



Bethel

by God, each other, family, friends and community

April 30, 2024

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC

“Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another.” 1 John 4:11

*From the
Pastor*



Yesterday (April 28), I preached about connection through God’s love drawing from the scriptures from our lectionary for the fifth Sunday of Easter. If you join us the next few Sundays, or read the scriptures from where you are, you may notice common themes. Love. Abiding. Connection.

As council continues to work on our mission, vision, core values, and finally set some short term/long term goals we keep coming back to the deep need for community and connection for each of us.

Many of us grew up in churches where faith community was a central piece of our lives. I kept coming back because I knew I belonged and knew I was loved. As I grow as a pastor and as a person of faith, I keep coming back to church because God’s love draws me in, because I believe the church has a mission to share God’s love with the world, and because of the connections I find here (at Bethel and in other faith communities like Lutheridge). Through faith communities, God connects us with people different than us. A dear friend in faith may be 30-60 years older or younger. A friend in faith may be on the other side (so to speak) of the political spectrum. We come from different social classes, different upbringings, different family systems. God binds us together for the good of the world, to share love and to love those we meet.

During Sunday school yesterday, we offered a Fourth Sunday Class for our youth/children. Nearly everyone in our youth/children age range showed up for this event where they learned from the same scriptures about connection and God’s love. Their parents met with Pastor Megan for coffee and conversation; time for connecting and sharing in our joys/struggles of parenting.

Jesus is working through us to bind us together and connect us here at Bethel. We are growing a little which means there are new connections to be made; and there are old connections to rekindle or nurture. We all need connection, though our culture tends to make us think otherwise.

As we each discern how we are finding connection to God through Jesus, to our church, and to the community beyond our walls, I encourage you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to connect with others. Is there someone God has put on your mind lately? Give them a call or ask them to lunch. Is there a special community project you have been interested in? Look into how to volunteer and invite someone in our community along. Have you felt disconnected or alone? Stop by for a chat with Pastor Megan, or join Sunday school or the upcoming Bible study.

“We never grow beyond our need to know we are loved by God nor the need to share and spread that love.” Dr. Brian Peterson

In Christ’s love,
Pastor Megan

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT- Worship Leader Training:

On Sunday, April 21, Pastor Megan and Julia led a workshop on worship leadership. We began with the reminder that everyone serving in worship (choir, acolyte, crucifer, usher, lay readers, communion assistants, and beyond) are assisting MINISTERS. Every role is important for worship. We shared a brief refresher of our expectations for how each of these roles is fulfilled. Those are posted below for your reference. The group asked many questions about “why we do what we do” which helped us understand worship traditions in a new light. If you missed this time and want to learn more, ask Pastor Megan and/or Julia. If you have questions about worship (even if you are not an assisting minister), never hesitate to ask. Everything we do is intentional and has meaning, tradition, and/or theology behind it.

LECTORS/READERS

- 1. Practice the reading(s) before you get to worship on Sunday.**
 - This allows you to note difficult words, paragraph shifts and punctuation, and get used to the text. Each scripture and book of the Bible is unique and intended to be read slightly differently.
- 2. Go to the lectern and pause for a moment before beginning “A reading from...”.**
 - We do not begin with “Good morning” or other similar greetings because worship has begun and formal greetings have been made by the presiding minister/pastor.
 - It is not necessary to list the chapter or verse numbers.
- 3. At the end, pause and look up to say, “The word of the Lord.”**

COMMUNION ASSISTANTS

- 1. Come forward after the Invitation to Communion.**
 - Pastor will hand you the chalice of wine.
- 2. For intinction, hold the chalice so the wafer can be dipped while looking at the person and saying, “The blood of Christ shed for you.”**
 - It is okay if someone receives communion through “common cup” (drinking from the chalice). If so, hold the cup while they also hold it turning it slightly toward them.
 - If someone eats or drops their wafer, get the pastor’s attention for another.
 - We believe communion is valid if only one element is received.
- 3. Follow pastor to serve communion to those who are unable to come forward.**
- 4. Commune with the pastor at the table before returning to your seat.**

USHERS

1. Need a head usher each week.
2. Arrive 15-20 minutes early for worship to hand out bulletins, greet, and help people into worship.
3. Check with Pastor to learn of any specific needs for that service.
4. Know BEFORE worship begins who will serve as usher during the offering and Holy Communion.



Our monthly prayer team got Pastor Megan thinking we need a bit more. So, we are going to start a **VISIT TEAM**. Please join us on **Sunday, May 5**, after worship for our first interest meeting. We will discuss details. If you cannot visit but wish to continue as part of a prayer team, join us at this same meeting!

