

CHIMES Newsletter

APRIL 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 4

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAIME

Lenten greetings to you,

Here we are deep in the season of Lent with Holy Week fast approaching. As tempting as it may be to jump ahead right to Easter and leave Lent behind, I want to encourage all of us to take these final days of Lent and the entirety of Holy Week to lean into all the truth that this time carries and to reflect on how God is revealing Godself to us here and now.

How have the past few weeks been for you this Lent? How have your expectations been met (if they have been)? How have you been surprised? How have you seen and experienced God in new ways? In familiar ways? What has been drawing your attention during this season? What has been life-giving and what has been challenging?

I have been thinking about the Israelites this week and their 40-year journey in the wilderness. Sometimes it feels as if we have been in a wilderness journey of our own. As challenging as the wilderness can be, our time in the wilderness is not wasted time. We can learn a lot about ourselves, each other, and God in our wandering and exploration. These lessons and experiences that we carry then continue with us even after the wilderness is long behind us. So, let's soak up all that Lent has to offer, even if it brings discomfort, because this season leads us to new life and new hope in Christ as we sing God's praise on Easter morning.

In God's steadfast presence,
Pastor Jaime Benson



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UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3

10 am Hand Chime Practice

APRIL 5

5 pm Finance Meeting

APRIL 7

9 am Women's Group

APRIL 10 PALM SUNDAY

9 am Worship, 1st Communion

10 am Sunday School, Easter Egg Hunt

APRIL 13

Food Pantry Helpers

NO Worship

APRIL 14 MAUNDY THURSDAY

6:30 pm Worship

APRIL 15 GOOD FRIDAY

6:30 pm Worship

APRIL 16

9 am Easter Decorating

APRIL 17

9 am Easter Worship followed by
"Egg-stra" Special Coffee Hour

APRIL 18

5:45 pm Stewardship Meeting

APRIL 20

6:30 pm Confirmation Resumes

APRIL 21

6:30 pm Council Meeting

APRIL 24

9 am Youth Led Worship

10 am Earth Day Clean up

APRIL 30

1 pm Women's Tea

OUR CHURCH

LENTEN SOUP SUPPERS



Join us every Wednesday during Lent for 5:30 pm worship followed by fellowship & a soup supper. Below please find the schedule of which groups will be responsible for providing food and which Confirmation kids are responsible for setup & clean up.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE

March 30: High School Youth
Clean up: Confirmation Last Name A-G

April 6: Finance/Covid Task Force
Clean up: Confirmation Last Name H-Z

HOLY WEEK

HOLY WEEK



WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Palm Sunday, April 10, 9am Worship, 1st Communion, Easter Egg Hunt

Wednesday April 13 – no worship

Maundy Thursday, April 14, 6:30 pm

Good Friday, April 15, 6:30 pm

Easter, April 17, 9 am Worship & “Egg-stra” Special Coffee Hour

STATIONS OF THE CROSS



STATIONS of the CROSS

Stations of the Cross have been set up for you to walk through during lent. Hoping this can be a time and space for reflection and prayer. They will stay up through Palm Sunday. You start in the last classroom, proceed to the narthex, and then the nursery. You will

need to bring a family photo with you, which you will get back.

PALM SUNDAY PASSION READING



Looking for people to be a part of a special reading of the Passion. The following parts are needed: Narrator, Jesus, Peter, Apostles, 2 Bystanders, Servant Girl/Centurion, 3 Council Members, Pilate, 2 Criminals. Sign up is in narthex.

GOOD FRIDAY READERS

We are looking for 3 readers for Good Friday’s Worship Service. If you would like to read, please contact the office.

Join us for an
**“EGG-STRA”
SPECIAL**
Coffee Hour on Easter

SUNDAY, APRIL 17TH

LOOKING FOR PEOPLE TO SIGN UP TO BRING
ITEMS. SEE THE ONLINE SIGNUP OR THE
PRINTED SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX

You can sign up online [here](#) to bring something for the “Egg-stra” Special Easter Coffee hour.

DECORATING COMMITTEE

The Decorating Committee is looking for people to join them. You don’t need to have the decorating gene – you just need to have the desire to want to help out! They can especially use some help for Easter. Please contact the office or Margaret Molden if you are interested in joining them.

