

Resurrection of Our Lord: Easter Day

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1050 Peninsula Dr.
Traverse City, MI 49686



Sunday, April 20, 2025—8:00 am and 10:00 am

Evangelical Lutheran Worship—Setting 3, page 138

Prelude

See, What a Morning

BLC Choir

Welcome and Announcements

GATHERING

Processional Hymn

Jesus Christ Is Risen Today

ELW 365

Greeting

A: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: And also with you.

Call to Worship

P: This day is not like any other day.

C: Today we slow down.

Today we take it all in.

Today we rest in good news.

P: This day is not like any other day.

C: Today we are singing.

Today we are full to the brim.

Today joy cannot be contained.

P: This day is not like any other day.

C: Today the stone was rolled away.

Today the women saw the empty grave.

Today we know—death does not win.

P: This day is not like any other day.

C: Alleluia! Amen

Call to Confession

A: Family of faith, it is our tradition to have a prayer of confession each week—not to harp on ourselves or to drum up guilt, but because we believe God is not done with us yet. So please join me in the prayer of confession, because God is always listening and God’s grace is always full to the brim.

Prayer of Confession

C: God of new life, we are a mixed bag. We want to be full to the brim with hope and joy, but often we overflow with comparison and doubt. We want to embody the resurrection, but often we’d rather stay the same than to begin again. We want to have the courage to be like the women on that Easter morning—to run and speak truth, but often we are weary of courage and uncertain of our own voices. Forgive us for all the ways we remain unchanged. Break into our hearts. Overflow here. With hope we pray, amen.

Words of Forgiveness

P: Family of faith, if there is life after death, then you can be certain—there is life after mess. There is life after mistakes. There is life after doubt. There is new life freely given, and that life is for you. You are forgiven, loved, and claimed. May we live full to the brim in response.

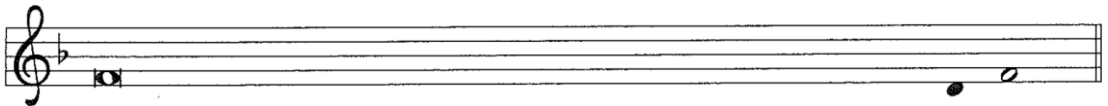
C: Thanks be to God, and let it be so. Alleluia! Amen

Kyrie

S 138



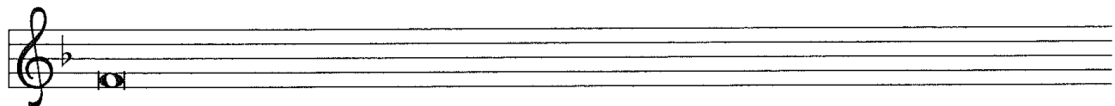
In peace, let us pray to the Lord. Lord, have mer - cy.



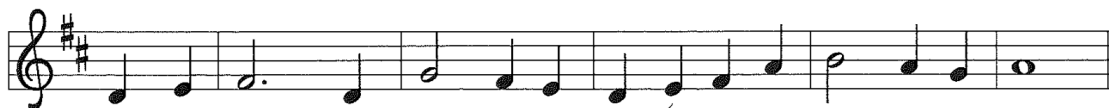
For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,

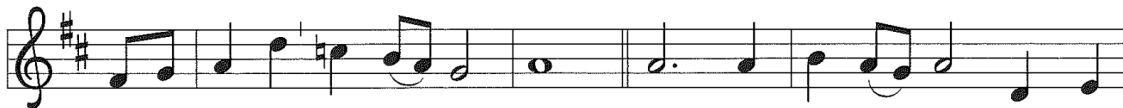


who was slain, whose blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 2 Pow - er, rich-es, wis - dom, and



strength, and hon - or, bless - ing, and glo - ry are his.

Refrain



This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,



al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 3 Sing with all the peo - ple of



God, and join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion: Bless - ing, hon-or,



glo - ry, and might be to God and the Lamb for-ev - er. A - men.

Refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God. Al-le - lu - ia,
 al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia. 4 For the Lamb who was
 slain has be - gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Final refrain

This is the feast of vic-to-ry for our God.
 Al-le - lu - ia, al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Prayer of the Day

A: The Lord be with you. **C: And also with you.**

A: Let us pray together...

