



**1874**

**2020**



*A congregation of  
the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*

**SUNDAY, MARCH 22, 2020  
FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT  
10:30 a.m.**

# WELCOME

**Bethel's Mission Statement** – Bethel's mission is to be a Lutheran congregation of the Church of Jesus Christ in the community of Miller, in which members are nurtured in the faith and by whom community residents are ministered to, with the expectation that the Holy Spirit will add to our fellowship and ministry.

**Welcome to worship!** May you experience the blessing of God for you and your life during this time. Bethel Lutheran Church is open to everyone and all are welcome here. Enjoy the music; raise your voice in song and prayer. Let the Spirit of the Lord touch your heart and soul and feel free to join in worship again in the coming weeks.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated most Sundays and is open to all the baptized in addition to those who worship here on a regular basis. Distribution of the bread and wine is by intinction. After receiving the bread (wafer) from the pastor move to the worship assistant holding a chalice of wine (silver chalice) or grape juice (blue chalice) and dip the bread (wafer) into the chalice.

**Coffee and fellowship** happens immediately after the worship down the hall from the sanctuary on the main floor of the building. Everyone is invited and welcome.

**If you are new to worship,** you are invited to fill out a Welcome Card located on the ministry table in the gathering area and give it to the usher.

**Additional information** about the variety of ministry opportunities here at Bethel is listed at the end of this worship bulletin and on the ministry table in the gathering area.

## WORSHIP SERVICE

### CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (*please stand*)

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, full of compassion and mercy, abounding in steadfast love.

**Amen.**

Trusting God's promise of forgiveness, let us confess our sin against God and one another.

Eternal God our creator,

**in you we live and move and have our being. Look upon us, your children, the work of your hands. Forgive us all our offenses, and cleanse us from proud thoughts and empty desires. By your grace draw us near to you, our refuge and our strength; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ. God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit given to us. In the mercy of almighty God, Christ died for us while we still were sinners; and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING HYMN**

**My Lord, What a Morning**

*Refrain*



My Lord, what a morn-ing; my Lord, what a morn - ing; oh,



my Lord, what a morn-ing, when the stars be - gin to fall.



- 1 You will hear the trum - pet sound,
- 2 You will hear the sin - ner cry, to wake the na-tions un - der - ground,
- 3 You will hear the Chris-tian shout,



look-ing to my God's right hand, when the stars be - gin to fall.

Text: African American spiritual  
Music: BURLEIGH, African American spiritual

CCLI#11459797

**GREETING**

**Pastor:** The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**Cong:** **And also, with you.**

In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

**Lord, have mer - cy.**

For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,

let us pray to the Lord. **Lord, have mer - cy.**

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **A - men.**

Assisting minister



Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

All



Lord God, heav - en - ly King, al - might - y God and Fa - ther,



we wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God,



you take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy on us;



you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

AM: Let us pray.

Cong: **Lord Of love, you have taught us that love is your greatest commandment. Teach us to love as unconditionally as you love us. Amen**

**PSALM:** *(Read responsively)* **Psalm 89:1-4**

<sup>1</sup>I will sing of the LORD's great love forever;  
**with my mouth I will make your faithfulness known**

through all generations.

**<sup>2</sup>I will declare that your love stands firm forever,**

that you have established your faithfulness in heaven itself.

