



BETHEL BEACON

2521 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.



Refreshments are provided after service on Sundays. The sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Narthex so please sign up for whatever Sundays you would like to provide light refreshments to go with coffee, such as cookies, cake, etc.... while we drink coffee and enjoy one another. More volunteers are needed. Our church hostess is Mary Baker about refreshments



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.



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 this year the Bethel congregation has provided over 2059 (Approximately \$10,300.000 blessing bags and over 400+, (over \$700.00 worth) bus passes to the homeless community. Over 100 quilts and 33 school kits have been sent worldwide. Bethel has supported ELCA Benevolence with \$9622.00 to the end of the year. You have supported Bethel Free Clinic with \$5356.00, Loaves and Fishes with \$678.00, and Back Bay Mission with \$500.00. For a total of over \$27,156.00 in mission spending. Thanks be to God.



Reflections from the Pastor

As the New Year unfolds before us I have been thinking a lot about a book that came out 1986 written by Robert Fulghum named "All I really need to know I learned in Kindergarten". Actually, I have been thinking a lot about my kindergarten teacher, Miss Sit Hall and how she taught me many of the same things he wrote about. When I went to her, I was not well socialized. I was 9 years younger than my youngest sister and 11 years younger than my older sister. All the people on my street were older than me so the only friends I had were the ones I had from Sunday School and we only saw each other once a week or so. I spent most of my time alone or with my older sisters so I never learned how to share etc. I remember (because I was reminded of it often) my first day at kindergarten. I had taken my green army men to play with. Most of the other kids there were from the neighborhood so I was a bit intimidated until some of my Sunday School friends came. I spent most of the day by myself and was not real keen on sharing my soldiers with the other kids at recess. Miss Sit was patient and kind to me as she taught me how to share my toys and to allow the other kids to play with me. I think maybe why I am thinking of her lately is because when I look at our country, I think she would be disappointed in how we turned out. Instead of sharing we tend to hoard everything and it is every person for themselves. Instead of fair play we believe winning is everything so it doesn't matter how we win. We have trashed our planet to the point where our descendants will have little left. We believe we are entitled to something we just take it. Sorry is no longer in most people's vocabulary. We have become so concerned about ourself that we have forgotten about the others that share this planet with us.

Maybe it is just that I dread 2024, with the year of division and grown people acting like spoiled children. We no longer have political discourse and debate we just have name calling and lies. We don't clean up our own messes, we point fingers at others and say they caused it. We don't take responsibility anymore we just say "what about..." Miss Sit would not stand for this. I sure miss her.

Scripture teaches us that we are to love God, to love neighbor, and to love self. To me this means we are to love all 3 or else we are off balance. Now I can attest to how miserable it is to be off balanced all the time. Maybe that is why we act the way we do; we are off balance. We say we love God yet we don't show kindness to God's people We say we love everybody but we call people names because of their religion, race, national origin, or who they love. Maybe we haven't learned how to love ourself. Maybe that is why there is so much division and animosity, we are just off balance.

My prayer for this trying year is that we remember that we are all God's creation and we are all valued. May we remember to whom we belong and the price that was paid for ALL people. My prayer is that we find balance again and remember our raising (that is a Southern term) .

"These are the things I learned (in kindergarten):

1. Share everything.
 2. Play fair.
 3. Don't hit people.
 4. Put things back where you found them.
 5. CLEAN UP YOUR OWN MESS.
 6. Don't take things that aren't yours.
 7. Say you're SORRY when you HURT somebody.
 8. Wash your hands before you eat.
- world.

-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 appointment to meet is preferred.

STEWARDSHIP

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

Thank you to all who gave a pledge for the church. It is not too late if you still wish to pledge. As in all things...things happen and you may not be able to meet your pledge and that is OK. Let us try this year to meet our budget and for Bethel to continue to grow and prosper to spread God's grace.



WORSHIP COMMITTEE

WE CONTINUE TO CELEBRATE THE 12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS

The parties have gone on, the gifts have been wrapped and shared, the Christmas cards have been sent, and the decorations have been enjoyed. The Christmas holidays have concluded with the day after Christmas sales, but we are now celebrating the Christmas season during the twelve days of Christmas.



