



# THE BELLRINGER

April  
2014



## Play Ball!

As we get ready to enter the month of April that means that the start of the Major League Baseball season is upon us. The Twins home opener is coming up on April 7. I plan to be there and hope that I don't need to include long underwear in my attire that day. While I am looking forward to a new season, I doubt the Twins have made significant enough improvements in their team to be able to challenge for the division championship this year. But, you never know. That's why they play the games.

Along with a new baseball season, entering April this year also means that we are approaching Easter. Easter is a moveable feast that depends on the lunar calendar. It comes near the end of its possible cycle of dates this year. We will have a breakfast on Easter morning and celebrate the Resurrection in worship. Easter is the first season that the early church celebrated. In fact, when the church started the first Christians called every Sunday a "little Easter." It has always been the most important date on the Christian calendar.



During the season of Easter I will be starting a sermon series called "Construction Zone." During the weeks after Easter and until Pentecost I will be preaching a series of sermons based on the letter of 1 Peter. The lectionary – the three-year cycle of readings, which include a Gospel lesson, and Old Testament lesson (or reading from Acts during the Easter season), a Psalm and a reading from the Epistles (Paul's letters) – uses portions of 1 Peter for each of the Sundays after Easter this year.



In the First Letter of Peter, the author writes with a pastor's heart to encourage his listeners to stand firm in the grace of God. He describes what it is to be Christians under construction. He writes to build up their faith so that they can live in the assurance of God's gracious presence.

This summer I am planning for another sermon series. This one will not follow the lectionary, but instead I am inviting you to raise up questions about matters of faith that are on your heart. "Am I the only one who has wondered...?" What is it that you wonder about? Perhaps it is a Biblical doctrine or stance of the church, or a practice that you have no idea what its about or why we do it. It can be anything related to faith and the church that you are wondering about or that you are curious about. I will use some of these questions (depending on how many there are) to build a series of sermons.



You can send me an email or drop me a note, write it on a card and leave it at the church. We will also put some cards in the bulletins in April for you to use with the title, "Am I the only one who has wondered..." If you are wondering about something, it is very likely that someone else is too, so go ahead and fill out a card. You are not required to put your name on them, and I will not use your name even if it is on the card. However, if your name is there it might be helpful if I have any questions for clarification or to get more information to better understand the question. But rest assured that no one else will know who submitted any particular question. I hope we will be able to have some fun with this as we enter these new seasons of the church year.



As we journey together,

Pastor David

## GROW Garden

Each spring and summer, the GROW Garden located behind Bethel, adds beauty, nourishment and love to the Westonka Community. Last year, over 40 gardeners joined together to create a space where everything from Aubergine (Egg Plant) to Zucchini filled our grounds and helped fill the tummies of local residents in need.

While it may seem like spring is never coming, it will be here before we know it and the GROW Garden is preparing for another bountiful season.

GROW gardeners come in all ages and backgrounds. Some are new to gardening and others have gardened for years and will share their knowledge. We aim to make gardening possible to those who may have physical limitations. Several elevated garden boxes are available as are some raised beds. Our community of gardeners grow much more than vegetables and flowers. Join us and gain friends while you grow delicious and nutritious food for your family.

In addition to individual plots, GROW maintains shared garden space where perennials such as strawberries and other fruit is grown as well as some space hopping veggies like squash. It is shared among those gardeners who help maintain it.

GROW contributes to the Westonka community by maintaining a 'Giving Garden' where the produce is donated to needy residents primarily at senior housing apartments and through WeCan, the local action agency.

Applications are now available to those interested in renting an individual garden plot. Please stop by the church office to pick one up, or see Jessie Pinney with questions.

Applications are due: April 20th



## SUNDAY HIGHLIGHTS

### April 6th - 5th Sunday in Lent

Sermon: "Them Bones"

Scripture: Ezekiel 37:1-14

### April 13th - 6th Sunday in Lent—Palm Sunday

Sermon: "He Died For Me"

Scripture: Matthew 27:1-7, 11-26

### April 20th - Easter Sunday

Sermon: "From the Tomb to Today"

Scripture: Matthew 28:1-10

### April 27th - 2nd Sunday of Easter

#### Sermon Series "Construction Zone" Begins

Sermon: "The Future Starts Now"

Scripture: 1 Peter 1:3-9

### Wednesday Lenten Services

Soup Supper 5:00 p.m.

Worship 6:15 p.m.

Wednesday, April 2nd

Wednesday, April 9th

### Maundy Thursday

April 17th - 7:30 p.m.

### Good Friday

April 18th - 7:30 p.m.

## Summer Worship Hours

During the summer months of June, July and August our Sunday Service worship time will be 9:00 a.m.

## Christian Education Classes

### Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.	CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FOR ALL AGES
Lower level -	Adult and Teen Class Children's Class
10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP

### Thursday Bible Study

A weekly Bible Study held at Ella Richter's home at 11:00 a.m. starting January 9th. Contact Church office for information and details.

## Bethel Missions



There are several times to share your time at Feed My Starving Children (FMSC) in the next few months.

April 10th - 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.

May 15th - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

May 29th - 12:00 - 2:00 p.m.

If you have questions, please contact Joleen Carlson.

