

Bethlehem Star

Bethlehem Lutheran Church | Evangelical Lutheran Church of America | May, 2023

My Lenten journey was quite a journey in 2023. First, there was Trials of Jesus that had an amazing participation with an average attendance of 22 every week, 5 churches represented. On the last week, there were 35 who attended, with 8 churches represented. Five different faith leaders presented cases on behalf of Jesus against five different prosecutors who falsely accused, leading Jesus to death on the cross. Bethlehem was represented averaging 6-7 at each session.

On my personal journey I was in discernment with the Lord leading where my next ministry road might go. On March 31, I met in-person with Bishop Gonia at the Synod Office to discuss my retirement from health care ministry. On June 3 this year I will turn 72 years old. I also am in my 16th year of serving the Lord and serving God's people. During that conversation, Bishop Gonia accepted my name as a candidate for a part-time ministry call as congregational rostered minister at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Brush. On April 3, I submitted my letter of retirement to Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center as chaplain effective June 2, 2023. On June 4 at the Sunday All Saints Church worship service, Bishop Gonia will be present to release me from my call, having served 12 ½ years.

At the Bethlehem Council meeting on April 13, my name was submitted by Deacon Janice Zimbelman, Director of Congregational Transitions, Grand Canyon and Rocky Mountain Synods to the Council and Call Committee for consideration, which was accepted. The next steps involve following the call process steps for a decision whether to call or not call. Presently, the Ministry Site Profile (MSP) is being updated by the call committee and I am putting together a Rostered Minister Profile (RMP) for review. Tentatively, the interview is being considered for the first week of May. Call committee has the option of scheduling a second interview or making a recommendation to the Church Council. Church Council

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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

603 Custer

Brush, CO 80723

Office Phone: 842-2246

Email: lutheranchurchbrush@yahoo.com

Website: www.blcorlutherans.org

Deacon Ro Fesser

Office Hours: Tuesdays 8:45am-9:45am

Wednesdays 11:30am-12:30pm

Phone: (970) 631-2715

Email: lutheranchurchpastor@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Teresa Lauck

Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am - 3pm

Sunday Worship

9:00 a.m. Worship Service

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then make a recommendation to the congregation.

In the meantime, I will continue to serve as pastoral services minister during the months of May and June, with the council and call committee renewing the part-time contract that I have served with all of you effective Feb 1, 2023. Confusing, probably! Basically, we are continuing a part-time pastoral services arrangement while we discern if I am the right fit as your rostered minister for the future, using the process to help make that decision. Prayers are so important right now, to open the door for God's will to be accomplished. So, prayer warriors, go to it...it really is ok to not let God get a good night's sleep as we ask him to lead and guide us, to invite him to put on our hearts what is His will, and that His presence through the Holy Spirit help us to listen, to follow, and to trust His direction.

This week I am in California for part of the week, then in Denver Thurs-Sat for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) "Train the Trainer" training. I return to Brush Sat late afternoon (April 29). Please know you can get in touch with me by phone or email or with Teresa and I will be available by a phone call.

"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, 'plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you a hope and a future.'" Jeremiah 29:11

Ro

May, 2023



We, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, are once again blessed. The Parsonage, that we voted to sell has new owners! As of April 12, 2023 the Parsonage belongs to a nice young couple, Steven and Morgan Rose Morgan. He is in Active Reserve and she will be furthering her college education. They plan to raise a family here. They have a cute little schnauzer, Daisy, that will love the yard and a beautiful indoor cat. I know we will all make them feel welcome in our own way to our neighborhood and community.

The Council is planning a Pizza Party in the near future to celebrate and hope all of us can join in the celebration!

Continued blessings,
Marsha



ALTAR GUILD



Thank you to all the Altar Guild members who spent Saturday morning, April 1, 2023, cleaning the Sanctuary of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

The altar, pews, baptismal font, railings, all woodwork and other furnishings were dusted and polished. The communion silver service was also polished on that day. Thank you to all members, Marisa, Jeanette, Debbie, Donna, Kim, Trish, and Janet for their dedicated service throughout the year.

