



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

OUR MISSION:

**“Connect with Jesus
Connect with others
Connect others with Jesus”**

MAY 2024

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www.blcdelmar.com | office@blcdelmar.com



“When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the

Spirit gave them utterance.” (Acts 2:1-4)

In the book of Acts, Luke recounts the apostles’ reception of the Holy Spirit. Upon receiving the Holy Spirit these men, who had spent weeks fearfully locked away in the upper room, emerge and begin to boldly proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to all within earshot.

I find it amazing that each of us who have been baptized into Christ have received that very same spirit that empowered the apostles that first Pentecost. Maybe you cannot speak in tongues, but I assure you that the Holy Spirit has empowered some gift within you, and I am sure that God will use that gift to proclaim the Good News to the lives touched by yours.

Paul writes, *“Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of service, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who empowers them all in everyone.” (1 Corinthians 12:4-6)* During this month of Pentecost, I encourage you to explore how God has gifted you and how He may be calling you to use those gifts to spread the good news of Jesus Christ.

Your Servant in Christ,
Pastor Jessy



FROM OUR COORDINATOR OF OUTREACH:

Thank you to all who volunteered for the Easter Egg Hunt! We had over 240 children attend, and that's not counting their parents, grandparents, aunts, uncles, and so on. This is always a fun event, and it cannot be held without the assistance of all of you!

We have a busy few months coming up. We continue with GriefShare weekly and a monthly Alzheimer's Support Group. We have partnered with the Red Cross for three blood drives here at BLC this year. We have upcoming Alzheimer's educational seminars presented by the Alzheimer's Association. We are in the beginning stages of the Fall Market Fair from which all proceeds will benefit the Parade Float committee. Oh, and speaking of the parade float, we are planning a float for the Delmar Christmas parade, and it will also be used for the Elm Avenue Park Lights in the Park. We continue our partnership with Capital City Rescue Mission, Grassroot Givers, Bethlehem Neighbors, and others. We are continually reaching into our community to show the love of Jesus.

If you are interested in helping with Evangelism and Outreach projects, please let me know. We need to remember that as we connect with Jesus weekly, we need to go out and connect with others so we can connect others with Jesus!

Connect with Jesus –
Connect with Others –
Connect others with Jesus!

~Deacon Melissa

BIBLE STUDIES:

Sunday Mornings:

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 5th.**

Contact Pastor Russ at rjrcraig@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.**

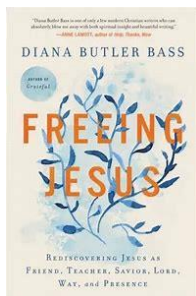
During the Week:

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 use an easy-to-follow lesson book from Fisherman Bible Study Guide. It covers praise, lament & repent, thanks, trust and wisdom. We look forward to seeing you! **If you have any questions, please contact Sue Dietsche at dwdietsche@outlook.com.**

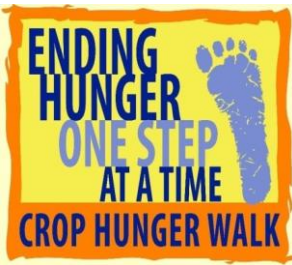
Thursday Co-ed Bible Study: The Book of Romans - Romans is Paul's greatest work. Martin Luther wrote, "This epistle is the chief part of the New Testament and the very purist gospel...It can never be read and pondered too much." Paul gives us a systematic presentation of doctrine in the Bible along with 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 4th & 20th at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall here at BLC**

STATEMENTS OF GIVING - 1st Quarter Statements of Giving for January to March 2024 were emailed mid-April to those for whom we have email addresses, and the remaining statements were mailed via USPS. **Please contact Marie Scalzo, Business Manager, in the Church Office at 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.**



CROP WALK, SUNDAY

AFTERNOON MAY 5th - 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. Team name is "BLC Team Albany". Checks can be made out to CWS/CROP. Thank you for your support.



BADMINTON AND PING PONG:

Come and join us on Tuesdays to play badminton and ping pong from 2 to 4 pm in the Parish Hall. **Please call Mary Scott (518-439-6061) to confirm your attendance.**

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 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. 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.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH LIBRARY



“As a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you.” (Isaiah 66:13a)

Happy Mother’s Day!

Here are books in our library that focus on our ladies:

Call number	Where is it?	Title	Author	Brief description
GEO White Round label	Youth Non- Fiction	<u>A Young Woman After God’s Own Heart: A Teen’s Guide to Friend’s, Faith, Family and the Future</u>	Elizabeth George	I. The pursuit of God, II. The pursuit of God’s priorities III. The practice of God’s priorities
GUI Yellow over White Round Label	Spiritual Guidance	<u>Guideposts For The Spirit: Stories of Love for Mothers</u>	Guidepost	Over 100 short stories about the enduring love of Mothers
WEA Green over White Round Label	Adult Non- Fiction	<u>Having a Mary Spirit</u>	Joanna Weaver	Allowing God to Change us from the Inside Out
MAS Green over White Round Label	Adult Non- Fiction	<u>All the Women of The Bible</u>	M.L. delMastro	From Abigail to Ruth to the Woman and the Stone not Thrown

As always, a big “Thank You!” to all who have donated books to the BLC library. We look forward to seeing you in the library.

