



March 2019
Monthly 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"**

MARCH CALENDAR

1st Friday

6-9 pm Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

2nd Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

3rd Sunday

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren
Sunday School

10 am Walkabout for Easter Invite

4th Monday

6-9:00 pm Girl Scouts

5th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

2:00 pm Marketing Meeting

3:00 pm Education Meeting

6th Wednesday-Ash Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

Last day for Early Bird Savings for
Lutherdale Summer Camp

7:00 pm Evening Worship-Pastor Maren

8th Friday

6-9 pm Girl Scouts, Fellowship Hall

9th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

Noon-2 pm Faith, Family & Fun

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

10th Sunday

2:00 am Daylight Saving Time begins

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

Noisy Can-Hope Center

11th Monday

6:00 pm Mock Interview

12th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

4:30 pm St. Vincent de Paul Meal

13th Wednesday - Cousins Subs Fundraiser

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Lenten Worship - Pastor Maren

16th Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

17th Sunday - St. Patrick's Day

8:30 am Worship with Pastor Maren

19th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Council Meeting

20th Wednesday - Spring Begins

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Lenten Worship - Pastor Maren

21st Thursday

7:00 pm Ginny's Gems, Prayer Shawl at
Donna Meitner's home

23rd Saturday

7:30 am 11th step Prayer & Meditation

7:30 pm Alcoholics Anonymous

24th Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

26th Tuesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

27th Wednesday

9-3:00 pm Office Hours

7:00 pm Lenten Worship - Pastor Maren

31st Sunday

8:30 am Worship - Pastor Maren

Join us for Worship:

**Wednesday Evening Lenten Services
at 7:00 pm & Sunday Mornings at 8:30
am**



DAYLIGHT SAVINGS

Remember to turn your clocks **ahead 1 hour** before going to bed on Saturday, March 9th. Daylight Savings Time starts back up at 2:00 am on Sunday Morning.



Greetings family of faith!

With Ash Wednesday (March 6th) we begin the season of Lent. While we may all be familiar with the idea and practice of “giving something up for Lent,”... ultimately Lent is not a self-improvement project. We don’t (or shouldn’t!) do things to look pious, or somehow “earn points” with God. Because God already unconditionally loves us, we can instead focus on *deepening* our relationship with God.

Giving up chocolate or sugar or alcohol or meat may indeed be good for our health... but does it draw us nearer to God? Let us honestly ask this Lent...

What is it, really, that will draw us back into deeper relationship with God and each other?

Lent is all about **reorienting** our lives back to God. We acknowledge the ways in which we have erred, and in Lent we take the journey to **recenter** again on God. And God is eager to walk this road with us!

This Lent we can ask ourselves... When we’ve become distracted or derailed or otherwise find ourselves “off-path,” what practices might help us shift our focus back to God? How might we view life not so much as “us working on ourselves” but on “God working on us?” For we are God’s creation, and God continues to tend to us, the work of his hands.

With that in mind, I’d like to suggest a Lenten theme this year of “**Cultivating and Letting Go.**” Think of “God as a Master Gardener.”...

Using this imagery, Lent is a season of spiritual gardening, of inviting God to unearth in us what lies fallow, what needs to be tended, and what needs to be pruned away in order for new life to emerge.

This Lent, through worship and other means, we can embrace the literal and spiritual practices of cultivating and letting go.

To get you thinking along these lines, here are two definitions to ponder:

Cultivate (verb): to prepare and use for the raising of crops; to foster the growth of; to improve by labor, care, or study; to refine; to further; to encourage.

Let go (verb): relinquish one's grip on someone or something.

As you worship, study, work, play, and pray in this holy season... let us together ask how God is inviting us to cultivate and let go. And as we do, God promises that new life will emerge!

And be sure to pick up a copy of the Outreach for Hope Devotions (in narthex). These are devotions written by local leaders and pastors from around our Greater Milwaukee synod. May they be a blessing to you as you cultivate your relationship with God this season!

Peace,
Pastor Maren

LENT - 2019

On WEDNESDAYS during lent at 7:00 pm, the service we are using is, Marty Haugan’s Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy.

Please join us, and bring a family member or a friend.

SAVE THE DATE!

HOLY WEEK SERVICES

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



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.**

Daylight Savings time begins, Sunday, March 10th at 2 am.

