



BETHEL BEACON

ADDRESS: 2521 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531 Phone(228)388-1226
Email: bethellutheran@gmail.com Web: www.betheleca.com

Spreading the message of God's grace to all

Office hours: Mon-Thurs 9am – 1pm

*Serving Others, Engaging the World,
Making disciples for Jesus*



The Church in Community Ministry



The prayer group meets every week on Wednesday mornings at 9:30 am. Everyone is welcome. If you have any special requests just let Dot Lichtenberg or the office know.



Each Sunday, following worship service, we take the time for coffee and snacks and most importantly...visiting with one another. Please join us for this great fellowship each week. We are looking for Fellowship hosts for the 2024 new year.

Ask a friend or buddy and host a weekend! If you would like to donate *goodies* but not able to host, please call Mary Baker.



Bethel has a wonderful and dedicated quilting group and anyone is welcome. The quilts made by this group are sent to countries all over the world, and this does not even take into account the great fellowship and goodies they bake each week for breaktime. They meet every Tuesday from 9am to noon.



Sunday School- all ages. 9:30am to 10am

Items Always Needed at Bethel:
Single-serve food items for blessing bags and pet food

Non-perishable food items for Beauvoir UMC food pantry

Mardi Gras beads

Used ink cartridges (no toner cartridges)

Cancelled postage stamps

Empty aluminum drink cans

We are now using plastic bags for the blessing bags, so bring your used grocery bags to us and we will fill them up! This ongoing ministry is in need of food weekly so please help keep this ministry going.

Note: Socks (men's size can be worn by most) are always requested by those in the homeless community. Please consider donating socks that can be kept at the church to be given out as needed.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

To date in 2024 we have sent the ELCA Synod \$,2625.00 and supplied approximately, 547 blessing bags locally.

STEWARDSHIP

Estimate of Giving Card

Thanks to all who have submitted their *Estimate of Giving Card* and *Time and Talent Surveys* for our 2024 mission and ministry! If you haven't returned your *Estimate of Giving Card* and *Time and Talent Survey* yet, please complete and drop the documents in the offering plate or mail them

to the church office as soon as possible. If you need an *Estimate of Giving Card* or a *Time and Talent Survey*, the documents are available in the church office or on the table in the Gathering area.



"Memorial Hospital in Gulfport is looking for volunteers to be a blessing in many areas of the hospital. The surgery waiting area, the cath lab waiting area, the gift shop, the Cancer Resource Center (which John Hunter directs), and the ER check-in desk (where Pastor Barb volunteers to help get families back to loved ones) and other volunteer needs are so valuable

to the hospital staff. You may choose your hours (usually four-hour shifts) and day. There is no need to see needles or blood! You are just asked to help others in a worrisome time.

Call Dawn Varhol at 228-865-3375 for more information. Pastor Barb would also be able to give

You more information at 228-806-2618. Give a little of yourself and your time to be bless others."

Please write into your directory: Trisha Wehr, 10339 lake Forest Dr., Vancleave, MS 39565. Phone# 654.783.2111. Email:

soweherd@aol.com. Her information was accidently excluded from the new directory.

2024 Bethel Church Council

Pastor Pat Thompson
President Wes Cole
Secretary Kathy Goggleye
Treasurer Ed Buck
Vice President and Stewardship Committee

Education Committee
Property Committee
Outreach Committee
Worship Committee

Lisa Ladner
Larry Baker
Ursula Cole
Judy Monto
Rick Stickler

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PASTOR

My philosophy professor in undergraduate used to say that philosophy is just asking the question Why. He said we are all philosophers until we reach the age of 5 or 6 when our parents make us stop asking why to everything. Interestingly enough this sentiment has become common place in the school system, don't ask questions just accept what I teach you as truth. It is also common place within the Church universal. We are scolded when we ask why or question something in church. We just do things or say things because that is what we have always done or said.

Every year, when the family gathers for the Seder Meal, it begins with the 4 questions of Why. It starts with "Why is this night different from all others?" The whole focus of the evening is the retelling of the Exodus from Egypt when we were delivered from slavery.

If someone asked you why is Easter different from all other days what would our answer be? People will come to church on Easter Sunday and we never see them again until Christmas. What is so different about this day? Is it the Easter breakfast or going out after church to an Easter brunch? Is it being able to come show off the new outfit you got especially for Easter? What makes this day different than all the others?

What is the story we tell about Easter/ resurrection? How do we "train up a child in the way of the Lord and when he/she grows old he/she will not depart from it." We lament that people are baptized and confirmed but then they stop coming. Maybe we have forgotten how to tell the story of deliverance from slavery.

