



Be Blessed + Believe + Belong!

Bethany Lutheran Church News & Notes Week of March 24, 2024



This week at Bethany

Sunday 24 th	Monday 25 th	Tuesday 26 th	Wednesday 27 th	Thursday 28 th	Friday 29 th	Saturday 30 th
8am: Worship 9:15am Bible Study 10:30am: Worship Service		4pm: Handbells 5:15pm: Choir	No Highland Lakes Bible Study	No: Bible Study 5pm: Maundy Thursday	5pm: Good Friday	

DON'T FORGET YOUR NAME TAG – MEET A NEW FRIEND IN CHRIST TODAY!

Attendance:

February 28: 67
March 3: 36 || 138
March 6: 56
March 10: 27 || 125
March 13: 62
March 17: 47 || 117
March 20: 61

Our Mission Statement:

Bethany Lutheran Church is a place where you matter to God and to us, existing to glorify the Holy Trinity, to administer the sacraments, to teach and preach the gospel in all its purity, to grow in our relationship to God.

WORSHIP----CONNECTING-----GIVING

How to Contact:

Pastor Mike: 352-787-7275 | email: Michael.Hanel@gmail.com

Office hours Mon.-Thurs. 8:30am-2:30pm (but I can be out doing visits or appointments)

Friday is my off day.

I am always open for conversations, and I want to know any concerns/prayers/joys. We're in this life together as God's family. Pastor Mike

Church Office: 352-787-7275 | email: BLCLeesburg@gmail.com

Office is open 9am-1pm Mon.-Fri.



Facebook: We are “Bethany Lutheran Church Leesburg FL” on Facebook

Website: www.bethanylutheranleesburg.com

YouTube (Livestream): www.youtube.com/bethanylutheranleesburg

Online Giving --- It's simple. Go to our website at

<https://www.bethanylutheranleesburg.com/home> and click on DONATE tab. Follow instructions.

Your donation will be tracked through church records as usual.

Altar Flowers: If you would like to provide a bouquet or two of flowers for a special occasion or just because, sign up on the Flower Chart on the clipboard in the Narthex. The cost per bouquet is \$35. The flowers are yours after the service on Sunday.

Do you have something for NEWS & NOTES?

Email to April (BLCLeesburg@gmail.com) by early **Thursday** each week to share in the News & Notes. Earlier in the week is preferred.

Our Church Calendar exists online and is found on our website under the menu item “Connect.” There's a lot going on lately and that's a great place to check up! If you see that something is not on there that should be, let us know in the office!

BIBLE STUDY OPPORTUNITIES!

Sunday School: Pre-school through elementary: *Enduring Faith* (chronological) *Bible Curriculum*, Unit 6. Current lessons will follow the kings, prophets and heroes of faith through Malachi--Jesus is coming!

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Sunday morning Bible Class led by Pastor Mike (and Tom substitute): We're spending time brushing up on the basics as we study Luther's *Small Catechism*. Join us in-person or via Zoom. We begin 9:15 Sunday morning. Classes are posted afterwards on YouTube.

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Wednesday Morning Highland Lakes Bible Study! – The Gospel of Mark!

Where: Highland Lakes Clubhouse; 5500 Clubhouse Dr, Leesburg, FL 34748

Date/Time: Wednesday from 10:00 to 11:00 a.m.

Audio for these classes is posted afterward on YouTube.

**** NO BIBLE STUDY MARCH 27th**

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Monthly Men's Prayer and Fellowship Breakfast will meet on **Thursday, April 11th at 8:30am**, at Bob Evans (360 Colony Blvd, The Villages). We will watch a short video (on the Apostles' Creed) with discussion, followed by a time of prayer. Wally is the main coordinator for the group, but Pastor Mike is working with this too. This is open to all men (whether members of Bethany or not). If you have questions, please talk to Wally.

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Thursday evening Bible Study 6pm: The Gospel According to John. Thursday evening Bible Study 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm: The Gospel According to John. Using the Living Way Bible Study four-part emphasis (Personal Application questions, small group discussion, the message from the leader, and the narrative of the author), the student studies each section of Scripture from four different approaches. This process emphasizes the Bible text and gives the student an understanding and ownership for each section studied. You may attend in person or online via Zoom. Sign up in the Narthex or contact Bonnie. **There will be no Thursday Bible Study on Maundy Thursday, March 28.**

This week's Memory Verse:

Hosea 6:1-2

Come, let us return to the Lord; for he has torn us, that he may heal us; he has struck us down, and he will bind us up. After two days he will revive us; on the third day he will raise us up, that we may live before him.

