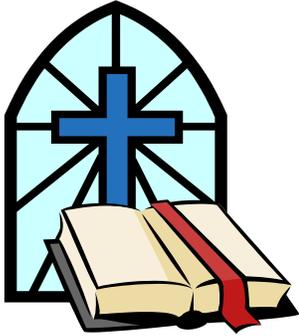


THE BETHLEHEM BEACON



March 2018

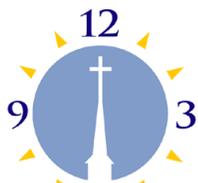
Worship Schedule

Traditional

5:30pm Saturdays
9:00am Sundays

10:15am Sunday
School

*Please set your
clocks ahead the
night of March
10th*



CHURCH
OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

*Catch up on the
latest news from
the Indiana-
Kentucky Synod at
www.iksynod.org*

Spring is on its way! That means the property committee's focus must include the exterior parts of the church and church grounds. What a blessing to have a beautiful spot to "plant" our church. We were very fortunate to be able to acquire these twenty acres. The Lord has given us an area where we can see the wonders of His creation. I remember watching Larry Anderson on his old tractor preparing the ground for seed. Many folks have had a role in keeping our landscaping looking as wonderfully as it does. Thanks to everyone.

When we left 135 to begin our new adventure, we had faith and hope that we could attain our goals. We are stilling working on the mortgage, but we have never missed a payment, even when the economy was not very good. We now owe less than \$90,000! Hopefully we can finish the payments this year. What a blessing that would be. We have also been blessed with the large number of people who are willing to help keep our building in good shape. As chairman of the property committee, it seems like there is always something breaking, leaking, stopped up or just not working correctly. Again the Lord has provided many hands to assist in keeping things going. There always seem to be people who are ready to help when one of these "crises" arises.

Without the help of many folks (some on the property committee and some who don't think they are on the property committee) we seem to be able to pull together and get the problems solved.

Thanks to all who help – we couldn't do it without each and every one of you.

I thank God for this spring in our "new" facility and folks who are ready to get it looking nice and keep all things functioning.

God is good-all the time.

Carla Coffman, Property Chairman



It is Mission Trip time again! In conjunction with Augustana Lutheran in Hobart, Bethlehem will be going on a Mission Trip to Detroit this summer. Not only are the LOL (League of Outstanding Lutherans) going, but other members of the congregation are invited as well. The cost per person is \$150.00 for the week. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please write Sponsorship on your check. You may sponsor a particular child if you wish, or just donate to the cause. If unable to provide full sponsorship, any amount will be welcome. Envelopes are available from the ushers for your use.

If you have questions, please contact Pastor Erik for more information.



As a congregation, we are blessed with many talented members. Our quilters group has been very productive over the last two years. They have produced a number of beautiful quilts, four of which are hanging in the social hall. These quilts are available to the congregation for a donation. The minimum donation to the church is \$50.00. You are free to make your donation higher if you choose. Please take the time to view the quilts in the next few weeks. If you are interested in purchasing a quilt, please mark your check with “quilt”. For further information, please contact Marilynne Dilley at 219-464-8181.



The Church Constitution and By-laws are going to be reviewed, evaluated and changed starting January 2018 and individuals are needed to assist in this process.

Please contact Ron Ludwig at (219)926-2874, Pastor Grayvold (906)364-1035 or leave your information in the church office.

Thank you,

**Ron Ludwig
Committee Chairperson**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pastor & Council Members

The Pastor and Church Council will be happy to assist you with any questions or issues that may arise. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

