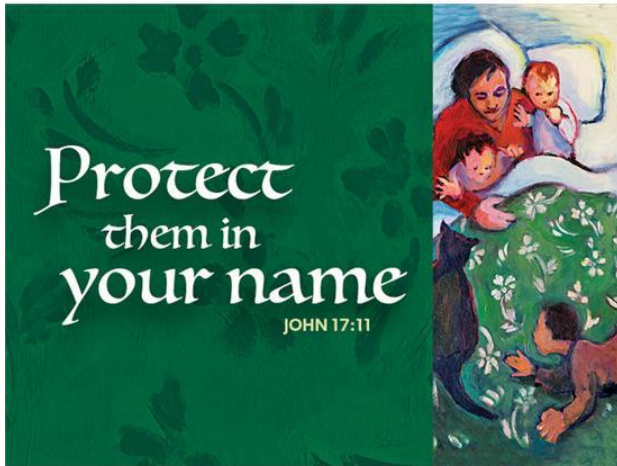




# Welcome to Bethlehem Lutheran Church

God's family working together to welcome all.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Easter

May 8<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>

W8267 Hwy 33 East,  
Portage, Wisconsin 53901

Pastor Jaime Benson  
Office: 608-742-8502

[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)

Church Office Hours:

Mon-Wed 9 am to 3 pm

Thurs-Fri 9 am to 12 pm

or by appointment

**Hearing assistance devices** are available on the counter in the Narthex for your convenience. Please ask the usher for help.

**Large print copies of the bulletin** are available in the Narthex.

**Daily Devotionals** are available in the Narthex. These come out quarterly.

**Holy Communion** is celebrated each week; all people of God are welcome. We offer it two ways: prepacked and communion at the altar. You can pick up the pre-filled communion cup on your way into the sanctuary or ask the usher for it at communion time. It has a wafer, which you open first by lifting the clear cellophane on top and then the grape juice. If you would like a **gluten free wafer**, please let the usher know before the start of worship. We also offer communion at the altar for those that wish to come up. Please fill out a Communion Card found in the pew racks and give it to the usher when you come up for communion.

**Children's Worship Activity Bags** are available in the Narthex with activities for your children, please help yourself. You can place the used activity bags in the basket located beneath the activity bag tree as you leave. We have a **Cry Room** for your comfort where you can hear and see the service.

Ways to stay connected. Follow us on



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*Enter to praise*

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*We invite those who are able to stand each time this symbol ❖ appears in the bulletin.*

❖ THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

Alleluia! Christ is risen! **Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, the wellspring of grace, our Easter and our joy. **Amen.**  
Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Immersed in the promises of baptism, let us give thanks for what God has done for us. We give you thanks, O God, for in the beginning your voice thundered over the deep and water became the essence of life. Adam and Eve beheld Eden's verdant rivers. The ark carried your creation through the flood into a new day. Miriam led the dancing as your people passed through the sea into freedom's land. In a desert pool the Ethiopian official entered your boundless baptismal life. Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

At the river your beloved Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit. By the baptism of Jesus' death and resurrection you opened the floodgates of your reconciling love, freeing us to live as Easter people. We rejoice with glad hearts, giving all honor and praise to you, through the risen Christ, our source of living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Look, here is water! **Here is our water of life! Alleluia!**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who writes the law on our hearts, who draws all people together through Jesus. **Amen.**

❖ GATHERING HYMN

#392 v 1-2 "Alleluia! Sing to Jesus"

❖ GREETING

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

❖ PRAYER OF THE DAY

**Gracious and glorious God, you have chosen us as your own, and by the powerful name of Christ you protect us from evil. By your Spirit transform us and your beloved world, that we may find our joy in your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