WOMEN'S GROUP



The Women's Group is scheduled to meet on Thursday, April 7th at 9 am. Save the date: the annual tea is scheduled for April 30th

EXPLORING STEWARDSHIP



BLC's Stewardship Committee has started up again and we're excited to invite all of you to join us for a year-long journey of Exploring Stewardship. More details will be rolled out over the next few weeks and months, but be on the lookout for conversations, activities, and events to guide us through an exploration of what stewardship means here at Bethlehem. Each month, we'll feature a different theme of stewardship because it means so much more than a financial obligation.

With Earth Day coming up, we're going to kick off our journey by exploring **Stewardship of Creation**. To get started, we're including an April calendar full of ideas to help each of us make a positive impact on the resources around us. Make a special note of **Sunday, April 24** and mark your calendars now so you don't miss out - it's going to be a great day! We'll be utilizing the bulletin board in the hallway by the Nursery for sharing other fun ideas for being a good steward of the Earth, along with our Facebook page. In April, if you participate in any of the Stewardship of Creation activities, we invite you to post and share what you are up to with the rest of our Bethlehem community! Posts can be made at church on the bulletin board or on any social media platform, just be sure to tag your post with **#blcstewards** so we can see all the wonderful things happening!

REQUEST FROM QUILTERS

Looking for sheets to back quilts - clean/no stains. Can drop off at church. Thank you!

EARTH DAY ACTIVITIES

On Sunday, April 24th we will be having an Earth Day Cleanup which will include highway clean up, deep cleaning the kitchen, organizing the storage closet, and other projects. We look forward to many people helping out, as many hands make light work!



OPEN DOORS FOR REFUGEES



The Local & Global Committee will continue to collect items for the Open Doors For Refugees until April 10th. Here are the current needs:

dish drainers, narrow cutlery trays, metal ladles & serving spoons and forks, kitchen tongs, brooms and dustpans, cookie sheets w/rims, cutting boards, stand up paper towel holders, rolls of scotch tape, smaller scissors, clean stuffed animals, kids puzzles (culturally neutral themes), nail clippers and emery boards, hair combs, and first aid kits.

COMMUNION UPDATE



On March 23rd, we began to offer communion as we normally would, as an option. We are looking for Altar Guild members, specifically for Sundays. Altar Guild sets up communion and cleans up after worship and changes the paraments when the liturgical seasons change. If we don't have anyone sign up for Altar Guild we will only be able to offer the prefilled elements. Let the office know if you can help on a regular basis on Sundays.

SPRING PLANT SALE



Save the date:
Sunday, May 15th

As spring arrives and 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. Watch for more information at the date gets closer.

BOB REHDANTZ MEMORIAL CARD PARTY

Cards on April 4th will be held in memory of Bob. There is no cost to play and a light lunch will be served. The Card Club is donating any donations to BLC. All are welcome to attend. Euchre is played and starts at 1 pm. Any questions, please see Cloe Rehdantz.



NEW MEMBER CLASS

Are you interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem or know someone who is? A New Member class will be held on May 1st after worship. Contact Pr. Jaime if you are interested in attending.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

First Communion Classes continue 4/3, 4/6. On Palm Sunday, April 10th, the 5th graders will receive their First Communion.

During class time we will learn about Holy week. We will also have an Easter egg hunt. There will be no Sunday School on Easter Sunday, April 17th.

The lessons we will be studying in April are Mary Anoints Jesus John 12:1-8, Holy Week Luke 19:28-40, The Empty Tomb Luke 24:1-24, Doubting Thomas John 20:19-31.

On May 15th we will have a Families Celebrate Summer Game Day and Potluck. This is for all ages and games will be inside and outside if weather permits. More information to come. The children will be singing during the service, and it is our last day of Sunday School until September.

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



CONFIRMATION



Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, April 20th. The last day of class will be May 11th. We will end the year with a

family celebration combined with Sunday School on May 15th with games and a potluck.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

WOMEN OF THE ELCA SPRING CONF.



The Women of the ELCA-Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering will be held at St. Peter's, Loganville, 325 Mill Street on Saturday morning, **April 9**. All women of BLC are

invited to attend. At this time, they require masks be worn at all times, except when eating or drinking.

The speaker will be from Sugar Creek Bible Camp at Ferryville. The focus will be on the impact Christian outdoor ministry has on our youth. Youth leaders are also encouraged to attend. Registration is from 8:30-9:30. Lunch is included for \$10. If anyone has special dietary needs, let Lorinda Broughton know when you make your reservations. **RSVP before April 4**.