Erik Grayvold, Pastor

pastorchestertonblc@gmail.com
219-926-5596 Church Office
906-364-1035 Cell

Lois Fancher - President

lois.fancher@frontier.com
219-926-2079

Becky Cole - Vice President

abccole97@yahoo.com
219-926-1938

Ron Ludwig - Secretary

dlanor503@yahoo.com
219-926-2874

Marlene Knapp - Treasurer

marlene.knapp@comcast.net
219-787-8115 or 219-241-0655

Ruth Ann Tuttle - Finance Committee

rgtuttle@comcast.net
219-926-1010

Amanda Rodriguez - Christian Education

ajrodriguez2@comcast.net
(219)929-7476

- Outreach Committee

Bea Beyer - Social Ministry Committee

beabeyer2@frontier.com
219-771-9977

Carla Coffman - Building/Grounds Committee

coffmandc@comcast.net
219-926-7990

Karan Smith - Worship Committee

karansmith2000@comcast.net
219-926-4324

- Stewardship Committee



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Employees

They will be happy to assist you with any questions or issues that may arise. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

Daniel Grayvold ~ Music Director

cantorchestertonblc@gmail.com
872-222-6867

Karen Andershock ~ Custodian

andershockj@yahoo.com
219-771-9297

Angie Russell ~ Secretary

chestertonblc@gmail.com
cmak062095@aol.com
417-840-1394



A note from Pastor Erik

In continuation from last month, I offer to all of you another reflection on my attendance at the Science and Faith conference at Luther Seminary.

The first lecture of the conference was entitled “Talking Einstein to Youth Ministry: Faith, Science, and the Faith Formation of Young People.” Interestingly, the lecture had very little to do with Youth Formation, but rather the hot button of topic of talking about science within the church. In fact, the only thing in the lecture about youth formation was an interesting piece of research that the

speaker, the Dr. Andrew Root, did with his institution partner. His research was interviewing youth groups across many denominations across all theological and political spectrums along with their parents and elders or council members. The central question of the research was this: is faith and science a rivalry?

The results of the research offered some interesting insights on congregational perspectives regarding the topic of science and faith. In a general sense, younger generations do not see science and faith in conflict, but older generations do. On top of this, younger generations perceive that older generations make this topic into a bigger conflict than it really is. In digging through this research, Dr. Root and his team decided to discern why this may be the case, and they concluded that it has to do with how we define different terms.

He argued that we need to break down how we define “science.” He stated that when younger generations hear “science,” they hear what should be specifically seen as “scientific theories and findings”. This is nothing more than the process of science that seeks to collect data and make conclusions on the functions of the world to satisfy the curiosity of humanity. For the most part, no generation would be completely against this form of science especially in regards to the technological end of scientific process that has brought us computers and cell phones or to a medical end which has brought us medicines and vaccines that promote the health and well being of society. When the older generations use the term “science” they mean the ever growing mindset of a particular group of people who built themselves a religion out of science. This religion of science is one that proclaims all religious individuals are “immature” and that in order to mature, one must have a scientific mind.

(2)

What becomes scripture, so to speak, for this “religion” is science itself—all authority on the function of the universe is found within scientific thought. This category of “science” would be problematic for any generation of the church because this category of science would put anybody who is the church, leader or lay, into a category of ignorance and barbarianism.

As we can see, these two different definitions of “science” have different aims. In the first definition the aim is simply to satisfy human curiosity and to benefit society. The other definition has an aim of writing of religion as a piece of history that society needs to let go. The next question is then what is the aim of religion or faith itself. At its broadest definition, faith and religion has an aim of identifying the source of salvation, how the salvation works, and what we are being saved from. Thus its aim is the discernment of the transcendent God who is ultimately unknowable beyond what is revealed to us in faith in Jesus Christ (at least speaking from a Christian standpoint.) This puts faith into conflict with the latter definition of science because this definition and those fall into that category of “science” write off faith as frivolous and that the only “knowable” things in this universe is anything that can be measured or discerned through concrete evidence. However, the former definition of science not only can work alongside faith, it also can enhance each other.

The former definition of science encourages a childlike curiosity perspective towards the universe. Many scientists who have won major achievements in scientific research see their work as almost a form of play—to find “cool stuff” in our universe and to find out how it works. In this way, faith and science have very similar tendencies as Jesus encourages us to have a faith like a child, not one that is unquestioning, but one that understands that the world is filled with wonder, ripe for exploration of God’s work in and through creation. Ultimately, I think this is one of the greatest lessons that science can give to religion: to remind us of the inborn curiosity given to us by the Creator is a good thing. God gave the commend in the garden of Eden to name all creatures thus giving us permission to enter the scientific process to categorize how the universe works and all that exists within it. Religion itself can also offer to scientific thought the need to know boundaries to make ethical decisions on scientific research. Science itself can go too far, and it has in the past. Christianity, grounded in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, can offer to science a framework in how and what to research that promotes the well-being of all in creation.

