



The Beacon

March 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2050 W 1100 N
Chesterton, IN 46304
219-926-5596
office@blcin.com

LENT & HOLY WEEK SERVICES

Ash Wednesday March 5, 2025 - 6:00 pm

Palm Sunday April 12, 2025 - 5:00 pm

Palm Sunday April 13, 2025 - 9:00 am

Maundy Thursday April 17, 2025 - 6:00 pm

Good Friday April 18, 2025 - 6:00 pm

The Cry of the Whole Congregation - No live stream on Good Friday

Holy Saturday April 19, 2025 - 5:00 pm

Holy Saturday Service will not be an Easter Vigil, it will be an Easter service on Saturday night

Easter Sunday April 20, 2025 - 9:00 am

If you want to help with any of the Lent services, especially Good Friday, please contact Sally Beaver.

MIDWEEK LENTEN SERIES



Midweek Lent services will be offered online. You will receive an email at noon each Wednesday during Lent with the full service. You can watch the service right then or at your convenience. A shorter, amended version of the service will be available on YouTube each Wednesday at 6:00 pm. The shorter version will not include the referenced film clips as our copyright license does not allow us to show the clips outside of our Bethlehem community in a public location like YouTube.

If you have not seen The Shack & would like to, please let Pastor know.



The shoe drive is off to a great start but we still need your help!

SHOE MUCH LOVE

1000 PAIRS DONATED
AS OF FEBRUARY 27, 2025

40% OF OUR TOTAL GOAL

Through April 2nd, you can help by...

SHARING THE INFORMATION

Tell your friends and neighbors about the shoe drive and our convenient drop off locations.

	<p>WHITE LOVE FUNERAL HOME 525 S 2nd St, Chesterton, IN</p>	 <p>At Church Office Doors</p>
	<p>EATON CHIROPRACTIC 8690 W Pals Rd, Michigan City, IN</p>	 <p>At Sanctuary Doors</p>
	<p>O'CONNOR MARTIAL ARTS 534 Broadway Ave, Chesterton, IN</p>	 <p>At Partnering Businesses</p>
	<p>REPURPOSE PLACE 102 Beverly Dr Chesterton, IN</p>	

DONATING YOUR TIME

Give us a little of your time to match up and bag pairs of shoes. You can do it alone or with friends anytime! If you want to help but can't make it when the office is open, let the office know & we can make arrangements for you.



BRINGING IN YOUR SHOES!



We can accept almost every kind of shoe - including cleats and sandals - as long as they are clean, dry, and fully intact.

GIVING opportunities

If you want to make a special donation for Lent or Easter, please consider giving to the Free Market ministry for the purchase of a shed. Storage space provided by a shed will allow us to accept donations throughout the year and expand this ministry.

Bethlehem Lutheran gifts picture books to our youngest members on Easter Sunday. If you would like to help cover the costs of the picture books, please mark your donation "picture books" and give it during the offering or through the office.

Donations for Free Market on May 17 will be accepted starting in April. We take anything that might find new life in a new home! As always, everything will be given away at no cost on 5/17.

May 13-16 we will be setting up for the May 17 Free Market. Please let the office know if you are interested in helping set up and watch for times and other details closer to the date. There are tasks for every level of physical ability!

You can drop candy and treats off in the office to fill the Easter baskets for Bethlehem's kids through April 17.

We will host a Red Cross Blood Drive on May 2nd. Visit redcrossblood.org or call 800-733-2767 to sign up to donate. Watch for volunteer opportunities closer to the date.

The Food Pantry item for March is hand soap.

January 2025	Income: \$ 22,906.73	Expenses: \$ 35,209.96
<i>Ending balances as of January 30, 2025</i>		
EJ Stock	\$ 100.00	from the sale of donated stock
Facilities Maintenance	\$ 27,041.05	to maintain & upgrade building & property
Leadership Fund	\$ 7,877.38	
Operating Account	\$ 16,543.07	pays bills from envelopes each week
Good Samaritan	\$ 2,132.97	used to help people in need or community outreach
Savings	\$ 119,256.97	
Youth Group	\$ 2,945.85	Earned by the youth
Certificate of Deposit	\$ 5,231.38	

If there are questions concerning finances, please contact Gary Cooke, Treasurer, at finance@blcin.com.

Bethlehem's Youth Activities

DRESSED

Too blessed to be stressed?

It's not so easy when you're pressed!

Trying to fit in with your peers can be really hard. What does God say about friends, pressure, & staying true to your beliefs? Find out at this month's SLAY meeting!

March 9 6:00 PM

**FAMILY FUN
NIGHT**



We'd feel **LUCKY** to have you at Family Fun Night!

March 16 6-7 PM

There will be no Family Fun Night in April. May's Family Fun Night will be on May 18.



All kids are invited to participate in a processional on Palm Sunday.



Is your child in first grade or older and do you believe they are ready for First Communion? Pastor will be offering First Communion class if there are children ready to participate. Please let the office know by April 1 if your child will be attending.



