

CROSSINGS



NOVEMBER 2017

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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the 10 Commandments as given in Exodus 20. The law requires us to act, even in the 1st commandment, to "have no other gods". Luther explains having no idols means that we must then fear, love and trust God above all things.

The word fear sticks out to me when I read Luther's explanation of the 1st Commandment. Fear of people, fear of being alone, or not being good enough, financial fears, fear of failure, fear of death....yikes, I can work my way into fear of fear! In such a state, I'll grab anything to protect myself. In slip the idols, and so much for loving and trusting God above all else.



Dear Bethlehem,

Grace and Peace from our Lord Jesus Christ.

At Bethlehem, we marked the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation by offering the Legacy of Luther as a six week preaching series. I pick up a 7th legacy here, one of my favorites, Luther's teaching of the two truths of scripture, law and gospel. According to Luther, **the law says, this is what you must do, and the gospel reverses that and says, this is what God has done for you!** Before I go further, I want to ask you to bear with me with a little content from the Bible and Luther's interpretation....and you'll be rewarded with a testimony from Bob and Sue Johnson a little later in the letter.

But then Luther says, there is another way the law helps us, that is to send us back to God in need of God's mercy. And surprisingly, God reverses our action, not in condemnation, nor punishment, but forgiveness. This is the second truth of scripture or gospel. **The gospel is God's action in grace to forgive us, restore our relationships, set us free from bondage, heal our brokenness and promise us eternal life.** We see the gospel most clearly in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, however gospel appears in the Old Testament, and God is still acting for us today to forgive, save and restore!

Ok, first the background. **God gives us the law that there might be more love in the world**, and also to show us, according to Luther, the truth that we aren't always all that loving. We might think of

Ok, here you go with the promised story. It works the other way around with law and gospel too. An experience of God's grace, which we call gospel, sends us out to follow God's ways, law.

I had the gift of a visit from Bob and Sue Johnson the other day, and they gave me permission to share a part of our conversation. I was working on a stewardship letter that day, so I thanked Bob and Sue for their commitment to Bethlehem over the years. Bob looked at me with a sudden intention and deep humility in his eyes and said, “We have given a considerable amount to Bethlehem both in time and from our finances, sometimes even when it wasn’t easy to do so. But that was because we sensed something here from the very beginning when Sue and I arrived. We both sensed something here that we just wanted to see continue.” I asked him to clarify the “something”. Did it have to do with God? “Of course, both said. That goes without saying. God is why the church is here.”

Here’s what we read in scripture from *2 Corinthians 9*, “*Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.*” This is very interesting because Paul is saying that God doesn’t want our giving, whether time, talent or treasure, to come from a compulsion, but instead **from cheer or joy**. But where does that joy come from? The next line explains: “*God is able to provide you with every blessing, so that by having enough, you may share abundantly in every good work.*”

In our giving, we see law and gospel working in the opposite direction from the 10 commandments. This is the important thing about our giving that Bob and Sue were attesting to - it’s not like one of the commandments. It starts with God doing something for you, gospel. As Bob put it, “We gave because we sensed something here” – they sensed God here. It starts with God’s grace, and then because God is able to provide us with every blessing, we respond to give so that others may also experience God’s blessing – “to keep it going” as Bob said. Thanks Bob and Sue for responding to the gospel by putting a little more love out there in the world. Thanks Bethlehem for all you give. May your giving be not as the world judges large or small, but cheerfully from the abundance of blessing that God has first given you. So, maybe our relationship with God looks like this: **law – gospel – law**. With the law God draws us close; there God set us free (gospel), only to send us out with a new

law as spoken by Jesus. “*This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you,*” *John, Chapter 15.*

Blessings,
Pastor Carol

BETHLEHEM’S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Below is the action report of our giving with dollar amounts for September and YTD.

