

## *Our Mission*

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

## Inside This Issue

### **From Pastor Steve**

Page 1

### **From Beth**

Page 2

### **Worship God**

Page 3

### **Grow in Faith**

Page 3

### **From Our Parish Nurse**

Page 5

### **Reach Out to Others**

Page 5

### **In Our Prayers**

Page 7

### **Upcoming Events**

Page 9

### **Save the Date**

Page 12

### **Important Stuff**

Page 12

### **In the Community**

Page 14

### **Council Highlights**

Page 15

### **Thank you**

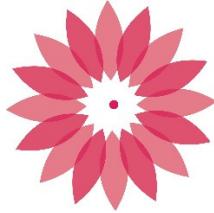
Page 15

### **Bishop Eaton Easter Message**

Page 15

### **Pictures**

Page 17



# April 2018

## Bethany Messenger

### From Pastor Stock



One of the things I do when I go to write my newsletter article for the month is to look back to what I have written in the past, so as to not duplicate thoughts and ideas, but to offer new insights and perspectives. Looking back to the April 2013 issue of *The Messenger*, I found the following article and couldn't help but reprint it, because it still seems so relevant. The reason is this, people sometimes ask me why we need to have communion every Sunday or why we need to confess our sins **EVERY** week. Because the battle against sin and evil is on-going and is never, ever finished. It is because the sin that clings so tightly to us never seems to go away. Our personal and societal struggle with sin and evil continues to plague us over and over again. To that end, I commend to you the following **FIVE YEAR OLD Pastoral Letter** from our ELCA Bishops, the message of which sounds ominously relevant for today in light of the school shootings and violence that we read and hear about each and every day.

**The following is a Pastoral Letter from the Conference of Bishops to all of the members of the ELCA regarding the issue of Violence. This is a very important issue confronting our society at this time and I wanted to share this letter with you.**

Respectfully,  
Pastor Steve

### **A Pastoral Letter on Violence**

**The Conference of Bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America,  
March 4, 2013**

A voice is heard in Ramah, weeping and great mourning, Rachel weeping for her children and refusing to be comforted, because they are no more.

Jeremiah 31:15 and Matthew 2:18 (NIV)

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

Every faithful caregiver who sits with victims of violence knows what we know – as God's church, we are called to reduce violence and should, in most cases, restrain ourselves from using violence. Whether or not statistics show that overall violence has declined in recent years, every person wounded or killed is a precious child of God.

As bishops of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, we lament the tragedy of gun violence in our country. We are grieved by the way violence threatens and destroys life. We affirm the current soul searching and shared striving to find a way to a better future.

While the church grapples with this call to reduce violence and make our communities safer, we recognize that before God we are neither more righteous because we have guns nor are we more righteous when we favor significant restrictions. Brokenness and sin are not somehow outside of us. Even the best of us are capable of great evil. As people of God we begin by confessing our own brokenness – revealed in both our actions and our failure to act. We trust that God will set us free and renew us in our life's work to love our neighbors.

In this time of public attention to gun violence, local communities of faith have a unique opportunity to engage this work. As bishops, we were thankful to recognize the many resources our church has already developed. We begin by listening: listening to God, to Scripture, and to each other. Providing a safe place for people to share their own stories, together we discern courses of action. Together we act. And together we return to listening – to assess the effectiveness of our efforts to reduce violence.

In the Large Catechism Luther says, "We must not kill, either by hand, heart, or word, by signs or gestures, or by aiding and abetting." Violence begins in the human heart. Words can harm or heal. To focus only on guns is to miss the depth of our vocation. Yet, guns and access are keys to the challenges we face.

We recognize that we serve in different contexts and have different perspectives regarding what can and should be done. But as we live out our common vocations, knowing that the work will take many forms, we are committed to the work of reducing and restraining violence. This shared work is a sign of our unity in Christ.