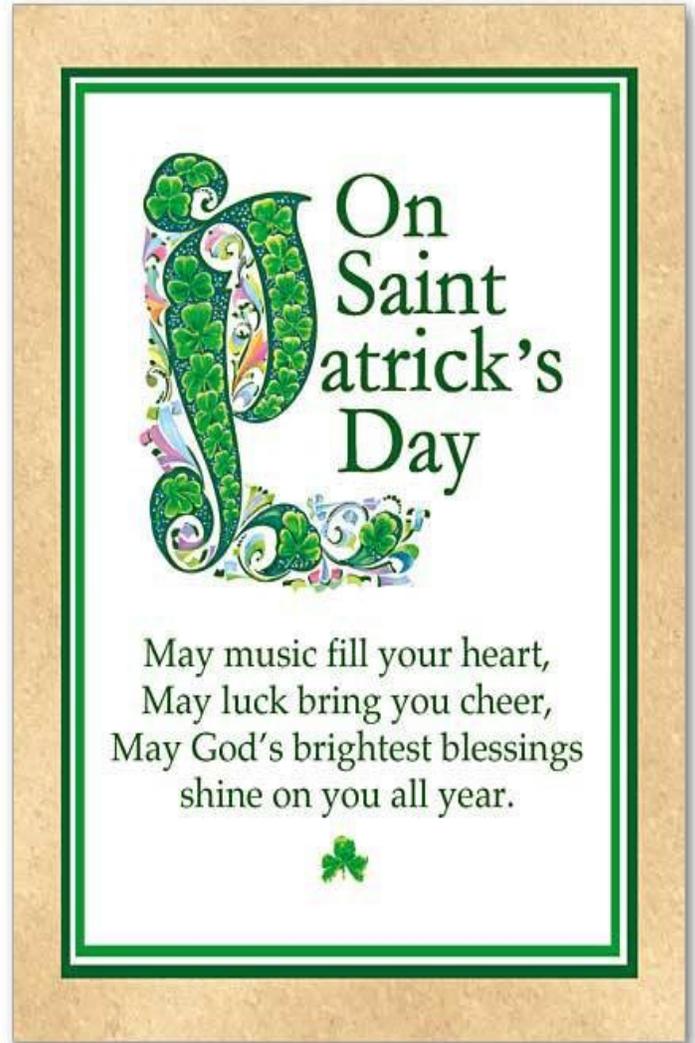
(3)

Dr. Root believes it is the right time to begin having conversations in our communities of faith around topics of science and to see science in what it truly is and not in the hostile way that some in the world have made for it. Science can and does have a place in our faith lives, and through it we can come to better understand all what God's creation has to offer.



MARCH 11th

MARCH 17th



**FIRST DAY
OF SPRING**

MARCH 20th

Happy Spring

GROWING IN SERVICE

How does Bethlehem Lutheran Church want to be God's heart, hands and voice? This is the primary question being asked in the discussions that the Stewardship Committee has begun having with the various active groups and committees of our church. These conversations will continue over the next month or so. What are we enthusiastic about in doing service to our "neighbors"?

That is a huge question and has many possible answers. Our committee will try to gather those answers and enthusiasm to help us find exciting and effective channels to fulfill our dreams of service. We want to both expand what we are already doing, and perhaps add new projects and directions.

Our congregation and its members have felt so much joy in what we do already. Who has not at some point smiled as they place their food pantry donations in the basket in the narthex? Our quilters experience such a thrill when a child being baptized receives one of their lovely quilts. Our youth were filled with a sense of reward as they labored really hard in the gardens out there in upstate New York last summer, and then turned around and made pasties a couple weeks ago to help fund their next mission trip. Shopping for the Angel Tree gifts, preparing holiday food baskets, serving on the altar guild, the council, singing in the choir or playing hand bells, helping keep our grounds beautiful and safe – service truly gladdens the soul!

