

A look at Lenten traditions

Each year, the Christian church embarks on a forty-day journey leading up to Easter, known as the season of Lent. When discussing Lenten liturgical practices of Lutherans, I believe one can distinguish three different categories into which each practice can be placed: Visual, Historical/Traditional, and Emotional/Spiritual. It can be debated; however, that some of the practices fall into multiple categories—and rightfully so.

The first visual component is that of the color purple that adorns the Lord's house in various manners throughout the season of Lent. The dye to make purple was very difficult to source in ancient times, thus attributed to royalty, and adorned the Christ only once—as He was mocked and ridiculed as the “King of the Jews” prior to His gruesome crucifixion. This deep hue has come to represent solemnity, penitence, and prayer as God's people meditate on the agony His Son willingly endured. Twice in the Lenten season, on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, the Lord's house may be adorned with the color black which represents the absence of light and the curse of sin and darkness which fell over creation that only the death of the perfect Son of God could abolish.

The second visual component is that of the sign of the cross applied upon the repentant Christian's forehead during the imposition of ashes on Ash Wednesday. Typically utilizing ash created by the burning of palms from the previous Palm Sunday, this symbolic rite is a reminder of the sign of the cross that was placed on us in our Baptisms, our mortality (“Remember: you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”), and the filth of our sin that has been washed clean by the blood of Jesus.

A historical/traditional component of the Lenten season is the omission of the word “Alleluia” from the liturgy and hymnody as well as an omission of the Hymn of Praise. “Alleluia”—a Hebrew word meaning “Praise the Lord”—returns full-voice in the glorious celebration of Easter morning. A long-standing practice at Our Savior in Hartland is the singing of a remarkably beautiful setting of “Farewell to Alleluia” by Olin Jones. As the conclusion to the Transfiguration of Our Lord service, the anthem wafts from the mouths of the *Cantate* choir in the balcony at the rear of the nave and greets the ears of the congregants below as they kneel in solemn reverence and meditation—marking a poignant transition into the holy time of Lent/Easter.

A historic service, the Great Vigil of Easter, on the eve of Easter Sunday, had fallen out of common practice, yet is recently experiencing a resurgence. The service—which is centered on the themes of darkness to light, and God's rescue of His people—includes the Services of Light (including the Kindling of a New Fire), the Word, Holy Baptism, and the Holy Eucharist.

As mentioned earlier, the emotional/spiritual character of the Lenten season is one of penitence. Connected to the Great Vigil of Easter; however, the season of Lent may also be one of preparation, as catechumens who had been prepared, were appointed to be baptized during the Service of Holy Baptism in the Easter Vigil service.

The practice of fasting (or “giving something up”) during Lent is not required for Lutherans because it is not commanded in Holy Scripture. Rather, as a matter of Christian freedom, starving oneself of a pleasure of the flesh is a way to remember daily the great sacrifice of Jesus on the cross to pay for the world's sin.

You may already be well-along your Lenten journey. May it be a blessing to you as you again experience the depth of Jesus' obedience and the great love of God to redeem a world so desperately in need of salvation.

Jonathan A. Swett is Kantor of Our Savior Evangelical Lutheran Church and School, Hartland, Mich.

Original Location <https://resources.lcms.org/history/lutheran-liturgical-practices-during-lent/>

2/5/2023

Bethany Trustee's report for February 2023 Council meeting.

Rentals – Prairie street's hot water heater wasn't functioning properly. Ed's Plumbing came out and replaced the heating element.

Church – The leaking roof returned in the Fellowship room in two different areas. Both areas are where the roof drains are installed. The drains are high points in the roof instead of low points, so we get lots of standing water. As long as it remains below freezing the roof won't leak. Due to the snow on the roof it is not feasible to try and do a repair. We will need to place buckets to catch water when it starts to thaw and maybe attempt to divert the water so it doesn't run down the wall. When it is possible to get a good look at the roof we will get bids to repair and possible redo the roof. The last meeting there was discussion about the condition of the parking lot. We will add it to the list of things for 2023. Below is the current list. Please let us know if you have other things, you think we should be looking into. The list is not in any priority order.

