



Bethlehem Star

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

As I look out the window, while writing to you I have the awareness of spring arriving tonight around 9:00pm and in just 10 days we will be celebrating Easter and then what? It makes me wonder, only imagine how/what were the apostles thinking that Resurrection night, delighted, yet wondering, now what? Where do we go from here?

Yes, we will plant gardens and flowers. Yes, we will have beautiful days to enjoy God's creation. Yes, we will look forward to Rockies' Opening Day and the NCAA Finals. Yes, we will look forward to summer events and family reunions and picnics and celebrations. But where do we go with our faith, what do we do with our spiritual lives, how do we share the good news of Jesus Christ with our families and friends, our neighbors and strangers who live all around us? No doubt that's exactly what the apostles had on their minds.

I highly doubt they had liturgy and Sunday worship on their minds, nor readers and hymns, deacons and ushers. They were thinking more likely about their neighbors, Jews and Gentiles coming to know about Jesus through the apostles' words and deeds. Possibly, they were considering how to live in the grace given at the tomb rather than thinking on the acts that put Jesus, their Savior on the cross. For the most part, we do know they weren't thinking about going back to the same 'ole, same 'ole fishermen, tax collector, and everything they did before the crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension. We like the apostles are changed in the Resurrection of our Lord. Easter night we too need to ponder, wonder, and question "now what??" What do I do, how do I walk and talk as one who follows my Lord?

From 2 Peter 3:18..."But grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory both now and to the day of eternity. Amen."

This spring and in the weeks after Easter we have this season to grow in our understanding of Jesus Christ and how we love and serve our God and those we live and move and have our being. How do we grow in our understanding?

"Take good care to observe the commandment and instruction that Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God, to walk in all his ways, to keep his commandments, and to hold fast to him, and to serve him with all your heart and with all your soul." Joshua 22:5.

We are called to SERVE WITH A HEART LIKE JESUS! That's how we as followers of Jesus, Christians alive in this world, are different from all the other clubs, organizations, societies, associations. This the growing season... 2024! GROW IN GRACE rather than go back in 2024 to same 'ole, same 'ole! Blessings in Christ! Ro

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Deacon Ro Fesser

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Office Hours: See calendar for hours

Administrative Assistant: Teresa Lauck

Office Hours: Tuesday & Thursday, 9-3

Sunday Worship

9:00am Worship Service



**Thanks to those who
donated Easter lily
blooms to adorn the
cross this blessed
Easter Sunday!**

Beth Hocheder *in memory of her dad, mom,
sister, and to the Glory of God*

Kim Redden *in memory of Larry Redden*

Larry & Deb Johnson
in memory of their parents

Allyn & Lenore Wind *to the Glory of God*

Kenny & Corinne Bostrom *in memory of
their parents, Martin & Ethel Kostman,
and brother Robert Kostman*

Charlene Holzworth *in memory of Bob
Holzworth, Charlie & Mamie Houston,
and Vem & Vi Holzworth*

Marsha Mills *in memory of
Jean & June Maupin and Jean Awmiller*

Pat Chase *in memory of Donna & Marvin
Nesheim and Jonathan Chase*

Don Hefty *in memory of Helen & Sam Hefty*

Terry Linker
in memory of Barbara & Henry Linker

Isaac Linker *in memory of Kari Linker*

Mike & Sandy Cook *in memory of Harold
Temple and Joyce Temple. In honor of
"Jesus Christ Has Risen Today!!!"*



A special thanks to each of you who contributed items for our Easter tree collection. Thanks to your generosity, Bethlehem was able to share twenty filled baskets with the local pantry for distribution.



Mutual Ministry Committee Formation:

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council cordially invites members of this congregation to consider becoming a member of the Mutual Ministry Committee. The purpose of the committee is to intentionally affirm and strengthen the mission of our congregation and ministry of our staff (pastor, administrative assistant, custodian, and musician) by listening and clarifying, sharing and communicating, reviewing and reflecting. Committee members are called to serve with commitment to the vision of our whole church, the mission of the congregation, and the ministry of our staff.

