

The Bethlehem Star



The newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church
www.bethlehembayridge.org

April 2017

In this month's Beth Star...

- Message from Pastor Paul
- Calendar, activities, and Holy Week schedule, including Palm Sunday, Passover Seder, Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services, and breakfast and service on Easter morning
- Church Council highlights
- Reports from Lutheran Elementary School of Bay Ridge, The Bay Ridge Center, The Healing Center, and the Lutheran Counseling Center



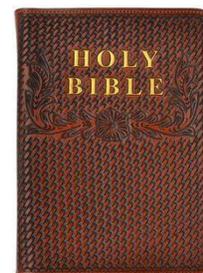
Saturday, April 22nd
9:00 AM

Healing Center's
NYC Teen Dating
Violence Awareness
Walkathon



Sunday, April 30th
1:00 PM

"Healing Songs of
Hope" free concert



Sunday, April 30th
9:15 AM

First day of Adult
Bible Class led by
Carl Jacobsen

Join us for all of our Holy Week services and events



Our Mission

To serve God and God's people. To live our faith daily through worship, and providing education, support, nourishment, compassion, good counsel, love, and service to the larger community welcoming all who join us in this mission.



Our Welcome

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a **Reconciling in Christ** congregation. People of all sexual orientations and gender identities are welcome within the membership of this congregation and are encouraged to share in the sacramental and general life of this Christian family.

Pastor Paul's Monthly Message for April

Dear Members and Friends,

In my Christian Living class, we just finished reading the classic short story, "The Lady, or the Tiger?" by Frank Stockton. Many of you are probably familiar with the story. An ancient king had a unique way of determining innocence or guilt. A subject accused of a crime would be brought into a large arena. The crowd would gather and the subject had to make a choice between two identical doors. Behind one, was a tiger ready to devour him. Behind the other, was a beautiful maiden who would be given to him in marriage.

The story gets more intense, as the king discovers that his daughter is in love with a non-royal. The young man is immediately arrested and a date is set for his trial in the king's arena. He will have to choose between the two doors, one will bring certain death, the other will bring a beautiful young maiden to be his wife. In either case, the princess and her lover would not be together.

The princess is able to find out what lies behind each door. She knows what door will bring forth the tiger and what door will bring forth the beautiful maiden. The young man enters the arena and looks up at the princess for a sign. She gives a slight motion to the right. Without the slightest hesitation, he went to the door on the right, and opened it. Did the lady come out of that door, or the tiger?

In a brilliant way, the author leaves the ending up to the reader. Is it the lady, or the tiger? I posed this question to my 8th graders. The result: Tiger = 16, Lady = 2. I asked why, and the first response was, "If she couldn't have him, nobody would!"

"The Lady, or the Tiger?" was written in 1882, but sadly in 2017 negatives such as jealousy, possessiveness and power still damage relationships. Women are in need of orders of protection and support, because their partner proclaims, "If I can't have her, nobody will." Our Healing Center exists to assist women who are in danger of abuse or experiencing abuse from a partner or ex-partner.

On April 22nd, over 500 young people will gather for our Healing Center's 6th Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walkathon. The young people of our community need to know what constitutes a positive loving relationship and what does not. Jealousy, possessiveness, power & control lead to all types of abuse. A positive relationship involves an equal partnership in which there is love and respect in all areas of a couple's interaction. Our young people need to know the difference between a good relationship and a bad one.

The Healing Center is committed to the prevention and intervention of intimate partner and family violence, abuse and sexual assault, serving people of diverse faiths, cultures and personal experience. Bethlehem Lutheran Church embraces this incredible ministry!

