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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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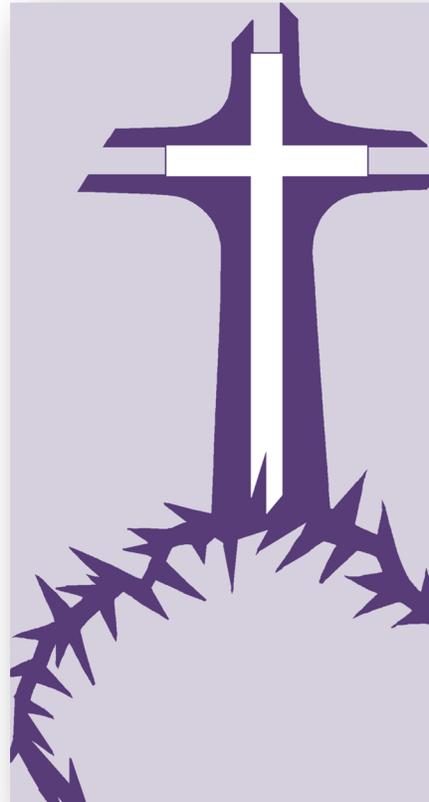
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# March 2018 Bethany Messenger



## From Pastor Srock



In the Book of Ecclesiastes is written the ancient but familiar and often quoted passage, "There is nothing new under the sun." Which is perhaps another way of saying that the more things change, the more they stay the same. We like to believe that with all of our sophistication and technology, with all of our scientific advancements and accumulated knowledge that somehow the basic underlying issues confronting us as individuals and as groups of people has changed. The reality is that those issues have not. At first glance, that may appear to be disturbing but upon further reflection, it can also be extremely comforting.

Each year during the Lenten season we retell the story of Jesus' passion, death, and resurrection. In those stories are incidents of betrayal, greed, anger, violence, hatred, murder, and all whole spectrum of human emotion. But in these stories are also recorded God's overwhelming gracious response

to the sin riddled condition of our world. His forgiveness, love, kindness, respect, and grace tell the story of God's response to OUR sinfulness through the death and resurrection of Jesus.

The challenge of our Lenten journey remains fundamentally unchanged as it has for centuries; namely, that by reflecting upon stories from the past as they are recorded in the Scriptures and retelling and reciting God's story of redemption, we find in those stories THE STORY OF MY LIFE and God's gracious response to me.

May God grant us guidance and grace this year as we again journey toward the cross and empty tomb beyond.

Peace,  
*Pastor Steve*

## From Beth



I get many devotions and reflections via email I would like to share two this month. The first was written by Jolene Bergstrom Carlson, Executive Director/President of Ministry Mentors.

As a child the Lenten theology that received the most emphasis was that we must be aware and thankful that Jesus sacrificed his life for us and died for all our sins. This is the message of the cross for certain, but as a small child that message put a cold chill throughout my whole body as well as my emotional being. That little girl screamed: "No, I'm not good enough. I'm bad. Don't die for me, I'm not worth it!" Though most of the time I know differently about my self-worth and the unconditional love of Jesus, every time I peek into darkness those messages pound at me to come back and claim as home that space that frightened a fragile little girl.

I could go directly from here into the importance of what and how we teach our children, but I won't. That is beyond my focus, and I trust that our children no longer receive the loving sacrificial message of Jesus laden with false guilt and self-disgust. But I do wonder how we receive the message that a sacrifice was made for us in the name of an unconditional love that remains an unanswered mystery about how it works?

Perhaps we have a glimpse of it as we watch a teacher laying over the bodies of their students trying to shield them from bullets. Or a dad desperately performing CPR on a young son who was found at the bottom of a pool. Can we begin to grasp it when we realize that we are like the little girl and don't deserve a love that we can't earn, or a love that has no strings attached, a love that is complete? Can we live with a sacrifice so complete that the words of the theologian Virginia Ramey Mollenkott have meaning?

*There is nothing you can do to make God love you any more. There is nothing you can do to make God love you any less. God simply Loves You.*

Even though this second story is supposedly not true, it does make you think. What would your choice be in a similar situation?