Now as we look to grow in service, several suggested directions have begun to emerge already. We are seeing a strong desire to continue to encourage and support our youth in their growth in the faith. Also, we are hearing that the will to grow in service is strong in our congregation, and members are suggesting new ways to reach out, to meet the needs in our church and our community.

(2)

How will we do this? What are the gifts each member brings and how can they be best used?

Please think on these questions. If you are part of one of the groups being interviewed, please take one of the questionnaires being handed out, think, pray, fill it out and return it. Let your voice be heard in discussion.

If you are not part of a group, there are questionnaires in the narthex. Please grab one, work with it and return it to the labeled box. We want all voices to be heard.

Listen, listen, God is calling!! Help our church determine how we will answer.

The Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship committee will be going around doing interviews of different groups within the congregation using this survey. If you do not participate in any of the groups the committee will be coming to (we are visiting pretty much everyone, but we may still miss somebody). If you want to fill it out individually please either print and fill it out and bring it to the office or you can fill it out and send it electronically to the church.

Stewardship Survey

1. What do you see you is your job/responsibility/gifts you offer to the congregation/ community?
2. What do you see is a passion within our congregation that many would get behind?
3. What action in mission or service do you see the congregation developing in the future?
4. What needs to continue in the congregation?
5. Where do we need to do more work in the congregation?



There are two openings on the church council.

Stewardship and Outreach.

We meet the 2nd Tuesday at 6:00pm for about 1-2 hours.
We all work together well for the functions of the church.

Please give some prayerful thought to be on your church council
and get in touch with Pastor Erik or me.

Lois Fancher (219)926-2079

Property Committee Report

We have had requests from some parishioners for handrails to be installed on the steps leading to the altar. The hope is that this would make the altar area more accessible for those who have some balance problems.

In order to move forward we need some folks who would be interested in helping with this project.

If you are interest in joining this group, please call
Carla Coffman at 926-7990.



As a church family, Bethlehem members strive to be supportive of each other through prayer and acts of kindness. We must remember that all that we have is a gift from God. These gifts include not only each other, but our property. Please remember in your prayers our house of worship and contribute as you are able. Our mortgage principal balance now stands at **\$89,141.86**. In order to meet our financial obligations in the operating account, we require **\$16,000.00** per month. Our income for January was **\$15,664.91**.

The following accounts show the ending balances as of January 31st –

EJ Stock	\$ 110.00	- money from the sale of donated stock
EJ CDS	\$30,000.00	- money from SBA check
Grants	\$ 1,487.45	- money given for community outreach
Leadership Fund	\$ 8,101.27	
Mortgage Reduction	\$ 5,831.53	- money from envelopes that pay the mortgage
Operating Account	\$ 3,369.80	- money from envelopes each week that pay bills
Pastor's Fund	\$ 390.54	- money used to help people in need
Savings	\$ 38,964.94	
Youth Group	\$ 3,379.66	- money earned by the youth

If there are questions concerning finances, please contact Marlene Knapp, Treasurer at 787-8115 or marlene.knapp@comcast.net.

*And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three;
but the greatest of these is charity.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

HOUSEHOLDS BEING PRAYED FOR IN MARCH

March 3 & 4

Kulavick
Lindstedt

March 10 & 11

Campbell
Coffman
Prather

March 17 & 18

Collins
Murphy

March 24 & 25

Nidelhoff
Ricard

March 31 & April 1

Coffman
Fancher -
Keller



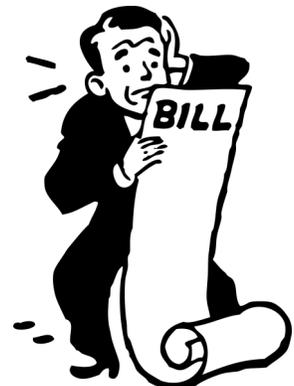
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH MONTHLY BILLS



During the months, questions are asked as to what things cost at Bethlehem. Below is a list that encompasses the usual expenses. Although all monies given to the Operating Account are used to pay the bills, if you would like to be responsible for any of the expenses listed below, please indicate that on your check.

