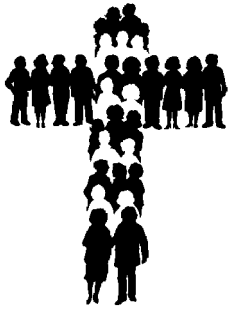


CROSSINGS



DECEMBER 2021

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

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Thanks, as well for your care and love of the neighborhood which I got to see that the last two soup kettle Fridays. This last Friday the crew was a delightful mix of members from Bethlehem along with Pr. José and Iglesia Belén. What fun to work side by side and to see it all come together to offer a little comfort to those who needed a meal that Friday. Again, thanks to the regulars like Peggy and Donna who showed me and the newbies from Belén the ropes. It was a crowded kitchen and a hungry crowd to serve, so there was a little hustle and bustle. In the end, I left feeling like we had made a difference together. What a blessing to be a part of something bigger than any of us could do on our own.

It struck me that this is church, at the level of the details. Some will only see the final worship service or attend the event or festival, and that is ok. Your gift of time was given freely, for them. Your offer of Christ will be, for them. May God use the worship services at Christmas to touch hearts.

I could go on with all who have volunteered of late, helped lead, commemorated the life of a loved one, stepped forward to share a witness or testimony of faith. So many people; it is amazing and a good indication that we will not always be a small church.



Dear Bethlehem,

I write today deeply grateful for your ongoing faithfulness, generosity and care of your home

church, Bethlehem Lutheran. This year I was able to participate in trimming the Christmas tree and decorating the sanctuary in anticipation of the celebration of our Lord's birth. Often, I am out of town the weekend after Thanksgiving, so it was an honor to participate in what felt like a family event. I noticed such detail and care and respect for traditions and forefathers (and mothers). And everyone was invited and needed to help; we all had a role. It was an honor to be a part of creating a little beauty that will greet Christmas worshipers, both members and visitors, offering a caring congregation and a living Lord. Thanks so much for regulars like Cindy, Barkley, and Donna to show the newbies like me the ropes.

And even so much more this evening, I am struck how much goes into the details of preparation, behind the scenes or in the kitchen so to speak. In those details, I see people, people whose love and commitment and faithfulness are enduring. And I just wanted to say thanks.

Pastor Carol

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2021	October	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$11,844.00	\$149,676.67	\$156,172.50
Expenses	\$14,275.52	\$155,369.67	\$156,172.50
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ (2,431.52)	(\$ 5,693.00)	\$ 0.00

We have fallen behind in our giving, and as we enter Advent, please remember your church with regular offering and special Christmas offerings to your church. All your gifts to Bethlehem are needed and so appreciated.

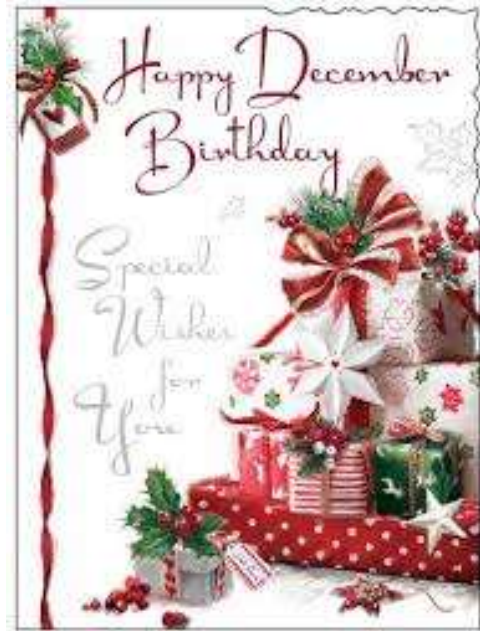
Property Trust Fund

2021	October	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 302.00	\$ 4,257.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,648.00

Our Renovation loan balance for our building improvements is \$59,100.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 06 Chris Anderson
- 08 Zackary Nail
- Larry Rohrssen
- 09 Violeta Rendon
- 11 Owen Thomas
- Jennifer Korp
- 12 Sue Richoz
- 15 Jenny Kroll
- 17 Ralph Mapes
- 23 Bernette Ryza
- 24 Carl Cruse
- 26 Lindsey Warren
- 27 Meredith Wolff
- 31 Andrea Fiorito

HAT & MITTEN COLLECTION

The Service Committee will be collecting hats, mittens, gloves, and scarves from December 5th, 2021 until January 9th, 2022. We will take all sizes, from children to adult and these will be delivered to the Elgin Community Crisis Center.