As we celebrated our Lord's birth on Christmas Eve, the Christ candle was lit. **The focus of our worship will now be on Christ's birth and the beginning of his life as we sing the beautiful carols of Christmas. The Christmas season ends on January 5 and the season of Epiphany begins on January 6.**

Christmas decorations will be taken down on January 7 after the morning worship service. Please find time to help with this project. As we all know, the more hands we have, the less every individual will have to do, and things will go much quicker.

Please keep our worship life at Bethel in your prayers as we begin a new year. Also, take time to consider how you can be involved in the congregational life at Bethel as we all worship together in service to Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior.

We wish each of you a blessed and happy new year as we begin 2024. The first meeting of the worship committee of the new year will be January 24, 2024 at 10:00 a.m. Judy Monto will serve as the council representative in 2024.

WORSHIPING IN JANUARY 2024

January 1 **Name of Jesus**

Jesus is a masculine given name derived from **Iēsous** (Ἰησοῦς; **Iesus** in Classical Latin) the Ancient Greek form of the Hebrew and Aramaic name Yeshua or **Y'shua**. Jesus" is usually not used as a given name in the English-speaking world, while its counterparts have had longstanding popularity among people with other language backgrounds, such as the Spanish *Jesús*...

January 6 Epiphany



The church calendar recognizes the season of Epiphany from January 6 until the last Sunday before Ash Wednesday which is celebrated as the Transfiguration of our Lord. The liturgical color for the season after the Epiphany is **green**.

Epiphany is the climax of the Advent/Christmas Season and the **Twelve Days of Christmas**, which are usually counted from the evening of December 25th until the morning of January 6th, which is the Twelfth Day. In following this older custom of counting the days beginning at sundown, the evening of January 5th is the Twelfth Night. This is an occasion for feasting in some cultures, including the baking of a special King's Cake as part of the festivities of Epiphany (a King's Cake is part of the observance of **Mardi Gras** in French Catholic culture of the Southern USA). In some church traditions, only the full days are counted so that January 5th is the Eleventh Day of Christmas, January 6th is the Twelfth Day, and the evening of January 6th is counted as the Twelfth Night...*Wikipedia*

In western Christian tradition, **January 6** is celebrated as **Epiphany**. It goes by other names in various church traditions. In Hispanic and Latin culture, as well as some places in Europe, it is known as **Three Kings'**. Because of differences in church calendars, mainly between the Eastern Orthodox and the western Catholic and Protestant traditions, both Christmas and Epiphany have been observed at different times in the past. Today, most of the Eastern Orthodox traditions follow the western church calendar. The exceptions are some Greek Orthodox Churches and related traditions that still follow the older calendar and celebrate Epiphany as the Theophany on January 19th.

The colors of Epiphany are usually the colors of Christmas, white and gold, the colors of celebration, newness, and hope that mark the most sacred days of the church year. In traditions that only observe a single day for Epiphany, the colors are often changed after Epiphany to the colors of **Ordinary Time**, usually green until Transfiguration Sunday the last Sunday before the beginning of Lent. The Colors for Transfiguration Sunday are usually the Colors of Holy Days, White and gold.

**Dennis Bratcher, A retired professor of Old Testament*

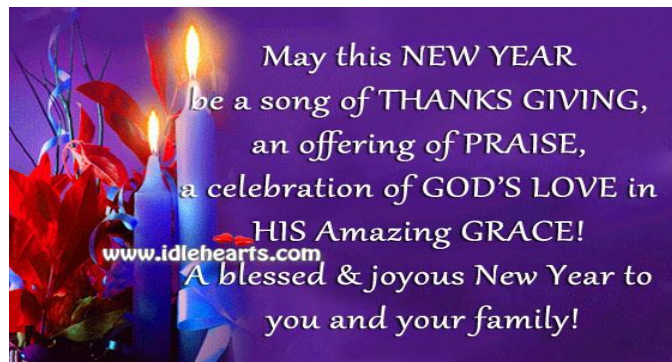
January 7 **2nd Sunday after Christmas**



The Baptism of Our Lord is the feast day commemorating the baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River by John the Baptist. The liturgical color for this Sunday is White.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to the Jordan to John, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." Matthew 3:13-17 (ESV)

*The Worship Committee wishes
each of you a blessed and happy new year.*



Thank you from the Bethel Staff



The staff at Bethel wish to thank you all for your kind and generous hearts. Your Christmas gift to the staff means a great deal to all of us.

