

The Bethlehem Star

Empowered by Jesus to be His hands and feet, Bethlehem is a caring Community called to be His compassionate presence in this world and to build community by reaching out with the life-giving Word to those in our neighborhoods who are wearied and burdened by life's demands and changing Circumstances.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
201 E. Watauga Avenue
Johnson City, TN 37601
Rev. Steven Harmon, Pastor
Church: 423-926-5261

March 2020, Volume XX, No. 3

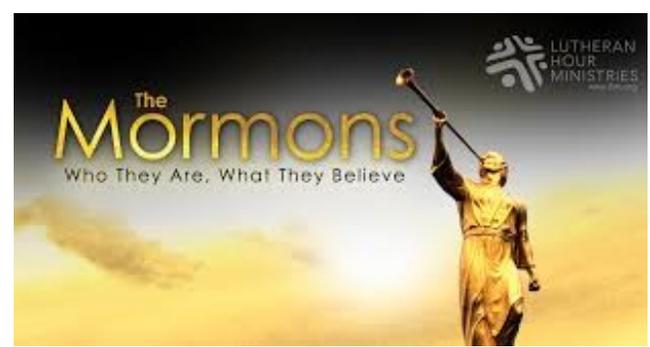
Reach Up, Reach In, Reach Out



Lenten Suppers

Beginning February 26, we will have Lenten suppers preceding our worship service. A different group in the church will sponsor these suppers and we ask that you sign up on the reservation sheet in the Fellowship Hall so the various groups will know how many to prepare for. These suppers will be very simple – soup, sandwiches, salads, etc. Come and enjoy fellowship time before the Lenten worship.

Each supper will begin at 6:00 p.m.



MORMON STUDY

Our third session of the Lutheran Hour Ministries study of The Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints (the Mormons) will take place in our Fellowship Hall on Saturday, March 7th at 9AM. This session will answer the question, "Is the Mormon Church a Christian Church?" There are a number of videos we'll look at to include a testimony from one LDS family member who led the transition from the Mormon church to Christianity. Come and join us. When you do, you'll have some answers for those young men who come knocking at your door to tell you about the Mormon Church.



Appalachian Service Project

Hard to believe that we're just entering Lent and yet we need to start preparing for our summer project in the community to make a home warmer, safer, and drier for a member of our community in need. This year, we'd like to involve more members of Bethlehem who may not be able to actually participate at the worksite support those who are there by providing lunch for the workers. This will be a great opportunity to see, first hand, how our Bethlehem volunteers are making a difference in our community. Our workers pay all their own fees so if you'd like to support them by making a donation to defray their costs, that's another great way to participate. If you'd like to volunteer or have any questions, please contact Larry Larson at 575-2291 or larsonll@aol.com.





Notes from the Pastor's Desk

We are Jesus' hands and feet.

Our Lenten journey began last week with Ash Wednesday. That day stands in stark contrast to the party atmosphere of Mardi Gras on the Tuesday before. The imposition of ashes reminds us of our mortality and our absolute need for God's saving work fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

God fashioned Adam from the dust of the ground. He breathed into him the breath of life and Adam became a living being. That was all God's work. It was all gift.

But Adam sinned. He disobeyed God and ate the forbidden fruit. As a result, the image of God was lost. And according to God's Word, Adam was supposed to die. That was the penalty for his disobedience.

As descendants of Adam, we are conceived under that curse. We are sinful by nature and the best that we can hope is to return to the dust from which we came.

And that would be our destiny. There is nothing we can do to change that. We would be separated from God and lost forever.

But God stepped in. Adam didn't die in the Garden because God sacrificed animals in his place. Blood was shed, but it wasn't Adam's. His nakedness – his sin – was covered (hidden) in the skins of those animals sacrificed in his place.

That sacrifice pointed forward to Jesus' death on the cross. He took our place under the Law. He fulfilled it by His perfect obedience. As the perfect Lamb of God, He then took our place under that curse of the Law and died the death that we deserve.

His blood is the ransom price that was paid to set us free – to rescue us from the chains of sin – and give us eternal life. We have been clothed in His righteous robes.

By the power of God's Word at work through the waters of Baptism, we have been united with Jesus in His death and life. In that union, we receive all the benefits of Jesus' saving work. We are forgiven. We are raised from death in sin to new life in Him.

This Lenten Season we will walk once again with Jesus as He brings to completion His saving work. May that journey bring us to a deeper understanding of our need and a greater appreciation for Jesus' saving work given to us.

God comes and invites us to join Him in His house and at His table on a regular basis. As we answer His invitation, here is the schedule of worship times this month. See you there!