After a few of the usual Sunday hymns, the church's pastor once again slowly stood up, walked over to the pulpit, and gave a very brief introduction of his childhood friend. With that, an elderly man stepped up to the pulpit to speak, "A father, his son, and a friend of his son were sailing off the Pacific Coast," he began, "when a fast approaching storm blocked any attempt to get back to shore. The waves were so high, that even though the father was an experienced sailor, he could not keep the boat upright, and the three were swept into the ocean."

The old man hesitated for a moment, making eye contact with two teenagers who were, for the first time since the service began, looking somewhat interested in his story. He continued, "Grabbing a rescue line, the father had to make the most excruciating decision of his life: to which boy he would throw the other end of the line. He only had seconds to make the decision. The father knew that his son was a Christian, and he also knew that his son's friend was not. The agony of his decision could not be matched by the torrent of waves. As the father yelled out, 'I love you, son!' he threw the line to his son's friend." "By the time he pulled the friend back to the capsized boat, his son had disappeared beyond the raging swells into the black of night. His body was never recovered."

By this time, the two teenagers were sitting straighter in the pew, waiting for the next words to come out of the old man's mouth. "The father," he continued, "knew his son would step into eternity with Jesus, and he could not bear the thought of his son's friend stepping into an eternity without Jesus. Therefore, he sacrificed his son. How great is the love of God that He should do the same for us." With that, the old man turned and sat back down in his chair as silence filled the room. Within minutes after the service ended, the two teenagers were at the old man's side. "That was a nice story," politely started one of the boys, "but I don't think it was very realistic for a father to give up his son's life in hopes that the other boy would become a Christian."

"Well, you've got a point there," the old man replied, glancing down at his worn Bible. A big smile broadened his narrow face, and he once again looked up at the boys and said, "It sure isn't very realistic, is it? But I'm standing here today to tell you that THAT story gives me a glimpse of what it must have been like for God to give up His son for me. You see... I was the son's friend."

Warm Blessings,  
*Beth*

## Worship God

### March Lessons

#### Third Sunday in Lent: March 4<sup>th</sup>

- † Exodus 20:1-17
- † Psalm 19 (8)
- † I Corinthians 1:18-25
- † John 2:13-22

#### Fourth Sunday in Lent: March 11<sup>th</sup>

- † Numbers 21:4-9
- † Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22 (19)
- † Ephesians 2:1-10
- † John 3:14-21

#### Fifth Sunday in Lent: March 18<sup>th</sup>

- † Jeremiah 31:31-34
- † Psalm 51:1-12 (10) or Psalm 119:9-16 (11)
- † Hebrews 5:5-10
- † John 12:20-33

#### Passion/Palm Sunday: March 25<sup>th</sup>

- † Procession with Palms: Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
- † Isaiah 50:4-9a
- † Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
- † Philippians 2:5-11
- † Mark 14:1 — 15:47 or Mark 15:1-39[40-47]

#### Maundy Thursday: March 29<sup>th</sup>

- † Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
- † Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
- † I Corinthians 11:23-26
- † John 13:1-17, 31b-35

#### Good Friday: March 30<sup>th</sup>

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

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

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

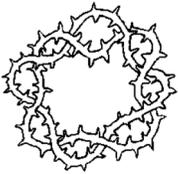
## Grow in Faith

### Circle Meetings

Grace Circle	<b>Wednesday, March 7<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7:30pm</b>	Fellowship Hall
Charity Circle	<b>Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9:30am</b>	Holmstad
Kindness Circle	<b>Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>11:30am</b>	Briana's, Batavia, IL
Hope Circle	<b>Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>12:00pm</b>	Fellowship Hall
Peace Circle	<b>Tuesday, March 13<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>1:00pm</b>	Various member's homes

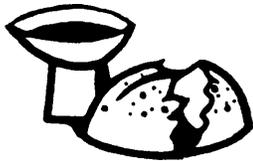
**Join a Circle now!** Enjoy fellowship, fun and spiritual growth with other women

### Lent Schedule



- **Wednesday Lent Services until March 21<sup>st</sup>**
- **6:00pm - Soup Supper (in Fellowship Hall)**
- **7:00pm - Worship Service (in the Chapel)**

### First Communion



First Communion classes are being offered in **March**. The three-session program will be similar to previous years.