Maybe we have forgotten how to tell what resurrection means to us. Every Sunday we come to the Lord's table and participate in the Lord's Supper (notice it is not ours but the Lord's Supper). In the Great Thanksgiving we hear where Jesus says "Do this in Remembrance of me" How do we tell the story of how Christ died for us so that we may never die. How do we live the remembrance of the resurrection and deliverance from slavery?

Has Easter become just a pageant of pomp and circumstance? Let's try something different this year and tell the story of Easter every chance we get so that all may come to know Christ. Maybe we would do well to begin with the question of How is this day different than all the rest?

PASTOR PAT

Need to contact the pastor

Church Phone; (228) 388-1226 Email: rpatrickthompson@gmail.com

Tues, Weds, and Thurs from 9am to 1pm

It is best to call ahead to ensure he will be here when scheduling an appointment

The USM Gulf Coast Chorale will offer a Spring concert entitled "Joy" on Friday, April 26 at 7 pm at

St. Peter's By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in Gulfport and on Sunday, April 28 at 2:30 pm at

Fleming Auditorium on the USM campus in Long Beach. These concerts are free and the music is joyful and inspiring!



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee met at Bethel on March 13, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. Those present were Pastor Pat Thompson, Stanley Hastings, Fran Supple, and Jessie Stever.

Pastor Pat opened the meeting with a prayer.

The February 28 minutes were reviewed. Jessie will get with Paula about ordering the white tablecloths for Maundy Thursday.

Items discussed were:

Stanley Hastings will be out of town on May 19. He is having problems finding someone to substitute for him.

Pastor Pat is working on the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. Seven candles, preferably black, will be needed for the Good Friday service

Larry Baker needs to be reminded that the tables for the Maundy Thursday meal need to be set up after the Palm Sunday services.

The Worship Committee will coordinate the decorations for the Easter Breakfast.

Plans are beginning for the 59th and 60th anniversaries. Pastor Pat has ideas for our 59th anniversary. Ideas will be presented to the Church Council.

The Holy Week schedule was reviewed. Pastor Pat is putting together the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. The Maundy Thursday service will begin at 6:00 p.m. and include a potluck meal, worship with Holy Communion, and Stripping of the Altar. The Good Friday service is being planned and will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday plans are to gather in the narthex and proceed into the sanctuary.

Easter Sunday plans include the Easter breakfast which will be held from 8:45 a.m. until 9:30 - 10:00 a.m. Flowering cross will be prepared beginning at 9:00 a.m. The service of the Resurrection of Our Lord begins sharply at 10:30 a.m.

The meeting closed with Pastor Pat leading the committee in prayer.

The next meeting of the Worship Committee will be held on April 17, 2024, at Bethel at 10:00 a.m.

WORSHIPING IN APRIL



THE SEASON OF EASTER
White/Gold are the colors of Easter.



We have worshiped on Easter morning, enjoyed an Easter breakfast and dinner during the day, the Easter bunny has filled the baskets, the Easter egg hunts were enjoyed by the children, and now its time to rest. All this has been completed and now what? The Easter season begins on

Easter day and continues for fifty days. In the season of Easter, we continue to hear these familiar words as we rejoice in the resurrection of our Lord and Savior: *Christ is Risen! He is Risen Indeed, Alleluia!*

Easter, also called **Pascha** (Aramaic, Greek, Latin) or **Resurrection Sunday**, is a Christian festival and cultural holiday commemorating the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, described in the New Testament as having occurred on the third day of his burial following his crucifixion by the Romans at Calvary c. 30 AD. It is the culmination of the Passion of Jesus Christ, preceded by Lent (or Great Lent), a 40-day period of fasting, prayer, and penance.

Easter-observing Christians commonly refer to the week before Easter as Holy Week, which in Western Christianity begins on Palm Sunday (marking the entrance of Jesus in Jerusalem), includes Spy Wednesday (on which the betrayal of Jesus is mourned), and contains the days of the Easter Triduum including Maundy Thursday, commemorating the Maundy and Last Supper, as well as Good Friday, commemorating the crucifixion and death of Jesus.^[15] In Eastern Christianity, the same days and events are commemorated with the names of days all starting with "Holy" or "Holy and Great"; and Easter itself might be called "Great and Holy Pascha", "Easter Sunday", "Pascha" or "Sunday of Pascha". In Western Christianity, Eastertide, or the Easter Season, begins on Easter Sunday and lasts seven weeks, ending with the coming of the 50th day, Pentecost Sunday... *From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia*

April 1 - Annunciation of Our Lord

Readings

Isaiah 7:10-14, Psalm 45 or Psalm 40:5-10, Hebrews 10:4-10, Luke 1:26-38

Sunday, April 7 - Second Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 4:32-35, Psalm 133, 1 John 1:1—2:2, John 20:19-31

