

The Star of Bethlehem



APRIL 2019

HE IS RISEN

“Christ has indeed been raised from the dead” (I Corinthians 15:20)

According to much of what I have been reading during the past ten years or so, it is just you and St. Paul and I who think that Jesus was raised from dead. According to much of what you read in most secular newspapers and many “scholarly” journals, the traditional understanding of the resurrection is “out of step with the prevailing views of most prominent biblical scholars.” I have trouble with the word “biblical” since it refers, in this case, to the very people whose approach to the Bible is to eliminate as much of it as possible, certainly anything that makes of Jesus “the Word made flesh” or claims that he “rose bodily from the dead.” Personally, I believe the phrase “unbiblical scholarship” commends itself.

But just as bothersome is the word “scholarship.” It seems to me that a segment of so-called intellectuals has pre-empted the word for itself, as if it has an exclusive right to it. Apostles who declare over all that they have seen and heard, celebrators who compose psalms of praise about what they have been told, humble men and women who keep and ponder in their hearts all that has been revealed to them, are these not scholars, students, masters even, of all the Bible says? Or what about the mothers and fathers, fishermen and carpenters who, through the ages, have proclaimed: “Christ has risen?”

You and I, dearly beloved of Bethlehem, have a prophetic role to play in our day and age. If the intellectual elite have contrived to satisfy themselves, out of the ingenuity of their minds, to abandon the idea of the resurrection of Christ, then you and I must proclaim what we believe, and believe what God has told us, that Jesus is “my beloved Son,” and “he is risen from the dead.”

By the time another front-page article or documentary appears dealing with the resurrection, let us make sure we are exempt from any suggestion that today’s “best minds” know better. After all, “If Christ be not risen, your faith is in vain.”

I encourage you to join us for our special services on Easter Sunday. Christ’s resurrection is a wake-up call to us all that while the things of this earth are temporary, we have the precious gift of life with him forever awaiting us because “Christ has indeed been raised from the dead.”

A blessed Easter to all of you,

Pastor Dana Allen Brones



February Attendance

Date	8 am	9:30 am	11am	Total
Feb 4, 2018	103	75	76	254
Feb 3, 2019	76	77	85	238
Feb 11, 2018	71	92	91	254
Feb 10, 2019	68	66	100	234
Feb 18, 2018	84	79	107	270
Feb 17, 2019	76	69	88	233
Feb 25, 2018	84	71	85	240
Feb 24, 2019	72	97	94	263

SENIOR GAME DAY

Monday, April 1

Disciples Hall at 9:30 am

Talk with MaryAnn Lawrence 708-9492

Mission House

Request for all worshippers: We need Mission House help every 3rd Friday. 6:00 to 7:30 PM feeding the hungry and poor. A sign-up sheet is in the narthex. 800 Shetter Avenue, Jacksonville Beach.

It is finished

John 19: 30b

Watch the Services

Watch pages only available on Call Day.

About Call Day

Call Day at Concordia Seminary is the day when second year students learn their vicarage church assignments (a one-year internship at an LCMS church anywhere in the U.S.) and fourth year students learn their first call assignments. Deaconess students learn their deaconess internship assignments or diaconal call assignments on this day as well. These assignments are announced and celebrated during two worship services on Call Day.

Share in the celebration by using hashtags #CallDay2019 and #CallDayWatchParty.

Services & Bulletins

There are two services on Call Day:

Assignment of Vicarages & Internships

Fellowship

Spring Church work day is scheduled for April 6th at 9:00 am. Time to beautify the church before the Easter season. There will be work to do inside and work to do outside. A detailed list of things to be done will be posted prior to the work day. Coffee and donuts will be provided and possibly a lunch if we are working late.

Easter Breakfast will be served on Easter morning from 8:00 am - 9:30 am. Come join us for a great breakfast and celebrate the Risen Lord with fellow church members. See you there.

Easter Egg hunt will be on Easter morning at 8:30 am. Please have your children in the courtyard by 8:25 with their baskets to join the hunt. Candy donations are welcome.

