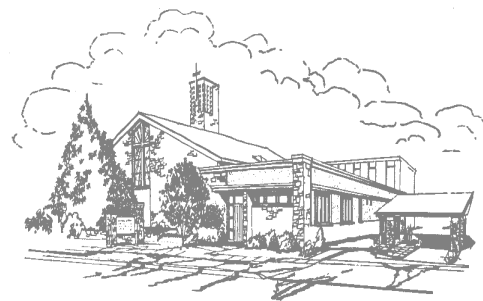


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Lutheran Church Lansing



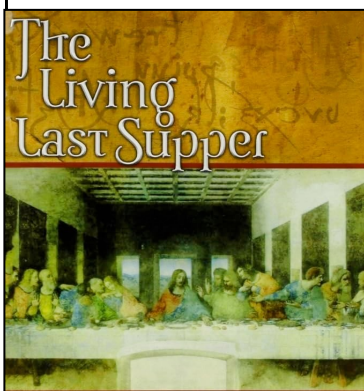
Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church - Lansing, Michigan

Pastor Matthew A. Smith

March 2024

My Lenten Gift Envelope

Offerings using the “My Lenten Gift” envelope in the February newsletter will be given to the Pine Ridge Food Ministry at the Pine Ridge Reconciliation Center. According to Pastor Dan, Pine Ridge is currently spending on average \$4,000 per week to feed youth at the Reconciliation Center and the growing un-housed population on the reservation. If you are saving money this Lent on something you have given up, please consider sharing that money with God’s people in need. Additional envelopes are available on the ‘Welcome’ table.



Living Last Supper

On Maundy Thursday, March 28, at 7:30 pm, our Choir will perform the Living Last Supper cantata with actors portraying each of the disciples as well as our Lord and Savior, Jesus.

One of Christianity's most significant events was brilliantly portrayed by Leonardo Da Vinci: The Last Supper. This Renaissance masterpiece is brought to life in Ruth Elaine Schram's remarkable work The Living Last Supper. The music passionately captures the feeling of the event while the disciples speak, expressing their innermost thoughts with brief but poignant monologues.

In years past our observance on Maundy Thursday have include a soup and sandwich supper. That MAY happen again this year at 6:30 prior to the service. Watch the bulletins for updates.

First Communion

What WILL happen this year on Maundy Thursday is that three of our young people will receive their first Holy Communion as part of our Communion service in The Living Last Supper. We will also present Bibles as a gift from the congregation to aid in their faith journeys to our three students, Layla Peckham, Joy Thompson, and Phoebe Prowdley in worship on **Sunday, March 3**. After completing their preparations we are eager to welcome these three young people to the celebration of the Lord’s Supper.

Prayer Vigil

In anticipation of the end of our Holy Lament during our Lenten journey this year, we will hold an Easter Prayer Vigil from noon on Holy Saturday (March 30) until midnight. This will be a time for us to immerse ourselves in prayer as we await our Lord’s resurrection, where we find the joy that holds us in the midst of our lament. This time is meant to be a solemn memorial of Christ’s death and resurrection. You may sit, stand, or kneel wherever folks feel comfortable in the sanctuary.

We will provide a list of prayers and prayer suggestions to accompany you through your 30 minute (or more) time slot. We will be taking prayer requests from the congregation on Sunday, March 17 and 24. Sign-up sheets will be in the Social Hall for Hosts, and times to pray. It is such a blessing to be able to spend this time in prayerful anticipation, and we pray that you will join us!

◇◇ Pastor Matt

549 E. Mt. Hope Ave.
Lansing, Michigan 48910
Phone: (517) 482-3225
FAX: (517) 482-2458

Ministers

*All of the members of
Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

Pastor Matthew A. Smith
pastormattsmith@gmail.com
(517) 881-9890

Assistant to The Pastor
Pastor John W. Burow
pastorjburow@yahoo.com
(517) 614-4559

Church Secretary / Star Editor
Tracy Baker
bethlehemlansing@gmail.com
(517) 482-3225

Congregation President
Jim Whitman
jim.whitman@whitman
managementgroup.com

Organist
James Schippers
jameschippers@gmail.com

Choir Director
Sue Nelson
ntimothy1@att.net

Handbell Choir Director
James Schippers

Contemporary Worship Director
Laurey Wyble

Office Hours
9:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (M-F)