Sunday, April 14 - Third Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 3:12-19, Psalm 4, 1 John 3:1-7, Luke 24:36b-48

Sunday, April 21 - Fourth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 4:5-12, Psalm 23, 1 John 3:16-24, John 10:11-18

Sunday, April 28 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

Readings

Acts 8:26-40, Psalm 22:25-31, 1 John 4:7-21, John 15:1-8

April 25 - St. Mark, Evangelist Feast Day

Saint Mark the Evangelist also known as John Mark, is traditionally believed to be the author of the Gospel of Mark and a companion of [Saint Peter](#). He accompanied [Paul of Tarsus](#) and [Barnabas](#) on Paul's first missionary journey. After a sharp dispute, Barnabas separated from Paul, taking Mark to [Cyprus](#) ([Acts](#) 15:36-40). Later Paul called upon the services of Mark, the kinsman of Barnabas, and Mark was named as Paul's fellow worker. His feast day, April 25, is the anniversary of his martyrdom. His [evangelistic](#) symbol is the [lion](#).

PROPERTY REPORT

MEN'S WORK DAY MARCH 16TH; ATTENDING: WES, GIL, WARREN, RICK, WAYNE, and LARRY. WE RENTED A MANLIFT TO REACH THE UPPER LIGHTS IN THE SANCTUARY. WES AND LARRY WENT THE RENTAL PLACE AT 8:00 AM SO THAT IT WOULD BE AT CHURCH BY 9:00 AM WHEN EVERYONE WOULD MEET AT CHURCH. THE MANLIFT WORKED VERY WELL TO REACH THE UPPER LIGHT FIXTURES. IT TOOK AROUND 2 HOURS TO CHANGE THE FOUR UPPER FIXTURES. ALL BULBS WERE REPLACED WITH LED LIGHT BULBS, THE CHANDELIERS WERE CLEANED AND ALL OLD BULBS REMOVED. WE ALL WORKED TOGETHER TO MOVE PEWS AND POSITION THE MANLIFT SAFELY. THE MANLIFT WAS RETURNED TO THE RENTAL DEALER BEFORE NOON; SO WE ONLY GOT CHARGED FOR FOUR HOURS INSTEAD OF AN ENTIRE DAY. THE NEXT TIME YOU ARE SITTING IN CHURCH: THANK THE BOYS FROM THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE FOR BEING ABLE TO READ THE BULLETIN.

Larry Baker, Chairman of the property Committee



BETHEL WOMEN'S NEWS

The Women's business meeting will be April 10th at 1PM. We will follow with Cynthia leading the Bible study and Jessie as hostess. The bible study is about food. The study is in the narthex on the credenza along with Marches study if you need one. Any needs for the business meeting agenda please contact Mary.

On April 26, we will be traveling to the Palestinian gardens in Vancleave/ Lucedale. There will be a signup sheet plus brochure in narthex in April.

Rummage sale is scheduled for May 18th. After Easter, we will start to rearrange the stage where items can be placed.

The special collection in April will be dry dog food.

Please remember there is no formal membership cost for the women of the ELCA. **You are a member, if you are a woman and belong to the Lutheran church.** It is our purpose to grow in faith, affirm our gifts, support one another in our callings, engage in ministry and action and promote healing and wholeness in the church, the society and the whole world.

Mary and Betty

Fellowship hosts or hostesses needed

We are looking for Fellowship hosts for the 2024 new year. Ask a friend or buddy and host a weekend! If you would like to donate *goodies* but not able to host, please call Mary Baker. Hostess assistants are also needed to set out plates and silverware, assist with cake cutting, making coffee and making sure there are coffee cups, sugar and creamers. Snacks are also needed each Sunday.



We pray for all those who are sick or in need, the lonely or disheartened. For all our local and world leaders that they may be guided in peaceful decisions for their people.

Continue to pray for those who are suffering in the wake of tornadoes, hurricanes and floods and all those

traveling, and in the Military. We pray for those who are near us:

Pastor Larry & Sarah K, Trisha W., Karen H, Kristen V, Pastor Pat, Patti T, Gil P, Diane P, Jimmie H, Lilly B, Dorothy F, Ben L, Leah, Bob H, Jenny S, Mike S, Kemon L Sr., Anthony L, Randy S., Jeff A, Randy S, Sharon B, Terrie and Warren S, The family of Sue Wilson, Christine C. and Ethel & Jim Smith and family

