




**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**

WEBSITE [www.bethlehemstar.org](http://www.bethlehemstar.org) 490 Fourth Street North  
Bayport, MN 55003

CHURCH OFFICE • 651-439-3450 • [office.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:office.BLCBayport@gmail.com)

## A WORD FROM PASTOR AMY



During our season of Lent, we have been listening to stories of witness. On Sundays, we’ve been connecting Old Testament with Gospel readings, hearing how people in biblical times witnessed to God’s activity in their lives. On Wednesdays, we’ve heard personal stories from some of our people on why Jesus matters to them and what has drawn and kept them in the Christian faith. At Tuesday morning Bible study, we’ve read from voices throughout Christian history to learn of their witness and experience of faith. What’s your story? What’s our story together as Bethlehem? What is our witness? And how do we share that witness in a world that resists listening to it?

Easter Sunday lands on March 31st this year. As we’ll hear in our readings for that special day, Mary Magdalene was the first witness of the resurrection. She declared to the others, “I have seen the Lord!” She had to tell the others! How could she ever hold back such amazing news? How could she not share the Good News of Jesus Christ? At the core of our faith, we believe this is GOOD news for ALL people, and yet we live in a world of many beliefs and many faiths and certainly no faith that complicates sharing this amazing story. It is vital we show respect and dignity to all people of every faith and background, especially in a world that uses violence in response to difference. AND, at the same time, it is critical for us to share from our own faith tradition, from our own beliefs, from our own experiences of God in Christ Jesus. We can do this without being weird. We can do this without shoving our religion down people’s throats. We can do this in a way that shares goodness and hope and love. We can do this respectfully and joyfully while honoring the story of others. We just need to learn how.

Most of the time it begins by listening. Truly listening. Not with any agenda or opinions. Just listening and caring and enjoying people. As we listen, notice where God is already working in a person’s life. Just like in the stories we heard on Wednesday evenings, we ask ourselves, “Where do I see God in their story?” In other words, where did you see love, a gentle leading, the support of others, goodness, provision, a helping hand, healing, hope? We might offer then, that in our faith tradition we would call that God working in your life. We would name that Jesus. Maybe start with your own life and consider all the ways God has worked in you and for you over your lifetime. Open your eyes and see Jesus.

Then like Mary, we can proclaim, “I have seen the Lord!”

Happy Easter,  
Pastor Amy

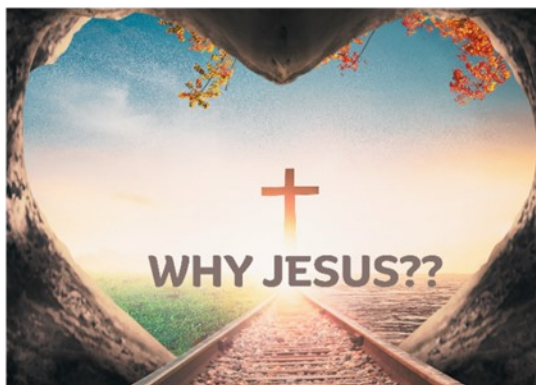
# LENT

## Soup Supper | 6pm Wednesdays through Mar. 20

Invite Friends and Neighbors! We will gather to enjoy a simple meal together before evening worship on Wednesdays at 6pm. To sign up to bring soup to share, look for the board in The Connection, or contact Julie Grams or Constance Nelson.



## Why Jesus?



As part of our Wednesday evening Lenten worship, individuals from the congregation will be sharing their "Why Jesus?" stories.

They have been tasked with answering two main questions, "Why am I a Christian?" (or still a Christian) and "Why does Jesus matter to me?" Come, listen and reflect on stories of faith on Wednesdays from 7:00-7:40pm, through March 20.

- Mach 6                      Ali Staloch
- March 13                    Daniel Baumgartner
- March 20                    Paul Goulette

## Music | Rehearsal Schedule through Mar. 20

### WEDNESDAYS

5:30 - 6:15 pm      Handbell Choir rehearsal

7:45 - 8:30 pm      Chapel Choir rehearsal

### MONDAYS

6:00 - 7:00 pm      BOH rehearsal (every other week)

# Easter Memorial Garden | Orders Due Weds., March 13

You are invited to place a plant order for this year's "Memorial Garden". The plants will be arranged on the altar area of the sanctuary on Easter Sunday and may be taken home after the second worship service. Dedications will be printed in the Easter Sunday Bulletin. Lots of ways to order: scan the QR Code to order & pay online, submit a paper order form, or email the office.



