

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
E19675 State Road 27  
Fall Creek, WI 54742

**MARCH 2019 DATES TO REMEMBER**

**WORSHIP SERVICES** are held Sunday at 9am @ Zion, & 10:30am @ Bethlehem

**Communion** is offered on the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> & 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays of the month

**SUNDAY SCHOOL: ZION 10:00AM; BETHLEHEM 9AM & Adult Bible Study**

**CONFIRMATION** is every Wednesday 5-6pm

March 4, 11, 18, & 25 (Mondays) Quilting @ Bethlehem 9am

March 5, 12, & 19 (Tuesdays) Dartball @ Bethlehem

March 6 – Zion Ladies Aid with potluck @ noon

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE 7:30 @ ZION WITH COMMUNION

March 7 – Joint Council Meetings @ Zion

March 10 – *daylight savings time begins!!*

Youth Group Meeting 6:30pm @ Bethlehem

March 13 - LENT SERVICE 7:30 @ BETHLEHEM

March 14 – Bethlehem Ladies Aid with potluck @ noon

March 17 – YOUTH SUNDAY AND DINNER @ BETHLEHEM

March 20 – LENT SERVICE 7:30 @ ZION

March 27 – LENT SERVICE 7:30 @ BETHLEHEM

March 28 – Bethlehem Sunday School Teachers Meeting 7:00pm



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1286 S 150<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
Fall Creek, WI 54742

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## WE ARE THE ALIENS HERE

The Philippians were Roman citizens, and Roman citizenship was certainly valuable. It provided them with many rights and privileges not given to others. The Apostle Paul was also a Roman citizen and this enabled him to appeal his case to Rome instead of an angry Jewish mob in Jerusalem. It also got him out of a jam when unjustly arrested in Philippi.

But Paul reminded the Christians at Philippi that Roman citizenship was a part of the perishing world in which they lived. He pointed them to what does not perish. Our citizenship is in heaven. Empires and nations rise and fall. You won't find any Roman citizens in Philippi anymore---or anywhere else for that matter---but citizens of heaven are spread around the world.

The holy Christian church, which we confess in the Apostles' Creed, is a statement of our belief in the kingdom of believers in Christ, dwelling here on earth for a while and in heaven forever. We share this in common with those who have died in Christ. Our true citizenship is in heaven.

We proudly fly our beautiful flag for which many have fought and died. We pledge allegiance to the nation in which we live, thanking God for so blessing our nation. We pay our taxes and pray for those God has placed over us, knowing that they are God's representatives, gifts of God for our good.

