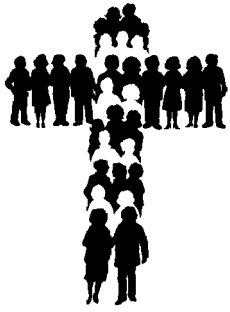


# CROSSINGS



DECEMBER 2018

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

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Dear Church,

As I write this article,  
November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2018,  
Bethlehem is about to

host one of the most diverse faith gatherings ever held in the Elgin Community Thanksgiving Service sponsored by the Coalition of Elgin Religious Leaders.

It will be *interfaith*, offering scripture and/or song from the Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Buddhist traditions - one Hebrew song even led by Gareth and Paul Sitz, themselves an interfaith (Jewish – Christian) couple. Musical offerings will be *multicultural* and *intergenerational* - from the Bethlehem Children's Choir, to the Laotian youth lead Buddhist meditation, and including adult choirs from the African American and Hispanic traditions, as well as our Bethlehem adult choir.

In the end, all the choirs will come together as the Community Choir to lead the whole congregation in a song of unity and thanksgiving. What a rich blessing it will be right in our own house!

One might ask, in this new, and somewhat unfamiliar, gathering of people, how then do we pray? This is a very interesting question. And one that Jesus' followers asked him.

*"Lord, teach us to pray, as John taught his disciples."* <sup>2</sup> He said to them, "When you pray, say: Father, <sup>a</sup> hallowed be your name. <sup>b</sup> Luke, Chapter 2

First, as Christians, we pray as Jesus taught, often addressing God as Father. We respect others' names for God, but when we pray, we are free to address God as we know God.

Secondly, the very intentional way that the Thanksgiving service was developed so that people of many different cultures and traditions would have a chance to lift their own voice, hear their own rhythm, may help us as we think about outreach into our diverse community. Even as Christians, we don't all sing the same song, or have the same "go to" musical rhythm or key.

It is said that a very important factor in successful outreach is the honest desire to hear and even sing in the rhythms of our neighbors (as well as our own of course). This because we so desire to pray together to our heavenly Father and to share the good news

of his Son's birth, who came that we all may belong to him, and to each other, forever.

So much look forward to Bethlehem's beautiful December celebrations of the birth of our Lord.

Pastor Carol

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**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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

2018	October	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$16,842.59	\$159,671.18	\$163,850.00
Expenses	\$17,501.40	\$161,552.51	\$163,850.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	(\$ 658.81)	(\$1,881.33)	\$ 0.00

Thank you for turning in your 2019 pledge and our generous offerings during the final weeks of the year. A blessed Advent to everyone.

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

2018	October	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 495.00	\$ 3,966.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 0.00	\$ 2,120.00

The current loan balance is \$11,300.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**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.

**Sancta Lucia Pageant, A Festival of Light** is Sunday, December 2 at 5:00 p.m. This is a traditional Swedish celebration of Sancta Lucia, who brought food to those in need and light to the darkness of winter.

**Christmas Poinsettias** will be \$12. Orders need to be placed by Tuesday, December 4. Look for the 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.

**Sunday School Christmas Program – Jesus is the Gift** is December 16 during the 9:00 service.

**Posada** is Friday, December 21 at 6:30 p.m. Mary and Joseph look for posada (room in the inn) in Bethlehem, celebrated with music by *Luz de Ande*, delicious food, and even a piñata!

**Christmas Eve Services** are Monday, December 24 at 4:00 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. Invite family and friends to join us as we celebrate the birth of Jesus on this holy night.

**Sunday, December 30** will be services of communion and healing.

**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.

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**ELGIN HOLIDAY TOY GIVEAWAY**

The Service Team will once again be collecting items for the Annual Toy Giveaway by the Community Crisis Center. You will find a list of items needed beginning Sunday, November 18<sup>th</sup> and toys should be returned by Sunday, December 9<sup>th</sup>.

Last year approximately 6,000 toys were distributed to 2,200 children from over 825 needy families. If you would like to help on the day of distribution, you can visit [www.elgintoygiveaway.org](http://www.elgintoygiveaway.org) for information. If just wanting to give a cash donation, checks should be made to the Community Crisis Center. Thank you!

