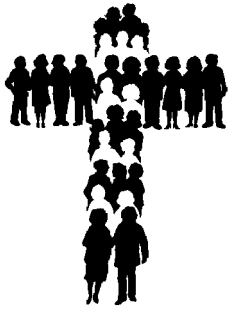


CROSSINGS



FEBRUARY 2019

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Elgin, IL 60120
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and subsequent process has been very public and painful, not only for the families of those involved, but also for many in the city of Elgin. Regardless of whether the shooting was just, regardless of the outcome of our justice system, my gratitude for Elgin Police Department, those who risk their lives every day for our safety, will not be diminished.

Having said that, for a lot of folks in Elgin who viewed the video, "It just looked wrong." And, that Ms. Clements was black, and Lt. Jensen is white, is not lost on some folks. Racial bias may not have been a factor in this particular shooting, but it is a part of the community conversation as a result.

And that's where I see the faithful work laid out for Christ followers in Elgin today. Bias is about seeing things from a limited perspective. Jesus reached across divisions to see, to hear, and to offer grace to all. We are called out of our baptism to be good neighbors, to love as Jesus loved. That may require broadening our perspectives.

I long for a true peace in our community, which according to Dr. King, "... is not merely the absence of tension: it is the presence of justice." Jesus says that he came establish righteousness, to make things "all right", fair, or just. He died for that. To find a peace with justice around the Decynthia Clements shooting, Elgin may have to go through a period of tension. We may need to hear and see and learn from each other, black, white, brown, male and



Dear Bethlehem family,

I am writing this morning as I wonder if the snow storm forecast for tomorrow morning will

interrupt our anticipated Elgin Prayer Breakfast in honor of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. I hope not, as I look forward to another opportunity to learn together with a contingent from Bethlehem and our neighbors in this beautifully diverse city of Elgin. Dr. King put his life on the line for issues of justice, and famously dreamed of a world where his children would not be judged by the color of their skin. We've come a long way thanks to Dr. King, to his colleges, and to the many that have followed his costly path of justice.

And the work is ongoing. Today, here in our community of Elgin, we await the result of an investigation into the March shooting of Decynthia Clements by Lt. Chris Jensen who led a group of officers in response to a crisis on I90. The incident,

female, ...and so on. And then after hearing, may we act as one to make our community even stronger.

In the end, may we find more commonality than differences. Dr. King said, "We must all learn to live together as brothers (and sisters) or we will all perish together as fools. *We are tied together in the single garment of destiny, caught in an inescapable network of mutuality. And whatever affects one directly affects all indirectly. For some strange reason I can never be what I ought to be until you are what you ought to be. This is the way God's universe is made; this is the way it is structured.*"

So, this MLK Prayer Breakfast tomorrow morning is another opportunity to listen and to learn. Hold off the storm Lord, the snow storm I mean. And bring us to a peace with justice in our beautifully diverse city of Elgin. In the meantime, I hold all in prayer.

Peace in Christ for you and your families.

Pastor Carol

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2018	December	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$24,196.06	\$203,916.45	\$196,609.00
Expenses	\$24,171.77	\$203,916.45	\$196,609.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ 24.29	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

At the end of 2018 our expenses were under giving, so part of next quarter's commercial insurance was paid in order to begin 2019 with a zero balance. The most needed extra giving in 2019 (in addition to regular weekly giving) should be a gift in the envelope marked Property Trust or Renovation. This will help pay for our upcoming fire code improvements and the balance owed for our outdoor lights. Have a safe, healthy and happy new year.

Bethlehem's Renovation and Property Trust Fund

2018	December	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 385.00	\$ 4,876.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 2,348.65	\$ 5,968.65

Our renovation loan which was taken out several years ago for church improvements including a new roof, boiler, etc. have been reduced substantially and the principal balance owed at the end of 2018 is \$10,374. When members put a gift in the special renovation envelopes it reduces our loan balance. Thank you for these donations.

In 2018 members donated \$3,690 toward the walkway lights. The cost of these lights was \$6,744, so any additional donations to Property Trust will help pay for the front walk lights.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

MISSION TRIP 2019

The youth of Bethlehem will be serving on another Mission Trip this summer! Twenty-two people have committed to serving at the YouthWorks site in the Beckley, WV in June 2019.

