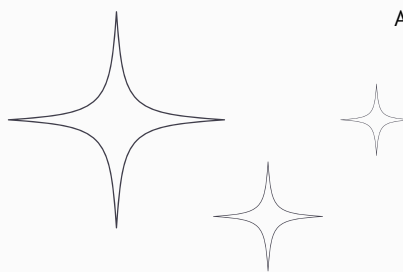


THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM

APRIL 2024 | VOL. 1 ISSUE 11



THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

ALLELUIA! CHRIST IS RISEN!

By the time you read this Easter will NOT be over! In fact, you have fifty days to celebrate these days of resurrection. In his famous hymn “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain” (LSB 487), St. John of Damascus called Easter “the queen of seasons” (stanza 3). And indeed, it is! Why? Because Easter is the Church’s primary celebration of Jesus’ triumphant victory over death!

On Easter we recall that early morning when the company of women went to the tomb in search of Jesus’ body. Instead of a closed tomb, they find it open and vacant. Two glowing angels appear and greet the women with the good news: Jesus has fulfilled His promise that He must suffer, die, and on the third day rise again (Luke 24)!

Easter Day is the third and final day of the Paschal Triduum – the Latin term for the “three days” from Maundy Thursday evening until Easter Sunday evening. But it’s not the last day of Easter! The “Octave of Easter” comes to an end on the following Sunday (eight days). But Easter isn’t over then, either! Rather, the Easter season lasts a full fifty days until the feast of Pentecost, more than counter-balancing the forty days of Lent.

Starting with Jesus’ resurrection, the Easter season is filled with the manifestation of Jesus’ divine glory. Throughout the fifty days, we hear of Jesus’ miracles and His encouragement to the disciples, whether it’s on the road to Emmaus, on the Mount of the Ascension, or in the upper room.

The holiday that we now know as “Easter” was originally called Pascha, the Greek word for Passover. Christians carried over the tradition of Pascha, acknowledging Christ as the new Passover Lamb (I Corinthians 5:7).

It’s not surprising, then, that Easter traditions sometimes echo Passover traditions: for example, the Jewish date of Passover was based on the lunar cycle, so the date of Easter moves according to the stages of the moon.

Similarly, just as Passover was an eight-day event, so is Easter. The “Octave of Easter” is the name for the eight-day celebration of our Lord’s resurrection. The Church fathers saw in these eight days a symbol of a new life and a new creation. And so you are!

One of the characteristic moments of the Easter Sunday service is when the pastor cries out the Paschal Greeting: “Alleluia, Christ is Risen!” The people respond with joy: “He is risen indeed, Alleluia!” This greeting remains the customary Christian greeting throughout the fifty days of Easter. Don’t get tired of hearing these words of promise or of responding with joy during these fifty days of Easter because the risen Christ has given us new life! And that is worth celebrating.

