



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

BEACON

Spring 2024



"The Lord bless you and keep you..."

Numbers 6:24

The Bethel Cherub Choir sang the most uplifting song on Sunday, March 17, as the Call to Worship, and it still buoys my spirit when I remember those sweet voices: (bit.ly/blessyou-cherubs). The title of the song was "Bless You" and the refrain repeated, "Bless you, bless you, is not only for 'a-choo'... for we all need blessings, too." Each verse listed ways you can bless others including family, friends, pets, food, teachers, and the people that we meet. Because God provides blessing for us, we can bless one another.

In the fourth petition of the Lord's Prayer we ask God to "give us this day our daily bread." Martin Luther's explanation to the meaning of "daily bread" is "everything included in the necessities and nourishment for our bodies, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, farm, fields, livestock, money, property, an upright spouse, upright children, upright members of the household, upright and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, decency, honor, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like." God providing daily provisions with a list this long certainly fills us up in order to bless one another.

Weekly worship at Bethel gives you an opportunity to refuel for a life of blessing.

Bethel's worship attendance continues to recover with increased members and visitors worshipping at any one of our four weekend services. If you miss a weekend service or need to stay home on a Sunday morning our livestream worship and services posted on our website help keep you connected to the Bread of Life. It is through Christ that we are blessed to be a blessing.

At the end of the Cherub Choir song is a little boy who sneezes perfectly on the beat and the entire choir says, "Bless you!" It solicited a heart-felt laugh of joy from the congregation and applause. In a profound way, this is what it means to be the church: To surround one another with support and blessings but also to leave worship with a joy in sharing God's loving grace with others. In all of life's circumstances, we are blessed with a promise, including the one that is recorded in the Old Testament book of Numbers, chapter six: "The Lord bless you and keep you, the Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor, and give you peace." Amen!



PASTOR ANJANETTE BANDEL



Spring **CONCERT:**
Let All the People Praise May 15th | 7 pm

The Bethel Music Department rejoices in another church year of stellar music with our annual Spring concert "Let All the People Praise" on Wednesday, May 15 at 7 pm. This concert will feature new music that has not been shared during regular services, performed by all of our various ensembles and choirs. This is a free concert and everyone is invited to join us for an evening of inspirational music and scripture. Save the date, we hope to see you there!



Featuring: Bible Study Group | Rummage Sale | Upcoming Summer Activities | InterServe | CYF News

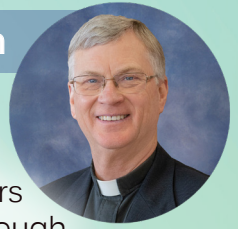
WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE STUDY

April 10th – June 19th | 6:30 pm

The Book of Acts

Stretch out the word “Acts” and what do get? **Actions!** The book of the Bible that immediately follows the four Gospels is “Acts”, also known as “The Acts of the Apostles” or even “The Acts (or actions) of the Holy Spirit”. The books of Luke and Acts were written by the same person, telling the story of God’s work in the world through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ (told in the Gospel of Luke) and, in “part 2”, Acts tells how, empowered by the Holy Spirit, the earliest followers of Jesus spread the message of the risen Christ far beyond the places that Jesus himself visited.

Yes, this book is full of action. After Jesus’ physical departure, the Holy Spirit empowers the disciples to continue Jesus’ ministry through words and actions.



Pastor Byron will be teaching this ten-session course on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm from April 10th through June 19th (no class on May 29th) in Room 115. Registration for the class is not required; feel free to come as your schedule allows.



The Joy of Giving!

BETHEL NOW HAS VENMO!

It is a joy to support the vibrant ministry of Bethel Lutheran Church! Our Stewardship Team has been tasked by the Church Council to share opportunities to increase sustainable gifts that support the mission and ministry of our congregation. We are glad to now offer an additional platform for giving through Bethel’s new **Venmo** account (@Bethel-Lutheran-Rochester.)

Recognizing that Venmo is one method that is widely used in the modern culture of electronic giving, we hope this will encourage continued support of the mission and ministry

of our congregation. Recurring online giving through Bethel Connect (bit.ly/donateonline-bethel) is also an important way to seamlessly support the exciting ministry of our congregation.

There is much to celebrate at Bethel including increased worship attendance, faithful volunteers, uplifting music from choirs and instrumentalists, a commitment to serving the community, and an active Children, Youth and Family ministry. And the list goes on. Thank you for all the ways you support Bethel and help our staff and congregation partner in sharing the grace and steadfast love of Christ.



Summer Activities COMING SOON!

