



# Bethany Lutheran Church

## May 2024 Newsletter

1315 6th Street NE, Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

OFFICE HOURS: Wednesday 6 - 8 PM

Phone: 218-253-2589 | Email: bethanylutheranrlf@gmail.com

Website: www.bethanylutheranrlf.com

**Pastor:**

*Jonathan Dodson*

**SAM:**

*Allen Bertilrud*

**Council President:**

*Keith Leines*

**Office Manager**

*Kale Miller*

**Office Hours**

*Wednesday 6 - 8 p.m*

**Worship Time**

*Sunday 10:30 a.m.*

*7 pm (First Sun of Month)*

**Sunday School**

*During Worship*

**Contact Us:**

*(218) 253-2589*

Spring Cleaning will be  
May 11th.

Please come as you are able,  
a "chore" list will be hung  
outside the office doors.



**Upcoming Worship Services**

May 5	9 a.m.	Immanuel with Communion
	10:30 am	Ebenezer with Communion
	7 p.m.	Bethany with Communion
		<b>First Communion Celebration</b>
		Last Day of Sunday School
May 12	9 a.m.	Ebenezer
	10:30 am	Bethany
	7 p.m.	Immanuel
May 19	9 a.m.	Immanuel with Communion
	10:30 am	Bethany with Communion
		<b>Baccalaureate Recognition</b>
	7 p.m.	Ebenezer with Communion
May 26	9 a.m.	Ebenezer
	10:30 am	Immanuel (Pastor Jonathan)
	10:30 am	Bethany (SAM Allen)

# From Pastor Jonathan

Dear friends in Christ,

I hope this letter finds you well. As we move into May, the lectionary has us reflecting on the comforting image of Jesus as the Good Shepherd. In John 10:11, Jesus declares, "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep." This profound statement reveals the depth of Jesus' love and care for each one of us.

The Good Shepherd teaches us valuable lessons about daily living. He demonstrates the importance of selflessness and sacrificial love. Just as a shepherd lays down his life for his sheep, Jesus sacrificed himself for our salvation. In our daily lives, this teaches us to prioritize the needs of others above our own, showing compassion, kindness, and love. This is a key to the good life.

The Good Shepherd also teaches us about trust and guidance. Jesus knows his sheep, and his sheep know him. He leads them to safety and provides for their needs. Similarly, in our lives, we can trust Jesus to guide us along the right path, to protect us from harm, and to provide for all our needs.

And what spoke loudest to me this time was how the Good Shepherd teaches us about unity and community. Jesus speaks of bringing together his sheep into one flock with one shepherd. In our daily lives, this reminds us of the importance of unity within our families, communities, and the larger creation. We are called to love one another, support one another, and live in harmony, just as the Good Shepherd desires.

Let us strive to follow the example of Jesus, the Good Shepherd, in our daily lives, showing selflessness, trust, and unity. May his love and guidance continue to inspire and sustain us.

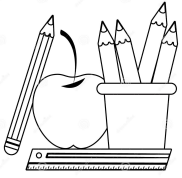
Yours in Christ,

Pastor Jonathan



**Pastor Jonathan's Contact Information:**  
**Email:** [dodsonjj@yahoo.com](mailto:dodsonjj@yahoo.com) **Phone:** 218-686-8836





# EDUCATION



Last day of Sunday School will be Sunday, May 5th. The youth will be singing at worship service.

Please join us in celebrating the following students for completing their **First Communion** classes on May 5th, 7 p.m. worship service.

Audrina Kuznia  
Daisy Olson  
Jackson Stephens

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**Confirmation** classes will be  
May 1st and May 22nd.  
**6-8:30 p.m.**

**\*9th Grade Confirmation Meeting with Parents  
will be May 1 at 8:15 p.m.**



**Youth Group** will meet  
May 1st and May 8th.  
7-8:00 p.m.

We will be “making” the graduating senior gifts.

