

CHIMES Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2025 VOLUME 87, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear church,

As you may know, there are 4 gospels in our Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. This year we are going to spend most of our time in Luke's gospel. Each of these books take on a different perspective and highlight different aspects of who Jesus is. So far in Luke's gospel we have heard a lot about who Jesus is, where he comes from, and his connection to all people. Each gospel has a story that captures the start of Jesus' ministry and gives us some clues into what his ministry will be about. In Luke's gospel the start of Jesus' ministry is marked with rejection for his message of liberation. In the 4th chapter of Luke, Jesus reads from the scroll of Isaiah, "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." Afterwards Jesus says, "Today this scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing." Jesus delivers a message of liberation for those who are marginalized – the poor, captive, blind, oppressed – because he will change and has changed the current reality.

Members of his hometown thought Jesus was there for their own benefit, but Jesus makes it clear he is here to speak the truth and to change the way things are because there is still oppression, marginalization, and suffering in the world. This message upsets those in his hometown, so much so that they try to chase Jesus off a cliff just a few verses later. This is the "first impression" of Jesus' ministry in Luke's gospel. Jesus preaches a powerful word and he and his message are rejected. Jesus is serious about making change for the benefit of all, which can be challenging to hear and might mean we need to change as well, as individuals and as a whole. Jesus challenges us not to just accept the world as it is, but to work towards this vision of God's kingdom for all. How might Jesus be challenging you to work towards bringing more of God's kingdom into reality? How has the Spirit equipped you to share Christ's message of liberation? Let us ponder and respond together.

In peace,
Pastor Jaime Benson



W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI 53901

608-742-8502

Email: office@blcportage.org

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

Office Hours

Monday – Wednesday
9:00 am – 3:00 pm
Thursday – Friday
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Pastor Jaime Availability

(or by appointment)

Monday
11:00 am – 1:00 pm
Tuesday
9:00 am – 11:00 am

Worship Services

Wednesday
5:30 pm
Sunday
9:00 am

Sunday School

1st & 3rd Sunday throughout the
school year
10:15 am

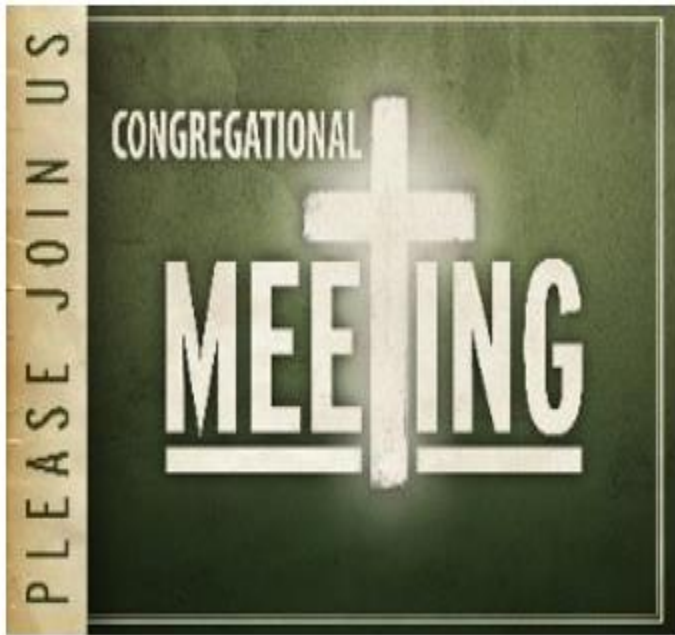
Confirmation

1st & 3rd Wednesday throughout
the school year
6:30 pm

Inclement Weather

If the Portage school district closes
due to weather, so do we. All
activities, practices, etc. When in
doubt, stay home and stay safe.

**All days and times listed are
subject to change with holidays.**



FEBRUARY 2, 2025

10:00 AM

WE NEED YOU THERE!

SOUND BOOTH TRAINING/REFRESHER

February 9th at 10:15 am in the Sound Booth!

KWIK TRIP CAR WASH CARDS

The Kwik Trip Car Wash sales in December were such a hit that we be selling them again! As of right now, the cards are on back-order. Kwik Trip hopes to have them back in stock sometime in February so **watch for an announcement when we are accepting orders again.** We raised over \$1,400 towards the air handler fund and hope to beat that with this next sale!



THERMOMETER

A goal has been set by our Finance Committee to raise \$137,000 over the **next three years** for our air handler fund. We have eight air handlers to heat and cool the entire building, so we need to make sure we plan ahead. There is thermometer in the narthex that we will use to track our progress over the next three years.

There will be various fundraisers specifically for the air handler fund such as the Kwik Trip Car Wash cards, the Pancake Breakfast on Feb. 22nd and more to come. If you'd like to donate to this fund, please be sure and write "air handler" on the memo line of your check and on the envelope as well.

So far we have raised \$14,081!



