

# THE VISITOR



Volume 67, No. 3

March 2017

**“Blessed to serve God  
and share our faith  
with all!”**

## Join us for Church on Sunday:

Choir Practice	9:04 a.m.
Sunday School for all ages	9:15 a.m.
Sunday Worship	10:30 a.m.
Fellowship	11:30 a.m.

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## CHURCH CONTACT INFORMATION

1312 S. 45<sup>th</sup> Street; Omaha, NE 68106

Phone: 402-551-1063

Email: [blchurch1@q.com](mailto:blchurch1@q.com)

Bethel Home Page - <http://bethellutheranomaaha.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/BethelLutheranChurchOmaha>

~ Pastors Rich & Rebecca Sheridan ~

~ Pastor Rich Cell: 402-680-3901 ~

~Pastor Rebecca Cell: 402-658-7792 ~

~ Pastor Rebecca: [pastor.rsheridan@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.rsheridan@gmail.com) ~

~ Pastor Rich: [rich@nebraskasynod.org](mailto:rich@nebraskasynod.org) ~

## Church Council Executive Committee:

Jan Kammerer, Pres. (402-210-9870)

LeAnn Ryan, Vice Pres (402-639-7190)

Tom Haskell, Treas. (402-391-7966)

Erica Heiden, Secretary (308-991-7285)

**Administrative Assistant:** Laura Davis

**Choir Director:** Stephen Lawrence

**Organist:** Teri Davis

**Custodian:** Corey McDaniel

## PASTOR'S MESSAGE

*“For we are God’s servants, working together; you are God’s field, God’s building.~ 1 Corinthians 3:9*

“I am the church, you are the church, we are the church together! All who follow Jesus, all around the world, yes, we’re the church together!” Do you remember that old Sunday School song? For me, it’s a tried and true reminder that Jesus calls us to be the church, that wherever we go throughout the week, we are the church as we witness to Christ active in our daily lives. But there’s another Sunday School poem you may have learned as well, that isn’t as helpful: “Here is the church, here is the steeple, open the doors, and see all the people.” This one uses a common understanding of the church as primarily a building. In the New Testament, the word “church” is never used in this way. “Church” is not a place, or a time like 10:30am Sunday worship. Church is us – the gathered body of Christ. Jesus did preach in buildings occasionally, but it was either in a synagogue or a temple. Most of Jesus’ ministry was done outside, among people who followed him and among skeptics like the Pharisees, Sadducees, and Roman authorities. The early churches that Paul and other apostles started often met in homes or outdoors, not in a building constructed primarily for worship.

In 2017, 500 years after Martin Luther’s Reformation and 2000+ years from when the first early Christian churches were formed, we have to rethink again what it means to be church. As you have certainly noticed at Bethel and probably in other church settings, we no longer open the doors and see “all the people.” We are certainly grateful for the faithful who come through our doors to worship God weekly, but we know that there are a certain percentage of people who won’t even think to walk into a church building, or know the first thing about why we take time to worship God regularly. We can’t wait for people to naturally walk into our building, we have to be God’s building, bringing “church” to those who have little to no experience with what it means to be the church that we encounter in our daily lives.

This is a difficult mental shift for many of us to make who grew up in the church, especially if most of our friends and family also were churchgoing people. In an effort to help us all think differently so that we can truly go and be the church for a world in need of Jesus' love, our Nebraska Synod Assembly passed a strategic plan encouraging all 245 of our congregations to do a Lenten study on how to be the church in 2017. As a part of my work with the Nebraska Synod, I got to work with five creative volunteers, both lay people and pastors, to design a worship curriculum for this purpose. I am very excited to see how the discussion and learning we focus on this Lent impacts us at Bethel. Not to mention – arts and crafts are involved! Please gather with us to be the church on Wednesday nights this Lent. Come be nourished by our delicious potlucks, fellowship with other Christians, time for reflection and prayer, and good conversation. In this sacred time, may we see Christ as work in us as God's servants, God's building, the Church.

*Pastor Rebecca*

#### **Pastors' Parental Leave:**

Baby Sheridan #2 is due April 4. We anticipate being on leave April 2 through May 13, depending on how accurate that arrival date is! According to Nebraska Synod guidelines, pastors who serve together may share four weeks of parental leave, and then we plan to take two weeks of our vacation for a total of six weeks off. Pastor Linda Walz will be leading worship for us during that time, and she will be on call for any pastoral care emergencies. Her cell phone number is 1-402-806-0757. We look forward to celebrating our new addition with you all!

#### **BETHEL NEWS**

##### **Welcome to our Central Michigan University Alternative Spring Break students!**

12 students will be staying once again at Bethel from March 4-March 11 and serving in Omaha. Give them a warm Bethel welcome if you see them around!

##### **Endowment News:**

Bethel's first quarterly payment of \$1200 back to the Endowment for the air conditioner loan was

made on February 7, 2017. Thank you to all for your continued generosity!

#### **Evangelism/PR Notes:**

Please consider hosting fellowship hour after worship, which includes making coffee and providing a small treat of fruit or baked goods and cleaning up. A sign-up calendar is on the kitchen counter with available dates.