&

Happy St. Patrick's Day, Sunday, March 17th

&

Happy First Day of Spring, Wednesday, March 20th

MARCH SCHEDULE FOR SUNDAYS

	3rd	10th	17th	24th	31st
Altar:	Barb	Vicki	Julie	Ginny	Barb
Media:	Jean P	Ken P	Jean P	Jochims	Ken P
Ushers:	Ken P	Baseler/ Schmidt's	Conner's	Jochims	Debbie Z
Communion:	Debbie Z	Sue H	Debbie Z	Barb O	Sue H
Lector:	Heidi L	Kathy D	Heidi L	Kate/Sara J	Kathy D

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

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

If the Shoe Fits



IF THE SHOE FITS: A Women's Retreat on March 29-31, 2019.

Step away from the cares and routines of your life, and come away for some quiet refreshment with God. We will explore our walk of life and experience God's presence and power to steady our steps and direct our path. No matter where the road of life is going or what lies ahead, God is already there with his love and grace for us.

The Women's Retreat will be held on March 29-31 at Camp Timber-lee in East Troy. Can't stay the whole weekend? Come for the sessions on Saturday. Women from various churches and communities will attend. Invite friends to come, too. Deacon Marcia Marquardt will lead the retreat. Pick up a registration form from the bulletin board in the hallway across from the offices.

**A tisket a tasket...
let's fill some Easter baskets.**

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.



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.

Children's Sunday School



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 March 3rd. 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 Frahmman.

Make some noise!

Below are Bethel's 2019 recipients of the Noisy Can Offerings. The Noisy Can Offering is collected on the second Sunday of each month.

January - Pastor Discretion	July - The Guest House of Milwaukee, Shelter
February - St Vincent de Paul meal-site	August - Lutheran Campus Corner
<u>March - Hope Center, Waukesha</u>	September - Muskego Senior Taxi
April - Lutherdale Bible Camp	October - Outreach for Hope, Inc.
May - Flowers for Bethel	November - Gifts for Friends of Jesus
June - Safe Babies, Healthy Families	December - Salvation Army, Red Kettle Donation



•The Noisy Can donation for March goes to the Hope Center, Waukesha. Hope Center's Mission - Reducing the risks of poverty by helping people in Waukesha County meet basic needs such as food, shelter and clothing through services, partnerships and community collaboration.

- SNOWSTORMS - (yes, we can still have them!)

If you are wondering if our service is cancelled due to inclement weather, watch Weather Watch 12 WISN



Souper Bowl Sunday – Hooray! Our goal was to collect 260 cans/items of soup for the Muskego Food Pantry and we exceeded that with a total of 386. Thank you to all who were so generous. Outreach.

Prayer Shawls Ministry - Ginny's Gems woman's group meets the third Thursday of each month. The group meets for devotion and fellowship; they crochet and sew prayer shawls and lap blankets. Prayer shawls and blankets are then donated to local hospitals, nursing homes and rehab centers. If you would like to join this group or contribute to this ministry, please contact Julie Frahm at 262-679-2038. The next meeting will be on Thursday, March 21st, at 7:00 pm at Donna Meitner's home. Bring a friend! Thank you for your support.

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 6TH AT 7:00 PM

INVITE FAMILY AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US FOR THE SERVICE.

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 March

Bless us all as we come together during this Lenten season. To join in the ELCA World Hunger '40 Days of Giving' the council has decided to use the loose offerings from the Wednesday and Sunday worship services as a donation to World Hunger this year. As an example, a \$10 donation can provide a fruit tree seedling for a family farm. Seedlings are specially selected for each location and climate and include varieties known to thrive in the driest of conditions, even drought. ELCA World Hunger is our church's ministry to end hunger and poverty in more than 60 countries around the world, including the United States. To partner with this at Faith Family Fun this month, we will be decorating containers to collect coins at home for the next 6 weeks. Everyone is invited!

~Lucky to have Bethels Best~

- The Marketing's Walk-About group for spreading the "Word" in the neighborhood.
- Teri and John for donating a new vacuum in memory of their daughter Jamie.
- The Call Committee for their dedicated work towards the search of our new pastor.
- All who bring in baskets, candy, and gifts for the Muskego Food Panty Easter Baskets!

You are the people of God; he loved you and chose you for his own. So then, you must clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience. Colossians 3:12

Peace, Debbie Zortman, Council President

Bethel Lutheran Church
S77 W18426 Janesville Rd.
Muskego WI 53150

DONATION DAY
• ALL DAY
Wednesday March 13th

20% OF SALES WILL BE DONATED TO
BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

FLYER MUST BE PRESENTED AT TIME OF ORDERING
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