
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN NEWSLETTER

Pastor Sue Sinclair

APRIL 2026

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From the Pastor...

"Be my hands and feet"

During Lent we have been learning some new songs from the hymnal supplement book All Creation Sings. One was the song Touch That Soothes and Heals: See My Hands and Feet by Mary Louise Bringle.

Its refrain is: "See my hands and feet," said Jesus, love arisen from the grave.

"Be my hands and feet," said Jesus, "live as ones I died to save."

The verses each express physical ways that Christ calls us to represent him in and to the world:

1 Touch that soothes and heals the hurting,
hands that break a loaf of bread;
steps that walk beside the weary,
bearing burdens in their stead.

2 Feed the hungry, clothe the naked,
visit ones in need of care,
give the homeless warmth and shelter:
Christ will find a welcome there.

3 Love and serve without distinction
all earth's people, first and least.
Know within each act of kindness
hope and wholeness are increased.

4 Hands that beckon little children,
bind a wound, prepare a meal,
feet that rush to share good tidings,
Christ arisen, still reveal.

I recently heard comedian Taylor Tomlinson say that the goal of Christians is to be "dead with Daddy"--in other words, our goal is getting to heaven.

Though I have heard some Christians say similar things, getting to heaven isn't supposed to be our goal.

Salvation is a gift that Christ gave us on the cross. There is nothing that we can do to make that happen—Christ has already done that work, fulfilled that goal.

Instead, our goal as Christians is to share the love that God has given us. We are called to live in the costly grace of Christ.

This song lays out some of the opportunities we have to live our lives as the hands and feet of Jesus. Too often, the business of our lives can overshadow that goal.

I invite you to join me in the goal to intentionally and regularly put this song into action every week of 2026. Let's make being an active part of God's kingdom an integral part of our lives until he lovingly calls us home—alive with Christ.

~ Pastor Sue





Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion 7 pm.

Good Friday worship 7 pm

Easter Sunday

Easter Breakfast 7:30-8:30 am

Easter Egg hunt 8:30 am

Easter Service 9 am

WORSHIP HELPERS THIS MONTH

Usher Team: Dan Moen

Reader: Jim Jensen

Altar Guild: Deb Van Roekel, Barb Pedersen



- 5- Jakson Blankespoor
- 12- Edison Kerkvliet
- 19- Brielle Blankespoor
- 26- Macy Brueggeman



CIRCLES

Fellowship Circle Thurs. April 9, 2:00 pm
Hostess: Dianne



SPECIAL DATES IN APRIL

- April 2 – Maundy Thursday
- April 3– Good Friday
- April 5 – Easter
- April 22 – Earth Day
- April 22 – Administrative Professionals Day



April 5 – Easter Sunday

April 12 – Dan & Pam Moen
Greg Hanson
Cindy Moen

April 19 – Gordon & Dianne Eiesland
Stan & Cynthia Haugland

April 26 – Doug & Glennie Wiltgen
Dan & Barb Pedersen



GREETERS SCHEDULE

- April 5 – Bryce Kock Family
- April 12 – Gordon & Dianne Eiesland
- April 19 – Fred & Juanita Dreesen
- April 26 – Dan & Barb Pedersen



Holly Rozeboom, Nathan Huyser, Bev Jackson, Grant & Trent Hoogendoorn, Matt, Kendra Michael, Austin, Erin Van Der Brink and Hazel Mae, Olson Family, McKenna Bouwman, Holly Horstman, Arnie Van Voorst, Arlyn Schreurs, Ed Baatz, Don Eiesland, Wayne Kollis, Michelle Johnson, Sarah Krupke, and all our Nursing Home residents (Joy, Marion, Bev B, Jean M. Connie, June)



The following couples will celebrate the gift of marriage this month by observing their wedding anniversaries:

- April 4 Scott & Pam Kock
- April 21 Stacie & Vincent Villanueva
- April 27 Blade & Emily Baatz (2019)



Help us fill the sanctuary with beautiful lilies! If you would like your lily in memory of someone please leave a note on Hannah's door or send an email. Please have your lily in the library by Saturday, April 4. Mark your lily clearly if you'd like to keep it or for someone at Fellowship Village.



CONFIRMATION SCHEDULE

Confirmation Classes Begin Again In April!

