

BETHEL BELL FAMILY NEWS

MAY 2026

What it means to trust for all things

We have been talking this lent about the definition of faith. Many of us have interpreted this as believing in Jesus, but as we have learned, Faith is actually trusting in Jesus. It's easy to trust when life is good. But what about when life is hard? What does trust in Jesus actually mean?

First, it means that I trust and believe that Jesus cares about me and that he died on the cross and rose again to save me. We know that the bible tells us that he numbers the hairs on our head (Luke 12:7) and that he calls our name before we are born (Isaiah 49:1). He knows us, I think, better than we know ourselves. Thinking about Jesus and the 99 sheep that he left to find one – it is hard to imagine that he would really leave the 99 just for me (Matt 18:12-14). When I feel unworthy, he still chooses me. When I wander, he comes after me. When I feel overlooked, he sees me. I am the One he is unwilling to lose. How can I not trust in him?

It's much easier not to trust in God. We can't see him. We can't touch him. Remember Thomas, who was not with the disciples the first time they saw Jesus after resurrection? And he told the others, ““Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe.” John 20:25b. Then Thomas saw and believed. But we still can't see or touch. Jesus referenced that in John 20:29, “Then Jesus told him, “Because you have seen me, you have believed; blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.”

Why is it so hard to do something that seems so simple? Because of sin. Everywhere we look in our world, on social media, television, and in our lives, we see sin. It seems acceptable in many instances. People get away with all sorts of things that we disagree with. The law reveals sin and God's wrath. “What could be a more sobering and terrifying demonstration and proclamation of the wrath of God against sin than the suffering and death of Christ, his son? But our New Testament immediately adds the promise of grace through the gospel. You see, the “preaching of the law is not sufficient for genuine and salutary repentance: the gospel must also be added to it.”

In Baptism, we are saved by faith. But after baptism, the real living in our messy world happens. And we ask, “Why did this happen to someone I love?” We demand an answer, and blame God, even though God does not do bad things to people.

We can trust Jesus. We can trust him because we know he lives. We know he confirmed over 300 Old Testament prophecies. We know he never wavered in his love for us.

Surrender to his guidance. He will not fail you.

Peggy



Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council Minutes for April 12, 2026

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church Council met at 8:30 AM on April 12, 2026. Attending today's meeting were: Todd Corriher, Butch Williams, Todd Smith, Todd Lingle, Monica Raney, Judy Hoffman, Mike Raney, Aaron Thurston and Pastor Peggy Terhune. Mike Spry was absent. Todd Corriher, Council Chair, called the meeting to order. Devotions were given by Todd Smith entitled "I Believe, Help My Unbelief". Todd Corriher asked the Council if there were any changes to the March 8th Council meeting. There being none, Monica Raney made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was 2nd by Todd Lingle and passed unanimously. The Bethel Church council expressed their thanks to Pastor Peggy for such meaningful services for Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter Sunrise and the wonderful Resurrection Sunday service.

Treasurer's Report: Mike Raney provided a handout of the Treasurers Report. Receipts for March 2026 were \$17,418. Expenses for March 2026 were \$16,687. Several donations were made to Bethel from the family of Elaine Stiller and the family of Tommy Eller. Mike Raney reported that Bethel's "online" donation was approved by Church Council and is now ACTIVE. Todd Lingle made a motion enable online giving. It was 2nd by Todd Smith and unanimously approved. Visit our Church Website.

Pastor Peggy's Report: Pastor Peggy has now contacted everyone on her list and has started contacting some people that used to be members but have not been members for 5 or so years. She has continued to visit people in the hospital/surgery. Pastor Peggy's Summer classes will be on site at Wartburg from July 13-25. She will meet with local Lutheran pastors every Monday from 10-12. She has ongoing supervision from Sue Lynn White and Jay Hilbinger. She will get with Jennifer Spry about Sunday School and materials. The Adult Sunday School class will need a new teacher as Scott Parish is getting married and he is moving to Virginia. Held funeral for Elaine Stiller. She will create a new handout for the Communion people to use when going to homebound or members in care facilities. Planning services for men leading (August 23), Youth leading (July 26) and women leading (July 12). Planning Graduation Sunday for Devin and Jacob. Motion by Todd Lingle and 2nd by Monica Raney to purchase our graduates a necklace with a cross and a Devotion book.

Old Business:

The grounds service contract was extended one year from April 1, 2026 until March 31, 2027 at \$1,100 per month.

Our 175th Anniversary will be celebrated on September 13th with Bishop Emily Hartner as our guest Pastor. Our committee members for this celebration are Monica Raney, Kathy Pifferetti, Lora Owen and Vickie Grubb.

