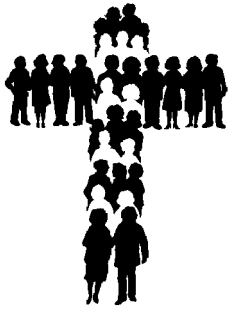


# CROSSINGS



JANUARY 2019

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

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The end of the year is a great time to look back with grateful hearts and to look forward with eyes of hope. For a moment in time, as one year passes and a new begins, it's helpful to have a kind of double vision – one of the past and the other of the future. Like my hope for the CDC child seeing double vision, we can appreciate, even celebrate, both.

I see Bethlehem in that kind of place as we approach a 150-year anniversary (not this year but probably not too soon to start planning), praising God's work in our history, and looking with a hopeful eye to God's future acts of grace and wonder. What if we take that a step further and ask at this time in our history, "Who is the real Bethlehem?" What has been our central identity as a church, an identity that will carry us into the future? Maybe for that, we have to go to the one born in Bethlehem so long ago.

In Acts, Chapter 3 Peter, speaks of this one Jesus after healing a beggar who could not walk. Peter proclaimed, "*Silver or gold I have not, but what I have I give; in the name of Jesus Christ, stand up and walk.*" And he did. When the people were astonished, Peter said, "*Why do you wonder about this as if by our own power or piety, we made him walk. The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob has glorified Jesus. The one who was the Author of Life, you killed, but God raised him up.* In other words, the same God of the ancients

was active in raising Jesus Christ from the dead, and he would be active in Peter and all of Jesus' followers in the future.



Dear Bethlehem family,

The pastor has always been the chaplain of the Child Development Center. This year,

however, Peg Youngren, our Director of Music, and I have shared that role with the goal of strengthening our partnership with the CDC.

Since then, one delightful CDC child routinely greets me around Bethlehem with, "Hi Miss Peg!" I'm not aware of her calling Peg, Pastor Carol, so I guess you see who makes the lasting impression.

At the CDC Christmas party, this precious little one caught a glimpse of Peg and I standing together, and exclaimed, "Ok now, who's the real Miss Peg?" It was a hilarious case of double vision. But I like to believe that she appreciates and enjoys us both.

Our faith holds that whatever the future may bring, the God of our ancestors, will still be God of our future, and will still be healing and saving and raising us up from the dead just as he raised up Jesus Christ before us. And that is all that we too, as Peter, have to share.

So, at times it's helpful to look back in order to look forward, to have a little double vision. Unlike the confusion that Peg and I created for that CDC child, the God we see active through Bethlehem in the past is the same God who draws us into the future. Our God is from everlasting to everlasting.

Peace in Christ in 2019 for you and your families.

Pastor Carol

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**ELGIN HOLIDAY TOY GIVEAWAY**

The Service Team would like to thank everyone who donated items to this year's drive. Last year approximately 6,000 toys were distributed to 2,200 children from over 825 needy families. Know that you have helped make a child's Christmas a little brighter. Thank You.

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**HATS AND MITTENS**

During the month of January, the Service Team will collect Hats, Gloves, Mittens and Scarves for the children of the Community Crisis Center. Help us keep those little ones warm this winter.



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**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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

2018	November	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$16,683.08	\$176,354.26	\$180,235.00
Expenses	\$14,826.04	\$176,378.55	\$180,235.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ 1,857.04	(\$ 24.29)	\$ 0.00

Thank you for turning in your 2019 pledge because this is so important as we plan our 2019 budget. Thank you also for your Christmas offerings. A blessed Christmas to everyone.

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

2018	November	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 525.00	\$ 4,491.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 3,620.00

Our new front walkway lights cost \$6,700. Donations to Property Trust will help pay for this beautiful improvement to our church. Our current renovation loan balance is \$10,800.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**UN-DECORATE THE CHURCH**

What goes up, must come down! Many hands will make the work go quickly. Join us in the sanctuary to take down the Chrismon tree, wreaths and the nativity on Thursday, January 3 at 6 p.m. If you need more details, contact Cindy Lange.

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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.

