

Esther 4:9-14 NRSVUE

⁹ Hathach went and told Esther what Mordecai had said. ¹⁰ Then Esther spoke to Hathach and gave him a message for Mordecai: ¹¹ “All the king’s servants and the people of the king’s provinces know that, if any man or woman goes to the king inside the inner court without being called, there is but one law: to be put to death. Only if the king holds out the golden scepter to someone may that person live. I myself have not been called to come in to the king for thirty days.” ¹² When they told Mordecai what Esther had said, ¹³ Mordecai told them to reply to Esther, “Do not think that in the king’s palace you will escape any more than all the other Jews. ¹⁴ For if you keep silent at this time, relief and deliverance will rise for the Jews from another place, but you and your father’s family will perish. Who knows? Perhaps you have come to royal dignity for just such a time as this.”

*This is the Word of God, for the people of God!
Thanks be to God!*

July 26, 2026



*Mission Statement
Knowing Christ, Growing in Faith, and Showing God’s Love*

*Vision Statement
Bethel United Methodist Church continues its unchanging heritage of faith, striving to be a sacred place to know Christ fully, grow spiritually, and show God’s love through compassion, service, and generosity.*

Worship

Celebration of



July 26, 2026
8:00 & 11:00 a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD’S NAME

Prelude: “How Majestic Is Your Name” arr. Bock

Greeting & Announcements

*Call to Worship:

- Leader: God, we need your justice.
- People: *For such a time as this to light our way.*
- Leader: When salt and light is not enough, Jesus we need you.
- People: *Come, let us look for God.*
- Leader: God, we are looking for your love.
- People: *Come, let us love God together!*

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Hymn: “O Spirit of the Living God”.....#539

Opening Prayer: *God, remind us that Grace does not wait, because we need its immediacy. Let us be filled with your grace. Let it spill from our hands, our mouths, and feet as we go, so that we may become the very embodiment of your love. May this be our prayer as we go about the world. This we pray in Jesus’ name, who taught us to pray...*

The 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, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.*

JULY 19—JULY 26

Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - BFH
	9:30 a.m.	Summer Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
Monday		Joyce Mentzer’s Sabbath
	9:00 a.m.	Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School
Tuesday	9:00a.m.	Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School
Wednesday	9:00 a.m.	Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School
Thursday	9:00 a.m.	Rainforest Falls Vacation Bible School
	6:00 p.m.	Miracle Singers - BFH
Friday		Pastor Jim’s Sabbath
		Ray Davis’s Sabbath
Sunday	8:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary
	9:15 a.m.	Contemporary Worship -Come Alive Time - BFH
	9:30 a.m.	Summer Sunday School - Various Rooms
	11:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship Live - Sanctuary

BFH - Bethel Fellowship Hall
PMH - Parsonage Meeting House



PRAYER LIST 7/26/2026

Key: ***Bold, Italicized & Underlined*** type indicates a request new this week

Rehabilitation: David Hurlock, Paul Webb

Hospital: Rosalba Bellen (Friend of Kathy Engel), Rev. Sterling Green, John Horne, Trent Prechatka, Jodie Reynolds

Hospice: Norah Atkins, Rosemary Bouvier, **Donald Dickey**, Mrs. Sample, Barbara Starkweather, Jim Willhite

General Concerns: Andy Baker, Mike Bakker, Sharon Cherry, Chris Clark, Brett Conaway, Scott Dailey, Daniel, Ruth Dougherty, Bridget Fowler, Chandler Fox, Joan Fox, Fred Gentry, Bill Gibbons, Giovanna, Gus Jack Harrison, Connie Hearn, Jim Holt, Bob Hunsberger, Ida, **Laura** (Daughter of Marilyn Emanuel), **Harry Marker & Family**, Mason, Ginny Mitchell, June Myers, Tammy Myers & Family, Bob Nicholson, Brody O'Neill, Margaret Quillen, Bruce Sheppard, Steven, Danny Summers, Debbie Summers, Helen Walter

