



CHIMES Newsletter

APRIL 2024 VOLUME 86, ISSUE 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church,

This month we step fully into the Easter season as we celebrated the Resurrection of Our Lord on Sunday, March 31st. On Easter, we heard the Easter text from Mark's gospel which may not be the story as you remember. Mark's account of Easter morning leaves a lot up to the imagination. In Mark's version, there is no encounter between Jesus and Mary or the other disciples and it ends with "They said nothing to anyone, for they were afraid." The reality of these differences in the story, not just the Easter story, may lead to some natural questions. Which of the gospels has the "correct" details? Which one is a complete account? The short answer would be all four of them.

The gospels are written by disciples who lived when Jesus did and experienced a lot of the same things but as different people, they recall and interact with the world in different ways. They are all telling the same story from their own perspective. The writers also tend to have a particular intention behind their writing based on the context they are living in and how they feel moved to testify to who Jesus is and what it means for the audience they are writing to. The gospel writers offer a wonderful example of how the gospel that brings good news for all people, needs to be shared by all people. We each connect and interpret the world in a variety of different ways so why wouldn't the story of Jesus need to be told in a variety of ways?

Each of these gospel accounts give us a variety of ways to learn about who Jesus is and to build our own connection with Christ. As we adventure in this Easter season, what parts of Jesus' story resonate with you? Which gospels do you tend to be drawn into? What parts do you feel particularly called to share? How has God impacted you in your life? How might you share God's story today? How might you share it tomorrow? How might God be at work in your life right now?

It is evident this story is worth sharing because it is for all people. Mark reminds us that how we share the story is up to our imagination. So, let's imagine, shall we? And then let us share.

With Resurrection Hope,
Pastor Jaime Benson

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-8502

Email: office@blcportage.org
www.bethlehemLCportage.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

APRIL 3

6:30 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Bible Study

APRIL 7

10:15 am Sunday School
12:30 pm Temple Beth El Trip

APRIL 9

11:00 am Bible Study

APRIL 10

Food Pantry Helpers – Team A

APRIL 11

Food Pantry Helpers – Team A
9:00 am Women's Group Meeting

APRIL 12

3:00 pm Wedding Rehearsal

APRIL 13

Wedding

APRIL 14

10:15 am New Member Class

APRIL 17

6:30 pm Confirmation
6:30 pm Bible Study

APRIL 18

6:30 pm Church Council

APRIL 21

10:15 am Highway Clean-up
10:15 am Sunday School

APRIL 23

11:00 am Bible Study

APRIL 27

1:00 pm Women's Tea

OUR CHURCH

WOMEN'S GROUP



The next meeting is Thursday, **April 11th** at 9:00 am. All women of the church are welcome to attend. **Women's Tea Tickets on sale now, \$15!** Stop in during office hours to purchase your ticket. There is limited seating. Office hours are M-W, 9-3 pm and Th-F, 9-12 pm. **The event is April 27th from 1:00–3:00 pm!**



SEVERE WEATHER AWARENESS MONTH



April is severe weather awareness month. The next time you are here at the church, be sure and take notice of the signs posted throughout the building. This will let you know what to do in case of severe weather.

CHURCH & GROUNDS CLEAN UP

Looking ahead! The church & grounds clean-up day is **May 4th**. Mark your calendar! Please wear long pants, bring gloves and beware of the ticks!



THANK YOU



Thank you for many reasons. Thanks to Jaimie Rudolph for being the cantor this Lent with Holden Evening Prayer. Thanks to all who participated in the Lenten dramas. Thanks to Lindsey and Heidi Nickel for trumpets on Easter Sunday. Thanks to Brian Conner for helping the men in the choir on Easter. Finally thanks to the ladies who played the chimes for Easter: Heidi, Lindsey, Jaimie, Jody and Nancy L. You are all a blessing. – Carla

ART & CRAFT MARKET IS BACK!

ART & CRAFT MARKET



Mark the dates on your calendar for **November 22-23, 2024**. We are expanding the craft

market to a two-day event on Friday November 22 from noon-4pm and on Saturday from 9am-4pm. This year the Art & Craft Market will be sponsored by the former Saddle Ridge Craft Group and Bethlehem Lutheran Church. More vendors, more fun!

For previous vendors, we will be sending out applications within the next two weeks. For those of you that were not previous vendors but would also like to be considered as a vendor, please contact the church office so that we can contact you regarding available space. We've added the additional half day to make it easier for set up, however, some vendors may only choose to be involved on Saturday and space for them will be arranged accordingly.

Art & Craft Market location: W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage WI, at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

HIGHWAY CLEAN UP

Come one, come all!! Please meet in the fellowship hall on **April 21st at 10:15 am**. Vests will be provided, please wear long pants and beware of the ticks!



CELEBRATION



Please help give Lutherdale thanks for 80 years of ministry! Join them April 20th with Worship at 1:00 and Activity stations from 2:00 pm – 4:00 pm. Crafts, Refreshments, Scavenger Hunt, Bingo and more! RSVP to 262-742-2352 or email: info@lutherdale.org. Bring any photos or memories you have to share! N7891 US Hwy 12, Elkhorn.

