

April 2019

Volume 81

Number 4



The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Jen...

These words, “God’s Family Serving Christ with Love” are rich with history, meaning, and significance. They served as the mission statement of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the past. They were, and are again a statement to both remind us and bring us back to who we are as a gathering of God’s children. They are a statement to those with whom we encounter beyond our building, letting them know who we are and what we do.

You’ll have to fill me in on the particulars with the history of our mission statement. I’d love to know when it was first used. I’m interested in how the mission statement developed. Who thought of it? How did BLC use it in the past? Please help me out by adding to the story. All I know is that the words describe the congregation really well!

In Laurie Beth Jones’ book, The Path: Creating Your Mission Statement for Work and Life she writes that good mission statements are short, easy to remember and repeat, and full of action. In my opinion our mission statement meets these criteria. First, “God’s Family” says who we are and who’s

we are. We are a people brought together as one into the body of Christ. As such, we are equipped and empowered by the Holy Spirit. Second, “Serving Christ” declares for what it is that we are called and equipped. In our life together as a part of God’s Family, all of our actions and activities should be able to demonstrate our service to Christ. Another way to think about this part is to ask ourselves, “How does what we do is an active way of loving God with all our heart, all our mind, all our strength, and our neighbors as ourselves?”. If we cannot answer this question, then we should reevaluate how we engage in that ministry. Third, these words are our advertising slogan, if you will. This slogan, or branding is something that people can associate, if they know about it, with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. For example, if you encounter “Taste the rainbow” you think of Skittles. “Snap, crackle, pop!” brings Rice Crispies to mind. “Just do it” brings not only the brand, Nike to mind but also the iconic swoosh of their logo. In the same way our mission statement can become synonymous with BLC.

“God’s Family Serving Christ with Love” is a statement that is connected to our past, our present, and our future as people of God. It is one of the ties that binds all generations together, celebrating the past,

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

Pastor Jen Johnson

608-742-8502 or 608-485-3976
bethlehemELCA.pastor@gmail.com

Mailing Address

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage WI 53901

Office Contact Info

Phone (608) 742-8502
Email bethluch15@gmail.com
www.BethlehemLCportage.org

living in the present, and welcoming the future. It's a statement that, along with prayer and scripture helps us stay on track with who we are and who Christ is calling us to be. It has the potential for being our slogan and "branding" line as we share the Gospel in our words and our lives.

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen

God's Family

How do you describe God's Family?
What do these words mean to you?
How would you explain to someone what God's Family means to you?

Serving Christ

What does it mean to serve Christ?
How does a person or a church serve Christ?
What are the distinguishing marks of serving Christ?

With Love

What does this mean to you?
How do you feel when you see these words?
Does love make a difference? Why?

Chancel Flowers

Easter is quickly approaching and our Easter flower flyer is available in the narthex, if you forgot the one enclosed in the Chimes. This year you will be able to order the traditional Easter lilies, tulips or hyacinths. Plants may be picked up after the 9:00am Easter service. The cost of the plants are \$15 each. Orders must be placed by April 14th, (Palm Sunday).

After our Easter celebration, we hope that you will continue to help decorate the chancel by signing up for our weekly flower giving at the cost of \$28 which you will be billed directly by Edgewater Greenhouse. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!

For our season of Lent, we will not have altar flowers from March 10th through April 20. We will be looking for sponsors starting April 21st (Easter Sunday) and for rest of the year.

Coffee Hour

Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church.

Unless preempted by other church activities, coffee hour will follow the 9 am church service. Gather together after service for treats, coffee, milk or tea and fellowship.



The sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Special Events
For these upcoming events!



Worship & Events



Date	Soup-Sponsor	Confirmation-Class-workers
3/6	Confirmation	6 th -grade
3/13	Quilters/Altar-Guild	7 th -grade
3/20	Women's-Group	8 th -grade
3/27	Church-Council	6 th -grade
4/3	Confirmation	7 th -grade
4/10	Choir/Praise-Team	8 th -grade

- We will be hosting an Easter Breakfast on Easter Sunday, April 21st, beginning at 7:30am. We will be placing a sign-up sheet in the narthex beginning in April with additional information and the suggested donation price. All are welcome!

- Volunteer Breakfast:

Once again, council will be hosting a volunteer appreciation breakfast on Sunday, May 5th from 8:00-9:00am as a way of saying “thank-you!” for everything that you do for us. This breakfast will be open to anyone that volunteers at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in any capacity. A sign-up sheet will be in the narthex beginning in April

- The Trivia Night youth fundraiser has been set for April 27th.

