

CROSSINGS



JANUARY 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
340 Grand Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone: 847-741-8434
Fax: 847-741-8996

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like me out there, maybe even our neighbors, friends or co-workers.

These folks may consider themselves Christian or at least believe in God. Some you may know live remarkable lives and are very spiritual people, and yet, they may be unaffiliated with a church for various reasons. Maybe they relocated for a job or college, or maybe they are in transition with a relationship, or they're waiting to go back to church when they have kids, or maybe they just don't consider themselves "joiners".



Dear Sisters and Brothers
in Christ at Bethlehem
Lutheran,

"It's the grace."

That was the simple answer that I received when I asked a pastor at Good Shepherd in Naperville almost 20 years ago now, "Why are you a Lutheran?" Today I hope that I would keep it that simple! It's the grace.

Let me back up. My question, "Why Lutheran?", was in response to an invitation to attend a new member class at Good Shepherd where I had been visiting. But, I was not a "joiner" at that time in my life. I rather enjoyed being "unaffiliated" after having been in and out of churches, mostly Willow Creek, for the last 8 years. I could go on with my story, but I don't want to lose the significance of the simple question and answer that led to my decision to join a church. I think there may be other people

And maybe some of those folks would wonder, as I did, why they would want to join a Lutheran church when they were never Lutheran. There are, and were, lots of other churches out there without unfamiliar denominational names. And some are so big that no one may ever notice that you haven't joined!

So, why would I want to be a Lutheran? "It's the grace", she said.

"This is where I most fully hear the grace of Christ preached," explained my pastor at Good Shepherd. "There is no sin he won't forgive and even forget, no brokenness he can't heal, no distance he won't come for us, no injustice he won't make right, no suffering he wouldn't endure even unto death on a cross." "For me", she said, "it's the grace". I signed up for the new member class that same day.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth. John, Chapter 1.

Blessed be the witnesses at Bethlehem Lutheran in Elgin. It's probably a lot easier to be an evangelist than we make it. It only took 3 words to convince me. "It's the grace."

Peace
Pastor Carol

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2017	October	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$15,735.20	\$178,131.20	\$185,915.00
Expenses	\$15,929.98	\$180,717.19	\$185,915.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	(\$ 194.78)	(\$2,585.99)	\$ 0.00

Thank you for turning in your 2018 pledge because this is so important as we plan our 2018 budget. Thank you also for our Christmas offerings. A blessed Christmas to everyone.

Bethlehem's Renovation and Property Trust Fund

2017	November	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 335.00	\$ 3,855.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 56.24	\$ 66.24

The current loan balance is \$15,800.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

**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.

We will have a single service at 9:00 a.m. on January 28. There will be a special coffee hour and then the annual meeting.

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

Dear Bethlehem Members,

The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 28, 2018. On January 28th, there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Hospitality Hour of a light continental breakfast in Wittenstrom Hall. The Annual Meeting will commence shortly thereafter.



The Annual Meeting is a time for the congregation to gather together and review the past year's endeavors, consider plans for the new year, and elect nominated members to positions of leadership.

I encourage every member to attend the Annual Meeting. It is both the right and the responsibility of each confirmed member to participate in this process.

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



- 01 James Massa
- 02 Clarence Wittenstrom
Connie Uzzell
- 04 Charles Edwards
- 05 Vivian Peck
Valerie Mette
- 06 Max Anderson
Julissa Gomez
Katelynn Mette
- 07 Kim Lynn
- 10 Sabine Bieschke
Jonathan Marquez
- 11 Ethan Miedwig
- 13 Ed Chiarugi
Jennifer Lange-Eberdt
- 15 Yolanda Granados
- 16 Lori Anderson
Tim Calderwood
- 17 Jackie Gordon
- 18 Jeanne Hergert
- 19 Timothy Canham
Derek Warren
- 25 Amy Kile
Matthew Miedwig
- 26 Randy Shedd
- 29 Jerry Drommerhausen
Elyssa Shroder
- 30 Eli Richoz-Latigo

**AN INVITATION FROM THE
REBEKAH CIRCLE**

On January 21, 2018, at 2 p.m. as part of the continuing celebration of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation, the Rebekah Circle invites the

congregation to join them for a presentation of the documentary, *Martin Luther: The Idea That Changed the World*. The documentary, narrated by Hugh Bonneville, explores the path that led Luther to post the 95 theses, thus initiation the revolution we call the Reformation.

The documentary explores Luther as he struggles to explain and define his new idea, but, more than that, it shows the profound changes the Reformation/Protestantism brought to people from all levels of society.

Join us in the Red Room. The “show” starts promptly at 2 p.m. There might even be treats!

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

December 11, 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

The received pledge totals for 2018 amount to \$148,108.00. However, even after factoring in the other various sources of income our estimated budget remains **approximately \$6,000 short to avoid a deficit budget.**

The annual congregational meeting will be held on January 28, 2018. There will be a vote on the amendments to the church’s constitution (copies emailed as a pdf file with a printed copy available at the welcome center for those who don’t have email) There will also be a presentation by the strategic committee of the church’s Strategic Plan.

