

The Visitor

March 2024

The Newsletter for Bethany Lutheran Church
5303 Madison Avenue
Bethel Park, PA 15102
(412) 835-9221

To email messages to the office: bethanylutheranbp@gmail.com
(Please note that the Church office email address has changed)

DONATIONS

DONATIONS TO BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

If you wish to make a donation to Bethany Lutheran Church, please go to our website or Facebook page and click on the "Donation" tab. Or, if you wish, you could have "Auto Deduction" from your banking account, or pay by check by using your envelope and mailing it directly to the Church.



SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Friends and Members of Bethany Lutheran Church:
Masks are optional.

SUNDAY WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday Worship Service is at 10:30 A.M.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School begins at 9:30 A.M. each week

Please call me with any questions or concerns at 412-212-8794.

God's Blessings,
Pastor Melba

UPCOMING DATES TO REMEMBER AT BETHANY



NOISY OFFERING SUNDAY

Sunday, March 3RD is "Noisy Offering Sunday". Don't forget your change!

STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE MEETING

Next Meeting is Scheduled for Monday, March 18th at 7:00 P.M.

COUNCIL MEETING

Next Meeting is Scheduled for Tuesday, March 19th at 7:00 P.M.

MID-WEEK HOLDEN LENTEN WORSHIP

Worship service begins at 7:00 pm.

PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST AND EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE KIDS

Sunday, March 24th at 9:30 A.M.



EASTER FLOWERS

Easter Flowers are available for purchase. We will have Tulips and Lilies available.
Cost is \$11 per plant. Sign-up Sheet in the Narthex.



EASTER BASKETS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL



From the desk of the Pastor

Newsletter for March 2024

Why Easter Matters

“Jesus said, “It is finished.”

Then he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.”

— John 19:30

Now, if this is where our story stopped, we would not be living as people of the resurrection. We would be stunted at the crossroads, having no clue where to go and what to do. We would not know who we are or where we were going. But, thanks be to God, that is not where our story ends, that is just the beginning. God does something miraculous through Jesus Christ, so we are able to shout with joy-filled hearts on Easter Sunday, "CHRIST IS RISEN!"

“He is not here; for he has been raised.”

— Matthew 28:6

This is what we proclaim on Easter Sunday and every day following. Because of God's greatest promise, that he is not dead, but Christ lives! And through Christ's life, death, and resurrection we are granted grace upon grace. Through this unfailing, unfaltering, unparalleled love, we are set free to be people of the resurrection, covered by grace and forgiven. No longer finding ourselves at a crossroads, but rather, covered in grace.

Therefore, in this grace we receive from Christ Jesus, we give God our praise and thanksgiving. For the light of Christ is found in the resurrection, we see Christ in his glory, and we receive the gift of grace. We sing and we trust the light of Christ will never burn out, it will never be dim, it will not let us stumble in the darkness, no Christ's light will shine and guide our steps. This is why Easter matters. Because we are never to be forsaken, we will never be left alone to wander in the darkness. True light has come, and God has done something extraordinary through Jesus Christ. God, the creator of the world and liberator of all people has brought Christ to new life, and through the resurrection of Jesus we are freed from our fears and ignited with the light of Christ. It is through Jesus Christ that we are forgiven, set free and saved by grace. There is no greater love than this and nothing compares to this grace. Almighty God has restored humanity and in God's mercy, we are called to share this love and grace with all whom we encounter. Let the light of Christ shine in your hearts, illumine your path and guide your comings and goings so that you might always know the way, the truth, and the light. Because we know this only through Jesus Christ, who is, who was and who will always be our Savior and Lord. Thanks be to God.

Remember the true meaning of Easter, which is the resurrection. As the world brings out fluffy bunnies, sweet treats, and eggs, be rooted in the promises of forgiveness and grace that comes from a crucified and risen Savior. Remember that when you come to worship, we worship together, with trumpets and song a God of unparalleled love. We worship a God who gave everything so we might know the comfort and promise of grace. Remember that when the trumpets and fanfare fade away and the work week resumes that we are still covered in God's abundant grace. Remember that as we go about our daily lives and the glorious nature of Easter Sunday fades in your memory, God is still loving us, and Christ still died and rose again so we might know this AMAZING GRACE! Savor the sacred moments of Holy Week and let the Holy Spirit wash over you as you worship on Easter Sunday and know that God's love is why Easter matters. Thanks be to God. I look forward to Easter Worship and the blessed sacred journey of Holy Week.

Peace,



Lenten thoughts about wealth

Jesus taught, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." -Luke 12:15 (NIV)

For centuries, Christians have observed the season of Lent by taking on new spiritual practices (such as special prayer or bible reading) or abstaining from things that are enjoyable or extravagant (such as tobacco, chocolate or alcohol).

