



# Bethel

**by God, each other, family, friends and community**

January 31, 2024

Bethel Lutheran Church, White Rock, SC

Grace and peace to you,

There are two things I'd like to mention in my monthly pastor "article".

- 1- LENT is coming! In this Simply Blessed you will read about the two different opportunities for worship. We are offering a midday service at Bethel, keeping in mind that many do not drive after dark. However, we are also participating in the Dutch Fork Cluster Lent worship services with our Lutheran neighbors. I really hope you will consider attending these services as representatives of Bethel. A group of pastors and musicians have worked hard together to prepare these services and create space for deepening discipleship and faith community. We have not been able to gather with these neighboring churches since before COVID (in 2020) and this is certainly a joyful opportunity to embrace reconnecting with our neighbors in faith.
- 2- Asking for help and admitting we are vulnerable is difficult for many of us. We tend to not want to "burden" others. We make assumptions that our load is just too much to share with someone else. Church community is set apart. This space is a place that is different than the world. In Christian community we promise to bear one another's burdens and pray for one another. We have many folks who keep us informed and the prayer list up to date. Still, there are those who say "Pastor (or people) are too busy. I don't need to bother them with my stuff." Please keep us informed if you (or someone you love) is sick or hurting. I told the congregation in our January meeting, "It is my deep joy to serve through pastoral care." Please share your prayer requests with me or someone in Bethel's community. Let us know when you are sick so I can visit or pray with you or let members know to check on you. You do not have to hurt alone, and we cannot help if we do not know.

Peace be with each of you. I am grateful to be here and hold you all in prayer each week.

Love in Christ,  
Pastor Megan

## LENT WORSHIP AND MEALS



**Ash Wednesday, February 14-** Worship with Holy Communion and Imposition of the Ashes at **12:00 pm and 6:30 pm**

Lent Worship is offered in two unique ways. Midday services are held at Bethel at **11:30 am** in the sanctuary with lunch to follow. Please sign up so we can plan for meals each week. The theme of midday worship is **Open My Life, Lord**.

For evening, we will join the Dutch Fork Cluster congregations at 6 pm for dinner and 7 pm worship. The host congregation provides the meal. Pastors are taking turns preaching. Please attend these services as we reconnect with our Lutheran neighbors. The host congregation provides the meal. The theme of our cluster Lent services is **Created for Community**.

February 21- St. Michael's, Irmo

February 28- Mt. Olivet, Chapin

March 6- St. Thomas, Chapin

March 13- St. John, Irmo

March 20- Bethel, White Rock

**Looking ahead:** Worship on Maundy Thursday (3/28) and Good Friday (3/29) will be held at 5 pm. Easter worship will be at 7 am and 10 am with continental breakfast after the first service.



**Rebekah Circle** will have a brief meeting after worship on Feb 4th to discuss using funds for 2024.

**Christian Ed** will meet following the Rebekah Circle meeting on Sunday, February 4.

**Lutheran Men** will meet on Sunday, February 4, at 8:00 am.

**Lutheran Men Bible Study** will meet on Sunday, February 18, at 8:00 am.



**The Property Committee** will meet following worship on February 4 to discuss the findings of the parsonage inspection in the Council Room.

**Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** will be held on February 13 at 6:00 pm with a brief service for Burning of the Palms.



**PUB THEOLOGY** will meet on Tuesday, February 20, at 7:00 pm at Tonella's Pizza Kitchen.



**Ash Wednesday Services** will be held on February 14 at 12 noon and 6:30 pm.



**Worship and Music will not meet in February.** The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, at 1:00 pm.



**TULIPS:** You may help decorate the church on Easter Sunday by placing a tulip(s) **in memory of** or **in honor of** a loved one. A bulletin listing of these will be inserted in the bulletin on Easter Sunday. The cost is \$13.00 per plant. Order forms are available at the entrances of the church.



February 3 – Phil Wunder  
February 3 – Debi Randall  
February 8 – Jason (B) Derrick  
February 16 – Sandy Olson  
February 19 – Donna Derrick  
February 20 – Irmgard Wetmore  
February 22 – Frances Derrick



We truly are fortunate to have ready access to clean, safe water. Hard to believe, but that is not the case in many parts of the world! This is why the Outreach and Missions team has decided to raise money for a well. If we can raise \$2,500 this year, we can provide a well that will supply up to 500 families with clean, safe water. Please join us in this yearlong project. Clearly mark your contribution for the ELCA Good Gifts Well Project.

**Prayer List:** Sue Elliott, Luther Kibler, Marilyn Bull, Paula Miller (Russell Miller’s daughter-in-law), Patsy McCarthy, Julie Allen, Harvey Stone, Grady Slice, Phil Wunder, Pebble Briggs, Vannie Toy, Delores Derrick, Claude Leviner, Irene Leviner, Ronnie Taylor, Lloyd Stone (friend of Ron and Patrick), Viktor Dowd (Marilyn Shealy’s great-grandson), Bertha McCarthy, Paul and Bonnie Bates, Bella Raniszewski, Sheri Southworth, Richard Torres, Sheri Johnson (friend of Ron and Patrick), Betty Rhodes (Donna Torres’ sister), Nicole Ganz (friend of Patrick George), Daniel George (Patrick’s brother), Wayne Prescott (friend of Bob and Sue Elliott), Monica McCarthy, and Richard Chouinard.

**Currently deployed:** Drake Upchurch (Aleena Stone’s husband), Brittney Bingham (Becky Smoak’s granddaughter) and Jordan Turok (Faye McCarthy’s grandson).



On January 27, our oldest member, Vannie Toy, turned 100 years old. Happy birthday Mrs. Vannie!!!



# CHAIR YOGA

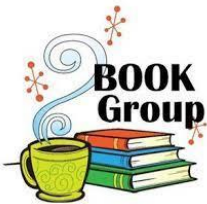
SIX WEEK CLASS

BEGINNERS, ALL AGES,  
ALL ABILITIES AND LEVELS WELCOME

**Cindy Smith, Certified YogaFit Instructor**

|   |  |
|---|--|
| TUESDAYS AT 1:00 PM<br>FEBRUARY 13-<br>MARCH 19 | \$30 PAID IN FULL<br>BY FEBRUARY 13<br>CHECKS PAYABLE TO<br>BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH |
|---|--|

BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2081 DUTCH FORK ROAD  
WHITE ROCK, SC 29177  
803-781-2134



**Bethel Book Group** will meet on  
**Sunday, April 14 at 1:00 pm** to  
discuss *Tobacco Wives*  
by Adele Myers  
and **Sunday,**  
**July 21**  
to discuss  
*Grace Will Lead Us Home*  
Jennifer Hawes.