



CHIMES Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2024 VOLUME 86, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace, BLC family!

The season of Lent is fast approaching with the start being marked by Ash Wednesday on February 14th this year. On Ash Wednesday, we are marked with the sign of the cross in ash on our foreheads as a reminder of our mortality, “remember that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” This practice begins our Lenten journey, which is marked by repentance, prayer, and fasting. However, this is not all that Lent carries for us, especially this year. When looking at the readings for each week during Lent there are stories that outline some of the covenants God has made with God’s people over time. Now a covenant is another word for an agreement or promise made between two people and/or groups. In reading these stories, we are reminded how God makes promises and God keeps them. We see God show up again and again as we recount these passages of God’s faithfulness. These are precisely the stories we need to remember as we journey through Lent and towards the cross, which leads to the greatest promise of all being fulfilled a few days later on Easter morning.

One of the important details for us to remember is these covenants are made between God and God’s people, but they are instigated by God. Sometimes we might try to “bargain” with God or make deals on our terms, but these are not the same live-giving promises that God makes with us. As we journey this Lent, it is my hope and prayer that these covenants that God has made, along with the covenant made in our baptism, will offer the promise and strength we need to continue onward, no matter what comes our way. In living in our baptismal identity, we are marked with another cross, one that will never fade away. This reminds us that we are baptized with Christ and that we too rise with Jesus into eternal life. May this truth bring us closer to the one who seeks us out and loves us beyond measure.

In faithfulness,

Pastor Jaime Benson

UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 3

7:00 pm Mission Trip lock in

FEBRUARY 5

6:30 pm Church Activity Planning

FEBRUARY 8

9:00 am Women’s Group

FEBRUARY 11

10:00 am “Souper” Chili Cook Off

FEBRUARY 14

Food Pantry Helpers

5:30 Ash Wednesday Service followed by a soup supper

FEBRUARY 15

6:30 pm Church Council

FEBRUARY 19

7:00 pm Stewardship Committee

FEBRUARY 20

10:00 am Chimes Articles Due

FEBRUARY 21

5:30 pm Worship followed by a soup supper

FEBRUARY 23-25

5:00 pm Confirmation Retreat

FEBRUARY 28

5:30 pm Worship followed by a soup supper

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
ELCA**

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Portage, WI 53901
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OUR CHURCH

CHURCH PLANNING NIGHT



Monday, February 5th at 6:30 pm.

Everyone is welcome to join us as we plan out the next several months, including Lent, Easter, and the rest of the school year.

TRIBUTE GIFTS

As stated in the January Chimes, due to pricing increases we have moved away from fresh altar flowers. Ginny Paulson is making beautiful seasonal silk arrangements for the altar. You can honor people and events by making a \$20 (suggested) **tribute gift** to the church. We will continue to list the information in our weekly bulletin. There are special envelopes available in the narthex.



WOMEN'S GROUP



The next Women's Group meeting is Thursday, **February 9th at 9 am.** All women of the church are welcome to attend.

LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SCHEDULE

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. **Confirmation** kids are responsible for **setup & clean up every week.** We are looking for **one more reader** for the Lenten Drama on Wednesday.



LENTEN SOUP SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE

February 14th	-Women's group
February 21st	-Praise team, choir and organists
February 28th	-High school youth group
March 6th	-Sunday school and Council
March 13th	-Confirmation
March 20th	-All committee members

Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-47551082-2024>

ASH WEDNESDAY

Ash Wednesday is **February 14th.** There will be two options to receive ashes again this year:

- Drive-up from 12:30 – 1:00 pm (in front of church)
- Ash Wednesday Service at 5:30 pm followed by soup supper



HEAR ALL ABOUT THE TRIP – FEB. 4TH



Sunday, **February 4th** the youth and adults that went on the Dominican Republic Mission trip will share their experiences with us. Please join us to hear all about their trip!

THANK YOU

Thank you to the helpers that took part in decorating and taking down the decorations for Christmas. Steve & Ginny McNeal, Geoff Gilbert, Brad Cook, Kory Anderson, Del Molden, Jeff & Kerry Melby, Carla Gerhardt, Angela Pace, Judy Traut, Ann Ciske, Jim & Kathryn Crawford, Darlene Anderson, and Ben and Jaimie Rudolph.

A special thank you to Jack & Ginny Paulson for the donation for the wreath in the entryway, Yvonne Marshall for the wall hanging above the door to the sanctuary and John & Ellen Denhartigh for the Christmas tree with decorations that I used in the narthex.

Thank you,
Margaret Molden



"SOUPER" CHILI COOK OFF



Mark your calendar for Sunday February 11th. There will be a "souper" chili cook off following worship service!

FAITH FORMATION



SUNDAY SCHOOL

*In February our lessons are Jesus Heals (Mark 1:29-39), Noah's Ark (Genesis 6-9).

*Ash Wednesday is February 14th.

*First Communion classes for the 5th graders will start February 18th. Classes will also be on Sunday 2/25, 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 with make-up days on Wednesday 2/21, 2/28, 3/6, 3/13, 3/20. First Communion will be on Palm Sunday, March 24th during service.

*The children will be singing with the choir on Palm Sunday.

*Sunday school will be serving soup supper with Council. More information will be coming.

