



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

April 2023						
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

A Message From Our SAM

Holy Space

This month we have a space to reflect. A space that is between Good Friday and Easter. We usually use this time to prepare for Easter.... And forget to use the silence. We need this silence – to grieve, to be empty, to realize that life, as we know it, is over - says our Bishop Elizabeth Eaton.

She goes on to say that this is deeply uncomfortable in our culture. We see this on the news when people start to speak about closure immediately after a tragedy. This could be a well-meaning attempt to relieve the pain, but it doesn't heal. There is danger in moving too quickly from grief. It's important to resist the urge to usher the afflicted to "closure."

Grief from the deaths of George Floyd and Tyce Nichols, mass shootings in California and Highland Park, Ill., and other tragedies can't be rushed. None of the Good Fridays in our lives can. The resurrection came after an actual death.



On Holy Saturday we are invited to shed our life and enter the tomb. Our effort and righteousness as much as our sin bind us. Our effort to save our lives binds us. This is true as much for the church as it is for each member.

The day between Good Friday and Easter can be seen as empty, a void, something to be resisted at all costs, something to be filled. It is the same reaction that many in our culture have to silence. It's as if sound and activity prove that we still exist. But I think the space between crucifixion and resurrection-truly terrifying and truly compassionate-beckons us from our life to life in Christ.

When we shed our lives and enter the tomb, when silence is all around, then we see that Jesus is already there ahead of us, anticipating us, welcoming us to be still and to die in him and find our life in him. Rest dear church

– Elizabeth A Eaton

(complete article in 2023
Living Lutheran March/April)



-Clara



THANK YOU to everyone who donated through our capital appeal letter—your generosity brought in over \$9,000 !!

We are truly blessed by your extra gifts when we need it!

-BLC Council

April Worship Schedule

April 2nd Clara Edin, SAM Worship 10 am
Palm Sunday Worship

April 6th Clara Edin, SAM Maundy
Thursday Worship & Meal begins at 6:30 pm

April 7th Clara Edin, SAM Good Friday
Worship begins at 7 pm

April 9th Clara Edin, SAM Worship 10 am
Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion

April 16th Cindy Gray Worship 10 am
Sunday Worship

April 23rd Clara Edin, SAM Worship 10 am
Worship with Holy Communion

April 30th Deb Hanson-Carlson Worship 10 am
Sunday Worship



IN OUR

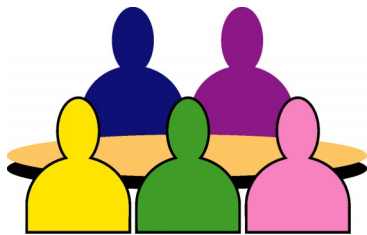


Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Don & Mike Petersen, Meghan, Tracy Jensen, Deb, Jo, Jeff, Bob Katon, Daniel, Iver, Rita, Chardae, Lynda, Chase, McCoy, Ron, Gavin, Janice, and their families.

If you would like to add someone to the weekly list, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com or let Clara know



COUNCIL MEETING

**Zoom Meeting
 February 14, 2023
 Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
 Haley Loew, Clara Edin SAM, Linda Jensen, Yvette Maloney,
 Absent: Carolyn Steele, Sandra Pavelka.

Opened in prayer by Clara Edin SAM.

NEW ITEM FOR BUSINESS:

Discussion about the amount to put into the CD's. Interest rate at 4.2% for the CD's. Motion by Linda Jensen to purchase 5 separate installments; 4 at \$25,000 and 1 at \$15,000, second by Haley Loew, motion carried.

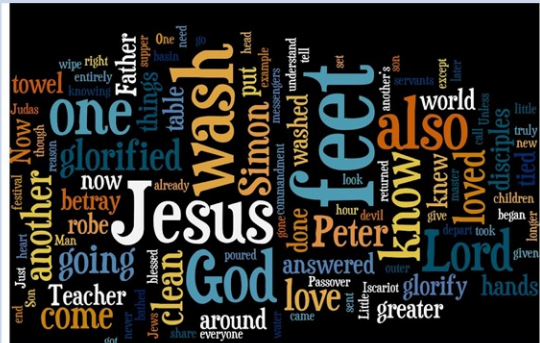
Motion to adjourn meeting by Linda Jensen, second by Haley Loew, motion carried.