Pastor Pat, Paula, Gil, Stanley, and Ed

2024 Bethel Church Council

A big "thank You" to the Church Council this past year for all the hard work they have done on behalf of the church. You are appreciated. 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.

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:

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.

BETHEL WOMEN'S NEWS



Bible Study were held December 13th. Thank you to Cynthia for the Bible Study and Mary for the snacks.

January's 10th Quarterly Business Meeting will be held at 1PM and Bible Study at 2PM. During the business meeting we will be working on the calendar for next year.

Judy and Mary delivered the presents to the 2 children for the Prison Ministry. We did invite the family to join us at church any Sunday they could. The children are almost 1 and 2 years old. Judy had good ideas having taught kindergarten and Mom gave us general ideas.

December's charity donation (the sock and mitten tree) was made to the non- violence center. Thanks to all who donated.

The Women's Christmas party was held at Judy's. 2023 SSP were revealed. Marie Bartel was able to be involved and we all enjoyed her company.

The 2024 SPP will start with matches made in early January. If you wish to participate there is a signup sheet on the wall of the narthex. SPP involves: praying for that person, getting to know that person better, and providing them with surprise or holiday gifts {Mother's Day, birthday, Easter, etc.} with the grand finale/ reveal being at our Christmas party.

The women board authorized an additional 100 bus passes. Larry took the aluminum cans to be recycled and we collected \$10.24 from them. Between the cold weather, rain and Paula having none to issue we felt it was a need that could not wait until the January meeting. Sue was gracious enough to go and get them for us. We have spent a fair amount of our income on this ministry this past year and do not foresee the need decreasing. Because of expenses, we are considering a rummage sale as soon as early March. Details to come.

January's charity donation will be the fronts of used Christmas card that are not associated with Hallmark, Day Spring, Disney, American Greetings. These are sent to St Jude's Ranch to assist with their programing at the end of January. Just as a New Year reminder, all women of Bethel Lutheran are members of the women's group, whether you choose to participate or not. Many

activities and Council positions overlap with what we do every day. For instance, when Judy and Jessie work on something that is service related. We all have many hats, even though it looks like the woman might be doing it, Or Larry and I working on something is it Women or property. So, I thought I would print the purpose statement and you can judge how it fits your life. What areas should we focus on? How as a small church can we work together for the greater good?

As a community of women created in the image of God, called to discipleship in Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we commit ourselves 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 world.

Mary, Judy and Betty

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.

When Christmas time is over and presents put away, don't be sad, there'll be so much to treasure About this Christmas day and the fun we've had. So many happy feelings to celebrate with family and friends. And, oh, the good times hurry by so fast. But even when it's over, there's something you can do to make Christmas last... Keep Christmas with you all through the year. When Christmas is over, you can keep it near. Think of this Christmas day when Christmas is far away. Keep Christmas with you all through the year. When Christmas is over, Save some Christmas cheer. These precious moments, hold them very dear and keep Christmas with you All through the year. Christmas means the spirit of giving, Peace and joy to you, The goodness of loving, the gladness of living, the joy of salvation. These are Christmas too. So, Keep Christmas with you all through the year. Yes, keep Christmas with you all through the year.

-Brownie Locks Website-



We thank those who serve our country during the holidays and all year round, all branches: Navy & Coast Guard, Air Force, Marines, Army and National Guard.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

Ritz Crispy Treats

These Ritz crispy treats are a magical mix of buttery crackers and buttery marshmallows, almost like a grown up version of the old school Rice Krispie treat. Sweet, salty, chewy, and a little crunchy—these are indeed a bit more indulgent than the original, but so worth it!