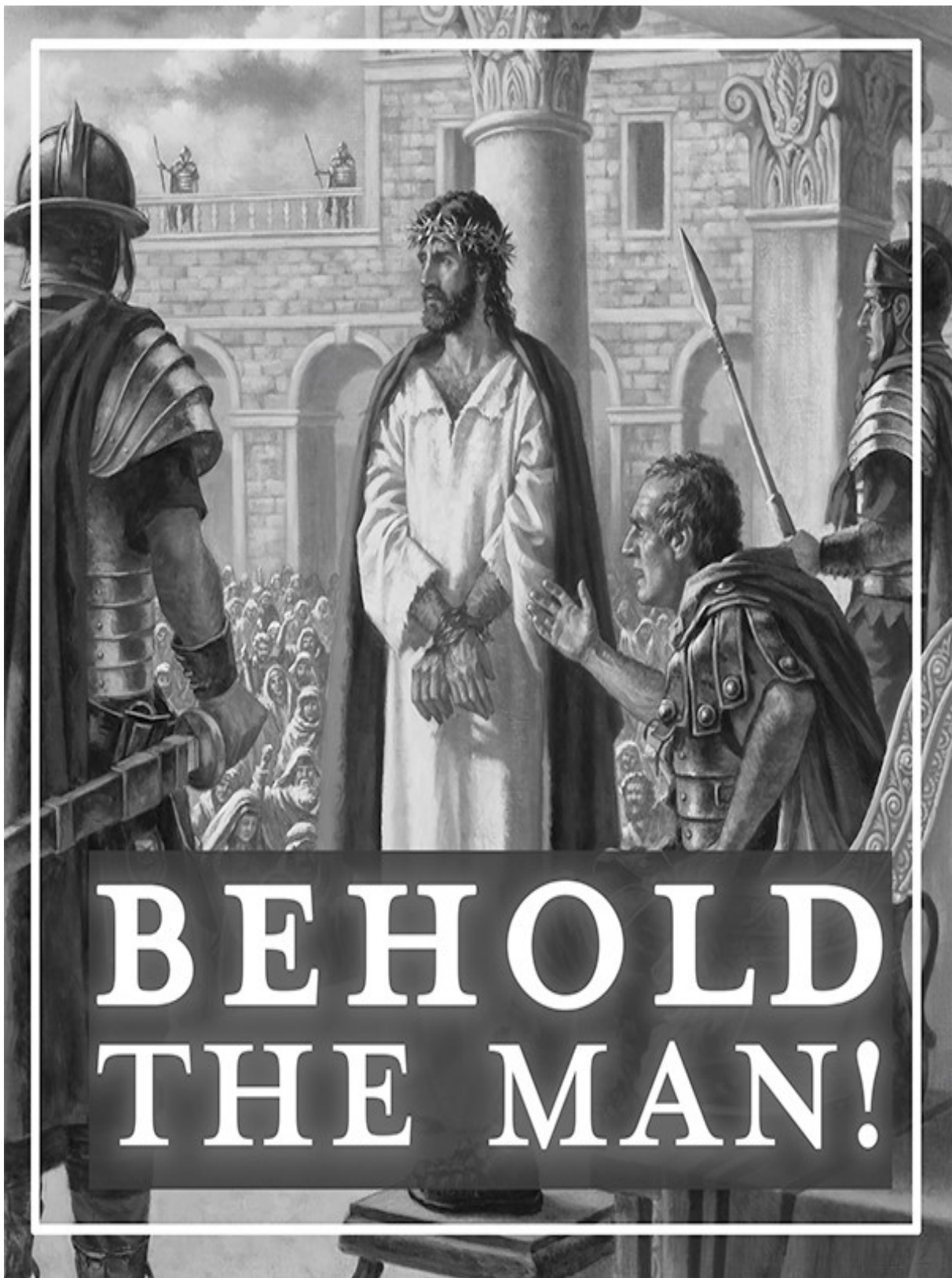
But we also know and confess that we live in a perishing world where earth's material treasures and manmade structures all come with expiration dates.

The love God has showered on us in Jesus enables us to look beyond this perishable world, so that we might store up for ourselves treasures in heaven----the place we call home. We are, after all aliens here.

We live in tents here, waiting for the Lord Jesus Christ to come back to earth to take us to the mansions He has prepared for us in His Father's presence. Can you believe it? The best is yet to come.

In His Service,

Pastor James E. Norton



# BEHOLD THE MAN!

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made. . . . The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen His glory, the glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

—John 1:1–3, 14

“Behold the man!” proclaimed the unwitting preacher Pontius Pilate in one of the shortest, yet most profound, sermons ever recorded. This will be our endeavor this Lententide and Easter Sunday. Behold the man, God in human flesh, Jesus. His incarnation will provide the basis for our meditation and proclamation on His Passion. And His real, bodily suffering and death will provide the basis for our full-throated proclamation on Easter morning of a bodily resurrection, not just of Jesus but also for His saints. Real bodies that have suffered, wept, bled, prayed, eaten, hoped, and more will be those raised incorruptible from their graves on the day of Jesus’ return.

We will fix our eyes and our preaching on the man Jesus, contemplating the inescapable fact—indeed the most important fact in the course of human history—that God became man. The Second Person of the eternal, triune God, who we confess in the Nicene Creed as “God of God, Light of light, very God of very God . . . of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made,” became a living, breathing, flesh-and-blood human being, a man.

In some ways, you can understand that the first heresy the Christian Church had to contend with was that of Gnosticism, the hyperspiritual religion that held that because no man could be God, the Christ could not be God. Gnosticism is alluring because it tidies everything up, gives Christianity a more attractive, spiritual veneer, and pulls its adherents out of the mire of this world and gives them something other-worldly to strive for.

