

BETHANY LUTHERAN CHURCH

4500 East Hampden Avenue | Cherry Hills Village, CO 80113
www.Bethany-Denver.org | 303.758.2820

Easter 3



10:00am
April 14, 2024

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT BETHANY'S WORSHIP

- ◆ **Welcome to Bethany!** If you have questions or would like to consider making Bethany your church home, visit our website, Bethany-Denver.org, or stop by the Newcomer Nook after worship. The pastoral team, consisting of Pastor Gary Sandberg (he/him), Pastor Nate Preisinger (he/him), Deacon Debra Alba (she/her) and Director of Pastoral Care Janet Mortinsen (she/her), is available to speak with you.
- ◆ Bethany Lutheran Church values people of diverse race, sexual identity, ethnicity, and political affiliation. **All are welcome at Bethany Lutheran Church** and this community is enriched because you are here. We are together for good!
- ◆ **Participating in Worship:** There will be times during worship when you are invited to stand, but if it is more comfortable or more meaningful for you to remain seated, please feel free to do so.
- ◆ **Communion Statement:** Everyone gathered for worship is invited to take part in Communion. Jesus did not place any barriers around who received communion and neither does Bethany.
- ◆ As we gather this morning, we acknowledge the **Cheyenne, Ute, and Očhéthi Šakówinj** (oh-chey-tee shah-koh-ween) tribes on whose lands we live and learn. We give gratitude to the indigenous peoples who nourished these lands, and who remain among us even today in the midst of the broken agreements that are mourned.
- ◆ **Hearing Assistance Device:** Please see the Sound Tech in the A/V booth at the rear of the Sanctuary if you need a hearing assistance device.
- ◆ **Worship Servants:** Thank you to all the A/V team, Ushers, Communion Servers, Altar Guild, Musicians, Embrace Volunteers and Sacristans for your work to greet people and make worship happen. We always welcome Worship Servants - go to www.signupschedule.com/Bethany to sign up!
- ◆ **Children at Bethany:** Children and youth are a blessing from God and we love having children in the Sanctuary! Additionally, we offer several options for children and families to feel comfortable in a variety of spaces on Sunday mornings:
 - ⇒ **Fidget Station:** Available outside the Sanctuary's north doors is a Fidget Station. Children and adults are invited to use these fidgets and art supplies to aid in your spiritual growth and presence in worship. Please return items to the station when you are finished.
 - ⇒ **Busy Bags:** Near the Sanctuary doors you will find premade bags perfect for littles. Grab one on the way in and return it on the way out.
 - ⇒ **Staffed Nursery:** For directions to our Nursery, staffed by Ms. Michele, a Licensed Elementary Teacher with a specialization in Early Childhood Education, please speak with an usher.
 - ⇒ **Infant Nursing Nook:** There is an infant nursing nook outside the Chapel.

Flowers in front of the pulpit were given by Nick & Lu Wellen in honor of their daughter, Abby's, 3rd birthday.

+ WE PREPARE OUR HEARTS +

Prelude

Trio Sonata in E Flat Major,

BWV J.S. Bach

Welcome to Worship

Pastor Gary Sandberg

See what love God has given to us,
that we should be called **Children of God.**

Song of Praise

All Are Welcome

ELW #641

1 Let us build a house where love can dwell and all can safe - ly
live, a place where saints and chil - dren tell how
hearts learn to for - give. Built of hopes and dreams and
vi - sions. rock of faith and vault of grace; here the love of
Refrain
Christ shall end di - vi - sions:
All are wel - come,
all are wel - come, all are wel - come in this place.

Time of Confession

Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Silence is kept for reflection.

