

# FIFTH SUNDAY OF EASTER

April 28, 2024

**WELCOME!** We are pleased to have you join us this morning to worship the Risen Savior and celebrate the forgiveness that we have through Him.

**AS WE GATHER** - How far can the human voice travel? Scientists tell us that the normal outdoor range for an adult voice traveling through still air is about 180 meters or 590 feet. Communication in Silbo, a whistled language of Spanish-speaking inhabitants of the Canary Islands, can travel five miles under ideal conditions. The sound of a voice traveling across still water at night can range up to 10.5 miles. Voices can carry! The message that the voices carry is what is most important. The spoken message about Jesus shared by Philip the deacon with the Ethiopian stranger made an eternal difference in that man's life. The words that we speak and the messages that we share are of great importance and have the divine potential to "spread the reign of God the Lord" (LSB 830:1).

**PLEASE** - As a courtesy to others and out of respect for the Lord's house, please silence your cell phones during the worship service. Thank you.

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME

Leader: Alleluia! Christ is risen!

People: **He is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

## HYMN

*Now All the Vault in Heaven Resounds*

#465

## INVOCATION

Leader: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: **Amen.**

## **OPENING SENTENCES** (*Psalm 66:1-4, 8-9; 40:5*)

Leader: Shout for joy to God, all the earth;

**People: sing the glory of His name; give to Him glorious praise!**

Leader: Say to God, "How awesome are Your deeds!"

**People: All the earth worships You and sings praises to You; they sing praises to Your name."**

Leader: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of His praise be heard,

**People: who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.**

Leader: You have multiplied, O LORD my God, Your wondrous deeds and Your thoughts toward us; none can compare with You!

**People: I will proclaim and tell of them, yet they are more than can be told.**

## **CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION**

Leader: Humble yourselves then before God, confess your sins to Him, and implore His forgiveness.

**People: O almighty God, most merciful Father, I, a repentant sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have offended You. By nature, I am a sinful creature. In thought, word, and deed I have continually transgressed Your law. For this I justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of the sufferings and death of Your Son, Jesus Christ, be gracious and merciful to me, a penitent and contrite being. Forgive me all my sins and grant me the power of Your Holy Spirit that I may amend my sinful life and bear fruit in keeping with true repentance.**

Leader: God be gracious to you and strengthen your faith.

**People: Amen.**

Pastor: As you believe, so let it be. As a called and ordained servant Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

**People: Amen.**

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Let us pray. O God, You make the minds of Your faithful to be of one will. Grant that we may love what You have commanded and desire what You promise, that among the many changes of this world our hearts may be fixed where true joys are found; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

## FIRST READING

*Acts 8:26–40*

*(Philip witnesses about Jesus to the Ethiopian official.)*

<sup>26</sup>An angel of the Lord said to Philip, “Rise and go toward the south to the road that goes down from Jerusalem to Gaza.” This is a desert place. <sup>27</sup>And he rose and went. And there was an Ethiopian, a eunuch, a court official of Candace, queen of the Ethiopians, who was in charge of all her treasure. He had come to Jerusalem to worship <sup>28</sup>and was returning, seated in his chariot, and he was reading the prophet Isaiah. <sup>29</sup>And the Spirit said to Philip, “Go over and join this chariot.” <sup>30</sup>So Philip ran to him and heard him reading Isaiah the prophet and asked, “Do you understand what you are reading?” <sup>31</sup>And he said, “How can I, unless someone guides me?” And he invited Philip to come up and sit with him. <sup>32</sup>Now the passage of the Scripture that he was reading was this:

“Like a sheep he was led to the slaughter  
and like a lamb before its shearer is silent,  
so he opens not his mouth.

<sup>33</sup>In his humiliation justice was denied him.

Who can describe his generation?

For his life is taken away from the earth.”