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| March 1 . . . 1 st Sunday in Lent 8:00 am SERMON TEXT: Matthew 4:1-11 SERMON THEME: "Light in the Wilderness" LITURGY: Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion 10:45 am SERMON TEXT: Matthew 4:1-11 SERMON THEME: "Light in the Wilderness" LITURGY: Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion | March 11 . . . Lenten Vespers 7:00 pm SERMON TEXT: James 1:19-25 SERMON THEME: "It's All About Misunderstanding" LITURGY: Blended | 10:45 am SERMON TEXT: John 9:1-41 SERMON THEME: "Shining Christ in Dark Places" LITURGY: Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion |
| March 4 . . . Lenten Vespers 7:00 pm SERMON TEXT James 4:13-17 SERMON THEME: "It's All About Complacency" LITURGY: Blended | March 15 . . . 3 rd Sunday in Lent 8:00 am SERMON TEXT: John 4:5-30, 39-42 SERMON THEME: "Because God Said So" LITURGY: Divine Service 4 with Holy Communion 10:45 am SERMON TEXT: John 4:5-30, 39-42 SERMON THEME: "Because God Said So" LITURGY: Divine Service 4 with Holy Communion | March 25 . . . Lenten Vespers 7:00 pm SERMON TEXT: James 4:1-8 SERMON THEME: "It's All About the Company You Keep" LITURGY: Blended |
| March 8 . . . 2 nd Sunday in Lent 8:00 am SERMON TEXT: John 3:1-17 SERMON THEME: "Promises, Promises" LITURGY: Divine Service 3 with Holy Communion 10:45 am SERMON TEXT: John 3:1-17 SERMON THEME: "Promises, Promises" LITURGY: Divine Service 3 with Holy Communion | March 18 . . . Lenten Vespers 7:00 pm SERMON TEXT: James 1:2-12 SERMON THEME: "It's All About Distant Discipleship" LITURGY: Blended | March 29 . . . 5 th Sunday in Lent 8:00 am SERMON TEXT: John 11:1-53 SERMON THEME: "Resurrection Rewind" LITURGY: Divine Service 3 with Holy Communion 10:45 am SERMON TEXT: John 11:1-53 SERMON THEME: "Resurrection Rewind" LITURGY: Divine Service 3 with Holy Communion |
| March 22 . . . 4 th Sunday in Lent 8:00 am SERMON TEXT: John 9:1-41 SERMON THEME: "Shining Christ in Dark Places" LITURGY: Divine Service 1 with Holy Communion | | |

Sew Crazy



Sew Crazy continues with its participation in the Million Pillowcase Challenge for the month of March. This time around, the group will be making pillowcases to be donated to elderly ladies who are in a nursing home environment. Working with Sew Crazy for a second month is the non-profit group H.O.P.E. (Help Our Potential Evolve) who will be responsible for delivery of both sets (youth at risk and the elderly ladies) of pillowcases in May. The ladies pillowcases will also include handmade Mother's Day cards that are being crafted by the youth in H.O.P.E. At the February Sew Crazy meeting, members turned in 43 cat hammocks and 25 privacy curtains (for the cat cages). These items will be delivered to the Washington County Animal Shelter sometime in the very near future. Sew Crazy is free, open to all who sew or who would like to learn. Supplies are provided along with a few machines available for meeting use. Our March meeting is March 21 from 10am - 2pm and we would love to have you join us!

There is no cost to join us!
For additional information on the group:
<http://www.sew-crazy.org>.
We are also active on Facebook

Statistical Report for February

| Attendance | 8:00 a.m. | 10:45 a.m. | Offerings | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|--------------------|--------------|
| February 2 | 39 | 84 | General Fund | \$ 6,080.00 |
| | | | Shaneyfelt Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| | | | Seminary Fund | \$ 100.00 |
| | | | Youth Ministry | \$ 206.00 |
| February 9 | 50 | 66 | General Fund | \$ 5,078.00 |
| | | | Shaneyfelt Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| February 16 | 38 | 57 | General Fund | \$ 4332.00 |
| | | | Shaneyfelt Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| February 23 | 58 | 55 | General Fund | \$ 2,755.84 |
| | | | Shaneyfelt Mission | \$ 50.00 |
| | | | Melting Pot | \$ 50.00 |
| February 26 – Ash Wednesday | 63 | | General Fund | \$ 552.00 |
| Spending Guidelines approved for 2020 | | | | \$272,805.04 |
| Offerings needed each week in 2020 | | | | \$ 5,246.25 |



East Tennessee Zone Lutheran Women's Missionary League Christian Life Workshop

You are invited to attend the LWML Christian Life Workshop to be held Saturday, April, 4, 2020, at Faith Lutheran Church in Oak Ridge. All ladies are welcome – membership in LWML is not required. The day will begin with registration and coffee at 9:00 a.m. The program will begin at 9:30 a.m. Our focus will be on our mission as Christian servants under the theme "Mission: Possible!" based on Titus 3:4-8.

In addition, we will have an ingathering of items for the Oak Ridge elementary school Family Resource Center. Each LWML group will bring specific items which will then be used to assemble kits. Lunch will be provided by the ladies of Faith (a free will offering will be accepted). Please join us for a relaxing day of fun, fellowship and learning!

If you are interested, please contact Ann Larson or Susan Burkey before March 27th. Let's fill up the church van and have a great day!!



LENT



The Church office is open

Monday – Friday
9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Saturday:
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Susan is off on Thursdays
Pastor is off on Fridays
Voice mail and e-mails
are checked regularly.



