

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

April 2018 BEACON

Every Day's Fool

April begins with Fool's Day. People pull gags on others and then delightedly scream, "April Fools." Some people are really good at getting others to bite on their spoof, others are not, but the gullible usually fall for the jest on a regular basis. There is, however, a sad exhibition of true foolishness that many people display every day.

Psalm 14:1 says, "The fool has said in his heart, *there is* no God." Creation is a daily exhibition of God's manifest power and wisdom. But the fool says, "No." The Bible's cohesiveness, forty writers over fifteen hundred years telling the same story with precise prophecies, exhibits God's power and wisdom. The fool says, "No." The transformation of the world from a place of darkness to light declares God's grace, but the fool says, "No." There is no God to whom they will give praise or from whom they will receive much needed forgiveness.

But in Psalm 14 you will notice that the words "*there is*" are in italics. That means that they do not appear in the Hebrew text but are added for clarity. But what if we leave those two words out. Then the verse says, "The fool has said in his heart, No, God." He doesn't say there is no God, but he says, "I won't do what you want me to do. No, God, I won't obey."

This is the other kind of everyday fool. He claims to know and love God, but when it comes to yielding to God's call upon his life, he says, "No." He wants to be seen and known as a follower of God, but every day he denies God's authority by saying, "No" to God's directions. Both fools have the same end. Let us not be found among them. Let us both boldly acknowledge God and bravely obey Him in our daily lives.

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David Craig

davidccraig.net

Abundant Grace Daily Devotion

Easter Sunday, April 1st, Worship/Breakfast Schedule

7:00 am Sunrise Service at Christian
Reformed Church

7:30 am Easter Breakfast at Bethel
Lutheran Church

9:00 am Easter Worship at Bethel
Lutheran with Holy
Communion/World Hunger
Sunday

Call Committee Update

The Call Committee is excited to announce that we will have a **pastor candidate as a guest pastor on May 6th**. We hope and pray everyone is able to attend church service this day. Everyone's feedback on this service is greatly appreciated and we look forward to hearing it. This feedback can be shared with any call committee member.

Thank you,

Jeremy Paulson
Call Committee Chair

Ministry Teams – plan to gather in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, April 4th at 7:30 pm** for a short opening before splitting into individual teams with a Council Liaison.

March 14, 2018 Church Council Minutes

(to be reviewed at the April Council meeting)

Present: Dan Frey, Stacy Palmer, Allen Redman, Darla Drewelow, Marilyn Ingalls, Bruce Simon, JoAnne Schwarz, Michelle Krohn

Approval of the Agenda: Motion made by JoAnne Schwarz, 2nd by Marilyn Ingalls

Approval of the Minutes: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Darla Drewelow

Approval of the Treasurer's Report: Motion made by Bruce Simon, 2nd by Marilyn Ingalls

Ministry Team Reports:

- Children & Youth Ministry Team – Several students are interested in church camp. A final count will be determined and council will discuss camp further at next meeting.
- Outreach & Fellowship Ministry Team – Outreach and Fellowship Teams were combined. The lending library is available and ready to use. The prayer chain is being revamped. CD player has been donated.
- Property Ministry Team – Downspouts and screens need cleaning. Filters will be replaced for A/C blower unit and some loose trim needs repair.
- Worship & Music Ministry Team – Music and hymns are selected through the rest of the year.
- Social Concerns Ministry Team – Next project will be Relay for Life. The committee discussed not having a team to walk this year, but council found importance surrounding the need for a team to represent Bethel. Fundraising efforts include: Root Beer Floats in June, selling luminarias, taking donations and silent auction items. Noisy nickels will go towards Relay for Life.
- Missions/Benevolence Ministry Team – Discussions surrounding bringing all benevolence current from remaining 2017 to 2018. Suggestions were presented to council locally for A-P Food Pantry, Timothy Christian School, Statewide to Cedar Valley Hospice, Ronald McDonald House of Eastern Iowa & Western Illinois, Nationally to LCMC – Disaster Assistance Fund and Gospel for Asia. Motion to approve by Bruce Simon, 2nd Michelle Krohn.