Most merciful God,

we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

God's Gift of Forgiveness

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Gathering Song

Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain (vs. 1-3) ELW 363



1 Come, you faith - ful, raise the strain of tri - um - phant glad - ness!
2 'Tis the spring of souls to - day: Christ has burst his pris - on,
3 Now the queen of sea - sons, bright with the day of splen - dor,
4 Nei - ther could the gates of death, nor the tomb's dark por - tal,
5 Al - le - lu - ia! now we cry to our Lord im - mor - tal,



God has brought forth Is - ra - el in - to joy from sad - ness,
and from three days' sleep in death as a sun has ris - en,
with the roy - al feast of feasts comes its joy to ren - der;
nor the watch - ers, nor the seal, hold you as a mor - tal:
who tri - um - phant burst the bars of the tomb's dark por - tal;



loosed from Pha-raoh's bit - ter yoke Ja - cob's sons and daugh - ters;
All the win - ter of our sins, long and dark, is fly - ing
comes to glad Jer - u - sa - lem, who with true af - fec - tion
but to - day, a - mong your own, you ap - pear, be - stow - ing
Al - le - lu - ia! with the Son God the Fa - ther prais - ing;



led them with un - moist - ened foot through the Red Sea wa - ters.
from the Light to whom we give laud and praise un - dy - ing.
wel - comes in un - wea - ried strain Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion!
your deep peace, which ev - er - more pass - es hu - man know - ing.
Al - le - lu - ia! yet a - gain to the Spir - it rais - ing.

Greeting

Deacon Debra Alba

Christ is Risen!

He is Risen indeed, Alleluia!

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

Prayer of the Day

Holy and righteous God,

you are the author of life, and you adopt us to be your children. Fill us with your words of life, that we may live as witnesses to the resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Children's Sermon

Deacon Debra Alba

Children's Church

Gayle Newell

+ WE ENCOUNTER GOD'S WORD +

Today's Sermon is based on readings from:

¹ John 3:1-7

¹See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. ²Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. ³And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

⁴Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. ⁵You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. ⁷Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Luke 24:36b-48

The Holy Gospel according to Luke. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

36 Jesus himself stood among the disciples and said to them, "Peace be with you." 37 They were startled and terrified, and thought that they were seeing a ghost. 38 He said to them, "Why are you frightened, and why do doubts arise in your hearts? 39 Look at my hands and my feet; see that it is I myself. Touch me and see; for a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have." 40 And when he had said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. 41 While in their joy they were disbelieving and still wondering, he said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?" 42 They gave him a piece of broiled fish, 43 and he took it and ate in their presence. 44 Then he said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you — that everything written about me in the law of Moses, the prophets, and the psalms must be fulfilled." 45 Then he opened their minds to understand the scriptures, 46 and he said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Messiah is to suffer and to rise from the dead on the third day, 47 and that repentance and forgiveness of sins is to be proclaimed in his name to all nations, beginning from Jerusalem. 48 You are witnesses of these things.

The Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Sermon Notes:

Pastor Nate Preisinger

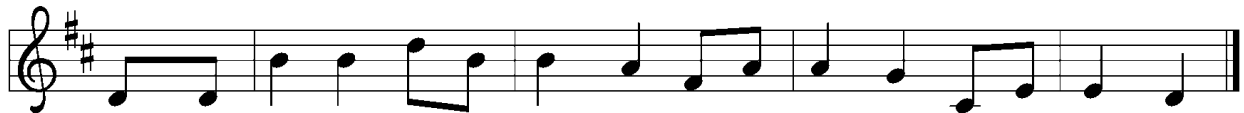
Song of the Day

Children of the Heavenly Father

ELW #781



Tryg - ga - re kan ing - en va - ra än Guds lil - la bar - na - ska - ra,
1 Chil - dren of the heav'n-ly Fa - ther safe - ly in his bo - som gath - er;
2 God his own doth tend and nour-ish, in his ho - ly courts they flour - ish.
3 Nei - ther life nor death shall ev - er from the Lord his chil - dren sev - er;
4 Though he giv - eth or he tak - eth, God his chil - dren ne'er for - sak - eth;



stjär - nan ej på him - la - fäs - tet, få - geln ej i kän - da näs - tet.
nest - ling bird nor star in heav - en such a ref - uge e'er was giv - en.
From all e - vil things he spares them, in his might - y arms he bears them.
un - to them his grace he show - eth, and their sor - rows all he know - eth.
his the lov - ing pur - pose sole - ly to pre - serve them pure and ho - ly.

