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## *Our Mission*

Called and empowered by  
God's grace in Christ Jesus,  
we **WORSHIP** God,  
grow in **FAITH**, and  
**REACH OUT** to others

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# April 2017 Bethany Messenger



## From Pastor Steve



It certainly seems appropriate that I am writing this article in the midst of all of our preparations for Holy Week and especially Easter. As most of you know, I had my stroke very early on the morning of Ash Wednesday. I couldn't help but notice the symbolism of the timing. Christians all over the world were beginning the Lenten pilgrimage. We are reminded on that day as crosses of ash are put on our foreheads that, "we are all dust and to dust we shall return". For me, having my stroke on that day, became a very sharp, stark, and an "in your face" reminder of the reality of my own mortality. The harsh Ash Wednesday / Lenten message has never meant more or struck so close to home, than it has during this Lenten season. Consequently, the profound joy and hopefulness of the Easter message will never sound quite so sweet as it will this year. I hope you will join me in giving thanks and praise to our Lord as we celebrate his resurrection this coming Easter Sunday morning.

On a personal note, please accept my sincere and heartfelt thanks for the countless prayers, well wishes, cards, remembrances that sooooo many people have offered, sent, and expressed. They are truly appreciated, together with the love, support, and encouragement that came with them. I am extremely thankful to be able to return to work even on a limited basis. The doctors have cleared me to return on a limited and part-time basis for the time being. I am still having out-patient therapy twice-a-week through Holy Week. My stamina is far from what it used to be. I tire quickly and am

still experiencing some weaknesses, balance concerns, and fine motor control issues, but considering what could have been, I am extremely fortunate and blessed. I have been told that a full recovery may take from six months to a year. For the moment I am very glad to be back and look forward to getting stronger and more involved as time progresses.

May God be with us as we celebrate the gift of life and NEW life this Easter season.

Respectfully,  
*Pastor Steve*

## From Beth



Here is a story many of you may have heard before, but somehow it always speaks to me. It is followed by a poem by Mikey from Mikey's Funnies. Enjoy!

### FULL OR EMPTY?

By Heather Spears Kallus

There are many people in our world. Yes, and people can be so very different in their views, temperaments, attitudes, and personalities. Some of us can be easy-going, flexible, and upbeat, while others can be cantankerous, argumentative, and uncooperative. Let me interrupt for just a second – isn't that a fun word? Cantankerous. I haven't used it for a long, long time, but it's a word full of letters and it basically just means crabby and cranky. Cantankerous. CANTANKEROUS! Anyway, as a word-lover, I thank you for allowing me to digress for a moment.

When we can, we prefer to hang out with people who are positive and uplifting, right? If given the opportunity, most of us would choose to surround ourselves with people who inspire, motivate, and encourage us. If given a choice, we'd pick a friend who views the glass as half-full instead of half-empty, right? We wouldn't want to purposely seek out the irritable grumps in our world, would we?

Well, I just got a cute little story from Mikey that compares twins. So timely and I love it!

A family had twin boys whose only resemblance to each other was their looks. If one felt it was too hot, the other thought it was too cold. If one said the TV was too loud, the other claimed the volume needed to be turned up.

Opposite in every way, one was an eternal optimist, the other a doom & gloom pessimist. Just to see what would happen, on the twins' birthday, their father loaded the pessimist's room with every imaginable toy and game.

The optimist's room, he loaded with horse manure.

That night, the father passed by the pessimist's room and found him sitting amid his new gifts crying bitterly.

"Why are you crying?" the father asked.

"Because my friends will be jealous, and I'll have to read all these instructions before I can do anything with this stuff. I'll constantly need batteries, and my toys will eventually get broken," answered the pessimistic twin.

Passing the optimistic twin's room, the father found him dancing for joy in the pile of manure.

"What are you so happy about?" he asked.

To which his optimistic twin son replied, "There's got to be a pony in here somewhere! Woo-hoo!"

Oh, that story made me smile! A perfect example of half-full vs. half-empty!

So, I've seen a version of the following question in many places over the years and I wanted to share it with you. I was inspired by it so much so that I wrote a poem about it today. Here's the question: "What if we woke up this morning and ONLY had the things and people in our lives that we had thanked God for yesterday?"

