



The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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**A family of God sharing Jesus
and serving Him faithfully**

March 2019

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Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him

The Pastor Page

O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger, nor discipline me in your wrath. Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing; heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled. My soul also is greatly troubled. But you, O Lord – How long?

Turn, O Lord, deliver my life; save me for the sake of your steadfast love. For in death there is no remembrance of you; in Sheol who will give you praise?

I am weary with my moaning; every night I flood my bed with tears; I drench my couch with my weeping. My eye wastes away because of grief; it grows weak because of all my foes.

Depart from me, all you workers of evil, for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping. The Lord has heard my plea; the Lord accepts my prayer. All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled; they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment. – Psalm 6

February has been an interesting month. At least for me anyways. This month alone I've had the privilege of officiating at more funerals than I had in the entirety of my first two years of ministry. Not only that, we've been hit by the coldest and snowiest weather since I've been here. It can be easy when things like this happen to look up at God and ask the question, "How Long?"

And that's an acceptable question to ask. It's okay to speak to God about the hard things in life. About the things that you'd rather not have had happen. In fact, it is even acceptable to complain to God on occasion, as Psalm 6 shows us.

However, when those times arise. When you find yourself asking God, "How long?" don't forget the last part of Psalm 6 as well. Don't forget that the workers of evil can easily take advantage of your complaints and use them to drive you away from the only Person who can take care of them for you. Don't forget that that Person, your Lord, has indeed heard and accepted your prayer. That doesn't necessarily mean He's going to fix everything for you right away, or even at all. But it does mean He knows.

Therefore, your enemies ought to be ashamed and greatly troubled. For they will be turned back eventually and ultimately will be put to shame. For your Lord has heard you, and He cared enough for you to send his Son to die for you. He will not abandon you no matter how many funerals you go through. No matter how bad the weather is. No matter who is against you. Your Lord will hear you, and He will care for you.

May God bless you all

Pastor Chris Craig

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – March 2019

Everything we have and everything we are is a gift of God's providential care. We understand that we're not islands unto ourselves. We could not exist without those who have gone before us and those who walk alongside us. God has given us forefathers in family, country, and faith. We are recipients of what God worked through them. We know God provides for our well-being through these means.

He gives us farmers and ranchers so we can eat. But more than that, God created and gave us all the things those farmers and ranchers cultivate. He gave us the corn, the beans, the wheat, the cows for milking, the steers for grilling. He gave each of those things for our nourishment and sustenance. Without God creating and instilling in those things their taste, their nutritional value, etc., we would not exist.

God gives us doctors, surgeons, nurses, and hospitals. He gives us medicine and medical instruments, and, of course, He gave us everything to make those medicines and medical instruments. He instilled in those things the properties to be utilized for those purposes. Without God creating and instilling healing properties into those things – and without God creating the ability within man to learn this and implement it to serve our medical needs – we would not enjoy the health we do now.

But there's more. He gives us gainful employment through our employers and provides for the necessities of life through the labor of our hands:

“Then Moses said to the people of Israel, ‘See, the Lord has called by name Bezalel the son of Uri, son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah; and he has filled him with the Spirit of God, with skill, with intelligence, with knowledge, and with all craftsmanship, to devise artistic designs, to work in gold and silver and bronze, in cutting stones for setting, and in carving wood, for work in every skilled craft. And he has inspired him to teach, both him and Oholiab the son of Ahisamach of the tribe of Dan.’ ” (Exodus 35:30–34)

And one step back from that, He has created and given us hands, and attached to hands are arms with strength. He created us with minds to make those arms and hands move and accomplish the work set before us. And with that mind, He has given us reason and senses.

That mind, because of the reason God has instilled in it, is able to work through difficult problems before we press those arms and hands into labor. It allows us to grapple with concepts and run through scenarios instead of having to experience every situation personally. It allows us to learn from the mistakes, as well as from the accomplishments, of ourselves and others. This can be done for our entire body, all our skills and talents, everything that makes us ... us.