The "Bethel Preschool" on the sign at Hwy 601 and E. Ridge Road has been removed.

The church water heater has been replaced.

New Business:

A motion was made by Todd Corriher for approval to apply for the "Michael Peeler/Virginia Casey" grant for Laura's Clothing Closet. The motion was 2nd by Monica Raney and it passed unanimously.

Bethel will have VBS on Saturday, July 11, 2026 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. This will be a VBS for all ages, children to adult. We will serve a hot dog lunch for all attendees. More information to come.

The Bethel Blessing Box is now in the Rowan County Blessing Box printout. A copy of this is posted on the bulletin board in our Narthex. What a wonderful addition to our outreach thanks to Jerry Trier. He did a great job building the new Blessing Box.

Mike Raney sent all Council members a copy of the "Gifts-in-Kind Contribution" policy. A motion was made by Monica Raney for Bethel Lutheran Church to adopt this policy. The motion was 2nd by Todd Lingle and it passed unanimously.

The “Job Evaluation” completed by the Council members for our church secretary will be summarized by Todd Corriher and will be presented to Martha by Monica. This lists the responsibilities of our church secretary in the areas of: Church office operations, Worship bulletins, Church newsletter, Scheduling and coordination, Financial support, Records management, purchasing and supplies.

Bethel will have a yard sale on Saturday June 6, 2026 from 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM. We will have hot dogs and drinks for sale. NO furniture, NO electronics and NO clothes. Booth for members- \$10; non-members \$20.

We will have a large banner placed in our front yard advertising Bethel’s 175th Anniversary. The committee will decide what to put on the banner and how large it will be.

A motion was made by Mike Raney and 2nd by Todd Smith to wave fees for use of our Fellowship Building for Amber Trexler on July 19. The motion passed unanimously.

Scholarship applications must be in by May 24. Scholarship Committee will meet in early June. We will present scholarships on Father’s Day, June 21st.

May 31st is designated as “Bring a friend to church” Sunday.

Bethel Committees (BOLD is the Council Representative)

Worship and Music: Cathy Williams, Kara Thurston, Krista Monroe, Kelly Smith, **Todd Smith** and Pastor Peggy. Meeting will be May 17 at 9:00 AM

Educational Ministry: Pastor Peggy Terhune, **Mike Spry**

Social Ministry: Shelia Lingle, **Judy Hoffman** – Looking at a game night and Fall Festival

Stewardship: Perry VonCanon, **Butch Williams**, Aaron Thurston – Time and Talents

Church Property: Todd Smith, **Todd Lingle**, Winfred Kluttz, Todd Corriher, Mike Raney, Bob Kennerly, Dave Hibbard, and Mike Spry—New water heater has been purchased and installed.

Scholarship: Perry VonCanon, **Butch Williams**, Mike Raney and Dave Hincemon—Scholarship Sunday is Father’s Day, June 21.

Evangelism: All Council Members, **Pastor Peggy**

Finance: **Mike Raney**, Al Brandon, Butch Williams and Aaron Thurston

Youth: Jennifer Spry, **Mike Spry**

Mission & Outreach: **Monica Raney**, Brenda Holbrook, Linda Trier. Meeting on May 16 at 1:00 PM

Executive: **Todd Corriher**, Todd Lingle, Mike Raney and Butch Williams

Dates to Remember for April, May and June 2026:

Council Hosts for April is Todd Smith. Council Host for May will be Mike Spry.

Council Host for June will be Aaron Thurston.

Laura’s Closet open May 16 from 10:00 till Noon.

Our next Council meeting will be on Sunday, May 10, 2026 at **8:30 AM**.

Contemporary Service in the Fellowship Building on May 3 at 4:00 PM.

LMIM meeting and meal on Tuesday May 5 at 6:30 PM in Pastor Carroll’s Shop

N. C. Synod Assembly on May 28-30.

May 31 covered dish meal after worship service.

Bethel yard sale on June 6. NO furniture and NO electronics.

Bethel VBS on Saturday July 11 from 10:00 AM until 2:00 PM. Youth and Adults welcome.

There being no further business, the Council meeting was adjourned with the Lord’s Prayer.



Scholarship Time is upon us and time to begin thinking about application for the Bethel Scholarships. If you are interested in applying (or reapplying if you were a previous recipient) please contact the church office for details. applications must be in to the church office by May 25, 2026. Scholarships will be awarded on Father's Day June 17th.

Church Yard Sale

Join us for a community yard sale on Saturday, June 6th from 8:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

Hot dog sales will begin at 10:00 AM and continue until sold out.