Report of the Pastor: 2,000 invitations for Christmas were mailed to area families and other appropriate places. This was funded through a grant from the Endowment Fund. Thirty Christmas invitations were sent home with CDC families. Posada flyers were distributed to CDC families and local restaurants. There has been one new member inquiry.

The CDC/Fire Code issue remains in limbo as the city fire marshal and the state fire marshal continue to work on agreement.

One of our youth, Bennett Jones, appeared before the council to present his proposal for his Eagle Scout project.

Anyone wishing additional details will find them in the copies of the December minutes available in the folder on the wall near the secretary's office.

Billie Jo Waugh
Council Secretary

ELCA MILLION DOLLAR CHALLENGE

From Bishop Miller:

We did it! Together we raised approximately \$1,060,000 for ELCA World Hunger. We will share the final number soon.

Thanks be to God for the generous people of our synod who caught the vision to support the resolution presented at the 2016 Synod Assembly to accept the challenge from June 1, 2016 through October 31, 2017.

Know that your faithful generous response to the gospel through ELCA World Hunger is making a difference all the way around globe, spreading joy and hope near and far, creatively and courageously working toward a world of justice where all are fed.

In Christ,
Wayne Miller, Bishop

**LSSI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER GROOMING KITS**

“Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please to put a penny in the old man’s hat.”
You put in many pennies!

Your generosity helped us reach our goal. Thank you to all who made a cash donation or donated grooming kits for the clients of the LSSI Behavioral Health Service Center. We provided 30 kits for the people at the Center at Christmastime. The Center located here in Elgin helps people who are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Along with the grooming kit, candy, oranges and a fleece blanket was given to each person. Yea! God! for the Youth Group for the sorting and packaging of all the kits and the Sunday School children for making Christmas cards. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Service Team

**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FOOD DRIVE –
Monday, January 15, 2018**

The Martin Luther King Jr. committee is asking all of the area churches to collect food for the Martin Luther King, Jr. food drive. The food will be donated to the eight local food pantries, Food for Greater Elgin, All Peoples Interfaith Food Pantry, Centro de Informacion, Community Crisis Center, Elgin Salvation Army, Westside Church of Christ, Hanover Township Food Pantry and the Bethesda Church of Christ Pantry.

Grocery bags are available in the Narthex listing the foods that are needed. All donations are due back by Sunday, January 14th. Thanks for your support.

Service Team

**SANCTA LUCIA PAGEANT,
A FESTIVAL OF LIGHT**

On Sunday, December 3rd members, family and friends of Bethlehem gathered together to hear the old, old story of Sancta Lucia. This year the Lucia Queen was portrayed by Abby Sensor. She was crowned by her aunt, the 1977 Lucia Queen Andrea Sensor Fiorito.

In her court were Lindsey Anderson, Nayely Chimal, Nikki Gabrys, Julissa Gomez, Yazmin Malave & Lindsay Warren. The Star Boys were Brenden Canham & Lucas Resener. The Crown Bearer was Emma Anderson. Once again, the Acolytes were Domanik Malave & Owen Thomas.

We wish to thank Peg Youngren, Sean Edwards and Dr. Risé Jones for sharing their musical talent with us for the evening. Also to Inez Thornblom who welcomed everyone and taught us a Swedish Table Grace. A Smorgasbord was then enjoyed by all following the program in Wittenstrom Hall. A Free Will Offering was taken and the All People’s Interfaith Food Pantry has been sent a donation of \$920.00.

Thank you, Bethlehem!

HATS AND MITTENS

The Service Committee will continue to collect hats, mittens/gloves and scarves for the children of the Elgin Community Crisis Center in the month of January. Please up us keep those little hands warm this winter. Thank You!

UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH

What goes up, must come down! Many hands will make the work go quickly. Join us in the sanctuary to take down the Chrismon tree, wreaths and the

nativity on Friday, January 5 at 7 p.m. If you need more details, contact Cindy Lange.

EAGLE SCOUT PROJECT

My name is Bennett Jones from Troop 10 in Elgin. I’m working on my Eagle Scout project of building “Little Book”



boxes to place around Elgin to promote reading at an early age through adulthood and building a positive habit of reading. I would appreciate any support you can give me whether it be through your time when the project is being worked on or donations to support purchasing materials and books to put in these boxes. I’ve also got a promise from an anonymous donor who is willing to match any donations I receive up to \$200. This project is done with the approval of the church as it qualifies as outreach evangelism.

If you’d like to ask me about anything on this project, or support the project, find me at church during coffee hour. I’d appreciate anything you can do to help me complete my goal.”