Bethlehem's Air Handler Fund



Bethlehem Lutheran
Church Presents

PANCAKE *Breakfast*



Adults
\$10
12 and
under \$7

SAT., FEB. 22, 2025
8 AM TO 11 AM

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH

W8267 State Hwy 33 Trunk
Portage, WI 53901

● ALL ARE WELCOME! ●

Baked goods for sale

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

In February our lessons are Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-10), The Disciples (Luke 5:1-11, 8:1-3).

We had a great time on Game Day, Sunday, January 19th. It was a very cold day. All but one of the Sunday school Students attended and several of their parents. We hope more congregation members will be able to join us for future intergenerational events.



LOOKING TO GET INVOLVED?

We are always looking for Confirmation Mentors. If this is something you'd like to learn more about, please contact Pastor Jaime (608-742-8502). Confirmation meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm throughout the school year.



THE OFFICE

NEWSLETTER EVENT/ANNOUNCEMENT DEADLINE

Do you have an event or announcement that involves the church, and you want everyone to be made aware of it? The deadline to get your information to the office is the 20th of each month.



NEED A VISIT?

If you or a loved one are having surgery and would like a visit/call from Pastor Jaime, please let the office know. (608-742-8502) The hospital doesn't notify us of your stay due to HIPPA laws regardless if they've asked you what religion you affiliate with.



VOLUNTEERS WANTED

We are looking for a few more volunteers to help with Sunday Altar Guild, Wednesday and Sunday Door Monitoring, and Sunday Video Production. These are on a rotational basis. If you'd like to help, please contact the office. 608-742-8502.

Feel free to attend the Sound Booth training/refreshers on February 9th at 10:15 am! Watch for details in March about an Altar Guild training/refreshers.



COUNCIL MEETING UPDATE

The church council meets the 4th Tuesday of the month. Please keep this in mind if you have something you'd like added to the agenda.

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR FEBRUARY

Date	Usher	Door Monitor	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 2/2 9am	Robin Kvalo	Larry Sween	Robin Kvalo	Jeff Melby	Nancy Buckley	Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Alyvia Bell	Carla	
Wed 2/5 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert	Geoff Gilbert				Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Wyatt Hernkind	Jody	
Sun 2/9 9am	Barb Rothwell		Lisa Cook	Lori & Brady Cox	Bobbie Goodman	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Sofia Bell	Jody	
Wed 2/12 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert	Geoff Gilbert				Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Maddie Soppe	Carla	
Sun 2/16 9am	Brian Conner		Darlene Packard	Jeff Melby	Bonnie Dixon	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Lindsay Nickel	Praise Team	
Wed 2/19 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert	Geoff Gilbert				Sharon Horvath	Sharon Horvath	Claire Langan	Carla	
Sun 2/23 9am	Bobbie Goodman	Del Molden	Ellen Kabele		Ginny McNeal	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Ben Haroldson	Carla	
Wed 2/26 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert	Geoff Gilbert				Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Maddie Soppe	Jody	

Food Pantry Help is Team B for the Month of February!

Profit and Loss Comparison

January 1-21, 2025

	TOTAL	
	JAN 1-21, 2025	JAN 1-21, 2024 (PY)
▼ Income		
▶ Operating Income	11,751.06	17,436.54
▶ Other Designated Income	3,550.13	178.75
Total Income	\$15,301.19	\$17,615.29
GROSS PROFIT	\$15,301.19	\$17,615.29
▶ Expenses	\$14,398.81	\$13,758.08
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$902.38	\$3,857.21
▶ Other Income	\$0.00	\$1,175.00
▶ Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,150.71
NET OTHER INCOME	\$0.00	\$24.29
NET INCOME	\$902.38	\$3,881.50

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR














Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday



February



Feb 1

2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9:00am Worship with Choir 10:00am Annual Congregational Meeting 10:15am Sunday School	10:30am Tai Chi  1:00pm Card Club  5:00pm Finance Meeting; Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation Class 6:45pm Praise Team Practice		10:30am Tai Chi	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
9:00am Worship 10:15am Sound Booth Training/Refresher	10:30am Tai Chi  1:00pm Card Club  6:00pm SREA Meeting	9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 	Food Pantry Helpers  10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Stewardship Meeting; Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	9:00am Women's meeting 	10:30am Tai Chi	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
9:00am Praise Team 10:15am Sunday School	10:30am Tai Chi  1:00pm Card Club  6:30pm SRA Meeting	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation Class		10:30am Tai Chi	Lead Conference 8:00am Pancake Breakfast
23	24	25	26	27	28	
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi  1:00pm Card Club 	9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study  6:30pm Church Council meeting 	10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:45pm Praise Team Practice		10:30am Tai Chi	

The CHIMES is published monthly by Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Office phone: 608-742-8502

Office Email: office@blcportage.org

Website: bethlehemLCportage.org

Deadline for copy is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

Annual Congregational
Meeting February 2, 2025
10:00 am