LOST BAG

A gray bag/purse was found at the Crooked Branch Coffeeshop in Pardeeville and the only thing identifying who it may belong to was a bulletin from our church. If you believe this may be yours, please contact church office.



EASTER EGG COLLABORATIVE ART PROJECT

I would love to get back as many colored eggs as possible to create an art piece for Easter, which will hang in the narthex. Please color in the eggs and send them back to the church office. There is a basket in the narthex where you can place them.

NATIVITIES

We have had several nativity sets generously donated to the church over the years. The Decorating Committee has looked through the decorating closet and found that we have more than we can actually use. We are looking for the original owners of these sets. If you donated one of these sets to the church and would like it back, please let us know. Otherwise they will be put in our rummage sale this year.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Women's Tea

SATURDAY, APRIL 30, 2022
1 - 3:00 P.M.

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, WI

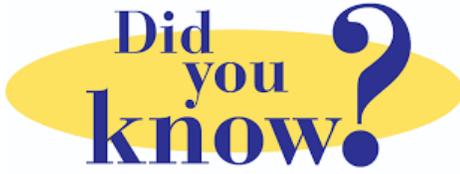
Cost: \$15
Seating is limited.

Purchase tickets from Judy Traut on
March 23rd & 27th, after call the Church
Office 608-742-8502

Program:
Nancy Davis presents: "Unbuckle Your Chuckle"

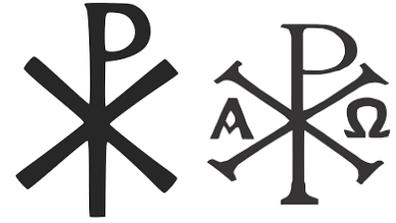
DID YOU KNOW?

We are welcoming suggestions from members for this section. It will be at the staff's discretion to make sure the topics are appropriate. Hope you have fun reading this!



What does this symbol stand for?

We see this symbol used all the time throughout the church. This symbol is called the Chi-Rho (kī-'rō), also called Christogram, which is a monogram using the first two Greek letters of ΧΡΙΣΤΟΣ, meaning Christ; Chi (X) and Rho (P). Sometimes you will also see this symbol



with two other Greek letters α (alpha) and ω or Ω (omega) on either side of the "X". Adding these two letters refer us back to the Book of Revelation where it reads "I am the Alpha and Omega, the first and the last", "the beginning and the end".

The Chi-Rho was first used as a Christian symbol during the reign of the Emperor Constantine in the early 4th century. Here is an expert from an article by Historian David F. Wright giving more detail of when it was first used. "In October 312, Constantine and his forces marched toward Rome. Arrayed against them were the armies of Maxentius—four times greater. At stake was control of Rome and sole rule of the Western Empire. The troubled Constantine sought help in prayer to his father's god. Constantine then had a vision of a cross of light emblazoned against the sun and saw the words In hoc signo vinces: "In this sign you will win." Constantine ordered the monogram of Christ to be painted on his soldiers' shields. When he later engaged Maxentius, Constantine won a decisive victory." Because of this victory Constantine converted to Christianity and made it legal to practice and eventually it became the official religion of Rome.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Profit and Loss Comparison

March 1-24, 2022

	TOTAL			
	MAR 1-24, 2022	FEB 1-24, 2022 (PP)	JAN 1 - MAR 24, 2022 (YTD)	JAN 1 - MAR 24, 2021 (PY YTD)
▼ Income				
▶ Income	20,670.10	15,641.00	62,673.01	50,861.01
▶ Other Income	1,116.50	1,541.60	4,660.65	1,000.00
Total Income	\$21,786.60	\$17,182.60	\$67,333.66	\$51,861.01
GROSS PROFIT	\$21,786.60	\$17,182.60	\$67,333.66	\$51,861.01
▼ Expenses				
▶ Operating Expenses	18,220.16	13,872.16	59,638.46	48,419.42
▶ Other Expense	800.00	1,061.00	2,261.00	1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$19,020.16	\$14,933.16	\$61,899.46	\$49,419.42
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,766.44	\$2,249.44	\$5,434.20	\$2,441.59
▶ Other Income	\$1,500.00	\$3,699.64	\$9,399.64	\$3,981.42
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,451.00	\$3,469.47	\$8,247.97	\$3,755.50
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -951.00	\$230.17	\$1,151.67	\$225.92
NET INCOME	\$1,815.44	\$2,479.61	\$6,585.87	\$2,667.51

April 2022

Ideas for being a Steward of Creation every day!

