



Bethlehem Lutheran Church



## Bethlehem News



Dear friends in Christ,

After the February 28th service something stuck with me. "Stop trying and start trusting" has been a struggle for people in the Old Testament, the New Testament, and even today. You might struggle with this also, especially during times when the purpose of your suffering is not clear. I found this little devotion from the Lutheran Hour Ministries about Martha.

So when Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went and met Him ... Jesus said to her, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. Whoever believes in Me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?" (John 11:20, 25-26)

Martha came to Jesus quickly, before He got to the house. Why? It sounds like she hoped He would raise her brother from the dead. Otherwise what did she mean by saying, "Even now I know that whatever You ask from God, God will give You"?

Jesus promised, "Your brother will rise again." But Martha still wasn't clear. Did Jesus mean the general resurrection at the end of the world? Or something sooner?

Jesus confirmed her best hopes. He said, "I am the Resurrection and the Life." The resurrection is not just some far future event. Jesus, standing right there, face to face with Martha, is the resurrection right now. He is the Son of God, and all power, including the power of life, is in His hand. And that's still true for us today, isn't it? Jesus is our resurrection, right now – the Son of God, the crucified and resurrected Savior, who can meet all our needs.

That means it's never too late to ask Him for help, and get it, if the thing we are asking for is in accord with God's will. Never too late to ask for help with sickness, with pain, with dying. Never too late to ask Him to heal the deathly messes we create for ourselves – broken families, ruined marriages, bad jobs, addictions.

**WE PRAY:** Lord, You are my resurrection. Please raise me from the deathly situations I am in. Amen.

We, like Martha are not clear at times on whether our help is coming now or when Jesus comes back again. We wait in anticipation of His coming but also know that he helps us in the here and now.

**Matthew 7:9-11** "Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"

God knows what we need and what we don't. He is the beginning and the end trust in Him in all things.

Blessing

Pastor Karl

KTF



News and Updates



CHURCH CLEAN UP DAY

On Monday, March 11 we are having a church clean-up day. This will involve trimming the palm trees, trimming the oak trees, hauling limbs after they are cut up, putting down new mulch in the landscaping, and other outdoor clean up. We have a couple members with chainsaws and extension saws. We would like to have a couple pick-up trucks to help haul the limbs. We will start at 9:00am and hope to be done around noon. Anyone who can help will be welcome to join us. Help keep our grounds looking beautiful. Paul Rugenstein



We are working on VBS the next 2 months, getting ready for spreading the word of God and his love to the children.

I am very thankful for everyone who has volunteered their time and talents. VBS will be held June 17 to 21. No Wednesday Bible study until after Easter but join in on Sundays after worship. Yearn to learn, Sandy Grage



Our LWML month this February was a great success. Our ladies were greeters, ushers, and readers. We raised over \$800 from "Muffins for Mites" and the "Noisy Offering" to support our missions. The project list in the Narthex details all the projects undertaken.

Our annual luncheon will be on Tuesday April 16th at Buckingham Farms.

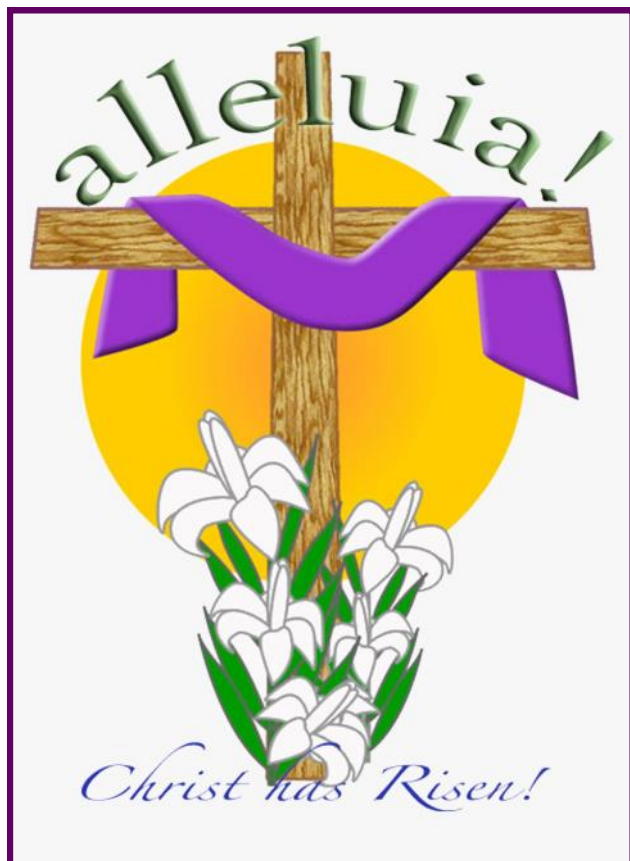
Our next meeting is March 4th where we will discuss projects we will sponsor in 2024. All ladies are invited.

