

#### Volume 2025

Issue 5

May

Hero.

Once we got a new car battery for our car on Easter Sunday (SURPRISE!) and while we each drove our cars home (Andy had driven to Cromwell on Saturday), I had time to pray and listen to more Easter music on the Christian radio station. As I listened to the music, I wondered if the language I use in sermons is as current as most of the songs. We've worshipped using ancient liturgy but does it merely sound strange or is it meaningful? Better said: Is the language I use in my sermons too "old school?" What got me thinking about this was a song that referred to Jesus as our "Hero." I love thinking about Jesus that way. The term "Savior" is very meaningful but to think of Jesus as our hero brings a fresh perspective of the amazing gift of his life, his ministry, his

sacrifice, his love for all eternity. Jesus, you are my hero.

I often tell Andy that he's my hero, especially when he makes sure a spider doesn't attack me in the shower! On Easter, there were other heroes to celebrate: I thought about Liz playing at the Easter Sunrise service with the wind blowing her music all over and there she was, leading the music splendidly; I thought about Jerry and Russell both being willing to pick us up at the Sheraton once we figured out the car was not going to start!; I thought about Allan, KICKING IT at the organ bench on Easter and all of the wonderful musicians and worshipers playing and singing God's praise; I thought about the little girl who comes ready to preach during the children's sermon; the list goes on and on. Thank you to Everyone who participated in Bethany's Holy Week services!

On Easter Monday, we woke to the news of Pope Francis' death. Another earthly hero, I can't mourn as he was so ill. Now, he's free and fully embraced by God's loving care. On Facebook, one of the most meaningful tributes that I read was written by (can't believe I'm saying this) Bob Dylan: "Pope Francis was a voice of mercy in a time of noise. He walked with humility, spoke with fire, and dared to love the unloved. He reminded the world that compassion isn't weakness, and faith doesn't have to shout to be heard. May he rest in the eternal peace he so often preached." Amen.

The Letter to the Hebrews says in chapter 12: "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses (i.e. earthly heroes), let us lay aside every weight and sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfector of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God."

Jesus is our hero. Thanks be to God!!!

Council Corner Notes: Monthly news and ministry high-

lights from your church council.



Exciting News—Pastor Cheryl has renewed her Intentional Interim Pastor contract with Bethany and will be with us through at least year-end. Hallelujah!

2025 Birdies for Charity—Bethany is again participating in the Birdies for Charity program. Recognizing how blessed we are, this year's focus will be on helping others through local food banks and Lutheran-supported charity programs.

Specifics will be provided over the next several weeks.

- Russell Smith



er	4	8 am— n/a 9:30 am —
Vlinist	11	Mike Balinskas
Assisting Minister	18	8 am— n/a 9:30 am— Jerry Griscom
¥	25	
Altar G	uild:	Angel Carlin
shers	4	8 am— n/a 9:30 am—
& U	11	
Greeters & Ushers	18	8 am— n/a 9:30 am—
0	25	
udio	4	9:30 am— Dennis Gehring
m / A	11	Dennis Gehring
Live Stream / Audio	18	9:30 am— Dennis Gehring
<b>Li</b>	25	John Trousdale
	4	8 am— n/a 9:30 am—
es	11	Nancy Balinskas
Slides	18	8 am— n/a 9:30 am—
	25	
Count	ters	TBD



olunteers

Volunteers for June 1, 2025, 9:30 a.m.							
Assisting Minister:							
Altar Guild: Angel Carlin							
Greeters & Ushers:							
Live Stream/Audio: Dennis Gehring							
Slides:							
Coffee Hour:							
Altar Flowers: Mike & Nancy Balinskas							
Counters: TBD							



#### WE NEED YOU !!

Empty spaces on the volunteer sheet designate that we need volunteers for our weekly services.



Please sign up online on Signup Genius (info in this Messenger) or sign up on the sheets on the Usher's Stand. Please sign up for Altar Flowers 2 weeks in advance. Give Robin a call in the office if you have any questions 860-635-4618 or to sign up.



