

THE ASCENSION OF OUR LORD

May 12, 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 - While the Ascension is often underappreciated, it is a very important feast, and its message is deeply profound. We tend to think of Jesus' ascension as an ending point, and no one likes to wave goodbye. Even the apostles felt a sense of apprehension. But our Lord prepared them by opening the Scriptures to them so that they might know where to hear His voice even as His visual appearance would not be with them. We know that they understood this, because they returned with joy and not fear, celebrating this event as a new beginning and not an end.

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

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HYMN

A Hymn of Glory Let Us Sing
#493

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Leader: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

People: But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and examination

Leader: Let us confess our sins to God our Father.

People: Almighty God, have mercy upon us, forgive us our sins, and lead us to everlasting life.

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. As a called and ordained servant of 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.

EXCHANGING OF THE PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Let us extend the hand of reconciliation and peace to one another.

People: Peace be with you.

Response: And also with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Leader: Let us pray. O Lord, to whom our Savior ascended in His glory and from whose right hand He works to supply His church with the fruits of His redeeming work, keep us in faith that we may be sustained by His mercy and brought to everlasting life; 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 1:1–11

(The Lord ascends from their sight and the disciples return to Jerusalem with great joy.)

¹In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, ²until the day when he was taken up, after he had given commands through the Holy Spirit to the apostles whom he had chosen. ³To them he presented himself alive after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God.

⁴And while staying with them he ordered them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father, which, he said, “you heard from me; ⁵for John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from now.”

⁶So when they had come together, they asked him, “Lord, will you at this time restore the kingdom to Israel?” ⁷He said to them, “It is not for you to know times or seasons that the Father has fixed by his own authority. ⁸But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” ⁹And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight. ¹⁰And while they were gazing into heaven as he went, behold, two men stood by them in white robes, ¹¹and said, “Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into heaven? This Jesus, who was taken up from you into heaven, will come in the same way as you saw him go into heaven.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

EPISTLE

Ephesians 1:15–23

(Paul commends the faith of the congregation in the context of the resurrection and ascension of Christ.)

¹⁵For this reason, because I have heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and your love toward all the saints, ¹⁶I do not cease to give thanks for you,

remembering you in my prayers, ¹⁷that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give you a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of him, ¹⁸having the eyes of your hearts enlightened, that you may know what is the hope to which he has called you, what are the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, ¹⁹and what is the immeasurable greatness of his power toward us who believe, according to the working of his great might ²⁰that he worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²²And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

CREATOR'S CRUSADERS

"It's Time to Celebrate" Medley

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 24:44-53

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the twenty-fourth chapter.

People:



G Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

(The evangelist records how Christ opened the Scriptures to the disciples before ascending in glory before their sight.)

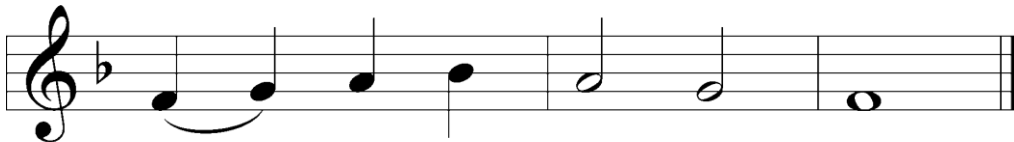
⁴⁴Then [Jesus] said to them, "These are my words that I spoke to you while I was still with you, that everything written about me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled." ⁴⁵Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, ⁴⁶and said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, ⁴⁷and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all

nations, beginning from Jerusalem. ⁴⁸You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹And behold, I am sending the promise of my Father upon you. But stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high.”

⁵⁰Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵²And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³and were continually in the temple blessing God.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People:



☐ Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

APOSTLES' CREED

All: I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alleluia, Sing to Jesus
#821

SERMON

Rev. David Dietsche

OFFERING

(You can also give at www.blcdelmar.com/give)

ANTHEM

Hail the Day that Sees Him Rise - Charles Wesley
arr. Ralph C. Schultz

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.

Father of glory, since Your Son has gone up with a shout and the sound of a trumpet, open our lips to sing praises to our King and live confidently in His victory. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, Your Son has commanded us to go into all the world and proclaim the Gospel to the whole creation. Bless the proclamation of Your Church, that many may believe, be baptized and be saved. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, give us a spirit of wisdom and of revelation in the knowledge of Christ. Enlighten the eyes of our hearts to look forward in the hope to which You have called us in Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, You put all things under the feet of Your incarnate Son when You seated Him in power at Your right hand. Bless all who make, administer and enforce our laws. Let the Gospel have free course among us and be preached to the joy and edification of Your people. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, You have raised Your Son from the dead and seated Him at Your right hand in the heavenly places. Let His blessing rest upon all who suffer or grieve, that they may be sustained in their trials and granted His comfort and healing. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of glory, You gave Your incarnate Son to the Church as head over all things. Enliven us by the Holy Communion of His body and blood to live in Him as His Body, the Church, and the fullness of Him who fills all in all. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: O Lord, heavenly Father, we gratefully remember the sufferings and death of Your dear Son, Jesus Christ, for our salvation. Rejoicing in His victorious resurrection from the dead, we draw strength from His ascension before You, where He ever stands for us as our own High Priest. Gather us together from the ends of the earth to celebrate with all the faithful the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which has no end. Graciously receive our prayers, deliver and preserve us, for to You alone we give all glory, honor and worship, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, 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 in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who after His resurrection

appeared openly to all His disciples and in their sight was taken up into heaven that He might make us partakers of His divine life. Therefore, with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth a - dored;
Heav'n and earth with full ac-claim shout the glo-ry of Your name.
Sing ho - san - na in the high-est, sing ho - san - na to the Lord;
Tru - ly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!