Visit our website at:
www.bethlutheran.org

Worship Schedule

10:00 - Worship - Holy Comm.
Sanctuary - in person
And LIVE Streaming on
YouTube

[https://www.youtube.com/
@bethlehemworship126/streams](https://www.youtube.com/@bethlehemworship126/streams)

Worship in March 2024

Assisting Ministers

March 3 - Bob Meeker
March 10 - Susan Mahoney
March 17 - Nancy Holderread
March 24 - Crystal Collins
March 31 - Don Telles

Children's Sermons

March 3 - Pastor Matt Smith
March 10 - Pastor Matt Smith
March 17 - Pastor John Burow
March 24 - Pastor Matt Smith
March 31 - Pastor Matt Smith

100TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

We continue BELC's 100th Anniversary celebration April 14, with the third 25 year period from 1974-1999. Our former pastors, Jim Schalkhauser and Jim Lichtenberger will be our guest ministers. Highlights include dedication of the handbells, sponsoring the Cot Nyugen family from Vietnam, Bethel Bible Study, Parish Health Ministry, Neighborhood Kids Night, Rotating Sanctuary, the addition to the church, Food Pantry, and many other activities in the life and mission of BELC.

Following the service we will gather for a potluck reception in the fellowship hall. The entrée will be furnished along with your table service. **Please bring either a dessert or salad to share.** (Pastor Jim loves pies!!)

If you have memorabilia for this period please bring it to church and leave in the front office. Please make copies, the committee won't be able to return them. Memorabilia of your baptism, confirmation, Sunday School activities, sports activities, etc... You can put them in the plastic container in the front office at the top of the stairs in the lobby. We are looking forward to a great celebration together!!

Thank you, The 100th Anniversary Committee

CELEBRATION DATES TO REMEMBER:

1974-1998: *Sunday, April 14, 2024*

1999-2024: *Sunday, September 15, 2024*

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2024: GRAND CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

Statement of Purpose and Guiding Principles for Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

God's purpose for our church, as disciples of Jesus Christ, is to share with all people God's word, love and saving grace.

We will pursue this purpose by:

1. Being a Christ-centered, joyful community of baptized believers who gather regularly for worship, the Lord's Supper, study and prayer.
2. Inviting, accepting, and supporting all people as we build attentive, respectful relationships.
3. Taking action and risks with bold faith, acknowledging our imperfection, while trusting in Christ.
4. Actively engaging in community outreach near and far.
5. Being faithful stewards of our time, talents, possessions and all of God's creation.

Adopted January 29, 2017

STEWARDSHIP

Our 'Journey on to Eternal Life

For the past few generations, Martin Luther, who was a pastor, theologian, author, hymnwriter, and professor, has been and continues to be one of the most referenced or quoted spiritual leaders of all time. Luther was a prolific writer, so he has a wealth of articles, books, and essays to quote. The following amazing paragraph from Luther's commentary on 1 Peter does not reference the word stewardship or steward, but it conveys foundational truths of Christian stewardship.

Therefore, we must use all these things upon earth in no other way than as a guest who travels through the land and comes to a hotel where he must lodge overnight. He takes only food and lodging from the host, and he says not that the property of the host belongs to him. Just so should we also treat our temporal possessions, as if they were not ours, and enjoy only so much of them as we need to nourish the body and then help our neighbors with the balance. Thus, the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night, since we have here no continuing city, but must journey on to heaven, where the Father is.

Martin Luther aptly points out that, while on earth, we are God's guests. God is the creator, sustainer, and owner of all things. Both the food we eat and the homes we live in are provided by God. God makes it possible for us to plant food to eat, because He provides the seeds, ground, sunlight, and rain. He gives us the intelligence, strength, and energy to harvest the crops that He makes possible for us to plant. The meat we eat comes from the animals that live in the fields which God has provided along with the food He makes possible for them to eat. God also provides the materials for our homes. Our lives are in God's hands. As His stewards, we receive His blessings with thanksgiving.

Luther's perspective on temporal possessions is totally opposite of what our society promotes. Our society tells us that we create and have control over all we have. Our happiness and security are dependent upon having things. Our status is determined by what we have so we work long and hard to have big homes, new cars, and large investment accounts. In contrast, Luther reminds us that things, both necessities and luxuries, are God gifts on loan to us. Luther encourages us to be satisfied with enough to provide for our needs and to use the rest to support our neighbors and God's kingdom.

