

Bethlehem Star

April, 2017

Wednesday Lenten

Worship Schedule

April 5th

Heart Fire: 5:00-6:00pm

Choir: 6:00 pm

Worship: 7:00pm

Holy Week

Palm Sunday

Sunday, April 9th

Passover Seder

Monday, April 10th 6:00pm

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, April 13th

1:00pm: Communion only

7:00 pm: Worship

Good Friday

Friday, April 14th

7:00 pm: Worship

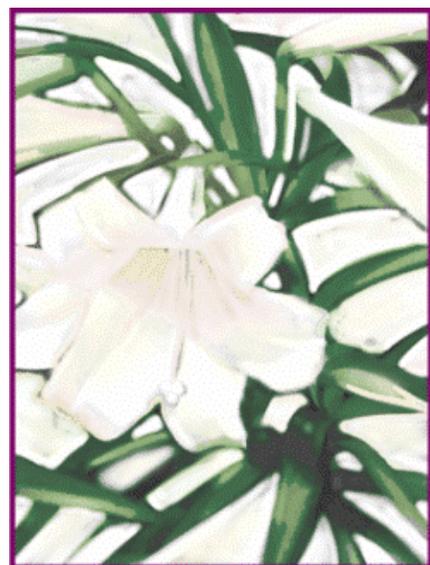
Easter Sunday:

April 16th

6:00am: Easter
Sunrise Service

(bring a blanket)

9:00am: Easter
Celebration Service



Easter

FROM THE PUGH...

March 15th was my little brother, Randy's, birthday. This year he would have been 51 years old. He died at 33 of AIDS. I had a harder time this year on his birthday than I have in the recent past. I am not quite sure why. Maybe it was because I had my children and grandchildren in town and he never got to see my children graduate from high school, or college or get married or meet any of his 15 great nieces and nephews. Maybe it was because we were going through family pictures showing my grandchildren what their parents looked like before they were born. Maybe it was because...

Regardless of why, I mourned. When I was in seventh grade I learned this quote by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow:

A feeling of sadness and longing that is not akin to pain, and resembles sorrow only as the mist resembles the rain.

This pretty much sums up the melancholy feeling I have been walking around with for the past few days.

On April 2nd the text for the day is the death of Lazarus. It talks of death, dying, pain, and sorrow. As I prepared the bulletin for that day I could really relate. Then in the last verses of the account in scripture John 11: 40 Jesus says, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"

I have sat with these words the last few days and have begun to see the glory of God all around me. Dee Laverty graduating from hospice, finding out Danny and I will be blessed with our fifteenth grandchild in November, seeing the newest growth in the community garden, ordering bibles for Noah's Ark kindergarten graduation.

These things can't replace my brother in my life. There will always be a special place for him in my heart. But they do show me hope that life continues on earth. And during this season of Lent I am continually reminded of God's sacrifice of God's only child, Jesus to assure I will once again see my brother in eternal life. I wonder if Randy will still love "Sweet Sue's Chicken and Dumplings?" Something else to sit with for a while...

And all God's people say, Amen.



Church Office Hours

Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 1:00pm

Friday: 8:00am - Noon

Please have announcements and prayer requests to the church office by **10:00am Friday**.

Need to talk to someone but the office is closed?

Urgent message:

Call Pastor Chon (480-560-6616) or Faith Community Nurse Carol Savoie (480-313-4739).

Prayer request: Call Carol Savoie (480-313-4739)

Non-urgent message: Leave a message at 480-832-0462 or email: ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com.

Choir Rehearsals During Lent:

Wednesdays at **6:00pm** in the sanctuary. If you have any questions, Kathy Davis will be happy to talk to you about this opportunity to make new friends, praise God, and have a great time doing it!

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles must be received in the church office by **Monday, April 24th** to be included in the April Newsletter. If at any time you have an article for the newsletter, there's no need to wait until the deadline - write it up while it's fresh in your mind and send it in. It will be included in the following month's newsletter.

Fair Trade Coffee for Mission:

The coffee we use for Hospitality on Sunday, which is also on sale in the social hall, is bought through Lutheran World Relief. This is an Equal Exchange program which takes out the "middle man" so the small farmers get the fair trade value of their coffee. A small amount of our purchases go to support Lutheran World Relief. You may notice that we don't have as many different types of coffee as they were not selling. If there is a coffee type that you would like please let me know.

