

**BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA
333 EAST RIDGE STREET
ISHPEMING, MICHIGAN 49849
906-485-5533**



**~ EVANGEL ~
MARCH 2024**

Boiler Update

Enclosed in this Evangel newsletter you will find an envelope asking for donations to our Boiler Fund. Our boilers and HVAC systems have been an issue for a few years, and a replacement of the rooftop HVAC unit (heat and air conditioner) was done last December. Our boilers are now in the replacement process, and we have *almost* enough to cover the cost. We are asking for any help you can give so that we will be able to pay this invoice off in full.

Thank you in advance!

Financial Report – Year to Date

| 2024 | ACTUAL | BUDGET | % OF |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------|
| Thru Feb. 19 | \$29,559 | \$30,737 | 96% |



<https://tinyurl.com/BethellshpGiving>

← Download the Vanco mobile app!

If you prefer, mail your offerings to:
Bethel Lutheran Church
333 E Ridge St, Ishpeming, MI 49849



Thrivent Choice Dollars –

If you are a member of Thrivent Financial, you may be eligible to direct monies to Bethel. Go to thrivent.com/choice, or call 1-800-847-4836.

You must direct your Choice Dollars in March!

This does NOT affect your personal investment with Thrivent.

March Meeting

Tuesday, March 12 – 6:30pm – Church Council

Confirmation

Saturday, March 2 – 9am-12pm at Messiah Lutheran Church, Marquette. The carpool leaves promptly at 8:15am!

From the meeting on February 13:



- Welcomed new council members; discussed Pastor Tim's "Introduction to Council at Bethel and expectation for council members.
- Discussed and approved recommendation for boiler replacement in preparation for a special congregation meeting
- Discussed available funds to pay for boiler: Capital Improvement Fund, Boiler/HVAC Fund, Van Fund
- Discussed Worship & Music recommendations to council.

Lutheran World Relief Kits

BABY CARE KITS:

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| 2 lightweight cotton t-shirts | 2 long or short-sleeved gowns |
| 2 pairs of socks | or sleepers (without feet) |
| 4 cloth diapers, flat fold preferred | 2 diaper pins or large safety pins |
| 1 hand towel, dark color recommended | |
| 2 receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square | |
| 1 jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, <i>or include a baby cap</i> | |
| 2 bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, in original wrapping | |

Gently used, clean items (no stains or tears) can be substituted for new.

Welcome Visitors!

Margaret Twichell, Janet Simula and Matt Barron

People of God at Bethel Lutheran Church,

Thank you for hosting Sam and I for a Camp Sunday/Monday worship experience! We had a great time with you. We thank God for the partnership in ministry that we share and pray for your community as you serve the Lord.

See you at camp!

*Grace & Peace,
Amanda Rasner*



The Social Ministry Committee would like to serve our community with a monthly food drive. We are calling it FIRST SUNDAY FOOD DRIVE. As you turn your calendar each month, please put a few items aside to bring to church on the first Sunday

(or Monday). We will deliver the collected items to St Vincent DePaul every month. We know they have times of the year when donations are low, so we thought we would consistently provide items from Bethel's congregation.

Join us on March 3 & 4 – place the items in the grocery cart in the hallway. A few suggested items are: canned soup, canned fruit, cereal, foil pouches of tuna or chicken, jam, juice, pork and beans.

Thank you from the Social Ministry Committee.

GUITAR GROUP – Interested in learning guitar together? Maybe playing a song in worship once in a while? Join Pastor Tim at 6:45pm in the front of the sanctuary on Monday, March 11 for an initial gathering. Make sure to bring a guitar! We'll talk about how often we might gather: Monthly? Quarterly?

Lay Preaching Opportunity

As part of your pastor's rest, renewal, and education, Pastor Tim is away sometimes for vacation and other times away working on your behalf either for continuing education or with people from Bethel (for example- a youth trip). This means there are times when someone else needs to lead worship as well as preach. In 2024 we plan to sometimes have pastors or deacons lead worship and preach, and sometimes have lay members of Bethel lead and preach. Might you be interested in preaching and/or leading? Talk to Pastor Tim and we will develop a group to do just that. Training and guidance will be provided.

PRESCHOOL BLESSING~ Calling all children younger than pre-school age! You are invited to worship on Sunday/Monday, March 17/18! We will have a time of fun singing and give each child a book!

This is just one way your congregation supports you on your baptismal faith journey.



Our ELCA is currently in a comment period for a new social statement: Civic life and Faith. Social statements are approved at churchwide assemblies by a 2/3 supermajority vote and become the official teaching and speaking position of our church. You can be a part of the process! Check out and comment on this draft social statement at: <https://www.elca.org/Faith/Faith-and-Society/Current-Social-Writing-Projects/Civic-Life-and-Faith>

A heartfelt thank you to the members of Bethel's Social Ministry Committee for hosting another successful blood drive recently! Forty members of our church and community came forward to give the gift of life. Thirty-six pints were collected with the power to save 108 lives!