Carpooling is available from Bethel UMC.  
(Arrive 30 minutes prior to scheduled time).

### Dinner is Served!

Join us every 2nd and 4th Wednesday, as we reach out to those in need in our community with our ongoing community meal, Dinner is Served! Partnered with the Mound Free Church, the 1st and 3rd Wednesday hosts, this program is going strong and continues to grow.



Please contact Joleen with questions.

### Church Office Hours

Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.



#### Staff Support for Bethel's Ministers and Leaders

Pastor, David McBride, 952-923-2540

.....bethelrev@mchsi.com

Parish Nurse, Tina Goralczyk, 952-472-8822

.....tgoralczyk@mediacombb.net

Director of Music, Marjorie Austin, 763-229-0212

.....margie.austin@hotmail.com

Praise Team Director, Mary Lou Kingren, 612-695-1935

.....loukingren@hotmail.com

Church Administrator, Stefanie Huesmann, 952-472-1522

.....betheloffice@mchsi.com

Custodian, Brandy Graef, 952-688-1509

.....brandyparker27@hotmail.com

#### Lay Staff Support for Bethel's Ministers and Leaders

Treasurer, Steve Pinney, 952-472-9801

.....flpinney@frontiernet.net

Financial Secretary, Dwight Davis, 952-472-7814

.....davism1@mchsi.com

## Thank You!

The mail, bills, etc. piled on my desk reminds me of the snow piles outside. Once too high to see over and gradually diminishing, but a lot there yet. I personally read and cherished every get-well card, hug and encouragement I received after my recent fall, and plan to respond personally to each, but for now a general 'Thank You Very Much' will have to do.

- Edna Fox

We would like to thank our Bethel family for the cards and prayers following the death of Lane's mom, Shirley. Your support & kind words meant so much.

Affectionately,

Lane & Faye Bryan

Bethel UMC Members,

Thank you for the kind and thoughtful gifts of crocheted hat and Hug-a-Bible for Ethan John. He is a true blessing and we watch him in awe every day!

Thanks again,

Mari, Eric & Ethan

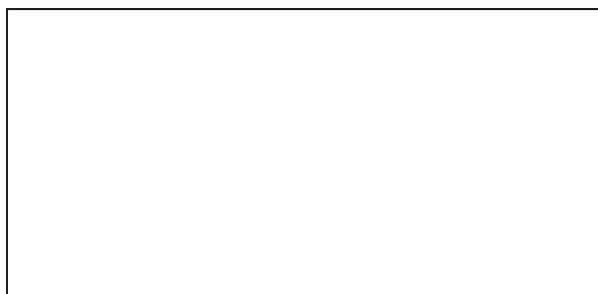
A Big 'Thank You' to all our wonderful Bethel volunteers who helped plow and shovel the snow this winter. It was a winter to remember, and I'm sure their shoveling arms are still sore! Your time and energy is appreciated by all! Thank You!

### Bethel's February EXPENDITURES 2014

MEN'S CLUB	\$167.96
ADMIN & FINANCE	\$4,659.13
PASTOR PARISH STAFF	\$19,538.04
CONGREGATIONAL TRUST FUND	0
MEMORIAL GARDEN	0
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION	\$60.80
SHEPHERDING MINISTRIES	\$627.56
MISSIONS SOCIAL CONCERNS	0
WORSHIP WORK AREAS	\$18.50
TRUSTEE'S	\$9,695.47
OTHER	0
Total Expenses	\$34,767.46
Total Revenues	\$27,284.43
Net Income	(7,483.03)



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Mound, MN 55364  
(952) 472-1522  
[www.bethelumcmn.org](http://www.bethelumcmn.org)  
<http://facebook.com/bethelmound>



**Sunday Worship ~ 10:00 a.m.**

## Easter Breakfast



Mark Your Calendars!

Sunday, April 20th, 9:00 a.m.  
in Fellowship Hall

Please join Bethel's Children, Youth & Family  
Ministries for Brunch before worship on Easter  
Morning!

Menu will include:

Egg Bake, Fruit, Muffins and Beverages

Free Will Offering

\*\*To help ensure we prepare enough food, a sign-up sheet  
will be available in the Narthex to help get an idea of people.  
If you forget to sign up, please still plan to come, everyone  
is welcome\*\*

This celebration will also include an  
Easter Egg Hunt for the children  
prior to the 10:00 a.m. service.  
Hope to see everyone there!!



## Memorial Garden

It is hard to believe, but our beautiful Memorial Garden was built nine years ago. It was designed by the Memorial Garden Committee and funded by the Crossroads Campaign to be an aesthetic addition to the community and a place of peace and serenity for Bethel United Methodist members to choose as their final resting place.

Near their Church home and convenient for family members to visit, the Memorial Garden provides a safe haven for people to visit their loved ones after passing and also a place for meditation and reflection for members of the greater community. It was developed to provide an affordable alternative to burial.

If you would like more information on this wonderful addition to the services our church provides, please contact Pastor David or Dave Feerhusen for more information.

## Summer Worship Time Change

The Church Council decided to move the time for worship during the summer to 9:00. This will be for the months of June, July, and August. This idea was announced to the congregation prior to the March Council meeting. The Council voted its unanimous support.