- The first session will be offered on **Saturday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00am** and again on **Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm**. You can attend either one of these sessions, not both.
- The second class will be offered on **Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> from 9:00 – 11:00am** and **Monday, March 12<sup>th</sup> from 6:00 – 8:00pm** and. Again, attend one of these classes.
- The final class will be on **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> from 8:30 – 11:30am** and will include baking bread for the First Communion service. This session is for the entire group.

The classes are for 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade students and their parents. Students will be ready to receive First Communion on **Sunday, March 18, 2018**. However the date you and your child choose for First Communion is up to each family and may occur at a later date. Please contact the church office if your family wishes to participate in First Communion instruction.

### Health, Healing, and Wholeness Service



We are again offering a Health, Healing, and Wholeness service on **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**. The service is designed for anyone who is in any type of pain or conflict, whether it be physical, mental, or spiritual; the loss of a loved one either by death or separation; a battle with disease; an addiction; family conflict; infidelity; or a life changing decision. The purpose of this service is to remind us that we are not alone and that God will help us carry our burdens.

*“Cast your cares on the Lord and he will sustain you, he will never let the righteous fall.”*

Psalm 55:22. We will celebrate this gift with singing, the laying on of hands, and communion.

No, your problems will probably not be solved by the end of the service, but your heart may be lightened and your load a little easier when carried by two. The purpose of this service is to help heal not only the holes in our bodies, but the holes in our spirits as well. Come join us and experience the power of God's love which can overcome adversity and bring you peace.

**Hearing Screening:** Steve Brems will be available for hearing screening again on **March 11<sup>th</sup> at 8:00am** before the first service, then after the service until **11:00am**. Look for the sign-up sheet on the resource table.

## Theology on Tap

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- **Tuesdays**
- **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.

## 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Lutheran/Catholic Event

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- **March 10<sup>th</sup>, registration 8:30am, event ends at 1:00pm**
- **Edison Park Lutheran Church, 6625 N Oliphant Avenue, Oak Park**
- "Reach Out in Christ" with Keynote Speaker Rev. Kelly Faulstich from Resurrection Lutheran Church, Chicago
- Homilist, Rev. John Clemens of Our Lady of Hope Parish in Rosemont
- Registration is \$20, includes luncheon and refreshments
- Registration forms at Bethany Women's board or contact Ruth Beck

## Lenten Book Study: *Accidental Saints, Finding God in All the Wrong People*

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The group will continue to meet in the **Adult Lounge** at **11:30am** to enable those attending both Sunday services to participate. Discussions are planned for an hour; however, ample time is available should additional time be desired by the group.

<b>Week 3</b>	Chapters 5 – 8	<b>Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 4</b>	Chapters 9 - 12	<b>Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 5</b>	Chapters 13 – 16	<b>Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup></b>
<b>Week 6</b>	Chapters 17 – 19	<b>Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup></b>

**Participants should be advised that the book does contain offensive language and adult topics.**



# Will You Join Us for Easter?

## Holy Week Services

### March 25<sup>th</sup> - Palm / Passion Sunday

9:00am — The Reading of Christ's Passion

10:30am — The Reading of Christ's Passion

### March 29<sup>th</sup> - Maundy Thursday

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

### March 30<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday

12:00pm—Community Worship at Calvary Episcopal

7:00pm—Tenebrae, Service of Darkness

### March 31<sup>st</sup> - Holy Saturday Easter Vigil

7:30pm—Vigil Service at Calvary Episcopal

## Easter Sunday

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

7:30am – Sunrise Service in the Chapel

9:00am & 11:00am—Festival Worship w/ Holy Communion

9:45am—Easter Breakfast, 10:30am—Easter Egg Hunt



### Palm/Passion Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>

We will begin our observance of this Holy Day with the dedication of the Palms prior to both of our services as we gather in the Narthex before entering the Sanctuary to hear the story of our Lord's Passion and Death.

### Maundy Thursday, March 29<sup>th</sup>

Join us at either our **1:15pm** service immediately following a light lunch held in the Fellowship Hall, or our **7:00pm** service held in the Sanctuary. We will celebrate Holy Communion at both of these services.

