

SEPTUAGESIMA
Sunday, February 05, 2023



The Last
shall be First
and the
First
Last

Matthew 20:16

BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

6351 N. 200TH St. (Church address)

6409 N. 200TH 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, Pam Berg-Kepley, Mike Gaede, Bernice Graumenz, Arlin Grobengieser, Lillian Grobengieser, Luella Rubin, Steve Voelker, Gene Wharton, and Marcella Wolf.*

Those celebrating Birthdays: (02/05-02/11): 02/05 – Kevin Heiden; 02/08 – Heather Webb; 02/09 – Marcus Benning; 02/10 – Kerigan Phillips, Mike Wolff
Cody & Maria Voelker were blessed with the birth on a son, Elmer Charles, on Thursday, February 2, 2023. Our prayers of joy and gratitude are with them as they celebrate this blessing.

Church News

Trustee’s Report:

Offering collected for Home Purpose General Fund on January 29: \$ 5,417
Weekly amount needed for unified budget.....\$ 7,400
Donations designated for steeple - \$5,000

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, 01/29/2023, 9:30am – 91

Today in Bible Class - Judges Ch. 3 Cont.

- Why did the Lord send judges?
- What goes hand-in-hand with Israel's idolatry?
- Who are the nations of Canaan?



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. 08		6 th Commandment	
Feb. 15		7 th Commandment	
Feb. 22		8 th Commandment	

Church Ushers are needed to serve every worship service: helping set up for the service, assisting with offering and communion, welcoming & assisting parishioners. To serve as an usher once or twice a month, or if you have questions, please contact Steve Flood.

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.

It is noted that the bells, bell tower and steeple were added to the 1867 church in 1892. The steeple was last re-shingled in 1975.

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!"

Lutherans for Life - "BLESSED FOR LIFE"

Thank you to for supporting the Bethlehem Church Baby Shower for the Family Life Center.

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.*

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

Benefit for Pastor Heimgartner today at Salem Lutheran Church, Salem, IL, on 11:30-2:00pm. Chili, Potato Soup, Hot Dogs, & Desserts. Free will donation with proceeds going towards medical and living expenses for Pastor (double leg amputee) and his family. Donations may also be mailed to Salem Lutheran Church, 1401 Hawthorne Road, Salem, IL 62881.

St. Paul Blue Point Pancake & Sausage Supper – today, February 5, serving begins 4 PM, dine in and carry out.

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 29th 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, January 31st, the food pantry had 26 participants.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Monday, February 6 – 12:00pm – Elders’ Meeting

Wednesday, February 8

- 9:30 a.m. – Matins – 6th Commandment
- 4:30 p.m. – Kinderchor practice
- 6:00 p.m. – Bible Bowl Practice
- 7:00 p.m. – Choir practice

Sunday, February 12 – **Sexagesima**

- 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