Considered correctly, it becomes pretty hard to spiritualize Christianity—a religion that bases its existence on the enfleshment, the incarnation, of her God—into the mess of disembodied, matter-rejecting, hyperspiritual Gnosticism. When God has flesh and blood, skin and teeth, cells and nuclei, DNA and RNA, it’s difficult to contend for the disembodied spiritual against the material. If God has a body, bodies must matter.

In case you aren’t convinced of the pervasiveness of the second-century heresy of Gnosticism, even in our twenty-first-century context, attend a funeral. If you hear talk only of heaven with nary a word of a bodily resurrection, you’ve witnessed firsthand modern-day Gnosticism. If the preacher doesn’t deal with the body in the casket as the real person whose death has assembled the mass of grieving relatives and friends, if he talks only about the bodyless soul in heaven, he hasn’t preached a genuinely Christian funeral. In other words, if he gives preference to the spiritual over the material, he succumbs to the Gnostic heresy the earliest generations of the Church sought to guard against by preaching the incarnation and resurrection of Jesus.

This Lent, we will consider what it means that God became man. In preparation for the celebration of a real, bodily, flesh-and-blood, bone-and-sinew resurrection, the resurrection without which our faith and our preaching are all in vain, consider the body of Jesus that exists in order to be nailed to a cross. The spiritual, bodyless Son of God became the embodied, enfleshed, incarnate Son of Mary. In Jesus, God has human flesh, a body, just like you. What could be more profound?

Each week, we’ll consider a different aspect of the body of Jesus Christ. What does it mean that, in Jesus, God has hands, feet, lungs, lips, eyes, and ears?

Behold the man! In sermon, in study, in devotion, behold the man!



Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church

*"Bethlehem Lutheran Church reaching out to our community and to the world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."*

Facebook Address: Zion-Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Email: [countryc@centurylink.net](mailto:countryc@centurylink.net) Website: [zion-bethlehem.org](http://zion-bethlehem.org)

Office Telephone (715)877-3249

Address: E19675 State Road 27, Fall Creek, WI 54742



- Come join the youth on March 17th at Bethlehem for their annual Youth Sunday service with a taco meal to follow. Service will include a Sunday School sing and contemporary music."

Also the next youth meeting will be the second Sunday in March at 6:30.



### **BETHLEHEM LADIES AID:**

The ladies aid met on February 14<sup>th</sup>. Lois provided Valentine Door Prizes, won by Margie and Sharon. Thanks, Lois! Pastor Norton led the Bible Study, "The Shepherds Peace,"

Joan showed us how to make mats out of plastic bags for Orphan Grain Train to be used by the homeless. She would appreciate any plastic bags you can donate or she will show you how to make the mats.

The quilting is going well. The ladies work Monday mornings starting at 9am. They welcome any help.

It was decided not to have a thrift sale this Spring.

The Spring Rally is March 19<sup>th</sup> at Grace in Augusta.

Our next meeting is March 14<sup>th</sup> with a potluck at noon. The Bible Study will be "Shh! Peace. Be Still" on page 18 in the winter quarterly. All ladies welcome!



**Sunday Morning Bible Study** – every Sunday @ 9:00am @ Bethlehem.  
Come join us!




Camp Luther is 2019 Hearts for Jesus mission "Filled with the Spirit"!

The money will be used to purchase new and larger round tables for the new dining hall and Community Center at Camp Luther. We will collect for this mission during February and early March! There will also be a

collection jar in the back of the church for congregation contributions.

Upcoming Sunday School lessons in March will cover: Jesus Clears the Temple, John 2:13-22; Jesus Teaching Nicodemus, John 3:1-21; Jesus and the Samaritan woman, John 4:1-42; Jesus is Rejected at Nazareth, Luke 4:16-20; and Jesus Call Disciples, Matthew 4:12-25.

