

Save the Date

Wednesday, May 8th, we will be taking a trip to Starved Rock to see "Tribute to George Strait" (same couple we heard last year, Debbie and Gordie). Car pools will be arranged. The cost is \$39 per person. Please give Darlene Kress your name if interested in going. We will collect the money at a later time.

In Our Prayers

Members of Bethlehem: Diana Ceci, Sheryl Hudson, Alan Lewis
Friends and Family: Paul Anderon, Kathryn Arnstrom, Jim and Bonnie Johnson Anderson, Kathy Couty, Julie Hayry-Argall and the Hayry Family, Diane Juell, Justin Kandell, Jean Kazminski, Elaine Miraldi, Barbara Nash, Rose Shobutte, Len Skuta, and Duane Werner
Our Homebound: Lois Demos, Jayne Josephson, Gerry Wickstrom, Jim & Eleanor Wrath.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, March 13	Mid-Week Service 6:30pm
Thursday, March 14	Truth Circle 7pm
Sunday, March 17	Council Meeting after service
Wednesday, March 20	Mid-Week Service 6:30pm
Wednesday, March 27	Mid-Week Service 6:30pm
Thursday, March 28	Quilters 9am-2pm

Reaching Out In Love

<u>Date</u>	<u>Attendance</u>	<u>Giving</u>
2-24-19	30	\$1,863.00
3-3-19	31	\$3,001.00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

First Sunday in Lent

March 10, 2019



*Our Mission:
To Love God and Our Neighbor through Worship,
Growing in Faith, Caring for Each Other,
and Proclaiming the Good News of Jesus Christ*

WELCOME

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues; to receive the gifts of God's grace; to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus; and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

If you are a guest or visitor today, a special welcome to you. You bless us with your presence. If we can be of any assistance to you, please do not hesitate to let us know. Please join us for fellowship after worship this morning!

We thank Kyle Johnson for leading us in worship today!

FLOWERS

The flowers on the reredos today are in loving memory of Roy and Lela Anderson, given by their daughter, Debbie Slick. The flowers under the cross are in honor of the 90th birthday of Eleanor Wrath, given by Dennis and Darlene Kress.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Members of Bethlehem: Diana Ceci, Alan Lewis

Friends and Family: Paul Anderson, Kathryn Arnstrom, Jim and Bonnie Johnson Anderson, Kathy Couty, Julie Hayry-Argall and the Hayry Family, Diane Juell, Justin Kandell, Jean Kazminski, Elaine Miraldi, Barbara Nash, Rose Shubotte, Len Skuta, and Duane Werner

Our Homebound: Lois Demos, Jayne Josephson, Gerry Wickstrom, and Jim & Eleanor Wrath.

LEADING WORSHIP TODAY

Seminary Student	Kyle Johnson
Music Minister	Duane Werner
Lay Assistant	Sheryl Hudson
Lector	Judy Simonich

Liz Banks' Office/Secretary Hours:

Mon: 9am-1pm, Tues - Fri.: 9am-12noon
Email welcome@blcjoliet.com

Pastor Paul Carlson's Hours:

Wednesday and Thursday 9am - 12Noon
Cell:630-418-0069

Email: pastorpaul249@gmail.com

Announcements for Sunday, March 10, 2019

Lent 2019

This Lent the congregation is invited to join together with fellow Lutherans to study, reflect and give during ELCA World Hunger's 40 Days of Giving. Each family will have a jar in which to put their sacrificial giving into. We will also have the jar labels and the devotional calendars outside of the sanctuary. These calendars will give ideas for how to engage in the Lenten disciplines of self-examination and repentance, prayer and fasting, sacrificial giving and works of love.

Flowers of Bethlehem

Dear Bethlehem members,

Just a reminder. As of Sunday, December 9th 2018 we have been using Labo's Florist. Labo's is located at 1601 W. Jefferson St. in Joliet. The price of the two altar bouquets is \$30.00 (\$15.00 each) and the third bouquet, under the cross, is \$20.00 (it is slightly larger). The Altar Guild will pay the florist bill each month, and people who wish to put flowers on the altar will submit payments to the Bethlehem Lutheran Altar Guild. Please put your payment in the offering plate. We also have March 24th still available if anyone is interested.

Thank you, Judy Simonich.

Joliet Hospice

Sherry Lindstrom from Joliet Area Hospice will be with us during service on Sunday, April7, 2019. She will share a some information about the hospice program during service, but will give a presentation during coffee hour after church.

THE PRAYERS

P Seeking the grace, mercy, and love of almighty God, we offer our prayers for the church, for people in need, and for all of creation.

A Hear us, O God.

C Your mercy is great.

The prayers conclude:

P Reveal your will as you receive our prayers, and conform our ways to your ways; through the saving work of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen

LORD'S PRAYER (spoken)

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 trespass, 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.

BLESSING

P God, who fills the creation with abundance,
Christ, who spreads his arms in forgiveness,
Holy Spirit, who draws ever near to us,
bless you and bring you to life everlasting.

C Amen

SENDING HYMN #618 *Guide Me Ever, Great Redeemer*

DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

CWM Rhondda

Austin C. Lovelace

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BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

412 E. Benton St., Joliet, IL 60432
Office phone: (815) 726-4461
Website: blcjoliet.com

Pastor: Rev. Paul Carlson

Ministers: The People of Bethlehem

**First Sunday in Lent
March 10, 2019 -- 9:30am**

PRELUDE *Meditation on Forty Days and Forty Nights* Bonnie Johansen-Werner

WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, who gathers us in the wilderness to redeem us, anoint us, and make us new.

C Amen.

