



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

| March 2024 | | | | | | |
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The Time of Easter invites us into the story of Jesus' sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. The resurrection of Jesus gives proof that our salvation has been completed and that our hope for eternal life with God is secure.

Easter was the major celebration of the Early Church, which also set aside a period of preparation to celebrate the Feast of the Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter). Lent was a period of preparation first prescribed for baptismal candidates. During this period, the candidates were examined in preparation for Baptism at the Easter (or Paschal) Vigil. Later, these forty days were associated with Jesus' forty days in the desert prior to His temptation (Matthew 4:1-11) and with the forty years the children of Israel spent in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34), becoming a period of preparation for every Christian.

The Sundays during this season are not "of Lent" but "in Lent". Thus the Sundays retain an Easter tone and may be less solemn than the midweek services that we offer. The observances of Lent are concrete reminders of the greater solemnity of this season, yet Lutherans emphasize the **Gospel of Christ as central** even to this penitential season.

The week before Easter is called **Holy Week**. Our Lenten preparation and repentance deepens as we focus on the events of Jesus' life from His entrance into Jerusalem until His death on the cross and burial in the garden tomb.

Palm Sunday, the first day of Holy Week, commemorates the triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11). Because the complete account of the Lord's Passion from Matthew, Mark, or Luke is often read, this Sunday is also called the **Sunday of the Passion**.

On **Holy (Maundy) Thursday**, the Church gives thanks to Jesus for the institution of **His Supper**. This is a feast day, and the color used to decorate the church is white. The Holy

and beaten before His crucifixion.

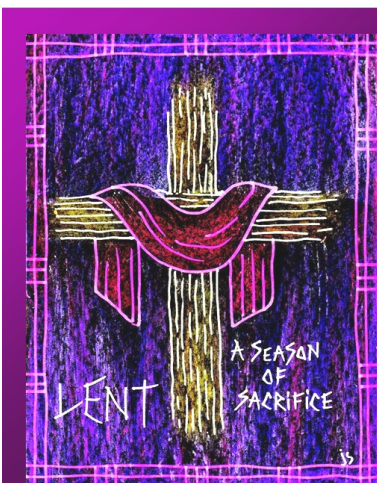
Good Friday is the **most solemn of all days in the Christian Church**; yet a note of joy remains, as the title of the day indicates. On Good Friday, as we remember that **on account of our sin the Lord was crucified and died**, we give joyful thanks to God that all sin and God's wrath over sin fall on Jesus and not on us, and that by **His grace** we receive the benefit of this **most sacrificial act**.

Easter is not merely a one-day celebration: it is a fifty-day season from the Day of the Resurrection of Our Lord to the Day of Pentecost. This extended season – one seventh of the year – is a victory celebration, a time for all Christians to proclaim boldly their faith in a risen and victorious Savior.

The First celebration of Easter is the **Easter Vigil**, the evening of Holy Saturday. The Vigil includes light, in which fire symbolizes Jesus as the light of the world. This day we Christians go from **the solemnity of Good Friday to the predawn joy of Easter**.

Easter is the richest and most lavishly celebrated festival of the Church Year. Some may hold a sunrise service, commemorating the surprise of the women visiting the empty tomb of Christ.

Here at Bethlehem we hold a service that celebrates the resurrection of Jesus Christ on Sunday morning. We continue this joyous and celebratory tone as it echoes down through the Sundays of the Easter season.



Please join us on Wednesdays 6:30pm as we continue our Soup & Lent Studies at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Askov

Thursday service closes as it reminds us how our Lord stripped to the waist to wash His disciples' feet – and how He was stripped

-Clara



- Holy Week -
 Palm Sunday – March 24 – 10am
 Holy (Maundy) Thursday – March 28 – 6:30pm – Lords Supper & Soup
 Good Friday – March 29 – 7pm
 Easter – March 31 – 10am – The Resurrection of Our Lord

March Worship Schedule

| | | |
|---|---------------------|----------------|
| March 3 rd <i>Sunday Worship</i> | Rick Martens | Worship 10 am |
| March 10 th <i>Worship with Holy Communion</i> | Clara Edin SAM | Worship 10 am |
| March 17 th <i>Sunday Worship</i> | Circle of Faith Led | Worship 10 am |
| March 24 th <i>Palm Sunday Worship with Holy Communion</i> | Clara Edin SAM | Worship 10 am |
| March 28 th <i>Maundy Thursday Meal/Worship with Holy Communion</i> | Clara Edin SAM | Begins 6:30 pm |
| March 29 th <i>Good Friday Worship</i> | Clara Edin SAM | Worship 7 pm |
| March 31 st <i>Easter Sunday Worship with Holy Communion</i> | Clara Edin SAM | Worship 10 am |

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan, Lois, Mike, Deb, Jo, Bob, Daniel, Iver, Chardae, Lynda, Chase, McCoy, Ron, Jerry, Rod, Kris, Ron, Loretta, Roy, Jeanine, Kathie, Michael, Marty, and their families.