A huge thank you to all forty generous and caring donors!

The Outreach Committee thanks all who donate cookies or bars to the Servant Evangelism trays that are delivered. In March, the recipients are Snyder's and Jubilee Foods. They will be delivered on Monday, March 11. Items for those trays can be dropped off at the church on Sunday morning or on Monday by 10:00am.

What does Bethel's Outreach Committee do?

This question has come up a few times recently, so here are some of the activities that have been done, either currently or in the past:

- | | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Worship visitor contacts | New member dinners |
| New member sponsors | Fellowship potlucks |
| Letters to confirmands | Bethel brochures to local motels |
| Birthday cards to 80+ members | Advent devotional booklets |
| Servant Evangelism projects | |
| Refreshments to Confirmation classes 1x year | |
| God's Work, Our Hands project with the Social Ministry Committee | |
| Distribution of water bottles at 4 th of July parade with Social Ministry | |

We are currently considering other new ideas. This is a very small committee, so new members would be welcome! Please contact Mary Poirier if you would like to join, or have any questions.

Mark your Calendar!

Who?? – All Bethel members are invited to this special event for all ages and ability levels. Children under the age of 5 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian who will participate in appropriate programming with the child.

What?? – Bethel Congregational Day Visit to Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

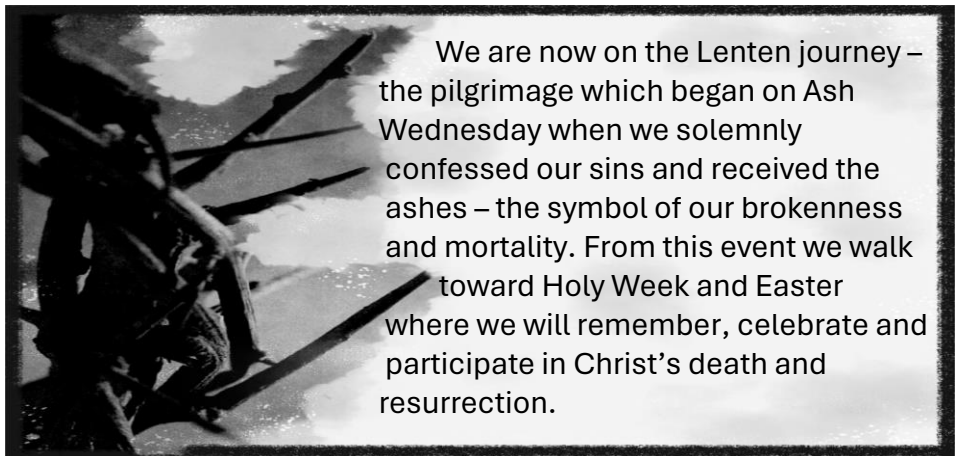
When?? – Thursday, June 27. Morning departure time from Bethel will be announced later: we will return in the late afternoon.

Why?? – this is a time to build community, enjoy an outdoor ministry experience and get a taste of camp life at our beautiful Fortune Lake Lutheran Camp.

Cost?? – The cost will be \$10.00 per person (Bethel will pay the balance of the day visit cost). If you are unable to pay the fee, please talk to Pastor Tim or Mary Poirier. Registration forms will be available in the church office soon.

Scholarships for Fortune Lake retreats are available from Bethel. If you need help in registering, please talk with Pastor Tim.

Pastor Tim will be away for continuing education the afternoon of March 2 through March 8. If you are in need of immediate pastoral care during this time, please contact Pastor Steve Solberg at 906-458-2145.



MEMORIALS

In memory of **Dennis Kari** from
Phil & Diane Poirier, John & Mavis Wiitanen, Family and Friends.

In memory of **Lucille Heliste** from
Joyce Larson, Gail Mattson

For the Boiler Fund:

In memory of **Irene Doutry** (John Wiitanen's mother) from
John & Mavis Wiitanen, Family & Friends.

In memory of **Loved Ones who have died** from Jason Chapman.

DEATHS

February 11 – Lucille Heliste; service to be held on June 15.

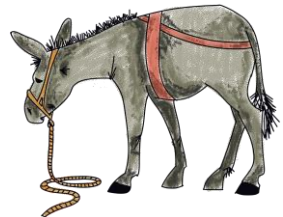
February 14 – Stanley Uitto; private service to held later.

February 20 – Judith Hodges; service held on February 24.

Corrie ten Boom, a devout Christian who helped shelter hundreds of Jewish people from Nazis during World War II, was asked how she stayed humble despite her fame.