The Saints gathered on April 10, aa week early so as not to conflict with activities during Holy Week.

Saints Alive Pastor Wogman led us in devotions and after the singing of the Saints song and a brief business meeting we gave our attention to our guest speaker.

Alden Barnes a resident at Covenant Living, a retired pastor and horticulturalist spoke to us about plants, their history, care, and what we could expect from the plants we would have for Easter.

He brought along a number of plants and was most helpful in answering the many questions we had. A lovely presentation: THANK YOU ALDEN!

There were 10 Saint's present and as always, we look for more to join us in our pleasant times together.

May 15, 2025	-	Pizza Party and Birthday Celebration
June 19, 2025	-	Picnic at Cromwell Landing
July 17, 2025	-	Boat Ride with Captain Bill
August 21, 2025	-	Speaker
September 18, 2025	-	Special Guest
October 16, 2025	-	Celebration of Reformation (Bonhoeffer Film)
November 20, 2025	-	Thanksgiving Program
December 11, 2025 (One week early)	-	Christmas Decorating & Party

#### Our meeting dates for 2025 are listed below.

## COME AND JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP! REMEMBER TO GIVE A SAINT A CALL!





## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

May 3	-	Alexander Knopf
May 4	-	Gregory Soneson
May 5	-	Sebastian LaMarr-Morales
May 7	-	Florence Alison
May 8	-	Addyson Jupe
May 10	-	Emma Ligas
May 11	-	Michael Gyuley
May 13	-	Mike Balinskas
May 14	-	Robert Alison
May 15	-	Colton Beckwith
May 16	-	Gabrielle Brzozowski
May 17	-	Steve Rauss
May 20		Bryce O'Linn
May 26	-	Amanda Symecko
May 27	-	Lincoln Johnston
	-	Berni Nelson
May 28	-	Henry Courchaine
	-	Liz Friedmann
	-	Greta Loesel
May 29	-	Rachel Smolicz



-	
	Claire & Frank Servidone, May 2, 2009
	Ellie & Douglas Gagnon, May 15, 1993
	Diane & Mark Aresco, May 17, 1980
	Heidi & Jeff Winesburg, May 17, 2001
	Karol & Rich Brzozowski, May 18, 1991
	Judith & Peter Coco, May 26, 1984
	Kelly & Pete Alison, May 26, 2012
	Sue & Edward Myskowskim, May 28, 1988

## 2025 Card Ministry

Thank you to everyone that volunteered to continue this ministry for 2025. We couldn't continue this ministry without your help!



January & February — Wendy Soneson March— Barbara Sunbury April— Karen Sullivan May —Linda Carlson June —Holly Linder July — Kelly McTeague August — Barb Hughes September — Pr. Maureen Hawksley October, November & December — Diane Rauss





Bethany Youth Group will meet on Friday, May 2 from 7 pm-9 pm.

We will play games outdoors if weather permits. Please bring a flashlight.

For those Youth who wish to stay, there will be a sleepover at the church followed by breakfast in a the morning.

Pick up time to be announced.

Contact LouAnn Smith with any questions 860-930-0075.



#### From Calumet!

Check out **"Boom Chicka News"** - a brand new monthly effort to be in the know about all kinds of information Calumet Nation will want to know!



<u>Use this link</u>: https://calumet.org/resources/ boomchickanews

Also, to find out about the facilities, activities and everything else "Calumet", please use the following link: https://www.calumet.org/programs/quickglance

Calumet Lutheran Ministries \* PO Box 236, W. Ossipee, NH 03890 \* 603.539.4773

On April 4, 2025, at the 2025 statewide Crisis Intervention Team Conference a new award was established and presented.



The award honors someone who demonstrates a deep sense of compassion, kindness and service. The award is a tribute to those who carry forward the mission of kindness, support and faithful service to all.

This new award is entitled, "The Reverend Dr. Paul Krampitz Legacy Award".