**<sup>3</sup>You said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one,**

I have sworn to David my servant,

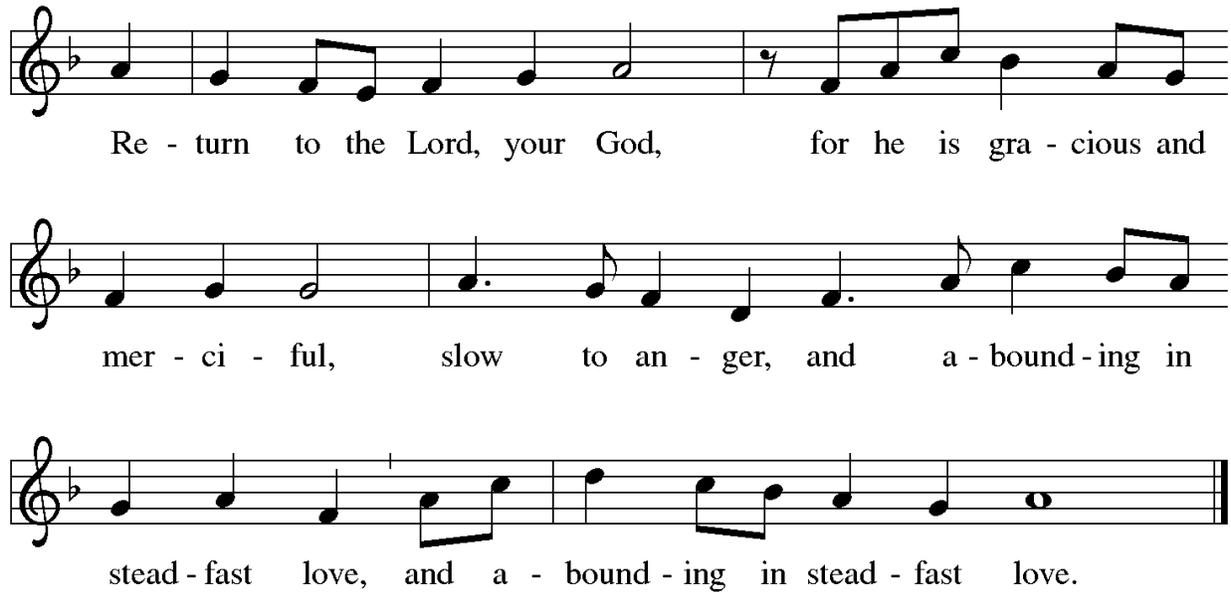
**<sup>4</sup>"I will establish your line forever**

and make your throne firm through all generations.'"

Word of God, word of life

**Thanks be to God**

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** (*please stand*)



Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and  
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in  
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

**WORD OF GOD**

**Mark 12:28-44**

The holy gospel according to Mark.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>28</sup>One of the scribes came near and heard them disputing with one another, and seeing that he answered them well, he asked him, "Which commandment is the first of all?"

<sup>29</sup>Jesus answered, "The first is, 'Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; <sup>30</sup>you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.' <sup>31</sup>The second is this, 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' There is no other commandment greater than these." <sup>32</sup>Then the scribe said to him, "You are right, Teacher; you have truly said that 'he is one, and besides him there is no other'; <sup>33</sup>and 'to love him with all the heart, and with all the understanding, and with all the strength,' and 'to love one's neighbor as oneself,' — this is much more important than all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices." <sup>34</sup>When Jesus saw that he answered wisely, he said to him, "You are not far from the kingdom of God." After that no one dared to ask him any question.

<sup>35</sup>While Jesus was teaching in the temple, he said, "How can the scribes say that the Messiah is the son of David? <sup>36</sup>David himself, by the Holy Spirit, declared,

'The Lord said to my Lord,  
"Sit at my right hand,  
until I put your enemies under your feet." '

<sup>37</sup>David himself calls him Lord; so how can he be his son?" And the large crowd was listening to him with delight.

<sup>38</sup>As he taught, he said, "Beware of the scribes, who like to walk around in long robes, and to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces, <sup>39</sup>and to have the best seats in the synagogues and places of honor at banquets! <sup>40</sup>They devour widows' houses and for the sake of appearance say long prayers. They will receive the greater condemnation."

<sup>41</sup>He sat down opposite the treasury, and watched the crowd putting money into the treasury. Many rich people put in large sums. <sup>42</sup>A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. <sup>43</sup>Then he called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. <sup>44</sup>For all of them have contributed out of their abundance; but she out of her poverty has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

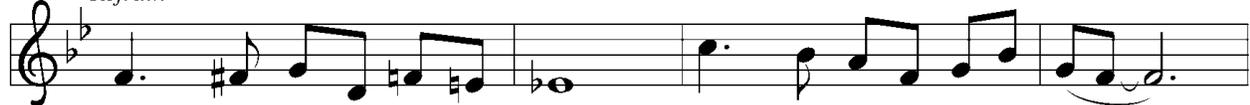
**SERMON**

**PASTOR JOY HEINE**

## HYMN OF THE DAY

### Just a Closer Walk with Thee

*Refrain*



Just a clos-er walk with thee, grant it, Je-sus, is my plea;



dai - ly walk-ing close to thee, let it be, dear Lord, let it be.



