



CROSSINGS

APRIL 2020

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

WHAT'S INSIDE

Bethlehem Donations Though Zelle..... 2
 Brief Meditations 1
 Birthdays..... 2
 Council Minutes..... 3
 Prayer Partners..... 4
 Treasurer's Report 2

Don't be afraid, for I am with you. Don't be discouraged, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you. I will hold you up with my victorious right hand. *Isaiah 41:10*

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. *1 Thessalonians 5:16-18*

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit. *Romans 15:13*

Peg Youngren

Something that I have found to be helpful in times that are not so good is music. I found a song that I'd saved on my old computer that has meant a lot to me over the years. It is called "Learning to Lean" sung by George Beverly Shea. You can find it on YouTube, Amazon, Spotify. He has such a wonderful voice and the song is so comforting. The words really remind us that Jesus is always there for us.

Marilyn House

It's okay if the church is empty on Easter. The tomb was empty too and that's what's really important. They can't cancel Jesus.



Dear Bethlehem,
In lieu of the Pastor's letter, we are including brief meditations/prayers that you wrote or found that is

sustaining you in this time?

Worrying is carrying tomorrow's load with today's strength – carrying two days at once. It is moving into tomorrow ahead of time. Worrying does not empty tomorrow of its sorrow; it empties today of its strength. Corrie Ten Boom

Bud Heimburg

Pastor Carol recently focused on the hope we have in Jesus. During these unusual times, may we all continue to be comforted and guided by that hope, trusting in God's promises. I find these Bible verses to be comforting.

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2020	February	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$13,959.40	\$ 31,037.86	\$ 33,586.00
Expenses	\$16,476.43	\$ 32,551.84	\$ 33,586.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ 2,517.03	\$ 1,513.98	\$ 0.00

February giving was low, and this is typical for late winter. Now that we are in the season of new life, your church is grateful for your generous giving.

Bethlehem's Renovation and Property Trust Fund

2020	February	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 634.00	\$ 1,684.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

Our current Renovation loan balance is \$57,000. Giving extra gifts in the blue Renovation envelope will help lower this debt.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer



- 01 Barbara Paulsen
- 04 Sharon Williamson
- 05 Kayla Hernandez
- Inez Tornblom
- 08 Judith Sorton
- 09 Anna Nail
- 17 Amanda Richoz
- Eva Marquez
- 19 Cheryl Bacon
- 21 William Sensor
- 24 Warren Mette
- 26 Cameron Lichtenberg
- Jill Olson
- Karyn Lunsford
- 28 Vicki Edwards



BETHLEHEM DONATIONS THROUGH ZELLE IS FREE AND INSTANTLY DEPOSITS INTO BETHLEHEM'S ACCOUNT

Many people use the free service Zelle through their bank to send and receive payments online. You can also use Zelle to make donations to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. It's perfect for giving during this time of quarantine.

Your donation will immediately be deposited into the church checking account at Chase Bank and will show your name beside the donation, and as treasurer I will immediately get an email notifying me that your donation was made. This will then be

recorded by the Financial Secretary on your giving statement. Many people love this free and easy way to pay and so does your church. (No fees, no postage, no lost checks)

If anyone tries out Zelle for a donation I will notify them when the church receives their offering, so they feel comfortable using this method of payment.

Here are the easy steps:

After signing in on your bank website click the tab that says PAY AND TRANSFER

On the dropdown menu choose QUICKPAY with Zelle. In the SEND TO box type *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

In the EMAIL box type **cherypeacock@prodigy.net**

In the MEMO box type your donation designation such as General Offering, Renovation, Easter, Lent, Floral. Then click NEXT at the bottom

On the next screen you can view everything to make sure it looks correct, and then click SEND MONEY.

Chery Peacock,

Treasurer of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

March 9, 2020

CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- Margaret Drafall, President 847-695-4721
- Rachel Campbell, Vice-President 847-695-9024
- Karin Jones, Secretary 224-558-9504
- Heather Thomas 847-977-1371
- Ronnie Malave 847-873-9940
- Nate Sensor
- Jill Olson 847-741-8918
- Tom Ayres 847-697-1248

In our March 9th meeting we started what will be an ongoing discussion regarding the community, federal & local government, BLC, and ELCA

regarding guidance on COVID-19 and keeping ourselves safe and healthy. These conversations will continue for quite some time as the situation changes.

The Property Trust committee has received five bids for the air-conditioning replacement, and they have a meeting scheduled to review all the bids. Once they have reviewed, the committee will make its recommendation to the Council. We will have an informational meeting for any members that would like to attend. Possibly between services on an upcoming Sunday.

In addition to the March 9, 2020 regularly scheduled meeting we had an additional council meeting on February 20, 2020 to review a request from the endowment committee to the council for a loan from the CDC. The loan was approved by the Council at this meeting.

