

BETHELITE

APRIL 6, 2022: VOL. 70, NO. 7

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*Four Weekend Services
Celebrating The Resurrection*



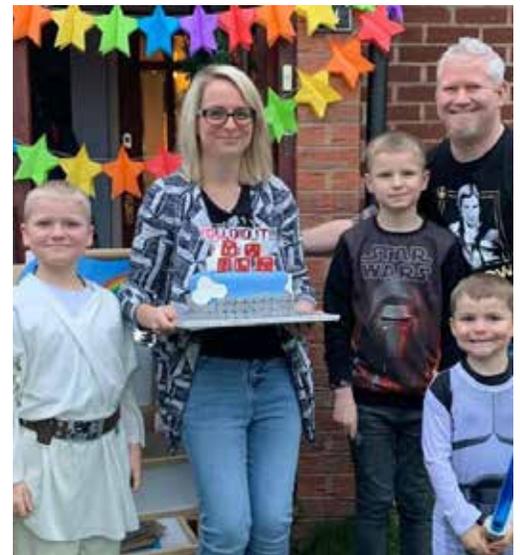
BETHEL

LUTHERAN CHURCH

*Color Bethelite provided in part by
Bethel Endowment Foundation*

POWER FOR EVERYDAY LIVING

It has been called one of the “top ten recoveries of all time”—and the actual timing of this resurrection involving a two-year-old boy became a miracle to those who witnessed it. Dylan Askin was first rushed to the hospital from his home in Shelton Lock, England on Christmas in 2015. Not only had one of his lungs entirely collapsed, but 80% of the surface area was covered in cysts. The toddler was diagnosed with pulmonary Langerhans cell histiocytosis, an extremely rare form of lung cancer that affects only one-in-ten-million people. As the boy continued to fight the disease, he developed bacterial pneumonia and fell into a coma. Three months later, Dylan’s parents became resigned to their son’s passing when doctors at Queens Medical Hospital told them his condition was not looking good at all. Heartbroken, they agreed to take him off life-support systems on the holy day known to Christians as Good Friday. “They told us things were looking bleak and that we weren’t going to get him back,” said Dylan’s mother, Kerry. “All the settings on all the machines were at their highest and he was still struggling.



The Askin family celebrates the end of Dylan's (far left) treatments

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We had him christened, all his family came from all over to say goodbye, including his big brother.” Just as Dylan was about to be let go, however, his heart rate returned to normal and his parents immediately told the doctors to wait. The resilient boy was not giving up, just yet. During the next two days, he had recovered so much that he was sent home on Easter Sunday. Now, at four years old, Dylan’s family announced this week that he had beaten the cancer entirely and made a full recovery in what his parents and doctors called, “an Easter miracle”. “I am not massively religious, but I did think it was a miracle,” says Kerry. “When we told our eldest son, he said ‘he’s like Jesus’—rising from the dead.”

But, two years later, Mike and Kerry, were given the devastating news that the cancer had returned. Despite his experiences, Mike admits that’s Dylan coped



But the angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; I know that you are looking for Jesus who was crucified. He is not here; for he has been raised, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, ‘He has been raised from the dead, and indeed he is going ahead of you to Galilee; there you will see him.’ This is my message for you.” So they left the tomb quickly with fear and great joy, and ran to tell his disciples.” —Matthew 25:5-8

well with all his treatment. “He’s very resilient and a very happy young boy as well,” his dad said. “Even through it all, he would walk in and light up a room, he’s a very strong man and he makes it very easy to handle things because he’s such a bright soul.”

Dylan successfully finished treatment for his cancer in December 2020, a year ahead of schedule, and MRI scans showed the cancer had cleared and he was just left with the extensive damage to his spine caused by the cancer.

As we look forward to Easter, the celebration of the resurrection, we often think of the event in the past or future tense, something that God did in the life of Jesus way back then and will do for people way down the road in the far future. But as Dylan’s story illustrates, God’s power for life over death is very present in the here and now. The Bible states quite beautifully that the power that God exercised in the raising of

Jesus from the dead is the same power God brings into our lives on a daily basis. “I want you to know about the great and mighty power that God has for us followers. It is the same wonderful power he used when he raised Christ

from death and let him sit at his right side in heaven” —Ephesians 1:19-20. We often let ourselves fall into a spiritual, mental, or emotional funk, a state of internal resignation that our problems, troubles, and worries are impenetrable. We allow our mental outlook to get shaped by the notion that nothing

is ever really going to change. But that is not what Dylan discovered. That is not what the Bible says. We have a source of power everyday that breaks the bonds of death, disease, and sorrow. That source of power is the living presence of the living Savior — Jesus Christ. Call to him! Cling to him. 🌈

“know about
the great and
mighty power
God has for
us...”

