

The Monthly Newsletter from your Family of Faith at Bethany

April, 2011

April 17 – PALM SUNDAY
April 21 – MAUNDY THURSDAY
(6 PM Soup & Sandwiches; 7 PM Service)
April 23 – Easter Egg Hunt, 10 AM – 12 PM
April 24 – EASTER (no Sunday School)
(see Dave von Behren create a work of art
hear Erich von Behren play the organ)
April 29-30 – Youth: Acquire the Fire Event

LINC

Life IN Christ

Our mission is to create the opportunity for all to make discipleship a way of life.

A Message from Pastor James

My dear friends and members of Bethany Church:

Easter People! We are Easter People! Let me tell you about Easter People!

Easter People walk by FAITH. One of our dear members, Roy Langolf, lost his sister in a tragic car accident recently. We all grieve with him and his dear family in this difficult time. When I talked to Roy's parents at the funeral home, our conversation turned immediately to faith. Immediately! These two dear people were facing the ultimate in personal loss, the death of a child. There is nothing more difficult in life to face. Yet, they both spoke to me of their faith in God to see them

Faith through life's most difficult moment. It was belief in God's PRESENCE with them right now and God's PROMISES of a heavenly home that gave them the courage to move forward, however difficult it may be through the deep, dark days of loss and grief. My heart breaks for Roy, his parents, his siblings, his family. And yet, I also see the faith of Easter People who "grieve not as those who have no faith." All those who walk by faith are Easter People

Easter people live oriented toward HOPE. "Hope is the confidence in things unseen, things yet to come." Easter people are forward looking. Anticipating the best, looking for the good, expecting a miracle – these are also the qualities of Easter People. I often ask people what they are looking forward to. Sometimes people tell me about an anticipated

vacation, trip, or outing. My cousin Kathy works long hours. She looks forward to Friday night when she can go out and have fun with her friends. That is Hope! You keep moving forward because you know that something good is coming in the end. I am a person of hope because I believe in the promises of God that there is something wonderful beyond this life, a heavenly home, a place of peace and love and rest. I am a person of hope because I believe that God has good things waiting for

me, just beyond the horizon in this life also, despite its troubles and sorrows. I live by hope! We all do! The day at the beach, going up north, the upcoming fishing trip, the time with grandchildren – anything that draws us forward is the stuff of hope. Victor Frankl says it is hope that sustains us through the most difficult circumstances of life. Easter People are those who look forward. Easter People put their confidence in the God who is waiting just beyond the horizon.

Easter people have hearts filled with LOVE. Jesus teaches us about love. Jesus shows us love in his sacrifice, suffering, and death. And Jesus embodies love that is available to us right now. The miracle of Easter is the abiding presence of the love of Jesus in my heart and in yours. With every act of love given by Easter People – the love of Jesus permeates our present moments.

Easter People bring cans of food to share with the poor when they come to worship. Easter People comfort the grieving, the dying, the broken. Easter People radiate the love of Jesus in tangible ways that can be felt through an embrace, a card, an act of kindness, a prayer, a gesture, even a silent sitting beside someone through sorrow, even a gentle admonishment about sin. Look, we who know the love of Jesus in our hearts – and share it through our acts of love - we are Easter People.

These are the things eternal. These are the qualities that make us Easter People! FAITH. HOPE. LOVE. Rejoice! Our Lord lives on through the faith, hope, and love in our hearts! Easter People rejoice!



Sermons & Scripture - April, 2011

April 3 – 4th SUNDAY IN LENT; COMMUNION SUNDAY

Theme: Example of Hope: Jeremiah buys a field during wartime.

Scripture: Jeremiah 32:25

Sermon: "Invest" in the Future

Skit: "The incongruity of faith"

April 10 – 5th SUNDAY IN LENT; FELLOWSHIP DINNER

Theme: Finishing: Solomon can't finish what he started.

Scripture: I Kings 11:3

Sermon: "Finish"

April 17 – PALM SUNDAY; NAME TAG & FAMILY SUNDAY

Theme: Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem as King of our lives.

