



# Bethlehem Star

April 2017

## **This Marvelous Easter Season.**

Holy Week and Easter at Bethlehem and Cook County are a wonderful spiritual event. And I mean that in the singular. Not events, but event; as in a singular experience that continues to grow and unfold. Consider how we will begin...

**Palm Sunday, April 9 at 10:00 a.m.** Traditions have blended to create a church service that highlights the Triumphant Entrance with Palm branches into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11) and moves quickly to the Passion Story (Matthew 26:17-27:61) At our service we will hold our **Fifth Annual Passion Sunday Faith Walk**. This tradition began as a Children's event (Mukula Mass – Finnish for 'little sprout') which allowed all the young ones to get up and explore the "stations of the cross" surrounding the Sanctuary. Now all ages are welcome to participate in the long walk to Holy Communion.

**Maundy Thursday, April 11 at 6:30 p.m.** we remember the "night in which He was betrayed." (Matthew 26:17-30). It is the service when our third graders receive Holy Communion for the first time. And as a special treat they and their families as well as all members are welcome to a **potluck supper at 5:30 p.m. with a Passover Seder demonstration** to help us remember the connection to Passover (Matthew 26:17).

**Good Friday** will be a day rich in ritual and tradition as we begin with the dignified and holy service of Light and Darkness, our traditional **Tenebrae at 4:00 p.m.** With the reading of the Passion according to St. John, the ancient bidding prayer, the procession of the cross and finally the beautifully sung solemn reproaches, before we leave the darkened sanctuary in silence, this service sets the stage for the joy of Easter. Our Good Friday becomes ecumenical as we gather at the United Congregational Church to begin the annual **Cross Walk at 6:00 p.m.** as we carry the large cross through town stopping at each church to pray God's blessings on the ministries there and ending back at the UCC. Pastor Beth Benson will lead the **7:00 p.m. Community Good Friday Service** liturgy, and Rev. Mary Ellen Ashcroft will deliver the sermon.

**Easter Sunday will be glorious, our traditional Bethlehem Easter Festival.** We will have two services again this Easter. **The Easter Sunrise Service at 7:00 a.m.** begins our celebration of Christ's resurrection! We gather in the narthex to hear the first Word of the women witnessing the closing of the tomb where the story ended on Passion Sunday. We enter the sanctuary listening to the ancient Easter Chant "*Victimae Paschali laudes*" sung by Karina Roth, the shroud will be removed from the cross as the sanctuary lights brighten and the dim solemnity of the procession breaks into the Easter hymn, "Jesus Christ is Risen Today!" ELW 365. Once into celebration we hear the triumphant discovery the women made – the tomb is empty – He is risen, He is risen indeed! (Matthew 28:1-10) Alleluia! **The Easter Festival Service at 10:00 a.m.** with choir, bells, brass, and hundreds of worshippers is our grand celebration. This exuberant service will inspire all with the Easter hymns that proclaim the Gospel of Christ's arising. Holy Communion is offered at both services.

**Easter Breakfast from 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.** Enjoy the fellowship, a great breakfast, and support the Youth and Family Ministries of Bethlehem.

May you be richly blessed this marvelous Easter season. *Pastor Mark*

## It's time for a Spring Sing! Singing for Joy Church Choir Festival in May

Sunday, May 7 at 4:00 p.m. all of the congregations in Cook County will be invited to share the joy of singing praise to the Lord! These song festivals are a testimony of unity in faith, hope, and love in God. Join us for great music with all your friends, and a great time of sweet fellowship!



## Reformation Documentary Movie Night next month

Tuesday, May 9 at 7:00 p.m. A documentary film, made for public television, now a gift from the E.L.C.A. and Rick Steves in celebration of the 500<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation. Intriguing and informative, Rick Steves guides us through the tumultuous age of change. **Discussion guide accompanies the film.** We will have desserts and sharing time at 8:00 p.m.

