

Bethlehem Lutheran Church



2245 Hayden Avenue
Altoona, Wisconsin
715-832-9953
www.blcaltoona.org

Third Sunday of Easter
Sunday, April 14, 2024

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 AM
Sunday School & Youth Group 9:45-10:30 AM
Bible Study 10:00-10:30 AM - in fellowship hall
Holy Communion is celebrated 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

WELCOME to all of our visitors today. If you're here for the first time or as a returning guest, we are pleased to be able to worship with you today. The order of service and songs will be projected. An outline of the service is printed in your bulletin. Please sign the Fellowship Register on the aisle side of your pew. Then pass it to others in your pew.

~ COMING UP AT BETHLEHEM ~

Christian Ed Meeting - TODAY at 12:00 pm.

Council Meeting - Mon., April 15th at 6:30 pm.

Facebook Devotions - Tues., April 16th at 9:00 am.

Prayer Group - Tues., April 16th at 10:00 am, in the prayer chapel.

Supper - Wed., April 17th at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

Confirmation - Wed., April 17th at 6:00 pm.

Newsletter Deadline - Sat., April 20th. Please submit info for the May newsletter on or before Saturday.

Next Sunday, April 21st - Worship with Communion at 8:30 am. Sunday School and Youth Group at 9:45 am. Bible Study at 10:00 am. Worship with Communion at 10:45 am.

~ MISSION OF THE MONTH: DAILY BREAD ~

Every dollar you give at Sunday morning fellowship in April will support a new mission effort at Bethlehem called Daily Bread.

This program has been designed to help anyone in the congregation with groceries, gas, rent, or other basic necessities. If you would like to make an additional donation to the fund, contribute a gift card to the cause, or want more information, please contact Pastor Tim. More details are in the April newsletter.

~ ANNUAL WALK FOR HUNGER NYRE YOU ~

Mark your calendars for Saturday, May 11. Registration at 9 am, walk at 10 am. We are accepting individual items, gift cards, services, themed gift baskets, etc. for our silent auction. Donations can be dropped off in the church office. Contact Jennie Childs at jennie.childs@thrivent.com or Karen Keehn at carlkeehn@charter.net with questions. More information will be in the April newsletter. Watch for sign up sheets and more information to come.

~ THRIVENT BAGS FOR THRIVENT MEMBERS ~

Jennie Childs has put together information on Member Benefits, Choice Dollars and Action Teams. These "Thrivent Bags" are available for any Thrivent "households" to pick up in the church office. Please take only one per household. Contact Jennie with Thrivent questions at 715-829-7024 or jennie.childs@thrivent.com.

~ BOOKS & BIBLES ~

Stop by the resource center in the narthex and check out the selection of books and Bibles available. There are Bibles, children's Bible storybooks, "The Case for Easter," "Crazy Love," and more – all available at *no cost!* Take a copy of whatever catches your interest with our blessings.

~ WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS ~

The May schedule is on the secretary's desk. Consider serving as an usher, greeter or reader. Contact Charleen in the church office if you have questions; 715-832-9953 extension 2 or blcsecretary@gmail.com.

~ LWML SPRING RALLY ~

All women of LCMS are automatically members of LWML (Lutheran Women's Missionary League). Their mission consists of Christian women who spread the good news of Jesus. Our regional spring rally will be Saturday, April 27th at St. Matthew Church here in Eau Claire. It is a half-day event. Please consider attending. If you are interested, contact Elaine Emberson at 715-225-6925. Your saved postage stamps and mites will be taken to the rally, as well as used eyeglasses and soft eyeglass cases, if you have any to donate.

~ FROM LAURA GARBISCH ~

The benefit was a great success! Thank you to everyone who donated in any way, attended, or volunteered. Thank you to those who helped lay the groundwork, and helped with the day-to-day logistics. Thank you to Noah Jordan for the use of his sound system. Thank you to Bethlehem for the use of the building. Your contributions and support are truly appreciated. I ask for

~ COMMUNION POLICY ~

At Bethlehem, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a remembrance and more than a ritual. We believe that Jesus Christ Himself is truly present, and that this meal strengthens our relationship with Him and with each other.

If you believe that God loves you, that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for you, that through Jesus' death and resurrection your sins are forgiven, and that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the bread and wine in a supernatural way, then we welcome you to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

If you have not been instructed in the Lutheran faith, if you doubt any of those statements above, or if you have a confession different than the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet you desire to receive this sacrament, we encourage you to speak with the pastor.

Gluten-free wafers and nonalcoholic wine are available for the Lord's Supper. Simply let the pastor or elder know if you would like to receive them.

IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK WE LIFT UP: Laura Garbisch; Sharon Stelter; Mike Theiste; Janet Viellieux; Kendra Drake; Becca Roth; Barb Erickson; and our members and regular guests with ongoing health concerns: Ken Anderson, Barb DesForge, Amy Farnham, Barb Hermann, and Bev Noggle.

For additional prayers for the Bethlehem family, see the April newsletter.