2017	September	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$11,849.25	\$143,754.75	\$152,113.00
Expenses	\$15,845.46	\$147,082.57	\$152,113.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	(\$3,996.21)	(\$3,327.82)	\$ 0.00

To date we are behind in our giving, but our expenses have been lower than budgeted. In September the General Operating Fund dipped into the red, but as our members get caught up on pledges we hope to soon see the fund back in the black. Our renovation loan balance is now \$16,500. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem’s Renovation and Property Trust Fund

2017	September	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 295.00	\$ 3,185.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 10.00	\$ 10.00

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please join with the youth in setting up the Chrismon tree and hanging the wreaths in the church on Friday, December 1 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m.	Traditional Worship with Sunday School
9:00 a.m.	Youth Group
10:00 a.m.	Hospitality Hour
10:30 a.m.	Contemporary Service, youth and child friendly

Holy Communion is offered at each service.

All Saints Day: On Sunday, November 5, we will observe All Saints Day by remembering those congregation members who entered eternal life since last November. We will also pause to remember any saint, living or dead, who has been a wonderful witness of Christian faith.

Daylight Saving Time Ends: Sunday, Nov 5. Be sure to set clocks back one hour!

Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service: Sunday, November 19 at 4:00 p.m. at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, Elgin.

Thanksgiving Eve Service: Come celebrate Thanksgiving on Wednesday, November 22 at 7:00 p.m.

Poinsettias: You can help decorate the sanctuary for Christmas by buying a poinsettia for \$12. Orders need to be placed by Sunday, December 3. Look for the order form at the Welcome Center and place in the offering plate or give your order to the church office. Payment must accompany the order. You can state if you wish to honor someone or to remember someone.

Christmas Eve Special Music: Any musician wishing to share his or her talents prior to or during the 4:00 p.m. or 10:00 p.m. services, please speak with Peg Youngren.

Music opportunities in both services: Contact Peg Youngren (syoungren@sbcglobal.net)

Praise Him Contemporary Ensemble: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m.

Bethlehem Choir: Wednesdays at 7:15 pm

All are welcome to join us in giving God the praise and glory!

MISSION TRIP MEETING

Sunday, November 5

11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Mission trip participants will meet after 10:30 worship on Sunday, November 5. It will be a potluck for lunch with a meeting following lunch. Youth and leaders will sign up at youth group for lunch. The meeting will conclude by 2 p.m.

ULTIMATE LOCK-IN

Friday, November 10 through

Saturday, November 11, 2017

9:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

Metro Synod Lock-in will be held at the Enchanted Castle in Lombard featuring bumper cars, Go Carts, Laser tag, arcade games & prizes & pizza. Cost is \$35. Cindy needs to purchase the tickets by November 3.

The opening music performer/speaker will be Trey Pearson. Pearson was formerly lead singer of the band Everyday Sunday, which scored five U.S. Christian number one singles and twenty Christian Top 10 hits. Sign up during youth group.

35th ELGIN HUNGER CROWPWALK

Bethlehem walkers raised \$ 1,359. Thank you to the fifteen people who collected donations from members, family and friends. Thank you to all members who donated money to the walkers. 25% of money donated will go to food pantries and soup kettles in Elgin.

Cindy Lange

FALL FOOD DRIVE

“Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, ‘How can I help?’” (Romans 15:2)

The Service Team will focus its service efforts by assisting the All People’s Inter-Faith Food Pantry and the Crisis Center Food Pantry, to help feed the people in our community. We have been so blessed by God and wish to share those blessings with those whom Jesus would have fed.

Each Sunday, starting with CROP Walk Sunday through Thanksgiving, we will spotlight one meal or specific items, and ask that you bring an item to contribute.

November 5th – Clean & Healthy Week

Please bring: soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, kleenex, toilet paper

November 12th – Dinner

Please bring: canned meats, canned chicken, canned beef stew, canned vegetables, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, beans, rice

November 19th – Food of your choice

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember those who are hungry and please remember to bring a non-perishable food item.

Please place your non-perishable items in the Caring Cube in the Narthex. Let’s fill up the box with nourishment for those who are hungry. Thanks for your support.

PEDER EIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL RETREAT

November 10-12, 2017

Friday, 7:00 p.m. – Sunday, 1:00 p.m.