Items for 2023:

- At least one new camera for recording services. Could be up to 3.
- Wax the Fellowship and kitchen floor.
- Paint the basement stairs hallway and do any touch needed.
- Add an electric circuit on the outside kitchen wall.
- Lobby carpet, repair or replace.
- Prairie Street rental – add electrical outlets and switches in the 3 bedrooms.

March 2023

Bethany Lutheran Church
525 South 6th St
Lake City MN 55041

www.bethanylutheranlakecity.com

Worship

9am on Sunday

- Sunday school after the gospel lesson until 10:15am

Watch on local channel 13/18

- Sunday at 9am (LIVE)
- Monday at 8pm
- Tuesday at 11am

Pastor Steve Frentz
PastorFrentz@hotmail.com
Home 651-448-8561
Cell 630-846-1909
Office hours: Wed 9am-12pm

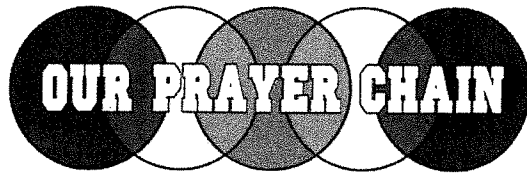
Secretary: Michelle Roberson
bethanylc4@hotmail.com
Office 651-345-2424
Cell 507-259-3919
Office hours:
Monday-Thursday 8am-1pm

Please watch our newsletter
and bulletins for upcoming
Lenten service info



Find us on:
facebook.

Bethany Lutheran Church
Missouri Synod



Send an email to
BLCPrayerChain@hotmail.com
to join!

March Birthdays!

Nancy Cliff 5th
Nancy Sommerfield 5th
Nate Anderson 7th
Wyatt Bolduan 7th
Deidre Lutjen 9th
Paul Stehr 10th
Chuck Holmstadt 12th
Peg McKinnon 15th
Taylor Heise 17th
Anthony Robb 17th
Amy Heise 22nd
Ruth Lombard 22nd
Jeff Brand 23rd
Tammy Lee 23rd
Verna Koenig 24th
Carter Lutjen 25th
Ron Lange 26th
William Mundstock 26th
Char Selvig 27th
Alex Buck 28th
Judy Glander 28th

Happy Anniversary:

Ron & Donna Mae Lange 16th
Robert & Penny Linder 31st



Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour.

March 12th
Joint Parish Worship
at Bethany
Joint Worship - 10:30am
With a potluck following
No Sunday school

Bethany Turns 75

Save the date. Sunday November 5th, 2023 will be the day we celebrate Bethany's big birthday. We are hoping to have Brent Parrish preach that day and to have a catered dinner after the service. We will send an invite to former pastors as well.

We are looking for contact information of former members. If you have friends or family that were members at one time please give that information to Michelle via phone 651-345-2424 or email bethanylc4@hotmail.com We will try to notify as many as possible.

The discipleship committee will be helping with the event but would love to have ideas and more help. If you have suggestions on ways to celebrate this milestone, please see Sue Blumberg.

EASTER SEASON

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| Bethany | Ash Wednesday
02/22/2023 7:00PM |
| Saint Peter's | Midweek #1
03/01/2023
6:00PM Supper
7:00PM Worship |
| Bethany | Midweek #2
03/08/2023
6:00PM Supper
7:00PM Worship |
| Saint Peter's | Midweek #3
03/15/2023
6:00PM Supper
7:00PM Worship |
| Bethany | Midweek #4
03/22/2023
6:00PM Supper
7:00PM Worship |
| Saint Peter's | Midweek #5
03/29/2023
6:00PM Supper
7:00PM Worship |
| Saint Peter's | Maunder Thursday
04/06/2023 7:00PM |
| Bethany | Good Friday
04/07/2022 7:00PM |
| Bethany | Easter
04/09/2023 7:00AM
Breakfast After |
| Saint Peter's | Easter
04/09/2023 10:30AM
Breakfast Before |