We need your support and prayers to complete our mission! Be watching your mail for a prayer partner letter! The youth are writing letters to the members of Bethlehem sharing their experiences from their last mission trip and their hopes for their 2019 trip. They will also be asking for your support by becoming their prayer partners.

Please keep the Mission Trip Team in your prayers as we prepare ourselves to be God's servants this summer at our mission site. Yea! God!

WORSHIP SCHEDULE
Sunday Morning Schedule

9:00 a.m. Traditional Worship with
 Sunday School
 9:00 a.m. Youth Group
 10:00 a.m. Hospitality Hour
 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service, youth
 and child friendly

Holy Communion is offered at each service.

Sunday School Children will worship with their families on February 3.

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 a percussion, flute and violin. Our practices are Wednesday at 5:30 p.m.

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



- 01 Michael O'Brien
- 02 Judy Drommerhausen
Amy Gabrys
- 03 Elizabeth Canham
- 04 Jennifer Haring

- 05 David Shroder
- 07 Robert Gordon
- 08 Eric Samuelson
- 09 Kaitlyn Anderson
Brian Sullivan
- 12 Char Carey
- 13 Julie Mette
- 14 Domanik Malave
- 16 Alex Sorton
- 17 JoAnn Mrozek
- 20 Ellie O'Brien
- 21 Scott Fiorito
Rebecca Jindra
Joyce Ross
- 23 Irvin Benitez
- 25 Matthew Hergert
- 26 Amalia Marquez
- 28 Joseph Quick

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

January 14, 2019

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 Book 856-655-4743

The proposed budget for 2019 was reviewed and discussed with the Council and treasurer, Chery Peacock. The council voted to adopt the proposed budget, and it will be presented to the congregation at the annual meeting. Any questions or comments are welcome from our BLC family.

Pastor Carol and the council discussed the Strategic Plan that had been adopted by the congregation at the 2018 annual meeting. There will be an updated short, and long-term Strategic Plan discussed and presented as part of our annual meeting. Many goals

were met, and there will be modifications and new items added as any strategic plan is a changing and fluid document.

The fire safety improvements are moving forward with Barkley working diligently with the CDC, Fire Marshall, City, and Shales McNutt. It is possible that the work could begin in March.

The Council is currently reading The Invitational Christian by Dave Daubert. We will be discussing the book on Monday, January 28 at 7 p.m. and the congregation is welcome to attend. If you would like a copy of the book or to participate in a conversation on another date, please let the council or Pastor Carol know.

The next council meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2019 at 7 p.m.

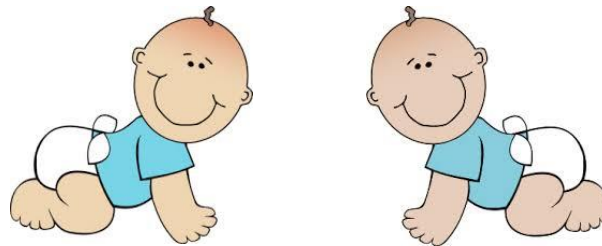
Karin Jones
Council Secretary

HATS AND MITTENS

The Service Team would like to thank all who have contributed hats, mittens and scarves for the collection to the children of the Community Crisis Center. Thank You!

MISSION TRIP MEETING

A meeting for mission trip participants will be Sunday, February 10 immediately following 10:30 worship. Attendance is required. If you have a conflict, please contact Gayle 847-710-4266 or Cindy 847-814-3249.



The Service Committee

Will be collecting

Disposable Diapers
And wipes

For the
Community Crisis Center

Through the month of March

They are in desperate need!

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING

The youth have been involved with Souper Bowl of Caring since 2001. Last year we gave the food pantry \$205 and food items that you provided for the pantry.

The youth will be collecting for the SOUPER BOWL on Sunday, February 3 at both services. The money collected will go directly to the Interfaith Food Pantry. If you would like to write a check, please make it payable to the **All People's Interfaith Food Pantry.**

We will also be collecting non-perishable food items for the Food Pantry. Thanks for your help in fight hunger in our community.

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION FOOD DRIVE

As part of Elgin's Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration, the MLK Committee hosted their annual community-wide food drive. Food collected was distributed to local food pantries to provide much needed food through the winter months, when the pantries frequently have severe shortages.

At worship, each family received a grocery bag to take home to fill with food and return by Sunday 1/20. Yea! God! for your generous support! The donations were delivered to the Brethren warehouse.