Thanks, Carol Savoie

Remember to bring your Easter eggs each week for the "noisy offering". This year the offerings for the Wednesday Lenten services and the Easter egg "noisy offerings" have been designated for the **sound system upgrade.**

Face Book:

If you are already on Face Book be sure to go to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Face Book page and like us. If you are not on Face Book, consider joining, and then like Bethlehem Lutheran Church. If you want more information on how to join Face Book let us know and we will walk you through it. Tell your friends, neighbors, family - spread the word to like Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Face Book and the Good News of the gospel!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church>

Cursillo

The cursillo group at Bethlehem has just received 3 new members, who went through a weekend recently, in March. We are looking for couples, or unmarried singles, who would like to join us on the fall weekends in October. Please be thinking about this opportunity to grow in your faith walk. If you are interested, or have questions, you can contact Estelle at 612-360-9164. This month, I will explain what happens after a cursillo weekend.

Fourth Day

The time immediately following the Three Days of Cursillo is known as the Fourth Day. The Fourth Day encompasses all the days following the Three Day weekend.

The Cursillo weekend comes to you wherever you are in your Christian walk. When applied, the method of Cursillo has positive results in a person's life and in the Christian community. The influence of Christ on the individual is transferred to family, church, school, workplace, and social environs. The goal of the Cursillo movement is to make Christ the prime influence in one's life and in society. In the Cursillo movement, the community spirit is continued after the Three Days by ultreyas (ûl-tray-âhs) or reunions of the community, as well as group reunion or grouping, which is an informal weekly gathering of two or more Cursillistas, who share their faith in Jesus, and encourage, support and sustain one another in Christ.

3rd Thursday of the month:

WELCA

At our February meeting a vote was taken to try to entice more women to attend our monthly meetings by changing our meeting time from 9:00-11:00am to 10:00am-Noon. We will try to see if this time change will bring more women to attend. If not, then this will be re-addressed at another meeting. We will continue to have a short business meeting followed with a Bible study using the Gather magazine.

Blessing,

Arlene Jacobson & Carol Savoie, co-chairs

Blue Clipboard

There is a blue clipboard in the Narthex for everyone to update current address, phone number, and email address.

We are always looking for **Prayer Warriors** who want to be informed of immediate prayers via the telephone or email. Let us know if you want to join. Perhaps you would like to receive the email prayer list on Thursdays; if so, just let us know.

Check out our **Weather Station** mounted on the pergola in the Community Garden that reports the weather, real time, on line. On your computer go to weatherunderground.com. In the search window located at the top right of the screen, type in our weather station ID. KAZMESA121. You can view weather conditions real time and see graphs that report the history. Enjoy. The direct link on your computer is:

<http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KAZMESA121>

Worship Service Team Meeting:

Sunday, April 23rd @ 10:30am: Everyone who wishes to take part in the volunteer opportunities on Sundays, plan to come to this short meeting as we sign up for the opportunities during May, June, and July. If you have any question about the job descriptions, come to the meeting or ask me or call me. Thanks for your time and efforts.



The Nurse's Corner:

Each month I highlight a health topic in the newsletter. Feel free to suggest health concerns that you would like to see added in future months.

Blessings,
Carol Savoie R.N.

Advanced Care Planning National Healthcare Decision Day, April 16, 2017

Advance care planning is not just about old age. At any age, a medical crisis could leave someone too ill to make his or her own healthcare decisions. Even if you are not sick now, making healthcare plans for the future is an important step toward making sure you get the medical care you would want, even when doctors and family members are making the decisions for you.

More than one out of four older Americans face questions about medical treatment near the end of life but are not capable of making those decisions. This tip sheet will discuss some questions you can think about now and describe ways to share your wishes with others. Write them down or at least talk about them with someone who would make the decisions for you. Knowing how you would decide might take some of the burden off family and friends.

What Is Advance Care Planning?