The first award was presented to Renee DiNino. If you google her name, you will find that she is a most worthy recipient.

-Fritz Krampitz



All visitors must check in at the front desk upon entering the building.

MASKS are Optional for Luther Ridge residents, staff and visitors.

Bethany has an online directory with all of our church members, addresses and phone numbers listed. We even have a small photo of individuals / families with the entries. If you would like to download this



directory to your phone or computer so that you will have access to all of our members addresses and phone #'s, give Robin a call in the office (860-635-4618) or send her an email and she will send you a link to set it up. The link is only good for 48 hours.

Once you have the directory downloaded, you will be able to update your address or phone #. If you would like a picture included (or update a current picture), please send Robin a **jpeg** picture and it will be put up on the site.

#### **Get Involved at Bethany**

If you would like to help out at one or more of our church services, you can sign up online at **"SignUp Genius"** (see the links below). Simply click on the link and select what Sunday(s) you'd like to help out. Weekly, we need the following helpers:



Assisting Minister Ushers / Greeters Altar Guild (Monthly) Liturgy Slide Assistants Live-Stream Assistants Coffee Hour Hosts

**Altar Flowers** 

After you sign up, you'll receive an email reminder about a week before the service. You can also edit or swap dates if something comes up. If you have questions, please reach out to *Mike Balinskas* or *Robin (860-635-4618)*.



Worship Service Volunteers

Right click picture and then click "Open Hyperlink" to go directly to SignUp Genius.





Coffee Hour

Altar Flowers



Currently, we are not running food donation drives at Bethany. Instead use the link below to select from the items needed from the Amazon

Wish List and have the items delivered directly to the St. Vincent de Paul of Middletown food pantry. It's easy and you are assured you are donating items that are really needed. Use the link a list of the most needed items at the Amazing Grace Food Pantry!

#### https://a.co/6uK7UPC

#### PRAYERS

If you would like a hospital or home visit, or are otherwise in need of pastoral care, please call the church office at **860-635-4618**. If it is af-



ter hours, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon as possible.

We will keep names on the prayer list for a two (2) week period. Names will automatically be removed at the end of the two (2) weeks. If you would like a person to stay on the list for another two (2) weeks, please email Robin on the Wednesday prior to the removal date at:

bethanyluthranchurchcromwell@gmail.com.

As of this date we are praying for:

Barbara, Amy, Diane, Sue, Carole, Gio, Glenn, Michael, Debbie, Danielle, Eddie, Larry, Ellen, Bill

#### **Distribution of Holy Communion in Pews**

We are happy to distribute Holy Communion in the pews for those who find it difficult to come to the communion rail in the chancel area. Moving forward, we will be using chalices pre-filled with gluten free bread and wine for those who are receiving in the pew. These are the same pre-filled chalices used during the pandemic and for home communion. This distribution method is less likely to result in accidental spills. As a reminder, simply notify an usher if you'd like to receive Holy Communion while seated.

Please try to sit at or near the end of a pew.



**111111** 

**りりりりりりりりりりりりりりりり** 

7

## THANKS TO ALL OUR MUSICIANS FOR EASTER

What glorious music resounded through our Sanctuary on Easter. So many talented and dedicated people who made all this possible. Ring Joy was outstanding as was Joyful Noise and our wonderful trumpeter Noah Bis-

sell. At the communion table we were blest with a beautiful rendition of Thine Is The Glory by the Bethany Choir.

To all who participated a big THANK YOU and especially to Liz Friedmann, who did so much to bring this all together.

### HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA!

## WORK TO BEGIN ON THE ORGAN

As part of a generous gift from the Estate of Ellen Arendt we will be able to do some long overdue maintenance on our beloved WICKS organ.

The organ has served us well over these many years but the packing around the pipes has deteriorated, which makes tuning difficult and often certain pipes will slip out of tune. The chimes will be repaired, electrical contacts cleaned etc.