Lutheran Outdoor Ministries Center in Oregon,
IL

We will meet at BLC at 5:00 p.m. on Friday and return after lunch on Sunday afternoon. All lodging,

meals and activities are included in the cost of \$145. Gayle Chiarugi and Gentry Jones are the adult leaders for the event.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international Christian relief organization

that collects gift-filled shoeboxes and delivers them in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in desperate situations around the world. Samaritan’s Purse provides *The Greatest Journey* discipleship program along with the shoeboxes. The lessons are translated into 75 languages to reach children all over the world with the Gospel and establish their faith in Jesus.

Fill the shoebox with small gifts suitable for a child in 1 of the age categories:

2-4 year olds

5-9 year olds

10-14 year olds

Include a short note or fill out the “All About Me” sheet with a picture of yourself. Include a check for \$9 to cover the cost of the shipping for the shoebox. (You can also pay online and follow your shoebox to its destination.) Be sure to pray for the child that will receive your shoebox.

Shoeboxes will need to be returned **Sunday, November 5 or Sunday, November 12, 2017.**

Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child and sharing a shoebox gift and Jesus Christ with children around the world!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 02 David Jernberg
Bernardino Sanchez
- 03 Tracy Chabrier-Huizenga
- 07 Jack Anderson
- 08 Vincent Anderson
- 09 Laurel Warren
Mason Miedwig
- 11 Jerry Kile
Lyle Wolff
Ashley Ottaviano
Jeanette Rohrssen
- 12 Nancy Calderwood
- 14 Robert Luna
- 15 Owen Canham
Ray Mette
- 16 Gareth Sitz
Alma Villagomez
- 21 Becky Gabrys
- 22 Julie Ann Robbins
- 24 Jeffrey Kellogg
Kevin Bieschke
- 26 Erik Olson
- 28 LeRoy Anderson
- 29 Yazmin Malave



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you got to bed Saturday, November 4.

**HABITAT FOR HUMANITY CRAFT SHOW
Christ the Lord Lutheran Church
Saturday, November 4
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

As a member of the Habitat for Humanity-New Hope Partnership, Christ the Lord Lutheran Church holds an annual Craft Show to raise funds to support the group's projects.

At the show you'll find hand-made crafts and seasonal gifts, a raffle, bake sale, and a café with a soup and sandwich lunch.

Please help our sister congregation raise funds for New Hope Partnership. Christ the Lord Lutheran Church is located on Highland Ave, west of Randall Road.

**LSSI BEHAVIORIAL HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER GROOMING KITS**

The LSSI Behavioral Health Service Center located here in Elgin helps individuals struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. The Center would again appreciate our gifts of grooming kits for the 30 clients in treatment at the Center at Christmastime. Starting November 26th, please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the Narthex, purchase items listed on the tag and return unwrapped items in a ziploc bag by December 10th. Thank you for your care and concern.

HATS AND MITTENS

The Service Committee will be collecting hats and mittens for the children of the



Community Crisis Center during the months of December and January. Please help us keep all those little ones warm this winter. Thank you!



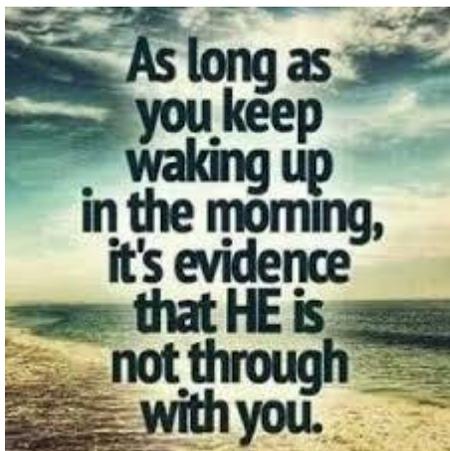
**St. John's Bible
Interactive Reception**

**Gail Borden Library
Sunday, November 12,
2017
1:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

Both volumes will be on display in the first floor lobby. Visitors will enjoy the ability to have pages turned, explore illuminated art and

interact with trained guides.