Luther reminds us that "the life of the Christian is only a lodging for the night." Likewise, the Apostle Paul tells us that "our citizenship is in heaven" (Philippians 3:20), so we "press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14). Our earthly journey is merely temporary until we embrace that the kingdom of heaven is at hand (Mark 1:14-15). By God's grace, Luther knew that this life is a journey on to eternal life. We do as well.

OUTREACH OPPORTUNITY

Easter Family Food Baskets

For those who would like to participate with the Easter Food Basket Project, The **RED BAGS** are back!! Suggested types of donations for the Easter Food baskets is on a table in the Lobby. Options will include purchasing either a ham or hams, or a list of grocery items (list attached to the red bags.) These donations will need to be brought to the church by Tuesday, March 12th. Hams should be placed in the chest freezer in the gym. The Red Bags should be placed on the table by the room divider boards in the gym.

Volunteers for the Easter Baskets will also be needed during the week of March 17th. If you are willing to pick up perishable grocery items or help with basket distribution on Saturday March 23rd, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the lobby!

Volunteer Opportunity

Do you excel at Microsoft **EXCEL**? Are you wanting to participate in a ministry opportunity without having to attend a monthly Board Meeting? If **YES**, read on! The Board of Outreach is in need of someone who has skills in using Excel to manage the list of families who receive the Bethlehem Holiday Food Baskets. Please call or talk to Liisa Whitman or Kris Burow if this is something that fits the bill for you. Your help would bring accolades of thanks!

Pancake Breakfast

FREE WILL
OFFERING



SUNDAY, MARCH 17TH
AFTER CHURCH

To benefit our Youth attending the
National Youth Gathering

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED

TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering



NOISY OFFERING

TO SUPPORT OUR YOUTH
GROUP'S TRIP TO THE
NATIONAL YOUTH GATHERING
IN NEW ORLEANS

EVERY THIRD SUNDAY OF
THE MONTH LEADING UP TO
THE GATHERING

TODAY!!!



Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church Women

Women of the
Evangelical Lutheran Church
in America

All women of Bethlehem Lutheran Church are members of the Women of the ELCA and are invited and encouraged to participate in all activities listed in the newsletters, bulletins, flyers or on the bulletin boards.

BELCW

*Bethlehem Evangelical
Lutheran Church Women*

Exciting Opportunity to Serve as Vice President for BELCW

We are still looking for a Vice President! As Vice President, you support the President while learning the role. This is a wonderful opportunity to contribute your skills, knowledge, and enthusiasm to our women's ministry that empowers and uplifts women in our church, the community, and in the world. If you are enthusiastic about making a positive difference in the lives of women and are ready to take on a leadership role, we invite you to talk with any of our board members listed below. Our board meets via Zoom once a month and does a little work behind the scenes. Mostly we have fun and support one another!

President – Laurey Wyble

Vice President – Vacant (Please prayerfully consider being part of this wonderful mission)

Secretary – Susan Sterling

Treasurer – Peggy Teter

Mission Action – Kelly Carpenter

Mission Growth – Tosha Brisbo

Publicity – Michelle Smith

Circle Chairs – Laura Halbakken (Harmony), Cindy Marsh (Friendship), and Susan Mahoney (Rainbow)

Looking Forward:

We have two great events coming up In the coming months. This month we will have our **Chili Cook-Off** on March 16th at 6:00PM. Bring your best chili to see If you can top our reigning champion, Laura Halbakken's recipe! Sign up is located in the gym.

Retreat Is scheduled for April 19-21 at Little Pine Island. Watch the newsletter for all of the details.

Offerings to BELCW – If you would like to make an offering to the BELCW, please send checks to Peggy Teter, Treasurer, 1854 Creek Landing, Haslett, MI 48840.