A Statement of Our Faith

Pastor Gary Sandberg

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.

Prayers of the People *(music will play underneath the prayers)*

Gathered into one, by the power of the Holy Spirit, let us lift our hearts in prayer...

...We continue to speak with God about all that is on our hearts...

(A time for silent prayer)

Into your hands O God, we offer these prayers, trusting in your mercy through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

We Share God's Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always! **And also with you.**

(Please share a sign of peace with those around you.)

Abundantly Bethany

- ◆ Welcome new worshippers!
- ◆ Bethany Info Sessions: TODAY & Apr 21
- ◆ Food Breakdown: TODAY
- ◆ Bethany Town Hall: Apr 21

+ WE WORSHIP GOD WITH OUR OFFERINGS +

The Offering

All the ways you can give are appearing now on the Illustrator. Please take a moment to offer a gift now to Bethany or to another God pleasing ministry. As you take this time to worship God through our offerings, we enjoy the gift of music. Paper offerings can be left in the silver trays by the doors as you exit the worship space.

Musical Offering

To Sing Once More

Craig Courtney

Chancel Choir, Dir. Kirk Schjodt

Awake our souls to sing once more the songs that long have silent been.

From troubled nights and fearful days, our notes of praise and joy begin.

Inspired by hope, compelled by grace, we sing your everlasting praise.

Most holy God, your song we seek and trust in your unchanging ways.

With comfort, your eternal voice is music to our fainting soul,

It speaks in times of hurt and wrong, it whispers peace, it makes us whole.

Arise, his children, rise again, your God and maker now adore.

No longer silent, lift your voice, awake your souls to sing once more.

Children Return to the Sanctuary

+ THE COMMUNITY MEAL +

Invitation to The Communion Table

Pastor Gary Sandberg

Celebration of Holy Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**
Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**
Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God.
 It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Blessing of the Bread and Wine

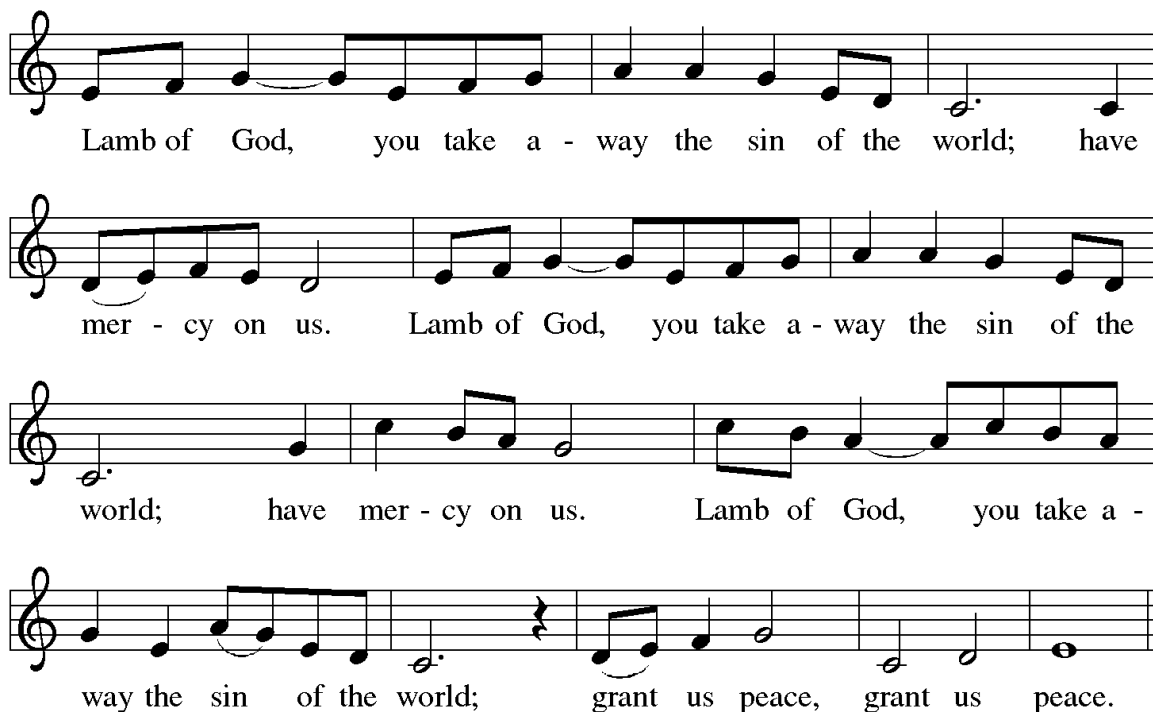
The Lord's Prayer *(Ecumenical translation)*

