



Bethlehem Star

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

“And the one who was seated on the throne said, “See, I am making all things new. Also he said, ‘Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true.’”

Revelation 21:5

These are amazing words Jesus spoke and important words since he wanted the words written down to be read throughout the ages. Yes, the ages! You and I are part of something with our faith and our belief in God, the Father, Jesus, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, our wisdom and guide that has been made new over and over and over again throughout the ages.

God does not start over. Rather God makes “all things new.” Think of all the things God has made new in your life since you first came to know him as a youngster, how your faith has been changed, shaped, molded, melded, and used since you were first put on this earth. God did not start over, it was a new beginning, a new thing each and every time.

The star gifts received Epiphany Sunday and again on Annual Meeting Sunday God is making “all things new” for all of you throughout the entire year, 2024. From the excitement and joy of the Advent/Christmas Giving Tree and thanksgiving food collection, God is making “all things new.” Pat Chase will be working with Deacon Ro to develop a new ministry called, “Compassionate Hearts” where food will once again be collected and placed at the altar February 11 and February 18 for the Community

Cupboard and Little Pantry by the library. Whether you want to see if the north sanctuary or the south sanctuary overflows their baskets or you want to go greater than December’s total of 121 pounds, be sure to leave your food gifts at the altar Feb 11 and/or Feb 18. The list of needed supplies is available on the shelf outside the church office.

Another piece of “Compassionate Hearts” is the Giving Tree. We will continue the Giving Tree throughout the entire year. Where God is making “all things new” as He invites each of you to be on the search for a family/individual that may need support, love, and companionship. We would like to find someone/some family to be his/her/their sweethearts, leprechauns, good eggs, may basket, June tidings too and continue as we are called.

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Deacon Ro Fesser

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Office Hours: *For days & times, see calendar*

Administrative Assistant: Teresa Lauck

Office Hours: *Tuesday & Thursday, 9-3*

Sunday Worship

9:00am Worship Service

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The final piece of "Compassionate Hearts" is becoming a buddy! Buddies will reach out to our single members as companions. Buddies will call or visit his/her companion once a week, extend the invitation for a ride to church/church activity when it is difficult for the companion to get to that event, will keep the companion in the know with what's going on at church, and maybe even go out to eat or share in a community event. Buddies get to create whatever fun, activity, event he/she can share with his/her companion.

It's not a start over with God, but rather all things made new!!! 2022 Advent Discovery and 2023 Lenten Lunches all made new with brothers and sisters at Rankin Presbyterian and Brush United Methodist Churches. 2023 Advent Discovery made new with Tuesday Noon Soup and Study! Be watching!!! Deacon Ro joins Pr. Sharon and Pr. Mike the week of January 23 to see what God makes new for Lent and Holy Week, 2024!

Faith Formation Class: "4 Gospels-Compare and Contrast", all made new, meeting one Saturday a month, January through May. Please consider joining in person or on Zoom (all made new), this way technology now can bring us together as brothers/sisters to study and form and grow our faith. If you are unable to make January, please contact Deacon Ro for January materials and your interest in class, if you missed the January class time. This will be our only Faith Formation Class this spring. Others will be made new in the fall.

God is alive within us, Jesus Christ provides the words that are trustworthy and true, and the Holy Spirit invites us to experience and discover, rather than start over!!!

Blessings, brothers and sisters in Christ!!!
Ro



Chaplain Ro & Bethlehem Lutheran,

Thank you for remembering me at Christmas. I so much appreciate all you do for me. I love my pink and purple quilt, and all the prayers you pray for me. Thanks, Ro, for the picture frames. I am happy to have a way to keep and share my pictures. Also, thank you for keeping me on track.

Love, Esther Wyatt

PRAIRIE PARISH

February 3rd

9:00 a.m.

Roy Chavez will give a presentation about the forces that affected his life as a child on the Navajo Indian reservation. As an Indian boarding school survivor, he will speak about how he came to terms with what he went through in order to heal himself. The title of his presentation will be 'HOZ-HO' which in Navajo means "finding peace through healing."



Peace
Evangelical
Church
Akron

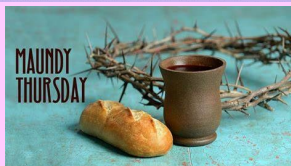


Lenten

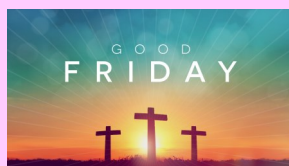
SCHEDULE



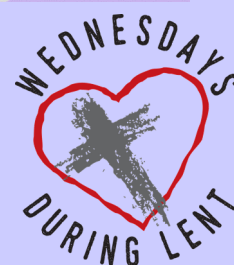
Ash Wednesday
Bethlehem Lutheran
February 14th
5:30 p.m.



Maundy Thursday
Rankin Presbyterian
March 28th
5:30 p.m.