Upcoming Events:

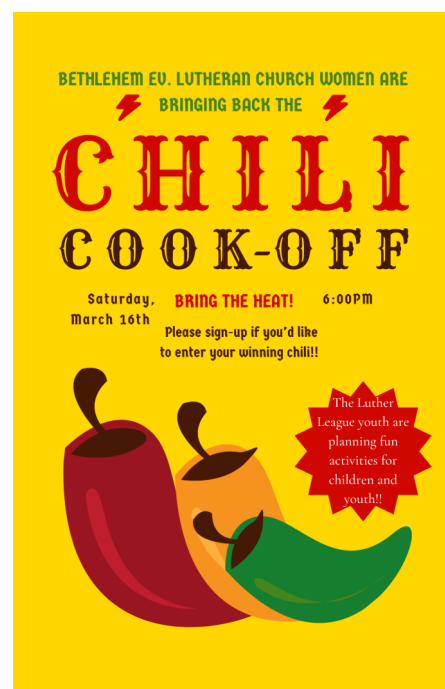
03/02/24	9:30 AM	FAB
03/04/24	6:30 PM	Board Meeting
03/06/24	TBD	Bible Study Leaders Meeting
03/13/24	9:00 AM	Quilting
03/13/24	6:30 PM	Harmony Circle
03/18/24	6:30 PM	Friendship Circle
03/19/24	1:00 PM	Rainbow Circle

COMING EVENTS

CHILI COOK-OFF

The BELCW is busy! We have been meeting in our Circles, in Bible Study and Fellowship. With circles meeting, as well as FAB and Quilting, there is a lot going on! Not only are groups meeting regularly, the BELCW is once again hosting a **CHILI COOK-OFF**, with activities for children and youth hosted by some of the Luther League youth. This event is for the entire church on; **Saturday, March 16th at 6:00 p.m.** Please sign up on the sheet in the gym if you would like to compete.

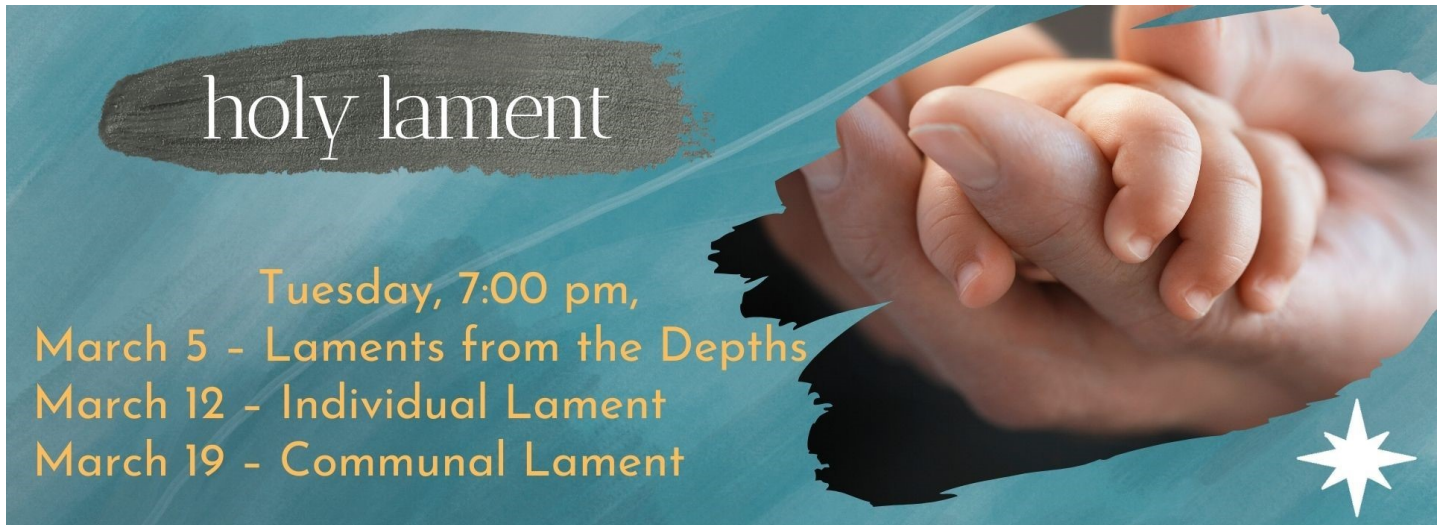
We hope to see you all there!



BELCW RETREAT IS COMING!!!