We invite you, our sisters and brothers, to join us in this work:

- The work of lament – creating safe space for naming, praying, grieving, caring for one another, and sharing the hope in God's promise of faithfulness
- The work of moral formation and discernment – listening to scripture, repenting, modeling conflict resolution in daily life, addressing bullying, conducting respectful conversations, and discerning constructive strategies to reduce violence
- The work of advocacy – acting to address the causes and effects of violence

Knowing that we are not saved by this work, we undertake it trusting in Christ Jesus, who laid down his life for the world and who calls us to be peacemakers, to pursue justice, and to protect the vulnerable.

In this, as in all things, Christ is with us. Thanks be to God.

The Conference of Bishops  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
March 4, 2013

## From Beth

Yet again Mikey's Funnies comes up with something humorous, but that makes you think. Enjoy.

### MUD PUDDLES AND DANDELIONS

- When I look at a patch of dandelions, I see a bunch of weeds that are going to take over my yard. My kids see flowers for Mom and blowing white fluff you can wish on.
- When I look at an old drunk and he smiles at me, I see a smelly, dirty person who probably wants money and I look away. My kids see someone smiling at them and they smile back.
- When I hear music I love, I know I can't carry a tune and don't have much rhythm so I sit self-consciously and listen. My kids feel the beat and move to it. They sing out the words. If they don't know them, they make up their own.

- When I feel wind on my face, I brace myself against it. I feel it messing up my hair and pulling me back when I walk. My kids close their eyes, spread their arms and fly with it, until they fall to the ground laughing.
- When I pray, I say thee and thou and grant me this, give me that. My kids say, "Hi God! Thanks for my toys and my friends. Please keep the bad dreams away tonight. Sorry, I don't want to go to Heaven yet. I would miss my Mommy and Daddy."
- When I see a mud puddle I step around it. I see muddy shoes and dirty carpets. My kids sit in it. They see dams to build, rivers to cross and worms to play with.
- I wonder if we are given kids to teach or to learn from?

No wonder God loves the little children!!

"Enjoy the little things in life, for one day you may look back and realize they were the big things."  
I wish you mud puddles and dandelions...

today'sThot

Sometimes you win and sometimes you learn.

Warm Blessings,  
*Beth*

## Worship God

### April Lessons

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#### Easter Sunday: April 1<sup>st</sup>

- † Acts 10:34-43 or Isaiah 25:6-9
- † Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)
- † 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
- † Mark 16:1-8 or John 20:1-18

#### Second Sunday of Easter: April 8<sup>th</sup>

- † Acts 4:32-35
- † Psalm 133 (1)
- † 1 John 1:1—2:2
- † John 20:19-31

#### Third Sunday of Easter: April 15<sup>th</sup>

- † Acts 3:12-19
- † Psalm 4 (3)
- † 1 John 3:1-7
- † Luke 24:36b-48

#### Fourth Sunday of Easter: April 22<sup>nd</sup>

- † Acts 4:5-12
- † Psalm 23 (1)
- † 1 John 3:16-24
- † John 10:11-18

#### Fifth Sunday of Easter: April 29<sup>th</sup>

- † Acts 8:26-40
- † Psalm 22:25-31 (27)
- † 1 John 4:7-21
- † John 15:1-8

## Grow in Faith

### Circle Meetings

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Grace Circle  
Charity Circle  
Peace Circle  
Hope Circle  
Kindness Circle

<b>Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Fellowship Hall
<b>Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Holmstad
<b>Tuesday, April 10<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Various member's homes
<b>Wednesday, April 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	Fellowship Hall
<b>Thursday, April 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11:30am</b>	Apple Villa

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

## Theology on Tap

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- **Tuesdays beginning April, 10<sup>th</sup>**
- **7:30 – 9:00pm**
- **Gammon House, in the back room**

Conversations are casual and informal, but rarely are they simple or boring. The group varies in size each week from four to fifteen. You are welcome to join us for a bite of supper to go along with your iced tea, soda, glass of wine, or favorite brew. Each week is different so you don't need to attend every week for a valuable experience. New comers are always welcome.