PRAYER OF THANKSGIVING

Pastor: O Almighty and eternal God, You are worthy to be held in reverence by all people and You have well supplied Your whole creation with all the blessings of life and health. But most of all we praise You for Your gifts of forgiveness, life, and salvation in Jesus Christ. Through His Word and Sacraments He continues to bestow upon us, Your people, the blessings of His cross and empty tomb—though we neither deserve nor are worthy of His gifts. Grant us the faith to receive with faith and a joyful heart the gift of His flesh and blood in this Holy Communion.

People: Amen.

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

Somewhere There's a Song of Praise - David Lantz III

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 THANKSGIVING

Pastor: Let us pray. Gracious God, our heavenly Father, You have given us a foretaste of the feast to come in the Holy Supper of Your Son's body and blood. Keep us firm in the true faith throughout our days of pilgrimage that, on the day of His coming, we may, together with all Your saints, celebrate the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom which has no end; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

Lift High the Cross
#837

DISMISSAL

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 Bruce and Joann Susser in celebration of the gift of love in our family. Thank you, Lord Jesus, for the joy we received in our lives from our mothers, Anna Uhl and Ella Sosedow. Wishing a very Happy Mother's Day to all mothers. We also thank you, Lord, for the abundant blessings of joy as we celebrated the 18th wedding anniversary of our daughter and son-in-law, Katie and Luke Willey, on May 6th and 44 years of marriage for Bruce and me on May 10th. *"Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love."* (1 John 4:8)

Altar flowers are also given today by June Boluch with a heavy heart and in loving memory of our dear friend, Pat Cebry, who passed away this past week. The love of her church, her faith, kindness and generosity were felt by all who knew her. *"Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever."* (Psalm 23:6)



SERVING TODAY

- ALTAR -** Kim Denton; Lisa Wilson
- GREETER(S) -** Greg & Jan Wilsey
- MUSIC DIRECTOR -** Ruth Rice
- ORGANIST -** Jacob Purington
- LITURGIST -** Pastor Jessy Wilson
- LAY READER -** Frank Rice
- LAY ASSISTANTS -** Dorothy Cartwright; Joe Wendth;
Paul Gutman; Tom Newell
- PRAYER PARTNER(S) -** Diane Bollman-Buyer; Steve Adams
- USHERS -** Dan Libutti; John Marchese
- STREAMING -** Michelle or Matthew Levesque
- COFFEE HOSTS -** Mark Wallace

SERVING SUNDAY, MAY 19TH

ALTAR - Kim Denton; Lisa Wilson
GREETER(S) - Linda Asmus; Pat Davis
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Ruth Rice
ORGANIST - Jacob Purington
LITURGIST - Deacon Melissa Derenches
LAY READER - Dolores Jerabek
LAY ASSISTANTS - Dawn Snay; Wolfgang Wehmann;
Mike Mineau; Doug Ophardt
PRAYER PARTNER(S) - Diane Bollman-Buyer; Steve Adams
USHERS - Wes & Lisa Greenman
STREAMING - Chris Cutsogeorge
COFFEE HOSTS - Brad & Patti Hillman

THIS WEEK AT BLC:

TODAY:

MOTHERS' DAY

8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship (w/Holy Communion)
9:45 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Study
9:45 a.m. – Fellowship Hour with Mothers' Day cake
11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

MONDAY:

7:00 p.m. – Open Hands Group
7:00 p.m. – Women's Bible Study
7:30 p.m. – Praise Band rehearsal

TUESDAY:

2:00 p.m. – Badminton & Ping Pong (Parish Hall)
3:30 p.m. – Alzheimer's Seminar

WEDNESDAY:

9:30 a.m. – BLC Quilters
10:00 a.m. – GriefShare

THURSDAY:

10:00 a.m. – Bible Study
11:00 a.m. – HAC Sandwich Making
12:00 p.m. – Sr. Lunch 'n Learn ("Genealogy & Pie!")
6:15 p.m. – Creator's Crusaders
7:00 p.m. – BLC Choir
7:00 p.m. – Team Leader Calendar Meeting

SATURDAY:

7:30 a.m. – Men's Breakfast & Bible Study
9:30 a.m. – Confirmation Rehearsal

SUNDAY:

CONFIRMATION SUNDAY

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. 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 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. Contact Pastor Russ at 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.**

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! We 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. 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.**

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 or 518 768 2602).**

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

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY! - Please join us this morning in Fellowship Hall following the traditional worship and prior to the contemporary worship for a special cake to honor and celebrate our mothers on their special day.