**Children** worship with their families January 6.

**January 6** is Day of Epiphany when the magi visit the baby Jesus. Reading will be from Matthew 2:1-23.

**January 27** is one service at 9:00 followed by the annual meeting.

**Sing with the Choir!** You are invited to join us. Practices are Wednesday at 7:15 pm 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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**On my bad days, I seek You.  
On my good days, I thank You.  
On my great days, I praise You.  
But every day I need You,  
Thank you, God, for always being there for me.**

**Amen**

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**JANUARY BIRTHDAYS**



- 01 James Massa
- 02 Clarence Wittenstrom
- Connie Uzzell
- 04 Charles Edwards
- 05 Vivian Peck
- Valerie Mette
- 06 Max Anderson
- Julissa Gomez
- Katelynn Mette
- 07 Kim Lynn
- 10 Sabine Bieschke
- Jonathan Marquez
- 11 Ethan Miedwig
- 13 Ed Chiarugi
- Jennifer Eberdt
- 15 Yolanda Granados
- 16 Lori Anderson
- 17 Jackie Gordon
- 18 Jeanne Hergert
- 19 Timothy Canham
- Derek Warren
- 25 Amy Kile
- Matthew Miedwig
- 26 Randy Shedd
- 29 Jerry Drommerhausen
- Elyssa Shroder
- 30 Eli Richoz-Latigo
- Wilma Peterson

\*\*\*\*\*

**God has perfect timing.  
Never early; never late  
It takes a little patience and faith  
But it's worth the wait.**

**SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**

**December 10, 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 members of the council have scheduled an additional meeting on January 28th at 7 p.m. to discuss "The Invitational Christian" Chapters 1-4. This meeting will allow more time for discussion and conversation. Members of the congregation are welcome to join the council and participate in this conversation.

Chery Peacock provided the financial reports for December.

In old business, we continued the 2019 Budget discussion, and Chery was available to answer questions.

Barkley has contacted Shales McNutt with respect to completing the BLC/CDC Fire Code repairs, and they will work with the CDC to figure out a construction plan that is the least disruptive to all involved.

In new business, the newly formed Stewardship Committee will be planning a meeting in early 2019. They will also be adding a review of time and talents that are offered by our BLC family and hope to increase some participation in some areas that need additional assistance.

The annual meeting will be on January 27, 2019. We will have one worship service at 9 a.m. The meeting will begin at 10:30 with a light breakfast

provided immediately following the 9 a.m. service. Annual meeting/committee reports are due January 4, 2019 and Cindy has provided the requested format and font.

The next council meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2019 at 7 p.m.

Respectfully submitted.

Karin Jones  
Council Secretary

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 27, 2019. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, there will be one worship service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Hospitality Hour of a light continental breakfast in Wittenstrom Hall. The Annual Meeting will commence shortly thereafter.

The Annual Meeting is a time for the congregation to gather together and review the past year's endeavors, consider plans for the new year, and elect nominated members to positions of leadership.

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

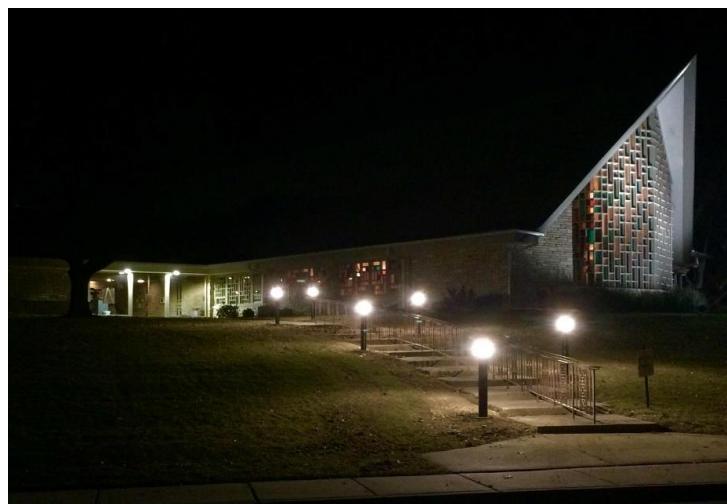


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**“LIGHT THE WAY TO BETHLEHEM”**

What a joy it is to drive by our church and see the beautiful lights out front! Not only is it a welcome to everyone, but it provides safe walking up the steps. The total cost of the project was \$6,200. To date about \$2,500 has been given to pay for the lights.

As you are thinking about your year-end giving to Bethlehem, I encourage you to consider including a gift to the Property Trust Fund and mark it as “Front Lights”. Thank you for your continued support of Bethlehem.



Margaret Drafall

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***YOUTH HOLIDAY PARTY***  
***Thursday, January 3***  
***7:00 – 10:00 p.m.***

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

If you have questions, call or text Cindy 847-814-3249 or Gayle 847-710-4266.

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***2018 CROP HUNGER WALK RESULTS***

The Elgin Crop Hunger Walk collected \$17,446.50. There were 135 walkers. Thirteen Bethlehem walkers raised \$ 1,003.50.

Thank you to the walkers who collected donations from members, family and friends. Thank you to all members who donated money to the walkers. 25% of the money collected goes to the food pantries and soup kitchens in Elgin.