Pastor's Corner

Be Blessed + Believe + Belong!



This week marks the culmination of the church season known as Lent, in which we have found ourselves for the past 6 weeks. The week is often referred to as Holy Week and it is filled with a lot of action.

The week begins on Sunday with **Palm Sunday**, when Jesus enters into Jerusalem and is triumphantly hailed as King, but He doesn't use this entrance as an opportunity to elevate Himself. Instead, He continues to go about His business, following His Father's timeline, not the people's.

This week during Lent, we also have worship services on Thursday and Friday. Those services are referred to as Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, both of which are weirdly named.

Maundy Thursday is so named from the new commandment Jesus gives His disciples to love one another, just as He has loved them (John 13:34). The word "Maundy" is related through Latin (*mandatum*) to the word commandment. Jesus' love for His disciples is also shown in Him instituting what we called the Lord's Supper, fulfilling in a much greater way the Passover feast in which the shedding of the blood of the lamb saves God's people.

Good Friday is a misnomer if you misunderstand the significance of the day. It is the day our Lord dies on the cross. That alone should mean it's the worst day imaginable. If a loved one dies, it's not a good day, so how much more when it is our innocent Savior? The reason we call it Good Friday is explained extremely well in this famous comic B.C. by Johnny Hart.



If you're not able to make those services, the Easter story is always going to be lacking a little bit of its true meaning. So please try to make it to worship or watch online. If you can't do that, this is a great week to read the Passion accounts in the Bible too. You can find it in all of the Gospels: Matthew 26:30-27-6, Mark 14:26-15:47, Luke 22:39-23:56, and John 18:1-19:42.

It is my hope that you are able to find time, whether in worship or in your own quiet time this week to humbly reflect on your own personal need for a Savior and then to stand in awe of Jesus' deep love for you. For He has done all that was needed, all that we could not or would not do to give us His life forever.

Order Form for Easter Lilies

Easter is quickly approaching. **Please take the time to order an Easter Lily or two to honor or in memory of a loved one. Each plant is \$9.** Place your order any time **before Palm Sunday, March 24**. Lilies may be taken home following the Easter service. Forms will be available at church as well. Questions? Call April Harrison 352-787-7275. Thank you.

Donor Name _____

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Number of Lilies _____ x \$9 per lily

Check Amount \$ _____

EASTER BREAKFAST HELP

We are planning an Easter breakfast between services (**March 31**). There will be no Fellowship after the late service on Easter Sunday and no Bible Class between services. The breakfast between the services will take the place of both. If you can bring a breakfast casserole to share, please let Colletta know!



Lenten Midweek and Easter Schedule

Holy Week Schedule:

March 24, Palm Sunday – 8 and 10:30am
Services

March 28, Maundy Thursday – 5pm Service
(with Communion)

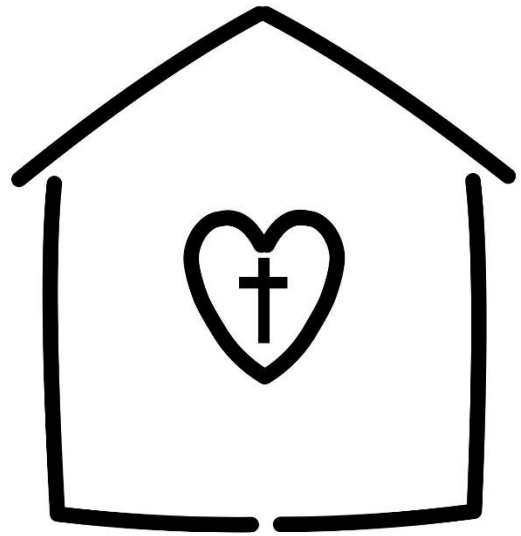
March 29, Good Friday – 5pm Service

Easter Sunday:

March 31 – 8am and 10:30am Services (with
Communion)

*** No Bible Study on Easter. Instead join us
for Easter breakfast between services*

CALLING US HOME...



A LENTEN SERIES BASED ON 1 PETER

K-8 Sunday School Activities for Palm Sunday and Easter!

Palm Sunday: From B.L.C. archives, we'll use a set of rustic banners made to signify 14 Bible events from the Last Supper to the Crucifixion—Jesus' Passion—to show our Savior's sacrificial love for us! Then the children will assemble their own Resurrection banners proclaiming Joy in Jesus' victory for our salvation! Those banners will be displayed at church through Easter Sunday.

