

Bethany Lutheran Church

July Newsletter 2026



Ladies of the Peace Circle will be meeting on Tuesday, July 21st at 2:00 p.m. at church.



Members of the church council will be meeting on Wednesday, July 22nd at 6:30 pm at church.

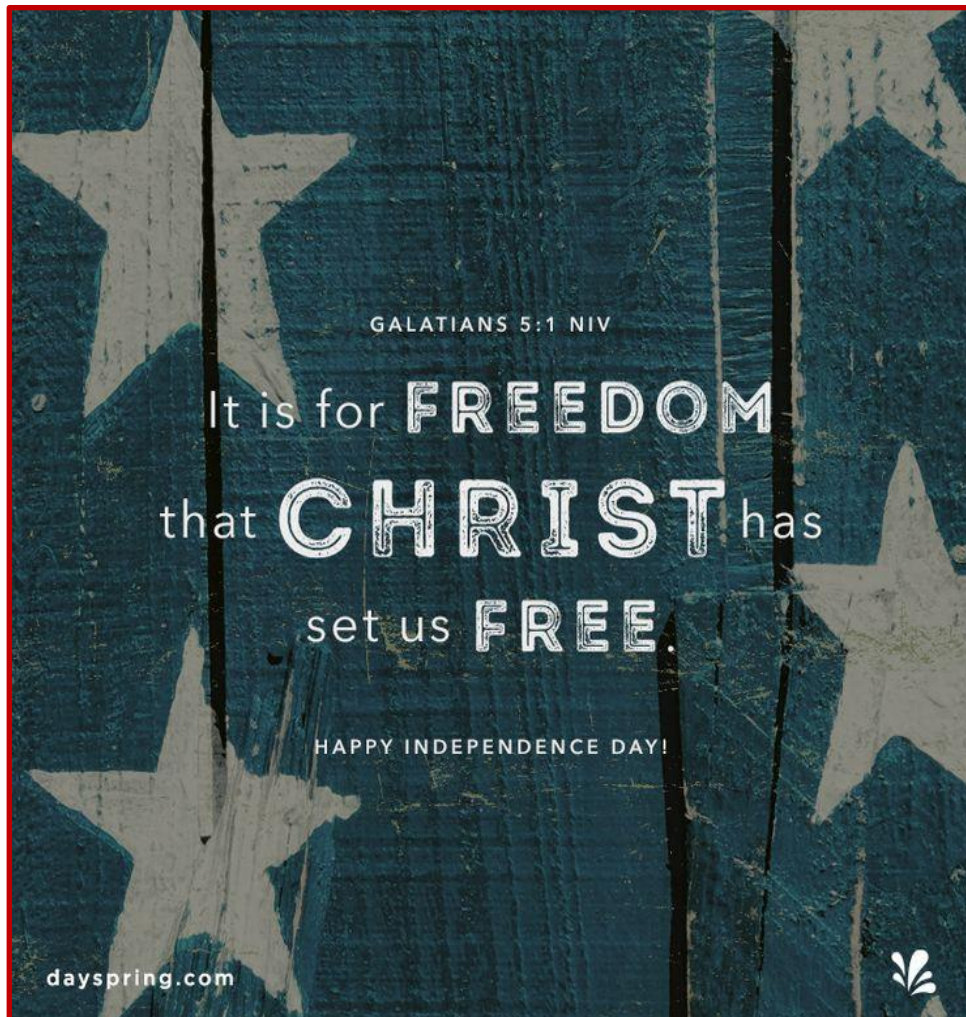
Summer Fellowship



We will gather for Summer fellowship from 10:15 to 10:45 am each Sunday through the last week in August. We are in need of volunteers to make coffee and provide a light treat or snack. If you are able to do so, there is a sign-up sheet located in the narthex. Thanks in advance to the volunteers who bring treats this summer!



Clay Tritteltwitz, Wendy Hoefs, Becky Crocker, Judy Janke, Carol Bowman, Susie Retzer, Gary Olby, Merlin Dotzler, and Karen Smestad.





PASTOR CONNECTION JULY 2026

*¹That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake.
²Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore. ³Then he told them many things in parables. . .” Matthew 13:1-3a*

Greetings friends and partners in ministry,

The month of June is now behind us. Scripturally, June brought us back into the Revised Common Lectionary order for worship where we focused exclusively on chapters 9 and 10 of Matthew’s gospel. As Jesus ministered in his hometown of Galilee and the adjacent fishing village of Capernaum along the shores of the Sea of Galilee, the texts revealed foundational growth and expansion occurring within the early stages of Jesus’ earthly ministry. They also featured the maturation of his team of disciples, including Jesus’ invitation to Matthew, a despised tax collector, to join his band of disciples. We reflected on how Jesus empowered and sent his disciples to teach, preach and minister to the “lost sheep of the house of Israel”, which exasperated already present tensions between Jesus’ ministerial focus and those of the established religious leaders in areas like the church’s identity, perspectives regarding “Law” and “Gospel”, and interpretations about inclusiveness within “the kingdom of heaven”. Finally, we reflected on the meaning of teaching comments Jesus made about things like ‘taking up the cross’ and ‘losing our lives for his sake so we can find our lives.’

Ministerially, we initiated our weekly summer brat sales at Trinity, conducted another successful clothing giveaway at Bethany, and both congregations participated in Grantsburg’s Big Gust Days.

Personally, for my family and I, the latter part of June was a time for rest, relaxation and celebration as we travelled together to the Big Island of Hawaii. I will share some of our experiences with you upon my return.

As we enter July, the home stretch of our internship journey together begins. Scripturally, we will deeply immerse in chapter 13 of Matthew’s gospel, known as his Parable’s Discourse. We will learn about why Jesus teaches through the use of parables and how, through this means, we might discover what Jesus reveals the ‘kingdom of heaven’ is like. And although my internship ends on July 31st there are no intensions to slow down the pursuit of ministerial goals we established together at the beginning of the internship. Therefore, ministerially this month we will initiate the expansion of our caring ministry with members who are dealing with obstacles like regularly attending worship and seeking relief from loneliness and/or social isolation. We will begin recruiting volunteers to participate in this expanded ministry as I return from vacation.

As always, I look forward to collaborating with you as we live out our faith in community with each other.

Sundays in July at Bethany and Trinity

<u>Worship:</u>	<u>Gospel Text</u>	<u>Sermon Topic</u>
July 5	Matthew 11:16-19, 25-30	Children of This Generation
July 12	Matthew 13:1-9, 18-23	Parable of the Soil
July 19	Matthew 13:24-30, 36-43	Parable of the Weeds
July 26	Matthew 13:31-33, 44-52	The Kingdom of Heaven

May God’s peace be with you!
Intern Pastor Tim

Join us as we celebrate

95th

BIRTHDAY

PARTY

FOR

Betty Weeks



SUNDAY, AUGUST 2ND

IN THE CHURCH BASEMENT
FOLLOWING WORSHIP



A light lunch will be served!

ALL ARE WELCOME!

You're Invited!

TO A

POTLUCK

IN CELEBRATION OF

Pastor Tim's
GRADUATION!



TRINITY
AT NOON



BETHANY IS ASKED
TO BRING SALADS



TRINITY WILL
PROVIDE THE REST

Let's celebrate this wonderful achievement
and all that God has done!