Women of the ELCA

Baraboo Conference Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 20, 2023

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
727 8th Street Baraboo WI
608-356-3230

Registration: 9:00am-9:25am
Devotions: 9:30am to 10:00am
Speaker Keri Olson 10:00am to 10:40am
Break
Business meeting: 10:50 to 11:45am
Lunch

Soup and Sandwich Lunch \$10.00
Register by calling Alice at 608-356-3230
or email stpauls@stpaulslutheranchurch.us
before April 13, 2024

FIRST COMMUNION RECEIVED



Congratulations to the following students that received their First Communion on Palm Sunday! Ben Haroldson, Laila Sween, Esme Wagner, and Corah Young.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

NEW MEMBER CLASS

Anyone interested in joining the Bethlehem Lutheran Church family is invited to attend the new member class on Sunday, **April 14th at 10:15 am.**



REFRIGERATOR & FREEZER UPKEEP



The **15th** of each month the kitchen refrigerator and freezer will be checked for expired items. If something is not labeled with a date on it, items will be disposed of!

Please make sure you put an address label on any containers you want returned to you. Thank you!

BLC IS GOING PAPERLESS-SORT OF!

Electric hand dryers have been installed in the women and men's restroom. This is in effort to cut down on waste and expenses!



NEW PHONE NUMBER FOR PASTOR JAIME



Pastor Jaime has a new cell #. Please contact the office if you need her number. Reminder that her "weekend" is Friday and Saturday. Please do your best to contact her during the week. Thank you!

GARDEN CLUB

Do you have a green thumb? We are looking to start a garden club to spruce up the front of the



church including the sign by the highway. If you are interested in helping to plant annuals and water, please contact the office. 608-742-8502.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL



The lessons we will be studying in April are The Light of The World 3:14-21, The Good Shepherd John 10:11-18.

On May 5th we will have a potluck and fun things for everyone to do. This is for all ages, it may be inside and outside if the weather permits. More information to come. The children will be singing during the service, and it is our last day of Sunday School until September. Watch for more information regarding the last day.

VBS SCUBA diving into friendship with God will be held July 29 -August 2, 8:30-Noon.

VBS registration forms are on the narthex table. Register before July 21st for savings!

SCUBA
diving into friendship with god
vacation bible school

Portage Community VBS
Held at Portage United Methodist Church
July 29 - August 2
8:30AM - Noon
ages 4 to entering 6th grade welcomed
Contact Olivia Bue with any questions 909.996.7722

Portage Community VBS is sponsored by: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, St. Mary's Catholic Churches, Trinity United Parish, and Portage United Methodist Church

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison







March 1-20, 2024

	TOTAL				
	MAR 1-20, 2024	MAR 1-20, 2023 (PY)	FEB 1-20, 2024 (PP)	JAN 1 - MAR 20, 2024 (YTD)	JAN 1 - MAR 20, 2023 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	14,422.35	17,170.59	18,475.51	72,509.21	62,056.73
▶ Other Income	293.00	7,930.16	2,571.15	3,454.70	9,176.41
Total Income	\$14,715.35	\$25,100.75	\$21,046.66	\$75,963.91	\$71,233.14
GROSS PROFIT	\$14,715.35	\$25,100.75	\$21,046.66	\$75,963.91	\$71,233.14
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	12,382.66	15,198.26	13,057.03	58,716.76	64,351.08
▶ Other Expense		250.00		1,370.00	319.75
Total Expenses	\$12,382.66	\$15,448.26	\$13,057.03	\$60,086.76	\$64,670.83
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,332.69	\$9,652.49	\$7,989.63	\$15,877.15	\$6,562.31
▶ Other Income	\$1,050.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,200.00	\$3,425.00	\$5,825.00
▶ Other Expenses	\$1,056.61	\$2,061.00	\$1,148.00	\$3,355.32	\$5,651.57
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -6.61	\$39.00	\$52.00	\$69.68	\$173.43
NET INCOME	\$2,326.08	\$9,691.49	\$8,041.63	\$15,946.83	\$6,735.74

April 2024 Worship Volunteers

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 4/3 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Claire Langan		
Sun 4/7 9 am	Larry Sween	Del Molden		Lyn Holmes	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Kathryn Thiele		
Wed 4/10 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Gerald Guenther		
Sun 4/14 9am	Dianna Bush	Bobbie Goodman		Nancy Buckley	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Dayne Wagner		
Wed 4/17 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence	Beau Grosklaus		
Sun 4/21 9am	Marie Rohrbacher	Lisa Cook		Bobbie Goodman	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Leah Haroldson		
Wed 4/24 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Colin Langan		
Sun 4/28 9am	Sandra Sween	Darlene Anderson		Ginny McNeal	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Zane Bovre		

Bethlehem Lutheran Church April 2024

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	Apr 1 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	2 9:00am Quilters	3 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study 	4	5 10:30am Tai Chi	6
7 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School	8 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	9 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 	10 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 	11 Food Pantry Helpers 9:00am Women's Group	12 10:30am Tai Chi 3:00pm Fahey/Jahoda Rehearsal	13 Fahey/Jahoda Wedding 
14 9:00am Worship 10:15am New Member Class 	15 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	16 9:00am Quilters	17 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 6:30pm Bible Study 	18 6:30pm Church Council 	19 10:30am Tai Chi	20 10:00am Chimes Articles Due
21 9:00am Worship 10:00am Highway Clean-up 10:15am Sunday School 	22 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	23 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 	24 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	25	26 10:30am Tai Chi	27 Women's Tea 
28 9:00am Worship	29 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	30 9:00am Quilters				

The *CHINES* is published monthly by Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Office phone: 608-742-8502
Office Email: office@blcportage.org
Website: bethlehemlportage.org
Deadline for copy is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
W8267 HWY 33 EAST
PORTAGE WI 53901
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