So, everything we have and everything we are is a gift from Him. This is what we confess in the First Article of the Creed when we say that we “believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.”

But that is just the First Article of the Creed. We confess two more articles that deal with God's provision for our spiritual well-being. He sent his Son to die and be raised on the third day for our justification. He delivers that justification through the means of grace (baptism, preaching and the Word of God, and the Lord's Supper). And to give you those means of grace, He gives pastors and teachers, etc. Literally everything we have and everything we are in this life – and the next – is an inexpressible gift from God.

And it is for this, all of this, that we give thanks. And that is what stewardship is all about — giving thanks for God's provision for us. To give thanks is more than having an attitude of gratitude, more than just a feeling in our hearts.

It is an action. It begins in the heart, but it doesn't stay there. It works its way out through the mouth in praise for God's gifts and in love and charity through the hands to our neighbors in family, country, and church.

“For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey him” (*The Small Catechism*, 16).

So give thanks to God for His inexpressible gifts — for everything we have and everything we are. Do this not only in word but also in deed.

Pancake Day Report 2019

Thank You to all who helped with another successful Pancake Day. **Thanks** to everyone who helped set up, cooked, served and tore down. **Thanks** to Art Dohl for all his hard work, assigning the work schedule, ordering & picking up all the food, making sure the sausage is made. **Thanks** to the youth for working the tables. **Thanks** to everyone who brought pies and cakes. **Thanks** to Shirley for handling the publicity and everyone who put up posters. **Thanks** to all our friends and neighbors who come to support our pancake day. **Thanks** to God for giving us the wonderful day and the opportunity to work together like a big family to share Jesus and serve Him faithfully!

(2019) We served 330 people Pancake Day \$3365.10) (before any expenses)

(2018) we served 299 people & received \$3082.00 before expenses)

(2017) we served 375 & received \$3426.45 (before Expenses)

(2016) 299 people received \$3174. (Before expenses),

(2015) 454 people and received \$3,321.93 (before expenses).

(2014) we served 372 people & received \$2,921.00 (before expense)

Baptismal Birthdays in March

God's blessings to you for all His gifts of grace that you have received, and we pray for many more blessings for Jesus' sake!

Pastor Craig	Aubrelle Hurlbut
Aaron Ancell	Marshall Hurlbut
Ashley Ancell	Mekelle Hurlbut
Coleen Ancell	Barbara Meitler
Grace Chegwiddden	Toby Meyer
Ronald Frederking	William Reinert
Kaitlyn Fruits	Sadie Small
Corey Hirsh	Ryan Gier
Marlin Huehl Jr	Shanna Gier
Denise Waymaster	Cody Murray
Serra Ulrich	Aspen Ulrich



**LWML Flower Committee 2019
March**

Shirley Krueger, Shelly Keller

April

Justine Dohl, Emilie Wacker

**Acolyte Schedule
None Turned into Office
Check with Marmie Schultz**



Color

Color is everywhere. Color is God's way of filling his world with beauty and giving pleasure to those who live in this colorful world. Christians, for centuries, have used color in divine worship to emphasize the redemptive action of God through his Son.

Color, like music, plays an important role in the life of God's worshiping people. Just as music is the "handmaiden to theology," liturgical color complements the message of the seasons and occasions during the church year. Taking a familiar seat in the nave of his/her chapel preceding worship on any given Sunday, the worshiper's emotions and intellect are immediately engaged by color. Liturgical colors aid in establishing a climate in which Law and Gospel may be heard and received. On Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, you may notice new black paraments in the sanctuary. Black is seen very seldom during the year. The calendar calls for its use only twice; on Good Friday and Ash Wednesday. There's no mistaking the message that this sober color gives. Black is the absence of light. Good Friday, in combination with Ash Wednesday, calls for sober reflection on the cost of our redemption. Without Christ's sacrifice on the day the sky turned dark and hid the light of the sun, there would be no bright Light of Christ to live in, nor new life in Christ to enjoy.

