

The Beacon of Bethel Lutheran Church

Let God's light shine before all mankind.

"Where Faith Grows"

440 943-5000

www.bethelwillowick.org

E-mail= office@bethelwillowick.org

April 2020

Pastoral Message

Greetings in the name of our Risen and Glorified Lord and Savior,

Can this month be more exciting? Easter and the joyous celebration of the Resurrection. But alas we may have to postpone our celebration. At the writing of this message we are just beginning the "Stay at Home" order from the governor. I'm sure you are feeling a little cooped up and wanting to go back to your normal routines, but rest assured that we are in God's hands now as we have been since our Baptisms. We are hearing stories of hoarding and stores being out of toilet paper and hand sanitizer. As Christians we must remember where our focus should be and never lose that focus. Most importantly we don't need to panic because God is and always has been in control. His promises are still true. He will be with us every moment of everyday (Matthew 28:20). He will make all things, even catching the coronavirus, work for our eternal good (Romans 8:28). No matter what happens to us here on earth, we have a home for us in the perfection and happiness of heaven of Jesus (John 3:16). So how should we react as Christians living in this country? We should be concerned. We should be wise. We should be cautious. But we need not worry.

Worry doesn't help. Panic makes everything worse. Besides, God's got this and you.

Social media is full of funny memes about this outbreak. I can't seem to avoid the feeds coming through my Facebook page about this pandemic. Also, the news stations whether local or national seem to have nothing else to talk about. We must be vigilant about what facts we listen to and which are evil in intent. Please be weary of possible scams.

You are also probably wondering why you have received this publication in the mail. Why spend money on printing and postage? The answer is rather simple; I want to make sure that every member, including those whom we haven't seen in quite some time, be made aware of the steps that the leadership of Bethel has taken to ensure the health and safety of its members and the staff. We are complying with the governor's order to stay home, and as most of you know Bethel has begun a live-streaming of our modified worship services – both Wednesday mid-week and Sunday morning.

However, please be aware that receiving this issue is not the norm, so if you would like future issues, please notify the church office. Also you may read current issues on our website; www.bethelwillowick.org, and it is located under the tab "Events/News" and when the drop down tab appears, you can click on the current issue and also past issues going back six months.

One last thing before I end this message. Please, please, keep safe and healthy and don't ever forget to focus your eyes on the cross. Also pray for this pandemic to end that we can return to worship and fellowship.

In His Service

† Rev. Donald P. Beaumont

Rev. Donald P. Beaumont pastor@bethelwillowick.org

Joshua 24:15

As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.



Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.
5 Martin Luther Drive † Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996
Worship for Shut-Ins Sermon Summaries

These Worship services on WRLM can be viewed on Time Warner Cable channel 12 and U-verse channel 67 at 11:30 am on the following Sundays:

Weekly Scripture Readings & Sermon Summaries April 2020

April 5, 2020 – Palm Sunday/Sunday of the Passion

Psalm 118:19-29; **John 12:12-19; Matthew 27:11-66**

“Palms to Passion” - Sermon Text: Philippians 2:8b - Rev. Shayne Jonker

Holy Week begins on the road from Jericho to Jerusalem. Jesus procures a donkey and His disciples hail Him with palm branches. They make a royal highway for Him with their coats and shout, “Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!” The mood, however, shifts quickly from palms to passion, from triumph to crucifixion. This is no ordinary King. He dies for His people and kingdom. Never has the world seen such a King as this one.

April 12, 2020 – The Resurrection of Our Lord/Easter Day

Psalm 16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-11; John 20:1-18

“Tears of Joy” - Sermon Text: John 20:1-18 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

When a military mother is unexpectedly greeted by her child returning from deployment, the shock is overwhelming, and she may burst into tears of joy. Mary’s tears of sorrow changed into tears of joy when she saw the risen Savior.