"When Jesus rode into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday on the back of a donkey, and everyone was waving palm branches and throwing garments onto the road and singing praises, do you think that for one moment it ever entered the head of that donkey that any of that was for him?" she replied. "If I can be the donkey on which Jesus Christ rides in his glory, I give him all the praise and all the honor."

Jesus told his followers they'd need to carry (or "take up") their cross. But how well do you carry your Savior? How do you bring him into a world that desperately needs the good news of the gospel?



Daily Devotion Readings

Feb. 26 – March 2

- Mon** – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 / Genesis 21:1-7 / Hebrews 1:8-12
Tue – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 / Genesis 22:1-19 / Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
Wed – Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 / Jeremiah 30:12-22 / John 12:36-43
Thu – Psalm 19 / Exodus 19:1-9a / 1 Peter 2:4-10
Fri – Psalm 19 / Exodus 19:9b-15 / Acts 7:30-40
Sat – Psalm 19 / Exodus 19:16-25 / Mark 9:2-8

March 4 – March 9

- Mon** – Psalm 84 / 1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22 / 1 Corinthians 3:10-23
Tue – Psalm 84 / 2 Corinthians 29:1-11, 16-19 / Hebrews 9:23-28
Wed – Psalm 84 / Ezra 6:1-16 / Mark 11:15-19
Thu – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 / Genesis 9:8-17 / Ephesians 1:3-6
Fri – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 / Daniel 12:5-13 / Ephesians 1:7-14
Sat – Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 / Numbers 20:22-29 / John 3:1-13

March 11 – March 16

- Mon** – Psalm 107:1-16 / Exodus 15:22-27 / Hebrews 3:1-6
Tue – Psalm 107:1-16 / Numbers 20:1-13 / 1 Corinthians 10:6-13
Wed – Psalm 107:1-16 / Isaiah 60:15-22 / John 8:12-20
Thu – Psalm 51:1-12 / Isaiah 30:15-18 / Hebrews 4:1-13
Fri – Psalm 51:1-12 / Exodus 30:1-10 / Hebrews 4:14—5:4
Sat – Psalm 51:1-12 / Habakkuk 3:2-13 / John 12:1-11

March 18 – March 23

- Mon** – Psalm 119:9-16 / Isaiah 43:8-13 / 2 Corinthians 3:4-11
Tue – Psalm 119:9-16 / Isaiah 44:1-8 / Acts 2:14-24
Wed – Psalm 119:9-16 / Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23 / John 12:34-50
Thu – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 / Deuteronomy 16:1-8 / Philippians 2:1-11
Fri – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 / Jeremiah 33:1-9 Philippians 2:12-18
Sat – Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29 / Jeremiah 33:10-16 / Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Serving in MARCH



Offering Tellers: Ann Kulju & Kay Tupala

SUNDAY DRIVERS

March 3 – Earl Eliason

March 24 – Duane Palomaki

March 10 – Curtis Pauline

March 31 – Easter-

March 17 – Bud Hart

need a driver

A ride is available in Ishpeming & Negaunee for the 10:00am Sunday worship service. Call the office by noon on Fridays to sign-up.

Voicemails will not be heard until Monday morning.

9:00am Sunday Coffee in the Fellowship Hall

March 3 – Julie Penrose & Pam Roose

March 10 – Ruth Thibeault & Denise Perry

March 17 – Sherri Laitinen

March 24 – Sandy Cittadino & Linda Denofre

March 31 – Laura & Marv Kantola



2024 Council Members

President: Kay Tupala

V. President: Julie Penrose

Secretary: Ann Kulju

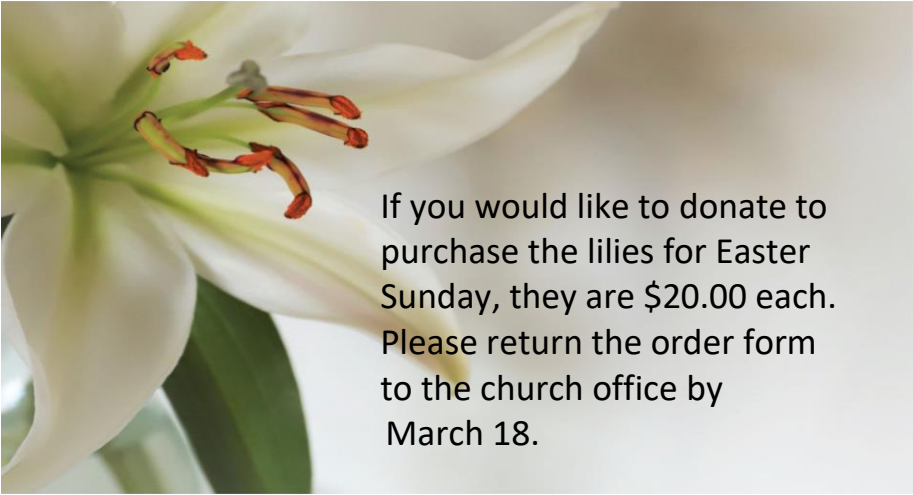
Katie Barron, Earl Eliason, Ann Giroux, Dave Holli,