Scripture: Matthew 21:1-17

Sermon: UnOrthoDox

Skit: "Easter Eggs & Chocolate Bunnies" (a skit about children being confused at Easter and the adult responsibility to teach the significance of Easter.)

April 21 – MAUNDY THURSDAY

Theme: Humble Service dedicated to our dear Lord.

Scripture: John 13:3-17; 20

Meditation: Your Humble Servant

Activity: Voluntary foot washing / hand washing ceremony.

April 24 – EASTER

Theme: Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-7a; John 20:11-21

Sermon: Multi-Media Message Featuring Artist Dave von Behren

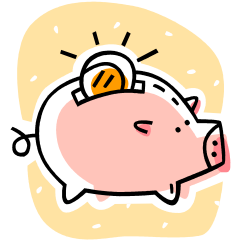
Note: NO SUNDAY SCHOOL

Guest Organist: Erich von Behren

Dave Ramsey's FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY – PREVIEW, April 3, 12:00 PM

You are invited to stay after worship for a **45-minute DVD Preview of Dave Ramsey's FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY Program**. This life-changing program teaches you to achieve your financial goals by eliminating debt, saving for the future, and giving like never before. You will be challenged and motivated to make a plan for your money and change your family tree forever.

After seeing the preview, you may choose to **continue with a 13-week course** being offered by Bethany. The group that meets for the preview on April 3 will choose a time and day of the week for the weekly Financial Peace University meetings.



The course consists of a 13-week video curriculum taught by financial expert Dave Ramsey. It incorporates small-group discussions to encourage accountability and discipleship.

Financial Peace University is highly entertaining for everyone, with a unique combination of humor, informative financial advice and biblical messages. More than one million families have already had their lives changed by attending Financial Peace University.

Pastor James of Bethany said ***"Susan and I have used Dave Ramsey's advice with great success. We have eliminated over half our debt already. We have also discovered the joy of saving for trips and other things that are important to us. We highly recommend the Financial Peace University. We hope you will take this opportunity to find some financial peace in your lives too."***

Join our host **BILL BRAZZ** for the April 3 preview. You will have an opportunity to sign-up for the weekly sessions. For more information about Financial Peace University, you may call 1-888-227-3223 or visit www.daveramsey.com. Call Bethany at 681-2130 or check the website: www.bethanywaterford.org.

Men's Breakfast, April 16

Come enjoy the fellowship at the Men's Breakfast on Saturday, April 16 at the home of Bill & Nancy Maxfield, 8164 Vanden, White Lake. We will gather at **8:30 AM** for a hearty breakfast. There will be good conversation and a spiritual lesson from Bill Maxfield. All men are invited.

Phone 248-673-1213

Fax 248-673-1454

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Fellowship Dinner

On Sunday, **April 10**, we will have a Fellowship Dinner after our Worship Service. You are invited to bring a dish of food to share (no desserts please) and stay for a time of fellowship. The Teams responsible for set up and cleanup for April are: Stewardship & Service Teams.



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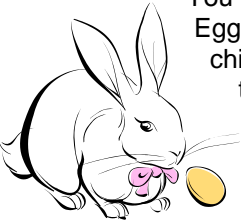
Corrections

On the enclosed birthday and anniversary lists, should you notice a correction that needs to be made, please contact Dorothy Maman at 248-681-2130 or office@bethanywaterford.org. Also notify Dorothy if you find any errors in the recently published Church Directory.

- Two corrections for the Church Directory are:
- Laurie Zeller Phone #: 585-212-5751
 - Ferrol Haxter Phone #: 734-363-3096

Palm Sunday – April 17

On **Sunday, April 17**, we will observe Palm Sunday at Bethany. The service will begin with a Children’s Processional. We are asking that parents and grandparents bring children to the fellowship hall before the service so they can receive palms and instructions. Palm Sunday will also be **FAMILY SUNDAY**. We have designed a worship experience that will be great for the whole family. The Preschool and Nursery rooms will be open. There will be no Children’s Church that day.



You will see an original skit entitled “Easter Eggs & Chocolate Bunnies” (a skit about children being confused at Eastertime and the adult responsibility to teach church the significance of Easter.)