Long Term: Ansalvish Family, Bryan Attix, Rev. Gloria Attix, Fran Baker, Ruth Ann Baker, Ginny Barney, Wesley Beam, Mike Beaucheman, Dave Beddle, Nancy Bektolino, Daryl Bradley, Elaine Bramante, Inez Brengle, Dale Buckwalter, Dan Carrier, Liz Carrier, Janette Clavette, Victor Colon, Rev. Charles Covington, Jay Dentino, Bob Dickey, Jim & Marilyn Emanuel, Pat Emmett, Tom Engel, Olga Fitch, Frank Fitzgerald Sr, Michael Gallagher, Peggy Gastner, Gayle Gibbons, Danny Gillespie, Hazel Gillespie, Jude Gray, Jeanne Hafer, George Hammond, Kelly Harp, Heather & Indy, Nancy Hecker, Jack Henriksen, Jim Hooban, David Jones, Erika Jones, Chubby Joseph, Deb Kellenbenz, Adam Kent, Faye Kintz, Norm Kugel, Janice Kulp, Donna LaValle, Paulette Lazarro, Nancy Logan, Bill Lyons, Rob MacArthur, Dr. Jim Marvel, Patty Marvel, Medhi, Claranne Meitrott, Stephen Metler, Stephanie Miller, Rev. Charles Moyer, Nancy (Friend of Janine Phillips) Chuck Naspinsky, Ted Niemczyk, Ray Norris, Lori O'Day, Brian O'Dell, Mike & Sallee O'Neill, Peter (Brother of Pauline Powell), Earl Peters, Dick Plambeck, Suzie Pryor (Niece of Elizabeth Fields), Ray Quillen, Beth Rampson, Beth Rinker, Carla Robinson, Martha Rougeux, Tom Schaich, Mary Louise Scott, John Schulze, Bill Seitz, Denny Shultz, Logan Smith, Tricia(Spangler)Gracey, Chet Sprague, Judy Stevenson, Bonnie Stevlingson, Margaret Stockslager, Dale Stough, Peggy Thomas, Dave Trout, Dawn Vandegrift, Kathy Watson, Kathy Wetherhold-Parrott, Hilda Williams, Trish Wilson, Woody Wilson, Theresa Wise, Lucretia Y., Marge Zayatz

Up Coming Procedures:

Recovering From Procedures: Carol (Sister of Marilyn Emanuel), Ellie Colon, **Tim Fleming**, Pat Kearns, Dick Lisse, Marjorie Mounts, **Carla Robinson**, Dale Stough

Other:

- Mother African Union Church North, Wilmington, DE sanctuary destroyed by fire
- The people of Iran and Venezuela.
- All those caring for family and friends, especially spouses and those that have lost a child.
- Delaware Firefighters, EMS, and State Troopers.
- For racial justice in the United States.

Sympathy to:

- **Family & Friends of Brenda Keith, who passed away on July 19th.**
- **Family & Friends of Les Stephenson, who passed away on July 18th.**
- **Family & Friends James Taylor, who passed away on July 9th.**
- Family & Friends of Ashley Wagamon King, who passed on June 25th.

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

God's Tithes and our Offerings

Offertory: *"For Such a Time As This"*

presented by Liv, John Roman, and Fiona Nehrbas

*Doxology:.....#94

Song of Preparation: *"Come, Ye Disconsolate"*.....#510

Scripture Lesson: Esther 4:9-14

Message: *"Esther, For Such A Time As This"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Hymn: *"God of Love and God of Power"*.....#578

*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: ***May the Peace of Christ be with you.***

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

*Postlude: *"This Is My Father's World"* arr. Hobby

**Those who are able, please stand.*

The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God

Hearing assistance devices are located at the sound booth.

Bethel CCLI License #1774982, Streaming License #20110751

Bethel One License (with Podcasting) #A-73619

Come Alive Time WORSHIP

July 26 2026
9:15 a.m. Service

GATHER IN GOD'S NAME

Gathering: *(Please watch the screen for upcoming events)*

Greeting and Opening Prayer

GIVE PRAISE TO GOD

*Opening Songs of Praise & Worship: *"Sing, Sing, Sing"*
"Always"

Children's Message: *"God Can Always use us!"*

Joys & Concerns and Pastoral Prayer

Offering: *"For Such a Time As This"*
presented by Liv, John Roman, and Fiona Nehrbas

LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Scripture Lesson: Esther 4:9-14

Message: *"Esther, For Such A Time As This"* Pastor Jim Penuel

GO FORTH IN GOD'S NAME

*Closing Song: *"I Will Follow"*

*Benediction & Final Blessing

Leader: As we depart, may the Peace of Christ be with you.

