



BETHEL BEACON

521 Pass Road, Biloxi, MS 39531 Phone: (228)388-1226

Email: bethellutheran@gmail.com Web: www.bethelelca.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.



Fellowship Hosts 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.



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

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.

- 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.

THANK YOU TO BLCW FOR PROVIDING BUS PASSES AND GAS CARDS.

FINANCIAL HEALTH

To date in 2024 we have sent the ELCA Synod \$875.00 and given out 171 blessing bags.

Estimate of Giving Card

As an expression of God's love, and a concrete example of my faith and commitment to Christ's church, I plan to take a step up in my giving in 2024

Name(s)

STEWARDSHIP

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 on the table in the Gathering area.

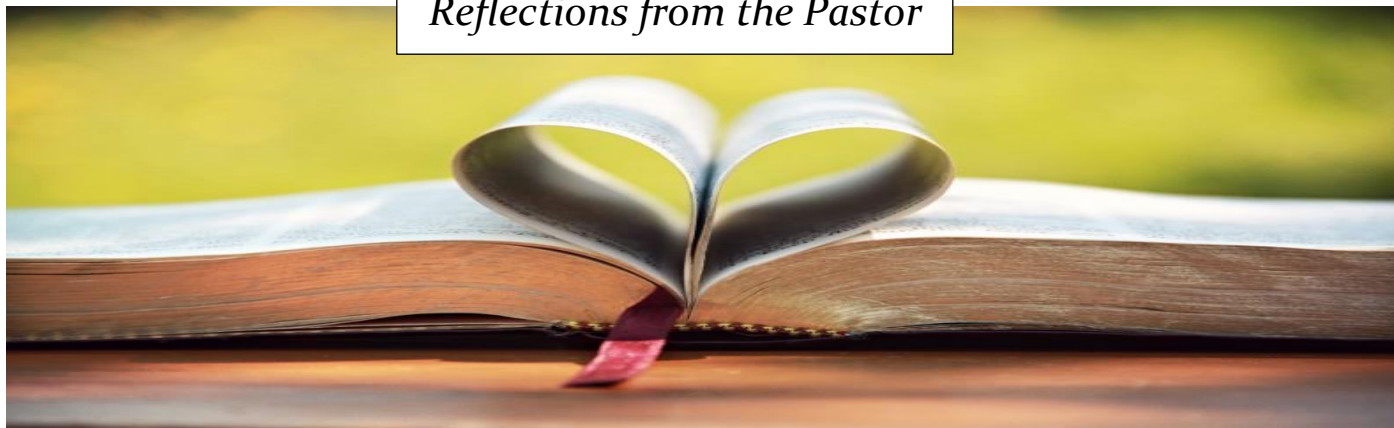
2024 Bethel Church Council

There were no council members leaving this year but the committees were reassigned at the annual congregational meeting.

Pastor	Pat Thompson	Education Committee	Lisa Ladner
President	Wes Cole	Property Committee	Larry Baker
Secretary	Kristin Greger (interim)	Outreach Committee	Ursula Cole
Treasurer	Kathy Goggleye	Worship Committee	Judy Monto
Vice President and Stewardship Committee			Rick Stickler

There is a binder on the Ushers cabinet in the narthex that contains minutes and financial reports from each Council meeting. You are welcome to read it any time you wish. It is for members. You are urged to talk to any council member with any question you may have.

Reflections from the Pastor



While getting my infusion the nurses got into a discussion about Mardi Gras, Ash Wednesday, and Lent. One was mocking it all as that “Catholic “stuff. Of course, it didn’t take long for her to bellow out “ask him used to be a priest” while gesturing towards me. After explaining that I am still a pastor I tried to explain the meaning behind it all. She responded that only Catholics do “it”. I tried to explain that other liturgical churches observe Ash Wednesday and lent. Once I said that they (all of them go to non-liturgical churches) dispersed equating liturgical and Catholic.

What struck me in this conversation is that it’s a variation of the conversation that I have often. People assume only Catholic priest wear a collar and all people who wear a collar are called a priest. I have also found people assume liturgical churches don’t really know “worship “we just read everything. People don’t want to learn anything about religion or spirituality that goes against their own beliefs. But on the flip side do we do a good job telling people what the liturgy means to us? I find great comfort knowing that when I am worshipping there are thousands of people worshipping with me. I feel the connection with all who have gone before me and those who will come after me.

