



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 2024 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

At the writing of this article, we are in the middle of Holy Week and waiting with baited breath for Easter Sunday when we can proclaim again together "Alleluia! Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!"

During Lent, many of us give up something as a reminder of the sacrifice that Jesus gave for us. Still others add a spiritual practice so that we might deepen our relationship with God during the Lenten season. We gather for soup suppers and midweek worship, and we grow in our faith and in our relationships to one another.

As we enter into Easter, and we no longer have midweek worship services together, I began to wonder what might it look like to have some Easter spiritual practices in line with the disciples post-resurrection after the coming of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost. Grab your Bible and check out Acts 2, verses 42-47, and you'll see what I mean.

I began to wonder what might change at Bethlehem if we were to, like those first believers, continue to devote ourselves to learning, to eating together and to prayer. If we were to be intentional about those things, and if we were to continue to take the time to praise God and serve others, how might God continue to work through us for the good of our congregation and wider community.

This newsletter is filled with chances for you to do these things...you could choose to learn at the Adult Education class on April 14, or at the Confirmation or Women's Retreats. You could choose to join in sharing food at the All Church Birthday Party on April 28, or to come together to pray and celebrate God's goodness at the Congregational Meeting on April 21.

Or, if none of those things speak to you in a way of growing your faith, I welcome a chance to talk to you about how we might partner together to do so. Come and tell me your ideas of how we can learn, fellowship, pray, praise, and serve together, and together let's continue to do our best to make Bethlehem a place where we work to share the Bread of Life with a hungry world, and where all people find welcome and a place to belong.

Thank you, thank you friends, for all that you have done to make Lent and Holy Week so special. May this Easter be a season that brings us all renewal and resurrection hope!

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Amy

Ways to get involved at Bethlehem in the next few weeks...



April, 18 2024-Standard Golf Company Tour

Standard Golf Company was founded in 1910 by Walter K. Voorhees. Originally producing steel farm gates, automatic hog waterers, and other farm implements, Standard quickly turned into the world's leading manufacturer of golf course accessories. It is known as one of

the largest and most innovative companies in the golf market.

Come and find out their history and learn how they became so well



Standard

Meet at Bethlehem at 9:45 am. Tour will be from 10:00-11:00 am. Lunch will be at Gilmore's Pub.



Did you know?? **Our Holy Cow raised \$114 for World Hunger this last month!** Thanks for helping make sure that all the children of the world are fed!



4th Annual Women's Retreat

Come and join us at EWALU Stone Center on May 4-5 for our 4th Annual Women's Retreat. We will gather for rest, renewal, learning, fellowship and fun. We will meet to travel together at Bethlehem on Saturday morning, and be back on Sunday mid-afternoon. Consider giving this to your wife, mother, or daughter as an early Mother's Day gift! Cost of the retreat is: \$100. Scholarships are available.
Space is limited, sign up today!



Our 2nd Annual All Church Birthday Party is happening Sunday, April 28 during coffee fellowship! Find the table that is your birthday month and visit with new folks that you might not know yet! There may even be games and prizes, so you don't want to miss this chance to make a new friend and take home a fun prize too!

Calling All Adults! Join us for **Adult Ed on Sunday, April 14** in the Gathering Space for a **Generation Rx presentation** from Lindsay Wolff, from Pathways Behavioral Services!

The Generation Rx program is offered to educate people of all ages about the potential dangers of misusing prescription medications. In doing so, we strive to enhance medication safety in our communities. Prescription medications can help us live longer and healthier lives, but any medication has the potential to do harm – especially when misused (intentionally or unintentionally).

This program will provide tips and reminders to keep participants safe and healthy while using prescription medications. The Generation RX program focuses on medication safety among those 65 and older and their caregivers, but all are welcome to attend.



Watch your email for a church clean up day coming soon!

Don't want to wait? Stop in the church office from 9 am—1 pm and choose a job off the list and let's get things done! Thank you to all who help with the upkeep and care of our building!



Please keep our confirmands and Pastor Amy in your prayers April 12-14 as they spend time at EWALU for their spring confirmation retreat!

Confirmands, remember that friends are welcome, but Pastor Amy needs to know how many folks are coming by Friday April 5 to ensure that we have enough food and supplies for everyone!



Do you have jobs around the house that you could use help with? Maybe spring raking, putting out patio furniture, hosing off sidewalks and driveways, cleaning out flower beds, etc? Our youth headed to New Orleans are available for hire to help with any spring projects! **If you have a project you would like help with, just call the church office or email Pastor Amy, and she will help you connect with a youth to get your jobs done!** Thanks for supporting our kids!



You've been asking, and it is finally almost here! We will have a proof of the new church directory on Easter Sunday. Please take the time to ensure that your information is correct, and initial by your info. If you have any changes, we ask that you notify the church office at 319-266-3541. Thank you for your patience in this project!!



Not able to join us for worship in person?

No problem! All of our worship services can be found online on our church website at:

<http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>

or on our church YouTube page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>



Love INC is collecting the following household essentials this month: Paper Towels, Toilet Paper, and Garbage Bags. Please bring these items to the box in the narthex at Bethlehem. Thank you for supporting Love INC!

BETHLEHEM STAFF

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2023-2024

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GIVING MADE EASY!

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to share your offering with Bethlehem.

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Join us on Sunday, April 21, at 10:00 am for our next Congregational Meeting where we will elect new members to council, endowment committee, NewAldaya Board, and EWALU Board. Also we will look back on this program year and celebrate how God has been at work within and around us!

Our Pastor
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