Stewardship

	Feb 2018	Feb 2019
Monthly Totals:	<u>\$53,556.86</u>	<u>\$48,192.48</u>
Restricted:	2,515.50	3,416.19
YTD Totals:	<u>\$98,750.33</u>	<u>\$100,715.28</u>
Restricted:	\$3,795.18	\$10,228.25

LWML

The M in LWML stands for Missions (not meetings). Whether we are talking about the local societies, the Zone or District LWML or the national organization the focus is how do we spread the gospel. Sometimes we do it with prayer support for workers in the harvest field and sometimes with our treasures to help provide financial support to projects. And sometimes the women are involved in hands-on projects. Women across the nation provide hands-on support by quilting, by putting together Mercy kits, by sending letters to our military personnel, by helping to refurbish buildings used for outreach, by crocheting plastic sleeping mats to give to victims of national disasters worldwide and the list goes on and on. LWML women are actively seeking ways to do mission work. But none of this work can be done without planning, so we have to have meetings. At Bethlehem our goal is to have just enough meetings to plan how we want to spread the gospel. We met in March and are planning an event for May. Please look for bulletin announcements on how you can be part of upcoming projects. Remember, you don't have to be involved in every meeting or every project to be a part of LWML. Please feel free to choose when and where to spend your time, treasure and talents. Being part of LWML can be very rewarding. It's also great way to build friendships and provide support for your sisters in Christ.

If you haven't done so already, please pick up a mite box and start collecting your loose change. When the box is full put the money in the clear mite box in the entry. Take the mite box home and start again. Seventy-five person of the mite money collected supports Mission Grant Projects chosen by the FL-GA LWML and 25% goes to the National Mission Grant Projects.

Becky Bicknase

April Birthdays and Anniversaries

Steve & Nancy Florey	4/1	Constance Brauer	4/16
John Oberheu	4/2	William Briggs	
Kevin & Kristine Perryman		John Helberg	
John Poe III	4/3	Tucker Swanson	
Barbara Wamsley		Anthony & Jamie Mazzeo	4/17
Charlie Grosshandler	4/4	Addison Sharp	
Sheryl Junk		Savannah Sullivan	
Doug & Stephanie Peacock		John & Laura Garner	4/18
Bryan Reichard		Declan Vesta	
Ann Riker		Luke Cochran	4/19
Allen Spingler		David & Elizabeth Thies	
Stephen & Jennifer Huber	4/5	Dane Barley	4/20
Ellen Young		Danny & Tammy Barley	4/21
Dennis Larson	4/6	Emma Peacock	
Candace Gray	4/7	Jean Shimp	
Jenna Grider		Matthew & Angela Smith	
Bridget DeHart	4/8	Glenn Ekman	4/22
Brian Matthews		Linda Van Ness	
Carol Pietrasiuk		Robert Beaty	4/23
Bruce & Holly Dellinger	4/9	Tripp Crenshaw	
Alex & Lloyd Heilig		Kegan & Cindy Dellinger	
Tammy Zarski		Canon Corbitt	4/24
Hilary Eischen	4/10	Matthew Vesta	
Bryan & Dee Reichard		Alyssa Adams	4/25
Cheri Porter	4/11	William & Susan Heimbach	
Ginny Fritz	4/12	Rolando & Traci Almaguer	4/26
Paula Garrett		Hollis Ballentine	
Edelweiss Zikeli		Mark Fluegge	4/28
Danielle Huckaba	4/13	Lacey Rosenbaum	
Amelia McCarty	4/14	David Zikeli	4/29
Hilton McCarty		Rolando Almaguer	4/30
Miller Norton III			
Alice Truax		<i>Please call the office if your</i>	
Morgan Donnelly	4/15	<i>birthday or anniversary has been</i>	
Brad Moe		<i>omitted.</i>	
Sarkus Boyajian	4/16		

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About Call Day

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Services & Bulletins

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Assignment of Vicarages & Internships

May 1, 2019 at 4 p.m. (EST)

May 1, 2019 at 8 p.m. (EST)