PAYROLL	\$8,500.00
BENEVOLENCE	\$ 300.00
NIPSCO	\$ 823.00
STAFF BENEFITS	\$3,000.00
TELEPHONE	\$ 365.00
GARBAGE PICK-UP	\$ 139.00
ADT SECURITY	\$ 66.00
MONROE EXTERMINATORS	\$ 38.00
WATER /SEWER	\$ 160.00
OFFICE SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00
PAYROLL PREPARATION	\$ 94.00
OFFERING ENVELOPES	\$ 50.00
BUILDING MAINTENANCE (AVERAGE PER MONTH)	\$ 300.00
WORSHIP SUPPLIES	\$ 300.00
INSURANCE	\$ 500.00
CHRISTIAN EDUCATION SUPPLIES	<u>\$ 250.00</u>
	\$15,185.00

The above amounts do not include annual costs of \$3,200.00 for VBS, and \$1,000.00 for Synod Assembly.



March Worship Assistants

March 4

9:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Judith Peters
Greeter(s): Shirley Wallace
Reader: Evie Edborg
Head Acolyte: Gracie Perrine
Acolyte(s): Paige Hancock, Caitlynn Teets, and Shea Ogle
Counters: Richard and Rhonda Klaiber
Altar Flowers:

March 11

9:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Lois Fancher
Greeter(s): Brian & Julie Tegt
Reader: Reynold Wolter
Head Acolyte: Addison Cole
Acolyte(s): Jordan Huneryager, Camden Tegt, and Grayson Nagel
Counters: Al Gaston
Altar Flowers:

March 18

9:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Mark Peterson
Greeter(s): Karan Smith
Reader: Mara Huneryager
Head Acolyte: Abri Rodriguez
Acolyte(s): Ben Van Wagner, Ava Komp, and Wyatt Cole
Counters: Carla Coffman
Altar Flowers: Gail Ludwig

March 25

9:00 a.m.

Assisting Minister: Lois Fancher
Greeter(s): David & Bev Stegeman
Reader: Sara Potrzebowski
Head Acolyte: Coryn Rodriguez
Acolyte(s): Lily Figolah
Counters: Al Gaston
Altar Flowers: Dan & Carla Coffman

Assistant Minister Schedule for Saturday Service:

March 3: Susan Collins

March 10: Alyssa Cole

March 17: Jean Pass

March 24: Jean Pass

March 31: Jean Pass

**Serving this month from
the Altar Guild:
Debbie Kemp & Susan Hall**





HOLY WEEK WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Holy week services will be held at 6:30pm on

Thursday, March 29

Good Friday, March 30

Saturday March 31

**Easter Sunrise Service on
Sunday, April 1 ~ TBD**

March 29 (Maundy Thurs.) 6:30pm

Reader: Howard Peters

Assisting Minister: Judith Peters

Cantor: TBD

Acolyte(s): Confirmation Youth

March 30 (Good Friday) 6:30pm

Reader:

Assisting Minister: Alyssa Cole

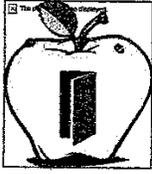
Acolyte: Confirmation Youth

March 31 (Easter Vigil) 6:30pm

Reader(s): Susan Collins, Evie Edborg, Gary Cooke

Assisting Minister: Jean Pass

Acolyte(s): Confirmation Youth



Open Door Adolescent Health Center

Michigan City High School
8466 W. Paks Road ♦ Michigan City, IN 46360
(219) 873-2082 Ext. 4545 FAX: (219) 873-2222

Vicki Overmyer FNP
Nurse Practitioner

Deborah Briggs, MSW
Director

January 27, 2018

Dear Thrivent Members,

Hello, my name is Vicki Overmyer. I am a Nurse Practitioner at Open Door Adolescent Health Center (ODAHC), and a Thrivent Member since 1962. I have been asking you for the past three years to consider designating part of your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Open Door Adolescent Health Center. ODAHC is a 501 (c) 3 not-for profit organization that is located in the Michigan City High School. ODAHC provides free medical and mental health services to students that are registered with our program.