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!

(continued →)

- **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!

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT – BLC's own Christopher Cutsogeorge will be doing his Eagle Scout project at **12 noon on May 18th (rain date: May 19th) here at church**. The project includes sealing two benches, the pergola, and the live nativity set. If you can lend a hand, please contact Chris at chriscutso@icloud.com or just show up at noon on May 18th.

ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - We are joining in an "All Youth Extravaganza" at Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave) on **Sunday, May 19th from 2:00 - 4:00** for a fun-filled afternoon of games, snacks and fellowship. **If you would like to join in, please let the Church Office know (518-439-4328 or derenches@blcdelmar.com)** so we can let Delmar Reformed know who is attending. Thank you.

LADIES' MEET 'N EAT - This is a fun fellowship group for women members and non-members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church that get together for a luncheon every few months. We really enjoy meeting new people so if you plan to come, please consider bringing a friend.

Date: Tuesday, May 21st
Place: Martel's Restaurant at Capital Hills Golf Course
 (65 O'Neil Rd, Albany, NY 12208)
Time: 12:00 Noon
RSVP to: Joann Susser (josuss1217@gmail.com or phone 518-225-7897)

In the spirit of the original group, we will be collecting a donation for a charity. We will collect a monetary donation of your choosing that will be contributed to a charity, such as the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Food Pantry or whatever charity the collective group decides on.

BLC SUMMER PICNIC – Our summer picnic will be held on **Sunday, June 2nd** following the **11:00 a.m. service here at church**. Hot dogs and hamburgers will be served in addition to the side dishes and desserts brought by the following:

Last names N-Z:	Side Dish
Last names A-M:	Dessert

You will find the sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall on the table under the big monitor. While you are signing up to attend, why not sign up to help with set up, serving, and clean up? Those sign-up sheets are right there as well! **Questions? Contact Deacon Dave Vail at 518-783-6326 or Sue Vail at 518-369-1080.**

RESCUE MISSION NEEDS HELPING HANDS - The Capital City Rescue Mission needs volunteers to stuff and address newsletters. If you are available on any of the following dates (and for any amount of time), please report to the Rescue Mission at 259 S. Pearl Street, Albany. Lunch is provided.

Sunday, June 2nd from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm,
Monday thru Wednesday, June 3rd - 5th from 9:00 am - 3:00 pm.

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.**

PLAY BALL!! - Come out and support our Church softball team. Here is the schedule:

- Thursday, May 16 @ 6:30 pm - Away vs Masonic Lodge @ Henry Hudson Town Park
- Thursday, May 23 @ 6:30 pm - Home vs Masonic Lodge @ Bethlehem High School (JV)

- Thursday, May 30 @ 6:30 pm - Away vs First United Methodist Church @ Henry Hudson Town Park
- Thursday, June 6 @ 6:30 pm - Away vs Bethlehem Community @ Bethlehem High School (JV)
- Thursday, June 13 @ 6:30 pm - Home vs Bethlehem Community @ Henry Hudson Town Park
- Thursday, June 20 @ 6:30 pm - Home vs First United Methodist @ Bethlehem High School (JV)
- Thursday, June 27 @ 6:30 pm - Away vs Masonic Lodge @ Bethlehem High School (JV)

"Let's root root root for the home team!"

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 4th 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 4th Monday of June at 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose room. Thank you!**

UPCOMING OUTREACH EVENTS

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 or call (518) 439-4328.

“Take Me Out to the Ballgame” – Join us as we give our new DCM, Annie, a big Albany welcome on **Saturday, August 10th!!!** First, join us for a meal in the afternoon here at church (time TBD) where we can show Annie what good cooks we are! Afterwards, we will head over to the Joe Bruno stadium in Troy to introduce Annie to our Albany minor league baseball team, the Valley Cats! On **Saturday, August 10th at 6:30 pm**, the Valley Cats are hosting a “Faith and Family Night”. Seats will be set aside for us, but we need to purchase the tickets prior to the event. Order forms will be available next month. Tickets are \$12 each and include reserved box seating and \$5 to use towards concessions, kiosk, or the store. So, mark your calendars and watch out for the order form and more information for what promises to be a fun time.

BLC Member Portal – Our portal is packed with information such as the direct link to our BLC and Lands’ End clothing store, monthly serving charts, and our church calendar (both public and private events). It is password protected so if you need the password, please either call or email the office at office@blcdelmar.com or 518-439-4328.

Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's - We are building a team to walk on **Saturday, October 26th** (Time TBD) to help end Alzheimer's! If you would like to sign up to walk and be a part of the BLC team or if you would like to make a donation, (or both!), please visit: <http://act.alz.org/goto/BLCDelmar>. Please join Deacon Melissa on this effort to help end Alzheimers. If you have any questions, please contact Deacon Melissa at 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

IN MAY WE PRAY FOR...

BLC MEMBERS:

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

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