**\*\*\*CHOIR HAS STARTED AT BETHLEHEM. IF YOU LIKE TO SING, TO COME AND JOIN US. WE'D LOVE TO HAVE YOU SING WITH US!**  **WE PRACTICE EVERY SUNDAY AFTER THE WORSHIP SERVICE.**



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
**Annual Voters Meeting Minutes**  
**January 20, 2019**

**Call to Order & Roll Call:** 12:30 p.m. There were 33 voting members present. Each member signed the roll-call sheet and received a copy of the annual report.

Pastor Norton began the meeting with devotions.

**Secretarys Minutes:**

**MOTION** (Karon Davidson/Steve Davidson) to approve the minutes of the January 21, 2018 Annual Voters Meeting as read. PASSED, without negative vote.

**Treasurers Report:** Erin Pilgrim reviewed the financial report.

**Admission of New Voting Members:** None.

**Pastors Report and Statistical Report:** Pastor reviewed his activities for the year including visits with members, shut-ins and hospitalized members, attending meetings, conducting services, baptisms, weddings, funerals, and teaching the confirmation class.

**Other Reports:** Elders, Youth Group, Trustees, Shut-ins, Library, Sunday School, Altar Guild, Mission Board and Ladies Aid Annual reports were reviewed.

**Transfers/Releases of Members:**

**MOTION** (Sharon Tumm/Janet Weltzin) to approve the 2018 Statistical Report and the Official Acts Report as printed. PASSED, without negative vote.

**Old Business:**

1.) Narthex Remodel/Addition – The project is now complete and provides much needed room. A few remaining projects like installing the AED and the lawn still remain.

Comments from members: the thermostat in the ladies restroom needs to be set higher and clearly marked how to use; a thank-you should be extended to Jon Dekan for fixing the thermostat in the church; a request to relocate the memorial tree so that it is not in the bathroom hall.

**New Business:**

1.) Loose Change Designation – A total of 2,358.63 was collected in 2018, and because the Mission Funds budget has been met

**MOTION** (Karon Davidson/Linda Wiese) to move the Loose Change to the Building Fund. FAILED after discussion resulted in

**MOTION** (Kim Drehmel/Joan Boyea) to set aside \$1,000 of the Loose Change for the Confirmation Picture Project, and move the remaining \$1,358.63 of the Loose Change to the Building Fund. PASSED, without negative vote.

2.) Audit Report of Church Finances - was conducted by Janet Weltzin and Dorothy Luedtke. There were no questions.

3.) Mission Contributions – are budgeted at \$2,500 for 2019.

4.) Election of Officers -The list of officers was read: Marv Sperber, Chairman; Joan Drehmel, Secretary; Joan Boyea, Treasurer; Kim Drehmel, Financial Secretary; Board of Finance: Donna Condron, Mary Ann Koch, Linda Pilgrim; Elders: Steve Davidson, Dennis Anderson, Tom Woodford; Trustees: Justin Sperber,



Mike Weggen, Sally Weggen; Board of Education: Arlene Anderson, Renee Bauch, Carol Sperber; Sunday School Superintendents: Carol Sperber and Sharon Tumm; Mission Board: Arlene Anderson, Dennis Anderson, Kim Drehmel, Mary Ann Koch.

**MOTION** (Dottie Neumann/Janet Weltzin) to accept the officers listed, for a term of one year, with no term limits. PASSED, without negative vote.

6.) Parsonage, Future of – A show of hands revealed that the majority present were in favor of renting the parsonage instead of selling it. When the time comes to call a pastor, we will only be able to afford a newly graduated student who may need the parsonage. Until that time, it is better for the house to be lived in, than to remain empty. Marv noted that Dale Noel of the Parsonage Committee has offered to take the lead in gathering information to begin the process of renting it out. The Parsonage Committee (Gene Neumann, Dale Noel, Linda Pilgrim, Marv Sperber, Daron Weggen, Tom Woodford) will review the information and present it to the congregation. Marv also noted that he would be willing to help with any maintenance of the parsonage, but not the responsibilities of a landlord. The committee will be seeking someone willing to take on that job.

7.) Public Comment –

Other Building Fund Expenses – will need Council approval before any work or purchases occur.