I think Ash Wednesday reflection is more important than a cross on one’s forehead. We are to remember that it is dust we come from and dust we will return. If we take this seriously it is a very humbling beginning of our Lenten journey. Lent is not exclusive to any denomination but is for everyone who is willing to honesty and with great humility reflect on one’s journey. It is also a time for study and service. Maybe instead of giving up trivial things like chocolate we could give up our time in service to others. Or spend time reflecting on what we believe and why. Or sharing with others about the liturgical year and why it is important to us. Maybe we could give up a meal and give that money to feed the hungry. A variation on that would be to eat only the contents of a blessing bag one day a week.

If nothing else commit to spend more time in prayer, reflection, and scripture during Lent. I think your life will be changed.

Pastor Pat

NEED TO CONTACT 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.

Scheduling an appointme

WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship and Music Committee met at Bethel on January 24 at 10:00 a.m. for the first meeting of 2024. The meeting opened with Pastor Pat leading the committee members in prayer. Those present were Pastor Pat Thompson, Stanley Hastings, and Jessie Stever.

Topics of discussion were:

Review of the Advent and Christmas Seasons

Lenten Season:

Ash Wednesday Service will be held on February 14, 2024.

Midweek Lenten Services will be held on February 21, 28, March 6, 13, 20. The signup sheet for midweek suppers during the Lenten season will be posted on the bulletin board in the narthex on February 4, 2024.

Information on sources for Easter lilies was discussed.

A music program will be held at Bethel on March 20, 2024, for the benefit of Loaves and Fishes feeding program. (More details will be given later.)

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

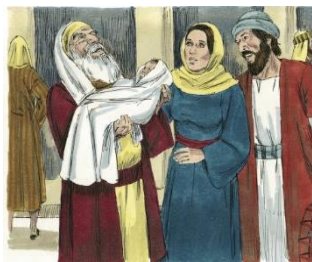
LENTEN WORSHIP SCHEDULE

FEBRUARY 14 6:30 PM
ASH WEDNESDAY WORSHIP
SERVICE
IMPOSITION OF ASHES
MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP
FEBRUARY 21, 28, MARCH 6,
13, 20
SOUP AND SANDWICH
SUPPER 5:45 PM
WORSHIP 6:30 PM



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

WORSHIPING IN FEBRUARY



February 2 Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

Temple Painting Cliparts #2728688
License: Personal Use)

The Presentation of Jesus at the Temple is an early episode in the life of

Jesus, describing his presentation at the Temple in Jerusalem in order to officially induct him into Judaism, that is celebrated by many Christian Churches on the holiday of Candlemas. It is

described in chapter 2 of the Gospel of Luke in the New Testament of the Christian Bible. Within the account, "Luke's narration of the Presentation in the Temple combines the purification rite with the Jewish ceremony of the redemption of the firstborn." ...*Wikipedia*

February 4

5th Sunday after the Epiphany

Color: **Green**

February 11

Transfiguration of Our Lord

Color: **White**



In the New Testament, the Transfiguration of Jesus is an event where Jesus is transfigured and becomes radiant in glory upon a mountain. The Synoptic Gospels (Matthew 17:1–8, Mark 9:2–8, Luke 9:28–36) describe it, and the Second Epistle of Peter also refers to it (2 Peter 1:16–18). It has also been hypothesized that the first chapter of the Gospel of John alludes to it (John 1:14). In these accounts, Jesus and three of his apostles, Peter, James, and John, go to a mountain (later referred to as the Mount of Transfiguration) to pray. On the mountaintop, Jesus begins to shine with bright rays of light. Then The Old Testament figures Moses and Elijah appear next to him and he speaks with them. Both figures had eschatological roles*: they summarize the Law and the prophets, respectively. Jesus is the one called "Son" by the voice of God the Father, in the Baptism of Jesus....*Wikipedia, Lutheranreformation.org.* *Eschatology is the branch of theology dealing with last things, such as death, immortality, resurrection, judgment, and the end of the world....*www.your dictionary.com*



February 14 – March 30, 2024



Purple--The Liturgical Color of Lent

Purple, like black, is a penitential color, to represent somberness and solemnity, penitence, and prayer. Violet or purple was a very cherished and expensive color in the world when Jesus lived. The dye used to make the color was painstakingly acquired by massaging the neck of a Mediterranean shellfish that secreted a special fluid. It was therefore afforded only by the rich and worn most exclusively by the royalty. Jesus, the king of the Jews, wore a purple robe only once. As the soldiers mocked and tormented him, the Scriptures record they placed on him a "purple garment" in order to ridicule him and belittle the claim that he was a monarch.