JOIN IN THE FUN ON SUNDAY, APRIL 24

Youth Led Service at 9:00 am, followed by HIGHWAY CLEAN UP, a COMPOSTING PROJECT, and a DEEP CLEANING of the kitchen and Fellowship Hall (and there will be a snack potluck!)

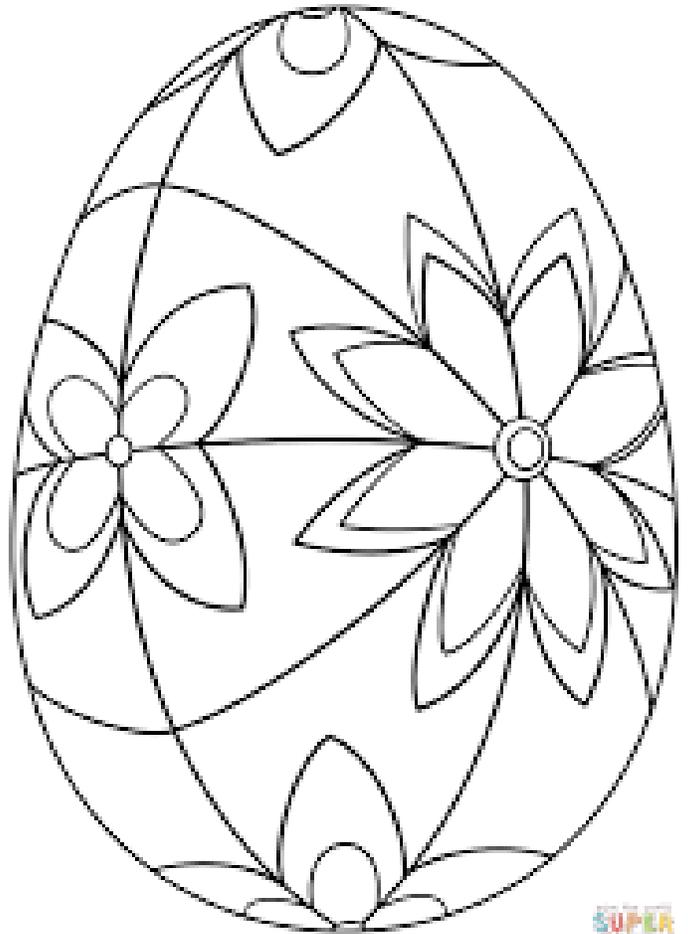
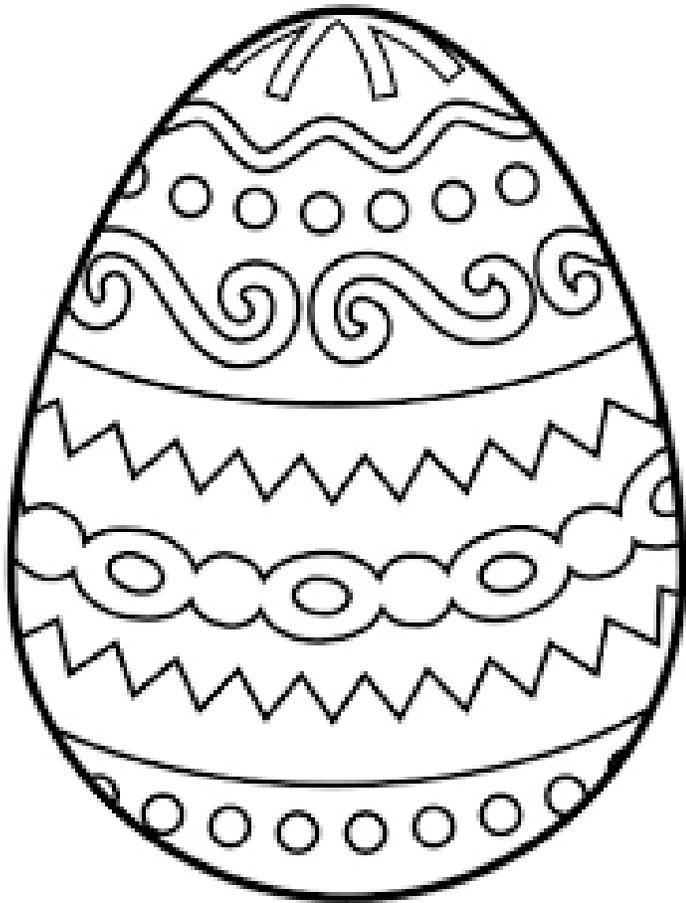
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
 <p>stewardship</p> <p><i>"Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and keep it"</i> Genesis 2:15</p>						1 Ride your bicycle instead of driving somewhere, or carpool with a co-worker or friend	2 As incandescent light bulbs burn out, replace them with CFLs or LEDs
3 Buy or make eco-friendly gifts to give to friends and family members	4 Opt out of mailing lists for junk mail or publications you don't need anymore	5 Switch to non-toxic, eco-friendly cleaners & use a microfiber cloth instead of paper towels	6 Plant a container garden – there are lots of how-to ideas and tips online!	7 Turn off your car engine when in line, waiting on a train or other stops longer than a traffic light	8 Switch to a reusable water bottle and / or insulated mug	9 Vacuum the coils on the back of your refrigerator to help it run more efficiently	
10 Plug small appliances & lights into a smart power strip which can be turned off easily; unplug items you don't use often	11 Hang up and reuse your towels when staying at hotels instead of washing after one use	12 Sign up for online bill payments and statements instead of getting paper ones sent in the mail	13 Don't just turn the lights off when you leave a room; maybe you don't need it on when you're in the room, either!	14 Maintain your vehicle; proper air in the tires extends the life and a clean air filter makes a car run more efficiently	15 Eat your ice cream in a cone! Skip the single-use dish and plastic spoon. (this is a fun one!)	16 Set up paper bins in your home & office; 1 for reusing, 1 for recycling. You'll be able to re-use more than you think!	
17 Buy in bulk to reduce packaging waste and store in reusable glass jars instead of plastic containers	18 Bring along your own paper straws or metal reusable straws and say no to the plastic ones	19 Always recycle your tech! Learn where to drop off your cell phones, tablets and computers	20 Reduce and Reuse! Buy second-hand & donate your items so others can, too; swap with friends and family	21 Unplug phone and laptop chargers when charging isn't needed; they suck energy even when devices are off	22 Plant a tree, or two or three! Happy Earth Day!	23 Purchase wooden toys to give as gifts instead of plastic ones	
24 Try composting - even if you only compost a few things, it makes a big difference Join in the composting project at BLC!	25 Use cold or cool water when doing laundry and hang things out to dry every now and then	26 Fix leaky faucets, switch to filtered tap water instead of bottled water, and install low-flow shower heads	27 Adjusting your thermostat just a few degrees (in both directions, depending on the season) makes a big difference!	28 Try growing some food in a garden and support local farmers at farmer's markets and produce stands	29 If you have to buy a new appliance, invest in those with EnergyStar ratings	30 Don't upgrade to the newest phone or computer if the model you have works just fine; electronic waste is a growing concern!	

