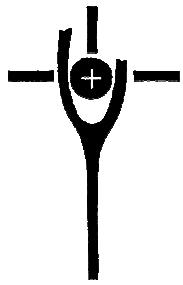


BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH



# BETHEL BANNER

*"... making disciples for Jesus Christ in  
our church, neighborhood and world..."*

APRIL 2014

## Holy Week Worship

Palm Sunday Worship

April 13 at 9:30 & 11 am



*Alleluia!*  
HE IS ALIVE!

Maundy Thursday @ Home

April 17

Celebrate a Passover-like remembrance with friends & family  
(see page 5)



Good Friday Worship

April 18 at 7 pm



Easter Sunday Worship—April 20 at 9:30 am & 11 am

Easter Breakfast will be served from 8-9 am by  
Bethel's youth. Pastries and baked items are  
welcome and needed! Willing to volunteer to help  
cook or serve? Contact Jordan Ray!



## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

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## "The Tyranny of the Comfort Zone"    From Pastor Seabaugh

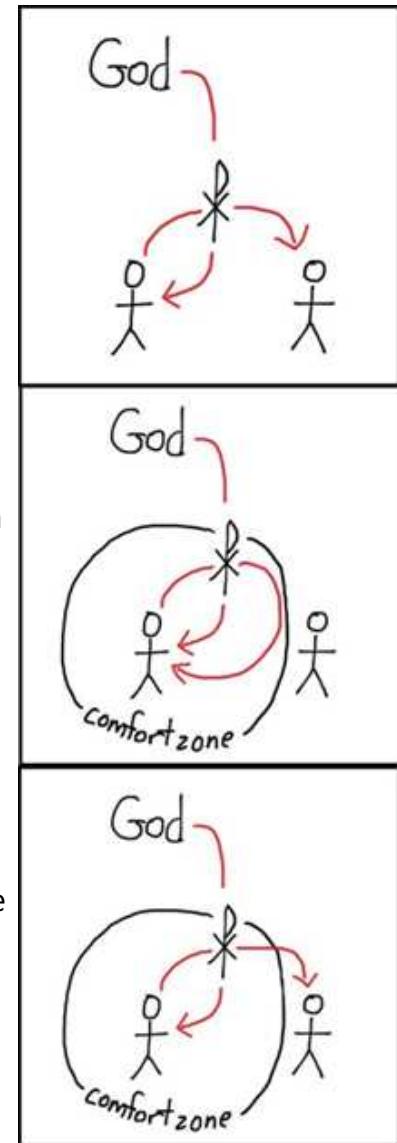
Has the comfort zone taken over our discipleship?

Everyone has a comfort zone. It's a natural part of life to be comfortable with certain things and uncomfortable with others. Here's how Wikipedia defines comfort zone: "The comfort zone is a behavioral state within which a person operates in an anxiety-neutral condition, using a limited set of behaviors to deliver a steady level of performance, usually without a sense of risk."

Comfort zones keep us from making fools of ourselves and give us confidence that we can do what's expected of us. Essentially it's our happy place. So, there's nothing particularly wrong with having a comfort zone. The question for each of us is, "How much do I control my comfort zone and how much does my comfort zone control me?" Let's put the question another way for the Christian. "Am I willing to follow Jesus outside my comfort zone?"

First question first. Can we really be controlled by what we find comfortable, easy or safe? Absolutely. There are some things people simply refuse to do. Perhaps it's that difficult conversation, or speaking in public, or visiting a hospital, nursing facility or funeral home. Maybe it's something else for you. Well, there seems to be a point at which our comfort zone controls us. We may need to have that conversation, or say something in public, or visit someone who is sick or struggling or grieving. But if that need lands outside our comfort zone we sense the difficulty or danger and we freeze. No longer do we control ourselves, our comfort zone controls us.

As Christians we follow Jesus. We go where he goes. He loves us and leads us on a path to love others. But what if Jesus leads us outside of our comfort zone? What if Jesus calls us to love someone but we know we will feel discomfort, difficulty or danger? Take a look at the diagrams. The arrows represent agape love, not just emotion, but true commitment. Where the arrow points is the one receiving the benefit. The first diagram is the basic picture of a Christian. God loves us through Christ. We love others through Christ. People really get loved. It's a beautiful picture. Look what happens when we let our comfort zones rule us. The love that should have stuck on someone is now reflected back to us. Instead of loving someone who needs to be



*Continued on next page*

## "The Tyranny of the Comfort Zone"

*continued*

loved, we choose to stay comfortable, and in the end we're only committed to ourselves. In that moment, are we following Jesus or giving in to the tyranny of the comfort zone?

