

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

Fourth Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, April 21, 2024

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## 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

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**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 and indicate if you are receiving the Lord's Supper. Then pass it to others in your pew.

### ~ COMING UP AT BETHLEHEM ~

**Facebook Devotions** - Tues., April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 9:00 am.

**Prayer Group** - Tues., April 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 am, in the prayer chapel.

**Supper** - Wed., April 24<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

**Confirmation** - Wed., April 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Confirmation Photos & Rehearsal** - Sat., April 27<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 am.

**Next Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>** - Daycare Sunday & Last day of Sunday School. Worship at 8:30 am. Sunday School and Youth Group at 9:45 am. Bible Study at 10:00 am. Worship with Little Star Daycare at 10:45 am. Hot dogs and ice cream sundae bar hosted by the Christian Ed Team and Daycare Staff after the late service for all families and the congregation.

**The Upper Room Devotional** for May - June is available in the narthex resource center. Be sure to pick up a copy today. Bibles, children's Bible story books, "The Case for Easter," "Crazy Love," as well as Portals of Prayer and The Upper Room are available at *no cost!* Take a copy of whatever catches your interest with our blessings.

### ~ 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](mailto:jennie.childs@thrivent.com) or Karen Keehn at [carlkeehn@charter.net](mailto:carlkeehn@charter.net) with questions. More information is in the April newsletter. Watch for sign up sheets and more information to come.

### ~ 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](mailto:blcsecretary@gmail.com).

### ~ 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.

### ~ 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 **NEXT Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>** 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 **cancelled postage stamps, mites, used eyeglasses** and **soft eyeglass cases** will be taken to the rally. If you have any of these items to donate drop them off at the church this week!

### ~ CAREGIVER SESSIONS ~

The Aging & Disability Resource Center is sponsoring a series of upcoming events for families caring for those living with dementia:

- A **skills fair** will be held from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Thursday, May 9, at Jacob's Well in Chippewa Falls. It will teach practical skills such as helping with medications, oral care, bathing and dressing, equipment, and presentations on other topics. Register by May 2.
- The **Confident Dementia Caregiver** monthly series will be held the last Thursday of each month from May through September. Sessions will be 1 to 2:30 p.m. at Peace Church in Eau Claire and will teach knowledge and skills about caring for those with dementia.

To register or for more information, go to [www.adrcevents.org](http://www.adrcevents.org) or call 715-839-4735.

~ 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:** Amy Farnham; Laura Garbisch; Lesley Kentgen; Sharon Stelter; Mike Theiste; Janet Viellieux; Kendra Drake; Becca Roth; Barb Erickson; and our members and friends of Bethlehem: Gloria Kohn; Jenie Davis (*Shelly Rossano's niece*), Gene LaPine (*Linda LaPine's father*), Dan Posda (*Cheri Borseth's brother*), John Wicklein (*Abby Rowe's uncle*), and Katie (*Lois Olson's granddaughter*).

*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 28, 2024</u>	
	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>
ELDER:	Randy Schamberger	Randy Schamberger	n/a	n/a
USHER:	Randy Wollmer	Jason Lenberg	Brett Grunewald	TBD
ACOLYTE:	Matthew Bucki	Victoria Lenberg	Grant Grunewald	Evan Risler
GREETERS:	Cheri Meyer	Marlene Bredesen	Mark & Lori Olson	Tom & Carol Sippel
READER(S):	Maddie Leis	Elizabeth Demaree	Lori Olson	TBD
TECH:	Jordans	Jordans	Sully Vargo	Sully Vargo
MUSIC:	Don Finch	Don Finch	Dan Molitor	Dan Molitor
ALTAR GUILD:	Mary Lou Stelter & Micheala Stelter		n/a	

FELLOWSHIP TREATS today are provided by the Bethlehem Youth.