FIRST READING: Acts 1:15-17, 21-26

<sup>15</sup>In those days Peter stood up among the believers (together the crowd numbered about one hundred twenty persons) and said, <sup>16</sup>"Friends, the scripture had to be fulfilled, which the Holy Spirit through David foretold concerning Judas, who became a guide for those who arrested Jesus—<sup>17</sup>for he was numbered among us and was allotted his share in this ministry."<sup>21</sup> So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, <sup>22</sup>beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—

one of these must become a witness with us to his resurrection.”<sup>23</sup> So they proposed two, Joseph called Barsabbas, who was also known as Justus, and Matthias.<sup>24</sup> Then they prayed and said, “Lord, you know everyone’s heart. Show us which one of these two you have chosen<sup>25</sup> to take the place in this ministry and apostleship from which Judas turned aside to go to his own place.”<sup>26</sup> And they cast lots for them, and the lot fell on Matthias; and he was added to the eleven apostles. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM: 1

<sup>1</sup>Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

<sup>2</sup>**Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God’s teaching day and night.**

<sup>3</sup>They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

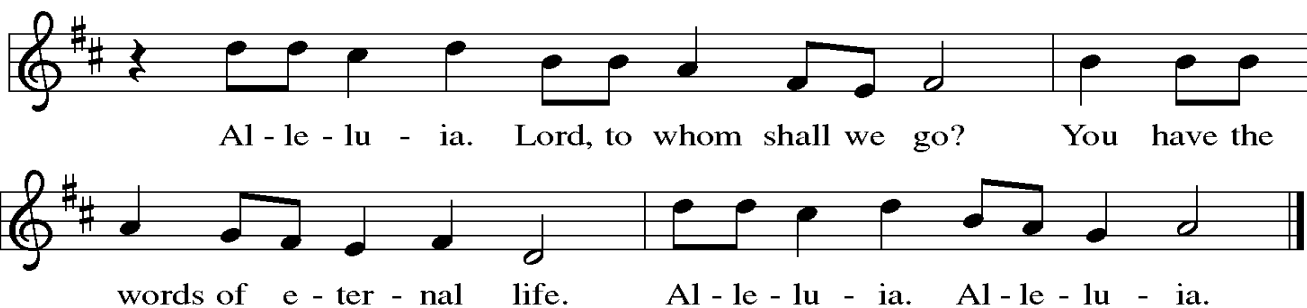
<sup>4</sup>**It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

<sup>5</sup>Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

<sup>6</sup>**For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

SECOND READING: 1 John 5:9-13

<sup>9</sup>If we receive human testimony, the testimony of God is greater; for this is the testimony of God that he has testified to his Son. <sup>10</sup>Those who believe in the Son of God have the testimony in their hearts. Those who do not believe in God have made him a liar by not believing in the testimony that God has given concerning his Son. <sup>11</sup>And this is the testimony: God gave us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. <sup>12</sup>Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life. <sup>13</sup>I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life. The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

❖ Musical notation for the hymn. It consists of two staves of music in G major (one sharp) and 4/4 time. The first staff begins with a treble clef, a key signature of one sharp (F#), and a common time signature (C). The melody starts with a quarter rest, followed by quarter notes G4, A4, B4, C5, then eighth notes B4, A4, G4, F#4, and a quarter note E4. The second staff continues with quarter notes D4, C4, B3, A3, then quarter notes G3, F#3, E3, and a final quarter note D3. The lyrics are: "Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia."

GOSPEL READING: John 17:6-19

The holy gospel according to John. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

[Jesus prayed:] <sup>6</sup>“I have made your name known to those whom you gave me from the world. They were yours, and you gave them to me, and they have kept your word. <sup>7</sup>Now they know that everything you have given me is from you; <sup>8</sup>for the words that you gave to me I have given

to them, and they have received them and know in truth that I came from you; and they have believed that you sent me. <sup>9</sup>I am asking on their behalf; I am not asking on behalf of the world, but on behalf of those whom you gave me, because they are yours. <sup>10</sup>All mine are yours, and yours are mine; and I have been glorified in them. <sup>11</sup>And now I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to you. Holy Father, protect them in your name that you have given me, so that they may be one, as we are one. <sup>12</sup>While I was with them, I protected them in your name that you have given me. I guarded them, and not one of them was lost except the one destined to be lost, so that the scripture might be fulfilled.

