



The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

A Message from Pastor Jen...

Raise your hand if you are a caregiver. Your hand is up if you provide care to someone who otherwise could not manage on their own. You are the one, (hopefully you are one member of a team), who makes it possible for the one who receives care to live as “normal” a life as possible. You are the one who does one of more of the following things for someone else:

- Provides meals
- Cleans
- Bathes and dresses
- Manages medications
- Entertains
- Reminds
- Drives
- Makes appointments
- Does wound care
- Prays
- and the list continues...

You provide care to your spouse. You give care to your partner. You are the one who takes care of your aunt, uncle, grandchild, niece, nephew, grandparent, neighbor, sibling, stepsibling, son or daughter-in-law, godparent, godchild, friend, neighbor...

In our nearly fourteen years of married life Brenda and I have taken turns at care giver and care receiver. We've nurtured each other

through surgeries, accidents, illness, chemotherapy, depression, anxiety, unemployment, and grief. Sometimes things got really ugly. The side effects of Hepatitis C treatment in the early 2000's were almost worse than the disease itself. For 48 weeks of treatment Brenda stood beside me, even though she had to look deeply into my eyes to find me. When she was hit by a car while walking across the street, Brenda sustained injuries that haunt her to this day. She's had at least four separate surgeries so far. But sometimes things are absolutely hilarious! Have you ever tried to help someone who has fallen down and one, or both of you, start laughing?

Raise your hand now if, at any point in providing care for someone, you've felt like you were losing it. Your hand is up again if you felt like your life has been taken over by the needs and wants of the one for whom you've been caring. You may also be the one who, due to the excellent care you give to another, is personally suffering in those areas in which you give. I know you. I know how you operate. I've received care from you. I am you.

Luke, one of the original twelve disciples of Jesus and author of Luke, and the Acts of the Apostles was reportedly a doctor. To be sure, medical care in that time was certainly not what it is today. His doctoring has perhaps

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little to no resemblance to medical care provided in this age. All the same, I think the best practice of Luke, physician and disciple was to lift up Jesus. He wrote about Christ's activity and works for our sake. He recorded and told about the Holy Spirit moving in and through us, as people of God and the Body of Christ. His good medicine, in my estimation, was to tell of the all-encompassing and inclusive love and presence of the Triune God.

Caregivers remember to stay in touch with the One who has called you to care and provides you with all you need to give to another. This is your lifeline. This is your air hose, and without it you will not function.

Amen, amen, amen.

Pastor Jen

Elayne Hanson is celebrating her 90th birthday on Sunday, June 9th from 2 to 4 p.m. at the K.C. Hall, Silver Lake Drive, Portage. You're invited. No gifts please. Come and enjoy.

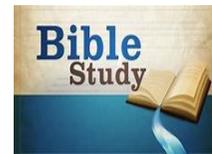


Please Join Us!

On Tuesday for the Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jen. We will meet in the conference room 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.



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.



THANK YOU!

Thank you to all those that volunteered to help with the Volunteer Breakfast, your assistance made the breakfast a wonderful event.

The
**Monday M[☕]orning
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.



Special Upcoming Events!

ADOPT-A-BILL

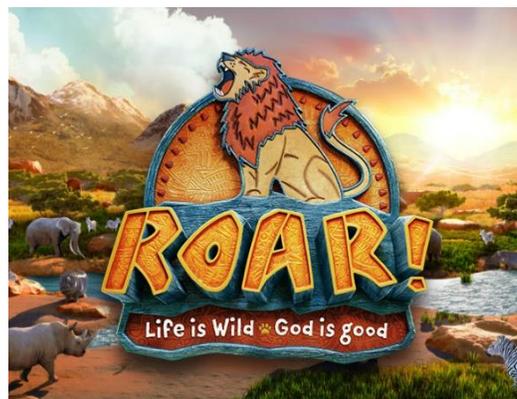
We will be starting the Adopt-a-Bill program in June for the summer of 2019. To everyone that participated in the program last summer (and throughout the fall & winter), thank you again for your generosity!

RIVER HAVEN

Please check the River Haven *Wish List* posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for a list of items that are needed 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.

SUNDAY SCHOOL

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're also looking for VBS help.



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!

