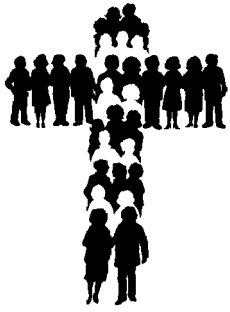


CROSSINGS



NOVEMBER 2018

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
340 Grand Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60120
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The VBS was fun, and we enjoyed working together with people who we'd just met to accomplish that part of the mission. However, it became clear in the end, God had much more in mind than we could imagine. Every evening we returned to the youth camp that had become our temporary home for dinner, sharing and prayer. On the last night, one church family that our adult leader, Yvette, had really connected with, asked if they could join us for our final evening song and prayer. Sure, we invited them to dinner too.

As we gathered after dinner, we set out all our remaining candles in a glass plate in the center of the group: white, purple, and red. Youth hurried to light this unusual mix of leftovers for the opening song. At a time of sharing, our visiting mom surprisingly revealed that she had moved her family from Camden, our home, to West Virginia 10 years earlier. Wow, what a coincidence, no wonder she felt a connection to us! The mood quickly changed as she told why. She had moved after her oldest son had been killed on a drug corner. Grieved, she couldn't bear to remain in Camden, neither would she have chanced similarly losing other children.

What corner was she referring to? The corner of 26th and River, one block from our church and very near where Yvette had raised her family.

Unbelievable coincidence? Keep reading. Many tears, songs, prayers for healing and a lot of hugs



Dear Sisters and Brothers
in Christ at Bethlehem,

I promised last month to
continue the adventures
encountered by a mission

team that I was a part of in my last call at Christus Lutheran in Camden. We had loaded up the church van and taken our Vacation Bible School on the road to West Virginia. As I wrote last month, we at Christus, were an urban congregation, inner-city folks, traveling to meet what we imagined as country folk in the hills of West Virginia. What else was in store, we had no idea. *Go, and I will show you*, God said to Abraham in Genesis, Chapter 12. We went with a sense of adventure to a place we did not know, well one that we'd only discovered by searching the ELCA directory for West Virginia congregations. One could hardly think of that as a Holy Spirit led process, but nevertheless, we set out trusting God.

later, we glanced down at the candles around which we'd gathered that evening. Over the hours, they had melted into many multicolored swirling rivers, solidifying around the edges into something altogether new, leaving in the center, a still warm and malleable heart shaped puddle of wax. What did our youth see in that puddle of wax? They saw the heart of Christ. A heart poured out, melting us down and bringing us all together, under the most unlikely of circumstances, with a plan that only God could imagine – for healing. All we had to do was go.

Now, I must tell you that in my experience, we don't often get to see that clearly what God is up to with our efforts at mission. Sometimes, they feel even clumsy, almost always out of our comfort zones. Most of the time, God works in ways hidden. But God is always there working.

Where is God sending you/us? Can you/we give it a try, sort of like an adventure? Maybe that's starting a new ministry, participating in bible study, becoming a member of the Friday night soup kitchen team, or in little ways sharing the great things Jesus has done for you so that others might know him and be called into his mission to heal the world. May you be open to whatever God puts on your heart. Let's also support and keep our Bethlehem youth in prayer as they prepare for next summer's mission trip to West Virginia.

I'll close as I did last month. Where is God sending you? Is there anything unfamiliar, uncomfortable or even awkward about God's call that gives you hesitancy? Can you give it a try anyway, sort of like an adventure? God said to Joshua as he set out to enter the promised land. *Be strong and very courageous. I'll go with you wherever you go.* I believe in that promise.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Carol

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2018	September	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$15,335.25	\$142,828.59	\$147,465.00
Expenses	\$16,072.80	\$144,051.11	\$147,465.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	(\$ 737.55)	(\$1,222.52)	\$ 0.00

To date we are behind in our giving, but our expenses have been lower than budgeted. As of September 30, the General Operating Fund is in the red, but as our members get caught up on pledges we hope to soon see the fund in the black. Our renovation loan balance is now \$11,700. Thank you for supporting the ministries of Bethlehem.

Bethlehem's Renovation and Property Trust Fund

2018	September	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 375.00	\$ 3,471.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 100.00	\$ 2,120.00

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

Decorate for Christmas



Please join with the youth in setting up the Chrison tree and hanging the wreaths in the church on Friday,

November 30 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Morning Schedule

- 9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship
Sunday School
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 Nov 4.

All Saints Day Observance is November 4. On that morning look for a table in the chapel area. You can write names of departed loved ones on a card and then place the card in a basket. The basket will be brought forward to the altar when the offerings are brought forward.

Daylight Saving Time ends November 4. Be sure to set your clocks back one hour!

