

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

May 19, 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 - The Day of Pentecost is more connected to Easter than to the Sundays after Pentecost. It is the fiftieth day of Easter, marking the new dawn under the guidance of the Spirit. The Lord works through the preached Gospel and our life together as the baptized around His Table to deliver what He has promised. Thus the ministry of the Spirit is not some ethereal reality experienced in our feelings but the concrete reality of the Word spoken into our ears to bring forth faith and the body and blood of Jesus received by faith in Holy Communion. This is the way the Spirit continues to work in us and for us and we continue to receive His ministry by faith and to celebrate this with great joy.

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

Come, Thou Almighty King
#905

INVOCATION

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

People: **Amen.**

OPENING SENTENCES *(John 7:37–39)*

Pastor: On the last day of the feast, the great day, Jesus stood up and cried out, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink.

People: **Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart will flow rivers of living water.’”**

Pastor: Now this He said about the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.

People: **Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful, and kindle in them the fire of Your love.**

CONFESSION AND ABSOLUTION

Pastor: Let us then confess our sins to God our Father.

People: **Most merciful God, we confess that we are by nature sinful and unclean. We have sinned against You in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved You with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We justly deserve Your present and eternal punishment. For the sake of Your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in Your will and walk in Your ways to the glory of Your holy name. Amen.**

Pastor: Almighty God in His mercy has given His Son to die for you and for His sake forgives you all your sins. Upon this your confession, I, as a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, 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, on this day You once taught the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit. Grant us in our day by the same Spirit to have a right understanding in all things and evermore to rejoice in His holy consolation; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

People: Amen.

OLD TESTAMENT READING

Ezekiel 37:1-14

(The valley of the dry bones hears the Word of the Lord.)

¹The hand of the LORD was upon me, and he brought me out in the Spirit of the LORD and set me down in the middle of the valley; it was full of bones. ²And he led me around among them, and behold, there were very many on the surface of the valley, and behold, they were very dry. ³And he said to me, "Son of man, can these bones live?" And I answered, "O Lord GOD, you know." ⁴Then he said to me, "Prophecy over these bones, and say to them, O dry bones, hear the word of the LORD. ⁵Thus says the Lord GOD to these bones: Behold, I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. ⁶And I will lay sinews upon you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live, and you shall know that I am the LORD."

⁷So I prophesied as I was commanded. And as I prophesied, there was a sound, and behold, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. ⁸And I looked, and behold, there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them. But there was no breath in them. ⁹Then he said to me, "Prophecy to the breath; prophesy, son of man, and say to the breath, Thus says the Lord GOD: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe on these slain, that they may live." ¹⁰So I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived and stood on their feet, an exceedingly great army.

¹¹Then he said to me, "Son of man, these bones are the whole house of Israel. Behold, they say, 'Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are clean cut off.' ¹²Therefore prophesy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord GOD:

Behold, I will open your graves and raise you from your graves, O my people. And I will bring you into the land of Israel. ¹³And you shall know that I am the LORD, when I open your graves, and raise you from your graves, O my people. ¹⁴And I will put my Spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you in your own land. Then you shall know that I am the LORD; I have spoken, and I will do it, declares the LORD.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

SECOND READING

Acts 2:1–21

(The Spirit descended upon the disciples as Jesus had promised.)

¹When the day of Pentecost arrived, they were all together in one place. ²And suddenly there came from heaven a sound like a mighty rushing wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. ³And divided tongues as of fire appeared to them and rested on each one of them. ⁴And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance.

⁵Now there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men from every nation under heaven. ⁶And at this sound the multitude came together, and they were bewildered, because each one was hearing them speak in his own language. ⁷And they were amazed and astonished, saying, “Are not all these who are speaking Galileans? ⁸And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? ⁹Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, ¹⁰Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, ¹¹both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.” ¹²And all were amazed and perplexed, saying to one another, “What does this mean?” ¹³But others mocking said, “They are filled with new wine.”

¹⁴But Peter, standing with the eleven, lifted up his voice and addressed them, “Men of Judea and all who dwell in Jerusalem, let this be known to you, and give ear to my words. ¹⁵For these men are not drunk, as you suppose, since

it is only the third hour of the day. ¹⁶But this is what was uttered through the prophet Joel:

¹⁷“And in the last days it shall be, God declares,
that I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh,
and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy,
and your young men shall see visions,
and your old men shall dream dreams;

¹⁸even on my male servants and female servants
in those days I will pour out my Spirit, and they shall prophesy.