P In these forty days, let us be honest, confess our sin, and receive God's promise of mercy. God at the margins,

C We have wandered far from your home; again and again, we lose our way. We turn inward, afraid of the world around us. We forget that you have saved your people before and promise to do so again. Do not remember the deeds of our past, but turn our faces toward the future, where your forgiveness is sure, your welcome is clear, and your love overflows. Amen.

P Like a hen who gathers her chicks, God embraces you in tender care. Like manna in the desert, God feeds you with surprising mercy. Like a loving parent, God runs to meet you again this day, forgiving your sins for the sake of Christ, leading you from death into life.

C Amen.

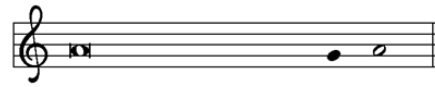
GATHERING HYMN #769 *If You But Trust in God to Guide You*

GREETING

P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C And also with you.

KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



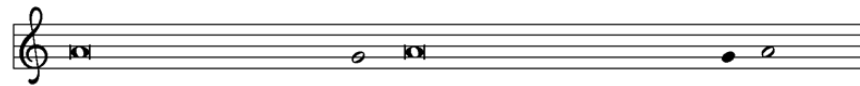
Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace from a-bove, and for our sal - vation, let us pray to the Lord.



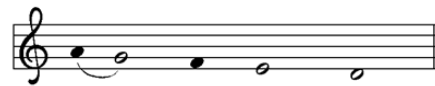
Lord, have mer - cy.



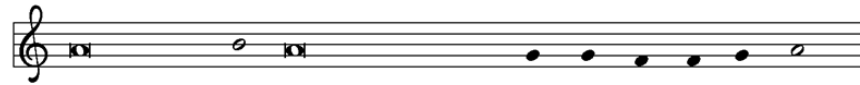
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord. Lord have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and de-fend us, gra-cious Lord. A - men.

OFFERING

OFFERTORY

Wer nur den lieben Gott

Georg Boehm

OFFERING HYMN Let the Vineyards Be Fruitful

As the ushers bring our gifts to God forward, we join in our offering hymn.



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that we may be



fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of all; u -



nite them with the prayers we of - fer. Grace our ta - ble with your



pres - ence, and give us a fore - taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A Generous God,
you feed us with the harvest of the land,
and you provide for our every need.
Receive our gifts of money, imagination, and labor,
and transform them into a feast that welcomes all,
in Jesus Christ, our host and our guest.

C Amen.

P The Gospel of the Lord.
C Praise to you, O Christ.

MESSAGE

Kyle Johnson

HYMN OF THE DAY #325 *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me*

APOSTLES' CREED

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

**He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C And also with you.

The ministers and congregation may greet one another with a gesture of peace, using these or similar words: Peace be with you.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P The Lord be with you.

C And also with you.

P O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen

FIRST LESSON: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

The annual harvest festival, called the Feast of Weeks, provides the setting for this reading. This festival celebrates the first fruits of the produce of the land offered back to God in thanks. In this text, worshipers announce God's gracious acts on behalf of Israel.

¹When you have come into the land that the LORD your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, ²you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the LORD your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the LORD your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. ³You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, "Today I declare to the LORD your God that I have come into the land that the LORD swore to our ancestors to give us." ⁴When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the LORD your God, ⁵you shall make this response before the LORD your God: "A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. ⁶When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, ⁷we cried to the LORD, the God of our ancestors; the LORD heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression. ⁸The LORD brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; ⁹and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. ¹⁰So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O LORD, have given me." You shall set it down before the LORD your God and bow down before the LORD your God. ¹¹Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the LORD your God has given to you and to your house.

P The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

God will give the angels charge over you, to guard you in all your ways. (Ps. 91:11)

- ¹You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—
- ²**you will say to the LORD, “My refuge and my stronghold,
my God in whom I put my trust.”**
- ⁹Because you have made the LORD your refuge,
and the Most High your habitation,
- ¹⁰**no evil will befall you,
nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.**
- ¹¹For God will give the angels charge over you,
to guard you in all your ways.
- ¹²**Upon their hands they will bear you up,
lest you strike your foot against a stone.**
- ¹³You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;
you will trample down the lion and the serpent.
- ¹⁴**I will deliver those who cling to me;
I will uphold them, because they know my name.**
- ¹⁵They will call me, and I will answer them;
I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and | honor them.
- ¹⁶**With long life will I satisfy them,
and show them my salvation.**

SECOND LESSON: Romans 10:8b-13

Paul reminds the Christians at Rome of the foundation of their creed, the confession of faith in the risen Christ as Lord.

^{8b}“The word is near you, on your lips and in your heart” (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim); ⁹because if you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰For one believes with the heart and so is justified, and one confesses with the mouth and so is saved. ¹¹The scripture says, “No one who believes in him will be put to shame.” ¹²For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek; the same Lord is Lord of all and is generous to all who call on him. ¹³For, “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

L The word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Re - turn to the Lord, your God, for he is gra - cious and
mer - ci - ful, slow to an - ger, and a - bound - ing in
stead - fast love, and a - bound - ing in stead - fast love.

GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13

After being filled with the Holy Spirit at his baptism, Jesus is led in the wilderness. Through his responses to the temptations of the devil, he defines what it means to be called “the Son of God.”

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the fourth chapter.

C Glory to you, O Lord.

¹Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, ²where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. ³The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” ⁴Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’”

⁵Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. ⁶And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. ⁷If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” ⁸Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” ⁹Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here, ¹⁰for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’ ¹¹and ‘On their hands they will bear you up, so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’” ¹²Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’” ¹³When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.