



WEEKLY CONNECTION

APRIL 13, 2025

SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: PALM SUNDAY

Scripture: John 12:12–19, Deuteronomy 32:36–39, Philippians 2:5–11

The Cross and Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

The King of Israel comes into His royal glory by the path of humble obedience “*to the point of death, even death on a cross*” (Phil. 2:8). He “*goes as it has been determined*” (Luke 22:22), according to the Scriptures, willingly submitting to His Father’s plan for the salvation of sinners. “*Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name*” (Phil. 2:9). His suffering and death open the way of repentance for the forgiveness of sins because He goes to the cross bearing the sins of the world. In His resurrection, God the Father vindicates His people and has compassion on His servants (Deut. 32:36). He kills to make alive; He wounds in order to heal. In remembrance of Him, we praise God, confessing “*that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father*” (Phil. 2:11).

SERVING THIS SUNDAY – April 13

Preacher –	Rev. Charles Buckhahn
Officiant –	Pastor Michael Korte
Lay Reader -	10:30 am Howard Ritter
Acolytes-	9 am Dakota Katzenberger and Olivia Dzuba 10:30 am Raiden Boggs and Caleb Demers
Elder in Charge –	9 am Gary Grauf 10:30 am Steve Harvey
Greeters –	9 am Andrea & Paul Wagner 10:30 am Ruth & Mike Hargash
Tech Team –	9 am Val Engelhardt, Bobby Truitt 10:30 am Steve Martin & Jim Vance
Music Team -	9 am Audrey Engelhardt, Gerry Frieman
Special Music -	10:30 am Senior Choir
Music Leaders –	9 am Alex Holcomb 10:30 am George Frank

SERVING THIS MAUNDY THURSDAY – April 17 – 6:30 pm

Preacher –	Pastor Michael Korte
Officiant –	Deacon Ken Kerouac
Lay Reader -	Mike Weiss
Acolytes-	Dakota Katzenberger
Elder in Charge –	Ryan Mulder & Bill Wuerfel
Greeters –	Amanda Lutz

Tech Team – Val Engelhardt, Adam & Ryan Birchmeier
Special Music - Senior Choir & Praise Band
Music Leaders – Alex Holcomb & Annelise Holcomb

SERVING THIS GOOD FRIDAY – April 18 6:30 pm

Preacher – Pastor Michael Korte
Officiant – Deacon Ken Kerouac
Acolytes- Dakota Katzenberger and Mark Stabek
Elder in Charge – Larry Griffin
Greeters – Nancy & Barry Wittig
Tech Team – Will Conrad, Jim Vance
Special Music - Senior Choir & Praise Band
Music Leaders – Alex Holcomb & George Frank

THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE (For more Information see blurbs below.)

April 12 – Bacon Boys Bible Study 7:30 am
April 12 – Baptism of Charlotte Gregory 10 am
April 12 – Funeral of Mildred Burt 10 am Visitation 11 am Funeral
April 13 – Palm Sunday Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am with Communion
April 13 – Sunday School Preschool – 4th 9:15 am
April 13 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am
April 15 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am
April 15 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room
April 17 – Maundy Service 1pm and 6:30 pm **“Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”**
April 18 – Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am
April 18 – School Closed
April 18 – Tenebrae Service of Darkness 6:30pm
April 20 – Easter Sunrise Service 7:00 am with Communion
April 20 – Easter Fellowship Breakfast 8:30 am
April 20 – Easter Festival Worship 10:00am with Communion
April 21 – School Closed Easter Monday

“Words From the Cross”

Midweek Lenten Services
Wednesdays at 1 pm and 6:30 pm

The season of Lent is traditionally a time to reflect upon the suffering and death of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. The seven weeks of Lent give us a chance to examine our sinful lives and hear afresh His words of forgiveness and love. During these special services we are going to focus on the **“Seven Words from the Cross.”** Jesus spoke these words as He died for the sins of the whole world. These are words of life that Jesus spoke in the very midst of death. By hearing these words, we will prepare ourselves to truly celebrate the gift of the Easter Resurrection.