Donations

Donations for the church yard sale will be accepted on:

Friday, June 5th from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM

If you need to arrange a special drop-off time outside of these hours, please contact Monica Raney by Friday, May 23rd.

Donation Guidelines•

No clothing will be accepted.•

No appliances or large furniture will be accepted *unless you are prepared to pick them up by 4:30 PM on the day of the sale if they do not sell.*

Table Rentals Available

If you prefer to sell your own items, tables are available to rent:•

10 for members•

\$20 for non-members

Come shop, sell, and support the church—we hope to see you there!



New Church Directory Coming Soon!!

Starting April 26 pictures will be taken before and after church on Sundays for the next several weeks. There is a signup sheet in the narthex with times and dates.

Please sign up, fill out the information form and bring it with you and your family on the date. There are no promotions and no sales for the photos. Each family will receive a hard copy directory and be given a code to look it up on line when finished. Pictures will be taken in one of the rooms set up in the fellowship building. If you are unable to sign up for one of the dates and times given, contact Shelia Lingle 704-202-2590 to make alternate arrangements.

WELCA Minnie Williams Circle

The Minnie Williams circle met April 13th at Blue Bay Restaurant. Twelve women were present. Judy Voncanon reported we have \$2,515.37 in our Treasury. Judy Hoffman was hostess and gave the program from the devotional “Jesus Calling” - simplify your life and be in daily communication with God. She shared how meaningful her Emmaus experience was and encouraged others to go in September.

Our Women's Sunday is July 12th, the entire service will be led by the women of Bethel. Other upcoming events are: Children's Closet May 16th, celebrating our graduates May 17th, invite a friend Sunday with covered dish May 31st, Yard Sale June 6th, Bible Camp which will be multi-generational on July 11th, and Blessing of the Animals in September. Judy Hoffman closed the meeting with a prayer. The next WELCA meeting will be held May 4th.

Julia Hibbard, Recording Secretary



HOMEBOUND/HOSPITAL/NURSING HOME

Betty Shuping	Home of Daughter, 336-513-4035
Katrina Kurfees	Home of Daughter,
Linda Plummer	Trinity Oaks Health & Rehab., Memory Unit
Peggy Swicegood	Continue prayers
Carolyn Hicks	Continue prayers
Marcia Miller	NH Rowan Medical Center
Eric & Dawn Leach	Continue prayers
Danny Norman	Continue prayers (brother of Ellen Webb)
Robert & Gathel Meachem	Brookdale, Room 34, 2201 Statesville Blvd.
Cody McDowell	Continue prayers
Eddie Rabon	Recovering at his home



We will be Celebrating our Graduates on Sunday May 17th. Devin Copley, North Hills Christian; Jacob Thurston, West Rowan High; Caleb Terhune, North Stanly High; Lacey Houghton, West Rowan High. Congratulations to you all. May God bless and guide you in your future endeavors as you go forth; always place your Faith and Trust in Him.

Memorial Day May 25, 2026 Traditionally, flags are placed on the graves of our members and family members who have served in the military guarding our country. This year will be no different; Dave Hincemon and Winfred Klutz will place flags on the graves around the 22nd of May. If you need a flag for someone, please get in touch with either Dave or Winfred.



ATTENTION

Children's Church Schedule Change

Ages 3-5

We are excited to share an update to our Children's Church schedule!

NEW SCHEDULE: STARTING IN MAY

Children's Church will now be held on the
2nd and 4th Sundays of each month

Please Note: There will be **NO Children's Church on May 24th**

We look forward to continuing this special time with your children



Exciting News: Online Giving is Now Available!

To our Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church family,

We are thrilled to announce that supporting the mission and ministry of Bethel has become easier than ever. **Online Giving is now officially live on our website!**

We recognize that the way we manage our finances is changing, and we want to provide our members with a convenient, secure, and flexible way to share their tithes and offerings. Whether you're traveling, unable to attend a service in person, or simply prefer the simplicity of digital transactions, this new tool is here for you.

How to Give Online - Getting started is simple and takes only a few moments:

Visit our website: Head to www.bethelsalisbury.org.

1. **Locate the "Give" Button:** You'll find it prominently on the homepage or under the "Give" tab.
2. **Choose Your Gift:** You can make a one-time donation or set up **recurring giving** so your support continues even when life gets busy.

Designate Your Fund: Choose to give toward the Current Expense Fund, Benevolence, Building Fund, Cemetery Fund, or other specific mission projects. Or:



You can scan the QR code below that will take you directly to the online giving site powered by TITHE.LY.com.

This QR code is different from the QR code that goes directly to our website.

Why Give Online?

Consistency: Sustains our church's ministry year-round, regardless of attendance.

