April 2019
Monthly Vision Newsletter

Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Road
Muskego, WI 53150
262-679-1616
www.bethelmuskegoelc.org

"WE ARE HERE TO LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD
AND SUPPORT EACH OTHER
AS WE REACH OUT IN GOD'S LOVE"

APRIL CALENDAR

30th Saturday, March

Pastor Maren on vacation 30th - 6th

1st Monday, April

6-9 pm Girl Scouts

2nd Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Synod Meeting/Council

3rd Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Lenten Worship-Vicki Kakonis

6th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

7th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

Sunday School

Assemble Easter Baskets for Food Pantry

9th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

2:00 pm Marketing Meeting

3:00 pm Education Meeting

4:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meal

10th Wednesday - Cousins Subs Fundraiser

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Lenten Worship - Pastor Maren

12th Friday

6:30-8:30 pm Movie Night

13th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

Noon-2 pm Faith, Family & Fun

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

14th Sunday - Palm Sunday

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren

Children/Chimes

Noisy Can-Lutherdale Bible Camp

16th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

17th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

NO Wednesday Worship Service

18th Thursday - Maundy Thursday

6:00 pm Soup/Bread Dinner

7:00 pm Worship Service - Pastor Maren

19th Friday - Good Friday

5:00 pm Worship Service - Pastor Maren

20th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

21st Sunday - Easter Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

22nd Monday - Earth Day

23rd Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Council Meeting

24th Wednesday

Dawn on vacation-29th

7:00 pm Evening Worship - Pastor Maren

27th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

28th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

30th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

LENT - 2019

On WEDNESDAYS during lent at

7:00 pm, the service being used is, Marty Haugan's "Holden Evening Prayer"

Please bring a family member or a friend to join in with the services.

HOLY WEEK SERVICES - (take note of times)

- Palm Sunday - Sunday, April 14th, 8:30 am
- Maundy Thursday - Thursday, April 18th, Dinner 6:00 pm, Service 7:00 pm
- Good Friday - Friday, April 19th, 5:00 pm
- Easter—Sunday, April 21st, 8:30 am

A note from Pastor Maren…

As I write this, it is the first day of Spring! Behind Fall, Spring is my second-favorite season. There is something powerful as the seasonal calendar and church calendar coincide this time of year. Just as the earth is beginning to renew itself after a long winter, so also the seasons of Lent and Easter are a time of spiritual renewal.

As we've been talking about in our Lenten series, "Cultivating and Letting Go," now is the time for letting go of what doesn't serve us, of letting go of all that hinders our growth as disciples of Christ. As we let go, there is more room for God to work and dig around in the soil of our hearts. Who knows what will be unearthed? Or what new growth will take place!

Yes, Spring is a time of anticipation. In the words of a recent Sunday prayer, "We rejoice that one season always gives way to another; that our winters are not forever, nor are the days of scorching sun."

This refers not just to literal seasons, but also the seasons of our lives. If we are going through a difficult season, we can take to heart that "our winters are not forever, nor are the days of scorching sun." It is a statement of faith that God will deliver us and guide us in whatever circumstances come our way.

As we journey through Lent and anticipate Easter, nature itself reminds us of the story of Holy Week. The story of new life springing forth from death… the plants dormant in the ground spring to life again, and the grass that was once brown turns a bright shade of green. Likewise, when faith and hope and life seem dead and gone on Good Friday… on the third day there is wondrous surprise, joy, resurrected life, and hope restored!

We have certainly had a LONG winter this year, and maybe that is what makes a new season all the more glorious. After the long, grey days and biting cold and piles of snow… we are ready to welcome the sunnier days, walks in the park, planting gardens, and enjoying all that nature has to offer.

Sometimes life itself can feel like a long winter… whenever we are facing hard times or dealing with challenges. We may wonder when this chapter will be over, or if the sun will ever come out again.

As we journey through Lent, we are reminded that it is a walk to the cross. There is no Easter without the cross. We sometimes find ourselves in despair… just as Jesus and the disciples must have. No one really wished for the experience of the cross! In the garden of Gethsemane Jesus prayed, "Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what you want." (Matt. 26:39)

Yet Jesus did not flee or turn away from suffering, but entered more deeply into it. As we face our own sufferings, we can take heart that we have a Savior who has been down that road. And while we may not yet be able to see the end of whatever we are going through, we do not lose heart because we know the story of Easter.

