June 21, 2020

WELCOME TO BETHANY!

If you're reading this, you are with us in spirit… and that means so much to us! If you're visiting with us today, we're so glad you've joined us. Really! We feel honored that you would worship with us, and we pray God will use our service to bless you and strengthen your faith.

If you have any questions about what's going on, don't hesitate to email us. You can also give us a call (920-452-0051), but you may need to leave a message because we're working from home as much as we can. (Staff extensions are listed at the end of the bulletin.)

Worship

WORSHIP WITH US: Summer live-stream worship service will be held each Sunday **at 9:00am** at **bethanysheboygan.online.church**. (You can find a direct link on our website.) All you need is a device (computer, tablet or smartphone) with internet capability. Please join us — and if you have any questions (or have technical difficulties), email Jane or Pastor Jon. "See" you online on Sunday!

THE NEXT NORMAL: While online worship is starting to feel more normal, we are going to start slowly phasing back towards in-person worship, starting this week, Wed, June 24. However, our services will be limited to 25 participants, following Sheboygan County Health Dept's guidelines. If you would like to attend this Wednesday's service, please go to our homepage or call Melissa on Monday morning. The list will be filled on a "first come, first served" basis, but we will be asking those who attend the service this week not to sign up for a few weeks. Our worship services will continue to be live-streamed on Sundays at 9am and will be available on our YouTube channel then as well. If you have any questions about our plans or our sign-up process, please don't hesitate to call or email.

THIS WEEK

Making Contact: Love One Another
John 13:34-35

A few years ago, a Bethany sermon-series focused on neighbors, inspired by Dave Runyon's book, *The Art of Neighboring*. One of his insights was that when we think of neighbors in a general sense, it lets us off the hook for how we interact with our *actual* neighbors — the ones we live next to. I was struck by the wisdom of this. I wonder if it applies to Jesus' command to love one another? If we only have a vague sense of who we're supposed to love, then will we really love in real, concrete ways? If we're called to love everyone, isn't it possible that we'll end up being generally "nice," but not really loving anyone? It's something we'll consider today as we hear Jesus' new command.

NEXT WEEK (June 28)

Accept One Another (Romans 15:7)

Outreach

BUY A MAGNET — SUPPORT THE FOOD BANK: Ella Rocklewitz, one of our middle school students, is selling home-made magnets for the Sheboygan Food Bank. At our Taco Tailgate, she and Alison raised $250! If you're interested in buying a magnet for a good cause, contact Jen Rocklewitz at jenrocklewitz@gmail.com or call her at (920-973-60400).

BE A NEIGHBOR. The Outreach Team found a new opportunity being available — it's called "Be A Neighbor Campaign." You sign up online and tell them how you would like to serve. Then they will email you occasionally with opportunities. Go to beaneighborcampaign.com for more information.

NEW DAY MEAL DRIVE THRU: Last Tuesday, the New Day Meal team served meals drive-thru style. Unfortunately, there wasn't a great turnout, but that's part of the learning process. We try our best, and sometimes it works well and sometimes it doesn't. So we'll put our heads together and see what might work better next month. Even so, a huge thanks to the team who helped prepare and deliver the meals!

VOLUNTEER: The non-profit agencies of Sheboygan (United Way, Love INC, etc.) have created a single website that lists many opportunities for serving our community. You can find the link on our website.

MISSION OF THE MONTH: Our mission of the month is the Sheboygan Campus Life. As you can imagine, most of their programming is cancelled for now, though they have an online "program" for kids and a Bible study for adults via Zoom.

Care

ZOOM CAFE BETHANY is a weekly virtual version of Cafe Bethany. But instead of meeting in the fellowship hall, we are "seeing" each other on a computer screen, tablet, or phone. This is a casual way to say hello and catch up and connect. Each week this summer, we will host Zoom Cafe Bethany immediately following the worship service on Sundays at 10:00 am. (Remember, our worship services start at 9am for the summer.) Everyone is welcome to participate! At the end of the worship service, we'll put a link in the chat box, and clicking on it will take you to the Zoom meeting. If you have questions, please email Jill at jill.p@bethanyrc.com.

LAST WEDNESDAY'S CARE-A-VAN. Last Wed, we formed four Care-A-Vans and delivered smiles and blessings to different Bethany Community members at their homes or care facilities. Children and adults participated by honking hello, stopping and sharing coloring pictures, cards, and a friendly greeting. Thank you to all who took time to be part of spreading joy and care to others.

The Taco Tailgate brought lots of fun and laughter. A night of community for many in the parking lot and "on the road!"

Discipleship

WED EVENING PRAYER: For the couple of months, we've gathered together online for prayer. As we head into the summer months, we are making a change. Rather than holding prayer as a livestream, we plan to post a practice on our YouTube channel and on Facebook each Wednesday afternoon. This allows everyone to choose a 15 min space that works for them. Even praying the same prayers at different times is a way we can pray together during this season.

DO YOU LAUNCH YOUR DAY? My mornings are pretty consistent: coffee, a mini-crossword, some quiet time with God, and an exercise walk. On good days, this happens on my patio. How do you launch your day? Or do others launch if for you? (We told our first child he couldn't get out of bed before his clock said 6.) Even if you have a morning routine, sometimes it's good to change it up a little. This summer, we're inviting everyone to adopt a focus for the day. The focus each week will reflect what we're hearing together from God's word. You can find more about it here or on our webpage. Plus, we'll have 2-3 questions that will help you reflect on the passage we heard on Sunday.

VBS IS READY TO TAKE OFF. We are having VBS this year, but we're sending it out to different homes in our area. Families will receive all the videos (with our opening, songs, skits, and Bible lessons), materials,

and instructions they need to do the activities on their own or to invite others to join them. Our 5-session VBS will celebrate "Summer Around the World," which focuses on spreading the gospel to all the nations, and it will be available in August. For all parents and grandparents (and other parental types): Jill H. will be emailing you about your involvement in VBS, and she would appreciate a prompt reply. (If you're interested and aren't on her usual email list, please send her a note.) **NOTE:** We also need lots of long cardboard tubes (for paper towels, etc). Thanks!

CONSISTORY CORNER: We continue to work on plans for in-person worship based on the Sheboygan County Health Dept guidelines. Our first service will be Wed, June 24th. (Watch your email for information on signups.) We continue to watch updates as to when we can begin the next phase and allow greater in-person participation. For now, we will be limiting attendance to 25. Keep in prayer as we move forward in our planning.

BUDGET UPDATE: MAY

Weekly Average Received	$5,441 per week
Weekly Average Budgeted	$8,018 per week
Amount behind budget	$2,577 per week

GIVING: There are ways you can continue to faithfully give to God's work in and through Bethany, even if we aren't gathered in person. Either mail your offerings to Bethany (1315 Washington Ave, Sheboygan, 53081) or go to our secure, online page, which you can access at our website. Just look for the "Give Online" button. You can also text your giving to 920-280-0042. If you need any help please contact Melissa. She is happy to help!

CONTACTING CHURCH STAFF: Our staff are mostly working from home. **If you need to reach a member of Bethany staff, the best way to reach them is to send an email**, as they will be checking email regularly. If you call the church office and leave a message on their voicemail, know they will access these messages while working at home, but these messages will be checked less regularly.

STAFF

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