<sup>34</sup>And the eunuch said to Philip, “About whom, I ask you, does the prophet say this, about himself or about someone else?” <sup>35</sup>Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning with this Scripture he told him the good news about Jesus. <sup>36</sup>And as they were going along the road they came to some water, and the eunuch

said, "See, here is water! What prevents me from being baptized?" <sup>38</sup>And he commanded the chariot to stop, and they both went down into the water, Philip and the eunuch, and he baptized him. <sup>39</sup>And when they came up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord carried Philip away, and the eunuch saw him no more, and went on his way rejoicing. <sup>40</sup>But Philip found himself at Azotus, and as he passed through he preached the gospel to all the towns until he came to Caesarea.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## EPISTLE

*1 John 4:1-11*

*(An exhortation to lives of Christian love)*

<sup>1</sup>Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world. <sup>2</sup>By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, <sup>3</sup>and every spirit that does not confess Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you heard was coming and now is in the world already. <sup>4</sup>Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. <sup>5</sup>They are from the world; therefore they speak from the world, and the world listens to them. <sup>6</sup>We are from God. Whoever knows God listens to us; whoever is not from God does not listen to us. By this we know the Spirit of truth and the spirit of error.

<sup>7</sup>Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God. <sup>8</sup>Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. <sup>9</sup>In this the love of God was made manifest among us, that God sent his only Son into the world, so that we might live through him. <sup>10</sup>In this is love, not that we have loved God but that he loved us and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins. <sup>11</sup>Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

## ANTHEM

*I Am the Vine* - Paul D. Weber  
Mark Bush, soloist

## HOLY GOSPEL

*John 15: 1-8*

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. John, the fifteenth chapter.

People:



☐ Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

*(Jesus says that He is the vine, and His people are the branches.)*

<sup>1</sup>[Jesus said:] “I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch of mine that does not bear fruit he takes away, and every branch that does bear fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>Already you are clean because of the word that I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in me he is thrown away like a branch and withers; and the branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. <sup>7</sup>If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be done for you. <sup>8</sup>By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit and so prove to be my disciples.”

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

## NICENE CREED

**All: I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and of all things visible and invisible.**

**And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of**

**Light, very God of very God, begotten not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men\* and for our salvation came down from heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.**

**And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.**

*("men" = mankind)*

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

*Chief of Sinners, Though I Be*  
#611

**SERMON**

*"Questions and Connections"*  
Rev. Russ Craig

**OFFERING**

(You can also give at [www.blcdelmar.com/give](http://www.blcdelmar.com/give) )

**ANTHEM**

*Sing Praises* - Stanley Glarum

**OFFERTORY**

**Praise God from whom all blessings flow;  
Praise Him all creatures here below;  
Praise Him above Ye heavenly host:  
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

## **PRAYER OF THE CHURCH**

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Pastor: Lord God, Your only Son came in the flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. Protect us from all false teaching and the spirit of the Antichrist, that we may always confess Christ to be our only true God and remain faithful to Him. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Heavenly Father, You have grafted us onto the vine of Your Son. Prune us and cut off from us all sin and dead works, that we may always draw life from Your Son and produce the fruits of faith and good works. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Savior of all people, in the water of Baptism You welcome sinners into Your kingdom and give them life. Grant that we would always honor and extol this gift and let nothing prevent people from it. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Almighty God, give health and guidance to our president and all in authority, that they may serve honorably and in accord with Your good order. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Merciful God, You hear and answer Your children in their hour of need. Grant that they would bear their crosses with faith, ever looking to You, and so fix their hearts where true joy is found. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: O God, You are love, and You always reveal Your love through Your Son. Grant that all who come to Your feast of love may worthily eat of Christ's body and blood, so that whoever abides in this love forever abides in You and You in him. Lord, in Your mercy,

**People: hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Holy Father, You are gracious and merciful, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. Hear and answer our prayers for the

sake of Jesus Christ, and Your saints shall bless You; for You live and reign with the Holy Spirit, ever one God, now and forever.