We know the story of the victory of our Lord. Death and decay and sorrow and pain are swallowed up in victory. And we are the recipients of new life! There is a new day coming… and much like a Spring day, we stand in anticipation of it.

Blessings on your Lenten and Easter journey!

Pastor Maren

Easter and Earth Day

This year, Earth Day is the Monday right after Easter. While Earth Day comes but once a year, it is a good reminder that EVERY day should be Earth Day. As Christians, we are called to be caretakers of all the good that God has made.

Psalm 24:1 says,

"The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it,
the world, and those who live in it;
for he has founded it on the seas,
and established it on the rivers."

Forgetting that "the earth is the Lord's," we have often simply ***used*** creation and forgotten our responsibility to ***care*** for it. For this we must confess.

All too often we choose convenience over care, but the good news is that **it is never too late to change our ways!**

You need only Google images of "plastic pollution" to see the widespread and devastating effects of our everyday choices.

The scope of environmental damage can be disheartening, but the good news is that **every little change we can make will help!**

In honor of Earth Day (April 22), and in an effort to be better stewards of God's creation, here are but a few simple, everyday changes we can do now! Try and incorporate a few each week until they all become a habit!

-Use **K-Cups**? Instead of throwing away all those pods, **use Recycle a Cup** (www.recycleacup.com) to easily separate and recycle all those pods!

-Bring your own **reusable shopping bags**, and remember to bring them in the store! Better yet, buy some roll-up ones that you can always keep in your purse!

-Reduce, Reuse, Recycle… but also add **a 4th R… REFUSE! Refuse plastic straws, refuse unnecessary plastic bags** for small purchases, etc. Simply say, "No thanks, I don't need a bag for that."

-**Keep a mug or tumbler in your car**… when you go to get coffee or sodas or other drinks, use that instead.

- Don't grab as many napkins. When you're at a coffee shop or take-out restaurant, make it a point to grab paper napkins as needed, instead of a huge chunk all at once.

-Wash on cold rather than hot or warm water. This makes a big difference, and most modern washers do an equally fine job of getting clothes spic and span in cold.

-Use **Wool Dryer Balls.** These cut drying time WAY down, and you can do away with disposable dryer sheets! These soften up your clothes just as well!

-**Subscribe to the e-newsletter Today We Will**. (www.todaywewillnewsletter.com)

Every weekday you'll be encouraged to make small, easily achievable lifestyle tweaks – wash produce in a bowl to save water, opt for clay over plastic planters – that will pay off over time.

We might hit 100% every day, but remember it is Progress Not Perfection!

Every effort we make at caring for the environment, we are taking a step in the right direction. We are saying Yes to being good stewards of all that God has entrusted us with!

Happy Earth Day… on April 22nd, and every day!

When in Church, Prayer requests can be made by filling in a prayer card (found near your seat or on the piano) and putting it in the offering plate or handing it to Pastor or Vicki Kakonis. Requests can be submitted confidentially at the church website, www.bethelmuskegoelc.org

***Please keep these people and situations in your prayers this week:**

Connor, Jean, Jeff, Julie, Kathy, Lela, Lynn, Michelle, Michael.

***Pray for peace and comfort for the families who have lost loved ones.**

***Pray for protection for all those around the world who suffer religious, ethnic, or other forms of persecution.**

***Pray for our Call Committee. Guide them and grant them wisdom as they work to seek a new pastor to be among us to lead us and walk with us into future ministry.**

APRIL SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	7th	14th	21st	28th
Altar:	Julie	Ginny	Barb	Vicki
Media:	Jochims	Ken P	Jean P	Ken P
Ushers:	Jochims	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Debbie Z	Conner's
Communion:	Debbie Z	Barb O	Sue H	Debbie Z
Lector:	Kate/Sara J	Heidi L	Kathy D	Heidi L

MAY SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	5th	12th	19th	26th
Altar:	Ginny	Julie	Barb	Vicki
Media:	Ken P	Jean P	Ken P	Jochims
Ushers:	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Conner's	Debbie Z	Jochims
Communion:	Barb O	Debbie Z	Sue H	Debbie Z
Lector:	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kathy D	Kate/Sara J

"PLEASE VOLUNTEER FOR ONE SUNDAY A MONTH, BETHEL NEEDS YOUR TIME AND TALENTS"

Your Quarterly Statements are finished and ready to be picked up.