If you or a member you know of has been hospitalized or moved to a care facility please notify the church office so we can share their whereabouts with the church family.

THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS!

	<u>Today</u>		<u>Next Sun., April 21, 2024</u>	
	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>
ELDER:	n/a	n/a	Randy Schamberger	Randy Schamberger
USHER:	Gary Hansen	Gary Hansen	Randy Wollmer	TBD
ACOLYTE:	Tevin Simpson	Jazzy Moore	Matthew Bucki	Victoria Lenberg
GREETERS:	Jean Simpson	June Zillmer	Cheri Meyer	Marlene Bredesen
READER(S):	Linda Anderson	Joe Rosengarten	Maddie Leis	Elizabeth Demaree
TECH:	Luke Hansen	Luke Hansen	Jordans	Jordans
MUSIC:	Terry Rosengarten	Terry Rosengarten	Don Finch	Don Finch
ALTAR GUILD:	n/a		Mary Lou Stelter & Micheala Stelter	

FELLOWSHIP TREATS today are provided by Ann Boyea.

A signup sheet to serve at a future service can be found in the kitchen serving area. Talk to LeAnne Hohman if you'd like to supply treats but can't serve.

Attendance Last Week at Bethlehem:

Sunday, April 7, 2024 8:30 am - 73 | 10:45 am - 53

Signing the Fellowship Register in your pew each time you attend a worship service and indicating if you receive the Lord's Supper helps us keep accurate records, and generate reports directly from our computer data base for our own use, as well as synod reporting. Pass the book to others near you who perhaps have not signed or can't easily reach a book.

The Cost of Running Away

Jonah 1:1-16

Amazing and Miraculous

The Cost of God's Call

The word of the Lord came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it." (*Jonah 1:1-2*)

The Cost of Disobedience

All the sailors were afraid and ... they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship. (*Jonah 1:5*)

The Cost of Salvation

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you." (*Jonah 1:12*)

Psalm 138:1-10 The First Reading

O LORD, you have searched me
and you know me.
You know when I sit and when I rise;
you perceive my thoughts from afar.
You discern my going out and my lying down;
you are familiar with all my ways.
Before a word is on my tongue
you know it completely, O LORD.
You hem me in-behind and before;
you have laid your hand upon me.
Such knowledge is too wonderful for me,
too lofty for me to attain.
Where can I go from your Spirit?
Where can I flee from your presence?
If I go up to the heavens, you are there;
if I make my bed in the depths, you are there.
If I rise on the wings of the dawn,
if I settle on the far side of the sea,
even there your hand will guide me,
your right hand will hold me fast.

Jonah 1:1-16 The Second Reading

The word of the LORD came to Jonah son of Amittai: "Go to the great city of Nineveh and preach against it, because its wickedness has come up before me."

But Jonah ran away from the LORD and headed for Tarshish. He went down to Joppa, where he found a ship bound for that port. After paying the fare, he went aboard and sailed for Tarshish to flee from the LORD.

Then the LORD sent a great wind on the sea, and such a violent storm arose that the ship threatened to break up. All the sailors were afraid and each cried out to his own god. And they threw the cargo into the sea to lighten the ship.

But Jonah had gone below deck, where he lay down and fell into a deep sleep. The captain went to him and said, "How can you sleep? Get up and call on your god! Maybe he will take notice of us, and we will not perish."

Then the sailors said to each other, "Come, let us cast lots to find out who is responsible for this calamity." They cast lots and the lot fell on Jonah.

So they asked him, "Tell us, who is responsible for making all this trouble for us? What do you do? Where do you come from? What is your country? From what people are you?"

He answered, "I am a Hebrew and I worship the LORD, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land."

This terrified them and they asked, "What have you done?" (They knew he was running away from the LORD, because he had already told them so.)

The sea was getting rougher and rougher. So they asked him, "What should we do to you to make the sea calm down for us?"

"Pick me up and throw me into the sea," he replied, "and it will become calm. I know that it is my fault that this great storm has come upon you."

Instead, the men did their best to row back to land. But they could not, for the sea grew even wilder than before. Then they cried to the LORD, "O LORD, please do not let us die for taking this man's life. Do not hold us accountable for killing an innocent man, for you, O LORD, have done as you pleased." Then they took Jonah and threw him overboard, and the raging sea grew calm. At this the men greatly feared the LORD, and they offered a sacrifice to the LORD and made vows to him.

Matthew 12:38-42 The Gospel Reading

Then some of the Pharisees and teachers of the law said to him, "Teacher, we want to see a miraculous sign from you."

He answered, "A wicked and adulterous generation asks for a miraculous sign! But none will be given it except the sign of the prophet Jonah. For as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of a huge fish, so the Son of Man will be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth. The men of Nineveh will stand up at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for they repented at the preaching of Jonah, and now one greater than Jonah is here. The Queen of the South will rise at the judgment with this generation and condemn it; for she came from the ends of the earth to listen to Solomon's wisdom, and now one greater than Solomon is here."