

# The Bethany Messenger

Volume 2024

Issue 4

April

Dear People of God,

This year, Easter Sunday is a day before April Fool's Day. I remember as a child playing practical jokes on this day. Perhaps you recall a prank or two of your own. Most of the pranks I pulled involved something that was not what it seemed to be: a "whoopee" cushion, fake blood, rubber snake, plastic vomit-you get the picture. I always loved seeing the look of surprise on someone who realized that they had been fooled.

One way to think of resurrection is God fooling death. Death thought that it could defeat God. Yes, Jesus died on the cross, but on Easter morning he rose. The resurrection of Christ is the defeat of death once and for all.

The gospel lesson from Mark which is read at the festival of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter Sunday) begins as follows:

*When the sabbath was over, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome bought spices, so that they might go and anoint him. And very early on the first day of the week, when the sun had risen, they went to the tomb. They had been saying to one another, "Who will roll away the stone for us from the entrance to the tomb?" When they looked up, they saw that the stone, which was very large, had already been rolled back.*

These three faithful women, Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Salome, set out early in the morning to do something that they wished they didn't have to do- anoint the lifeless body of the crucified Jesus. They didn't know how they would even be able to gain access to the tomb. The large stone was a barrier that was just too big for them to handle alone. But they went ahead anyway.

What a surprise was in store for them that. When they arrived at the tomb, they found that the stone had already been rolled back. But that wasn't the only surprise. They are told that Jesus has been raised and that they will see him again. They are frightened, terrified and amazed.

Our Easter mornings are very different from that first Easter morning. We aren't frightened or perhaps even amazed by the resurrection. Instead, our Easter mornings are filled with joy and beauty. We "pull out all the stops" in our church celebrations. There is a festival liturgy complete with a procession, special music and a chancel filled with fragrant flowers. Afterwards, family and friends continue the celebration as they gather to share delicious meals. Children hunt for Easter eggs and enjoy the treats that have been left in their Easter baskets.

As wonderful as all this, I can't help but thinking that those women have something to teach us. They were willing to set out to do something that many would have thought impossible. They obstacle they faced proved not to be a barrier at all. When they discovered what God was up to, they were able to move beyond their fear and amazement to share the good news with others. If they didn't, Mark's gospel would have ended with Joseph burying Jesus in the tomb.

The joy of Easter and the resurrection is that God in Christ has already set aside the barriers that threaten to rob us of eternal life-sin and death. This amazing gift of love means to free us from all our fears. Death is not the ultimate ending that it seems to be. No fooling!

Christ is risen! Allelulia!

*Pastor Paul*

# April

# Volunteers

Assisting Minister	7	Liz Friedmann
	14	Liz Friedmann
	21	<i>Baptism/Children's Service</i>
	28	Mike Balinskas
<b>Altar Guild:</b> April 7 & 14— April 21 & 28—Angel Carlin		
Greeters & Ushers	7	Holly Linder
	14	Holly Linder
	21	
	28	Holly Linder
Live Stream / Audio	7	
	14	Dennis Gehring
	21	
	28	Dennis Gehring
Slides	7	
	14	
	21	
	28	Nancy Balinskas
Coffee Hour	7	
	14	
	21	Ice Cream Social
	28	
<b>Counters</b>		

**Volunteers for May 5, 2024**

**Assisting Minister:**

**Altar Guild:** Angel Carlin

**Greeters & Ushers:**

**Live Stream:**

**Slides:**

**Coffee Hour:**

**Counters:**



## Council Corner Notes:

*Monthly news and ministry highlights from your church council.*



Spring, as they say, has sprung, and Bethany's Memorial Garden is bursting with blooms! The Memorial Garden was created as a contemplative space for all, and serves as a final resting place for cremated remains of Bethany members and friends. The next time you're headed to the sanctuary, take a moment to enjoy the beauty of creation in Bethany's Memorial Garden!

As a new garden season gets underway, the Memorial Garden Team is already busy raking, weeding, tending perennials and planning seasonal color. The team typically gathers on Tuesday mornings, but work occurs whenever volunteers are available. To join the team, or just to keep up with what's happening, sign on for the weekly e-mail to-do list at [knitwittery@gmail.com](mailto:knitwittery@gmail.com). See you in the garden!