In God's Service,

Rev. Paul H. Knudsen

Pastor



April 2017

Services | Activities | Special Events | Meetings

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1 7:15 pm—AA
2 9:15 am—SS/Confirm 10:30 am—Worship followed by Coffee Hour 2:00 pm—Jean Larsen Memorial	3 6:30 pm Bay Ridge Center Board of Directors 7:15 pm—AA	4	5 5:30 pm Lenten Meditation & Prayer	6 7:15 pm SW Ridge Lutheran Council @ Good Shepherd 7:15 pm—AA	7 7:00 pm—Scouts	8 7:15 pm—AA
9 PALM SUNDAY 9:15 am—SS/Confirm 10:30 am—Worship followed by Coffee Hour	10 7:15 pm—AA	11 7:00 pm School Board	12 6:30 p.m. Healing Center Board of Directors	13 5:30 pm Passover Seder 7:30 pm Maundy Thursday Worship	14 7:30 pm Good Friday Worship	15 7:15 pm—AA
16 EASTER SUNDAY 8:45 am—Easter Breakfast NO SS/Confirmation 10:30 am—Easter Sunday Worship	17 7:15 pm—AA	18 7:00 pm Church Council	19	20 7:15 pm—AA	21 7:00 pm—Scouts	22 9:00 a.m. Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-thon 7:15 pm—AA
23 NO SS/Confirmation 10:30 am—Worship followed by Coffee Hour	24 7:15 pm—AA	25	26	27 7:15 pm—AA	28 7:00 pm—Scouts	29 7:15 pm—AA
30 9:15 am—SS/Confirm 10:30 am—Worship followed by Coffee Hour 1:00 pm—"Healing Songs of Hope Concert						

Sunday Worship Attendance

3/1 - 54 (Ash Wednesday)
 3/5 - 95
 3/12 - 128
 3/19 - 103
 3/26 - 118

Bethlehem: The Growing Church!



~ **NEW SIGN UP POSTERS** ~
 In the Church Narthex for Altar Flowers ~
 in honor /memory of Loved Ones.
 Coffee Hour Volunteers ~ so we can enjoy
 food/fellowship every week!
 Please sign up!



Fellowship:

4/2 - Coffee Hour hosted by volunteer
 4/9 - Palm/Passion Sunday Coffee Hour
 hosted by Dennis & Janet Cerutti
 4/13 - Passover Seder
 4/16 - Easter Morning Breakfast
 4/23 - Coffee Hour hosted by volunteer
 4/30 - Coffee Hour hosted by volunteer

SAVE THE DATE!!!
 NORWEGIAN DAY PARADE
 MAY 21, 2017



Gary Solberg is selling pins to
 support the Parade!
 \$5.00 – each

To order a pin, please call him at 718-838-5972

YOUTH MINISTRY



April 22nd
 Teen Dating Violence Awareness Walk-a-thon



E-MAIL SIGN-UP!!!

To receive timely information about our services,
 activities, news and events by E-mail, please send
 your name and e-mail address to:
webmaster@bethlehembayridge.org



Anyone interested in partaking in the
 Worship Service, as Communion Preparers,
 Communion Assistants or Lectors, please speak to
 Dennis Monsen!



In Sympathy

Jean Larsen
 A Memorial Service will be held for Jean at
 Bethlehem Lutheran on Sunday, April 5th
 at 2:00 p.m.

Monthly Offering for January

\$9,172.00

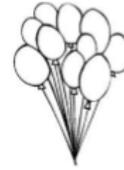
Monthly Offering for February

\$9,625.00

Monthly Offering for March

\$8,174.00

God's great work at Bethlehem needs your
 financial support!



Nursing Home
Christine Scanlon, Reymundo Lariosa

Healing & Strength
Robert Serrano, Hermicenda & Hery Vallecillo, Billy Whelan, Doris Whelan, Donna & Indal Balkissoon, Samantha Coppola, Joshua Fonseca Coppola, Helen Roszko, Bob Muselli, Kristine Larsen, Lon Dayhoff, John Maceda, Caroline Hildreth, Shirley Tuccillo, Peter Fistanic, Angel Sierra, David Stayer, Christine Landi, Marcus Caban, Ann DeMarco, Robert Hofmo, Lenny Thompson, Anna Aboltins, Bailey Roszko, Karen Kozoriz, Dawn Valentine, Ruth Kennedy, Adam Torres, Joe Musco, Ed Shipwright, Cathy Keough, Anita and Harold Heitman, Sal Turturici, Julie Dawson, Carl and Mindy Jacobsen, Anne Okun, Anna Marie Zarr, Mario Torres, Anna Atilas, Wei Jiang, John Fowler, Michael DeMartini, Laura Woltman, Rose Barron, Helen Wires, Marietta Blanchette, Norma McGrath, Alfred Bakke, Janet Adamski, Family of Jean Larsen, Michelle DelPin, Helge Henricksen