Security: Our platform uses industry-standard encryption to keep your information safe.

Convenience: Give from your computer, tablet, or smartphone at any time.

"Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." — 2 Corinthians 9:7

Prefer the Traditional Way?

Don't worry! We will continue to collect offerings during our physical worship services for those who prefer to give via cash or check. This is simply an additional "digital plate" to better serve our growing community.

Thank you for your continued faithfulness and for being a vital part of what God is doing here at Bethel. If you have any questions or need assistance setting up your account, please contact the church treasurer, Mike Raney.

Blessings, *The Church Council of Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church*

Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church: Care & Assistance Request

I. Contact Information

Full Name: _____

Address: _____

Preferred Phone Number: _____

Email Address: _____

Preferred Method of Contact: Phone Email Text

II. Type of Assistance Requested

Please check the areas where we can best support you:

Medical Support: Hospital visits, recovery check-ins, or post-surgery care.

Prescription/Medication: Assistance

Transportation: Rides to medical appointments or Sunday service.

Household Needs: Food, Grocery delivery, meal train, or light chores.

Spiritual Care: Counseling, Prayer requests or a visit from the Pastor.

Other: _____

III. Specific Details To help us coordinate effectively, please provide any relevant dates or specific needs (e.g., "Need meals for the week of March 12th" or "Surgery scheduled for Tuesday"):

IV. Urgency of Request

Emergency (within 24 hours)

Urgent (within a few days)

Routine / Non-urgent

If medical-related, please provide relevant details (optional):

- Name of Hospital/Clinic: _____
- Date of Appointment (if applicable): ___ / ___ / ____
- Treating Physician (optional): _____

V. Financial Information (If Requesting Financial Assistance)

- Amount Requested: \$ _____
- Have you received assistance from the church before? Yes No
- If yes, when? _____

VI. Privacy & Sharing We want to honor your privacy. Please indicate how you would like us to handle this request:

Confidential: Only the Pastor and the Care Committee should know.

Prayer List: Please include my name on the congregational prayer list.

General Help: You may share my need with church volunteers to coordinate help.

Trust in the Lord
with all your
heart,
and lean not on your
own understanding;
acknowledge him
in all your ways, and he shall
make your paths straight

— ❦ — Proverbs 3:5-6 —

Worship Opportunities

As we have done in previous years, we are hoping to have a men led service, a women led service, and a youth led service. Tentatively scheduled; Women's service is July 12, the Youth service is July 26, and the Men's service on August 23. If you are interested in preaching or doing a part of the service, please sign up on the list in the narthex.

Our First Contemporary Service in the Fellowship Building on May 3 at 4:00 PM.

NC Synod Assembly Gathering on May 28th-30th to be held at Lenoir Rhyne University in Hickory, North Carolina Please contact Peggy if you would like to attend.

Looking Ahead

Plans are in the works for a **Intergenerational Bible Camp** instead of VBS on a Saturday in July (Tentative date of July 11th). We will invite other local churches to join us. Kids will have an activity in the am, while adults will have a 2 hour Bible study. The morning finale will be a hotdog social with ice cream. There will be a sign up sheet in the narthex!



Birthdays

Julia Hibbard	5/05	Carroll Robinson	5/20
Traci Baker	5/07	Samantha Sloop	5/20
Scott Swicegood	5/08	Vickye Sloop	5/20
Winfred Kluttz	5/09	Braylyn Lingle	5/23
Betty Shuping	5/10	Samantha Baker	5/25
Cody McDowell	5/11	Justin Faris	5/30
Cindy Pitel	5/15	Jamie Zimmerman	5/31
Kristin Paustian	5/18		

Anniversaries

Mr. & Mrs. Stacey Baker	5/8
Mr. & Mrs. Cody McDowell	5/23
Mr. & Mrs. Mark Monroe	5/28
Mr. & Mrs. Junior Vinson	5/31

Baptisms

Todd Corriher	5/3	Connor Faris	5/16
Marti Mako	5/11	Allison Hartung	5/23
Darrell Spry	5/11	Judy Hoffman	5/29



Bethel Evangelical Lutheran Church

355 East Ridge Road Salisbury, North Carolina 28144-9404 Phone 704 636-0331

Sunday School 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service 10:30 a.m.

Email- parishadmin@bethellutheranofsalisbury.com

Website - Bethelsalisbury.org

Like Us on Facebook

Dr. Peggy Terhune, S.A.M., Minister

Cell Phone 704 305-0752

Email—Peggy.terhune@gmail.com

Organist— Cathy Williams

Choir Director — Kara Thurston

Parish Administrator — Martha Graham

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355 East Ridge Road

Salisbury, NC 28144-9404