This is the year for our 29th annual BELCW retreat! We are in the early stages of preparing this weekend for you but want you to mark **April 19-21** on your calendars! We will be at Little Pine Island again this year and will again be using the main lodge only and preparing our own food. We will be getting in touch with those who have already signed up for a committee and calling on others to help fill in the rest. We will be preparing and serving our own food again this year solely due to the number of women attending. Please spread the word, ask friends and we'll have the rest of the information to you in the next newsletter and through your circle chairs. Sign up will begin on Sunday, March 24th. In the meantime, put this weekend on your calendar and prepare to have a wonderful faith-filled time with your sisters in Christ!!

Lenten Worship Series – Holy Lament



Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday worship
will all happen at 7:30 pm, *on their respective days.*

New this year, our 'midweek' worship in the series, "Holy Lament",

will happen on ***Tuesdays*** at 7:00 pm.

Our Lenten and Holy Week Worship will explore the various kinds of lament found in Scripture. We will discover that many faithful believers have struggled with sorrow. This series understands lament as one of the more faithful things we can do. When we approach God with honesty and humility, and we admit that some things are too big for our hearts to bear, we will find that God weeps with us. We will find a God who can take our grief and disappointment and transform them into holy joy and renewed hope. We will learn, ultimately, that Jesus' death on the cross—the place to which the season of Lent leads us—is the reason we never mourn as those without hope.

Adapted from Sundays & Seasons c 2023 Augsburg Fortress

While some may lament the loss of Wednesdays for our midweek service this year, you may still find joy in the fact the ***Potlucks are back!***

Our Tuesday evenings will begin with a **potluck for ALL at 6:00 pm, followed by worship at 7:00.** The Board of Worship Life has made this change to honor the time commitment of our dedicated volunteers, for whom we are grateful!

3/05/24 Tuesday, Week Three – "Laments from the Depths"

3/12/24 Tuesday, Week Four – "Individual Lament"

3/19/24 Tuesday, Week Five – "Communal Lament"

3/24/24 Palm/Passion Sunday

3/28/24 Maundy Thursday – The Living Last Supper

3/29/24 Good Friday – "A Tenebrae of Joy in the Midst of Lament"

3/31/24 Easter Sunday!



Prayer Corner

Please Note: Hospitals do not notify churches when a member has been hospitalized; even if you inform them at registration of your church membership. If you would like a visit from the pastor, please call the church office at 482-3225 or call Pastor Matt directly at 517-881-9890.

REMEMBER IN YOUR PRAYERS and with your cards and visits:

John Nelson in Grand Haven Living Center-Senior Care in Lansing
Rhoda Hunter in Prestige Way on Keller Road in Holt
Marilyn Bass-Huyser in Independence Village, Grand Ledge
Betty Strother in Independence Village, East Lansing
Joe & Audrey Skidmore, in Assisted Living, Sedona, AZ
Kurt Kollmeyer, Ingham County Medical Care, Okemos
Cheryl VanPatten, Regency at Grand Ledge Rehabilitation Center

Those at home: Kaye Alden, John Bartel, Virginia Bauman
Tosha Brisbo, Lois Cairns, Crystal Collins, Joann Dyer
Emma Hicks, Nancy Jackson, Michael Mahoney, Linda McClellan
Yvonne Nelson, Tharin Palmer, Sandy Rollis, Carol Roush
Connie Scott, Betty VanConant, Matthew White

If you know of a member you would like us to include on this list or remove from this list, please call the church office.

MISSION PARTNERS Pray for the people and ministry at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Pray for the Baker Neighborhood Partners and Community Police Officer, Morgan Schafer and other first responders.



Pastoral Acts:

Memorial:

Shelby Waters

February 03, 2024

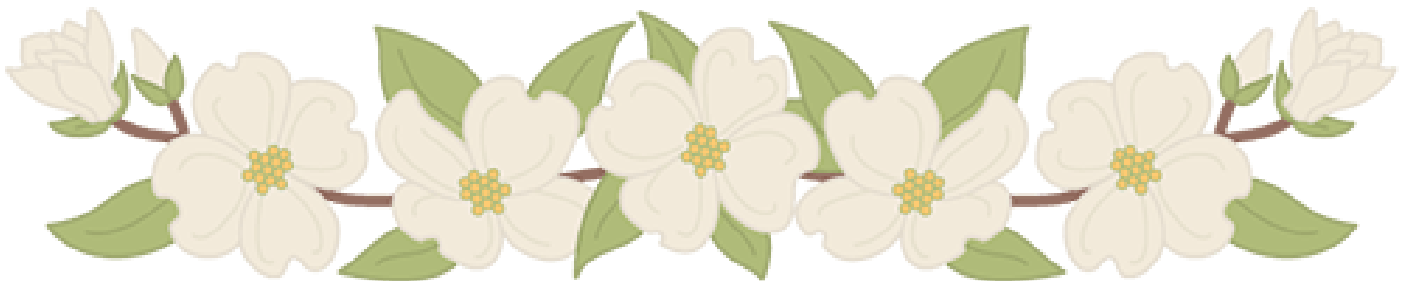
Maureen Sartor

February 19, 2024

PRAY for those who are on active duty in the United States Military Services:

Chris Browne – U.S. Air Force
Tyler Barnes – U.S. Marines
Isaiah Castellanos – U.S. Army
Andrew Devine – U.S. Nat'l Guard
Carson Kosloski – U.S. Marines
Joshua Kosloski – U.S. Army

Rusty Landry – U.S. Air Nat'l Guard
Christopher Morgan – U.S. Marines
Ben Painter – U.S. Air Force
Ryan Schiffner – U.S. Air Force
Dayton Tucker – U.S. Marines



Dear Friends,

On behalf of each person helped through the programs of Advent House Ministries, we offer our heartfelt appreciation for your donation of \$250 in December. Know that your support is making a difference for hundreds of men, women, and children struggling with poverty and homelessness.

Each day your gift brings joy and peace to so many in need. You are making a difference, helping achieve the potential of each unique individual who comes to Advent House.

Thank you again, and may God's grace and peace be with each of you.

Sincerely,

Susan E. Cancro, Executive Director of The Advent House Ministries

Spring Plants for Easter Worship

March 17th will be the deadline for ordering Spring Plants to be used for **Bethlehem's Easter Worship Service on March 31st**. Sponsors may take their plants home after the morning worship Service. Sign up sheets will be on the table in the gym by the refreshments table beginning **March 3rd**. **Payment must be received by March 24th**. Checks should be made payable to Kris Burow. If you are mailing a check, please check with the church office for the current address or go to Bethlehem 360. If paying with cash it must be **placed in an envelope with your name, amount, and number of plants ordered**.

Plants will be in 6 inch pots and options will include:

White Lilies - \$15
Yellow Daffodils - \$11

Tulips (Varied colors) - \$11
Kalanchoe/Calandiva - \$11



Altar Flowers for Worship Services:

The 2024 Flower Chart is posted in the Lobby.

If you have a special date to celebrate, please sign up to be a flower sponsor for that Sunday.

**The order is submitted on the 20th of each month,
so please sign up at least several weeks in advance.**

Arrangements are \$40

and can be taken home after the worship service for you to enjoy for the days ahead.

We have been fortunate to have Smith Floral provide beautiful arrangements for Bethlehem!

Thank you to all who sponsor our Altar flowers.

taking⁺ faith home

Here, you will find a list of the scripture readings that are part of the Daily Lectionary which move us from one Sunday to the next. You can also find these readings on our "Taking Faith Home" sheets we distribute after worship. They are also posted daily on our Facebook page. We encourage you to read your Bible every day as you live out your life of discipleship.

MARCH 2024

<u>01</u> Ezekiel 36:21-28	<u>08</u> 2 Samuel 7:18-29	<u>16</u> Psalm 107:1-22	<u>24</u> Mark 11:1-11
<u>02</u> Psalm 22:23-31	<u>09</u> Psalm 19	<u>17</u> John 12:20-33	<u>25</u> Mark 14:1-15:47
<u>03</u> John 2:13-22	<u>10</u> John 3:14-21	<u>18</u> Jeremiah 31:31-34	<u>26</u> Isaiah 50:4-9
<u>04</u> Exodus 20:1-17	<u>11</u> Numbers 21:4-9	<u>19</u> Hebrews 5:5-10	<u>27</u> Philippians 2:5-11
<u>05</u> 1 Corinth. 1:18-25	<u>12</u> Ephesians 2:1-10	<u>20</u> 1 John 4:7-12	<u>28</u> Zechariah 9:9-13
<u>06</u> Proverbs 24:3-4	<u>13</u> Romans 9:6-18	<u>21</u> Numbers 12:1-9	<u>29</u> John 18:1-19:42
<u>07</u> Joshua 24:14-18	<u>14</u> Isaiah 30:18-22	<u>22</u> Acts 7:54-60	<u>30</u> Psalm 31:9-16
	<u>15</u> Titus 3:1-8	<u>23</u> Psalm 51:1-12	<u>31</u> John 20:1-18