Therefore, purple is used during this penitential season of Lent as a vivid reminder of the contempt and scorn he endured, and the subsequent sacrifice he made for our eternal salvation. Ecclesiastical purple should remind all Christians of their daily need to humbly give attention to leading a life of repentance...*Internet: .Rev. Douglas K. Escue*

Following the season of Christmas, we are now in the season after the Epiphany, which occurred on January 6 when the wise men guided by the star, found the Christ child. As we who live on the Gulf Coast are aware the Mardi Grass season is here and will end February 13. Our Lenten journey will begin with a Holy Communion service and Imposition of Ashes on **Ash Wednesday, February 14 at 6:30 p.m.**



The worship committee asks that you include the worship life of Bethel's members and friends in your prayers

PROPERTY REPORT

- Water pipes on rear of bldg. have been professionally relocated and re-insulated so that we don't have to worry about them freezing again.
- MEN'S WORK DAY JAN 20TH, attending: Wes Cole, Gil Picard, Larry Baker
 - changed out bent blades on garden tractor
 - pull out dead bushes outside sacristy wall
 - redo water parking lot water drainage path
 - trim weeds off of fence line and weed eat entire fence line to allowing person on mower to mow close to fence without getting slashed by thorny weeds and overgrowth.



BETHEL WOMEN'S NEWS

4 people attended the business and bible study meeting in January. January's collection was the front of Christmas cards for St. Jude's Ranch. Mary will send them in late February.

Business meeting summary:

We have the 4 Spark Bibles that Pastor will distribute on a special occasion. Mary and Judy gave the presents to the Prison Ministry children in December.

Distribution of funds are \$200 to Bethel Free Clinic and \$200 to Loaves and Fishes.

Spring church cleaning is set for Saturday March 23rd 9- noon.

Spring Cluster is March 16th at Gulf Shores. Mary is attending.

February 9th we will go to Biloxi Mardi Gras Museum cost \$8 for seniors.

Rummage sale scheduled for May 18th. Collection will be on stage.

A calendar will be distributed soon. We have completed 46 Quilts since September. Collection will be Souper Bowl Sunday "Noisy offering" to Loaves and Fishes February 11. We will make an emphasis to collect tuna and chicken salad packs for our blessing bags. These will be collected on the table in the Narthex in addition to any other donations you currently are making. Thanks for your generosity.

Mary, Betty and Judy

Prayer Request

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:

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



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.

- **A special thanks goes out to Mary and Maggie for all their help with the blessing bags.**
- **To continue having snacks and coffee after service on Sunday, more host are needed to help with the snacks.**
- **The church directory is currently being prepared for this year. If you have any changes, please let the office know.**

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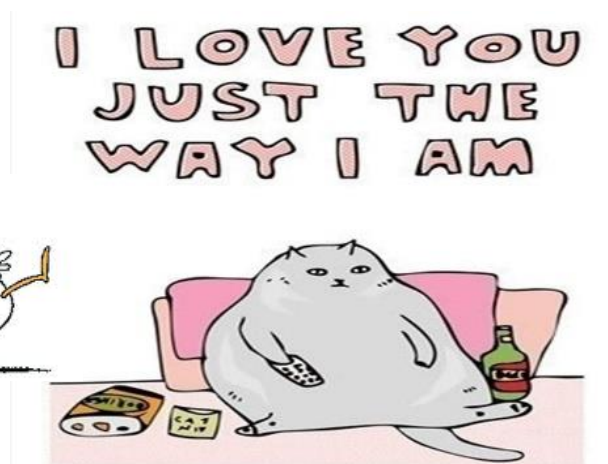
These are just some things I was researching About lent and found the wording nice on the first item and the 2nd item interesting. Since I am not Lutheran I like to research things.