Any Bethel church events or activities that you would like in the newsletter, on our website, or Facebook page should be submitted to the church office by the 20<sup>th</sup> of the previous month. Please instruct the committee on where you would like the event advertised and for how long. While we will try to accommodate requests as best we can, committee will use discretion depending on the number of other events happening, print space, etc. Our hope is that we will be able to better coordinate and promote all Bethel events with this system.

#### **Worship/Education Notes:**

Ash Wednesday is March 1, and you are invited to join us for worship with communion and imposition of ashes at 7pm at Bethel. Pastor Rebecca will also be leading and preaching at Immanuel Courtyard's Ash Wednesday service at 2pm that day at 6759 Newport Ave. in the chapel – all are welcome!

#### **Midweek Lenten Worship Opportunities:**

We will gather for fellowship with a potluck meal at 6:30pm followed by an informal worship service at 7pm in Pilgrim Hall on Wednesdays during Lent. This year, we are focusing on what it means to be the church using an interactive and intergenerational worship service designed by Nebraska Synod volunteers serving in congregations across the state.

March 8: We Are Church – Worship/Education Committee hosts

March 15: We Are One – Evangelism/PR

March 22: We Are Holy – Property/Finance

March 29: We Are Catholic – Stewardship/Service

April 5: We Are Apostolic – Women's Circles host

**\*There will be no prayer group or Theology on Tap meeting in March due to our Wednesday Lenten worship series.**

**WELCA luncheon and business meeting:**

Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>, at noon.

**Sunday, March 12 is Daylight Savings Time** – don't forget to set your clocks forward one hour on Saturday night!

**Holy Week:**

Sunday, April 9 is Palm/Passion Sunday at 10:30am

Maundy Thursday, April 13 7pm

Good Friday, April 14 7pm

Easter Egg Hunt Saturday, April 15 1pm

Easter worship on Sunday, April 16 at 7:30am and 10:30am with Pancake Breakfast served 8:30-9:45am

**Thank yous:**

Dear Friends at Bethel,

Thank you for all that you have done for me & others. Prayers, newsletters, communion, etc.

God be with you all... *Ron Marsh*

**Lutheran Women of Omaha**

Lutheran Women will meet at Lord of Love Lutheran Church, 10405 Fort St., March 14, 2017 at 12:00 p.m. Send your reservations to Mardelle Gocek at (402) 292-1328 by February 12.

**SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**SERVING AFTER CHURCH FELLOWSHIP**

**\*\*Please sign up to host after-church fellowship. The calendar is in the kitchen. Thank you\*\***

**ALTAR FLOWER DONATIONS:**

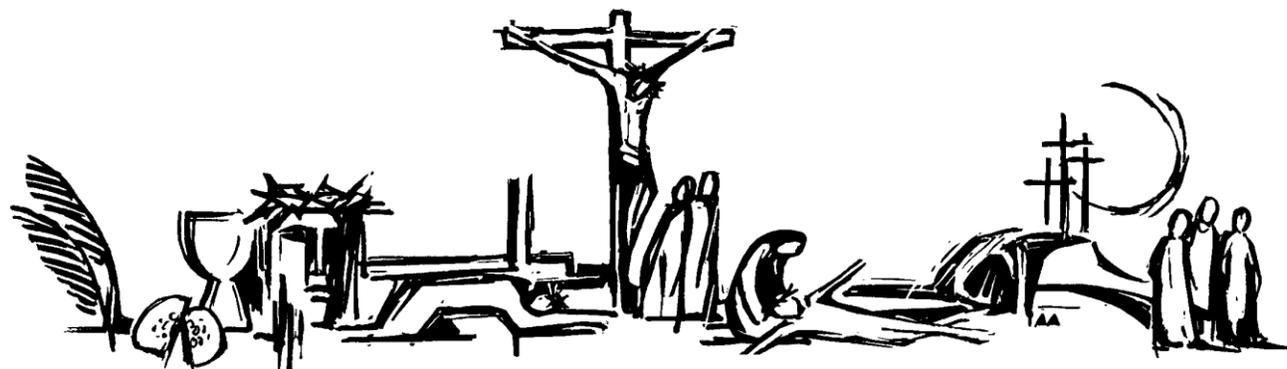
03/05 Bob & Patty Shalberg  
03/12 Dan & Kathy Vacek  
03/19 Jennifer Mitchell  
03/26 Darlene Boehnke

**READERS/COMMUNION ASSISTANTS**

03/01 Pat Beatty/Dave Rogers  
03/05 Erica Heiden/Rosemary Huetter  
03/12 Linda Roark  
03/19 Anastasia Petersen/Pat Beatty  
03/26 Bev Smith

**BIRTHDAYS**

03/05 Megan Shalberg  
03/05 David Utterback  
03/06 Matt Shalberg  
03/10 Jack Miller  
03/11 Marlene Haskell  
03/13 Stan Lockwood  
03/13 Matthew MacCallum  
03/14 Naidja Henderson  
03/15 Marita Deeds  
03/15 Andrew Kammerer  
03/15 Megan Schroeder-Davis  
03/16 Olivia Schroeder  
03/16 Eleanor Schroeder  
03/17 Lois Engman  
03/23 Peg Olson  
03/23 Mike Rodgers  
03/30 Josef Jech





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**SCAN THIS QR CODE TO GIVE**