## New Member Classes

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We will be scheduling another session of New Member Classes after Easter. These classes are designed for individuals interested in learning more about our congregation, its ministry, the Lutheran Church, and our Lutheran beliefs. Persons who would like to take part in the course, should contact Pastor Steve at church 630-879-3444 or via e-mail at [pastorsteve@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:pastorsteve@bethanybatavia.org). The classes will be held on **Sunday Mornings** from **10:15 until 11:15am** in the **Lower Level** below the Sanctuary.

## Ministry Sunday in May!

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On **Sunday, May 6<sup>th</sup>** at our **9:00am** worship service we will celebrate ALL of our ministry activities of our congregation with a special worship service and thanksgiving celebration. That service will feature all of our music groups as we give thanks to God for the variety of talents, gifts, and abilities manifested in the members of our congregation. Please plan to attend this important annual celebration of our congregation's ministries.

## Come to Church and then BE the Church

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- **Bethany's First Annual Spring Clean-Up / Work Day and Picnic**
- **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **10:00am**
- **Picnic to follow, bring a dish to pass**

The Congregational Council and the Property Committee would like to announce the date of the Spring Clean Up. On **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** (Pentecost Sunday) we want to invite everyone to come to church in your "grubbies" i.e., work clothes. Why?, because immediately following worship we want to invite all members of the congregation to participate in a clean-up event. To do what? Wash windows, clean up the flower beds and then to plant flowers, to rake the lawn, spruce up the grounds, polish bells and communion ware, straighten up the library and do a variety of other projects inside and outside of the church and Ministry Center. At noon we'll gather for a picnic lunch of grilled hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats. We are asking everyone to bring with them that morning a dish to pass and share. We will end the day with ice cream sundae's before we all head for home. If all goes well, we will do this again on the **Sunday of Labor Day Weekend** as a Fall Clean-Up Day and Picnic as we get ready to resume our regular schedule on Rally Day. Mark your calendars and plan now to join as we worship and then work together on the Birthday of the Church, Pentecost Sunday.

## From Our Parish Nurse

### Gardening Restores the Body and Soul



Easter is the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus and the beginning of our new life in Christianity. As we embrace this spiritual awakening, it's also a great time to reflect on the beginning of new life in our world around us, in the gardens and in the nature we enjoy.

Having a garden in your life can be restoring. It gives you something to care for, celebrate, and later on, gives back by producing flowers, fruits and vegetables to nourish your body and soul. Aromatic plants such as lavender, rosemary, mint and other herbs not only add great tastes to our food but will give your senses a treat as well. Think about a beautiful bouquet of flowers or the great food from the farmers market or a gift of food from a generous friend or neighbor that nourishes your body and spirit.

Even if your space is limited, start a little potted garden on the windowsill or entrance-way. If you have physical limitations, ask a friend to help you get started. Once planted it just takes minutes every day to water, prune, and care for your plants. Plant a memorial garden to cherish the events in your life. Use a neighborhood garden to keep in touch with others, get some physical activity, and stay healthy with fresh garden produce. The benefits are very rewarding. Enjoy your new beginning in your new garden of life. Wishing each of you an Easter season filled with love, joy and blessings.

"Like a deer that longs for running streams, my soul longs for you, my God" Ps. 42:2. For any questions, assistance or resources to improve your health, contact me either by leaving me a message at the parish office at 630-879-3444 or E-mail me at [mary.stola@presencehealth.org](mailto:mary.stola@presencehealth.org).



Peace,  
Mary Stola RN, Faith Community Nurse

## Reach Out to Others

### 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 education in schools, and medical advocacy.

Throughout the year, we are continually looking for some items to help our clients as they transition to a safe environment.