Excerpts taken from "The Colors of the Liturgical Seasons" by Rev. Douglas K. Escu

Operation Barnabas



Our men and women in uniform have answered our nation's call to protect and defend us. In every time and place, they have stood the watch at home and abroad, often far from their families. Both active and reserve members of our military and their families continue to bear the burden of deployments to austere and dangerous locations. We invite you to help us to help them, and while doing so, share the love of Christ. In 2007, The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod's Ministry to the Armed Forces launched Operation Barnabas. Through this program — the only one of its kind in the U.S. — together with our congregations, we accomplish three key goals:

1. Care for Reserve chaplains and their families and congregations.
2. Train and assist local congregations in their care and support of local military members and their families and veterans.
3. Serve as a resource to other organizations that provide care to military families and veterans.

The vision of Operation Barnabas is that every military-connected person lives in the hope and peace of God's love and mercy as revealed in the resurrection of Jesus Christ. We encourage congregations who reach out to military families to include the following actions:

-) PRAY for our troops.
-) RECOGNIZE veterans in your congregation at least once a year.
-) CELEBRATE LCMS Ministry to the Armed Forces Sunday, and learn more about what we are doing to serve our military families. To learn more, visit lcms.org/armedforcessunday. In that time, congregations have focused on deployment care — with good reason. We have troops who

are “still in the fight,” and we continue to offer deployment support to military families. But we also recognize the immense drawdown our military faces. Over 200,000 military families are leaving the military to return to civilian communities. Our goal is to enable our congregations to lead their communities in welcoming these military families back home. They have borne the weight of repeated deployments, and when they return to our communities, we can prepare to receive them in concert with local chambers of commerce, schools and medical facilities.

If you wish to be even more involved: Become an Operation Barnabas Chapter. Operating in a manner similar to other chapters in your congregation — such as your Lutheran Women's Missionary League chapter — an Operations Barnabas Chapter meets monthly around a specific goal. In this case, the goal is to actively engage the military members in your community. Successful chapters depend on the volunteerism and leadership of a dedicated group of people in your congregation; this is not another task for pastor! This is a chance for your congregation to actively serve in your community and share the love of Christ with those who have borne the burden of defending our nation. You have the opportunity to care for both those who are currently serving in the Armed Forces and those who have served in the past. Veterans and their families from every conflict are in need of your support. If you served in uniform, thank you! Now you have the opportunity to serve again. You know the challenges, and you speak the same language as those in uniform.

Contact Calvin McCoy for more information on forming of a Operation Barnabas Chapter Here at Bethlehem.

Devotions Point to God's Love Through the Cross of Christ

With Lent comes the period in the church year when the love of God as expressed in the bitter suffering and death of His Son Jesus is contemplated among Christians. This year's Lenten devotions from LHM, *People of the Passion*, give readers the sense of wonder at how God could love us so much that He would do this—sacrifice His only Son—on our behalf.

Written by Dr. Kari Vo, LHM's theological writer, these devotions artfully depict God's love at work through the centuries. His plan known from the beginning, His love constant to the end, He has made a way for us to join Him in eternity through the life, death—and resurrection of His Son Jesus.

While these messages are perfect for personal and group study, they're also great as a pass-along meditation for family members and friends. Did you find a message particularly inspiring? Copy it and send it to someone in an e-mail. Nothing says, "I'm thinking about you" like a devotion telling them of God's love in Christ.

You can read *People of the Passion* or hear it as a podcast. During the Lenten season, you can receive these devotions as a daily e-mail, beginning on Ash Wednesday, March 6, 2019. A downloadable version, which includes a large-font text and bulletin inserts, is available, too. Audio begins on March 6 with Dr. Michael Zeigler, Speaker for **The Lutheran Hour**, reading the devotions.