The
**Monday M^oring
Coffee Clutch**

Had a loss, or at a loss?

Stop on in, and stay a while. Share a story, or just sit and listen for a while, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome.

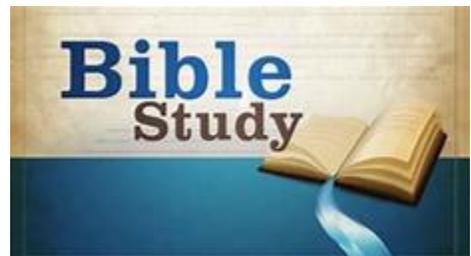
Located in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Held every Monday from 9-10:30am.

Please Join Us!

On Tuesday for the Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jen. We will meet in the Youth Group room across from the Pastor’s office at 11:00, following quilting.

All are welcome to participate. No previous experience is needed—the Holy Spirit takes care of that!

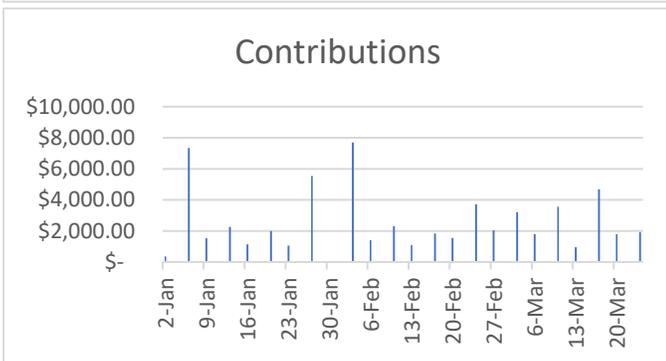
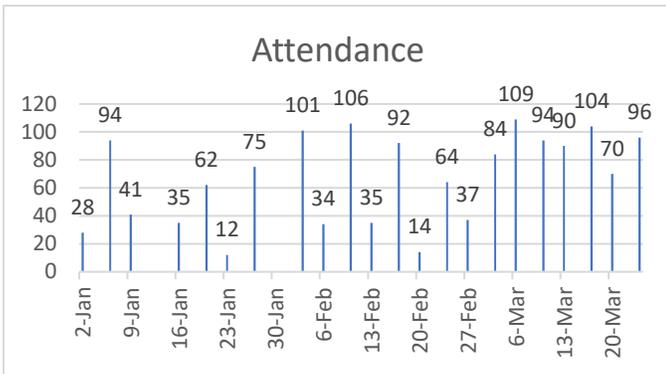
Bring your Bible, a paper and pen if you wish, and your curiosity. Our times together will last somewhere around an hour.



It’s “April Tornado Awareness” month. Make sure you check out the posted maps around the church which show the safe areas to stay during bad weather.



Attendance & Contributions



River Haven

Please check the River Haven *Wish List* posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for a list of items that are need at the facility. It's a great, inexpensive, way to fulfill our outreach programs, by helping those in need with a simple extra item in your shopping cart, that goes a long way to helping those less fortunate.

Fred Reckling and wife Char are searching for volunteers who would be interested in sitting with Fred while other family members are out of the house for various times during the week. No special skills required.

If you are interested contact Pastor Jen or the church office at 608-742-8502



Church Vegetable Garden

Are you a gardener with time on your hands or nowhere to have a garden? Maybe you've never had a garden but would love to learn how. Would you like to learn what to do with the vegetables once they have been harvested?

We are looking into reviving the church vegetable garden if we have enough volunteers. Volunteers needed for the months of May through October to help prep the land, plant, water, weed, and harvest.

For those interested or have questions, please contact Julie Saalsaa at 429-9993 (home), 608-333-6102 (cell for text messages) or juls32002@gmail.com.

Just a Reminder...

If you have an event at church, stop in for a visit, attend a meeting, or whatever and happen to be the last one in the building...BEFORE YOU LEAVE, please make sure all the outside doors are locked. Our church doors have been found unlocked several times in the last few months which creates a great liability for us all. Thank you!

SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Communion Classes will continue on April 3rd and 10th, ending on Palm Sunday, April 14th when the 5th graders will receive their First Communion. The Sunday School children will be singing at the Palm Sunday Service.

After the Palm Sunday Service the Sunday School children will visit prayer stations lead by the confirmation students explaining Holy week. Parents are welcome to join us if you would like.



As an additional attraction on Palm Sunday, we will be holding an Easter egg hunt.

There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 21st. However, there will be a breakfast prior to the service, starting at 7:30am.