Hmmmm...would we only have the traffic light that finally turned green, the winning scratch-off ticket, or the passing grade on that final exam? Would we have anyone to share our joy with?

Here's my poem: FULL OR EMPTY?

How full or empty would our world be,  
 If we had only things we'd thanked God for on bended knee?  
 Would we have a home, some food, or money?  
 How 'bout a job, some clothes, and our Honey?  
 Could we see with our eyes and speak with our lips?  
 Could we walk with our legs and dance with our hips?  
 Would our children be there to tuck in at night?  
 Would the sun wake us up with new morning light?  
 How full or empty would our world be,  
 If we had only things we'd thanked God for on bended knee?  
 Would we have friends and fam to call on the phone?  
 How 'bout some ice cream on a cone?  
 Could we turn on the A/C or heater at whim?  
 Could we hit the gym or sing a hymn?  
 Would our parents be there to spend some time?  
 Would we find that lucky penny, dollar, or dime?  
 Would there be hugs, kisses, and love?  
 What about chances to thank God above?  
 Would there be stars in the sky for wishes?  
 How 'bout mouths to feed and all those dishes?  
 I ask again, to reflect and think,  
 Ponder on this the next time you blink.  
 How full or empty would your world be,  
 If you had only things you'd thanked God for on bended knee?  
 Full or empty? We choose.

Half-full or half-empty? We still choose. Let's choose to look for the pony! I'm in! Are you?

Yours in Christ,

*Beth*

## Worship God

### April Lessons

#### Lent 5: April 2<sup>nd</sup>

- † Ezekiel 37:1-14
- † Psalm 130
- † Romans 8:6-11
- † John 11:1-45

#### Palm Sunday: April 9<sup>th</sup>

- † Matthew 21:1-11
- † Isaiah 50:4-9a
- † Psalm 31:9-16
- † Philippians 2:5-11
- † Matthew 26:14—27:66

#### Maundy Thursday: April 13<sup>th</sup>

- † Exodus 12:1-4 11-14
- † Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
- † 1 Corinthians 11:23-26
- † John 13:1-17, 31b-35

#### Good Friday: April 14<sup>th</sup>

- † Isaiah 52:13—53:12
- † Psalm 22
- † Hebrews 10:16-25 or 4:14-16; 5:7-9
- † John 18:1—19:42

#### Easter Day: April 16<sup>th</sup>

- † Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
- † Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
- † Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
- † Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18



# Will You Join Us for Easter?

## Holy Week Services

### April 9<sup>th</sup> - Palm / Passion Sunday

**9:00am** — Christ's Passion told through music  
**10:30am** — The Reading of Christ's Passion

### April 13<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday

**1:15pm & 7:00pm**—Worship with Holy Communion

### April 14<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday

**12:00pm**—Community Worship @ Calvary Episcopal  
**7:00pm**—Service of Darkness

### April 15<sup>th</sup> - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

**7:30pm**—Vigil @ Calvary Episcopal

### April 16<sup>th</sup> - Easter Sunday

**7:30am** – Sunrise Service  
**9:00am & 11:00am**—Festival Worship w/ Holy Communion  
**9:45am**—Easter Breakfast, **10:30am**—Easter Egg Hunt

## First Communion

We welcome the following children who finished their instruction and have made their First Communion at the Lord's Table:

William, Payton, Eva, Jack, Laina, Izabella, Adam, Adeline, Geroge, Lane, and Wyatt

## April Music

<b>April 9<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am</b>	Festival Choir
<b>April 16<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am</b>	All Choirs
<b>April 30<sup>th</sup>, 9:00am</b>	Festival Choir

## Palm Sunday – Hope in the Shadows



On **Palm/Passion Sunday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at the 9:00am worship service...** the Festival Choir will be retracing Christ's final days and journey to the cross, in a new musical that includes a mixture of traditional and contemporary hymns and songs set in a variety of styles. This program focuses on our Savior's sacrifice and the hope in the shadows to which we cling. Come hear the Passion story in a new and different way.

