

# CROSSINGS



JANUARY 2020

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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taken place outside. Jesus' birth seems to highlight our human vulnerability, our dependence on the generosity and hospitality of others, and on God.

My sweet 85-year-old neighbor loves to tell a Christmas story from her childhood, growing up in Elgin, as a second generation Mexican American.

As she tells it, a huge snowstorm shut down US 20, stranding motorists just outside of Elgin when she was a young girl. The police rescued folks from cars and sought shelter for them until the road could be reopened. There was no hotel. To her door, the police brought a family of ten migrant farm workers trapped while headed south for warmer fields. The police knew that Mary's parents spoke Spanish. Even though it was just before Christmas, Mary's mom generously welcomed the family, dividing precious low food supplies of their own. No one could go food shopping until the road reopened.

Mary's initial curiosity about all the drama gave way to frustration when one day became two, and then three. She felt as if her home was not her own. With people sleeping all over the living room, there was not even room to set up the Christmas tree! What was Christmas without a Christmas tree?

But Mary's mom never wavered, and Mary says, "Luckily Mom was too busy to notice my less than enthusiastic welcome of our surprise guests." Through these vulnerable travelers, and her mom's generosity, Mary received a very precious gift that year.



Dear Bethlehem,

I like to think of the Christmas story as kicking off the New Year with new hope and new

light as the gospel of Mark begins, "The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ." I share a story of Christ's birth to begin this new decade.

Ever notice that the Christmas story takes place almost completely outside, as in outdoors. We hope the weather was a little warmer than a Chicago winter. But whatever the weather, **being outside is vulnerable**. Mary and Joseph traveled from Nazareth to Bethlehem, 80 miles (presumably on foot or we prefer to think of Mary on a donkey). Who knows where they stayed along the way. Mary was pregnant. When they arrived, there was no room for them inside. Some scholars believe that the holy child Jesus was laid outside in a manger, and the angels appeared out in the fields, to outsiders, shepherds. The whole story could have

“I learned that Christmas was not all about presents under the Christmas tree,” says Mary after a lifetime of pondering these things in her heart. “Christmas is about the love.” My mom never wavered in sharing everything we had with these outsiders in need.

God’s love for each of you was born that first Christmas. And Jesus was born as vulnerable as any one of us human beings; as vulnerable as a family stranded in a snowstorm, or the one who grieved alone this Christmas, or as those who suffer, or struggle with depression, hardship or aging, or as those who suffer the judgement or cruelty of others or the brokenness of sin. This Jesus born on Christmas was as vulnerable as any of us.

God’s love for each of you was born on Christmas. And even in his vulnerability, the full power of God’s saving, forgiving, healing, sustaining love would be demonstrated again and again, for you, each of you, and even me. Lord of Lords, King of Kings, Mighty God, our Savior.

In the new year, let’s not be afraid to be vulnerable. That’s the reality of who we are. And may we also not be afraid to love.

Whether it’s for family, unexpected travelers or those in need, or most importantly, for the Son of God, let’s remember to make room in 2020, especially for the vulnerable.

Peace in the New Year,  
Pastor Carol

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**HATS AND MITTENS**

The Service Team will continue to collect Hats, Scarves, Gloves and Mittens for the children of the Community Crisis Center and the YWCA Elgin through the month of January. Please help us keep those little heads and hands warm this winter season. Thank you.

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**BETHLEHEM’S GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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

2019	November	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$15,897.50	\$172,569.24	\$178,728.00
Expenses	\$14,523.87	\$173,830.33	\$178,728.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ 1,373.63	(\$1,261.09)	\$ 0.00

Thank you for your special end of the year gifts to our church to help us move strongly into 2020.

**Property Trust Fund**

2019	November	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 435.00	\$ 5,267.50
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 100.00	\$ 3,315.00

Our current Renovation loan balance is \$58,900 which includes our recent fire code improvements to the building. Gifts to the Renovation Fund will help lower this debt.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. FOOD DRIVE  
Monday, January 20, 2020.**

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 local food pantries.

Grocery bags are available in the Narthex listing the foods that are needed. All donations are due back by Sunday, January 19<sup>th</sup>. Thanks for your support.

Service Team

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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 5.