The lessons we will be studying in April are The Prodigal Son - Luke 15:1-3,11-32; Holy Week Luke - 19:28-40; and Doubting Thomas - John 20:19-31

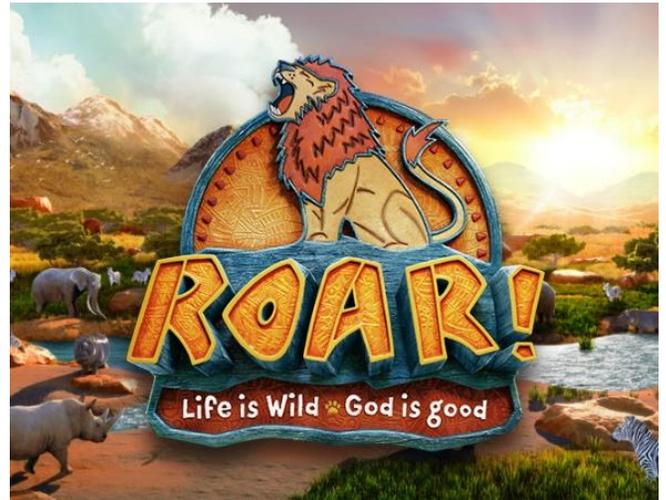
We would like to thank everyone who ordered books during our Book Fair. Books should arrive in early April.

Come and celebrate Earth Day with us on Sunday, April 28th. We will start the day

with worship at 9 am. The children will have class following the service. After worship there will be church clean up inside and out and several other items to work on for all ages.

On May 19th will be our Spring Congregational Fiesta. The children will be singing during the service and it is our last day of Sunday School until September. We will have a Taco Bar, games. More information to follow.

Mark your calendar for VBS 2019! This year's theme is ROAR: Life is Wild-God is Good. It will be held at the Portage United Methodist church Aug. 5th-9th. Additional information and registrations forms coming soon.



We are also collecting food for the Food Pantry and aluminum tops for the Ronald McDonald House.



Church Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes
Wed 4/3					Diane Grueneberg	Jack Brenner
Sun 4/7	Melby's	Larry & Sandy Sween	Kerry Melby	Angie Chappell & Jeff Melby	Brenda Larson	Ava Wohlfert
Wed 4/10					Judy Donahue	Tyler Zabler
Sun 4/14 Palm Sunday	Nancy Schwenke, Judy Hernkind, Maggie Jeske	Carol Pulsfus	Cheryl Skeie	Angela Pace & Del Molden	Kari Wagner	Carly Nyholm
Maundy Thursday 4/18	Barb Rothwell & Dick Olson	Jack & Ginny Paulson		Judy Donahue & Darlene Anderson-Prest Runner: Olivia Bue	Kathy Lawrence	Grace Lauth
Sun 4/21 Easter	Jim & Alanna Thays		Nancy Buckley	Darlene nerson-Prest & Nancy Buckley Runner: Grady Saalsaa	Cindy Frank	Naomi Saalsaa
Wed 4/24					Cheryl Hebel	Braxton Druckery
Sun 4/28	Bob & N Cloe Rehdants	Ann Ciske	Roger Sheimo	Mark Teslik	Bobbie Goodman	Estella Tennier



Looking for volunteers! Contact Nancy Buckley or the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	2 9am Quilting Group 11am Bible Study 5:30pm Finance Committee 6pm Zumba	3 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Lenten Worship 6:30pm Class - First Communion	4 7pm Rescheduled Council Meeting	5 10:30am Tai Chi	6
7 9am Worship 10am Bible Study 10:15 Blood Pressure 10:15 Class - First Communion 10:15 Sunday School	8 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	9 9am Quilting Group 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba	10 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Lenten Worship 6:30pm Class - First Communion	11 9am Women's group 5:30pm Mutual Renewal Ministry Team Meeting	12 10:30am Tai Chi	13
14 Palm Sunday First Communion 9am Worship SS sings 10am Bible Study 10:15 Sunday School	15 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	16 9am Quilting Group 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba	17 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Lenten Worship	18 Chimes articles due 6:30pm Council Meeting	19 10:30am Tai Chi 1pm Good Friday 6pm Showing of Jesus Christ Superstar	20
21 EASTER 7:30am Easter Breakfast 9am Worship 10am Bible Study	22 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	23 9am Quilting Group 11am Bible Study 1pm Kitting & Crocheting at Judy LaMarche's 6pm Zumba	24 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Lenten Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	25 10am Women's Tea Setup	26 10:30am Tai Chi	27 Trivia Night Women's Tea
28 9am Worship 10am Bible Study 10:15 Sunday School	29 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	30 9am Quilting Group 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba				