



# WEEKLY CONNECTION

## MARCH 9, 2025

### **SUNDAY'S WORSHIP: THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT**

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1–11, Romans 10:8b–13, Luke 4:1–13

#### ***Jesus Christ Is Our Champion Against the Devil***

Jesus Christ, our champion against the devil, endures and overcomes “*every temptation*” (Luke 4:13) on our behalf. He worships the Lord, His God, and serves Him only by trusting the Word of His Father: “*You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*” (Luke 3:22). Jesus’ victory is now ours through His gracious Word, which is not far away but near us — in our mouth and in our heart, in the proclamation of repentance and faith. For “*with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved*” (Rom. 10:10). Our confession of Christ includes the prayer of faith, which is not disappointed, “*for ‘everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved’*” (Rom. 10:13). The Lord is not oblivious to “*our affliction, our toil, and our oppression*” (Deut. 26:7), but has mercy upon us. He has brought us out of bondage through the “*signs and wonders*” of Holy Baptism, “*with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm*” (Deut. 26:8), and now He leads us by His Spirit even in the wilderness.

#### **SCRIPTURE OF THE WEEK: Psalm 91:1-2**

**He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will abide in the shadow of the Almighty.**

**<sup>2</sup> I will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.”**

#### **SERVING THIS SUNDAY – March 9**

Preacher –	Pastor Michael Korte
Officiant –	Deacon Ken Kerouac
Lay Reader -	10:30 am John Brandt
Acolytes-	9 am Dakota Katzenberger and Olivia Dzuba 10:30 am Micah Crumbley and Rolando Brewer
Elder in Charge –	9 am Bill Wuerfel, Ryan Mulder 10:30 am Steve Harvey, Larry Griffon, Michael Weiss
Greeters –	9 am Jan Laux 10:30 am Renee & Mick Leech, Kathy Forsythe
Tech Team –	9 am Mark Stabek, Kevin Keysor 10:30 am Owen, Jackson & Christian White
Music Team -	9 am Audrey Engelhardt
Music Leaders –	9 am Alex Holcomb 10:30 am George Frank

**LENTEN DEVOTION BOOKLETS** from Lutheran Hour Ministries are available in the narthex.

There are both large print and booklet style.

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

March 9 – Time change, Spring forward one hour  
March 9 – Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
March 9 – Sunday School Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am  
March 9 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am  
March 9 – Pancake Breakfast in Gym 9:30 – 11:30 am  
March 9 – Community Prayer Circles 2:30 pm in Narthex  
March 10 – Braille Workers 5:45 pm  
March 11 – Braille Workers 8:30 am  
March 11 – Bible Study David Room 9:30 am  
March 11 – Bethlehem Knitters 11 am David Room  
March 11 – Parish Leadership Council 7 pm  
March 12 – Lenten Service 1pm and 6:30 pm **“You will be with Me in Paradise”**  
March 13 – Braille Workers 8:30 am  
March 13 – Choir Practice 7 pm  
March 14 – Men’s Bible Study via Zoom @ 6:15 am  
March 15 - Bacon Boys Bible Study 7:30 am  
March 16 – Worship @ 9:00 am & 10:30 am  
March 16 – Sunday School Preschool – 4<sup>th</sup> 9:15 am  
March 16 – Bible Study Lower Level 9:15 am

**A TOWNHALL INFORMATIONAL MEETING** has been scheduled for Sunday March 23 at 10 am. The purpose of this meeting is to provide information concerning the transition of Bethlehem with the change in pastoral leadership. The Board of Elders wants to update you concerning future plans, District Consultation and answer questions concerning the transition.

**“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.

**Wednesday, March 12, Lent 1 – “You will be with Me in Paradise”**

**Wednesday, March 19, Lent 2 – “Behold Your Son; Behold Your Mother”**

**Wednesday, March 26, Lent 3 – “My God, Why Have You Forsaken Me?”**

**Wednesday, April 2, Lent 4 – “I Thirst”**

**Wednesday, April 9, Lent 5 – “It is Finished!”**

**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

**EASTER FLOWERS FOR THE ALTAR** can now be purchased for \$15 each. This year we will be offering lilies, mums, daffodils, tulips, and hyacinths. Order forms are available in the church narthex or at the church/school office. Order forms and payments must be submitted by Monday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

### **NO TRI-CITY GOOD FRIDAY SERVICE THIS YEAR**

The Tri-City Good Friday Committee, after meeting several times and doing some investigation, has decided not to hold the Tri-City Good Friday service this year at Horizons or at any other location. There were several factors that led to our decision, including decreasing attendance and decreased collections prior to and at the service, which has led to a deficit over the past two years. Other locations were evaluated, but none worked out at this time. The committee will reconsider a service next year.