PORTAGE LIONS CLUB

The Portage Lions Club will be collecting used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses, in addition to hearing aids for distribution to the needy in underdeveloped countries. Children's glasses are especially in high demand. A collection box is in the Narthax.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- We're still looking for occasional volunteer **telephone sitters** for the church office on Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 9-noon, when office staff are away from the office visiting shut-ins. If you have some time to volunteer, please call the office at 608-742-8502.
- There is a **Chancel Flower** signup sheet in the Narthax for flowers for July-December with only four of to be filled. Please sign up early if there is a special occasion for which you want to supplies altar flowers. Thank you for supporting our congregation in this way!
- We also have signup sheets for **coffee hour** and **worship volunteers** that have many blank lines to fill. Please volunteer to help out with these opportunities to make our Bethlehem family come closer together.
- We are looking for volunteers to serve on the **Internal Audit Committee**. Please call the church office at 608-742-8502.
- On June 15, 2019 from 9am to 1pm, Bethlehem will be hosting the **Community Meal** at St. John's Episcopal Church, 207 West Pleasant Street, Portage, WI 53901. We are looking for set-up servers and clean up help, for 2 hours shifts. 9-11am shift needs 3 people for set up and food prep; 11-1 shift needs 5-6 people for serving, socializing and clean up. We are also looking for desserts for ~60 people. If you'd like to help, please call Ann Ciske at 608-617-7415, or use the signup sheet in the Narthax.



BENEVOLENCE: IT'S A GOOD THING!

Benevolence is a term we use in the ELCA to describe money that we, as a local church designate and send to our respective synods. The money is used to finance and support the ministries carried out by and through the Synod offices. At our annual meeting we voted for a line item in our Ministry Spending Plan, designating \$1000 Benevolence to our Synod.

What this means is that as a congregation we are pledging to support the ministries of the South-Central Synod of Wisconsin with our prayers and financial resources for the coming year. We will individually contribute our support together with prayer and designated offerings above and beyond our regular giving. This works out to just over \$2 per person in our congregation. That's quite a bargain! For about \$3 from each of us we can fulfill our financial pledge for the year plus a wee bit extra. Of course, some choose to give more, and some choose to give less, which is just fine!

Some may want to know, why do we send Benevolence anyway? Simply, we send because we are in this ministry together, as partners in service through Christ. Together we are Church. Together we are in mission. Together we are called, equipped, and sent.

If we don't send Benevolence to our Synod, then we are still going to be a part of the ministry community. We will still be cared for by the Synod staff and her members.

If we do send Benevolence to our Synod, then we are actively engaged in the life and ministry of this part of the Body of Christ in the world. The quality of our participation is enhanced by our giving. We are literally and

figuratively invested in what's happening in the South-Central Synod and beyond.

It's easy to contribute to the Benevolence offering to the Synod. All you have to do is put your gift in the offering plate during worship and designate either on the check memo line or offering envelope that you would like the money to go toward *Benevolence*.

Thanks!!!

CALLING ALL VETERANS

Attention all veterans! We would like to recognize you for your service on July 7th worship service. Please submit a picture of you in your uniform to the church office by June 23 or call the church office or Carla Gerhardt at 608-697-2887 by June 23 to tell them of your service. We need to know what branch of the service you were in and how many years? Any medals you received.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

You are strongly encouraged to attend a congregational ministry meeting on **Sunday, July 21st**. We will be presenting our updated financial information to the congregation for an engaged discussion about how to move forward with our ministry spending plan. We will also have a picnic following worship that day - everyone is welcome! "



TAILGATE MALLARD TIME

Mark your calendars for July 7th, 2019. The game starts at 1:05pm. So pray for good weather and a good time at the game. We'll

gather in the church parking lot at 10:30am car pool to the game. The cost of the tickets are \$12. Included in the price of the ticket: ticket, hat souvenir cup. Please reserve your spot as soon as possible. Sign up and deposit slips will be available in the church Narthax starting on June 2. Reservations must be made by July 1st, 2019.



SEEKING RUMMAGE SALE DONATIONS

We are still accepting donations for our church-wide rummage and brat sale on Saturday, August 17th. We have a couple of storage units near the church that have been donated to us to use for storage. Due to disposal problems, no TV's, computers, printers, or non-working electrical items will be accepted.

