

Fourth Sunday of Easter

April 30, 2023



SO ALSO YOU HAVE SORROW NOW,
BUT I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN AND
YOUR HEARTS WILL REJOICE, AND
**NO ONE WILL TAKE YOUR
JOY FROM YOU."**

JOHN 16:22

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
6409 N. 200TH St. 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, Linda Crain, Bernice Graumenz, Arlin & Lillian Grobengieser, Dennis Guffey, Zoe Hoehler, Marybeth Potts (Patti Wolff’s mother), Luella Rubin, Debra Sloan-Shirley (aunt of Alysia Wills), Steve Voelker, and Gene Wharton.*

Those celebrating Birthdays this week (04/30 – 05/06): 05/03 – Jessica Spour, Sue Borcharding; 05/06 – Brady Jahraus, Max Moore

Church News

Trustee’s Report:

Offering collected for <u>Home Purpose General Fund</u> on 04/23/2023.....	\$ 4,777
<u>Weekly amount needed for unified budget:</u>	\$ 7,400
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Donations to Steeple Fund: old windows.....	\$ 1,400
Hilma Berg life insurance benefit.....	\$ 21,095
Steeple Fund balance as of 04/25/2023	\$ 35,553

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

Sunday School offering has been designated for our Radio Ministry.

Attendance: Sunday, 04/23, 9:30am – 92

- Today in Bible Class – Judges 9:22-57 Cont. Abimelech's Downfall*
- What happens to those who usurp or disrespect earthly authorities?
 - What does Abimelech sow in Shechem?
 - How does Abimelech die?

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.

Matins - Wednesdays - 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, join us on Wednesday mornings for our Matins worship service.

Date	Hymn	Psalm	Text
<i>05/03 – No Matins – Pastor Conference in Effingham</i>			
05/10 – 1 st Article	914	Ps. 104:1-18	John 1:1-15
05/17 – 1 st Article	578	Ps. 104:19-35	Proverbs 8:22-36
05/24 – Christ’s Priestly Office	583	Ps. 110: 2-7 ant. 1	Hebrews 1
05/31 – Christ’s Priestly Office	624	Ps. 40	Hebrews 9

Part-time Bethlehem Church & Parish Hall Custodian position available starting May 1

Bethlehem Church & Parish Hall custodian is responsible for keeping the church sanctuary and parish hall clean & tidy between worship services and various church events. If you or someone you know are interested in this position please contact Trustee Eric Grobengieser or Trustee Jeremy Ruffner.

- ❖ A Special Voters' Assembly Meeting is scheduled for May 7, following the worship service, to discuss the position.
- ❖ The Church Trustees are also asking for any volunteers who would like to help clean the church & parish hall during the interim hiring period.
- ❖ *Thank you to Lorene Schultz for her many years of service to the church as custodian.*

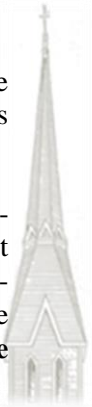
BLC will be recognizing our 2023 graduates in May. If you are graduating this year or have graduated this year from grade school, high school, college, vocational or other, please contact Pastor or the church office.

Prayer Cards- CID office and Life Coordinator Mr. David Ward have produced Prayer Cards for Wednesday's Child. These cards are intended for you to take and pray each Wednesday for God's gift of life and protection of the helpless against danger. You may also take more to give to friends and neighbors. Prayer cards are in the narthex.

ENTRANCE CANOPY – DOORS – The arrival of the siding for the canopy is delayed until mid-May. This project was approved by the voters and is funded by a member donor.

Steeple Project - The voter approved contract with Inspired Heights to re-shingle the steeple has been signed and down payment was sent this past week. Tentatively work could begin this fall. The 2nd phase is to re-shingle the entire church roof. The voters approved \$100,000 for the project. Donations for this project should be designated “**Steeple Project**”.

*May the Lord Bless this endeavor as our church continues to
“Lift High the Cross”.*



Save the Date:

Bethlehem's VBS - Zoomerang
Sunday-Thursday, June 11-15, 6-8pm.

Please mark your calendars and speak with Jennifer Berg if you'd like to help.



ALIS positions available - ALIS will soon be interviewing for an assistant cook position for the 2023-2024 school year, and a part-time summer janitor for the summer of 2023. Job descriptions available in the church narthex. For more information and to apply contact ALIS. Please submit completed applications to Robi Flach at robiflach@alistrockets.com.

Bells In Motion, an advanced, auditioned community handbell ensemble, based in Springfield, IL, will be on tour in June. They will be making their final stop at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Altamont on Sunday, June 11th. They have an exciting line up planned. If you like jazz, there will be something for you. If you like classics from the 50's, 60s, 70s, and 80s, there will be something for you. If you like Broadway, there will be something for you too. This family friendly concert has music for everyone. So mark your calendar and tell all your friends. You won't want to miss this! Sunday, June 11th, at 4:00 pm, 203 E. Division Street, Altamont, in the upper Parish Hall. Immanuel mixed choir director, Chris, rings with this ensemble. A free-will offering will be taken for Bells in Motion.



Donation box for non-perishable items 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".

Since the kids will soon be out of school, the pantry could use some kid friendly foods that they can grab and eat with little preparation.

- Items in need: Pudding cups/mixes, Fruit cups, Toilet paper, Toothpaste

This Week at Bethlehem:

Wednesday, May 3

- *No Matins*
- 4:30 p.m. - Kinderchor practice
- 7:00 p.m. - Choir Practice

Friday, May 5

- 6:30-7:30am - Private Confession

Sunday, May 7 - Fifth Sunday of Easter

- 9:30 a.m. - Divine Service with Holy Communion
- 10:45-11:00 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)