



# CHIMES Newsletter

MARCH 2024 VOLUME 86, ISSUE 3

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church,

Last month some of our congregation members and myself attended the Synod LEAD Conference which was held in Prairie du Sac this year. At this event, we gathered with other rostered and lay leaders from across our synod with over 160 people in attendance the day of the event. We started the day worshipping together and then moved into a keynote presentation offered by Rev. Dr. Ulrich Rosenhagen who is a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the religious studies department. He centered his presentation around a quote from Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a young German pastor who was executed by the Nazis in 1945 just before the end of WWII. Bonhoeffer is a notable theologian, and his writings are still studied extensively today.

The quote Dr. Rosenhagen utilized in his presentation was from Bonhoeffer's *Letters and Papers from Prison* but he made one small change to it, "The Church is the Church only when it exists **with** others...not dominating, but helping and serving." He changed the word **for** to **with** which made a significant change and gave all of us something to think about, especially as we are church in our communities. When we think about doing things **for** our neighbors, we can take on a mindset that can feel safer and more in control. When we think about doing things **with** our neighbors, that can be more challenging in some ways because working with others involves collaboration, listening, and partnering together. **With** can challenge us, but for the better, because it moves us to stand side by side and see things from our neighbor's perspective, not just our own.

What does **with** have to do with Jesus? Everything! Jesus, Emmanuel = God with us, came to live **with** us on earth, giving us the ultimate example of standing side by side and being **with** us. So, as the church in this time and space, how might we reflect on this quote and how we show up in our communities as the body of Christ? How might we surrender the privilege of power in order to fully embrace the community we are a part of? How might we embody being **with** as God calls us here and now? What ways might the Spirit be inviting us to dwell even more fully in this place and time? Let us explore this together. God is **with** us after all.

Christ's peace be with you,

Pastor Jaime Benson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MARCH 6

6:30 pm Bible Study

MARCH 7

9:00 am Women's Meeting

MARCH 12

11:00 am Bible Study

MARCH 20

6:30 pm Bible Study

MARCH 21

9:00 am Women's Meeting

6:30 pm Council Meeting

MARCH 24

Easter Egg Hunt following Worship

MARCH 26

11:00 am Bible Study

MARCH 28

6:30 pm Maundy Thursday

MARCH 29

1:00 pm Good Friday

MARCH 31

8:00 am Easter Worship

Brunch in the fellowship hall

10:30 am Easter Worship

**Bethlehem Lutheran  
Church, ELCA**

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## OUR CHURCH

### WOMEN'S GROUP



There are **two** meetings in March this month. **March 7<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup>**, both at 9am. We will continue to plan for the Annual April Tea. All women of the church are welcome to attend. The Annual Tea will be held on April 29<sup>th</sup> and the theme this year is "Fall". Tickets will be available for sale after church on March 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

### THRIVENT MEMBERS

If you are a member of Thrivent, please let the office know. 608-742-8502 or [office@blcportage.org](mailto:office@blcportage.org).



We can get \$250 action team cards through Thrivent to help off-set costs. Every dollar helps, thank you!

### BIBLE STUDY



Bible Study meets at **11 am** in the fellowship hall the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month as

well as at **6:30 pm** in the music room the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month.

A **\$10** suggested donation will help offset the cost of materials.

The same material is covered at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday & 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday class as well as what's covered at the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday class.

All are welcome to attend!

### THANK YOU

Thank you to Geoff Gilbert for the donation of a birdbath for decoration!



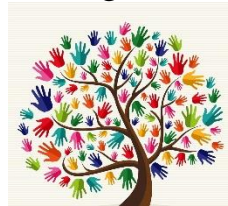
## CORRECTION FROM LAST MONTH

Last month we thanked Yvonne Marshall for making the Christmas Banner, but it was actually Jean Elliott that made it. Thank you Jean!



## TRIBUTE GIFTS

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.



## 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**.

### SOUP SUPPER SERVING SCHEDULE

February 28 <sup>th</sup>	-High school youth group
March 6 <sup>th</sup>	-Sunday school and Council
March 13 <sup>th</sup>	-Confirmation
March 20 <sup>th</sup>	-All committee members

To sign up to bring something, please visit: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-47551082-2024>

## DAILY DEVOTIONALS

There are daily devotionals available in the narthex. These come out quarterly and are available in regular and large print.



## HOLY WEEK & EASTER SCHEDULE

Wednesday, 3/27- No Worship

Maundy Thursday, 3/28, **6:30 pm**

Good Friday, 3/29, **1:00 pm**

Easter, 3/31, **8:00 am**

Brunch between services!

Easter, 3/31, **10:30 am**



please note that when you sign up so we can coordinate a carpool. This is for ages 5<sup>th</sup> grade and up. The event is Sunday April 7<sup>th</sup>. Meet here at the church at 12:30 pm, return around 4:30 pm with some discussion and refreshments to follow. You can visit our website to sign-up or there is a sign-up sheet in the narthex. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jaime at 608-742-8502.

## SCHOOL FOOD MARKET

Now through Palm Sunday we are collecting the following items for the local Middle and High School's Food Market:

- Snack bars
- Peanut butter
- Jelly
- Cereal
- Hamburger helper
- Taco kits
- Water
- Individual snacks such as pudding, crackers, Goldfish, Gummy bears, etc.