### Good Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

There will again be a **12:00pm** Community Service at Calvary Episcopal led by clergy from town. There will be brief homilies on the seven last words interspersed with appropriate hymns. We will again this year feature a Tenebrae Service (Service of Darkness) here at Bethany at **7:00pm** as we remember and reflect upon our Lord's Passion and Death.

### Easter Vigil, Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>

This service takes place at **7:30pm** at Calvary Episcopal Church with our sisters and brothers from Calvary.

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

Three services are offered on Easter Sunday morning. The first is a **7:30am** Sunrise Service held in the Chapel. In addition, we will hold two Traditional Festival Worship Services at **9:00am** and **11:00am**. All three services will include Holy Communion. Easter Breakfast will be served from **9:45am** until **11:00am**. Our Sunday School Easter Egg Hunt starts at **10:30am**.

## 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, 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 sundaes 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

### Make it Easier to Control Your Weight

March is National Nutrition Month. A major part of improving our nutrition is to focus on why we don't eat a healthy diet. We know we need to increase the number of fruits and vegetables, whole grains and healthy fats that we eat every day, and decrease the processed foods, the salt, sugar and trans fats.

- The first thing we need to do is read the nutrition labels, especially the serving size. The box will say a serving will have 150 calories, but the muffin in the box is "3" servings, this is 450 calories in the muffin. By using smaller plates and bowls, the smaller full container will help our eyes realize we have a full serving, thus decreasing our total caloric intake. Another trick from marketing is if restaurants advertise they are healthy, people are likely to make more indulgent choices and not take the time to see what calories are in the food.
- Lack of sleep can increase obesity by disrupting the normal chemical signals in your body and lead you to eat more. Try not to snack mindlessly when you're sleepy, especially late at night.
- Did you know your neighborhood and community can affect your weight? If you live miles away from a supermarket with fruits and vegetables and don't plan well, your meal will consist of what is at home, which could be starches and less healthy options. People who feel their neighborhood isn't safe for walking, will have to increase their exercise in other ways. Come walk with us on **Monday mornings in the Ministry Center at 9:00am** or get a group together and walk...just let the office know so they can keep track of who is in the building. Keep reminders of how much you're eating; looking at the empty wrappers will help. People who are socially connected, influence each other's weight, so get the family together to exercise and make healthier food choices; plan out a healthy menu for the week.

Set modest goals and pick a few changes you can make in your life that will influence your weight habits. "Everything is a choice. This is life's greatest truth and its hardest lesson. It is a great truth because it reminds us of our power. Not power over others, but the often untapped power to be ourselves and to live the life we have imagined" author unknown. For any questions, assistance or resources to improve your health, contact me either by leaving me a message at the church 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
- Canvasses (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

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, March 9<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)

## Bethany Community Supper

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- **Friday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**
- **5:00pm-7:00pm**
- **Menu: Ham Casserole, Tossed Salad, Roll**
- 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 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**

**192 meals were served on February 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
*Thank you to ALL of the helping hands that make this monthly event possible!*

## Help spread Easter Joy!

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Our Reach Team packs Easter baskets to be delivered to our homebound members. Bring donations of lotions, tea bags, wrapped Easter candy, note-cards, notepads & small baskets to the Resource Table in the Lower Narthex. Deadline is **Sunday, March 25<sup>th</sup>**. If you want to help deliver the baskets, please contact Charlene Boehm or the church office.

## It's Penny Palooza Time!

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Penny Palooza is a friendly competition between the Sunday School classes to see who can earn the most points while raising money for God's Global Barnyard.

Pennies are +1 point, while other coins and currency are negative points. (For example, a quarter is -25 points, a dollar is -100 points, etc.).

The overall object, of course, is to show the Sunday School students that even a little change can bring about change! So don't be afraid to drop in a hand full of quarters... or a dollar in another class' collection jug! The collection runs through the entire season of Lent.

