning June 25 and ending on July 16. The sessions will begin at 7 p.m. If you’re interested, please email Pastor Prange ([pastorprange@bethanykenosha.org](mailto:pastorprange@bethanykenosha.org)).
- **Kids Summer Book Club** Bethany children and their friends are invited to participate in a kids summer book club. They will be reading and discussing the classic C.S. Lewis novel *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe*. This is part of the series of Narnia books that Lewis wrote, which include many Scriptural allusions, especially to the work of Jesus. The study will be led by Nick Spittlemeister and meet at Bethany-Somers at 7 p.m. on the following days (July 15,18, & 29, and August 5). Please contact Nick at [nickspittlemeister@gmail.com](mailto:nickspittlemeister@gmail.com) if you’re interested in participating.



- **Studying the Sunday Scriptures** takes place at Somers every Wednesday at 10:30 a.m. through the summer (make sure to check the monthly and weekly calendar for Wednesdays when we won't plan to meet) Pastor Prange leads this weekly study that helps prepare you for weekend worship. Attendees have commented how much more they now get out of worship because they've studied the gospel and lessons first. Our group has grown in numbers and knowledge. Join us for this informative study.
- The **Wednesday Evening Bible Study** is in summer recess. Meetings will resume in September with "Seven Visions, Seven Truths," a study of the book of Revelation. Contact Larry or Deb Dubis at 262-948-3269 or via email at [ldubis@wi.rr.com](mailto:ldubis@wi.rr.com) for additional information.
- A group meets with Pastor Pagel for **Breakfast Bible Study** at Perkins in Pleasant Prairie normally on the last Wednesday of every month at 8:15 a.m.
- The **Saturday Morning Bible Study** meets every other Saturday at 9 a.m in the home of Gary and Rudee Koepke (3327 86<sup>th</sup> Street, Kenosha). During June and July they will be meeting on June 8 & 22, and July 6 & 20.

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## WINGS CORNER

### *Women in God's Service*

May marked the end of the school year at Bethany and Teacher Appreciation week. We were blessed to serve this month by hosting a luncheon for our teachers and staff. Thank you to our ladies and school families who volunteered to help us make this a welcome break and wonderful success!

Please continue to keep our missionaries in your prayers!

We will continue our meetings during the summer, planning for our Circuit Rally that we will be hosting in September and adding some summertime fun in too! If you would like to be added to the WINGS email distribution list, please email our secretary, Lynelle Wagner at [knlwags@gmail.com](mailto:knlwags@gmail.com)

Our next meetings are Thursday, June 6, 6:30 p.m. at our Somers location; Thursday, July 11 with time and location to be announced later in June.

# CARING AND SHARING

*News from Bethany and Beyond*

## **Subscribe to the Bethany E-News and Notes**

If you'd like to receive a weekly email in your inbox with all the Bethany News & Notes, please send an email to the Bethany office ([blsoffice@bethanykenosha.org](mailto:blsoffice@bethanykenosha.org)) to be included on our e-mailing list. The E-News & Notes will include the full range of news from Bethany Church and School and elsewhere, including Shoreland and WELS info, all at your fingertips.

## **JUNE CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO ACT ON CHURCH BUDGET FOR 2019-20**

Bethany's next congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, June 9 at Somers beginning at 11:30 a.m. Besides receiving updates on work in the different areas of ministry, the congregational will be presented with the recommended budget for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.

## **CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR SCHOOL FLOORING**

At a special congregational meeting in April, the congregation approved a proposal to replace the flooring in the school classrooms and stairways that lead to the lower level. They also approved a capital campaign to raise \$10,000 to help defray the costs of the project. Special offerings are requested for this effort between June 1 and September 30, and a running total of gifts will be reported weekly in the News and Notes. Please consider a generous, one-time gift toward this effort. This project will be completed over the summer months, which will make it impossible to hold a Vacation Bible School this summer.