Our own youth group members Emma Anderson, Bennett Jones, Parker Jones, Giselle Luna, Lucas Resener, Amalia Marquez, Eva Marquez, Kristin Anderson, Gayle Chiarugi and Cindy Lange volunteered at the warehouse on Martin Luther King Day to help in the sorting of the food donations.

If you didn't get a chance to fill your grocery bag, save your bag and fill it up for the Lenten food drive in March & April. Thanks for your support!

CHURCH WORLD SERVICE BLANKET PROGRAM

They are also filled with abundant joy, which has overflowed in rich generosity. 2 Corinthians 8:2

CWS distributed thousands of blankets around the world in 2018. Our congregation can be part of an even greater response in 2019. CWS will reach families fleeing their homes, recovering from disaster, or



the strain of poverty and more. Share blankets, warmth and comfort with your neighbors. Continue to spread the joy.

The Service Team has designated the month of February for the annual Blanket Program. Special envelopes will be available for your donations. A gift of just \$10 provides a sturdy, comforting blanket to children, men and women who are struggling.

Thanks for your support which provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times.

Service Team

MISSION TRIP PASTA DINNER/SILENT AUCTION SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd 5 P.M. in Wittenstrom Hall

Come to the Pasta Dinner and silent auction.

Lots of good items for bidding. Sign up is in the Narthex or call the church office.



Bidding on the auction times starts at 5:00 p.m.; dinner will be served at 5:30. Auction closes at 6:45 p.m.

We will share our pictures from the trip last summer. Hope you plan to share a meal and our excitement for the trip this summer.

Today I was walking in the supermarket and suddenly I heard a noise of things breaking. I walked toward the noise and saw people murmuring and staring at two older people.

An older lady had hit a shelf containing plates and glasses with her cart and many had fallen to the ground and broken,

Kneeling on the floor embarrassed, the older lady was frantically picking up the shattered pieces, while the husband peeled off the barcode from each broken dish saying, "See!!!! Now we will have to pay for all this."

What a sad scene. A young man came and knelt beside them and said: Leave it, we will pick this up. Let's get your information so you can go to the hospital and have that wound in your hand looked at. The lady looked at him, embarrassed and said, "No. But I have to pay for this."

The young man said, "No, ma'am we have insurance for that kind of loss, and you do not have to pay anything."

Wherever you are, close your eyes, and imagine God doing the same for you!

God will heal all your wounds and your sins and mistakes will be forgiven.

There is a warranty called grace, that when you recognize that you were wrong and you accept Jesus as your only savior, He will tell you, "Everything is already paid for....go on your way, go!"



The sweetest time of the day is when you pray. Because you are talking to the one who loves you the most.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
FEBRUARY 2019**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
					1 *Joseph Quick	2 *Amanda & Elias Richoz
3 *Sue Richoz 9:00 Traditional Service with Children in worship 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	4 *Julie Ann Robbins & Anna 12:00 Craft Circle 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting	5 *Ali Rodriguez 10:00 Bible Study	6 *Jeannette Rohrsen 5:30 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	7 *M/M Larry Rohrsen 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 Finance and Executive Meeting	8 *Joyce Ross	9 *Anna-Marie Rozsa and Simon
10 *Bernette Ryza 9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 11:45 Mission Trip Meeting	11 *Brian Samuelson 7:00 Church Council	12 *M/M Donald Samuelson 10:00 Bible Study	13 *Eric Samuelson 5:00 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	14 *Jorge Sanchez family 3:00 Bible Study	15 *Mercedes Sanchez	16 * Robert Sennett
17 *Jonathan Sensor 9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	18 *Ted Sensor family 7:00 Rebecca Circle at home of Jan Jones	19 *William Sensor 10:00 Bible Study	20 *David Shroder family CROSSING ARTICLES DUE 5:00 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	21 *Elaine Shroder 3:00 Bible Study 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	22 *Elyssa Shroder 4:00 Soup Kitchen, Holy Trinity Church 10:00 a.m. – 9:30 p.m. Youth Retreat at Living Lord Lutheran Church	23 *M/M Robert Siljestrom
24 *James Sitz 9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	25 *Paul Sitz	26 *M/M Alex Sorton 10:00 Bible Study	27 *Katie Spets 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:00 Praise Him 7:00 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	28 *Marian Steneck 3:00 Bible Study		

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services