**People: Amen.**

**PREFACE** *(2 Timothy 4:22)*

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

**People: And also with you.**

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

**People: We lift them to the Lord.**

Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

**PROPER PREFACE**

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and all places give thanks to You, Lord our God, for You have graciously blessed us through the Word incarnate, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who has come in the flesh and for our sake died on the cross and rose from the dead to put an end to death. Rejoicing in our Baptism, which creates faith in our hearts and daily renews us, we laud and magnify Your holy name. With joy we join in the unending praise of the angels and archangels and all the company of heaven.

**PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING**

Pastor: Blessed are You, O Lord our God, King of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and have showed Your gracious power to us through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. We give You thanks that in His most Holy Supper You nourish us that, firmly connected to Christ the Vine, we may grow in grace. Grant that we may receive the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation that come to us in His body and blood as we gather at His command.



## **THE WORDS OF OUR LORD**

**Pastor:** Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: "Take, eat; this is My ✠ body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me."

In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My ✠ blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me."

*Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25*

## **PROCLAMATION OF CHRIST** (*1 Corinthians 11:26; Revelation 22:20*)

**Pastor:** As often as we eat this bread and drink this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.

**People:** **Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

**Pastor:** O Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, in giving us Your body and blood to eat and to drink, You lead us to remember and confess Your holy cross and passion, Your blessed death, Your rest in the tomb, Your resurrection from the dead, Your ascension into heaven, and Your coming for the final judgment. So remember us in Your kingdom and teach us to pray:

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER** (*Matthew 6:9-13*)

**All:** **Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven; give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

## **PAX DOMINI**

**Pastor:** The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**People:** Amen.

*(There is a prayer team available in the Narthex for prayer concerns.)*

## **DISTRIBUTION**

### **Regarding the Sacrament of Holy Communion**

*The Sacrament of Holy Communion is a holy meal, instituted and commanded by our Lord Jesus Himself, for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith. As Lutheran Christians we believe what the Bible teaches us concerning Holy Communion: that Christ is present in this Sacrament and that with the bread and wine we receive the very body and blood of Christ.*

*The Holy Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions, to which Bethlehem Lutheran Church is committed, teach that in order to receive the Lord's Supper for your benefit a person should first be:*

*(1) Baptized in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit; and*

*(2) Understand the nature and meaning of the Sacrament; and*

*(3) Able to examine himself or herself about the Sacrament and their faith.*

*Since our Lord desires that we receive Him and the blessings of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Holy Communion, all who intend to receive His Supper are asked to thoroughly examine their hearts to give honest answer to the following questions:*

*- Do I know and believe that I am a sinful person? Am I sorry for my sins?*

*- Do I believe that Jesus Christ is God's Son and my Savior?*

*- Do I believe that God mercifully forgives my sins on account of Jesus Christ, and that I am saved solely by His grace?*

*- Do I believe that by His Word and promise, Jesus Christ is truly—not merely symbolically—present in the Sacrament of Holy Communion with His very Body and Blood?*

*- Do I plan, by the power of the Holy Spirit, to live a Godly life?*

*As God grants you to answer "Yes" to these important questions, we invite you to come share in the Lord's Supper. If you have any questions, please speak with the pastor.*

## **ANTHEM**

*Come and Feast - Lee Dengler*

## **DISMISSAL**

**Pastor:** The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and preserve you in body and soul to life everlasting. Depart ☩ in peace.

**People:** Amen.

## POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

**Pastor:** Let us pray. Holy Father, we ask You now, by this blessed food and drink, to deliver Your Church from every evil, to teach it to love You perfectly, and make it truly one, even as this bread was made from many grains of wheat to become the carrier of the body of our Savior, Jesus Christ, and the wine was drawn from the fruitfulness of many grapes. Grant that we ever abide as branches of the Vine, Christ Himself, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

**People:** **Amen.**

## BENEDICTION (*Numbers 6:24–26*)

**Pastor:** The Lord bless you and keep you.  
The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.  
The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

**People:**



A-men, a-men, a - men.