Your servant and shepherd,
Matthew 28:6

Pastor Dana Allen Brones

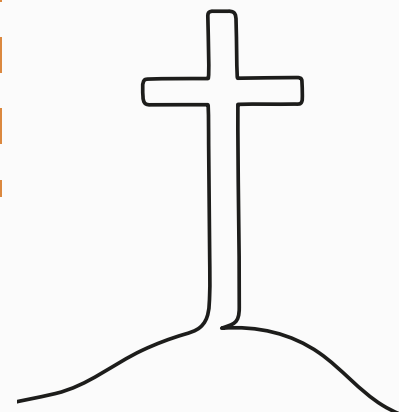
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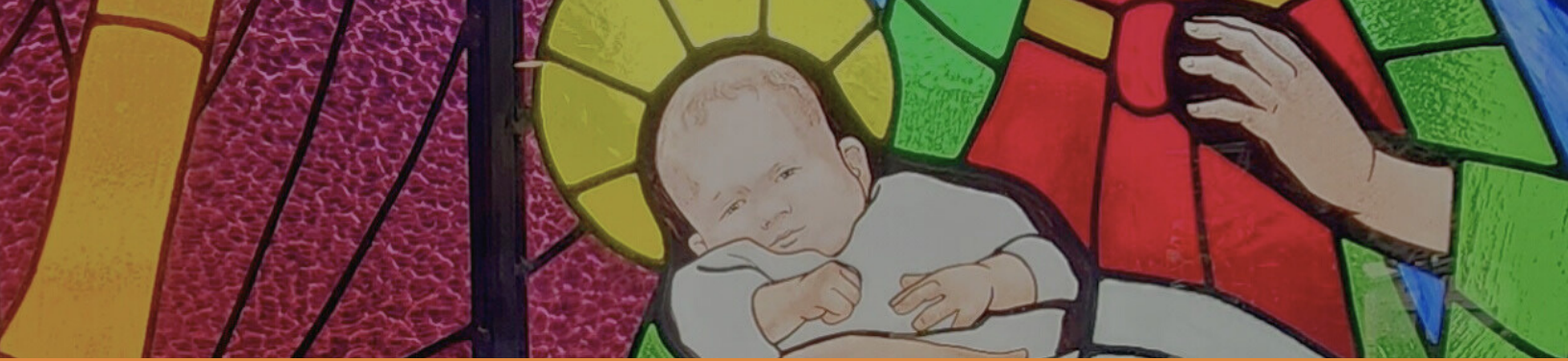
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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- CHRIST IS RISEN
- PSALM 4 REFLECTIONS
- UPCOMING RETREAT AND MISSION TRIPS

He is Risen





PSALM 4: “PEACE! BE STILL!”

Peace in Christ to you! Last month you may recall that I began a series for this newsletter on various psalms. Each month I will pick one, and then include a brief blurb of commentary or insight from three sources I routinely use when looking at the psalms. The idea is that you can study the psalm, then check out the first blurb. The next day you can read the psalm again and check out the second blurb, and the third day, you can meditate on the psalm yet again followed by the final blurb. This process should draw us into a deeper appreciation of the individual prayers and songs that make up this deep yet relatable book of Scripture.

On the agenda today: Psalm 4. For my own two cents, I'd like to draw your attention to verse 4 and the translation, “be angry.” Note that it can also be translated “tremble,” or “be agitated,” which I would prefer. Indeed, the context of the verse indicates how quickly anger can disrupt a good night of sleep. So, this Psalm is calling us not to fan our anger into flames, but rather, cool our anger off by putting our trust in the Lord.

Day 1. Study Psalm 4, then consider: “Evening is the occasion but not the main theme of the psalm, which is concerned with inward peace (8) in a distracting situation. The approach of night, with its temptation to brood on past wrongs (4) and present perils, only challenges David to make his faith explicit and to urge it on others, as a committal of one’s cause and oneself (3,8) to a faithful Creator. Absalom’s revolt, which gave rise to Psalm 3, could still be the background here; for David is, as he was then, humiliated and surrounded by lies (2), exasperation (4) and gloom (6). But such trials can arise on more occasions than one, and. . . . in any person’s life.” *Kidner, Derek. Psalms 1-72, Inter Varsity Press, Downers Grove, Illinois, 2008, pp. 71-72.*

Day 2. Read Psalm 4, then consider: “The man of faith begins and ends his day on the battlefield; warfare attends him everywhere. Since the very first verse of the very first psalm, the just man has found himself in conflict with the counsel of the ungodly, the way of sinners, the seat of the scornful. In Psalm 4 these latter are described as the ‘sons of men’ who ‘turn my glory into shame.’ The reason for this battle is that the just man has been chosen and set aside. He walks not in the counsel of the ungodly. He stands not in the way of sinners. He does not sit in the seat of the scornful. He is not of the world just as Christ is not of the world. ‘But know,’ says the psalmist, ‘that the Lord has set aside the godly for Himself.’ Thus says the ‘blessed man’ who is the key to the psalms: ‘If the world hates you, you know that it hated me before it hated you. If you were of the world, the world would love its own. Yet you are not of the world, but I chose you out of the world.’ (John 15:18) *Reardon, Patrick Henry. Christ in the Psalms, Conciliar Press, Ben Lomond, California, 2000, pp. 7-8.*

