

Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | March, 2024

“Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer.” Romans 12:12

Lent has arrived! Last Wednesday, February 14, forty-three gathered in-person to share in the Imposition of Ashes and reflection around searching/seeking the heart of God’s character. Four congregations: Brush United Methodist, Rankin Presbyterian, Lutheran Church Our Redeemer, and Bethlehem Lutheran were all together to begin the journey of reconnecting in relationship with our Creator along with guests who wanted to remember “from dust we came and to dust we shall return”. At our first Wednesday Soup and Study, thirty gathered to share four delicious soups, bread and spreads together from Bethlehem Lutheran, All Saints Lutheran, Brush Nazarene, Brush United Methodist, Immanuel Congregationalist, and Rankin Presbyterian. We can be joyful in hope with this amazing time spent together sharing in food, fellowship, faithfully praying together and sharing in scripture with Peter, “Finding Faith”. Lent has arrived, pushing us, challenging us, and yes, embracing us in the heart of God’s character that we may search, we may seek to find new life, new hope, new direction, and new meaning!

I’m fascinated at how patience plays out against affliction when once again this month, as a congregation, we continue to make and take steps to resolve affliction, turning it from rough and rugged to smiles and satisfaction. Our new sidewalks are the delight of not only you who walk them weekly, but our community who come periodically. I am hearing all kinds of compliments on how much the sidewalks are appreciated by the community. And yes, this project has turned into a community effort, the city is pouring the new curbs, the wisdom of Randy Meza making trees, sidewalks, and curbs be partners rather than enemies.

In our patience of affliction with internet connection outage, Spectrum has provided a new modem, router, connector, and labor at no cost. This week Excel is

changing all our light bulbs throughout the building to LED at no cost to us, providing better lighting in all areas, including our afflicted dark areas. Our Altar Guild has received five new banners given to us by Our Savior’s in Greeley. The Guild learned how our existing banners can be better used and displayed with our church seasons and scriptures, an affliction from not-knowing. Plus, they will begin using the glass cups again at communion. Clean-up will be eased by new dishwasher trays for communion cups, a Larry Redden Memorial Gift. These glass communion cups ease the affliction of plastic cups breaking in the communion trays and allow us to be environmental stewards.

It is Lent! In hope, patience, and faithfulness we overcome affliction, we live in love for each other and for our Creator, and we experience joy!!! Thanks be to God, the One watching over us. Thanks be to Jesus Christ, the One who shows us the Way. Thanks be to the Spirit, the One who opens our hearts, minds, and spirits to something greater!

A Lenten daily prayer:

“God, may Your light guide my day, and your spirit bring me peace. Amen”

Ro

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Deacon Ro Fesser

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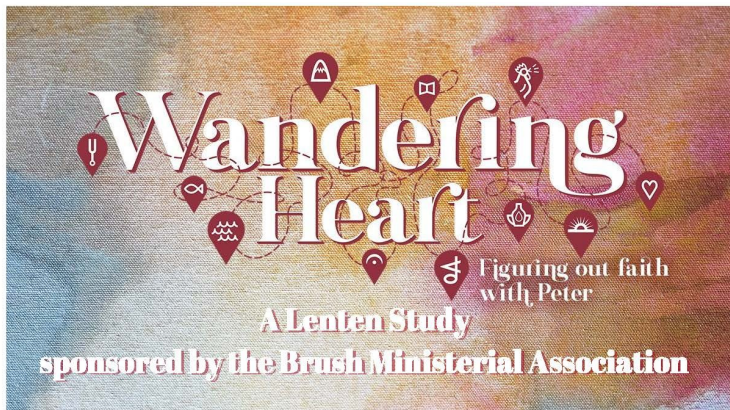
Office Hours: See calendar in church window

Administrative Assistant: Teresa Lauck

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9-3

Sunday Worship

9:00am Worship Service



2/28 at Brush United Methodist Church

3/6 at Brush Church of the Nazarene

3/13 at Rankin Presbyterian Church

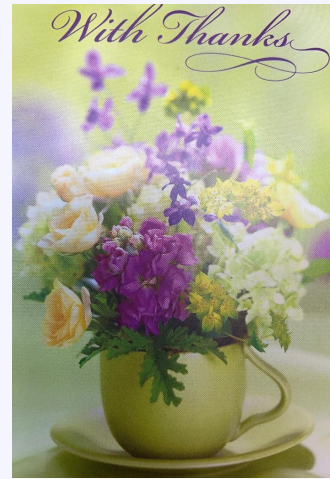
3/20 at Immanuel Congregational Church

Maundy Thursday Service:

March 28th at 5:30 p.m. Rankin Presbyterian Church

Good Friday Service:

March 29th at 5:30 Brush United Methodist Church



With Thanks

Dear Bethlehem Family,

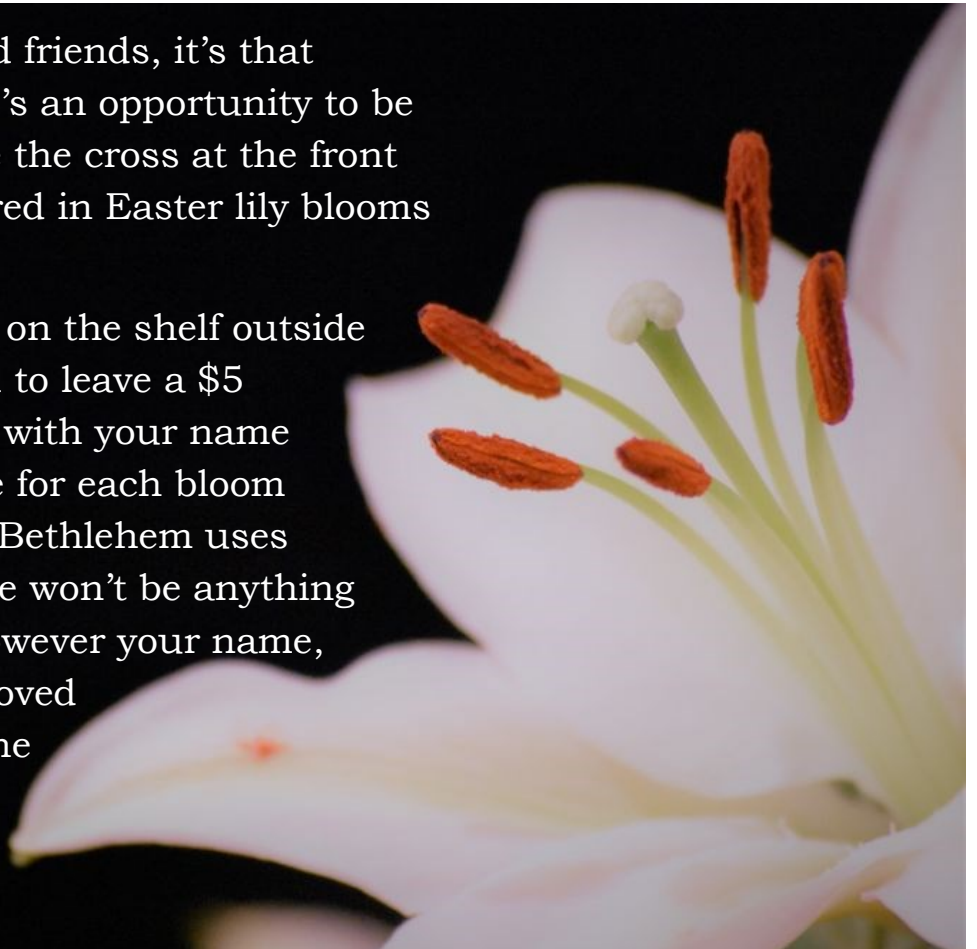
Thank you so much for all your thoughts, prayers, contributions to my dear sister Wanda's memorial, and all your words of comfort. Thanks to

Chaplain Ro, too, for doing Wanda's Celebration of Life. It all helped make an extremely difficult time just a little easier.

Jeanette Dehning

Bethlehem members and friends, it's that time of year again! Here's an opportunity to be part of helping to assure the cross at the front of the sanctuary is covered in Easter lily blooms on Easter morning.

There is a sign-up sheet on the shelf outside the office. You are asked to leave a \$5 donation in an envelope with your name on it in the church office for each bloom you choose to sponsor. Bethlehem uses artificial blooms, so there won't be anything for you to take home; however your name, along with that of your loved one(s), will be listed in the Easter bulletin as an acknowledgement.