People: *May the Peace of Christ be with you.*

(All are invited to pass the Peace of Christ to all as you exit during the Postlude)

**Those who are able, please stand.*

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ANNOUNCEMENTS



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY WORK DAY - THURSDAY, JULY 30

The Methodist Men are again sponsoring a work day with Habitat for Humanity. Our next assigned date is Thursday, July 30 and we have ten slots to fill. Any adult man or woman is welcome to join our team. You do not need to have any construction experience to contribute. We are always looking for some new faces to join the team. If you would like to participate please email Ron Mead at rmmead50@gmail.com. Ron will then forward you the necessary information to sign up with Habitat and to register for this date. Registration must be done by Monday, July 27.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Bethel Golf Outings are Back

This golf season we still have 3 dates booked for Bethel Golf Outings at The Rookery in Milton. These outings are open to men, women and children alike. These outings are just fun ways for golfers in the church to connect and play together on Saturday afternoons. Our tee times start at 3:00 and we can accommodate up to 20 golfers for each date. You can play 9 holes or 18 and you can walk or ride carts and each outing will be at the twilight rate to be more affordable for everyone. All you need to do is email or text Ray and he will coordinate the details with everyone the week of. ***The next date we have on the books is August 22nd*** so let Ray know if you will be joining. The other dates are September 19th and October 17th. Please reach out to Ray with any questions. ray@bethellewes.org

A Thank You to All Kitchen Volunteers

Another Deli has come and gone and, whether you chopped or mixed, cooked or washed dishes, tasted and adjusted seasonings, from the window or manned the pizza oven, All of you were the reason the Deli was a roaring success. I thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

As you probably remember, when I left for vacation on June 20th, I was very worried about not having the volunteers I needed to open the Deli for business, but by the time I returned, boy had you stepped up! The number of people who actually showed up surpassed the number I was expecting and because I did not receive all contact information, this note seems to be the best way to say thank you to everyone.

Please be sure that I humbly and sincerely appreciate your willingness to give your time and your efforts to one of Bethel's Annual fundraising opportunities. The deli could not have opened without you.

Thanks And Thanks Again.

God Bless You All.

Cathy Ferree

BETHEL INFORMATION

To our guests...

Welcome to Bethel! Thank you for worshipping with us. We invite you to experience the love and grace of God in Jesus Christ today. During the announcements we would like to give you a welcome packet—just raise your hand and an Usher will bring you one. We value your feedback. Please fill out the Information Card in the mug and place it in the offering plate. For more information about Bethel, visit our website at www.bethellewes.org or call the Church Office. Thank you.

Worship Opportunities

Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 8:00 a.m.
Contemporary Worship in Fellowship Hall, 9:15 a.m.
Traditional Sunday Worship in the Sanctuary, 11:00 a.m.
Church Livestream Watch Online Sundays @ 9:15 or 11:00
Or anytime after the services on YouTube

Bethel Ministry Staff Contact Information

Jim Penuel, Senior Pastor	pastorjim@bethellewes.org
Earle Baker, Pastor of Visitation	enbaker54@gmail.com
Joyce Mentzer, Director of Music	jkmmentzer@bethellewes.org
Ray Davis, Youth & Family Director	ray@bethellewes.org
Sandy Stough, Office Manager	office@bethellewes.org
Cindi Clavette, Treasurer	cindi@bethellewes.org
Laura Petranto, Financial Secretary	laura3152@live.com
Katie Davis, S.S. Superintendent	Kdavis4786@gmail.com
Todd Mentzer, AV Coordinator	tamjam3@gmail.com
Todd Mentzer, Maintenance	tamjam3@gmail.com
Susan Kremer, PR Coordinator	suzykqhope@gmail.com
Bill Gaskill, Custodian	chillydgz@aol.com
Kathy Pepper, Bethel Christian School	bethelpepper@yahoo.com

Bethel United Methodist Church
129 West Fourth St., Lewes, DE 19958
Phone: (302) 645-9426 Fax: (302) 645-0976
Email: office@bethellewes.org Website: www.bethellewes.org
Bethel Christian School Phone: (302) 645-5132
Church Office Hours M-F 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. & 1:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Leaders for Today’s Service