April 19, 2020 – Second Sunday of Easter

Psalm 148; 1 Peter 1:3-9; John 20:19-31

“A Genuinely Tested Faith” - Sermon Text: 1 Peter 1:3-9 - Rev. William Mueller

The Apostle Peter reminds us that our faith in Jesus Christ is a genuinely tested faith. This means that through the struggles, various trials, and other griefs that we endure, God is drawing us closer to Jesus. Our faith in Jesus may be tested, but it is genuine!

April 26, 2020 – Third Sunday of Easter

Psalm 116:1-14; 1 Peter 1:17-25; Luke 24:13-35

“Have It GOD’S Way!” - Sermon Text: Luke 24:13-35 - Rev. Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

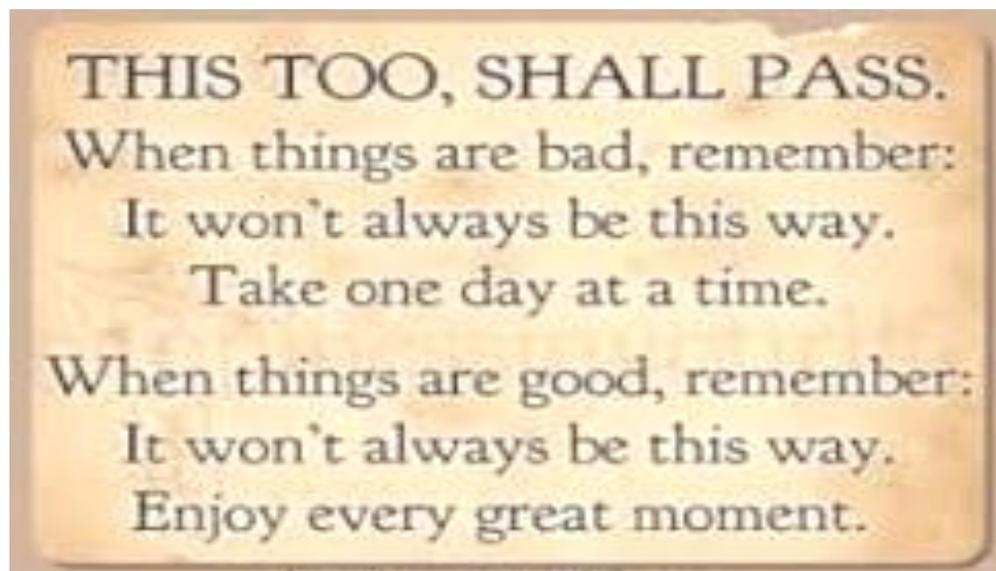
Does God’s gift of faith come from a set menu, or is it served up à la carte? In what ways are we “slow of heart” to believe all that God’s Word tells us? In His conversation with two Emmaus-bound disciples, the risen Lord Jesus Christ reveals the challenges and possibilities of a faith humbly determined to *Have It GOD’S Way!*

Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) † Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002
www.WorshipAnew.org E-mail: info@WorshipAnew.org

Bethel Lutheran Church

RESOLUTION APPROVING THE CLOSURE OF BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH TO RESPOND TO THE CORONAVIRUS PUBLIC HEALTH CHALLENGE

- WHEREAS, the Bethel Lutheran Church Council has as its highest priority the safety, health, and welfare of the church's staff, members, and communities; and
- WHEREAS, the State of Ohio and the entire country is responding to the public health challenge presented by the coronavirus/COVID-19 pandemic disease; and
- WHEREAS, Governor DeWine has closed schools in the State of Ohio, closed restaurants and bars, and has strongly recommended that public gatherings be limited in order to limit the spread of the coronavirus; and
- WHEREAS, the Council has recommended that Bethel Lutheran Church be closed to the public from March 17, 2020 until guidance is received from the Governor; and
- WHEREAS, the Council wants to protect the economic welfare of the staff and their families during Bethel's closure; and
- WHEREAS, the Council will continue to monitor the threat posed by the coronavirus, will continue to follow the advice and guidance of the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Ohio Department of Health, and will reopen the Church when conditions are appropriate; now therefore be it
- RESOLVED, (1) that Bethel Lutheran Church is closed to the public until further notice; (2) that the church staff should be paid for their authorized hours.