ODAHC has approximately 700 students enrolled out of a student body of 1700 for the Michigan City High School. During the 2016-2017 school year ODAHC had 3763 medical and mental health encounters. ODAHC's goal is to keep students in the classroom so that they may succeed in school and life. For many of our students they have no other medical nor mental health providers. They also work jobs to help support their families in addition to going to school. They have told us that without ODAHC they would not have been able to get the health services that they need, nor would they have been able to graduate.

Through extremely generous Thrivent donations, ODAHC in 2016-2017 was able to partner with Phil's Pharmacy in providing \$700 worth of antibiotics, inhalers, ear and eye drops to more than 60 different students who could otherwise not afford these medications.

I want to thank all of those Thrivent members who have been gracious enough in the past for supporting us. I am also asking you to consider continuing to support us in the future. Thrivent Choice Dollars can be donated to as many organizations as you want but there is a \$5 minimum donation for each organization. You can designate your Choice Dollars either by calling 1-800-thrivent (847-4836) or go online to www.thrivent.com/thriventchoice. You will need your membership identification information. Choice Dollars expire on March 31 of each year.

Once again Thank you for considering to give your Thrivent Choice Dollars to Open Door Adolescent Health Center. If you have any questions please feel free to call me at 219-873-2082.

Yours in Christ,

Vicki Overmyer FNP
Vicki Overmyer FNP

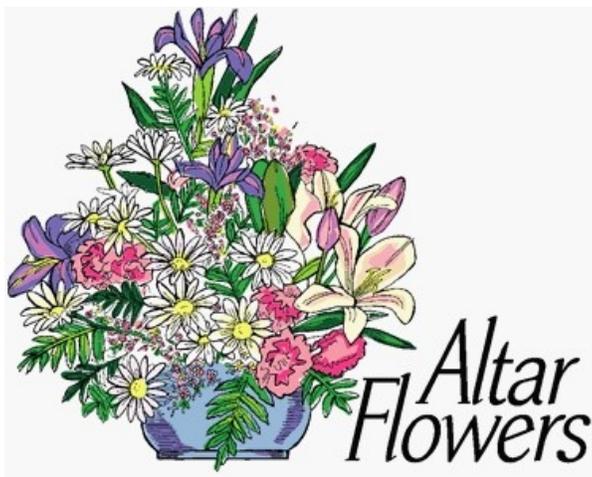


**ALL LADIES OF THE CONGREGATION ARE
INVITED TO A BRIDAL SHOWER FOR
PASTOR ERIK & ANGY
ON MARCH 18TH FROM 1-3PM ~
A LIGHT LUNCH AND CAKE WILL BE SERVED**

**PLEASE BRING A RECIPE ON AN INDEX CARD
TO SHARE**

**R.S.V.P. TO BECKY COLE
(219)405-6829**

***If you have already replied to the online evite
you don't need to RSVP again**



ALTAR FLOWERS ~ THE SIGN UP CHART IS POSTED ON THE BULLETIN BOARD OUTSIDE THE CHURCH OFFICE. THE COST IS \$30.00 CHECKS PAYABLE TO 'WELCA'

Thank you everyone that has been so supportive in bringing in weekly items for the food pantry.

For the month of March we are asking for:

March 3 & 4 ~ canned tuna

March 10 & 11 ~ box or bag cereal

March 17 & 18 ~ laundry detergent & dish soap

March 24 & 25 ~ toilet paper & paper towels

March 31 & April 1 ~ personal care items, example: deodorant, feminine hygiene products, shampoo, etc.. *they said they have plenty of toothpaste, toothbrushes and bath/bar soap right now

Can you be more creative than your neighbor? Let's try!

All item's must be non-perishable



All women in the parish are welcome to join us for bible study, fellowship & desserts.