Blast Off Kids - Easter Song

Our Blast Off Kids will be singing & signing "Lord I Lift Your Name on High" on Easter Sunday! They will practice on Sundays during Blast Off Kids class. Feel free to ask them to practice at home, too!

Easter Candy Bar

ALL children will be invited to fill a basket with candy and treats after Easter Sunday worship.

Candy and small treats (coloring books, toys, games) will be accepted through April 17 in the church office.



**LIGHTS
CAMERA
ACTION**

Noise Sensitive Movie Night



April 5

5:30 PM



BREAKFASTS

at *Bethlehem*

March 30
&
April 20

3/30

There is no Saturday evening service on 3/29. Everyone is invited to worship on Sunday at 9:00 am & come to the breakfast potluck immediately after the service.

Watch for a sign up sheet with suggestions for dishes to share like juice, breakfast casseroles, fruit, yogurt and toppings, milk, and pastries. We will have coffee available. This is what council has decided to do when there are 5 Sundays in a month, have either a Saturday or Sunday service with a fellowship opportunity for the whole congregation to come together. Watch for a Saturday night service with a potluck supper in May!

4/20

Easter Sunday's continental breakfast will start at 8:00 am & continue after the 9:00 am worship service.

The sign up sheet will be available at the beginning of April. If you can't sign up to bring something to share, you can also sign up to help with set up & clean up.

Dear Bethlehem Church,

Thank you so much for your generous donation of all the hats, gloves, socks and scarves. It was the perfect time to share with students and families in need with the cold and snow we have been in. We appreciate your kindness and consideration!

Sincerely,

Chelsea Bramfeld
Student Support Services Coordinator



PRAYER LIST

SPECIAL REQUESTS

Carolyn Stegeman	Susan Zimnawoda	Gabriel Martinez	Cindy Wooden
Alex Deleon	Pauline Paugh	Kristy Kuder	StoryPoint Friends
Jesse Reichmeider	Thomas Tedesco	Bob Lee	Ann Mooney
Leah Scandling	Mike Gaulke	Tom N.	Marilynne Dilley
Retha Arora	Joshua O'Rourke	Kim Lindstedt	Kenneth Callaway
Priscilla Cowan	Linda Bixler	Mary Jordan	Santi Colloca
Larry	Sharon Skalku	Randy	Shelly Taylor
Nicole Harmon	Ruth Ann Tuttle	Marsha	Thomas Reichmeider
Jonathan Edborg	Flavia Laeder	Cheryl	Judy (Brooks) Stephens
Ignacio Cortez	Steve Sisson	Linda Evans	

HOMEBOUND

Kathy Dresbaugh
Margaret O'Rourke
Ronald & Belle Gustafson

WE MOURN

Roger Nelson

MILITARY SERVICE

Maj. Steven Hus	Alyssa Trinidad
Sgt. Kyle Lesar	Joseph Petrovich
Sgt. Nathan Long	Kendall Klaiber



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY
CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

January 13, 2025

The monthly meeting of the church council was called to order at 7:05 pm. Present were Pastor Ruth Popkin, Gary Cooke, Joe Kulavick, Kevin Lindstedt, Karen Andershock and Marlene Knapp. Guest was Evie Edborg. Ryan Thoma was excused.

Devotions were given by Pastor Popkin.

The minutes from the December 17th meeting were presented. Several corrections were made.

Gary Cooke motioned that the minutes be accepted with a second from Karen Andershock. Motion carried. Corrected minutes attached.

Pastor's report attached. Highlights include the following –

- Young families comprised 25% of the people present at the Christmas Eve service
- The new sanctuary computer is ready to install
- The Really Really Free Market has generated a great deal of interest in the community Church members have expressed excitement in helping with the project
- Blue Christmas service will be held on the Thursday before Christmas
- The weekends that are the 5th weekends of the month will be condensed to one service
- Lenten services will be held at 6:00 pm-this will include Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday

Gary Cooke reported that Bethlehem finished in the black for 2024. Financial reports are attached. Discussion was held on starting a furnace replacement fund. Research will be done on the cost of replacement.

Carla Coffman was appointed as Property Chairman.

The need to hire a contractor for snow plowing was discussed. After reviewing information provided by Kevin Lindstedt, it was decided to contract with Hutton's Home Solutions.

Information concerning a Shoe Drive was presented. It will run from February 1st for 60 days.

Shoe drop off points will be established at businesses. Shoes collected will be distributed to 16 developing nations. The money raised will be used to buy a shed that is needed to store donations for the Really Really Free Market. Gary Cooke motioned with a second from Marlene Knapp to enter into an agreement with the company. Motion carried. Karen Andershock volunteered to chair this project.

After talking with those present at Saturday night services, the screens will again be used.

After reviewing goals several items still need to be addressed.