**ORDERS AND PAYMENT ARE DUE TO THE OFFICE BY MIDNIGHT  
ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 13**

## Easter Memorial Garden 2024






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\*Please send payments to  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
490 4th St. N.  
Bayport, MN 55003

To make alternate arrangements for Pick-up  
contact the office at [office.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:office.blcbayport@gmail.com)

					Sub-TOTAL
Tulip Colors Vary	Easter Lily White	Chrysanthemum White - Yellow - Lavender	Hydrangea Pink - Blue	Azalea Assorted Pinks	
\$10.50	\$11.50	\$15.75	\$23.00	\$24.50	
_____	_____	White _____	Pink _____	_____	\$ _____
		Yellow _____	Blue _____		\$ _____
		Lavender _____			\$ _____
Given By _____					TOTAL
email/phone _____					
In Memory of _____					\$ _____
_____					
In Honor of _____					
_____					
_____					

# CHURCH NEWS

## Adult Forum

During the regular Adult Forum time on Sunday mornings, we will have presentations from various groups highlighting outreach and ministry opportunities. Grab your treats and coffee, sit down at a table and join the conversation!

- March 3 BLC's Foundation
- March 10 Bega Kwa Bega, Tanzania Partnership
- March 17 Valley Outreach

A special offering for MN Foodshare Month will be collected during worship.

## E-Board & Council Meetings

**Executive Board** Meeting Tuesday, March 12 @ 5:00pm

**Council** Meeting Thursday, March 21 @ 6:00pm

## Sunday Hospitality Volunteers

Please sign up in the Connection or contact Julie Grams or Constance Nelson. View openings via Bethlehem Star calendar @ <https://www.bethlehemstar.org>

Volunteers bring treats, set-up & serve them along with coffee, tea, & juice after our Sunday Worship, then stay to tidy up The Connection area.

**CONTACT CONSTANCE NELSON OR JULIE GRAMS TO SIGN UP**

**March 3**

Mary Croft  
Amy Lesicka

**March 10**

AVAILABLE

**March 17**

Lori Gleason  
Ann Gilman

**March 24**

AVAILABLE

**March 31**

*Easter Breakfast*

## Bethlehem Calendar

The current BLC calendar is found on the Home Page of our website:

<https://www.bethlehemstar.org/>

We are blessed to be able to benefit our community by sharing our facilities with neighborhood groups and families who wish to host private events such as weddings, family get togethers, recitals, etc. Since our building is not only used for worship and church activities, please be sure to check our calendar on the Home Page of our website to make sure there is no one that has reserved our building if you plan to enter at a time other than church sponsored activities. *-Thank you!*

# Tuesday Bible Study | 9am | Croixdale

Please join Pastor Amy every Tuesday to dive deeper into understanding of Bible text through discussion and contemplation. We meet at Croixdale Senior Living Center, 750 HWY-95 ALL ARE WELCOME!

# Friday Prayer Circle Zoom | 8am

Contact Pastor Amy for the Zoom link. [pastor.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:pastor.blcbayport@gmail.com)

# Fundraisers | OnGoing

## RAISERIGHT GIFT CARDS

Pre-purchase Gift Cards to give or to use yourself for everyday shopping. Scan QR Code or go to <https://www.raiseright.com/enroll?enrollCode=3CDI4Z9HKW27>



## GOT SNEAKERS

We are collecting SNEAKERS in the receptacle located near the Sanctuary.

# Office Notes | contact Lori @ [office.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:office.blcbayport@gmail.com)

Altar Flower Orders Due: Tuesday at Midnight the previous week

Weekly Announcements Due: Thursdays at 8am

Monthly Newsletters Due: the 23<sup>rd</sup> of the month prior to publication

# Altar Flowers

Sign up is located by the office or contact Lori @ [office.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:office.blcbayport@gmail.com)

# BLC Financial Snapshot | January 2024

2023-2024 Fiscal Year								
	January 2024				January YTD [Month 4]			
	Revenue / Expense		Variance		Revenue / Expense		Variance	
	Actual	Plan	\$	%	Actual	Plan	\$	%
<b>INCOME</b>								
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 17,129	\$ 21,210	\$ (4,081)	-19%	\$ 100,376	\$ 99,239	\$ 1,137	1%
<b>EXPENSE</b>								
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 25,202	\$ 27,485	\$ 2,283	8%	\$ 100,394	\$ 103,088	\$ 2,694	3%
NET INCOME / (LOSS)	\$ (8,073)	\$ (6,275)	\$ (1,798)	-8%	\$ (18)	\$ (3,849)	\$ 3,831	4%
Line of Credit (current balance)			\$ 16,198					
Church Mortgage (current balance)			\$ 107,855					

## Direct Online Giving

Scan QR Code



BLC Website <https://www.bethlehemstar.org/>

## BLC Women | Thursday, February 7 @ 10am



Come join the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Women on Thursday March 14, at 10am and help pack Lutheran World Relief Baby Kits. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall due to a funeral being hosted in The Connection later that day. We have a good supply of all items except hand towels (Dark colors preferred) and mild 3 ounce soap bars, (wrapped). **A basket will be on the Welcome Desk for donated supplies until March 10<sup>th</sup>.**

## BLC Quilters | Thursday, March 14 @ 9am

Quilting will be held from 9am - Noon. No experience needed. We will tie quilts and share in fellowship and treats! Contact Mary Olson, Mary Trenda or Wilma McGowan for more information.