Elgin Interfaith Thanksgiving Service is Sunday, November 18 at 4:00 p.m. Bethlehem is hosting it this year and we expect a lot of people. Help us show our hospitality by volunteering to greet people at doors, help with the elevator, usher, help set up and serve pies, etc. Speak with Margaret Drafall if able to help.

No Thanksgiving Eve Service this year.

Christmas Poinsettia order forms will be available later in November. The cost will be \$12. Orders need to be placed by Tuesday, December 4. Look for the order form at the Welcome Center and place in the offering plate or give your order to the church office. Payment must accompany the order. You can state if you wish to honor someone or to remember someone.

Sing with the Choir! You are invited to join us. Practices are Wednesday 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 Wednesday 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.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



- 02 David Jernberg
Bernardino Sanchez
- 03 Tracy Chabrier-Huizenga
- 07 Jack Anderson
- 08 Vincent Anderson
- 09 Laurel Warren
Mason Miedwig
- 11 Jerry Kile
Lyle Wolff
Ashley Ottaviano
Jeanette Rohrsen
- 12 Nancy Calderwood
- 14 Robert Luna
- 15 Owen Canham
Ray Mette
- 16 Gareth Sitz
Alma Villagomez
- 21 Becky Gabrys
- 22 Julie Ann Robbins
- 24 Jeffrey Kellogg
Kevin Bieschke
- 26 Erik Olson
- 29 Yazmin Malave

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 8, 2018

AND

SPECIAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

September 30, 2018

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

Margaret Drafall, President	847-695-4721
Ronnie Malave, Vice-President	847-873-9940
Karin Jones, Secretary	224-558-9504
Barkley Mapes	224-803-6573
Bob Graham	847-695-9186
Billie Jo Waugh	847-917-0319
Heather Thomas	847-977-1371
Mike Murschel	847-741-4221

Pastor Carol provided a brief update regarding the beginning processes of the 2019 narrative budget process that will be put together for a presentation to the council.

Bethlehem is in full planning and preparation mode for the Thanksgiving Interfaith Service that we are hosting on November 18th. Margaret Drafall is seeking the assistance of pie bakers, greeters, kitchen help, ushers, set-up, tear-down, and everything else needed to host this event.

Cindy Lange provided a very comprehensive policy and procedure for Church use and possible rentals of the church and facilities. The council adopted the proposal, and additional info is available from the church office.

Pledge Sunday will be held 11/18/18.

The council also agreed to implement the Tithely app from ELCA as a giving option on a 12-month trial basis beginning in November.

Color Space Consulting will be assisting with social media/website for our Christmas season invitational process. This contracted service will include / social media/ marketing material, design, invitations, banners, etc. set-up along with some training.

Our Special Congregational Meeting held on September 30, 2018, had a motion made to borrow from the endowment fund to finance up to the \$80,000 needed to move forward with the project of the fire safety improvements bringing the building into code compliance for the issues found during the 2016 fire inspection. Discussion followed the motion and the motion passed with 69 yes votes and five no votes.

Once the Congregation had voted to approve, Barkley met with the architect to discuss moving forward with this project. The architect is comfortable with either of the contractors. The council then approved accepting the bid provided from Shales McNutt to complete the work. Barkley mentioned that he would look into a grant or other potential project funding opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,
Karin Jones



Remember to set your clocks back one hour before you got to bed Saturday, November 3.

FALL FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your many generous donations to the Fall Food Drive! The Caring Cube box has been overflowing with food and household items which have been donated to the Elgin Crisis Center emergency food pantry. Yea! God! for your generosity! Let's keep it going!

Thanksgiving 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)

We can continue to help! 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. As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us bless others, especially at Thanksgiving

Each Sunday, during the month of November, we will spotlight one meal, and ask that you bring an item to contribute.

November 4th – Breakfast

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

November 11th – Lunch

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

November 18th - Dinner

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

November 25th – Food of your choice!

*They always need diapers. Size 5 & 6, please!

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.

LSSI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE CENTER GROOMING KITS

The LSSI Behavioral Health Service Center located here in Elgin helps individuals struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. The Center would again appreciate our gifts of grooming kits for the 30 clients in treatment at the Center at Christmastime.

Starting November 25th, please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the Narthex, purchase items listed on the tag and return unwrapped items in a ziploc bag by December 9th. Thank you for your care and concern.



OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

It's time to fill Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world. Please take a shoebox! Fill the shoebox with small gifts suitable for a child in 1 of the age categories:

2-4 years old

5-9 years old

10-14 years old

Including a personal note and a photo of yourself makes a big impact.

Include a \$9 donation to cover shipping and other project costs. (You can also pay online and follow your shoebox to its destination.)