Don't miss seeing the word of God illustrated.



**SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN
CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

October 16, 2017

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Barkley Mapes, President	224-803-6573
Bill Lunsford, Vice-President	847-922-9933
Billie Jo Waugh, Secretary	847-917-0319
Bob Graham	847-695-9186

Sue Richoz	847-305-9957
Colton Thomas	847-521-3052
Margaret Drafall	847-695-4721
Pastor Carol Book	856-655-4743

Treasurer, Chery Peacock reported that September offerings (\$11,232.75) were below budget by \$3,327.82. September was a below budget month last year as well but only in the amount of \$575.40.

Loose offerings were also alarmingly lower in September - \$907.35 this year vs. \$1,541.45 last year. The bulk of the decreased giving appears to be a drop in non-pledged giving. This is worrisome.

On a brighter note, Chery reported that deficit reduction giving to date is \$2,559.00 whereas last year at this time it was only \$660.00.

Highlights from Pastor Book included: 1. The new church website is very close to being published. (The website has since been launched.) 2. Friday Fun Night wasn't well attended. Pastor will contact our Hispanic families regarding suggestions for improvement. 3. Pastor, Chery, and Cindy are working on a narrative budget for Stewardship Commitment in November. 4. Pastor requested setting up a mutual ministry committee that would make recommendations to the council regarding mutual ministry of the pastor and congregation. The committee responsibilities would include evaluating ongoing ministry, setting priorities and goals for future ministry, and evaluation of the ministry of the whole congregation in addition to the pastor.

Council agreed to continuing support for the Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, New Hope Partnership. A letter of agreement was signed and will be submitted to Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity.

Billie Jo Waugh
Council Secretary



CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8 -
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11,
2017
YOUTH MISSION TRIP
FUNDRAISER

The youth going on the 2018 Mission Trip are selling Carson Pirie Scott coupon booklets. Thanks to you, this has been a very successful fundraiser in past years for the youth Mission Trip. The coupon booklets sell for \$5 each and the entire \$5 goes directly to our Youth Mission Trip!

The coupons in the booklet can be used at any Bon-Ton, Bergner's, Boston Store, Carson's, Elder-Beerman, Herberger's, or Younkers store or online for purchases.

Each booklet includes:

- \$10 off coupon
• 30% off savings pass valid in-store and online which can be used on top of the bonus buy prices.
• 30% off Yellow Dot savings pass!
• Plus exclusive coupon offers and free standard shipping online.



The money earned will be used for our 2018 Youth Mission Trip to Kansas City, MO. Start your holiday shopping and save by using Carson's coupons and support the Youth Mission Trip! YEA! GOD! for your support of the youth!



CAMPBELL SOUP LABELS FOR
EDUCATION PROGRAM ENDING

The Campbell Soup Company has announced that effective August 1, 2017, its long-running Labels for Education Program is ending due to declining participation.



For the past 42 years, Campbell has proudly offered Labels for Education, which has contributed more than \$110 million in school supplies to tens of thousands of schools across the U.S., the company wrote in an email. During the last year, we've been assessing the impact of these programs and through this, we've seen that participation for Labels for Education has declined considerably. Sadly it is at the point where we have no choice but to make the very difficult decision to wind down the program. For now the U.S. program will continue as usual and schools without an account can still sign up. The current bonus offer calendar remains in effect until July 31, 2016.

Therefore, soup labels can no longer be accepted in the Bethphage Mission Box by the welcome center.

Billie Jo Waugh

Dear Bethlehem Members,

We would like to thank our Bethlehem family and friends for helping us celebrate our 65th wedding anniversary. A special thank you goes to those who arranged the reception and prepared and served the refreshments.

Bob and Barbara Siljestrom

BETHPHAGE MISSION BOX

Have you noticed the Bethphage Mission box on the stand by the welcome center? That smiling girl on the front is my daughter, Bonnie. She resided at Bethphage for 12 years until her death at age 19. This personal relationship with Bethphage Mission is the reason my grandmother, then my mother, and now I myself have overseen the donations of stamps, as well as Labels and Box Tops for Education, and kept this instruction article in the church newsletter. Bethlehem Lutheran Church has collected and donated these items for over 40 years.

