



**Bethel
Lutheran
Church**
Making Disciples!

March 19—April 9, 2026

E-Memo



To the Saints

HOLY WEEK AT BETHEL

Palm Sunday, March 29th

On the first day of Holy Week, Palm Sunday, the people of Jerusalem were preparing a celebration. Many people knew Jesus was coming, and the Bible says they spread their coats on the road and waved palm branches, saying "Hosanna, in the Highest! Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!" We too will sing our Loud Hosannas to Jesus. And we will have some special singers in the 11:15 worship service—Our preschool students!



Maundy Thursday, April 2nd

Maundy Thursday centers on the Lord's Supper and how Jesus' last supper promises hope in the midst of sorrow. We will celebrate Holy Communion together at both the noon and 6:45 p.m. services, concluding worship with the reading of the walk to the Garden of Gethsemane and the approach of the crowd led by Judas. In the Maundy Thursday evening service after this final reading the altar is striped and every decoration removed from the chancel [area around the altar]. This is an extremely moving event as we realize that our Lords suffering is reflected in the removal of our banners, candles, and Communion ware. To help with this, sign up on the bulletin board or contact Connie Bard connie@blcbcs.org

Good Friday Services, April 3rd

The Good Friday services focus on the betrayal, suffering, crucifixion, death, and burial of Jesus. Our music and readings are fashioned to help us understand that the Christ, the Son of God, lies dead in the tomb. We exit in silence on Good Friday, mourning as the first followers of Jesus did on that first Good Friday. We have both Noon and 6:45pm services.

"Easter Saturday" at Bethel! On Saturday, April 4th at 4:00 pm we are offering an Easter Celebration service for those who would prefer it. This service will be identical to the Sunday Celebration service, save the

special music. We will have children's time, childcare for our infants and toddlers, and will celebrate the Lord's Supper. If you are overwhelmed by all who come on Sunday, you might consider "Easter Saturday" as an alternative.

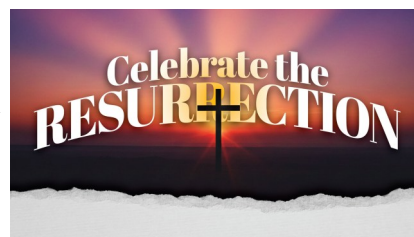
We Celebrate The Resurrection of Our Lord on April 6th

6:45 AM SonRise Worship/Communion
8:00 AM Breakfast
9:00 AM SS/Bible Class
9:45 AM Easter Egg Hunt
10:30AM Easter Celebration/Communion

Bethel holds two very different Easter Sunday worship services. At dawn (6:45 AM) we gather for an "old-fashioned" sunrise service. It is a very simple service held in the east end of our parking lot. Our focus at Easter Dawn is the stunning miracle of Christ's resurrection and what it was like for the women and the first disciples to find the empty tomb. We do celebrate the Lord's Supper outside and at the conclusion of the SonRise service, we exit to the parish hall for Easter breakfast. If you wish to help with the breakfast sign up on the bulletin board or contact JoyceS@blcbcs.org.

We will have Adult Bible Class & Sunday School at 9AM and then an Easter Egg Hunt at 9:45AM. The Easter Egg Hunt is for grades 6 and younger, divided up by age groups. We are encouraging everyone to go to their Sunday School Classroom if you want to participate in the Egg Hunt. We will direct the children from the classroom to their egg hunting location. We are still collecting candy for the egg hunt. Bring your candy and/or eggs to The Gathering Room (105).

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Celebration Service - 10:30AM. This service begins in darkness. After the reading of the resurrection story, the altar is redecorated with banners, lilies, and the Lord's Supper is brought in procession. (if you would like to help with this Procession, contact Connie Bard). The focus of the Celebration service is the impact of Christ's resurrection in our lives. We conclude this service by celebrating the Lord's Supper and singing some of our favorite Easter Hymns.



VOLUNTEER to HELP

Maundy Thursday Altar Stripping: At the conclusion of the evening service on Holy Thursday, April 2, we strip our altar. This is a very old tradition, reminding us that our Lord Himself was stripped of His garments, His dignity, His glory, all so that He might die for us.

