

CROSSINGS



SEPTEMBER 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Usually, you would hear this as a "Temple Talk," but this month I was

allowed a guest spot in lieu of the Pastor.

Whenever developing a communication on a subject, whether written or a talk, it's usually best to look up a definition or two to get a starting point.

Generosity is sharing happily, being unattached to earthly goods, not ruled by your possessions.

In Luke 12, Jesus explains this allows us not to "worry" about the future of wealth. No this doesn't mean for us not to plan well. Just keep it in perspective. If God provides for the Raven, think how well He provides for us.

Stewardship is "management," with the "biblical chief steward" being not unlike the CEO responsible for all the assets given to be under control; plan your work - work your plan. To start, I always picture a

very sturdy three-legged stool of Time, Talent, and Treasure. It takes a full measure of all three.

A definition of Stewardship is "giving to the storehouse of God from all we are given"

This starts with the history of our generous ancestors that have literally laid a foundation for our generosity by their continual attention to detail. They did not move pews, boilers, and the like from our predecessor church building to allow for less generosity. They made those decisions to promote future generous sharing a reality.

We have endowment fund gifts, Strawberry Fest checks, and many individual gifts of support, both internal and community wide that continue this legacy.

How do we continue to make these decisions of generosity? Basically, it takes: Faith, Hope, and Charity; often stated as Love.

We define our goals, get the details, organize the alternatives. Then we do the most important steps; Pray on it and Listen for an answer.

Although, the answer doesn't always come as quickly as we Hope, have Faith, Love will find the way.

Remember - Stewardship really is everything you do, after you say, "I Believe."

Blessed Thoughts,

Bob Graham

**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL
OPERATING FUND**

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

| 2018 | July | YTD Actual | YTD Budget |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund | \$15,455.28 | \$113,829.37 | \$114,695.00 |
| Expenses | \$17,809.24 | \$114,396.89 | \$114,695.00 |
| Total Receipts less Expenses | (\$2,353.96) | \$ (567.52) | \$ 0.00 |

Bills do not take a vacation this summer. The big expense was our quarterly commercial insurance package and we ended July in the red. While on vacation you may mail your offering to church or join the many members who are using the updated My E-Offering. Go to members.myeoffering.com for more information.

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

| 2018 | July | YTD |
|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------|
| Contributions to Renovation | \$ 315.00 | \$ 2,726.00 |
| Contributions to Property Trust | \$ 2,000.00 | \$ 2,020.00 |

Our current Renovation loan balance is \$12,500.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

CONNECTING TO COLLEGE STUDENTS

If you have a student going away to college, the youth group would like the college address. We have sent care packages to connect the college students with our youth. Please email the address to Cindy at clang50@sbcglobal.net or to Gayle at grizz1@aol.com. Thank you for your help in advance.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Youth Group
- 10:00 a.m. Hospitality Hour
- 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service

Holy Communion is offered at each service.

Sunday School Children will worship with their families on September 2.

Sing with the Choir! You are invited to join us. Practices begin Wednesday, September 12 at 7:15 p.m. in the sanctuary. If you would like to know more, contact Peg at 847-337-9805.

Praise God with the Praise Group! We welcome singers and instrumentalists such as percussion, flute and violin. Our practices are Wednesdays at 5:30 p.m. in the sanctuary.

Other worship opportunities: lector, assisting minister, communion steward, acolyte, usher, greeter, drama and welcome center. All are welcome!

**36th ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK
IN ELGIN
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21**

Mark your calendars for participating in the 36th annual Crop Hunger Walk on Sunday, October 21, 2018. You can sign-up to walk on Sunday, September 9. Stop by the welcome center to receive your donation envelope.