BIRTHDAYS

4/4 – Ruth Sorensen / Kathy Finkelstein
4/5 – Hannah Puelle
4/13 – Laura Woltman
4/15 – Tory Katherine Okun
4/21 – Justin Paul Knudsen, Jr.
4/29 – Jane Palermo
4/30 – Gabriella Garcia

ANNIVERSARY

4/8 – Al & Helen Koehler

If you would like your Birthday or Anniversary added please tear off the bottom and place in offering plate or return to the office.

Name: _____

Date of Birthday/Anniversary: _____

Church Council Highlights — March 21, 2017 Meeting

Bay Ridge Center (presented by Pastor Paul)

- We continue to explore additional space opportunities.
- Special events coming up:
 - June 2nd = Nite @ the Races
 - June 24th = Senior Technology Expo

Worship & Music (presented by Dennis Monsen)

- The next commission meeting will be March 28th.
- The choir will continue to sing at every worship service, choosing familiar hymns as their anthems.
- The choir has planned out the anthems for the next two months.
- A separate committee has been formed to begin the search for a new choir director/organist.

Lutheran Elementary School (presented by Al Koehler)

- The next meeting of the School Board will be Wednesday, March 29th.
- LES has been chosen by the Lutheran Schools Association to receive the Stanley J. Kramer Spirit Award. Our school was lauded for its focus on ministry, care of its students, and its innovative programming. This award will be presented to us at the LSA Annual dinner on Wednesday, May 17th.

Property (presented by Steve Solby)

- Work will begin on the 2017 Property Commission projects. The first projects involve the waterproofing of the exterior church building and the 411 Ovington Avenue building.
- Repairs will be done to the gutters on the parsonage, as they were damaged by the recent icy conditions.

Sunday School

- Nice to hear that Aaron Pahwa and Hannah Puelle taught the younger Sunday School classes last Sunday. They did a great job!

Healing Center (presented by Laura Caruso)

- The next Healing Center Finance Committee meeting will be March 22nd.
- The next Healing Center Board of Directors meeting will be April 12th.
- The Annual Teen Dating Violence Awareness walkathon will be Saturday, April 22nd. The walkathon webpage is already live.
- The Healing Center is now creating and distributing a monthly e-newsletter.
- Our Executive Director, Antonia Clemente, was honored during Women's History month.

Evangelism (presented by Deacon Tony)

- Lenten Meditation & Prayer services have begun on Wednesdays at 5:30. All are welcome.

Fellowship (presented by Kim Tran)

- Bethlehem Women's Group has been averaging over 15 women. They met on February 17th and will meet again on March 31st.

Finance Report (presented by Christine Puelle)

- The February 2017 financial report was reviewed and accepted as presented.

Pastor's Report (presented by Pastor Paul)

- Visitations (7), Funerals (0), Baptisms (0), Weddings (0)
- Youth group: In March there was a movie and pizza event. The youth group will be encouraged to attend the Healing Center's Teen Dating Violence Awareness walkathon on Saturday, April 22nd.
- Property sale/purchase Update: No change
- Organist Supply & Organist/Choir Director search
 - Supply organists have been scheduled through April
 - The Organist/Choir Director search committee has been formed and will begin the search for our new musician and music leader.



Dear Bethlehem,

Thank you to the members of our congregation who came out to the Lutheran Elementary School "Roaring Twenties" Dinner Dance. It was a wonderful opportunity for our school and church communities to get to know one another and to support our school.