***Vacation Bible School (VBS)***  
*is July 7-11, 2024*

*Please contact Cindy Airt if you are  
able to help with “A Christmas  
Celebration” VBS this year!*

*Save  
the  
Date*



*Happy anniversary*

10- Berry & Deb Rewertz
15- Jim & Kathy Murphy
19- Neal & Nancy Vraa
29- Brad & Vicki Duden
30- Cole & Hannah Seeger

Bethany Lutheran Church  
invites you to attend the

## Baccalaureate Worship Service

honoring the Class of 2024  
High School Graduates.

Sunday, May 19, 2024

10:30 a.m.

Fellowship to follow

*Happy Birthday*

Bev Gilbertson	May 2
Jesse Gagner	May 2
Sherry Largis	May 3
Steve Seng	May 5
Kevin Harmoning	May 7
Dianna Nelson	May 9
Carol Seeger	May 12
Chloe Largis	May 12
Dennis Piche	May 14
DeeAnn Leines	May 14
Madison Schmitz	May 16
Ava Anderson	May 17
Rachael Largis	May 18
Kiara Sauve	May 18
Mariah Peterson	May 19
Roger Harmoning	May 20
Sarah Brevik	May 21
Mara Sletten	May 21
Max Cardinal	May 23
Henry Benoit	May 23
Nancy Vraa	May 25
Arielle Larson	May 25
Rylie Ellefson	May 25
Ed Dahle	May 27
Taylor Moser	May 27
Brad Johnson	May 28
Jackson Myhre	May 28
Kathryn Murphy	May 31

The Board of Education  
congratulates our 2024  
graduates We wish you the best  
in your future endeavors.

The 2024 graduates:

Ava Anderson

Blake Audette

Ashtin Fredrickson

Mykayla Peterson

Jace Seeger

# Weekly Groups

**Women's Bible study** meets every Wednesday morning at 9 a.m.

**Men's Bible Study** meets on Thursday morning at, 9 a.m.

**Quilt Tying** is back in session, available every Wednesday morning at 10:00am in the Fellowship Hall. .

**WELCA** is in need of officers to get back up and running. Please reach out to Chris or Marion.

## **Direct Deposit Offering**

Per congressional request- Automatic contributions are available to set up with Bethany Lutheran. A form is available in the office or via email request to set up weekly/monthly/bi-weekly/or bi-monthly contributions to be automatically withdrawn with your permission. Reach out to the office for more information.



