

Bethel United Methodist Church

Pastor Kathy Reid † 10509 Meggers Road † New Holstein, WI



The Bethel Beacon
March and April 2024
Believe/Reach/Serve



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March/April Meowsings™

By Pastor Kathy

Reflections on Easter

I don't know about you, but, bottom line, I like to know what to expect. Which is of course another way of saying I think I am afraid of being surprised. I will repeat something that worked, or return to a way of understanding life that is worn smooth rather than risk the unknown.

The disciples, Mary, and their friends WERE TOTALLY **NOT** EXPECTING resurrection after Jesus was crucified. Resurrection is crazy and unexpected and out of nowhere. Because staying dead is what we expect dead people to do. We don't expect to find empty tombs.

Sometimes tombs are about how we treat things in our life as though they represent the end. This relationship is over. This life of faith has ended. That time of happiness will never return. There's a big stone covering that thing I used to feel or I used to love or I used to be and anyway, it's started to smell of rot. That part of me is totally dead, period.

Having a God of resurrection means that the story is seldom over when we think it is. For Jesus' tomb to be empty, and then for Jesus to appear to Mary...are you kidding? That, people of God, was not expected, it was not part of any formula, and it was 100% surprising.

Resurrection is not just something that happened to Jesus one Sunday two thousand years ago. It's not just a hope we have for some day in the future when we might live again after our deaths. It's also something that is happening in us every single day of our lives.

There are those who will tell you that all you have to do, to be a disciple of Jesus, is apply the formula of believing and behaving a certain way and you can live with nothing but certainty. But I suggest the opposite is true. Being a person of faith doesn't mean you get to be certain. If anything it means that, you get to be surprised. What if faith is about recognizing that when something is not expected, not formulaic and 100% surprising – that perhaps it's the work of God. Because honestly, we can manage the expected and unsurprising all on our own. When it's weird and seemingly impossible and somewhat out of nowhere – now that feels like a God thing, not an us thing. Nadia Bolz-Weber, a Lutheran pastor, puts it this way:

“God simply keeps reaching down into the dirt of our humanity and resurrecting us from the graves we dig for ourselves through our violence, our lies, our selfishness, our arrogance, and our addictions. And God keeps loving us back to life over and over.”

Where do you need to experience resurrection in your life today? Where has death entered and made its home? What do you need to leave in the tomb today so that you may rise to new life? We experience resurrection in a hundred small and powerful ways every day. And it all begins when we stop to listen, and hear our name being called, as Mary did, by the risen Christ.

Jesus' continued presence in the world became his Spirit working through us to bring healing and resurrection to the world. It starts with us. In us. Bringing life to the places in our hearts and minds where there is death and rotting.

But it goes beyond us, overflowing into the world around us. Hear these words from Romans 8:15 -16 (the Message version): ***“This resurrection life you have received from God is not a timid, grave-tending life. It's adventurously expectant, greeting God with a childlike, “What's next, Papa?” God's Spirit touches our spirits and confirms who we are.”***

Is your life adventurously expectant? Do you recognize the risen Jesus when He stands and calls your name? Are you regularly asking Him, “What's next, Jesus?”

Easter blessings to you and all those you love.

Pastor Kathy

FOOD FAIR AND PET PARTY AT FAITH UMC—All are invited to attend!



Holy Week Worship Schedule / Confirmation /
Happy March and April birthdays



MAUNDY THURSDAY WORSHIP:

Thursday, March 28, at 6:30 p.m. at Bethel UMC

EASTER SUNDAY SERVICE:

Sunday, March 31 at 8:30 a.m. with Noisy Offering.



**Rite of Confirmation
Sunday, May 19, 2024**

The confirmands are:

- Samuel Gilbertson, Bethel UMC
- Aiden Raisbeck, Faith UMC
- Charlotte Peterson, Faith UMC
- Sophia Koeppen, Faith UMC
- Connor Kruse, New Life Community Church
- Ava Brashaw, St. Luke UMC
- Matt Knaak, Wesley UMC

*Wishing each one of you all of God's blessings on this extraordinary day.
Congratulations!*

Happy March birthday!