Numerous events for the upcoming year were discussed -

- Noise Sensory Movie Nights
- Big Game Party
- Life Skills Classes for Neuro Divergent Children on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays
- Pop Warner Football Practices
- Really Really Free Market – May 17th
- Blood Drives
- Light the Way Program
- 5th Week End Services with Brunch, Potluck or Picnic
- Confirmation - October 26th
- Congregation Meeting – November 16th
- Really Really Free Market – November 22nd

Gary Cooke moved to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 pm. With a second from Joe Kulavick, the motion carried.

Next meeting is February 10, 2025. Marlene Knapp will provide devotions.

Respectfully submitted,

Marlene Knapp

March Worship Leadership Schedule

March 1-2	
Saturday Assisting	Sally Beaver
Saturday Reader	TBD
Saturday Usher	Joe Kulavick
Sunday Assisting	Kyle Cruz
Sunday Reader	Ryan Thoma
Sunday Usher	Don Gulbransen
Altar Guild	Bonnie Ricard
Greeter	Nancy & Roger Reitz

March 8-9	
Saturday Assisting	Jean Pass
Saturday Reader	TBD
Saturday Usher	Zach Van Wagner
Sunday Assisting	Audra Peterson
Sunday Reader	Reynold Wolter
Sunday Usher	Alli Menendez/Joe Kulavick
Altar Guild	Bonnie Ricard
Greeter	Mary Gulbransen

March 15-16	
Saturday Assisting	Sally Beaver
Saturday Reader	TBD
Saturday Usher	Bernard Flowers
Sunday Assisting	Judith Peters
Sunday Reader	Alex Popkin
Sunday Usher	Alli Menendez/Don Gulbransen
Altar Guild	Bonnie Ricard
Greeter	Evie Edborg

March 22-23	
Saturday Assisting	Jean Pass
Saturday Reader	TBD
Saturday Usher	Joe Kulavick
Sunday Assisting	Mara Huneryager
Sunday Reader	Nancy Reitz
Sunday Usher	Joe Kulavick
Altar Guild	Bonnie Ricard
Greeter	Karan Smith

March 29-30	
No Saturday Service	
Sunday Assisting	Sally Beaver
Sunday Reader	TBD
Sunday Usher	Don Gulbransen
Altar Guild	Bonnie Ricard
Greeter	Judy Guidish



March 2025



SUN

MON



TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

23	24	25	26	27	28	1
<p>6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>9:00 a - SPARK 11:00 a - Bible Study</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>11:30 a - Grief Group</p>		<p>Office Closed</p>	<p>5:00 p - Worship</p>
<p>2</p> <p>9:00 a - Worship 9:00 a - Blast Off Kids</p> <p>6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00 a - Private Rental</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>4</p> <p>9:00 a - SPARK 11:00 a - Bible Study 4:00 p - Worship Committee 5:30 p - Special Needs Parent Support</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>5</p> <p></p> <p>6:00 p - Ash Wednesday</p>	<p>6</p> <p>Pastor's Sabbath</p> <p>6:00 p - Private Rental</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>8</p> <p>9:00 a - Private Rental</p> <p>5:00 p - Worship</p>
<p>9</p> <p>9:00 a - Worship 9:00 a - Blast Off Kids 11:00 a - Confirmation</p> <p>6:00 p - Youth Group 6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>10</p> <p>7:00 p - Council Meeting</p>	<p>11</p> <p>9:00 a - SPARK 11:00 a - Bible Study</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>12</p> <p>11:30 a - Grief Group 12:00 p - Midweek Lent (online)</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:45 p - Lions Club 6:00 p - Private Rental</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>15</p> <p>5:00 p - Worship</p>
<p>16</p> <p>9:00 a - Worship 9:00 a - Blast Off Kids</p> <p>6:00 p - Family Fun Night</p> <p>6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00 a - Private Rental</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>18</p> <p>9:00 a - SPARK 11:00 a - Bible Study</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>11:30 a - StoryPoint 12:00 p - Midweek Lent (online)</p>	<p>20</p> <p>6:00 p - Private Rental</p>	<p>21</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>22</p> <p>5:00 p - Worship</p>
<p>23</p> <p>9:00 a - Worship No Blast Off Kids (Spring Break)</p> <p>6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>24</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>25</p> <p>11:00 a - Bible Study Last Tuesday of the month Bible Study lunch out</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>26</p> <p>12:00 p - Midweek Lent (online) 11:30 a - Grief Group</p>	<p>27</p> <p></p>	<p>28</p> <p>Office Closed</p>	<p>29</p> <p>10:00 a - Private Rental</p> <p>No Evening Worship</p>
<p>30</p> <p>9:00 - Worship No Blast Off Kids (Spring Break)</p> <p>10:00 a - Potluck Breakfast</p> <p>6:00 p - NA 8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>31</p> <p>10:00 a - Private Rental</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>1</p> <p>11:00 a - Bible Study</p> <p>8:00 p - AA</p>	<p>2</p> <p>12:00 p - Midweek Lent (online)</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p>5:30 p - Noise Sensitive Movie Night</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:00 p - Worship</p>

 PASTOR OUT FOR CONTINUING ED 