

CROSSINGS



FEBRUARY 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays.....	3
Carson's Community Days.....	4
Council Minutes	3
Mission Trip 2018	4
Pastor's Letter.....	1
Souper Bowl of Caring.....	4
Treasurer's Report	2
Worship Schedule.....	2

the faith that was passed on to me by my parents and grandparents. At that time, I wasn't there.

So, what happened? Well, it's not a very dramatic story. A friend told me that she really enjoyed the church that she was attending and invited me. "Some friends and I are going this Sunday. Would you like to go with us?" I don't know if I agreed to try it the first time that she invited me, or if it took a few invitations. But that was really it. I was invited. Willow Creek was my church home for the next 6 years.



Dear Sisters and Brothers
in Christ at Bethlehem
Lutheran,

Last month I shared why a baptized Catholic like me had joined a Lutheran Church. The short answer was this, "It was the grace." As I had heard preached at Good Shepherd Lutheran in Naperville, "There is no sin Christ 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." That was good enough for me, I signed up for the next new member class.

Evangelism (or reaching others for Christ) is scary for some of us and just downright distasteful for others, conjuring up thoughts of strangers knocking on doors with pamphlets detailing the urgency of a personal choice between heaven and hell. Or then there's the guy on TV with a lot of promises, the last of which sticks in your mind. "If you send a generous donation to the address on the screen, God will bless you many times over."

This month, I want to go back a little further and remember how I got back to church because there was a period of my life, about 2 years, when I didn't attend. Grief and doubt dominated my spirituality then; it was a tough time. I wasn't even sure if I believed in God, even though I had grown up in a very religious family. Today, I so appreciate today

But my experience was not like that at all. A friend cared enough to invite me along to her church. And for that I will be eternally grateful. Next question: What difference does it make in my life that I'm a Christian? Well that's another letter for another day.

God is always inviting. *Jesus turned to 2 disciples who were following him and asked, "What are you looking for?" "Rabbi", they said, "where are you*

staying?" He said to them, "Come and see." John, Chapter 1.

Peace
Pastor Carol

**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL
OPERATING FUND**

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

2017	December	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$23,354.44	\$203,916.45	\$202,816.00
Expenses	\$20,768.45	\$203,916.45	\$202,816.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ 2,585.99	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

At the end of 2017 our expenses were under giving so part of next quarter's commercial insurance was paid in order to begin 2018 with a zero balance. In 2018 we ask that each member give a gift in the envelope marked DEFICIT REDUCTION. This along with your generous pledged giving will keep us in the black and give us a balanced budget. Have a safe, healthy and happy new year.

**Bethlehem's Renovation and
Property Trust Fund**

2017	December	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 575.00	\$ 4,430.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Our renovation loan which was taken out several years ago for church improvements, including a new roof, boiler, etc. has been reduced substantially and the principal balance owed at the end of 2017 is \$15,250. When members put a gift in the special renovation envelopes, it reduces our loan balance. Thank you for these donations.

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.

Sunday School Children will worship with their families on February 4.

Ash Wednesday Services will be February 14 at 12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m with a 6:00 p.m. light meal.

Special Midweek 7:00 p.m. Lent Services will be Wednesdays, February 21, 28 and March 7, 14 and 21. There will be a 6 p.m. light meal.

Music opportunities in both services: Contact Peg Youngren (syoungren@sbcglobal.net)
Praise Him Contemporary Ensemble: Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. (5:00 p.m. during Lent)
Bethlehem Choir: Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. (6:20 p.m. during Lent)

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

HAT AND MITTEN COLLECTION



The Service Committee would like to thank all who have donated hats, gloves and scarves for the children of the Elgin Community Crisis Center. With the severe cold weather we have had, the need is great. Thank you Bethlehem!