Each year we request volunteers to assist with this act, which is done painfully slow and with great reverence. If you have children, please consider this to be an invitation to your family as well. There is a wonderful teaching moment available to families who assist in the removal of our altar ware, our banners, our flags and the communion ware.

Easter Celebration Processional: The Easter Celebration service (10:30am, April 5th) begins with a darkened

sanctuary, a bare altar and not a lily to be seen. It is not until the announcement of the Gospel of Jesus' resurrection that we begin rejoicing. As all the altar ware, banners, Communion elements, and flowers are brought in, the congregation and choir sings the great Easter hymns and the sanctuary is transformed. It is a wonderfully moving moment. If you or your family is interested, we need about 20 folks to assist in bringing in banners and flowers, altar ware and the Lord's Supper. And just as we did for Maundy Thursday, families are encouraged to participate. It is a wonderful way to teach our children the meaning of the days.

If you or your family are able to assist in either the stripping of the altar or the Easter processional, please email Connie Bard at connie@blcbcs.org and she will put you on the list and send you organizational notes so that you are prepared for the day.



Easter Potluck Breakfast

Join us for a morning of food and fellowship! To make this year's breakfast a success, we need your help.

- **Sign-Up Today:** Head to the narthex to sign up. Please list your **attendance count**, the **dish you're bringing**, and if you can **volunteer** for setup, monitoring, or cleanup.

- **The Deadline:** We need all sign-ups by **March 31**.

A Friendly Note: We truly want this event to happen, but we need enough volunteers and dishes to make it work. If we haven't met our goals by the deadline, we will unfortunately have to cancel—so please sign up early! Questions? Contact JoyceS@blcbcs.org.

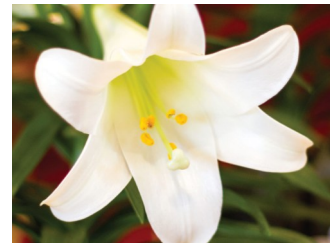
Let's work together to make this a wonderful Easter celebration!



Easter Egg Candy We Are Taking Donations

Throughout Lent we prepare our hearts for our Easter Celebration. In this spirit we are requesting donation of individually wrapped single serving candy for our Easter Egg hunt. If you would like to support but do not want to buy candy, we also can take small stickers or toys that will fit in Easter eggs. All donations can be placed in our Easter Candy Bin found in the Gathering Room 105, before April 5th. Please let DCE Jeff or Mrs. Connie know if you have any questions.

Easter Lilies



Would you like to purchase an Easter Lily? Sign-up sheets are in the Information Center or contact the church office, 822-2742 or office@blcbcs.org. You may purchase one in memory of a loved one or in honor of someone special. Please print these names clearly. We will order the lilies and decorate the altar with them on Easter Sunday, April 5th. You may pick up your lily after either worship service, help deliver them to shut-ins or leave for us to deliver. Please mark on the sign-up sheet what you desire. The cost is \$23.00. The deadline to sign-up is Sunday, March 29th.

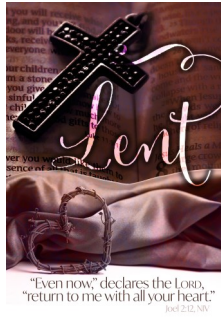
Lenten Season

Bethel offers Lenten Devotional Worship each Wednesday. Join Us on March 25 at Noon or 6:45pm for Lenten Devotional Time. We will have Nursery care for the Wednesday 6:45pm Devotions.

We will have a meal each Wednesday night starting at 5:15pm. The cost is \$5/person or \$20/family.

Menu:

Mar. 25- Pot Roast, Mashed Potatoes, Green Beans, Rolls & Applesauce



Bethel Board of Elders will host a town hall meeting in conjunction with Prs. Bard & Eden on Sunday, April 12th at 12:45 pm in the Sanctuary.

This town hall meeting will present the needs, opportunities, and challenges of adding an SMP pastor to Bethel's staff.