Bethany Church Council Meeting January 18, 2023

Attendance- 18

Secretary's Report- Approved as written

Treasurer's Report- Approved as written

Financial Secretary's Report- Approved as written

Trustee's Report- This was a busy year for the Trustees with much needed maintenance completed and some upgrades. Below is a summary of the larger items done this year:

Rentals – Prairie street rental had windows repaired, carpet replaced, holes in sheetrock repaired and some plumbing issues resolved. Overall the house is in good working condition, but probably needs future window replacement, electrical outlets and switches added and some landscaping. The South 6th street rental had some water in the basement and was resolved by repairing downspouts. The large picture window was also repaired and painted. This window will need replacement in the next couple of years.

Church – The entire outside of the Church was caulked and painted. This includes caulking of some hairline cracks in the bricks. The roof leaked over the Fellowship room and that was repaired. We attempted to fix the sloping back cement stairs by mud jacking them, but this was unsuccessful. Instead, we caulked up all the cracks and will monitor for additional sloping. When the steps start sloping worse, we will need to look at replacing the steps or building wood steps over the top. Some ceiling fans were replaced. The boiler is in good working condition, but needs to be checked yearly. At the beginning of the heating season the boiler wasn't working due to a seized pump and a defective pump. The final repair was to replace a pump and fuse. They were able to free up the seized pump and if we keep it oiled with the yearly check, it should last for several more years. We have at least two radiators not working but it is for small specific areas, and we chose to not fix them at this time. We also added several smoke detectors and two additional CO2 detectors throughout the Church. The following audio/visual equipment was replaced: projector, wireless mic system and the laptop. We went through an insurance review for underwriting. After numerous issues with the cleaning service, we started with a new company on 11/14/22. A Trustee Handbook was created to assist current and future Trustees with the working of the Church. An on-line version will be available through the Church secretary and a hardcopy will be kept in the sound system cabinet in the lobby. Some items for 2023 are at least one new camera for the recording of services. We currently have 3 working in unison to have coverage of the whole Church. Wax the Fellowship floor and paint the basement stairs hallway. We will also get a bid on the lobby carpet to see if it can be repaired to remove the sagging in areas or if we are looking at a full replacement.

Elder's Report-No New Report

Education Report- Kay mentioned the children are enjoying reading the Bible and learning the books of the Bible through a game called Bible Trivia. They continue to practice memory work also. We would like to encourage all members of the church to invite other children to join us at Bethany. We welcome all new children to Sunday school.

Discipleship Board Report- Monetary donations were made to several organizations. To date \$1505.00 was given to Mission Central, \$6,000 00 to Mission Relief. Other generous donations were made to the Lake City Food Shelf.

Cemetery Board- A discussion was held regarding moving the shed to a different location away from the Cremation plots. Perhaps to the front near the cemetery sign. More discussion will be held.

Pastor's Report- Sign-up sheets for Pastoral Visits will be in the Narthex after Easter for members to request a home visit with Pastor. Please see Pastor if you have with any questions.

Chairman's Report- Elections of officers will be held in April. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for an office. See a council member for more information

Old/New Business- Pastor and Vicki will continue to be Bethany's synodical representatives and acting voters. A committee is needed to plan Bethany's 75th Anniversary Celebration in November. Everyone is welcomed to help with this special occasion. Please see Sue Blumberg for more information. Prayer partners are wanted for 3 confirmation students. There is Not a lot of personal time commitment needed. Please consider this worthy opportunity.

The Lord's Prayer was said for Adjournment

Next council meeting is February 8, 2023. We hope to see you there!!!

Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Tackmann
Bethany Congregational Secretary

REASURER'S REPORT FOR THE MONTH OF	January	Year-to-Date	2023 Budget
ELDERS			
Pastor's Salary/Housing 65%	\$4,062.50	\$4,062.50	\$48,750.00
Pastor's Mileage 100% 50/50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$6,000.00
Pastor's Benefits 100% 50/50	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,957.50
Organist's Salary (\$ 55 Sunday)	\$275.00	\$275.00	\$3,670.00
Conference & Workshop	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
Guest Pastor (\$ 150)	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$900.00
Worship Supplies/Music/Postage	\$117.75	\$117.75	\$2,500.00
Secretary Annual Salary	\$1,302.96	\$1,302.96	\$15,635.52
Social Security/Medicare	\$120.71	\$120.71	\$1,380.00
Accounting Services	<u>\$16.11</u>	<u>\$16.11</u>	<u>\$800.00</u>
TOTAL	\$5,895.03	\$5,895.03	\$111,793.02
DISCIPLESHP			
Operating Expense	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Central Mission	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$5,000.00
General Mission	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$5,000.00
Adopt a Student	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Scholarship	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Local Missions	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$85.00	\$85.00	\$11,500.00
EDUCATION			
Children's Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,000.00
Adult Education	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
Missions	<u>\$115.00</u>	<u>\$115.00</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
TOTAL	\$115.00	\$115.00	\$2,500.00
TRUSTEES			
Utilities	\$1,548.88	\$1,548.88	\$15,000.00
Church Supplies/Maintenance	\$805.00	\$805.00	\$4,500.00
Cleaning Service	\$850.00	\$850.00	\$9,000.00
Office Equipment/Maintenance	\$353.30	\$353.30	\$5,000.00
Insurance/Work-Comp	\$742.08	\$742.08	\$8,500.00
Capital Improvements	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
Rental Property Tax & Maintenance	<u>\$303.83</u>	<u>\$303.83</u>	<u>\$11,000.00</u>
TOTAL	\$4,603.09	\$4,603.09	\$63,000.00
MISCELLANEOUS	\$119.12	\$119.12	\$2,500.00
CEMETERY	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
TOTAL	<u>\$10,817.24</u>	<u>\$10,817.24</u>	<u>\$191,293.02</u>
BALANCE ON HAND	\$20,559.91		

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH'S FINANCIAL SECRETARY REPORT

MONTH OF JANUARY 2023

Category	Beginning Balance	IN	OUT	Ending Balance
Plate	\$ -	\$ 1,484.96	\$ (1,334.96)	\$ 150.00
Current	\$ -	\$ 11,062.00	\$ (11,062.00)	\$ -
Capital Improvement	\$ 27,703.84	\$ 125.00	\$ -	\$ 27,828.84
Cemetery	\$ 15,602.87	\$ 300.00	\$ -	\$ 15,902.87
Altar Guild				\$ -
Easter Breakfast	\$ 464.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 464.35
Fellowship	\$ 3,067.99	\$ 141.00	\$ -	\$ 3,208.99
Garage Sale	\$ 568.97	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 568.97
Hog Roast	\$ 1,034.20	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,034.20
House Rent	\$ 59,046.85	\$ 1,500.00	\$ (135.32)	\$ 60,411.53
Interest	\$ 888.50	\$ 79.13	\$ -	\$ 967.63
Memorial	\$ 5,124.70	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 5,124.70
Miscellaneous	\$ 1,838.00	\$ 411.00	\$ (1,200.00)	\$ 1,049.00
Mission Central	\$ -	\$ 85.00	\$ -	\$ 85.00
Missions	\$ 276.37	\$ 1,030.00	\$ (115.00)	\$ 1,191.37
Sunday School	\$ 5,978.69	\$ 38.00	\$ -	\$ 6,016.69
Thanksgiving	\$ 1,861.07	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 1,861.07
Thrivent	\$ 8,281.64	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,281.64
2022 Convention	\$ 499.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 499.00
Endowment	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
CD's	\$ -	\$ -	\$ (40,000.00)	\$ (40,000.00)
TOTAL	\$ 132,237.04	\$ 16,256.09	\$ (53,847.28)	\$ 94,645.85

