

Bethany Lutheran Church

# CHIMES

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HOLY WEEK & EASTER 2020 Special Edition

The Chimes is published  
monthly by

**Bethany Lutheran  
Church**

**A Great Commission  
Congregation**

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## THE BETHANY BLUEPRINT

### *God's Got This!*

God's Got This! We've Got God! This assurance, that the Psalmist (46) proclaims, provides us with the promise that not only will we get through this, we will grow through this! We will be better on the other side of social distancing, stay at home ordinances as suspension of much of normal life. We will learn to connect deeper to our God and to our neighbors, to grow in love of Him and them, to find ourselves becoming a stronger community and more vibrant ministry, albeit through difficulty, personal and communal pain and national turmoil.

Here are a few stories of blessing I've heard resulting from our Covid crisis:

- ♦ One member told me about a friend whom they have invited to worship and other Bethany functions scores of times over the years. The other day as they were wrapping up talking in front of the homes (6ft. separation of course) the Bethany member said, "I'm off to church." Puzzlement ensued from the neighbor...who in the long run learning that the service had been recorded and posted on the Bethany website. They then asked, "What is your church's website address?"
- ♦ Another member said they sent the link of last Sunday's service to many of their friends and neighbors, one a non-Christian, was struck with the call to be still and has been saying to herself when feelings of fear or negativity or anxiety attack, "Be still." "Be still." "Be still...God's got this!"
- ♦ We of course have all been made aware how important hand washing really is. Experts say 20 seconds is the proper amount of time...That is roughly how long it will take you to pray the Lord's Prayer aloud.....



## Communion Appointments @ Bethany during Holy Week:



**MORE INFORMATION  
on How to Request a Time  
and What to Expect...**

**Please click [HERE](#)**

**\*if you are unable to open this link, please copy/paste this into  
your browser:**

[http://216716c740411890a61b-baadebb03584b8c460640ee327586b9d.r93.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/s/0e10068505\\_1585862982\\_special-bullet-holy-week-communion-information.pdf](http://216716c740411890a61b-baadebb03584b8c460640ee327586b9d.r93.cf2.rackcdn.com/uploaded/s/0e10068505_1585862982_special-bullet-holy-week-communion-information.pdf)

## Good Friday Worship

Worship will be accessible through Bethany's website by **12:00PM Noon on Good Friday, April 10th.**



## Easter Sunday

**Hail Thee, Festival Day** it is with those words that Venantius Fortunatus (c. 530-609), calls Christians to celebrate the Resurrection of our Lord on Easter morn. While we will not be able to celebrate this day in each other's company, it is none-the-less a day indeed to be hallowed by us! For while we are "bound" in our homes, the kingdom of death and guilt, devil and grave have been broken by our Lord's resurrection.

To date our Coronisation services have been recorded, in the days prior to their being posted on our website, to access for worship in our homes. NOT SO for our Easter service. **Easter worship will be posted on the Bethany website by midday Saturday April 11<sup>th</sup>.** However, the service is a "best of" so to speak. The service is one recorded on Easter 2016. Thus for Easter worship in your home, as you gather with your family, you will see familiar faces of friends from Bethany singing, ringing, reading and sitting up front for a children's sermon. **Of course, this is NOT THE ONLY Easter service we at Bethany will celebrate this spring. Soon enough the distancing orders and stay in place ordinances will subside and we will be welcomed back onto campus, and the first Sunday in which that takes place will be "Easter observed" at Bethany.**





## ***The Coronavirus "Captivity" of the Church***

The Corona virus has left many sickened and resulted in some having "finished their course." Most have been economically harmed to some degree and all have been impacted in some way. Yet, the Coronavirus Captivity of the Church is not the Babylonian Captivity, nor the "Babylonian Captivity of the Church!"