The Word in song and those who sing

"My heart is steadfast, O God; I will sing and make music with all my soul. Awake harp and lyre! I will awaken the dawn. I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples." - Psalm 108:1-3

We are very blessed here at Bethlehem for all the good folks who follow these words: the bell choir, the singing choir, the various soloists and guest musicians, our very own devoted trumpet player, John Poe and of course our 'Praise Team'. When you make music together, one of the outcomes (over and above the songs!) is Unity. When you make music together you depend upon each other, you help each other and the total becomes greater than the sum of the parts. Harmony is one of the most important aspects of music. It is not only the harmony of the voices in song, but more importantly the harmony amongst those who make music. This harmony is available to all those who hear and/or participate. It is one of the gifts we have to offer our Maker.

At this time I want to bring attention to one of our harmonizing praise team members: Pete Reideler who has been with us for several years. Pete has brought his own special skills, both vocal and instrumental to our team and we love him. However Pete has been offered and has accepted another position and the opportunity to share his talents with some other folks. We will miss him, but we also wish him all the best, knowing that others will hear his praises. Pete, our door is always open to you and your beautiful wife Tammy. God always has a plan, however, so wringing my hands and gnashing my teeth didn't last long because our praise team is welcoming a new member who will be sharing his many talents with us and we are happy to welcome Matt Vesta. Let's see what God has in mind now..... We continue to be grateful to our existing kids: Richard Smith and Alicia Crespo. And, oh yes, for the little while longer we have the first place winner – Karaoke King – Vicar Jeremy. So thanks to all who so generously bring their talents together in praise. I love you all.

Next month I will have news about our glorious choir and the musical miracles they bring. We will be going on a choir retreat next month, bringing song and praise to other people. So please pray for us and whatever you do, keep singing!!!

Kathleen Olive

He is Risen!

“Lenten Madness”

As I write this article, I am mentally preparing for one of my favorite events of the year. The NCAA Division 1 College Basketball Tournament, otherwise known as March Madness. For as long as I can remember I have been filling out brackets, putting down my best predictions for what is going to happen. And without fail, each year something happens that I couldn't predict. A small school that I never heard of rises to beat a championship favorite. Or like last year, I picked Virginia, the best team in the country, to win it all, only for them to lose their first game against UMBC in a historic upset. This is exactly why it is called March Madness. It is why I love watching, and why it frustrates me in my attempt to fill out the perfect bracket. By the time you are reading this you have already found out who the surprise team is this year. You will know who is going to be in the Final Four. As we hit April, the Madness of March will turn to joy for one College Basketball team as they are crowned champions and cut down the nets in Minneapolis.

I think it is fitting that Lent started in March this year. Most of the world probably thinks it is Madness for us to set apart these 40 days to reflect on how sinful we are. To spend these days in penitence and maybe even giving something up or adding a spiritual discipline to our already busy schedules. Most of the world probably thinks it is Madness to admit that we cannot attempt to do everything on our own. That we desperately need a Savior. Most of the world probably thinks it is Madness that we commemorate the death of Jesus and call it Good Friday, but that's exactly what we do because the Madness of Lent turns to tremendous joy on Easter Sunday. We will gather together later this month to celebrate the greatest festival of the year. That joy of Jesus's resurrection is not reserved for one team only, but it is for all people. It is a celebration that leads us to say "Christ is Risen! He is risen indeed, Alleluia!" Have a Blessed Easter.

In Christ,
Vicar Jeremy



Cleanup Day at Bethlehem

April 6th—starting at 9 am

Something for everyone to help with!

Worship Services

with Holy Communion
April 3, 12 noon and 7 pm
April 10, 12 noon and 7 pm

Palm Sunday- April 14

with Holy Communion
8 am Traditional Worship
9:30 am Family Contemporary
11 am Rite of Confirmation

Maundy Thursday- April 18

with Holy Communion
7 pm

Good Friday- April 19

noon and 7 pm

Easter Sunday- April 21

with Holy Communion
7 am Sunrise Worship
8 – 9:30 am Easter Breakfast
9 am & 11 am Traditional Worship

amazonsmile

Your shopping makes a difference.