Easter comes early this year—
and so does the Altar cleaning day!

Please plan to come help out with the annual
deep cleaning of the sanctuary on

Saturday, March 23

starting at **9:30 a.m.**



**THRIVENT
FINANCIAL®**

Thank you. Thank you. Thank you!

In 2023 Bethlehem received \$136 from
directed Thrivent Choice Dollars. One good
act leads to another. And the impact
grows.

Many of you have directed Choice Dollars®
to our church in the past, and by doing so,
you have helped to make a difference.

Thank you for your support.

Please be mindful that this year's deadline
to direct your Thrivent Choice dollars is
March 31, 2024.



Daylight savings begins

Sunday, March 10th

**Don't forget to set your
clocks ahead 1 hour**

**COPING WITH
GRIEF AND LOSS**
grief support group

A new support group is being formed and will meet
at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer on
Saturday, February 24th at noon.

This group, lead by Deaconess Kay Johnson, meets
twice per month on Saturdays and is a safe and
wonderful place for people who are suffering from
grief in any form. Kay will be absent for the
February meeting, and Deacon Ro and Pastor
Michael TeKrony (LCOR) will be facilitating the
meeting. If you are struggling in any way, you are
encouraged to come, meet with the group, see what
it's all about, and explore a map to healing.



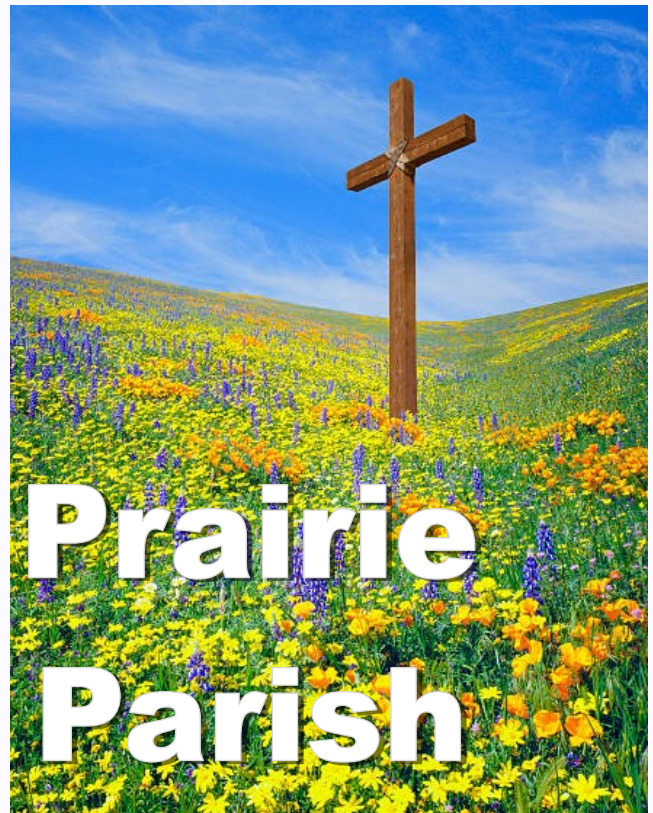
CAMP SUNDAY HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED!

On Sunday **March 10** we will be having Camp Sunday. Pr. Bekah Boatwright, Program Director for Sky Ranch, will be here for a special worship service.

Bethlehem will have a special offering that day designated for Sky Ranch.

Come join and be part of this special Sunday at Bethlehem!

Bethlehem has received a gift of five new banners from our sister Lutherans at All Savior's in Greeley. A huge shout of thanks for their generosity!



You are cordially invited to join us at the next Prairie Parish event. Pastor Barb Martens, transitional coach with the Rocky Mountain Synod, will be joining us to discuss

“Ministry for the Future on the Plains.”

As a transition coach, she will discuss the present circumstances, the resources in motion, thinking outside the box, and putting together a strategic plan for ministry here on the plains in the next five years. Prairie Parish was started from this same kind of discussion and planning 11 years ago.

Saturday, March 9th
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
603 Custer
9:00 a.m.

Breakfast will be provided.

Sign up on the shelf outside the office if you wish to provide a food item for this event.

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE



**Palm
Sunday**

March 24th

Worship at
Bethlehem

9:00 a.m.