Here is our current list of needs for our clients:

- Full Size Toothpaste
- Tampons
- Binders
- Dry Eraser Markers
- Full Size Kleenex Boxes
- Children's Paint: Watercolor or Elmer paints
- Gift Cards to Michael's or Hobby Lobby
- Canvases (any size)
- Wal-Mart & Jewel Gift Cards
- Gas Gift Cards (\$15-25)
- Home Depot Gift Cards
- AND MORE!
- For a more detailed list visit [www.mutualground.org/?page\\_id=2017](http://www.mutualground.org/?page_id=2017)

THANK YOU! To those who have already GENEROUSLY contributed. There will continue to be a bin available in the **Lower Narthex** for donations.

### ***Help Feed Those in Need - Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Serving***

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Our Bethany family provides volunteers to staff the Batavia Food Pantry on the **second Friday of each month**. Can you help? Haven't done it before? No problem. New volunteers always welcome!

- **Friday, April 13<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 (630-482-9578) 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)

### ***Food Sharing Days***

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The Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry Sharing Days are coming up **April 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup>**. Please join us as we collect food and donations. Sign up to be a greeter at Jewel-Osco and Berkeley Foods or a stocker at the Food Pantry. This event stocks the shelves the pantry and supports our operations.

Go to the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry website (<http://bataviafoodpantry.org>) and choose the volunteer tab to volunteer for available spots.

Greeters at **Jewel and Berkeley's 9:00am – 5:00pm**, 2 hour shifts

Stockers at the **Food Pantry 10:00am – 6:00pm**, 2 hour shifts

### **Hesed House Serving – How do you Hesed?**

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- **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 5:30pm through Monday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00am**
- **Hesed House, 659 South River St., Aurora**

Bethany friends,

How do you hesed? Simply translated, "hesed" can mean showing loving kindness 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 22<sup>nd</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.**

### **Bethany Community Supper**

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- **Friday, April 27<sup>th</sup>**
- **5:00pm-7:00pm**
- **Menu: Shredded BBQ Pork Sandwiches, Potato Chips, Applesauce**
- 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
    - Jar and canned relishes, pickles and baked goods are requested donations.
    - If you are able to provide a donation, please bring them to the kitchen, labeled "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**

### **In Our Prayers**

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

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Paul, member of the Batavia Community, who passed away on **January 2<sup>nd</sup>**.

Claire, sister of Bev, who passed away on **March 1<sup>st</sup>**.

Virginia, sister of Shirley, who passed away on **March 9<sup>th</sup>**.

Steve, friend of Pastor Steve and Beth, who passed away on **March 16<sup>th</sup>**.

Tim, Friend of Pastor Steve and Beth, who passed away on **March 23<sup>rd</sup>**.

May God comfort all who mourn and grant us the promise of life everlasting.

**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	Luke	Joan
Dick	Glenn	Cindy
Charlene	John	Ken
Rich	Bob	
Junellen	Florence	

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

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Maxine .....	Jennings Terrace, Aurora
Marilyn .....	Park Manor, Holmstad
Roz .....	Bria Health Services, Geneva
Carol .....	Bria Health Services, Geneva
Karl .....	Brighton Gardens, St. Charles
Florence .....	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad

Lorraine .....	Bickford, St. Charles
Shirley .....	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad
Shirley .....	Town Center, Holmstad
Ken .....	GreenFields, Geneva
Irma .....	Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad
Mariann .....	Heritage Woods, Batavia

**Please pray for those homebound, especially:**

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Nancy, Lois, Mary, Elaine, Richard, Martha, Pat, Joyce

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

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Xander

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

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Robert .....	Husband of Kathi Gorlewski
Joe .....	Son-in-law of JoAnn Sargent
Pat .....	Sister of Kathy Richmond
Lance .....	Brother of Lisa Hodge
Mary .....	Daughter of Nita Chevalier
Teri .....	Sister of Sue & Bob Novy
Rev. Ernie .....	Former Pastor at Grace Lily Lake

Jessica .....	Daughter of Cindy Shuler
Serena .....	Daughter of Cindy Shuler
Kevin .....	Brother of Lynn Dreymiller
Loane .....	Sister of Norm Freedlund
Ethyl .....	Mother of Cindy Schuler
Laura.....	Sister-in-law of Diane Robertson