Amazon donates to Bethlehem Lutheran Church when you shop at smile.amazon.com/ch/23-7061413. Thank you for your support!

Food Support

We have a great group of ladies that help support grieving families with a luncheon following a Memorial Service at BLC. We are blessed. If you would like to help with your time or with food donations, please email Joan Richards @ nanajohan1977@comcast.net.

Sermons Online

Weekly sermons are available by visiting our church website at <http://www.blcjxbeach.org/>.



The "MANE" Event

The best week of summer !!

ROAR VBS
June 10-14

Life is wild...God is good !!

National Youth Gathering

Held every 3 years since 1980, the LCMS Youth Gathering provides thousands of youth and adults the opportunity to come together as a community of God's people to learn more about Jesus Christ, the Christian faith and their Lutheran identity. The next Gathering will be held on **July 11-15, 2019 in Minneapolis, MN.**

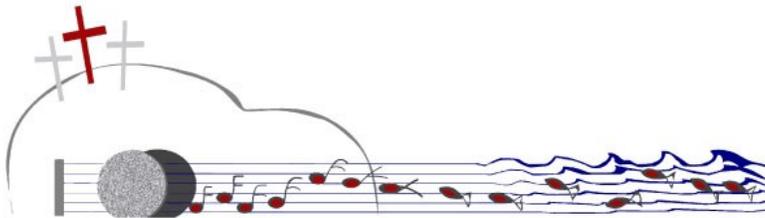
During the five days of the Gathering, youth spend time together in God's word, worship, service, and fellowship with others from across the synod. This event is organized by LCMS Youth Ministry in Saint Louis, MO.

For additional ways to connect to LCMS Youth Ministry, please visit www.lcms.org/youth.

Vicar Jeremy will be attending with 8 youth. Please continue to pray for them.

REAL.PRESENT.GOD.

2019 LCMS Youth Gathering



Thank you for your generous encouragement. We thoroughly enjoy our time with you every visit.

As we mentioned our community is quite small and we give thanks for you and Bethlehem for allowing us a place to call home.

Dave and Sabra

Who Can Help You at BLC

Altar Guild	Val Gruhn	904-536-2912
Baptism	Church Office	904-249-5418
Bible Study	Rev. Keith Bicknase	904-249-5418
	Alex Limbaugh	904-219-5044
CD Ministry	Office	904-249-5418
Coffee Fellowship	Carol Pietrasiuk	904-536-2871
Columbarium	Val Gruhn	904-536-2912
Elders	Gordon Gruhn	904-838-6585
Fellowship	Brenda Murray	904-220-0447
Funerals	Church Office	904-249-5418
8:00 Greeters	Anna Arno	904-223-1766
9:30 Greeters	Joan Richards	904-463-6703
11:00 Greeters	Jean Shimp	904-249-2040
Hand bells	Brenda Murray	904-220-0447
Kitchen cleanup	Carol Pietrasiuk	904-536-2871
Mission House	Brenda Murray	904-220-0447
Newsletter Articles	Church Office	904-249-5418
Outreach	Holly Dellinger	904-346-6059
Prayer Ministry	Vicar	904-249-5418
Preschool	Pat May	904-249-1204
Property	Brian Kientz	904-230-0572
Screen Operators	Romaine Moore	904-422-2881
Senior Card Day	MaryAnn Lawrence	904-246-3279
SS	Deb Donnelly	904-241-4062
8:00 Ushers	Susan Heimbach	904-307-1917
9:30 Ushers	Donny Barley	904-955-3838
11:00 Ushers	Allan Werner	904-223-0939
VBS	Darlene Maxwell	904-307-9078
Weddings	Church Office	904-249-5418