Bennett Jones

MISSION TRIP/YOUTH LOCK-IN

**Friday, January 5 7:00 p.m. –
Saturday 10:00 a.m.**



The lock-in will be on Friday, January 5, 2018 beginning at 7:00 p.m. Bring a snack/munchies etc. to share during the night (into the early morning also).

Bring sleeping bag, CDs, games to play or videos to watch. It officially ends at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 6.

If you have questions, call or text Cindy 847-814-3249 or Gayle 847-710-4266. Let us know if you are planning to attend.

HABITATE FOR HUMANITY NEW HOPE PARTNERSHIP



There is a new project for New Hope Partnership. Our next meeting is on Thursday, January 18. I am excited to finally have a

new project and a project lead who will guide us. The house is a rehab project in Carpentersville.

Our partnership includes the following churches: Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church of West Dundee, St Mary Catholic Church in Huntley, and St. Catherine's Catholic Church in West Dundee.

We would love to add more churches to our partnership. If you know someone from another church that might be interested, please have them contact me or give me the name so I can reach out to them.

Cindy Lange
847-814-3249

A HUGE THANK YOU TO THE ENDOWMENT BOARD

The Endowment Board approved the request for funds to attend the Peder Eide Middle School Retreat at LOMC from November 10-12, 2017. The following middle school youth



participated in the retreat, Julissa Gomez, Parker Jones, Domanik Malave and Violet Rendon, (we missed Owen Thomas, he stayed home sick) and Gayle's granddaughter's Amalia & Eva Marquez, along with leaders Gayle Chiarugi and Gentry Jones. It was an amazing weekend led by Peder Eide, inspiring us with his music and lessons. Peder's daughter



Allison Eide also shared her music and teachings with us. We also spent time outside, hiking, playing games, archery, crafts, team building activities and enjoying the beauty of the camp. The weather was extremely cold this weekend, but we toughed it out and then it even snowed, adding even more beauty! The youth share their experiences!

I spent the weekend at the Peder Eide retreat. I felt more connected with God when we all sang songs and praised God. I felt as he was truly there with all of us. Overall, I really enjoyed this small trip with God. **Julissa Gomez**

My favorite part of the retreat was when we all did the team-building activities. We were able to bond with each person and we had to communicate in different ways. With everyone at the retreat spending their weekend at LOMC devoted to God, waking up early, worshipping God and hearing stories about God. **Parker Jones**



My favorite part of the retreat was the guy talk when we talked about the 5 pillars of manhood. My favorite moment was when we went back to the cabin and got away from the cold. **Domanik Malave**

My favorite part of the retreat was singing with Peder Eide. I also liked the activities like archery and the Nature Center. When we all did communion, no matter where we were I felt that God was with us. I also felt God when we all went and played outside, even though it was so cold. I did enjoy the time with the people around me.

Violet Rendon

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

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
JANUARY 2018**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
	1 *Kristi Parsonage Church office and CDC Closed for the Holiday	2 *Barbara Paulsen 11:00 By Heart	3 *M/M John Peacock 5:30 Praise Him 7:15 Adult Choir	4 *Vivian Peck 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	5 *Wilma Peterson 7:00 Un-Decorate the Church 7:00 Youth/Mission Trip Lock-In	6 *M/M Jack Pflederer 10:00 Lock-In ends
7 *David Quick 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	8 *Joseph Quick 12:30 Craft Circle in Red Room 7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	9 *Robert Quick 11:00 By Heart	10 *M/M Patrick Rich 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	11 *Amanda and Elias Richoz 3:00 Unbinding the Gospel	12 *Sue Richoz	13 *Zachary Richoz-Kohen 1:00 – 5:00 Marcia Wilkening – Celebration Of Life at American Legion, Elgin
14 *Johanna Riddle-Roland 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	15 *Julie Ann Robbins and Anna 7:30 Boy Scouts	16 *Ali Rodriguez 11:00 By Heart	17 *Jeannette Rohrsen CROSSING ARTICLES DUE 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	18 *M/M Larry Rohrsen 3:00 Unbinding the Gospel 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	19 *Randall Roland family 7:00 Bilingual Posada	20 * Joyce Ross
21 *Bernette Ryza Annual Reports Due Out 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 2:00 Rebecca Circle – Showing PBS Film “Martin Luther” Red Room	22 *Brian Samuelson 7:30 Boy Scouts	23 *M/M Donald Samuelson 11:00 By Heart	24 *Eric Samuelson 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	25 *Jorge Sanchez family 3:00 Unbinding the Gospel	26 *Mercedes Sanchez family 4:00 Soup Kitchen, Holy Trinity Church	27 *Isai Sanchez Lorenzo
28 *Catherine Selpien Annual Meeting 9:00 Blended Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Light Continental Breakfast 10:45 Annual Meeting	29 *Robert Sennett 7:30 Boy Scouts	30 *Jonathan Sensor 11:00 By Heart	31 *Ted Sensor family 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir			

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services