Greeters:	8:00	Sandy Hunsicker
	9:15	Bob Dathe
	11:00	Ushers
Ushers:	8:00	Ernie Stanley, Head Usher
		Sandy Hunsicker, & Ron Smith Assistants
	9:15	Libby Gibson, Head Usher
	11:00	Joann Brittingham, Head Usher
		Jim Brown, Miguel Gomez, & Ralph Scott; Assistants
Liturgists:	8:00	Mary Lou Warren
	9:15	Ray Davis
	11:00	Lisa Emery
Audio Visual Techs:		Ray Davis, Ed Emmett, Drew Fyock, Norm Macturk, Mauro Medeiros, Lauren Mentzer, Todd Mentzer, John Roman Nehrbas
Miracle Singers:	9:15	Kim Edmonds, Joyce Famelio, Cathy Ferree, John Harris, Patty Marvel, Bill Powell

Weekly Statistics

Attendance: July 19, 2026: 276 (8:00-60; 9:15-144; 11:00-72)

Contributions for July 19, 2026

weekly deposit	\$ 14,785.53
weekly budget	\$ 16,915.18
YTD collection	\$ 548,793.43
YTD budget	\$ 490,540.22



To enroll, click on the “Giving” tab on the Church’s website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Love Offering: The August Love Offering will benefit Family Promise of Southern Delaware. FPSDE’s mission is to help families experiencing homelessness and low-income families achieve sustainable independence through a community-based response. Family Promise of Southern Delaware serves families of all compositions. Love Offerings may be given throughout the month in the “designated” plates found at the back of Fellowship Hall & the Sanctuary or online by clicking “Choose a Fund” and then by clicking “Communion/Love Offering” in the drop down menu. If donating by check please remember to make payable to Bethel UMC and note love offering.



Church Office Summer Hours: Monday, Wednesday & Friday from 9am to 11am with the balance of my hours working remotely. If you need assistance outside of the hours listed above please call the church office and I will call you back as soon as possible to assist you. Church Office will be open for Vacation Bible School.

Sunday School Update

Please join us this summer for Summer Sunday School. Ending on August 30th. We are looking for volunteers for 2 different classrooms; 2 years old to 1st Grade & 2nd to 5th Grade Curriculum and supplies are available. Please scan below to follow the link for a sign up or contact Katie Davis at kdavis4786@gmail.com. Thank you for a wonderful Sunday School year!

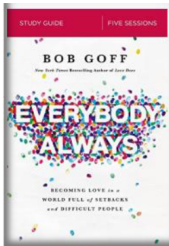


Bethel UMC Men’s Ministry Opportunities!

Are you looking for a way to deepen your faith and connect with other men from Bethel UMC? Two opportunities are offered each month to gather and grow:

Second Sunday of each month, 8:00-8:45 am in the Parsonage Meeting House

- Upcoming dates August 9 and September 13

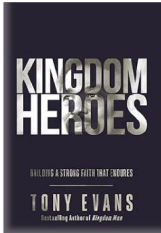


Everybody Always by Bob Goff

In Everybody, Always, Bob Goff's joyful New York Times bestselling follow-up to Love Does, you'll discover the secret to living without fear, constraint, or worry. Bob teaches you that the path toward the outsized, unfettered, liberated existence we all long for is found in one simple truth: love people, even the difficult ones, without distinction and without limits. Light reading – great discussion!

Fourth Wednesday evening of each month, 7:00-8:30 pm at Barry Eaton’s home

- Upcoming dates August 26 and September 23



Kingdom Heroes by Tony Evans

A six-session video study exploring the "Hall of Faith" in Hebrews 11. Filmed at the Museum of the Bible, it examines Old Testament figures like Noah, Abraham, and Rahab to teach how to build an enduring, trust-filled faith during difficult times. The series focuses on breaking cultural norms, navigating trials, and applying biblical principles for a lasting legacy. Are you living out your faith?

All men of Bethel are invited and encouraged to join us. Even if you haven’t been before, we welcome you to check out either/both gatherings. Light refreshments.