Listening and clarifying: *“What concerns me is not the way things are, but rather the way people think they are.”* (Epictetus) Activities include: listening to each other—staff, congregation, and called leaders; clarifying expectations—job descriptions, boundaries, role expectations; to hear and spot concerns as they arise, sort out, and give recommendations; to hear and encourage new ideas.

Sharing and communicating: *“The main problem is not the differences in points of view, it is the emotional reactions to the differences.”* (Michael Nichol) Activities include: hearing joys and frustrations about congregational life and ministry; avoid gossip; confession and absolution if necessary; and to encourage new emphasis or priorities in ministry.

Reviewing and revising: *“If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”* (Matthew 15) Activities include: discussing priorities with staff; discussing the ways the congregation has committed itself to support ministry; find ways that have been helpful during the year and how to be more helpful in the coming year.

The mission for Mutual Ministry is a call to a wider vision of the church as an interconnected Body of Christ, linking together God’s people in a shared purpose and common adventure in the service of Jesus Christ in the world. Marks of mutual ministry include mutual communication, mutual growth, mutual accountability, mutual affirmation, and mutual vision. In busy times with busy schedules, our ministry cries out for intentional mutual care that is focused on refilling, reviewing, refreshment, and renewing. With a mutual ministry committee equipped and focused we engage in what Martin Luther called ‘mutual conversation and consolation among Christians’. We are empowered then to grow together, try new things, discover old things that have slipped away, or openly work on tough things that might show up in Christian love and support.

Meetings will be scheduled once a quarter in-person, with zoom attendance available. The Committee will be made up of three congregational members, one council member, and acting pastor, Deacon Ro. Please spend time in prayer and discernment, then contact any council member with your willingness to serve!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council





Come join this new ministry! In March, members of Bethlehem and the Brush community gathered a few mornings at Home Plate for some coffee and fellowship among men. Come join in!

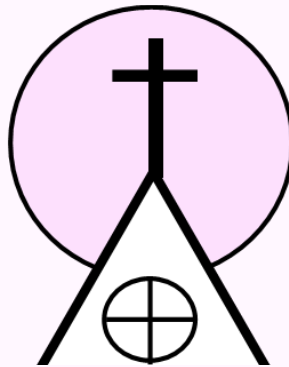
Home Plate
Monday, April 1 & 15
8:30 a.m.

PRAIRIE PARISH EVENT
SATURDAY, APRIL 13, 2024
PEACE LUTHERAN, STERLING

9:00 a.m.

Breakfast provided

The next Prairie Parish event will be held in Sterling. The topic of this month's gathering is *"Transition and Keeping Christ in our Communities!"* Come join this vibrant group! "What is Prairie Parish?" you ask... Check out the all-new *Prairie Wildfire*, our Prairie Parish newsletter and find out!



Looking for Audio-Visual technician for month of May... Consider inviting neighbor, grandchild, niece or nephew in the Morgan County area who love computers and electronics to join us as an a/v tech during the month of May! Training during the month of April. Notify Ro to schedule training with our team.



This past month, multiple members of BLC received texts saying it was Ro and asking for gift cards. This was a scam, and there are many like this out there. The church has been targeted before and will most likely be targeted again. **What can you do?** Please remember that no pastor or church employee will ever ask you to direct funds anywhere other than directly to the church.

- If you receive a text, email, or call from someone asking for money, hang up and call, text, or email that person directly using the contact information you already have for them to confirm they're making the request.
- Carefully check the email or phone number you are getting the request from. Is it familiar?
- If there's a sense of urgency? If so, carefully consider the possibility that it's a scam.

Please note council numbers have been removed from the newsletter and website to help prevent exposure. Call the church office if you need a number.



Thanks to each of you who attended and supported our “Camp Sunday” on March 10th. We collected a special offering that day totaling **\$415** that was given to the Sky Ranch Lutheran Camp. Thank you good and faithful servants!



Great job Bethlehem members!
 During February’s pantry drive we collected **74** pounds of food for the local food pantry!



