

CHIMES Newsletter

MAY 2023 VOLUME 85, ISSUE 5

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

Easter greetings to you, Bethlehem Lutheran Church! We are officially into the Easter season! During Lent this year we spent a lot of time asking and pondering some deep faith questions, but it is important for us to continue to ask questions in our faith journey. So, I want to invite us to ponder a question that comes from our texts for the fourth Sunday of Easter.

The fourth Sunday of Easter is always Good Shepherd Sunday and the Gospel text from that day comes from John 10. This year, our text comes from the first ten verses of that chapter. In this section, Jesus is discussing how he is the gate that lets the sheep into the sheepfold. You can hear more about this text in the sermon on the last Sunday of April. The part that caught my attention for this article is in verse 10. Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly." During Easter, we celebrate the resurrection of Christ which is the fulfilment of what he came to do by coming to live as a human on earth. In this verse, Jesus shares his purpose for coming, for living, for dying, for rising. He came so that we may have life and have it abundantly.

So, my question for us to ponder is, what does abundant life look like for you? And I want to be clear, Jesus does not say he came so that we may have an abundance of _____ (tasks to do, meetings to keep, races to run, possessions to own, etc.). He came so that we may have abundant life. What does that mean for you? How might Jesus be inviting us to receive this truth and live in a way that honors what Christ has given us? What does abundant life look like not just for ourselves, but for all people? How might the Spirit be inviting us into revealing this gift of abundant life for all?

I pray the gift that Christ has given us will sustain us not only in this Easter season, but also beyond. And may these questions and ponderings reveal more of who God is in the world and how the Spirit is calling us to live.

In peace and promise,
Pastor Jaime Benson

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Portage, WI 53901

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www.bethlehemLCportage.org



UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1

6:30 pm All Committee Night

MAY 10

5:30 pm Come As You Are Worship

6:30 pm Soundboard Training

MAY 21

9 am HS Senior Recognition

10:15 am End of Year Party, Plant

Sale, DR Casserole Sale

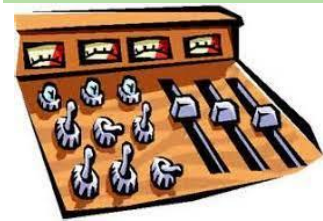
OUR CHURCH

WOMEN'S GROUP

The next meeting is Thursday, May 13th at 9 am. All women of the church are welcome to attend.



SOUNDBORAD & LIVESTREAM TRAINING



Wednesday, May 10th at 6:30pm there will be training for those interested in learning how to run the soundboard and livestream equipment for worship. We are in great need of volunteers to help with this ministry for those not able to attend worship.

COME AS YOU ARE WORSHIP

Please join us on

Wednesday, May 10th at 5:30pm for a "Come As You Are" casual service with

special guests from

Lutheran Campus Ministry

(LCM) in Madison, WI. Our

guests will be sharing their

own stories of faith and how they came to LCM and will

also tell us a little about LCM and what services they

provide to college campuses. If you come, please plan

on staying for a pizza dinner in the fellowship hall

following worship (small donation suggested, but not

required). See you there!!



SPRING GARDEN CLEAN UP



We are looking for people to help with cleaning up the flower beds around the church. The old vegetation needs to be cleared away and composted. There will be a sign up in the narthex.

BLC HELPING HANDS – "WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS"



Starting the summer of 2023, we are going to begin posting available service projects on the bulletin board in the narthex that have been requested by fellow members of BLC or others from the community. Our BLC members that have extra time available can volunteer to help with or complete a project that is posted.

Do you have something that you need help with this summer? Please contact Tania Anderson with your requests to be added to the bulletin board. Attention confirmation students & youth: do you need any volunteer hours for church & school? This is the perfect opportunity!!

Although payment isn't necessary in exchange for the work provided, any donations earned will be passed on to River Haven Shelter. Checks can be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Please contact the church office or Tania Anderson with any questions.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Please help us welcome the following new members to the BLC family:

Sharon Horvarth
Dylan, Amanda, & Hartley Bell
Kenneth, Amanda, Kathryn, Grace,
Mary & Lucy Thiele



SPRING PLANT SALE

Save the date, Sunday, May 21st: 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. Please

label them with the plant identification, planting instructions & a picture of when it is full grown or blooming. You can bring them the week of the sale. There will be hanging flower baskets and other annuals also for sale. If you have any questions, you can see Kerry Melby or Julie Saalsaa.