<sup>13</sup>But now I am coming to you, and I speak these things in the world so that they may have my joy made complete in themselves. <sup>14</sup>I have given them your word, and the world has hated them because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>15</sup>I am not asking you to take them out of the world, but I ask you to protect them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup>They do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. <sup>17</sup>Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth. <sup>18</sup>As you have sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world. <sup>19</sup>And for their sakes I sanctify myself, so that they also may be sanctified in truth.” The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

❖ HYMN OF THE DAY

#482 “I Come with Joy”

BAPTISM

Aaron, Jack, and Oscar Steiger

NEW MEMBERS JOINING

Travis, Jody, Phillip, Aaron, Jack, and Oscar Steiger

❖ THE APOSTLES’ CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

❖ MISSION STATEMENT

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a growing community where we love inclusively, welcome, serve, and thrive through our relationship with God.**

❖ THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE *Pray aloud as the Spirit guides you.*

P: Rejoicing that Jesus is risen and love has triumphed over fear, let us pray for the church, the world, and all those in need of good news.

*A brief silence.*

You sanctify us in your truth; your word is truth. Send your church out into the world to spread your love and joy. Embolden all bishops, pastors, and deacons to be faithful ministers of your word and sacraments. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation groans under the strain of pollution. Preserve melting glaciers and dwindling forests. Bolster those who work for climate justice and help us all to be good and faithful stewards of your creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your people seek wisdom, understanding, and peace. Guide all those who govern and inspire them to work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our midst. Keep safe first responders, those serving in the military, and those whose duty it is to protect others. Bring peace especially to Palestine and Israel. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your children need your loving care. Protect them from all harm. Comfort those in any affliction especially those on our prayer list and those in our hearts. Support those who grieve and bring solace to those near death. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your Spirit lives within us here. Inspire the work of this congregation and unite us as one. Bless all the mothers in our midst, console those for whom this day is difficult, and gather us all under the care of your loving wings. Bless the Steiger family that have joined today. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your saints dwell with you in light. Keep us ever thankful for those who have gone before us in faith. Inspire us by their witness. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: Into your hands, most merciful God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your abiding love; through Jesus Christ, our resurrected and living Lord. **Amen.**

#### ❖PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always. **And also with you.**

OFFERING (Sunday only – please remain quiet and enjoy the special music on the screen titled “Rest On Us”)

*We share our offerings for the mission of Christ through Bethlehem. Thank you for your participation in this ministry to the Glory of God!*

#### ❖OFFERING PRAYER

Risen One, you call us to believe and bear fruit. May the gifts that we offer here be signs of your abiding love. Form us to be your witnesses in the world, through Jesus Christ, our true vine. **Amen.**

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

...we praise your name and join their unending hymn...



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might,  
 heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -  
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who  
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

❖ WORDS OF INSTITUTION

❖ THE LORD'S PRAYER

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.**

❖ INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The risen Christ is made known to us in the breaking of the bread. Come and eat at God's table.

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
 world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
 sin of the world; grant us peace.

## DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION

*You may come forward to receive communion at this time. If you prefer to celebrate communion in your pew with prepackaged elements, please let the usher know.*

## PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Shepherding God, you have prepared a table before us and nourished us with your love. Send us forth from this banquet to proclaim your goodness and share the abundant mercy of Jesus, our redeemer and friend. **Amen.**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Happy Mother's Day to all the moms, grandmas, great-grandmas, nanas, aunts and other special women in our life.
- Graduate Recognition/Pentecost Sunday is next Sunday. There will be fellowship hour and a plant sale here at the church that day as well.
- Photos – we are seeking updated photos of events taking place at the church. Please email to: [office@blcportage.org](mailto:office@blcportage.org)
- Help us save paper! Online communion card available, QR code on the back of bulletin.

## MILESTONES

- Again we welcome the Steiger family and newly baptized Aaron, Jack, and Oscar to the BLC family.

