



# CHIMES Newsletter

MAY 2024 VOLUME 86, ISSUE 5

## MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church,

I have been feeling especially grateful and encouraged by our church community, so I wanted to take the time to express gratitude for some of the things I have noticed lately.

I want to give thanks for the gifts and talents that have been shared in worship this year. Thank you to those that have attended worship, your presence in this place matters. Thank you to those that have shared musical talents, such as our organists and pianists, as well as our Praise Team and Choir, and our special music offered by our Sunday School kids, trumpet players, and hand chime choir. Thank you for making worship a new and lively experience each week. Thank you to those that make worship welcoming and run smoothly, including our ushers, readers, and acolytes, our altar guild and communion servers, as well as our sound booth and livestream operators. Thank you for making worship a positive experience for all.

I want to give thanks for the ways hospitality has been practiced and extended this year. Thank you to all who have provided a welcoming environment for anyone who joins us, whether it is for worship, fellowship, Bible study, Sunday School, special event, etc. Thank you to those that have hosted and provided space for food and fellowship to be shared. Thank you to those that tend to our building and grounds, keeping things looking tidy and well-maintained. Thank you to those who have extended invitations to others. Thank you to those who have provided financial support this year, because of you our financial gifts and our operating expenses have been in balance so far. The ministries of this community could not persist without your generosity, no matter the amount. So, thank you!

I also want to thank all those that are involved in outreach and community connections. Thank you to our Mission Trip participants and sponsors for serving the community of the Dominican Republic. Thank you to our Vacation Bible School organizers and volunteers for making such a fun and exciting experience each summer. Thank you to our Food Pantry volunteers and all those that helped with highway clean up this past month. This is by no means an exhaustive list of everything that is happening here at Bethlehem but it is a testament to how much good can be created in community and how much can be accomplished when we work together. Thank you for being a part of making this community what it is! Your presence matters and we are blessed to have you with us.

In gratitude and hope,

Pastor Jaime Benson

## UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY 1

6:30 pm Bible Study

MAY 4

9:00 am Church property clean-up

MAY 5

10:15 am Last Day of Sunday School  
10:00 am Congregational Picnic

MAY 6

5-8:00 pm VBS Fundraiser @ Culver's  
6:30 pm Church Activity Planning mtg

MAY 8

Food Pantry Helpers  
6:30 pm Last Day of Confirmation

MAY 9

Food Pantry Helpers  
9:00 am Women's Group mtg  
11:00 am Office closed

MAY 14

11:00 am Bible Study

MAY 15

6:30 pm Bible Study

MAY 16

6:30 pm Church Council mtg

MAY 19

9:00 am Pentecost & Senior  
Recognition  
10:00 am Plant Sale

MAY 20

Chimes Articles Due to the office

MAY 27

Office closed for Memorial Day

MAY 28

11:00 am Bible Study

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
W8267 Hwy 33 East  
Portage, WI 53901  
608-742-8502

## OUR CHURCH

### WOMEN'S GROUP



The next Women's meeting is Thursday, **May 9<sup>th</sup> at 9:00 am** in the fellowship hall. All women of the church are welcome to attend.

### THANK YOU

"**Thank you** so much for your prayers during this journey of brain cancer and recovery. You are a blessing and appreciated. Thank you for being a support for my Mom, Jean Elliott through this, too. A daughter is grateful!! God bless you all! Yvonne Kiefer Marshall"



### SCHOOL FOOD MARKET SUCCESS



This past Lent we asked you to bring in donations of food to help support the local school food market. Thank you to all that participated! Thank you to Brian Conner & Kerry Melby for taking

what was collected to the school!

### CHURCH PROPERTY CLEAN UP

Mark your calendar for **May 4<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 am**. We need your help with property clean up here at the church. Be sure and wear long pants, bring gloves and be aware of ticks!



### HIGHWAY CLEAN UP



A big thank you to all who came out to help with highway clean up! **25 bags** of trash were picked up!

### CHURCH ACTIVITY PLANNING MEETING

Join us **May 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:30**



**pm** as we make plans for activities & events that will take place here at the church for the next six months.

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Ginny Paulsen and Judy LaMarche for doing the Easter decorations. Great job.  
Margaret Molden

### SPRING PLANT SALE



Plant sale, Sunday, **May 19<sup>th</sup>**! As you head out to the garden, if you have perennials you'd like to split, you can donate them to the church for our plant sale! Please label them with the plant identification, planting instructions & a picture of when it is full grown or blooming. Please bring them the week of the sale. Office hours are M-W 9-3 pm and Th-F 9-12 pm. There will be hanging flower baskets and other annuals also for sale. If you have any questions, please contact Kerry Melby.

### ART AND CRAFT MARKET

**November 22<sup>nd</sup> 12:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**November 23<sup>rd</sup> 9:00 am – 3:00 pm**

Sponsored by the former Saddle Ridge Craft Group and Bethlehem Lutheran Church!