## **Bethany Prayer Chain**

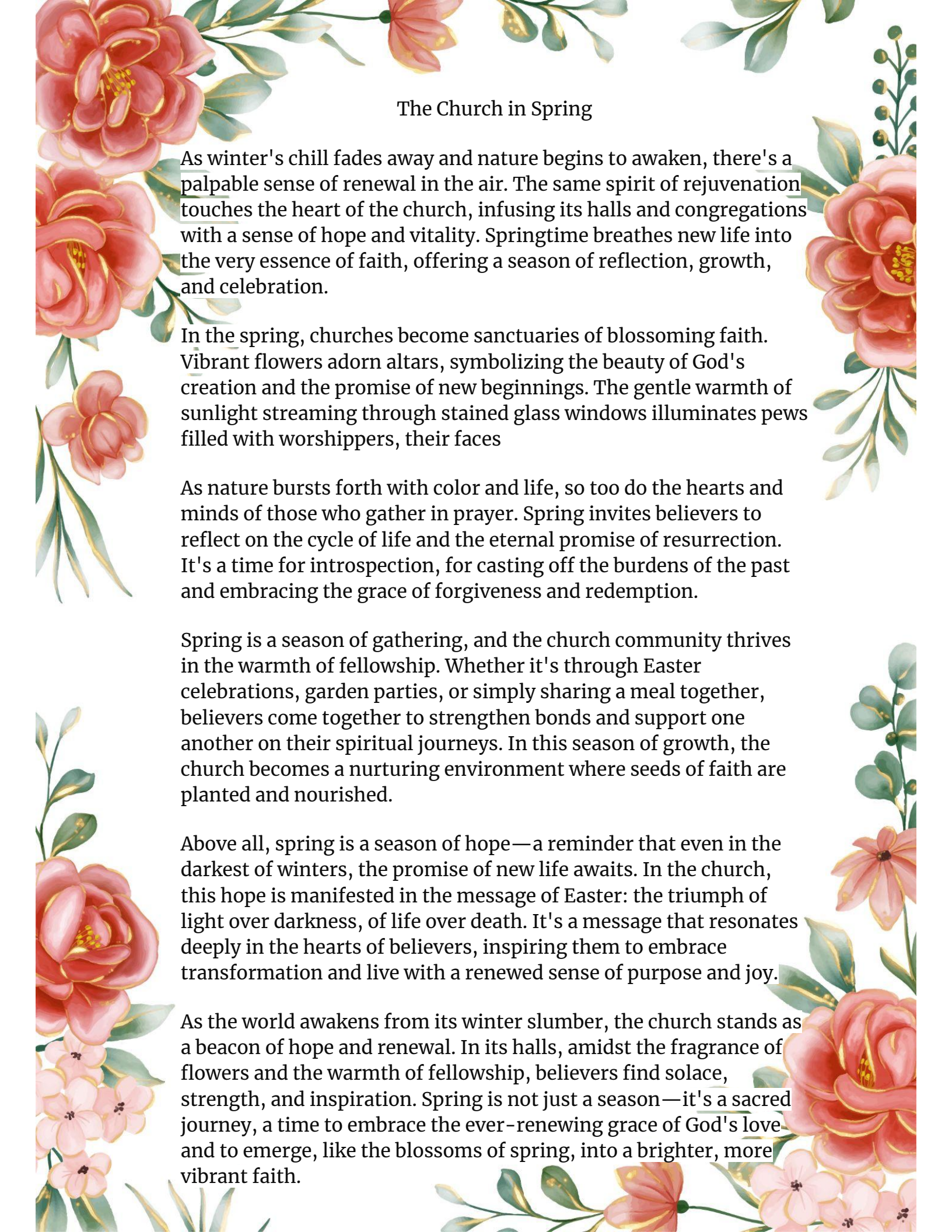
*Have a relative or concern that you want prayers for? Just call or email us!*

**PRAYER BLANKETS** are blessed with prayers for healing and comfort, which are believed to hold those who receive them in prayer. Contact the office if you would like one.



*The coffee is hot every Tuesday, 2-4 p.m. at **Senior Connection** located at Sunset Court, International Drive, RLF. Meet up with old friends & make new friends. Come and join us!*





## The Church in Spring

As winter's chill fades away and nature begins to awaken, there's a palpable sense of renewal in the air. The same spirit of rejuvenation touches the heart of the church, infusing its halls and congregations with a sense of hope and vitality. Springtime breathes new life into the very essence of faith, offering a season of reflection, growth, and celebration.

In the spring, churches become sanctuaries of blossoming faith. Vibrant flowers adorn altars, symbolizing the beauty of God's creation and the promise of new beginnings. The gentle warmth of sunlight streaming through stained glass windows illuminates pews filled with worshippers, their faces

As nature bursts forth with color and life, so too do the hearts and minds of those who gather in prayer. Spring invites believers to reflect on the cycle of life and the eternal promise of resurrection. It's a time for introspection, for casting off the burdens of the past and embracing the grace of forgiveness and redemption.

Spring is a season of gathering, and the church community thrives in the warmth of fellowship. Whether it's through Easter celebrations, garden parties, or simply sharing a meal together, believers come together to strengthen bonds and support one another on their spiritual journeys. In this season of growth, the church becomes a nurturing environment where seeds of faith are planted and nourished.

Above all, spring is a season of hope—a reminder that even in the darkest of winters, the promise of new life awaits. In the church, this hope is manifested in the message of Easter: the triumph of light over darkness, of life over death. It's a message that resonates deeply in the hearts of believers, inspiring them to embrace transformation and live with a renewed sense of purpose and joy.

As the world awakens from its winter slumber, the church stands as a beacon of hope and renewal. In its halls, amidst the fragrance of flowers and the warmth of fellowship, believers find solace, strength, and inspiration. Spring is not just a season—it's a sacred journey, a time to embrace the ever-renewing grace of God's love and to emerge, like the blossoms of spring, into a brighter, more vibrant faith.