BABY BOTTLE CAMPAIGN

Bringing HOPE to expectant mothers and fathers in Northeast Colorado!

Pick up a baby bottle on Mother's Day, **fill** with change, cash, or check, and **return** to your church on Father's Day!

MAY 14 ~ JUNE 18, 2023



SARA HOUSE

Dear Friends:

On behalf of SARA House, we are grateful for the 15 quilts for children and adults you donated. Thank you for your kindness and support of our organization.

Sincerely,

Andrea Strand
Financial Director

Thank You For The



Anniversary Wishes

Big thank you to all who joined us in celebrating our 65th wedding anniversary. Your presence, kind words, and thoughtful cards are greatly appreciated. What a blessing it is to be part of a church community that celebrates life's milestones together.

God bless you all,
Ed & Barb Brandenburg



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Lord, Hear Our Prayer

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

Garnet Leys
Rosa Guzman-Alexander
Lawrence Hansen
Wanda Rains
Lenore Wind
Zach Griffith
Dave Madsen
Kari Linker
Lori Bostron
Collene Travers



May Birthdays

Kenny Bostrom	12th
Ted Pearson	16th
Ed Hansen	19th
Corinne Bostrom	26th
Janet Krohn	28th
Gilbert Perry	31st



May Anniversary

Dave & Andrea Strand	3rd
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Shirley Schilling's phone number has been reactivated.
Feel free to give her a call at (970) 842-2780.

Daily Bible Readings



Monday, May 1
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:17-23
1 Peter 5:1-5

Tuesday, May 2
Psalm 100
Ezekiel 34:23-31
Hebrews 13:20-21

Wednesday, May 3
Psalm 100
Jeremiah 23:1-8
Matthew 20:17-28

Thursday, May 4
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Genesis 12:1-3
Acts 6:8-15

Friday, May 5
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Exodus 3:1-12
Acts 7:1-16

Saturday, May 6
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
Jeremiah 26:20-24
John 8:48-59

Sunday, May 7
Acts 7:55-60
Psalm 31:1-5, 15-16
1 Peter 2:2-10
John 14:1-14

Monday, May 8
Psalm 102:1-17
Exodus 13:17-22
Acts 7:17-40

Tuesday, May 9
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:5-12
Acts 7:44-56

Wednesday, May 10
Psalm 102:1-17
Proverbs 3:13-18
John 8:31-38

Thursday, May 11
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 6:5-22
Acts 27:1-12

Friday, May 12
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 7:1-24
Acts 27:13-38

Saturday, May 13
Psalm 66:8-20
Genesis 8:13-19
John 14:27-29

Sunday, May 14
Acts 17:22-31
Psalm 66:8-20
1 Peter 3:13-22
John 14:15-21

Monday, May 15
Psalm 93
Genesis 9:8-17
Acts 27:39-44

Tuesday, May 16
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 5:22-33
1 Peter 3:8-12

Wednesday, May 17
Psalm 93
Deuteronomy 31:1-13
John 16:16-24

Thursday, May 18
Acts 1:1-11
Psalm 47
Ephesians 1:15-23
Luke 24:44-53

Friday, May 19
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:1-12
Ephesians 2:1-7

Saturday, May 20
Psalm 93
2 Kings 2:13-15
John 8:21-30

Sunday, May 21
Acts 1:6-14
Psalm 68:1-10, 32-35
1 Peter 4:12-14; 5:6-11
John 17:1-11

Monday, May 22
Psalm 99
Leviticus 9:1-11, 22-24
1 Peter 4:1-6

Tuesday, May 23
Psalm 99
Numbers 16:41-50
1 Peter 4:7-11

Wednesday, May 24
Psalm 99
1 Kings 8:54-65
John 3:31-36

Thursday, May 25
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:1-9a
Acts 2:1-11

Friday, May 26
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 19:16-25
Romans 8:14-17

Saturday, May 27
Psalm 33:12-22
Exodus 20:1-21
Matthew 5:1-12

Sunday, May 28
Acts 2:1-21
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
1 Corinthians 12:3b-13
John 20:19-23