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 14, 2024 8:30 am - 63 | 10:45 am - 60

*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. Sign for every member of your family and pass the book to others near you who perhaps have not signed or can't easily reach a book.*

# Praying from the Belly of the Big Fish

Jonah 1:17-2:9

## Desperate

“In my distress I called to the Lord, and he answered me.”  
*(Jonah 2:2)*

## Down

“To the roots of the mountains I sank down; the earth beneath barred me in forever.” *(Jonah 2:6)*

## Deliverance

“But you, LORD my God, brought my life up from the pit. ... What I have vowed I will make good. I will say, ‘Salvation comes from the Lord.’” *(Jonah 2:6, 9)*

## Daring

Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need. *(Hebrews 4:16)*

Pastor Tim Stein

715-832-9953

PastorTim@blcaltoona.org

**Jonah1:17-2:9****The Old Testament Reading**

But the LORD provided a great fish to swallow Jonah, and Jonah was inside the fish three days and three nights.

From inside the fish Jonah prayed to the LORD his God. He said:

“In my distress I called to the LORD,  
and he answered me.

From the depths of the grave I called for help,  
and you listened to my cry.

You hurled me into the deep,  
into the very heart of the seas,  
and the currents swirled about me;

all your waves and breakers  
swept over me.

I said, ‘I have been banished  
from your sight;

yet I will look again  
toward your holy temple.’

The engulfing waters threatened me,  
the deep surrounded me;  
seaweed was wrapped around my head.

To the roots of the mountains I sank down;  
the earth beneath barred me in forever.

But you brought my life up from the pit,  
O LORD my God.

“When my life was ebbing away,  
I remembered you, LORD,  
and my prayer rose to you,  
to your holy temple.

“Those who cling to worthless idols  
forfeit the grace that could be theirs.

But I, with a song of thanksgiving,  
will sacrifice to you.

What I have vowed I will make good.  
Salvation comes from the LORD.”

**James 5:13-16****The New Testament Reading**

Is any one of you in trouble? He should pray. Is anyone happy? Let him sing songs of praise. Is any one of you sick? He should call the elders of the church to pray over him and anoint him with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise him up. If he has sinned, he will be forgiven. Therefore confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.

**Mark 5:21-43****The Gospel Reading**

When Jesus had again crossed over by boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered around him while he was by the lake. Then one of the synagogue rulers, named Jairus, came there. Seeing Jesus, he fell at his feet and pleaded earnestly with him, “My little daughter is dying. Please come and put your hands on her so that she will be healed and live.” So Jesus went with him.

A large crowd followed and pressed around him. And a woman was there who had been subject to bleeding for twelve years. She had suffered a great deal under the care of many doctors and had spent all she had, yet instead of getting better she grew worse. When she heard about Jesus, she came up behind him in the crowd and touched his cloak, because she thought, “If I just touch his clothes, I will be healed.” Immediately her bleeding stopped and she felt in her body that she was freed from her suffering.

At once Jesus realized that power had gone out from him. He turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched my clothes?”

“You see the people crowding against you,” his disciples answered, “and yet you can ask, ‘Who touched me?’”

But Jesus kept looking around to see who had done it. Then the woman, knowing what had happened to her, came and fell at his feet and, trembling with fear, told him the whole truth. He said to her, “Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering.”

While Jesus was still speaking, some men came from the house of Jairus, the synagogue ruler. “Your daughter is dead,” they said. “Why bother the teacher any more?”

Ignoring what they said, Jesus told the synagogue ruler, “Don’t be afraid; just believe.”

He did not let anyone follow him except Peter, James and John the brother of James. When they came to the home of the synagogue ruler, Jesus saw a commotion, with people crying and wailing loudly. He went in and said to them, “Why all this commotion and wailing? The child is not dead but asleep.” But they laughed at him.

After he put them all out, he took the child’s father and mother and the disciples who were with him, and went in where the child was. He took her by the hand and said to her, “Talitha koum!” (which means, “Little girl, I say to you, get up!”). Immediately the girl stood up and walked around (she was twelve years old). At this they were completely astonished. He gave strict orders not to let anyone know about this, and told them to give her something to eat.