## HYMN

*When Morning Guilds the Skies*  
#807

## DISMISSAL

**Pastor:** Alleluia! Christ is risen!

**People:** **He is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

**Pastor:** Go in peace as you serve our living Lord.

**People:** **Thanks be to God.**

## POSTLUDE

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**ALTAR FLOWERS** are given today by the Greenman Family in memory of Jeanette & Ken Mortensen. The Mortensens were long-time members, friends, and supporters of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



**SERVING TODAY**

**ALTAR -** Michelle Levesque; Linda Zwicklbauer  
**GREETER(S) -** Werner & Linda Zwicklbauer  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR -** Ruth Rice  
**ORGANIST -** Jacob Purington  
**LITURGIST -** Deacon Melissa Derenches  
**LAY READER -** Trish Eberwein  
**LAY ASSISTANTS -** Joe Wendth; Paul Gutman;  
Diane Bollman-Buyer; Bruce Molino  
**PRAYER PARTNER(S) -** Dave Vail; Diane Bollman-Buyer  
**USHERS -** Mary Scott; Wes Greenman  
**STREAMING -** Kathy Palmer  
**COFFEE HOSTS -** Ray & Ann Brands

**SERVING SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

**ALTAR -** Kim Denton; Lisa Wilson  
**GREETER(S) -** Lee & Marie Cookson  
**MUSIC DIRECTOR -** Ruth Rice  
**ORGANIST -** Jacob Purington  
**LITURGIST -** Deacon Melissa Derenches  
**LAY READER -** Dave Vail  
**LAY ASSISTANTS -** Charlie Palmer; Kim Denton; Dave Vail  
**PRAYER PARTNER(S) -** Sue Vail; Dave Vail  
**USHERS -** Eric Pilhofer; Paul Gutman  
**STREAMING -** Chris Cutsogeorge  
**COFFEE HOSTS -** Jake & Trish Eberwein

## **THIS WEEK AT BLC:**

<b><u>TODAY:</u></b>	8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship (w/Holy Communion) 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship
<b><u>MONDAY:</u></b>	7:00 p.m. – Open Hands Group 7:00 p.m. – Women’s Bible Study 7:30 p.m. – Praise Band rehearsal
<b><u>TUESDAY:</u></b>	2:00 p.m. – Badminton & Ping Pong (Parish Hall) 7:00 p.m. – Confirmation
<b><u>WEDNESDAY:</u></b>	9:30 a.m. – BLC Quilters 10:00 a.m. – GriefShare
<b><u>THURSDAY:</u></b>	10:00 a.m. – Bible Study 11:00 a.m. – HAC Sandwich Making 6:15 p.m. – Creator’s Crusaders 7:00 p.m. – BLC Choir 7:00 p.m. – Elders’ Meeting
<b><u>FRIDAY:</u></b>	12:30 p.m. – Blood Drive
<b><u>SATURDAY:</u></b>	7:30 a.m. – Men’s Breakfast & Bible Study 8:00 a.m. – Big Bethlehem Yard Sale
<b><u>SUNDAY:</u></b>	8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship (w/Holy Communion) 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Study 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship (w/Holy Communion)

## **STAY CONNECTED:**

**In-person worship:** We hope you can join us for in-person worship every week. Our worship schedule is as follows:

**Sundays:** 8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship  
11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

**Online worship:** Worship services are broadcast live every Sunday at 8:30 a.m. (traditional) and at 11:00 a.m. (contemporary) at [www.blcdelmar.com/live-stream](http://www.blcdelmar.com/live-stream). And if you can’t join us live, you can access all recorded worship services at any time on our website [www.blcdelmar.com/live-stream](http://www.blcdelmar.com/live-stream) or YouTube Channel: [BLCDelmar](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...).