- Linda Carlson



Eleven Saints gathered on March 21st to enjoy good fellowship, a program on the Holy Land and refreshments by the fire in the lounge. As we gathered, we were greeted by two colorful “critters” as we entered the lounge.

One a giant Peep filled with Easter eggs and real peeps, and the other a giant Piggy Bank next to the plaid sofa where we collected money for our current outreach projects of buying “piglets” for third world farms.

Pastor Wogman led us in devotions and then we watched a Rick Steve film on the Holy Land, giving us a perspective on how things looked on that fateful time in the life of our Lord.

We also saw what the Holy Land looks like today and we discussed the war currently going on and its impact on all of the HOLY SITES and the people there.

Thanks to Pastor Paul for setting up the video and lending his expertise to the showing of the film which we all enjoyed.

Fellowship is key and we all enjoy being together on these special days.

We also looked at the initial printing of the beautiful book on friendship written for children by Ellen Arendt, illustrated by Angel Carlin and produced by Liz Friedmann.

YOU HAVE A TREAT IN STORE—WE’LL HAVE MORE ABOUT THAT LATER.

**COME AND JOIN US FOR FUN AND FELLOWSHIP!**

**GIVE A SAINT A CALL!**

**Bethany Lutheran Preschool**  
*where it all begins*

Hello from Bethany Lutheran Preschool  
The month of March was a busy month learning about rainbows, St. Patrick's Day and Spring. We celebrated Dr. Seuss week with fun spirit days at school. The students and teachers wore crazy socks, hats, wacky hair and red and blue. It was a lot of fun to see everyone participating. We celebrated Music in our Schools month with Mr. Nelson. He took us up to the choir loft and taught us all about the Pipe Organ. The children loved it. We also celebrated Easter with Easter Egg hunts!

April brings us hope of warmer weather. We will be planting flowers for Mother's Day and playing outside a lot. We learn all about Spring and will have a visit from the Cromwell Children's librarian.

This year has flown by, and we are preparing for graduation and summer camp. We wish everyone a wonderful spring!

Terri Camilleri  
Director, Bethany Lutheran Preschool



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Apr. 2	-	Marge Brown
	-	Madison Dube
Apr. 4	-	Kathy Mroczka
Apr. 5	-	Penny Damiata
Apr. 6	-	Allison Wiernsz
Apr. 13	-	Olivia Garcia
Apr. 18	-	Stephanie Garcia
	-	Julius Morales
Apr. 20	-	Charlotte Gardinier
	-	Brian O'Linn
Apr. 21	-	Cameron Harrison
Apr. 22	-	Jake Brzozowski
	-	Emily Sherman
	-	Bailey Wilson
Apr. 24	-	Luke Loesel
Apr. 25	-	Benjamin Servidone
Apr. 27	-	Hope Johnston
Apr. 29	-	Kim Peltzer
	-	Emily Roback
	-	Wendy Soneson
Apr. 30	-	Dan Kopycinski

# HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Nancy & Jim Sullivan, April 3, 1976
Deb & Bruce Gustafson, April 21, 1990
Cindy & Kevin Delaney, April 27, 1984
Liz & Scott Friedmann, April 28, 1990

## 2024 Card Ministry



Thank you to everyone that volunteered to continue this ministry for 2024. We couldn't continue this ministry without your help!

January & February—Wendy Soneson  
 March—Barbara Sunbury

**April—Karen Sullivan**

May—Linda Carlson

June—Holly Linder

July— Kelly McTeague

August—Barb Hughes

September—Pr. Maureen Hawksley

October, November & December—

Diane Rauss



## Online Church DIRECTORY

Bethany has an online directory with all of our church members, addresses and phone numbers listed. We even have a small photo of individuals / families with the entries. If you would like to download this directory to your phone or computer so that you will have access to all of our members addresses and phone #'s, give Robin a call in the office (**860-635-4618**) or send her an email and she will send you a link to set it up. The link is only good for 48 hours.

Once you have the directory downloaded, you will be able to update your address or phone #. If you would like a picture included (or update a current picture), please send Robin a **jpeg** picture and it will be put up on the site.