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	847-697-8675
Steve Jernberg	224-588-0114

SANCTA LUCIA

The BLCW has made the difficult decision to cancel the *Sancta Lucia Pageant, A Festival of Light* once again this year. With some restrictions still in place we felt it would be better to wait until next year. Hopefully, we will once again be able to gather and share this beautiful old Swedish tradition here at Bethlehem.

SOCKS FOR THE HOMELESS:

DID YOU KNOW.....

- Socks are one of the most needed items for the Homeless community.
- According to Mayo Clinic, in cold enough conditions, frostbite can occur in 30 minutes or less!
- Poor Circulation puts feet at risk every day. Proper socks can provide a simple, but important layer of protection between these feet and limb threatening conditions.
- Clean and well-fitting socks are just as important as medication or insulin for those that deal with diabetes.

- Painful corns and callouses form from pressure and friction on the feet. Healthy socks keep more than just feet healthy; they can save lives!
- Clean, well-fitting socks are a vital part of keeping feet healthy! The impact is immediate and ongoing!
- These are just a few facts regarding why socks are needed for the Homeless community. So, the Service Committee will be collecting socks from **Sunday, December 5th, 2021, until Sunday, January 9th, 2022. We will collect both adult and children’s sizes.**

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:00 a.m. Traditional Service with Peg Youngren
 9:00 a.m. Youth Group in the Loft
 10:00 a.m. Coffee hour in the Red Room
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service with Arturo Guevara

Wear a mask, social distance with seating in pews with hymnals

Pray for:

Our BLC members: Karen Allen, Tom Ayres, James Bacon, Karen Dingel, Fred Harnish, Karyn Lunsford, Kathra Naviaux, Ashley Ottaviano, Wilma Peterson, Shirley Pfloderer, Dave Quick, Larry & Juanita Rohrsen, Sharon Williamson.

Homebound BLC members: Sigrid Barker, Kathy Lehman, Alan Lentz, Ellen Nelson, Vivian Peck, Mary Schalow

For friends and relatives:

Paige Allen, Armando, Rudy Bivic, Cuca Cartagena, Phyllis Chambers, Linda Conn, Jessica Crampton, Ginny & Harry Datisman, Bob Drafall, Dale Durham, Kathi Fafendyk, Kristen Forman, Michelle G, Robert Goers, Al Grantham, Reed Harnish, Maren Harnish, Amy Hoeft Saylor, Jan Hornbostel, Jayme Hext, Dale Jernberg, Vicki Kopecky, John Korp, Erik, Beth and Ryan Lindstedt, 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, Louise Tuma, Nancy Voross, Bruno Zaucha & family, Jim, Stacy.

Our men and women in the Armed Services:

Jason Patterson (nephew of Shirley Harnish)



Reminder: Bring your toys to church by Sunday, December 5th. A

list of toy ideas was in the November Crossings.

Call the office for assistance. Donate online

www.elgintoygiveaway.org



Beautify the church by purchasing a poinsettia for \$12. Orders are due by Sunday, December 5th. Order forms are available on the Welcome

Center. You can also donate to World Hunger on this form.

**The Fruit of Your Generosity**

Please pick up your 2022 church envelopes in the narthex.

Narrative Budget Brochure Also you should have received in the mail a story in pictures of Bethlehem ministry in 2021 along with forms to indicate your desire to give of time, talent, and treasure in 2022. These can be returned this Sunday. Thanks for your generosity and faithfulness. To look at these memories fill my heart with gratitude and awareness of God's presence in you even in these difficult times.

COMING EVENTS

Saturday, December 18—Posada at 6:30 p.m. with Arturo and Pr. José. Bilingual worship begins with Posada drama and

ending with a Piñata for the children. No meal this year, sorry.

Tuesday, December 21—Cocoa, Carols & Christ at 5pm - Live Nativity and Christmas Pageant with live donkey and sheep. CDC children sing. Christmas hymns led by Arturo, and Bethlehem children and youth tell the Christmas story. Lots of hot chocolate for all! Entire service will be outside. Length determined by the weather, of course.

Friday, December 24—Christmas Eve Worship at 4pm. In-person and Zoom

Iglesia Luterana Belen led by Pastor Jose Rodriguez will gather for in-person worship on

Sundays at 1:30pm in the sanctuary beginning December 5th.

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 a.m.

On Thursday at 1:00 p.m. there is a Bible study held at the Vines Senior Living on Bode Road, Elgin.

WORSHIP/STUDY SCHEDULE

Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.

In person or on Zoom/YouTubeLive

Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting ID: 947 2112 9583

Password: 058733

Monday Meetings: Call 1-312-626-6799 Meeting

ID: 817-3102 4901 Password: 069537

Tuesday Bible Study 10 am 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 95210094147 Password: 935958