When Israel was captive in Babylon, God's people were prohibited from praying to Him lest they be tossed into the lion's den. During the Coronavirus "captivity" of the church we are being asked to stay at home other than for essential work or shopping, to not assemble in groups and to maintain social distancing. But keeping distance from the Lord is not an ordinance upon us; we are not prohibited from praying. In fact, I suspect, that we might be praying more than normal; and I've heard many elected leaders encourage such - for our nation, fellow citizens, health care professionals - a far cry from Daniels experience. If you've not been praying more, please start. Pray for health care workers and researchers, pray for first responders, for grocers and restaurant employees who all face increasing demands and pray for the health, safety and daily bread provision of all who are facing increasing fears. Pray for a deepening of our walk with the Lord, opportunities to share the love of Jesus and to be strengthened in faith of God and love of others...Do, take it as a command, do that which captive Israel was prohibited from doing, pray!

During the Babylonian Captivity the Israelites were forced to kneel in reverence before an idol of the king lest they be tossed into a fiery furnace. Yes, during this Coronavirus "captivity" we are not to assemble publicly to "kneel" in reverence before the one true God. When people do gather it is to be in groups of 10 or less with 6 feet or more of distancing. Yet we are not being required to turn public health ordinances into idols nor to confess the declarations or persons of elected leaders as divine; a situation much different than that which Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego faced.

In Luther's day Rome had shackled faith and elevated merit, penance and works above the promises of God. Luther wrote about this in a booklet entitled, "The Babylonian Captivity of the Church" which was published a few days before he received the papal bull which excommunicated him.

Unlike in Luther's world, during this Coronavirus "captivity" of the Church, the Gospel still has free course and the Word of God is our sole source. We have no fear of being tossed out of the church, let alone tossed into jail, for confessing the Scripture as the source of what we believe and how we behave. No fine will be leaved upon those that declare they stand on the promises of God and hold that His grace and mercy are given freely for Christ's sake through faith apart from our actions or efforts. While this message can't presently be shared from a pulpit in a public worship, we can tweet, post, blog, email it boldly, we can speak about it over the back fence, over land lines and with hand written letters, and we can sing about it from our front porches.

During this Coronavirus "captivity" of the church, the church is not being suppressed but released to live out the faith and share the love, light and life of Christ with a world held captive apart from the freedom found only in Him.



***At Bethany He Blessed Them...***  
***and He continues to bless at Bethany through you!***

We want to thank you for your continued generosity and faithfulness in **supporting Bethany's ministry** in these uncertain days. **Your offerings fund this ministry and provide for our staff and programs.**

Our District President has publicly said that many of our congregations are "one bad offering away from closing." While that is not the case at Bethany, the faithful support of Bethany's members is what makes this the ministry we know and love today. Undoubtedly as one Sunday becomes two, and two perhaps becomes three...we will hear of congregations needing to scale back ministry to almost nothing and we will hear of church workers being furloughed or losing jobs. While we obviously hope to avert such actions here at Bethany, it is no secret among us that in our regional area of partnership we've had 4 LCMS congregations and 8 LCMS school ministries close in the past several years; and that was well before Coronavirus congregational casualties. While we do have some cash reserves at Bethany, it is our offerings that keep our congregation's ministry ongoing. We know that during this national crisis some of our members will face financial challenges. We hope to be able to help member's financially harmed during this time through our benevolence fund; to which you can contribute. At the same our offerings to our general fund are critical for ongoing ministry.

During these days in which we can't physically pass the plate, mailing in our offerings, dropping them off at the office (Monday to Thursday from 8:00-11:30AM) for the first two weeks of April all office functions will be taking place **IN THE SCHOOL OFFICE SO PLEASE USE ARBOR GATE...** or you can give electronically, for more information on electronic giving go to our website (<http://www.bethanylutheran.org/giving/>) or call Maralee Shaffer at 562-421-4711, ext. 21. Your **ongoing** gifts are the source of how the ministry, through which He still blesses us at Bethany, **can continue to be accomplished.** **We ask for your prayerful consideration of your role in supporting Bethany during these times.**

## **Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethany on Sunday, April 26**



More information will be coming on time, how to sign up, and any other information you may need to know during this unprecedented time with the COVID-19 outbreak.

