

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church

Erick J. Thompson, Pastor

Lester Prairie, MN

April 2010

From the Pastor's Desk

This Joyful Eastertide! Away with Sin and Sorrow! Happy Easter! What a joyful time in the Christian church. We celebrate the rising of our Lord; the one who bore our sin and sorrow so that we can live in joy. Easter marks the beginning of spring for many people, and the beginning of life and growth. While talking about growth in the Christian church can lead down a slippery slope quite quickly, what does it mean to say that we have new life in Christ?

He promises a grace that pardons your deepest shame.

That we have life, there is no doubt. We can simply inhale and know that we are alive, still breathing. But, what does that life look like? Is it filled with shame and regret? Is it filled with sin and sor-

row? What does new life in Christ mean? When Christ died for our sins, we are brought back to God. This means that the shame and regret that may have once filled our lives has been covered by Christ. God is essentially saying, "You are free because I love you." In the freedom, life is somehow changed. Not in any real way that we could measure, but in imperceptible ways. The first and most important aspect of our lives in Christ is faith. This faith means that life is now different. Rather than worry-



ing about what we could have done yesterday, we realize that God has forgiven us for that. This frees us to perhaps not miss the opportunity to be an ambassador of Christ to our neighbor today! When we read in the gospels that "this very day!" Christ is coming, we have to remem-

ber that God works through us. Christ is surely coming, today, and even through us. This joyful Eastertide let us hear God's call to faith and new life. If we can but hear this, our lives will greatly improve!

The promise of Easter lives today....He lives for you and for our world.

I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?

John
11:25-26

The Crow River Conference Spring Gathering will be Tuesday, April 27th in Grove City. A poster with information and a sign-up sheet will be posted in the coming weeks. Any woman is welcome and encouraged to attend. Contact Jill Duncan with any questions.

Congratulations
Kaylee Scheevel



**Holy
Communion**

who will received
First Holy Communion
on Palm Sunday,
March 28, 2010.

**FOOD SHELF CHALLENGE RESULTS
"BOYS VS. GIRLS"**



Donations were brought in steadily during the month of March. The "girls" team took an early lead and held that lead for several weeks. Then, last week the "boys" team pulled ahead and held the lead to the end of the month. The final results:

"Girls" teams total items = 65

"Boys" teams total items = 95

Good Work! The McLeod County Food Shelf recipients will be grateful. Thank you for your generous donations!

Thank you!

Thank you to all of you who have supported the Lenten Soup Suppers.

We hope you have enjoyed your meals and the fellowship while at the same time helping to support the future activities of the Bethel Lutheran Teens.

Special thanks to all the parents who helped with organizing, baking and other details.

The meaning of Easter



The real meaning of Easter centers on the Resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's Son, from the dead. Resurrection is not a normal household word. It is a special word that describes what happened to Jesus Christ, after He was crucified, died and was buried. It means "to revive, to

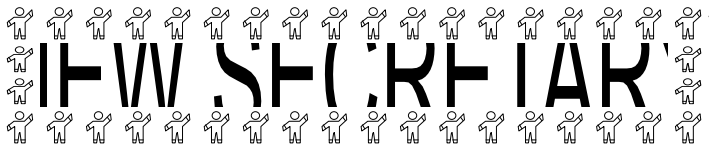
live again, to come out of a state of death."

Through Christ's resurrection, Christians are given a new life as we read in Romans 6:3-5: "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were therefore buried with him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. If we have been united with him like this in his death, we will certainly also be united with him in his resurrection."

These words explain the real meaning of Easter. Simply said, a wonderful miracle occurred that day, for you and for me and for every person in the world.

Jesus Christ was sent by God to take the sins of mankind. He did this by living a perfect life and by suffering and dying on the cross to pay the price for all sin. Jesus did just that. He lived the perfect and sinless life. He took on Himself the sins of mankind and died on the cross at Mt. Calvary to pay for our sins. He died and was buried.

A scholarship benefit in honor of Sue Salewske Windschilt, a past member of Bethel and former teacher at Lester Prairie, will be held Sunday, April 25th from 11:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. in Sleepy Eye. Sue has been battling cancer for the past 20 months and is now under hospice care. Anyone interested in donating to the scholarship fund in her memory and/or attending the benefit, please see Cathy Houg for more details.



We have a new church secretary. Her name is DeAnna Hoiem. DeAnna lives in Buffalo, MN with her husband, John, and 2 children, Austin (12) & Alexa (8). She is a member of Zion Lutheran Church (ELCA), Thrivent and is the PTO President at her daughter's elementary school. She is very excited to be here and would like to thank everyone for their patience and help in getting acquainted with the job duties and church. Please stop by on Mondays or Wednesday to say "hi".

Ladies Bible Study will meet on April 21 at 8:00 p.m. at the home of Diane Horsmanon. All women are welcome.