1 I am weak but thou art strong: Je - sus, keep me from all wrong;

2 Through this world of toil and snares, if I fal - ter, Lord, who cares?

3 When my fee - ble life is o'er, time for me will be no more;



*Refrain*

I'll be sat - is - fied as long as I walk, let me walk close to thee.  
Who with me my bur - den shares? None but thee, dear Lord, none but thee.  
guide me gent - ly, safe - ly o'er to thy king - dom shore, to thy shore.

Text: North American traditional

Music: CLOSER WALK, North American traditional

## APOSTLES CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead.\* On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## THE PRAYERS

Pastor: Turning our hearts to God who is gracious and merciful, we pray for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

*(Pause for Silent Reflection)*

Pastor: God of insight, open the hearts of the church and the world to all who testify to your deeds of power (*like Jonathan Edwards, whom we commemorate today*). Raise up voices in your church that are often silenced or overlooked due to age, gender expression, race, or economic status. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of insight, empower us to care for the land and all living things that dwell in it and beneath it. Provide rich soil for crops to grow. Bring rain to lands suffering drought. Protect hills and shorelines from damage caused by erosion. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of insight, bring peace to all people and nations. Anoint leaders who seek goodness, righteousness, and truth on behalf of all. Frustrate the efforts of those who would seek to cause violence or terror. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of insight, you care for our needs even before we ask. Come quickly to all who seek prayer this day (*especially Alice Hoskins, Jennifer Mariani, Mrs. McCain, Mykaila and Matty McLaurin, Carlton Potts, Bayne Spotwood, Connie Hubbard, Amber Letbetter, Patricia Buelmann, Chuck Blanchard, Eddie Robinson, Ben Watkins, Carol Armiger, Willie Patterson, Sandra Lewis, Jeffrey Riley, Marvin Lewis, Danny McCoy, Bob Arvidson, Mildred Shannon, Vertis Bolden, and John Karagory*). Accomplish healing through the work of doctors, nurses, physical therapists, nutritionists, and all who tend to human bodies. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of insight, help this assembly lift up the unique gifts of each person who enters, no matter their physical capacity, cognitive ability, or sensory need. Help us to be creative and brave in making our facilities and our ministries accessible to all. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: God of insight, you call out to those who are asleep and awaken them to new life with you. We give thanks for your saints (*especially Barbara Young, Thomas Henley, Freddie Hooper, Don Argyilan, Judy Waugh, and Greg Hubbard III*). Join us together with them as your children in this world and the next. Hear us, O God.

**Cong: Your mercy is great.**

Pastor: According to your steadfast love, O God, hear these and all our prayers as we commend them to you; through Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

## **SHARING OF THE PEACE**

Pastor: The peace of Christ be with you always

**Cong: And with you also**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**OFFERING** (*For Online Contributions go to <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1234592>*)

# Create in Me a Clean Heart

## *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right  
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take  
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of  
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

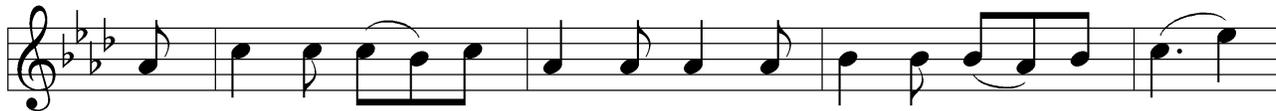
### **BLESSING**

Almighty God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless you now and forever.

**Amen**

SENDING HYMN (please stand)

There Is a Name I Love to Hear  
*Oh, How I Love Jesus*

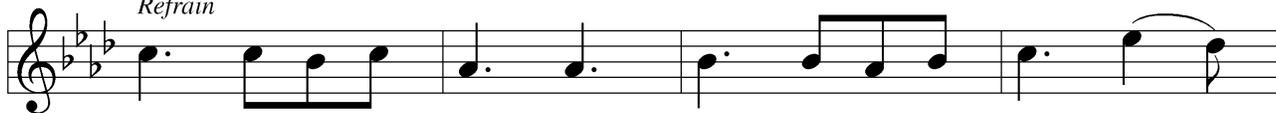


1 There is a name I love to hear, I love to sing its worth;  
2 It tells me of a Sav - ior's love, who died to set me free;  
3 It tells me what my mak - er hath in store for ev - 'ry day;  
4 It tells of one whose lov - ing heart can feel my deep - est woe,



it sounds like mu - sic in my ear, the sweet - est name on earth.  
it tells me of his pre - cious blood, the sin - ner's per - fect plea.  
and though I tread a dark - some path, yields sun - shine all the way.  
who in each sor - row bears a part that none can bear be - low.

