

November 2019

Volume 81

Number 11



# The CHIMES

Monthly Newsletter of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## A Message from Pastor Jen...

### Renewal Notes and Reflections

This past month the team has been meeting with some of the groups within BLC. We brought food, drink, and listening ears. At each meeting we asked the same three questions:

1. What brought you to Bethlehem Lutheran Church?
2. What keeps you here?
3. What do you see as challenges for our congregation as we move forward?

We wrote down your responses (but not your names) so we could reflect upon what you told us, and then share our findings with everyone.

**What brought you here** was a person or people. Overwhelmingly the responses included an invitation from someone to come to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. For many that invitation came from a family member or a friend. Others cited the denomination as the initial draw, and Pastor Dick. A few started coming here through the music program, singing with the choir before officially becoming members.

**What keeps you here** are the people. So many of your responses included the word "Family" in them. BLC people are family. Within our family people specifically mentioned things like:

- the opportunities to be involved in ministries.

- Acceptance, as in being able to hold personal beliefs about God and religion and still be part of the family.
- The nonjudgmental atmosphere at BLC.
- The pastor.
- The children of the congregation.

**Challenges as we move forward in our mission and ministry as a church family** were shared openly and honestly. From what you've told us, we are very friendly, welcoming, and accepting of those currently part of the BLC family. However, we need to look at how we receive visitors. As a congregation we have missed opportunities to share the incredible gift of family with those who are stopping in to give us a try. One person told us that they said "hello" and welcomed a new face during worship. This person then told us that the one they welcomed said they'd been here three times before and that this individual was the first person to personally greet them.

In addition to being more aware of and welcoming to the newcomer in our midst, several people said that a challenge we face is to engage more people in the ministry and work of the church.

We still would love to meet with others, exploring these same questions. Contact Pastor Jen if you would like to meet with the Renewal Team. We'll bring food and drink. You gather a small group and tell us where you'd like to meet.

As the Team continues our work, we'll be seeking God's will as it relates to the responses you've given. Please, keep us in your prayers. We'll continue to hold you, as well. Thank you for your time and input!

Amen, amen, amen!

Pastor Jen & the Renewal Team:

Melissa Bradbury, Lisa Cook, Jean Elliott, and Mark Teslik

**Listen**  
**Observe**  
**Reflect**  
**Share**

**\*NEW PARISH OFFICE HOURS\***

Effective Oct. 28, 2019:

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday

9am to 3pm

Thursday & Friday

9am to 12 pm

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage Wisconsin

**Pastor Jen Johnson**

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**SEEKING COUNCIL NOMINEES**



We are looking for nominations for council in January! If you are interested in serving on council, or know of someone that you

would like to nominate, please contact Pr. Jen or Tania Anderson. Thank you!

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

- Worship Team Volunteers are always needed. Your help is appreciated by all! Please sign up in the Narthex, contact Nancy Buckley or the office.
- “The American Cancer Society **Road To Recovery** program provides free rides to cancer patients who otherwise would have difficulty getting to their cancer-related appointments. Donate your time and the use of your car by becoming a volunteer driver today. To get started, call 1-800-227-2345 or visit [cancer.org/drive](http://cancer.org/drive).”

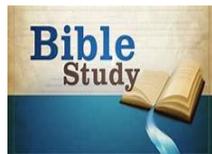
*The*

**Monday Morning**  
**Coffee Clutch**

Had a loss, or at a loss? Stop on in and stay a while. Share a story or just sit and listen for a while, and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea. Everyone is welcome. Located in the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Fellowship Hall. Held every Monday from 9-10:30am.



Coffee Hour Fellowship is a great time to make new friends, catch up with old friends and enjoy time together here at church. Unless preempted, coffee hour follows our church service. Gather together after service for treats, coffee, milk or tea and fellowship. *The sign-up sheet can be found in the Narthex.*



### **Please Join Us!**

On Tuesday for the Weekly Bible Study with Pastor Jen. We will meet in the conference room at 11:00 am to 12:00 pm.

All are welcome to participate. No previous experience is needed—the Holy Spirit takes care of that!

Currently we are reviewing the book “A People’s History of Christianity, Christian Origins”, by Richard A. Horsley.

### **RIVER HAVEN**

Please check the River Haven *Wish List* posted on the bulletin board in the Narthex for a list of items that are needed at the facility. It’s a great, inexpensive way to fulfill our outreach programs, by helping those in need with a simple extra item in your shopping cart, that goes a long way to helping those less fortunate.