SERMON SERIES COMING IN MAY



Stories have power, and almost nothing captures the power of story better than a good movie. With this in mind, Bethel's "At the Movies" sermon series will use scenes from Hollywood films to help illustrate God's story in Scripture. The whole idea of this series comes straight from the methods of Jesus. One quick glance through the Gospels, and you will see how many times Jesus used parables—captivating and culturally relevant stories that helped people more clearly understand the grace and hope of God. The storytelling medium of our generation is movies. "At the Movies" will begin during weekend worship services from May 1-29. 🌈



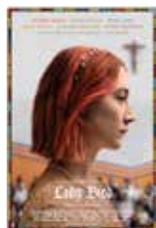
May 1

When Forgiveness
Doesn't
Make Sense



May 22

How to Win
the Fight of
Your Life



May 8

The Messy
Truth of
Being a Mom



May 29

What Is
Right About
Our Nation



May 15

Building Trust
in Hard Times

VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION SUNDAY Ice Cream Social



Join us on Sunday, May 1 from 10am-Noon in Sacred Grounds as we celebrate our volunteers and their families with an ice cream social. We want to say **thank you** for being the hands and feet of Jesus. Thank you for offering your time and talents in service to Bethel and our Lord Jesus.

"There are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord."

—I Corinthians 12:4-5

We praise God for the gifts he has given you and your generous heart to share them.

We can't wait to celebrate **YOU!**

This event is hosted by the Serving and Community Ministry Teams. 🌈



**MAUNDY
THURSDAY**
Friends & Family
At Home



What began last year as a COVID necessity is back this year by popular demand — Maundy Thursday at home. Maundy Thursday remembers Jesus washing the disciples' feet at the last supper. On April 14, we will worship together in our homes. The idea is that we will all share in the Lord's Supper around a table at the same time, just as Jesus and his disciples did. We want to embody the message of Acts 2:46 that says, "They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." To give you a better idea of what to expect, on Maundy Thursday there will be dozens of groups that meet in homes to do three things:

1. Have a meal together
2. Spend some time in a devotional
3. Tune in to a live-stream at 7:30pm, when Pastor Matt will lead us in communion.

Make your plans now on what friends and family you would like to share this evening with. Remember to have your water and towel ready for the washing of feet and to have wine/grape juice for communion. 🍷



EASTER

Four Weekend Services Celebrating The Resurrection



CELEBRATION

GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE: Premiers *Echoes From The Catacombs*

S hellie's Jacobs' creative adaptation of a collection of Byzantine Melkite Catholic hymns, *Echoes From the Catacombs*, provides a powerful and dramatic musical context for Bethel's Good Friday service. These traditional chants from the liturgy of St. John Chrysostom are woven beautifully in and around readings of the passion of Jesus.

This premier performance of Jacob's work by a congregation makes Bethel the first congregation in the world to bring the music to



7pm

the public. John Chrysostom lived from 347-407 and was an important early church leader who served as archbishop of Constantinople (modern day Istanbul). He was known for his eloquent preaching and public speaking which is why he is remembered as John "Chrysostom". Chrysostom means golden-mouthed. He was one of the most prolific Christian writers and is known for a liturgy that bears his name, *Divine Liturgy of Saint John Chrysostom*. He is remembered in the Lutheran church on September 13. 🌈

EASTER BREAKFAST

Join us for a delicious Easter Breakfast on April 17 from 10:30am-12:30pm. Have your fill of egg casserole, pancakes, bacon, and more. This will take place on the lower level in Borgwardt Hall. 🌈



BETHEL CONCERT SERIES PRESENTS

Spring Awakenings
(Harp and Flute)
Fri, April 22, 7pm



Join us for instrumental music's "heavenly duo". Virtuoso performers Johanna Wienholts and Stephanie Jutt present an evening of diverse selections for harp and flute.

Pieces by Haydn, Rota, Angulo and others will showcase the duo's lyric, refined, transparent side, as well as more grounded, rhythmic, and earthy sounds. This small ensemble fills and transforms the space around it like no other musical sound. Come be carried away by our featured Jutt-Wienholts duo.

Admission is Free.