MARCH 2024

Joanna Alvera	March 2
Phil Hassler	March 15
Faye Norris	March 16
Dale Meyer	March 18
Jill Pullum	March 19
Dee Bernardi	March 20
Susan Colegrove	March 20
Betty VanConant	March 23
Janell Liles	March 24
Mike Lamb	March 25
Ruth Schaar	March 30

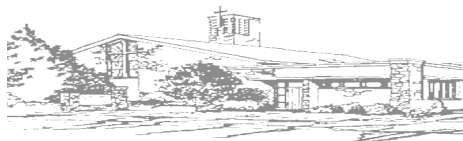


Happy Birthday

Each year our birthday list of members 62 and over is updated from the church records. If for some reason you do not wish to have your name appear in the newsletter or if you see someone we have missed, please call the church office.

Bethlehem Star

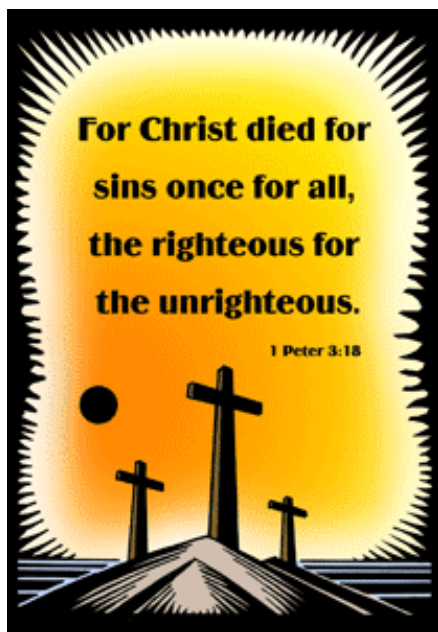
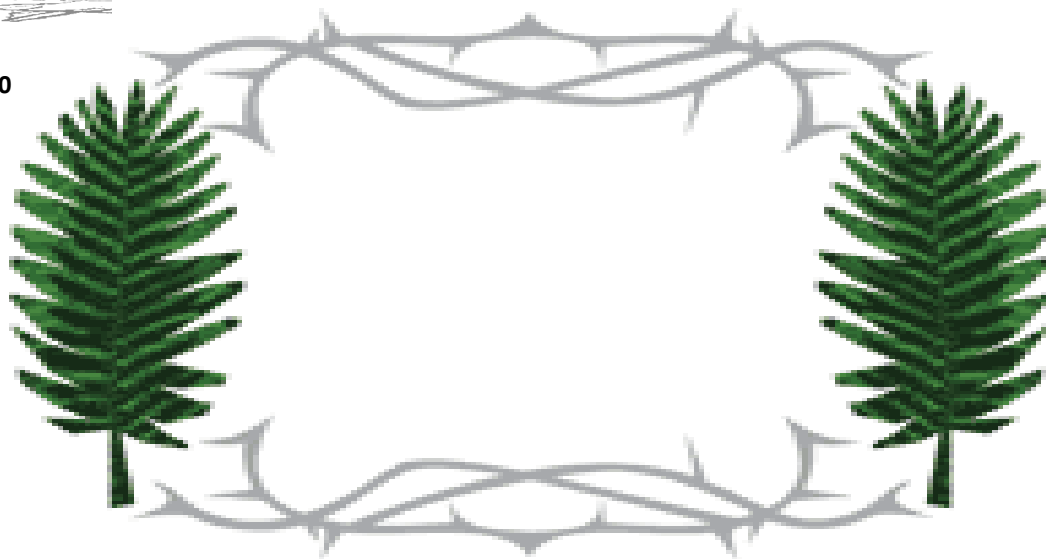
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



2024

Newsletter Deadline is **March 15**
for the **April 2024** Bethlehem Star.

Also available at
www.bethlutheran.org

In-Home Date: March 2, 2024
Mailed on February 29, 2024

