



Bethany Lutheran Church

March 2024 Newsletter

1315 6th Street NE, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 6-8 PM

Phone: 218-253-2589 | **Email:** bethanylutheranrnf@gmail.com

Website: www.bethanylutheranrnf.com

Pastor:

Jonathan Dodson

SAM:

Allen Bertilrud

Council President:

Keith Leines

Office Manager

Kale Miller

Office Hours

Wednesday 6 - 8 p.m

Worship Time

Sunday 10:30 a.m.

7 pm (First Sun of Month)

Sunday School

During Worship

Contact Us:

(218) 253-2589

We Need You!

**Want to get involved and do God's Work?
Join one of the church committees!**

In our updated Constitution, all members of the congregation are welcome to join a committee. Chairpersons will be a member of the Congregation Council.

Fellowship & Outreach

Chair Chris Van Emmerik

Would you like to help grow our congregation; maintain our membership; promote growth, fellowship and leadership; promote the Christian faith in the community?

Church Building & Grounds

Chair Keith Leines

Do you like to help with maintenance of our facility - inside & out? Do you have ideas on how to improve our facilities - replacing appliances, equipment, and have a say in how it is all taken care of?

If you are interested in getting involved, please reach out to the chair of the committee or the church office.

From Pastor Jonathan

Dear Friends in Christ,

Grace to you and peace. I hope this pastor's letter finds you well. I am writing to you on an official snow day, our first of the school year coming in late February. Not too bad. Our household managed some remote learning, baking, reading, sauna time and a failed board game so far. Blessed are the peacemakers especially when the whole family is trapped inside. Hopefully the melt begins tomorrow. I have been eyeing the garden and Kelly is ready to tap the maple.

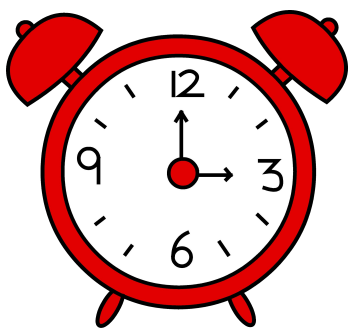
I pray that this Lenten season has been one of spiritual growth. We are a couple weeks into this time of contemplation and repentance. Hopefully you can make it to some of the midweek worship services. This year we are rotating through our three congregations on Wednesday nights. We have amazing music with Holden Evening Prayer and are examining the parable of the lost son. Our SAM Allen has agreed to experiment with me with a conversation message, with possibly more voices joining the discussion. I feel like I have been hogging the mic lately and would love to hear from you! Also each time through scripture I feel an ever growing deeper gratitude that Jesus teaches in stories; inviting us into The Conversation from which all blessing flow.

The next day Jesus decided to go to Galilee. He found Philip and said to him, "Follow me." – John 1:43

The pilgrimage is off to a slow start. I barely eeked out 230 miles so far in January and February. But on the bright side I do believe Matthew 5 is committed to memory. Hopefully you will join me on some of the many miles to go this year! A wave and a smile works well too. March will be packed with worship opportunities as we journey together to an early Easter. Please consider this letter a personal golden invite to Holy Week services, Maundy Thursday at Ebenezer and Good Friday at Immanuel. For Maundy Thursday we will meet around the table and for Good Friday please come and experience a journey to the cross. These many years after the first Easter we still hear the call; follow me.

Yours in Christ

Pastor Jonathan



March 10, 2024 * Spring Forward

UPCOMING LENTEN SERVICES

Based on the Parable of the Prodigal Son

Wednesday, March 6: 7pm Service at Bethany
6 pm Supper by Church Council

Wednesday, March 13: 7 pm Lent Service at Immanuel

Wednesday, March 20 7 pm Lent Service at Ebenezer

Sunday, March 24 10:30 am Service at Bethany
Lunch served by the Youth Group (Free-will)

Thursday, March 28 *Maundy Thursday Service at Ebenezer*

Friday, March 29 *Good Friday Service at Immanuel*

Easter, March 31 8:00 am Easter Service at Bethany
9-10 am Easter Breakfast
Served by Youth Group (Free-will)
10:30 am Easter Service at Bethany



MARCH CAMPAIGN

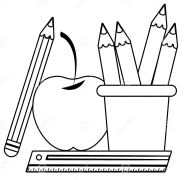
Since 1983, Greater Minneapolis Council of Churches (GMCC) Minnesota FoodShare has coordinated the largest food drive in the state, known as the March Campaign. The March Campaign is an annual effort to increase awareness of hunger in Minnesota and promote donations of food and dollars to local food shelves. Since its beginning, the Campaign has raised 336,900,563 pounds and dollars combined for food shelves across the state.

In addition, Minnesota FoodShare also distributes money to food shelves statewide through their “Food Fund”. This fund includes donations FoodShare works to secure year-round from corporations, individuals, foundations and businesses, and 100% of all donations received during March go directly to the fund as well. Since 1992, GMCC MN FoodShare has distributed over \$18,500,000 through “Food Fund”.

The “Food Fund” dollars are distributed based on March Campaign participation results and on the number of clients a food shelf serves. Each food shelf reports their March Campaign results and number of clients served to Minnesota FoodShare and those numbers determine the percentage of the available dollars they will receive. The more a food shelf collects during the March Campaign, the more “Food Fund” dollars it will receive from Minnesota FoodShare.