**January 26** is one service at 9:00 a.m. followed by the annual meeting.

**Sing with the Choir!** You are invited to join us, even if only for a few months. We practice Wednesdays from 7:15 - 8:15 p.m. and meet 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 guitar, percussion, flute and violin. Your involvement can be occasional or regular. We practice Wednesdays from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. Contact Peg if interested.

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

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**ANNUAL MEETING**

The Annual Meeting will take place Sunday, January 26, 2020. On January 26<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 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.

Margaret Drafall

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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
- 07 Kim Lynn
- 10 Jonathan Marquez
- 13 Ed Chiarugi
- Jennifer Eberdt
- 15 Yolanda Granados
- 16 Lori Anderson
- 17 Jackie Gordon
- 18 Jeanne Hergert
- 19 Timothy Canham
- Derek Warren
- 29 Jerry Drommerhausen
- Elyssa Shroder
- 30 Wilma Peterson
- Eli Richoz-Latigo

**The deadline for February’s Crossing articles is Wednesday, January 15. Please send to Shirley Harnish at smharnish@comcast.net**

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

**December 9, 2019**

Margaret Drafall, President	847-695-4721
Mike Murschel, Vice-President	847-741-4221
Karin Jones, Secretary	224-558-9504
Heather Thomas	847-977-1371
Ronnie Malave	847-873-9940
Rachel Campbell	847-695-9024
Jill Olson	847-741-8918
Tom Ayres	847-697-1248

The council continued the discussion for the 2020 budget in our December meeting. The council hopes to present a balanced budget to the congregation at the Annual Meeting in January. With pledges continuing to come in and the generosity of the group, we are hopeful that we will accomplish this goal.

We continued the discussions on the 2020 Strategic Plan for BLC. The proposed 2020 Strategic Plan was adopted by the council to be presented to the congregation. We hope to have a very productive, welcoming, inclusive year in 2020!

Council members revisited a comprehensive review of inactive members that Lin Cruse worked on and presented to the council in 2019. The council adopted a new process in following up with inactive members and a procedure to remove them once the members have received a call and a letter. This should allow BLC to keep a reasonably accurate record of our active members.

Lin Cruse has also graciously offered to provide a proposal for a procedural process that would include a segment to review prior minutes, motions, and procedures from previous years of council meetings. We are blessed to have the detail-oriented gifts that Lin possesses and is willing to share!

Our annual meeting has been scheduled for January 26, 2020, following the 9 a.m. service. Please save the date!

Our next meeting is scheduled for January 13, 2020, at 7 p.m. and all are welcome to attend.

Sincerely,  
Karin Jones  
BLC Secretary

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**LSSI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE CENTER GROOMING KITS**

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 here 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.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

Service Team

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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 Friday, January 3 at 7 p.m.

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## WAYS TO GIVE OFFERING TO THE CHURCH

Thank you for your offering gifts to Bethlehem. Without your support, Bethlehem would not be able to do so many things: provide meaningful worship, provide instruction to our children and youth, support community programs through service projects, reach out to those who are hospitalized or shut-in, maintain our beautiful church building and grounds, support the Child Development Center.

Many of you give your offering by using the weekly envelope system and special envelopes for renovation, debt reduction, property trust, Sunday School and special occasions as Christmas, Easter, etc.

Several years ago, online giving was established for those who wished to do it online.

There is also direct pay to Bethlehem through your bank. You direct your bank to send a check to Bethlehem in the mail.

Many people use the free service Zelle through their bank to send and receive payments online. You can use Zelle to make donations to BLC.

Sign in on your bank website. Find the Zelle tab. Send to *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*  
Email to **cherypeacock@prodigy.net**  
In the designation—use General Offering, Renovation, Christmas, flowers, etc.

Follow your prompts. After reviewing, click SEND. Your donation is immediately received to be deposited in our account at Chase Bank. Chery will notify you when the church receives your donation.

A new way to give is using the app called "GivePlus. Download the FREE app on your Apple or Android phone. Log in or donate as a guest. Make a donation using your debit/credit card or checking account. Securely and conveniently manage donations using TouchID/Fingerprint, PIN or password.

In addition to the app, there is a text feature called

Give+ Text. Enter our church's text number, 855-964-1879 and the amount you wish to donate, then press send. You will receive a registration link. Click the link and enter your contact information. You will receive a verification text as well as a receipt via email.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please contact the office 847-741-8434. Thank you for contributions to Bethlehem.



