

Celebrating 135 Years of Making Jesus Known

THE BETHEL NEWS



Inside this Issue:

- Pastor Richard’s Article—Pg. 2
 - Ministry & Upcoming Events—Pg. 3
 - Notes to the Congregation—pg. 4
 - Birthdays & Anniversaries—Pg. 5
 - Mission of the Month—Pg. 5
-



SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30	Inside w/communion (and streamed on FaceBook)
9:30	Sunday School
9:00	Children’s Choir

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, February 13th
Ash Wednesday evening service at 7:00 p.m.
There will be a baked Ziti dinner with salad and bread at 6:00 pm .



Pastor's Page

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Lutheran Church is a teaching and confessing church that centers itself around the Word of the gospel of Jesus Christ and the Sacraments. Each month we are going through The Augsburg Confession which is the summary of our beliefs and what we have in common with the whole Christian church. This month we will look at the Thirteenth article.

“Concerning the use of sacraments, it is taught that the sacraments are instituted not only to be signs by which people may recognize Christians outwardly, but also as signs and testimonies of God’s will toward us in order to awaken and strengthen our faith. This is why they also require faith and are rightly used when received in faith for the strengthening of faith.”

The Word and Sacraments are marks of the church. They are signs of Christians in community but they are not magic or something we bring to them to make them effective. They are gifts from God to us. They are promises of God for us to receive by faith. Wengert explains, God gives the sacraments to embrace us, physical beings that we are, in his love and grace. Failing to ask God’s intent in giving the sacraments misses their down-to-earth meaning completely. This is what God is doing for us and God’s will toward us. In baptism, God wills to declare us his children; in the supper, Christ wills to feed us his body and blood for the forgiveness of sin; in absolution, the Holy Spirit continues our daily baptism by putting the old creature to death and raising up the New Creature of faith. God is continually drawing near to us and saying, You are mine! You are my beloved child! God’s unconditional promise draws us to himself. As the hymn goes, “What wondrous love is this, O my soul. I’ll sing God’s love for me, and through eternity I will sing! The Word and sacraments give us Jesus!

While some people devalue the promise of baptism but Jesus risks blessing the children and whole families are called to enter the waters through faith. Wengert says, the Lord’s Supper seems so foolish: a morsel of bread and a sip of wine and it’s over. Yet here, too the action proclaims that Christ is truly present with his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. “How is Christ present?” Luther and later Lutherans were asked. Don’t ask mathematical questions, Luther replied. The whole point rests upon the foolish announcement by Christ: Take, eat, this is my Body. Drink of it, all of you, this is the blood of the New Testament.” Even the words of absolution gives the Unconditional mercy of God in Christ that You are forgiven!

All three sacraments deliver God’s promise of forgiveness, life, and salvation. There is no better news for the sinner, for the dying, or for the lost. Good news for us. Making Jesus Known starts by gathering around the Word and Sacraments and sharing the good news of Jesus love for all.

Pastor Richard

*The Augsburg Confession: Renewing Lutheran Faith and Practice by Timothy Wengert Chapter 13

On Going Prayers including occasional homebound folks

Deanna Brannigan	Johnny Conti
Peggy Shaw	Lynn Henry
Janet Phelps	Linda Martin
Nancy Kissel	Cora Dixon
Eleanor Laise	Sharon Chase
Arlene McAtee	John Beggs
Berta McGuire	Janice John
Barney Davidson	Joyce Fowler
Teresa Krasinski	Doris Gluck
Ron Kinnick	Joe DeArcangelis
Alice Ogden	JJ&Helen LoSasso
Debbie Wilson	Elva Evans
Lou & Ruth Schenker	Marie Klase
Nicole Gettman Wells	



A Look at our Loyalty

The Church is a gift...assembly required.

General Operations Fund

To cover our 2024 approved budget, We need to bring in \$ \$23,484 per month to our general fund.

Total received in December \$25,269.00

Capital Improvement Fund

Total received in December \$1,545.00

We are now taking orders for Easter flowers!