Interested in

participating as a vendor?  
Contact the church office

(608-742-8502). Deadline is June 14<sup>th</sup> for vendor applications.



**Event held here at the church!**

## THANK YOU

Thank you to Del Molden and Steve McNeal for all the work they've done on running wire for some upgrades.



### RAISE RIGHT FUNDRAISING

Another way to help the church! Visit [shopwithscript.com](http://shopwithscript.com), enter code: **478D766D8296** & shop! Search hundreds of places to purchase a card, print out your order & bring it to the church with your cash or check. A portion of your order benefits the church, anywhere from 3%-15% or more!



## FAITH FORMATION

### SUNDAY SCHOOL



On Sunday, May 5th the children will be singing during the service. We will also have a Congregational Spring Picnic following the service with

Potluck, and activities for all ages. We will provide Mac n Cheese, chicken, meatballs, sandwiches, coffee, and water.

There will be a fundraiser for VBS at Culver's May 6<sup>th</sup>, from 5pm to 8pm. Please stop and support the VBS program by having something delicious to eat.

Mark your calendar- Scuba VBS is 7/29-8/2, 8:30-Noon.

We had a great year with your children and look forward to seeing them this Fall.

Have a great Summer!

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

**VBS registration forms are in the narthex!  
Register early for savings!!**

## CONFIRMATION CLASS

**LAST DAY: May 8th**

CONFIRMATION  
CLASS

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### MESSAGE BOX

There is a message box on the narthex table just before you enter the sanctuary. Please feel free to leave any messages for Pastor Jaime or Amy in the office. This gets checked regularly and will help things be a little less hectic before worship service. Thank you!



### GIFTS OF TRIBUTE



You can honor people and events such as a birthday, anniversary, graduation, retirement, etc. by making a \$20 (suggested) **tribute gift** to the church. We will continue to list the information in our weekly bulletin. There are special envelopes available in the narthex to fill out with the needed info.

### CONGRATULATIONS GRADS!

**Graduate  
recognition is on  
Pentecost Sunday  
May 19<sup>th</sup>!**



Shayna Cox  
Braxton Druckrey  
Griffin Garrigan  
Kenneth Georgeson  
Emily Johnson  
Luke Kreuziger

River Meierdirk  
Samantha Nickel  
Carly Nyholm  
Luke Paulsen  
Katherine Rieckmann  
Ella Swenson  
Tyler Zabler

## CONGRATULATIONS BLC HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS

**Our graduates were asked a few questions to help us to get to know them better. Here are the responses we received:**

### Shayna Marie Cox

**Parents:** Travis & Lori Cox

**Graduating from:** Poynette High School

**School/Community Activities involved in:** Drama Club, Ballet, Literacy Arts Council (DnD), Band, Curling, Piano

**Future Plans:** I will attend UW-Steven's Point to study English (Creative writing/Editing/Publishing)

**How can we, as a church family, pray for you?** Please pray that I have a positive, smooth transition into college.

**Favorite verse or scripture passage?** Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

**If you had a song play every time you walk into a room, what would it be and who is it by?** "Counting Stars" by One Republic

**Do you have a favorite motto or quote you live by? By who?** "Life is like photography, if you mess up, just take another shot"

### Braxton Rod Druckrey

**Parents:** Travis & Cara Druckrey

**Graduating from:** Portage High School

**School/Community Activities involved in:** National Honor Society, Spanish Honor Society, FBLA, HOSA, Student Council

**Future Plans:** Attend UW-Madison in hopes to become a family medicine doctor

**How can we, as a church family, pray for you?** Success through schooling and a growing relationship with God.

**Favorite verse or scripture passage?** Matthew 13:14 "With them indeed is fulfilled the prophecy of Isaiah that says: 'You will indeed listen, but never understand, and you will indeed look, but never perceive.'"

**If you had a song play every time you walk into a room, what would it be and who is it by?** Everywhere by Fleetwood Mac

**Do you have a favorite motto or quote you live by? By who?** "Life is not linear" by Tim Ross

### Carly Nyholm

**Parents:** Molly & Jesse Nyholm

**Graduating from:** Portage High School

**School/Community Activities involved in:** I have been involved in Key Club, Portage Claybusters Trap Team, National Honor Society, and have been working for Friends of Devil's Lake State Park.

**Future Plans:** I plan to attend UW-Stevens Point to study Natural Resources.

**How can we, as a church family, pray for you?** Please pray for all graduates as they adapt and adjust to a new phase of their lives and find ways to use their skills and abilities to do great things!

**Favorite verse or scripture passage?** Psalm 118: 24 "This is the day the Lord has made, we will rejoice and be glad in it" helps me keep a positive outlook and perspective.

## Katherine Rieckmann

**Parents:** David and Dawn Rieckmann

**Graduating from:** Pardeeville High School

**School/Community Activities involved in:** In high school I participated in theater, show choir, jazz band, choir and band. I also was on the forensic team and played the violin with the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra. I enjoyed volunteering at the Portage Public Library in the children's department. When I was in middle school I helped with Sunday School at Bethlehem.