- 01 Michael O'Brien
- 02 Judy Drommerhausen
Amy Gabrys
- 03 Elizabeth Canham
- 04 Jennifer Haring
- 05 David Shroder
- 07 Robert Gordon
- 08 Eric Samuelson
- 09 Kaitlyn Anderson
Brian Sullivan
- 12 Char Carey
- 13 Julie Mette
- 14 Dominic Malave
- 16 Alex Sorton
- 17 JoAnn Mrozek
Madelyn Wende
- 20 Ellie O'Brien
- 21 Scott Fiorito
Rebecca Jindra
Joyce Ross
- 23 Irvin Benitez
- 25 Matthew Hergert
- 26 Robert Johnson
Amalia Marquez
- 28 Joseph Quick

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

January 8, 2018

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

December income was excellent with contributions of \$20,715.25 which was \$5,153 over budget. Total income was \$23,354.44 which was \$6,460 over budget. These overages enabled making a payment of \$4,345.98 toward our commercial insurance for 2018 which helped lower our expenses in the 2018 budget by that amount. Our general offering fund ended the year at an even zero.

Pastor Book reported that the posada was an enormous success with over 125 in attendance including several CDC families. The study book, *Unbinding the Gospel*, will be the framework/format for Wednesday evening Lenten services. Also, there has been on inquiry regarding new membership.

The proposed 2018 budget was approved, as was the strategic committee's presentation of a Strategic Plan. Both of these items as well as the Church Constitution update will be presented at the annual meeting for congregational approval. All members should have received, either by regular mail or email, copies of the Strategic Plan as well as the proposed Constitution update prior to the annual meeting.

Billie Jo Waugh
Council Secretary

MISSION TRIP MEETING

A meeting for mission trip participants will be Sunday, February 11 immediately following worship. A pizza lunch will be provided. Attendance is required. If you have a conflict, please contact Gayle 847-710-4266 or Cindy 847-814-3249.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The youth have been involved with Souper Bowl of Caring since 2001. Last year we gave the food pantry \$189 and food items that you provided for the pantry.

The youth will be collecting for the SOUPER BOWL on Sunday, February 4 at both services. The money collected will go directly to the Interfaith Food Pantry. If you would like to write a check, please make it payable to the All People's Interfaith Food Pantry.

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Thanks for your help in fight hunger in our community.

FIRST COMMUNION PREPARATION

First Communion preparation for children age 7 or in grade 2 or older are invited to attend. Classes will be held on Saturdays: March 10, March 17 and March 24

All classes are 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. First Communion will be celebrated on Palm Sunday, March 25 at either 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. Please contact the church office at 847-741-8434 or churchoffice@blcelgin.org to enroll.

MISSION TRIP 2018

The youth of Bethlehem will be serving on another Mission Trip this summer! Twenty-four people have committed to serving at the YouthWorks site in the Kansas City, MO in June 2018.

We need your support and prayers to complete our mission! Be watching your mail for a prayer partner letter! The youth are writing letters to the members of Bethlehem sharing their experiences from their last mission trip and their hopes for their 2018 trip.

They will also be asking for your support by becoming their prayer partners.

Please keep the Mission Trip Team in your prayers as we prepare ourselves to be God's servants this summer at our mission site. Yea! God!

CARSON'S COMMUNITY DAYS THURSDAY, MARCH 1 – SATURDAY, MARCH 3, 2018 YOUTH MISSION TRIP FUNDRAISER

COMMUNITY
DAYS
2018



COMMUNITYDAYS2018

Thursday, March 1 - Saturday, March 3

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 coupon booklets contain a \$10 off coupon and other additional coupons that can be used at all Carson's stores March 1-3.

The money earned will be used for our 2018 Youth Mission Trip to Kansas City, MO.

YEA! GOD! for your support of the youth!



DONATION UPDATE

Box Tops for Education are still accepted

Campbell's Soup Labels & V8 juice bottle caps are discontinued

Mosaic (Bethphage) at Axtell

I spoke with the Community Relations Manager at Mosaic (Bethphage) at Axtell this past week to get a complete update on what they still accept in the way of labels, bottle caps, and box tops. Sadly, neither Campbell's soup labels nor V8 Juice bottle caps can be accepted.