Pam Rugenstein



So far this year, through the Thrivent Choice program, Bethlehem Lutheran Church has received \$372. Don't forget that if you have not donated your choice dollars from 2023, you have until the end of March to do this or that money will be lost. Thanks for all the support for the Muffins for Missions program. The final donation from our Noisy Money donation on February 25 will also be added to the muffin donations.

Betty Willis



Lutheran Early Response Team

Are you interested in helping a community recover after a natural disaster and showing the love of Christ to people in need? Have you ever volunteered for a Lutheran Early Response Team (LERT)? Your opinion can help LCMS Disaster Response and Training improve its organization and training of LERT volunteers so that they are ready to deploy when a natural disaster strikes. Please take a brief survey at [lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation](https://lcms.org/lert-survey-congregation) and let us know how you think we can improve LERT training and provide relief more effectively to natural disasters.



# MARCH 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	4 <b>LWML 1 PM</b>	5	6 10:30 Worship	7	8	9
10 <b>Daylight Savings</b> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	11 <b>Church Clean-up Day 9AM</b>	12	13 10:30 Worship	14	15	16
17 <b>St. Patrick's Day</b> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	18	19	20 10:30 Worship	21	22	23
24 <b>Palm Sunday</b> 10:30 Worship 11:30 Bible Study; Sunday School	25	26	27	28 <b>Maundy Thursday</b> 7 PM Worship	29 <b>Good Friday</b> 7 PM Worship	30
31 <b>EASTER</b> 6:30 Sunrise 8-10 Breakfast 10:30 Service 11:45 Egg Hunt						

MARCH ANNIVERSARIES	
11	Barbara Bulmahn & Vern Stork
15	Terri & Richard Gerlach
21	Audrey & Al Vine
30	Pam & Paul Rugenstein

MARCH BIRTHDAYS	
9	Pam Barkhaus
10	Mary Tobeck
11	Ben Smith
13	Ruthann Thornton
15	Lillian Taylor
16	Patricia Kulbacki
17	Jennifer Morosey; Rudy Rugenstein
18	Carol Laser
23	Kay Remmers
25	Sue Hartman
26	Robert Hedrick

**May God Bless Each One of You As  
We Celebrate Your Special Day!**

**Daylight Savings begins Sunday March 10.**  
Remember to turn your clocks ahead Saturday night so your not late for church Sunday.



Bethlehem was recognized by the Buckingham Exceptional School for our continuing support with our annual holiday food basket efforts. Pictured are Pastor and members of the congregation with school staff and students at the Volunteer Recognition luncheon on February 14th



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

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**Prayer Chain Needs**

Do you know that Bethlehem has a prayer chain that prays for the sick, dying and hurting needs of our church family?

Call or email Linda at (239) 693-5026 or

[jlkirsch3@comcast.net](mailto:jlkirsch3@comcast.net)

Your needs will be taken to the Lord!

**Sunday Worship**

**10:30 AM** Worship Service

**Rev. Karl Glander**

[pastorkarlglander@gmail.com](mailto:pastorkarlglander@gmail.com)

239-293-1489

Organist: **Holly Bell**

Church Secretary: **Linda Kirsch**



Sunday school youth singing with Sharon Burns before church



LWML's "noisy offering" on Feb. 25th raised \$450 for their missions



Youth group with Love arrangements made at the January meeting