Lenten disciplines assist us in looking inward, seeing ourselves for who we really are, and with God's help, identifying things that keep us from drawing closer to God. With these awarenesses, and with God's help, we can then do something about them.

It's only fitting that Christians look at their relationship with wealth. Jesus had no problem with wealth, per se, but he repeatedly warns that wealth can distort our values and put a wedge between us and God. Or, worse, that money can supplant God as ruler in our hearts.

For those of us who are comfortable in our incomes and possessions, Lent invites us to look at our relationship with wealth. Here are some ideas for thought and prayer:

- Jesus says, "Life does not consist in an abundance of possessions." How is that different from the relentless message our consumer culture gives us? In what, then, would Jesus say our life consists? In what does your life consist?
- For Lent, keep a journal of everything you buy. At the end of Lent, analyze what your purchases say about your values, identity, and relationship with wealth.
- For Lent, buy only things you *need*, and NOT things you merely *want*. What do you learn in the process.
- For Lent, double your regular giving to charity. Or simply give to the point where it is a sacrifice.
- If you dare, try tithing – giving 10 percent of your income to God's work. What do you learn about yourself?

May this Lent be a time when you draw close to the Lord your God.

-Rob Blezard

Copyright © 2024, Rev. Robert Blezard. Pastor Blezard serves as pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, MD, and works as content editor for www.stewardshipoflife.org.



THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

WORSHIP SERVICE SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Date	Communion Asst. 10:30 AM	Readers 10:30 AM	Acolyte 10:30 AM
KIDS SUNDAY 3/3	Andrew Parker	Aiysha Dibble	Katie Hartos
3/10	Elizabeth Hartos	RaeAnn McFall	Drew Benigni
3/17	Jeannine Stowers	Jeannine Stowers	Kobe Morris
SEE SCHEDULE BELOW			



SERVING TODAY: SUNDAY OF THE PASSION/PALM SUNDAY



MARCH 24, 2024

PRESIDING MINISTER THE REV. MELBA DIBBLE
Acolyte: (10:30) Summer Parker
Book Bearer Kobe Morris
Cross Bearer Andrew Parker
Communion Assistant: (10:30) Nancy Shonsky
Reader: (10:30) Beverly Mueller
Usher: (10.30) Leigh Brooks

THOSE WHO SERVE MAUNDY THURSDAY

MARCH 28, 2024

PRESIDING MINISTER THE REV. MELBA DIBBLE
Acolyte: (7:00 PM) Katie Hartos
Communion Assistant: (7:00 PM) Cathy Irwin
Reader: (7:00 PM) Karen Housam
Usher: (7:00 PM) Leigh Brooks

THOSE WHO SERVE GOOD FRIDAY

MARCH 29, 2024

PRESIDING MINISTER THE REV. MELBA DIBBLE
Acolyte: (7:00 PM) Aiysha Dibble
Readers: (7:00 PM) Peter Dibble
Usher: (7:00 PM): Leigh Brooks

THOSE WHO SERVE: EASTER SUNRISE SERVICE

MARCH 31, 2024

PRESIDING MINISTER THE REV. MELBA DIBBLE
Readers: (7:00 AM) *[To Be Determined]*

THOSE WHO SERVE: EASTER SUNDAY

MARCH 31, 2024

PRESIDING MINISTER THE REV. MELBA DIBBLE
Acolytes & Candle Holders: (10.30) Aiysha Dibble & Kobe Morris
Communion Assistant: (10.30) Jane Scheeser
Reader: (10.30) Jeannine Stowers
Book Bearer (10.30) Colt Wigand
Cross Bearer (10:30) Craig Conn
Ushers/Greeters: (10.30) Leigh Brooks & Jim Palmer

THOSE WHO SERVE THIS MONTH

USHER SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

Leigh Brooks will serve as Usher for the month of March.
Colt Wigand will Assist Leigh Brooks on March 3rd.
Jim Palmer will Assist Leigh Brooks on March 31st.

OFFERING COUNTERS' SCHEDULE FOR MARCH

The Offering Counters for the month of March are Nick Kratsas and Chuck Conn

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



MID-WEEK HOLDEN LENTEN WORSHIP

During the season of Lent, we will hold our mid-week worship services on the following
Wednesdays of March – 6, 13 & 20.
The worship service will begin at 7:00 pm.



PALM SUNDAY BREAKFAST

The Evangelism Committee invites you to join us on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024, for a delicious breakfast of pancakes, sausage, pastries, homemade breakfast casseroles and an Easter Egg Hunt.

We will gather in Bethany Hall for Fellowship, Fun and Food during the Sunday School Hour, 9:30 to 10:15.

There is a signup sheet in the Narthex for the purpose of helping us with the count and food preparation.

We look forward to seeing you then.



EASTER EGG HUNT FOR THE KIDS

Sunday, March 24th at 9:30 A.M.