Bethel Lutheran Church

Presents:

The 10th Annual
Bethel Outreach
Golf Outing

Sunday, June 14, 2020

Briardale Greens Golf Course
24131 Briardale Ave., Euclid, OH 44123

CHECK-IN BEGINS 12 Noon
SHOTGUN START AT 1 PM

Your Entry Fee Includes:

- 18 Holes of golf with cart
- Scramble Format with teams of 4 players
- Free range balls prior to the start of your round
- Coffee and donuts at check-in
- Hotdogs, chips, and beer at the turn
- Dinner that includes both ribs AND chicken following your round
- Winning team will receive a \$200 cash prize and trophies

If you are registering as an individual, we will assign you to a team. If you are registering at least 2 but less than 4 golfers, be aware that we may need to exercise the option of assigning individual signups to your group to complete a foursome

Sponsored by
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Outreach Committee
32410 Willowick Drive
Willowick, Ohio 44095

www.bethelwillowick.org

These programs include the Willowick Food Pantry, Lake County Community Network, Willowick youth sports, Hearts & Hammers of Willowick, Willowick Middle and Royalview Elementary Schools and The National Fire Safety Council.

Non-golfers are welcome to join us for the awards presentation and for only \$28 per person, they are also welcome to join us for dinner beginning at 6:00 pm. So please feel free to mention this event to family, friends, and associates.

QUESTIONS? Contact the church office: (440) 943-5000

----- Please tear here -----

Show your support **here ▼**AND / OR..... Sign up your team **here ▼**

BOGO SUPPORT (Please check appropriate line)	Cost: \$80 each TEAM MEMBER NAMES: (Please PRINT)	Paid / Amount
<input type="checkbox"/> HOLE SPONSOR \$100 (includes a sign on course at one of 18 tee locations) (PLEASE ENCLOSE BUSINESS CARD, .JPEG OR LETTERHEAD FOR SIGN CREATION)	1) _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> MONETARY DONATION - \$ _____	2) _____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> MERCHANDISE GIFT DONATION	3) _____	_____
Your name: _____ Company name: _____ Address: _____ Phone: _____	4) _____	_____
<p>Non-golfers may join us for dinner at 6pm (\$28 ea.) Include total # of non-golfers here > _____</p> <p>MAIL CHECKS MADE PAYABLE TO: BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH (marked "Golf Outing") along with this form to: Bethel Lutheran Church - 32410 Willowick Dr. - Willowick, OH 44095</p>		



Jim Bossman
Trudy Dorn
Joanne Drury
Helen Herborn
Stephen Humble
Marjorie Jackson
Marge Kenerson
Helen Kovach
Marilyn MacIntyre
Norma Pecsok
Georgia Saxby
Virginia Beaumont-Succi

Above is a list of our members who do not get out much. Please remember them with notes, cards, a phone call or a visit in person – and in our prayers!

(Please call church office for contact for more info)



LOOSED FROM DEATH



Almost 100 years ago, one-time U.K. poet laureate John Masefield wrote a play called *The Trial of Jesus*. In it, the centurion who oversaw Jesus' execution returns to give Pontius Pilate an official report. When Pilate's wife requests and receives details about the crucifixion, she asks, "Do you think he is dead?" Despite what he had witnessed, the centurion answers, "No, lady, I don't."

Confused, Pilate's wife inquires, "Then where is he?" The man's response: "Let loose in the world, where none can stop his truth."

Indeed, as 2 Timothy 2:9 (ESV) attests, "The word of God is not bound!"

EASTER AROUND THE WORLD

Easter traditions are important, but they vary widely. While Americans dye hardboiled eggs, Kenyans carve soapstone eggs and present them as gifts in banana-fiber boxes. In Bermuda, locals fly homemade kites on Good Friday — a tradition that began when a teacher illustrated Christ's ascension to heaven using a cross-shaped kite.