*"Blessed is he who
comes in the name
of the Lord."
Matthew 23:39*



**Maundy
Thursday**

March 28th

Worship at
**Rankin
Presbyterian**
420 Clayton

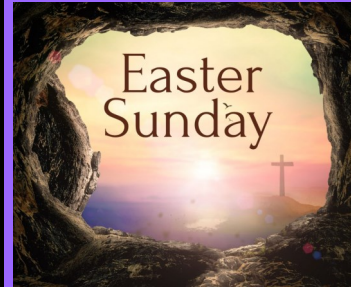
5:30 p.m.



**Good
Friday**

March 29th

Worship at
**United
Methodist**
1701 Edmunds
5:30 p.m.



**Easter
Sunday**

March 31st

Worship at
Bethlehem

9:00 a.m.

**He is Risen!
DEATH COULD
NOT HOLD HIM.
Rejoice in the
resurrection of
Jesus Christ.**



for sharing the power of God's love with the world

Thank you for sharing your gifts with our church, and for sharing the power of God's love with the world during 2023. As we look forward to the year ahead, I want to share with you some of the impact your generosity has made in the past year. We are humbled to work alongside our siblings in Christ around the world, connected by our faith and supported by our faith community. **Your generosity makes incredible work possible.** You have helped build homes and churches, plant crops, nurture future leaders and so much more.



Please pray for the following who have been submitted to our prayer list:

Garnet and girls for their upcoming hearings, Vivian Llewellyn, Bill & Gloria Thiel, Donnie Hefty and family in the loss of Brandon, Kenny Bostrom, John Strauch, Bev Strand, Lane Morrow, Beva Linker, Dave Honebein, Tom & Carol Morrow, Lane Morrow, Zach Griffith, Lori Bostrom, & Collene Travers



St. Patrick's Day Dinner

Brush United Methodist Church
1701 Edmunds St, Brush

Sunday, March 17, 2024
Noon-1:30

Cost: \$12 (Children 10 and under are free)

Proceeds to:

Nana Kutela Fatuma—African Missionary
and other Brush UMC missions

Please come and enjoy the best corned beef dinner every while supporting our missions!



March Birthdays

Lenore Wind	3rd
Jaylene Evans	8th
Bill George	14th
Krystal Ginther	18th
Donna Morgan	21st
Larry Andersen	26th
Bev Strand	31st

HAPPY Anniversary

March Anniversaries

John & Wendy Richter	10th
Ed & Barb Brandenburg	30th

Please call the church office if there is an error or omission.



Rocky Mountain Synod, ELCA

Courageous, resilient, and faithful leaders for the sake of the world

For the past two years, Lutheran congregation members from Northeastern Colorado have been engrossed in this program of study, projects, and learning. They will receive their commissioning certifications on Saturday, March 23 at 2:00pm via Zoom. Please contact the church office for the link if you wish to support of their accomplishments.

Daily Bible Readings



Friday, March 1

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:9b-15
Acts 7:30-40

Saturday, March 2

Psalm 19
Exodus 19:16-25
Mark 9:2-8

Sunday, March 3

Exodus 20:1-17
Psalm 19
1 Corinthians 1:18-25
John 2:13-22

Monday, March 4

Psalm 84
1 Kings 6:1-4, 21-22
1 Corinthians 3:10-23

Tuesday, March 5

Psalm 84
2 Chronicles 29:1-11, 16-19
Hebrews 9:23-28

Wednesday, March 6

Psalm 84
Ezra 6:1-16
Mark 11:15-19

Thursday, March 7

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Genesis 9:8-17
Ephesians 1:3-6

Friday, March 8

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Daniel 12:5-13
Ephesians 1:7-14

Saturday, March 9

Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Numbers 20:22-29
John 3:1-13

Sunday, March 10

Numbers 21:4-9
Psalm 107:1-3, 17-22
Ephesians 2:1-10
John 3:14-21

Monday, March 11

Psalm 107:1-16
Exodus 15:22-27
Hebrews 3:1-6

Tuesday, March 12

Psalm 107:1-16
Numbers 20:1-13
1 Corinthians 10:6-13

Wednesday, March 13

Psalm 107:1-16
Isaiah 60:15-22
John 8:12-20

Thursday, March 14

Psalm 51:1-12
Isaiah 30:15-18
Hebrews 4:1-13

Friday, March 15

Psalm 51:1-12
Exodus 30:1-10
Hebrews 4:14—5:4

Saturday, March 16

Psalm 51:1-12
Habakkuk 3:2-13
John 12:1-11

Sunday, March 17

Jeremiah 31:31-34
Psalm 51:1-12
Hebrews 5:5-10
John 12:20-33

Monday, March 18

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 43:8-13
2 Corinthians 3:4-11