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

### **BIBLE STUDIES:**

**What is a Lutheran?** - Are you curious about Lutheran teachings? Interested in becoming a member of BLC? Are you a life-long Lutheran who'd like a refresher? Our "*What is a Lutheran?*" course reviews the essentials of the Lutheran tradition, the similarities and differences between Lutherans and other denominations, and how we live out our faith within the BLC family. **This class meets on Sundays at 9:45 AM in the multipurpose room. THE GROUP WILL NOT MEET ON MAY 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**Contact Pastor Russ at [rjcraig@gmail.com](mailto:rjcraig@gmail.com) or 518-369-7631, if you have any questions.**

### **Gathered Guests - A Study on Lutheran Worship**

Join us as we answer your questions regarding Lutheran Worship:

What is worship?

How did the early church worship?

What are the foundations of Lutheran worship?

Why does the pastor wear robes?

What the heck is a Sanctus?

And so much more.

Join Pastor Jessy in the Lounge **starting at 9:45 a.m.**

**NO CLASS THIS WEEK. NEXT CLASS IS SUNDAY, MAY 5<sup>TH</sup>**

### **During the Week:**

**Monday Night Women's Bible Study: Psalms: a Guide to Prayer and Praise!** We warmly welcome all ladies to come join us on Monday nights as we study and explore the wonderful Psalms in God's Word! **This new study will begin on Monday, April 1st** (no fooling!), and we'll meet **in the lounge at 7pm** (earlier if you'd like to chat). The Psalms are songs, poems, and prayers that help us express our deepest emotions, and draw us closer to the Lord who loves us so. We'll be using an easy-to-follow lesson book from Fisherman Bible Study Guide. It will cover praise, lament & repent, thanks, trust and wisdom. No pop quizzes and no homework grades - just an opportunity to learn and grow in a caring and friendly group! We look forward to seeing you! **If you have any questions, please contact Sue Dietsche at [dwdietsche@outlook.com](mailto:dwdietsche@outlook.com).**

**Thursday Morning Bible Study Topic - The Book of Romans** - Romans is Paul's greatest work. Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is the chief part of the New Testament and the very purist gospel...It can never be read and pondered too much." Paul gives us a systematic presentation of doctrine in the Bible along with practical instruction for living. He also explains God's plan for Israel, His Chosen People. Every Christian needs to become familiar with this book. Bring your Bible and join us at **10 am in the lounge**. Study sheets will be provided. For questions, **contact Judy Nestlen ([judithnestlen@gmail.com](mailto:judithnestlen@gmail.com) or 518 768 2602)**.

**Saturday Men's Breakfast & Bible Study** - The Saturday morning Men's Bible Study group will meet on **Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall here at BLC**.

**STATEMENTS OF GIVING** – 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Statements of Giving for January to March 2024 were emailed last week to those for whom we have email addresses. The remaining statements were mailed last Friday. **Please contact Marie Scalzo, Business Manager, in the Church Office ([businessmanager@blcdelmar.com](mailto:businessmanager@blcdelmar.com) or 518-439-4328)** if you received a statement via email and would prefer a paper copy. Or if you received a paper statement and would prefer to receive emailed statements, please contact Marie and provide your current email address.

**OPEN HANDS GROUP** - The Open Hands Group is reading and discussing "*Freeing Jesus- Rediscovering Jesus as Friend, Teacher, Savior, Lord, Way and Presence*", by Diana Butler Bass. All are welcome to join in. The book can be purchased at one of our local bookshops or on Amazon. **Please contact Mary Scott at (518) 439-6061** and let her know if you would like to join the group. **We meet from 7-8:15 pm on Monday nights at the church.**

**GRIEFSHARE** - Our current 13-week session is being held **Wednesday mornings at 10:00 am**. If you or someone you know has experienced the death of a loved one and would like to register for GriefShare, contact Deacon Melissa at [derenches@blcdelmar.com](mailto:derenches@blcdelmar.com) or call 518-439-4328.