This concert is being funded by a generous gift from an anonymous donor. 🌈

ECHOES FROM THE CATACOMBS

Resonances in Liturgy for Good Friday

Before I arrived at Bethel in August, a unique project was already in the works for Good Friday. Inspired by the music and artistry found in listening to Shellie Jacobs' album *Echoes from the Catacombs*, and with her permission, Pastor Mike commissioned Nashville-based arranger David McKay to transcribe the full album for our use on Good Friday. Shellie grew up in the Byzantine Melkite Catholic Church, and in *Echoes* has created a musical landscape of wonder and mystery using "echoes" of chant from the Divine Liturgy central to the celebration of eucharist in the Greek Orthodox church. Her creation is well suited for holding the anguish, silence, surprise, darkness, and ultimate triumph of the Passion story we explore each year on Good Friday.

As church traditions flowing from the same source, our own eucharistic liturgy shares many similarities with the Divine Liturgy of the Orthodox church. Many of the texts are the same. And, as we have journeyed through Lent with "Breaking Bread: Dining Like Jesus" as a preaching focus, culminating the season on Good Friday using music and texts from the Divine Liturgy is most fitting: Christ, with whom we have walked and dined and listened and laughed, becomes himself our meal in his dying. The body and blood of Christ are manifest before our eyes on Good Friday in dramatic fashion, showing us the agony, the resilience, and the ardent love that makes such a sacrifice resonant, life-sustaining, and eternal.

Echoes from the Catacombs was a project of the heart for Shellie. She says about her experience in church as a child: "It is there I met God. I encountered Him not through cognition, or a dead and antiquated religion, but rather through a vital and vivid expression of Christianity whose impact I could not possibly yet comprehend, let alone appreciate...the one thing that has lingered always in the catacombs of my soul is [the Byzantine church's] music...inspiring, contemplative, yes...haunting and always, always inviting one to worship."

Most Eastern Orthodox Christians live in eastern Europe and Russia, a part of the world at the center of human attention at this moment. These *Echoes* resonate that much more fully as we hold vigil for the safety and security of millions of Ukrainians, as we clamor to understand the motivations behind violent political aggression, and as we desperately embody the dependence we have on a Savior who has dominion over all of this, and on a Love that has the power to claim us and save us from the waste of our suffering and folly. *Kyrie eleison. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.*

Join us at 7pm on Good Friday, April 15 in the sanctuary for what we hope is a searing encounter with this story that is the heart of our faith, read dramatically by special readers and juxtaposed with movements from Shellie's *Echoes* offered by Bethel Choir and guest instrumentalists. 🌈

—Zach Busch



HONOR EARTH DAY

Commit to LED Lighting

When it comes to fighting air pollution and global warming, government action is key, but so are the smaller actions that we can take every day in our own homes.

The easiest and most direct way to improve our homes' energy efficiency is to convert our lights to LED (light-emitting diode) bulbs and fixtures. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent lighting, and are better than fluorescent bulbs as well.

On Sunday April 24, Bethel's Caring for Creation Team will distribute free LED



light bulbs in Good Shepherd Chapel after all church services. The bulbs are provided by Focus on Energy, the program of our electric utilities that enables organizations and individuals to take action to improve their energy efficiency. This helps utilities curb electricity demand, thereby limiting capital costs and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The LED bulbs are in packs of four 60-watt-equivalent bulbs. Take one pack and ask for as many more as you can realistically use in your home. Check to see where there are still non-

LED bulbs that could be replaced — and don't forget your basement and garage.

The Evangelical Lutheran Church statement on *Caring for Creation* (<https://tinyurl.com/yu2m23fe>) calls on us to pursue justice for creation through participation in sustainable action. Bethel Caring for Creation will also be handing out **Environment Action Commitment forms this Earth Day Sunday**. We urge you to take a form and make an environmental stewardship commitment. Conversion to LED lighting would be a good start. 🌍

A CALL TO JUSTICE AND MERCY (ACTJAM)

Native American Focus: The Why



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This quarter we're focusing on our Native American neighbors. Here's why, in the words of Henning Garvin, a member of the Ho Chunk Nation, speaking to ELCA churches in Madison.

"A common thing Native Americans hear is 'get over it. It was a long time ago.' My dad grew up with his great grandfather who was born in 1859. He could remember the removals. He remembers being in a boxcar and coming home [to Wisconsin] late at night, waiting for the new moon, keeping hidden all the way. This isn't ancient history. We're not very far from that time and we still feel the impacts.

The maladies affecting our people come from a very traumatic time in our history. There's a lot of bad things but we're also very resilient people. So how do we come back and heal from something like that? Acknowledge it took place. It's not to instill any feelings of guilt. We need to collectively acknowledge that this has occurred and it still has effects. Let's work together to mitigate those effects."

Join us Sunday, April 10 at 10:15am to learn and discuss Ho-Chunk history and its effects. 🌈



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Worship Times: Sunday at 7:30am & 9am - Traditional; 10:30am - Contemporary
Saturday at 5pm - Acoustic Casual