Please contact the church office if you are unable to drop off your items during regular office hours, (Monday-Thursday 9am-3pm, Friday 9am-1pm), between now and Thursday, August 15, 2019. On August 15, there will be someone at church to receive items until 6pm.

We will also need volunteers for setting up the sale and cooking/selling brats/food items at the brat sale. If you are interested in helping out that day, please contact the church office at 608-742-8502.

YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITY

On Saturday June 8th there will be a middle school youth group from Minnesota staying overnight at our church while they are en-route to a mission site. That being said, there will be a middle school lock in Saturday June 8th beginning at 6pm, (there will be dinner). If your child is interested please let Megan know ASAP. The church stopping by would like to have dinner with our youth group so we are looking for any food donations we can get. We would like to BBQ outside - so burgers, brats, hot dogs, any type of salads, beans, juice/water/soda, etc. if you can donate anything please let us know! Text or call Megan at 9147605745 or email at meganjahoda@yahoo.com.



HELPING HAITI WORK

I am sorry to say that the most recent troubling events in Haiti have affected the organization's ability to meet their mission/goal as it is written. The conflict in the country has led to soaring fuel prices and lack of items for sale. They are having trouble getting food and water due to protesters closing markets and roads. Please know we are not turning our back on our friends. Dr. Jaeger just returned from a medical mission <https://bethlehempottage.360members.com/-/events/17367530> so she knows firsthand how things have changed for the people in the villages of Limbe and Ranquitte.

She is asking us to wait to raise money because it would not be right to fundraise for things that are not happening right now. The

Helping Haiti Work board of directors are meeting to problem solve the best way to meet the needs of the women while staying within the written parameters of this non-profit.

We here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church will help our women who we've supported for over 6 years now when a clear direction is determined. For now please pray for our friends. Pray they will get food through. Pray they will be safe in their villages. Pray for the board of Helping Haiti Work and be ready to help when a new plan is in place.

This is a reminder that what happens in other parts of the world affect us since we are all God's family.

SUNDAY SCHOOL REPORT

A great time was had by all on Sunday May 19th at the Congregational Fiesta Celebration and game day following church.

The children sang. We played games and ate. Thank you to all who brought food, helped with set-up and clean up, serving, games and fellowship.

We are looking for co-teachers for next year. We are also looking for someone to help with music. If you are interested please contact Jeanette Gessner 608-617-5228.

We hope your child/children have enjoyed Sunday school this year as much as we have enjoyed being with them. We look forward to seeing you next year.

Hope you have a great summer.
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School Staff



THE HARMONY FOR THE HOMELESS

Thank you to all those who helped in the fund raising for River Haven by attending the Harmony for the Homeless event. This event brought in \$6,675.00 for River Haven.



APPROVED CONDENSED APRIL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Attending: Tania Anderson, Don Bender, Angie Chappell, Pastor Jen Johnson, Tim Kratz, Robin Kvalo, Halley Marcks, Jack Paulson, Kathy Tofson

Absent with notification: Ann Ciske

- Approval of agenda
- Approval of February Minutes
- Old business: Replacement of old sound system
- Pastor's Report
 - Training session for 5/17/2019
 - Art piece for Renewal Process
 - Home and Hospital visits
 - Palm Sunday - Sunday school visitation of prayer stations
 - Easter egg hunt
 - 5th grade 1st communion classes
 - Last day of Sunday School
 - No confirmation in Lent
 - Acolytes
 - Youth Group Trivia Night
 - Youth Mission trip
 - May 4th annual Synod meeting
 - Renewal Report
 - Bible Study
- Committee Reports
 - Finance

- Updates on: Financial status; Ledger 360; Garden grants; Insurance proposal; Credit card; Sound System; Copier lease, Parish Secretary
- Reassignment of offering envelop numbers for 2020
- Parochial Report submitted to Synod
- Benevolence to Synod paid quarterly – goal \$1,000 for 2019
- Jerry Saalsaa, Treasurer
- Christian Ed
 - Augsburg Book Sale completed
 - 5th graders first communion on Palm Sunday
 - Last day of Sunday School, 5/19
- Evangelism
 - Discussions on: Active Attack; Worship – ecumenical service on July 14,2019
 - Community Meal
 - Pet Blessing
- Stewardship
 - Discussions: Renewal process; Adopt-a-bill; Membership ideas
- Worship & Music
 - Discussion: sound system; Easter liturgy
- Property
 - Church inventory completed; Removal of bird nests and installation of barrier; water test good; repaired locks and replaced ballasts and blinds
- Local and Global Missions
 - Discussions: Earth Day April 28
- New Business
 - Discussions: Nominating and audit committees; Overview of office position