Here is some general information about what Bethphage (now part of Mosaic, Inc.) can accept.

1. Box Tops for Education found on many Brand name items: Betty Crocker, Bisquick, General Mills, Old El Paso, Pillsbury, Land 'o' Lakes, Yoplait, Nature Valley, Avery (office/computer supplies), Ziplox, Kleenex, Scott paper products, Hefty, and many more
2. UPC (bar code) labels: Campbell's, Pepperidge Farm, Spaghetti O's, Swanson, Prego, Franco American, BIC, Pop Secret, Wolfgangpuck, Glad, Pace, Dannon, and more
3. Bottle Caps: V8 Vegetable Juice, V8 V-Fusion Juice, and V8 Splash Juice Drinks, Prego Pasta Sauces, Campbell's Ready to Serve Soups (plastic)

When clipping box tops or UPC labels, please be sure to include the **ENTIRE BOX TOP** or **ENTIRE UPC LABEL**. Partial UPC/bar codes cannot be accepted. Bottle caps are relatively new addition to the Box Tops/Labels for Education program. All items can be dropped in the Bethphage box either individually or in envelopes or baggies. There is no need to trim anything. The Craft Circle will gladly do that for you.

Thank you all for your continuing support. If you have any questions, please talk to me at church or call me at 847-917-0319

Billie Jo Waugh

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2017**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
			1 *Stephen Jernberg and Children 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	2 * James Jindra 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	3 *M/M Stephen Jindra	4 *Rebecca Jindra 9:00 Handbell Practice
5 *Randle Johnson 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 11:30 – 2:00 Mission Trip Meeting	6 *M/M Robert Johnson 12:30 Craft Circle Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	7 *M/M Bill Jones 11:00 By Heart – Red Room	8 *Gentry Jones family 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	9 *Jeffrey Kellogg	10 *Nona Kellogg 4:30 Peder Eide Middle School Retreat at LOMC 8:00 Metro Synod Youth Lock-In at Enchanted Castle	11 *Warren Kenyon
12 *Jerry Kile, Amy and Corey 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 1:30 – 4:30 St. John's Bible Interactive Reception Gail Borden Library	13 *M/M Larry Klemm 7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	14 *Jennifer Korp, Robert Luna and Gizelle 11:00 By Heart – Red Room	15 *Brett Kuppler CROSSING ARTICLES DUE 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	16 *M/M Jeff Lange 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	17 *Kathie Larson	18 *Linnea Larson
19 *Paul Larson 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 4:00 Thanksgiving Inter-faith Worship	20 *M/M James Lehman 7:00 Rebecca Circle at Carol Puotinen's home 7:30 Boy Scouts	21 *Christopher Lempa 11:00 By Heart – Red Room	22 *Eric Lempa 5:30 Praise Him 6:30 Adult Choir 7:00 Thanksgiving Eve Service	23 *M/M Len Lempa Office closed	24 *Alan Lentz 4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church	25 * Cameron Lichtenberg Family
26 *Sherry Liske 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	27 *William Lunsford family 7:30 Boy Scouts	28 *Burt Lynn and Kim Lange 11:00 By Heart – Red Room	29 *Scott MacDuff 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	30 *Ronnie Malave family		

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services



*Sancta Lucia Pageant
A Festival of Light*

Sunday, December 3, 2017

At 5:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

340 Grand Blvd

Elgin IL 60120

Bethlehem's Swedish heritage comes alive in this beautiful pageant of the Christmas season. Bring your family and friends and capture the enchantment of Swedish tradition retold in the Old, old tale of Sancta Lucia.

Guest Soloist will be Dr. Risé Jones

A Swedish smorgasbord will be served in Wittenstrom Hall following the program

*All proceeds from the Free-Will Offering
Will go to the
All People's Interfaith Food Pantry*

Thrivent Financial did provide Action Team monies for this event.