### **PORTAGE LIONS CLUB**

The Portage Lions Club will be collecting used prescription eyeglasses and sunglasses,

in addition to hearing aids for distribution to the needy in underdeveloped countries. Children’s glasses are especially in high demand. A collection box is in the Narthex.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

**Nov 3:**

- Youth Group hosts brunch after worship

**Nov 8:**

- BLC hosts Bingo in Wyocena

**Nov 9:**

- Trivia Night, 6pm

**Nov 10:**

- Praise Team at Sunday’s worship

**Nov 15:**

- Kaylin Brandsma (Kole) concert, 7pm

**Nov 18:**

- All Committee Meeting, 6:30 pm

**Nov 19-25:**

- Pastor Jen vacation

**Nov 28:**

- Thanksgiving – office closed

### **OCTOBER CRAFT FAIR**

Thank you to everyone that helped with this year’s craft fair!! Because of all of you, the church raised \$3,388. We truly appreciate everything that you do!

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL NEWS**

The lessons we will be learning in November are Zacchaeus-Luke 19:1-10, The Sadducees Question-Luke 20:27-38 we will also be practicing for the Christmas program as part of these classes.

Our Christmas program this year is New Star. This year’s Christmas Program will be performed as part of Gifts of Bethlehem on Sunday, December 8th. We will eat between 10:30-11 am, bidding on the gift baskets will start at 11 am and the program/concert will start at 11:30 am. Drawings for gift baskets will be at 1 pm. We also will perform the

program Wednesday, December 11th, at 5:30 pm (children arriving between 5 & 5:15) followed by cookies and milk/juice.

We will be having a practice day for the program on Sunday, December 1st from 10:30 am – 12:30 pm with lunch provided. During practice time you are welcome to attend and help as needed.

We will be having a group fun day on December 15<sup>th</sup> during Sunday School.

**There will be no Sunday school December 22nd or December 29th.**

*Your Sunday School Staff*

## **THE GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM: A CHRISTMAS CONCERT**



### **Please Note: TIME CHANGE!**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will be hosting the 2nd annual *Gifts of Bethlehem* Christmas program on **Sunday, December 8th at 11:30am** (gift baskets/raffle to begin at **11:00am**). If anyone is interested in helping with the planning & coordination of the 2019 program, please contact Tania Anderson. Please note the following:

**Donations/Decorations:** Similar to last year, we will be decorating the narthex to look like a Bethlehem Market. For this, we will need to borrow various baskets, pots, blankets, rugs, etc. for the month of December. Please be sure you label your items with your name somehow so they can be returned to you after the Christmas season.

**Decorating Volunteers:** We have a couple of decorating days planned to help prepare for the Christmas season. Please contact Margaret Molden, Ginny Paulson or Tania Anderson if you are able to help on the dates below:

- December 4th, 9:00am: Assemble the live wreath
- December 5th, 9:00am: Begin Christmas decor and the Bethlehem gifts display
- December 7th, 9:00am: Tree Decorating and finish decorating the narthex

**Musician Volunteers:** We are in need of people that are interested in playing instruments and/or singing in the Gifts of Bethlehem concert!! Please contact Tania Anderson if you are interested!! 608-697-5999

**Just a Reminder...** If you have an event at church, stop in for a visit, attend a meeting, or whatever and happen to be the last one in the building...**BEFORE YOU LEAVE**, please make sure all the outside doors are locked. Our church doors have been found unlocked several times in the last few months which creates a great liability for us all. Thank you!



## **ATTENTION VETERANS!**

Bethlehem would like to thank you for your service on Nov 17th. Please submit a picture if possible of you in your uniform as well as the branch of service you were in to the church office by Monday Nov 11. Allow us to show our appreciation to you.

## ALL COMMITTEE



Just a reminder there is an All Committee Meeting scheduled for Monday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.

### STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN

You may have noticed the new wall hanging near the Praise Team instruments. It is our 2019 Fall Stewardship Campaign banner. It is a tree, our roots in Christ and the church, living in love. Each leaf added is a pledge made. If you were not present for the initial kick-off, there is still time. Green pledge cards can be found in the Narthex. You can return them during Offering or directly to the office.

### NEW MEMBERS CLASSES

Classes will be starting in December. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a member of BLC, please contact Pastor Jen or the office to sign up.

### KAYLIN BRANDSMA (KOLE) CONCERT

Our very own Kaylin Brandsma is heading to Nashville to make her music dreams come true. She has chosen to have her final concert here to BLC on Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>, 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased online:

[www.kaylinkole.ticketleap.com](http://www.kaylinkole.ticketleap.com)

Limited number of tickets sold. Come to the concert to help show her your support and send her off. She will be missed and we know she will be a great success!

## COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

From the Council...

*We have included a summary of the agenda/minutes from the October church council meeting below. The official minutes from the October meeting will be approved and then posted in the narthex after the November meeting. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please reach out to any member of council. Thank you!*

### Church Council Meeting Minutes: Summary October 24, 2019



#### In Attendance:

Pr. Jen, Tim Kratz, Ann Ciske, Tania Anderson, Angela Chappell, Jack Paulson, Halley Harms, Don Bender and Robin Kvalo.

Council Nominations: We have received an official nomination for Barb Rothwell, with other members interested. We will be confirming the other nominations by the November council meeting.