WELCA Bake Sale & Luncheon

The annual WELCA Bake Sale and Luncheon is quickly approaching! Be sure to mark your calendars for Saturday, April 17th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and invite a friend to lunch!

LUNCHEON MENU

- Barbecues
- Egg Salad
- Sandwiches
- Variety of Pies
- Coffee & Milk

Jelly Bean Prayer

Red is for the blood He gave.
 Green is for the grass He made.
 Yellow is for the sun so bright.
 Orange is for the edge of night.
 Black is for the sins we made.
 White is for the grace He gave.
 Purple is for His hour of sorrow.
 Pink is for our new tomorrow.

A basket full of Jelly Beans so colorful and sweet, is a prayer, is a promise, is a loved one's treat.



Maundy Thursday
 April 1, 2010 7:00 p.m.

~~~~~

**Good Friday**  
 April 2, 2010 7:00 p.m.

~~~~~

Easter
 Sunrise Service with Holy Communion
 April 4, 2010 6:30 a.m.
 Breakfast to follow
 Worship in the Fellowship Hall

APRIL

2010

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
<p>Sunday Schedule 9:00 a.m. Worship Communion 1st, 2nd & 5th Sundays Contemporary Worship 3rd Sundays 10:00 a.m. Coffee and Fellowship</p>				<p>1 7:00 p.m. Maundy Thursday Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>2 7:00 p.m. Good Friday Worship Service</p>	<p>3</p>
<p>4 6:30 a.m. Easter Sunrise Worship 7:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6 5:45 Jump 4 Joy 6:00 p.m. Committee Meetings</p>	<p>7 5:30 Confirmation 6:00 p.m. WELCA 6:30 A.S.K. Youth</p>	<p>8</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>
<p>11 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>12 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>13 5:45 Jump 4 Joy</p>	<p>14 5:30 a.m. Confirmation 6:30 A.S.K. Youth 8:00 p.m. Church Council</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17 11:00 - 1:00 pm WELCA Bake and Craft Sale and Luncheon</p>
<p>18 9:00 a.m. Contemporary Worship Blue Jean Day</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 5:45 Jump 4 Joy 7:00 p.m. Contemporary Worship Committee</p>	<p>21 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 A.S.K. Youth 8:00 p.m. Ladies Bible Study</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23 6:00 p.m. Shower FD</p>	<p>24 10:00 a.m. Anne K. Shower</p>
<p>25 9:00 a.m. Worship with Holy Communion</p>	<p>26 WELCA Spring Gathering 7:00 p.m. Boy Scouts</p>	<p>27 5:45 Jump 4 Joy</p>	<p>28 5:30 Confirmation 6:30 A.S.K. Youth</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	

SUMMARY OF CHURCH COUNCIL MINUTES



BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH Council Meeting Minutes March 10, 2010

Present: Pastor Erik Thompson, Roger Fedie, Nancy Krull, Faye Mike, Ed Ekdahl, Carol Wortz, Alan Teubert, Matt Krull, Jeff Breidenbach, Cheri Teubert, Sonny Teubert

Absent: Janelle Scheevel, Ron Foust, Lloyd Weisenburger, Bobbie Kadrie, Holly Oestreich, Clinton Halvorson and Loren Johnson

Our President Roger Fedie called council meeting to order at 7:30 PM. **Devotions** lead by Cheri Teubert.

OLD BUSINESS

Council retreat was held at Christ of the Kings in Hutchinson on 03-13-2010.

In attendance Pastor Thompson, Nancy and Matt Krull, Jeff Breidenbach, Roger Fedie and Faye Mike.

NEW BUSINESS

Roger Fedie brought forth the recommendation that the Easter Breakfast Funds be credited to the Deacons Fund. Alan Teubert-this fund is for all, people in need.

All fund raising in regards should be made through the council. Passed and carried.

Carol Wortz circulated sign up sheet for the Easter Breakfast.

REPORTS:

Secretary Minutes: All read and

reviewed. Nancy Krull approved, second by Jeff Breidenbach. Motion to move and carried.

Board of Trustees: Matt Krull informed council, that the kitchen floor is being worked on. Furnace system seems to be working fine. Also, we have hired a secretary to replace Nicole.

Parsonage price was discussed, in maybe lowering price. For now we are holding off on any reduction. A privacy fence, between house and church was recommended as a bonus for selling purposes. No decision was made at this time.

Board of Deacons: Alan Teubert brought forward the recommendation of having a listing of duties, and responsibilities that pertain to ushering, greeting etc. Also moneys are needed for the Deacons Fund.

Board of Education: Cheri Teubert reported that March is food drive month. The Sunday school children were encouraged to donate by receiving a "coupon" good for a free cinnamon roll after church services. Great Idea! Also needed are 3-4 Bibles for the third grade class.

