

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church



2245 Hayden Avenue  
Altoona, Wisconsin  
715-832-9953  
www.blcaltoona.org

Seventh Sunday of Easter  
Sunday, May 12, 2024

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## WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship at 8:30 and 10:45 AM  
Bible Study 10:00-10:30 AM - in fellowship hall  
Holy Communion is celebrated 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

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**WELCOME to all of our visitors today.** If you're here for the first time or as a returning guest, we are pleased to be able to worship with you today. The order of service and songs will be projected. An outline of the service is printed in your bulletin. Please sign the Fellowship Register on the aisle side of your pew. Then pass it to others in your pew.

### ~ COMING UP AT BETHLEHEM ~

**Happy Mother's Day** to all the mothers, grandmothers, aunties and godly role models in the congregation!

**Prayer Group** - Tues., May 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am, in the prayer chapel.

**Elders Meeting** - Tues., May 14<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm.

**Daycare Board Meeting** - Thurs., May 16<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

**Altoona Food Pantry** - Thurs., May 16<sup>th</sup> from 4:30-6:00 pm at 701 7<sup>th</sup> St. West. This pantry is open to the public; only requirement is that you live in the Altoona School District.

**Next Sunday, May 19<sup>th</sup>** - Worship with Communion at 8:30 am. Bible Study at 10:00 am. Worship with Communion at 10:45 am. Christian Ed Meeting at 12:00 pm.

**Memorial Day Weekend** - We will have one worship service, at 10 am, on Sunday, May 26. No Bible study that day.

### ~ ARK ENCOUNTER ~

Plans are in the works for a road trip this summer to the Ark Encounter in Williamstown, Ky., a life-size interactive replica of Noah's ark.

Depending on the number of people interested and the available dates, we will decide whether to travel as one large group or let families travel on their own and meet each other at the ark.

If you are interested, please email Pastor Tim or call the church office. Please respond by **May 19**.

### ~ CAKE ROLL DELIVERY ~

Delivery of the Daycare fund-raiser cake rolls will be **Thursday, May 23 at 3:00 pm in the library area**. Sorry for the conflicting dates that were posted.

### ~ MISSION OF THE MONTH: COLLECTIVE ARTS ~

Every dollar you give at Sunday morning fellowship in May will go to The COLLECTive Arts, based in Eau Claire. This nonprofit organization seeks to glorify God and reflect the love of Jesus through music, dance, and the arts.

One of the ministries, the COLLECTive Arts Choir, will lead worship at Bethlehem next Sunday, May 19. The choir is a collaborative singing group led by Michael Rambo that includes people from different ages, socio-economic status, and ethnicities. For more information, go to [www.collectiveartsec.org](http://www.collectiveartsec.org).

### ~ BETHLEHEM SERVING AT THE COMMUNITY TABLE ~

We are scheduled to serve a meal on Thursday, June 6. Volunteers are needed to cover two shifts: 9-11 am (prep and set-up) and 11am-2 pm (serving and clean up). We need 8 people for each shift. You can volunteer for both shifts, if you wish! Youth are encouraged to volunteer as well. To sign up contact Kristina Risler at 715-456-5120 or [kristinarisler@gmail.com](mailto:kristinarisler@gmail.com).

### ~ WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS ~

Ushers are still needed for May 19 and 26 services. The June schedule is also ready and on the secretary's desk. Consider serving as an usher, greeter, or reader. Contact Charleen in the church office if you have questions; 715-832-9953 extension 2 or [blcsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:blcsecretary@gmail.com).

### ~ SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE ~

There are two scholarships available through Bethlehem for students going into teaching or church work.

Two \$750 Rasmussen Scholarships are available to all qualifying high school graduates. Criteria include: member of Bethlehem; enrolled at UW-Eau Claire, UW-River Falls, or CVTC; pursuing a degree in teaching or church work; preference given to graduates of Altoona High School. Applications are available in the church office. Deadline to apply is July 1.

One \$850 Dietrick & Donna Schmidt Scholarship is available to any member of Bethlehem who is studying ministry at the college or post-secondary level. For more information, talk to Pastor Tim. Application deadline is July 15.

~ COMMUNION POLICY ~

At Bethlehem, we believe that the Lord's Supper is more than a remembrance and more than a ritual. We believe that Jesus Christ Himself is truly present, and that this meal strengthens our relationship with Him and with each other.

If you believe that God loves you, that He gave His only Son, Jesus, to die for you, that through Jesus' death and resurrection your sins are forgiven, and that the body and blood of Jesus are truly present in the bread and wine in a supernatural way, then we welcome you to join us as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

If you have not been instructed in the Lutheran faith, if you doubt any of those statements above, or if you have a confession different than the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet you desire to receive this sacrament, we encourage you to speak with the pastor.

