



BETHEL BELIEVES...

WITH GOD'S HELP, WE'LL GET THROUGH THIS!



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- Cancellations of all Congregational Group Activities
- Preschool closed in concert with local schools until after Spring Break

RESOURCES – Page 3

- Weekend/Midweek Lenten Services Videos
- Food Pantry Still Open
- Small Groups Online Virtually
- Care Team Available for Help
- Office Will Be Open (shorter hours)

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- Prayer requests in our community
- Request prayer
- Other Prayer Resources

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BETHEL SCHEDULE UPDATE:

In light of the updated CDC recommendations on 3/15 and our desire to assist with "flattening the curve" of virus transmissions, the Church Council decided at its March 17 meeting to suspend all congregational group activities - dinners, Bible studies, organized small groups, Discipleship Hour, special meetings such as on the Columbarium, and midweek and weekend worship services through April 1. This follows the closure of our weekday preschool last Friday in concert with the closure of local schools until after Spring Break. We will revisit this decision based on community developments and may extend this suspension as necessary.

HE CHOSE THE CROSS SO THAT...

...I might begin anew!



This week's themes:

Wednesday: *“He Chose the Cross so that...I might face my pain!”*

Weekend: *“He Chose the Cross so that...I might begin anew!”* How often in life would we like a “do-over”? How about on the golf course or playing field, or at work, or as a parent or spouse, or even here at church? What a blessing, then, to know that our relationship with God is filled with opportunities to turn around, change direction, learn from our past and makes new choices, and begin anew!

Weekend Scripture Readings -

- Isaiah 42:14-21
- Ephesians 5:8-14
- John 9:1-7, 13-17, 34-39



Lenten Cross Project - we have plenty of the items that are part of the Lenten Cross Project. You will be able to get any that would have been handed out when worship services are resumed.

CANCELLATION UPDATES:

The following scheduled events that have been cancelled or postponed due to the virus:

- Preschool is not in session & will follow the Noblesville Schools schedule
- Lenten Midweek Dinners and Devotions - cancelled
- Handbell practices & performances - postponed
- Respite Ranch on Saturday, March 21 - cancelled
- Columbarium Information Meetings on March 21 & 22 - postponed
- Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday April 4 - cancelled
- Easter Flowers orders - cancelled



RESOURCES:

WEEKEND & MIDWEEK SERVICE VIDEOS:

We will record and make available our weekend services. We will post these on our web site by 5:30 pm Saturday. We'll publish information later in the week when we've worked out all the details. We will also record and post our midweek Lenten services and member testimonials.

VIRTUAL GROUP MEETINGS:

Small groups who wish to continue to meet may use online group collaboration tools (Google Hangouts, Zoom, Skype, etc.) to meet "virtually." One Bible study has already set this up, and any group leader wanting to do this may contact the church office to receive information on how to set this up.

CARE TEAM:

The Care Team, Pastor Doug, and Pastor Al will continue to be available for pastoral care, either in person or by phone. Anyone hospitalized will be visited, as allowed by area hospital

FOOD PANTRY:

The Food & Baby Pantry will continue with its usual operating times (Wed. and Sat.), but with modified food delivery protocols to better protect guests and volunteers. In addition, we have members available to help anyone who needs groceries delivered. Call into the church office to request this help, or to serve on the delivery team

CHURCH OFFICE:

The church office will remain open each business day (Tues.-Fri.), although with somewhat shortened hours. If you need to stop by, it would be best to call ahead to make sure someone is here. If staff is working from home, their phone will be forwarded to their cell phone or they will be calling in regularly to check for messages.

WEEKLY SERMON VIDEOS:

Videos are available on the sermons page of the Bethel website at www.bethellutheranchurch.com



PRAYER:

WE ARE A PRAYING COMMUNITY... WE PRAY WITH EXPECTATION! SEND YOUR PRAYER REQUESTS TO OUR PRAYER WARRIORS (WHO ACTIVELY PRAY FOR EACH AND EVERY SUBMITTED REQUEST) AT PRAYERS@BHELLLUTHERANCHURCH.COM.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE EMAILS WITH CURRENT PRAYER REQUESTS FROM THE COMMUNITY, SIMPLY SEND YOUR REQUEST TO TRUDY AT THE SAME ADDRESS.

These are uncertain times, with a high level of anxiety. In the storm, though, we trust that God comes to us, encouraging us, giving us what we need for each day. It won't be easy; at times, it may be messy and uncomfortable. But we believe this will be a season when God's light shines brightly through our ministry. Now, more than ever, our community needs what God has given us to share. We encourage you to look for the small ways you can do this within your family, your neighborhood, and your circle of friends. We will get through this, together.

FINANCES:

Bethel Family,

As you have heard, Church leadership has modified the worship structure amidst circumstances. Bethel's MISSION is NOT closed. Church leadership unanimously voted to pay EVERY staff person as is included in our approved budget with the expectation that all staff will contribute to our continued mission in modified ways. God's message through our amazing staff is needed more today than ever. We need to turn to God, and Bethel needs to be available to support where God leads Bethel's mission over the coming weeks. Our approved budget includes approximately \$50,000 per month in fixed expenses. We are making concessions where possible.

In short, God's mission through Bethel needs our support more now than ever. If everyone were to stop giving, leadership would need to use funds intended for other purposes to pay our commitments next month, we will do so if that occurs. All funds would be depleted in 6 months.

How to give:

Giving electronically is preferred, but please note, a 2.5% fee will be charged to the church so if you are able to contribute to compensate toward that fee, please do.

<https://www.bethellutheranchurch.com/stewardship>

Mail - you can mail an envelope with a check. We would prefer no cash be mailed for security reasons. Electronic giving is the best way to make sure the tithe you have set aside reaches the Church as intended and helps reduce the administrative burden of the staff.

We recognize that the current circumstances have impacted everyone in different ways. Please prayerfully consider a level of giving that is prudent for your situation while expressing faith in a God that provides.

As the sanctuary signage over the door reminds us - WE ARE IN THE MISSION FIELD. Please let a council member or staff person know if you see a need that Bethel can and should help with. We are here to share God's love in a time of need.

In His Service, Tom Foreman, Stewardship Chair