There will be palm branches available for every worshiper to take home.

Don’t miss this opportunity to worship God together with your family. Worship begins at 10:30 AM.

Maundy Thursday – April 21

On Thursday, April 21, we will have a Soup & Sandwich Dinner at Bethany at 6 PM, followed by a child-friendly service at 7 PM. The service will feature our choir and a voluntary foot washing/hand washing ceremony. A meditation on John 13:3-17, 20 will be given by Pastor James. It is entitled “Your Humble Servant.”

Good Friday, April 22

There will be a Community Good Friday Service on April 22 at Calvary Lutheran in White Lake (on M-59). The service is in three sections: 12:00, 12:30 and 1:00 PM. You are invited to come to one or all sections. There will be prayers, hymns, and messages by local pastors.

EASTER, April 24

Our Easter Sunday Service will be moving and meaningful. Dave von Behren is going to create an original painting during the service. The painting will be created in a multi-media setting of music and drama. Dave’s father, Erich von Behren, will be playing the Prelude and Postlude on our organ as well as accompanying two hymns. The Children’s Bells will also be featured. Bring your friends and family to this spiritually enriching experience. The Nursery and Pre-School Rooms will be staffed. There is no Sunday School on Easter.



Todd S. Gulich
Director

6485 Cooley Lake Road Waterford, MI 48327 (248) 681-9710
liberty.1@comcast.net

TIGERS - HOME PLATE

Deadline: April 3! We are taking a group from Bethany to the **Home Plate** event at Comerica Park on Saturday, **May 14**. The program begins at 12:30 PM. You will see and hear several Tigers up close and personal as they talk about their personal faith in Jesus Christ. After the program, you will get to go out on the field. The event includes a Tiger Game (begins at 1:45 PM). Tickets are \$35. **Deadline: April 3.** Write checks to “Bethany” and put “Tigers” in lower left corner. Don’t delay. Limited seating. Questions? Call Lon Fall at 248-797-2664.

VALET PARKING

We offer Valet Parking on Sundays beginning at **10:00 AM**. Just drive up under the portico and honk your horn. A church member will come out and park your car for you. Interested in joining our team of valets? Call **Susan Bolin** at 248-534-3799 or **Jan Rowe** at 248-338-0786. NOTE to MEMBERS: Please leave the parking spaces under the basketball hoop for valet parking.

DEACONS

Our Deacons offer spiritual counseling & prayer **each Sunday**, upon the conclusion of worship. The Deacon of the Day will meet with anyone desiring personal prayer at the front of the sanctuary by the piano. Our Deacons are: **Nona Bos, Bob Hunt, & Rodger Zeller.**

DEACONS - HEALING PRAYERS

On the 2nd & 4th Mondays of each month, the Pastor and Deacons will be available in the sanctuary to offer healing prayers for anyone who desires prayer for any reason. An anointing with oil will be available if desired. Time: **12:30 PM.** In **April: 11th & 25th.**

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Holy Week Reminders

- April 21 – **Maundy Thursday:** 6 PM – Soup & Sandwich Dinner; 7 PM – Service
- April 22 – **Good Friday** Community Services @ Calvary Lutheran in White Lake (on M-59) Times: 12:00; 12:30; 1:00
- April 23 – **Easter Egg Hunt & Kid's Program,** 10 AM – 12 PM
- April 24 – **EASTER SUNDAY:** Featuring: painting by Dave von Behren & organ by Erich von Behren

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Bethany Book Club

By Louise Aebersold

Our April sections are:

The Book Thief, a New York Times #1 bestseller, by Markus Zusak begins in 1939 in Nazi Germany and is told from the point of view of Death, a reluctant collector of souls, who does not enjoy his appointed job. Centered on the main character, Liesel Meminger, are themes of friendship, guilt, death, and the beauty and brutality of Humanity. This historical fiction book was recommended by Ruth Hanson and Bob Hunt.