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP

A big thank you to the 15 people who came out to help with highway clean up. Considering the weather it was a great turn out. 31 bags of trash were picked up and over 100 golf balls!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



The lesson we will be learning on May 7th is God's House, John 14:1-14. On May 14th, we will be having a Mother's Day activity.

On Sunday, May 21st the children will be singing during the service. We will also have a Congregational Space Sunday celebration following the service with a potluck, games, and activities for all ages. We will provide pulled pork, Midwest chicken sandwich, star sandwich, space meatballs, non-cafeinated beverages, and water. If you would like to contribute an item to the potluck, you may sign-up at [this link](#).

Mark your calendar for this summer- Stellar VBS at the Portage United Methodist Church will be 7/31-8/4. We look forward to seeing everyone at the end of the year celebration and having a great fun space day.

FRUIT OF THE SPIRIT KIDS CLUB



Due to low head count, we are cancelling the last Kids Club class for 2022-2023. However, we are working on a plan to bring it back this fall so stay tuned!! Thank you to the youth that helped with

the class over the last few months. We know that the kids that came truly enjoyed it, and we look forward to doing this class again soon.

CONFIRMATION CLASSES

LAST DAY: May 10th

CONFIRMATION CLASS

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC FUNDRAISERS

Casserole Sale

Save the date:
after worship on May 21



Feed Your Soul

CALLING ALL VENDORS!!

We are looking for vendors of homegrown produce or handmade goods. Call 608-742-8502 if you are interested in submitting an application, or simply scan the QR code at the bottom of this flier to access the online application.



FARMERS' MARKET & CONCERT SERIES

SUMMER 2023

Featuring music by

BRENDAN BROOKS

brendanbrooksmusic.com

June 28th

July 26th

August 23rd


FARMERS' MARKET 2:00PM-6:00PM
OUTDOOR CONCERT 5:00PM-6:00PM


W8267 State Hwy 33, Portage
BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG

Vendor Application



FAITH FORMATION



Calling all Sunday School, Youth Group, & Confirmation students.

YOUTH SUNDAY CELEBRATION

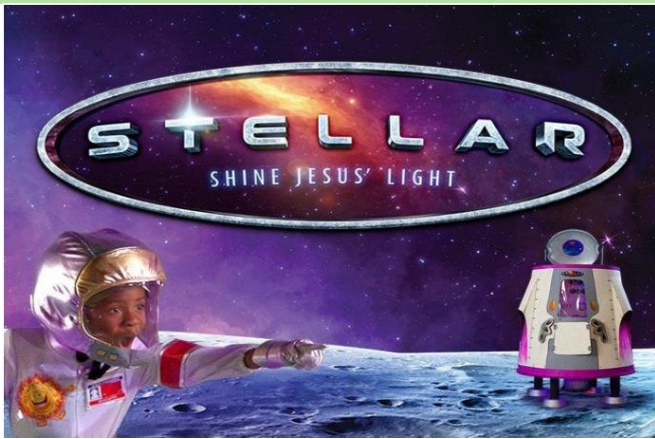
Bethlehem members help us celebrate our youth!
All are invited to stay for cosmos fellowship,
galaxy food and universe games following
9am service-May 21st.

Moon Rock Relay
Saturn Ring Toss
Spacesuit Stomp

Join us this summer for
Portage Community VBS-STELLAR
held at United Methodist Church
July 31-August 4

QR code to register

Feel free to bring a friend!



Save the Date
 Portage community VBS
 Monday July 31st - Friday August 4th
 8:30am -11:30am
 At Portage UMC
 More details coming soon!

CONGRATULATIONS HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS



You are invited to a special worship service in your honor to celebrate your accomplishments and receive a special blessing during the 9 am worship service on May 21st. Congratulations to our seniors:

*Cooper Jenatscheck
 Grace Lauth
 Emily Marcks*

*Naomi Saalsaa
 Alex Schilling
 Brett Zellmer*

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

PARISH ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT UPDATE



We are happy to say we have filled the Parish Administrative Assistant position. **Please give a warm welcome to Tina Thomas!!** Tina has been a member of Bethlehem for four years and in that time has also been on the Call Committee and Church Council. Tina has been an office volunteer for a couple of years, so she is familiar with some of the office duties already. We are excited to have her join the staff!

