

Weekly Connection

March 29 & 30, 2020

This Week at Bethlehem

Events and Worship Services Suspended

Check website for Updates

www.Bethlehemsaginaw.org

Recorded Worship for March 29 Available Sunday

ENCOUNTERS WITH JESUS

New Sermon Series

March 1 - April 12

No one can encounter Jesus and remain the same. During this season of Lent, we will look at various people whose lives were changed when they encountered Jesus.

- March. 1: Encounters with Jesus: Temptation, Matthew 4:1-4
- March. 8: Encounters with Jesus: Nicodemus, John 3:4-5
- March. 15: Encounters with Jesus: The Samaritan Woman, John 4:13-15
- March. 22: Encounters with Jesus: A Blind Man,

John 9:4-7

- March. 29: Encounters with Jesus: A Dead Man, John 11:25-26
- April 5: Encounters with Jesus: Who is Jesus?, John 12:13
- April 12: **Easter Sunday:** Witnesses of the Risen Lord, Act 10:39-42

Each week video worship service is available on the Bethlehem Lutheran homepage.

LAST WEEK

Worship 3 - 22

Attendance:143

Households

Offering: \$2,713

Electronic: \$2,542

Total: \$5,255

Weekly Need: \$12,537

You may mail your offering. You may like to sign up for electronic giving . Call the church office for more information on electronic giving.

Welcome to Bethlehem! We're glad you're here!

Join us for Church on Sunday March 29 at 9 and 10:30 am

Hello Members and Friends of Bethlehem:

During this time of the Coronavirus Pandemic, social distancing, and shelter in place nothing seems normal. What used to be routine and a part of our everyday life has for the time being been turned upside down. Things like going to work or school, going to the grocery store, gathering with our friends, and even going to church have changed.

One way that experts tell us to maintain a sense of normalcy during these abnormal times is to try and maintain as normal of a schedule as possible. So, we get out of bed at our regular time, when we work from home or do e-learning school we do so at a regular time. It is best to have consistent activity times and quiet times. The same applies for our spiritual lives.

On Sunday, I encourage you to get out of bed at your normal time, ok you can sleep in for 15 more minutes since you do not have to drive to church. Go ahead and do your normal Sunday morning get ready for church routines. (It is okay to sternly say, "If you don't hurry up and get ready, we will be late for church," to the slow-pokes in your family.) gather around the computer screen or your 70-inch TV and participate in worship. So, stand when asked, sing the songs or hymns joyously, pray, and as always listen intently to the sermon. ☐☐☐

Join us for worship Sunday at 9 and 10:30 am or evening Monday evening. Go to Bethlehem's web-site Bethlehemsaginaw.org Don't worry if you cannot make the normal time join us at any time during the coming week. The worship service will remain posted. God bless you until we see each other again.

Pastor Korte

COVID-19 Update:

Things have once again changed according to the latest Coronavirus stay at home guidelines by Gov. Whitmer. Out of love for our neighbor we will be following those guidelines. I would like to take a brief moment to explain what that means for Bethlehem.

1. As of Tuesday, March 24, 2020 our church office has been closed. The staff will be working remotely from home. You may reach them through email or phone.

Pastor Korte, mkorte@bethlehemsaginaw.org

Principal Frederick, nfrederick@bethlehemsaginaw.org

Alex Holcomb, aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org

Trevor Henry, thenry@bethlehemsaginaw.org

Emily Frederick, efrederick@bethlehemsaginaw.org

Paul Evans, pevans@bethlehemsaginaw.org

and Krystena Drayer, kdrayer@bethlehemsaginaw.org

2. We now will have to suspend our worship services through Easter, April 12. For many of us that is disappointing because we will NOT be able to observe Maundy Thursday or Good Friday and Celebrate Easter on April 12 together at our church sanctuary.

3. However, our staff is working to provide worship services for Sunday March 29, April 5, Holy Week and Easter online at our website <https://www.bethlehemsaginaw.org/>

4. Please also know that when the restrictions are lifted, we will have a joyous celebration of Easter together.

5. Your continued support of Bethlehem is appreciated. As our most of our operating expenses remain and we continue to pay our school teaching staff during this time. You may mail in your offering or electronically give on our website <https://www.bethlehemsaginaw.org/>

6. Continue to keep our government, medical workers, those afflicted by the virus, Bethlehem members and staff in your prayers.

7. Thank you for your patience and flexibility during these trying times. Continue to keep informed about changing events.

PRAYER FOCUS

HOSPITALIZED:

DO YOU NEED PRAYER TODAY? On Communion Sunday's at both services our Stephen's Ministers will be available to pray with you after you take communion. They are willing to help you bring your requests, worries, and thanksgivings to God during this time.