Monday, May 29
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Joel 2:18-29
Romans 8:18-24

Tuesday, May 30
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Ezekiel 39:7-8, 21-29
Romans 8:26-27

Wednesday, May 31
Psalm 104:24-34, 35b
Numbers 11:24-30
John 7:37-39



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

Kenny & Corinne Bostrom
in memory of their parents and brother

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

Jim Christensen *in memory of Sara Christensen*

Mike & Sandy Cook
in memory of Harold & Joyce Temple

Sharon George *in memory of Edith & Maurice
Peterson, Bill & Lois George, and Kevin George*

June & Lawrence Hansen
in memory of their parents and Harold Hansen

Don Hefty *in memory of Sam and Helen Hefty*

Beth Hocheder *in memory of dad, mom,
and sister; in honor of God*

Debbie & Larry Johnson *in memory of their parents*

Larry & Marsha Mills *in memory of Jean & June
Maupin and Jean Aumiller*

Kim Redden *in memory of Larry Redden
and parents, Don & Gloria Beckius*

Trish & John Turner
in memory of Evelyn Chartier and Mary Miller



**USED
BEDSHEET
DONATIONS
NEEDED**



Our Bethlehem quilters work diligently on Thursday and Friday mornings in making quilts that are shared around the world. If you have any old bedsheets that you are ready to part with, this ever-faithful group would be glad to have them and put them to good use as they continue to create quilts for those in need. There are no restrictions, so any color or size sheets that you may be able to spare would be much appreciated!

Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting

April 13, 2023

Present: Marsha Mills, Jeanette Dehning, Kim Redden, Terry Linker, Isaac Linker, Marisa Ford-Castrup, Beth Hocheder, Deb Johnson, Kevin DeKorte, Ro Fesser, Pat Chase, Todd Morgan, Steve Rohde, Jim Christensen

Meeting was opened with prayer from Deacon Ro

Approval of minutes from last meeting: Beth made a motion to approve minutes from last month's meeting, Jeanette seconded it, all approved.

Treasurer/Secretary Report: We had some discussion about where to "put" Quilting income and supplies. Jeanette moved to accept reports as is, Deb seconded, all approved.

Deacon Ro report: Deb moved to accept report, Terry seconded, all approved.

Correspondence: Shirley Schilling has her phone back up and running again with her same number. She would love to hear from us all.

Old Business: 1) Parsonage Closing, the Church received gift cards from Colorado Land Co (Realtor) at closing. Deb made a motion we use gift cards to have a pizza party for the congregation. Kim second, all approved. 2) Electrical work for cameras in Church. Kevin will get in contact with electrician. 3) New Copier was set up on 4/10 and it works perfectly. It cost 4.5 cents per med color copy. 4) Council member brought up how wonderful Holy Week Worship was, and would like to give a big thank you to all who worked so hard.

New Business: 1) Distribution of Parsonage selling proceeds: 150,000.00 will go into a 1 yr CD with Edward Jones investments, 150,000.00 will go into a 1 yr CD with Raymond James investment, the remaining 53,000.00 will go into the Church savings account. Jeanette made a motion to have Kim deposit the check, get the 2 CD's, and put the rest in savings. Deb seconded, all approved. 2) Committees: will investigate further at the next meeting. 3) Historical Society: Church built in 1922. Marsha attended a meeting with the Historical Society, and this is something we will not pursue at this time. 4) Newsletter printings: Do we want to do all color newsletters with new printer? We decided just for Holidays.

Other Business for the good of the Order: Council found out tonight that Flip Wilson, our coach for our call committee, has resigned his position. Deacon Janice will take over that position now. Council and call committee had discussion about extending Deacon Ro's contract until June 30th, 2023. Isaac made a motion to extend it, Terry seconded, all approved.

Deacon Ro will be retiring from Eben Ezer on June 4th. She could do part time for BLC. Call committee will need to set up interview and follow protocol set forth.