Old Business:

1. Post cards for Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday update – Costs presented for printing and postage were higher than expected. We will instead run ads in the Eclipse for Palm Sunday and Easter. Motion to approve by Allen Redman, 2nd Joanne Schwarz.
2. Sanctuary lighting update – Costs to upgrade all lighting and lift rental exceeded \$8,400. Motion to pick up 4 lights for replacing in the church first to ensure proper lighting will be provided by Michelle Krohn, 2nd Marilyn Ingalls.
3. Purchase set of Pastor Craig's books for church library - \$150 for full set of books, with proceeds benefiting youth was approved from Memorial Fund. Motion by Allen Redman, 2nd Marilyn Ingalls.
4. Committee Team Restructure – Outreach and Fellowship teams were combined.

New Business:

1. Easter Sunday breakfast – Diane Buss is willing to cater. JoAnne Schwarz will be checking with Thrivent for funding to offset breakfast catering. Breakfast will be served from 7:30-8:30 with proceeds going to Bethel Lutheran Property Committee. Motion by Bruce Simon, 2nd Michelle Krohn.
2. Prospective Pastor's Service 5/6/18 – Motion to approve service from prospective pastor by Call Committee for May 6 by Darla Drewelow, 2nd JoAnne Schwarz.
3. Approve Pastor's vacation – Pastor requested vacation April 15 and May 20. Motion to approve by Marilyn Ingalls, 2nd Darla Drewelow.
4. Approval of Pastor's health insurance – A small increase of just over \$15/mo was applied to insurance. Motion to approve by Bruce Simon, 2nd Stacy Palmer.

Closing Prayer/The Lord's Prayer: Motion to adjourn the meeting by Allen Redman, 2nd by Darla Drewelow.

April Communion Assistants: Bruce Simon, Marilyn Ingalls

May Communion Assistants: Dan Frey & JoAnne Schwarz

Family Devotions for April

Good Thinking!

Bible Verse: “. . . whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is gracious, if there is any excellence, if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.” Philippians 4:8

“He is Risen! He is Risen, indeed! There’s no greater joy for a Christian than to hear these words on Easter Sunday. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, is alive! He conquered death, so those who believe in Him will also rise from death into eternal life. Paul writes in Philippians that we should think about things worthy of praise. Easter is a perfect time to change our thinking!

E – Enjoy sharing uplifting stories with your family that happen at school, at work, or in the world.

A – Awaken each morning with a smile and a word of praise!

S – Study a book of the Bible this month - Philippians maybe?

T – Talk about the many blessings God has given you and your family.

E – Express love, joy, graciousness with one another and see if it’s contagious.

R – Remember to praise and glorify God for His wonderful gift of salvation!

Pray: Dear Heavenly Father, help us think about the good things that come from you and give us the desire to share them with others. Amen.

Organized Prayer for Bethel Families

WEEK OF APRIL 1 – Joe & Christina (Tjebkes) Edwards & Sloan, Aaron & Angie Ellermann, & Riley, & Ryan Bixby, Vada Luhning, Jim & Eileen Lupkes, Ken & Beth VanLengen, Carol Warneke

WEEK OF APRIL 8 – Alex & Monica Bixby, Derek & Jill Etjen, Trevor & Ellie, Thomas & Sara Mann, Nora, Ava & Corryn, Lance & Kim (Knock) Marlette, Kaitlin & Erica, Maxine Wahl

WEEK OF APRIL 15 – Bob & Brenda Everts, Mary Fink, Terry & Janet Mennen, George Miller, Leona Walbaum, Kory & Deb Walters