There may be some adjustments made to Church Office hours; during this time of transition and training, we ask that everyone is loving, patient, and flexible. ♥

LANDSCAPING DAY



On Saturday, May 6th at 9 am the Property Committee will be replacing the shrubs around the building and planting new maples trees. Anyone interested in helping is welcome to join us.

ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT



Monday, May 1st at 6:30 pm

Everyone is welcome to join us as we make plans for activities and events for the next 6 months.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison



April 1-24, 2023

	TOTAL				
	APR 1-24, 2023	APR 1-24, 2022 (PY)	MAR 1-24, 2023 (PP)	JAN 1 - APR 24, 2023 (YTD)	JAN 1 - APR 24, 2022 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	21,145.62	20,332.54	17,700.43	86,580.31	87,645.12
▶ Other Income	13,965.00	415.40	7,930.16	25,813.41	5,864.47
Total Income	\$35,110.62	\$20,747.94	\$25,630.59	\$112,393.72	\$93,509.59
GROSS PROFIT	\$35,110.62	\$20,747.94	\$25,630.59	\$112,393.72	\$93,509.59
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	37,598.82	12,445.48	12,643.60	109,674.53	76,954.37
▶ Other Expense	7,320.00		250.00	10,121.55	2,845.30
Total Expenses	\$44,918.82	\$12,445.48	\$12,893.60	\$119,796.08	\$79,799.67
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -9,808.20	\$8,302.46	\$12,736.99	\$ -7,402.36	\$13,709.92
▶ Other Income	\$2,315.00	\$800.00	\$2,100.00	\$8,890.00	\$10,199.64
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,215.81	\$789.25	\$2,061.00	\$8,609.13	\$9,037.22
NET OTHER INCOME	\$99.19	\$10.75	\$39.00	\$280.87	\$1,162.42
NET INCOME	\$ -9,709.01	\$8,313.21	\$12,775.99	\$ -7,121.49	\$14,872.34

Cash basis Monday, April 24, 2023 11:27 AM GMT-05:00



MAY 2023 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS








Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 5/3 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Avri Anderson		
Sun 5/7 9 am	Ann Ciske	Mark Teslik	Ben Rudolph	Lyn Holmes	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Dayne Wagner		
Flowers: Lyn Holmes in memory of her parents Robert & Shirley Holmes									
Wed 5/10 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Kinleyh Anderson		
Sun 5/14 9am	Kory Anderson	Del Molden		Del Molden	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Hartley Bell		
Flowers:									
Wed 5/17 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence	Shia Grosklau		
Sun 5/21 9am	Bonnie Dixon	Lisa Cook	Lori & Brady Cox	Ellen Kabele	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Alex Hayes		
Flowers: Darlene Anderson-Prest in honor of her son's birthday									
Wed 5/24 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Kayson Bulgrin		
Sun 5/28 9am	Bobbie Goodman	Nancy Buckley		Nancy Buckley	Ginny Paulson	Ginny Paulson	Zoe Zellmer		
Flowers: Bobbie Goodman Thank you to all Veterans									
Wed 5/31 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Courtney Hernkind		



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 2023

General Church Grounds × → Conference Room × → Music Room × → Fellowship Hall ×						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Apr 30 DR Youth Casserole Sale	May 1 All Committee Night 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	2 9:00am Quilters	3 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	4	5 10:30am Tai Chi	6
/ 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	8 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	9 9:00am Quilters	10 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Come as you are Worship 6:30pm Confirmation  	11 9:00am Women's Group 	12 10:30am Tai Chi	13
14 9:00am Worship 10:15am SS Activity Day 	15 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	16 9:00am Quilters	17 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	18 6:30pm Church Council 	19 10:30am Tai Chi	20
21 DR Youth Casserole Sale 9:00am Worship & HS Senior Recognition 10:00am Plant Sale 10:15am SS End of Year Party  	22 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	23 9:00am Quilters	24 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	25	26 10:30am Tai Chi	27
28 9:00am Worship	29 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	30 9:00am Quilters	31 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	