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



Soup Suppers Wednesday, March 6th, 13th, & 20th

**Supper served at 6:30 pm
Worship will follow in the basement fellowship area**



Circle of Faith (COF) met February 10, 2024. The members in attendance were Cookie Nielsen, Tracy Zinter, Shawn Jansen, Carolyn Steele, Jan Parker and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order

Devotions: Carolyn, God's Transforming Word from 2 Timothy 3:15

Reports: Secretary minutes from January's meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Shawn,

2nd by Cookie, motion carried.

Treasurer's report:
Checking \$1,273.92
Savings \$1,181.68
Dedicated account \$1,066.50

Old business: Plan for a pot luck for women of BLC tabled.

Tracy and Carolyn attended a planning meeting for W/ELCA's spring meeting. Tracy taking funds from Thrivent to put \$250 towards towels for the spring meeting.

COF will lead our church service March 17, 2024
Shawn stated a speaker from Arrowhead Transport will give a presentation at Community Meal on February 28th.

Shawn shared information on what would be required

to become a member of W/ELCA.

Community meal: will be February 28, 2024

Card mailing: Jan Parker January, February and March. Jo Foss April, May and June. Mary Johnson July, August and September.

New Business: Discussed giving gift certificates from COF for Easter. Plan to include a copy of "Our Daily Bread" with the certificates and information on BLC church services. Mary will talk to Heidi regarding ordering the booklets.

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

Next meeting at The Little Mermaid March 9, 2024 at 10:00 am.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Mary Johnson,
Secretary*

Reminder!



Sunday, March 3rd is the deadline to order lilies for Easter Sunday



If you'd 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



Chloe Champagne—3rd
 Mona Pemberton—3rd
 Diane Peterson—3rd
 Tony Ecklund—4th
 Ginger Leach—6th
 Carolyn Steele—11th
 Tom Baker—12th
 Bob Johnson—13th
 Chase Moon—16th
 Randy Mortensen—18th
 Matt Pemberton—19th



Denny & Carol Birkholm
 —March 10th
 Tom & Lori Willie—
 March 27th

Treasurer Report



January 2024 Treasurer's Report:

Month:

We are **669.28** ahead in income vs. expenses for the month of January 2024; and **2,741.78** under our projected budget for the month of January 2024.

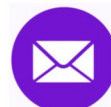
Year-to-Date Totals:

We are **669.28** ahead in income vs. expenses for the **year 2024**; and **2,741.78** under our projected budget for the **year 2024**.

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!



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CARE PACKAGES with hygiene products for East Central High school. Once again we are asking for donations to help students have hygiene supplies. We will collect items until March 10th. Items for the hygiene kits are regular size shampoo, conditioner, toothpaste, dental floss and hair brushes. Thank you for helping !!

In Loving Memory...



Mona Faye Knapp

September 12, 1939—February 13, 2024

Gerald "Gerry" Knapp

July 16, 1937—February 20, 2024

**A joint funeral service was held
at Bethlehem on Friday,
February 23, 2024**

Northeastern Minnesota Synod Mental Health and Wellness Webinar Series March 7, 2024, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Register: [https://www.cognitofrms.com/NortheasternMinnesotaSynod/
March2024NEMNSynodMentalHealthAndWellnessLunchAndLearnSeries](https://www.cognitofrms.com/NortheasternMinnesotaSynod/March2024NEMNSynodMentalHealthAndWellnessLunchAndLearnSeries)



Title: A Transformational Journey: A systems approach to addiction and related mental health issues

Description: Permission to openly discuss addiction and related mental health issues, without automatic judgments, is a hallmark of a healthy and healing congregation. Conversations about these issues are often rare and uncomfortable in many congregations. Though one family in three has direct experience with someone with an addiction experience, the subject is seldom raised. The opportunity to impact someone struggling with addiction and related mental health issues are often no farther away than the person sitting near us on Sunday morning—someone whose life is silently unraveling and who desperately needs someone to reach out with an open heart.

Informed clergy, supported by committed and trained lay leaders can serve their congregation by starting the conversation about substance use disorders, other addictions, and related mental health issues. They can offer hope to those who suffer through a recovery support ministry and help to those who want to prevent problems through awareness, education, and early intervention strategies. This transformational journey is both personal as well as systemic. This webinar will explore the dynamics of addiction on an individual, family, congregation, and community basis as well as a systemic response to these issues.

Speaker: Drew Brooks has been the Executive Director of Faith Partners since 2011, a non-profit organization established in 1995 providing leadership, training, and consultation to educate clergy and help develop congregational prevention and recovery support team ministries. He has worked in the prevention, treatment, and public health fields for over 40 years providing training and consultation nationally. He has helped author four curricula and has served on a number of organizational boards and advisory councils. He has also been involved in congregational lay leadership with music, youth, caring, small group and addiction ministries. <https://www.faith-partners.org/>