C: ...O God, you gave your only Son to suffer death on the cross for our redemption, and by his glorious resurrection you delivered us from the power of death. Make us die every day to sin, that we may live with him forever in the joy of the resurrection, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Children's Message (10:00am only)

Pr. Paul

First Lesson

Acts 10:34-43

Peter's sermon, delivered at the home of Cornelius, a Roman army officer, is a summary of the essential message of Christianity: Everyone who believes in Jesus, whose life, death, and resurrection fulfilled the words of the prophets, receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

³⁴ Peter began to speak to the people: "I truly understand that God shows no partiality, ³⁵ but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. ³⁶ You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. ³⁷ That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: ³⁸ how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. ³⁹ We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; ⁴⁰ but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, ⁴¹ not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. ⁴² He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. ⁴³ All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name."

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalmody

Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24

¹ Give thanks to the Lord, for the Lord is good;
God's mercy endures forever.

² **Let Israel now declare,
"God's mercy endures forever."**

¹⁴ The Lord is my strength and my song,
and has become my salvation.

¹⁵ **Shouts of rejoicing and salvation echo in the tents of the righteous:
"The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"**

¹⁶ The right hand of the Lord is exalted!
The right hand of the Lord acts valiantly!"

¹⁷ **I shall not die, but live,
and declare the works of the Lord.**

¹⁸ The Lord indeed punished me sorely,
but did not hand me over to death.

¹⁹ **Open for me the gates of righteousness;
I will enter them and give thanks to the Lord.**

²⁰ "This is the gate of the Lord;
here the righteous may enter."

(continued on next page)

²⁴ This is the day that the Lord has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

1 Corinthians 15: 19-26

19 If for this life only we have hoped in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. 21 For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; 22 for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. 24 Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. 25 For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

C: Thanks be to God.

Alleluia

S 142a

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

Gospel

Luke 24:1-12

Evidently expecting to find Jesus' corpse, some of the women among his followers go to the tomb with embalming spices. After a perplexing encounter with the empty tomb and angelic visitors, the women become the first to proclaim the amazing news of resurrection.

C: ...Glory to you, O Lord.

1 On the first day of the week, at early dawn, the women came to the tomb, taking the spices that they had prepared. 2 They found the stone rolled away from the tomb, 3 but when they went in, they did not find the body. 4 While they were perplexed about this, suddenly two men in dazzling clothes stood beside them. 5 The women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, but the men said to them, "Why do you look for the living among the dead? He is not here, but has risen. 6 Remember how he told you, while he was still in Galilee, 7 that the Son of Man must be handed over to sinners, and be crucified, and on the third day rise again." 8 Then they remembered his words, 9 and returning from the tomb, they told all this to the eleven and to all the rest. 10 Now it was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the other women with them who told this to the apostles. 11 But these words seemed to them an idle tale, and they did not believe them. 12 But Peter got up and ran to the tomb; stooping and looking in, he saw the linen cloths by themselves; then he went home, amazed at what had happened.

P: The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

Sermon

Pastor Paul Busekist

Hymn of the Day

Lift High the Cross

ELW 660

Prayer for Illumination

P: Holy God, we so often long for more. We want more than the hamster wheel life of to-do lists and errands, meal prep and alarm clocks. We want more than comparison and competition. We want more than certainty that drowns out curiosity. We want more than fear that leads to violence.

We want a life that is teeming with alleluias. We want a life overcrowded with hope. We want a life congested with good news. We want a life jam-packed with forgiveness. We want a life bursting with laughter. We want a life so full that the stone just has to be rolled away.

So today we pray—break the dam. Dust the cobwebs from our ears. Clear space in our minds to hear you clearly. Speak to us as only you can. It's what we long for. We long for you. Gratefully we pray, amen.

Affirmation of Faith

P: We believe in a God who can astound us—

C: a God who created the mountains of Colorado, the stars on a summer night, and the green of Ireland.

P: We believe in Jesus, whose example changes us—

C: an example of love for those on the fringes, healing for the sick, and welcome for the lonely.

P: We believe that Jesus was abandoned by his friends, wounded, mocked, and killed by the state.

C: And in a garden, three days later, we believe that life began again—the stone was rolled back, as death lost its sting.

P: Ever since that day, we believe the Spirit has been inviting us into an expansive life—

C: a life not measured by wealth or accolades, but a life full to the brim with joy, overflowing with laughter, saturated in hope, and decorated with good news.

P: Death has lost its sting.

C: We believe, and are set free. Thanks be to God, amen.

Apostle's Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of Heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Response after each petition **"Hear our prayer."** (*Before prayer*) A: God of resurrection and new life, we come before you in prayer for the church, the world, and all who are in need.