¹⁹And I will show wonders in the heavens above
and signs on the earth below,
blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke;

²⁰the sun shall be turned to darkness
and the moon to blood,
before the day of the Lord comes, the great and magnificent day.

²¹And it shall come to pass that everyone who calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

Reader: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: **Thanks be to God.**

ANTHEM

More Like You, Lord - Jay Althouse

HOLY GOSPEL

John 15:26-27; 16:4b-15

(“When the Spirit of truth comes, He will guide you into all the truth.”)

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

People:



☐ **Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.**

²⁶[Jesus said:] “When the Helper comes, whom I will send to you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who proceeds from the Father, he will bear witness

about me. ²⁷And you also will bear witness, because you have been with me from the beginning. . . .

“I did not say these things to you from the beginning, because I was with you. ⁵But now I am going to him who sent me, and none of you asks me, ‘Where are you going?’ ⁶But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. ⁷Nevertheless, I tell you the truth: it is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you. But if I go, I will send him to you. ⁸And when he comes, he will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment: ⁹concerning sin, because they do not believe in me; ¹⁰concerning righteousness, because I go to the Father, and you will see me no longer; ¹¹concerning judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

¹²“I still have many things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. ¹³When the Spirit of truth comes, he will guide you into all the truth, for he will not speak on his own authority, but whatever he hears he will speak, and he will declare to you the things that are to come. ¹⁴He will glorify me, for he will take what is mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵All that the Father has is mine; therefore I said that he will take what is mine and declare it to you.”

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

Holy Spirit, Light Divine
#496

SERMON

"Our Nightmare – God's Promise"
Rev. Jessy Wilson

OFFERING

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

ANTHEM

Precious Spirit, Breath of Peace - Joseph M Martin

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.**

RITE OF CONFIRMATION

**Sarah Elizabeth Cutsogorge
MaryElizabeth Teresa Danz
Kirsten Ava Molino**

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Gracious Lord, Your Spirit fills the world and gladdens Your Church with the remembrance of all Christ Jesus has spoken. Glorify His name among us in every word and deed. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, guide the Church into all truth by Your Holy Spirit through Your Word, that we may be guarded from all error and false doctrine and other great shame and vice. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: God of comfort, give hope to Your people in the midst of this world of death and despair. Put Your Spirit within us to believe, to live and to serve according to Your promises and commands. Lead our homes to confess our confidence in Your power to raise the dead — now and at the Last Day. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, be near to those You have set in place to govern our land. Do not let the ruler of this world govern them and their decisions to our harm, but give us the benefits of good government. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: We call on Your name, O Lord, praying in Your Spirit to help and save all. Renew the face of the earth, look with favor on Your creatures and fill the hearts of Your faithful, kindling in them the fire of Your love. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord, send Your Holy Spirit upon Your faithful people, that convicted of their sin they may also be convinced that the righteousness of Christ is theirs, and in such repentance and faith receive the things of Christ declared in this Supper: His holy body and precious blood for the forgiveness of sins. Unite us by Your Spirit of truth in faith and confession, and comfort us with the knowledge that this world's prince is judged. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: **hear our prayer.**

Pastor: Lord God, comfort those who grieve. Assure them that, since Christ has gone away to the cross and has risen victorious over death, so

those who go away from us in this life will rise also to everlasting life. Lord, in Your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Lord God, heavenly Father, through Your Son You promised Your Holy Spirit, who would convict the world of sin, of righteousness and of judgment. Enlighten our hearts, that we would confess our sins; obtain everlasting righteousness through faith in Christ; and through every trial and temptation, abide in the consolation that Christ is Lord over the devil, death and all things. We ask that You would graciously deliver us from all affliction to make us partakers of eternal salvation; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the 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.