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.**

Communion Instruction

Bethany welcomes all to receive the body and blood of Christ in Holy Communion. An usher will direct you forward where you can receive communion via intinction, or pick up a pre-packaged communion set or a gluten-free communion set from the tray in front of your seating area. Groups are welcome to visit a communion station together. Those who are not receiving communion are invited to cross their arms across their chests to receive a blessing.

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a -
way the sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Distribution

Anthem

Good Shepherd

Dan Forrest

Chancel Choir, Dir. Kirk Schjodt

Shepherd, go before me, wise and loving guide; I have seen your goodness proven sure when tried.

Shepherd, choose the pathway you deem best for me. Plan and pace the journey, swift or slow to be.

Shepherd, place the fences, closing in my way. Safe behind the Shepherd I would ever stay.

Shepherd, when the shadows dim your loving light, lift me, hold me near you; bear me through the night.

Shepherd, you have suffered deepest pain for me; offered up your lifeblood, that I might go free.

Shepherd, you have loved me as no other could, I will trust and follow, knowing you are good.

Communion Music

As the Grains of Wheat

ELW #465

Refrain



As the grains of wheat once scat-tered on the hill were
gath-ered in - to one to be - come our bread; so may all your peo-ple from
all the ends of earth be gath-ered in - to one in you.

1 As this cup of bless - ing is shared with - in our midst,
2 Let this be a fore - taste of all that is to come when

Refrain



may we share the pres - ence of your love.
all cre - a - tion shares this feast with you.

Table Blessing

+ GOD SENDS US TO SERVE +

Blessing

Deacon Debra Alba

Song of Sending

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

ELW #389

1 Christ is a - live! Let Chris - tians sing. The cross stands
2 Christ is a - live! No long - er bound to dis - tant
3 In ev - 'ry in - sult, rift, and war, where col - or,
4 Wom - en and men, in age and youth, can feel the
5 Christ is a - live, and comes to bring good news to

emp - ty to the sky. Let streets and homes with
years in Pal - es - tine, but sav - ing, heal - ing,
scorn, or wealth di - vide, Christ suf - fers still, yet
Spir - it, hear the call, and find the way, the
this and ev - 'ry age, till earth and sky and

prais - es ring. Love, drowned in death, shall nev - er die.
here and now, and touch - ing ev - 'ry place and time.
loves the more, and lives, where e - ven hope has died.
life, the truth, re - vealed in Je - sus, freed for all.
o - cean ring with joy, with jus - tice, love, and praise.

Dismissal

Pastor Nate Preisinger

As we go forth into the week ahead we remember our calling as the people of Bethany. Together we will:

**Worship and encounter a God who loves us;
Embrace healthy dialogue that promotes unity over division;
Respond to the needs of the world through generosity and action.**

With this as our mission, go in peace, serve the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Christ is Alive! Let Christians Sing