Cindy Lange

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS



SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

August 13, 2018

- 03 Shelly Allen
Nate Sensor
05 Eugene Wilkening
Bill Jones
Gene Waugh
Kampoo Tyler
07 Christopher Lempa
08 Zachary Richoz-Kohen
Feliciano Rendon
09 Ted Sensor
10 Juanita Rohrssen
Alexander Taskov
11 Donna Anderson
13 Shirley Harnish
14 Richard Uzzell
Karen Heimberg
Hayley Anderson
15 Lorraine Mink
David Quick
Kyleigh Pacello
16 Hayden Jernberg
17 Sarah Burnett
20 Warren Kenyon
Ivan Chimal
23 Kristi Parsonage
24 Janet Jones
27 Thomas Ayres
Susan McIntyre
Jack Pflederer
28 Craig Field

Table with 2 columns: Name and Phone Number. Includes Margaret Drafall, Ronnie Malave, Karin Jones, Barkley Mapes, Bob Graham, Billie Jo Waugh, Heather Thomas, and Mike Murschel.

Cindy Lange provided a proposal for BLC policies and procedures for the use/rental of Church facilities. When complete it will include the fees for any expense associated with the use of BLC and process for reserving the facilities. Further review and discussion of the proposal will be scheduled for the September Council meeting.

Council received a letter of resignation from Jennifer Haring as Sunday School Superintendent. She is grateful for the opportunity to teach and lead the children which created wonderful memories.

In old business Barkley provided an update on the CDC Code Issue. Barkley has received revised architectural plans/copies/bids that reflect the approved variances. At this time the two current bids have been updated with the variances included in the bids. A congregational meeting will be scheduled to discuss/approve this expense. Council discussed dates for a meeting. Options determined are September 23rd or 30th pending architect's availability. Proposed meeting would be at 10 a.m. with one service at 9 a.m.

The Strategic Plan committee has reached out to a couple of consultants for further information. They are also researching grant options and scheduling some meetings to get additional ideas of cost and how a consultant could best be utilized in promoting/marketing Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Financial report for July reflects total income of \$15,455.28 which was \$930 under budget. Expenses of \$17,809.24 were \$1,425 over budget. This

negative amount put the general operating fund in the red with a balance of \$(567.52).

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Jones, Secretary

Dear Bethlehem Members,

A Special Congregation Meeting will take place Sunday, September 30, 2018.

On September 30th, there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Hospitality Hour of coffee and donuts in Wittenstrom Hall. The Special Meeting will commence shortly thereafter.

The Special Meeting is to share with the congregation the details of 2 years' worth of work with the architect and the State Fire Department to bring the building up to code to be in compliance with issues found during the 2016 Fire Inspection. The congregation will need to give approval for this expense.

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

Margaret Drafall,
Council President

INFORMATION ON EFT GIVING USING THE NEWLY UPDATED MY E OFFERING



There are a few easy steps to follow for members who would like to give electronically using the *My E Offering* site which has been set up for Bethlehem.

1. First go to members.myeoffering.com
2. Then in the upper right corner click the blue box REGISTER (Former users will click FORGOT PASSWORD)
3. Follow the instructions and steps to create an account.
4. You will then need to set up a wallet. Bethlehem would like members to use a checking/bank account as their wallet rather than a credit card. BLC pays only 30 cents for each EFT donation through your bank account no matter how high the amount; but BLC pays a 3% fee of the total donation if the giver uses a credit card.
5. There are different funds to which you may donate. However, the **General Fund** is the most important because it is our budgeted operating fund to which pledges are made. But you do have the opportunity to give to other funds such as Renovation, Memorials, Property Trust, Deficit Reduction, and Sunday School.

If you need more help or have questions when setting up your giving account on *My E Offering* you may call their representative, Stephanie, at 1-877-393-3330, Ext. 531.

Thank you so much for your generous giving to our church.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

STEP IT UP 2018

Thanks for your donations of new gym shoes for the school children of Elgin!

Step It Up is a ministry of First Baptist Church in Elgin, IL that serves to meet a very unique



but REAL need in our community - providing new shoes for children returning to school.

On Saturday, August 4th, First Baptist Church held their annual Step It Up Ministry Distribution Day! They were able to collect 1,730 brand new gym shoes. God is good!!

Check out the pictures on the First Baptist Church website (fbcelgin.com) or Facebook page.
YEA! GOD!

Service Team

FALL FOOD DRIVE

“Each one of us needs to look after the good of the people around us, asking ourselves, ‘How can I help?’” (Romans 15:2)

The Service Team will focus its service efforts by assisting the All People’s Inter-Faith Food Pantry and the Crisis Center Food Pantry, to help feed the people in our community. We have been so blessed by God and wish to share those blessings with those whom Jesus would have fed.