Advance care planning involves learning about the types of decisions that might need to be made, considering those decisions ahead of time, and then letting others know about your preferences, often by putting them into an advance directive. An advance directive is a legal document that goes into effect only if you are incapacitated and unable to speak for yourself. This could be the result of disease or severe injury - no matter how old you are. It helps others know what type of medical care you want. It also allows you to express your values and desires related to end-of-life care. You might think of an advance directive as a living document - one that you can adjust as your situation changes because of new information or a change in your health.

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Decisions That Could Come Up Near Death

Sometimes when doctors believe a cure is no longer possible and you are dying, decisions must be made about the use of emergency treatments to keep you alive. Doctors can use several artificial or mechanical ways to try to do this. Decisions that might come up at this time relate to:

CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) might restore your heartbeat if your heart stops or is in a life-threatening abnormal rhythm. The heart of a young, otherwise healthy person might resume beating normally after CPR. An otherwise healthy older person, whose heart is beating erratically or not beating at all, might also be helped by CPR. CPR is less likely to work for an older person who is ill, can't be successfully treated, and is already close to death. It involves repeatedly pushing on the chest with force, while putting air into the lungs. This force has to be quite strong, and sometimes ribs are broken or a lung collapses. Electric shocks known as defibrillation and medicines might also be used as part of the process.

Ventilator use. Ventilators are machines that help you breathe. A tube connected to the ventilator is put through the throat into the trachea (windpipe) so the machine can force air into the lungs. Putting the tube down the throat is called intubation. Because the tube is uncomfortable, medicines are used to keep you sedated (unconscious) while on a ventilator. If you can't breathe on your own after a few days, a doctor may perform a tracheotomy or "trach" (rhymes with "make"). During this bedside surgery, the tube is inserted directly into the trachea through a hole in the neck. For long-term help with breathing, a trach is more comfortable, and sedation is not needed. People using such a breathing tube aren't able to speak without special help because exhaled air goes out of the trach rather than past their vocal cords.

Artificial nutrition or artificial hydration. A feeding tube and/or intravenous (IV) liquids are sometimes used to provide nutrition when a person is not able to eat or drink. These measures can be helpful if you are recovering from an illness. However, if you are near death, these could actually make you more uncomfortable. For example, IV liquids, which are given through a plastic tube put into a vein, can increase the burden on failing kidneys.

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Or if the body is shutting down near death, it is not able to digest food properly, even when provided through a feeding tube. At first, the feeding tube is threaded through the nose down to the stomach. In time, if tube feeding is still needed, the tube is surgically inserted into the stomach.

Comfort care. Comfort care is anything that can be done to soothe you and relieve suffering while staying in line with your wishes. Comfort care includes managing shortness of breath; offering ice chips for dry mouth; limiting medical testing; providing spiritual and emotional counseling; and giving medication for pain, anxiety, nausea, or constipation. Often this is done through hospice, which may be offered in the home, in a hospice facility, in a skilled nursing facility, or in a hospital. With hospice, a team of healthcare providers works together to provide the best possible quality of life in a patient's final days, weeks, or months. After death, the hospice team continues to offer support to the family. Learn more about providing comfort at the end of life.

What Is Hospice Care? What Is Palliative Care?

Hospice care is intended to provide comfort to you and your family during a life-threatening illness, rather than provide treatments to cure the illness. Palliative care is similar to comfort care in hospice, but it is offered along with any medical treatments you might be receiving for a life-threatening illness, such as chemotherapy for cancer or dialysis for kidney failure. The main goal of both hospice and palliative care is to keep you comfortable. In addition, you can always choose to move from hospice to palliative care if you want to pursue treatments to cure your illness.

Five Wishes. Five Wishes is America's most popular living will because it's written in everyday language and helps people express their wishes in areas that matter most - the personal and spiritual in addition to the medical and legal. It also helps you describe what good care means to you, whether you are seriously ill or not. It allows your caregiver to know exactly what you want.

Anyone who would like more information about Five Wishes, please contact me directly at 480-313-4739, Carol Savoie. Information obtained from www.nia.nih.gov and www.agingwithdignity.org.

4th Wednesday of the month:

Stitch 'n Knit:

April 26th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Bring your project of choice and join us for a couple of hours of camaraderie and quiet. Don't have a project? Just join us anyway.