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 10:30 am Tai Chi	2
3 9 am Worship 10 am 1 st Communion Class, Hand Chimes Practice, Sunday School 	4 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club	5 9 am Quilters	6 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship & Soup Supper 6:15 pm 1 st Communion Class  	7 9 am Women's Group 	8 10:30 am Tai Chi	9
10 PALM SUNDAY 9 am Worship & 1 st Communion 10 am Sunday School & Easter Egg Hunt 	11 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club 6 pm SREA meeting	12 9 am Quilters	13 No Worship 10:30 am Tai Chi 7 pm HS Bible Study Group  Food Pantry Helpers	14 MAUNDY THURS 6:30 pm Maundy Thurs Worship 	15 GOOD FRIDAY 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Good Friday Worship 	16 9 am Easter Decorating 
17 EASTER 9 am Worship 10 am Egg-stra Special Coffee Hour 	18 Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club 6:30 pm SRA	19 9 am Quilters	20 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation Resumes 	21 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	22 10:30 am Tai Chi	23
24 9 am Youth Led WORSHIP Service 10 am Earth Day Cleanup, Sunday School 	25 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club	26 9 am Quilters	27 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation 7 pm HS Bible Study Group 	28	29 10:30 am Tai Chi	30 1 pm Women's Tea 

Collaborative Easter Art Project! Color in (using any medium) as many of the eggs as you wish and send them back to the church office for a collaborative art piece which will be displayed on Easter Sunday. Please send by April 8th. For all ages!!



SUPER
COLORING