## **KENOSHA CONGREGATIONAL LEADERS TO MEET FOR STUDY AND DISCUSSION**

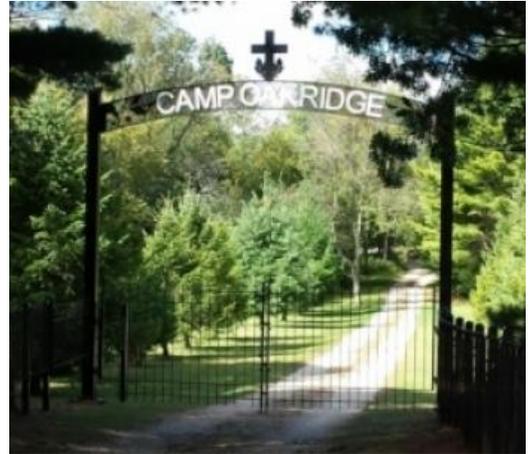
Over the next several months, the leaders of the four WELS congregations in Kenosha will be meeting for joint Bible study and discussion about possible re-combining of gospel ministry. The pastors of the four congregations have been meeting regularly to discuss the advantages of a different organizational structure to share and multiply our individual congregational strengths and shore up perceived ministry weaknesses in order to meet the new opportunities and challenges of our day.

## **PASTOR PRANGE TO SERVE AS DELEGATE TO 2019 WELS CONVENTION**

Pastor Prange will have the privilege of serving as one of the delegates to this summer's biennial convention of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS). It will be held at Martin Luther College in New Ulm, Minn., from July 29 – August 1. Besides serving as a delegate, Pastor Prange has also been asked to serve as the chairman of the committee which will be addressing the report and memorials connected to WELS Home Missions. For more information on the WELS convention, please visit [www.wels.net/convention](http://www.wels.net/convention)

## **CAMP OAKRIDGE OPEN TO BETHANY MEMBERS**

Did you know that Bethany has a campground? Called Camp Oakridge, located about an hour away, N303 Tower Rd, Eagle, WI. We have water/electric hookups, dump station, shower house, pavilion, hiking trails, firewood provided, playground/sandbox, peace & quiet, and fellowship. Swimming is located about 10 min away in the town of Palmyra. You will have to obtain a gate key from the office. Any other questions please contact Dj Meier 262-945-7720 or email: tinknocker@wi.rr.com



## **BETHANY SUMMER OFFICE HOURS**

The Bethany office will be open during the summer on Wednesdays and Thursdays from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m.

## **WELS HOME MISSIONS APPROVES NEW PROJECTS**

The Executive Committee of WELS Board for Home Missions met on May 9 and authorized financial support for one new mission congregation and one ministry enhancement.

“Even though there was limited funding this spring, we are excited about the new mission start in Houston, Texas,” says Rev. Wayne Uhlhorn, chairman of WELS Board for Home Missions. “The work the core group has already done and the demographics have us feeling this is the right place and the right time.”

A dedicated group of core members from other WELS churches in the area has been meeting monthly for Bible study since 2015. Rev. Keith Free, administrator of WELS Home Missions, credits these monthly meetings as a strength of this mission.

“They have put in the time so that now as friends in Christ they are ‘all in’ to start a mission,” says Free.

The new mission will be located in an urban neighborhood that is seeing a resurgence in popularity as people strive to be closer to the city center. Sixty-five percent of those living in the target area are not involved in a religious congregation or community.

Home Missions is also supporting a ministry enhancement to the campus ministry at the University of Wisconsin–Oshkosh. For more than 35 years, Martin Luther, Oshkosh, Wis., and other local congregations have supported a campus ministry at this university alongside WELS Campus Ministry. Known as Rising Son Ministry Center, this campus ministry has a house just a couple blocks off campus that is used for fellowship, Bible study, and worship. Currently, though, activities are only taking place one night per week because there isn’t a dedicated staff member to oversee the ministry.

The financial support from Home Missions will allow Martin Luther to call a pastor whose job will be to serve half-time at Martin Luther and half-time at Rising Son Ministry Center.

Rev. Nathan Ericson, who currently serves at Martin Luther and works with Rising Son Ministry Center, notes, “A city of Oshkosh study has shown how the UW–Oshkosh campus neighborhood has gone from being 50 percent renter-occupied to more than 90 percent renter-occupied in the years 2000 through 2016 and will approach 100 percent in coming years. Most of the 15,000 residents of this area are juniors, seniors, or recent graduates. There are essentially no churches in this area except Rising Son Ministry Center. With increased staffing we can attempt to reach this field that is ripe for harvest.”