The evening raised \$37,000, our most successful event yet! We are so grateful to the many parents who joined the dinner dance committee this year and worked hard to secure amazing raffles prizes. They came together – a group of parents, different in so many ways – and worked beautifully towards one shared vision. I find myself telling my husband often, "LES parents are the best!"

Equally as important is the growing commitment of our school parents to LES. Yes, there has been an increase in their charitable giving and volunteerism, but they see themselves as shareholders in the institution. They want to be an active part of making sure that LES is able to offer our children everything they need for the best educational experience possible.

This year we have had parents join us to share their cultural backgrounds and immigration experiences to enhance the social studies curriculum. Two families have funded ongoing curriculum and professional development, specifically looking at how we teach literature and writing. One parent has offered professional expertise, conducting a workshop on bullying for parents and speaking with our Kindergarten students about emotional wellness. Another parent, a professional singer-songwriter, conducted an after school songwriting program. Our students are having a truly unique learning experience.

We are looking forward to Spring sunshine in order to get back into our garden and some new school events, including our first math and science night for Grades 1- 4 and Nursery's "Dads and Donuts" morning. There are always exciting things taking place at LES. You are always welcome to schedule a tour to see your love and support of LES in action.

Yours,

Corinne M. King, Director of Development



Dear Members,

Take Action! Improve your life! Master your future!

The Boomers are coming! The Boomers are coming! Oops! They're here already.

Boomers refer to the group of people who were born during the Post World War II Baby Boom from 1946 until 1960. The nation's 76 million baby boomers (who are now between 57 and 71 years of age) have been given an unprecedented gift of health and time. I am one of them. Being a few years away from retirement, I realized that I was not at all prepared to make the move to the next phase of life. I certainly didn't feel that I know how to make the most of it.

I found I was not alone. With traditional retirement plans disappearing, the cost of daily living continuing to rise, and more than 84% of people over 65 coping with at least one chronic health condition, how do you make the most of this new stage of life – your "leisure years?" I enrolled in a course in 2016 called Aging Mastery and found that along with having fun, I learned a good deal about what I wanted to do as I got older. And how to be sure I could do some of it.

Here, at Bay Ridge Center, we have partnered with Kingsborough Community College to introduce this same program, called **Aging Mastery** to help our seniors (whether they be 60 or 102) to feel more secure about being able to enjoy and thrive as they grow.

What this program does is encourage mastering the choices we face as we grow older – helping develop behaviors that lead to improved health, stronger economic security, enhanced well-being, and increased social participation. It is based on the belief that modest lifestyle changes can produce big results and that all of us can learn to make the most of our longer lives.

It is a fun, innovative, education program that teaches participants to embrace their gift of longevity by spending more time each day doing things that are good for themselves and for others. And the result? You emerge feeling healthier, more productive, more financially secure and have a better quality of life. Try it! I did and I felt that it was good enough to bring to all of you!

Marianne Nicolosi
Executive Director



April 1, 2017

Dear Friends,

Happy spring,

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month and Sexual Abuse Awareness Month. I want to share with you key information about child sexual abuse from the National Sexual Violence Resource Center and the Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network. *Child sexual abuse or child molestation is a form of child abuse in which an adult or older adolescent uses a child for sexual stimulation. Child sexual abuse includes rape, commercial sexual exploitation of children, exposure, fondling, voyeurism, sexual assault, and exposure. Child sexual abuse is considered a type of child maltreatment, which also includes physical and psychological abuse as well as forms of neglect.* (NSVRC). Child sexual abuse is difficult to talk about or acknowledge. Yet it happens every day, child sexual abuse affects thousands of young children and teens. *One in nine girls and one in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult, 82% of all victims under 18 are female, of all victims' under 18, two out of three are ages 12-17. Child victims often know who their perpetrator is. Among cases of child sexual abuse reported to Law Enforcement 93% are known to the victim, 7% are strangers, 59% are acquaintances and 34% are family members.* (RAINN).