## 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.

**In Our Prayers**

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

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- Jane, who passed away on **February 9<sup>th</sup>**
- Louise, who passed away on **February 16<sup>th</sup>**
- Robert, father of Laurie, who passed away on **February 18<sup>th</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    | Norm     | Luke  | Shirley |
| Charlene | Junellen | Glenn | Cindy   |
| Dick     | Luke     | John  |         |
| Rich     | Karin    | Bob   |         |

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

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- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Maxine .....Jennings Terrace, Aurora       | Lorraine..... Bickford, St. Charles     |
| Marilyn.....Park Manor, Holmstad           | Shirley ..... Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad |
| Louise.....Symphony Orchard Valley, Aurora | Shirley ..... Town Center, Holmstad     |
| Roz.....Bria Health Services, Geneva       | Ken..... GreenFields, Geneva            |
| Carol.....Bria Health Services, Geneva     | Irma..... Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad     |
| Karl .....Brighton Gardens, St. Charles    | Mariann ..... Heritage Woods, Batavia   |
| Florence.....Harry J. Ekstam, Holmstad     |   |

*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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Owen.....Grandson of Bill & Debbie  
 Pat.....Sister of Kathy  
 Mary.....Daughter of Nita  
 Teri.....Sister of Sue & Bob  
 Rev. Ernie Rex.....Former Pastor at Grace Lily Lake  
 Serena ..... Daughter of Cindy

Loane .....Sister of Norm  
 Eloise ..... Infant friend of Kimmy  
 Ethyl .....Mother of Cindy

### *Anniversaries This Month*

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#### March

<b>15</b> Olaf & Andi	<b>20</b> John & Mary	<b>27</b> Doug & Andrea
<b>16</b> Chuck & Sue	<b>21</b> David & Beth	

### *Birthdays This Month*

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#### March

<b>1</b> Maren	<b>9</b> Grace	<b>16</b> Pete
<b>1</b> Kevin	<b>9</b> Donna	<b>17</b> Mark
<b>1</b> Nancy	<b>9</b> Alison	<b>18</b> Joyce
<b>2</b> Sue	<b>10</b> Anne	<b>18</b> Jori
<b>2</b> Marie	<b>11</b> Helen	<b>19</b> Cheri
<b>2</b> Robbie	<b>11</b> Seth	<b>19</b> Shirley
<b>2</b> Cindy	<b>11</b> Jane	<b>20</b> Parker
<b>3</b> Jerry	<b>11</b> Diane	<b>22</b> Lauri
<b>3</b> Matthew	<b>12</b> Dan	<b>22</b> Megan
<b>4</b> Doug	<b>12</b> Debbie	<b>22</b> Jack
<b>4</b> Norm	<b>12</b> Jeff	<b>23</b> Katie
<b>4</b> Marion	<b>12</b> Jim	<b>24</b> Carol
<b>4</b> Owen	<b>13</b> Sandra	<b>24</b> David
<b>4</b> Alek	<b>13</b> Joel	<b>26</b> Katie
<b>5</b> Anthony	<b>13</b> Molly	<b>28</b> Ryan
<b>5</b> Frank	<b>14</b> Ethan	<b>28</b> David
<b>6</b> Richard	<b>14</b> Peg	<b>28</b> Phyllis
<b>6</b> Nicole	<b>15</b> Brian	<b>29</b> Brian
<b>7</b> Dale	<b>15</b> Melissa	<b>29</b> Laurie
<b>8</b> Christian	<b>15</b> Eva	<b>30</b> Anders
<b>8</b> Sue	<b>15</b> Jack	
<b>9</b> Addison	<b>15</b> Jan	

## Upcoming Events

### *Bethany Men's Basketball*

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

### *Café Bethany – Lenten Soup Suppers*

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- **Wednesdays 3/7, 3/14, 3/21 at 6:00 – 6:45pm (no Café Bethany on 3/28)**
- **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 will provide Lenten Soup Suppers. The time change from the usual Wednesday schedule will allow you to have a bite to eat before attending the Lenten Worship service at **7:00pm**.

### *Low Back and Sciatica Workshop*

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- **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**
- **11:00am – Noon**
- **Fellowship Hall**

Do you have difficulty standing and doing simple chores due to back pain? Do you avoid sitting or walking because the pain will get worse? Joe King, Physical Therapist, ATC, will be our speaker to help us determine what causes lower back pain, what successful treatment looks like and learn a few stretches/exercises that will address your back pain!

