

CROSSINGS

##### 

##### AUGUST 2022

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##### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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Dear Bethlehem family,

Remember Rally Day? What did that involve? What was its purpose? Who were the folks that were really good at making it successful? What roles did they play?

Fall 2022 seems a prime opportunity for an intentionally special Rally Day, not just for the children’s ministry but for all of Jesus’ ministry among us at Bethlehem. Rally Day reminds me of the story of crowds showing up at the Lake at Gennesaret, pressing in to hear a new word from Jesus. What is the word of encouragement that folks today most need to hear from Jesus?

Think outside the box because the pandemic seems to have accelerated change that was already happening in current culture and in the church. Communication, including worship, is more than ever driven by technology, but we still long for face-to-face connection. Church attendance, if we count only what happens on Sunday morning, is down and yet folks are investing generously and passionately their time, gifts, and money in areas of their values and beliefs, including investing in the church. All of this is to say.

God is working. The Spirit is moving. Jesus is still calling. There was something about Jesus that attracted folks…lots of them. That’s still true; imagine it. Some will be drawn to pray (all of us for sure, yet some have a special call to pray), others will teach, still others help behind the scenes, or work at the tech table. The Holy Spirit will lead you to imagine new ways for a new day to share God’s love.

*Luke, Chapter 5, Once while Jesus[*[*a*](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=luke+5&version=NRSVUE#fen-NRSVUE-25101a)*] was standing beside the Lake of Gennesaret and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God,****2****he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gotten out of them and were washing their nets.****3****He got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.*

The boats, along with Peter and his friends, were available just when Jesus needed them. Jesus did the rest, providing the teaching that the crowds were pressing in to hear. What’s more, the Peter and his friends expected that they would catch fish again as evidenced by cleaning the nets to prepare for another day. It had been a very frustrating day. But they were not discouraged; they expected a better day.

***4****When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, “Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch.”****5****Simon answered, “Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets.”****6****When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to burst.*

Peter was reluctant, maybe even offended that Jesus suggest he fish in a slightly different spot. Fishing was Peter’s livelihood! They had just cleaned the nets. Are you kidding me? But Peter did what Jesus suggested, even if we might call him reluctantly obedient. The result was that Jesus was able to teach the crowd, and Peter’s haul of fish almost sank the boat! Peter’s openness to another’s idea, a slightly different way, even to get the nets dirty again trying were all remarkable. In the end, it was clear to all that only God could do that.

***….8****But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus’s knees, saying, “Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!”****9****For he and all who were with him were astounded at the catch of fish that they had taken,****10****and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. Then Jesus said to Simon, “Do not be afraid; from now on you will be catching people.”****11****When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed him.*

They were available, maintained hope in a better day, and when the time was right, followed Jesus’ call. In the end, God was revealed. May it be so for us. Be open, God is working, the Spirit is moving, and Jesus is still calling. Anyone available for a really special Bethlehem Rally Day? Other ideas?

Good luck fishing; stay open. Pastor Carol (Thanks to Pr. Brackett for the inspiration)

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**BETHLEHEM’S GENERAL**

**OPERATING FUND**

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

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **2022** | **June** | **YTD Actual** | **YTD Budget** |
| Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund | $11,850.20 | $ 95,945.56 | $103,020.00 |
| Expenses | $19,663.44 | $100,927.33 | $103,020.00 |
| Total Receipts less Expenses | $ (7,813.24) | $ (4,981.77) | $ 0.00 |

Commercial, umbrella, and Worker’s Comp insurance added to June’s expenses. Our June offerings were low. As you enjoy your summer, please also remember your church. Our expenses continue, and we are so grateful for all your generous support.

**Bethlehem’s Renovation and**

**Property Trust Fund**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **2022** | **June** | **YTD** |
| Contributions to Renovation | $ 402.00 | $ 2,002.00 |
| Contributions to Property Trust | $ 100.00 | $ 202.00 |

Our Renovation loan balance for our building improvements and sanctuary air conditioners is $56,300.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Mark your family’s special day and also beautify the church by signing up to purchase altar flowers for Sunday Service. Order in honor of or in memory of a family member. Contact the office for Sundays that are available. Cost is $30 for two altar flower arrangements.