Good Friday
Brush Methodist
March 29th
5:30 p.m.



Soup & Studies at
noon

Feb 21: BLC
Feb 28: Methodist
March 6: Nazarene
March 13: Rankin
March 20: Immanuel
Congregationalist

Dear Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for your gift of \$976.50 to ELCA World Hunger.

Since we are justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have obtained access to his grace in which we stand; and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God (Romans 5:1-2)

As a church, we believe that God's grace is freely given to us. This brings us peace and hope. It makes a difference in our lives. Through your gifts to the ministries of the ELCA you share this amazing grace with others and help people around the world feel the transformational power of God's love.

Your generosity is getting at the root causes of hunger and poverty in over 60 countries, including the United States. It provides access to clean water, health care, agriculture, livestock, education and peace and justice. Through your gifts you join the whole church in working toward a just world where all are fed.

Thank you for your gracious gifts. The glory of God shines through you.

In Christ,

Amanda White



Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting

January 11, 2024

The January Church Council meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm on January 11, 2024. Members present were Deb Johnson, Kim Redden, Beth Hocheder, Isaac Linker, Terry Linker, Maren Bostrom, Jeanette Dehning, Chaplain Ro, and Marsha Mills via Zoom.

Absent was Charlene Holzworth.

Ro gave the opening prayer. Consensus agenda (Minutes, Treasurer's report, Ro's report) was moved to be accepted by Kim and seconded by Beth, and the motion passed. Ro added several events to her report. Ro stated she has two funerals next week, neither of which are members of Bethlehem. This is part of Bethlehem's outreach into the community. And if she is called upon for pastoral duty she will be there. She stated that some months are just busier than others, and December was a busy month.

Correspondence: ELCA sent a thank you for the \$976.50 for World Hunger from our chili supper. We also received a thank you from Esther Wyatt for remembering her at Christmas. Our Rocky Mountain Synod let us know that there was a 12.5% overall decline in mission support. We gave what we said we would in 2023, so Deb moved and Jeanette seconded to not give more.

Old Business: The membership roll review is going very well. Half of those who attended church the 6th stayed to help go through the rolls. Five people were removed from the rolls as requested. Those who have not communed or given in the past year are being listed as "Inactive". Anyone who has given or communed in the past year is listed as "Active." It is hoped this task will be finished after church on January 28th.

The Faith Journey classes have only had one person sign up, and one maybe. We have until January 20 to sign up. One past council member signed up for the Four Gospel class. It will be held the third Saturday of each month, beginning January 20, from 9-11am.

The copier has broken down and will be replaced by the company. Of the two printers, the Brother does not print well, and the other needs ink.

The annual meeting will be held January 21 after church. The new council president will conduct the meeting. Terresa and Deb have been working on the agenda. Terresa is waiting for a couple more reports before printing the annual meeting booklet.

New Business: The bid proposal from Randy Meza was handed out. Both Terry and Jeanette brought up the fact that when they had concrete work done their contractor had the price of the cement in their contract, but they were later billed for the cement from the seller. Deb moved and Maren seconded to have Randy do the sidewalk in front of Bethlehem at a weather appropriate time. The motion passed. We will pay for the materials at the businesses and not as part of the contract. We agreed to use the remaining Freshen Up monies (\$459.83) for this project, then close out that account.

Council meetings have been moved from the second Thursday evening of the month, to the second Sunday of the month right after church. Terry moved and Beth seconded for this to begin in February 2024. The motion passed. It was requested that the meetings end by 12 noon.

Nominations were then made for 2024 council officers. Jeanette moved and Terry seconded for Deb Johnson to be our new president. Motion passed. Jeanette moved and Kim seconded for

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seconded for Terry Linker be the new Vice-President. Motion passed. Terry moved and both Isaac and Maren seconded for Jeanette to be the new secretary. Motion passed. Beth moved and Maren seconded for Kim to continue as Treasurer. Motion passed. Jeanette moved and Isaac seconded for Beth to be the new Financial Secretary. Motion passed.

Other Business: At last Sunday's service Ro gave each person a Star Gift. On it was their word for the year. Next Tuesday's Ministerial Alliance will discuss Lent rotation with the Methodists, Presbyterians and BLC. They may begin February 11 so each church has two Sundays. We may do Ash Wednesday as the others do Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. January 21st will be installation of new council members during the church service, followed by the Annual Meeting. January 28th the council will continue reviewing the constitution. Lent begins February 14.

Pat Chase has asked to do a New Ministry program, possibly called Compassionate Heart Outreach. This will include things such as a buddy program for some of our older/single people, a giving tree all year long, food relief two Sundays per month the even numbered months and other such things.

A Sky Ranch pastor is to be here this Sunday. Due to the extreme cold, how many people will attend? Should we reschedule to a Sunday later in the year when more people would be likely to attend? Deb moved and Isaac seconded to reschedule Sky Ranch, and to cancel church for this Sunday. Both emails and phone calls will be made so we don't miss anyone.