Commenting on the documentary Rick Steves says: *“The year 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. In 1517, the German monk Martin Luther collected 95 points to stoke discussion about the corruption of the medieval Church. He then nailed his famous “95 Theses” to the door of his hometown church in Wittenberg.*

*With that small, symbolic act, Luther unleashed a storm of change, kicking off the most important religious event of the last millennium—the Protestant Reformation.*

*The Reformation—even if you’re not a Lutheran—is a very big deal. As 2017 approached, I wanted to contribute to our society’s appreciation of this event on its 500th anniversary. My mission: to produce an hour-long documentary that would be useful for Lutheran churches, other Protestant denominations, Roman Catholic churches, and also secular media.*

*There have been good movies about Martin Luther, but I planned a broader coverage—explaining the historic, economic, and social context of the Reformation, and how this tumultuous age helped Europe leave the Middle Ages and enter our Modern Age.”*

## Augsburg College Choir coming! Wednesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00p.m.

We will have a choir ensemble of 50 college students along with an orchestra of 30 more, faculty piano soloist, Jill Dawe, and director of Mark Sedio, well known composer. For their stay, they also hope that some homes will be able to provide accommodations for two or more of their students. Contact Laura in the office if you are able to host some students. 387-2227

**New Directory Coming:**  
Lifetouch to return for a 2017 Church Directory. The dates will be **Wednesday to Saturday, May 17 – 20, 2017.**



## Mission of the Month

The mission this month for April is the **Cook County Foodshelf.**

Please use the envelopes in the pews or send your gift in to the office.



## Fifth Annual Torsk Dinner

Fifth Annual Torsk Dinner has moved to Friday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at 6:00 p.m. The Men's Bible Study invite you to enjoy this superlative, outstanding, magnificent plate of deliciousness! It is the piece of cod that passes understanding! By joining a Thrivent Action team we will be maximizing the proceeds in order to continue our support of Mosper Orchamu, our MaaSae Lu-

theran student in Monduli, Tanzania.

**The Church Council Moves this Month to April 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.** Due to the obvious schedule conflict with the Maundy Thursday worship service, the church council will re-schedule their meeting for the first Thursday, April 6 a 7:00 p.m.

## First Communion and Seder Meal - Maundy Thursday, April 13

As we have done so in past years, we will again hold a **special dinner at 5:30 p.m.** on Maundy Thursday, April 13 open to the families of the first communion kids and all other members who wish to be part of this liturgy of a Seder meal. Our meal will be potluck. The Passover Seder elements (egg, matso, bitter herbs, sweet mor-

mortar, etc. along with the Passover Haggadah) will be provided. Following the meal we will enter into the Maundy Thursday **worship service at 6:30 p.m.** which remembers the Passover our Lord held with his disciples, "in the night in which he was betrayed." And then our third graders will receive Holy Communion and participate in the solemn Stripping of the Altar.

## Bible Studies at Bethlehem

**Circle Bible Study Leaders:** Pastor Mark will meet again with the Bible study leaders of the Circles to go over the monthly Bible study in the Gather magazine.

Our next meeting will be **Thursday, April 27 at 1:00 p.m.** as Circles prepare for May meetings.



## Synod Journey to the E.L.C.A. National Youth Gathering begins!!! April 22

Congregations in Northeastern Minnesota Synod are invited to join the Synod Journey on a year-long journey to explore what THIS means in their lives and in their faith.

**Join us in worship. Join us in Bible study. Join us on the Journey!**

The Synod Journey is a synod-wide leadership development and faith formation experience that will explore how "This Changes Everything" (the theme of the 2018 National ELCA Youth Gathering).

### **Dates to Know:**

**Spring 2017 Info Meeting:** April 22: Duluth; Pastor Mark and other adult leaders attend the first meeting.

Plans for summer organizing will follow.

**Registration:** September 18-25, 2017 This gathering is for youth in grades 9-12 at the time of registration, and their adult leaders

**Synod Journey to the ELCA Youth Gathering:** June 23-July 2, 2018; Round trip: MN - Galveston, TX - Houston, TX - MN

## Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations, Saturday, April 22

will hold its 30th Annual Business Meeting. The ELCA merger of 1988 brought together 28 Lutheran colleges and universities previously governed by the ALC and LCA under a variety of arrangements. When the new ELCA denomination was formed, each college was asked to choose one of three groups to approve their trustees: the National Church Convention; a regional Synod convention; or an Association of Congregations convention including a business meeting. Gustavus, of course, chose the latter option, and in 1988 the Gustavus Adolphus College Association of Congregations (GACAC) was formed.

Currently there are over 500 members of the Association, the largest of its kind in the ELCA. The Association of Congregations elects the Board of Trustees and the Board of the Association of Congregations at its annual business meeting in April, and its congregations serve as the College's primary connection to the Church. This year Ben Hallberg, Bethlehem congregational president (and GAC alumnus) will travel to present our donation to the **Rev. John and Ruth Rutford-Hogenson Endowment for Church Relations.**

**Matthew - Gospel of the Year – April 4 & 11:** These final two Tuesdays will take us through Matthew Chapters 19-25 and 26-28, or Book Five and the Epilogue. Our final session, the Epilogue which will focus on the crucifixion and resurrection appropriately will be on Holy Tuesday, April 11 of Holy week.