The statements are on the table in the Narthex.

THANK YOU… WALKABOUT - Tracy Jochims and Heidi Lindhorst who got invitations out to 70+ households in the Bethel neighborhood. In the packet was a letter from Pastor Maren, a list of the Lent and the Easter worship schedule and a copy of the event page from the church website. If you would like to invite friends, family or neighbors to join us, please contact Heidi for the invitation materials.

Bethel Members will once again fill Easter baskets for the Muskego Food Pantry. Please bring small toys or books, individually-wrapped candy, new or gently-used baskets or money donations to purchase added supplies, to church. The donations should be in by April 7th when the baskets will be assembled following Worship. Thank you to all the members who helped this event out.

- **Make some noise!** The Noisy Can Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

April - Lutherdale Bible Camp

The Noisy Can donation for April goes to Lutherdale Bible Camp. Lutherdale Ministries provide a ministry of hospitality twelve months of the year. Their unique location and facilities provide camping programs and retreats for youth, adults, and congregations. Your gifts are an important life line for their ministry. Donate, Experience, Be surrounded by the natural glories of God.

- **Faith, Family & Fun** is an intergenerational program that brings families and kids together once a month on Saturday. Participants share lunch, learn Bible stories, make crafts (from birdhouses to homemade ice cream), share music and play games. Older kids make it fun by joining in to help everyone – even adults. The program is held on the second Saturday of each month from Noon to 2 pm.

- **Bethel's Sunday School program -** We gather for Sunday school once per month on the 1st Sunday of the month held during worship. Next class is on April 7th. The program is open for Pre-school age to 6th grade. Anyone wishing to teach or be a teen helper, please contact Debbie Zortman or Julie Frahmann.

- **Prayer Shawls Ministry -** Ginny's Gems woman's group, for the month of April there will be no Meeting.

EASTER

BLESSINGS

Sunday, April 21st

MUSKEGO FOOD PANTRY
Open Every Thursday -
Drop off Donations - 9 am to 5:30 pm
Pick Up Food - 1 pm to 5:30 pm

S81 W19150 Apollo Drive - Muskego
Telephone number: 262-679-6448
muskegofoodpantry@hotmail.com

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor - Maren Hooper, 262-271-8914, pastormaren@gmail.com

Secretary - Dawn Vretenar, 262-835-1042, bethelmuskegoelc@gmail.com

Musician - Heidi Surprenant, 414-477-9519 msurprenant@wi.rr.com

Office Hours: Tuesday & Wednesday 9:00-3:00 pm

CHURCH COUNCIL

President - Debbie Zortman 262-662-0535

Vice President - Dave Henkel 262-679-9544

Secretary - Julie Frahmann 262-679-2038

Treasurer - Georgia Hainer

Dan Conner 262-679-2768 Jim Lindhorst 262-679-1544

Teri Orlando 262-679-0456 Barb Osberg 262-679-3905

Ken Packer 262-650-9606

Council Update and Message for April

Spring has finally arrived! Have you seen a robin? Are your daffodils popping through the soil? The earth is alive! *"For everything there is a season, a time for every activity under heaven." Ecclesiastes 3:1*

~April in Action~

Bethel's spring cleaning is in full swing. The carpets will be cleaned and the sanctuary and gathering space will be spruced up. Thanks to all for jumping in to make this happen.

Thanks to everyone who ordered flowers for the Easter Sunday Altar. It will be beautiful.

Join us for the Easter Basket filling brigade on April 7th after worship. Thanks for all the donations!

The kids have been practicing the chimes for a performance on Palm Sunday, April 14th.

During Holy Week join us in sharing a soup and bread meal on Maundy Thursday, April 18th.

~Council in Action~

Adding to our Noisy Can for February the council motioned to donate an extra $500 from the stew pot monies, to the St. Vincent de Paul meal site to further their mission.

The Marketing committee (Heidi in particular) has been working diligently at updating our website. One of the goals is to be able to add a weekly audio sermon. To accomplish this the council motioned to purchase a voice recorder.

Easter Blessings to you and your families.

"For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Peace, Debbie Zortman, Council President

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Please present this coupon and present it at the time of purchase.