**"LEARN TO QUILT DAY" CANCELLED** – Our previously scheduled "Learn to Quilt Day" on Saturday, May 18th has been **cancelled**. A new date will be picked and announced in the not-too-distant future. Questions? Contact **MaryLou Wahl at [lousteve79@gmail.com](mailto:lousteve79@gmail.com) or call 518-767-2396**.

**RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE** - There will be a blood drive at BLC on **Friday, May 3rd from 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm**. If you would like to register and sign up to donate blood please do so here: <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/drive-results?zipSponsor=Bethlutheran> . We will also be looking for a couple of volunteers to help greet and be at the check-in desk. **If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Deacon Melissa at [derenches@blcdelmar.com](mailto:derenches@blcdelmar.com) or (518) 435-4328.**

**THE BIG BETHLEHEM YARD SALE** - "Clear your clutter for a good cause" - We are teaming up with The Big Bethlehem Yard Sale organization and the Bethlehem community to help non-profit organizations (like us).

On **Saturday, May 4, 2024, from 8:00 am - 12:00 pm**, there will be a town-wide yard sale. If you would like to be a seller you will be asked to pledge your first \$20 to the non-profit organization of your choice; any further profits are yours to keep. If you are a buyer, you can purchase a map of locations to shop at yard sales including here at BLC. If you would like to set up a table at church, please contact Deacon Melissa so she can keep track of how many people will be selling here.

This ***will not*** be like the Market Fair. Each seller is responsible for their own table set up and take down; there is no location assignment except in the front of church and Fellowship Hall; and there will not be any food available. Anything remaining on a seller's table at the end of the event must be taken home **by the seller**. You keep the profits except the pledge of your first \$20 (or more) made to the non-profit of your choice. We are offering a location to sell if you do not live in Bethlehem and would like to clear out some items from home. More information and sign up can be found at [www.bigbethlehemyardsale.com](http://www.bigbethlehemyardsale.com) .

**CROP WALK, SUNDAY AFTERNOON MAY 5<sup>th</sup>** - Please join the BLC team and make a difference concerning World Hunger and local hunger! Walk with us, donate with cash, check or online. According to the UN, in 2022, 800 million people worldwide suffered from hunger. War torn nations, famines, and poverty are some causes. Let us follow the message spoken by Jesus, "When I was hungry, you fed me." By participating in Crop Walk, we can help feed many. **For more information about walking and donating, contact Mary Scott at (518) 439-6061.**

Donate online @ [www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/albanyny). Team name is "BLC Team Albany". Checks can be made out to CWS/CROP. Thank you for your support.



**SPRING WORKDAY AT BLC on SATURDAY MAY 11 from 8:30 am TO 1 pm** - The Church Properties Ministry Team is holding a work day **Saturday morning May 11<sup>th</sup>** to do some outdoor and indoor projects and general taking care of our Church buildings and property. Please join us for some work, fun and Fellowship. Look for a poster in the Fellowship Hall with a list of activities. If you see something that interests you, let Wes know and he can fill you in with the details. If there is something that you would like to see accomplished, let us know and we will get it on the list. Looking forward to seeing you! This is a great opportunity to meet others and help with the upkeep of our Church. **Questions? Wes Greenman – 518-439-6105 or [wgreenman1@verizon.net](mailto:wgreenman1@verizon.net)**. Thank You!

**FOR ANYONE INTERESTED IN GENEALOGY** - We invite you to join us for: **"GENEALOGY" - and Pies**. Both will be featured at our **Thursday May 16 Lunch and Learn**. If you are interested in your family history but do not want to spend a fortune subscribing to online databases, here is your chance to hear about "The 10 Best FREE Genealogy Web sites" from professional genealogist Lisa Dougherty. ALL ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND!

**12:00 Noon - BYO lunch to the Fellowship Hall** where beverages will be provided along with ASSORTED PIES from our Seniors Team for dessert.