Thanks Extended – to all who volunteered their time and effort during the remodel/addition, and to all for patience and understanding during the whole process.

8.) Adopt 2019 Budget - Proposed budget of \$77,651.98 was reviewed by all present.

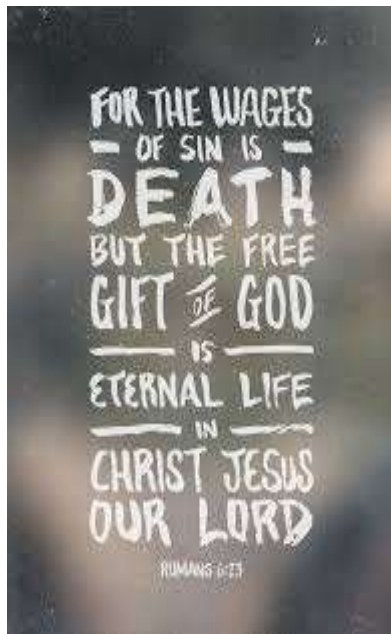
Proposed wage increases: Pastor Norton-\$360 per year (accepted)

**MOTION** (Steve Davidson/Kim Drehme) to set the budget at \$77,651.98 which includes the wage increase. PASSED, without negative vote.

**Adjourn:**

**MOTION** (Steve Davidson/Karon Davidson) to adjourn at 1:36 p.m. PASSED, without negative vote.

Joan Drehmel, Secretary





# Zion Lutheran Church



Zion Lutheran Church seeks to preach and teach God's Word to all people of all ages, And to show God's love through our witness, fellowship, and service.

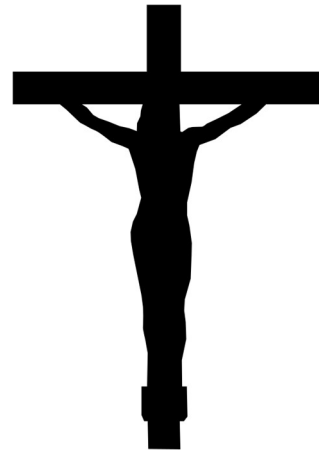
## March 2019 Newsletter

Joint Council Meeting is at Zion, March 7, beginning at 7:00, followed by each congregation's council meetings, and then the Elder's meeting



***Lunch is served at Zion each Sunday, following the worship service: First Sunday is hosted by the Sunday School. Second Sunday is hosted by the Church Council. Third Sunday is hosted by the Mission Board. Fourth Sunday is hosted by the Ladies' Aid. All are invited to join us for good food and fellowship.***

*Zion Ladies Aid and Bible Study -will have their meeting on March 6 at noon, with a potluck lunch. Everyone is welcome to come. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. There is no membership to sign, and you can come any time after lunch, too. We have a Bible study right after lunch, led by Pastor Norton. We conclude with a business meeting. Come and enjoy the fellowship with other ladies of the congregation.*



**Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on Wednesday, March 6.**

Wednesday evening Lenten services will be held at Zion at 7:30 on March 6, 20, and April 3. Services will be held at Bethlehem March 13, and 27, and April 3.

Join us as we use this season to gain an understanding of the reason behind the sacrifice that was made for our sins.



## Annual Meeting Highlights

### January 27, 2019

Zion Lutheran Church's annual meeting was called to order at 11:45 a.m. by President Dave Kiesow. There were 21 members present. Pastor Norton began with a prayer.

**Pastor's Report:** Pastor Norton gave his report of services, meetings, visits, weddings and other official acts and duties. He said he logged 7,188 miles.

**Secretary's Report:** The minutes from the January 28, 2018 annual meeting were read and accepted.

**Treasurer's Report:** Chris Hausmann gave a report of the highlights of the treasury for 2018.

President Dave Kiesow waived the readings of the remaining reports to save time since they are all included in the meeting packet.

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Wages for those that receive pay were discussed. Sue Stephan, our office

secretary declined a raise. Our council has suggested a 1.5% raise for Pastor Norton. The council has suggested we pay Chris, our treasurer, \$10.00 per hour.