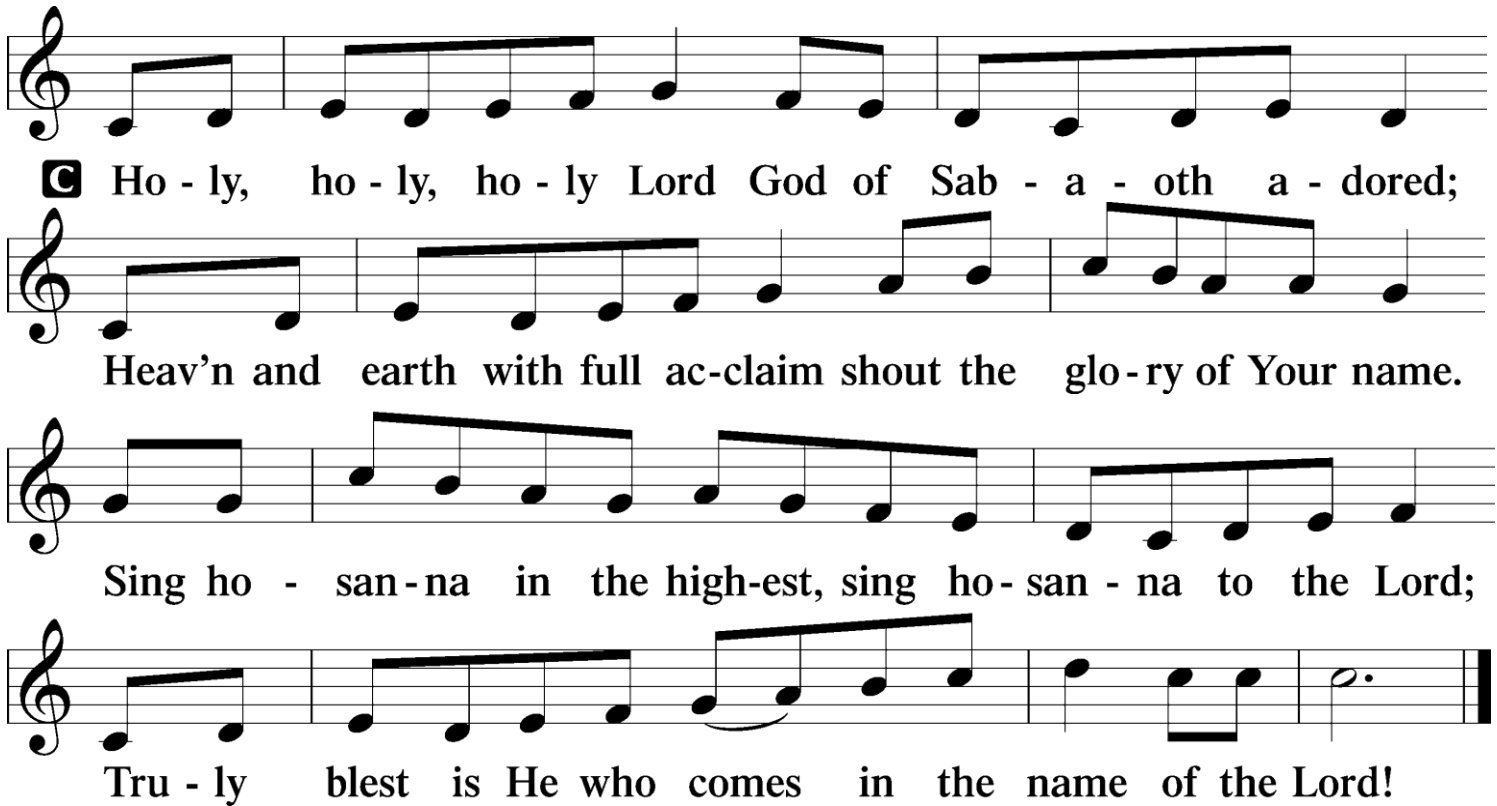
Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

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 ascended above the heavens and, sitting at Your right hand, poured out on this day the promised Holy Spirit on His chosen disciples. For all this the whole earth rejoices with exceeding joy. 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: Blessed are You, Lord of heaven and earth, for You have had mercy on those whom You created and sent Your only-begotten Son into our flesh to bear our sin and be our Savior. With repentant joy we receive the salvation accomplished for us by the all-availing sacrifice of His body and His blood on the cross.

Gathered in the name and the remembrance of Jesus, we beg You, O Lord, to forgive, renew, and strengthen us with Your Word and Spirit. Grant us faithfully to eat His body and drink His blood as He bids us do in His own testament. Gather us together, we pray, 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. To You alone, O Father, be all glory, honor, and worship, with the Son and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

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

I Am His Lamb - Lloyd Larson

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. Almighty God, send Your Holy Spirit into our hearts that He may rule and direct us according to Your will, comfort us in all our temptations and afflictions, defend us from all error, and lead us into all truth that we, being steadfast in faith, may increase in all good works and in the end obtain everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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

Go My Children, With My Blessing
#922

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 Joe & MaryAnn Albano with thanksgiving to God for the love He has given to us.