**MARCH NOISY OFFERING SUPPORTS KERYX PRISON MINISTRY** The purpose of Keryx Ministries is the Christianization of the correctional institution or community through the actions of small apostolic prayer support groups, trained and encouraged by Keryx volunteers, working within their environment. Through a systematic, structured program, the participants are given the opportunity to experience a religious renewal and to accept God's call to a life of Christian witness and service to one another. This Sunday we will learn more about KERYX from our guest speaker Kurt Aven.

### **PRAYER FOCUS:**

**SPECIAL PRAYERS:** Paul Tomaszewski, Gordon Henry, Milda Persons, Barbara Ruhlig, Dave Vanderlip, James Lutz, Larry Schroepfel, Karen Schram, Wendy Sova, Debbie Pappas, Jim Vance, Gary Harvey, Marijean Miller, Pat Garchow

**HOSPITALIZED:** Shirley Pagenkopf, Leroy Lyvere, Marian Kasper

**FLOWERS ON THE ALTAR** this morning are in celebration of 8 years of unity in the Lord. - Larry and Jan Hauser

### **CHURCH ATTENDANCE:**

3-2-25	198	Online viewership: 40
3-5-25 Ash Wednesday	225	148 Adults & 77 children
3-5-25 Drive-Up Communion	25	

**STEWARDSHIP THOUGHT** Luke 4:8 – “And Jesus answered him, ‘It is written ...’” Isn’t it interesting that Jesus does not defeat Satan with His power as God, but rather by His perfect obedience in His perfect humanity? Jesus defeats Satan not by miracles, but by quoting the Scriptures and living according to it. This should cause us great joy for two reasons. First, because we see Jesus win the victory for us. Second, because here Jesus shows us how to stand in that victory: on the Word of God alone. Let us build our lives on the sure rock of this Word!

### **NEW CONSTITUTION-BY LAWS - NEXT STEPS**

We received word the Michigan District Constitution/By-law Review Committee recommends that our new constitution and by-laws be approved by the Michigan District Board of Directors without any changes!

The Parish Leadership Council has appointed a nominating committee to lead the congregation in developing a slate of candidates for the new Ministry Leadership Board and Congregational President. Watch for more information as to how congregation members can be part of this very important next step. The election will be held at the annual meeting of the Voters' Assembly on May 20. Committee members are John Brandt, Lisa Duclos, Jon Herzberger, Alex Holcomb, and Jan Laux.

### **CARING FOR OTHERS**

**FOOD PANTRY NEEDS** The food pantry is well stocked at present. Thank you for your donations.

### **SCHOOL NEWS**

We have a new tract/pamphlet rack in the entrance to the school office that was made by one of our church members. Check out the pamphlets to be taken home and enjoy the readings! Provided by the Evangelism/Helping Hands board

### **AROUND BETHLEHEM**

**PANCAKE BREAKFAST** Join us this morning, March 9<sup>th</sup> from 9:30a-11:30a in the gym for pancakes, bacon, and sausage. This is a free will donation! Proceeds will go toward sound improvements in the gym.

**BUTTER BRAID FUNDRAISER** Bethlehem’s Athletic Program is now hosting their annual Butter Braid Fundraiser through March 13<sup>th</sup>! See a Bethlehem student, stop by the office, or order in the church narthex in-between services. Delivery will be on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Butter Braids are great for Easter gatherings! They are \$17 each this year and we will be selling the following flavors: Blueberry & Cream Cheese, Chocolate, Cinnamon, Raspberry, Strawberry & Cream Cheese, and Four Cheese & Herb w/ Marinara. Each pastry serves 11 people.