WEEK OF APRIL 22 – Dan & Kay Frey, Courtney & Tiffany, Justin & Tessa (Gerloff) Matherly & Noah, Darwin & Peggy Miller, Lee Walters, Eric & Becky (Walters) Simmons, Ben Frieling

WEEK OF APRIL 29 – Donald (Butch) Geertsema, Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff, Guy Gerloff, Dennis Muller, Amber & Ian, Samantha (Muller) Wiegmann, Tripp & Hayden, Kirk & Suzanne (Gerloff) Neuroth, Connor, Melea & Nick, Jann Wiegmann, Meri Jo Wiese, Tyler & Nichole

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Prayer Chain Update

We are updating the Prayer Chain Lists this month. If you would like to join us, please fill out the form below and return it to the church by April 25, 2018.

Name: _____

I would prefer receiving notices by (please check one):

_____ email, my email address is _____

OR

_____ phone, my phone number is _____

April Bible Reading Schedule

April 1, Sun: Exodus 13

April 2, Mon: I Kings 14:19-31, Hebrews 11:1-16, Jer. 20

Tuesday: I Kings 15:1-15, Heb. 11:17-29, Jer. 21

Wednesday: I Kings 15:16-34, Heb. 11:30-40, Jer. 22:1-12

Thursday: I Kings 16:1-14, Heb. 12:1-11, Jer. 22:13-30

Friday: I Kings 16:15-34, Heb. 12:12-29, Jer. 23:1-20

Saturday: I Kings 17, Heb. 13, Jer. 23:21-40

Sunday: Exodus 14

April 9, Mon: I Kings 18:1-16, II Peter 1:1-11, Jer. 24

Tuesday: I Kings 18:17-29, II Pet. 1:12-21, Jer. 25:1-14

Wednesday: I Kings 18:30-46, II Pet. 2:1-11, Jer. 25:15-29

Thursday: I Kings 19, II Pet. 2:12-22, Jer. 25:30-38

Friday: I Kings 20:1-13, II Peter 3, Jer. 26:1-11

Saturday: I Kings 20:14-29, Leviticus 1, Jer. 26:12-24

Sunday: Exodus 15

April 16, Mon: I Kings 20:30-43, Leviticus 2, Jer. 27:1-11

Tuesday: I Kings 21:1-14, Lev. 3, Jer. 27:12-22

Wednesday: I Kings 21:15-29, Lev. 4:1-21, Jer. 28

Thursday: I Kings 22:1-16, Lev. 4:22-35, Jer. 29:1-20

Friday: I Kings 22:17-36, Lev. 5, Jer. 29:21-32

Saturday: I Kings 22:37-53, Lev. 6:1-13, Jer. 30

Sunday: Exodus 16

April 23, Mon: II Kings 1, Leviticus 6:14-30, Jer. 31:1-20

Tuesday: II Kings 2:1-11, Lev. 7:1-18, Jer. 31:21-40

Wednesday: II Kings 2:2-25, Lev. 7:19-38, Jer. 32:1-15

Thursday: II Kings 3:1-12, Lev. 8:1-17, Jer. 32:16-25

Friday : II Kings 3:13-27, Lev. 8:18-36, Jer. 32:26-44

Saturday: II Kings 4:1-17, Lev. 9, Jer. 33:1-13

Sunday: Exodus 17

April 30, Mon: II Kings 4:18-31, Lev. 10, Jer. 33:14-26

BLCW Spring Meeting/Brunch

Spring is almost here, that means it's time for our spring BLCW meeting. It is set for **April 15th, following worship** service. We will be having brunch. All women of Bethel are members of the BLCW. We will have a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board. Hope to see everyone on Sunday, April 15th.

Showing We Care

There are many people who might benefit from a home-cooked meal(s) provided by members of our congregation. They may be recovering from surgery or illness, having treatments, coping with the loss of a loved one, etc. If you know of someone who could use our help – or – if you are able to help, please contact Janet (319-269-9674), Jenny (319-269-2578), or Sharleen (319-414-7409).