Jesus has led us right through our comfort zones into the lives of those who need someone to love them. Jesus ate with the outcasts, protected the prostitutes and touched the untouchables. He took the leaders to task, loved his enemies, and was graceful to the Gentiles. His mission took away him from home and family, employment and security, and landed him the middle of a firestorm where he would make peace with his blood.

There's nothing comfortable about that, but aren't you glad he did it?

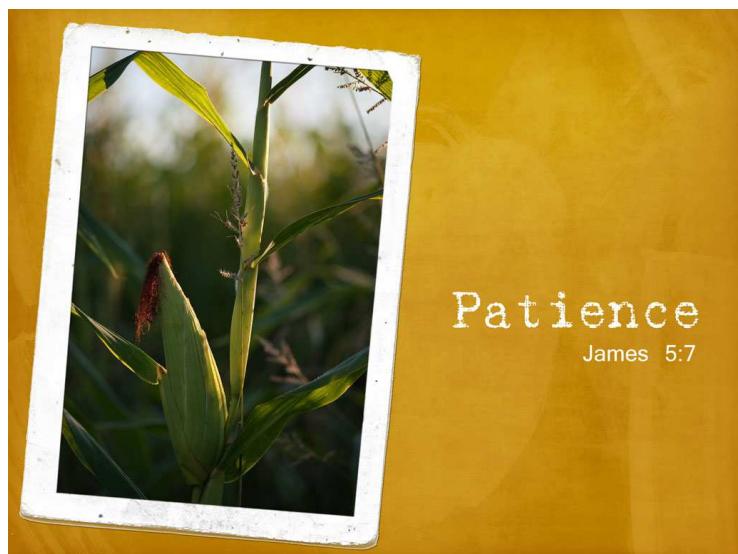
## Patience and Perfection

From Pastor Fofana

Patience is not easy for most of us. For example, if a plane is delayed for a few minutes or maybe something did not happen exactly when or how we expected it to happen, we get impatient and frustrated about that situation.

I have also heard people quit going to a particular church just because the Pastor did not finish his sermon on time. There are lots of examples to this kind of situation. But, James 5:7-9 says, *"Be patient, then, brothers and sisters, until the Lord's coming. See how the farmer waits for the land to yield its valuable crop, patiently waiting for the autumn and spring rains. You too, be patient and stand firm, because the Lord's coming is near. Don't grumble against one another, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. The Judge is standing at the door!"*

Patience is an attitude of expectation. In the spiritual realm, God the Father knows the final product of what is happening to you and He wants us to link patience to our faith in His Son Jesus Christ. When you wait on God, that means you trust God. Ask God for the gift of patience and then use it. Amen.



Listen to James 1:3: *"The testing of your faith produces patience."*

From Jordan Ray, Director of Christian Outreach

## Why so Foolish, Galatians?

In the opening line of Galatians 3, Paul asks them harshly why they have strayed from the truth. "You foolish Galatians!" he says, "Who has bewitched you?" Throughout his letter to the Churches in Galatia we can see a different tone in Paul's voice than we witness in his other letters. He is upset. Actually, he seems more than upset. He seems frustrated and even bewildered at times.

Why is Paul so upset? Clearly, Paul is upset because the people are leaving the true Gospel of Jesus and working towards a salvation gained through the law, but why is he so upset? Can't

they just have the Gospel of Jesus and still rely on their laws & traditions? No! Adding anything to the Gospel destroys it. We cannot amend Jesus sacrifice on the cross and add things to it. Jesus paid it all!



It is  
for  
**FREEDOM**  
that  
**CHRIST**  
has set  
us  
**FREE.**

**Galatians 5:1**

Paul is upset because he knows what is at stake in this situation. Their very souls and lives are at stake. What about us? Take a second to think about how we react to people who leave the faith. Are we frustrated and upset that they have left the truth? Have we done anything along the way to prevent this from happening or was it a surprise when they finally left? How emotional do we get when we see people refuse the gift of God's grace and instead put their hope in something else?