Ethiopian Christians observe a 56-day fast from meat and all animal products. On Easter, they dress in white to worship in churches decorated with handmade fabric. Then they feast with non-Christians on roast chicken, goat and rice.

In France, church bells are silent between Holy Thursday and Easter to observe Jesus' Passion. According to legend, the bells grow wings and fly to Rome to be blessed, returning on Easter with chocolate and presents. In one town's main square, chefs make a giant omelet with 4,500 eggs to feed 1,000 people!



LADIES AID

We had our **March meeting on the 3rd** and prior to the meeting, we brought our elbow grease and cleaned the church pews. We had 2 guests join us to help clean and then we even rewarded them with some cake and cookies! Donna opened with prayers of healing and strength and thanksgiving for our friends and family of Bethel. While giving reports, Jeanne shared that we had an awesome first week of March Mites Madness and collected \$69.50. We will continue to collect for the rest of the month of March.

We were also able to report that we had a fantastic first **Annual Chili Cook-off**. We collected \$201 to send to Bethesda and we also learned what we need to do different so we can make it even better for next year. Congratulations to Jack Schimmelmänn on winning first place. I was assured that it was not rigged but I think Jack is going to have to watch out for Justin Hird next year! Thank you to everyone who participated and also came and enjoyed some chili and fellowship.

We are currently preparing for the **Rummage Sale** which is **4/25** and the **Mother's Day banquet on 5/9**. We hope to see each of you at the Rummage Sale and you are also more than welcome to attend the Mother's Day banquet..... for a small fee! We have our **dinner out coming up in June** and all the ladies of the congregation are welcome to attend. The date is **June 3** - so be sure and mark it on your calendar.

Pastor joined a little late (no - he was not avoiding helping clean!) and he talked about **our theme "Gift of Service."** We had 2 bible verses and they were Colossians 3:23 and Philippians 2:4. These verses speak to Jesus's ministry which was about humble service. We are instructed to put the needs of others above our own and that we, too should embrace humility. This is something to think about as we start the Lenten season.

Thank you to Georgann and Jenn for hostessing. Jeanne has Altar duty for March and Peggy has April. Our **next meeting is April 7th** and we will be making ornaments for Easter breakfast.

Ginny Snodgrass
Ladies Aid Secretary

PLEASE NOTE: ANY ACTIVITIES LISTED IN THIS ARTICLE ARE SUSPENDED FOR NOW DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC. CHECK OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK PAGE OR CHURCH APP FOR ANY FURTHER UPDATES.



BIBLE QUIZ

Three of the Gospels tell that when Jesus was crucified, darkness covered the earth from noon until three in the afternoon. Which Gospel does *not* mention this event?

- A. Matthew
- B. Mark
- C. Luke
- D. John



Answer: D
(See Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, and John 19.)

Robin Bartley	4/2
Dianne Sprafka	4/2
Gunter Neumann	4/4
Monica Nardy	4/9
Joanne Suydam	4/10
Debora Lange	4/11
Becky Uyesugi	4/15
Madison Ocampo	4/17
William Hornung	4/19
Sherry Warrington	4/22
Sheryl Cendrowski	4/23
Daniel Blaha	4/25
Dan Bunsey	4/26
Gwen Kost	4/27

SEE(K) FIRST

On Facebook, I can “follow” as many people as I want, viewing their messages, photos and activities. But I can choose only 30 to “see first” — that is, to prioritize in my news feed. As of this writing (Facebook changes often), if my “see first” list is full and I want to add someone new, I must “unprioritize” someone else.

That leads me to ponder bigger matters: I often claim to follow Jesus, but what might I need to “unprioritize” to make him not just a priority but *the* priority in my life? To what do I devote time and attention but ought to let go to follow Christ more closely? What activities, behaviors and values do I need to not just bump from my “see first” list but “unfollow” or “block” entirely? Perhaps they are antithetical to discipleship or simply take too much time away from prayer, Scripture and service.