Schedule for April

	Screens	Greeters	Altar
April 3	7 pm	Tami/Jenn	Val
April 7	8 am	Pat	Jenn Susan
	9:30 am	Brenda Joan R	Brenda
	11 am	Gina Lee & Joan F	Kathy
April 10	7 pm	Tami/Jenn	Val
April 14	8 am	Angela	Anna Val
	9:30 am	Candice Joan R	Nina
	11 am	Carol Julie T, Rita W	Beth
April 18	7 pm	Maundy Thursday	
April 19	12 noon 7 pm	Good Friday	
April 21	7 am	Val	Brenda Val
Easter	9 am	Tami Joan R	Tami
	11 am	Toni Bruce & Holly D	Carol
April 28	8 am	Sam	Carol Susan
	9:30 am	Romaine Joan R	
	11 am	Carol Mary D & Jean S	Diana

Thank you for your service

Bethlehem Lutheran, Bible Study, Children and Families, Ministry Meetings, Music Ministry, Official Acts, Outside Groups, Pastor/Staff, Preschool, Apr 2019 (Eastern Time - New York)
 Special Events, Youth and Young Adults, Christian Holidays

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 Fourth S. in Lent 8am - Liturgical Worship @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Family: Contemporary 9:30am - Sunday School @ 11am - Liturgical Worship @	1 9:30am - Senior Game Day @ 6:30pm - Small Group @ The 6:45pm - Gideon's Meeting @	2 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm - Small Group on Hodges	3 9:30am - Chapel with the 12pm - Midweek Lenten Worship 1pm - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm 5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade 7pm - Midweek Lenten Worship 8pm - Choir Rehearsal @	4 9:15am - Prayer Group @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:45pm - AA Meeting @ 6:45pm - Barnabas Life Group	5 Church Office Closed Good Friday (regional holiday) Preschool Closed 12pm - Good Friday Worship 6pm - BLC Serves Supper at 7pm - Good Friday Worship	6 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 9am - Church cleanup day 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @
7 Fifth S. in Lent 8am - Liturgical Worship @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Family: Contemporary 9:30am - Sunday School @ 11am - Liturgical Worship @	8 6:30pm - "South of the Border"	9 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Elder's Meeting @	10 9:30am - Chapel with the 12pm - Midweek Lenten Worship 1pm - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm 5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade 7pm - Midweek Lenten Worship 8pm - Choir Rehearsal @	11 9:15am - Prayer Group @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:45pm - AA Meeting @ 6:45pm - Gideon Ladies Meeting	12 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @	13 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @
14 Easter Sunday 8am - Liturgical Worship @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Family: Contemporary 9:30am - Sunday School @ 11am - Liturgical Worship @ 12pm - Confirmation Dinner @	15 Jen Out of Office	16 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - MPC Meeting @ Conf. Rm	17 9:30am - Chapel with the 11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm 5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade	18 Maundy Thursday 9am - Circuit Pastor's 9:15am - Prayer Group @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:45pm - AA Meeting @ 7pm - Holy (Maundy) Thursday	19 Church Office Closed Holy Saturday 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @	20 Holy Saturday 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @
21 Easter Sunday Feed My Sheep Sunday @ 7am - Liturgical Sunrise Worship 8am - Easter Breakfast @ 8:30am - Easter Egg Hunt @ 9am - Liturgical Worship @ 11am - Liturgical Worship @	22 Church Office Closed Easter Monday 6:30pm - "South of the Border"	23 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal 7pm - Executive Council Meeting	24 9:30am - Chapel with the 11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm 5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	25 9:15am - Prayer Group @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 6pm - Preschool Board Meeting 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 6:45pm - AA Meeting @	26 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @	27 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @
28 Mites Sunday Second S. of Easter 8am - Donut Sunday @ Disciples' 8am - Liturgical Worship @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 9:30am - Family: Contemporary 9:30am - Sunday School @ 11am - Liturgical Worship @	29 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	30 6pm - Hand Bell Choir Rehearsal	1 9:30am - Chapel with the 11am - Staff Meeting @ Conf. Rm 11:30am - Gideon's Luncheon @ 5:30pm - 7th & 8th Grade 7pm - Adult Bible Study @	2 9:15am - Prayer Group @ 9:30am - Adult Bible Study @ 6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal @ 6:45pm - AA Meeting @ 6:45pm - Barnabas Life Group	3 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @	4 8:45am - AA Meeting @ 10am - Praise Team Rehearsal @