Note: Copies of the Lenten devotions can be also found in the front hall way of our church



February LWML Newsletter

After 2018 4th quarter activities of the money making bazaar, providing Advent season's meals, setting up a congregational angel tree, packing up 20 school bags for Orphan Grain Train and providing for funerals Bethlehem's LWML is revved up for 2019. This year Our LWML Lincoln District will combine with the Northwest Zone to host our spring rally at Messiah's Mission festival in Hays March 9. Lenten service begin March 6. We have plans to host two dinners before the services on March 20th and 27th. We voted to donate one evening's proceeds to Operation Barnabas and another to the Care Portal fund.

Ten Valentine boxes full of goodies, went out to our students attending schools away from home.

Barb Meitler opened February's 2019 meeting with a reading from the book "Coffee Break with God." At a morning's coffee break the author encouraged each of us to think about what we value most. Pastor led the Bible study taken from the 2018 LWML Winter Quarterly, "Shh, Peace be Still". We Christians are confident knowing that Christ is with us when we face fear, panic, terror, depression from tragic events in our lives. Lorelei mentioned that she listens to KFRD fm which airs stories about lives that have been changed through learning about Christ at a 90 year old Chicago rescue mission. Barb closed the meeting with a short heartfelt praye



If every LWML Member donates just \$5.00 between now and March 31, 2019 we can reach the Mission Goal.

Hello, Bethlehem Family.

This is a correspondence from your Mercy Team.

The Mercy Team is a small group that was recently organized to assist Pastor Craig in reaching out to those in need in our community, and especially in our congregation. Members of the team include elders John Sorensen, Jason Dohl and Tyler Gier and volunteers Shirley Small, Ramie Schulteis and Lorelei Dohl. Please contact any one on the team if you see a need Thank-you We will be informing you, via email, the weekly church bulletin, the Bethlehem Record or by phone to update you on situations and, sometimes, needs among our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Today we are asking you to lift up in prayer our friend, Keith Meitler, who will celebrate his 78th birthday this Sunday, February 10. We are sure Keith would also appreciate cards and/or visits. The address is: Keith Meitler Good Samaritan Home Highway 14 Ellsworth, KS 67439

You might also remember Barb. She sometimes needs assistance in traveling to visit Keith. If you can be on call to help her, be sure to let her know. And keep Barb in your prayers, too.

Thank you for remembering in prayer, thought, word and deed our brothers and sisters in Christ.

Hello, Bethlehem Family.

The Mercy Team needs to bring you up to date on some further developments in our congregation. As you may know, Thelma Blasé has been diagnosed with a hairline fracture in her arm. Shirley says it is a small crack near her wrist. Shirley describes Thelma as “ornery as ever” and says that she refuses to wear the brace that the doctor prescribed her. But that she seems to be doing alright. Please lift up Thelma in your prayers, that her healing may be complete.

We also have the good news that Shirley and Kenny Small have a new grandbaby. Katherine Small has delivered a baby Valentine. Alexander Lee Small was born on Valentine’s Day, February 14. He weighed 5 lbs. 2 oz. and was 18 inches long. Alexander came a little early, but he seems to be in fine health. He and his mother are at home with his brothers. Katherine will return to work as a cook at Lucas-Sylvan Elementary in mid-March. If you would like to prepare a meal for Katherine and her boys, please call me and I will coordinate.

In other exciting news, Coleen Ancell is a grandmother for the first time. A baby daughter was born to Casey and Ashley (Coleen’s daughter) on February 11. She weighed 5 lbs. 13 oz. and was 18 inches long. Her name is Everley Ann Winder. The family is all doing well in their home in Osborne. Please keep them in your prayers.