Board of Cemetery: No representation for this meeting.

Pastors Report: Pastor will be on vacation March 18-27. Volunteers are needed for the month of April for Worship Leadership. Out of five openings three are filled. How can encourage more leadership? Also discussed, as how we can support Brock Klobe and others in the LSTC.

Financial Secretary Report: Janelle was not in attendance for this report. We all reviewed the financial graph submitted. Nancy Krull motioned to approve, second by Alan Teubert, passed and moved.

Treasurers Report: Ed Ekdahl gave treasurers report. Expense reports were explained and reviewed by all. Expenses were \$7891.39, Income \$6133.35, \$701.10 was transferred from General Savings to cover general expenses, special giving of \$50.00. Checking account balance \$571.05. Per Ed Ekdahl, we are \$3100.00, behind in meeting budget. The Lutefisk checking account is at \$976.36. From this account \$800.00 will be used for the purchase of table for basement.

The Appleton Missionary is now closed. We are holding check, for now.

Motion to move made by Nancy Krull. Second by Cheri Teubert, approved to carry.

Other Communications: Ed Ekdahl brought forward an idea of having a Suggestion Box.

Pastor Thompson said this usually brings only negative comments. He suggested that council members should be available, after services for people who have and concerns or recommendations

A motion to adjourn was made by Ed Ekdahl, second by Cheri Teubert, moved carried.

Adjournment was made with the Lords Prayer.

SINGING WITH THE LUTHERANS

by Garrison Keillor

I have made fun of Lutherans for years - who wouldn't, if you lived in Minnesota ? But I have also sung with Lutherans and that is one of the main joys of life, along with hot baths and fresh sweet corn.

We make fun of Lutherans for their blandness, their excessive calm, their fear of giving offense, their lack of speed and also for their secret fondness for macaroni and cheese. But nobody sings like them.

If you ask an audience in New York City , a relatively Lutheranless place, to sing along on the chorus of Michael Row the Boat Ashore, they will look daggers at you as if you had asked them to strip to their underwear. But if you do this among Lutherans they'll smile and row that boat ashore and up on the beach! And down the road!

The following list was compiled by a 20th century Lutheran who, observing other Lutherans, wrote down exactly what he saw or heard:

1. Lutherans believe in prayer, but would practically die if asked to pray out loud.
2. Lutherans like to sing, except when confronted with a new hymn or a hymn with more than four stanzas.
3. Lutherans believe their pastors will visit them in the hospital, even if they don't notify them that they are there.
4. Lutherans usually follow the official liturgy and will feel it is their way of suffering for their sins.
5. Lutherans believe in miracles and even expect miracles, especially during their stewardship visitation programs or when passing the plate.
6. Lutherans feel that applauding for their children's choirs would make the kids too proud and conceited.
7. Lutherans think that the Bible forbids them from crossing the aisle while passing the peace.
8. Lutherans drink coffee as if it were the Third Sacrament.
9. Some Lutherans still believe that an ELCA bride and an LCMS groom make for a mixed marriage.
10. Lutherans feel guilty for not staying to clean up after their own wedding reception in the Fellowship Hall.
11. Lutherans are willing to pay up to one dollar for a meal at church.
12. Lutherans think that Garrison Keillor stories are totally factual.
13. Lutherans still serve Jell-O in the proper liturgical color of the season and think that peas in a tuna noodle casserole adds too much color.
14. Lutherans believe that it is OK to poke fun at themselves and never take themselves too seriously.
15. You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can!
16. Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
17. The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.
18. All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
19. When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, "May the Force be with you." You respond, "and also with you."
20. You actually understand those folks from Lake Wobegon , MN .

And finally!! You know you're a Lutheran when: It's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, and you still have coffee after the service. And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church
77 Lincoln Avenue
P.O. Box 207
Lester Prairie, MN 55354
(320) 395-2125

Church Office Hours
Monday 9am– 2pm
Wednesday 12—5pm

Commitments to Our Church for the Month of April

DUTIES FOR APRIL 2010

Altar: No volunteers

Ushers: No volunteers

Acolyte: Maggie Krull & Quentin Mertz

Lector: The Krull Family

Greeter: No volunteers

April Birthdays

- 6 Iris Roggli
- 9 Joel Dahl
- 10 Laurie Mertz
Charles Severson
- 11 Jesse Christenson
Amy Smith
- 13 Dana Smith
Ann Jorgenson
- 14 Todd Johnson
- 16 Tyler Scheevel
- 17 Kim Weinzierl
- 19 Jeff Rathkamp
- 20 Kathy Krone
- 24 Olivia Radtke
- 26 Jill Duncan
Hannah Smith
- 28 Diane Horsman
- 30 Dick Dobrava, Jr.



Wish These Friends a
"Happy Birthday!"