The work will begin during the summer and will be cone by Christmas. In the interim the organ will be usable but will be limited in sound as much of it will be off being refitted.

#### THANK YOU, ELLEN!

## HYMN OF THE MONTH: Blest Be the tie That Binds, #656

As we begin our journey to select a new Pastor this hymn seems especially appropriate.

We are completing a survey as a beginning and as I completed mine, I was reminded once again of how important Bethany is in my life.

The story goes that the writer of this hymn was a pastor moving to a new location. As the carriage was pulling away with all his belonging the congregation and his wife pleaded with him not to leave and he turned around and came back-unpacked and stayed.

He then sat down and wrote these immortal words. Take a hymnal on Sunday and look up #656 and mediate on its beautiful message.

## **COME AND SING IT WITH US !**

# 



## Bethany Lutheran Preschool

where it all begins

Greetings from Bethany Lutheran Preschool!

April was a fun month! We made Easter crafts and had Easter Egg hunts. The children loved searching for eggs! We then had April Vacation and came back to nice weather. We spent the rest of the month learning about the earth and Spring.

May is another busy month for us. We make gifts for all the moms and are so excited to give them out for Mother's Day. We are not in school for Father's Day, but we do not forget about them!

At the end of May we have an outdoor day for all the classes. They bring in bikes to ride, and we play outside all day and end the class with popsicles! We also had our annual Family Fun Night to thank all the families for choosing us at the beginning of May. We had pizza, snacks, and popsicles and cookies along with a balloon artist, music, and games.

Our school year is almost done! We learned a lot, made friends, and had fun. It has been a great year!

Terri Camilleri Director, Bethany Lutheran Preschool



#### THE CONVENIENCE OF ELECTRONIC GIVING IS BACK

Online Giving can be accessed by scanning the QR Code to the right or visiting https://bethanylutheranchurch cromwell.org/ at any time to set up an automatic donation, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation or view your online donation history. As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Authorization information is available by contacting Robin in the church office at 860-635- 4618.

#### **The Simply Giving Program**

The Simply Giving<sup>®</sup> Program is designed to help you conveniently make payments to Bethany Lutheran Church. Through the Simply Giving Program,



your payments are made through a pre-authorized withdrawal from your bank account. You determine the frequency of your automatic payment – weekly, semi-monthly or monthly. Your payment is deposited into the church's bank account on the same day it is withdrawn from your account.

#### Why Sign Up?

- Convenience Payment will still be made if you are out of town or on vacation.
- Security No checks are needed which means no lost or stolen checks.
- Environmentally friendly Save on checks, envelopes and postage.

#### How to Sign Up

• Complete the form and return it with your voided check to:

Bethany Lutheran Church ATTN: Simply Giving 50 Court Street Cromwell, CT 06416

Forms and questions may be directed to:

Robin Scotti Bethany Lutheran Church Office Manager <u>bethanylutheranchurchcromwell</u> @gmail.com

#### OR

Give Robin a call in the church office, **860-635-4618**, and she can set you up in the Vanco system.



# vi Vi

#### The CAT is underway!

Bethany Lutheran's Congregation Assessment Tool (CAT) is open to every member/ regular worshipper. Thank you to those who have already completed it. **Please complete the survey before it closes on May 12, 2025.** 

The CAT is used to identify key indicators of our congregational health along with areas of challenge and potential growth. It will help us to collect and understand the range of views that exist at Bethany along with possibilities, willingness, capacity, and energy for moving our ministry into the future. Your input is needed to help us call our next pastor.

The survey takes approximately 30 minutes to complete, and responses are anonymous. If you have not received an email with the survey or if you need a paper copy, contact Robin at the church office (860) 635-4618. Laptops and support are available after 9:30 worship on Sundays.

#### **Example Ranking Questions**

1. Rank the following fruits in order of importance.

	Least Imp.	4th	3rd	2nd	Most Imp.	
Apple	0	0	0	0	0	
Orange	0	0	0	0	0	
Banana	0	0	0	0	0	
Grapes	0	0	0	0	0	
Kiwi	0	0	0	0	0	

2. Read and consider the entire list of items before selecting bubbles (apple, orange, banana, grapes, kiwi).

After reading all the items, decide which item in the list is the most important to you.