Grooming tactics are used to recruit children to establish a trusting relationship, by connecting with the child, sexual predators give them gifts, take them out, make them feel that they are important, giving children attention and affection they may be lacking. Many perpetrators will also use imitation tactics, threats for a child to stay quiet or threatening to harm the child or a member in the family. The people who committed these crimes are trusted by the children they harm and at times are respected people in the community.

Child sexual abuse is a crime, a sin and it's underreported. What can you do to raise awareness? Talk to children about body safety, teach children the difference between okay and not okay touches, between good and bad secrets, empower them to say no when they don't want to be touched. We can each do our part by believing and supporting the children in our lives; by reporting any and all suspected child sexual abuse to child protective services or to law enforcement.

Join us on Saturday, April 22, 2017 for the NYC Teen dating Violence Awareness Walkathon: hundreds of teens, children, schools community people will walk to say "NO" to dating violence. If you are interested in volunteering please contact the office 718-238-5138.

Thank you for your continuous support and prayers,


Antonia Clemente
Executive Director

News about The Healing Center

SENATOR GOLDEN TO HONOR THE HEALING CENTER AS PART OF WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION Urges Community To Write About A Special Woman In Their Life

Brooklyn - State Senator Martin J. Golden (R-C-I, Brooklyn) today announced that, as part of Women's History Month, he will be hosting a special event recognizing Antonia Clemente and the organization she runs, the Healing Center (THC), for their work which has impacted the lives of so many in the community.

Antonia Clemente is the Executive Director and co-founder of The Healing Center. THC helps families affected by violence understand their options and how to take steps toward healing and self-sufficiency. Reaching out to different cultural and socio-economic backgrounds, THC works to prevent family violence in our community. The Center's educational workshops, which are offered at local schools and churches, raise community awareness concerning family violence, elder abuse, and sexual assault. Empowerment support groups provide sessions to encourage self-esteem, offer alternatives and help clients understand the dynamics of violence and the cycle of abuse in their lives. THC also provides safe space for children who witness domestic violence, and offers a special program for teenage girls who witness and are victimized by violence in the home or through teen dating violence.

In order to provide assistance to THC, Senator Golden is asking the community to donate gift cards that will be presented to Ms. Clemente during a reception that will be held on April 28th from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., at the Norwegian Christian Home, located at 1250 67th St, Brooklyn, NY 11219. Gift cards for supermarkets and chain store pharmacies can be delivered to the Senator's District Office, 7408 Fifth Avenue by Thursday April 27th. Please note the amount of your contribution directly on the gift card.

Senator Golden described Ms. Clemente as "a special woman, who has made a real contribution to countless people and families in the community. For nearly two decades, the Center has been a major resource for many of the most vulnerable in our neighborhoods."

The Healing Center began operations out of a church kitchen in 2000. In 2004, the Healing Center formed a board of directors and in November of 2005, became a 501(c)(3), not-for-profit organization. In 2008 the Healing Center was invited to partner with Bethlehem Lutheran Church in sharing the good news of hope, peace and healing to victims and survivors of family violence. As THC has expanded its mission, it has developed collaborations with the Brooklyn District Attorney's Office, CONNECT, Sanctuary for Families, Safe Horizons, and the Metropolitan New York Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Noting that "we all have a special woman in our life who has influenced our lives, be it a role model or mentor, a family member, someone from our community or famous person," Senator Golden is asking members of the community to write brief paragraphs about these special women and what role they play in your life. The paragraph should start with..."This special woman influenced my life because..."

These letters will be on display during the reception and will also be rotated and displayed in the windows of Senator Golden's District Office. Letters should be sent to: Senator Marty Golden, 7408 Fifth Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11209 and must be received by Thursday April 27th.

SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017

The Healing Center Presents



NYC TEEN DATING VIOLENCE AWARENESS

6th ANNUAL WALK-A-THON

REGISTRATION/ Sign In AT 9:00am

Starts at Tillary Street & Cadman Plaza, B'klyn (Korean War Veterans Plaza Park)

Via the Brooklyn Bridge; Ending at the steps at City Hall

For more information call (718) 238-5138

email: Srodriguez@thehealingcenterny.org



CO-SPONSORS





UPDATE FOR APRIL 2017

WITH COUNSELING SITES LOCATED IN:
NASSAU SUFFOLK MANHATTAN QUEENS
WESTCHESTER

Prepared especially for LCC Association
Congregations & Schools

Help Me, Lord! My Child May Be Suicidal

By Janet Siry, LCSW, LCC Psychotherapist

“I lift my eyes to the mountains—where does my help come from? My help comes from the Lord, the Maker of heaven and earth.” Psalm 121:1-2

The Lenten season is meant to be a time of contemplation—a time to reflect our relationship with Jesus, our Lord. We study the significant points of Jesus’ life— his baptism, wilderness experience and his own feelings of desolation and desertion by his disciples as he journeys toward the cross and his triumphant resurrection.

People of all ages can have feelings of desperation. We may feel abandoned and forgotten, misunderstood and desolate. We yearn for peace and understanding, even when it seems like an impossible dream.

According to the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention (afsp.org), more than twice as many people in New York State die from suicide than by homicide. Suicidal ideation can be a brief, passing thought or a prelude to self-inflicted violence and death. How do we know if someone we care about is serious about ending their own life? Every statement made about suicidal ideation needs to be assessed by a medical or a mental health professional. Lutheran Counseling Center psychotherapists are well qualified to make this assessment.

The Jason Foundation (jasonfoundation.com) was created after one family’s tragic loss, to assist parents to learn how to prevent suicide in their own family. The authors state that suicide is a “silent epidemic” among young people. Nationally, suicide claims more than 100 young lives per week. Parents must be alert and pay attention to changes in behaviors and attitudes. Girls make more attempts but boys are more likely to die because they choose more violent means of death. LGBTQ youths are at higher risk because of harassment in school and society. When people are suffering, their life stressors often exceed their ability to cope with stress in a healthy way.

The primary warning signs for suicide are a change in behavior or attitudes particularly after a traumatic life event. Many feel like a burden to others or state they have no reason to live. Specific behaviors that indicate an increased risk of suicide completion include increased use of alcohol to cope with everyday life, acting recklessly, isolation from others, sleep disturbances, certain types of mood disorders or giving favorite items away.

If you have a concern about anyone you know, taking direct action might save a person’s life. There are many resources and details listed in the previously cited websites. We Christians need to be reminded that help is available for us to know what to do next. The psalmist reminds us that our help is in the Lord our Maker who also creates professionals who care.

Janet Siry counsels children, teens, adults and families at LCC’s Patchogue, NY site. She is a member of The American Academy of Experts in Traumatic Stress, the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), and was awarded Woman of the Year in Religion in 2005.

If you or someone you love need immediate help, the National Suicide Prevention Hotline is 1-800-273-8255. For less emergency help, Call the Lutheran Counseling Center at 516-741-0994 or 1-800-317-1173 or e-mail us at Center@lccny.org for more information or to set an appointment. LCC has nine counseling sites in and around metropolitan New York. Visit our website at www.lccny.org.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

presents

“Healing Songs of Hope”

Free concert – Sunday, April 30th – 1 pm

*Come on out
and enjoy our
program
of inspirational
and uplifting
music from
three talented
professionals.
You will leave
with a song
in your heart...*



Daniel Rodriguez
"The voice that
healed the nation"
– New York Times

Marla Kavanaugh –
"The voice of an
angel" – San
Francisco Chronicle



Frank Rendo
"A vibrant voice,
power and artistry"
– CMU magazine



Made possible through a grant by

Staten Island University Hospital
Northwell Health™

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

4th & Ovington Avenues

Brooklyn NY 11209

718-748-9502

www.bethlehembayridge.org

Sunday Worship Service at 10:30 AM

All are welcome here



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