Soup labels cannot be redeemed because Campbell's Soups has discontinued their due to declining participation and increasing costs. Sadly, it has reached the point where there was no choice but to make the very difficult decision to wind down the program.

Regarding V8 juice bottle caps, Mosaic is no longer accepting them as the cost of mailing or shipping them for redemption is greater than the value gotten in redemption.

Here is some general information about what Mosaic/Bethphage can accept.

Box Tops for Education found on many Brand name items: Food Items: Betty Crocker, Bisquick, General Mills, Old El Paso, Pillsbury, Land 'o' Lakes, Yoplait, Nature Valley


Other items: Avery office/computer supplies, Ziplox bags, Kleenex, Scott paper products, Hefty, and many more

You may reach me at 847-917-0319 or speak to me at church if you have questions.

Billie Jo Waugh



UPCOMING EVENTS AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH:

Ash 
Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

**Wednesday, Feb 14th 12:00 pm worship,
6:00 pm meal, 7:00 pm worship.**

Join us for ashes and communion as we kick off our
Lenten Series: *The Reach of Christ*.



Wednesdays in Lent

Wednesday, Feb 14th to March 21st at 7:00 pm

The Reach of Christ:

How has God reached into our own lives providing
forgiveness, healing and hope for the future?
How has/might Christ use us to reach others?

Meal at 6 pm - Worship at 7 pm.



Baptism and First Communion Preparation

Saturday, March 10, 17, 24 at 10:00 am

First Communion preparation for children age 7 or
in grade 2 or older are invited to attend. Classes will
be held on Saturdays: March 10, March 17 and
March 24. All classes are 10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

First Communion will be celebrated on Palm
Sunday, March 25th. Contact the church office at
847-741-8434 to sign up.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2018**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
				1 *William Sensor 3:00 Unbinding the Gospel	2 *Randy Shedd	3 *David Shroder family
4 *Elaine Shroder 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	5 *Elyssa Shroder 12:30 Craft Circle 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	6 *M/M Robert Siljestrom 11:00 By Heart	7 *James Sitz 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	8 *Paul Sitz 3:00 Unbinding the Gospel	9 *M/M Alex Sorton	10 *Katie Spets
11 *Marian Steneck 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 11:30 Mission Trip Meeting – Lunch	12 *Brian Sullivan 7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	13 *Stephanie Sullivan 11:00 By Heart	14 *M/M Richard Tanner 12:00 Ash Wednesday Service 5:00 Praise Him 6:00 Light Supper 6:20 Adult Choir 7:00 Ash Wednesday Service	15 *Mark Tanner 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	16 *Michael Tanner 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Youth Retreat at Living Lord Lutheran Church, Bartlett	17 *Kalin Taskov family 10:00 a.m. – 9:00 p.m. Youth Retreat at Living Lord Lutheran Church, Bartlett
18 *Colton Thomas 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	19 *Heather Thomas & Owen 7:00 Rebecca Circle at home of Libby Hoeft 7:30 Boy Scouts	20 *Dave Topping 11:00 By Heart	21 *Inez Tornblom CROSSING ARTICLES DUE 5:00 Praise Him 6:00 Lenten Supper 6:20 Adult Choir 7:00 Lenten Worship	22 *M/M Kampoo Tyler	23 *M/M Richard Uzzell 4:00 Soup Kitchen, Holy Trinity Church	24 *M/M Mert Varboncoeur
25 *Mike Warren family 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	26 *M/M Gene Waugh 7:30 Boy Scouts	27 *Robert Wende family 11:00 By Heart	28 *Diane Wilke 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 Praise Him 6:00 Lenten Supper 6:20 Adult Choir 7:00 Lenten Worship			

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services