## Grow in Faith

### Circle Meetings

Grace Circle	Wednesday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	7:30pm	Fellowship Hall
Charity Circle	Thursday, April 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:30am	Holmstad
Hope Circle	Monday, April 10 <sup>th</sup>	12:00pm	Fellowship Hall
Peace Circle	Tuesday, April 11 <sup>th</sup>	1:00pm	Various member's homes
Kindness Circle	Thursday, April 13 <sup>th</sup>	11:30pm	East China Inn, W Wilson St, Batavia

*Join a Circle now! Enjoy fellowship, fun and spiritual growth with other women*

## From Our Parish Nurse

### N.E.A.T. –or- Non-Exercise Activity Thermogenesis



NEAT is an acronym for "non-exercise activity thermogenesis." It's basically all the physical movements of your life that are not planned exercise or sports. It includes activities such as cooking, shopping, just getting out of your chair and standing and even small movements such as fidgeting. It turns out that the NEAT concept is all of your calories (energy) you burn simply by living, rather than through exercise and this can have quite a substantial impact on our metabolic rates and calorie expenditures and making a difference in your life. Dr. James Levine is credited for his research and findings on NEAT. According to Dr. Levine, "You can expend calories in one of two ways. One is to go to the gym and the other is through all the activities of daily living called NEAT. It appears that NEAT is far more important for calorie-burning than exercise in nearly everyone." However, for optimal health both are important.

NEAT activities can lead to reduced body fat, improved cholesterol levels, a healthier heart, and reduced risk of common weight-related conditions. The movements you make during the day may not equal the benefits of exercise, but if you have a sedentary lifestyle, increasing your daily NEAT can provide a boost in your daily physical activity.

Examples of NEAT include:

1. Stand while talking on the phone
2. Use the steps rather than the elevator when possible
3. Walk around the house during commercials
4. Park in the farthest spot in the parking lot
5. Dance around the house while cooking and cleaning
6. Tackle yard work i.e. water plants, pull weeds, clear rocks and sticks; tend a garden
7. Invest in a movement-based video game system such as a Wii
8. Wash the car by hand
9. Organize your closets

10. Use a standing desk
11. Take up a new craft
12. Volunteer for set up or take down for an event
13. Greet guests at the door or volunteer to serve a meal

By increasing your everyday movements, this will improve your health!

In the words from Florence Nightingale: *"Live life when you have it. Life is a splendid gift-there is nothing small about it."*

Wishing each of you an Easter season filled with blessings. If I can be of assistance to you or someone you know, leave me a message at the parish office 630-879-3444 or E-mail me at [mary.stola@presencehealth.org](mailto:mary.stola@presencehealth.org).



Peace,  
Mary Stola, RN, Faith Community Nurse

### Take Charge of Your Health – an Opportunity HERE at Bethany

Taking Charge of Your Health is a program developed by Stanford University and is presented through Presence Mercy Medical Center. It has been proven to help adults with ongoing health conditions such as arthritis, high blood pressure, heart disease, COPD and diabetes:

- Find practical ways to deal with pain and fatigue.
- Discover better nutrition and exercise choices
- Learn better ways to talk with your family and doctor about your health.

This workshop will be held **once a week for 2 ½ hours for six weeks**. These classes are highly participative, where mutual support and success build the participants' confidence in their ability to manage their health and maintain active and fulfilling lives. There will be no cost to you for this program and each participant in the workshop receives a copy of the companion book, "Living a Healthy Life with Chronic Conditions, 4<sup>th</sup> Edition", an excellent reference tool.

*Are you interested?*

**If this is something you would be interested in attending, please, leave me a message at the parish office 630-879-3444 or E-mail me at [mary.stola@presencehealth.org](mailto:mary.stola@presencehealth.org), and I can have it available here at Bethany this fall.**

## Reach Out to Others

### Help spread Easter Joy!

Our Reach Team packs Easter baskets to be delivered to Elderday clients and our homebound members. Bring donations of lotions, tea bags, wrapped Easter candy, note-cards, notepads & small baskets to the Lower Narthex bin. Deadline is **April 9<sup>th</sup>**. If you want to help deliver the baskets, please contact Charlene Boehm or the church office.

### Mutual Ground

**Mutual Ground** serves survivors of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault through many avenues including but not limited to: shelter, legal advocacy, counseling, prevention in schools, and medical advocacy.

With the current budget crisis in Illinois, we are asking for the following items:



- Toilet Paper
- Paper Towels
- Clorox Wipes
- 13 gallon and drum garbage bags
- Floor cleaner
- Bathroom cleaner
- Window Cleaner
- Pledge
- Laundry soap-soap pods
- Dish soap
- Hand soap
- Kleenex
- Paper plates and bowls
- Swiffer pads, dry, wet mops
- Quart/gallon Ziploc bags

THANK YOU! to those who have already GENEROUSLY contributed.

