Alleluia! Easter Is Upon Us!

We’ve almost concluded the Lent season and we’re ready for all things Easter. This edition contains what we know at this moment, from Holy Week through the end of May. Sunday worship will begin to have some limited opportunities to be present in the Sanctuary.

+ WORSHIP MATTERS CALENDAR +

Live-stream services will NOT include congregants in the Sanctuary*. Reservations ARE required for service options that include folks worshipping on-campus. All times are MST. Signups start Monday, Mar. 22 @ 2:00pm. Use ‘Holy Week’ banner at the top of the website for more details.

Palm/Passion Sunday - March 28
9:30am live-stream worship only

Maundy Thursday - April 1
Brief pastor-led spoken Liturgy for Holy Communion at specific times during the day (limit 4 family groups in the Sanctuary)
6:30pm live-stream worship

Good Friday - April 2
12:00pm worship in the Sanctuary w/some hymns sung
6:30pm on live-stream

Early Easter Saturday - April 3
5:00pm worship in the Sanctuary, spoken liturgy, no singing
7:00pm worship in the Sanctuary w/congregation hymn singing

Easter Sunday, April 4
8:00am worship in the Sanctuary, spoken liturgy, no singing
9:30am live-stream worship
11:00am worship in the Sanctuary w/congregation hymn singing

Sunday, April 11
9:30am live-stream worship only

Sunday, April 18
9:30am live-stream worship
11:00am worship in the Sanctuary

Sunday, April 25 - Easter Bach Cantata
9:30am worship live-stream (* this is the only excepted service that will be streamed and also have in-person sign ups)
11:00am worship in the Sanctuary

Sundays, May 2 - May 30
These dates will all have one live-streamed worship and at least one other in-person service with sign ups available soon.

Facility Re-Opening Update
The Bethany campus will continue to remain closed to community groups to ensure the health and safety of the Bethany Early Childhood Center and church staff. There will be some limited on-campus opportunities soon for church groups, which will require scheduling. Call the office (Mon-Fri: 10am - 2pm) for more info at 303.758.2820.

“Conversation”

Major decisions are challenging on your own. Conversation lends itself to better, more wholistic decisions that bring a sense of peace to your spirit.

I had many, MANY, conversations about all aspects of health and safety regarding worship in the Sanctuary for Holy Week.

All acknowledged that our live-stream worship should continue to be of a very high quality. We also recognize the need to be together - safely. With good conversation comes a solid path forward.

Looking forward to worshipping together - in a variety of ways - soon.
-Pastor Gary
WORSHIP & EXECUTIVE

Worship at Bethany takes many forms and is essential for our faith’s expression and growth. We warmly welcome you to join in serving and share in this fellowship together.

HOLY MUSIC—During this Holy Week and Easter season, please know that we have an abundance of inspiring music planned for all of our upcoming services. Sounds of Praise and Carillons will provide music for Palm Sunday, which will be a creative retelling of the passion story. Our Good Friday live-stream will feature Chancel Choir in a traditional format with contemplative hymns. Chancel Choir, Denver Brass, and our youth choirs will be performing Easter morning, where you’ll hear all of your favorite Easter hymns, including the famous Widor toccata organ postlude. All other Holy Week/Easter services will feature Bethany vocal or instrumental soloists. As part of our transition back to in-person worship, you will note that some of the services being offered will not have congregational singing; however, please note that even these services will have plenty of wonderful music to enhance your worship experience!

On Sunday, April 25 we will have a very special event at both services. The Chancel Choir, along with an ensemble of professional musicians, will do Bach’s cantata “Christ Lag in Todesbanden.” This cantata, which may be translated as “Christ lay in death’s dark bonds,” was written for the Easter season, and is one of Bach’s most renowned and powerful works for liturgical use. As you may know, Bethany’s Chancel Choir director, Dr. James Kim, is an internationally recognized Bach expert, and preparations for this service are already under way. Please plan to join us in person, or on live-stream, as we celebrate Christ’s (and our own) resurrection!

Annual Meeting Announcement

The 2021 annual meeting of the congregation of Bethany Lutheran Church is scheduled for Sunday, June 13, @ 11:45am (MST). The meeting will be held in person in the Bethany Sanctuary and will be livestreamed; however, members must be present to participate in discussion and voting.

There will also be a townhall meeting on Sunday, June 6, @ 12:00pm MST to present budget and election info in preparation for the annual meeting. This meeting will be livestreamed and questions will be taken from both the virtual audience and those in attendance. Look for details to come via website and email.

Additionally, the annual meeting of the Bethany Foundation will be held immediately following the congregational meeting on June 13. Changes to the Foundation’s bylaws will be presented for vote during this meeting. Look for details regarding these changes via upcoming email blasts.