Our March meeting is on Thursday March 15th at 1pm at the church.

We are looking for a new treasurer.

If interested please call
Bea Beyer (219)771-9977





- | | |
|----------|---|
| March 7 | 5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Lent Midweek Service |
| March 14 | 5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Lent Midweek Service |
| March 21 | 5:30pm Soup Supper
6:30pm Lent Midweek Service |

Group leaders will be contacting people to bring food items

March 7th - WELCA

March 14th - Bible Study groups

March 21—LOL & Confirmation

March Calendar

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						
				1 4:00p Stephen Ministry 5:00p Christian Ed	2	3 5:30p Worship
4 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 4:00p 12 Step 6:00p N.A. 8:00p A.A.	5 5:30p Girl Scouts 6:00p Bible Study ~ Omega  8:00p A.A.	6  11:00a Quilting 5:00p Worship / Music Committee 8:00p A.A.	7  10:00a Bible Study-Alpha 4:00p Choir 5:00p Hand Bell 5:30p Soup Supper 6:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lent Mid Week Service 7:30p Confirmation	8 5:00p Stewardship Committee 6:00p Girl Scouts	9	10 5:30p Worship
11 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday School  4:00p 12 Step 6:00p N.A. 8:00p A.A.	12 6:00p Bible Study Omega  8:00p A.A.	13  11:00a Quilting 5:30p Executive Meeting 6:00p Council Meeting 8:00p A.A.	14  10:00a Bible Study Alpha 4:00p Choir 5:00p Hand Bell 5:30p Soup Supper 6:30p Lent Mid Week Service 7:30p Confirmation	15 1:00p Welca 4:00p Stephen Ministry	16	17 5:30p Worship  St. Patrick's Day
18 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 4:00p 12 Step 6:00p N.A. 8:00p A.A.	19 5:30p Girl Scouts 6:00p Bible Study Omega  8:00p A.A.	20  11:00a Quilting  8:00p A.A.	21  10:00a Bible Study Alpha 4:00p Choir 5:00p Hand Bell 5:30p Soup Supper 6:00p Girl Scouts 6:30p Lent Mid Week Service 7:30p Confirmation	22 6:00p Girl Scouts	23	24 5:30p Worship
25  Palm Sunday 9:00a Worship 10:15a Sunday School 4:00p 12 Step 6:00p N.A. 8:00p A.A.	26 6:00p Bible Study Omega  8:00p A.A.	27  11:00a Quilting 	28  10:00a Bible Study Alpha 4:00p Choir 5:00p Hand bell 6:30p Confirmation	29 4:00p Stephen Ministry 6:30p Maundy Thursday Service	30  GOOD FRIDAY 6:30p Good Friday	31  6:30p Easter Vigil



Word Search



See how many of these newspaper related words you can find in the puzzle.
The words can be forward, backward or diagonal.

Created by Sue Lindlauf
Grand Forks Herald 2013

- | | | | |
|------------|-------------|-----------|----------------|
| 1. HOLIDAY | 5. GREEN | 9. CLOVER | 13. LEPRECHAUN |
| 2. SAINT | 6. SHAMROCK | 10. LUCK | 14. RAINBOW |
| 3. PATRICK | 7. FOUR | 11. POT | 15. MARCH |
| 4. IRISH | 8. LEAF | 12. GOLD | 16. SEVENTEEN |

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2050 W. 1100 N.
CHESTERTON, IN 46304-9598

Phone: (219) 926-5596

E-mail: chestertonblc@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm



Worship Schedule

5:30 pm Saturday—Traditional

9:30 am Sunday—Traditional



All are welcome!



Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Please leave your checkbook at home. Bethlehem Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving, as well as EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer), is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks per year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when travel, illness, or other circumstances may prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the earliest organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing, and disposal of paper checks. That is why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

We hope you will consider electronic giving. It is a simple, generous choice. Authorization forms are available from the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Knapp at [\(219\) 787-8115](tel:2197878115) or by e-mail at marlene.knapp@comcast.net.