(*Conclusion*) P: We commend these and all our prayers to you, O God, trusting that you are always with us; in the name of Jesus Christ, our risen Savior. **C: Amen.**

Sharing the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

C: And also with you.

MEAL

Offering / Offering Song

Zeke Clemons

Offertory

Come to the Table

ELW 481

Offering Prayer

A: Let us pray.

C: Risen One, you have gathered us around your table of grace along with these gifts we bring. Come among us again, breathe your life into us, and enliven us with this meal, that we may live as your risen body in the world. Amen.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: We lift them to the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

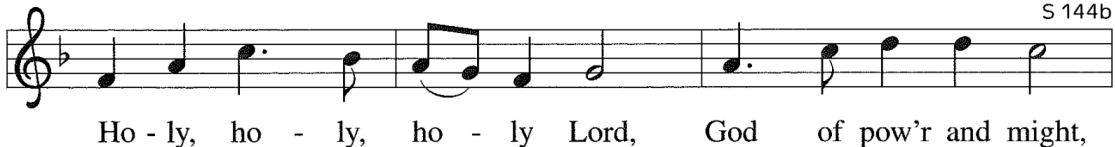
C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

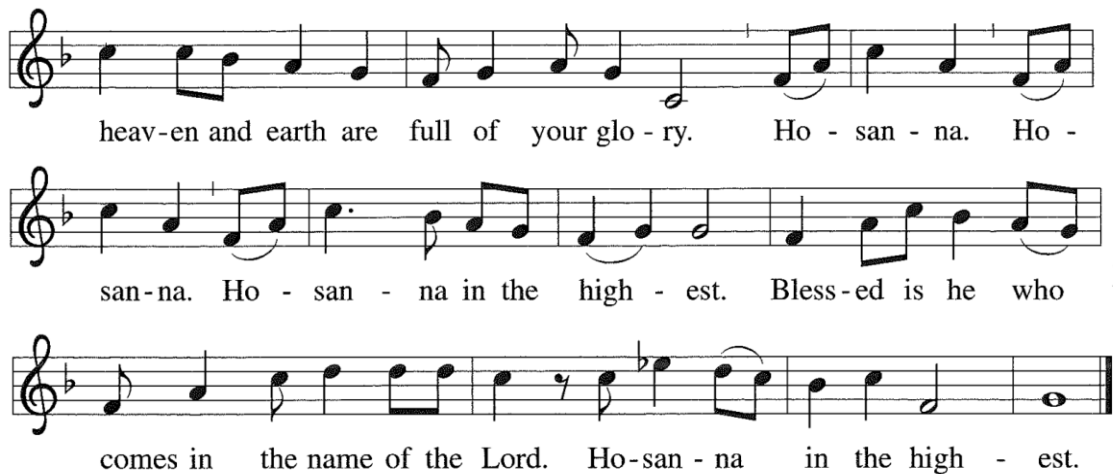
P: It is indeed right, our duty and joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Preface

Holy, Holy, Holy

S 144b





heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na. Ho -
 san-na. Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is he who
 comes in the name of the Lord. Ho-san - na in the high - est.

Words of Institution / The Lord's Prayer

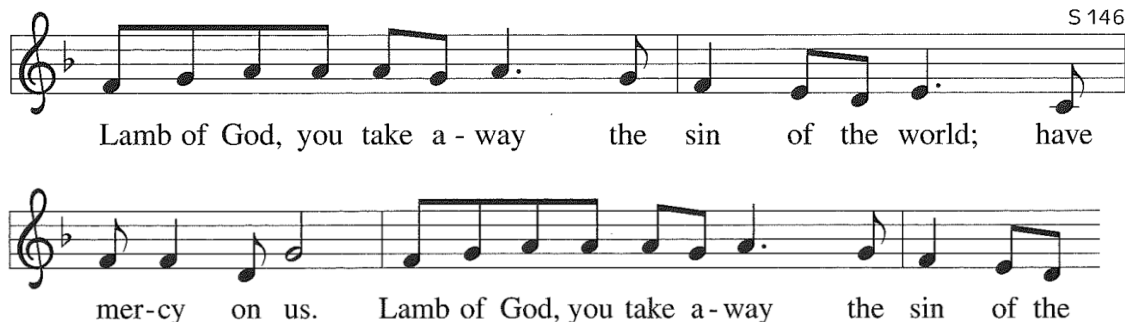
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

P: The gifts of God for the people of God. Taste and see that the Lord is good.