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**DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**



- 03 Ron Albert
- 06 Chris Anderson
- 08 Zachary Nail
- James Muirhead
- Larry Rohrssen
- 09 Marco Villagomez
- Violeta Rendon
- 11 Owen Thomas
- 12 Sue Richoz
- 17 Ralph Mapes
- 21 Dave Gilliland
- 23 Bernette Ryza
- 24 Carl Cruse
- 26 Lindsey Warren
- 27 Meredith Wolff
- 28 Michael Wylie
- 31 Andrea Fiorito

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Dear Bethlehem Members:

Thank you everyone that helped make our hosting the citywide Interfaith service a success. Whether you helped set up, greeted, ushered, brought a pie, helped clean up, or attended; all was greatly appreciated.

An extra thank you to Peg Youngren for your help in planning the service and working with all the singers (young and old). Thank you, Cindy Lange and Barkley Mapes, for getting the new lights installed in time so we could "LIGHT THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM".

A blessed Thanksgiving to everyone.

Margaret Drafall

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**SAVE THE DATE!**

The Child Development Center's Christmas program will be held on Wednesday, December 12, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. We are excited to present "The Friendly Beasts" song followed by a presentation from the students. Come get in the holiday spirit and join us for the program and a refreshment hour/Santa visit immediately following. Hope to see you there!



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***DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS***

Please join with the youth in setting up the Chrismon tree and hanging the wreaths in the church on Friday, November 30 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

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## SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

November 12, 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

The council has started the discussion on the proposed 2019 budget. Pastor Carol would like to see Bethlehem ministry groups and leaders provide a vision and proposed budget for their individual needs for the budget process in 2020.

Our congregation, acting in our role as the Charter Organization for Boy Scout Troop 111, will be adding a Girls Troop & Girls Pack and a Boys Pack as a scouting involvement option. Training will be provided by the District that oversees Scouting in our area. We also agreed that BLC would accept the current, updated BSA guidelines as they pertain to sexual orientation in scouting.

Phyllis Mapes, Shirley Pflederer, & Lorie Anderson to discuss Strawberry Festival. The BLCW Board consists of the above three members, Margaret Drafall, Donna Anderson, and Karyn Lunsford. They do not feel there is currently enough help or man-power to continue this size of an event. Looking for a new committee to step up and they would like to mentor that group. Currently, there are no new committee perspectives. They also discussed the fact that things can be changed with the event. It does not need to stay the same. 2018 was the 45th year.

Please keep an eye out for the printed invitation that will include all our BLC services with times that we host during the Christmas Season. This printed piece is a new item, and we hope you will consider inviting friends and family to worship with us during Christmas.

The annual congregational meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2019. Cindy Lange also let the council know that the revised constitution submitted in 2018 was approved.

Karin Jones  
Council Secretary

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### 36<sup>th</sup> ELGIN HUNGER CROPWALK

Bethlehem walkers raised \$1,003.50. Thank you to the thirteen people who collected donations from members, family and friends. Thank you to all members who donated money to the walkers. 25% of money donated will go to food pantries and soup kettles in Elgin.

Cindy Lange

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### YOUTH GROUP HOLIDAY PARTY

Friday, December 14 - Youth Group Holiday Party  
7:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.  
In the Loft

Bring a wrapped Grab Bag gift (\$5 to \$8)

All 7<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> graders are invited

Sign up at youth group to bring a snack, dessert or soda.

RSVP to Cindy or Gayle

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### 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)*

Thanks to everyone for bringing in so many wonderful items for the All Peoples Interfaith Food Pantry and Crisis Center Food Pantry. Our donations were greatly needed, and they are still needed. Please continue to place items in the Caring Cube throughout the year. Thank you for your generosity!

Service Team

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**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 individuals in treatment at the Center at Christmas.

Starting November 25<sup>th</sup>, 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 9<sup>th</sup>. Thank you for your support.

Service Team

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse, an international Christian relief organization that collects gift-filled shoeboxes and delivers them in the name of Jesus Christ to children living in desperate situations around the world.

Thanks for your response to this ministry! 25 shoeboxes were filled with gifts for children around the world! The \$9 shipping cost included for each box, will ensure that your shoebox will reach its destination. If you paid the shipping donation

online, you will be able to track your shoebox to its destination. If you're tracking your box, please share the information when it arrives! Keep praying for the children that will receive shoeboxes.

