

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT – APRIL 7, 2019 –8:30 & 11:00 AM

Please take this bulletin home with you ... as a reference for this week's calendar of events, a reminder of Bethany family and friends to keep in your prayers and other useful information.

Prelude: "Amazing Grace", "Brethren", "We Have Met To Worship" - Jan Sanborn	
Gathering Hymn: "Sanctuary"	Screen
First Reading	Joshua 5:9-12
Psalm 32	Chanted responsively by verses
Second Reading	2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Gospel	Luke 15:1-3, 11b-32
Sermon	Pastor Jen Henry
Hymn of the Day: "Lead Me, Guide Me"	ELW 768
Offering: "Jesus, the Very Thought Of Thee" - Jan Sanborn	
Communion Hymn: "Jesus, Keep Me near the Cross"	ELW 335
Sending Hymn: "Jesus Is a Rock in a Weary Land"	ELW 333
Postlude: "I Have the Joy" - Jan Sanborn	

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Welcome to worship at Bethany Lutheran Church! It is our hope that you experience the love of Christ this morning and His presence during our worship service. If you are visiting today, please sign the guest book in the narthex. Everyone please sign the Fellowship Pad in your pew. These can help you get to know the others around you. Also, be sure to mark the pad if you partake in Holy Communion. Thank you for taking time to fill out this information!

Large print bulletins and assistive listening devices are available. If you would benefit from either of these, please ask an usher. If you have a prayer concern to share, please use a prayer request card located in the pew racks and place in the offering plate.

Purple is the traditional color for the Season of Lent. Through the centuries, purple has symbolized pain, suffering, and therefore mourning and penitence, so it is the appropriate liturgical color for the Church to use in this penitential time of the year.

Many thanks to our worship volunteers helping with services today:

8:30am: Greeter: Jana Phillips; Reader: Mary Marske; Acolyte: Mackenzie Manwarren, Mallory Klemme; Communion servers: Jody Vollmer, Susan Rohan, Mary Marske; Ushers: Bruce Klenken, Gary Halverson; Recorder: Sandi Witt; Projector: Emily Baker; 11:00am: Greet, Read, Communion Server: Francis & Judy Hiemstra; Projector: Emily Baker;

PRAYER CONCERNS & REQUESTS

Health Concerns:

Steve DePauw, Barb Fletcher, Bill Hemme, Mary Rose Hemme, Linda Kunzmann, Kim McCune, Sandy Manwarren, Bev Quail, Sally Peterson, Gary Tolzmann;

Miles Rohan (*Kevin Rohan's father*);

Jaci Hermstad (*Colleen Hermstad's granddaughter*);

Sarah Peterson (*Carole Peterson's daughter*);

Those who mourn:

The family of Donna Johnson

ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACTIVITIES BETWEEN SERVICES All are welcome for fellowship with refreshments in the church parlor between services. Kids aged 3 years--grade 8 are welcome at Sunday School. Preschoolers gather in the nursery in the east wing, Kinder-kids through grade 6 gather in the Dining Room downstairs. Grades 7-8 meet in their room on the lower level.

EASTER LILIES will beautify our Sanctuary on Easter morning. *Would you like to share one?* **Today is the last day to order a plant.** The cost is \$9. See details at the Welcome Center.

CHURCH SOFTBALL LEAGUE Teams are forming for the 2019 softball season. Are you interested in playing? Organizers would like to know by **Tuesday, April 9**. There is a poster on the bulletin board by the church office with more details. Contact Sandi Witt at 580-9593 if you'd like to get signed up!

MIDWEEK LENTEN WORSHIP Next week is Holy Week so **April 10** is our last Wednesday evening midweek service. Supper is at 6pm (*the Men of Bethany will be serving Pizza!*) followed by worship at 7pm. Our midweek Lenten series is "The Many Names for Jesus" – this week, our "Redeemer". And, we will continue to work on the "H*****H" chorus! This may be our last chance to practice together – be here!! We'll need lots of voices for our Easter morning debut!! 😊

FUN & FELLOWSHIP will meet on **Thursday, April 11** at 9am to wrap up another year of their mission work for Lutheran World Relief (LWR). The first weekend in May is when the quilts and kits that have been assembled over the past 12 months are delivered to a truck at Southpark Mall and from there taken to the LWR warehouse in South St. Paul, MN for global distribution. On Sunday, April 28 our services will include a special blessing and dedication of the kits and quilts as we prepare to send them on their way. Quilts and kits will be on display so parishioners can see the artistry and toil that goes into their labor of love for these mission efforts.

THE GATHERING of folks from throughout the community who come to Bethany to enjoy fellowship & a tasty home-cooked meal will be here on **Thursday, April 11** from 5-6pm. If you'd like to provide a "Bonnie Butter Cake" for the event, please look at the Welcome Center for details!

FUNDRAISER & LUNCH A benefit fundraiser for Jaci Hermstad will be held on **Saturday, April 13** from 11am-1pm at Spencer Ag Center (1901 E 8th St.). In February 2019, Jaci was diagnosed with ALS Disease, which her twin sister Alex died of in 2011 at the age of 16. Jaci is the granddaughter of Colleen Hermstad, a member of Bethany Lutheran Church.

HOLY WEEK begins next Sunday. *Will you join us for these special services?* Palm Sunday, April 14 one service at 10am (see more below); Maundy Thursday with First Communion, April 18 at 7pm; Good Friday, April 19 at 7pm (worshipping with Trinity at Bethany); Easter Sunday, festive services at 8:30 & 11:00am. Fellowship time between services will include breakfast pizza– plan to join us! Reminder: there is no Sunday School on Easter Sunday.