**1:00 pm – In the Multipurpose room**, our very knowledgeable speaker (see her biography on sheet next to sign-up) will tell us how to access and use the many free websites where you can find records, record your family information, share stories and pictures, browse old newspapers, view photographs of cemetery stones, or read the musings of hundreds of genealogy hobbyists just like you.

We need to know how many to plan for, so **please sign up in the Fellowship Hall**. We are delighted to provide this fine program, so please invite your friends and neighbors to join us too!

**PRAYER REQUESTS** - How can we pray for you? We just launched a Prayer Request page on our website as another means to submit prayer requests and for the community to submit as well. Go to: [www.blcdelmar.com/prayer](http://www.blcdelmar.com/prayer) to submit one online.

**DIRECTORY** - We still have many families/individuals without photos in the directory. If you would like to submit a photo, please email to Deacon Melissa at [derenches@blcdelmar.com](mailto:derenches@blcdelmar.com). If you would like a quick photo taken, please contact Deacon Melissa to schedule a time to stop in during church business hours. Thank you.

**ALZHEIMER CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** – BLC hosts an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group facilitated by Deacon Melissa. **This caregiver support group will be held every 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month from 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm.** Registration for this group must be completed through the Alzheimer's Association by calling 518-675-7214. What can you expect from participation in the group? Developing a support system; exchanging practical information on challenges and possible solutions; talking through issues and ways of coping; sharing feelings, needs and concerns; and learning about community resources. **We will not be meeting for the May Alzheimer's Support Group as it falls on Memorial Day. We will resume on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of June at 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose room. Thank you!**

### **UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS**

Here is a list off our upcoming outreach events so you could mark them on your calendar and join in and let your friends, neighbors and family know:

**Red Cross Blood Drive: May 3 - 12:30 pm - 4:30 pm** - We will be hosting a blood drive in the Fellowship Hall. If you would like to donate blood, please sign up at [www.recrossblood.org](http://www.recrossblood.org) and enter the zip code 12054 to search for BLC or contact Deacon Melissa to help you schedule a time. Appointments are required.

**Big Bethlehem Yard Sale: May 4 - 8:30 am - 12:30 pm** - Join in on this big event and donate your first \$20 to the non-profit of your choice (which we hope will be BLC). If you would like to sell at church, contact Deacon Melissa. You will be required to set up your table and space and bring home any items not sold and donate your first \$20 to BLC. Or you can sell at home by signing up to be a seller at [www.bigbethlehemyardsale.com](http://www.bigbethlehemyardsale.com) .

**Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia seminar: May 14 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm** - Join to learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between Alzheimer's and Dementia, stages and risk factors, current research and treatments. You may sign up by calling 800-272-3900 or let Deacon Melissa know you would like to attend.

**Alzheimer's Managing Money: A Caregiver's Guide to Finances: June 3 - 3:30 pm - 4:30 pm** - Learn tips for managing someone else's finances, how to prepare for future care costs and the benefits of early planning. Register by calling (518) 675-7214 or let Deacon Melissa know you would like to attend.

If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Melissa at [derenches@blcdelmar.com](mailto:derenches@blcdelmar.com) or call (518) 439-4328.

*The prayer list is your personal invitation to join in the daily prayer ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. It is for daily prayers of praise, thanksgiving and intercession on behalf of others, personal needs, church concerns, decisions and other important matters. Please use the BLC information cards to add a name to the prayer list or email the church office at [office@blcdelmar.com](mailto:office@blcdelmar.com)*

### **IN APRIL WE PRAY FOR...**

#### **BLC MEMBERS:**

Desiree Luft, Paul & Ann Kleinke, Doug & Phil Hauser, Sheryl Ricciardelli, Ingrid Dispenza, Dawn Pratt, Tim & Char Gaylord, Jake Eberwein, Pat Koehler, Fred & Delores Musbach, Frank & Kerrilynn Rooney, Wynette & Bob Thien, Carol Landau, Sue Haswell, Sue Vail, Helen Fansler, Jen Smith