Order forms are in your February newsletter and on table outside of the main office. Orders MUST be in by February 18th!



Dear Members:



Contact for our e-mail for the Prayer chain is Nancy Kuivila. Her email is nkuivila41@gmail.com If you would like to be a part of the e-mail prayer chain, contact Nancy. ~Thank you Nancy!!~

LENT

There will be a weekly noon service of Word & Prayer during Lent.

The first service will be on February 21st, the week after Ash Wednesday

NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:



If you have **Altar Flowers** or a **Candle**: Please pay when you reserve your flower date. Make checks payable to the church **\$25.00** for flowers and \$8.00 for a candle, and mail to the church or put in the offering plate.
 If you have a **date** you want, let Susan know 330-758-4283
Thanks, Altar Flower Committee



Christmas is over and you may be cleaning out your closets...The Outreach Committee will be having a donation drive in February for the Rescue Mission. If you have any of the following, please consider bringing them to the church:

- Clothing, any condition
- Linens (no pillows or mattresses)
- Gently used toys or books
- Household items and sporting goods
- Electronics & small appliances (no TVs)
- Furniture in good condition (no infant furniture or sleeper sofas)

<u>2024 Church Council</u>	
President:	Tom Peterson
Vice President:	Gary Wollet
Secretary:	Linda Titus
Christian Ed:	Erin Conway
Communications:	Shelia Kidd
Finance:	Ed Rusinowski
Parish Life:	Candy Rusinowski
Property:	John Smiley
Outreach:	Karen Protzman
Worship:	Karen Marchese



Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper! February 13th from 5:00-7:00pm. All you can eat pancakes with all the fixins'! Donation only. Join us for music, decorations and the BEST pancakes EVER! You guys know the drill! If you've been to our feast before, you know it will not disappoint! Proceeds to benefit the youth. Thank you for your support! See Beth Applegate for more information.
 Christian Ed Committee



All Council Committee Meetings: If you would like to attend a Committee Meeting, please contact the Chair person of that committee to find out when that committee meets. All committee members and associate members should attend monthly meetings.

Church Council Meeting on the 3rd Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. each month unless notified of changes. All council members should attend monthly meetings.

Mickey Schuster Meeting will be as meetings are scheduled.

BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES



- 2 Evan Conway, Chad Manchester
- 3 Linda Spencer, Ross Applegate
- 4 Richard Swanson, Sherri Remias
- 6 Diane Kirr, Mark Guthridge
- 7 Pastor Paul Burgeson
- 9 Brian Huddleston, Lloyd Murray
- 13 Sydney Nicole Miller Snyder
- 14 Ray Fowler
- 16 Stacey Wollet
- 18 Jennifer Cicchillo
- 19 Corrine Gear, Don Wiff, Donna Robinson
- 20 Shawna Applegate
- 21 Alice Hartig
- 27 Bruce Coldren
- 28 Michael Kirr



- 1 Skip & Lin Gettman (50!)
- 23 Daryn & Jennifer Tallman
- 24 John & Deborah Conti
- 27 Lou & Ruth Schenker (70!)
- 28 Gary & Mary Ann Wollet

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
FOR
FEBRUARY IS
SECOND HARVEST FOOD BANK**



**Let the office know of any changes,
corrections or additions,
or if celebrating a
“milestone” birthday or anniversary.
Thank you!**

2024 EASTER PLANT ORDER FORM

Deadline for all orders is February 18th. Thank you so much!

Please fill out the form below and put in the Office Manager mailbox on the main office door, or hand to an usher.

Payment must accompany your order.

I would like to order _____ Tulips at \$9.00 each.
_____ Hyacinths at \$9.00 each..
_____ Gerbera Daisy \$9.00
_____ Chrysanthemums at \$10.25 each.
_____ Lilies at \$10.25 each

Check enclosed for \$ _____

Make checks out to Bethel Lutheran Church

PLEASE PRINT

In Honor of _____

In Memory of _____

Given by _____