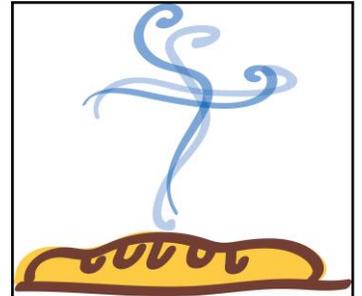
This dilemma isn’t unique to the digital age. Facebook parlance is about what we “see first,” but in Matthew 6:33 Jesus says, “*Seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness*” (ESV, italics added).

—Heidi Mann



ALL THINGS IN COMMON

Just as the bread is made out of many grains ground and mixed together, and out of the bodies of many grains there comes the body of one bread, in which each grain loses its form and body and takes upon itself the common body of the bread; and just as the drops of wine, in losing their own form, become the body of one common wine and drink — so it is and should be with us. ...



Through the interchange of [Christ’s] blessings and our misfortunes, we become one loaf, one bread, one body, one drink, and have all things in common.

—Martin Luther, *Treatise on the Blessed Sacrament*

Wally & Kim Morris Jr.	4/15
George & Beth Middleton	4/22

PLANNING FOR BETHEL'S FUTURE



Dear Friends in Christ:

As many of you may know, church attendance across the nation and religions is down. Here at Bethel, we are also experiencing the impact of this trend.

As a reference point, in 2016 our weekly average attendance was 96. In 2019, our weekly average attendance was 78. This is a net drop of 18 people (6 per year over 3 years). This drop in attendance is primarily from people passing away, going into nursing homes, and moving away. If this trend were to continue, in 3 years our average attendance would be 60. Looking 3 years beyond that, the average attendance could fall to 42. As you can imagine, this level of attendance would create some significant hardships for our church.

With the idea of looking to the future, in September 2018, a group got together to brainstorm and discuss what options were available to Bethel should attendance fall to these levels and/or the church not be able to support itself. The group consisted of Robin Bartley, Ginny Snodgrass, Jeanne Schimmelmann, Wyn Davey, Jack Schimmelmann, and Pastor.

As a result of that meeting, the group put together the following list of options that could be considered:

1. We could wait until we could no longer afford to keep the church open and then close the church and disband.
2. We could sell the property and move.
 - a. We could build a new church
 - b. We could lease space and use it as a church
3. We could drop Lutheran from our name to attract other denominations.
4. We could become a non-denomination church
5. We could consolidate with another church/churches
 - a. We could keep Bethel property as the survivor
 1. We could keep Bethel's name
 2. We could come up with a new name
 3. We could use money from the other and add on to Bethel.
 - b. We could sell all property involved consolidating the money.
 1. We could build a new church
 2. We could lease space

The group unanimously agreed that option 5.a. was our first and best choice. Building something new is very expensive. In addition, Bethel already has a very large parking lot and land.

Your church leadership then took these options and presented them for further conversation at the November 2019 and February 2020 Voter's Meetings.

The Voter's Assembly agreed that Shore Haven Lutheran Church in Euclid could be an ideal church to work with as they are about the same size as Bethel and are going through the same problems.

The Voter's also agreed that it was important to share the above information with the congregation. For that, it was decided to:

- Publish this letter in the April Beacon
- Hold a Congregational meeting after services on Saturday, May 2nd and Sunday, May 3rd

Please understand that we will **NOT** be voting on anything at either of these meetings. They are intended for informational and discussion purposes only. Any decisions to move forward with this process may take several years to accomplish.