We have the ultimate gift and it's been given freely to us through Christ's death and resurrection. Let's act like it. It is time that we realize what is truly at stake and help people to see the truth of God at any cost to us.

Paul says in Galatians 2:21, "I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!"

## EPIC — The Future Church Now!

EPIC—The Future Church Now! Jr and Sr High youth are welcome to come on **Wednesdays** from 6:30-9 pm for games, Bible Study and fellowship.





**Church Office:** 651-488-6681  
**blc@bethelstpaul.com**

**Office hours:**  
Monday - Friday  
9 am to 3 pm

## From the Office—Lynne

Bulletin & e-news items are due to the office by Wednesday mornings.

Banner information is due to the office by the 15th of the month.

### **Office Closed—Good Friday, April 18**

## EASTER OFFERINGS

During the Easter season, it is encouraging to see both new and familiar faces at our worship services. Throughout the year, many of you already support the congregation with your time, talent and financial contributions but greater participation is always welcome. We encourage you to look into our electronic giving program. It takes just a few minutes to set up a recurring giving plan. Contact the church office for more details or pick up an authorization form today.

## Be Reasonable:

Defending the Faith and Advancing the Kingdom



How do we handle the tough questions about faith without turning people away or being completely intimidated? Worship God and explore the Christian discipline of Apologetics with **Matt Stefan**, theology teacher at Concordia Academy, Roseville. God has blessed Matt with a passion for helping Christians make sense of their own faith so they can not only defend their faith, but share it with others.

Wednesdays in Lent - 7 pm @ Bethel Lutheran Church

April 2 — Making Sense of the Future

April 9 — Creating Culture

## Maundy Thursday @ Home

Last year for Maundy Thursday we invited the congregation to stay @ home and "Do this in remembrance of me." We encouraged you to gather with friends, neighbors, other Bethel members or just your family to eat together and worship God around the table. Many of you took us up on the offer and had a night that you will never forget. Let's make another memory this year. On April 17<sup>th</sup>, prepare a special meal and remember Jesus. Prepare a traditional Passover meal or make something else special to you. Then, take time together to pray, to listen to God's word and remember that Jesus' body and blood is the sacrifice for our sins and the sins of the world. Take a picture of your gathering and we'll create a collage of our congregation's Maundy Thursday @ Home.



Start your preparations now! Resources will be sent via email or in the narthex so that you can make this a special night impossible to forget.

## April GodSpeak Readings & Groups

### March 31-April 5

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday    | Galatians 5:1-15  |
| Tuesday   | Galatians 5:16-26 |
| Wednesday | John 8:31-59      |
| Thursday  | March 12          |
| Friday    | Matthew 15:1-20   |
| Saturday  | John 14           |

### April 7-12

- |           |                 |
|-----------|-----------------|
| Monday    | Galatians 6     |
| Tuesday   | Matthew 18      |
| Wednesday | James 4         |
| Thursday  | Luke 16:19-31   |
| Friday    | Matthew 23      |
| Saturday  | 2 Corinthians 5 |

### April 14-19

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday    | Ephesians 1:1-14  |
| Tuesday   | Ephesians 1:15-23 |
| Wednesday | Mark 13           |
| Thursday  | Revelation 2-3    |
| Friday    | Isaiah 11:1-10    |
| Saturday  | John 10:17-42     |

### April 21-26

- |           |                   |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Monday    | Ephesians 2:1-10  |
| Tuesday   | Ephesians 2:11-22 |
| Wednesday | Luke 15           |
| Thursday  | John 3:16-21      |
| Friday    | Matthew 16:13-28  |
| Saturday  | Luke 7:1-10       |



### Reading Paul, Hearing Jesus

We love to read Paul. We love to dive into the depth and the logic of Paul. Sometimes we dig so deep that we stop hearing Jesus. But Jesus is Lord, not Paul! So we're going to read through 4 of Paul's letters (Galatians, Ephesians, Philippians & Colossians) and we're going to listen to Jesus. We'll connect Jesus' teachings with Paul's writing and show how Paul is communicating Jesus to another culture, just like we get to do today.