The Red Lake Falls Food Shelf has participated in this campaign for 24 years and is registered again this year to take part in the GMCC Minnesota Foodshare’s March Campaign. The GMCC Minnesota FoodShare March Campaign begins March 1, 2024 and ends March 31, 2024. If you would like to make a food or cash donation to the Red Lake Falls Food Shelf, you may drop it off at the Red Lake Falls Food Shelf just down the hall from Thrifty White Drug in Park Place Mall, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, or at St. Joseph Parish Activity Center by March 31, 2024. At this time the RLF Food Shelf could use canned fruits, fruit juices, canned vegetables, soups, crackers, oatmeal, jelly/jam, peanut butter, pasta, spaghetti/tomato sauce, mac and cheese, boxed potatoes, hamburger/tuna helper, tuna, ketchup, pudding, jello, baking supplies-flour, sugar, powdered sugar, brown sugar, baking powder/soda, cake mixes, frosting, vegetable oil, paper products-paper towels, toilet paper, Kleenex, household/hygiene products-dishwashing liquid, laundry detergent, toothpaste, soft toothbrushes, shampoo, and conditioner.

If a monetary donation is given, the check could be made to the Red Lake Falls Food Shelf. If you have any questions, please contact the St. Joseph Parish Activity Center 253-2188, Bev Schmitz 253-2681, or Bev Philion 253-2499. All donations are very much appreciated!



EDUCATION

First Communion classes will be on March 10th at 11:30 a.m. under the direction of Pastor Jonathan. This class will be held once a month, the 2nd Sunday of the month; with the celebration of First Communion expected on *May 5th, 2024*.

Confirmation classes will not be held in March due to Lenten Services. Students are requested to attend March 6th service at Bethany.



Fundraisers

We are planning fundraiser meals to be held on *Palm Sunday and Easter morning*. Volunteers and all youth are asked to help work the events.

Benevolence Donations

January - Pathways, Inc (Giving Hearts Day)

February - Care & Share (Giving Hearts Day)

Thank You

FOR

GIVING

GENEROUSLY

Weekly Bible Studies

The **Men's Group** meets for Breakfast and Fellowship on Thursdays, 9 a.m. at Memories. All men of various faiths are welcome to attend.

Women's Bible study meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m. All women are invited to attend.

Holy⁺Week **SCHEDULE** 2024

March 24 (Palm Sunday)	SERVICE 10:30 AM MEAL 11:30 AM
March 28 (Maundy Thursday)	SERVICE 10:30 AM @ EBENEZER
March 29 (Good Friday)	SERVICE 10:30 AM @ IMMANUEL
March 31 (Easter Sunday)	8 AM SERVICE BREAKFAST 9-10A 10:30 AM SERVICE

**BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH -
RED LAKE FALLS**

SPECIAL SALUTES **2024 Council Officer Team**

President - Keith Leines

Vice President - Allen Bertilrud

Secretary - Chris Van Emmerik

Treasurer - Melissa Sletten

Happy anniversary

7- Chris & Amy Nelson
 20- Bob & Vicki Guillemette
 31- Steve & Carol Seeger

Bethany Prayer Chain

Have a relative or concern that you want prayers for? Just call or email us!

PRAYER BLANKETS are blessed with prayers for healing and comfort, which are believed to hold those who receive them in prayer. Contact the office if you would like one.



Direct Deposit Offering

Automatic contributions are available to set up with Bethany Lutheran. A form is available in the office or via email request to set up contributions to be automatically withdrawn with your permission. Reach out to the office for more information.

Give directly to Bethany online or via your mobile device at:

<https://tithe.ly/give?c=7270404>

*No account necessary

Happy Birthday

2	Conner	Myhre
5	Harvey	Bakke
5	Tyee	Seeger
7	Missy	Sletten
9	Jason	Gums
10	Sawyer	Cota
12	Josie	Myhre
12	Jocelyn	Hams
13	Jake	Duden
13	Brooklyn	Lerol
16	Jeff	Baird
17	Lorri Ann	Hartel
18	Mark	Gervais
18	Kelsee	Baird
19	Luke	Kramer
20	Shari	Baird
21	Reed	Engelstad
21	Christie	Klipping
23	Knute	Knutson
23	Brad	Sauve
26	Bob	Guillemette
26	Ashley	Gagner
27	Dan	Benoit
27	Sheila	Kramer
28	Quinnlyn	Gagner
29	Ellie	Knott
31	Barry	Rewertz
31	Steve	Hopperstad
31	Ed	Braaten



Owner or Steward?

Every animal of the forest is mine.

Today's Scripture & Insight : Psalm 50:7-15

“Am I an owner or a steward?” The CEO of a multibillion-dollar company asked himself that question as he weighed what was best for his family. Concerned about the temptations that can come with vast wealth, he didn’t want to burden his heirs with that challenge. So he gave up ownership of his company and placed 100 percent of the voting stock in a trust. Recognizing that everything he owns belongs to God helped him make the decision to allow his family to earn a living in exchange for work while also using future profits to fund Christian ministry.

In Psalm 50:10, God tells His people, “Every animal of the forest is mine, and the cattle on a thousand hills.” As the Creator of all things, God owes us nothing and needs nothing from us. “I have no need of a bull from your stall or of goats from your pens,” He says (v. 9). He generously provides everything that we have and use as well as the strength and the ability to earn a living. Because He does, as the psalm shows us, He’s worthy of our heartfelt worship.

God owns everything. But because of His goodness, He even chose to give Himself, entering into a relationship with any who turn to Him. Jesus “did not come to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many” (Mark 10:45). When we value the Giver over the gifts and serve Him with them, we’re blessed to delight in Him forever.

By: **James Banks**

Reflect & Pray

What has God given you that you’re grateful for? How can you serve Him with it?

You made everything, faithful Creator. Please help me to live my life as a gift from You today.

Excerpt from Our Daily Bread