Dr. Whaley and I are excited about the progress of our Bible study on the Apologetics with the youth during the Sunday school. We've had an average of 7 people attending the class. We will keep everyone informed on how the study is going with the youth in every newsletter. We are currently discussing who Jesus says that He was. We will continue to meet every Sunday in the youth room from 9:15-10:15am. This past month we served food to families through Family Promise on Friday, February 7th. It was a beautiful thing to watch our youth interact with the families that are part of the program. We love sharing God's love through this simple act of kindness. We were also able to share His love through prayer at the Medical Center with those who were in need of prayer. The individuals we prayed with were VERY appreciative that we came. Please read below for our upcoming events in March. Thanks again for your continued prayers and support.

Month of March at a glance:

- Sunday, March 1st Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15am
- Sunday, March 1st Youth meeting at the church at 6:30
- Sunday, March 8th Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15am
- Sunday, March 8th-15th Youth on Spring Break from School
- Sunday, March 15th Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15am
- Sunday, March 22nd Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15am
- Sunday, March 22nd Prayer walk at the JC Medical Center at 6:30
- Sunday, March 29th Sunday School Class from 9:15-10:15am
- Sunday, March 29th Youth Sunday at both services and Youth Meeting at 6:30pm

Serving This Month

| | 8:00 a.m. ELDER OF THE MONTH: Ted Wilson & Larry Larson USHERS | 10:45 a.m. ELDER OF THE MONTH: USHERS |
|------|--|--|
| 3/1 | Larry Larson Ann Larson Robert Woody | Frank deNobriga Dylan Treece Tim Treece |
| 3/8 | Robert Woody Ted Wilson Adam DeMello | John Port Bob Wohlford Ben Wohlford |
| 3/15 | Roy Knispel Tom Watson Adam DeMello | John Port Robb Whaley Silas Whaley |
| 3/22 | Ann Larson Roy Knispel Larry Larson | Lee Talbert Dylan Treece Tim Treece |
| 3/29 | Youth Communion: Larry Larson, Roy Knispel, Ann Larson | Youth Communion: Frank deNobriga, Bob Wohlford, Ben Wohlford |

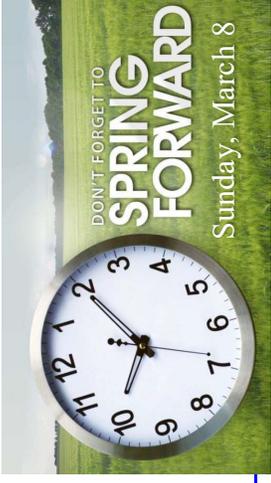
Altar Guild for March: Linda Tallmadge & Marilyn Abbott

Happy March Birthdays to



Wayne Boeker (7th),
Lee Talbert (8th),
Megan deNobriga &
Brittany Allen (9th),
James Wudtke &
Joshua Weishaar (12th),
Ann Larson (14th),
Deborah Talbert,
Eli Barton &
Dan Harmon (18th),
Stephanie Shaneyfelt &
Mia Whaley (21st),
Jerit Wohlford (22nd),
Hermann Kueck &
Judy Minor (24th),
Paula Baskin &
Betty Jeane Sotherland (26th),
Margit Loesel (28th)

MARCH



| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|---|--|---|---|--|--|---|
| <p>1 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Confirmation, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Youth Group, 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>2</p> | <p>3</p> | <p>4 Lenten Supper, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>5 Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>6  World Day of Prayer</p> | <p>7 Mormon Class, 9:00 a.m. Hand Bell Practice, 10:30 a.m.</p> |
| <p>8 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Confirmation, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>9 Hands Up Board, 4:00 p.m.</p> | <p>10 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>11 Lenten Supper, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m. Board of Directors meeting after the service</p> | <p>12 Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>13</p> | <p>14 Hand Bell Practice, 10:30 a.m.</p> |
| <p>15 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Confirmation 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>16 Hand Bells to be served, 9:00 a.m. Sabine Hill Dance Rehearsal, 6-8 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall</p> | <p>17 Circuit Meeting @ Concordia, 9:30 a.m.  St. Andrew's Day</p> | <p>18 Lenten Supper, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>19 Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>20  FIRST DAY OF SPRING</p> | <p>21 Sew Crazy, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. Hand Bell Practice, 10:30 a.m.</p> |
| <p>22 Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Confirmation Class, 9:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm Youth Group Prayer Walk, 6:30 p.m.</p> | <p>23</p> | <p>24 Ladies Bible Study, 10:00 a.m.</p> | <p>25 Lenten Supper, 6:00 p.m. Lenten Worship, 7:00 p.m.</p> | <p>26 Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>27 Devotions & Lunch at the Melting Pot, 11:00 a.m.</p> | <p>28 Men's Bible Study & Breakfast, 9:00 a.m. Hand Bell Practice, 10:30 a.m.</p> |
| <p>29 YOUTH SUNDAY Worship, 8:00 a.m. Bible Study, Sunday School, & Confirmation Class, 9L:15 a.m. Choir Practice, 10:20 a.m. Worship, 10:45 a.m. Ensemble Rehearsal 5:15pm</p> | <p>30</p> | <p>31</p> | | | | |