## FAITH FORMATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL



**The lessons** we will be studying in March are The Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:1-17), Serve and Follow (John 12:20-33).

**Confirmation and Sunday School** will be serving Lenten Supper with Council on Wednesday, March 6th. If you are able to help or bring something please sign up at <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4da72fa1fcc43-47551082-2024#1>

**First Communion classes** for the 5<sup>th</sup> graders will be Sunday's 3/3, 3/10, 3/17 at 10:15 am or on Wednesday's 3/6, 3/13, 3/20, at 6:25 pm. First Communion will be on Sunday, March 24th at 9 am service.



## MONDAY EUCHRE



Come join the fun! Play Euchre on Monday's at 1:00 pm in the fellow-ship hall!

## COMMUNITY TENEBRAE SERVICE

There will be a Community Tenebrae service at 7:00 pm on Good Friday, the 29<sup>th</sup> at St. Mary's Catholic Church located on Cook St. in Portage.



## CHURCH FIELD TRIP



We are going to visit Temple Beth El at 2702 Arbor Dr. in Madison which is a Jewish Reform Synagogue to learn more about our Jewish neighbors. All are welcome, please sign-up by March 24<sup>th</sup>. If you are able to drive,

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



We will have an **Easter Egg hunt** on Palm Sunday following service. Happy Easter!



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## Profit and Loss Comparison

February 1-21, 2024

	TOTAL				
	FEB 1-21, 2024	FEB 1-21, 2023 (PY)	JAN 1-21, 2024 (PP)	JAN 1 - FEB 21, 2024 (YTD)	JAN 1 - FEB 21, 2023 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	18,425.51	16,074.00	17,416.54	52,971.03	40,558.73
▶ Other Income	2,621.15	396.35	198.75	3,001.70	1,246.25
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$21,046.66</b>	<b>\$16,470.35</b>	<b>\$17,615.29</b>	<b>\$55,972.73</b>	<b>\$41,804.98</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$21,046.66	\$16,470.35	\$17,615.29	\$55,972.73	\$41,804.98
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	18,120.72	15,605.90	13,758.08	43,409.09	41,362.34
▶ Other Expense		9.75			69.75
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$18,120.72</b>	<b>\$15,615.65</b>	<b>\$13,758.08</b>	<b>\$43,409.09</b>	<b>\$41,432.09</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,925.94	\$854.70	\$3,857.21	\$12,563.64	\$372.89
▶ Other Income	\$1,200.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,175.00	\$2,375.00	\$3,725.00
▶ Other Expenses	\$1,148.00	\$1,791.75	\$1,150.71	\$2,298.71	\$3,590.57
NET OTHER INCOME	\$52.00	\$308.25	\$24.29	\$76.29	\$134.43
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,977.94</b>	<b>\$1,162.95</b>	<b>\$3,881.50</b>	<b>\$12,639.93</b>	<b>\$507.32</b>

## March 2024 Worship Volunteers

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 3/3 9 am	Bobbie Goodman	Lisa Cook		Lisa Cook	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Oleatta Guenther	Carla	
Wed 3/6 5:30 pm							Lindsay Nickel	Jody	
Sun 3/10 9 am	Bonnie Dixon	Darlene Anderson		Darlene Anderson	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Mikayla Bovre	Praise Team	
Wed 3/13 5:30 pm							Kenzie Schmidtke	Jody	
Sun 3/17 9 am	Ann Ciske	Ellen Kabele		Lyn Holmes	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Gabe Bishop	Jody	
Wed 3/20 5:30 pm							Kinleyh Anderson	Carla	
Palm Sun 3/24 9 am	Del Molden	Ginny McNeal		Ginny McNeal	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Kayson Bulgrin	Jody	
Maundy Thurs 3/28 6:30 pm	Ellen Kabele	Nancy Buckley		Nancy Buckley	Darlene Anderson	Darlene Anderson	Clara Georgeson	Jody	
Good Fri 3/29 1:00 pm		Bonnie Dixon						Carla	
Easter Sun 3/31 8 am	Kory Anderson	Nancy Loether		Bonnie Dixon	Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Avri Anderson	Carla	Easter Brunch
Easter Sun 3/31 10:30 am	Geoff Gilbert	Robin Kvalo	Lori & Brady Cox	Ellen Kabele	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Hartley Bell	Carla	



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church March 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>Mar 1</b> 10:30am Tai Chi	2
3 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	4 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	5 9:00am Quilters	6 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship & Soup Supper 6:30pm Bible Study	7 9:00am Women's Group Meeting	8 10:30am Tai Chi	9
10 9:00am Worship	11 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	12 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study	13 Food Pantry Helpers  10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship & Soup Supper	14	15 10:30am Tai Chi	16
17 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	18 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	19 9:00am Quilters	20 10:00am Chimes Articles Due 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship & Soup Supper 6:30pm Bible Study	21 9:00am Women's Group Meetin 6:30pm Church Council 	22 10:30am Tai Chi	23
24 9:00am Worship - Palm Sunday	25 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	26 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study	27 10:30am Tai Chi	28 6:30pm Maundy Thursday Worship	29 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Good Friday Worship	30
31 8:00am Easter Worship 10:30am Easter Worship Brunch between services!						

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
W8267 HWY 33 EAST  
PORTAGE WI 53901  
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



«Addressee»  
«Street\_Permanent\_Address»  
«City\_Permanent\_Address», «State\_Permanent\_Address»  
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