Dear, dear ladies at Bethlehem,
 Thank you so much for thinking about our new church building at Trinity as you went about our Father’s business in making quilts. We are very grateful for thinking about us. As requested, we auctioned it off after service last Sunday, beginning at \$50. One lady got tired of waiting as the price slowly went up and blurted out “\$500! SOLD!” She asked that the quilt stay in the school building for the kids until the church is finished. Thank you again for thinking about us.
 God Bless you!
 Sharon Kembel



Bethlehem has received dishwasher holders for our glass communion cups. Thanks so much to Kim Redden who has donated these new items in memory of her beloved late husband,

Larry

Redden



PRAYER REQUEST

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

Family & friends of Mike Alexander,
especially Sharon George & Carol
Livengood
Ken Kelly
Sharon George
Larry Herman
Garnet and girls
Marilyn Woodward
Bill & Gloria Thiel
Kenny Bostrom
John Strauch
Bev Strand
Lane Morrow
Beva Linker
Dave Honebein
Tom & Carol Morrow
Zach Griffith
Lori Bostrom
Collene Travers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

April Birthdays

Jody DeKorte	4th
Tammy Garcia	8th
Garnet Leys	9th
Terry West	13th
Dave Honebein	19th
Linda Bostrom	20th
Esther Wyatt	20th
Jayne Linker	22nd
Deb Johnson	25th
Rebecca Walker	25th

HAPPY Anniversary

April Anniversaries

Larry & Deb Johnson	3rd
Kenny & Corinne Bostrom	13th

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





Daily Bible Readings

Monday, April 1
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Genesis 1:1-19
 1 Corinthians 15:35-49

Tuesday, April 2
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Genesis 1:20—2:4a
 1 Corinthians 15:50-58

Wednesday, April 3
 Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24
 Song of Solomon 3:1-11
 Mark 16:1-8

Thursday, April 4
 Psalm 133
 Daniel 1:1-21
 Acts 2:42-47

Friday, April 5
 Psalm 133
 Daniel 2:1-23
 Acts 4:23-31

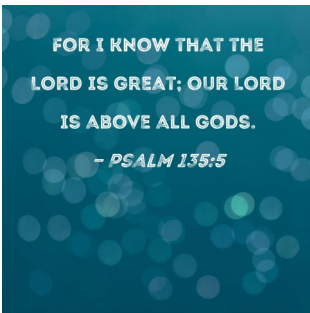
Saturday, April 6
 Psalm 133
 Daniel 2:24-49
 John 12:44-50

Sunday, April 7
 Acts 4:32-35
 Psalm 133
 1 John 1:1—2:2
 John 20:19-31



Monday, April 8
 Psalm 135
 Daniel 3:1-30
 1 John 2:3-11

Tuesday, April 9
 Psalm 135
 Daniel 6:1-28
 1 John 2:12-17



Wednesday, April 10
 Psalm 135
 Isaiah 26:1-15
 Mark 12:18-27

Thursday, April 11
 Psalm 4
 Daniel 9:1-19
 1 John 2:18-25

Friday, April 12
 Psalm 4
 Daniel 10:2-19
 1 John 2:26-28

Saturday, April 13
 Psalm 4
 Acts 3:1-10
 Luke 22:24-30

Sunday, April 14
 Acts 3:12-19
 Psalm 4
 1 John 3:1-7
 Luke 24:36b-48

Monday, April 15
 Psalm 150
 Jeremiah 30:1-11a
 1 John 3:10-16

Tuesday, April 16
 Psalm 150
 Hosea 5:15—6:6
 2 John 1-6



Wednesday, April 17
 Psalm 150
 Proverbs 9:1-6
 Mark 16:9-18

Thursday, April 18
 Psalm 23
 Genesis 30:25-43
 Acts 3:17-26

Friday, April 19
 Psalm 23
 Genesis 46:28—47:6
 Acts 4:1-4

Saturday, April 20
 Psalm 23
 Genesis 48:8-19
 Mark 6:30-34

Sunday, April 21
 Acts 4:5-12
 Psalm 23
 1 John 3:16-24
 John 10:11-18

Monday, April 22
 Psalm 95
 1 Samuel 16:1-13
 1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, April 23
 Psalm 95
 1 Chronicles 11:1-9
 Revelation 7:13-17