Tuesday, March 19

Psalm 119:9-16
Isaiah 44:1-8
Acts 2:14-24

Wednesday, March 20

Psalm 119:9-16
Haggai 2:1-9, 20-23
John 12:34-50

Thursday, March 21

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Deuteronomy 16:1-8
Philippians 2:1-11

Friday, March 22

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:1-9
Philippians 2:12-18

Saturday, March 23

Psalm 118:1-2, 19-29
Jeremiah 33:10-16
Mark 10:32-34, 46-52

Sunday, March 24

Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16
Philippians 2:5-11
Mark 14:1—15:47

Monday, March 25

Isaiah 42:1-9
Psalm 36:5-11
Hebrews 9:11-15
John 12:1-11

Tuesday, March 26

Isaiah 49:1-7
Psalm 71:1-14
1 Corinthians 1:18-31
John 12:20-36

Wednesday, March 27

Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 70
Hebrews 12:1-3
John 13:21-32

Thursday, March 28

Exodus 12:1-4 [5-10] 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday, March 29

Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22
Hebrews 10:16-25
John 18:1—19:42

Saturday, March 30

Romans 6:3-11
John 20:1-18

Sunday, March 31

Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
1 Corinthians 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43
Mark 16:1-8

Resurrection of Our Lord—Easter Evening

Isaiah 25:6-9
Psalm 114
1 Corinthians 5:6b-8
Luke 24:13-49



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 11, 2024

The meeting was brought to order at 10:19am by President Deb Johnson. Members present were Deb Johnson, Maren Bostrom, Beth Hocheder, Terry Linker, Kim Redden, Isaac Linker and Jeanette Dehning. Deacon Ro gave the opening prayer.

After a correction was made to last month's minutes with the Freshen Up monies being \$4,659.83, Jeanette moved, Maren seconded, and the motion to accept the Consensus Agenda was passed.

OLD BUSINESS: *Lent* begins February 14, with a 5:30pm service at Bethlehem. Sunday services will be held in the respective churches. The Wednesday soup luncheons and Bible studies, and Holy Week night 5:30 services will be held in different churches. Check your Bethlehem calendar to see where to go. Ro will be calling those on our inactive list to invite them to the Lenten opportunities.

NEW BUSINESS: *New council officers* were reminded they need to go to the bank to give information so they can be available to sign checks when needed.

The *Roll List* was reviewed, with a few more changes being made. Jeanette moved to accept these lists, Beth seconded, and the motion passed.

Lay Preacher Training is being offered for those wishing to do lay preaching. Training includes how to write and give sermons, as well as many other bits of information. Charlene has volunteered to do this. Jeanette moved and Kim seconded for BLC to cover the cost of the training and book. Motion passed.

A *church council work session* will be held for two hours February 25. We will continue our work on the constitution. Please review all the committees in the constitution and their usefulness.

OTHER BUSINESS: The last Prairie Parish meeting had over 40 people attend.

Beth requested to do her church financial business on her own computer. It has all the programs she needs and is familiar with to do this. Kim moved and Terry seconded for her to be able to do this. Motion passed.

Randy Meza requested the last of his payment for the cement work he is doing. He is planning to do some of the work at his own expense. Deb will get a check to him by Tuesday afternoon.

A long discussion was held about *banking*. Should we use only one instead of two Brush banks? If we go to one bank, which one shall we use? Some people have their tithing directly deposited into a bank. As the financial people, Kim and Beth, plus Deb, will make the final decision on this. As our checking account was low on funds, Jeanette moved and Maren seconded to move \$20,000 from our savings account to our checking.

A *fire inspector* was in our building last week. Everything looked good except he would like to see a fire extinguisher closer to the back door.

A *gift* of a sterling silver tea set was accepted.

Kim will be March Deacon, and Beth usher.