#### Monday Evening 6:30 pm

at Bethel in the Youth Room (comfy chairs!)  
Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

#### 2nd & 4th Tuesday of the month 7:30 am

at Suzie Norris' (1276 Dayton Ave)  
Leaders: Bob Holst (651-645-7454) & Suzie Norris (651-645-3811)

#### Tuesday Morning 10 am

at Bethel in the Fellowship Hall  
Leader: Pastor David Seabaugh (651-488-6681)

#### Wednesday Evening EPIC 6:30 pm

at Bethel in the Youth Room  
Leader: Jordan Ray (651-271-5636)

#### Wednesday Evening (African) 6:00 pm

at ?? (rotates homes each week)  
Leader: Lusienie Fofana (651-216-9242)

#### Wednesday Evening 7 pm

at Bethel in the conference room  
Leader: Steve Moeller (651-487-0316)

#### Wednesday Evening 7:15 pm

at 1105 Montana Ave W

Leaders: Dave & Lynne Rustad (651-489-6834)

#### Saturday Morning 8 am

at Bethel with breakfast at 8 am

GodSpeak group at 8:30 am (child care provided)  
Leader: Pastor & Ruth Seabaugh (651-487-0487)

*In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and understanding, he made known to us the mystery of his will according to his good pleasure, which he purposed in Christ, to be put into effect when the times reach their fulfillment—to bring unity to all things in heaven and on earth under Christ.*

*Ephesians 1:3-10*

## Q&A: Pastor, what's with the robe?

There have been a lot of good questions about my decision to vary my attire for Sunday mornings. I'll do my best to answer a few of them here.

**Q:** Why do the clergy wear special clothes?

**A:** For four hundred years, they didn't! It wasn't until the church became accepted and established did the "clergy" want to be distinguished from the "laity." At that time, they chose to wear the robes of Roman secular officials. Later when styles changed, they kept the same robes to be distinctive. The clergy continued to have distinctive attire even as styles kept changing over the centuries. White robes, black robes, academic robes, collars, stoles and even ruffles set clergy apart from the laity. The attire also readily identified the clergy and displayed the ministry position rather than the individual.

**Q:** Don't the robes remind us of the Old Testament priesthood?

**A:** Yes, but that's not really a good thing. Priests function as mediators between God and man. If you want to be good with God, you need a priest in there somewhere. Well, Jesus is our mediator! Jesus is our priest! We don't need a priesthood anymore because Jesus laid down his life as the perfect priestly sacrifice for us. I'm not your mediator. Jesus is! (*Hebrews 10*)

**Q:** So why change now?

**A:** Honestly, I've been struggling with this for a very long time. I have found that the robe visually elevates my position. "Look at him. He must be really smart and important. He's wearing a white robe." I can't tell you how many times small children have called me Jesus. (That's cute until you really think about it.) The problem with elevating the clergy is that it also devalues the laity. "The pastor's really smart. He should do \_\_\_ instead of us. Isn't that why we pay him?" Don't get me wrong. My vocation is challenging and very important. But so is yours! Actually my vocation as overseer and shepherd is nothing if you aren't active in your God-given vocations too. Please, don't put me on a pedestal. I don't belong there. (*Matthew 23*)

**Q:** Is it wrong to wear a robe?

**A:** No. The Bible certainly doesn't tell us one way or the other. The problems arise with what the robe can potentially represent. Communication is a tricky thing. Nonverbal communication is powerful and you can say a lot by what you wear. Unfortunately, the robe seems to communicate that I'm set apart *above* the rest of you. If the robe could represent the humility of *serving* you and sacrificing for your sake, I would totally change my tune. (*Matthew 20:25-27*)

**Q:** So what now?

**A:** Now I actually have to make a decision what to wear on Sunday! It's so much easier to just throw on a robe. We'll pull out the robe for our higher liturgies like the Divine Service or Now the Feast and Celebration. It really seems to fit there. For the rest of the services, I'll look a whole lot more like you.

## Urban Plunge: Spring 2014

On **Saturday, April 26th** we'll be meeting here at Bethel to have an eye-opening experience. This is a great opportunity to witness the working of God in our city in a way that you may not have known about before. We'll start the day hearing from Vue Lee, a Hmong Deacon at King of Kings. He'll share with us the history, culture and ministry of the Hmong people here in St Paul. Then we'll head over to the Hmong Village (Shopping Center) and have a cross cultural experience. Join us! Contact Jordan Ray to sign up!