Each Sunday, starting September 16th through CROP Walk Sunday, we will spotlight one meal or specific items, and ask that you bring an item to contribute.

September 16th – Breakfast

Please bring: cereal, oatmeal, coffee, cans or bottles of 100% juice

September 23rd – Baby Week

Please bring: diapers, wipes, baby formula, baby cereal, baby juice, baby food

September 30th – Lunch

Please bring: peanut butter, jelly, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned soup, canned pasta, canned fruit, applesauce, saltine crackers, jello

October 7th – Clean & Healthy Week

Please bring: soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, kleenex, toilet paper

October 14th – Dinner

Please bring: canned meats, canned chicken, canned beef stew, canned vegetables, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, beans, rice

October 21st – Food of your choice

Let us remember those who are hungry and please remember to bring a non-perishable food item.

Please place your non-perishable items in the Caring Cube in the Narthex. Let’s fill up the box with nourishment for those who are hungry. Thanks for your support.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS **Saturday, September 8**

We will join Zion Lutheran, Christ the Lord, and Holy Trinity Lutheran in serving Habitat for Humanity – Northern Fox Valley.

Currently plans are being made to work on houses that Habitat is constructing. The number of sites will depend on the number of volunteers. Restore will be using volunteers help in the store. For families with children/youth who wish to serve, there will be a project to build bird houses/planters. Another project is to work on making a quilt for a Habitat family.

There is sign up sheet in the narthex to indicate your willingness to serve on Saturday, September 8. We will meet at a central location for a short devotion and prayer and then be sent out to the projects.

Questions????? Contact Cindy or Pastor Carol





Monday, September 3

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
SEPTEMBER 2018**

| <i>SUNDAY</i> | <i>MONDAY</i> | <i>TUESDAY</i> | <i>WEDNESDAY</i> | <i>THURSDAY</i> | <i>FRIDAY</i> | <i>SATURDAY</i> |
|--|--|--|---|---|---|--|
| | | | | | | 1 *James Sitz |
| 2 *Paul Sitz 9:00 Traditional Service Children Worship – No Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service | 3 *M/M Alex Sorton Labor Day Office and CDC Closed | 4 *Katie Spets 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting | 5 *Marian Steneck 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class | 6 *Brian Sullivan 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting | 7 *Stephanie Sullivan | 8 *M/M Richard Tanner 8:00 God's Work Our Hand Meet at Restore on Route 31 |
| 9 *Mark & Alexis Tanner 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service | 10 *Michael Tanner 12:30 Craft Circle, Red Room 7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts | 11 *Kalin Taskov family 10:00 Bible Study | 12 *Colton Thomas 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir | 13 *Heather Thomas and Owen | 14 *Dave Topping | 15 *Inez Tornblom 8:30 New Hope Build at 941 Chippewa, Carpentersville |
| 16 *M/M Kampoo Tyler 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service | 17 *M/M Richard Uzzell 7:30 Boy Scouts | 18 *M/M Mert Varboncoeur 10:00 Bible Study | 19 *Mike Warren family CROSSING ARTICLES DUE To Shirley Harnish 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir | 20 *M/M Gene Waugh 7:00 CDC Board Meeting | 21 *Robert Wende family | 22 *Diane Wilke 8:30 New Hope Build at 941 Chippewa, Carpentersville |
| 23 *Eugene Wilkening 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service | 24 *Sharon Williamson 7:30 Boy Scouts | 25 *Clarence Wittenstrom 10:00 Bible Study | 26 *Ethan Wolff 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir | 27 *M/M Lyle Wolff | 28 *Meredith Wolff 4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church | 29 *Todd Wood family 8:30 New Hope Build at 941 Chippewa, Carpentersville |
| 30 *M/M Michael Wylie One Service 9:00 Healing and Communion 10:00 Special Congregation Meeting in Wittenstrom Hall 10:00 Hospitality Hour | | | | | | |

*Members to be prayed for.

**Holy Communion at all services