The 7-9th grade class will continue the session on the sacraments and the whole group 4-9th will gather again as well!

I'm looking forward to doing something special with the whole group for the last class of the year!



Sunday School Happenings

5th No Sunday School

19th Fellowship Village

26th Children sing in church

May 3 Last Day of Sunday School



- 1 Hallie Brueggeman, Whitley Hage
- 2 Brenda Folkens, Arlene Yunker
- 3 Brandon Ballinger, Adley Cartmill
- 4 Jeremy Kruse
- 6 Becky Roemen
- 7 Sophia Mattoon, Jamie Pedersen
- 8 Zaylie Norris
- 10 Brenda Baatz
- 11 Deb Kroger
- 12 Emily Baatz
- 16 Brett Blankespoor
- 18 Ken Dowdey
- 21 Barb Pedersen
- 23 Scott Kock, William Niemeyer,
Landon Pottebaum
- 24 Janelle Rentschler, Theo Kerkvliet
- 25 Memphis Van Dyke, Luke Vander
Sanden
- 29 Matt Van Dyke



In Holy Baptism our gracious heavenly Father liberated us from sin and death by joining us to the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. We celebrate the April baptismal anniversaries of the following members of Bethlehem Lutheran:

- | | |
|--------------------------|----------------------|
| Virginia Beynon – 3 | Deb Kleeman – 4 |
| Remmi Olson – 4 | Tracy Gayer – 5 |
| Rhonda Jensen – 8 | David Lantz – 8 |
| Dan Moen – 8 | Kim Gayer -11 |
| Cindy Moen-Nogueras – 11 | Isla Cartmill – 11 |
| River Kramer – 12 | Dean Hage – 12 |
| Becky Berentschot – 12 | Christy Bahnsen – 12 |
| Adley Cartmill – 13 | Tara Hoogendoorn-16 |
| Andrea Hoogendoorn – 17 | Macy Brueggeman-17 |
| Lowell Bosler – 18 | Don Weberg – 20 |
| Sheryl Phipps – 21 | Jon Bonjour – 21 |
| Susan Kroger – 26 | Opal Niemeyer – 29 |
| Sophia Niemeyer – 29 | Pam Moen – 29 |
| Vern Knutson – 29 | |



Christian Playdays

Christian Play Days spring session
 April 14 – May 21, Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9-11 am at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

Banquet west APRIL 22

Prepare the meal from 2:00-5:00pm

Serve 5:15-8:00pm

**Sign up is on the window.

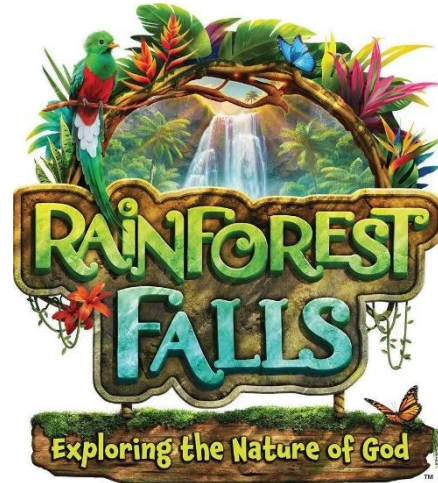


The Western Iowa Synod Assembly

scheduled for April 17-18 and will be held in Sergeant Bluff at their community center. Please contact Pastor Sue if you are interested in participating in the assembly this year.



“Exploring The Nature of God”



VBS May 31 – June 3

- Preschool – 5th grade -

About 80 volunteers are needed to have these nights run smoothly. Do you enjoy watching kids grow and learn about Jesus? Sign up to be a crew leader, even a Jr. leader! 6th – 8th grade can be a crew leader.

** Make sure to register by May 9 to receive a t-shirt.

Thanks to the Methodist Church of Rock Rapids VBS is FREE this year!!