Respectfully Submitted,
Jeanette Dehning

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2024

The meeting was brought to order by President Deb Johnson. Opening devotion was by Deacon Ro Fesser. A quorum was established, as those in attendance were: Deacon Ro, John Turner, Chester McCoy, Don Hefty, Janet and Steve Rohde, Deb and Larry Johnson, Carol Livengood, Sharon Bzdek, Jim Christensen, Gene Ruggles, Lenore and Allyn Wind, Sharon George, Donna Morgan, Kevin and Jody DeKorte, Beth Hocheder, Kim Redden, Maren and Corinne Bostrom, Isaac and Terry Linker.

A motion was made by Steve Rohde to accept the minutes from the Annual Meeting on January 15, 2023. The motion was seconded by Isaac Linker and John Turner. Motion passed.

A motion was made to accept the minutes of the State of the Church meeting on November 19, 2023. Steve Rohde moved and Lenore Wind seconded. Motion passed.

Auditor's report was given by Beth Hocheder. She thanked everybody, but gave a special thanks to Lenore Wind who has worked hard for many years as the BLCW (Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women) treasurer. Lenore closed out the BLCW account and transferred the reserve into the general fund.

Beth thanked everyone for their committee reports.

Committees for 2024 were discussed. Auditor Committee needs three people. Beth Hocheder will be one member. Deacon Ro suggested tabling more member positions until the next Church Council meeting in February.

Nominating Committee members are Beth Hocheder, Deb Johnson, Kim Redden and Marsha Mills. Kevin DeKorte was asked and accepted.

Deacon Committee is Deb Johnson, Beth Hocheder and Kim Redden. The plan is to table the rest until the February Church Council meeting.

Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly will be in Loveland, CO April 25, 26 and 27. Registration starts in March. Ro reported that BLC will take care of all expenses, including lodging, for those who want to attend. One or two delegates would be appreciated.

In other business Deb Johnson thanked Kevin DeKorte for all of his hard work and many years of service on the council. He was presented with a gift. Other outgoing council members Marsha Mills and Marisa Ford-Castrup were not able to be in attendance.

Deacon Ro gave the closing prayer and the meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully Submitted,

Maren Bostrom, notetaker

Jeanette Dehning, typist

We thank those who offer their gifts in leading worship this month!

March, 2024	3	10	17	24	31
Deacon	Kim Redden				
Reader	Sharon George	Jeanne Wuest	Kim Redden	Deb Johnson	Sharon George
Altar Guild	Marisa Castrup				
Usher	Beth Hocheder				
Sunshine Committee	Trish Turner & Betty McCoy				
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys				
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte				

	1/28	2/04	2/11	2/14	2/18
Attendance	31	33	28	Ash Wednesday 43	33

BLC Congregation Council Members & Officers

Congregation Council is the core leadership body of the congregation, charged with overseeing and directing the life and mission of our church. We encourage you to talk with them! Please pray for their ministry as they provide leadership to BLC.

Deb Johnson, President 970-842-5633

Terry Linker, Vice-President 970-768-1099

Jeanette Dehning, Secretary 970-380-3822

Kim Redden, Treasurer 970-380-9727

Maren Bostrom 970-471-6062

Beth Hocheder 970-768-3888

Charlene Holzworth 970-380-6598

Isaac Linker 970-520-1989



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www.facebook.com/bethlehemlutheranbrush



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 2
3 3rd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship	4	5	6 12:00pm Lenten Soup & Study at Nazarene	7 9:00am Quilting	8 9:00am Quilting	9 
10 4th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship/Camp Sunday 10:15am Council Meeting	11	12	13 12:00pm Lenten Soup & Study at Rankin	14 9:00am Quilting	15	16 9am-11am 4 Gospels Study
17 5th Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship	18	19 6:00pm PEO	20 12:00pm Lenten Soup & Study at Immanuel	21 Terresa gone 9:00am Quilting	22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE	23 9:30am Cleaning of the Altar/Sanctuary
24 Palm Sunday Palm Sunday 9:00am Worship	25	26	27	28 Maundy Thursday 5:30pm Maundy Thursday Service at Rankin 9:00am Quilting	29 GOOD FRIDAY 5:30pm Good Friday Service at Methodist	30
31 Easter Sunday 9:00am Worship						

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

A growing community of Christ's followers; cultivating disciples
through compassion, love, and integrity.