Charles Callahan

THINGS TO KNOW ABOUT NEWS & EVENTS

- ◆ **Brian Tennien Memorial Rice and Bean Breakdown to Benefit Metro Caring:** Today after both the 8:30am and the 10:00am services in Fellowship Hall. Join in!
- ◆ **Bethany Chancel Choir Guest Night April 17, 2024 7:00-9:00PM:** Are you looking to get more involved at church? Do you miss singing in a choir or have interest in making music within a community of faith? You may think the chancel choir looks full, but there's always room for more, and we want you! We know you'll love being involved in this fun, inclusive, and positive environment. No experience necessary – just a love of music and a desire to learn. If you plan on joining us on April 17th, you can email Kirk (Director) at Kirk@bethany-denver.org... Or just show up, we'll be ready for you!
- ◆ **High School After Party: Wednesday 4/17 @ 7:30pm @ Torchy's Tacos** (6325 E Hampden Ave). We will meetup to celebrate Wednesdays at Bethany and connect with each other!
- ◆ **Dining Out for Life to benefit Project Angel Heart:** On Apr 18, dine at one of hundreds of participating restaurants for breakfast, lunch, happy hour, dinner, or takeout. 25% of your check will be donated to Project Angel Heart to help provide delicious, medically tailored meals for Coloradans living with severe illnesses, including HIV/AIDS. See participating restaurants at this link: <https://www.projectangelheart.org/events/dining-out-for-life/participating-restaurants/>.
- ◆ **The next Women of Bethany (WOB) Fellowship** get together will be lunch on Thursday, April 18 from 11:30am to 1:30pm at The Perfect Landing (located at Centennial Airport at 7625 S Peoria Cir, Englewood, CO 80112) <https://thepperfectlanding.com/>. If you have never dined here you are in for a wonderful experience as right outside the large windows you can watch small airplanes buzz as they take off and land. In the background you have a view of the front range from Pikes Peak to Longs Peak. Hope you will join us! Please RSVP to Lizza Aalto at taalto@aol.com by 4/16/24. Looking forward to seeing many of you!
- ◆ **Family Promise at Christ the Savior Lutheran Church** is looking for a volunteer to be present at that church from 1:00pm – 3:00pm on Saturday, April 20. For more information, please call Jean Scott at 303 756-2106.

- ◆ **Middle School Shenanigans at Epiphany Lutheran Church Saturday April 20th @ 5:00-8:00pm.** 790 S Corona St, Denver, CO 80209 (close to Washington Park) Great night to bring a friend! Our wonderful youth friends at Epiphany we share our confirmation journey with invite us to a night of SHENANIGANS! *Scavenger Hunt @ Wash Park *New Friendships *Big Bible Easterrific Read *Worship & Prayer stations *Pizza/drinks/snacks *Nine Square in the air *Giant Jenga *Corn Hole
- ◆ **Bethany Town Hall:** Sunday, Apr 21, 11:20am in the Chapel - The Councils of Bethany will lead this meeting to review our financial picture and talk about leadership during Pastor Gary's sabbatical this summer. There will also be updates on the work of our Councils leading up to the Annual Meeting including the election of new Council members in June. There will be time for open conversation. All are invited to attend.
- ◆ **ELCA Youth Gathering!** We celebrated at NoNo's Cafe Sunday April 7 with Beignets for all! Thank you Bethany for continuing to support us through prayer & financial resources as we journey towards New Orleans July 14-21. Our team next meets up Sunday April 21 at 11:15am!
- ◆ **Bethany Family Event:** Please join us for our next Family Event on Sunday, April 21 at Bowlero in Lone Tree at 2:00pm! Sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/BowleroEvite>.
- ◆ **Blood Drive: Vitalant Blood Drive on April 23, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m.** Vitalant will be in the Great Hall on Tuesday, April 23, in the morning for a blood drive. Everyone donating at this drive will be entered for a chance to win one of 83 gift cards worth \$83 each. This is in honor of Mother's day as one in 83 moms needs a blood transfusion after giving birth. Appointments can be made online at www.vitalant.org using the site code 0377 or by calling 303.363.2300.
- ◆ **The Apostles' Creed Milestone Class** is scheduled for April 28 at 11:20am for Elementary Schoolers and their families.
- ◆ **Godspeed to Pastor Gary and Karen!** Join in for a Sabbatical Send-Off on Sunday, April 28 during community hour at 11:00am. Please bring a dish for a potluck brunch. Share your good wishes with Pastor Gary and Karen and stay for warm fellowship and a delicious meal.
- ◆ **Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains:** Annual Gala (Opening Doors, Imaging Futures) on Friday, May 3. Bethany Lutheran Church is sponsoring a table. The Gala is LFS's major fund-raising event that supports programs that provide open doors and new futures in adoption and foster care, in disaster relief, and for refugees, asylees and seniors. If you'd like to attend and support LFSRM, please email a Bethany Gala Committee member - Marie Friedemann (mfriedem@regis.edu), Julie Friedemann (juliefriedemann@msn.com) or Janet Sparling (jsparling01@hotmail.com). Your support of LFSRM is hugely appreciated. See you at the Gala!
- ◆ **Lutheran Family Services Silent Auction Gala Committee:** This committee would like to add meaningful experiences to the Silent Auction at the Gala. Could you donate theater, symphony, ballet, Avs, Rockies, Bronco tickets to the Silent Auction? Do you a stay at a vacation home or a passion to share with a small group - fly fishing, birding, hikes or special dinner - that you could donate to the auction? Please contact a Bethany Gala Committee Volunteer - Marie Friedemann (mfriedem@regis.edu), Julie Friedemann (juliefriedemann@msn.com) or Janet Sparling (jsparling01@hotmail.com) by April 10.