### *Feed My Starving Children*

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- **Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>**
- **5:45 - 7:30pm**
- **555 Exchange Court, Aurora, IL**
- Sign up in the Ministry Center during Sunday School or contact [jennifer@nallenweg.com](mailto:jennifer@nallenweg.com)
- Please wear closed toed shoes and leave all jewelry at home.

#### **Volunteer age requirements:**

- For safety reasons, children under the age of 5 are not allowed in our packing area (sorry, no exceptions)
- Grades K-2: 1 student to 1 adult\*
- Grades 3-6: 3 students to 1 adult
- Grades 7-9: 4 students to 1 adult
- Grades 10-12: 5 students to 1 adult

ASK YOUR STUDENT ABOUT OUR FILL THE TUBE CHALLENGE!!!!

### *Singles Supper Club*

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- **Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **3:30pm** – meet at Bethany to carpool to the restaurant
- **Schnitzel Platz, 729 North Ave., Glendale Heights, IL 60139**

## Lunch Bunch

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- **Monday, March 19<sup>th</sup>, 11:00am**
- **Fellowship Hall**
- Program will be on funeral planning
- Enjoy food and fellowship with fellow 50+ years young members!
- Suggested donation for the lunch is \$5.00 per person.

## Prayer Shawl

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- **Thursday, March, 22<sup>nd</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

## Movie Night – Calendar Girls

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- **Saturday, March 24**
- **6:00pm**
- **Fellowship Hall**

## Organ Concert – Alan and Friends

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- **Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>**
- **2:00 – 3:00pm**
- **Sanctuary**
- Our very own Alan Spear, Beth Lawniczak and John Stoffel will offer a recital; piano, voice and organ
- Piano pieces, organ pieces, a sing-along and organ-piano duet
- Organ tours will be available before and after the recital
- Schedule an organ tours both before and after the recital – kids are very welcome
- Coffee and munchies after the event

## Congregational Meeting

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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.

## LOMC Summer Camp



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)

## ELCA Youth Gathering



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

## Save the Date

### Lutherdale Summer Camp Open House

- June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1:00 – 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.



Join women of all ages for this delightful event!

*April 28, 2018*

The Westin Chicago NW, 400 Park Blvd., Itasca

Boutiques open at 10:00 a.m.

followed by lunch at 12:00 noon

Tickets: \$75.00 • Student Tickets: \$45.00

Featuring Leelee Dameron, a botanical artist and the owner of Leelee's Garden. She has hosted over 100 creative botanical workshops online and around the country. Leelee will be our special guest at this year's Spring Fling, creating beautiful plant and flower items to be raffled off at the event.

This year's presentation will be an entertaining and educational experience with something for everyone.

Benefiting LSSI's children's services

For more information,  
call Mariah Heinz at 847.635.4656  
or email [Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org](mailto:Mariah.Heinz@LSSI.org).

## VBS – Sports Camp 2018

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- **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

### Order Easter Lilies

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- Easter Lilies can be dedicated in memory, honor, or celebration of a person or event
- Order envelopes will be available Now through **March 11<sup>th</sup>** at the resource table
- Each plant is \$10.00. Make checks payable to Bethany Lutheran indicating "Easter Flowers" in the memo
- You may take home the plants after the last service on Easter day

### Electronics Give-Away

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As a result of upgrades to the church's A/V system, the items listed below are no longer needed. Before sending them to the recycle bin, we are offering them to interested members on a first come, first served basis. Contact Fred Holch (630-879-9631) before Easter.

- Panasonic AG 3200 S-VHS VCR with remote and 13 ST-120 video cassettes
- Sanyo RD 5055 Audio Cassette Recorder/Player
- TEAC Model 124 SYNCASET Audio Cassette Recorder/Player
- 2 TASCAM 112R Mk II Rack Mount Audio Cassette Recorder/Player

### Coming Soon!

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Look for the pictorial directory to be available sometime in the next month. Stay tuned!

### 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!

## 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.

## Turn OFF the Lights, please!

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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!

## In the Community

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

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.