## Get Involved at Bethany

If you would like to help out at one or more of our church services, you can sign up online at **"SignUp Genius"** (see the links below). Simply click on the link and select what Sunday(s) you'd like to help out. Weekly, we need the following helpers:



**Assisting Minister**

**Ushers / Greeters**

**Altar Guild (Monthly)**

**Liturgy Slide Assistants**

**Live-Stream Assistants**

**Coffee Hour Hosts**

After you sign up, you'll receive an email reminder about a week before the service. You can also edit or swap dates if something comes up. If you have questions, please reach out to **Mike Balinskas** or **Robin (860-635-4618)**.



Worship Service Volunteers

Right click picture and then click "Open Hyperlink" to go directly to SignUp Genius.



Worship

Coffee Hour



St. Vincent de Paul  
Middletown

MEETING NEEDS, OFFERING HOPE.



Bethany has had a long standing relationship with **St Vincent de Paul** in Middletown supporting efforts to **feed the hungry**. Here is a new way to do so and it couldn't be easier. There is no need to remember to purchase items, then deliver those items to whatever food drive is happening currently. There is no need to wonder what items will be of the most use. St Vincent now has a way to donate by going to Amazon and ordering what they need from their list and Amazon will ship direct to St Vincent. Use the following link, scroll down to Option 2 for the link to the Amazon site and make your donation anytime, anywhere with confidence that it's something that is really needed.

<https://svdmiddletown.org/donation-opportunities/>

## PRAYERS

If you would like a hospital or home visit, or are otherwise in need of pastoral care, you can reach Pastor Paul on his mobile phone at: 860-951-5597.



His scheduled days off are Friday and Saturday but he is always on call for urgent matters. For routine matters, please call the church office at 860-635-4618.

As of this date we are praying for:

**Avery, Jonah, Diane, Dan, Lorenzo, Jim, Kevin, Diane, Bonnie, Jeffrey, Ann, Joe, Bill, Eileen, Debbie, Roy, JoAnn, Jerry, Hope, John, Ma'May and Boyd.**

## Distribution of Holy Communion in Pews

We are happy to distribute Holy Communion in the pews for those who find it difficult to come to the communion rail in the chancel area. Moving forward, we will be using chalices pre-filled with gluten free bread and wine for those who are receiving in the pew. These are the same pre-filled chalices used during the pandemic and for home communion. This distribution method is less likely to result in accidental spills. As a reminder, simply notify an usher if you'd like to receive Holy Communion while seated.

Please try to sit at or near the end of a pew.

**PLEASE NOTE:**

Any delay and/or cancellations for Bethany events or church services will be shown on Channel 3's Weather Watch and/or Bethany's Facebook page. You can get Channel 3 alerts/cancellations sent directly to you on your smartphone as well so you will know about any delay/cancellation.

So, if there is a question as to whether something at church has been cancelled – please tune in to Channel 3 or check out our Facebook page.

**From Calumet!**

Check out “**Boom Chicka News**” — a brand new monthly effort — to be in the know about all kinds of information Calumet Nation will want to know!



**Use this link:** <https://calumet.org/resources/boomchickanews>

Calumet Lutheran Ministries \* PO Box 236,  
W. Ossipee, NH 03890 \* 603.539.4773

**WE NEED YOU !!**



Empty spaces on the volunteer sheet (page 2) designate that we need volunteers for our weekly services.

Please sign up online on Signup Genius (info on Page 5) or to sign up for Coffee Hour you can use the sheets in the kiosk in the narthex as well as Signup Genius. Call Robin to sign up for Altar Flowers. Give Robin a call in the office if you have any questions 860-635-4618 or to sign up.

The **Little Free Library** located by the Preschool entrance belongs to everyone! It offers a way to share good things to read with both children and adults.



**Take books.** If you see something you would like to read or share with someone you know, take it! There is no need to return it to the Little Free Library.

**Give books.** If you have new or gently used books that you would like to donate you can either put them directly into the Little Free Library or in the marked box that is located in the coat closet. During the school year we really go through a lot of preschool-age books.



Our weekly Table Talk (Bible Study) is being held at **Luther Ridge**.

We will meet at **10:30 a.m.** in the **1st floor community room** for conversation and a

look at the lectionary texts for the upcoming Sunday.

