



Bethel Lutheran Church March 2024 Announcements

This Month's Events

March Noisy Offering – The Hope Center in Waukesha

Coffee with Pastor Jaime – Each Tuesday from 1-2 pm at Vintage Grounds Coffee

March 9 – Faith Family Fun, Noon-2 pm. Bring a bag lunch. Treats will be provided. We will be making homemade pretzels.

March 10 – Healing and prayer service at 8:30 am

March 12 – Senior Dinner, 4:30-6 pm

March 12 – Worship at 6 pm

March 17 – Easter basket assembly for Muskego Food Pantry after worship. Drop off donations of candy and baskets at church.

March 17 – Confirmation, 4-5:30 pm

March 19 – Council, 6-7:30 pm

March 28 – Maundy Thursday worship at 5 pm

March 29 – Good Friday worship at 5 pm

March 31 – Easter Sunday worship at 8:30 am

April 13 – Mark your calendar for a new Bible study: "How to Read the Bible," at 10 am at Bethel. More info next month!

A Message from Pastor Jaime

Easter is early this year – not as early as it can be, but still early.

Perhaps you have wondered why the date of Easter varies from year to year. Perhaps you know it has to do with the moon.

Since the fourth century, most Christians have been celebrating Jesus' resurrection on the first Sunday after the first full moon that comes after the spring equinox. That means Easter can occur anytime between March 22 and April 25. This year, we celebrate on March 31.

Fun fact: The last time Easter fell on March 22 was 1818, and the next time will be 2285.

For years, there have been different efforts to set a fixed Sunday that Easter would fall on every year, but so far, there has been no consensus, and Easter keeps moving around. Maybe that's a good thing.

The resurrection was a surprise – and a frightening one to those who first witnessed the risen Jesus. It's not that much of a surprise for us anymore. In fact, every Sunday is a celebration of the resurrection – not just Easter!

An Easter that moves around the calendar just might help us reclaim some of the surprise of new, resurrection life.

Here's a prayer that was published in Living Lutheran magazine in 2017 (when Easter fell on April 16), that captures some of that sentiment. It's from an article written by a theologian named Timothy K. Snyder:

*God of mercy,
Even if unity and consensus
is a good thing for the church,
may you keep Easter unpredictable,
may you keep Easter wild.
Cause if you leave it to us*

Continued on opposite side

Worship Schedule

Worship with Holy Communion

8:30 am Sundays

Evening Worship with Holy Communion

6 pm on the second Tuesday, following Senior Dinner

Holy Week – See events calendar on opposite side.

Please keep in your prayers ...

Albert and Donna – parents of Jeff and Gerald; Ann and Kris – friends of Bethel; Asher – relative of Diane and Dan; Barb; Betty; Cheryl; Carol, Ed, and Debbie; Courtney; Dan; Dave; Dennis; Dick – friend of Dan; Doug – brother of Ken; Edna; George – Heidi's brother; Ginny; Jiggs – cousin of Jim; Joan – mother of Eileen; Karen; Landon; Lauren; Madaline – daughter of a friend of Teri; MJ; Rick and Sue – friends of Bethel; Ron; Sharron R.; Teri; Terry; Todd – brother of Teri; family of Tom – friend of Teri and John. Our confirmation students: Casey, Grayson, Landon, Liam, and Ryder.

Contact Us

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Continued from opposite side

*we may domesticate it,
(over)plan for it or even worse.
Teach us, if it's even possible,
that resurrection, like death,
is completely out of our control.
Thank God.*

As we continue journeying through this season of Lent, toward our early-ish Easter, may we be open to God's surprises and open to the surprising, transforming work of God's Holy Spirit in our lives.

A thriving future for the church

How is the church called to respond as the world around us changes rapidly? How do we reach people with God's love when they are not connected to a church? Those are some of the questions that will be considered at a free conference in Brookfield this May. If you are interested in learning what others are thinking about the future of the church, join Pastor Jaime at the Siebert Inspired to Thrive conference on Tuesday, May 14, at Brookfield Conference Center. The event runs from 8:15 am-4 pm and includes breakfast, lunch, and a reception that begins at 3. There is no cost to attend, but participants need to register at www.siebertfoundation.org/event-details/inspired-to-thrive-2024.



Last month, our confirmation families went bowling (above). At Faith Family Fun, we burned last year's palms to make ashes for our "Ash Tuesday" service.