There will continue to be a bin available in the **Lower Narthex** for donations.

## Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Serving

Our Bethany family provides volunteers to staff the Batavia Food Pantry on the **second Friday** of each month. Won't you consider joining us?

- **Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup>**
- **9:45am-Noon**
- **Batavia Food Pantry, 100 Flinn St., Batavia**



Sign up on the yellow sheet if you plan to attend. Call the church office or Deb Petges if this is your first time volunteering or if you have questions.

Donated items may be dropped off at the shopping cart in the **Lower Narthex**. You may also visit their website: [bataviafoodpantry.org](http://bataviafoodpantry.org)

\$1 donation buys \$8 food from the Northern Illinois Food Bank, Money donations are always appreciated.

### **CURRENT NEEDS**

- Cereal
- **Fruit Juice**
- **Canned Stew**
- **Canned Chili**
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup
- Plain Pasta
- Spaghetti
- Macaroni and Cheese
- **White Rice**
- **Rice Mix**
- Condensed Soup (vegetable, chicken noodle)
- Ready to Eat Soups (all types)
- Ramen Noodles
- Ketchup and **Mustard**
- **Salad Dressing** (Ranch and Italian)
- Baby Food – all stages
- Baby Formula
- Diapers – all sizes
- **Salt & Pepper**
- Sugar
- Cooking oil
- **Tomato Paste**
- **Spaghetti Sauce (jar)**
- **Canned Black Beans**
- **Canned Kidney Beans**
- **Canned Fruit** (all types)
- Peanut Butter
- Strawberry and Grape Jelly
- **Canned Tuna**
- Canned Chicken
- **Kitchen Garbage Bag (13 gallon)**
- **Ziploc Bags – all sizes**
- Paper Napkins
- Aluminum Foil
- **Laundry Detergent**
- Paper Towels
- Shampoo & Conditioner
- Body wash
- Disposable Razors
- Deodorant/Antiperspirant
- Toothpaste and **toothbrushes (medium)**
- **Diapers** (all sizes)
- Feminine Products (pads/tampons)

## Bethany Community Supper

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- **Friday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **5:00-7:00pm**
- **Menu: Hamburger Rice Casserole**
- Sundae Bar, children's menu and "To Go" are available
- Can you help? Sign up in Fellowship Hall
- Want to just eat? Sign up on the yellow sheet if you are planning to attend
- Blood pressure screenings will be available.
- **Wanted:** Your donations of travel sized personal hygiene products such as soap, lotion, toothbrushes, toothpaste, baby wipes, laundry detergent, deodorant, etc. These items will be made available to attendees of the Community Supper
- Thank you for your prayers, your donations, and your help toward Bethany Community Supper

**The Community Supper ministry appreciates your donations of baked goods and travel sized personal hygiene products**

*\*\*Last month we served **209** meals\*\**

## Sign up to Serve at Coffee/ Fellowship Hour on Sundays, it's EASY!

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- Our Sunday Coffee Hour depends on our volunteers!
- Volunteer alone or get a few friends to join you
- Bake or purchase the goodies
- Don't want to serve? Just donate goodies instead
- You may be reimbursed for what you purchase
- Coffee Hour is a flexible volunteer opportunity
- Call the Church office if you have questions or to find out how you can help

## Bethany Scholarships

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Once again, Bethany will be offering scholarships for the upcoming school year. These scholarships are available to students who are members in good standing at Bethany, and are attending an ELCA College, University, or Seminary. A minimum of twelve credit hours is required for eligibility.

Students who received awards in previous years are required to reapply each year. An application is available in the church office and must be completed by **June 1, 2017**.

A student is eligible to receive a maximum of four undergraduate awards, with three additional awards being available to students attending Seminary. The amount of the award will be determined by the Congregation Council based on the funds available. The maximum annual award will be \$1,000 per student.

## Faith Build / Habitat for Humanity Opportunities

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- T-Shirt Fundraiser
- Anyone can purchase a t-shirt to help support the Faith Build 2017
- Cost \$15 a shirt- sizes Adult S, Medium, Large, X-Large, 2XL, and 3XL

- Orders will be taken every month

Are you interested in working on the Faith Build home? Purchase a shirt and wear it the day you are working. If you are the leader, you can purchase a red shirt. All Church leaders and construction leaders will be in red. Everyone else in yellow.