The Lord's Prayer was recited, with the meeting adjourned at 8:12pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

Prayer Requests

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

Kenny Bostrom, Pat Chase, John Strauch, Bev Strand, Lane Morrow, Beva Linker, Dave Honebein, Tom & Carol Morrow, Lane Morrow, Zach Griffith, Lori Bostron, & Colene Travers



February Birthdays

Jeremy Redden	6th
Gene Ruggles	13th
Suzanne Halvorson	28th
Trish Turner	29th

HAPPY Anniversary

February Anniversaries

Ed & Joann Hansen	14th
John & Trish Turner	28th

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



Thursday, February 1
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Friday, February 2
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Saturday, February 3
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14

Sunday, February 4
Isaiah 40:21-31
Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
1 Corinthians 9:16-23
Mark 1:29-39

Monday, February 5
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37
Acts 14:1-7



Tuesday, February 6
Psalm 102:12-28
2 Kings 8:1-6
Acts 15:36-41

Wednesday, February 7
Psalm 102:12-28
Job 6:1-13
Mark 3:7-12

Thursday, February 8
Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 11:26-40
2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Friday, February 9
Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 14:1-18
1 Timothy 1:12-20

Saturday, February 10
Psalm 50:1-6
1 Kings 16:1-7
Luke 19:41-44

Sunday, February 11
2 Kings 2:1-12
Psalm 50:1-6
2 Corinthians 4:3-6
Mark 9:2-9

Monday, February 12
Psalm 110:1-4
Exodus 19:7-25
Hebrews 2:1-4

Tuesday, February 13
Psalm 110:1-4
Job 19:23-27
1 Timothy 3:14-16



Ash Wednesday February 14
Joel 2:1-2, 12-17
Psalm 51:1-17
2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10
Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21

Thursday, February 15
Psalm 25:1-10
Daniel 9:1-14
1 John 1:3-10

Friday, February 16
Psalm 25:1-10
Daniel 9:15-25a
2 Timothy 4:1-5

Saturday, February 17
Psalm 25:1-10
Psalm 32
Matthew 9:2-13



Sunday, February 18
Genesis 9:8-17
Psalm 25:1-10
1 Peter 3:18-22
Mark 1:9-15

Monday, February 19
Psalm 77
Job 4:1-21
Ephesians 2:1-10

Tuesday, February 20
Psalm 77
Job 5:8-27
1 Peter 3:8-18a

Wednesday, February 21
Psalm 77
Proverbs 30:1-9
Matthew 4:1-11

Thursday, February 22
Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18
Romans 3:21-31

Friday, February 23
Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:1-6
Romans 4:1-12



Saturday, February 24
Psalm 22:23-31
Genesis 16:7-15
Mark 8:27-30

Sunday, February 25
Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16
Psalm 22:23-31
Romans 4:13-25
Mark 8:31-38

Monday, February 26
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 21:1-7
Hebrews 1:8-12

Tuesday, February 27
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Genesis 22:1-19
Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19

Wednesday, February 28
Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45
Jeremiah 30:12-22
John 12:36-43

Thursday, February 29
Psalm 19
Exodus 19:1-9a
1 Peter 2:4-10

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

February, 2024	4	11	18	25
Deacon	Deb Johnson			
Reader	Sharon George	Jeanne Wuest	Kim Redden	Deb Johnson
Altar Guild	Deb Johnson			
Usher	Larry Johnson			
Sunshine Committee	Janet Rohde			
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys			
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte	Marisa Castrup & Sharon George	Kevin & Jody DeKorte	

	12/31	1/07	1/14	1/21
Attendance	29	22	No service due to cold	28

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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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1  9:00am Quilting	2 9:00am Prairie Parish Peace, Akron	3
4 5th Sunday in Epiphany 9:00am Worship 8:00am-noon Ro at BLC 10:00am Roll Review	5 9am-noon Ro at BLC	6 6:00pm PEO	7	8 9:00am Quilting	9 9am-1pm Ro at BLC	10 8am-noon Ro at BLC
 11 Transfiguration of our Lord 9:00am Worship 10:15am Council Meeting 8am-1pm Ro at BLC	12	 13	 14 ASH WEDNESDAY Ash Wednesday 5:30pm at BLC Valentine's Day	15 9:00am Quilting	 16 9am-11am 4 Gospels Study 8am-12:30pm Ro at BLC	17
 18 1st Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship	 19 9am-noon Ro at BLC	20 6:00pm PEO	21 12:00pm Lenten Soup & Study at BLC Terresa in office 9-3	22 Terresa gone 9:00am Quilting	23	24
25 2nd Sunday in Lent 9:00am Worship	26 9am-noon Ro at BLC	27	28 12:00pm Lenten Soup & Study at Methodist	29 9:00am Quilting	