March 2026

Board of Lay

March 11, 2026

Members present: David Lantz, Kay Twedt, Jim Jensen, Dustin Hoogendoorn, Dave Phipps, Pastor Sue,

1. Reviewed the minutes of the February Board meeting – Minutes were approved
2. Pastor gave her monthly report.

- Pastor shared that David Daubert was conducting another Zoom seminar on March 12 at 7 PM.
 - Pastor contacted Cynthia/Endowment Committee for funds to purchase 60 ASC Hymnal Supplements (Blue). Pastor is waiting hear back from the committee on the amount of funds available.
 - Reported on Ash Wednesday. Communion was served to ~50 congregants.
 - Pastor reported Lenten Worship to date. Pastor is using the Misadventures of Mango and Pastor Ed for the Lenten services. Using a variety of songs
 - Jon & Gloria Bonjour will be Synod Assembly delegates April 17-18.
3. The board reviewed Holy week and Easter Sunday services.
- a. Palms branches ordered for Palm Sunday from Primrose Market in Rock Rapids. David offered to pick up and bring to church.
 - b. Maundy Thursday, April 2 (Communion) – 7 PM; Dustin will be the communion assistant
 - c. Good Friday Service, April 3 – 7 PM
 - d. Easter is **April 5, 2026 – Breakfast at 7:30-8:30 AM and worship service at 9:00 AM**
 - Pastor will publish the Easter Sunday Schedule in the bulletins and newsletter since this is a change from last year.
 - Easter egg hunt at 8:30.
 - Pastor is going to contact high school youth to help with the Easter Service. Pastor will contact board members if help is needed to fill in Communion assistant for the Easter Service.
 - Tracy is organizing the Brass Choir for Easter Service.
 - David will reach out to the April Usher team to usher at the Easter Service.
 - Discussed if Board members need to bring egg bakes for the Easter Sunrise Breakfast.

4. Jim will purchase 10 Easter Lilies for Easter Service and then the board will distribute to residents at Fellowship Village and shut ins.
5. Kay reviewed Alter Guild items.
 - a. Discussed wine for communion. (Boxed or Bottle)
 - b. Kay purchased Rods for all the church banners
 - c. Kay shared that she talked to Jerry Van Voorst about upgrading or modify the storage closet for the banners.
6. Jim is the reader and communion assistant for April. Jim will recognize Andrea Hoogendoorn for her service as Worship accompanist and music
7. The meeting closed with Prayer from Pastor.

Board of Education

March 11, 2026

Attendance: DJ, Megan, Michelle, Glennie, Becky, Deb

Old Business:

Lenton Supper: amounts for next year

20# taco meat and 5-6 pans of bars

Sour cream - Glennie (3, 16 oz)

Onion - Megan (1 large)

Cheese - DJ (4-5 8 oz packets)

Salsa - 2 jars - Michelle and 1 big jar of Taco Sauce

Gauc - Megan

Lettuce - Michelle

Doritos - DJ (38 small ones)

Tomato - Deb (6 large)

Soft shells - Glennie (40 soft shells)

Olives - Deb (3 large cans)

Hard shells - Becky (3 packs)

Sing April 19th at Fellowship

Pastor Sue will do Summer Bible Study- book of the Bible

Board of Evangelism

Board of Evangelism Minutes: March 11, 2026

1. We updated the Lent Meal for next year.
2. Senior Sunday coffee is planned for May 3, 2026.

3. Photo Drop will be assembled for use on Palm Sunday & Easter Sunday.
4. Manna Market hygiene products will be delivered.

Board of Stewardship

Members present: Cynthia Haugland, Nancy Halma, Steve Ahrendt, Dan Bruggeman, Tom Rentschler

Old business: Purchased new dual wireless microphone system for Pastor and one additional wireless microphone. \$141 was from the Audio Visual Fund and roughly \$1500 from the interest fund to pay for the microphones.

Board of Stewardship serves Lenten Services on March 18. Menu: BBQs, hot dogs, chili dogs, potato chips, bars. Need 9 lbs of hamburger for BBQs. 3 pans of bars.

Pastor Sue discussed a donation for the Synod assembly meeting. Bethlehem's past donations have ranged from \$300-400.



BLC MISSION STATEMENT:

"To welcome all people to seek and serve God as members of the Body of Christ."

BLC VISION STATEMENT:

We will be:

A welcoming Church:

Opening our doors and hearts to all who enter.

A Church that seeks after the heart of God:

Maturing in faith.

Trusting His word.

Living God's love.

A Church that is committed to one another:

Through fellowship.

Through love and service.

Through grace and forgiveness.

A Church that ministers to the world around us.

A Church that brings its gifts back to God:

Through good stewardship of time, talent, and treasures.

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