### Election of Officers

**Secretary:** Cheryl Knuth

**Treasurer:** Chris Hausmann was nominated for treasurer, but we keep looking for someone for the treasurer's position since Chris has expressed that she would rather not continue as treasurer.

**Financial Secretaries:** Debbie Lane, Marianne Kiesow, and Jerry Hermann

**Elders:** Ken Kiesow, Dan Macco, and Earl Jaenke

**Trustees:** Brenda Thompson, Walter Thompson, and Steve Single

**Board of Education:** Cheryl Knuth, Deanna Haldeman, Debbie Prill as superintendent, and Amber Marion

**President:** Dave Kiesow

**Adjournment:** Jerry Hermann made a motion to adjourn. Earl Jaenke seconded the motion and it carried.


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Due to inclement weather, there was no council meeting in February.

.....  
*O what a wonderful, wonderful day - Day I will never forget; After I'd wandered in darkness away, Jesus my Savior I met. O what a tender compassionate friend - He met the needs of my heart; Shadows dispelling, with joy I am telling, He made all the darkness depart!*

*Heaven came down and glory filled my soul. When at the cross the Savior made me whole. My sins He washed away, And my night was turned to day. Heaven came down and glory filled my soul.*



 Please remember in your prayers: Dorothy (Noel) Smith, Don Lane, Bev Curler, Paul Leverty, Penny & Olivia Schmidt, Martha Jaenke, Pastor Jones at Zion-Chippewa, Diane Goss, the grandson of Eugene and Dotty Neumann, Drake, who was hurt snowboarding; shut-ins and members living in Care Facilities.

OUR NURSING HOME RESIDENTS

Augusta--Diane Goss--Zion  
 Geneva Smith--Beth.  
 Eileen Hagedorn--Zion  
 Amy Bergman--Zion  
 Naomi Sudbrink--Beth.

HOMEBOUND

Brian Markham--Beth  
 Carol Huff--Zion  
 Don Berlin--Beth.  
 Ellie Grunewald-Beth  
 Delores Starck-Beth.  
 Winifred Boyea-Wicksey-Zion  
 Marlene & Bo Tessmer-Beth.  
 Phyllis Peterson-Zion

Also in nursing homes, or assisted living:

Bev Curler...Oak Gardens Place, Altoona

The Manor, Chippewa Falls--Delores Staats, (Marilyn Norton's mother)

Grace-Woodlands, Eau Claire--Florence Korn-Beth. Neillsville--Dorothy Solberg-Beth.

Stanley--Robert Reppe-Zion River Pines, Altoona--Julia Phillips-Beth



Reminder – both Zion and Bethlehem have prayer chains, that is people who will pray for someone who is ill, in need of a job, or need God's loving support in another way. Zion members can call Betty Woodford @ 715 877-3225 & Bethlehem members can call Sharon Tumm @ 715 877-2402, with a prayer request for yourself or for anyone else.

There are also "Prayer Request Boxes," paper, and pencils available in the narthex. You may write down any request and put it in the box provided.





### **MARCH BIRTHDAYS:**

James Kiesow, Jr	3/3
Wayne Compeau	3/8
Tristan Maland, Riley Charlo	3/11
Elton Stephan	3/14
Valint (Bud) Hadorn & Luke Pilgrim	3/16
Joan Drehmel	3/20
Teri Berlin & Scott Rene	3/21
Brandon Bauch	3/24
Mikayla Pilgrim	3/27
Lillian Hadorn	3/28
Ryan Pilgrim, Wyatt McCann	3/29
Dakota and Mason Antczak	3/31



### **MARCH BAPTISM BIRTHDAYS**



3/2	James Norton
3/3	Kathy Berlin & Weston Childers
3/5	Celeste Glenz
3/8	Beverly Curler
3/9	Sharon Tumm & Karon Davidson
3/10	Mike Pilgrim
3/12	Halle Luedtke
3/15	Kim Drehmel
3/16	Eric Huth
3/19	Wilson Krumenauer
3/25	Gracie Marten & Brandon Bauch
3/28	Edward Raether
3/30	Olivia Schmidt

### **MARCH WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES**



3/6	Darin & Jamie Noel
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