Also, please lift up in prayer Wayne Trapp. His cancer has returned, and he is currently undergoing treatment. He said that there is really nothing he needs, except “lots and lots of prayer.” If you would like to send a card to tell him he is in your prayers, the address is:

P.O. Box 183/206 Main Otis, KS 67565

Finally, the Judson family is in need of our prayers and support. The family is living in Salina but are members of Bethlehem’s congregation. Mr. Judson is currently training for a new career. His wife is pregnant and is having complications with the pregnancy. And of course, their other children suffer with health issues as well. We will be supporting them with a Grocery Shower. Throughout the month of March, you may leave groceries in the parish hall that will be delivered to the Judson family at the end of the month. The proceeds from one of the Lenten suppers will also go to the Judson’s. Please keep them in your prayers.

Thank you for remembering and serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.



Hello again, Bethlehem Family.

We are writing to inform you of some happenings in our church family. First, we want to be sure that you all know that Danyelle Murry's dad, Dan, died recently. Dan lived in our community for a number of years and was a colorful and lively character. His funeral was held in Mankato, and he is buried there, not far from the family home. Please keep Danyelle and her family in your prayers, as it is difficult to lose someone who has been so much a part of your life. She would certainly appreciate your cards and kind words, as well.

You may also lift up in prayer Cody, who continues to recover from cancer. He has been out and about and seems to be doing well. But he can still use your prayers. Finally, please pray for their daughter, Bianca, and her husband, Nick Pounds. They are expecting their first baby soon. All appears to be going well, which is wonderful! But please lift them up in prayer, as the delivery time draws near.

Also, you may offer prayers of thanksgiving for Ethan and Katie Lyne, who delivered a healthy baby boy, Weston, on January 11. Katie is at home with babies Grace and Weston at this time, but she will return to work when the farming season picks up. If you can prepare a meal for Katie and her family, please contact me, and I will make arrangements to get it to her. Finally, please remember Neoma Thaemert (John's mom) in your prayers. She came through a bout with pneumonia and is back in her room at the Good Samaritan Home in Ellsworth. If you would like to send her a Get Well card, the address is: Good Samaritan Home 1156 KS-14 Ellsworth, KS 67439. Thank you for remembering these sisters and brothers in thought, word and deed.

The Mercy Team



Idea of Daylight Saving Time

The idea of daylight saving was first conceived by Benjamin Franklin during his sojourn as an American delegate in Paris in 1784, in an essay, "An Economical Project." Some of Franklin's friends, inventors of a new kind of oil lamp, were so taken by the scheme that they continued corresponding with Franklin even after he returned to America.

The idea was first advocated seriously by London builder William Willett (1857-1915) in the pamphlet, "[Waste of Daylight](#)" (1907), that proposed advancing clocks 20 minutes on each of four Sundays in April, and retarding them by the same amount on four Sundays in September. As he was taking an early morning ride through Petts Wood, near Croydon, Willett was struck by the fact that the blinds of nearby houses were closed, even though the sun was fully risen. When questioned as to why he didn't simply get up an hour earlier, Willett replied with typical British humor, "What?" In his pamphlet "The Waste of Daylight" he wrote:

"Everyone appreciates the long, light evenings. Everyone laments their shortage as Autumn approaches; and everyone has given utterance to regret that the clear, bright light of an early morning during Spring and Summer months is so seldom seen or used."

March 10, 2019 Spring Ahead Daylight saving Time Begins
Be sure and change your smoke detector Batteries

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

- March 6 7 p.m. Ashes Wednesday
- March 10 Daylight saving begins Spring ahead & don't forget to change your smoke detector batteries
- March 29 Blood Mobile
- April 14 11 a.m.. Palm Sunday
- April 18 7 p.m. Maundy Day Thursday/Communion
- April 19 7 p.m. Good Friday
- April 21 9:30a.m, Easter Breakfast
11 a.m. Easter Worship Service /Communion



Our Weekly Worship schedule:

10 a.m. – Sunday School (school)

10 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

11 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)

6:30 p.m. - Wednesday's Midweek Worship service

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