On Easter, Sunday School will have a prepped-and-supervised TREASURE HUNT with hidden CLUES based on Messianic prophecies in the Bible! All children will search for each clue. Visiting kids are welcome to participate. Clues will be freshly hidden in Narthex, Sanctuary, and Outside in the area close to the main church entry. Monitors will watch. Procedure: Breakfast will be on-going in the Fellowship Hall. At about 9:45, Treasure Hunt participants will be called to assemble for instructions in the Sunday School room. Afterward, when the treasure is found, hunters will carry the intact booty to the Sunday room for distribution! ~ Thelma Moe

Want to Hear More about Lutheran Happenings?? Check out these Periodicals!

The Lutheran Witness

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod publishes a monthly magazine (though only 11 issues/year) called “[The Lutheran Witness](#).” One or two articles per month are usually freely available online, but all other content requires a subscription. Subscriptions (for paper + online access) can be purchased any time through Concordia Publishing House for \$24.99/year, but Bethany members can also purchase subscriptions through a group buying plan for \$21.50/year. The catch is the window for subscribing through the church only opens once a year. If you wish to subscribe through this group plan, **the deadline is April 14th** to get money to the church. If you wish to do this, you can do it through the Sunday offering, just make sure that the check/money is labelled with your name, the amount (\$20) and “Lutheran Witness” subscription. If you have any questions, let us know in the office.



Lutheran LIFE

The Florida-Georgia District of the LCMS also publishes their own periodical called “[Lutheran LIFE](#)” and also offers **FREE** subscriptions to all church members. This is a great way to see what else is happening in Florida-Georgia churches/schools. If you wish to receive this **FREE** subscription, all you need to do is fill out their online subscription form by [clicking here](#). Alternatively, if you wish to receive this and can’t figure the online part out, just let us know in the office and we can submit your request.



SO LONG, FAREWELL??

If you are traveling north for the summer or maybe gone for a few months, please make sure you are receiving News & Notes via email or via mail, please let the church office know your northern address and telephone number. You are most welcome to keep in touch with us and to watch our livestream services all year round and share them with others!



Safe travels and enjoy your summer. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Notes From Our Members

It has been a rocky road for Philip these last 6 months or so... but it is wonderful that he passed his last test this week and is good to go! To catch you all up to date - Phil had a bacterial infection on his artificial aortic heart valve that was not diagnosed until the end of December. For several months he had been battling ailments that included ER visits and hospitalizations. Balance was a big issue and at one point in October he had a fall causing a small brain bleed. With the final diagnosis he was placed on antibiotic IVs while in the hospital for 9 days. Upon returning home he had a PICC line for 5 more weeks of liquid antibiotic that sprayed the heart area. Depending on the outcome it could mean continued liquid antibiotics, open heart surgery, or antibiotics for the rest of his life. A month ago, he had an esophageal echo done that showed all of the vegetation that was harboring the bacteria on the valve was gone and there was no damage to his heart or valve. That meant no surgery! Since then, we have had 10 or so doctor's visits with each one of them declaring he is doing well! We have been cleared for no doctor visits for 6 months!

We are so thankful to God for bringing us through this challenging time! For my mom being a rock and as she looks forward to 90 in April is generally healthy! For the members of Bethany who kept us in their prayers! We would not be here without the love, support, prayers, and the mercy of God through Jesus Christ!

Phil is now allowed to travel, and we are taking off for a quick trip to Maine to celebrate our granddaughter's 2nd birthday this Friday! We will see you all soon! Karen & Phil

To ALL of my Prayer Partners

DON'T STOP - THEY ARE WORKING!

After two more weeks of healing, I met with the "top" orthopedic surgeon for the first time. He asked me what my number one question is. I told him that I can't stand this pesky sling. He said that a sling is worn only for comfort, has nothing to do with healing. So, I can decide when to wear it. (that would be never).

Hallelujah, the power of prayer.....Doctor said Roter cup is out of socket, but impacted against the wall, keeping it from falling down. He was surprised, as that rarely happens. WE know that the Prayers did that, a miracle.

I go back on April 15th, so let's surprise the doctor again. Pray that I can move my left arm in all kinds of directions, pain free and that the circulation in my left shoulder will remain positive.

For people my age with this kind of fracture, doctors say it will be up to two years for healing and pain to be gone. I hope to be past that on my next visit.

As soon as I can be independent again, I will return to my home and Pastor Hanel and my Bethany family, whom I miss so very much.

May the good Lord bless ALL of you and keep you in His care.

In Christian love, Dolores aka DW

P.S. See you in church via Livestream.