*Refrain*



Oh, how I love Je - sus, oh, how I love Je - sus,



oh, how I love Je - sus, be - cause he first loved me!

Text: Frederick Whitfield, 1829–1904

Music: OH, HOW I LOVE JESUS, North American, 19th cent.

CLI#11459797

## **DISMISSAL**

**AM:** Go in peace. Christ is with you.

**Cong:** **Thanks be to God.**

**Cong:** **With joyful hearts, living in Christ  
We love and serve our neighbors.  
We are Bethel!**

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## THIS WEEK'S OPPORTUNITIES

**PLEASE SEE OUR WEBSITE FOR WAYS YOU CAN JOIN THESE TIMES TOGETHER ON-LINE!**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Bible Study</b>
	<b>5:30 p.m.</b>	<b>Lenten Meal &amp; Discussion</b>
<b>NEXT SUNDAY</b>	<b>9:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Adult Bible Study</b>
	<b>10:30 a.m.</b>	<b>Sunday Morning Worship</b>

*All in person events are canceled or on-line. Please see the website [www.bethelmiller.org](http://www.bethelmiller.org) or our Facebook page for more information <http://www.facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach>*

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**PRAYER LIST** – If there is someone (or some cause) you wish members to pray for, write the information on the page in the **PRAYER REQUESTS BOOK**. After 4 weeks the request will be removed. If the need is such, you may re-enter it for the next month.

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**ANNOUNCEMENTS** – Worship Service Bulletins are printed first thing Thursday mornings. Please provide the office any announcements you would like posted by the Wednesday prior to the Bulletin you would like it posted in. Thank you.

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**IN OUR PRAYERS TODAY** we remember those who are in need of healing (illness, infirmity, homebound, etc. *for Curtis Nevils, Alice Hoskins, Jennifer Mariani, Mrs. McCain, Mykaila and Matty McLaurin, Carlton Potts, Bayne Spotwood, Connie Hubbard, Amber Letbetter, Patricia Buelmann, Chuck Blanchard, Eddie Robinson, Ben Watkins, Carol Armiger, Willie Patterson, Sandra Lewis, Jeffrey Riley, Marvin Lewis, Danny McCoy, Bob Arvidson, Mildred Shannon, Vertis Bolden, and John Karagory.*



**THE BETHEL FAMILY** lifts up in the saints of every time and place *especially the families of Barbara Young, Thomas Henley, Freddie Hooper, Don Argyilan, Judy Waugh, and Greg Hubbard II*. Please hold the families in prayer as they mourn these losses, comforting and supporting them in the example of our Savior, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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**ADULT BIBLE STUDY** - Sundays at 9:30 AM (before church) in the fellowship hall. We will continue with our focus on forgiveness and the Letter of Paul to the Romans.

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**CHURCH COUNCIL:** Meetings are held every third Sunday of the month at 8:45 a.m. All church members are welcome to attend these meetings. The next meeting April 19<sup>th</sup>.

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**BETHEL BEACON:** The Bethel Beacon is our Church quarterly newsletter. The newsletter committee is interested in hearing from you. If you have a special family event, wedding, graduation, special honor, special recipe, poem... that you would like to share with your Bethel family, just place a notice in the Beacon Box located in the narthex.

Please send us messages and notes of inspiration we can put into the bulletin and share with members while we are not present with one another, [bethelmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:bethelmiller@hotmail.com).



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**Easter Breakfast is postponed until further notice.**

## **MID-WEEK LENT MEAL & DISCUSSION: Heart of a Christian**

*Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one! <sup>5</sup> You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.* Deuteronomy 6:4-5

This year, on Wednesdays at 5:30-6:45 during Lent, we will fellowship around the table for a meal. Then we will spend time reflecting on the ways we can nurture our faith. Each week we will focus on a way we can stay heart healthy with God, including the meal to nourish our bodies. Please sign up in the back of the church, if you are willing to provide a heart healthy meal eaten family style or help clean up after the meal.