EASTER EGG HUNT & BRUNCH In anticipation of Easter, our Sunday School children will gather together on Palm Sunday, April 14 for a special time of fellowship which will include our annual Easter Egg Hunt. Kids will meet in the parlor at 8:45am that morning. Everyone is welcome to attend. Families are welcome to join the palm-waving processional at the 10am service that follows. Bethany Youth will be serving an egg-bake brunch after worship. Please join us for this special day!

THANK YOU!! We extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who sent cards, signed the lovely banner and shared good wishes with us on the occasion of our 70th anniversary. We would also like to thank "The Gathering" folks for the tasty home-cooked meal delivered to our home these past few months. We sure appreciate your thoughtfulness and kindness!

Lois & Eugene Johnson

GRANT OPPORTUNITY The Western Iowa Synod Mission Endowment Committee is accepting grant applications through **April 20, 2019**. Past grants ranging from \$500-\$1500 have included congregation community meal programs, food pantry, gardening projects, mission trips, backpacks for kids, and other similar ministries. Applications are available the synod website (www.wisynod.org) or at the church office. Return by 4/20 to Julie Cook, Western Iowa Synod, ELCA, 318 E 5th St, Storm Lake, IA, 50588 or via email to julie.cook@wisynod.org.

HABITAT HOUSE The Northwest Iowa Corridor Habitat for Humanity's newest build in Milford is fast approaching and **April 19, 2019** is the deadline for families wishing to be considered. Applicants must meet criteria based on their current housing situation, demonstrate the ability pay mortgage payments and be willing to partner with Habitat by working their required "sweat equity" hours before and during the build. Applications can be found at local public libraries or on the national Habitat website (www.habitat.org). Mail completed apps to HFH, PO Box 754, Spirit Lake, IA 51360. Please direct questions to 712.336.4700.

RUMMAGE SALE It's that time of year again! Bethany Youth will hold their annual rummage sale on May 3-4. Please consider donating gently used items for them to sell. Bring your "stuff" to the storage room across from the Youth Room downstairs by Thursday, May 2. If that room is full, leave items by the door and we will put them away. If you have questions, please contact Katie Hare, Director of Youth & Family. Proceeds from the sale will support the West Virginia mission trip.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS – TAKE NOTE! Following the success of other churches who have utilized the assignment of opportunities for participation in worship services, we will begin a rotation of worship volunteers starting with May and June. Watch your mail in mid-April for an envelope with detailed information and a schedule of worship volunteer assignments for regular services in May & June. For now, there are a few blanks left to be filled in April. Please sign up if you are able. Thank you!

LDR – CONSIDER A GIFT Lutheran Disaster Response (LDR) brings God's hope, healing and renewal to people everywhere whose lives have been disrupted by disasters. Your gifts make it possible for this church to provide fast and effective support to communities in need, whenever and wherever a disaster may strike *and* 100% of your gift is used for the disaster that you specify. Please consider a donation to Lutheran Disaster Response today, either through your "directed giving" offering envelope or mail your gift directly to them. Thanks for your support!

LOVING SPENCER APRIL Living in a nursing home or care center can often be lonely, despite being surrounded by residents, nurses, CNA's and other staff. This month we're challenged to visit a nursing home with the intent of sharing the love of Christ and brightening a resident's day. Write out a card, pick up flowers or find some unique way to bring joy as you spend some time visiting. And, don't forget to pray for the residents & caregivers in nursing homes. Let the April kindness explosion begin!!

LORD, HEAR MY PRAYER Included in Pr. Jen's sermon is this prayer. Take it home with you.

Lord Jesus Christ,
You were poor and needy,
As captive and abandoned as I.
You know every need of human beings,
You abide by me,
When no human being stands by me,
You forget me not and you seek me out,
You desire that I know You
And draw me to Yourself.
Lord, I hear Your call and follow.
Help me!

By Dietrich Bonhoeffer

CALENDAR

Sunday, April 7

- 8:30 am Worship
- 9:30 am St. Luke Round Up (at St. Luke)
- 9:45 am Fellowship
- 9:45 am Sunday School
- 11:00 am Worship

Monday, April 8

- 9:30 am Chrism Mass (St. Mark, Storm Lake)
- 1:30 pm Stonecroft Bible Study
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Pack 123 Den Meetings
- 7:00 pm Companions in Christ

Tuesday, April 9

- 12:00 pm Pastors Text Study
- 2:00 pm Staff Meeting
- 4:30 pm Weeknight Music
- 6:00 pm Faith in Action Committee

Wednesday, April 10

- 10:00 am Bible Study & Prayer Group
- 11:30 am Community Lenten Lunch and Worship at Faith Pentecostal
- 4:30 pm First Communion Class
- 6:00 pm Lenten Supper – MOB hosts
- 7:00 pm Confirmation, Lenten Worship
- 7:45 pm **Bethany Youth Group (BYG)**
- 8:00 pm Uke Club

Thursday, April 11

- 9:00 am Fun & Fellowship
- 12:00 pm Workday Potluck
- 5:00 pm “The Gathering” Community Meal
- 6:30 pm Cub Scouts Pack 123 Den Meetings
- 7:00 pm The Welcome Circle
- to 8:30 pm at the Way Station (302 Grand Ave)

Saturday, April 13

- 7:30 am Men of Bethany Bible Study
- 8:00 am The Welcome Circle
- to 9:30 am at the Way Station (302 Grand Ave)
- 11:00 am Jaci Hermstad Fundraiser Benefit at
- to 1:00 pm Spencer Ag Center (1901 E 8th St)

Sunday, April 14 – Palm/Passion Sunday

- 8:45 am Sunday School Gathering
And Easter Egg Hunt
- 10:00 am Palm/Passion Sunday Worship
- 11:00 am Brunch by Bethany Youth Group
Egg bakes, muffins and fruit