**Anniversaries This Month**

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**April**

<b>1</b>	Michael & Brittany
<b>4</b>	Glenn & DeAnna
<b>6</b>	William & Nancy
<b>9</b>	Dave & Laurie

<b>15</b>	Tom & Liz
<b>17</b>	Kurt & Susan
<b>17</b>	Luke & Diane
<b>19</b>	Tom & Dee

<b>23</b>	Ken & Jane
<b>28</b>	Bill & Debbie

## *Birthdays This Month*

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### **April**

<b>2</b>	Don	<b>10</b>	Josie	<b>19</b>	Jack
<b>2</b>	Ryan	<b>12</b>	Marilyn	<b>20</b>	Stephanie
<b>2</b>	Hannah	<b>12</b>	Brian	<b>20</b>	Lexi
<b>3</b>	Barb	<b>13</b>	Gerry	<b>20</b>	JJ
<b>5</b>	Zachary	<b>14</b>	Mike	<b>20</b>	Lorlie
<b>5</b>	Jennifer	<b>14</b>	Gary	<b>20</b>	Hunter
<b>5</b>	Becky	<b>14</b>	Andrea	<b>22</b>	Paulette
<b>6</b>	Mike	<b>14</b>	Megan	<b>23</b>	Shyla
<b>6</b>	Beth	<b>14</b>	Beth	<b>23</b>	Karli
<b>6</b>	Charlie	<b>15</b>	Ted	<b>24</b>	Travis
<b>7</b>	Aidan	<b>16</b>	Mary	<b>25</b>	Lura
<b>7</b>	Cassie	<b>17</b>	Jason	<b>27</b>	Amy
<b>8</b>	Rinne	<b>17</b>	Doug	<b>27</b>	Jordyn
<b>8</b>	Katherine	<b>17</b>	Ken	<b>27</b>	Mal
<b>9</b>	Irene	<b>17</b>	Dave	<b>28</b>	Sarah
<b>9</b>	Finley	<b>17</b>	Todd	<b>28</b>	Charlotte
<b>9</b>	Koastyn	<b>18</b>	Nathan	<b>28</b>	Dorothy
<b>10</b>	Lukas	<b>18</b>	Andrew	<b>30</b>	Karen

## **Upcoming Events**

### *Bethany Men's Basketball*

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- **Saturdays, 7:30am – 9:00am,**
- **Ministry Center Gym**

### *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

On Wednesday evenings, Café Bethany returns. We will be returning to the regular Wednesday schedule on April 4<sup>th</sup>. Watch for the April menus in the Sunday update.

### *Singles Supper Club*

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- **Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>**
- **The Lodge, Route 64, St. Charles**
- **3:30pm** meet at Bethany and we will take the bus

## **Movie Night – Les Misérables**

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- **Saturday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**
- **7:00pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**
- More information on the bulletin boards in Fellowship Hall, the Resource Table, and the hallway

## **Card Stamping**

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- **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**
- **10:00am – 1:00pm**
- **Vlahn Room/Ministry Center**

Join Reach Committee for a stampin' good time on **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>**. We'll spend time crafting in fellowship while we create cards for reaching out. Bring your own stamps, or use some of ours. All ages are welcome. A light lunch will be served.

## **Bethany Women's Spring Luncheon**

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- **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- **12:00pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**
- Invite your friends, mother, daughter
- Tickets are \$10.00

"Little Words Mean a Lot – So Watch What You Say" Nancy Stacy will present an entertaining program about "Words" their origins, funny sayings, & quirks of the English language. More importantly is how we can use words to bring joy to others. Bethany Bus will be available. Questions? Call Ruth or the church office 630-879-3444.