- ◆ **Holy Hammers 25th Anniversary Dinner and Celebration:** Saturday, May 4, 5:30-9:00pm at Augustana Lutheran Church, to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of Holy Hammers and to raise money for our 2024 home sponsorship and construction (on land leased to Habitat for Humanity of Metro Denver by Augustana Lutheran). Augustana Lutheran, a Holy Hammers congregation, has leased land to Habitat for Humanity Metro Denver, and Holy Hammers is sponsoring and building 1 of the 8 homes on that land in 2024. Purchase tickets or donate at <https://www.ticketsignup.io/TicketEvent/>. For more information, contact Kevin Dempsey at kmdmpsy@aol.com or 303-699-1629.
- ◆ **Retreat-In-A-Box Spring: See Colleen in the Fellowship Hall if you'd like to join in.** Devotional box to guide you as you embrace the Easter Season!
- ◆ **Young Adult Retreat:** May 10-12, Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp, \$100. Have you ever wondered what comes next? What you're supposed to be doing? This has always been a common question for young adults. Join in for a meaningful weekend of exploring how our Christian faith might provide us with new tools for this age-old struggle. You're welcomed to join a community of young adults exploring similar thoughts as we collectively discern God's intentions in our lives. Through Bible study, creative worship, art projects, yoga, personality tests, high ropes adventures, and time in God's beautiful creation we will support each other through the questions we all carry. Connect with Colleen at colleen@bethany-denver.org with questions! Scholarships available!
- ◆ **Lutheran Family Services Mother's Day Baby Baskets:** Join the Outreach Ministry Team and support refugee mothers and their newborns as you bring any or all of the following to Bethany on Mother's Day May 12 (or May 19)! Sippy Cups, Diapers (bigger sizes), Crib Sheets, Baby Care Kits, Hygiene Items for Baby and Mom. Or use the Bethany drop-down box "Baby Baskets LFS" to make a direct donation.
- ◆ **Bethany Name Tags:** Would you like a Bethany Name Tag? Sign up and we will place an order once we hit a critical mass. Order at www.Bethany-Denver.org/Nametags. Connect with Colleen at colleen@bethany-denver.org with questions.
- ◆ **Kid's Day Camp:** Jun 24 - 28 - register at <https://tinyurl.com/blcdaycamp>
- ◆ **Kid's Art Camp:** Jul 15 - 18 - register at <https://tinyurl.com/blcartcamp>
- ◆ **Bethany Information Sessions:** Want to learn more about this congregation? These sessions are a great path toward considering membership at Bethany too! **TODAY – Bethany's structure; how to get involved**, April 21 - Tour of the Campus. Each one starts at 11:20am in Room 400 (downstairs in the youth wing). Come to all three, or drop in on topics that appeal to you. New Members will be welcomed in worship on Sunday, April 21. Contact Sarah@Bethany-Denver.org to RSVP.

For more information and to see other announcements, please sign up for the email blasts by contacting the office - 303.758.2820, or visit www.Bethany-Denver.org/Bethany-news/