

SEPTUAGESIMA  
Sunday, February 12, 2023



**As for that in the good soil,  
they are those who, hearing the word,  
hold it fast in an honest and good heart,  
and bear fruit with patience.**

**Luke 8:15**

**BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

**6351 N. 200<sup>TH</sup> St.** *(Church address)*

**6409 N. 200<sup>TH</sup> St.** *(Parish Hall & Office address)*

**Altamont, IL 62411**

**Rev. Marcus Manley, Pastor**

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**“Let us go to Bethlehem...” Luke 2:15**

Bethlehem is Hebrew for “House of Bread,” the city of David, King of Israel, and the birthplace of the Lord Jesus. This land was originally planned to be a town called Bethlehem, and eventually our congregation adopted it as its name. You are invited to believe that Jesus is present here, at Bethlehem today according to His Word and to confess the very Bread of Life Jesus feeds us with in the Sacrament.



**Prayers**

**In our prayers we remember:**

Those in need of healing & comfort: *Howard “Butch” Bahrns, Mike Gaede, Bernice Graumenz, Arlin Grobengieser, Lillian Grobengieser, Luella Rubin, Steve Voelker, Gene Wharton, and Marcella Wolf.*

Those celebrating **Birthdays**: 02/14 – Sherri Strullmyer; 02/18 – Karen Stuemke  
**Anniversaries**: 02/14 - Gordon & Denice Stine (47), Harry & Sandra Braasch (47); 02/17 – Cody & Konnie Heiden (5)

*Prayers of comfort and peace for the family and friends of Pam (Berg) Kepley.*



**Church News**

**Trustee’s Report:**

Offering collected for **Home Purpose General Fund** on February 5: \$ 6,846

Zion Dual Parish for December 2022: \$1,981.44

*Weekly amount needed for unified budget.....\$ 7,400*

*Loose change in the offering plate has been designated for the LWML Mites.*

*Thrivent Choice Dollars designated for BLC steeple project: \$469*

Sunday School offering has been designated for our Radio Ministry.

Attendance: Sunday, 02/05/2023, 9:30am – 107

**Have Thrivent Choice Dollars?** – don’t forget to direct your Thrivent Choice Dollars to the organization of your choice by March 31<sup>st</sup>. If you would like to recommend Thrivent Choice Dollars to Bethlehem Lutheran, Altamont, IL, contact Thrivent Client Services 800-847-4836. Thank you!

*Today in Bible Class - Judges Ch. 3 Cont.*

- The enemies of Israel discussion
- Who is the first judge?
- How is he made a judge/what is given to him?
- How is he described?



**Homemade Pie** baked by Janice Heiden - One pie will be offered for silent bid auction every Sunday, during Bible Class – highest bidder will take home the pie – all proceeds will go towards the church steeple project.

Another reason to come to Bible Class!

**Matins moving to Wednesday - 9:30am at Bethlehem** - Whether you were unable to make it to church on Sunday, have the day off, or need to pray about something, Wed. Matins service is themed around a part of the Small Catechism.

<u>Date</u>	<u>Hymn</u>	<u>Catechism/Theme</u>	<u>Bible</u>
Feb. 15	787	7 <sup>th</sup> Commandment	Mk. 12:41-44 – The Widows Mites
Feb. 22	545	8 <sup>th</sup> Commandment	Acts 5:1-11 – Anania and Sapphira

**LBW - Braille/Large Print Ministry** – Bethlehem/Zion is scheduled to work at the Braille/Large Print Center at St. John’s Lutheran Church in Effingham on Tuesday, Feb. 14. Contact Mary Schmidt.

**Meals on Wheels calendar update** – Bethlehem is scheduled to deliver meals on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and Wed., Feb. 22. If you are able to help, contact Janice Heiden.

**Ash Wednesday Worship Service at Bethlehem – Imposition of Ashes – February 22 at 7:00pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.**

❖ **Youth Group will be hosting a soup supper** prior to Ash Wednesday worship service on Feb. 22, starting at 5:30. Free-will donation, proceeds to help fund the youth to attend the Higher Things Conference, July 18th-21st in Carbondale Il.