Next meeting May 16, 2019

Adjourned 8:30pm

(Full copy of report is available on the bulletin board in the Narthax, or on our website:

bethlehemlcportage.org)

Adopt-a-Bill starting June 1st.

Here's a list of some of our general expenses for you to consider.

Monthly Expenses		
Advanced Disposal	waste disposal	\$ 148.37
Alliant	gas/electric	\$ 912.00
Baraboo Credit Card	credit card	\$ 431.86
Frontier	phone/internet	\$ 303.06
GFC	copier lease	\$ 470.26
Portico	insurance/benefits	\$ 1,183.35
Thrivent	mortgage	\$ 5,983.00
Regular Bills		
1517 Media	Christian education	\$ 17.90
Brotherhood Mutual	church insurance	\$ 382.00
Capital Newspapers	advertising	\$ 67.00
Cavanagh Company	communion supplies	\$ 67.14
JW Pepper	music supplies	\$ 51.99
One Write	offering envelopes	\$ 445.27
Paychex	financial process fee	\$ 70.08
Quick books	financial computer program	\$ 35.00
Quill	office supplies	\$ 84.92
South Central Synod	synod assembly registration	\$ 210.00
Schrommer Construction	snowplowing	\$ 530.00
The O'Brion Agency	office supplies	\$ 69.00
The TH Stemper	altar supplies	\$ 77.29
United States Postal Service	postage	\$ 32.50
Vanco Payment	simply giving process fees	\$ 24.85

Church Volunteers

Date	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes
Sun 6/2	Ed Marie Rohrbacher	Ellen Kabele Jean Elliott	Linda Lewis	Jeff & Kerry Melby	Kari Wagner	Ethan Macomber
Wed 6/5					Diane Grueneberg	
Sun 6/9	Adeline & Kim Biehl	Don & Bonnie Bender	Brenda Larson	Brenda Larson Barb Rothwell	Cindy Frank	Carly Nyholm
Wed 6/12					Judy Donahue	
Sun 6/16	Gail & Lind Otto	Margaret & Del Molden	Kris Soderman	Bobbie Goodman 	Bobbie Goodman	Grffin Garrigan
Wed 6/19					Kathy Lawrence	
Sun 6/23	Betty Ring	Bob & Cloe Rehdantz	Ellen Kabele	Linda Lewis Darlene Anderson-Prest	Marie Kucksdorf	Brianna Fisher
Wed 6/26					Cheryl Hebel	
Sun 6/30	Ellen Kabele	Larry & Sandy Sween	Brenda Larson	Brenda Larson 	Cara Druckrey	Ava Wohlfert



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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

June 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour 10:15am BP check	3 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm Euchre	4 11am Bible Study 5:30pm Finance Committee 6pm Zumba	5 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Worship 6:30pm New Member Class	6	7 10:30am Tai Chi	8
9 - Pentecost 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour	10 – Meals on Wheels 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm SREA mtg 5:30pm Stewardship and Evangelism mtg 6:30pm All Committee mtg 6:30pm Euchre	11– Meals on Wheels 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba	12– Meals on Wheels 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Worship	13– Meals on Wheels 9:00am Women’s Group	14– Meals on Wheels 10:30am Tai Chi	15 9:30am-1pm Community Meal
16 – Father’s Day 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour	17 9:00am MM Coffee 10:30am Tai Chi 6:30pm SRA mtg 6:30pm Euchre	18 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba	19 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Worship	20 Chimes articles due 6:30pm Council Meeting	21 10:30am Tai Chi	22
23 9am Worship 10:00 Coffee Hour	24 Memorial Day – church office closed	25 11am Bible Study 6pm Zumba	26 10:30 Tai Chi 5:30 Worship	27	29 10:30am Tai Chi	30