Day 3. Meditate on Psalm 4, then consider: “David complains that his enemies are speaking ill of him as king in an attempt to shame him. He reminds them that God sets apart the godly from those who behave in such a manner. How often do we find ourselves speaking ill of people in positions of authority? Of colleagues and peers? God’s Word condemns unjust complaints. Through David, God encourages us to turn from our sinful wants and ‘trust in the LORD.’ Such trust brings peace of mind and eternal peace. ~ You alone, O Lord, make me dwell in safety. Teach me to judge rightly and dwell in peace. Amen.” *The Lutheran Study Bible. Concordia Publishing House, St. Louis, Missouri, 2009, p. 849.*

Pastor Nate McCarty



VICAR'S APRIL MESSAGE

With the busyness of Lent and Holy week behind us, we now bask fully in the light of our Lord's resurrection as we continue into this Easter season. Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia! The weather is also heating up. Back in Michigan, it would be typical to still have some cold weather during Easter, sometimes even snow! But there is a noticeable difference once Spring comes. Thinking of different seasons, I can't help but ponder the words from Ecclesiastes which I shared with our preschool a few weeks ago:

1 For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:
2 a time to be born, and a time to die;
A time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
3 A time to kill, and a time to heal;
A time to break down, and a time to build up;
4 a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
A time to mourn, and a time to dance;
5 a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together;
A time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing;
6 a time to seek, and a time to lose;
A time to keep, and a time to cast away;
7 a time to tear, and a time to sew;
A time to keep silence, and a time to speak;
8 a time to love, and a time to hate;
A time for war, and a time for peace. (*Ecclesiastes 3:1-8*)

The change of yearly seasons can be refreshing, especially since we know what to expect. But the change of our own personal seasons is difficult. That's because our lives aren't circular like the seasons of the year. When we move from a season in our lives, we won't get that season back. I am experiencing this now with Seamus. He is already 1 year old!!! We will never have that season of being brand new parents with a newborn child ever again. In a way this is sad, but it is also encouraging and comforting, because it shows me and my wife how we got here. The past seasons have brought us to the current season. To embrace nostalgia and long for past seasons of life, where things were "better" from our perspective, is very tempting. But it takes our focus away from the season we are in now, and whether that season is easy, difficult, sad, or happy, we are in our current seasons for a reason. It's important for us as God's creatures to live in the time and the place He has graciously given to us. Jesus reminds us, "Therefore do not be anxious about tomorrow, for tomorrow will be anxious for itself. Sufficient for the day is its own trouble."

Matthew 6:34

Vicar Sean Sheppard

MARCH FLASHBACK

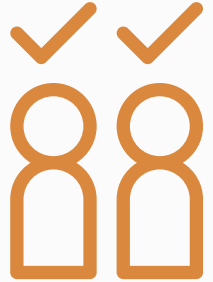
ATTENDANCE

FEBRUARY

Regular Service	Lent
February 4 - 257	Ash Wed.
February 11 - 258	(2/14) - 206
February 18 - 237	February 21 - 70
February 25 - 254	February 28 - 85

MARCH

Regular Service	Lent
March 3- 234	March 6 - 98
March 10 - 235	March 13 - 88
March 17 - 213	March 20 - 73
Palm Sun. March 24 - 329	Maundy Thursday - 141
Easter Sun. March 31 - 484	Good Friday - 211



DELIVERING JOY TO POSSABILITY PLUS

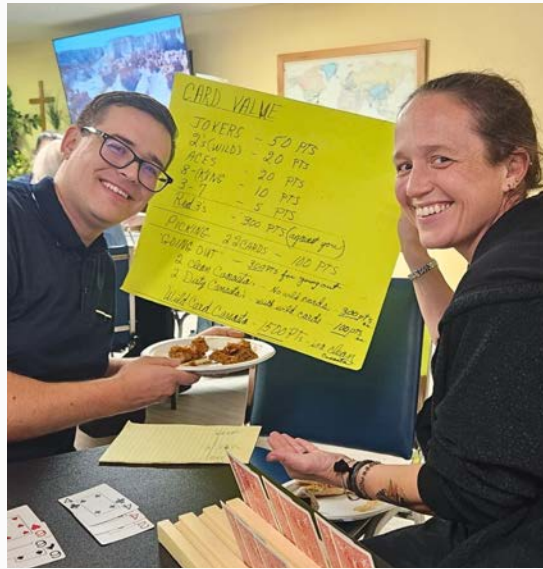
PossAbilities Plus is a local non-profit that seeks to enhance the lives and opportunities of individuals with special needs through training, employment, and social opportunities. PossAbilities Plus allows individuals to train onsite in a safe environment as they gain skills for the future. Check out their resale store or their tearoom. They also have a garden-based therapy & program. This is the project the seniors recently supported. The Seniors raised funds to purchase the gardening supplies below. In March, they were able to purchase and deliver it all! Thank you, seniors!



MARCH SNAPSHOT



MARCH SNAPSHOT



APRIL FUN!

APRIL EVENTS AT BLC

YOUNG ADULT DISC GOLF

APRIL 20TH - 11:00 AM

The young adults will gather at Ed Austin Park to play disc golf on Saturday the 20th! No experience required and discs will be provided. If you have your own discs, please bring them. Get some easy exercise with awesome company. Disc golf is free, picnic lunch afterward, bring a chair & drink. Bring friends, bring your dogs, join us! See the "BLC YOUNG ADULTS" fb group for more info!



ALL AGES GAMES NIGHT

APRIL 26TH - 5:30 PM - 10:00 PM



Seniors...young adults...youth? All are invited to our monthly games night! It is a potluck, again, so please bring an appetizer or a side dish. It is a lot of fun, please come out!

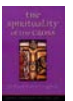
In March, we had tons of pizza, fried chicken, sushi, and so much fun! Join us this month.

THURS
APR
18

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

6:00 PM

Join us for a meal followed by our study of Spirituality of the Cross.



SAT
APR
20

YOUNG ADULT DISC GOLF

11:00 AM

Golf is free, discs provided. Picnic lunch afterwards, bring a chair & drinks.



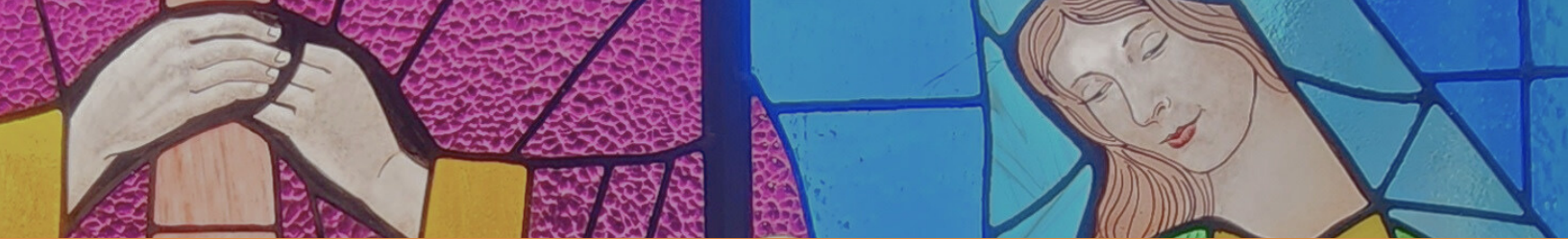
FRI
APR
26

ALL AGES GAMES NIGHT

5:30 PM-10:00 PM

Drop by anytime, bring some food, it's a potluck!





NEWS

BLC'S SUMMER WOMEN'S RETREAT DATES



Mark your calendar now for the 2024 Women's Retreat August 23-25, at Luther Springs Retreat Center, located in Hawthorne, Florida (about 1 1/2 hours from Jacksonville). The accommodation is hotel-like rooms and all meals are included. Single room rate \$200.00 and multi-occupancy room is \$160.00.

JOIN US ON BLC'S GUATEMALAN MISSION TRIP



The Guatemala mission leadership group is currently finalizing our dates. The proposed date is November 9-17, 2024. The final approval from our sponsor in Guatemala is still needed. If you are interested please contact the church office, Pastor Brones, or Holly Dellinger.

ANGEL TREE 2024 IDEAS & FEEDBACK NEEDED!



Please provide feedback about the Angel Tree Program. Do you like supporting the orphanage in Guatemala? Supporting the local children through Catholic Charities? Supporting local children through Salvation Army? (I have had problems with this agency over the years and would need help securing the proper leadership contact at Salvation Army). Another idea? Please contact Holly Dellinger at jaxbulldogs@comcast.net with comments and ideas.

UNCOMMON BIBLE NAMES WORD SEARCH

Enjoy!

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

Rehoboam

Sapphira

Zophar

Salome

Obed

Philemon

Eliphaz

Eunice

Lydia

Phoebe

Mordecai

Ananias

Nimrod

Joash

Asenath

Azor

Nun

Eliud

Lois

Instructions:

Find and circle the words. Words may be forward, backward, vertical and diagonal.

BLC VOLUNTEERS!

SCREENS

APR. 7

8 - Patrick
9:30 - Chris
11 - Gina

APR. 14

8 - Samantha
9:30 - Brenda
11 - Carol

APR. 21

8 - Valerie
9:30 - Kristine
11 - Lloyd

APR. 28

8 - Susan
9:30 - Tami
11 - Toni

ALTAR GUILD

SAT. APR. 6

Set Up - Carol

SUN. APR. 7

8 - Valerie
9:30 - Nina
11 - Kathy

SAT. APR. 13

Set Up - Dee R.

SUN. APR. 14

8 - Susan
9:30 - Barbara
11 - Bonnie

SAT. APR. 20

Set Up - Anna

SUN. APR. 21

8 - Valerie
9:30 - Brenda
11 - Beth

SAT. APR. 27

Set Up - Tami

SUN. APR. 28

8 - Susan
9:30 - Tami
11 - Diana

BLC APPRECIATES YOU!

COUNTING

APR. 7

Mark/Holly

APR. 14

Paul/Allan

APR. 21

Diane/Barbie J.