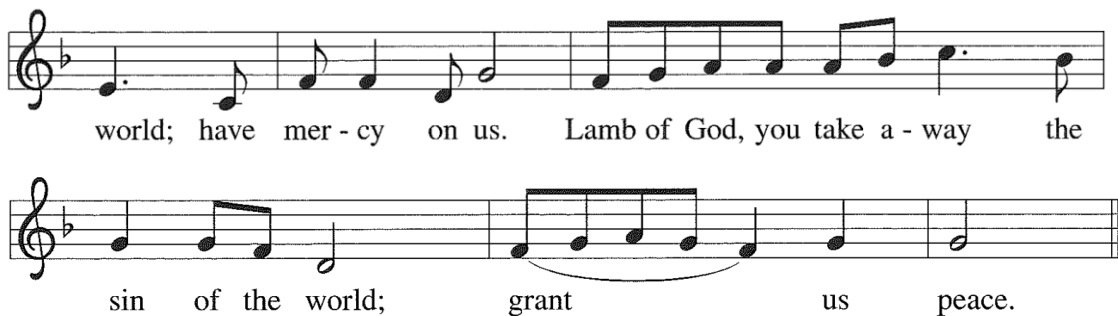
***Please note: Gluten-free wafers and white grape juice are available.*

Communion

Lamb of God



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
 mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the



Communion Hymns

***Good Christian Friends, Rejoice and Sing!
Thine Is the Glory***

ELW 385

ELW 376

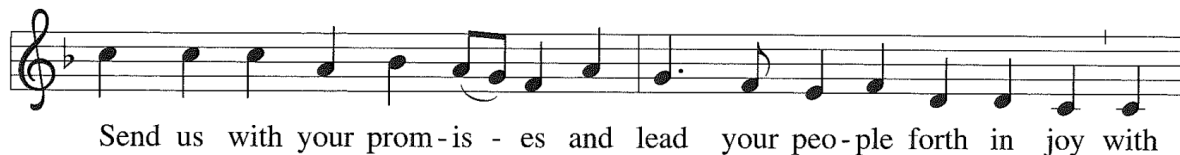
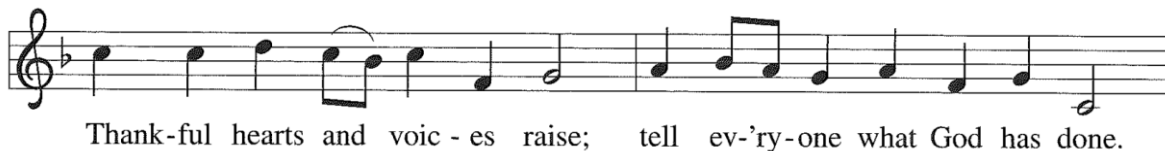
Post Communion Blessing

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C: Amen.

Post Communion Cantic

Thankful Hearts



Prayer after Communion

A: Let us pray. Living One, in this feast you have made yourself known to us. Send us now to tell of your wonders, sing of your glory, and proclaim your risen life to a wounded and weary world.

C: Amen.

SENDING

Blessing

P: Alleluia! Christ is risen! **C: Christ is risen indeed! Alleluia!**

P: The triune God, who was, who is, and who is to come, Sovereign, ✚ Savior, and Spirit, light your way with resurrection dawn, now and always.

C: Amen.

Sending Song

Shout for Joy

Pour out your fervent praise; There's a song to raise like a banner high;
Lift up your grateful heart to the Morning Star; He's alive and here with us.

Shout for joy, for the Son of God is the Saving One; He's the Saving One;
Shout for joy, see what love has done; He has come for us; He's the Saving One.

We stood on sinking sand; He reached out His hand, pulled us to his side;
We turned our hearts away; He was strong to save, now our Savior reigns in us.

Shout for joy, for the Son of God is the Saving One; He's the Saving One;
Shout for joy, see what love has done; He has come for us; He's the Saving One.

(interlude)

Oh, oh, oh, oh. Oh, oh, oh, oh.

There is no other God like You; We sing the praises that you're due Jesus, You have saved us,
oh, whoa;

There is no other God who reigns; You are the name above all names; Jesus, You have saved
us, whoa, whoa

...and shout for joy, for the Son of God is the Saving One; He's the Saving One;
Shout for joy, see what love has done; He has come for us; He's the Saving One.

Dismissal

A: Alleluia! Christ is risen. **C: Christ is risen indeed. Alleluia!**

A: Alleluia! Go in peace. In Christ you are made new. Alleluia! Alleluia!