It appears that Spring weather and temperatures have arrived early this year. It’s the time of year when we are anxious to be out of doors enjoying God’s creation and beauty. The following activities are being planned for anyone’s participation. **We’d love to receive suggestions for any other activity that could be facilitated.**

HOLY STROLLERS (WALKING GROUP):

Currently the walks are scheduled on Thursday mornings at 9 am, at various locations throughout Rochester. Is there interest in an evening walking group? It’s a great way to socialize too. All experience levels are welcome. Rochester provides so many wonderful paths.

BETHEL BIKERS: The Bethel bicycling group will meet weekly on Tuesday evenings.

BETHEL HIKERS: Hikes will take place at locations around Rochester. Diane Johnson, who is a member of the Health Cabinet and an avid hiker is volunteering to assist with planning of schedule and frequency of scheduled events.

More information will be coming out in the next few weeks with the schedules. If you would like to lead one of the groups, contact Jeanne Townsend RN, Parish Nurse by phoning the church office (507) 288 6430 or by email: townsend@bethellutheran.com



CYF Ministry News

CYF Ministry is looking forward to a summer filled with fun activities for children, youth, and families of all ages. Don't miss out! We will also have our 4th Sunday Family Days where there will be worship, activities, and food. More details to come! **Save the Dates: June 23rd, July 28th, and Aug. 25th.**

Special Dates

- **June 16th-21st** – Confirmation Camp for 24/25 7th and 8th Graders, contact Pastor Lisa (hawe@bethellutheran.com) for details register @ goodearthvillage.org
- **June 24th-27th** – Scuba VBS, 9 am – Noon. Current Pre-K Sunday School – 4th Grade, \$20/child, contact Susan Larson (slarson@bethellutheran.com) for more info.
- **July 21st-26th** – High School Boundary Waters Canoe Trip, Contact Pastor Lisa for details.
- **July 29th – Aug. 1st** – Good Earth Village Day Camp @ Bethel, Current Kindergarten – 5th Grade students, \$50/child, contact Susan Larson for more info.

Sunday School, Forum 56, Anchored will end on May 19th for this school year. Registration is open so you can get signed up today! Visit our website bethellutheran.com/cyf for the sign-up link. Sunday School 24/25 will start with Rally Day on September 8th. There are many volunteer opportunities for youth in 7th grade – adults. Contact Susan Larson for more info.



FRIDAY MAY 10TH

Find a place for your retired treasures!

We accept Furniture in good condition, Spring/Summer clothing, books, households, etc. (very helpful to have bedding/table linens/men's suits labeled with sizes). Please don't bring computers, TVs, curtain rods, blinds, lighting or plumbing fixtures, microwaves, or out-of season clothing as we have to pay to dispose of them.

7:30 am - 2 pm | Bag Sale: 2:15 - 4 pm
Coffee, Cinnamon Rolls, Cookies and Bars available for purchase.

DONATIONS may be brought Wednesday May 8th 4-8 pm or Thursday, May 9th 8 am - 4 pm to Bethel Hall using the loading dock door or south door of the church. Please bring Furniture and books to the Narthex (south door). Thank you for your support of this wonderful event. All monies go to help support local, national and world charities.

PARTNERING FOR GROWTH:

A New Season at Bethel Lutheran Church

Exciting changes are on the horizon as Bethel Lutheran Church embarks on a journey of growth and renewal through a partnership with InterServe Ministries to revitalize our Children, Youth, and Family (CYF) programs. In times of transition, collaboration is essential, and we are enthusiastic about the opportunities ahead.

This partnership is about deepening connections within our community. The recent vacancies in two youth ministry staff positions prompt us to reflect, assess, and approach our ministry with renewed vigor.



Working closely with our current staff and volunteers, InterServe's associate, **Molly Schroeder, will help to sustain current programs by supporting and equipping our amazing volunteers while also helping us adapt to the evolving cultural landscape impacting churches nationwide.**

Watch for opportunities to share your input through a focus group or individual interview with Molly. Join us in prayerful anticipation of the exciting opportunities ahead. Together, let us embrace this season of growth and transformation as we strive to fulfill God's calling for our congregation.





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SUBSCRIBE TO OUR TEXT MESSAGES!

If you are not receiving our text messages already, you can subscribe by texting "Subscribe" and your name to our number (507-288-6430)



- Texts will **only** come from the Bethel phone number (507-288-6430)
- We will only send occasional texts about important news, events, or cancellations.
- Bethel pastors or staff will **NEVER** ask you for 'favors', gift cards, etc.
- Opt-out at any time by replying '**STOP**'

Join us for worship!

RECURRING SERVICES:

Saturday Evening Worship

- 6 pm in Sanctuary

Sunday Morning Worship

- 9* am & 10:30 am in Sanctuary
- 10:10 am in Chapel (Gate of Life)

*Service with a Sign Language Interpreter

📺 Live-stream service through our YouTube channel (Videos of the services will be posted on our website: bethellutheran.com)



For more information on events, please visit bit.ly/bethelcalendar or scan the QR code!