*Respectfully submitted,
 -Haley Loew
 Council member*

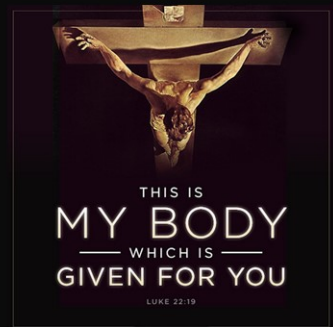


Maundy Thursday

All Jesus' Disciples are Invited
 Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 Thursday April 6—6:30pm



7pm
 Friday
 April 7th
 Bethlehem
 Lutheran
 Church
 Askov
 MN



If you would like to receive your Parish Visitor by mail, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com

Newsletters will continue to be available on-line at www.blcaskov.com/newsletter



Circle of Faith (COF) met March 11, 2023 at church. The members in attendance were Tracy Zinter, Carolyn Steele, Jan Parker, Jo Foss, and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the

meeting to order

Devotions: Jo’s devotion was from Psalm 131 regarding contentment.

Reports: Secretary minutes from February’s meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Jo, 2nd by Jan, motion carried.

Treasurer’s report: Checking \$1150.76 Savings 1,183.25.

Old business: Jo made the motion to change sending out care cards to

quarterly, 2nd by Carolyn, motion carried. Special circumstance cards will be sent by the person doing the quarterly cards.

Community meal: Will be March 22, 2023.

Card mailing: Jo March/April, Mary May/June.

New Business: Discussed the meal for Maundy Thursday, April 6, 2023. Plan to serve a hot dish, coleslaw, buns and dessert.

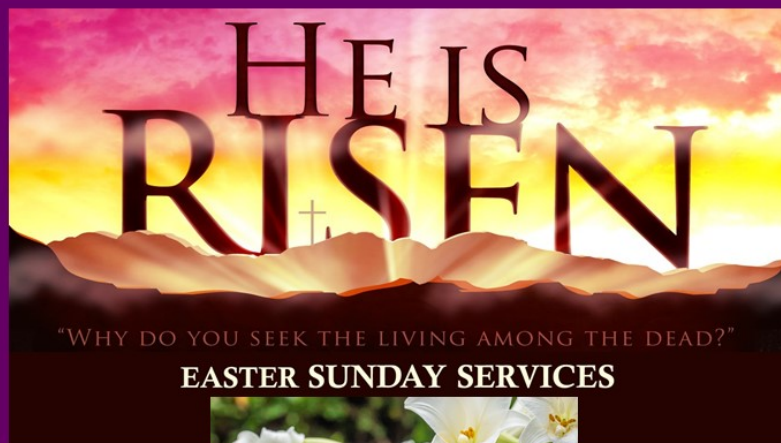
COF will serve soup for

the Lenten service March 22, 2023.

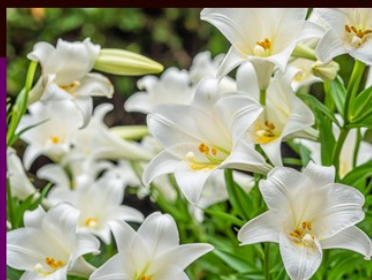
Motion to adjourn: Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Carolyn, 2nd by Jan, motion carried. Ended meeting with The Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting: April 8, 2023.

Respectfully submitted
-Mary Johnson
Secretary



April 9th
10am



Alleluia!
Let Us
Celebrate!