## **Heartland Voices Concert – "She Writes the Songs"**

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- **Sunday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>**
- **3:00pm**
- **Bethany Lutheran Church, Sanctuary**
- Freewill offering, suggested donation \$18 Adults, \$15 Child/Seniors
- Music and/or lyrics written by women

## **Prayer Shawl**

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- **Thursday, April 26<sup>th</sup>**
- **1:00pm**
- **Panera, Batavia**
- Can't knit? We'll teach you!
- Bring your knitting needles or crochet hook and join the fellowship and fun

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



## LOMC Summer Camp and Lutherdale Summer Camp



### LOMC

There is a copy of the Summer Camp brochure on the resource table, and on the bulletin board. Or you can download the brochure at [www.lomc.com](http://www.lomc.com).



### Lutherdale

Check their website for more information <http://www.lutherdale.org/>.

## ELCA Youth Gathering



- June 27 – July 1, 2018
- Houston, TX
- [www.elca.org/youthgathering](http://www.elca.org/youthgathering) or #elcayg2018

## 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 planted seedlings, 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

### **Lutherdale Summer Camp Open House**

- **June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00pm – 4:00pm**
- **N7891 US-12, Elkhorn, WI 53121**

Meet the 2018 Summer Staff, take a tour of the camp, enjoy the waterfront and slip n slide, play Ga Ga Ball, rock the Climbing Wall, see the farm animals and check out the camp store. [www.lutherdale.org](http://www.lutherdale.org)

There is no charge for the event, so bring your friends and family out and have a great time at Lutherdale.

### **VBS – Sports Camp 2018**



- **Vacation Bible School**
- **Monday, July 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>**
- **9:00am – 12:15pm**
- Boys and Girls, ages 4 – 12, enjoy our very popular sports camp every summer!
- Bring a friend and choose from Basketball, Soccer, Ultimate Frisbee, Cheerleading, Team 45 (4 & 5 year olds)
- Featuring Christian coaches, quality sports instruction, positive role models, daily Bible times, skits and fun!
- Every Camper Receives: A camp T-shirt, and daily take home bible studies

## Important Stuff

### **Congregational Meeting**

Bethany Lutheran Church will hold its second regular Congregational Meeting on **Sunday, June 3<sup>rd</sup> at 10:30am** in the **Fellowship Hall**. There will be ONLY ONE SERVICE that morning at **9:00am**. **The Bulletin of Reports** will be ready for distribution on **Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>** to give everyone a chance to review them prior to the meeting. You will receive a copy by e-mail, or you may pick one up at the church. Your commitment to the outreach and work of our congregation is what makes these ministries happen! There will be two important items of business at this meeting, the reception of the Annual Ministry Reports and the election of five Congregation Council Members.

### **Turn OFF the Lights, please!**



Help! If you are the last one to leave a room or an area in the church, turn off the lights. It sounds like a pretty simple thing to do, but there are many times when our Door Custodians find a number of lights still on in the evening. Please help us to be environmentally friendly and fiscally responsible. Thanks!

## 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, 2018**.

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.

## 2018 Flower Calendar!

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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 lots of open dates and 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 the second service on the date of donation. Just a reminder that because of the nature of the season and our traditional liturgical custom, there will be **NO** flowers adorning the sanctuary during the season of Lent from **Sunday, February 18<sup>th</sup> until Easter Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>**.

## Calling All Techies!

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Do you enjoy technology? If so, there's a way you can help during church services. We need a few more volunteers for both audio and visual support. Every Sunday, we videotape the **9:00am** service for BATV. We also need to monitor and take care of the audio during the services. We have a few dedicated folks who volunteer for both tasks, but we are looking for a couple more! No experience is necessary. Training will be provided. Please contact Fred Holch if interested in learning more about this opportunity.

## 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 Church Main Office. Thank you to all who filled the box over the past several years!

## Wheelchairs Available

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Bethany has **two wheelchairs and a walker** for use on **Sunday mornings** or for other activities. Please contact the church office prior to Sunday Morning or see someone from the staff and they would be happy to help you.

## ***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

## ***ELCA Colleges & Universities***

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ELCA colleges and universities have a helpful website – [whygolutheran.org](http://whygolutheran.org) – for students and parents as they embark on the college search process.