**ENTRANCE CANOPY – DOORS** - Work has begun on the "overhang canopy" for the front doors. After the canopy is completed the doors, which are replicas of the original doors, of the church will be installed. They are being built by RDM woodworkers of Altamont. This was approved by the Voters early last year and the doors/canopy project is being funded by a member donor. Jason Koester is the carpenter in charge of this project.

**CHURCH STEEPLE** - A report regarding the church steeple was shared at the Voters’ Meeting on 01/22. A company was hired to examine the condition of the shingles, flashing etc. of the bell tower and steeple using a camera mounted on a drone. (photos on display in the narthex) The steeple and bell tower are leaking in multiple places. Jeremy Ruffner used a lift to attempt to caulk/seal the worst places as a temporary fix. Jeremy indicated it was quite difficult to address the situation but it was done the best that can be done at this time. One concern is that the two pipe organ chambers are located directly under where water has been coming in. A temporary fix has been attempted to prevent water from coming into the pipe chambers. Our pipe organ is under warranty unless we have water damage, then the warranty is void

A steeple committee (Jeremy Ruffner, Eric Grobengieser, Lucas Kroening and Dean Manuel) was formed to seek ways and means to restore this historic part of our church edifice. A planning meeting will be held in the near future for all congregation members who wish to attend. This will be a big project and with the Lord’s blessing our congregation will accomplish it.

As our congregation works together to restore this historic landmark, we see the cross of Christ above us all on the spire. We remember the hymn, "Lift High The Cross, the Love of Christ Proclaim!"

 **District & Synod News, Regional Items & Acknowledgments** 

**CID LLL District Convention** – March 4, 2023 – Redeemer Lutheran in Peoria, IL. More information on the flyer in the narthex.

## Lutherans for Life - "BLESSED FOR LIFE" – MARCH FOR LIFE

**New Location:** Springfield; **New Day:** Tuesday, March 21, 2023. **Same Mission:** Save Midwestern lives by marching for life in the public square. **Trip:** A bus will leave Immanuel North Parking Lot at **8AM** and return approx. 4-5PM. No charge for the bus; bring a sack lunch.

**BUS IS FULL! You can still drive yourself and meet us there! Plan to attend by meeting us at a 10:30 AM service at Trinity, Springfield by CID President Mohr.**

The **Altamont National Honor Society is having a blood drive** on Wednesday, February 22 from 8:15 am- 2:00pm in the Altamont High School gym.

**ALIS 29<sup>th</sup> Annual PTL Dinner Auction** – The annual ALIS PTL dinner auction will be held on March 11th at the Carriage House Event Center. Doors will open at 4:30 with the silent auction and meal available from 4:30-6:00pm. The Live Auction will begin at 6:30pm with DJ entertainment to follow. RSVP with payment to ALIS office by March 3rd. For more information contact Jennifer Milleville 217-821-1898, Robin Elam 618-204-0397, or Shelbi Willenborg 618-322-0011. *RSVP and donation slip forms are located in the narthex.*



Donation box is located in the narthex. Monetary donations and checks, payable to Altamont Ministerial Alliance Food Pantry, are also accepted, please place in the "Church Inbox".

*Items currently in need at the Food Pantry: Crackers-all kinds, Cereal-hot and cold, Breakfast bars, Instant potatoes, Boxed Helpers*

*Tuesday, February 7, the food pantry had 11 participants.*

### **This Week at Bethlehem:**

**Tuesday, February 14** – BLC & Zion Braille/Lg Print @ St. John

**Wednesday, February 15**

- 9:30 a.m. – Matins – 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment
- 4:30 p.m. – Kinderchor practice
- 6:00 p.m. – Bible Bowl practice
- 7:00 p.m. – Youth Meeting @ Immanuel
- 7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

**Sunday, February 19 – Quinquagesima**

- 9:30 a.m. – Divine Service with Holy Communion
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. - Adult Bible Class & Youth Sunday School
- 8:00 a.m. – Pastor Manley's Radio program on KJ Country/102.3FM
- 5:00 p.m. – Sunday morning worship service TV broadcast Ch.81  
(Recording of today's worship service is also available on our YouTube channel - link via our church website)

**TO THE GLORY OF GOD & THE SALVATION OF MAN**