*All visitors must check in at the front desk upon entering the building.*

**MASKS are Optional for Luther Ridge residents, staff and visitors.**



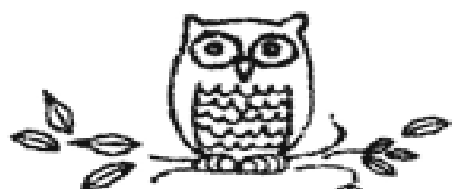
On **April 21st**, we will be having a children's service and will be inviting our Preschool families to come.

The children will be singing during the service and we will also be celebrating 2 Baptisms. Pastor Hugh will bring his ventriloquist puppet, Marvin, to say a few words about our gospel lesson, followed by Bethany hosting an Ice Cream Social for our members and guests. We will be asking for donations of ice cream toppings and for volunteers to help serve and welcome our guests.



**Ice Cream Social**

# April Kid's Page



## A WISE SNACK

Believing in the message of the cross makes you wise. This treat is a great reminder to be wise in God's ways.

### What you need:

- Slice of whole wheat bread
- Circle cookie cutter (or jar lid)
- Butter knife
- Nut butter (peanut, hazelnut, etc.)
- Toasted oat cereal
- 2 banana slices
- 1 cashew
- 2 chocolate chips

### What you do:

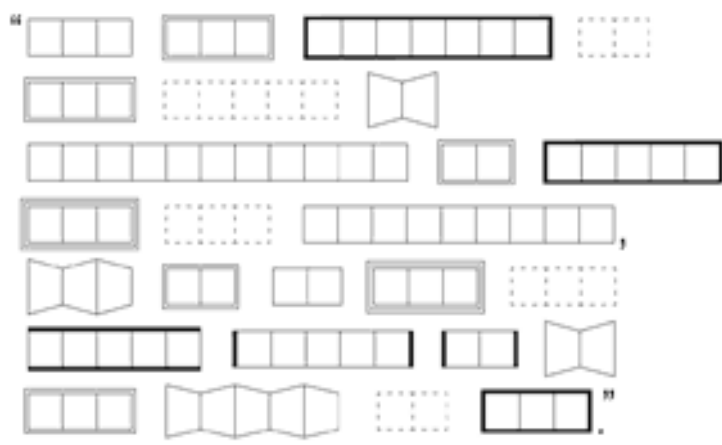
1. Cut a circle from the bread to be the owl's head. Then cut out a small semi-circle atop that bread circle to resemble pointy ears.
2. With a knife, spread the nut butter on the bread.
3. Place cereal along the top of head, from ear to ear.
4. Place banana slices for eyes.
5. Dip the chocolate chips in nut butter and place them in the middle of the banana slices.
6. Place a cashew for the nose between the bananas.
7. Enjoy — and be wise to God's message!



## To Be FOOLISH -OR- WISE

On April Fools' Day, people like to play fun jokes, but there's nothing foolish about God's gift of salvation.

Directions: Match the word shapes to reveal the message of 1 Corinthians 1:18, NIV.



1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, NIV

Answer: "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." 1 CORINTHIANS 1:18, NIV



## MUSIC FOR LENT AND EASTER

The New England Chamber Choir and Chamber Ensemble, under the direction of Richard Wm. Donohue presented a beautiful concert of music appropriate to the season on March 17.



The church was filled, almost to capacity and it was an inspiration to all who attended. We also were pleased to see our former organist and choir master, Allan Conway as the accompanist to this event. It was good to have Allan back in the Sanctuary participating in this concert.

We are so pleased that our facilities are used by several musical organizations both as a place of preparation and performance. The Greater Middletown Chorale has its headquarters here at Bethany and rehearses each week here. Other organizations such as the New England Chamber Choir and individuals also are welcomed to use our beautiful sanctuary for their events. Again, Bethany reaches out to others and the community in its efforts to be a welcoming church consistent with our mission to be a community of faith-making Christ known.



## RING JOY—OUTSTANDING ON PALM SUNDAY—BETHANY CHOIR OFFERS PALM SUNDAY ANTHEM!

Ring Joy our wonderful bell choir under the direction of Liz Friedmann opened our Palm Sunday celebration with an outstanding introduction to our Palm Sunday Procession with a rousing interpretation of several Palm Sunday hymns including our much loved O Glory, Laud and Honor. How blest we are to have these outstanding ringers as a part of our Music Ministry,

Our Bethany Choir offered a fitting response to the reading of the Passion with a beautiful rendering of Jerusalem. Each Sunday this loyal group of singers leads us with the Introit, special music and worship leadership.

