

# CHIMES Newsletter

MARCH 2025 VOLUME 87, ISSUE 3

## MESSAGE FROM OUR PASTOR

Dear church,

Recently, I was reflecting on Jesus' words in John 15:1-17 where he talks about being the true vine and we are the branches. I encourage you to take a look at that now. In this text, Jesus emphasizes again and again the importance of abiding with him in not only living but thriving. However, an important part of thriving involves pruning. Letting go and trimming off the things that no longer belong so that we can grow and bear the fruit God created for us to bear. Pruning can be painful in the shorter term but in the long term it can lead to new life and growth beyond what we imagine. As we begin the season of Lent together, let us take a posture of reflection and discern what pruning God may have in store for us. What might God be inviting us to let go of? What might God be taking away to make way for our own growth and flourishing? What fruit are we called and equipped to bear? As this season begins and unfolds, may we reconnect with the truth and promise of the gift of God's love for us. Our abiding relationship with God is vital to our identity, our purpose, and our flourishing.

In peace,

Pastor Jaime Benson



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**608-742-8502**

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

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday throughout the  
school year  
10:15 am

### Confirmation

1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> 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.**

**ASH WEDNESDAY**

Ash Wednesday service is **March 5<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm**. The Lenten Soup Suppers will begin that evening at 6:30 pm. Each week a committee and/or group is in charge of hosting a meal and the confirmation group is in charge of serving and cleaning up.



**Schedule for hosting supper**

March 5 <sup>th</sup> –	Women’s Group
March 12 <sup>th</sup> –	Confirmation
March 19 <sup>th</sup> –	Praise Team/Hand Chimes
March 26 <sup>th</sup> –	Council
April 2 <sup>nd</sup> –	All Committees/High School
April 9 <sup>th</sup> –	Sunday School/Choir

**KWIK TRIP CAR WASH CARDS**

Help us raise money for the Air Handler Fund by keeping your car clean! Cards are **\$35 each**, with that you get 5 Ultimate car washes, a \$50 value. Stop in the office to purchase. Monday – Wednesday, 9:00 am – 3:00 pm or Thursday – Friday, 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. Checks should be made payable to the church.



**DID YOU KNOW?**

Our fundraising efforts are underway to increase our monthly giving and to replace our air handlers.

So far we have raised \$20,956 for the air handlers and we are starting to track our monthly giving.

**Upcoming events:**

February 22<sup>nd</sup> was our Pancake Breakfast, and we raised \$5,270.60!

Car wash cards are available and cost \$35.00 for 5 \$10.00 washes. \$15 goes to the church.

We have an ongoing “Fill the Bucket” challenge in which we have a metal bucket that will be placed in the aisle as you enter church for you to throw in your change. When we get it filled we will have a contest to guess the amount! Closest one wins a Domino's gift card.





## Easter Flowers

We will celebrate the Resurrection of Jesus Christ with a garden of flowers to brighten our worship space. See the chart below for flower types and prices.

All orders must be received in the church office by **Monday, March 24th.**

Completed forms and payment can be dropped off in the church office.

**The flowers may be taken after the 10:30 am Easter Worship Service.  
Please pick up no later than May 5th.**

*Please be sure to indicate which type of plant you are ordering and how many*

	Price Ea.	# Ordered
Easter Lily – 6.5" Pot	\$10	
Hydrangea – 6.5" Pot	\$20	
Tulips - Assorted Colors 6.5" Pot	\$10	
Daffodils - Yellow 6.5" Pot	\$10	
Pot Mum – Easter Mix (daisy mix) 6.5" Pot	\$10	
Pot Mum Yellow (daisy type) 6.5" Pot	\$10	
Primula Assorted Colors 4.5" Pot	\$5	
<b>Total Amount Enclosed:</b>	\$	

In Honor of \_\_\_\_\_

In Memory of \_\_\_\_\_

Given by \_\_\_\_\_

(cut here)-----

**Use this section to keep record of your order as it will help when you come pick up your flowers by May 5th**

Easter Lily \_\_\_\_\_

Hydrangea \_\_\_\_\_

Tulips \_\_\_\_\_

Daffodils \_\_\_\_\_

Pot Mum – Easter Mix (daisy mix) \_\_\_\_\_

Pot Mum Yellow (daisy type) \_\_\_\_\_

Primula Assorted Colors 4.5" Pot \_\_\_\_\_



## FAITH FORMATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL

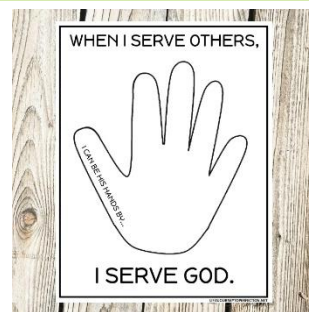
The lessons we will be studying in March are:

- 1-The Transfiguration (Luke 9:28-36)
- 2-God's Promises to Abram (Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18).

Looking ahead. Sunday School will be part of the group serving Lenten Supper on Wednesday, **April 9th**. If you are able to help or bring something please sign up at

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0d4dada72fa1fcc43-55008829-2025>. If you are unable to help on April 9<sup>th</sup> or if you like to sign up for another week you will see all the weeks at the above link and where help is needed.