**Watch for The Bethany Bullet  
the week of April 5th for details.**

***Blood is desperately needed at this time.  
Please consider signing up.***  
Appointments are preferred.



**Sunday Worship Resources** on the Bethany website ([www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)) includes links to view or download materials to the Sunday worship service (video), Sunday's worship bulletin (pdf), Adult Bible Discovery study (pdf), Kids Bible Discovery (pdf).

The link is **updated by midday on Saturday**, the day before our Sunday worship.

If you haven't had the opportunity to visit our website and this resource, click [HERE](#).

### From Concordia Publishing House:



Holy Week is here, and the world looks a little different. Help your congregation worship Jesus during this sacred part of the Church Year with shareable online resources from CPH.

Click [HERE](#) for the link to the CPH Resources for Holy Week.

\*If unable to open link, copy/paste this into your browser:

[https://communication.cph.org/emails/2020/03/free-holy-week-shareable-resources-%EF%B8%8F?ecid=ACsprvsNX-dAcHIGIM4FgbvX35gVdEPAS217JVwDthA5SbVG-SuzzTx0RyaWkF8Aj8YA2W2wwN995&utm\\_source=hs\\_email&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=85519510&\\_hsenc=p2ANqtz--tg-uk1dU9\\_bYqoHbMbeCdkG43g6sflmol8xXOVj\\_6Mtl2LKJg10-vZIVsPi8kYjcUiX\\_lqRZTyHebxRJDZQxHz8NiVg&\\_hsmi=85519510](https://communication.cph.org/emails/2020/03/free-holy-week-shareable-resources-%EF%B8%8F?ecid=ACsprvsNX-dAcHIGIM4FgbvX35gVdEPAS217JVwDthA5SbVG-SuzzTx0RyaWkF8Aj8YA2W2wwN995&utm_source=hs_email&utm_medium=email&utm_content=85519510&_hsenc=p2ANqtz--tg-uk1dU9_bYqoHbMbeCdkG43g6sflmol8xXOVj_6Mtl2LKJg10-vZIVsPi8kYjcUiX_lqRZTyHebxRJDZQxHz8NiVg&_hsmi=85519510)

## Hey High School Families,

I wanted to give you an update on a few things that we are doing for the High School Youth Group.

### Sunday Evenings.

Every Sunday evening at 4:00PM there will be a High School Youth Group Zoom. We had our first a few Sundays ago with a few kids and it was a great time of study and hanging out. I have a few online games that we can play via Zoom as well.

The youth will have a link to the Zoom meeting sent to them via Whats App. Please encourage them to check for the link.

In order to use Zoom, you will need to download it onto your device. <https://zoom.us/home?zcid=2478> Zoom is currently offering a free plan because of COVID-19. I encourage you to utilize this app, Ben and I have had Zoom Bible studies, game nights and family chats. It is an easy way to stay connected to your loved ones.

### Sunday Mornings.

I will be sending out a short devotion on Sunday mornings via the Whats App. I had a few tech glitches this past Sunday and didn't get it to them. I will making the video in IMovie or Vimeo instead and send them the link.

### Crossroads.

I am still accepting and receiving Crossroad applications. At this time, we are holding off on making any payments as everything is up in the air.

### Watch Parties.

Last Friday, we had a Netflix watch party, while fun it was not something every youth could do. I have been researching ways to host a watch party that is open to all youth who have a laptop or phone. I have found a few different ways to go about this and I am currently looking for the best option. I will let the kids know via the Whats App and email out instruction on how to join any watch party.

In the meantime, I hope you are all doing well and staying safe. Do not hesitate to reach out if you are in need. Bethany is here to support our families.

In Christ,  
Kayleigh Lopez  
[klopez@bethanylutheran.org](mailto:klopez@bethanylutheran.org)



*For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life. —John 3:16*



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***We are on the WEB!***  
***[www.bethanylutheran.org](http://www.bethanylutheran.org)***

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**+ So much more!**

**Church Office Hours:**

**As of March 16th, our office hours will  
be Monday-Thursday from 7:30AM-Noon.  
Closed on Fridays**

**\*NO Printable  
Calendar for the Month of April.**



**Holy Week & Easter 2020**