#### **FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

Bev, Adelle, Carly & Family, Zak, Laurie, Dan Hillman – loved ones of MaryLou & Steve Wahl  
Walter Luft, Katerina Luft, Bill Beers, the Luft family  
Reagan Rafferty, Joe Coluccio, Marianne Terry, Raymond, Stan – friend and family of Pat Harbeck  
Lori – daughter of Diane Bollman-Buyer  
Norma June; Allen Eberwein – family of Trish & Jake Eberwein  
Tim, Terri, Tina, Jen, Phil, Ed and RoseMary - family and friends of John Matthews  
Marie Tompkins, Edwin Tompkins – loved ones of Arlene Abelman  
Kevin Ricciardelli – son of Mike and Sheryl Ricciardelli  
Lisa, Michelle, Tina N., Tammie, Melody– family and friends of Tim and Char Gaylord  
Missy Thompson - sister of Deanna Crow, friend of Doug Ophardt  
Rev. Dr. James McDaniels – friend of Ralph & Dorothy Schultz and Lee & Marie Cookson  
Pastor David Nuss– son-in-law of Bud LaQuire  
Gail – family of Pat Koehler  
Gardner Family, Gary, Cianan, Tom, Griffin, Larkin  
Judy Hukey  
Julia, Eliana, Hugh – family of Hope DeBacco  
Pamela, Elisa, Jack – friends of Sue Plank  
Tony – loved one of Pat Davis  
Larry & Florence Sanford; Matt Swartz – loved ones of Terri Wohlgemuth  
Andy Munn and Family – family of Ralph & Dorothy Schultz  
David T. – friend of Keith & Mary Scott  
Grace Van Epps – sister of Geri Strole  
Donna & Adam – family of Michelle Schultz  
Bill Liebl, brother-in-law of Doug and Tammy Hauser  
Bernice, Barbara – mother and sister of Bill Collins  
Pat Hamilton -mother of Jessie Mabee  
Howard Cushing & Family – friends of Beth Vail  
Meg, Maddie & family – loved ones of Valerie Newell  
Ken, Karen, Don, Dave, Penny – loved ones of Kathy Barra  
Michael – father of Michelle Levesque  
Deborah Wilson – loved one of Martin & Nora Wilson

**LONG TERM PRAYER CONCERNS OF FAMILY AND FRIENDS:**

John Matthews

Richard Buyer – husband of Diane Bollman-Buyer

Sean Murray – family friend of the Cartwright Family

Gary Mabee – family member of Barb & Tom Mabee

Richard Mabee – brother of Tom Mabee

Dmitri and family – loved ones of Eric & Dolores Jerabek

Scott Bailey – brother of Diane Mineau

Anita - friend of Sue Haswell

Tom Riescher, Gene Salvino – members of the Brookins family

Lisa Cantina – niece of Dorothy Cartwright

Dennis – brother of Mary Ann Albano

Cheryl Sheridan

Robert Allen Whelen

**PRAYERS FOR THOSE IN THE MILITARY:**

Petty Officer James Collins, son of Bill & Barb Collins; Pfc. Paul Thompson – friend of Ralph & Dorothy Schultz;

Jens Berdahl – son of friends of Sue Haswell; Alex McCoy, son-in-law of David and Susan Plank; SSGT Jamison

Kuhn (US Air Force) - grandson of Doug & Barb Kuhn; Kevin Mahoney – friend of Judy Nestlen; Jacob Adams

(US Navy) – nephew of Val & Tom Newell; Sgt. Daniel R. Thien (USAF)– son of Ted & Lisa Thien; Pfc (Army)

Dennis Robinson, friend of J. Matthews; John Hillman – nephew of MaryLou Wahl; David Newell (USAF) –

nephew of Val & Tom Newell