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Caitlyn Flanigan | March 1 |
| Ted Bonde | March 2 |
| Amy Rank | March 2 |
| Arnold Enneper | March 21 |
| Jill Fritsch | March 21 |
| Janet Malesevich | March 21 |

Happy April birthday!

- | | |
|-----------------|----------|
| Adam Schoen | April 5 |
| Rosie Mitchell | April 9 |
| Michelle Glasow | April 13 |
| April Bennet | April 29 |

God's blessings to you,
as you celebrate your **March** and **April** birthdays!



Upcoming Events / March and April Volunteers /
Admin Board Meeting / April office hours

UPCOMING EVENTS. Mark your calendars!

- **ASP (Appalachia Service Project 2024) Chili Cook-off and Auction:** Sunday, February 18, 2024 from 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. at St. Luke UMC, 623 Ontario Ave., Sheboygan. Tickets are \$10/adult; \$5 child/student; and 4 and under are free. Enter a chili recipe and win a prize!
- **AD BOARD MEETING:** Thursday, April 25, at 6:00 p.m.
- **FAITH UMC YOUTH-SPONSORED EVENTS: Everyone is welcome to attend!**
 1. **World Wildlife Food Fair & Pet Party**
 - **Friday, April 12 from 5-7 p.m. at Faith UMC, Fellowship Hall**
 - **\$10 entry fee.**
 - **Join us for an evening of great food, crafts and activities to raise money for the Humane Society and the World Wildlife Fund.**
 2. **Youth Outing at Land of Natura Water Park in Wisconsin Dells**
 - **August 2, 2024**
 - **Bus leaves from Faith UMC at 9a.m. and returns around 8:30 p.m.**
 - **Cost is \$40 per youth and includes lunch and dinner.**
 - **Venmo can be sent to @Andria-Peterson-2**
 - **Check payment can be sent to Faith UMC**
 - **Ages nine and up (must be a comfortable swimmer)**
 - **Contact Andria Peterson with questions (920.207.2796)**

Come and join the fun!!

March Volunteers

Acolyte
Custodian
Greeter
Holy Grounds
Usher
Liturgist



April Volunteers

Acolytes
Custodian
Greeter
Holy Grounds
Ushers
Liturgist

ADMINISTRATIVE BOARD MEETING: Thursday, April 25 at 6:30 p.m.

CHANGE IN APRIL OFFICE HOURS: The office will be closed on Thursday, April 11. Office hours for that week will be on Monday through Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please make a note of this on your calendars. Thank you.



And, while I'm at it...I apologize for the typo in the March 31 announcements! Some weeks are definitely more challenging here in the office...Holy Week being one of those weeks! However, my office challenges are nothing compared to what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ experienced on the cross for our sins. I am so grateful for the promise that Easter represents. And for that, I share my little "bluebird of happiness" with you all! Thank you for your patience and understanding.

Blessed Easter to my Bethel friends. Julie

Easter Flower Donors / Pastor Kathy's Retirement and
New Basement Remodel Dedication

Thank you to all Easter flower donors for the beautification of the Sanctuary for Easter worship.



*Galen Flanigan
In memory of Jeannette Flanigan*

*The Gilbertson Family
In memory of Paul and Helen Kindig and Kristin Cogley and Brian Kindig
In memory of Joe and Doris Rogers
In memory of Selma and Maynard Opsahl
In memory of Samuel and Thelma Gilbertson
In honor of Betsy and John Rogers
In honor of Judy and Gary Gilbertson
In celebration of Martin's 11th birthday on April 3
In celebration of Sammy's 14th birthday on May 21*

*Paul and Julie Leverenz
In memory of Allen, Lydia, and Susie Leverenz,
Gerald Schulz and
Ken Rheingans*



RETIREMENT PARTY AND NEW BASEMENT REMODEL

Dedication

Saturday, June 29, 2024

4:00 p.m.

*Potluck retirement dinner honoring Pastor Kathy
to be held in the "new" Fellowship Hall.*

Immediately following dinner will be the remodeled church basement dedication.

Broasted chicken will be served. Please bring a complimentary dish to pass.

D. S. Park Hunter will be in attendance.