APR. 28

Emma/Barbara

ELDERS

APR. 7

8 - EIC Paul & Jamie
9:30 - EIC Joe & Al
11 - EIC Dan & Brandon

APR. 14

8 - EIC Paul & Gordon
9:30 - EIC Joe & John
11 - EIC Alex & Dan

APR. 21

8 - EIC Paul & Jamie
9:30 - EIC Joe & Al
11 - EIC Dennis & Allan

APR. 28

8 - EIC Paul & Gordon
9:30 - EIC Joe & John
11 - EIC Bruce & Jack

STREAMING

APR. 7

Jeanie

APR. 14

Bob

APR. 21

Jerry

APR. 28

Brandon

APRIL BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

BIRTHDAYS

John Oberheu	2-Apr	Isabelle Shoemaker	13-Apr
Maddie Ryba	2-Apr	Jan Lambert	14-Apr
Levi Freeborn	3-Apr	Amelia McCarty	14-Apr
Jay Poe	3-Apr	Hilton McCarty	14-Apr
Barbara Wamsley	3-Apr	Brad Moe	15-Apr
Heidi Wuggazer	3-Apr	Constance Brauer	16-Apr
Bryan Reichard	4-Apr	William Briggs	16-Apr
Ann Riker	4-Apr	John Helberg	16-Apr
Dennis Larson	6-Apr	Damien Snow	16-Apr
Lisa Noakes	6-Apr	Elliott Vianello	16-Apr
Candace Gray	7-Apr	Savannah Sullivan	17-Apr
Jenna Grider	7-Apr	Emily Antonio	19-Apr
Bridget DeHart	8-Apr	Dane Barley	20-Apr
Katrina Harcourt	8-Apr	Emma Peacock	21-Apr
Brian Matthews	8-Apr	Jean Shimp	21-Apr
Carol Pietrasiuk	8-Apr	Linda Van Ness	22-Apr
Tammy Zarski	9-Apr	Keegan Cameron	23-Apr
Paul Cameron	10-Apr	Canon Corbitt	24-Apr
Hilary Eischen	10-Apr	Larry Huser	24-Apr
Stephanie Boone	11-Apr	Alyssa Adams	25-Apr
Cheri Porter	11-Apr	Amelia Adkins	25-Apr
Ginny Fritz	12-Apr	John-Michael Addis	26-Apr
Paula Garrett	12-Apr	David Zikeli	29-Apr
Edelweiss Zikeli	12-Apr	Rolando Almaguer	30-Apr
Danielle Huckaba	13-Apr		

ANNIVERSARIES

Steve and Nancy Florey	1-Apr	Don and Grace Elvers	18-Apr
Kevin and Kristine Perryman	2-Apr	John and Laura Garner	18-Apr
Doug and Stephanie Peacock	4-Apr	David and Elizabeth Thies	19-Apr
Stephen and Jennifer Huber	5-Apr	Danny and Tammy Barley	21-Apr
Bruce and Holly Dellinger	9-Apr	Matthew and Angela Smith	21-Apr
Alexander and Lloyd Heilig	9-Apr	Kegan and Cindy Dellinger	23-Apr
Bryan and Dee Reichard	10-Apr	Jamie and Susan Heimbach	25-Apr
Candace Orr and Grant	12-Apr	Rolando and Traci Almaguer	26-Apr
Tony and Jamie Mazzeo	17-Apr	Richard and Susan Findell	28-Apr

04. APRIL BLC CALENDAR 2024

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
	01 9:30am Senior Cards 7pm Gideon's Meeting OFFICE CLOSED	02 6pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	03 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Preschool Chapel 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7pm Adult Bible Study	04 9:30am Vicar Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice	05	06 8:45am AA Meeting 10:30am Girl Scouts
07 8am Liturgical Worship 9:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am "Misfit" Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 11am Liturgical Worship w/ Live Stream 12pm LWML Meeting	08 6:30pm Small Group @ Delingers	09 6pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7pm Elders' Meeting	10 9:30am Preschool Chapel 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7pm Adult Bible Study	11 9:30am Vicar Bible Study 5:15pm Ministry Meeting 6:15pm Choir Practice	12	13 8:45am AA Meeting
14 8am Liturgical Worship 9:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am "Misfit" Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 11am Liturgical Worship w/ Live Stream	15	16 6pm Hand Bell Rehearsal	17 9:30am Preschool Chapel 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7pm Adult Bible Study	18 9am District Pastor's Meeting 9:30am Vicar Bible Study 6pm Men's Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice	19 4:30pm - Mission House	20 8:45am AA Meeting 10:30am Girl Scouts 11am Young Adults Disc Golf @ Ed Austin Regional Park
21 Feed My Sheep Sunday 8am Liturgical Worship 9:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am "Misfit" Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 11am Liturgical Worship w/ Live Stream	22	23 4pm Call Day 6pm Hand Bell Rehearsal 7pm Executive Council Meeting	24 9:30am Women's Bible Study 9:30am Preschool Chapel 11am Staff Meeting 5:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Youth 7pm Adult Bible Study	25 9:30am Vicar Bible Study 6:15pm Choir Practice	26 5:30pm - All Ages Games Night	27 8:45am AA Meeting
28 Mites Sunday 8am Liturgical Worship 9:30am Contemporary Worship 9:30am "Misfit" Bible Study 9:30am Adult Bible Study 9:30am Sunday School 11am Liturgical Worship w/ Live Stream	29	30 6pm Hand Bell Rehearsal				

Contact Us:

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Pastor Nate - revnathan@bethlehemlutheranchurchjaxbeach.org
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