**Gluten-free wafers and nonalcoholic wine** are available for the Lord's Supper. Simply let the pastor or elder know if you would like to receive them.

**IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK WE LIFT UP:** Lisa Sedahl; Amy Farnham; Laura Garbisch; Lesley Kentgen; Sharon Stelter; Mike Theiste; Janet Viellieux; Kendra Drake; Becca Roth; Stacy Oberholtzer; Mike Juedes; Judy Meznarich (Arlene Christ's daughter); Barb Erickson; Adam & Amanda Buchholtz (Linda LaPine's daughter), who were married Saturday; and our members and regular guests with ongoing health concerns: Ken Anderson, Barb DesForge, Barb Hermann, and Bev Noggle.

*For additional prayers for the Bethlehem family, see the May newsletter.*

*If you or a member you know of has been hospitalized or moved to a care facility please notify the church office so we can share their whereabouts with the church family.*

**THANK YOU TO ALL OUR WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS!**

	<u>Today</u>		<u>Next Sun., May 19, 2024</u>	
	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>	<u>8:30 AM</u>	<u>10:45 AM</u>
ELDER:	n/a	n/a	Jeff Gilles	Randy Schamberger
USHER:	Brad Bucki	Rick Risler	TBD	Mike Smith
ACOLYTE:	Matthew Bucki	Evan Risler	Jazzy Moore	Tevin Simpson
GREETERS:	Cheri Meyer	Elizabeth Demaree	LeAnne Hohman	Gib & Donna Ganther
READER(S):	Jennie Childs	Elizabeth Demaree	Linda Anderson	Mike Smith
TECH:	Jordans	Jordans	Alex Wollmer	Alex Wollmer
MUSIC:	Jocelyn Prust	Jocelyn Prust	COLLECTive Choir	COLLECTive Choir
ALTAR GUILD:	n/a		Kegan & Anna Fassler	

FELLOWSHIP TREATS today are provided by Feed A Child Nyre You.

A signup sheet to serve at a future service can be found in the kitchen serving area. Talk to LeAnne Hohman if you'd like to supply treats but can't serve.

**Attendance Last Week at Bethlehem:**

Sunday, May 5, 2024 8:30 am - 71 | 10:45 am - 106

*Signing the Fellowship Register in your pew each time you attend a worship service and indicating if you receive the Lord's Supper helps us keep accurate records, and generate reports directly from our computer data base. Sign for every member of your family and pass the book to others near you who perhaps have not signed or can't easily reach a book.*

# The Kingdoms of Concern & Comfort

Jonah 4:5-11

## What Brings You Joy?

### Jonah's Joy: The Shade of a Plant

Then the LORD God provided a leafy plant and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the plant. *(Jonah 4:6)*

### God's Joy: The Salvation of a People

"Should I not have concern for the great city of Nineveh?" *(Jonah 4:11)*

## Our Joy: Concern or Comfort?

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others. *(Philippians 2:3-4)*

Pastor Tim Stein

715-832-9953

PastorTim@blcaltoona.org

**Jonah 4:5-11****The Old Testament Reading**

Jonah went out and sat down at a place east of the city. There he made himself a shelter, sat in its shade and waited to see what would happen to the city. Then the LORD God provided a vine and made it grow up over Jonah to give shade for his head to ease his discomfort, and Jonah was very happy about the vine. But at dawn the next day God provided a worm, which chewed the vine so that it withered. When the sun rose, God provided a scorching east wind, and the sun blazed on Jonah's head so that he grew faint. He wanted to die, and said, "It would be better for me to die than to live."

But God said to Jonah, "Do you have a right to be angry about the vine?"

"I do," he said. "I am angry enough to die."

But the LORD said, "You have been concerned about this vine, though you did not tend it or make it grow. It sprang up overnight and died overnight. But Nineveh has more than a hundred and twenty thousand people who cannot tell their right hand from their left, and many cattle as well. Should I not be concerned about that great city?"

**Philippians 2:3-11****The New Testament Reading  
(The Epistle)**

Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit, but in humility consider others better than yourselves. Each of you should look not only to your own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:

Who, being in very nature God,  
 did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,  
 but made himself nothing,  
 taking the very nature of a servant,  
 being made in human likeness.  
 And being found in appearance as a man,  
 he humbled himself  
 and became obedient to death—  
 even death on a cross!

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
 and gave him the name that is above every name,  
 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
 in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
 and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
 to the glory of God the Father.

**Luke 18:9-14****The Gospel Reading**

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everybody else, Jesus told this parable: "Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood up and prayed about himself: 'God, I thank you that I am not like other men—robbers, evildoers, adulterers—or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get.'

"But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, 'God, have mercy on me, a sinner.'

"I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."