**For information on forming a group to work on the Faith Build home please contact Barbara Zegiel at Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity. 630-206-5038.**



**In Our Prayers**

*Last month we prayed for those who are part of the life of Bethany who struggle with illness and other concerns, especially:*

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Keith  
CJ  
John  
Pastor Steve

Dale  
Marilyn  
Sue  
Joan

Sandi  
DeAnna  
Lorrie  
Jerry

Judy  
Glenn  
Cindy

*Please pray for those in care facilities, especially:*

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Maxine..... Jennings Terrace, Aurora  
Marilyn ..... Park Manor, Holmstad  
Eleanor Sue ..... DuPage County Care Center  
Roz..... Heritage Woods, South Elgin  
Carol ..... Bria, Geneva  
Wilma ..... Asbury Garden, Aurora  
Lorraine..... Bickford, St. Charles

Shirley ..... Hawthorn Assisted Living, Holmstad  
LaVergne ..... Rosewood, St. Charles  
Irma ..... Maple Assisted Living, Holmstad  
Marilyn ..... Bria, Geneva  
Mariann ..... Heritage Woods, Batavia

*Please pray for those homebound, especially:*

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Nancy  
Lois  
Mary  
Elaine

Karl  
Vie  
Martha  
Pat

Joyce  
Ken

***Please pray for those in military service, especially:***

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Xander  
Andrew  
Matt

***Last month we prayed for our family and friends, especially:***

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Tom	Brother of Beth	Serena	Daughter of Cindy
Heather	Friend of Cindy	Bill	Father of Tara
Mark	Son - in - law of JoAnn	Cindy	Sister - in - law of Pam
Mary	Daughter of Nita	Catherine	Cousin of Tara
Cheryl	Daughter of Maxine	Debbie	Friend of Ruth
Tina	Sister of Jackie	Ethel	Sister of Shirley
Ava	Neighbor of Sue	Hayden	Friend of Joan
Teri	Sister of Sue & Bob	Ross	Relative of Holly
Linda	Sister of Dennis	Ruth	Co-worker of Dee

***Please pray for those who mourn the passing of:***

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Lois	February 17 <sup>th</sup>
Marion	March 2 <sup>nd</sup>
Margaret	March 18 <sup>th</sup>
Edward	March 18 <sup>th</sup>

***Anniversaries This Month***

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***April***

1	Michael & Brittany	15	Tom & Liz	22	Karl & Vie
4	Glenn & De Anna	17	Kurt & Suzanne	23	Ken & Jane
6	Billy & Nancy	17	Luke & Diane	28	Bill & Debbie
9	Dave & Laurie	19	Tom & Dee		

***Birthdays This Month***

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***April***

2	Don	5	Jennifer	8	Rinne
2	Ryan	5	Becky	8	Katherine
2	Hannah	6	Mike	9	Irene
3	Barb	6	Beth	9	Finley
5	Zachary	6	Charlie	9	Koastyn
5	Louise	7	Cassie	10	Lukas

10	Josie	17	Ken	23	Shyla
12	Marilyn	17	Dave	23	Karli
12	Brian	17	Todd	24	Travis
13	Gerry	18	Nathan	25	Lura
14	Mike	18	Andrew	27	Amy
14	Gary	19	Jack Berry	27	Jordyn
14	Andrea	20	Stephanie	27	Mal
14	Megan	20	Lexi	28	Sarah
14	Beth	20	JJ	28	Charlotte
15	Ted	20	Lorlie	28	Dorothy
16	Mary	20	Hunter	30	Karen
17	Jason	21	Marilyn		
17	Doug	22	Paulette		

## Upcoming Events

### *Café Bethany*

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- **Wednesdays, 5:00pm – 6:15pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**
- Suggested donation is \$4.00 per senior or child, \$5.00 per adult, \$14.00 per family cap
- Menu and sign-up sheet are posted in Fellowship Hall, the weekly update and on the yellow sheet

### *Men's Pick-up Basketball*

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- **Saturday Mornings**
- **7:30-9:00am**
- **Ministry Center Gym**

### *Hesed House*

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- **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **5:30pm – 7:00am**

Bethany friends, how do you hesed? Simply translated, "hesed" can mean showing lovingkindness or mercy. In Micah 6:8 we are instructed to seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God. When we feed and clothe the less fortunate in our community, we are fulfilling that commission. We have been blessed with the opportunity to serve our brothers and sisters at Hesed House on **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

Please consider donating a casserole or other suggested food item. On-site volunteers are also needed to serve dinner, pack lunches, make breakfast or distribute bedding and personal items. Sign up at the Hesed House table in the lower narthex.