(see [www.bethelmiller.org](http://www.bethelmiller.org) News and Events for a link to the mid-week discussion.)

Here are areas of focus for each week:

- MARCH 25 - PHYSICAL
- APRIL 5 - ACTION

Each week, there will be a study we can do together using the “Holy Bible app” by “YouVersion” focused on the area to nurture your faith. Pastor Joy will invite you to the study. Even if you are not able to come on all the Wednesday, you are welcome to join the on-line study together. Let Pastor Joy know you’d like to join or if you have any questions.

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Dear Members and Friends of Bethel,

As we all cope with the realities related to the Covid-19 pandemic, it is important that we continue to place God first in our lives and put our faith in our heavenly parent above all.

The congregation at Bethel will continue to minister to each other and to our neighbors and friends during this difficult time while we also comply with the guidance of our synod and the mandates of our government. To that end, all group meetings at the church are suspended through April 11, 2020. In place of our regular gatherings for worship, Bible study, and fellowship, we will be utilizing telephones, smart phones, computers, and other technology to allow us to remain in touch and continue our important work as the body of Christ.

If any of the technology choices are not available to you or are outside of your comfort level or experience, please call the church office at (219) 938-6677 to be put in touch with someone who can help you or provide instruction.

Sunday Worship – Facebook Live	10:30 AM	<a href="https://www.facebook.com/events/1148500328842787/">https://www.facebook.com/events/1148500328842787/</a>
Sunday Worship – Zoom	10:30 AM	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/414209443?pwd=TlRxWUIYUGFVWHE3UHpEN2VvMG9SQTO9">https://zoom.us/j/414209443?pwd=TlRxWUIYUGFVWHE3UHpEN2VvMG9SQTO9</a>
Wednesday Bible Study – Zoom	10:30 AM	<a href="https://us04web.zoom.us/j/905797661?pwd=blBsazhrRGZ4aVBEejdqRWdjWkhadz09">https://us04web.zoom.us/j/905797661?pwd=blBsazhrRGZ4aVBEejdqRWdjWkhadz09</a>
Wednesday Lent Soup/Study	5:30 PM	<a href="https://zoom.us/j/751688778">https://zoom.us/j/751688778.</a>

Our plans for Easter and beyond are contingent on the rapidly changing conditions related to the pandemic. Please consult our church website at <http://www.bethelmiller.org> or our Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach> for additional information. You may also call the church office at (219) 938-6677.

Regarding regular giving, it is certain that the pandemic will impact our economy and many members and friends will need to adjust their giving to the church. Please know that these adjustments are necessary and let the church know of your intentions. For those who can continue to give, please use the mail or our online giving portal at <https://tithe.ly/give?c=1234592>.

*“Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.” – John 14:27 (NRSV)*

Greg Bueltmann, Congregational Vice President

## BETHEL STAFF

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Pastor  
Organist/Musician  
Office Secretary

Pastor Joy Heine  
Greg Bueltmann  
Charolette Hawkins

### **CHURCH COUNCIL:**

President  
Vice President  
Secretary  
Asst. Secretary  
Financial Secretary  
Treasurer  
Member  
Member

Pastor Joy Heine  
Gregory Bueltmann  
Dixie Sayles  
Kay Edmonds  
Derrick Hess  
Florzell Hawkins  
Lillie McElroy  
Chuk Onwuka

### **MINISTRY TEAMS Liaison to Council:**

Faith Formation  
Outreach  
Property  
Social Ministry  
Worship  
Inreach

Wil Davis/Florzell Hawkins  
Lillie McElroy  
Greg Bueltmann  
Dixie Sayles

### **ORGANIZATION LEADERS:**

Altar Guild  
Choir  
Sunday Hospitality  
Bethel Women of ELCA

Alice Harrington  
Barbara Patterson  
Elaine Sandine & Women of Bethel  
Dorothy Nevils

***Church Office phone: 219-938-6677***  
***Email: [bethelmiller@hotmail.com](mailto:bethelmiller@hotmail.com)***  
***[www.facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach](http://www.facebook.com/bethelmillerbeach)***  
***[Website: www.Bethelmiller.org](http://www.Bethelmiller.org)***