Congregation Life Events - 2021 YTD (Jan.1—Mar. 31)

Baptisms
Feb. 21 - Owen James Colussy
Feb. 21 - Deedra Colussy

Funerals
Mar. 28 - Maryellen Ver Duft
Mar. 21 - Brian Tennien
Feb. 2 - Bob Arterburn
Feb. 7 - John Roybal
Jan. 16 - Karen Martin
Jan. 16 - Gary Miller

OUR NOMINATING COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!

Below are leadership positions available, which will begin serving this July! Please go to our website’s ABOUT page (under “Elected Leadership”) to watch the informative video about these upcoming leadership opportunities.

- President Elect
- Treasurer
- Council representative for Worship
- Council representative for Hospitality
- Council representative for Outreach
- Council representative for Faith Formation
- 2022 Synod Assembly Representatives
- Nominating Committee (2)
- Bethany Foundation Board of Directors (3)
The Hospitality Ministry at Bethany equips and helps each of us find ways that we can gather together in Christian fellowship. Join one of the meetup groups for dinners, men’s, women’s, seniors or welcome team groups and continue to make Bethany hospitable and welcoming for all worshippers.

**WELLNESS CORNER**

March is National Nutrition Month. The intention of the My Plate diagram below is to provide a visual of what types of food are best to fill your plate. The diagram shows that half of the plate be filled with fruits and vegetables focusing on whole fruits and vegetables and eating a variety of types and colors. The recommended section for grains is a little more than one quarter of your plate with at least half whole grains as they provide fiber, several B vitamins and minerals too. The final section of the plate is for lean protein which includes both sources from animals and plants. The glass to the right of the plate represents the dairy group which includes fortified soy milk and yogurt. Make every bite count! In this time of increased take out, be sure to plate your food with controlled portions.

Go to: myplate.gov for more detailed resources.

- Janet Mortinsen, Director of Pastoral Care

**FELLOWSHIP DIRECTORY**

Where can you plug in? Here’s a list of groups that are currently meeting!

**Centering Prayer Group**
Centering Prayer is an ancient form of Christian meditation and prayer. The Centering Prayer group meets for an hour-long session each week that includes time for meditation, contemplation, silent prayer and a book study. Currently meeting on Zoom at 6:00pm on Thursdays. Contact Karen Witt (Karenwi33@gmail.com) for more details.

**Deborah Circle Bible Study**
A women’s small group Bible Study that meets weekly for prayer, conversation, and study. The group uses the studies printed in the Gather magazine to guide their time together.

Held on Zoom at 5:00pm every Wednesday. Contact: Gail Scott (303.782.4994) for more details.

**Faithful Readers**
A book club that meets to discuss a different novel each month.

Meets on Zoom on the 4th Thursday of each month at 7:00pm

Contact Judi Burchfield (judiburch60@gmail.com) for more details.

**God’s Word for the Week**
Weekly Bible Study of the scripture readings for the upcoming Sunday

Held on Zoom at 9:00am every Monday

Contact: Sarah Hulslander (sarah@bethany-denver.org) for info.

**Lois Circle Bible Study**
A monthly women’s Bible Study that includes time for fellowship and prayer. The group often uses a study book to help guide their conversation each month. Held on Zoom on the 2nd Tuesday of each month @ 9:30am-12:00pm.

Contact Colette Celecki (Colette.celecki@gmail.com) for more information.

**Mothers of Pre-schoolers (MOPS)**
A group for mothers of preschoolers that meets twice a month for spiritual and emotional support in the task of parenting. Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month during the school year. Contact Katie (bethanyleanmops@gmail.com) for more details.

**Saturday Men’s Bible Study**
A Men’s Bible Study group that meets weekly for scripture study and prayer.

Meets on Zoom on Saturdays at 9:00 a.m.

Contact Scott Zimmerman (scottzimmerman@comcast.net) for more details.

**Thursday Men’s Fellowship Gathering**
A Men’s group that meets weekly for fellowship and prayer.

Meets on Zoom on Thursdays at 6:30 p.m.

Contact Justin March (phinsham71@comcast.net) for more details.
The Outreach Ministry Team at Bethany evaluates opportunities to assist a wide variety of organizations that help people in need. Throughout the year, we coordinate service projects that support both our local partners as well as the global community. Please join in the work of spreading God’s grace!

March Celebrates Women - Even in Developing Nations!
On Women’s Day, Bethany Lutheran’s Global Mission received a note from Evelyn Kadanya, mother to Vallary and Eufrancier, which read: “We are grateful and appreciate all Global for walking with us through this journey. May God bless you all. Today I celebrate Women’s Day and the tremendous job in our lives Bethany has done for us. Regards to all and God Bless you all.”