IN NEED OF PRAYER? The prayer chain is taking all calls thru Ronda Ehlert (989 781-0217. If no answer leave a message and name, number. I will call you back ASAP.

Anyone interested in the prayer chain please call me, we pray for healing, strength and blessing for those in need and their families if requested. Our Goal is simply "Power of Prayer." Thank you.

ANOTHER WAY TO PRAY

A Prayer Request form is now available on Bethlehem's web-site under contact button. Submitted prayer request forms are sent directly to the church. These requests will be prayed for daily for a week. Thank You.

CARING FOR OTHERS

PANTRY NEEDS are muffin mix, hamburger helper, scallop potatoes, rice, tuna fish, & peanut butter. Drop off any food collected to the office. Thank you for your support!

C2C VOLUNTEERS NEEDED We are in need of volunteers to help with our C2C children's ministry at 9:15am on Sundays. If interested please sign up in the Narthex or contact Tasha Mulder at tashamulder@hotmail.com

HELPING HANDS PROJECT For April iShare and Christian Life boards are Collecting "wrapped" candy for Easter baskets for the Underground Railroad. We will be making 60 baskets that will contain candy, Easter tracts and other religious items. Drop off any candy collected to the church office March 22—April 5. Thank you

MOPS NEEDS The Bethlehem MOPS/ MOMSNEXT/Teen MOPS group is looking for donations of desserts for our Monday night meetings. Any treat of any size would be greatly appreciated and enjoyed! If you are interested in helping support our group and treating our moms, please contact Sarah Laux 989-239-2497

Right to Life We at Saginaw County Right to Life are truly grateful for your participation in our recent Lifesaver Drive. Your dedication to the precious gift of life is very much appreciated. Through your support and those of others we are committed to the sanctity of life, we will continue to educate and influence our community and work toward the protection of all human life.

UNDERGROUND RAILROAD Thank you for your continued efforts in donations to helping the community of Saginaw's countless survivors.

AROUND BETHLEHEM

THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS Designate yours by March 31st

BETHLEHEM STARS April's meeting is cancelled in response to the members safety with the virus outbreak.

CEMETERY CLEAN UP will begin on March 28th. Any seasonal or damaged items will be removed and discarded. Please make sure that anything you want to keep is removed before the clean up starts.

TIPS FOR HELPING TO STOP THE SPREAD OF GERMS

1. Cover your cough 2. Avoid touching your eyes, nose & mouth. 3. Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces

SCHOOL NEWS

BUTTER BRAIDS SALE to raise money for new uniforms and hopefully new basketball rims They will be sold from March 9 - April 9th. Pick up/delivery date will be April 21 - Order forms must be mailed and received by April 9th

ANGEL SPONSORS We are seeking Angel Sponsors for the 19/20 school year. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Dr. Frederick at 755-1144 ext 212 or at nfrederick@bethlehemsaginaw.org

OPEN ENROLLMENT for all grades start March 2nd

GUIDE LEARNING BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Concordia Publishing House offers free devotions and Magazines for kids. <https://www.cph.org/t-bestill-home.aspx>

Friends of Bethlehem

TRI-CITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE at Horizons Conference Center in Saginaw scheduled for April 10, 2020 at 1 pm has been cancelled due to the coronavirus infection. If you donated for the service and would like your money refunded, contact Ron Berlin at 799-3995, or you could leave your donation with the committee for expenses incurred this year and to carry over for next year. You do not need to contact me if you want to leave your donation with the committee.

Ron Berlin

Tri-City Good Friday Committee Member

ENCOURAGING BIBLE VERSE

Isaiah 26:3-4

3 You will keep in perfect peace those whose minds are steadfast, because they trust in you.

4 Trust in the Lord forever, for the Lord, the Lord himself, is the Rock eternal

Jeremiah 29:11

¹¹ For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare^[a] and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.

Proverbs 3:5-6

⁵ Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own
understanding. ⁶ In all your ways acknowledge
him, and he will make straight your paths.

Psalms 121: 1 & 2

I lift up my eyes to the mountains—
where does my help come from?
2 My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of
heaven and earth.

Psalms 116: 1 & 2

I love the LORD, because he has heard
my voice and my pleas for mercy.
² Because he inclined his ear to me,
therefore I will call on him as long as I live.

Romans 8:39

No power in the sky above or the earth below
-indeed anything in all creation will ever be
able to separate us from the love of God in
Christ Jesus our Lord.

Philippians 4:8

whatever is true, whatever is honorable,
whatever is just, whatever is pure,
whatever is lovely..... if there is anything wor-
thy of praise think of these things.

Philippians 4:4

Rejoice in the Lord always. Again I will say,
rejoice!

Isaiah 41:13

¹³ For I, the LORD your God,
hold your right hand;
it is I who say to you, "Fear not,
I am the one who helps you."