Wednesday, April 24
 Psalm 95
 Micah 7:8-20
 Mark 14:26-31

Thursday, April 25
 Psalm 22:25-31
 Amos 8:1-7
 Acts 8:1b-8

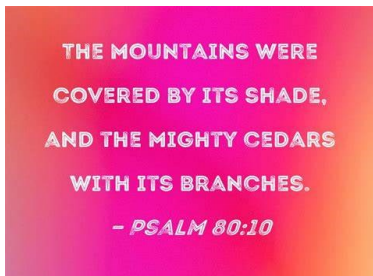
Friday, April 26
 Psalm 22:25-31
 Amos 8:11-13
 Acts 8:9-25

Saturday, April 27
 Psalm 22:25-31
 Amos 9:7-15
 Mark 4:30-32

Sunday, April 28
 Acts 8:26-40
 Psalm 22:25-31
 1 John 4:7-21
 John 15:1-8

Monday, April 29
 Psalm 80
 Isaiah 5:1-7
 Galatians 5:16-26

Tuesday, April 30
 Psalm 80
 Isaiah 32:9-20
 James 3:17-18



**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
COUNCIL MEETING
MARCH 10, 2024**

The meeting was brought to by president Deb Johnson at 10:36amMDT. Ro opened the meeting with prayer. Present were Ro, Deb, Kim, Beth, Charlene, Terry, Isaac and Jeanette (by Facetime). Maren was absent.

The consensus agenda was approved with Charlene moving and Isaac seconding the motion. Ro then discussed John and Trish Turner giving \$1000 to buy wax candles. They are concerned about the smell and the possibility of fire with the current oil candles. It was mentioned that oil candles were started in order for the candles to all be the same size, to not be small during weddings, baptisms and church holidays. It was also done so Altar Guild members did not have to carry the heavy candelabras back and forth to the sacristy room, and to not waste the candles. Oil candles are light and can be removed and filled easily. All Saints would buy the oil we have left if we change. Ro will talk to Altar Guild about this so it was tabled until next meeting. Ro also mentioned that there are certain Church holidays when the candelabras should be used versus the two candles.

Ro also told us that Charlene has volunteered to go to the Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly April 26-28. Kim made a motion to approve this and Terry seconded. Motion passed. Ro asked if we wanted to put on an Easter breakfast. No one did. Instead it was decided to have a sign up sheet to see if anyone would like to bring an egg casserole, pastries, etc. and have it available before and after church Easter Sunday. Ro mentioned that palms would be on the cross for Palm Sunday, with lilies added for Easter. Beth and Donna Morgan are the decorating committee. It was shared that Altar Guild will be cleaning the church sanctuary March 23rd at 9am.

Ro told us all the work out front is finished. It was mentioned to put mulch around the trees. It was determined that rocks would be much better. Beth will be getting the rock.

Ro also mentioned that Pat Chase has gotten Easter baskets for us to fill with bubbles, candy, snacks, hygiene articles. The baskets will be given to the Country Cupboard for distribution to those who need them.

Ro mentioned that the Prairie Parish would like to publish a newsletter, called the Prairie Wildfire, with the times and places of all church/worship in our area. She asked if possibly Terresa can do this. Charlene moved and Beth seconded a motion to ask Terresa if she is willing to do this. Motion passed.

Ro asked Kevin and Jody if they would be willing to ring the bells since they are upstairs. They would rather not have that added duty. It is getting hard for many to climb those stairs to ring the bell. It was asked if the bell rope could be lengthened and go into the acolyte room, or do it electronically, or use the handbells to do it. Ro will discuss this at the men's breakfast.

Ro also said that Kevin and Jody will be gone on a trip to Japan so we really need at least one more person to help do the Power Point/Facebook.

NEW BUSINESS

Insurance Renewal: The cost has gone up, and the coverage has gone down. There was discussion about switching insurance companies. But all companies have done the same thing. And in the middle of having our hail damage repair would not be a good time to change.

Randy Meza: He has requested \$2,700 more for his additional work. It was mentioned that he had said he'd do the rest free of charge to help the church. The city did do some of the tearing out of concrete. The matter was not decided. Ro will talk with Randy.