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### 5<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. CELEBRATION

**Prayer Breakfast, Youth Day of Service,  
Humanitarian Award, MKL Scholarship,  
Community Food Drive**

**Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Prayer  
Breakfast - Tickets on sale at City Hall**

**Saturday, January 18, 2020, 8:30 a.m. - 10:30  
a.m. @ ECC, \$15 per ticket.**

**This year's theme is GIVE US THE BALLOT.  
Dr. King said, "Voting is the foundation stone  
for political action."**

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### **Sancta Lucia Pageant A Festival of Light**

On Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, friends and family gathered to share in this festival event at Bethlehem.

*Lindsey Anderson* was crowned Sancta Lucia for 2019 by the 2018 Queen, Nayely Chimal and the 2017 Queen, Abby Sensor.

In Lindsey's court were, Emma 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, Hayden Jernberg, Bernardino Sanchez and Edwin Depaz.

The Acolytes for the evening service were Domanick Malave and Owen Thomas. Inez Tornblom did the Welcome and led us in a Table Grace, in English and in her native Swedish.

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

Dr. Risé Jones – Soloist

Sean Edwards – Violin

Peg Youngren for all her help with this event.

A Free-Will offering was taken and \$887.76 was sent to the All People's Interfaith Food Pantry

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### **HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEW HOPE PARTNERSHIP**

New Hope Partnership has been struggling to stay vital. As part of Northern Fox Valley-Habitat for Humanity, we sent letters to churches in Elgin, Dundee and Huntley to share the vision of providing affordable housing. Churches were invited to a prayer breakfast in November. The current churches in New Hope were asked to re-commit to their involvement. I am excited to have two new churches added: Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huntley and St. Laurence Catholic Church in Elgin. Our conversation with two more churches continues into 2020.

Thursday, January 16 at First Congregational Church in West Dundee is our organizational meeting with our new partners.

I invited the congregation to pray – include our mission in your daily prayers. Be aware of the opportunities to volunteer: make lunch for the volunteers at our project once every few weeks. If able, volunteer to work at our house on a Saturday. Together with our partner churches, we will address the need for affordable housing.

Please contact me if you would like to help promote the mission of Habitat for Humanity.

Cindy Lange  
847-814-3249

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## JANUARY 2020

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
			1 *M/M Lyle Wolff  Church office and CDC closed	2 *Meredith Wolff  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines	3 *Martha Yochum  7:00 Undecorate the Church	4 *Peg Youngren
5 *M/M Ron Albert  9:00 Traditional Service Children worship with parents 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	6 *Karen Allen  12:00 Craft Circle- Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting	7 *M/M Dale Anderson  <b>Reports due to church office For Annual Report</b>  10:00 Bible Study at the Sheridan 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	8 *Gary Anderson family  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	9 *Julie Anderson  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	10 *Chris Anderson family	11 *M/M Larry Anderson
12 *June Anderson  9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	13 *Tom Ayres  7:00 Church Council	14* M/M James Bacon  10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	15 *M/M John Banks III  <b>Crossing articles due to Shirley Harnish</b>  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	16 *Carol Book  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	17 *Timothy Burnett	18 * Beverly Butcher
19 *Nancy Calderwood  <b>Annual Reports Due Out</b> 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	20 *Rachel Campbell  7:00 Rebecca Circle in the Red Room	21 *Timothy Canham family  10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	22 *M/M Bruce Carey  9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	23 *Matthew Carlson  3:00 Bible Study at the Vines	24 *M/M Ed Chiarugi  4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church	25 *M/M Carl Cruse
26 *Dario Depaz family  <b>Annual Meeting</b> 9:00 Blended Service with Holy Communion 9:00 Sunday School 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:45 Annual Meeting	27 *Karen Dingel	28 *Margaret Drafall  10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	29 *M/M Jerry Drommerhausen  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	30 *M/M Ryan Eberdt  3:00 Bible Study at the Vines	31 *M/M Charles Edwards  6:00 – 9:00 Youth Retreat at Living Lord Lutheran Church, Bartlett	

\*Members to be prayed for.

\*\* Holy Communion served at all services