An SMP pastor would provide support for our growing congregation and offers us the possibility of expansion with a mission plant or daughter congregation.

If you would like to read more about the SMP program, here is the link to Concordia Seminary, St. Louis' SMP page: <https://www.csl.edu/academics/programs/specific-ministry-pastor-smp/>

CHECK IT OUT!!

Bethel has an App for your phone. Just go to the App store and download Church by MinistryOne.

You can Log onto Bethel's New Members Software Program -

Just go to <https://blbcs.shelbynexthms.com>, put your (first name.last name) in the Username and click "forgot password?".

You will get an email with your password. If you don't, then call the church office to make sure we have your correct email address in the system. If there are any issues or problems please let us know.



Lutheran Women in Mission

Join Bethel's LWML Monthly Gathering! Our next monthly gathering will be Monday,

April 6, at 6:30 PM, in the Parish Hall. We will have snacks, a devotion, short business meeting, and our local mission project - putting goodie bags together for the University Lutheran Chapel to help them during their final exams (more details will be emailed).

LWML Mites (coins, cash, checks) will be collected March **21 & 22** at all worship services. All Mite monies collected here and at other LCMS churches fund 47 mission grants that will help in Texas, the US, and around the world. <https://www.lwml.org/mites>

Meet at the church Saturday, March 28 at 8:30 am for Spring Cleaning and Organizing. We will spend the morning on the LWML storage areas and sanctuary and there is a job for everyone from sharpening pencils to polishing pews.

Proverbs 31 Young Mom's Car Maintenance Workshop Saturday, March 29th

3:00—5:00 pm

The Proverbs 31 small group is hosting a car maintenance workshop on March 29th from 3-5 pm. All young moms are invited to attend! Bring yourself and your car to the Bethel parking lot to learn some car basics. Childcare is provided. Please RSVP to Ellen Young at 979-676-7694, ellenyoung603@gmail.com.



New Member Reception Sunday, March 29th

We welcome our newest members as they officially join our Bethel family. On Sunday, March 29th we will have a reception in their honor between services. Join us in the Parish Hall for refreshments and to greet them.





Cost is \$400 for a table of 4. Table hosts must provide Mahjong tiles. Lite bites and drinks provided by Wandering Olive. Go to the Bee website thebeecommunity.com under the events tab and buy your tickets. Prizes will be given to the winners.

Online Registration **DEADLINE** is Friday, March 20th for the Habitat for Humanity, B/CS Faith In Action Committee's Run for the House On April 11, 2026

At the Lake Walk Pavilion (4107 Lake Atlas Dr., Bryan, TX)
Check In: 7:00am – 7:30am and
Race Starts: 8:00am



Pro-Life Aggies is hosting a bake sale on Saturday, March 21 and Sunday, March 22!

Stop by our tables in the Narthex during the Bible class hour and pick up some goodies. All proceeds go to our pregnant and parenting student scholarship. If you have any questions (or baked goods requests!), please contact Caroline Klein at prolifeaggies@gmail.com or 832-732-5014.



Life Ministry at Bethel March 31, 2026 Meal for Mama Club

In honor of 1John 3 – “Importance of Loving Others” the Board of Community Service is seeking servers and donations for a meal during “Mama Club” time at the new: **Aggieland Pregnancy Outreach location on Tuesday, March 31.** Please come ready to serve **by 5:30 PM** to their **new location: 550 Fraternity Row, College Station, TX** APO is requesting for 4 volunteers, and are serving Pizza, Pizza Rolls, Salad, plus requesting the donated items below:
2 Fruit Trays
2 Vegetable Trays
Cookies, (Homemade or Store Bought)
Please have any donations dropped off to BETHEL by **Sunday, March 29 by 12:30 pm** – and Label items- APO. Contact Joyce Jones at 979-575-6060 to let her know your items are at the church or that you wish to help serve on March 31. Thanks for your help supporting Mothers that chose the most difficult and rewarding job of Parenting!

Bethel's Helping Hands Mission

Quilters—We will meet on Mondays, March 23 at 9 am in room 242.