### Chip-in Batavia Collecting Prom Dresses

- **Now through March 16<sup>th</sup>**
- **Batavia Public Library, 10 South Batavia Ave, Batavia**
- Collecting gently used and clean prom dresses, shoes, jewelry and purses for girls from ANY school district regardless of need
- Prom Dress giveaway is **Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup>**
- Seamstress on hand to assist with alterations

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

- **Saturday, April 21st, 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)

## Stewardship

### Understanding Our Stewardship Ministry

#### **Graceful Living**

Living gracefully is living fully in the grace of God. During this year's Wednesday Lenten services we have been looking at some of the “big” words, the theological terms we often use but may not fully understand. Grace is one of them. Grace describes God's attitude and action toward us. It is undeserved love and favor, a free, giving heart. Grace describes God's willingness to keep on giving, loving, reaching, forgiving. Grace is how God deals with us. To live gracefully is to live and respond joyfully to God's grace. It is to live outside of oneself, to be willing to overflow with the grace of God. It is to live openly, to give, to reach out, to share, to care. To live gracefully is to live with the constant knowledge that God is acting to us, for us, and through us.

Our Stewardship of God's gifts to us of our time, talents, and financial assets is one of the ways we can respond faithfully to having these gifts. Each day we are called to live, joyfully sharing God's grace and giving thanks for all that God has given. Already this year we are below expectations regarding financial receipts used to fund and support our ministries. During Lent we talk about the Lenten disciplines of Fasting, Prayer, and Works of Love which is just another name for almsgiving or the stewardship of our financial resources. May our Lenten call to discipleship serve as a reminder to us all to remember and respond gracefully to God's presence in our lives.

## Regarding Our Capital Appeal

At the February Congregation Council Meeting we discussed our need to present the congregation with a Capital Appeal to put us in a position to respond appropriately to some of potential and probable upcoming major Capital Expenses. You will recall that we have replaced the roof on the Sanctuary at the cost of approximately \$180,000 and have covered several other significant repairs to our facility WITHOUT asking the congregation for additional giving to cover these expenses. That is because we have had the necessary funds "on hand" because of cash reserves we had received from bequests, endowments, and special gifts given to Bethany. Those funds are being used in the manner and for the purposes for which they were given. However, those funds are being used and as a result the amount of available resources on hand is being diminished. In the spirit of total transparency the Council has decided to incorporate our Capital Appeal into this fall's Stewardship Appeal. Providing the financial support of our ongoing benevolence and congregational ministry is our primary concern. However, if individuals and families are able to provide "over-and-above" gifts to replenish our cash reserves for the time that IS coming when we will need to replace heating and air conditioning units, repair the roof of the Ministry Center and some of the other structural issues in that building, repair and protect the stained glass windows, the parking lot, etc., then we will be making such an appeal. We will take the time between now and the fall to put together a full and comprehensive plan to address these needs and present all of this to the congregation in October. The need is NOT critical, but it does need to be addressed. Thanks again to everyone for their ongoing and continued support of our mission and ministry activities.

## Council Highlights

### February Council Meeting Highlights

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- Spring Clean-Up - May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018 will be Grubby Sunday. Clean up after the 9:00am worship service for two hours, lunch and ice cream social will follow
- Activated Nominations Committee & Financial Audit group
- Requested personnel create job descriptions for Security & Documentation audit
- Discussion of Capital Campaign and how to incorporate it into Fall Stewardship campaign appeal
- Property updates on current & upcoming projects including elevator and other necessary facade improvements

## Thank you!

Thank you to Alan Spear and John Clark for all they do for Bethany Lutheran Church. Thank you to Pam Andersen for all of the cookies she made and to Pastor Steve Ritter for the delivery of the cookies. Thank you to Ruth Beck for all the work she has done for the funerals that have occurred.



Don't be late to church!

Daylight Saving Time Begins **Sunday, March 11<sup>th</sup>**



# Coffee Hour Recognition for Steve Hayes 18 Years of Service



Youth Fundraiser



Mission Day



Youth Quake 2018



Thrivent Bathroom Remodel



Cleaning the Kitchen



Bethany Youth at Funway and Spaghetti Supper Fundraiser



## 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 Dreymliller
Financial Secretary* .....	Maureen Scollon
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 Dreymliller .....	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/](http://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](http://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.mcseia.org](http://www.mcseia.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/)