Please contact Barry Eaton at 1785eaton@gmail.com or Ray Davis at ray@bethellewes.org for more details.

Note Sheet

Esther: For Such a Time as This

Esther 4:9-14

7/26/26

- 1. Esther knew that intervening for her people came with great _____.
- 2. Through all that Mordecai is going through, he _____ in God.
- 3. In honor of what Esther and Mordecai did for their people, the feast of _____ was implemented.
- 4. God uses us where we _____.
- 5. All of us called to _____ where we are planted.
- 6. I firmly believe that wherever God plants us, God gives us opportunities to choose to do _____.

Scripture reading for further reflection: The Book of Esther.

Note: You may access the Digital Sermon Note

Page by scanning the QR Code

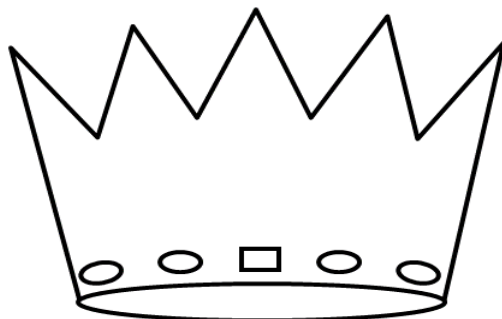


CHILDREN'S PAGE

Esther the Queen Word Search

I	K	I	L	L	E	D	C	P	B	S	H	H	X	K
C	A	I	G	I	I	R	B	E	N	R	A	O	A	I
H	H	C	Q	N	O	O	A	R	X	C	A	V	G	N
O	S	E	E	W	W	U	D	M	M	Y	L	V	E	G
S	I	G	N	D	T	E	Z	I	N	V	I	T	E	D
E	W	A	F	I	R	I	Y	S	U	O	L	A	E	J
N	E	R	F	O	Y	O	V	S	R	E	Y	A	R	P
A	J	U	N	B	K	W	M	I	D	E	T	S	A	F
A	L	O	N	A	M	A	H	O	S	U	P	P	E	R
B	H	C	Q	U	E	E	N	N	W	M	H	Y	D	W

BEAUTIFUL
BOW
BRAVE
CHOSEN
COURAGE
CROWN
FASTED
HAMAN
HONORED
INVITED



JEALOUSY
JEWISH
KILLED
KING
MORDECAI
PERMISSION
PRAYER
QUEEN
SAVED
SUPPER

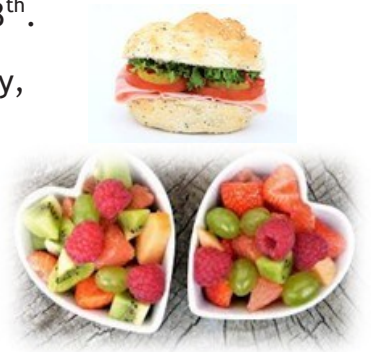
ANNOUNCEMENTS



Sandwich & Side for 18 for Tharros. Tharros is fully operational, with 18 residents. Bethel is one of several faith-based organizations that will be supplying a cold supper of a sandwich and a side for each resident. To sign up just go to bethellewes.org; click on the "Information" tab and select "Bethel Food Ministries" from the dropdown menu. Under the heading "Tharros Village - Sandwich and Side" there are instructions and a direct link to the SignUp.com signup page. Openings are available every Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday through November 28th.

Deliver sandwiches and sides to 18006 Coastal Highway, Lewes between 6pm and 8pm.

Gate is kept locked: Detailed instructions are on the SignUp.com page. To view click on the words "Sandwich & Side for 18", under any of the dates. Contact is Cathie Wagner ccwgr@aol.com.



Bethel Cookbooks Are Here!!!



The Elizabeth Circle continues to have Bethel Cookbooks for sale. They may be purchased online through the church website or by using the order forms in the lobby. Books may be picked up Sunday after services or by other arrangement. Contact Donna Fleischauer at djmarrin@yahoo.com with any questions

Cookbook Recipe Correction as of June 30, 2026:

Page 5 - Pimento Cheese Spread - Add 1 cup sharp shredded cheddar cheese to ingredients.

Page 102 - Southern Shores Cheesecake - Butter should be $\frac{3}{4}$ cup softened, not $\frac{1}{4}$ cup.