We put Mission quilts together for Lutheran World Relief (www.lwr.org). You don't need to know how to sew or quilt. We just need helping hands to tie the quilts. Join us for Christian Fellowship and Mission work.



Bethel OWLS (Older, Wiser, Lutheran Souls) Potluck Luncheon Thursday, April 16th at Noon In the Parish Hall.

Come have Potluck lunch with the OWLS on April 16th, 2026, the third Thursday of the month. Please bring a dish to share. Our Guest Speaker will be Doug Box and he will be sharing information about how to create a video legacy, preserving stories for tomorrow to bridge generations and life stories. Please come join us for fun & fellowship! See you April 16th!! Please remember to enter under the awning. Wishing You a Blessed Easter!

Monday Evening Men's Bible Study & Fellowship ~ 7:00 pm in Room 240
CPH study Life By His Word:
Paul's Mission Work and Epistles Set: Philippians

Call George McIlhane 979-229-0020 if the doors are locked when you get here.

Ladies Tuesday Bible Study

Tuesday Women's Bible Class meets at 10:00-11:15AM. Pastor Eden leads this class in room 239. They are currently studying the Book of Romans.

Friday Men's Bible Study at 6:30 am with Breakfast In Room 239

New Study starting December 5th.
 Concordia Publishing House's

Embracing Godly Character by Kenneth Kremer
 We live in a godless culture. What are we to do when the faith of the next generation is threatened and challenged? We respond by embracing godly character. Join us on Friday Mornings.

Sunday Breakfast Tacos

Thank you to everyone for helping support the youth with our Breakfast Taco fundraiser. We will provide tacos on communion Sundays. This opportunity helps youth raise money for their youth account to attend events. Thank you for supporting our youth in this way.



Bethel Small Groups

Some of our Small Groups have started. If you are interested in starting a small group please contact DCE Jeff. We have some training videos online for leaders.



New Small Group Started Proverbs 31 Mom's Meet-Up Thursdays at 9am-11am Here at Church in Room 240

The Proverbs 31 small group is for young moms interested in connecting with other moms through regular meet-ups, prayer, and workshops. This semester, we meet Thursdays from 9-11 in Room 240. Childcare is provided. Can't make the time? We would still love to connect with you! It is our hope to match everyone with one or two prayer partners who meet on their own, in person or via text. Contact Ellen Young at 979-676-7694 for more information.

Small Group for Ladies Women in the Word Thursdays at 7:00 pm

All women are invited to join us on Thursday evenings as we study God's word, growing closer to God + Each other. We will be going through LifeLight: 1 Corinthians. Can't wait to see you there! For location and more information call or email Lauren Smith at 817-229-9907 or laurenleannsmith12@gmail.com or DCE Jeff at dcejjeff@blcbcs.org, 822-2742.

Volunteers Needed - Bethel is seeking

volunteers for Sunday School classroom teachers and aids if you feel the Lord's call to speak Jesus to these children contact DCE Jeff or Connie Bard. 822-2742

SAVE the DATES
VBS, June 21-25

Mission Trip,
June 28-July 5

Sign up in the narthex!

Craft Retreat

Join us for a day of crafting! Bring your own project and enjoy some company

Bethel Lutheran Church in the Parish Hall
March 28, 2026
9:00am-4:00pm

There is an intermission for lunch and devotion

Please contact Autumn for a list of items to choose from to bring for lunch and to RSVP
979-219-1867



Big Event-Church Workday!! Saturday, March 21 at 8:00am–Noon

Volunteers wanted! Help refresh the church during the Big Event this Saturday, March 21 @8:00 am. Help us tidy, arrange, and add welcoming touches. Every hand counts in making our space warm and inviting!



✚ Preschool News



Happy Spring!