Memorial Fund Breakdown	
Sound System	\$ 5,124.70
Undesignated	
Total	\$ 5,124.70

Endowment Acct. Balance #1937	
Beginning Balance	\$ 5,194.39
Added This Month	
Interest Added	\$ 4.41
Ending Balance	\$ 5,198.80

St. Peter's Contribution	
Mileage	
Newsletter	\$ 150.00
Concordia Plan	\$ 1,334.96
Total	\$ 1,484.96

NOTES	
\$901 in Capital Improvement design-	
nated toward carpet.	
\$200 in Capital Improvement design-	
nated for kitchen remodeling fund	
St. Peter's pd newsletter thru March	

St. Peter's News

St. Peter's Lutheran Church
28961 365th St. Goodhue, MN 55027

March 
EVENTS
March 2023

Pastor Steven Frentz • PastorFrentz@hotmail.com • 651-448-8561
Office: 651-923-4438 • Email: stpeter@sleepyeyetel.net
Tara Marklevits, Secretary • Tarakehren@hotmail.com • 651-329-0159
Prayer Chain Email: BLCPrayerChain@hotmail.com

March Worship Assistants

Altar Care: Ellen Schafer & Elaine Burfeind
Elder: Arlan Betcher

Remember in Prayer...

Please keep in your prayers:



Barb & Delmar Hinck,
Ashley Sexton, Elnor Bollum,
Meryl & Lois Watson,
Marilyn Diercks, Aubrey Schafer,
and John Diercks



Council Meeting

Council will meet on Monday, March 6th at 7PM. Let a council member know if you have a topic for discussion. Jonathan Huneke, Kevin Paradis, Jim Hansen, Marty Kehren, Arlan Betcher, Tony Betcher, and Roger Benrud.

Easter Choir

All are invited to join the vocal choir as we prepare for Holy Week/Easter services in April. We will practice after the 7PM Lenten services on Wednesdays beginning March 1st. Please join us on March 1st or talk to Vickie if you have questions.

St. Peter's 150 Years! - Save the Date!

St. Peter's will be 150 years young in 2023!
SAVE THE DATE: September 24, 2023



Worship Schedule

9:30AM Sunday School
10:30AM Sunday Worship

Lent Worship Schedule

March 1st: 7PM at St. Peter's Church
March 8th: 7PM at Bethany Church
March 15th: 7PM at St. Peter's Church
March 22nd: 7PM at Bethany Church
March 29th: 7PM at St. Peter's Church

Joint Parish Worship

March 12th at 9AM we will have joint worship at Bethany Lutheran Church with potluck to follow. No worship or Sunday school at St. Peter's on that day.

Chili Supper



Wednesday, March 1st at 6PM prior to Lent worship, the Mary Martha group will serve the Lenten meal of chili, salad, and cinnamon rolls with a free-will offering designated to the food shelf.

Soup Supper

Wednesday, March 15th at 6PM prior to Lent worship, the 6-12th grade youth group families will provide and serve the Lenten meal of soup and deserts with a free-will offering.

Youth Information

Acolyte Schedule

March 1: Ayva Marklevits
March 5: Everett Hadler
March 15: Marti Huneke
March 19: Aaron Betcher
March 26: Chris Hansen
March 29: Ayva Marklevits

Sunday School 2022-2023

No Sunday School on March 12th. On this day there will be joint worship at Bethany at 9AM.

Sunday School is open to all children at any time every Sunday, 9:30-10:20am for ages 4yr old preschool through 8th grade.

Reminder to the 3rd-8th graders to study their assigned memory work for each Sunday.

Confirmation Class Update

For the duration of Confirmation class this year class will be at 5:30pm. Class will end at 6:15pm during Lent, prior to supper and worship. Confirmation Sunday is April 2nd.

Youth Group 6-12th Grades

Our youth group meets one Sunday a month for a Bible study. We also have fun events throughout the year. On March 19th we'll meet at St. Peter's after worship for lunch, Bible Study, and an activity.



