

INVOCABIT – THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT
March 09, 2025



“You shall worship the Lord your God
and him only shall you serve.”

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

Lent reminds us that the Lord has redeemed His people. That's why we come to church. Jesus redeems His people by His payment on the cross. We receive that redemption in His church. God wants to redeem all people. If you'd like to learn more about God's redemption or take Holy Communion please speak with Pastor Manley. God's people are encouraged to always repent and when needed go to private confession (next private confession April 3rd, 6pm). Let us live in our Lord's redemption.

Prayers

In our prayers we remember:

Those in need of healing & comfort:

Lucille Beccue- LCC	Pastor Heimgartner	Judy Stuemke – LCC
Karly Brummer - luekemia	Florence Leppin – cancer	Steve Voelker
Heather Davis - cancer	Todd Luedtke - hospice	Mildred Wolf – LCC
Bernice Graumenz - LCC	Wanda Phillips	Catherine Zumwalt – cancer
Lillian Grobengieser	Nancy Schroeder - recovery	
Janice Heiden – cancer	Shirley Siddens – LCC	

Birthdays this week (03/09-03/15): 03/13 – Donna Parker, Jeremy Ruffner;
03/14 – Cody Heiden

Church News


Trustee's Report:

Weekly amount needed for unified budget (General Fund)	\$ 7,400
Offering collected for <u>Home Purpose General Fund</u> on 03/02/2025	\$ 5,043

Loose change in the offering plate is designated for LWML Mites for Missions



Attendance: Sunday, 03/02, 9:30am – 103 Ash Wednesday, 03/05, 7:00 p.m. – 82

**Bible Class: Zechariah 11 -- Sold Out Flock of Israel**

- What is God's strange work versus his proper work?
- Why would God allow false shepherds over his flock?
- What does God call his proper shepherding of His flock?
- What is significant about 30 pieces of silver?
- What do the Jews believe and who is shepherding them today?

Special Congregational Meeting/Voters' Assembly TODAY – Sun., Mar. 9,
following the worship service – re: steeple

Bethlehem Church Directory – We are planning on distributing an updated church directory this year. The church will be providing family photo sessions to be taken by Sara Moran Photography in a studio setup in the church parish hall on Sat., Sun. & Mon., March 15, 16 & 17 – 10 minute sessions, no sitting fee, with option to order additional pictures through Sara. Photography session schedule located in the narthex – Sign up today! *Please note, if you have recently had your family photos taken and do not wish to participate in the photo sessions, you may submit a digital photo (indoor studio photo) to the office.* We are creating the directory in house and printing at a local printing company. Questions or to schedule photography session: contact Andy Dahnke, phone or text 618-335-1175.



Decorate the church this Easter with flowers. You are welcome to place orders for **Easter flowers** in memory of a loved one or to mark a special occasion. Lilies: \$25, Tulips and Hyacinths: \$22.50. Please submit orders with payment to Bethlehem Church. Order forms/envelopes are in the narthex by the bulletins. All orders are due by March 16th, please place in the basket in the narthex. Contact Jane Laatsch.

2025 LENT THEME: Christian Questions with Their Answers

Is Confirmation Questioning really all that necessary? Yes! 1 Corinthians 11:28, "Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup." God instructs Christians to prepare one's heart and mind before they receive the Lord's Supper, every time. For this reason, Martin Luther wrote his "Christian Questions with Their Answers" for those who intend to go to the Sacrament. The examination that our youth undergo is just the first. You're not done with questioning when you're confirmed. You're just beginning. And with those questions, you also have the answers that strengthen faith and worthy reception of our Lord's true body and blood for the forgiveness of our sins. Join us this Lenten Season:



Wed., March 12 – Midweek Lent 1 – 7:00pm Vespers @ ZLC

Wed., March 19 – Midweek Lent 2 – 7:00pm Vespers @ BLC

Wed., March 26 – Midweek Lent 3 – 7:00pm Vespers @ ZLC

Wed., April 02 – Midweek Lent 4 – 7:00pm Vespers @ BLC

Wed., April 09 – Midweek Lent 5 – 7:00pm Vespers @ ZLC

Holy Week: Sun., April 13 – Palm Sunday – Confirmation Sunday – 9:30am DSIII

Thr., April 17 – Maundy Thursday – 7:00pm @ ZLC

Fri., April 18 – Good Friday – 7:00pm Tenebrae @ BLC

Sun., April 20 – Easter Sunrise Service – 6:30am DSIII

Sun., April 20 – Easter Festival – 9:30am DSIII

→ Auction ends tomorrow - Notice of Hilma Berg Estate Farmland Auction:

40 acres (50% share Bethlehem) Auctions by Schackmann: www.schackmann.com

- online only bidding, 01/27 – 03/10. For more information contact Eric Grobengieser.

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, March 11th. Contact Mary Schmidt.

❖❖❖❖ District & Synod News, Community Items & Acknowledgments ❖❖❖❖

You are invited to the **2nd Annual Zion Pancake and Sausage Breakfast** at Altamont Lutheran School Gym, 7 S Edwards St, Altamont, on Sunday, March 16, 2025. Serving is 9:30AM to 1:00PM. Menu: Pancakes, sausage, scrambled eggs, potatoes and drinks for a free-will donation. A bake sale will be held. Proceeds from the benefits will be divided into thirds to: ALIS Chrome Books, Lutheran Care Center and Zion Lutheran Church.

Faith Lutheran Church, Shumway - Installation of Rev. Jordan Peiser, Sunday, March 16th, 3pm.

ALIS KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION will be held on Tuesday, March 18 from 6-6:45pm. Please bring a copy of your child's certified birth certificate. RSVP school office by emailing alisoffice2@gmail.com or call 618-483-6428.

Pro-Life March Altamont area Lutherans for Life will sponsor a free bus to the Illinois March for Life on March 25th at Springfield. The bus will leave the back parking lot of Immanuel Lutheran Church at 7:30AM. Bring a sack lunch or food will be available at Trinity Lutheran Church for a small fee. Sign up at Immanuel at 618-483-6395 to reserve a spot. The bus will return to the parking lot at Immanuel by 5:30 PM.



Join us for the 2025 Martin+Katie Conference at University Lutheran Church in Champaign, IL on Saturday, March 29, 2025. At this free conference, grow as Christian men and women, meet new friends, get to know each other, and have fun. The conference is open to ages 18–30. Married or single are welcome. Registration is required, as capacity is limited. Please register no later than Friday, March 21st. Info and registration are available at <http://martinpluskatie.org>.



Donation box for non-perishable items for the Altamont Food Pantry is located in the narthex. Monetary donations, checks payable to Altamont Ministerial Alliance (AMA) Food Pantry, are also accepted and may be placed in the "Church Office" box in the narthex.

The Food Pantry had 39 participants this past Tuesday. In addition to the Food Pantry, the AMA, provides other financial support to those in need in our community. This support comes in the form of motel vouchers, gas vouchers, food vouchers, and payment on utilities. All made possible with your generous donations. Your continued support and donations are greatly appreciated.

This Week at Bethlehem:

Tuesday, March 11

- 6:30 p.m. – Adult Catechism Instruction
- 7:00 p.m. – Youth Meeting

Wednesday, March 12

- **9:30 a.m. – Matins**
- 3:30 p.m. – Kinderchor
- **7:00 p.m. – Midweek Lent 1 Vespers at Zion**
- Choir – following worship service

Thursday, March 13

- 7:00 p.m. – Ladies' Aid – LWML Meeting

Sunday, March 16

- **9:30 a.m. – Divine Service w/ Holy Communion**
 - 10:45-11:20 a.m. – Bible Study & Youth Sunday School
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- 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