C: Thanks be to God. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Servants for April 20

Preaching and Presiding—Pastor Paul Busekist

Assisting Minister—Barbara Oster (8:00am); Doug Cunningham (10:00am)

Lector—Barb Graf (8:00am); Peggy Burns (10:00am)

Musicians: David Husser, Zeke Clemons, Phil & Denice Bossardet, Pr Paul

Today's altar flowers are donated: *The Word Family in Celebration of Easter*

Hospitality—Leonard/Barb Graf (8:00am); Jim Monroe/Susie Burton (10:00am)

A/V—Alanna Steffunick-Boomer (8:00am); Barbara Oster, Paul Ton (10:00am)

No Cookies/Coffee in the Gathering Space today

Welcome Table—VOLUNTEER

Bell Ringer—Dave Susalski

Front Door Monitor: Paul Wiemerslage (8:00); Jana Rockne (10:00am)

Altar Guild—Patty Leibenguth / Erin Word

Tech Support—Julia Acker

Counters—Kate Holtfreter / Cindy Cuba

Easter Flower Dedications

In Memory of:

Marian Knaggs, Buck Walraven,

Wally & Dolores Goebel

By Tim & Peggy Goebel

Margaret Hutchison

By Jim Hutchison

George Ammann, Jo & Vern Adolphsen,

Pearl & Floyd Ammann

By Nancy Ammann

Our Parents

By Dorene & Jim Boyd

My Parents: Stanley & Patricia Brugger

By Gail Goldsmith

Our Parents: Don & Gert Fochtman,

Clare & Evelyn Monroe

By Cindy & Jim Monroe

Janet & Norbert Winkler

By Jane Winkler

Our Parents

By Frank & Patti Wall

Paul & Tod

By Betty Rutila

Daniel Morley (husband),

Dick & Peggy Bryson (parents)

By Betsy Morley

Jim Helman

By Sherri Helman

Rev Fred & Lillian Holtfreter (parents),

Paul Holtfreter (brother)

By Kate Holtfreter

Roy & Arline Stowe & Mark Stowe

By Dan & Laura Hahn

Jim Leibenguth

By Patty Leibenguth

Jan Waisanen

By Butch Waisanen

Jack & Ellen Wilkinson,

Jack & Irene Fred

By Norm & Jane Fred

Our Parents

By Ron & Marilyn Dork

Tim, Tina Putman, Russ Moyer, Twila Chrispell

By Jacky Putman

My Parents Bill & Irene Downey

By Linda Hansen

**Grandparents Bill & Irene “Papa & Grammy”
Downey**

By The Acker Family

Helen Pickard

By Dale & Barbara Wentzloff

Rob Burns, John & Georgann Pesavento

By Peggy Burns

My Parents

By Barbara Oster

Loved ones lost this year: Sister Bonnie,

Sister Jennifer, Nephew Josh

By Tom & Jana Rockne

Dear Loved Ones

By Carolyn Burns

Easter Flower Dedications

In Celebration of:

Christ is Risen! Alleluia!

By Nancy Ammann

Easter

By Kristen Rivard

**A new granddaughter plus 3 other
wonderful grandchildren**

By Craig & Maureen Bauer

Our Risen Christ

By Barbara Oster

Celebration of Easter

By Barbara & Leonard Graf

Our Family

By Tom & Cheryl Wegener



Christ Has Risen!

by Bruce & Pamela Snyder

Christ's Resurrection!

By Bethany Uhl

Margot, Mason, Emmett

By Mark & Kathie Bair

God's Blessings for All

By Doug & Diane Cunningham

Family Near & Far

by The Word Family



Bethlehem April 20, 2025
LUTHERAN CHURCH

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

4/20—Parker John Busekist

4/21—Sage Hill

4/22—Sharon Stowe

4/23—Linda Williams

4/25—Sandy Parkinson

4/26—Roy DuMond

1050 Peninsula Drive
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(231) 947-9880
www.bethlehemtc.org

**The church office will be closed on Monday, April 21st. Normal Building and Office Hours are:
9:00am – 2:30pm, Monday – Thursday. Office Phone #: 231-947-9880**

What IS GRIEVING? Could it be the loss of a marriage, your home, or community, good health, a dream or something else? The list can go on and on. No matter the loss you have a family here at Bethlehem that loves you, wants to support you, and be here for you! We meet here on the first Monday of the month from 3:30-4:30 and on the **third Monday from 5:30-6:30**. If you have any questions, please contact Peggy Burns 231-392-6913.