- 1. On Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, we are marked with ashes — a sign of our death and of our sorrow for sin. The ashes trace a cross on our forehead, where the baptismal water first marked us with the cross of Jesus, God's grace. We let our secrets tumble out, and fall on the mercy of God. It is the beginning of our Lenten disciplines....ELCA .org**
- 2. The practice of fasting (or "giving something up") during Lent is not required for Lutherans because it is not commanded in Holy Scripture. Rather, as a matter of Christian freedom, starving oneself of a pleasure of the flesh is a way to remember daily the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay for the world's sin...**

Jonathan A. Swett is Kantor of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Hartland, Mich.

Thanks, Paula

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Everyone enjoyed some fun and good food after the service on Sunday, January 28th
Ursula planned a potluck and game day!



RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Share one of your favorite recipes

Valentines Day Popcorn Recipe

Easy Valentines Day Popcorn recipe that features Pink Chocolate Covered Popcorn with white chocolate drizzle, sprinkles and M&Ms.

Prep Time 5 minutes

Cook Time 5 minutes

Ingredients

- 1 bag of microwave popcorn light or regular butter (full sized, not snack)
- $\frac{3}{4}$ cup pink chocolate candy melts
- $\frac{1}{2}$ cup white chocolate candy melts
- Valentines sprinkles
- Valentines Peanut M&Ms

Instructions

1. Pop the popcorn and remove the unpopped kernels.
2. Place the candy melts in small bowls or glass measuring cups, one for each color.
3. Microwave the pink candy for 40 seconds then stir, repeat in 20 second intervals until melted and smooth. (takes 1-1 ½ minutes dependent on melt brand and your microwave).
4. Drizzle half over of the bowl of popcorn and toss to coat, Add the remaining pink chocolate candy melt (use a silicone spatula to ensure you get it all out.) Toss the popcorn with your hands until nicely coated. Then spread out onto a large serving platter (or baking sheet, if you are going to bag the popcorn up after).
5. Melt the white candy melts and drizzle over the platter of popcorn, immediately top generously with candy sprinkles. They will adhere to the melted white chocolate candy.
6. Finally, toss on the M&Ms. Allow the Valentines Popcorn to cool a few minutes before serving

FEBRUARY 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



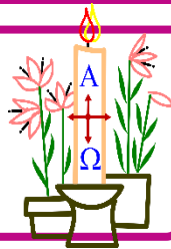
BIRTHDAYS

02 John Hunter
12 Ursula Cole
26 Brian Pietz
27 Gil Picard



Baptismal Birthdays

Jessie Stever
Nichole Cuevas
Donna Erickson
Byron Ladner



ANNIVERSARIES

FLOWERS

04 Warren and Terrie Specht
11
18
25



IF you would like to provide flowers for any Sunday you may choose any florist of your choice or make your own design. Please sign the flower calendar in the narthex. You may also sign up for a Sanctuary candle for a loved one for a Special occasion.

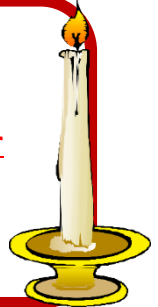
February Council Person Ursula Cole
Altar Care Dot Lichtenberg
Tellers Ursula Cole and Betty Wilson

Refreshments

04 Birthday cake
 11 Pastor Barb Hunter
 18 Ursula Cole
 25

SANCTUARY CANDLES

The Month of February
Jessie Stever, Celebrating her
baptism month



Fellowship Hosts 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.

January Yard Maintenance

Men's group and Mary



FEBRUARY VOLUNTEERS



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	Asst. Ministers	Lectors	Ushers	Acolytes	Greeters
2/4	Dot Lichtenberg	Wes Cole	Jessie Stever Glenda Rogers	Addy Hernandez	Front: Ursula Cole Back: Sue French
2/11	Glenda Rogers	Larry Baker	Wes Cole Rick Stickler	Addy Hernandez	Front: Dot Lichtenberg Back: Betty Wilson
2/18	Mary Baker	Maggie Forth	Gil Picard Betty Wilson	Addy Hernandez	Front: Jessie Stever Back: Sue French
2/25	Dot Lichtenberg	Dot Lichtenberg	Mary Baker Larry Baker	Addy Hernandez	Front: Jessie Stever Back: Sue French