## Go Green

Please join me as we consider our gardens for community good, reducing our garbage by composting more, by reducing use of non-recyclable materials, and perhaps adding either solar thermal or solar photovoltaic power. Bethlehem needs your help. Join the Green

Team to explore more possibilities on **Thursday, April, 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m.**





## North Shore Music Association Concert Saturday, April 22 at Bethlehem

World-renowned German pianist **Andreas Klein** will perform a solo concert titled "Unleashing Musical Architecture" on Sat. April 22 at 7:30 pm. On the afternoon of Sun. April 23, Mr. Klein will teach a master class to 4 to 5 Cook County piano students.

Andreas Klein is a dynamic and compelling performer. The New York Times has called him, "A fascinating artist with all the indispensable qualities: temperament, taste, touch, tone, the four T's of

pianism" and "A pianist who makes silences sound like music." He has performed solo in the world's most prestigious venues, including London's Wigmore Hall, Berlin's Philharmonic Hall, New York's Carnegie Hall, and Washington D.C.'s Kennedy Center. He is also the subject of "Intermezzo with Andreas Klein," televised by PBS.

Both the concert and master class will be open to the public. Tickets for the concert will cost \$24 for adults and \$5 for youth ages 18 and under. The master class will be free for the students, as well as for any community members who would like to watch and listen in.

## New Directory coming to Bethlehem Lifetouch Directory

Share your talents! We are creating a new church directory. And we will need some volunteer effort. Lifetouch family photography will be here the week of May 17-20. Laura in the office will be the main contact person, but we will need volunteers to help contact families that are unavailable in the day time hours. Help set up photography appointments. Greeting families during the photography sessions. We will like to gather misc. pictures of happenings around Bethlehem of Christmas, and other special events to be included in the directory. Our goal is to include mailing addresses and phone numbers of our families. This is especially important for people who no longer have land lines telephones.

A variety of situations can make that challenging including data privacy. We will have to proceed carefully. If this is something you can help out with we will appreciate your time and talents! Let Laura know of your availability, suggestions or ideas to make this directory useful. [blc@boreal.org](mailto:blc@boreal.org) or 387-2227. For being photographed and selecting a pose for the directory, each family photographed will receive a complimentary 8x10 photograph and a directory. There is a no cost obligation to families for this service. However you may choose to purchase additional

Photographs for yourself or as gifts.

One way you can get a jump on accuracy is giving Laura in the office a call and verifying the spelling and correct addresses, phone numbers etc...





## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 150-200 words.

One benefit of using your newsletter as a promotional tool is that you can reuse content from other marketing materials, such as press releases, market studies, and reports.

While your main goal of distributing a newsletter might be to sell your product or service, the key to a successful newsletter is making it useful to your readers.

A great way to add useful content to your newsletter is to develop and write your own articles, or include a calendar of upcoming

events or a special offer that promotes a new product.

You can also research articles or find “filler” articles by accessing the World Wide Web. You can write about a variety of topics but try to keep your articles short.

Much of the content you put in your newsletter can also be used for your Web site. Microsoft Publisher offers a simple way to convert your newsletter



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

to a Web publication. So, when you’re finished writing your newsletter, convert it to a Web site and post it.

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 100-150 words.

The subject matter that appears in newsletters is virtually endless. You can include stories that focus on current technologies or innovations in your field.

You may also want to note business or economic trends, or make predictions for your customers or clients.

If the newsletter is distributed internally, you might comment upon new procedures or improvements to the business. Sales figures or earnings will show how your business is grow-

ing.

Some newsletters include a column that is updated every issue, for instance, an advice column, a book review, a letter from the president, or an editorial. You can also profile new employees or top customers or vendors.

*“To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here.”*

## Inside Story Headline

This story can fit 75-125 words.

Selecting pictures or graphics is an important part of adding content to your newsletter.

Think about your article and ask yourself if the picture supports or



*Caption describing picture or graphic.*

enhances the message you’re trying to convey. Avoid selecting images that appear to be out of context.

Microsoft Publisher includes thousands of clip art images from which you can choose and import into your newsletter. There are

also several tools you can use to draw shapes and symbols.

Once you have chosen an image, place it close to the article. Be sure to place the caption of the image near the image.

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*Belonging to Christ, Sharing Christ on  
the North Shore and beyond.*