Thursday, April 17, – “Father, Into Your Hands I Commend My Spirit”

Maundy Thursday with Lord’s Supper

Friday, April 18, Good Friday – Tenebrae Service of Darkness at 6:30 pm

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed! Hallelujah!

April 20th – Easter Sunrise Service at 7 am

Easter Fellowship Breakfast at 8:30 am

Easter Festival Worship at 10 am With Holy communion

April 20th, Easter Pitch-in Brunch 8:30 am

EASTER BRUNCH: This year we will once again hold an Easter pitch-in brunch in between our 7 am Sunrise and 10 am Festival services. Brunch will begin at 8:30 am. A sign-up sheet is provided in the narthex for you to indicate the number of guests that you are bringing and your dish to be shared. We will set-up on Saturday at 10 AM. If you are interested in volunteering with set-up, tear-down, and clean up, please see Pastor Korte, or Bill and Charmaine Wittig. We look forward to celebrating together again with our fellow believers.

NO TRI-CITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE THIS YEAR

SAVE THE DATE

Please join us on Sunday, June 1st for Pastor Korte’s retirement dinner. The event will take place at Forest Edge Banquet Center, 11 Mile Road, Auburn, MI. Tickets will be sold between services the weekend after Easter as well as in the office during business hours. More details to follow.

PROTECT YOUNG EYES

Bethlehem, Faith and Holy Cross Lutheran Schools are proud to host a PROTECT YOUNG EYES PRESENTATION. Digital Discernment: The 5 Habits of a Tech Ready Home. Tuesday, April 22nd from 6:30-8:00 pm right here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. 808 Weiss Street, Saginaw. Everyone is welcome to join us! No RSVP necessary.

APRIL NOISY OFFERING is Gideons International. Learn more about the Gideon’s important work of literally sharing God’s Word. Your gifts through the April Noisy Offering provides Bibles that can have an eternal impact on lives.

PRAYER FOCUS:

SPECIAL PRAYERS: Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, Jimmy Lutz, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Debbie Pappas, Marijean Miller, Shirley Pagenkopf, Leroy Lyvere, Pastor Korte, Marian Kasper, Irene Lange, Larry Schroepfel, Alica Beechum, Gary Harvey,

HOSPITALIZED: Melissa Bullard

BAPTISM: We rejoice with the family of **Charlotte Gregory**, who was made a daughter of our heavenly Father through the waters of Baptism on Saturday, April 12.

OUR CHRISTIAN SYMPATHY is extended to the family of **Mildred Burt**. Mildred entered eternal life on Thursday, April 3. She was given Christian burial on April 12th. May God comfort those who mourn with the assurance of victory over death through Jesus.

PRAYERS REQUESTED FOR PASTOR CALL PROCESS: The remaining pastors have withdrawn their names from our call list. ***“Pray the Lord of the harvest to send workers into the fields.”*** Lord, we have been searching for a new pastor to lead Your people at Bethlehem. Once again, we feel disappointed that You have not revealed that person to us. Help us to take heart, knowing that our plans are not necessarily Your plan. We trust that You have the Pastor that will lead us. Help us to be patient as we eagerly await. In Jesus name. Amen.

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL CALL MEETING: **Note Time Change!** The Board of Elders and the Executive Director of our congregation are issuing a Special Voters Meeting to be held on **Thursday, April 24 at 6:30 pm** for the sole purpose to issue a Divine Call to the Michigan District for an **Intentional Interim pastor** for Bethlehem.

LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS OPEN - - BOARD OF EDUCATION

Nominations are open for our congregational leadership positions. We are looking for women and men who regularly worship and to use their gifts of leadership and care for others to lead our congregation. Confirmed members of at least 18 years of age may nominate individuals for Congregational President, and members of the Ministry Leadership Board, Board of Elders, and Board of Education.