Please keep Bethel in your prayers and thoughts. Feel free to contact me with any questions you may have at 440-943-5497 or at john.schimmelmann@sbcglobal.net

Blessings

Jack Schimmelmann
President

Quick Notes from the Treasurer:

Financial Highlights for February 2020:

- Collections under budget by (\$1,921) as of 2/29/2020
- Total balance of general and building funds as of 1/31/2020 = \$37,279
 - Our goal is to have at least two months' worth of expenses in reserve in these funds, or \$24,860
 - For February, we've met our goal

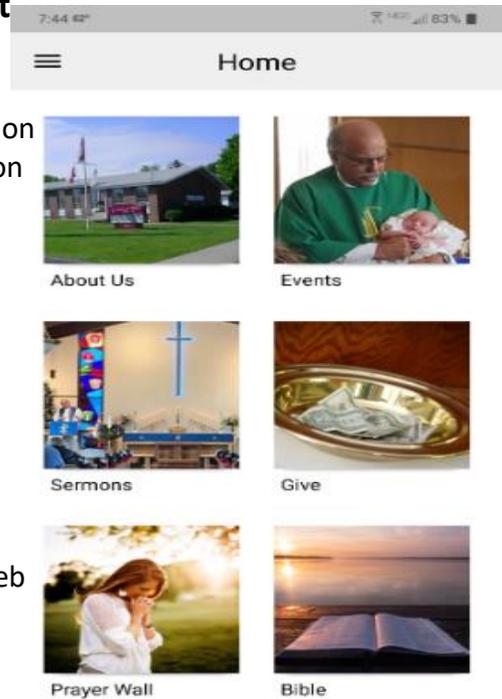
Have you checked out the church app yet?

It's an easy way to keep up on the happenings at Bethel on any mobile device.

Here's a peek at the main screen of the app



To get your copy (it's free!), just head to the church web site and click "Download Our App"!



CHRISTIAN SYMBOL

NAILS—Nails symbolize Jesus' passion and suffering because they were used at his Crucifixion. They are often depicted in groups of three because two nails were used to secure Jesus' hands, and a third was used to secure his feet. Three nails are also used to identify Jesus as a member of the Holy Trinity.



Life Everlasting

Fellowship with Christ is participation in the divine life which finds its fullest expression in triumph over death. Life is a larger word than resurrection; but resurrection is, so to speak, the crucial quality of life.

—William Temple

A MODERN-DAY PARABLE

In Luke 15, Jesus tells three parables about the precious being lost and, at great lengths, found again. The kingdom of heaven, he says, is like that. But most of us don't shepherd sheep and wouldn't fret over one lost coin. A child, on the other hand ...

In fall 2019, as night fell in northern Minnesota, 6-year-old Ethan and his dog wandered off. Family and police grew frantic because the area consisted of fields, woods and swamps. Authorities requested assistance.

The kingdom of heaven, Jesus might say, is like *600 volunteers* searching diligently in the dark for a child they didn't know. It's like Steve Fines who, though also a stranger to the boy, grabbed his company's pricy heat-seeking drone and worked the camera for hours, until it detected Ethan huddling with his dog, safe but cold. Yes, the kingdom of heaven — indeed God — is like people giving their all and refusing to quit until the lost one is found.

March 2020

Dear Friends in Christ:

As we are all experiencing these unprecedented times, we pray that you remember Bethel Lutheran Church, both in your prayers and financially.

Pastor is working very hard to get the message of God out to us. He is live streaming on Facebook, and posting sermons on the Church App, our website and social media. We pray that you will take advantage of these resources to be strengthened by the Word of God.

These dark days will not last forever. Soon, Bethel will be able to open her doors again, and we will be able to glorify and praise God.

In order to be ready, we need to maintain the church. Bills will continue to come in and we will need to pay them. Therefore, we ask that you prayerfully continue your financial support of Bethel.

Options available to continue your support:

- **Donate online via the Church App from our web site at www.BethelWillowick.org.** Click "Download our App". Once installed on your mobile device, tap the "Give" button to set up your one-time or recurring gift by bank or credit card. Or, you can visit <http://get.tithe.ly>, click Sign Up Free, then click Give to Your Church from your desktop or laptop computer.
- **Mail your donation (include your giving envelope)** – Simply mail them to the church at 32410 Willowick Dr, Willowick, Ohio 44095. They will be gathered and taken to the bank.

Our belief in God will see us through these difficult times. On behalf of the Finance Committee, I want to thank you for your prayerful consideration.

Jack Schimmelmann, President
Bethel Lutheran Church