**Future Plans:** I will be attending Carthage College where I plan to major in Biology/Pre-Med and Vocal Performance.

**How can we, as a church family, pray for you?** I would like my church family to pray for me to help with guidance in choosing my future path. Pray to have a roommate with some of the same interests.

**Favorite verse or scripture passage?** Proverbs 3:3 "Never let loyalty and kindness leave you. Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep in your heart."

**If you had a song play every time you walk into a room, what would it be and who is it by?** Sunlight by Hozier

**Do you have a favorite motto or quote you live by? By who?** "Only do what your heart tells you" by Princess Diana

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Profit and Loss April 1-22, 2024










	TOTAL				
	APR 1-22, 2024	MAR 1-22, 2024 (PP)	APR 1-22, 2023 (PY)	JAN 1 - APR 22, 2024 (YTD)	JAN 1 - APR 22, 2023 (PY YTD)
↘ Income					
↗ Income	16,358.01	14,672.35	17,658.32	95,203.40	83,096.01
↗ Other Income	1,432.00	293.00	13,675.00	4,886.70	25,523.41
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$17,790.01</b>	<b>\$14,965.35</b>	<b>\$31,333.32</b>	<b>\$100,090.10</b>	<b>\$108,619.42</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$17,790.01	\$14,965.35	\$31,333.32	\$100,090.10	\$108,619.42
↘ Expenses					
↗ Operating Expenses	14,475.13	9,725.25	33,580.95	80,316.01	105,658.14
↗ Other Expense	191.00		7,320.00	2,456.00	10,131.30
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$14,666.13</b>	<b>\$9,725.25</b>	<b>\$40,900.95</b>	<b>\$82,772.01</b>	<b>\$115,789.44</b>
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$3,123.88	\$5,240.10	\$ -9,567.63	\$17,318.09	\$ -7,170.02
↗ Other Income	\$1,600.00	\$1,050.00	\$2,315.00	\$5,025.00	\$8,890.00
↗ Other Expenses	\$1,269.00	\$1,146.85	\$2,215.81	\$4,918.56	\$8,609.13
NET OTHER INCOME	\$331.00	\$ -96.85	\$99.19	\$106.44	\$280.87
NET INCOME	\$3,454.88	\$5,143.25	\$ -9,468.44	\$17,424.53	\$ -6,889.15

## WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS FOR THE MONTH OF MAY

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 5/1 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Mackenzie Schmidtke	Carla	
Sun 5/5 9 am	Bobbie Goodman	Ellen Kabele	Ben Rudolph	Ginny McNeal	Darlene Anderson	Darlene Anderson		Carla	
Wed 5/8 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue			
Sun 5/12 9am	Bonnie Dixon	Ginny McNeal		Lisa Cook	Ginny McNeal	Nancy Loether			
Wed 5/15 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence			
Sun 5/19 9am	Ellen Kabele	Nancy Buckley		Darlene Anderson	Nancy Buckley	Marie Kucksdorf	Hartley Bell	Praise Team	
Wed 5/22 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey			
Sun 5/26 9am	Del Molden	Robin Kavalo		Lyn Holmes	Bobbie Goodman	Sue Connor			
Wed 5/29 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey			

### MAY MOWING SCHEDULE

Week of **May 5<sup>th</sup>**: Jeff Melby; **May 12<sup>th</sup>**: Dennis Benson; **May 19<sup>th</sup>**: Dan Kucksdorf; **May 26<sup>th</sup>**: Butch Jahoda

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>May 1</b> 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Bible Study	2	3 10:30am Tai Chi	4 Church property clean-up
5 9:00am Worship 10:00am Congregational Spring Picnic 10:15am Last Day of Sunday School 	6 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 5:00pm VBS Fundraiser @ Culver's 6:30pm Church Activity Planning	7 9:00am Quilters	8 Food Pantry Helpers  10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Last Day of Confirmation	9 9:00am Women's Group 11:00am Office closed 	10 10:30am Tai Chi	11 Pastor Event
12 Mother's Day 9:00am Worship 	13 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	14 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study	15 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Praise Team practice 6:30pm Bible Study	16 6:30pm Church Council 	17 10:30am Tai Chi	18
19 Plant Sale  9:00am Worship - Pentecost & Senior Recognition 	20 10:00am Chimes Articles Due 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	21 9:00am Quilters	22 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	23	24 10:30am Tai Chi	25
26 9:00am Worship	27 Office Closed for Memorial Day 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 	28 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study	29 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	30	31 10:30am Tai Chi	

**We could use some updated photos for our website with all the fun activities at BLC! Please email to: [office@blcportage.org](mailto:office@blcportage.org)**



**The CHIMES is published monthly by Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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Office hours: Monday – Wednesday 9:00 am – 3:00 pm, Thursday and Friday 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

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