

# CROSSINGS



NOVEMBER 2021

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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## WHAT'S INSIDE

All Saints Sunday.....	3
Bible Study.....	3
Birthdays.....	2
Church Council Members.....	2
Habitat New Hope Partnership.....	4
Fruits of the Spirit.....	2
Red Ribbon Week.....	4
Treasurer's Report.....	2
Worship Schedule.....	3

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Dear Bethlehem family,

I recently found myself jumping out of bed in the morning in hopes of

seeing my dog Ella's favorite dog friend on our morning walk. I really enjoy seeing her play, and that is a recent thing because Ella used to cower behind me with her tail between her legs when she had the opportunity to play. But she has made a few friends in the neighborhood, and it's amazing how that morning play date with her friends has changed her confidence.

Of course, I soon realized that I was living a little too much through my dog's fun, and that I might need a little more joy in my own life! And maybe I

am not alone with the limitations that a long-term pandemic has placed on the ways that we enjoy life.

How do we get that back? I wonder, what does the bible say about joy and happiness?

Jesus said, *I have taught you these things (to remain in God's love and follow his ways) that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete.* John 14

Joy is a central message of Jesus, from the announcement of the angel, "*You will have joy and gladness, and many will rejoice at his birth,*" to the confirmation of John in the Elizabeth's womb, "*For as soon as I heard the sound of your greeting, the child in my womb leaped for joy.*" Jesus, himself, taught about joy in the parables of the lost sheep, lost coin, and prodigal son; all found in joy.

The common thread in the teaching of Jesus is that joy is not found in outside appearances or success, in victory or fame, but in relationship with God and each other. Biblical joy, and maybe joy in our lives today, is found in healing and forgiveness, new starts, new birth, and ultimately, in new life. And as Jesus was "God with us," our joy is also tied to being physically present with each other. That is

one of the wounds of the pandemic that we need God to heal. The Word promises that God will.

The old spiritual lyric, “The devil can’t steal your joy,” is biblical. Jesus speaking of his death said, “*I will go away, but I will return, and you will rejoice. Then, no one can take away your joy. “John 16:22.*

My joy was revived at the Trunk or Treat as I saw so many people going all out decorating trunks to give the children a little gift of joy. We even had a trunk with live chickens! And then there was the simple joy of seeing Ella bring happiness to the children, and just walking around connecting with everyone. It was such a joy! Thanks to all who participated, and to all you give and do to continue being a church physically present to God and to each other.

May we continue to be creative in finding safe ways to be together again, worshiping God, and connecting with each other in the joy that Jesus intended for us.

In the joy of Christ, Pastor Carol

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- 02 David Jernberg  
Bernardino Sanchez
- 07 Jack Anderson
- 09 Laurel Warren  
Callie Lichtenberg
- 11 Jerry Kile  
Lyle Wolff  
Ashley Ottaviano
- 12 Karen Dingel  
Nancy Calderwood
- 14 Robert Luna
- 15 Owen Canham
- 22 Julie Anne Robbins

- 24 Kevin Bieschke
- 26 Erik Olson
- 29 Yazmin Malave

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**BETHLEHEM’S GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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

2021	September	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$11,808.99	\$137,832.67	\$140,555.25
Expenses	\$18,902.33	\$141,094.15	\$140,555.25
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ (7,093.34)	\$ (3,261.48)	\$ 0.00

Our quarterly commercial insurance was paid in September. We have also added a wonderful singer and musician to lead our contemporary service. All your gifts to Bethlehem are needed and so appreciated.

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

2021	September	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 550.00	\$ 3,955.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 302.00	\$ 6,648.00

Our Renovation loan balance for our building improvements is \$59,400.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL**

- President: Rachel Campbell 847-695-9024
- Vice President: Karin Jones 224-558-9504
- Secretary: Gary Ottaviano 847-741-8110
- Heather Thomas 847-977-1371
- Ronnie Malave 847-873-9940
- Jill Olson 847-741-8918
- Tom Ayres 847-697-1248

Chris Hunsicker  
Steve Jernberg

847-697-8675  
224-588-0114

10:00 Sunday School for ages three through sixth grade. Outdoors. 25-minute Bible Study and crafts

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### Time change happens on Saturday, November 6



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### ALL SAINTS SUNDAY – NOVEMBER 7

There will be one service on Sunday, November 7 at 10 a.m. to honor the lives of those who passed during the pandemic.

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### BIBLE STUDY

Join us for study on Tuesdays. Peg leads the study in the Red Room at 10 a.m. It is also available on Zoom. The study goes to the Sheridan on North McLean in Elgin on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30.

On Thursdays at 1 p.m., there is a Bible study held at the Vines Senior Living on Bode Rd, Elgin.

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### REGULAR SCHEDULE SERVICES

9:00 a.m. Traditional, masks, social distancing, singing softly in masks.

9:00 a.m. Youth group in the Loft

10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, led by Arturo Guevara, masks with social distancing, singing with masks

Prayer Requests Our BLC members: Karen Allen, Tom Ayres, James Bacon, Karen Dingel, Fred Harnish, Kathra Naviaux, Ashley Ottaviano, Gary Ottaviano, Wilma Peterson, Shirley Pflederer, Dave Quick, Larry & Juanita Rohrssen, Sharon Williamson.

