

Celebrating 135 Years of Making Jesus Known

THE BETHEL NEWS



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HOLY WEEK

Worship Services

SUNDAY WORSHIP SCHEDULE

10:30	Inside w/communion (and streamed on FaceBook)
9:15	Children & Adult Sunday School
9:00	Children's Choir

Palm Sunday, April 2, 2023 ~ 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday, April 6th ~ 7:00p.m.
Good Friday, April 7th ~ 7:00p.m.



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 Fourth article. This is appropriate for the season of Easter where we are meditating and focusing on the life, death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. The Fourth article deals with Justification by grace through faith in Christ alone!

“Furthermore, it is taught that we cannot obtain forgiveness of sin and righteousness before God through our merit, work, or satisfactions, but that we receive forgiveness of sins and become righteous before God out of grace for Christ’s sake through faith when we believe that Christ has suffered for us and that for his sake our sin is forgiven and righteousness and eternal life is given to us. For God will regard and reckon this faith as righteousness in his sight, as St. Paul says in Romans 3 and 4.”

The problem with some form of Christianities is the focus on a “before and after” of the Christian faith. Wengert describes this as the “Up Religion.” This is humans who have fallen away from God and try to climb the ladder and work their way back up. The problem with that approach our focus is no longer on God but on our works to follow the rules so God will love and bless us but the problem is that we are never sure if we prayed enough, was sincere enough, and was our decision truly from the heart. This leads to despair and the loss of faith or a deception that you are a good Christian based on all of your works. When we replace the good news of God’s divine rescue if us through Christ’s life, death, and resurrection with our own works we are following a different religion. God’s love and grace is unconditional, and we receive through faith in Christ alone. Christ’s faithfulness saves us. It is not our work. It is God’s favor and mercy alone that saves us.

Timothy Wengert tells a story about a former student who told him how she became Lutheran. Fifteen years as a Roman Catholic, she had gone to confession and received from the priest a list of things she needed to do to show her penitence. Because she never did them, she kept feeling guilty and stopped going to church altogether. (Not to pick on some RC churches but some evangelical churches also give you a long list of demands as well) In college, a friend invited her to come to his Lutheran Church. At the beginning of the service, the congregation started with the general confession of sins, and all of her guilt came flooding back, reminding her why she had given up on religion. But then the pastor turned to the congregation and said’ “You are forgiven in Jesus’ name.” Shocked at what she was hearing, she burst out “Is that it?” Yes , that is it , not just for her but for all who have ears to hear: Christ’s righteousness is ours, and our sin belongs to Christ, once for all.* This is the good news for you.

Pastor Richard

*The Augsburg Confession: Renewing Lutheran Faith and Practice by Timothy Wengert
pg 56-57 paraphrased



On Going Prayers including occasional homebound folks

Deanna Brannigan	John Conti
Peggy Shaw	Lynn Henry
Janet Phelps	Audrey Wylie
Nancy Kissel	Linda Martin
Eleanor Laise	Cora Dixon
Arlene McAtee	Sharon Chase
Berta McGuire	John Beggs
Barney Davidson	Janice John
Teresa Krasinski	John Smiley
Ron Kinnick	Joyce Fowler
Alice Ogden	Doris Gluck
Debbie Wilson	

A Look at our Loyalty

The Church is a gift...assembly required.

General Operations Fund

To cover our 2023 approved budget, We need to bring in \$22,914.00 per month to our general fund.
Total received in February \$14,409.67

Capital Improvement Fund

Total received in February \$1,522.00



Congratulations to these children who are making their First Communion on April 6th, 2023 at 7:00p.m.:

Emily Griswold, Leah Griswold, and Theo Sapp

Congratulations!!! May God Bless you always!

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!!~

NOTES TO THE CONGREGATION:

HELP NEEDED:

Three Council Positions for 2023

- Finance Committee Chair
- Membership Committee Chair

Please Contact: Pastor Richard, Bill Conkey, Sue Mallery if you would be interested in filling these positions.

In addition, we need help one Sunday Morning a month after worship service to count the offerings. If you can help with this, please contact Bill Conkey at 330-727-0398. Thank you!!

Anyone interested in being on the Altar Guild, please contact Candy Rusinowski at 330-720-9764. She is looking for people to help set up communion!



The Outreach Committee is seeking new members to organize and provide activities in order to reach out to others in our community. Please contact Karen Protzman at 330-980-5769 or karen_caldwell@yahoo.com



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 330-360-4537
Thanks, Altar Flower Committee

<u>2023 Church Council</u>	
President:	Bill Conkey
Vice President:	Tom Peterson
Secretary:	Linda Titus
Christian Ed:	Erin Conway
Communications:	Shelia Kidd
Finance:	OPEN
Parish Life:	OPEN
Property:	John Smiley
Outreach:	Karen Protzman
Worship:	Candy Rusinowski

Join us Easter morning for a beautiful celebration of the resurrection! There will be the brass quintet and choir music! Help us celebrate the Risen Christ!
 He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!
 Hallelujah!

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



- 1 Karen Rutan, Karen Kitelinger
- 2 Ben Rusinowski
- 3 Ashley Klase
- 5 Neal Martin
- 6 Katherine Hermann
- 7 Karen Marchese
- 8 Dee Beck
- 13 Gary Baker, Donatello Nerone
- 15 Robert Marchese
- 18 Bob Wright, Linda Antinone
- 19 Alfred Thompson, Starr Hungerford
- 22 Jennifer DeNiro, Cora Dixon, Judy Sommerlad
- 23 Debbie Wilson, Aniston Rusinowski, Danielle Noday
- 24 Silvia Baust, Linda Kulow
- 27 DeAnna Griswold
- 28 David Spencer, Howard Wiff
- 30 Jodi Shood, Sloane Conder



- 3 Glenn & Heidi Garwig
- 8 Richard & Linda Swanson
- 19 Jeff & Linda Kulow
- 25 Ted & Erin Conway
- 26 Robert & Karen Marchese
- 30 David & Linda Spencer (52)

**MISSION OF THE MONTH
FOR
APRIL IS
CAMP FREDERICK**

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