Girls’ education is one of the smartest investments we can make, creating change in the developing world. An educated girl will delay marriage and pregnancy. She is more likely to earn higher wages, invest her earnings in her family, and send her children to school. When we invest in women and girls, we invest in the people who support everyone else. Because women and girls have the power to change the world, we are partnering with others to educate over 100 young women living in poverty.

If you’d like to help this cause, please contact David Gies at davidgies100@gmail.com.

Operation Breadbasket Drive-Thru May 2 @ 11:00am - 1:00pm; south portico
Operation Breadbasket food drives are back for 2021! All food donated will be donated to our local Army Reserve unit (the 244th). The following items are needed:

- Canned Meat (Chicken, Tuna, Spam), Pasta/Noodles, Spaghetti Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Canned Vegetables, Canned/Dried Beans, Rice, Instant Potatoes, Canned Fruit/Applesauce, Peanut Butter, Canned Soup/Ramen Noodles, Breakfast Bars, Instant Oatmeal

Due to the pandemic, these 244th soldiers did not have food drives in 2020. As such, the need is great in 2021! In anticipation of Memorial Day 2021, please join the Operation One Nation team in supporting the 244th for this food drive. Thank you!

Our 2021 Mother’s Day Initiative will be focusing on Mothers we don’t often think about...Birth Mothers. Bethany will be collecting items to fill tote bags that will be hand delivered by Lutheran Family Services to birth mothers who leave the hospital after giving their child up for adoption.

The Adoption process can be tough. Help us put together gifts to let birth mothers know we care and they are not alone. We hope to fill 30 tote bags. Items are needed by May 2nd and can be dropped off at the church during office hours. You will find most of the items on the list at your local Safeway, King Soopers, Target, Walmart etc. Items are listed individually, or in groupings, so if you wish to purchase more than one item, please sign up accordingly. Signupschedule.com/Bethany

- Breast pads, Fuzzy Socks, Fuzzy Blankets, Ibuprofen, Lotton, Lip balm, Bubble bath, Kleenex (Travel size), Journal books & Pens (Journal with prompts is appreciated), Candy bars, Sam’s Sister (book by Juliet C. Bond), Gift Cards (King Soopers, Target, Walmart, Pizza or Coffee shops)

Thank you for helping us support birth mothers with Lutheran Family Services!

Project Angel Heart serves the community by providing medically tailored meals to persons living with life-threatening illnesses. Their fundraiser “Dining Out for Life” raises money specifically for neighbors living with HIV/AIDS. Participating is simple: show love to your favorite local restaurants by ordering takeout or delivery between April 25 and May 1. Restaurants, which normally donate a percentage of Dining Out for Life sales, will not be asked to donate this year because they are financially challenged in these times. To fill this financial gap, you can support Project Angel Heart by giving on line at projectangelheart.com/donate. Contact Jean Scott at stlax@comcast.net if you have any questions.

LUTHERAN FAMILY SERVICES
Rocky Mountains

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If you’d like to help this cause, please contact David Gies at davidgies100@gmail.com.
Habitat Metro Denver’s transformative ministry envisions a world where everyone has a decent and affordable place to live. Please join Kevin Dempsey at Habitat Metro Denver’s virtual Breakfast for Humanity.

Live-streamed on Wednesday, April 21 @ 8:00am
You can reserve your spot for this free event by registering at www.habitatbreakfast.org and select Kevin Dempsey - Holy Hammers, as host in the drop-down menu.

Once you learn more about Habitat’s transformational impact, we hope you will be inspired to support this impactful work. The goal is to raise at least $2,500 for Kevin’s table to help Habitat Metro Denver transform the lives of hardworking families.

If you cannot attend, but still want to contribute to the goal of raising $2,500 for Habitat Metro Denver, visit www.habitatbreakfast.org to support Habitat today!

Kevin Dempsey: 303.699.1629 or kmdmpsey@aol.com

The Operation One Nation team would like to thank the Gary Miller family! for choosing Bethany’s Operation One Nation initiative for memorial gifts. Gary was a very valued member of the Operation One Nation team! So we would like to thank Gary’s family and friends for their generosity in honoring Gary’s memory with these gifts.

Operation One Nation has in turn donated funds to the following Operation One Nation partners:
Advancing Warriors, This Able Vet, House of Purpose, and Hearts Across the Miles.

These funds will also be used to support veteran emergency situations, a local Army Reserve unit, and Joining Community Forces (ongoing basis).

Again, thank you! You have helped many veterans and their families!

If you would like more info on these organizations, please email Vicky Daub at lvdaub2@gmail.com.

Opportunities to support Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp:

Rainbow Trail will be hosting a group of 30 homeless youth from the Grand Junction area for a week of camp at the end of the summer. This week will be free of charge for the campers and can provide a transformational experience for them and the staff. Please consider supporting this awesome outreach opportunity!