On the line of the item that is the most important item to you, select the bubble under the "Most important" heading (bananas are my favorite).

	Least Imp.	4th	3rd	2nd	Most Imp.		
Apple	0	0	0	0	0		
Orange	0	0	0	0	0		
Banana	0	0	0	0	•		
Grapes	0	0	0	0	0		
Kiwi	0	0	0	0	0		

3. Look at the remaining items in the list (apple, orange, grapes, kiwi).

Decide which item is the 2nd most important to you and select the bubble under the "2nd" heading (I like kiwi the 2nd best).

	Least Imp.	4th	3rd	2nd	Most Imp.
Apple	0	0	0	0	0
Orange	0	0	0	0	0
Banana	0	0	0	0	•
Grapes	0	0	0	0	0
Kiwi	0	0	0	٠	0

4. Look at the remaining items in the list (apple, orange, grapes).

Decide which item is the 3rd most important to you and select the bubble under the "3rd" heading (I like apples the 3rd best).

	Least Imp.	4th	3rd	2nd	Most Imp.	
Apple	0	0	٠	0	0	
Orange	0	0	0	0	0	
Banana	0	0	0	0	٠	
Grapes	0	0	0	0	0	
Kiwi	0	0	0	٠	0	
(continue on Page 11)						

5. Continue until you have ranked all the items (I don't like grapes). Each line item will have one bubble selected.

Each heading will have one bubble selected. Bubbles will disappear if duplicates are chosen.

	Least Imp.	4th	3rd	2nd	Most Imp.		
Apple	0	0	٠	0	0		
Orange	0	•	0	0	0		
Banana	0	0	0	0	•		
Grapes	•	0	0	0	0		
Kiwi	0	0	0	٠	0		

#### Important:

- One email address may be used for all members of the household.
- Individuals 14 to 110 years of age living in your home should complete a separate survey. Individual input is key to our gaining insight into overall perceptions and experiences.
- Incorporate input for children younger than 14 with your answers.
- It is best to complete and submit the survey in one sitting. Answers may not hold if the computer goes "to sleep".

Thank you for your willingness to be a part of this congregational assessment and for helping to move forward with our ministry as a community making Christ known at Bethany Lutheran. If you have questions, please ask your Transition Team.

#### Danielle O'Linn - Chair

(theolinn4@sbcglobal.net) Pastor Cheryl Larsen Lawing Nancy Balinskas John Beatty Holly Linder Gehring LouAnn Smith Wendy Soneson Norma Zashut





Show your love for your mother. grandmother or aunt this Mother's Day by placing words of appreciation throughout the house for her to find.

#### What you need:

- Construction paper
- Scissors
- Colored pencils
- Crayons
- Tape

#### What you do:

- Fold construction paper into fourths.
- Cut paper along the folds to get four pieces.
- On each rectangle, write words of appreciation, drawings and so on.
- 4. Tape the papers throughout the house. For example, a note on the refrigerator or pantry might say, "Thank you for making yummy meals for me." A note on a mirror might say, "You are beautiful inside and out!"











Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
C—Chapel BCR—Bell Choir Room FH—Fellowship Hall K—Kitchen L—Lounge O—Office PS—Preschool SCR—Small Community Room S—Sanctuary				] Pastor's Vacat	2 <b>7—9 pm—</b> Youth Group , Sleepover (FH/L) <b>ion</b>	3 1−4pm− NE Cham- ber Choir (FH)	
4 9:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Wogman 11 am—Children & Youth Committee (L) 11:30 am—Pickleball (FH)	5 Cinco de Myo	6	7 <b>10:30 am</b> —Table Talk at Luther Ridge <b>6-9:30 pm</b> — NE Chamber Choir (FH) <b>Pastor's Vacation</b>	8	9 5:30-7:30 pm— Preschool Fun Night	10 1– 4 pm— NE Cham- ber Choir (FH)	
11 Mother's Day 9:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion, Pastor Wogman 11:30 am—Pickleball (FH)	12 <b>7:00 pm</b> — Finance	13 5:30 pm— Preschool Board (SCR)	14 10:30 am—Table Talk at Luther Ridge 6 pm—Transition Team (L) 6-9:30 pm— NE Chamber Choir (FH)	<b>15</b> <b>1:30 pm—</b> Saints Alive (L)	<b>16</b> <b>7-10 pm—</b> NE Chamber Choir (FH)	17 10–4 pm– NE Cham- ber Choir (FH)	
18 8 am—Worship w/Holy Communion (C) 9:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion 10:45 am—Executive Committee (L) 11 am— Council (L) 11:30 am—Pickleball (FH)	19	20 5:30—9 pm— GM Chorale Annual Meeting (FH)	<b>21</b> <b>10:30 am</b> —Table Talk at Luther Ridge	22	23	24 12—5 pm— Celebration of the Life of Janice Eifrig	
25 9:30 am—Worship with Holy Communion 11:30 am—Pickleball (FH)	26 Memorial Day Office Closed	27	28 10:30 am—Table Talk at Luther Ridge 6 pm—Transition Team & Council with Mark Lingle (FH/L)	29 6-8 pm— Dinner Church (FH)	30	31	

**†** YouTube Link: <u>https://www.youtube.com/@BethanyLutheranCromwellCT</u> **†** 

+ Facebook Link: <u>https://www.facebook.com/bethanycromwellct/</u> +

**†** Instagram Link: <u>https://www.instagram.com/bethanychurchcromwellct/</u> **†** 

## The Bethany Messenger

#### **Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA 50 Court Street** Cromwell, CT 06416



What's New in New England New England Synod Assembly 2025 **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America** God's work. Our hands.

#### WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sundays: 8 a.m.—1st & 3rd Sunday

9:30 a.m.— and Live on YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/ @BethanyLutheranCromwellCT

## Inside This Issue...

Page 1...Pastor's Message ...Council Corner Notes Page 2...May Volunteers—We Need You! Page 3...Saints Alive Page 4...Card Ministry / Youth Group News Page 5...Pastor Paul Legacy Award Established Page 6...Get Involved at Bethanv / Pravers Page 7...From the Organ Loft Page 8...Bethany Lutheran Preschool Update ... Giving Info Page 9...Help Filling out the C.A.T. Page 10..C.A.T. continued Page 12..May Calendar 

**Church Office:** Fax:

(860) 635-4618 (860) 635-4618 (please call first]

Office Hours: Mon., Tue., Thur. — 8 a.m.—3 p.m. Wed. & Fri.—8 a.m.—12 p.m.

**Preschool:** (860) 632-0597

**E-Mail Address:** 

bethanylutheranchurchcromwell@gmail.com

Website: https://bethanylutheranchurchcromwell.org/



#### The June Messenger Deadline is: May 15th

**Interim Pastor: Pastor Emeritus: Council President: Council Vice President: Council Secretary: Church Treasurer: Financial Secretary:** Minister of Music:

a etter

**Joyful Noise & Ring Joy Director:** 

Sunday School Coordinator:

Church Council: Diane Aresco, Mark Aresco, Karol Brzozowski, Carol Frago, Jerry Griscom, Barb Hughes, Noelle Keegan, Kitty Richheimer, Pam Shaw, Russell Smith, Christine Trousdale, Pr. Cheryl Larsen Lawing

**Office Manager / Preschool Registrar:** 

Robin Scotti

Rev. Chervl Larsen Lawing Rev. Lawrence N. Wogman Christine Trousdale Karol Brzozowski **Barb Hughes** Carol Frago Russell Smith Allan R. Nelson Liz Friedmann

Claire Pearson