The Heart Mender by Andy Andrews takes place in Florida on the Gulf of Mexico in WW II America. It is a mystery, a history lesson and a love story all wrapped up into one book with a message that is powerful and life changing and shows that life often gives second chances. This book is based on a true story and was recommended by Nona Bos.

Both books are available at local libraries.

Please join us for a discussion of these two books on Friday, April 15, at Jan Rowe's home (749 Owego, Pontiac 48341) from 9:15 to 11:15 AM.

COMING IN MAY

- May 1 – "One Great Hour" Kickoff*
- May 8 – Mother's Day/Women's Day*
{Guest Speaker: Jan Rowe. No Fellowship Dinner}
- May 14 – Tiger's HOME PLATE event @ Comerica Park*
- May 15 – Camp Sunday & Pancake Dinner*
- May 29 – Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend*

Images of God and Jesus through Musician's Eyes--Part 2

By Al Shulte

This class is a continuation of the class taught in the spring of 2010. The purpose of the class is twofold: (1) to expose class members to the wide variety of styles of music that contains ideas about God, Jesus, and related spiritual issues; (2) to allow class members to discuss their reactions to the musical selections and the issues they raise. The music will include many different genres, and will be selected to inspire people, to cause them to think, sometimes to amuse them, and hopefully to provide some situations where they say "I never thought about things that way." Each session will be self-contained, so persons with busy schedules don't need to feel they will lose continuity if they have to miss a session. A typical class will be about 2/3 listening to the selections and about 1/3 discussing them.

Senior Corner

By Rodger Zeller

Recently, I read a number of articles and reports concerning the persecution of Christians abroad, especially in Muslim dominated countries. We are extremely fortunate to live in a country that practices freedom of religion.

If you convert to Christianity in many Muslim countries, you can be sentenced to die since you would be considered an infidel. Several weeks ago, Salman Taseer, the governor of the Pakistani province of Punjab, was murdered by one of his own bodyguards when he suggested that Asia Bibi, a Christian woman accused of blasphemy not be stoned as a punishment. Many Pakistanis applauded the bodyguard.

Martyrdom—dying for your faith—is a real issue for millions of Christians in other parts of the world. I sometimes wonder how firmly I would stand for my faith if I were in the shoes of many Christians around the world. How committed are you to your faith? Do your co-workers know you are a Christian? Do your friends know where you stand? How important is your faith to you?

Jesus said in the *Sermon on the Mount* (Matthew 5:10-12), "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when men revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for so men persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Easter Celebration

Saturday, April 23rd

10 AM – Noon

Ages Toddler – 5th Grade

Fun you can expect:

- *Easter Egg Hunt*
- *Inspirational Program*
- *Crafts & Prizes*
- *Mission Project*



If able, please bring these items:

- Chapstick
- Individual Tissue Packs
- Small Lotion
- Hard Candy, Tea
- Small Devotions

\$3 Donation per family greatly appreciated.

Mission Concern for April

By Lottie Jespersen

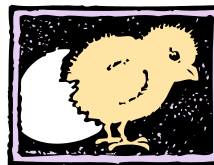
Heifer International has worked to lift struggling families out of poverty since 1944.

They believe that by **giving families a hand-up, not just a hand-out**, they will be empowered to turn their lives of hunger/poverty into self-reliance and hope.



Gifts of livestock, along with training, are given to people all over the world including the United States. Heifer provides a unique model of sustainable development through training and assistance in agriculture and animal husbandry. They are an organization who deals with the problem of hunger and poverty professionally and successfully with greater scale and speed than we as individuals are able to do.

Your Mission Team has chosen to partner with Heifer International and provide flocks of chicks and trios of bunnies to people in need.



A Flock of Chicks costs \$20

- In almost no time at all egg production begin providing much-needed daily protein for malnourished children.
- A good hen can lay 200 eggs a year—plenty to eat, share and sell
- Chickens require little space, thrive on readily available food scraps, control insects and fertilize gardens

A Trio of Bunnies costs \$60 A trio of Heifer rabbits and training in their care is a low-cost, high-yield way to help impoverished families rapidly increase their income and nutrition. Rabbits are:

- easy to care for
- require only simple foods
- produce manure that can be applied directly to gardens without composting—immediately boosting crop productivity.

