

BETHEL MESSENGER

Bethel Lutheran Church

Pastor Erick J. Thompson

Lester Prairie, MN

April 2009

From the Pastor's Desk

Easter is just around the corner, and so we can bring out our Easter white and declare Spring to officially have begun. But, what does Easter mean for us as a church? What is so important about Easter? The answer of course has to do with Jesus Christ and his resurrection on an Easter Sunday so many years before. Yet, we celebrate Jesus' rising from the dead almost every Sunday, why should this Sunday be any different?

The answer of course is that this Sunday is no different except for what we make of it. On every Sunday, we are celebrating Jesus' resurrection and what that means for our lives. On Easter Sunday we do the same, but we spend more time contemplating how this all happened and what Jesus has done for us. We make Easter Sunday into a festival Sunday, and it is a good practice for us to help us think harder about what God has done for us. But what about all those other Sundays? Are we not celebrating Jesus' resurrection just as much on those days?

The real question is: How do we go from being a people who look at one or two Sundays a year as cause for celebration to being a people who look at every Sunday, and even every day as a cause for celebration? The good news for us is that Jesus Christ does not come out of the tomb on just this one day, but comes out every Sunday, and indeed every day as far as we are concerned. Jesus' promise of life that is guaranteed with his death and resurrection is present with us every day, not just on Sundays, or Easter Sunday for that matter. Rather than Easter being celebrated simply once a year, we are called to celebrate Easter every day. We are called to be an Easter people. So, you might ask, how do we become an Easter people? A people who are mindful everyday of God's promise of life for us? I invite you to come to church and find out. The words of promise from your living God will give you the answer.

~Pastor Erick

As always, we are collecting **old cell phones, cereal box tops, soup labels, milk caps and ink jet cartridges** for LP Schools.

LADIES BIBLE STUDY will meet **Wed., Apr. 22nd** 8:00pm, at the home of Shirley Weisenburger. All women welcomed and encouraged to attend!

Men's Bible Study

meets the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of every month at 7:00pm in the church narthex.

WELCA Bake Sale & Luncheon

MENU

Barbecues, Egg Salad Sandwiches, Pies

The annual WELCA Bake Sale and Luncheon is quickly approaching! Be sure to mark your calendars for **Saturday, April 18th from 11:00am to 1:00pm** and invite a friend to lunch! All Bethel families will soon receive a donation request. Funds earned from this project are designated for a variety of projects. Let's work together to make it a wonderful success!!

It's time to order Easter Lilies!

A sign-up sheet is posted on the bulletin board. Please include \$8.00 per plant payment when you sign up.



Monday Evening Bible Study continues every Monday evening at 7:00pm. All are welcome!

THANK YOU for all your prayers and sympathies at the passing of my grandmother.
~Pastor Erick

Watch Your Marriage Bloom!

"Feed and fertilize" your marriage at a Lutheran Marriage Encounter weekend. Four presenting couples, including a Lutheran clergy couple, give a series of presentations followed by questions you discuss in the privacy of your hotel room. Spend two nights in a comfortable hotel and enjoy five delicious meals from Friday 7:00pm to Sunday 5:00pm. The next Lutheran Marriage Encounter Weekends in Mn are April 24-26 in Brooklyn Center; October 16-18 in Duluth; and November 20-22 back in Brooklyn Center. For more information, contact Dick & Judy Dehnel at 952-432-3105, Pete & Phyllis McMahon at 763-561-1575 or visit www.godlovesmarriage.org.



Schedule for April 2009

Wednesday, April 1

- 5:30pm Lenten Supper
- 6:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00pm Lenten Worship
- 8:00pm Worship & Music Meeting

Thursday, April 2

- 7:00pm Men's Bible Study

Friday, April 3

- 6:00pm ASK Youth Group

Sunday, April 5-Palm Sunday

- 9:00am Worship & Holy Communion
New Member Reception
- 10:00am Coffee/Fellowship/Fair Tr.
- 10:15am Sunday School
- 11:00am Contemporary Worship
& Holy Communion
New Member Reception

Monday, April 6

- 7:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 8

- 6:00pm WELCA Meeting

Thursday, April 9-Maundy Thursday

- 7:00pm Maundy Thursday Worship
First Communion
- 8:00pm Church Council Meeting

Friday, April 10-Good Friday

- 7:00pm Good Friday Worship

Sunday, April 12-Easter Sunday

- 6:30am Easter Sunrise Worship
- 7:30am Easter Breakfast

Monday, April 13

- 7:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 15

- 5:30pm 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
- 7:00pm 9th Grade Confirmation
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, April 16

- 7:00pm Men's Bible Study

Friday, April 17

- 6:00pm ASK Youth Group

Saturday, April 18 11:00am-1:00pm

WELCA Bake & Craft Sale

Sunday, April 19

- 9:00am Contemporary Worship
- 10:00am Coffee and Fellowship
- 10:15am Sunday School

Monday, April 20

- 7:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 22

- 5:30pm Confirmation Fellowship
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal
- 8:00pm Ladies Bible Study

Friday, April 24

- 6:00pm ASK Youth Group

Sunday, April 26

- 9:00am Worship
- 10:00am Coffee & Fellowship
- 10:15am Sunday School
- 11:00pm Community Meal

Monday, April 27

- 7:00pm Bible Study

Wednesday, April 29

- 5:30pm 7th/8th Grade Confirmation
- 7:00pm 9th Grade Confirmation
- 7:00pm Choir Rehearsal

OFFICE HOURS Bethel will no longer have regular office hours. If you need access to the church, or any other assistance, please leave a message at the church 395-2125, email at bethelp@embarqmail.com or call Pastor Erick at (612)310-0623.

Garage Sale season is here! Keep an eye out for the items needed for **LWR Layettes, School Kits, Health Kits, Sewing Kits, and Quilting**. For a list of items needed please contact the church office.

Confirmation

Regular confirmation classes will resume after Easter on Wednesday, April 15th. Until then, please continue to take sermon notes and help with the Lenten Dinners!

LUTHERAN STUDY BIBLES

have arrived. If you would like to purchase a paperback at \$18.75, please contact the church office.

Congratulations to
Quentin Mertz
Sarah Bolf
Bailey Buss
and Karlea Kylo
who will celebrate
First Holy Communion on
Maundy Thursday, April 9.

Thank you to all who have supported the Lenten Suppers. We hope you have enjoyed your meals and the fellowship while helping to support the activities of our youth. Special thanks to the parents who helped with organizing, baking and other details.

Women of the ELCA Crow River Conference Spring Gathering will be held at Christ the King Lutheran Church in Hutchinson on Tuesday, April 28th. Registration begins at 4:30pm with dinner at 5:00pm and program at 6:00pm. Registration is \$6.50. Registration deadline is April 22nd. The In-Kind offering will be soap. **All women are invited and encouraged to attend.** Watch for more information and a sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board.