VBS 2022 - Save the Date!

July 17-21, 2023 St. Peter's will again be hosting VBS with Camp Omega staff running the weekly program.

Giving

Missions

St. Peter's has set their 2023 goal of raising \$10,000 to send to various missions throughout the year. If you wish to donate write "missions" on your donation.



ONLINE giving

We offer the option to give recurring gifts online through First Farmers & Merchants Bank. Contact our church treasurer, Tony Betcher to set this up.


Thrivent Choice Dollars

If you are a Thrivent Financial member and would like your Thrivent Choice Dollars to be directed to St. Peter's church you have until March 31, 2023 to do so. Log in online at Thrivent.com or contact your Thrivent representative to direct your Choice Dollars to St. Peter's Church.

Birthdays in March

March 1: Shelby Augustine
Joseph Buck
March 7: Jesse Hadler
March 11: Marty Kehren
March 12: Brenda Betcher
March 13: Kevin Watson
March 17: Tim Watson
March 19: Stephanie Nash
March 20: Mark Dicke
March 21: Logan Hadler
March 23: Peggy Reincke
Ethan Paradis
Isabella Paradis
March 25: Arlan Betcher
Barb Kehren
March 26: Gerhardt Kohrs
March 28: Alexander Buck

Bethany Lutheran Church – We are on Facebook, look for: Bethany Lutheran Church Missouri Synod

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>Secretary: Michelle Roberson Office #: 651-345-2424 Cell: 507-259-3919 Email: bethanylc4@hotmail.com</p>					<p>Bethany Lutheran Church 525 S 6th St. Lake City MN 55041</p>	<p>Pastor Steve Frentz Cell 630-846-1909 Home 651-448-8661 PastorFrentz@hotmail.com</p>
<p>5 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion Sunday school</p>	6	7	<p>1 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Lent Worship All at St. Peter's</p>	2	3	4
<p>12 10:30am Joint Parish Worship with a potluck to follow No Sunday school</p>	13	14	<p>8 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Lent Worship Council meeting All at Bethany</p>	9	10	11
<p>19 9:00am Worship with Holy Communion Sunday school Youth group at St. Peter following their worship approx. 11:30am</p>	20	21	<p>15 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Lent Worship All at St. Peter's</p>	16	17	18
<p>26 9:00am Worship Sunday school</p>	27	28	<p>22 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Lent Worship All at Bethany</p>	23	24	25
			<p>29 5:30pm Confirmation 6:00pm Supper 7:00pm Lent Worship All at St. Peter's</p>	30	31	

March 2023 Our Website: www.bethanylutheranlakecity.com

Bethany Lutheran Church-Lent 2023

Worship on Sunday's at 9:00AM

525 South Sixth Street

Lake City, MN 55041

651-345-2424

E-mail: bethanylc4@hotmail.com



There will be a sign-up sheet on the fellowship hall doors to help with food for our two Lenten dinners. We are having dinners on March 8th and March 22nd. On the 8th we need help with desserts. On the 22nd we will need people to bring soup and dessert. Please see the bulletins and sign-up sheet for more info.

Pastor Steven Frentz: PastorFrentz@hotmail.com (H)651-448-8561 (C)630-846-1909

Michelle Roberson, Secretary: bethanylc4@hotmail.com Office 651-345-2424 (C)507-259-3919

Elder: Roger Edwards

Ushers: Greg Holmstadt & Dale Lee

Acolytes:

March 5th Simon Brand

March 8th 7PM Greta Brand

March 12th 10:30AM TBD

March 19th Alana Schmitz

March 22nd 7PM TBD

March 26th Adam Bolduan

Readers:

March 5th Robert Roschen

March 12th Sue Blumberg

March 19th Tess Holmstadt

March 26th TBD

Permit No. 62
Lake City, MN

PAID

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage

Bethany Lutheran Church
525 South 6th Street
Lake City, MN 55041
Address service requested