**BETHLEHEM MENS BASKETBALL OPEN GYM** are on Wednesdays from 6-8pm. They began on February 26 and will go through May 28<sup>th</sup>. For more information, please contact Ryan at [ford52033@hotmail.com](mailto:ford52033@hotmail.com)

**SEEKING HANDYMAN MEMBERS** Bethlehem is currently compiling a list of contractors in our congregation to form a directory. This includes plumbing, general maintenance, painting, and

more. This list will be distributed to members of the congregation who are looking to hire someone within the church. If you are interested in being added to this directory, please email us at [Office@bethlehemsaginaw.org](mailto:Office@bethlehemsaginaw.org) with your details, including a brief overview of your skills and experience in the mentioned areas, and your business information if you are a business owner.

#### **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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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**

**COMMUNITY PRAYER CIRCLES** Grace, Mercy and Peace to you in the Name of our Savior and Lord Jesus Christ! Community Prayer Circles Saginaw invites you and members of your congregation/group to join us at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for prayer and praise worship on Sunday, March 9, 2:30-4:00 p.m.

#### **SAGINAW COUNTY LUTHERAN SCHOLARSHIP**

Saginaw Lutheran Scholarship Mixed Bowling League has scholarships available for students pursuing studies in the ministry of teaching or preaching in the Lutheran Church. Check with the church office for scholarship application forms which are due by April 1 or call James Ruthig at 989-792-9123 or 989-751-0130. Email: [jruthig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jruthig@sbcglobal.net)

## **FROM VALLEY LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL**

Valley Lutheran's Lenten tour home concert will be held on Sunday, March 16 at 3 pm at Peace Lutheran Church. Join the musicians of the Symphonic Band and Golden Voice Choir, under the direction of Rebecca Sugden and Paul Eschmann for this special worship concert. The theme of this year's worship is CROWNS, based on Revelation 19:12.

The Annual Handbell Concert, featuring the handbell choirs from Valley Lutheran and four area churches, will be held on Sunday, March 23 at 4 pm at Valley Lutheran.

Our last 'Peek at Valley' for this school year will be held on Tuesday, March 25. These interactive tour experiences are for interested grade school families of any age! Take a peek into life at Valley Lutheran and what sets us apart. Let us know you're coming and pick your arrival time at [www.vlhs.com/takeapeek](http://www.vlhs.com/takeapeek).

Valley Lutheran High School is in search of a foreign language teacher to start in August 2025. While Spanish is certainly preferred, we are also considering other language options (i.e. German, Latin, Sign Language, etc.). The position could be either part-time or full-time depending on the particular language or specific needs of the teacher. Salary will be commensurate with experience and degree. Candidates without a teaching certificate, but who are willing to work towards one may still apply. Please send any names of referrals along with contact information or candidate resumes and cover letters to Dr. Lisa Meyers at [lmeyers@vlhs.com](mailto:lmeyers@vlhs.com)

**FROM ZION LUTHERAN CHURCH** Bay City, has an opening for a part-time custodian to work between 10-12 hours per week to perform routine cleaning and additional deep cleaning as required. The starting wage is \$12.50 per hour. Resumes with 3 references can be sent to [secretary@zionbaycity.org](mailto:secretary@zionbaycity.org).

**CROSSROADS COUNSELING MINISTRIES** in Frankenmuth continues its search for a qualified counselor. Hiring full or part-time. Competitive salary. Training available for faith-based interventions. Must have an active Michigan license as a LLPC, LPC, LLMSW, LMSW, or LMFT. Call 989-502-1940 or email [bbierlein@crcounseling.org](mailto:bbierlein@crcounseling.org) for more information.

## **ESTATE PLANNING**

We can face competing priorities when we think about distributions from our estates someday, even as we consider gifts that will support ministry. You may be committed to supporting ministry but may have other charities in mind as well. In Matthew 25, Jesus said, "Whatever you do for one of the least of these you have done it for me." Your LCMS Foundation Gift Planning Counselor can help you gain information about the right way to support organizations, discerning if they are consistent with your beliefs and practices. Contact...

Julie Burgess - Gift Planning Counselor ; Church Extension Fund/MI District

Email: [Julie.burgess@lfnd.org](mailto:Julie.burgess@lfnd.org)

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