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

03 Karin Jones

A picture containing colorful

Description automatically generated04 Larry Klemm

Nancy Klemm

06 Karen Allen

07 Robert Graham

MacKenzie Jernberg

09 Paul R. Larson

Brian Samuelson

10 Robert Siljestrom

13 Darlene Albert

14 Bruce Carey

16 Rachel Campbell

Marti Jernberg

Jonathan Sensor

17 Mercedes Sanchez

18 Libby Hoeft

Julie Anderson

Sean Edwards

19 Jorge Sanchez

Evan Malave

20 Stephen Jernberg

21 Abigail Sensor

22 Fernanda Sanchez

25 Kevin Hadley

Ellen Nelson

26 Kathy Lehman

28 Hilary Ottaviano

29 Matthew Hadley

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN**

**2022 – 2023 CHURCH COUNCIL**

New council members begin their terms on July 1. Election of executive members occurred on July 18. Regularly scheduled council meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 7 p.m.

Gary Ottaviano 847-209-4564 President  
Sherry Liske 847-857-0363 Vice President  
Tom Ayres  
Rachel Campbell 847-695-9024  
Chris Hunsicker 847-697-8675  
Steve Jernberg 224-588-0114  
Scott MacDuff 331-210-1219  
Jill Olson 224-760-3034  
Jorge Sanchez 224-829-6367  
Heather Thomas 847-977-1371

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**Invite!**  
Being an inviting church means that we seek out our neighbors instead of waiting for them seek out our church. Inviting is different. Inviting is active. Invite someone to worship with you or attend the Bible study. Maybe someone out there is just waiting to be invited!

**Worship /Study Schedule**

**Sunday Services: 9 a.m. & 10:30 a.m.**

**In person or on Zoom/YouTubeLive  
Call** 1-312-626-6799   
Meeting ID: **947 2112 9583**Password: **058733**

**Tuesday Bible Study 10 a.m.   
C**all 1-312-626-6799

Meeting: **852 4417 3785**    
Password: **387195**

**Wednesday Activities:**

**Call** 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: **894 7503 5205**   
Password: **088632**

**Thursday Activities:**

**Call** 1-312-626-6799   
Meeting ID **95210094147**   
Password: **935958**

**Please pray for:**

**Our BLC members:** Karen Allen, Tom Ayres, James Bacon, Karen Dingel, Chuck Edwards, Jackie Gordon, Bob Graham, Fred Harnish, Karyn Lunsford, Kathra Naviaux, Ashley Ottaviano, Chery Peacock, Wilma Peterson, Shirley Pflederer, Dave Quick, Larry & Juanita Rohrssen, Eugene Wilkening, Sharon Williamson.

**Homebound BLC members:** Sigrid Barker, Kathy Lehman, Alan Lentz, Ellen Nelson, Vivian Peck, Mary Schalow

**For friends and relatives:**

Marian Anderson, Ginny & Harry Datisman, Ed Fagre, Dennis Fagre, Reed Harnish, Maren Harnish, Jan Hornbostel, Vicki Kopecky, Sandy Patterson, Tom Peterson, Leslie Ross, Diane Scholinski, Louise Tuma, Nancy Voross, Bruno Zaucha & family.

**Our men and women in the Armed Services:**Jason Patterson (nephew of Shirley Harnish)   
Vanessa & Chris Gallager (great niece & husband of Donna Anderson)

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Text

Description automatically generated with medium confidence **Please re-submit names of family and friends for prayers. The updated list will be in the monthly Crossings.**

**Regular Sunday Worship Times**

**9 a.m. Traditional worship with Peg Youngren**

**9 a.m. Youth group in the Loft.**

**10 a.m. Coffee in Wittenstrom Hall**

**10:30 a.m. Contemporary Worship, led by Arturo Guevara.**

Zoom and YouTube Live available for both services

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**VOLUNTEERS AT WORSHIP**

Looking for helpers in worship at either service: ushers, readers, and communion helpers to set up communion or to help Pastor in giving communion. Let Cindy know if you would like to serve. 847-741-8434

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**NEW HOPE PARTNERSHIP**

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**With Sympathy**

We extend sympathy to Dana Selpien on the death of his wife, Cathy. Her funeral was held at Bethlehem on Friday, July 22. She was secretary for over 10 years at Bethlehem. She greeted visitors/members with a friendly smiling face. If you wish to send a card to Dana, his address is 206 Bear Dusk Way Belvidere IL 61008.