## Food Drive for CLS families in need!

Central Lutheran School has many families who are struggling financially. CLS has a backpack program that provides food for the families each weekend. In the month of April, Bethel is having a food drive for CLS families. Just bring your non perishable donations to church on Sunday and put them in the box provided in the narthex. Thanks for providing for those in need!

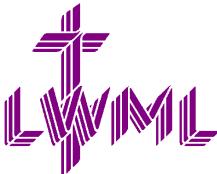


## Concordia Academy Open House — Tuesday, April 8



Concordia Academy will host an Open House on Tuesday, April 8 at 7:00 pm. The schedule begins with a short presentation followed by student led tours. Teachers will also be available to answer questions. Please join us and check out the opportunities for a Christian education in a Lutheran high school. If this date doesn't work for you, please contact Sofia Humphries at 651.484.8429 ext. 136 to schedule your own visit or get more information about CA.

## LWML Spring Rally — Saturday, April 12



St. Paul Metro Zone LWML Spring Rally at Eastern Heights Lutheran Church (616 Ruth St N in Saint Paul) on Saturday, April 12. Registration & a light breakfast begins at 8:30 am. The program will begin at 9 am and finish at noon. A registration donation of \$5.00 is requested.

Speaker Andrea Herman will talk about her mission role in Guinea, West Africa. She has been working with Maninka Women as an evangelist for about five years. These women are mainly Muslims so she will talk about Islam, her ministry to Muslim women and how medical missions played an important role.

Bring your collections for Gifts From the Heart including eyeglasses, cases and unneeded small electronics—• Cellphones (*all models; broken or working*) • Smartphones • iPhones • iPads • iPods • hand-held game consoles • laptops • MacBooks • tablets • e-Readers • Apple TV • GPS (*with cords*). These will be handled by Causes International Upcycling—with secure data destruction. Check out the website for more information [www.CausesInternational.com](http://www.CausesInternational.com)

## Easter Festival Choir Rehearsals

Join Bethel's Festival Choir in praising God on Easter Sunday, April 20. Rehearsals will be held on Tuesdays, **April 1, 8 & 15** from 7–8:30 pm.



## Bible Bowl 2014 — Saturday, April 5

Elissa Boll, Alex Head, Anna Miller & Roxie Thies are Bethel's Bible Bowl team for 2014 and are coached by Susan Boll, Kirsten Head & Karrie Thies. Thanks to Faye Hayhurst for writing the questions! Pray for Bethel's Bible Bowl team as they prepare for the competition by studying "The Life of David" (1 Samuel 16-1 Kings 2). Plan to watch the competition & cheer for the team on **Saturday, April 5** at Concordia University-St Paul!



*"Therefore you are great, O LORD God. For there is none like you, and there is no God besides you, according to all that we have heard with our ears." 2 Samuel 7:22*

## "55" Club Fellowship—Thursday, April 10

Join Bethel's "55" Club on **Thursday, April 10** for a BBQ beef on buns with a pasta salad catered by Magnolias Restaurant. Sign up on the lounge bulletin board. Cost of dinner is \$9 and is payable to Betty Paulus by April 6. Come for dinner & fellowship!



## Bethel Ladies Fellowship Bake Sale—Sunday, April 13



Ladies Fellowship will be having a bake sale on **Palm Sunday, April 13** before and after 9:30 am worship. Donations of baked items are welcome! Celebrate Spring by either buying some homemade treats, bringing some treats, or both!

## Bethel Leadership Team Positions Open for Nomination



Members are needed to serve on the Leadership Team for a 2 year commitment beginning July 2014 for President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Properties & Stewardship. If you have questions, are interested in being part of our Leadership Team or would like to nominate someone to lead, contact the church office at [blc@bethelstpaul.com](mailto:blc@bethelstpaul.com) or 651-488-6681. Step up to serve!