On the site families can:

- Learn more about the value of the Lutheran college experience.
- Read about the distinctive features of a Lutheran liberal arts education.
- Complete one simple form to request college information from individual institutions.

## **In the Community**

### ***Batavia RSVP Needs Volunteers to Help Seniors in Need***

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Batavia RSVP, an all-volunteer non-profit community organization, needs volunteers to help with driving seniors to doctor's and dentist appointments and in the RSVP office to help schedule the appointments. For more information visit [www.bataviarsvp.org](http://www.bataviarsvp.org), or call the office at 630-406-9993.

### ***Elderday Fashion Show and Fundraiser – “Spring In Your Step”***

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- **Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:30am – 2:00pm**
- **Lincoln Inn, 1345 South Batavia Avenue, Batavia**
- Fashion Show (fashions from Jeans and a Cute Top Shop and Jack and Jill's Children's Boutique), Jewelry Raffle (Piece of jewelry provided by State Street Jewelers), Silent Auction and More
- Tickets are \$50 each
- For more information call 630.761.9750 or go to [www.elderdaycenter.org](http://www.elderdaycenter.org)

### ***Literacy Volunteers Needed***

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- Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley four-session tutor training workshop
- **6:30pm to 9:00pm** on Mondays and Wednesdays: **April 16th, 18th, 23rd, and 25th**
- At the **St. Charles Public Library**
- The workshop will teach what you need to know to help an adult learn English and assimilate to life in central Kane County
- Trained tutors are matched with adult students one to one.
- Pairs meet for one hour each week at a time and public location that is convenient such as public libraries or churches

- Tutors get guidance and support whenever they need it from program staff
- Residents who are interested in registering for tutor training can visit [www.lfvf.org](http://www.lfvf.org) or call/text Peg at 630-584-4428

From week to week, tutors see their students become more comfortable and fluent in English, which makes a big difference in their lives. Most of Literacy Volunteers Fox Valley's adult students have come from other countries to live in safety, send their children to good schools, and contribute to our economic well-being. With a little help, they can be more productive, engaged members of our community. Tutors also benefit as they learn about other cultures and broaden their perspectives.

## Council Highlights

### March Council Meeting Highlights

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- Voting Members for Synod Assembly -- Ruth Beck and Leonard Wray have said they would like to go to the Synod Assembly in June, 2018. One more person is needed
- Pop Machine Update - Pop machine has been repaired and the new pop price is \$1.00
- Property maintenance Update - A list of projects that need to be done has been discussed and prioritized
- Thank you to Charlie Andersen for the donation of a timer for the coffee pots
- Thank you to our Congregation for all that they do for the church

## Thank You

### Souper Bowl Sunday

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*Thank you to the congregation and Youth for your generosity on Souper Bowl Sunday!*

**\$241.99** was donated to the Community Supper

**\$241.99** was donated to the Batavia Interfaith Food Pantry

## ELCA Presiding Bishop's 2018 Easter message

It all started with such promise – the angel announcing to Mary that the child she would bear would be called Son of the Most High; the conviction of Mary that this child would be the embodiment of God's promised justice, that the hungry would be filled with good things and the rich sent away empty; angels announcing his birth; thousands being fed; the sick healed; the dead raised.

And then, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?" It was over. The world hadn't changed. Might still made right. How ridiculously naïve to believe that any reversal of the old order could come about. Hope is for the gullible. Looking at this broken man hanging utterly helpless, naked and broken on a cross, the powers and principalities, earthly and spiritual, death and the devil must have said, "You fool."