## ❖ BLESSING

The God of resurrection power, the Christ of unending joy, and the Spirit of Easter hope ✚ bless you now and always. **Amen.**

## ❖ SENDING HYMN

#855 v 1-2 “Crown Him with Many Crowns”

## ❖ DISMISSAL

Alleluia! Go in peace. Rejoice and be glad. **Thanks be to God. Alleluia!**

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## *Depart to Share*

### Wednesday Worship Team, 5:30 pm 5/8

Music: Ronna  
Acolyte: Kinleyh Anderson  
Altar Guild/Com. Assist.: Judy Donahue  
Sunday Worship Team, 9:00 am 5/12  
Music: Jody  
Reader: Ginny McNeal  
Usher: John Denhartigh  
Video Production: Joe Jackowski  
Acolyte: Leah Haroldson  
Altar Guild: Nancy Loether  
Com.Assist.: Nancy Loether & Ginny McNeal

### Wednesday Worship Team, 5:30 pm 5/15

Music: Jody  
Acolyte:  
Altar Guild/Com. Assist.: Kathy Lawrence  
Sunday Worship Team, 9:00 am 5/19  
Music: Praise Team  
Reader & Com. Assist.: Nancy Buckley  
Usher: Ellen Kabele  
Video Production: Joe Jackowski  
Acolyte: Avri Anderson  
Altar Guild: Marie Kucksdorf  
Communion Assistant: Darlene Anderson

## This Week at BLC:

### **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am Tai Chi  
1:00 pm Card Club

### **Tuesday, May 14<sup>th</sup>**

9:00 am Quilters

### **Wednesday, May 15<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am Tai Chi  
5:30 pm Worship

### **Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup>**

6:30 pm Council meeting

### **Friday, May 17<sup>th</sup>**

10:30 am Tai Chi

### **Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** (Pentecost, wear red!)

9:00 am Worship & Graduate Recognition  
10:00 am Fellowship in honor of our Grads!  
10:00 am Plant Sale

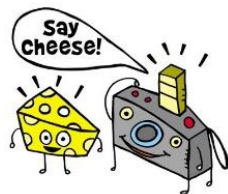


### Plant sale, May 19<sup>th</sup>!

As you head out to the garden, if you have perennials you'd like to split, you can donate them to the church for our plant sale! Please label them with the plant identification, planting instructions & a picture of when it is full grown or blooming. **Please bring them to the church this week.** Office hours are M-W 9-3 pm & Th-F 9-12 pm. Hanging baskets and other annuals also for sale. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Melby.

### Updated photos wanted!

We're updating the photos on our website and need your help! Please email any current photos of events from our church to: [office@blcportage.org](mailto:office@blcportage.org)



## Church Prayer List, please pray for:

Bonnie Bender, Dianna Bush, Lee Chenoweth, Jim Crawford, Dan Pulsfus, Shelly Ritter, Donna Stewart; Mark Teslik, Donn Trinrud. Our sympathies go out to Cloe Rehdantz with the recent loss of her sister & sister-in-law Shirley Rehdantz.

### Our Extended Family Prayer List:

Janice Atkinson (sister of Betty Ring)  
Tony Dixon (nephew of Brian Franson & Bonnie Dixon)  
Mildred Feine (mother of Sandy Sween)  
Chris Kelly (friend of Ginny & Jack Paulson & Nancy & Emil Loether)  
Sue Linton (friend of Betty Ring)  
Yvonne Marshall (daughter of Jean Elliott)  
Freda Manzullo (sister of Mark Teslik)  
Tatiana Sampson (niece of Jean Elliott)  
Sharon Stickford (friend of Ginny Paulson)

### Online Communion Registration!

Help us save paper! Before you turn your phone off for worship service, scan this code and get your info entered for our communion records.



Forgot your phone?

Visit [www.bethlehemlcportage.org](http://www.bethlehemlcportage.org), click on worship, scroll down to Holy Communion, click on the link and enter it when you get home!

### Welcome Steigers!

Today we are blessed with the Steiger family joining the BLC family! Please welcome Travis and Jody along with their children Phillip, Aaron, Jack, and Oscar from Portage. In addition to joining, Aaron, Jack and Oscar are being baptized today!