## MN Foodshare Month|

We are partnering with Valley Outreach to collect non-perishable food items through March 31. Please bring donations to add to the grocery cart by the office or to the box in The Connection. Monetary donations are also welcome and can be stretched even farther when our efforts are coordinated with Valley Outreach. On Sunday, March 17 we will collect a special offering for MN Foodshare Month.




# HOLY WEEK

- March 24** **Palm Sunday** Worship at 8:30am  
10am Ecumenical Palm Procession across the old Stillwater Lift Bridge.
- March 28** **Maundy Thursday** Worship 7pm
- March 29** **Good Friday** Worship 7pm  
Ecumenical Service  
Service held at St. Croix United (formerly People's Congregational)
- March 31** **Easter** Worship at 8:00am & 10:00am  
**Easter Breakfast** between services 9 am - 10 am ~freewill donation~



# Children, Youth, & Families


## YOUTH SUNDAY: March 10



**All Kids**  
pre-K thru 5<sup>th</sup> grade  
meet upstairs in the  
Sunday School Room  
on Sundays  
from 10:15 -11:00am.

March 3	The Last Supper
March 10	Holy Week
March 17	The Empty Tomb
March 24	Palm Sunday   No Sunday School
March 31	Easter Breakfast

Contact Ali Staloch at  
[cyf.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:cyf.blcbayport@gmail.com)  
with questions or if you would like to help.



**Mentoring Continues...**

**Wednesdays**  
6pm Soup Supper  
7pm Worship

Contact Jenny Schoolman at  
[mjschoolman@comcast.net](mailto:mjschoolman@comcast.net) with any  
questions.

Save the Date  
**BLC CONGREGATION**  
**MEAL PACKING DAY!**  
**SUNDAY - MAY 19TH - 11AM**



**MEALS FROM THE HEART**  
5600 Memorial Ave North  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082



**Luther Point**  
BIBLE CAMP

July 14<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>  
4<sup>th</sup> -6<sup>th</sup> graders  
7<sup>th</sup> -9<sup>th</sup> graders

<https://www.ultracamp.com/clientlogin.aspx?idCamp=561&campCode=lpb>

BLC membership discount  
\$55 Scholarships are available  
See Pastor Amy or Ali.



**Lake Wapogasset**  
LUTHERAN BIBLE CAMP, INC.

WAPO family camp August  
9<sup>th</sup> -11<sup>th</sup>



**always**  
2024  
Yesterday ~ Today ~ Forever  
Hebrew 13:8 ~ Thessalonians 5:16-18



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Pastor Amy Vigesaa • Cell 651-600-8228 • 651-439-3450 ext. 2 | [Pastor.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.BLCBayport@gmail.com)  
Daniel Baumgartner • Director of Music & Worship • 651-439-3450 ext. 3 | [Music.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Music.BLCBayport@gmail.com)  
Ali Staloch • Director of Children, Youth & Families • 651-439-3450 ext. 4 | [CYF.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:CYF.BLCBayport@gmail.com)  
Lori Gergen • Office Administrator • 651-439-3450 ext. 1 | [Office.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Office.BLCBayport@gmail.com)  
Karl Braun • Custodian • 651-439-3450 | [custodian.blcbayport@gmail.com](mailto:custodian.blcbayport@gmail.com)

*In Partnership with God,  
with each Other,  
with the World!*



- Office • [office.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:office.BLCBayport@gmail.com) • Main: 651-439-3450
- Pastor, Amy Vigesaa • [Pastor.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Pastor.BLCBayport@gmail.com) • Cell: 651-600-8228
- Daniel Baumgartner • Worship and Music Director • [Music.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Music.BLCBayport@gmail.com) • 651-439-3450 ext. 110
- All Staloch • CYF Director (Children, Youth and Families) • [CYF.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:CYF.BLCBayport@gmail.com) • 651-439-3450 ext. 130
- Karl Braun • Custodian • [Custodian.BLCBayport@gmail.com](mailto:Custodian.BLCBayport@gmail.com) • 651-439-3450



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February 2024 Newsletter