

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March/April 2018

Glen Arbor, Michigan

Monthly Meditation



This year's Gospel lessons are taken from Mark's pithy Gospel meaning that they are short and to the point. Mark's Gospel presents the Savior to us as a slave or servant. In Mark, we find more of the human nature of the God-Man presented. He

leaves out the genealogy and the flowery language of Matthew and Luke. Yet, Jesus is presented to us in his love and service (providing more details than the other evangelists) and he portrays the Savior-Slave's faithfulness, eager determination, and his saving service rendered to all sinners.

800 years earlier, the "Fifth Evangelist," Isaiah, prophesied about the Messiah coming as the Suffering Servant in Isaiah 42:1-4, 6-7; 49:5-7; 50:4-7; 52:13—53:12. This month, we are again humbled to watch our Savior take a servant's place by washing his disciples' feet, by taking on the suffering and fiery wrath of God's anger that should have been ours laid on him, and suffering for the sins of the entire human race – not just a select few. Numbered among them, you can find your name, your sin, and your punishment paid for "with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot" (1 Pet. 1:19).

After the Lord Jesus accomplished the atonement for the sins of humanity, Jesus spoke from the cross for the sixth time and proclaimed, "It is finished" – "Love's redeeming work is done!" Jesus descends to hell and proclaims this victory over sin, death, and the devil in 1 Pet. 3:18-19.

On the "first day of week," Jesus rises from the dead and makes our resurrection a reality!

"he is risen! alleluia!"



PALM SUNDAY

March 25th begins Holy Week – a week which "wholly belongs to the Savior." Bethlehem observes Palm Sunday with the use of the traditional readings and does not use the Passion readings that are used by many churches on this Sunday.



Good Friday Service



Good Friday Services will be held on March 30 beginning at 7PM. It will be a Tenebrae Service in which we focus our meditation on

Jesus' Seven Last Words from the cross. This somber service of repentance and reflection will let us sing with the hymnist, "Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain."

This is a service of darkness as we contemplate the darkness of the first Good Friday.

EASTER SUNDAY

"Jesus Christ is Risen, Today," is our message of hope and joy! Join us for this joyous festival of music, worship and praise at 9:30 AM as we once again venture to the Empty Tomb.





Please join us for Easter Brunch and the Annual Easter Egg Hunt following the Easter Service! No one should leave hungry!

Going to the Hospital? If you're going to the hospital or find yourself admitted, Pastor Dan (941-8428) would love to visit and pray with you during this challenging time.



Blessings of the Heart



It certainly was a "sweet day" on February 11th! Twenty-two dozen cookies were lovingly decorated by

"Bethlehem's Bakery Bunch" for the needy and many local shut ins. We hope the sweet treats brought some love and sweetness to those who are



challenged by some difficult times. Please remember the special recipients in your prayers and in your actions.

Did you know?



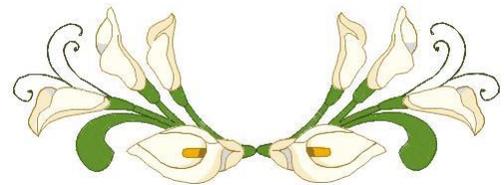
Please invite someone to church this Easter!

St. Patrick's Day Euchre Event



Watch the bulletin for details on the annual Corned Beef and Cabbage Dinner to be held on March 15th. Even if you join us just for dinner, everyone is invited

to join in the festivities. Remember on St. Patrick's Day, everyone's a "wee bit" Irish and that's no "wee bit" of the ol' "blarney!" RSVP to Cindy.



Easter Flower Sign Up Sheet

If you are interested in donating flowers for Easter, please see the sign-up sheet in the Fellowship Hall.

Flowers will again be \$10 per pot and there are several varieties to choose from as the bulb "bursting forth new life" is a symbol of our Lord's Resurrection.

The six white Easter Lilies for the Altar have already been donated. Other than the altar flowers, all donated plants may be taken home on Easter Sunday.



In the December issue of the Bethlehem Star, a fund-raising goal of \$26,000 was launched to replace some financial losses related to a well-intentioned investment. By God's grace, \$30,000 was raised to replenish these losses. It was such a blessing to receive a single check in the amount of \$26,000 from a former member couple. (Although authorization has been given by the donors for release of the names and it has been done at Voters, this publication appears online and for security reasons it will not be reproduced here.) The donors would like this to serve as an example for everyone to remember their church financially and keep a strong Lutheran presence in the area. To all who gave gifts thank you for remembering the Babe of Bethlehem by gifting his church. For those of you who were unable to assist, please know that your prayers were appreciated and they worked! Thanks be to God!



For the first time in many years, Bethlehem will observe the Rite of Christian Confirmation for four young adults on Sunday, April 15th.

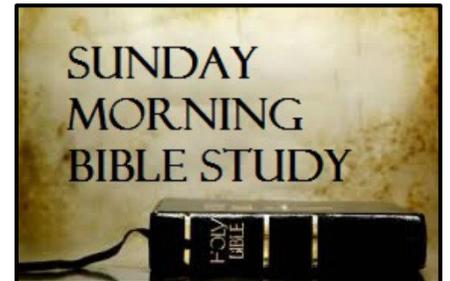
Emma and Mitch Griffith and Nora and Augie Pasche have completed two years study of Luther's Small Catechism and Holy Scripture and are ready to enter communicant membership by the power of the Holy Spirit who has led them to this important faith milestone in their lives.

To continue their Christian Education after their Confirmation, each confirmand will receive a copy of the *Concordia Study Bible* with footnotes explaining key verses and providing excellent background and insight into each book.

Please keep the Confirmands in your prayers as they enter into this next part of their faith journey begun by the Holy Spirit.

SUNDAY BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

Beginning this fall, Sunday Morning Bible Study returns following our Fellowship. With youth Confirmation Class completed for a while, Sunday Morning Bible Class will return in the fall.



CEF Grant Status

Although CEF has not yet officially made any final determinations, our grant request for \$1600 for the new ramp hand rail will be most likely be denied. Per CEF, our project is viewed as construction and not aesthetic such as landscaping, new signage, or interior upgrading.

When our landscaping project was then discussed with them, it was considered to be outside of the grant deadline.

Publication Change

Beginning with this issue, the Bethlehem Star will be released once every two months. Special editions may be released as important developments occur.



Landscaping Coming



Per the action of Voters, the majority of the former landscaping has been removed (with much thanks to Jim Kraatz). Jim has also spent a lot of time designing a new look for

our exterior. If you have not seen the plans, they are available in Fellowship Hall. If you remember, we voted to do the labor and members to donate the cost of materials.

In addition, Cherry Republic's remodeling has impacted our south lawn and Bob Sutherland has given his assurance that everything will be made right when the weather permits.

Landscaping and signage is so important to attracting people to come and check us out! This is a component in making our presence known in the community.

What a Pain!

Dr. Webb will be getting a new knee ... again! Even though it has only been a couple of years since his surgery, there was a structural failure in his replacement and he will be receiving another new knee on March 22nd. Please keep Dr. Webb in your prayers.



New Earset

A big "Thank You" to Chris Griffith for donating the new earset to replace the broken one. Over the years, the internal structure had become so brittle, it could no longer hold its shape. With technical assistance from Ken Schultz, we are back in the sound business! Thank you!



Easter Egg Hunt!

Donations of wrapped Easter candy that will fit into plastic eggs will be gladly received for our Easter Egg Hunt.



Ash Wednesday Supper

A big "Thank You" to our Sunday School Families for their delicious Chili Supper on Ash Wednesday.