Your Library Team, Mary Ann Albano and Bob Ludemann



CHURCH WORKDAY

FROM OUR CHURCH PROPERTIES MINISTRY TEAM:

Spring Workday at BLC on Saturday,
May 11 from 8:30 am to 1 pm –

The Church Properties Ministry Team is holding a workday **Saturday morning May 11th** 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.** Thank You!

FROM THE COMMUNITY CARE MINISTRY TEAM:

“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 or call 518-767-2396.

FROM THE EVANGELISM MINISTRY TEAM:

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 or (518) 435-4328.**

Weekly GriefShare Support Group

Our current 13-week session is **held on 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 or call 518-439-4328.



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.



Alzheimer Caregiver Support Group

BLC hosts an Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group facilitated by Deacon Melissa. **This Caregiver Support Group is 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 in May 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!

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.

FROM OUR SENIORS' MINISTRY TEAM:



Lunch 'n Learn:

Genealogy and Pies

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!

MMMMM...



PIE

NEWSLETTER NEWS:

The deadline for the next Bethlehem Star is **MAY 15TH**.

Articles can be:

- Emailed to office@blcdelmar.com **OR**
- Mailed to BLC, 85 Elm Avenue, Delmar, NY 12054 **OR**
- Placed in the Church Office mailbox in the Committee Workroom.

There are now 3 avenues by which you can read our newsletter:

1. Access it from our website:

<https://www.blcdelmar.com/newsletter>

2. Receive links via email to click and read our newsletter.

3. Receive the newsletter in your mailbox via the post office.

MUSIC NOTES:

Alleluia! He is risen!! He is risen indeed! It is hard to believe that Easter Day has come and gone.

Our music ministry was very busy throughout the Lenten and Easter season. Between Palm Sunday and Easter, the BLC Choir sang 17 anthems; the Creator's Crusaders sang 5 songs; the Bell Choir played for Good Friday and Easter; and the Brass Choir played for Easter morning.

Soloists for this season were Mark Bush, Chuck Naylor, Frank Rice, John Hukey, Trish Eberwein, Sue Dietsche, Beth Kebea, and Diane Mineau.

Instrumental soloists were Sarah Cleary, Katie Rodway, Katie McNally, Mike Mineau, and Robert Hartnett.

The Brass Choir consisted of David Schultz, Shawn Chaney, Bev Bozzella, May O'Malley, Anna Willi. Ben Purington, Sarah



Cutsogeorge, Amata Tiu, and Theo Loshbaugh. Special thanks to Dr. Ralph Schultz for arranging and conducting the instruments.

Bell players were Diane Mineau, Katie McNally, Suzy Muggeo, Ben Purington, Heather Burns, Ben Zhang, Jaimie Cornell Zwicklbauer, May O'Malley, Kate McDonald, Ryan kitchen Frank Rice, Jen Smith, Leo Purington, Jacob Purington, and Jake Smith.

A special thanks to Jacob Purington for his beautiful preludes and postludes throughout the Lenten and Easter season.



HEARTFELT THANKS FROM...

From the Stasko and O'Connell Families:

Thank you to our church family for your generous outpouring of love, prayers, support, and sympathy following the loss of our beloved wife, mother and Ama, Fran Stasko. She will be greatly missed and fondly remembered. There is peace and reassurance knowing that she now rests eternally in the loving arms of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

RESULTS OF OUR DCE/DCM SEARCH

The DCE/DCM Call Committee is delighted to announce that Hannah “Annie” Ryan has ACCEPTED the call to serve as Director Church Ministries at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! Her anticipated start date is August 5th, 2024. Below, please see her letter of acceptance and join us in praying for a smooth transition for Annie in the coming months.

We want to thank the congregation for your support and trust as we made our way through this process. We are confident that God will do great things through Annie here at BLC!

The DCE Call Committee

- Ann Brands
- Wes Greenman
- Tammy Grissell
- Kate Macdonald
- Kayt Marra
- Jenny Molino
- Charlie Palmer
- Larry Richardson
- Michelle Schultz

Dear Members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

After much prayer and deliberation, I accept your call to Bethlehem Lutheran Church to serve as your Director of Church Ministries.

I could not be more excited to serve you in this role and know that we will accomplish many great things for God’s kingdom! I look forward to meeting each and every one of you (but please bear with me as I try to remember your names!) and encouraging each other through God’s Word.

All God’s Blessings,
Hannah Ryan
Director of Church Ministries