On Easter, our much-admired JOYFUL NOISE will join the previously mentioned choirs with a beautiful rendition for the offering.

## CURRENT CHOIR SCHEDULE—Singers Always Welcomed

- ◆ Bethany Choir rehearses at 8:30 am each Sunday prior to the 9:30 a.m. service. (From time to time we will have an extra rehearsal as needed.)
- ◆ Joyful Noise rehearses after the worship service and is announced in advance.
- ◆ Ring Joy rehearsals are announced in advance.
- ◆ We are, most understanding if singers can't be present each week.
- ◆ It still isn't too late to join us for the music of this Holy Season.



## HYMN OF THE MONTH: Jesus Christ is Risen Today, ELW #365

The origins of this beautiful Easter hymn which is sung each Easter Day here at Bethany are somewhat uncertain. It is believed that it was a Latin hymn used in the fourteenth century and that its text developed over many centuries by a number of persons who wrote various portions or verses.

Nevertheless, it is much loved and we will be blest to hear it again on Easter with a beautiful trumpet accompaniment.



# Give + Text

**Please use your current Envelope Number as the Member ID**


As part of our electronic giving program, we are now offering **Give+Text**, a smart tool designed for today's mobile phone users. In less time than it takes to write a check, you can make weekly offerings, respond to special appeals or set up a recurring donation by simply sending a text to our secure account at **860-969-2062**.

Just send a text message to **860-969-2062** with the amount you would like to contribute (your donation will automatically go into the **General Operating/Pledge Fund**). Within a few minutes, you'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your cardholder name and debit or card information. Once your registration is complete, you will receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email.

For future giving, send a text with the amount you wish to give, and it will process automatically! You can even text "repeat" to make it a recurring donation. **Give+Text** is one of the fastest, easiest ways to give.

You also have the option to give to other funds thru the **Give+Text** system. The other accounts set up are: **Capital** (*Capital Improvement*), **Flowers** (*Altar Flowers*), **Memorials** (*Memorial Fund*), **Music** (*Music Fund*), **Seasonal** (*Seasonal Contributions*), **Jubilee** (*Jubilee 2020*) To give to any of these funds, send a text to **860-969-2062**, using the amount of your donation and the account you would like it to go to. For example: if you text **20 Capital**—\$20 will go into the Capital Improvement Fund. You will again receive a text verification and a receipt of your donation via email. Please make sure to double check the amount you are donating before sending your text.

We hope you enjoy this new way to share your generosity, and we thank you for supporting Bethany and our ministry. Reach out to Mike Balinskas with any questions at [mbalinskas@gmail.com](mailto:mbalinskas@gmail.com) or **203-623-3804**.



## SIMPLY GIVING

Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? Bethany offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have your contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping up with your intended offerings. One simple, easy to use authorization form can begin or change your electronic contribution amount.

Contact **Robin** in the church office Monday thru Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., **635-4618**, for more details.



**ENJOY THE  
CONVENIENCE  
OF ELECTRONIC  
GIVING**



**DURING THESE TOUGH TIMES...** Would you find it helpful to have your offerings debited directly from your bank account as you probably do with other obligations? **Bethany Lutheran Church** offers electronic giving for those of you who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account.

Electronic giving gives you a convenient way to keep up with your intended offerings.

As you contemplate future contributions, please consider electronic giving. Simply scan the QR Code below or visit:

**[bethanylutheranchurchcromwell.org](http://bethanylutheranchurchcromwell.org)** at any time to set up an automatic donation plan.