We also held a virtual meeting on Monday, March 16, 2020 to discuss how BLC should proceed with worship, bible studies, choir, and all in person gatherings for our BLC family as it pertains to the COVID-19 and how we can best continue to serve everyone. Discussion included the length of time we should suspend gathering, keeping in contact via phone, emails, notes, etc. If you are willing and able to assist with a phone tree, please contact Rachel Campbell, Margaret Drafall, or the church office. Please know that we will all be doing our very best to stay in contact and continue to gather virtually, verbally, written correspondence, and whatever additional means we need to add to ensure that we keep the communication lines open.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is April 13, 2020 and we also have a virtual meeting scheduled for Monday, March 23, 2020 at 7 p.m.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Sincerely,
Karin Jones
BLC Secretary

Dear Bethlehem:

At the annual meeting in January we voted to replace the five air conditioning units in the sanctuary. At that time, we had received only one bid. After that meeting four more bids were received.

On March 12th the Property Trust committee met to review the bids. After carefully comparing all the bids, the committee selected Elgin Sheet Metal.

Elgin Sheet Metal is the company that installed the units we currently have. Several members on the committee use ESM for their homes and spoke highly of them and they were the lowest bid. The committee sent their recommendation on to the church council. The council reviewed the bids and agreed with the Property Trust committee.

It was the council's intent to have an informational meeting to explain all of this. However, since we are unable to meet this is the best way to reach everyone.

The bid came to \$27,000 for the five units. Funding will come from the property trust fund (\$9,000) and a loan from the endowment fund (\$18,000). The units have been ordered and we are hoping to get them installed before we are able to return to worship in the sanctuary.

One more thing: When we can return to worship at church, you will see something new. Thanks for undesignated memorial funds and Jeannette Rohrssen memorial funds railings have been placed on both sides of the one step to the altar rail. They are beautiful, match the altar rail, and look like they have always been there.

Margaret Drafall
Council President

Prayer Partners! Yea, God!

Thank you for the prayers and financial support given to the participants of the 2020 Mission Trip to Lake Traverse, South Dakota in June. Names were compiled as of March 25. Everything hinges on prayer and we will pray for you and thank God for your continued support.

Ron & Darlene Albert
Karen Allen
Donna & Dale Anderson
Katie Anderson
Cheryl & James Bacon
John & Sidne Bakker
Karen & Bud Heimberg
Kayla Hernandez
Marti & David Jernberg
Larry & Nancy Klemm
Burt & Kim Lynn
Scott MacDuff
Susan McIntyre
Ida Mocker
Bob & Diana O'Connor
Shirley Pflederer
Don & Ruth Samuelson
Brian & Ryan Sullivan
Inez Tornblom

Family & Friends

Charles & Debbie Anderson
Shannon & David Blum
Tracy Chabrier-Huizenga
Joseph & Armida Dominguez
Vanessa Dybala
Gary & Marge Eateringer
Tracy Gutierrez
Cathy Hopkins
Raquel Johnson
Tony & Cristina Johnson
Diane Kerruish
Eric Lauderdale
Lindstedt Family
Donna Mansfield
Kathleen Olson
Megan Olson
Sandi Swichtenberg
Kaye & Norm Thompson
Diane Verdi & Barry Wolf

A SURPRISE AWAITS US WHEN WE RETURN TO CHURCH

When the stay at home order is lifted and members all gather again to worship in our beautiful sanctuary, we will be in the season of warm weather. But we will also be in the cool comfort provided by our brand-new air conditioners! Elgin Sheet Metal starts the installation the day after Easter and the project will be finished in a week!

Our property trust fund has \$9,000 to help pay for these air conditioners, but the balance of approximately \$18,000 will have to be borrowed from Endowment. Any donations to the Property Trust Fund will reduce the amount we have to borrow. If you would like to help support this project, send your donation to Bethlehem and note "Air Conditioners" on your check or Zelle memo. Thank you in advance for your generous gifts.

Chery Peacock,
BLC Treasurer

A REQUEST FROM FOODS FOR GREATER ELGIN

The Coronavirus is presenting us with challenges that can only be addressed by a caring, unified, engaged community. Our lives have been disrupted, and the challenges are great but must be met.

Each week Food For Greater Elgin opens its door to over 500 Elgin area families in need of groceries. Fortunately, most of these needs are temporary and families quickly solve their short term needs and continue normal lives.

The Coronavirus has changed everything. We are currently experiencing a 20% increase in families that need food assistance and we anticipate that this will grow over the next few weeks as the disease spreads and more families lose their income. More families are also afraid of catching the virus and are heeding the advice to stay home.

Food For Greater Elgin is requesting Bethlehem's help for funds and volunteers to help with the necessary stocking and distribution of food.

Why give money instead of food? Money goes further: through the Northern Illinois Food Bank we can purchase \$8.00 of food for approximately \$1.00.

- Three ways to support Food for Greater Elgin are;
1. Send a contribution to Food For Greater Elgin, 1553 Commerce Drive, Elgin IL 60123.
 2. Go online to <http://www.foodforgreaterelgin.org/> and make a onetime or monthly donation.
 3. Go online and sign-up to volunteer.

We are hoping that each congregation can raise money now to support our neighbors in this national health emergency now and continue to assist during the crisis. Thank you for your help!

MISSION TRIP PASTA DINNER/SILENT AUCTION



SATURDAY, April 25 is cancelled due to these uncertain times.

MARTIN LUTHER KING FOOD DRIVE

A message of thanks from Joe Wars, the chairperson of the MLK Food Drive:
Hello to all of you wonderful MLK Food Drive Committee Members and Supporters,

A big THANK YOU for all your support to the 2019-2020 Elgin's Dr. Martin Luther King Food Drive. Your time and energy were truly rewarding. Because of you, we were able to have another very

successful effort to help some of our community members who might have been facing some hardships.

Thanks to your efforts, we did it again! We were able to exceed our true goal of 30,000 pounds of food, personal care items, and household supplies.

Thank you for all your support of the MLK food drive. Thanks again to the youth who volunteered at the Brethren Warehouse by sorting donations and loading up cars with donations to be delivered to the pantries. Yea! God!

**CHURCH WORLD SERVICE
BLANKET PROGRAM**

A sincere thank you to all who supported the Blanket Program. A total of \$110 was collected and donated to Church World Service. Thanks for your support which provides warmth, hope, and care during cold and trying times.

Service Team

Dear Bethlehem Family,

After much thought and deliberation, we have decided to postpone the Strawberry Festival in light of the COVID-19. We are not ready to cancel the Strawberry Festival altogether. We will continue to access the situation.

Please stay safe and connected with your Bethlehem family.

Blessings
Heather and Karin

**SERVICE OPPORTUNITY –
LENTEN FOOD DRIVE**

We can always help end hunger in our own community by bringing food to the Caring Cube in the Narthex. All food donated will be taken to the Community Crisis Center Food Pantry in Elgin. We have been so blessed by God and wish to share those blessings with those whom Jesus would have fed.

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

Please continue to collect food to donate. When we can be back together at church, bring in your donations and they will be delivered to the Community Crisis Center.

Thanks for your care of others!

**ELCA WORLD HUNGER
40 DAYS OF GIVING –
LENT 2020**

Lent is a time of hope, hope in the work God is doing in the world, even in the most challenging times. This Lent, please join as we journey with our neighbors in hope for a just world where all are fed. Our gifts to ELCA World Hunger address hunger and poverty around the world.

Please continue to collect coins and return your bank when we are back together at church.

Thank you for your support!

Service Team

Me: Okay, God, here's the thing. I know people are scared. I'm trying not to be, but sometimes I am too.

God: I know. Want to talk about it?

Me: Do we need to? I mean, you already know.

God: Let's talk about it anyway.... We've done this before.

Me: I know, I just feel like I should be bigger or stronger or something by now.

God waiting patiently, unhurried, undistracted, never annoyed.

Me: Okay. So, I think I'll do everything I can to protect my family, but it won't be enough. I'm concerned that people I love will die. I think maybe the world will not go back to what it was before. I think my life may be unsettled for a while.

God: Anything else?

Me: Everything else.

God: Remember how your child woke up the other night and came running down the hall to your bedroom?

Me: Yes

God: You were still awake, so when you heard her running, you started calling out to her before she even got to you, Remember? Do you remember what you called out to her?

Me: I said, "You're okay! You're okay! I'm here."

God: Why did you call to her? Why didn't you just wait for her to get to your room?

Me: Because I wanted her to know that I was awake, and I heard her, and she didn't have to be afraid until she reached the end of the dark hallway.

God: Exactly. I hear you, my child. I hear your thoughts racing like feet down the dark hallway. There's another side to all of this. I'm there already.

I've seen the end of it. And I want you to know right here as you walk through it all, you're okay. I haven't gone to sleep, and I won't.

Me: (crying) Can we sit together awhile? Can we just sit here a minute before I go back to facing it all?

God: There's nothing I'd love more.

Donation of Easter flowers will be given to GOF:

Margaret Drafall—in memory of Kent Drafall, Frank Sarow, Helen Sarow Bekierski
Cindy & Jeff Lange—in honor of Callie, Catie, & Jordy

Christina Litchenberg—in memory of Ike Speakman

Ida Mockler—in memory of Paul Mockler & Alice Mockler

Chery & John Peacock—in memory of our parents: Ray, Addie, John & Geri

Donations to World Hunger:

Robert & Peggy Graham—in honor of loved ones

Larry & Nancy Klemm—in memory of loved ones

Donations to Food for Greater Elgin:

Warren & Valerie Mette-in honor of Ray, Katie, Hayley & Nick; in memory of Earl & Marilyn Mette, Ralph & Eloise Bengston

Margaret Drafall-in honor of Katie, Maddie, Gabby & Logan