## ***Heartland Voices Concert – The Essential Elements***

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- **Sunday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **3:00pm**
- **Sanctuary**

## ***Prayer Shawl Ministry***

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- ❖ **Thursday, April 27<sup>th</sup>, at 2:00pm**
- ❖ **Panera in Batavia**
- ❖ Can't knit? We'll teach you! Bring your knitting needles or crochet hook and join the fellowship and fun

## ***Family Game Night***

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- **April 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **6:00pm – 7:30pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**

All are invited to attend! Bring your favorite game or play one of ours. Pizza will be served. Sign the yellow sheet or call the church office.

## ***Container Gardening and Luncheon – Sponsored by Bethany Women***

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- **Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **12:00pm Luncheon**
- **Fellowship Hall and Courtyard**
- \$15.00 for luncheon and planting, \$5 for luncheon only

Tired of the long winter? This spring luncheon is the perfect opportunity to bring your mother, daughters and friends for an entertaining afternoon. Bring your empty planters. Our speaker from We Grow Dreams will help us create custom planters perfect for the start of Spring! Here about the wonderful mission and ministry of this unique greenhouse that provides people with disabilities an opportunity to lead fulfilling lives in a caring and supportive work environment. Pre-purchase tickets at the Welcome Desk to ensure we have ample planting materials.

## ***Forget-Me-Not Spring Fling – Sponsored by LSSI Women's Network***

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- **Saturday, April 29<sup>th</sup>**
- Boutiques open at **10:00am**, Luncheon at **12:00pm**, benefiting LSSI children's services
- **The Westin Chicago Northwest**, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca (four miles south of Woodfield Mall)
- **Tickets are \$75 for adults and \$45 for students**

Flowers and Music! George Mitchell, whose family has been in the floral business for 100 years spanning five generations in Chicagoland, will present "Flowers and Music" at this year's Spring Fling. With a musical backdrop, Mitchell will create an assortment of floral arrangements with themes related to a variety of songs. He'll tell about his extensive background in the floral profession and share flower arranging tips as he creates nature's masterpieces. Following his presentation, he'll take questions from the audience and his creations will be part of a special raffle benefiting children's services at LSSI. For more information, contact LSSI.org or contact Ruth Beck, 630-879-2432.

### Victory Over Hunger Garden

Sunday School families have been blessed with a planting area to grow produce for those served by the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Community Supper! The students have decorated a rain barrel, created stepping stones and crafted plant markers. Now it's time to plant tomatoes, eggplant, peppers and onions!! Starting in **May**, families can sign up to tend the plants, water and weed on a weekly basis. See sign ups in the Ministry Center or contact [jennifer@nallenweg.com](mailto:jennifer@nallenweg.com) to volunteer.

## Save the Date

### Congregational Picnic



The Annual Congregational Picnic and Outdoor Worship will take place at the Fabyan Forest Preserve on **Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>**. Mark your calendars for this important date and celebration.

### Youth Mission Trip this June

- **June 18 – 23<sup>rd</sup>**
- **Niagara Falls, NY**

Bethany's Youth will have the opportunity to experience two sides of life in Niagara Falls – both the beauty and the brokenness most tourists never get to see. YouthWorks partners with a wide variety of service organizations in this city, giving you the experience of an urban environment without the intensity and fast pace of a larger metropolitan area. Serve through work projects, partnering with soup kitchens, homeless shelters and senior centers, and volunteering with children's programs. In the evenings youth will get to experience the rich beauty and culture of Niagara Falls by visiting the Falls and enjoying ice cream from a local favorite, Twist of the Mist. They will also enjoy all the beauty Niagara offers through several options of cultural or historic engagement such as visiting Historic Fort Niagara or Fort Niagara State Park. End the week with local residents at Historic Holy Trinity by enjoying fellowship through a community meal.

### Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering

- **July 13<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Minneapolis Convention Center**, in Minneapolis, MN

The theme is "All Anew". It will be a wonderful gathering. There will be Bible study, worship, small group presentations, hands-on projects, and so much more. There are 4 from Bethany who have already signed up.

Would you like to join us? We will have a wonderful time together. Women of all ages will be attending as well as women from every state and region. Please think about joining us on this adventure. If you want to learn more and see a registration booklet, contact Ruth Beck.

## VBS – Go the Distance Sports Camp



**JULY  
17<sup>TH</sup> - 21<sup>ST</sup>**

## Important Stuff

### Sunday's Messenger Update is Now Online



- Did you miss reading the weekly "Update" on Sunday?
- It is now also available on the website: [www.bethanybatavia.org/bethany-news](http://www.bethanybatavia.org/bethany-news)

## Seeking Small Frost Free Refrigerator

The Energy Builders crew are looking for a donation of a small frost free refrigerator for the Sunday School. If you can help, please contact the church office or Steve Mickelson at 630-770-5000.

## Non-Pictorial Directory

It is our hope that within the next four to six weeks to publish a new 2017 Non-Pictorial Directory of our members. If you need to update your contact information before we publish it, please contact the church office either by phone (630-879-3444) or by e-mail ([office@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:office@bethanybatavia.org)). We plan on publishing addresses, preferred telephone numbers, and preferred e-mail addresses. If you do not want information included, please let us know that as well. This information will only be distributed to other members of our congregation to help facilitate communication.

## 2017 Flower Calendar



Would you like to donate flowers for the altar in honor of someone, to celebrate a special occasion, or perhaps in memory of a loved one? There are still a lot of open dates. If we do not have a sponsor, we will not have altar flowers on that Sunday. The sign-up chart is posted on the Bulletin Board in the **Fellowship Hall**, or you may call the church office (630-879-3444) if you are interested. Please indicate your name and the occasion celebrated or the individual to be honored or remembered. Flowers may be taken home after worship on the date of donation.

## Recycled Eyeglasses

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In many areas, people are unable to work or even be involved in routine activities because of vision problems. Eyeglasses are not readily available or are simply unaffordable.

Our Reach Team collects old eyeglasses and sends them to the Lions/Lioness Club for distribution to those in need.

Please put your cast-off glasses and sunglasses (*no loose lenses or empty frames*) in the special box on the Coat Rack next to the Main Office. Thank you to all who filled the box over the past several years!

## In the Community

### Easter Egg Hunt at Mooseheart

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- **Saturday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**
- **10:00am – 1:00pm**
- **Mooseheart** Child City & School, on Rt. 31, Mooseheart, IL
- Free & open to the public

11:00am egg hunt is for toddlers to 8 years old. Activities like pony rides, petting zoo, bounce house and face painting. Easter Bunny will appear for photos! [mooseheart.org](http://mooseheart.org)

### Lazarus House Volunteer's Welcome!

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- **Orientation Dates: April 22<sup>nd</sup>, June 10<sup>th</sup>, August 19<sup>th</sup>, September 30<sup>th</sup>, and November 4<sup>th</sup>**
- Morning session begins promptly at **9:30am** and finishes at **11:15am**
- Afternoon session begins promptly at **1:00pm** and finishes at **2:45pm**
- **Lazarus House Community Resource Center, 308 Walnut St., St. Charles**
- [www.lazarushouseonline.com/volunteer.php](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com/volunteer.php), [volunteer@lazarushouseonline.com](mailto:volunteer@lazarushouseonline.com)

At the orientation, interested persons learn about the programs at Lazarus House and the volunteer opportunities to assist the staff in providing these programs and services. You will tour the shelter and participate in a discussion and description of all the areas of opportunities to volunteer at Lazarus House.

Attendees should plan on being here on time as the sessions will begin promptly at start time in order to finish on time.

Each session is limited to 25 people due to space limitations. You must register to attend. Registration closes when it reaches 25. If you have registered and find you are unable to attend, PLEASE let us know so that we can open space for another interested party.