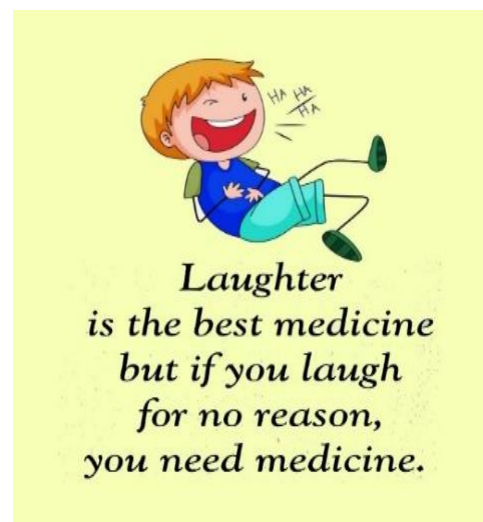
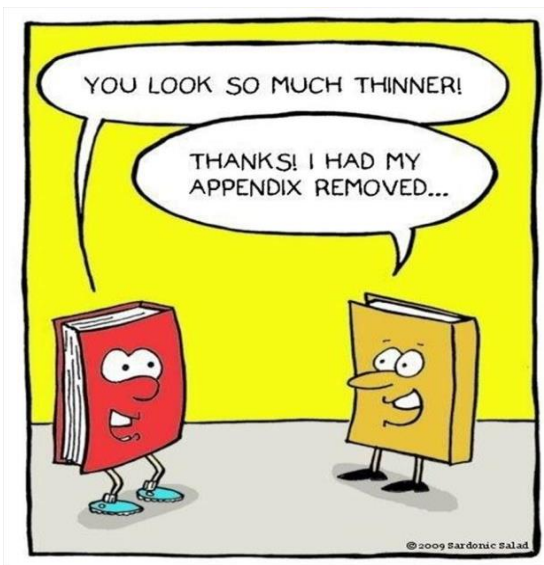


GREETINGS FROM THE CHURCH SECRETARY

Office hours Monday-Thursday 9am-1pm

If you wish to be a volunteer in any capacity, there are several signup sheets on the bulletin board where volunteers are needed.

- To continue having snacks and coffee after service on Sunday, more hostesses are needed.
 - There are calendars on the wall in the office. Any time you are planning an event, please take the time to write it on the calendar. It helps get the calendar ready each month and makes sure 2 events are not planned for the same day.
- Thanks, *Paula*



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Share one of your favorite recipes

Banana Bars with Brown butter frosting

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1 ½ C sugar | 2 tsp Vanilla |
| 1 C. sour cream | 2 eggs |
| 3 Bananas | 1tsp baking soda |
| 2 C flour | ¾ tsp salt |
| ½ C unsalted butter | |

Crean together sugar and sour cream. Mix together. bananas and butter (heated and mashed) and vanilla. Sift baking soda, flour and ¾ tsp salt and stir into mixture. Bake 375 in a jelly roll pan for 30 minutes. Frost while warm

FROSTING

- 2 ¾ C powdered sugar, ½ cup melted butter, 1tsp vanilla and 3 Tbs of milk.

Submitted by Mary Baker



SATURDAY, APRIL 20TH
5:30 PM
It's a contest so bring your
favorite chili!!

Join us for fun, food,
AND



APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Dear Lord, may each new year bring new opportunities to know him more, to walk in faith, and grow by his grace. Amen

BIRTHDAYS

08 John Darrel Wilson
16 Patti Thompson
20 Ana & Nathan Koehn
29 Colby Clark
29 Julie Suaste

ANNIVERSARIES

22nd Rev. Larry and Sarah Koehn
23rd Kris & Marshall Schwartz

Council Person of the month

Rick Stickler
Cashiers: Ursula Cole and
Betty Wilson
Altar Care: Ron & Bonny Pepper
Tellers: Ursula Cole, Betty Wilson

Mens Group and
Mary Baker



Weekly fellowship host

07 *Birthday cake*
 14
 21
 28
 . . .



Baptismal Birthdays

Jane Oberg
Megan Touchstone

baptized

FLOWERS

07 Warren and Terrie Specht
 14
 21
 28



If you are scheduled to serve during worship (acolytes, ushers, lector, assisting minister, etc.) please be sure that you are there that day. If you cannot be there on your scheduled day, please find a replacement.



Date	Assisting ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Greeters
07	Mary Baker	Susan Eschmann	Jessie Stever Glenda Rogers	Front: Sue French Back: Kris Schwartz
14	Wes Cole	Wes Cole	Gil Picard Rick Stickler	Front: Jessie Stever Back: Ursula Cole
21	Susan Eschmann	Jessie Stever	Larry Baker Mary Baker	Front: Kris Schwartz Back: Pastor Larry and Sarah Koehn
28	Dot Lichtenberg	Phillip Peleaz	Wes Cole Gil Picard	Front: Susan Eschmann Back: Betty Wilson
	Acolyte: Addy Hernandez			