For homebound members: Sigrid Barker, Kathy Lehman, Alan Lentz, Ellen Nelson, Mary Schalow

For friends and relatives: Paige Allen, Armando, Rudy Bicc, Cuca Cartagena, Phyllis Chambers, Linda Conn, Jessica Crampton, Ginny & Harry Datisman, Bob Drafall, Kathi Fafendyk, Kristen Forman, Michelle G, Robert Goers, Al Grantham, Rheine Grischow, Frank Harnish, Jan Hornbostel, Jayme Hext, Vicki Kopecky, John Korp, Jane Larson, Norma Lopez, David M, Janet Mayes, Charlotte Lee Miller, Belinda Mockler, Richard Osar, Sandy Patterson, Tom Peterson, Josh R, Irma Raddatz, Leslie Ross, Diane S, Debbie Sanders, Diane Scholinski, Cathy Selpien, Ginny Speakman, Nancy Voross, Bruno Zaucha & family, Cousin of Judy Fritz – Jim, his daughter Stacy and her family. Please pray for our men and women in the Armed Services: Jason Patterson (nephew of Shirley Harnish)

### Worship /Study Schedule

Sunday Service: Both services on Zoom Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 947 2112 9583 Password: 058733

Monday Meetings Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 817 3102 4901 Passcode: 069537

Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m. or meetings Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting: 852 4417 3785 Password: 387195

Wednesday Activities Call 1-312-626-6799  
Meeting ID 894 7503 5205 Password: 088632

Thursday Activities Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting  
ID 952 1009 4147 Password: 935958

**NEW HOPE PARTNERSHIP – HABITAT**

Progress at Elm is reaching the next phase.

Because...

Siding - done

Water/Sewer connections - done

Framing - done

Fire Blocking - done

Rough Inspections - DONE!

Next step is insulation. The duplex brings some unique challenges as we need to insulate not only the exterior walls, but we must also insulate both sides of the Separation Wall with Fire/Sound insulation.

We have been waiting on Nicor for a week now. As soon as Nicor completes their excavation, our contractors for lot Grading and Cement work for garages and walks are ready to go. So hopefully we will be fully closed in very soon.

Volunteer at [www.habitatnfv.org](http://www.habitatnfv.org) Go to Volunteer to register. Questions, call Cindy 847-814-3249.



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**Join Troop 111 Scouts BSA in celebrating Red Ribbon Week** from October 23-31. During Red Ribbon Week, young people in communities across

the nation pledge to live a drug-free lifestyle by wearing red ribbons and participating in community-wide anti-drug events. Red Ribbon Week raises awareness of drug use and the problem related to drugs facing our community and encourages parents, educators, business owners, and other community organizations to promote drug-free lifestyles.

Troop 111 is combining its involvement in Red Ribbon Week through its participation in this year's BLC Trunk or Treat on Saturday, October 23. The Troop trailer in the church parking lot will be converted into a "haunted house," and kids are invited to help decorate a Red Ribbon banner to be displayed on the side of the Troop trailer until Tuesday evening. The Red Ribbon theme will be incorporated into Troop activities for the rest of the month.

Kids attending Trunk or Treat will be invited to add a red ribbon to the poster in support of this initiative.

For more information on Red Ribbon Week go to [www.JustThinkTwice.com](http://www.JustThinkTwice.com) or [www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com](http://www.GetSmartAboutDrugs.com).

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The Community Crisis Center and the Salvation Army are collaborating for the 2021 holiday season. These two agencies, along with community supporters, will combine resources to support families in need in the Elgin area with toys for the holidays. We will be supporting this program by donating toys or money.

Bring your toys to church beginning November 22<sup>nd</sup> – December 5<sup>th</sup>. 1:00pm.

Monetary donations can be made online at [elgintoygiveaway.org](http://elgintoygiveaway.org) or checks may be mailed to church, made payable to by Bethlehem Lutheran Church by December 5<sup>th</sup>. Include *Toy Drive* in the memo line.

### POPULAR TOYS FOR 2021

Lego Sets – all ages, Superhero Action Figures, Art Supplies, craft sets, science sets & Robotics, unicorns and dinosaurs.

### DOLLS

Multi-cultural dolls, Barbie Brand Dolls, Baby dolls & strollers, Disney Princess Dolls, LOL Surprise dolls

### CARS/TRUCKS

Hot Wheels/Matchbox cars & race tracks, Remote Control Vehicles, Drones, Fire & Construction trucks, Thomas the Train sets

### INFANT/TODDLER

Mega Blocks/Duplo blocks, LeapFrog/Learning Toys, Ride-On or Learn-to-walk toys, Play kitchens and accessories, soft cars and trucks, cash registers, imaginative play, Playskook, Little Tykes, Fisher Price, etc, Paw Patrol, CocoMelon, PJ Mask, Baby Shark Branded Toys.

### Sports

Soccer balls, Razor Scooters-all sizes, Skateboards, basketballs

### TEENS

\$25 gift cards to Meijer, Kohl's Target or Walmart.

Non violent toys only.

NO guns, knives, weapons or action figures representing violent activities.



Help  
Beautify  
Bethlehem this  
Christmas!

Purchase a red poinsettia for \$12  
for display during  
Christmas.

Order with payment is due by  
Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>  
Order forms will be available at the  
Welcome Center