SERVING TODAY

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

SERVING SUNDAY, MAY 26TH

ALTAR - Kim Denton; Lisa Wilson
GREETER(S) - Larry & Karen Richardson
MUSIC DIRECTOR - Ruth Rice
ORGANIST - Jacob Purington
LITURGIST - Pastor Jessy Wilson
LAY READER - Alan Willi
LAY ASSISTANTS - Steve Adams; Eric Jerabek;
Alan Willi; Mary Scott
PRAYER PARTNER(S) - Mary Scott; Steve Adams
USHERS - Rob Hartnett; Kurt Uhl
STREAMING - Kathy Palmer
COFFEE HOSTS - Rich & Pat Blanchard

THIS WEEK AT BLC:

TODAY:

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)
- 2:00 p.m. – “All Youth Extravaganza” @ Delmar Reformed Church

MONDAY:

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

TUESDAY:

- 10:00 a.m. – Joining Jesus Meeting
- 12:00 p.m. – Ladies’ Meet ‘n Eat
- 2:00 p.m. – Badminton & Ping Pong (Parish Hall)

WEDNESDAY:

- 10:00 a.m. - GriefShare

THURSDAY:

- 10:00 a.m. – Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. – HAC Sandwich Making
- 5:00 p.m. – Dessert with the Deacon @ Ice Cream Station
- 6:30 p.m. – BLC Softball Game (JV Field @ BCHS)
- 7:00 p.m. – BLC Choir

SUNDAY:

- 8:30 a.m. – Traditional Worship (w/Holy Communion)
- 9:45 a.m. – Sunday School & Bible Study
- 11:00 a.m. – Contemporary Worship

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, June 1st & 15th at 7:30 a.m. in Fellowship Hall here at BLC.**

ATTENTION ALL MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH - We are joining in an "All Youth Extravaganza" at Delmar Reformed Church (386 Delaware Ave) **TODAY 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.

MARKET FAIR PLANNING COMMITTEE - Our Market Fair will be held on Saturday, September 28th, and we are seeking volunteers to help plan and help at the Market Fair. This year's proceeds will benefit the parade float and Elm Ave Lights in the Park display. **If you are interested in helping, we are having a preliminary meeting on Tuesday, May 21st at 7:00 pm.** If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like to help, please contact Deacon Melissa.

DESSERT WITH THE DEACON - Let's gather for "Dessert with the Deacon" at the Ice Cream Station in Feura Bush on **Thursday, May 23rd at 5:00 pm**. We had such a great turnout and lots of fun the last time we did this! Seniors (age 55+) receive a 50% senior citizen discount until 6:00 pm. **EVERYONE** is invited - no age requirement! Afterward, let's plan on attending the BLC softball game at 6:30 pm at the JV field at Bethlehem High School to cheer on our team! Great company, ice cream, and a softball game – what a great way to spend an evening with family. See you all then!

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

- 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!"

NEWS FROM BLC ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE - Interest earned from various investments of the Endowment Fund are to be allocated for mission work and/or ministerial needs within the Christian community. The Committee is requesting suggestions from the congregation for the disbursement of these funds. If you have ideas where these funds could be put to God's work, **please submit them to Jennifer Wilson, Chairperson at jjil638@gmail.com** or place them in the Endowment Fund mailbox in the Committee Workroom. **Please provide a brief overview of the organization and why you want BLC to support it.** Suggestions will be evaluated and presented at the next Voters' Meeting for approval by the congregation. Please have all requests in by May 31, 2024. Contributions to the Endowment Fund are welcomed at any time by specifying "BLC Endowment Fund" when making the contribution.

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.

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.

LEARN TO QUILT DAY ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15th FROM 9:30 a.m. TO 2:30 p.m. in THE FELLOWSHIP HALL - A sewing machine will be needed as well as scissors, rotary cutter, marking pencils, rulers and thread (grey, white or ecru would be best). We will also have tools to share, but if you have your own, please bring them along. We will have quilt kits ready to assemble. These quilts will be given to Hospice for Veterans and also chemo units. Please contact me with questions and/or to confirm you will be attending (**MaryLou Wahl at lousteve79@gmail.com or call 518-767-2396**).

ALZHEIMER CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP – Our regular Alzheimer's Association Caregiver Support Group (usually held on the 4th Monday of the month from 3 – 4 pm) will not be held during the month of May due to the Memorial Day holiday. **We will resume on the 4th Monday of June at 3:00 pm in the Multipurpose room. Thank you!**

OPEN HANDS GROUP - The Open Hands Group is 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.**

"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.

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.

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.

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, Chuck & Sally Jo Gieser

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