The shoeboxes from Bethlehem were delivered to Grace Evangelical Church in Elgin. The next leg of their journey will take them to St. Paul, Minnesota to the Processing Center.

Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child and sharing a shoebox gift and Jesus Christ with children around the world!

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
DECEMBER 2018**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
						1 *Kayla Hernandez 10:00 Handbell Practice
2 *Libby Hoeft  9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 5:00 Sancta Lucia	3 *Marilyn House  12:00 Craft Circle 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	4 *M/M Dave Jernberg  10:00 Bible Study	5 *Stephen Jernberg family  5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	6 *Randle Johnson  7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	7 *Sue Johnson	8 *M/M Bill Jones
9 *Gentry Jones family  9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	10 *Jeffrey Kellogg  7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	11 *Jerry Kile  10:00 Bible Study	12 *M/M Larry Klemm  5:30 Praise Him 7:00 CDC Christmas Program	13 *M/M Zachary Kohen	14 *M/M Jeff Lange  7:00 Youth Christmas Party In Loft	15 *Kathie Larson  11:-00 -2:30 Sunday School Christmas Program Practice With lunch
16 *Paul Larson  9:00 Traditional Service with Christmas Program 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	17 *Kathy Lehman  7:00 Rebecca Circle in the Red Room hosted by Shirley Pflederer 7:30 Boy Scouts	18 *Christopher Lempa  10:00 Bible Study	19 *Eric Lempa  <b>CROSSING ARTICLES DUE</b>  5:30 Praise Him 7:15 Adult Choir	20 *M/M Len Lempa	21 *Alan Lentz  6:30 Posada	22 * Cameron Lichtenberg Family  10:00 Handbell Rehearsal
23 *Sherry Liske  9:00 Traditional Worship Children worship with parents 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Worship	24 *William Lunsford family  4:00 Christmas Worship 10:00 Christmas Worship	25 *Burt Lynn & Kim Lange  Office and CDC Closed	26 *Scott MacDuff  5:30 Praise Him	27 *Ronnie Malave family	28 *Barkley Mapes  4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen at Holy Trinity	29 *M/M Ralph Mapes
30 *Jonathan Marquez family  9:00 Traditional Worship Healing Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Worship Healing Service	31 *M/M James Massa					

\*Members to be prayed for.

\*\* Holy Communion served at all services



*Sancta Lucia Pageant  
A Festival of Light*

*Sunday, December 2, 2018*

*At 5:00 p.m.*

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

*340 Grand Blvd*

*Elgin IL 60120*

*Bethlehem's Swedish heritage comes alive in this beautiful pageant of the Christmas season. Bring your family and friends and capture the enchantment of Swedish tradition retold in the Old, old tale of Sancta Lucia.*

*Guest Soloist will be Dr. Risé Jones*

*A Swedish smorgasbord will be served in Wittenstrom Hall following the program*

*All proceeds from the Free-Will Offering  
Will go to the  
All People's Interfaith Food Pantry*



Dear CDC Supporter,

We're counting down the days to November 27<sup>th</sup>...the biggest giving day of the year, otherwise known as Giving Tuesday 2018!!! Please join our campaign and help us reach our goal of \$15,000.00. The Grand Victoria Foundation will once again be matching funds up to \$4,000.00. In addition, we have an anonymous donor that has offered to match funds up to \$7,000.00!!! Our center has the potential to make this one of our most successful fundraising campaigns ever!!! Also, as a bonus incentive this year if our goal is reached, ALL of the carpet in the downstairs classrooms will be replaced!

We need your help!!! We need you to tell your friends and family members about the important work we do and ask them to join us in helping to make a difference in young children's education.

Here are a few easy ways that you can support us.

**Share Our Campaign.** Online days of giving are successful because of our own networks. Help us grow our network by sending this email to your network and ask your friends to do the same.

**Be Socially Active.** Use your social media networks: post on Facebook, tweet about Giving Tuesday 2018 and share why you support our ministry. Tell them why it is important for us to continue to provide a center where children can learn, grow and care.

Get ready to give! On November 27th, visit <https://bethlehemcdc.org/> and click the donate button to make your contribution. Please note, cash or checks can also be accepted this year and will count towards the matching funds!

Questions? If you have any questions or would like more information, let us know. Contact Kelly Aurand at 847-741-7743.

Thank you in advance for your generosity to our organization and your continued support for our center.