Questions? Just ask the church office (480-832-0462).

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Part of Stitch 'n Knit.

Members and friends are encouraged to take Prayer Shawls for friends or family who are having difficult times, grieving, illness, etc. The notebook we ask people to sign showing where the Shawls are going is really interesting. It's amazing how far reaching this Ministry is!

Thanks to everyone who are making the shawls. There is a brochure in the Narthex for the Prayer Shawls which includes 2 patterns if anyone would like to try making them. There is also a nice supply of yarn in the Nursery for making the Prayer Shawls.

If anyone is interested in learning how to knit or crochet Prayer Shawls, we will be pleased to teach you. Questions? Call the church office (480-832-0462)..

Quilters:

Tuesdays from 9:00 to 12:00 in the Social Hall. There is no experience necessary and if you would like to check us out to see what is involved and how we make the quilts, please stop in any Tuesday - we'd love to have you! Hope to see you there!!!

Prayer Shawl creators are always invited to knit/crochet with us as we quilt.

Newsletter: Receive the newsletter via email and save postage and paper costs.

E-Blast: Sent from the church office every Thursday via email. It allows you to get up to date information on what is going on at Bethlehem delivered straight to your computer, phone, pad, or other wireless device you use. If you are not receiving it and want to, please contact the church office and let Laurel know.

A **Special Thank You** to Brian Myers of **PM Pest Control**. He volunteers his time and services to Bethlehem and Noah's Ark for free. **PM Pest Control** can handle all of your pest and weed control needs. Call 602-920-7032.

Have you noticed that the windows at Bethlehem are sparkling? Your windows can sparkle, too. Call Nathan and Bradley of **Sparkletime Window Washing** (480-225-5141) and tell them you attend Bethlehem Lutheran Church. **They will donate 10% of your window cleaning to Bethlehem.** They are also donating the cleaning of Bethlehem's windows for free. Thank you **Sparkletime!**

Business and Service Cards
Bulletin Board
Members and Friends of Bethlehem are invited to post your Business Cards on the Bulletin Board in the **Social Hall.**

Easter Sunrise - 6:00am

Altar Guild: Arlene Jacobson
Communion
Assistant: Arlene Jacobson Jill Majestic
Lector: Elyse Wheeler
Open Church: _____
Ushers: Charlie Vidot _____

Amazon Smile:

Do you shop online at Amazon.com? Bethlehem is part of the **Amazon Smile** program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. When you log on to Amazon, you must do so through smile.amazon.com for Bethlehem to receive the benefits.

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Bethlehem's Web Site:

blcmesa.org

Share it with your friends, neighbors, and families.

Memorial Tiles:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church participants have the availability of purchasing memorial plaque tiles to go on our master plaque. An individual name tile costs \$15. If you choose two names, one on each tile, the cost is \$25. If you are interested or need more information, please contact Arlene Jacobson at (602) 686-2400.

Vimeo:

If you want to hear the sermon again or share it, recorded sermons and special events at Bethlehem are available to be watched and downloaded at Vimeo.com/blcmesa. Check out Preschool activities, Heart Fire activities, the latest wedding or baptism, and Pastor Chon's sermon. The site supports HD quality videos and is not restricted by length or storage capacities (other than a maximum of 5 gig per week). If you record a video of a church-related function and would like it posted on our site, please contact the church office (480-832-0462).

Holy Yoga

A Christ-centered yoga class on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 9/10. No experience needed. Can be done from chairs or the floor. Bring: yoga mat, comfortable clothes, water, & \$5 suggested donation. Questions? Call Renaya VanDusen at 480-717-3477.

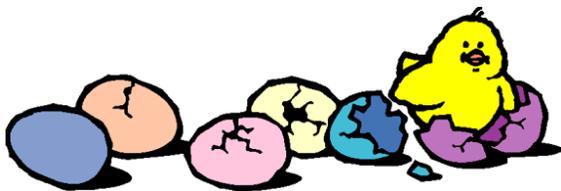
Media at Bethlehem

We're always on the lookout for new ideas about how Bethlehem can use social media. Tell us yours. We want to share God's promises with all creation.

Every Thursday:

Men's Bible Study

7:30am in the Social Hall.