CONFIRMATION

A reminder to the parents that the schedule for confirmation has changed to having classes the **1st and 3rd Wednesdays** of the month, not every Wednesday. We know how busy everyone is, including the volunteers, so we are going to do our best to make the two classes that we do meet each month meaningful. With that said, please do your best to have your child attend every class since we are only meeting twice a month.

MISSION TRIP GOERS



There will be a lock in on Saturday, February 3rd starting at 7:00 pm for all that went on the mission trip. This is in preparation for leading February 4th, worship.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

CHURCH PHOTO DIRECTORY

Thank you to all that participated in the new directory. If you were unable to participate, you can purchase a directory for \$15. These are located in the office. Office hours are:
Monday – Wednesday, 9-3 pm
Thursday–Friday, 9-12 pm



OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Hello BLC!

My name is Amy Koziczowski and I'm your new Administrative Assistant. I'm originally from Elkhorn, WI but have been living in Friendship, WI for the last 19 years. My husband Mike and I have been married for 2 ½ years and have one four-legged and furry daughter named Molly. She's a dachshund/pomeranian mix. We have recently sold our home in Friendship and will be moving to Pardeeville sometime in February. Hopefully no blizzard that day!

I've had the pleasure of meeting quite a few of you already and as I try to remember names, bear with me if I ask you again just as you will ask me several times how to pronounce my last name! This is a beautiful church and is obviously well cared for and loved. I'm already feeling at home and once we move and unpack I'll bring a few things in the office to make it my own.

I'm looking forward to getting to know all of you.

Thank you to the following volunteers that helped in the office until the Administrative Assistant position was filled. Barb Tetzlaff, Robin Kvalo, Barb Rothwell, Sue Conner, Julie Saalsaa and Kerry Melby. A special thank you to Julie Saalsaa for working directly with me!

Blessings,
Amy

BLC IS ON INSTAGRAM



You can find us here: @blcpottage

Make sure to tag us when you are doing things for church!

NEWS FOR CHIMES AND BULLETINS

Friendly reminder to please have any article submissions for the Chimes to the office by the **20th of each month**.

Please have any announcements you want in the worship bulletin by **12 pm on Tuesdays**. Thank you!



TEXT ALERTS

If you'd like to be included in a text message with any changes to worship due to weather, etc. Please let Amy in the office know! 608-742-8502

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Profit and Loss Comparison

January 1-26, 2024

	TOTAL				
	JAN 1-26, 2024	JAN 1-26, 2023 (PY)	DEC 1-26, 2023 (PP)	JAN 1-26, 2024 (YTD)	JAN 1-26, 2023 (PY YTD)
Income					
Income	22,769.13	20,202.34	27,615.26	22,769.13	20,202.34
Other Income	280.55	736.55	18,991.56	280.55	736.55
Total Income	\$23,049.68	\$20,938.89	\$46,606.82	\$23,049.68	\$20,938.89
GROSS PROFIT	\$23,049.68	\$20,938.89	\$46,606.82	\$23,049.68	\$20,938.89
Expenses					
Operating Expenses	20,071.12	23,247.38	17,704.66	20,071.12	23,247.38
Other Expense		60.00	8,215.00		60.00
Total Expenses	\$20,071.12	\$23,307.38	\$25,919.66	\$20,071.12	\$23,307.38
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,978.56	\$ -2,368.49	\$20,687.16	\$2,978.56	\$ -2,368.49
Other Income					
Scrip Income	1,175.00	875.00	3,100.00	1,175.00	875.00
Total Other Income	\$1,175.00	\$875.00	\$3,100.00	\$1,175.00	\$875.00
Other Expenses	\$1,150.71	\$875.07	\$1,810.23	\$1,150.71	\$875.07
NET OTHER INCOME	\$24.29	\$ -0.07	\$1,289.77	\$24.29	\$ -0.07
NET INCOME	\$3,002.85	\$ -2,368.56	\$21,976.93	\$3,002.85	\$ -2,368.56

Cash basis Friday, January 26, 2024 08:58 AM GMT-06:00

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you haven't picked up your offering envelopes, they are now in the office. Feel free to stop in any time Monday – Wednesday from 9-3 pm or Thursday – Friday from 9-12 pm.

Thank you!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 2024

General Church Grounds x → Conference Room x → Music Room x → Fellowship Hall x

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Feb 1	2 10:30am Tai Chi	3 7:00pm Youth Trip lock in
4 9:00am Worship - Youth Mission Trip 10:15am Sunday School	5 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm Church Planning Meeting 	6 9:00am Quilters	7 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	8 9:00am Women's Group 	9 10:30am Tai Chi	10
11 9:00am Worship 10:00am "Souper" Chili Cook Off 	12 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	13 9:00am Quilters	14 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Service 	15 6:30pm Church Council 	16 10:30am Tai Chi	17
18 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	19 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting 7:00pm Stewardship Committee; Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	20 9:00am Quilters 10:00am Chimes Articles Due	21 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship & Soup Supper	22	23 5:00pm Confirmation Retreat; Lutherdale (N7891 US Highway 12, Elkhorn, WI 53121, United States) 10:30am Tai Chi	24
25 Confirmation Retreat; Lutherdale 12:00pm 9:00am Worship	26 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	27 9:00am Quilters	28 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship & Soup Supper	29		