We are busy working on music and a little skit for **Palm Sunday** (April 13th). There will also be an **Easter egg hunt** that day!



## THE OFFICE

### DONATIONS OF ITEMS

Please remember to check with the office first before dropping items off you think the church might be able to use. We are very limited on storage space! 608-742-8502



### TIME CHANGE

Don't forget to turn your clocks ahead one hour before you go to bed on Saturday March 8<sup>th</sup>! Spring officially begins March 20<sup>th</sup>.



### NEW MEMBER WELCOME

We welcome Diana Shebel of Portage to the BLC family! She officially joined February 16<sup>th</sup>.



### THANK YOU

Thank you to all that helped make the Pancake Breakfast and Bake Sale a success! We estimate serving 125 people, sold numerous baked goods, and quite a few quilts. This fundraiser was a great boost to the Air Handler Fund. Thank you!





## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR MARCH

Date	Usher	Door Monitor	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 3/2 9am	Ellen Kabele	Del Molden	Ginny McNeal	Lori & Brady Cox	Ann Ciske	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Lindsay Nickel	Jody Calhoun	
Ash Wed 3/5 5:30 pm	Kory Anderson	Bonnie Dixon	Del Molden	Jeff Melby	Nancy Buckley	Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Hartley Bell	Carla Gerhardt	
Sun 3/9 9am	Sandy Sween	Larry Sween	Nancy Buckley	Joe Jackowski	Del Molden	Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Leah Haroldson	Carla Gerhardt	
Wed 3/12 5:30 pm	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>						Wyatt Hemkind	Carla Gerhardt	
Sun 3/16 9am	Brian Conner	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Jaimie Rudolph	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Hartley Bell	Praise Team	
Wed 3/19 5:30 pm	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>						Maddie Soppe	Jody Calhoun	
Sun 3/23 9am	Bobbie Goodman	Kory Anderson	Bonnie Dixon	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	Barb Rothwell	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Clara Georgeson	Carla Gerhardt	
Wed 3/26 5:30 pm	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>	<b>HELP NEEDED</b>						Lindsay Nickel	Jody Calhoun	
Sun 3/30 9am	Dean Traut	Judy Traut	Del Molden	Joe Jackowski	Ellen Kabele	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Oleatta Guenther	Jody Calhoun	

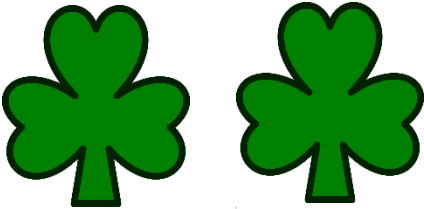





***Food Pantry Help is Team C for the Month of March!***

**Statement of Activity Comparison**

February 1-18, 2025

	TOTAL				
	FEB 1-18, 2025	JAN 1-18, 2025 (PP)	FEB 1-18, 2024 (PY)	JAN 1 - FEB 18, 2025 (YTD)	JAN 1 - FEB 18, 2024 (PY YTD)
▾ Revenue					
▸ Operating Income	16,337.82	11,751.06	11,430.01	36,049.62	46,015.53
▸ Other Designated Income	320.00	3,550.13	369.15	9,631.66	709.70
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$16,657.82</b>	<b>\$15,301.19</b>	<b>\$11,799.16</b>	<b>\$45,681.28</b>	<b>\$46,725.23</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$16,657.82	\$15,301.19	\$11,799.16	\$45,681.28	\$46,725.23
▸ Expenditures	\$14,087.90	\$14,398.81	\$18,120.72	\$37,980.25	\$43,409.09
NET OPERATING REVENUE	\$2,569.92	\$902.38	\$ -6,321.56	\$7,701.03	\$3,316.14
▸ Other Revenue	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$2,375.00
▸ Other Expenditures	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,148.00	\$0.00	\$2,298.71
NET OTHER REVENUE	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$52.00	\$0.00	\$76.29
<b>NET REVENUE</b>	<b>\$2,569.92</b>	<b>\$902.38</b>	<b>\$ -6,269.56</b>	<b>\$7,701.03</b>	<b>\$3,392.43</b>

# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	
		<h1>March</h1>				Mar 1	
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 5:00pm Finance Meeting	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Ash Wednesday Worship 6:30pm Soup Supper-hosted by the Women's Group		10:30am Tai Chi		
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
9:00am Worship with Choir	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 Supper by Confirm. 6:30pm Praise Team practice	9:00am Women's meeting 	10:30am Tai Chi		
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
9:00am Worship 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 Soup Supper hosted by Praise Team/Hand Chimes		10:30am Tai Chi		
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
9:00am Worship	8:00am Easter Flower Orders Due 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm All SREA meeting	 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 6:30pm Church Council meeting; Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office	10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Soup Supper hosted by Council		10:30am Tai Chi		
30	31	Remember to get your Easter Flower order to the office by March 24 <sup>th</sup> !					
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club						

The CHIMES is published monthly by Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

*Ash Wednesday is March 5<sup>th</sup>. Service is at 5:30 pm. Please join us in the fellowship after service and enjoy a Soup Supper hosted by the Women's Group.*