Amendment to meeting on 4/3/23 with Ryan Sutherland. He came and surveyed our Church on 4/10/23, and came up with a value of 2,243,000.00, because of all our beautiful wood and unique windows. He removed the parsonage and this made our yearly premium reduced to 15,043.00. Beth made a motion to accept this amount, Deb seconded it, all approved.

Respectfully submitted,
Marisa Ford-Castrup, Council Secretary

Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Council Meeting
April 2, 2023

Present: Kevin DeKorte, Beth Hocheder, Deb Johnson, Kim Redden, Jeanette Dehning, Marisa Ford-Castrup, Marsha Mills. We also invited Larry Johnson and Steve Rohde.

Council briefly met and discussed several options presented from the electrician for the repairs on the parsonage the potential buyers are requesting.

Kevin motioned to go with option #1, Jeannette second and all approved.

Respectfully submitted

Marisa Ford-Castrup
Council Secretary.

Bethlehem Lutheran Congregational Minutes
April 3rd, 2023

Church Insurance

Present: Marsha Mills, Deb Johnson, Kim Redden, Marisa Ford-Castrup, Jeanette Dehning, Kevin DeKorte, Beth Hocheder, Ryan Southerland, Insurance representative.

Ryan started the meeting by telling us about his company and his background. He was a former pastor and knows a lot about what coverage Churches need, but is also willing to work with us to get pricing down without harming us. He also let us know if he is unavailable to us, we can reach out to Rhonda.

We had an 18% increase on our Insurance cost this year, going from 14,214.00 per year to 16,757.00 per year. We will have Ryan come to Bethlehem Lutheran on 4-10 to do a new survey to make sure our coverages will be correct for us in 2023.

We discussed lowering deductibles. The parsonage may not need to be covered by the church for the rest of 2023. Council will decide which options after survey is finished and we receive results.

Respectfully submitted,

Prairie Parish
Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
Saturday, May 6th at 10:00 a.m.



May's Prairie Parish Event will take place right here in Morgan County! Plan to come join in the conversation at Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer on **Saturday, May 6th** starting at **10:00 a.m.** Drink and breakfast will be provided. Hope to see many of you there!

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

May 2023	7	14	21	28
Deacon	Beth Hocheder			
Reader	Kim Redden	Jeanne Wuest	Sharon George	Deb Johnson
Altar Guild	Janet Rohde			
Usher	John Turner			
Sunshine Committee	Pat Chase & Marsha Mills			
Clavinovist	Marcia Washburn		Diane Nicklas	Diane Nicklas
Pastor	Sonja Pancoast	Sonja Pancoast	Sonja Pancoast	Dan Bollman

	3/26	4/02	4/09	4/16	4/23
Attendance	54	35	37	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.

Marsha Mills, President 970-768-1562

Deb Johnson, Vice-President 970-842-5633

Marisa Ford-Castrup, Secretary 303-502-7459

Kim Redden, Treasurer 970-380-9727

Jeanette Dehning 970-380-3822

Kevin DeKorte 970-867-2238

Beth Hocheder 970-768-3888

Isaac Linker 970-520-1989

Terry Linker 970-768-1099



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Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May, 2023

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>Office Hours: Teresa: Tuesday & Thursday 9-3</p> <p>Ro: Tues 8:45-9:45 Wed 11:30-12:30</p>	1	2	3	4	 <p>5</p>	6
		1:30pm Bible Study		9:00am Quilting		9am Prairie Parish Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
5th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Sonja Pancoast		1:30pm Bible Study		6:30pm Council Meeting 9:00am Quilting		
 <p>14</p>	 <p>15</p>	16	17	18	19	20
6th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Sonja Pancoast		1:30pm Bible Study 6:00pm PEO		 <p>Terresa gone</p> <p>9:00am Quilting</p>		
	Deacon Ro at Rocky Mountain Synod Assembly					
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
7th Sunday of Easter 9:00am Worship Sonja Pancoast		1:30pm Bible Study		9:00am Quilting		
 <p>28</p>	 <p>29</p>	30	31			
Pentecost Sunday 9:00am Worship Dan Bollman	Memorial DAY	1:30pm Bible Study				