## 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Pancake Breakfast

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- **Sunday, May 7th**
- **7:30am – noon**
- **Valley Sheltered Workshop**, 325 Main St, Batavia
- Silent Auction, Raffle Baskets, Cash Drawing, \$7, 3 & under free

## Golfing for Good

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- **Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **Mill Creek Golf Club in Geneva**

Benefit for St. Charles Kiwanis and Lazarus House. Enjoy a day of golf with raffles, games & camaraderie. Not a golfer? No problem, come for the auctions, entertainment and dinner! Early bird golfer packages are \$150 per golfer before May 2<sup>nd</sup>, \$175 per golfer after May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Dinner only reservations are \$55 per guest. Contact Jonathan at 630.584.7109 for sponsorship opportunities. Contact Darlene to donate for the silent and live auction. [lazarushouseonline.com](http://lazarushouseonline.com)

## Council Highlights

The following items were discussed and acted upon at the **March** Congregation Council Meeting:

- Annual Meeting date was set for **May 21<sup>st</sup>** at **10:15am** and Annual Reports are due **April 27<sup>th</sup>**
- All Committee Meeting rescheduled for **May 20<sup>th</sup>** from **8am until noon**
- Council approved a Sunday Open Gym Program for Children
- The transfer of Bethany's bank accounts to Chase Bank was approved

## Thank you

Greetings (Bethany Lutheran Church),

We wish to thank you for your 2016 contribution of \$2,342 to the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Clothes Closet. It has allowed us to serve 675 families throughout this year. (*entire letter on bulletin board in Fellowship Hall*)

With gratitude and appreciation,  
Betsy Zinser, Executive Director

And the many vlunteers of the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry and Clothes Closet

Thank you!!!

Thank you to all who donated cards, stamps, gallon zip-lock bags and pens for the Companion's Mother's Day Card Project. Two full bags were brought to Jana Minor's home on March 15. They are grateful for your donations. It will make Mother's Day a little happier for those incarcerated.

- Ruth Beck

Thank you to the Sunday School classes for raising \$52.50 to donate to Feed My Starving Children! I'd say that calls for a donut party!

Miss Jennifer, Miss Kari and Miss Becky

## Staff & Council

### Church Staff:

Senior Pastor .....Rev. Steve Srock  
 Visitation Pastor\* .....Rev. Kimberly Riebe  
 Administrative Assistant\* .....Kathi Gorlewski  
 Administrative Assistant\* .....Darlene Hutchens  
 Office Assistant\* .....Lura Dreymiller  
 Financial Secretary\* .....Maureen Scollon  
 Sexton..... Steve Hayes  
 Director of Music/Shared Ministry ..... Beth Lawniczak  
 Organist\* ..... Alan Spear  
 Parish Nurse\* ..... Mary Stola  
 Nursery Attendant\* ..... Brittany Gyoerkoes  
 (\* Part-time)

### Congregation Council:

Rick McKiness..... President  
 Lynn Dreymiller ..... Vice-President/Worship & Music  
 Charlene Boehm..... Secretary/Personnel  
 Steve Mickelson ..... Treasurer/Finance  
 Charley Andersen..... Memorial Gifts  
 Doug Clark ..... Adult Discipleship  
 Dale Howard..... Youth  
 Ted Richoz .....Service  
 Dennis Schuett.....Property  
 open ..... Evangelism  
 Jori Toles..... Children & Family  
 Sue Whitson .....Stewardship

### Worship Broadcast

BATV Cable Channel: Bethany's worship services are broadcast on BATV Cable channel 17 on Mondays 4:30pm & 10:30pm, Tuesdays at 10:30am/pm, 4:30am/pm and Wednesdays 4:30am & 10:30am. Access programming online at: [mybatv.com](http://mybatv.com). BATV is available on Comcast Channel 17, and on AT&T U-verse Channel 99 across N. Illinois.

**8 South Lincoln Street, Batavia, IL 60510**  
**630.879.3444**    [office@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:office@bethanybatavia.org)  
**Office Hours: 9:00am – 4:30pm**

**Website:** [www.bethanybatavia.org](http://www.bethanybatavia.org)

View recent sermons, Sunday's Update/weekly news, The Messenger

**Like us on Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/BethanyBatavia/](http://www.facebook.com/BethanyBatavia/)

Share your Bethany events, post your pictures, see what's new

## Bethany Youth packed food at Feed My Starving Children



## Bethany Youth Activity at Vertical Endeavors