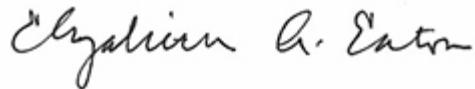
This, as St. Paul reminds us, is the wisdom of the world. And the world can present plenty of hard evidence that it is right: children killing children in horrific school shootings, 60 million displaced people – all of this supported by our rebellion against God, our idolatrous claim that we are in control and the world is ours. In the face of this

and all of the suffering others cause and we cause others, we, too, might cry out, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

I believe that the beginning of Psalm 22 expresses the anguish of the psalmist and the anguish of our Lord, but there is more going on here. Citing the first words of a text was, in the tradition of the time, a way of identifying an entire passage. The psalm ends this way: "All the ends of the earth shall remember and turn to the Lord; and all the families of the nations shall worship before him. ... Posterity will serve him; future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn, saying that he has done it." This is the wisdom of God. Jesus' crucifixion is the death of our death. His innocent suffering has reconciled all of creation to God. He has done it. We stake our lives on this.

This year, Easter falls on April 1. We shall have come through the Lenten desert to the Easter garden. We shall say, "Christ is risen. He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" And we shall confess this and live this in the face of worldly wisdom that is based on death. Life wins. Love wins. And if the world wants to call us April fools, we are glad to claim that title.

Christ is risen.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Elizabeth A. Eaton".

Elizabeth A. Eaton  
Presiding Bishop  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

## First Communion Bread Making



## Staff & Council

### **Church Staff:**

Senior Pastor .....	Rev. Steve Srock
Visitation Pastor* .....	Rev. Steven Ritter
Administrative Assistant* .....	Kathi Gorlewski
Administrative Assistant* .....	Darlene Hutchens
Administrative Assistant* .....	Lura Dreymilller
Financial Secretary*.....	Maureen Scallon
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
Charlene Boehm .....	Vice-President/Personnel
Lynn Dreymiller .....	Secretary/Worship & Music
Steve Mickelson.....	Treasurer/Finance
Charley Andersen .....	Memorial Gifts
Kelli Coonrod .....	Youth
Molly Cox .....	Children & Family
Andrea Gustafson.....	Stewardship
Carie Holzl.....	Service
Steve Ritter .....	Evangelism
Dennis Schuett .....	Property
Leonard Wray.....	Adult Discipleship

**8 South Lincoln Street, Batavia, IL 60510 - 630.879.3444 [office@bethanybatavia.org](mailto:office@bethanybatavia.org)**

**Office Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am – 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/](https://www.facebook.com/BethanyBatavia/)

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

### **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. BATV is available on Comcast Channel 17, and on AT&T U-verse Channel 99 across N. Illinois.

### **Links to Resources and Events**

- **Aurora University Events**  
[alumni.aurora.edu](http://alumni.aurora.edu)
- **Elderday Center**  
[www.elderdaycenter.org](http://www.elderdaycenter.org)
- **Evangelical Lutheran Church in America**  
[www.ELCA.org](http://www.ELCA.org)
- **Fermilab Public Events**  
[events.fnal.gov](http://events.fnal.gov)
- **Hesed House**  
[www.hesedhouse.org](http://www.hesedhouse.org)
- **Lazarus House**  
[www.lazarushouseonline.com](http://www.lazarushouseonline.com)
- **Living Lutheran**  
[www.livinglutheran.org](http://www.livinglutheran.org)
- **Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago**  
[www.lstc.edu/lstc-life/events](http://www.lstc.edu/lstc-life/events)
- **Lutheran Social Services of Illinois**  
[www.lssi.org](http://www.lssi.org)
- **Metropolitan Chicago Synod ELCA**  
[www.mcsela.org](http://www.mcsela.org)
- **Mutual Ground**  
[www.mutualground.org](http://www.mutualground.org)
- **Lutheran Suicide Prevention Ministry**  
[www.lutheransuicideprevention.org](http://www.lutheransuicideprevention.org)
- **Rev. Janelle Neubauer, ELCA Missionary**  
<http://jsneub.blogspot.com/2017/>  
[www.facebook.com/janelle.neubauer](http://www.facebook.com/janelle.neubauer)
- **YAGM Rwanda**  
[www.facebook.com/yagmrwanda/](http://www.facebook.com/yagmrwanda/)