Cindy Lange

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**LSSI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE  
CENTER GROOMING KITS**

“Christmas is coming, the goose is getting fat. Please to put a penny in the old man’s hat.”

You put in many pennies! Your generosity helped us reach our goal. Thank you to all who made a cash donation or donated grooming kits for the clients of the LSSI Behavioral Health Service Center. We provided 30 kits for the people at the Center at Christmastime.

The Center located in Elgin helps people who are struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. Along with the grooming kit, candy, oranges and a fleece blanket were given to each person. Yea! God! for the Youth Group for the sorting and packaging of all the kits and the Sunday School children for making Christmas cards.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Service Team

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**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FOOD DRIVE**  
**Monday, January 21, 2019**

The Martin Luther King Jr. committee is asking all the area churches to collect food for the Martin Luther King, Jr. food drive. The food will be donated to the eight local food pantries, Food for Greater Elgin, All Peoples Interfaith Food Pantry, Centro de Informacion, Community Crisis Center, Elgin Salvation Army, Westside Church of Christ, Hanover Township Food Pantry and the Bethesda Church of Christ Pantry.

Grocery bags are available in the Narthex listing the foods that are needed. All donations are due back by Sunday, January 20<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support.

Service Team

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**I asked for strength...**

God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

**I asked for wisdom..**

God gave me problems to solve.

**I asked for prosperity...**

God gave me a brain and brawn to work.

**I asked for love....**

God gave me troubled people to help.

**I asked for courage...**

God gave me danger to overcome

**I asked for favors...**

God gave me opportunities.

**I received nothing I wanted**

**I received everything I needed.**

**Trust in God!**

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
JANUARY 2019**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
		1 *Stephanie Mathus  Church office and CDC Closed	2 *Susan McIntyre  5:30 Praise Him No confirmation No Adult Choir	3 *M/M Warren Mette  3:00 Bible Study 6:00 Un-decorate the Church 7:00 Youth Holiday Party	4 *Kathryn Miller and family  Reports due to church office for annual report	5 *Lorraine Mink
6 *Ida Mockler  9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	7 *James Muirhead  12:30 Craft Circle - Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	8 *M/M Mike Murschel  10:00 Bible Study	9 *Joseph Nail family  5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	10 *MaryLeslie Naker  3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Finance/Exec Meeting	11 *Kathra Naviaux	12 *Ellen Nelson  10:00 – 12:00 AAUW Luncheon in Wittenstrom Hall
13 *Aimee O'Claire  9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	14 *Alexander O'Claire  7:00 Church Council 7:30 Boy Scouts	15 *M/M Robert O'Connor  10:00 Bible Study	16 *Aracely Ojeda and family  <b>CROSSING ARTICLES DUE</b>  5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	17 *Drew Olson  3:00 Bible Study 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	18 *Erik Olson	19 * M/M Greg Olson
20 *Kristin Olson <b>Annual Reports Due Out</b> 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	21 *Megan Olson  7:00 Rebecca Circle at the home of Rachel Campbell 7:30 Boy Scouts	22 *Gary Ottaviano family  10:00 Bible Study	23 *Hillary Ottaviano  9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	24 *Lindsey Ottaviano  3:00 Bible Study	25 *Kyleigh Pacello  4:00 Soup Kitchen, Holy Trinity Church	26 *Barbara Paulsen
27 *M/M John Peacock <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9:00 Blended Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:45 Annual Meeting	28 *Vivian Peck  7:00 Council Meeting 7:30 Boy Scouts	29 *Wilma Peterson  10:00 Bible Study	30 *M/M Jack Pflederer  5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	31 *David Quick  3:00 Bible Study		

\*Members to be prayed for.

\*\* Holy Communion served at all services



Sanata Lucia Pageant  
A Festival of Light

On Sunday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> friends and family gathered to share in this festival event at Bethlehem.

*Nagely Chimal* was crowned Sanata Lucia for 2018  
By the 2017 Queen, Abby Sensor.

In Nagely's court were, Emma Anderson, Lindsey Anderson, Julissa Gomez, Giselle Luna, Yazmin Malave, Violet Rendon and Lindsay Warren. The Crown Bearer was Leslie Gomez, with the Star Boys portrayed by Nathan Canham and Hayden Jernberg.

The Acolyte's for the evening service were  
Domanick Malave and Owen Thomas.

Inez Tornblom did the Welcome and also led us in a Table Grace, both in English and in her native Swedish.

We wish to thank the following for sharing their musical talent with us once again,

Dr. Rizé Jones – Soloist

Sean Edwards – Violin

And Peg Youngren for all her help with this event.

*A Free-Will offering was taken and \$853.00 was sent to the All People's Interfaith Food Pantry*