Bethany is planning a Living the Blessing work weekend at Rainbow Trail on June 4-6. Work typically includes landscaping, cabin maintenance, and painting. Cabins are available for lodging (bring your own bedding) and meals are included. Join in for all or part of the weekend. This is a wonderful opportunity for the entire family!

Please contact Susan Wiggs, susanpw4@gmail.com, for more information.

Go to signupschedule.com/Bethany to reserve your spot for one of these opportunities.
**FAITH FORMATION**

The Faith Formation Ministry Team at Bethany supports a caring, committed and Christ-centered community for all ages. We work with BECC, Confirmation, Sunday School, Bible Studies, Youth Gatherings, Cross Generational Faith, special worship services and creating events that foster the growth and kinship of our Bethany family!

**A Few of My Favorite Things (about the Bible)**

Join Pastor Nate & Pastor Gary for this four-week Adult Education series! April 21, 28, May 5, 12

Wednesdays at 6:30pm on Zoom
meeting id: 839 5812 0229 code: 882912

The Bible is fascinating for many reasons. Come explore some of this fascination!

**FAMILY BIBLE ADVENTURES**

FBA will have its last two Bible stories on April 11, April 18, April 25 and May 2. Contact Gayle if you need packets for your children (if you aren’t already receiving them). Would love all children to join in on the fun!

Gayle@Bethany-Denver.org

**EASTER GOODIE BAGS**

There will be Easter Goodie Bags for children/families available for pickup during Holy Week with a special pick up time on Palm Sunday, March 28 @ 11:00am – 12:00pm. These will also be available if you are attending any one of the Easter services. Grab one for your children for fun activities for your family.

**Coming soon- Growth Groups Spring 2021 Semester!**

Keep your eyes peeled for information about the next semester of Growth Groups at Bethany! Our Fall 2020 and Winter 2021 Semesters were a great success and we are excited to publish the next catalog of small groups, set to launch in late April. More details will be coming on our website and email blasts. And remember, Growth Groups are for everyone! So, please invite your friends and family to participate.

**Drive-In Graduation Celebration!**

Saturday, May 15 2021

We thought last year would be a one time only experience. Well, our unique celebration is back for 2021 Graduates and Families! Want to be on the team to help create a meaningful event? Connect with Kristine Resley at kristine.resley@gmail.com.
**FAITH FORMATION**

**Bethany @ Sky Ranch! - Memorial Day weekend May 28-31**

Sky Ranch survived (thank you firefighters!!) after the largest fire burned through the camp this past summer. All ages are urged to come help move trees, build trails, and clean up the camp so they can open for summer camps. We will also play, worship, hike and celebrate being TOGETHER! Come for a night or more from May 28-31 to serve one of our ministry partners!

Go to skyranchcolorado.org for info on projects, places to stay and schedule your trip.

**SAVE THE DATE! DAY CAMP/VBS *June 29 – July 2*”

A fun filled week of Bible Study, Arts & Crafts, Sondance and just a ton of fun for ages Preschool – 5th Grade children. Details and registration to follow as we get closer. Please consider volunteering for this awesome week!

Gayle@Bethany-Denver.org

**SAVE THE DATE(s)**
Youth Summer 2021 & Camp Schedule!

**June 20-25 Service Learning Week. CURRENT 8th – 12th grade youth loving, serving and learning with our mission partners takes place all over Denver (more details to come)!**

**June 28-July 2 Day Camp week for children 3 years and up @ Bethany Campus (led by Camp Staff from Rainbow Trail)**

**July 11-17 – High School Camp 1 - Entering 9th-12th grades @ Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**

**July 25-31 – High School Camp 2 - Entering 9th-12th grades @ Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**

**August 1-7 – Junior / Jr High Camp – Entering 4th-8th grades @ Rainbow Trail Lutheran Camp**
Bethany Foundation Scholarships

Are you or a family member attending College or Seminary this next year? If so, the Bethany Foundation is here to help. The foundation offers scholarships to students who attend Lutheran Colleges (or Christian colleges in full communion with the ELCA) as well as Lutheran Seminaries. As an extra incentive, most Lutheran colleges offer $500 - $1,000 in matching funds.

Applications can be found on the Foundation page (bethany-denver.org/foundation-page). Once filled out, they should be emailed to blc4500@gmail.com or mailed to the church office. Don’t delay, as the deadline for submitting applications is May 1!

From the Editor - Please note the following:

The next edition of the Beacon newsletter (Summer) will contain happenings from June, July and August. As a kindly reminder, I’ve created a simple submission form on the website so you will no longer email me your articles. Please find the form on the Media tab and use the Beacon button to submit your articles/photos (deadline TBD). The website will be refreshed regularly to keep you informed of seasonal updates and submission deadlines. We will also put the next publications’ dates in our email blasts.

Thanks so much to everyone who contributed content for this issue! -Lea