

MAY
PULPIT SCHEDULE
4—Rev. Bob Hansen
11—Rev. Bob Hansen
18—Rev. Sharon Rogers
25—Rev. Sharon Rogers

To my Bethlehem family,

My brother, John Davis, passed away on April 10, 2025, in Florida. John was buried at the National Veteran's Cemetery in Sarasota, Florida on April 17, 2025. Thank you for your prayers, cards, and phone calls. Pastor Bob and Pastor Sharon, thank you for your phone calls and prayers. There will be a Celebration of John's Life on May 16, 2025, in Dekalb/ Sycamore. Details to follow.

God' Blessings,

Margie Hargrave and Family



Thank you

Dear Rev. Rogers, Dear Rev. Hanson,

I want to thank you all for making Reiker Cho's day so special at your church. The service was so meaningful.

Sincerely,

Carol Robbins

Reikers' grandmother.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we prepared for Mom's memorial service. We appreciated your time and patience with our questions. It was a beautiful service. The message was personal, and we are confident that Mom loved it.

Chris & Cindy (daughters of Edna Schramm)

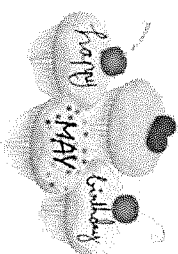
Thank you to the Perian's for the Easter Sunday favors!

Thank you to the anonymous donor of Easter baskets for the kids that come to the food pantry with their parent(s).



If you are interested in joining Bethlehem's prayer chain, please contact Judy Sister at 815-751-6243. We welcome anyone who would like to join in and pray for our members' concerns.

- 2 Ava Bloyd
- 10 Lynn Hansen
- 16 Sherry Krehl
- 18 Susan Gulke
- 19 Sue Ann Brown



Feed My Sheep Food Pantry

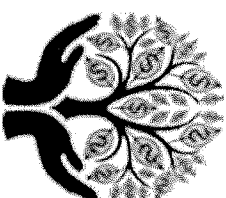
The March clients served are as follows:

	2025	2024
Households	439	413
Individuals	1306	1284
Children	363	372
# of Pantries	8	8



March Financials

Incom	13,649.50
Expenses	-15,435.87
Shortfall	-1,786.37



Family-focused poetry reading

By Author Annette Johns

Sunday, June 8

1:30-3:30 PM

Sycamore Library

Refreshments provided

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Wishing love to all the moms here today and to moms who are gone—you are very special.

Proverbs 31:25-27 "Strength and honor are her clothing; she is confident about the future. Her mouth is full of wisdom; kindly teaching is on her tongue. She is vigilant over the activities of her household; she doesn't eat the food of laziness.

Those who gave lilies to celebrate Easter:

Carol Ashmont in memory of loved ones

Bob & Donna Rae Ewing & Family in memory of loved ones

Pastor Bob & Lynn Hansen in honor of the members of Bethlehem

Margie Hargrave in memory of Carl Hargrave

Barb & Bruce Luchsinger in memory of Jane Shepherd

Bill & Deb Persian in honor of family

Judy & Ed Sisler in memory of our parents

The Yarde Family in memory of Bob Hongisto

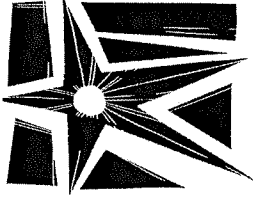
The flowers on the altar were given in celebration of

Easter by the Grand Victorian of Sycamore.

Please Help Support Belize Trip

Dawn George will be traveling to Belize this July for a program that involves Christian Veterinary Missions with her team from Rochelle Veterinary and Dr. Rocky Lindsey. In addition to veterinary work, they will also spend each day with the youth ministry leading a Vacation Bible School/Sport Camp. The sports camp will focus on teaching the youth rodeo, basketball, and softball skills. Please donate through the link:

<http://cvm.org/short.../rochelle-veterinary-hospital-mission>



Bethlehem Star



May 2025

The JOY of Spring!!

Our Creator continues to create within us and around us. Crocuses and colorful spring flowers are popping out of the ground. Buds are bursting into green leaves. The challenges of the past year not only caused loss but gave us God given strength. Pope Francis, born in 1936, died on April 21st at age 88, the day after Easter. His funeral will be on Saturday, April 26. His name's sake, Saint Francis of Assisi, loved animals and embraced a vow of poverty. The Pope also lived this humble lifestyle which touched the lives of the powerless. He was said to have invited a young boy forward, at a huge gathering, who was sobbing. The little guy whispered his concern in the Pontif's ear. "My father died an atheist, "What will happen to him?". Pope Francis softly spoke, "Our God has a father's heart."

Happy Easter! You may say that Easter celebration already happened on April 20th. We Christians could be called "Resurrection People". Death and resurrection are fundamental to our belief system. We say at communion, "Christ has died, Christ has Risen, Christ will come again". We need the reminder of Easter, just as the disciples needed it. Jesus comes through our locked doors to say, "Peace be with you." See the nail holes and the gash in his side. Death is defeated. Jesus is alive, now.

His tragic death on the cruel cross was turned into an overwhelming love, filled with forgiveness of sin and life eternal. We people of faith, are lovingly reminded of these graces. Jesus said, "Forgive them Father, for they know not what they do". It is easy to believe that the disciples, Pope Francis, the women who first proclaimed "He is Risen! He is Risen indeed.", will go to heaven. God has a Father's heart, and his passion is to have all of his creation around Him on the final day.

So, celebrate Easter year-round, you Resurrection People! The environment around us is vibrant with new growth. God will create new growth and promise within our souls too. "This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad in it." Psalm 118:12

God is doing a new thing in you and me: When we solve tough problems, accomplish a challenging goal, fulfill our dreams, experience love, share a new friendship, are forgiven or serve the poor and needy, just to name a few. We experience the Easter rising and falling of life. We are made stronger by the grace of God.

Jesus is risen each day of our lives. He gives us many signs. Have a blessed Easter each day! On the journey, Pastor Bob