The **World Hunger Basket**, located in front of the baptismal font, is a continuing mission activity. You are invited to donate before, during, or after worship. 1/2 of the funds are sent to the ELCA World Hunger program, and the other 1/2 remain at Bethlehem to purchase food for the food bank at First Lutheran when their shelves are empty. The second page of the monthly calendar reports how much we sent to World Hunger the previous month, and how much of the funds on-hand were used to purchase food for the food bank. The cash raised at the annual Souper Bowl event is handled in the same manner.



Volunteer Opportunities:

If any of these is your calling, please contact the church office (480-832-0462).

Nursery:

Our nursery is run by volunteers who are available during worship one Sunday each month to care for young children when needed. Our nursery caregiver on the first Sunday of each month is no longer able to continue.

Bulletin Folders:

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity, but in this busy, chaotic world of ours don't have a lot of unoccupied time? This is the opportunity for you! We need 1 additional volunteer to fold the worship bulletins each week on Thursday mornings. It usually takes less than an hour.

Counters:

Count the offering following worship 1 Sunday a month. Substitutes are also needed. To volunteer, or for more information see Barb Ashton or contact the church office (480-832-0462).

March & April Only:

Mexican Train Dominoes

Moved to the 3rd Wednesday of the month:
April 19th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Outreach: News from Noah's Ark

Spring has just been declared and we are feeling some summer-like temperatures. More 90 degree days than we would like right now, but should be going back down this week. Oh the joys of living in Mesa, Arizona!! Spring has come early again for us, so flowers & trees are blooming. Many are feeling the effects of allergies. As horrible as it was last year, this season seems to be even worse. Both our kids and parents are feeling the miserable symptoms of the season. I pray that all of you are doing well.

Our 16th annual Trike-a-Thon was fantastic. We had 49 children (a record) ride this year for a total of 3609 laps. The result is our families raised \$4,332, as of this printing, for St. Jude's Research Hospital. To me, even better, we had about 30 adults participate in this event. Noah's Ark rocks!!!

It is that time again for you to mark your calendars for the spring concert. Our kids will once again amaze and delight everyone with their vocal talents on Friday, April 21st at 6pm. Please join us for smiles and giggles.

Our blessings are with you all.
Ms. Jill

Land Sale Update:

Our current realtor Paul Blum and his associate Rebecca Roberts are no longer with Patriot Commercial Properties. They are still actively marketing the land.



Heart Fire



Caring Evangelism How to Live and Share Christ's Love Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.

To be a Stephen Minister is to be in service of thanksgiving and commitment. It is our responsibility to participate in continuing education. No one can provide the best care possible without regular and active study and supervision. God works through all your brothers and sisters in Christ to support them, guide them, inspire them and hold them accountable.

Psalm 46
God is our refuge and strength,
a very present help in trouble.
Therefore we will not fear, though the earth should
change,
though the mountains shake in the heart if the sea;
though its waters roar and foam,
though the mountains tremble with its tumult.

For more information contact Arlene Jacobson (602 686-2400) or Jill Majestic (480 232-6070).

Blue Stone Ministry:

A Gift of Stephen Ministry.

The Blue Stones in our baptismal font are sponsored by Stephen Ministry. When you pass by the baptismal font, you are invited to take one of the Blue Stones and carry it with you at all times. If you meet someone, friend or stranger, who is having a difficult struggle in their lives, this Blue Stone can help. Hand that person your Blue Stone and explain the following: **“Please take this blue stone and carry it with you. Let this be a reminder that God loves you, and you will always have God’s love no matter how difficult your life may become. Let this also remind you that you have someone here on earth who cares about you and will keep you in their prayers.”** After you have given away your new stone, please replace it with another from our baptismal font.

Easter Flowers

Easter is rapidly approaching,
and it is time to order your lilies, mums, or flowering plants to
decorate the sanctuary with an Easter garden of flowers.

Orders must be in by April 2nd

The cost is \$10

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Number of Lilies: _____

Number of Mums: _____

Number of Flowering Plants: _____

Total Flowers Wanted: _____ X \$10 = _____

_____ To the Glory of God

_____ In Memory of: _____