By [Nicole McLaughlin](#)

Prep Time: 5 min Cook Time: 10 Min. Stand time: 30 Min. Refrigerate Time: 15 in.

Ingredients

80 round buttery crackers, such as Ritz crackers

- 1/4 cup butter
 - 1 (10 ounce) bag mini marshmallows
 - 1 teaspoon flaky salt
 - 2 tablespoons chocolate sprinkles, multi-colored sprinkles, or other sprinkles as desired
 - Directions
1. Crush crackers finely into a medium bowl. Melt butter in a large pot over medium-low heat. Add marshmallows and cook, stirring constantly, until melted. Remove from heat and stir in crushed crackers. Working quickly, coat all of the crackers with the marshmallow mixture.
 2. Pour mixture into an 11x7-inch (3 quart) baking dish. Lightly coat the back of a spoon or hands with cooking spray and press mixture firmly and evenly into the baking dish. Alternatively, use a small sheet of wax paper to press the mixture into the pan.
 3. Top immediately with flaky salt and sprinkles. Let stand 30 minutes at room temperature, and then refrigerate 15 minutes before cutting into 12 to 16 squares.
 - 4.

The Tournament of Roses Parade is held every year on New Year's Day, unless it lands on a Sunday. Then it is held on Monday, January 2. Why? Some say it's based on a superstition that if it's held on a Sunday, then it will rain on the parade the following year(s). But the real reason is because way back in the early years, the parade officials were afraid that the noise from the bands would frighten horses that were tethered at nearby churches. The parade that was held on January 2, 2012 was the 18th time in the parade's history that it was held on a Monday. So, being on a Monday doesn't happen very often, but it will happen this coming year in 2024. This year's theme is:

"Celebrating a world of music: The universal Language" -Brownie Locks Web site-

EVENTS IN DECEMBER

Christmas Eve Communion



Bethel Choir



Lighting the candles for candlelight service

Ladies Christmas party

December 2023



JANUARY 2024 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

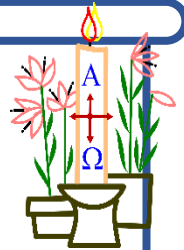
01 Mary Baker
07 Jessie Stever
07 Dathan Ladner
07 Byron Ladner
10 Kristin Schwartz

14 Susan Eschmann
15 Amy Scott
23 Sue French
30 Megan Touchstone

Baptismal Birthdays

Mike Eschmann
Albert Stever
Suzanne Frost
Michael Monto

Goldie Flaming
Lily Buggish
Larry Baker
Mary Baker



ANNIVERSARIES

22nd Brian and Cassie Pietz

FLOWERS

07
14
21
28



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 or a Special occasion.

January Council Person

Lisa Ladner

Altar Care

Jessie Stever

Tellers

Ursula cole

Betty Wilson

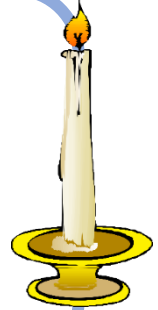
SANCTUARY CANDLES

07

14

21

28



January Yard Maintenance



Men's group and Mary

Refreshments

03

10

17

24

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HELP! Volunteers are needed to help with Mary Baker is the refreshment hostess and will always help you. Please help her by providing some light refreshments.

All signup sheets are on the bulletin board in the narthex. Please share your talent.

JANUARY WEEKLY VOLUNTEERS

**Thank You!
&
Happy New Year**

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
1/7	Dot Lichtenberg	Judy Monto	Jessie Stever Glenda Rogers	Addy Hernandez	Front: Dot Lichtenberg Back: Sue French
1/14	Judy Monto	Dot Lichtenberg	Larry Baker Mary Baker	Addy Hernandez	Front: Pastor Larry & Sarah Koehn Back: Jessie Stever
1/21	Glenda Rogers	Larry Baker	Gil Picard Betty Wilson	Addy Hernandez	Front: Judy Monto Back: Sue French
1/28	Mary Baker	Phillip Peleaz	Wes Cole Rick Stickler	Addy Hernandez	Front: Dot Lichtenberg Back: Betty Wilson

A Blessed New Year