Bethlehem Lutheran Church—Askov MN



- Ella Ruble—1st
- Yvette Maloney—4th
- Logan Disher—10th
- Missy Ecklund 21st
- Faye Williams—22nd
- Fred Ecklund—27th



- Dave & Ann Rote— April 10th
- Owen & Betty Petersen— April 11th



Women of the ELCA Kettle River Conference Spring Gathering
April 15, 2023 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Pine City
Registration and fellowship begins at 8:30 am
Theme: You Are Not Alone

Verse: Philippians 4:6 "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be known to God."

Offering focus will be LSS Center for Changing Lives in Duluth
Pastor Brenda Wicklund will be with us for our service of Holy Communion
Silent Auction and Buy it Now tables
Prizes for First Time Attendees!!



Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2023

Present: Minister Clara Edin, Pastor Jacob Burkman, Amy Frazer, Bill Jansen, Dwain Ecklund, Marvin Rostberg, Laura McCaughan, Greta Detzler.

Reviewed the Multi-Parish Survey that was sent out to Grace and Emmanuel Lutheran's parishioners. Discussed the churches' average attendance numbers. Discussed the want or need of youth programming. Next meeting will be March 21st at Bethlehem at 6:30p.

March 21, 2023

Present: Minister Clara Edin, Amy Frazer, Bill Jansen, Laura McCaughan, Greta Detzler. Opened with prayer.

Reviewed the Multi-Parish Survey that was sent out to Bethlehem Lutheran's Parishioners.

There are many mixed views regarding all the questions in trying to form a three-point parish. The results from all three churches will be sent out separately.

The committee held discussion to move to focusing on more mutual ministry. The committee plans to report back to our individual church councils, making them aware of where the congregations are at based on the results of the survey that was sent out. The committee will wait to see what each of the councils recommend going forward. The committee will meet in May to discuss the councils' recommendations.

Next meeting Tuesday May 9th at 6:30p at Emmanuel Lutheran.

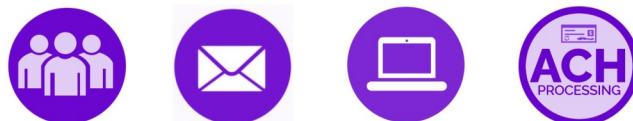
Closed with prayer.

February Treasurer's Report Summary:

Month: We are **1,965.75** ahead in income vs. expenses for the month of February 2023; and **889.14** over our projected budget for the month of February 2023.

Year-End Totals: We are **419.69** ahead in income vs. expenses for the **year 2023**; and **1,655.74** over our projected budget for the **year 2023**.

DID YOU KNOW BLC HAS 4 WAYS TO GIVE?



IN PERSON BY MAIL ON-LINE AUTOMATIC

ON-LINE GIVING

- **WHAT IS ON-LINE GIVING?**
On-line giving is a way for our church to receive offerings via the internet through our website donation page.
- **WHY IS ON-LINE GIVING IMPORTANT?**
On-line giving allows you to give quickly, easily, and securely. We are able to collect donations from all across the country!
- **HOW DOES ON-LINE GIVING HELP?**
Nearly everyone has access to the internet in one way or another. With on-line giving, we can meet our givers where they are!

Visit: <http://www.blcaskov.com/online-giving/> to start!

ALSO AVAILABLE...

ACH GIVING

- **WHAT IS ACH GIVING?**
ACH or EFT giving is a way for our church to receive offerings by automatic electronic transfers from your checking or savings account.
- **WHY IS ACH GIVING IMPORTANT?**
ACH or EFT giving fosters good stewardship. It also improves accuracy and enhances security for our givers!
- **HOW DOES ACH GIVING HELP?**
Members can setup recurring donations that promote consistent, regular giving (and ACH/EFT giving can be paused or stopped on request)

Contact the church office at 320-838-3191 to learn more!



BLC has been invited to join Grace & Emmanuel Lutheran churches for a joint praise worship service on Sunday, April 30th at Dell Grove

Emmanuel Lutheran at 10 am.

A potluck will follow the service.

There will still be worship here at BLC, but feel free to join them for this special worship service and potluck lunch.



Thank you to everyone who donated to the hygiene care kits for East Central School students!