The Board of Education leads our school and pre-school in partnership with our principal and pre-school administrator. They support and encourage our teachers and staff as they minister to the needs of the families in our school and pre-school. Men and women nominated for the Board of Education must be confirmed members of at least 18 years of age.

Nominations are also open for the Board of Elders, President and the Ministry Leadership Board. Confirmed women and men of at least 25 years of age may be nominated to serve as President. Men and women of at least 18 years of age may serve on the Ministry Leadership Board. Confirmed men of at least 25 years of age may be nominated for the Board of Elders.

Nomination forms are available at church or online at <https://www.bethlehemsaginaw.org/nominations> through the QR code below. Nominations close at noon on April 28.

For more information contact John Brandt
(jbrandt@bethlehemsaginaw.org or 989-799-0201).



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES NEEDS YOUR SUPPORT! Bethlehem has received information from the treasurer of Lutheran Hour Ministries Program that is on the radio every Sunday morning at 8:30 AM. The program is available on station WSHM 1400 AM or 104.1 FM for one half-hour. The current cost to produce this program is \$175 per half hour.

Most support to keep this program on the air has been from area Lutheran churches and individual donations. To keep this program on air, they need additional financial help. All donations of any size would be very helpful. There are pre-addressed envelopes available in the narthex to use for donations. They are located on the table with Ministry Leadership nomination forms.

Envelopes can be mailed directly or put in the Joash Box and Bethlehem will forward to the fund treasurer. Checks should be made out to "Saginaw Valley Lutheran Hour Fund." Thank you for your consideration.

CHURCH ATTENDANCE:

04-06-25	179	Online viewership: 29
04-09-25 Lenten Service	64 Adults	

CARING FOR OTHERS

MISSIONS IN LIBERIA: A FIRST-HAND ACCOUNT Bethlehem members Jon Frank and John and Sue Brandt will share their experiences working with Lutheran missions in Liberia on Sunday April 27 beginning at 9:15 in the lower level. It was eye-opening working with faith-filled Christians living in places very different than Michigan, but serving the same Jesus! Come hear their story.

TEAM MEMBERS NEEDED FOR MISSION TRIP TO LA PAZ, HONDURAS Using a very simple testing system created specifically for MOST Ministries, members of this team will distribute eyeglasses to those in need from August 16-23, 2025.

During the daily clinics, team members will test vision, fit and distribute eyeglasses all while sharing the gospel through words and actions. Depending on the number of team members, 100-300 people can be served daily. A Team Leader will be assigned to prepare, train, and lead the team on this mission.

Why MOST? We are Gospel centered & we take care of all the details, including well-vetted hosts, experienced team leaders and all travel arrangements. Cost to take part is \$3,000, which includes airfare, housing, meals, and medical insurance. Need financial assistance? You can apply for a scholarship to assist through grants from the LWML and have suggestions for fundraisers.

Contact Kaleigh Bone at 734-929-1163 or kaleighb@mostministries.org if you are interested.

TRIVIA NIGHT FUNDRAISER FOR ALASKA MISSION TRIP The Alaska Mission Trip Team is once again fundraising for their trip to Goodnews Bay! They will be hosting a Trivia Night on May 17th at the Saginaw Moose Lodge (2218 Midland Rd. Saginaw, MI 48603). Doors open at 6pm for silent auction and trivia starts at 7 pm. Teams of up to 8 players. Tickets can be purchased in advance for \$20 per player or available at the door. Call or email Good Shepherd Lutheran Church to register your team at 989-793-8201 or office@goodshepherdsaginaw.com

FOOD PANTRY NEEDS The food pantry is in need of canned fruit, canned vegetables, peanut butter, jelly and hearty soups and stews. Donations can be dropped off at the church/school office.

SCHOOL NEWS

We have returned from Spring Break and have SO many great things on the schedule as we wrap up our school year! Our Spring After-School Clubs have started. This session we have Sewing Club, Archery, LEGO Club, and a K-3 Basketball Clinic. Special thanks go out to our parents and teachers who give of their time and talents to provide our students with the opportunities to learn new things. Remember, if you have an activity you would like to share with our students, please reach out to the office and let us know.