## Serving at Bethel in April

### Coffee Hour Servers

April 6

Mavis Henke

Cindy Pohl

April 13

Marcy Ray

Adrienne Vandercar

April 20 (Easter)

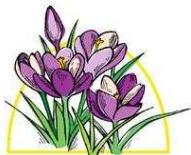
Carolyn Weber

Laurie Pate

April 27

Lisa Atchison

Lynne Rustad



### Pew Servicing

Karen Bade

Mavis Henke

### Sunday Driver

April 6—Tim Schmalz

April 13—Dave Rustad

April 20—Ken Halverson

April 27—Jim Nash

### Meals on Wheels

April 7—Bob Holst

April 14—Dave Stueber

April 21—Betty Paulus & Karita Wienke

April 28—Karen Bade & Suzie Norris

### Money Counting

#### Team # 4

Sharon Bartels

Jim Nash

Tim Schmalz

### Worship Teams

Wednesday, April 2 — Search 'n Rescue

Sunday, April 6 — Share the Joy

Wednesday, April 9 — Share the Joy

Palm Sunday, April 13 — Praise Him/Proclaim Him

Good Friday, April 18 — Search 'n Rescue

Easter Sunday, April 20 —1 Timothy & Share the Joy

Sunday, April 27 — Search 'n Rescue



### Sunday Acolyte

April 6—Alex Head

April 13—Joshua Lopez

April 20 (Easter)—Elissa Boll

April 27—Harper Atchison

### Banner Assembling

Thursday, April 24

9:15 am

Mavis Henke

Mary Hubert

Lynette Knippenberg

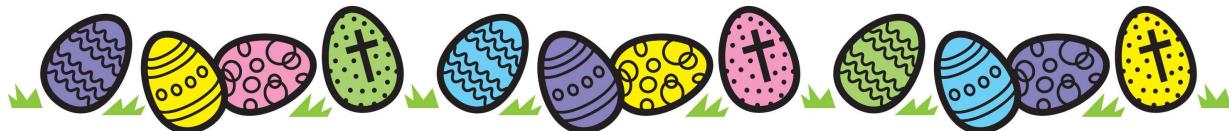
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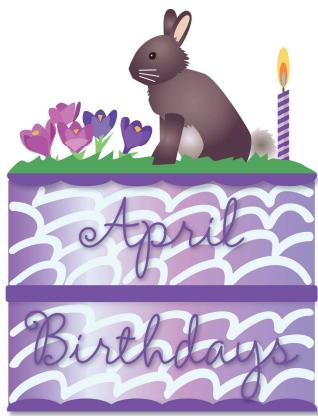


### Union Gospel Mission—Saturday April 5—11:30 am-1:30 pm

Bethel members serve lunch and clean the kitchen on the first Saturday of the month.

Contact Jordan Ray at [jordan@bethelstpaul.com](mailto:jordan@bethelstpaul.com) to volunteer!





Sienna Lopez	April 03	Taylor Krivanek	April 22
Rachena Harris	April 06	Kaylee Luger	April 23
John Bluhm	April 09	Phoebe Stefan	April 23
Josiah Bode	April 09	Anna Boll	April 24
Phyllis Bracewell	April 09	Earl Bracewell	April 25
Mikayla Head	April 11	Carrie Flack	April 26
Luke Rustad	April 14	James Faser	April 27
Jeff Bartels	April 17	Karen Johnson	April 28
Shantilla Hansen	April 17	Nicole Guillette	April 29



Juan & Keya Lopez  
16 years on April 17  
Mohammed Konneh &  
Eugenia Morris  
5 years on April 18

*But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law. Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit.*

*Galatians 5:22-25*



Becky Luger	April 5
Cara Wilson	April 8
Coda Wilson	April 8
Quenby Wilson	April 8
Michelle Marlowe-Sistad	April 8
Sydney Sistad	April 8
Terry Sistad	April 8
Aelah Vandercar	April 8
Alex Beckman	April 16
Eleanor Hardin	April 17
Kent Strommen	April 18
Debra Schultz	April 19
Jayden Atchison	April 19
Caitlyn Murray	April 20
Brianna Engen	April 22
Earle Bandow	April 24
Alida Sorenson	April 24
Josiah Bode	April 26
Mary Hubert	April 29
Haven Ruis	April 29
Phyllis Bracewell	April 30
Bonnie Witt	April 30



670 W Wheelock Parkway  
Saint Paul MN 55117



ADDRESS SERVICE  
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MARCH 26, 2014



## BETHEL LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS

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[bethelstpaul.com](http://bethelstpaul.com)



Sunday Morning Worship 9:30 am  
Sunday Morning Bible Hour 11:00 am  
Sunday Morning African Worship 11:00 am  
GodSpeak Midweek Bible Groups (See page 6)  
Tuesday Morning Prayer 9:30 am