Heifer gift recipients make a commitment to pass on the first offspring and training to a family in need in their community. In a short time an entire villages will be strengthened through our gift!

Our goal = \$800

- > 10 flocks of chicks (\$200)
- > 10 trios of bunnies (\$600)

Will you join us in giving someone in need a hand up?



Sweet Slide Show Memories

sweetssideshowmemories.web.officelive.com

Michelle McGregor, owner
248-802-2802



Honoring loved ones through pictures ...



♥20% profits donated
to Bethany

Empty Ink Cartridges Needed

By Josh Nelson

The Bethany Tech Team is collecting used ink cartridges from computer printers to accumulate credit at office stores. We have been able to purchase several computer-related items for the church office because of this program. If you have any used ink cartridges, please drop them off in the office. This keeps them out of the landfill and allows Bethany to receive store credit of \$3.00 for each one.

Please contact Joshua Nelson if you have any questions regarding this program.

With a Twist

By LINC Editor Ellen Whitehead



I recently read an article about a woman who had discovered a "Prayer Box" alongside a hiking trail. She thought it was such a good idea that she brought that idea back to her church and they agreed to set up a similar opportunity. Well, guess what? The idea was brought to our Church Council and everyone seemed excited about trying it at Bethany too!

We're thinking of calling it our "Drive-Thru Prayer Box." You know, like the drive-thru, fast-food joints we all frequent from time to time. Only, this drive-thru will give passersby the opportunity to drop off a prayer request just by pulling in our driveway and placing their request in a special box they can reach from their car.

Bethany has always been known as a praying church. It's something we are good at. So, why not give the community an opportunity to share in prayer with us?

We'll advertise it on our church marquee; try and get press coverage; and distribute some leaflets to let people know about our new outreach program.

We're developing a special form for these prayer requests and individuals can choose to remain anonymous or provide contact information so we can reach out to them. Regardless, we will pray for them.

Watch for the Prayer Box to be installed sometime this April or May.

If you have any suggestions, are willing to help with this outreach program, or might be handy at designing the Prayer Box; contact Ellen Whitehead (807-2178), Jan Rowe (338-0786) or Susan Bolin (722-4516).



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Poetry Corner

By Ellen Schettling Whitehead

Be still

I try to dear Lord, but you know it's hard for me

And know

What is it you want me to know?

That I Am

Am what? I search to find the answers

God.

Such a short, yet powerful word.

Be still and know that I Am God.

Is it that you want me to be still?
and then, and only then,
I will find you?

God, Am I That?

"Know and Still be."

Ah YES! Now I Understand;
and I found you
in the stillness.

Bethany

Encounter God's Love!!

**An American Baptist Family Of Faith In
The Heart Of
Oakland County**

1375 Hiller Road
Waterford, MI
48327



Website: www.bethanywaterford.org

(Copies of this newsletter are available on our website)

*We welcome your contributions to the LINC. The May LINC deadline is **Sunday, April 24**. Email articles to Ellen Whitehead at twinklakede@comcast.net or put them in the tray in the Church Office. Please get articles in by the deadline. Thanks!*

Bethany Prayer Chain

To activate the Bethany Prayer Chain, call one of the following individuals:

- Joyce Hice – (248) 335-9026
- Joann Shulte – (248) 682-1109
- Anna McGregor – (248) 673-8361 or
- Church Office – (248) 681-2130

Outreach Matchmakers

If you need special assistance (housekeeping, meals, emergency childcare, etc.), call:

- Susan Bolin – 248-534-3799
- Jan Rowe – 248-338-0786

Tender People for Tough Times

When you need Bethany's Pastoral Staff, for any reason at all, just call:

Church Office: 248-681-2130 (Fax is 248-681-9798)

Email: Office@bethanywaterford.org

Rev. James Bolin at home: 248-722-4516

Deacon Nona Bos: 248-886-8615

Deacon Bob Hunt: 248-481-2960

Deacon Rodger Zeller: 248-789-5809

Being a family of faith means
you don't have to go it alone – **CALL US!**