Attic Bidding Process: Deb asked if we didn't need bids to do the attic room repairs. Delbert Hammer has said he would do the work. It was decided to get two bids. A list of what we all expect to be done in the rooms is needed. The work should be done after the new roof is put on the building.

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

Use of church credit card: The card has only been used for renewal of publications. Secretary Terresa is using her personal credit card to buy things for the church, then being reimbursed by Kim. Beth moved and Charlene seconded for Terresa to buy all church materials and supplies with the church credit card. Motion passed.

Direct Deposit (Tithe.ly and Thrivent): It was decided to leave savings account at Bank of Colorado and checking account at Farmers State since things are established at both places. We do need to keep more money in our checking account and not run so low.

Deacon Rotation: Should this be on a monthly or weekly basis? It was decided to put a sign up sheet in the narthex and people can choose to do weekly or monthly.

Sterling Silver Bags: Deb asked about buying these to store the Sterling Silver. Otherwise the polish does not last and they tarnish easily. Jeanette moved and Charlene seconded to approve this purchase. Motion passed.

Schedule Council Work Session: This will be Sunday, March 24th at 3pm(MDT).

Carol Livengood: She could sure use help in the kitchen for Come and Celebrate. She likes setting up on Saturday afternoon. But we need people to step up and clean up after, and to also make goodies. It was decided to move the sign up sheet out into the narthex so people can see it easier.

The Lord's Prayer was said. The meeting adjourned at 11:56am (MDT).

Respectfully Submitted,

Jeanette Dehning

PS: Don't know if minutes are to have a PS, but this one does. After the meeting several were looking at the work done in the front of church. Ro suggested to go ahead and pay Randy Meza. President Deb then polled everyone by text to ask and the majority said to go ahead and pay him. Kim is to get a check ready for him.



= GOOD GRIEF =
A new grief group to help us deal with
LOSS of ALL Kinds.
It's normal and healthy to grieve.
To grieve in our own way.
Often we may feel alone because it's hard to talk
with others who may not understand...
You are invited to a gathering with others who
are going through LOSS.
To create an emotional
space that will bring healing and health.

Next Meeting is Saturday April 27th Noon to 1:30 PM
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer 1100 W. Platte Ave. Fort Morgan, CO 80701
Facilitator: Kay Johnson email kayjohnson.licsw@gmail.com

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

April, 2024	7	14	21	28
Deacon	Marsha Mills	Marsha Mills & Charlene Holzworth		
Reader	Jeanne Wuest	Kim Redden	Charlene Holzworth	Sharon George
Altar Guild	Kim Redden	Kim Redden	Kim Redden	Kim Redden
Communion Set Up	Deacon Ro		Deacon Ro	
Usher	Jeanette Dehning			
Sunshine Committee	Deb Johnson			
Clavinovist	Garnet Leys			
Media Team	Kevin & Jody DeKorte			

	2/25	3/03	3/10	3/17	3/24
Attendance	26	32	27	34	29

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
- Terry Linker, Vice-President
- Jeanette Dehning, Secretary
- Kim Redden, Treasurer
- Maren Bostrom
- Beth Hocheder
- Charlene Holzworth
- Isaac Linker



Bethlehem Lutheran Church






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www.facebook.com/bethlehemplutheranbrush

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
 <p>31 Easter Sunday 9:00am Worship 8am-11am Ro at BLC</p>	<p>1 8:30am Men's Coffee at Home Plate</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>
<p>7 2nd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>8 9:30am Eben Ezer</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13 9:00am Prairie Parish at Peace Lutheran, Sterling</p>
<p>14 3rd Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship 10:15am Council Meeting</p>	<p>15 8:30am Men's Coffee at Home Plate</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20 9am-11am 4 Gospels Study</p>
<p>21 4th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>22 NEWSLETTER DEADLINE</p> 	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25 ~ ~ ~ Ro at Synod Assembly ~ ~ ~ 9:00am Quilting</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27 12:00pm-1:30pm Grief Group at LCOR</p>
<p>28 5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>				<p>Terresa's Hours: Tues and Thurs from 9-3 Ro's Hours: Sundays 8am-noon Fridays 8:30am-noon Saturdays 9am-1pm (unless otherwise shown)</p>

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Address Service Requested

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