WELS Board for Home Missions also approved two other new starts whose financial support is coming from outside the budget of WELS Home Missions for the next two fiscal years. These unsubsidized missions are opening in Folsom, Calif., and Wesley Chapel, Fla. The board also changed the status of the mission in Killeen, Texas, from “subsidized” to “unsubsidized” since it is now receiving financial support outside Home Missions’ budget. Home Missions provides assistance to unsubsidized mission congregations through its district missions boards, mission counselors, and synodical support staff.

### **SERVING WELS MILITARY PERSONNEL**

Through WELS Military Services, numerous resources are available to support the faith of those who serve and have served in the United States Armed Forces. This committee operates through a national civilian chaplain and liaison to the military, a full-time civilian chaplain in Europe, and many WELS pastors who serve those stationed stateside.

Two recent events represent how WELS aims to meet the spiritual needs of both active and retired members of the military.

April 30–May 2, the WELS Military Services Committee held its annual Military Contact Pastors Retreat at Risen Savior, Chula Vista, Calif., near Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton.

When a WELS congregation is located near a military installation like Camp Pendleton, the pastor serving that congregation may be asked to serve as a military contact pastor. Currently more than 100 WELS pastors are serving WELS military personnel in this capacity.

This year, 22 WELS military contact pastors, five Evangelical Lutheran Synod (ELS) pastors, six WELS Military Services Committee members, and three special speakers were in attendance at the Military Contact Pastors Retreat under the theme “Serving Those Who Serve Our Country.” The retreat’s presentations provided the attendees with insights into the unique challenges of the military lifestyle during and after deployment. Attendees were also able to visit Camp Pendleton. There, they spoke to the camp’s chaplain who explained how WELS pastors and certified lay leaders can serve certain spiritual needs of WELS military personnel.

Then, May 3–5, the Lutheran Military Support Group hosted its second annual Veteran Spiritual R&R at Camp Phillip, Wautoma, Wis. The retreat was open to all WELS and ELS veterans who live with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Attendees gathered from across the United States. Over the three days, they encouraged one another through their shared experiences in military service and shared faith in Jesus Christ. They bonded through team activities and topical workshops.

“I am so amazed at how people who have never known each other can connect so quickly and offer such meaningful support to each other,” says Rev. Jason Hacker, Grace, Waukesha, Wis. “What a blessing it was to witness it!” Hacker is also a member of the Board of Directors for the Lutheran Military Support Group and a WELS civilian chaplain.

Rev. Paul Horn, chairman of the WELS Military Services Committee, notes that the key to serving more WELS members in the military is through referrals from their loved ones.

“The best thing civilian laypeople can do to help is to refer their troops, whether they are family members or friends,” Horn explains. “They should go to [wels.net/refer](http://wels.net/refer) to enter military members’ information so we can serve them with Word and Sacraments.”

To learn more about WELS Military Services, visit [wels.net/military](http://wels.net/military).

For more information about the Lutheran Military Support Group, visit [lutheranmilitary.org](http://lutheranmilitary.org).

### **2019 BREWERS’ WELS NIGHT TICKETS STILL AVAILABLE**

Tickets are still on sale for the sixth annual WELS Night at Miller Park. Plan to join thousands of WELS members for the Milwaukee Brewers’ game against the San Francisco Giants on Fri., July 12, 2019. Game time is 7:10 p.m.

The Brewers are offering WELS members up to 50 percent off the price of tickets. The pricing is Field Outfield Box, Sections 128-131 for \$21/ticket, Loge Outfield Box, Sections 229-232 for \$17/ticket, or Terrace Reserved, Sections 436-437 for \$9/ticket. All seats are on the third base side. Discounted tickets are now available to purchase online at [brewers.com/wels](http://brewers.com/wels).

Last year more than 2,400 WELS witnessed a dramatic walk-off home run as the Brewers defeated the Rockies in the bottom of the ninth inning. The epic three-run blast topped off a wonderful evening of fun and fellowship for the fifth annual WELS night at Miller Park. “Since several seating sections were filled with members wearing the royal blue WELS Night at Miller Park t-shirts, we have decided to offer the same shirt again this year in youth and adult sizes,” says Lee Hitter, WELS Director of Communications.

Shirt orders will be available soon. Visit [wels.net/brewers2019](http://wels.net/brewers2019) to learn more.

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### **BETHANY EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH AND SCHOOL**

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