Give Online





Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<b>1 April Fool's Day</b> <b>6:00 pm—</b> Executive Comm. (Zoom)	<b>2</b> <b>5:30 am—</b> Preschool Board (SCR) <b>6:00 pm—</b> GM Chorale (FH/S)	<b>3</b> <b>10:30 am—</b> Table Talk at Luther Ridge	<b>4</b> <b>10:00 am—</b> Schmidt Funeral	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>7</b> <b>8:00 am—</b> Worship with Holy Comm. (C) <b>9:30 am—</b> Worship with Holy Comm. <b>4-6 pm—</b> Pickleball (FH)	<b>8</b> <b>7:00 pm—</b> Finance	<b>9</b> <b>6:00 pm—</b> GM Chorale (FH/S)	<b>10</b> <b>10:30 am—</b> Table Talk at Luther Ridge	<b>11</b> <b>8:30—11:30 am</b> —CABLE (Police) Meeting (SCR)	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>14</b> <b>9:30 am—</b> Worship with Holy Comm. (Council installation) <b>4-6 pm—</b> Pickleball (FH)	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> <b>6:00 pm—</b> GM Chorale (FH/S)	<b>17</b> <b>10:30 am—</b> Table Talk at Luther Ridge	<b>18</b> <b>1:30 pm—</b> Saints Alive (L)	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> <b>9:30 am—</b> Children's Worship with Holy Comm. & Baptisms <b>10:45 am—</b> Exec. Comm. (L) <b>11 am—</b> Council (L) <b>4-6 pm—</b> Pickleball	<b>22 Earth Day</b>	<b>23</b> <b>6:00 pm—</b> GM Chorale (FH/S)	<b>24</b> <b>10:30 am—</b> Table Talk at Luther Ridge	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> <b>9:30 am—</b> Worship with Holy Comm. <b>4-6 pm—</b> Pickleball (FH)	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> <b>6:00 pm—</b> GM Chorale (FH/S)				

C—Chapel  
 BCR—Bell Choir Room  
 FH—Fellowship Hall  
 K—Kitchen  
 L—Lounge  
 O—Office  
 PS—Preschool  
 SCR—Small Community Room  
 S—Sanctuary

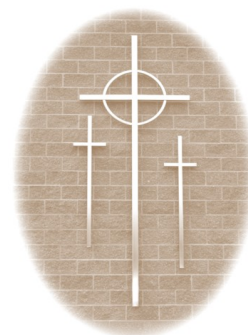
† Services are being offered online ([youtube](#)) as well as Indoor at 9:30 a.m. †

YouTube Link: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCJLnFTZijY38BtXJr-6RvkQ>

Facebook Link: <https://www.facebook.com/bethanycromwellet/>

# The Bethany Messenger

**Bethany Lutheran Church ELCA**  
 50 Court Street  
 Cromwell, CT 06416



*What's New in New England*  
**New England Synod Assembly 2024**  
 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
 God's work. Our hands.



**WORSHIP SCHEDULE**

**Sundays:** In Person & Virtually on  
 YouTube at 9:30 a.m.

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 Newsletter  
**DEADLINE**

**The May Messenger**  
 Deadline is: **April 15th**

<b>Pastor:</b>	Rev. Dr. Paul D. Krampitz
<b>Pastor Emeritus:</b>	Rev. Lawrence N. Wogman
<b>Council President:</b>	Christine Trousdale
<b>Council Vice President:</b>	Kitty Richheimer
<b>Council Secretary:</b>	Diane Aresco
<b>Church Treasurer:</b>	Carol Frago
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Russell Smith
<b>Minister of Music:</b>	Allan R. Nelson
<b>Joyful Noise &amp; Ring Joy Director:</b>	Liz Friedmann
<b>Sunday School Coordinator:</b>	Claire Pearson
<b>Church Council:</b>	Diane Aresco, Mark Aresco, Karol Brzozowski, Linda Carlson, Carol Frago, Jerry Griscom, Kitty Richheimer, Pam Shaw, Russell Smith, Christine Trousdale and Pastor Paul Krampitz
<b>Office Manager / Preschool Registrar:</b>	Robin Scotti

**Church Office:** (860) 635-4618  
**Fax:** (860) 635-4618  
 (please call first)  
**Office Hours:** Mon., Tue., Thur. — 8 a.m.—3 p.m.  
 Wed., Fri.—8 a.m.—1 p.m.  
**Preschool:** (860) 632-0597  
**E-Mail Address:**  
[bethanylutheranchurchcromwell@gmail.com](mailto:bethanylutheranchurchcromwell@gmail.com)  
**Website:** [bethanylutheranchurchcromwell.org](http://bethanylutheranchurchcromwell.org)