A group of administrators and teachers are attending the Michigan Association for the Education of Young Children (MiAEEYC) Early Childhood in Grand Rapids this week. Our April prospective student Open House is this week Wednesday, April 16th from 4:30-6:30pm. If you or someone you know is looking for a new school home, please send them our way!

Our whole school (preschool-8th grade) is "going to the movies" to see the new animated Christian film, King of Kings, this week. This movie narrates the life of Jesus while sharing the Gospel through a child's perspective. Everyone is looking forward to this field trip that coincides perfectly with our Holy Week lessons.

PRESCHOOL UPDATE

Spots are filling fast for the 2025/ 2026 school year! To find out more about our "free" preschool, call Mrs. May (989)755-1144 x 2029. Please get registration forms in soon to save your child's spot!

AROUND BETHLEHEM

VBS IS BACK! Get ready for an *Epic Australian Adventure* at Vacation Bible School, June 16-19 from 6-8 PM! VBS is open to all preschoolers through 4th graders in our church, school, and community. We are also looking for volunteers to help make this event a success! If you are interested in volunteering, please email Jenna Wittig-Fauske at jwittig@bethlehemsaginaw.org. Mark your calendars and get ready for an exciting journey down under!

HOMEBOUND MINISTRY TEAM -

If you would like to be part of this important ministry or if you know someone homebound who needs a bit of "Sonshine" in his/her life contact any of the Team members or email John Brandt (jbrandt@bethlehemsaginaw.org).

SEEKING WORSHIP ARTS TEAM MEMBERS Do you sing or play an instrument? Or are you interested in technology? Then you should consider joining our Worship Arts team! We are in need of new Worship Arts team members to serve at both the 9 AM and 10:30 AM service times. If you are interested, please see Alex Holcomb, email aholcomb@bethlehemsaginaw.org, or call 989-755-1144 to let us know.

WEEKLY ADULT BIBLE STUDIES

- **Tuesdays, 9:30 am (Ladies)** in the David Room. Contact Mary Kay Hall for more information - (989) 497-8474. Starting new study book in March: **"Meant For Good: A Study of Joseph."**
- **Wednesdays, 8:00 am (Men)** Meeting at Immanuel Bible Church on Center Rd. in Saginaw. Men from Bethlehem, Holy Cross, Immanuel, and Peace will be in attendance. Currently in Romans. Bring your own coffee – donuts provided. Contact Bill Denno at 989-781-4851 or 989-295-8618 for more info. Bring your favorite Bible!
- **Fridays, 6:15 am (Men)** on Zoom. **"The Acts of the Apostles."** For info: mp_denno@yahoo.com
- **Sundays, 9:15 am (Anyone)** in the lower level. We are using the study *The Messiah: Revealing Jesus in the Old Testament*. Jesus made Himself very clear that the Old Testament testifies of him. This study will walk us through that claim. If you have Sunday School age children and would like to join the study, please join us. Children are welcome in our class and can go to Sunday School when it begins at 9:30.

OTHER NEWS

FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL

Learn about Valley's Welcome.Gather.Worship Initiative, hear the latest on the Meadow & Woods project, celebrate with winter sports awards recipients, and more in the April Valley Vision newsletter! It's available at www.vlhs.com/vvapr2025.

Save the Date for the Drama Department's Spring production, "The Play that Goes Wrong" coming to Valley Lutheran May 1, 2, and 3 at 7 p.m. each evening.

Valley Lutheran is seeking applications for the following positions:

- *Public Relations Intern* - ideal for a local college Junior or Senior with interest in communications, marketing, graphic design, and/or public relations
- *Head Girls Varsity Basketball Coach*
- *Head Girls Varsity PomPon Coach*

For more information about these positions or for directions to apply, go to www.vlhs.com/jobs.