Change to the Office Hours: **PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING:** Council has approved to changed the hours that the church office is open to the following:

**Monday-Wednesday:** 9:00am -3:00pm

**Thursday:** 9:00am-12:00pm

**Friday:** 9:00am-12:00pm

#### Pastor's Report:

No action items at this time. New Members Class beginning in December. The Renewal Team will be adding their report to the November Chimes. The Kaylin Brandsma concert has been planned for Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. A free will offering will be collected during the concert.

Committee Reports: Action  
Items/Noteworthy Decisions:

a. Finance: Council approved increasing Julie’s hours up to 28 hours per week.

b. Stewardship/Evangelism: Committee report submitted; no action items. PLEASE NOTE TIME CHANGE: The Gifts of Bethlehem concert on December 8th will begin at 11:30am with fellowship and the silent auction prior to the concert.

c. Worship & Music: They will be meeting at All Committee night in November. We may be adding a Blue Christmas service for individuals that

struggle during the holiday season. No action items.

d. Property: Committee report submitted. The church winterization has been completed. No action items.

f. Christian Education: Committee report submitted. The 2021 ELCA Youth Gathering is being held June 29-July 3rd in Minneapolis, MN.

g. Local & Global: We had a good turnout for God’s Work, Our Hands. The 2019 Craft Sale brought in just over \$3,000 for the church, which is down from previous years.

<b>Ave Monthly Income Jan-Sept 2019</b>	<b>Ave Monthly Expenses Jan-Sept 2019</b>	<b>Amt needed per week for expenses</b>
\$24747	\$24246	\$6061
<b>Sept – Oct Weekly Income</b>		
	Total income**	Offering
Sep 16-22	\$8187	\$4537
Sep 23-29	\$5529	\$3249
Sept 30-Oct 6	\$9437	\$5225
Oct 7-13	\$7176	\$5970
Oct 14-20	\$4875	\$4591
** includes designated funds raised (ex: youth, memorial and other groups)		

## NOVEMBER 2019 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Time	Greeters	Ushers	Reader	Communion Assistants	Altar Guild	Acolytes
Sun 11/3	9:00 AM	Jeff & Kerry Melby	Jeff & Kerry Melby	Roger Sheimo	Jim & Kathryn Crawford	Brenda Larson	Will Jones
Wed 11/6	5:30 PM					Kathy Lawrence	Olivia Bue
Sun 11/10	9:00 AM	Don & Bonnie Bender	Margaret & Del Molden	Carla Gerhardt	Ruth Price & Angela Pace	Cindy Frank	Carly Nyholm
Wed 11/13	5:30 PM					Cheryl Hebel	Cooper Swenson
Sun 11/17	9:00 AM	Maggie Jeske, Nancy Schwenke, & Judy Hernkind	Bonnie Bender & Tina Thomas	Nancy Buckley	Darlene Anderson-Prest & Bobbie Goodman	Cara Druckery	Luke Paulson
Wed 11/20	5:30 PM					Diane Gruenberg	
Sun 11/24	9:00 AM	Gail & Linda Otto	Larry & Sandy Sween	Brenda Larson	Ellen Kabele & Carol Pulfus	Cara Druckery	Ian Hayes
<b>THANKSGIVING EVE</b>	5:30 PM	youth	youth			Judy Donahue	Allyson Zabler

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# November 2019

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					1 10:30 am Tai Chi	2
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Youth Brunch 10:15 am BP Screening 10:15 am Sunday School 	<b>4</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>5</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 11:00 am Ginny Paulson Photo group 6:00 pm Finance Committee 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>6</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>7</b> 12:00 pm PrJ Preach at Synod Chapel	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 2:30 pm Bingo at Wyocena 	<b>9</b> Trivia Night - Youth Group Fundraiser – 6 pm 
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship – Praise Team 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School 5:00 pm First Call Theological Education Retreat	<b>11</b> First Call Theological Education Retreat 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>12</b> First Call Theological Education Retreat 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>13</b> First Call Theological Education Retreat 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Women's Group 5:00 pm Renewal Team Meeting 	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 8:00 am SS Teacher Meeting 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>18</b> 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm All Committee 6:30 pm Euchre 6:30 pm SRA meeting 	<b>19</b> PrJ vacation 9:00 am Quilters 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>20</b> PrJ vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>21</b> Chimes Articles Due PrJ vacation 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b> PrJ vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>23</b> PrJ vacation Deer Season Opener 
<b>24</b> PrJ vacation 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am Coffee Hour 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>25</b> PrJ vacation 9:00 am Coffee Clutch 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Euchre	<b>26</b> 9:00 am Quilters 11:00 am Bible Study w/ Pastor Jen 6:30 pm Zumba	<b>27</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Thanksgiving Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>28</b> Thanksgiving Office Closed 	<b>29</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>30</b>