Come join us during the Sunday School hour for Breakfast and Fellowship!



HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Join us for **Maundy Thursday worship at 7:00 P.M. on March 28th**
and Good Friday worship at 7:00 P.M. on March 29th.

Plan on joining your church family to celebrate Holy Week!

Easter Sunrise Worship Service is in South Park at the Gazebo at 7:00 A.M. on March 31st

Easter Sunday Worship Service is 10:30 A.M. in the Church on March 31st

Join your church family to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



EASTER BASKETS FOR CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

Many children and/or their siblings spend Easter in the hospital. As a cheerleader at St Louise de Marillac, Diamond began collecting baskets for the kids and the cheerleaders gave them out at the hospital. One of my co-workers, Pastor Liz Mayforth is one of the chaplains at Children's. She is excited we are going to provide this once again for the kids.

Here are the "rules":

Make as many baskets as you are able (dollar stores are a great place for baskets and items)

No candy or edibles are allowed

Should have something religious in the basket

Place the age range on the outside of the basket so we know what age to give it to.

It would be nice if you can cover the basket with the colored paper – that way no items fall out
Remember the parents also.

Baskets must be at Church before March 11th.

Ages:
Newborn – 1 year
1 year – 3 years
3 years to 6 years
6 years to 10 years
10 years to 13 years
13 and up

Please have the students write a note to leave in the basket. Maybe a blessing or prayer for the child and family. Sign your first name only and can put the initial of your last name if you desire.

May God bring you peace and healing
Pastor Melba

Thank you so much

MORE IMPORTANT INFORMATION



ADULT BIBLE STUDY
We meet every Thursday beginning at 11:00 a.m.



GROCERY COLLECTION
We are collecting groceries for those in need.
We will be collecting the following items for the month of March:
Diapers & Baby Wipes
Hand Sanitizers & Paper Towels
Tuna
Canned Veggies
Please leave the items in the Narthex. Together we can make a difference in the lives of many of our South Hills neighbors in need.
If you have any questions, please call Pastor Melba at 412-212-8794.



Choir practice every Thursday at 7:00 P.M. Come join us!!!



WE STILL MAY GET SOME SNOW!!!
And, if it does, the front sidewalk will need shoveled. This would need to be done Sunday morning, and as needed at other times. **If you would like to be added to the list of those willing to help, or if you have any questions, please contact Craig Conn at 412-841-6343 (cell)**
Your help is greatly appreciated.

CELEBRATIONS WITHIN OUR CONGREGATION IN MARCH



Happy Birthday to the following individuals:

2-March	Summer Parker	11-March	Sharon Brooks	20-March	Heather White
3-March	Loree Benigni	13-March	Jeannine Stowers	20-March	Eric Keiser
6-March	Kimberly Volpatti	15-March	Audrey Signarovitz	21-March	Allyson Hucko
7-March	Shirley Aston	17-March	Jake Dowell	21-March	Renee DeMay



Happy Anniversary to the following individual:

15-March	Sandy & Auggie Burns	
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PRAYER CHAIN

Anyone wishing to be on the Bethany Prayer Chain, please contact Terry Simony by email at bethanylutheranbp@gmail.com ,

or call the Bethany Church Office at: 412-835-9221.

“I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.” (Mark 11:24)

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.....

“Stop looking for the perfect church. Go worship a perfect God today with a congregation of flawed people who need grace as much as you do”

AND

May your coffee be stronger than your daughter's attitude!


















REMINDER “SPRING AHEAD!” Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead on March 10th.



Bethany Lutheran Church

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 (NOISY OFFERING) 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Worship  12:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	4	5	6  7:00pm: Mid-Week Worship 1:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	7  11:00am: Adult Bible Study 7:00pm: Choir Practice 	8	9
10 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Worship 12:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship CHANGE CLOCKS 	11	12	13  7:00pm: Mid-Week Worship 1:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	14  11:00am: Adult Bible Study 7:00pm: Choir Practice 	15	16
17 9:30am: Sunday School 10:30am: Worship –  12:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	18 7:00pm: Stewardship Meeting 	19 7:00pm: Council Meeting 	20  7:00pm: Mid-Week Worship 1:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	21  11:00am: Adult Bible Study 6:00pm: SHIM Board Mtg. 7:00pm: Choir Practice 	22	23  Set-up for Breakfast
24 PALM SUNDAY  9:30am: Breakfast & Easter Egg Hunt  10:30am: Worship – 12:30pm: BPTV/YouTube Worship	25	26	27	28  MAUNDY THURSDAY 7:00pm: Worship 7:00pm: Choir Practice 	29 GOOD FRIDAY  7:00pm: Worship	30
30 EASTER SUNDAY Easter Blessings  7:00am: Sunrise Easter Worship Srvce 10:30am: Easter Worship Service						