Spring is in the air! We have been enjoying the beautiful clear blue skies and the warmth of the sun during our outside time. Springtime is always a reminder of the fresh new start we have each year. The trees begin to bud, flowers bloom, the cool mornings

turn to warm afternoons, grass begins to turn green, birds sing a little louder and new life begins all around us. I am reminded this time of year that we too are new creations..."Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation. The old has passed away; behold, the new has come." 2 Corinthians 5:17. We too undergo a complete change and new identity through the power of faith in Christ. Such a great reminder of the hope and renewal that comes with accepting Jesus, allowing us as individuals to leave behind our past mistakes and sins, and embrace new life in Him.

We have a busy schedule the next few weeks, gearing up for Easter! Be looking for the pictures in the next E-memo for the preschoolers enjoying the Easter season.

We are still registering for the 2026-2027 school year! If you know someone who is interested in our preschool, please have them reach out to preschool office at 979-485-9835.

In Christ, Shelly Schultz
Director, Bethel Lutheran Preschool
979-485-9835 office
979-446-1578 cell phone

Volunteers Needed to Help Get Ready for Bethel Preschool's 3 Week Summer Program



Bethel Lutheran Preschool is looking for volunteers to come help us get ready for our Summer Program! We will need help with getting rooms, supplies, and lessons put together for our three weeks of the program. If you are available, the week of May 26th-29th we would love your help! Please reach out to Emma Schmeling by email preschoolad@blcbcs.org, call 979-485-9835 or fill out the google form by the QRcode or link.

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfB1qrwleFg5LMlrm2_tAgyBhFMOLdVWZlAVyLTvWOddFjumg/viewform?usp=publish-editor



thrivent.com/thriventchoice. Both Bethel Lutheran Church and Bethel Lutheran Preschool are eligible to receive Choice Dollars. In calendar year 2025, our church received \$3,626 and our preschool received \$2,010 through this program. Thank you to those who supported us! This past year Thrivent Choice funds were used to purchase new sanctuary Bibles, sanctuary Advent decorations, supplies for our growing choir, and law enforcement for Live Nativity.

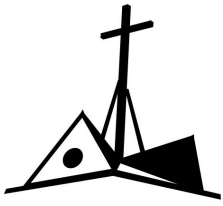
If you are a Thrivent member who receives Thrivent Choice dollars: Don't forget to direct your 2025 Choice Dollars by March 31 at

Dear Friends in Christ,

My sister was buried two weekends ago near Brownwood Texas where we grew up. Thank you for your prayers, and words of support and encouragement.



Larry Piper



Bethel Lutheran Church

4221 Boonville Rd, Bryan, Texas 77802
Phone: (979) 822-2742 | FAX: (979) 822-4082
www.BLCbcs.org | office@BLCbcs.org
Preschool phone: 485-9835 or cell: 446-1578

Staff:

Rev. Randall Bard, Senior Pastor
Rev. Tim Eden, Associate Pastor
Mr. Jeff Bellach, Director of Christian Education
Mr. Tetsuya Sugita, Director of Parish Music
Mrs. Shelly Schultz, Dir., Bethel Lutheran Preschool
Miss. Emma Schmeling, Assistant Director, Preschool
Mrs. Joyce Sutherland, Director of Operations & HR
Mrs. Terry Frazier, CPA, Accountant
Mr. Jeremy Shilling, Facilities Manager
Mrs. Ruthann Stroud, Church Secretary
Mrs. Connie Bard, Children's Ministry Coordinator
Mrs. Autumn Helton, Office Assistant



March 19th—April 9, 2026

Join us for

Saturday -

Worship at 4:00 pm & Bible Class at 5:00 pm

Sunday Mornings

8:30 am Divine Service (Traditional)

10:00 am Sunday School & Bible Class

11:15 am Divine Service (Contemporary)

April 2nd—Maundy Thursday at Noon & 6:45pm

April 3rd—Good Friday at Noon & 6:45pm

April 4th—Easter on Saturday at 4:00pm

April 5th—The Resurrection of Our Lord

6:45am—Sonrise Worship

8:00am—Easter Breakfast

9:00am—SS & Bible Class

9:45am—Easter Egg Hunt

10:30am—Easter Celebration Worship

Church Office Hours

Mondays—Thursdays 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Fridays 9:00 am - 12:00 pm