Fellowship Following Worship

Please see the sign-up sheet on the bulletin board to volunteer to make coffee and bring treats for fellowship following worship for a Sunday in April. A separate sign-up sheet will be posted for future months. Thank you

Worship Assistant Schedule for April--Worship Service 9:00 a.m.

	April 1	April 8	April 15	April 22	April 29
USHERS	Dennis & Bonnie Gerloff	Ushers Needed	Ushers Needed	Ushers Needed	Ushers Needed
ORGANISTS/PIANISTS	Janet Mennen/Sharleen Hubbard/Jacque Craig				
ALTAR GUILD	Carol Chapman/Bonnie Gerloff				
GREETERS	Terry & Darla Drewelow	Dennis & Karol Ellermann	Jeff & Diane Johnson	Dale & Candy Krohn	Dave & Sharleen Hubbard
LECTORS	Pam Jacobson	Jim Schwarz	Steve Brouwer	Dave Hubbard	Darla Drewelow
LITURGISTS	Bonnie Gerloff	JoAnne Schwarz	Terry Mennen	Sharleen Hubbard	Hymn Sing
ACOLYTES	Ava Mann Corryn Mann	Evan Palmer	Devin Bernard	Gavin Bernard	Ava Mann
COMMUNION ASSISTANTS	Marilyn Ingalls Bruce Simon		Marilyn Ingalls Bruce Simon		
COFFEE FELLOWSHIP					
SOUND SYSTEM	Carol Chapman/Allen Redman				

March Summary of Attendance and Financial Contributions

	Attendance	Bene./Mission	Current	Building Maintenance
Sunday, March 4 am & pm	63/30	\$158.20	\$2,242.82	\$0.00
Sunday, March 11 am & pm	54/34	\$118.60	\$1,772.40	\$0.00
Sunday, March 18 am & pm	69/37	\$188.40	\$2,175.65	\$0.00
Sunday, March 25	69	\$165.55	\$2,204.98	\$0.00
January 1-March 25, 2018		\$1,790.96	\$24,280.54	\$0.00

April Birthdays

1 – April Schrage	16 – Julie Dudley, Chelsie Luhring	27 – Lisa Luhring
2 – Pam Jacobson	21 – Irene Senne	28 – Pam Dohrn, Megan Luhring
5 – Roger Renken	22 – Sharleen Hubbard	30 – Rebecca Simmons
6 – Joyce Hoffman	23 – Larry Chapman	

April Anniversaries

12 – Darwin & Peggy Miller (49)
26 – Jeremy & Brooke Paulson (10)

Wilma Schultz address in Ackley is:

502 Butler Street, Room 7
Ackley, IA 56601

April 2018 Calendar

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 7:00 am Sunrise Service at Christian Reformed Church 7:30 am Easter Breakfast at Bethel 9:00 am Easter Worship/Holy Communion/World Hunger Sunday	2 6:30 pm Call Committee Telephone Interview	3	4 6:15 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm All Ministry Teams	5	6	7
8 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School-Adult & Children/Confirmation	9	10	11 6:30 pm Senior Choir 7:30 pm Church Council	12 1:00 pm Ladies Bible Study @ Darla Drewelow's home	13	14
15 9:00 am Worship/Holy Communion/Noisy Nickels 10:00 am Coffee Following Worship-BLCW Brunch & Spring Meeting 10:15 am Sunday School-Children	16 6:30 pm Call Committee Telephone Interview	17	18 6:30 pm Senior Choir	19	20	21
22 9:00 am Sunday Worship 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School-Adult & Children/Confirmation	23	24	25 6:30 pm Senior Choir	26	27	28
29 9:00 am Sunday Worship/Hymn Sing 10:00 am Coffee 10:15 am Sunday School-Adult & Children/Confirmation	30			Email: bethelparkersburg@gmail.com Website: www.bethelparkersburg.org 'Like' & 'Follow' us on Facebook too!		