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your shoebox. Shoeboxes need to be returned **Sunday, November 4th or Sunday, November 11th.**

Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child and sharing a shoebox gift and Jesus Christ with children around the world! Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity, New Hope Partnership. A letter of agreement was signed and will be submitted to Northern Fox Valley Habitat for Humanity.

LIGHTING UP THE FRONT WALK

After many, many years of darkness on the front steps, Bethlehem requested a proposal from a local lighting contractor to replace the six fixtures with new LED fixtures. Due to the age of the current wiring of the existing lights, new wiring will be installed as well as a new underground box for the main feed. Existing lights and wiring will be removed and replaced.



We hope to have the project completed by mid-November for the Interfaith Thanksgiving service. The new lights will provide light

and safety for our visitors as they enter the church.

Property Trust has approved this project at a cost of \$6,500. Three members have pledged an amount of \$1,500 for the project. The lighting contractor has also given us three months to pay for it.

In conclusion, if you can donate to this “Light the Way” project, you can indicate the donation in the memo line “Front walk lights” on your check. If you give online, you indicate the donation to Property Trust.

If you have questions, contact Chery Peacock, Cindy Lange or Barkley Mapes.

Youth Activities in November



Ultimate Lock-In

Friday, November 2 through Saturday, November 3, 2018
10:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m.

Metro Synod Lock-in will be held at the Enchanted Castle in Lombard featuring bumper cars, Go Carts, Laser tag, arcade games and prizes and pizza. Cost = \$35. Cindy needs to purchase the tickets by October 30.

The opening music performer will be Rachel Kurtz. Money is due to Cindy by Sunday, Oct. 28.

Thank you to all who attended the special congregational meeting on September 30th. There were 76 voting members that signed in. A good discussion followed Barkley Mapes' presentation showing the work to be done to bring the building up to code.

The vote was 69 yes and 5 no. These upgrades will help keep all of us safe in case of a fire.

Thank you to Barkley who has been working on this for the past two years. And thank you again to all who attended and for your continuing support of the CDC

Margaret Drafall



On Sunday, November 18th we are hosting the city-wide inter-faith Thanksgiving service. We are thankful for all our ABUNDANT BLESSINGS (the theme of the service). The service begins at 4:00 p.m.

Since we expect between 250-300 people to attend, we need LOTS of help that day. Please mark your calendar and plan on attending. This will be our Thanksgiving service. We will not have our traditional Thanksgiving Eve service. There will be opportunities to sign up to help. Also, we will be asking for pies to be served at the fellowship time after the service.

Please consider how you can help. Let me know. We want to show the city of Elgin what a wonderful place Bethlehem Lutheran Church is.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2018**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
				1 * Nancy Calderwood	2 *Rachel Campbell 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Ultimate Lock-In at Enchanted Castle	3 *Timothy Canham family 9:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. Ultimate Lock-In at Enchanted Castle 8:30 – 4:00 New Hope Build At 941 Chippewa, Cville
4 *M/M Bruce Carey 9:00 Traditional Service Children worship – No Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	5 *Matthew Carlson 12:30 Craft Circle Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	6 *M/M Ed Chiarugi 10:00 Bible Study	7 *Mimi Claros 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	8 *M/M Carl Cruse 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	9 *Dario Depaz family	10 *Karen Dingel 8:30 – 4:00 New Hope Build At 941 Chippewa, Cville
11 *Margaret Drafall 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	12 *M/M Jerry Drommerhausen 7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	13 *M/M Ryan Eberdt 10:00 Bible Study	14 *M/M Charles Edwards Crossing articles due to Shirley Harnish 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	15 *Sean Edwards 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	16 *Linda Fagan	17 *Craig Field 8:30 – 4:00 New Hope Build At 941 Chippewa, Cville
18 *M/M Scott Fiorito 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 4:00 Elgin Interfaith Thanksgiving Worship	19 *Denise Gilbert-Collins 7:00 Rebecca Circle at Judy Drommerhausen's home 7:30 Boy Scouts	20 *M/M David Gilliland 10:00 Bible Study	21 *Mark Goers 5:30 Praise Him	22 *M/M Robert Gordon Office closed	23 *M/M Robert Graham 4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church	24 * Yolando Granados and Marco Villagomez family 8:30 – 4:00 New Hope Build At 941 Chippewa, Cville
25 *Matthew Hadley family 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	26 *Jennifer Haring 7:30 Boy Scouts	27 *M/M Fred Harnish 10:00 Bible Study	28 *M/M Richard Heimburg 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	29 *M/M Matthew Hergert	30 *Edward Hernandez 7:00 Decorate the Church for Christmas	

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services