BETHEL'S NEW MEMBER INTEREST CLASS has updated its schedule. We will meet again on Sunday, May 5 at 9:00 am and welcome new members during worship on May 12. If you have questions or scheduling concerns, contact Pastor Megan.



LUTHERAN MEN IN MISSION

Fish Fry: Saturday, May 4, 6:00 pm,
in the Fellowship Hall.

LMM Meeting: Sunday, May 5,
at 8:00 am.

Bible Study: Sunday, May 19,
at 8:00 am.

Calling all “flower people:”

The Music and Worship Committee invites you who have red flowering potted plants to bring one to the church on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Place it in the chancel for our festival day worship. After worship, take your plant home. The committee appreciates your willingness to share your red plants which serve as symbols of the fire of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost Sunday, May 19. Thank you, wonderful Bethel “flower people.”



Property Committee
will meet on Sunday,
May 5, following worship.



Music and Worship
will meet on Wednesday,
May 8, at 1:00 pm.



On **PENTECOST SUNDAY, May 19,**
we will confirm our 8th grade confirmands
through Affirmation of Baptism
during worship.

We celebrate the two years of learning and
growing in faith these youth have
experienced. Please join us as we celebrate
this milestone of faith for these youth.

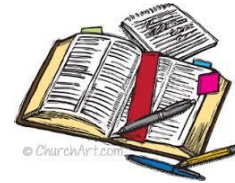
We will have a reception with cake after
worship to celebrate! Please plan to join us
for this special day!



**ALL COMMITTEE
WORKSHOP-** Join us
on **Monday, May 6 at 6:00
pm.** This is for all committees to
attend. We especially need our
committee chairs and liaisons but
would love for anyone to attend.
This event's purpose is to get on
the same page for strong
leadership and learn more about
the council's current goal work.
Please let Pastor Megan know if
you plan to attend. We will have
pizza for dinner. Zoom will be
available if needed.



A weekly Bible Study will begin on
Tuesday, May 7, at 10:00 am and will
meet with Pastor Megan each Tuesday
for the month of May and beyond.
Join us as we dig deeper into God's
word!



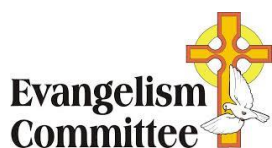
PUB THEOLOGY
will meet on Tuesday,
May 21, at Bonnie and Carl Derrick's
home (123 Cove Ct., Chapin) at 5 pm.
Dinner will be served at 6 pm. An
RSVP is needed by May 18.
Please call Bonnie at
803.622.2369.
Also, if someone needs a
ride, let her know as well.



Outreach Committee
will meet on Sunday,
May 19, following worship.



Evangelism Committee
will meet following worship on
Sunday, May 26, following
worship.



Bethel Book Group will meet on
Sunday, July 21 to discuss *Grace
Will Lead Us Home* by Jennifer
Hawes. Order a copy of this nonfiction
read today and join us for our
discussion!



The church office will be closed on Monday,
May 27, in honor of Memorial Day.



MAY BIRTHDAYS

May 1 – Libby Wheelis
May 9 – Douglas Toy
May 13 – Kenneth McCartha
May 17 – Joe Morris
May 25 – Dick Lowman

May 7 – Bella Raniszewski
May 11 – Brandon Derrick
May 14 – James Onley
May 22 – Mandy Harling
May 26 – Bonnie Derrick
May 28 – Eugenia Matthews

May 8 – Mike Moore
May 12 – Brigitte Monjo
May 17 – Pastor Megan
May 22 – Madison Johnson
May 27 – Sue Elliott

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

May 10 – Cindy and Barry Stone
May 27 – Sue and Bob Elliott



Prayer list: Sue Elliott, Luther Kibler, Paula Miller (Russell Miller's daughter-in-law), Patsy McCartha, Julie Allen, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Kathy Herman, Vannie Toy, Delores Derrick, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Bertha McCartha, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Sheri Southworth, Richard Torres, Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres' sister), Nicole Ganz (friend of Patrick George), Daniel George (Patrick's brother), Wayne Prescott (friend of Bob and Sue Elliott), Melinda Connor (Bertha McCartha's daughter), Pastor Al Potter, Timothea Sharp, Wanda Boland, Becky McCartha and Richard Chouinard.
Currently deployed: Jordan Turok (Faye McCartha's grandson).



Many thanks for the generous donations to We Care that totaled \$752.51! **Noisy Offerings for the remainder of the year will go to the Good Gifts Well Project**, and we are already on our way to our goal of \$2,500!

You don't have to wait until a Noisy Offering Sunday to contribute. Any amount at any time will be a step toward our goal. Please join us in this yearlong project. Please mark your contribution clearly for the Good Gifts Well Project if by check.