Laura Kantola, Jennifer Terres

- 1 Jeremy Leppanen, Brett Talus
- 2 Jayla Snell, Lisa Swiedals
- 3 Ellen Balzarini, Deanna Nurmela
- 4 Kian Cittadino
- 5 Judy Fountain
- 7 David Holli
- 8 Tonya Harsila
- 9 James Nankervis
- 10 Erik Helsten
- 11 Jarod Anttila, Lauren Carlson, Keith Doney, Shannon Junak
- 12 Matt Duhome, Kristi Korpi, Duane Korpi, Ann Kulju,
Steve Laitinen, Bradley G. Nelson
- 13 Kyle Riutta, Jacqueline Solomon
- 14 Hadley Herron
- 15 Kristen Mariuzza, Marilyn Phare
- 16 Adam Christian, Lisa Hillman, Janet Poggione
- 17 Hannah Koski, Zachary Quayle
- 20 Andrew Poirier, Tanner Thibeault
- 21 Sandra (Rajala) Cittadino, Eric Lovern, Jennie Scott
- 22 Michael Helsten, Stephen Kulju, Ella Poupore, Aleeah Snell
- 23 Marilyn Matson
- 24 Bryan Brazeau, Katrina Etelamaki, Linda Legacy,
Cristy Williams
- 25 Beau Mattson, Daniel Perry
- 26 Anita Mattson, Barbara Pennala, Olivia Roberts
- 27 Pam Bessolo, Marissa Snell
- 28 Kathy Hakala, Avery Mariuzza, Luke Mariuzza, Josh Penrose
- 29 Diane Goethe, David Uitto
- 31 Bill Phillips



"Pray, and let God worry."
—Martin Luther



If you would like to donate to purchase the lilies for Easter Sunday, they are \$20.00 each. Please return the order form to the church office by March 18.

Please print.

☐ In memory of _____

or

☐ In honor of _____

From _____

Phone number _____ Date _____

Paid ☐ cash ☐ check \$ _____

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH, ELCA, NGLS
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www.Bethelish.org / Facebook: Bethel Lutheran Church Ishpeming
Office Hours: Monday-Friday, 9 am – 1 pm

Staff

Pastor: Rev. Tim Johnston, 906-485-5533 (emerg.- 563-581-0929), tdjohnst@gmail.com

Admin. Assist: Connie Kangas, 906-485-5533, bethellutheran333@yahoo.com

Organist/Choirs: Lucas Wickstrom

S.S. Director: Jennifer Juntunen

Treasurer: Karen Ostlund

Custodian: Tina Anderson

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: Moabites are bad. They were not
to be allowed to dwell among God's people (Dt. 23).
BUT THEN comes the story of "Ruth the Moabite,"
which challenges the prejudice against Moabites.

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: People from Uz are evil (Jer. 25).
BUT THEN comes the story of Job, a man from Uz who
was the "most blameless man on earth."

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: No foreigners or eunuchs allowed
(Dt. 23).
BUT THEN comes the story of an African eunuch
welcomed into the church (Acts 8).

—

THE BIBLE IS CLEAR: God's people hated Samaritans.
BUT THEN Jesus tells a story that shows not all Samaritans
were bad.

—

THE STORY MAY BEGIN with prejudice, discrimination,
& animosity, but the Spirit moves God's people towards
openness, welcome, inclusion, acceptance, & affirmation.

—BIXBY KNOLLS
THEHAPPYGIVERS.COM



YOUTH TRIP FUNDRAISER MEAL

This Summer three Bethel youth and three Bethel adults will be canoeing in the wilderness for a week of growing in faith and community. Please come to support this youth trip and help us raise needed funds.

You are invited to a meal fundraiser on Sunday, April 7 at 11:15a.m. Tickets can be purchased from the church office or via the form below; place the form and fee in an envelope and put in the offering plate. Your ticket will be available at the door. You can also purchase tickets at the door, but for planning purposes we would appreciate if you purchase in advance.

For less than the cost of an equivalent restaurant meal, only \$20, you can have a meal of spaghetti and meatballs, garlic bread, vegetable and a dessert assortment.

Please purchase your tickets soon and join us on Sunday, April 7 at 11:15a.m. for this opportunity to support this ministry and those going on this trip (Matt and Lukas Barron; Pastor Tim, Ari and Anders Johnston; Bud Hart).

YOUTH TRIP FUNDRAISER MEAL

Print Name: _____

Number of tickets @ \$20 each: _____

TOTAL: _____