

CROSSINGS



NOVEMBER 2019

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays.....	3
Council Minutes	3
Giving Tuesday	5
Operation Christmas Child.....	6
Pastor's Letter	1
Sancta Lucia Pageant.....	4
Treasurer's Report	2
Worship Schedule.....	2

differences. That's a fun place to serve, and I am thankful every day for that opportunity.

Secondly, I am thankful that many of you are getting together outside of the regular worship service for bible studies, small groups, service teams, youth/confirmation groups, women's groups, musical groups, etc. In these smaller groups, I see God working to draw us into deeper relationships with each other and with God. It is one of the most positive signs of our growth that I have personally witnessed this year. If you don't meet regularly outside of worship with a small group of folks for study, prayer, learning or service, I would highly recommend it. I have personally grown in gathering with you.

Thirdly, I am thankful for Bethlehem's diversity in age, from young to old. The older generation represents to us wisdom and our connection with those who are no longer here but whose faith shaped Bethlehem. Paul said to Timothy, "*I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that lived first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, lives in you.*" *2 Timothy 1:5*. Just as Paul reminds the young Timothy, faith is passed on from generation to generation. Our younger folks are not only the future of Bethlehem, but our valued present.

I hope dear Bethlehem family that you and your families have much to be thankful for today and each day of this Thanksgiving month.

Peace in Christ, Pastor Carol



Dear Bethlehem,

It's almost November!
Wow! As we approach
the month of
Thanksgiving, I just

wanted to let you know that I am thankful for you and that I speak prayers of thanks routinely to God for you.

A pastor recently remarked to me about their need to study how churches make the difficult shift from being a people of a similar culture, to worshipping as a cross-cultural church. My response came quickly, "Come see the folks at Bethlehem." You are doing that and doing it very well. I am so thankful for our diversity. And as Police Chief Ana Lalley said in her recent visit to us, "Don't ever hide who you are. It's ok to be who you are." At Bethlehem, we don't all have to be the same. In fact, we are successfully making the shift to be a people who proudly celebrates and give thanks to God for our cultural

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

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

2019	September	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$14,213.50	\$140,309.30	\$146,232.00
Expenses	\$15,296.93	\$141,392.73	\$146,232.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	(\$ 1,803.43)	(\$1,083.43)	\$ 0.00

September ended with the General Operating Fund in the red for the first time this year. Our fourth quarter will see more ministries in action, and with that comes higher bills including our quarterly insurance premium. Your generous offerings are needed and greatly appreciated.

Property Trust Fund

2019	September	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 435.00	\$ 4,272.00
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 0.00	\$ 3,315.00

Our current Renovation loan balance is \$60,100 which includes our recent fire code improvements to the building. Gifts to the Renovation Fund will help lower this debt.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

**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 November 3.

All Saints Day Remembrance is November 3. We will have candles on the altar for those members who died this past year. Also, there will be another candle representing all the saints who have gone before us. There will be a table in the chapel and people are invited to put names of departed loved ones on a card and then place the card in a basket. Ushers will bring the basket forward during the offering time.

Elgin Interfaith Community Thanksgiving Service will be Sunday, November 24th at 4:00 p.m. at Second Baptist Church located on Summit Street. We will not offer a Thanksgiving Eve service this year.

Help decorate the sanctuary Friday, November 29 beginning at 7:00 p.m.

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 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.

**Fall into church
God will pick you up.**

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Rachel Campbell	847-695-9024
Jill Olson	847-741-8918
Tom Ayres	847-697-1248



- 02 David Jernberg
Bernardino Sanchez
- 07 Jack Anderson
- 09 Laurel Warren
Mason Miedwig
- 11 Jerry Kile
Lyle Wolff
Ashley Ottaviano
- 12 Nancy Calderwood
Karen Dingel
- 14 Robert Luna
- 15 Owen Canham
- 22 Julie Ann Robbins
- 24 Jeffrey Kellogg
Kevin Bieschke
- 26 Erik Olson
- 29 Yazmin Malave

SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

October 14, 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

The council is continuing the discussion for the 2020 budget. We are seeking budget input from all committees and groups within the church. If you have something that you would like to see included in the budget conversations, please contact any member of the council, Pastor Carol, the church office, or Chery Peacock to be sure your thoughts are heard.

We also are working on the 2020 Strategic Plan for BLC. This month we spent the bulk of our meeting reviewing the 2019 Strategic Plan and working on what we should incorporate into 2020. Again, please provide your input. There are no bad ideas, and we all welcome the participation of all of our BLC family. Current items that we are reviewing include ways to increase video content, add the book the Invitational Christian to all of our bible study groups, continue to move forward with Reconciling in Christ process, neighborhood visibility/invitation, continue to invite CDC families, young adult ministry, review the current ministry teams, hospitality teamwork, adding bible study groups that bring value to all that participate.

We will be utilizing a mailing and new advertising options for the events and services we have during the month of December, including Posada, Sancta Lucia, and Christmas worship services.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 11 at 7 p.m., and any member that would like to attend is welcome.

Sincerely,
Karin Jones, BLC Secretary

The deadline for December's Crossing articles is Wednesday, November 20. Please send to Shirley Harnish at smharnish@comcast.net



**Remember to set your clocks back
one hour before you got to bed
Saturday, November 2.**

**LSSI BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICE
CENTER GROOMING KITS**

The LSSI Behavioral Health Service Center located here in Elgin helps individuals struggling with alcohol and drug addiction. The Center would again appreciate our gifts of grooming kits for the 30 clients in treatment at the Center at Christmastime.

Starting December 1st, please take a tag from the Christmas tree in the Narthex, purchase items listed on the tag and return unwrapped items in a ziploc bag by December 15th.

Thank you for your care and concern.

**Always pray to have.....
eyes that see the best in people,
a heart that forgives the worst,
a mind that forgets the bad,
and a soul that never
loses faith in God.**



*Sancta Lucia Pageant
A Festival of Light*

*Sunday, December 1, 2019
At 5:00 p.m.*

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church
340 Grand Blvd
Elgin IL 60120*

*Bethlehem's Swedish heritage comes
alive in this beautiful pageant of the
Christmas season. Bring your family
and friends and capture the
enchantment of Swedish tradition
retold in the
Old, old tale of Sancta Lucia.*

Guest Soloist will be Dr. Risé Jones

*A Swedish smorgasbord will be served
in Wittenstrom Hall following the
program*

*All proceeds from the Free-Will
Offering Will go to the
All People's Interfaith Food Pantry*

SAVE THE DATE!

Black Friday. Cyber Monday.

GIVING TUESDAY

December 3, 2019

Bethlehem's Child Development Center is again participating in Giving Tuesday. Help us spread the word. Let family, friends, co-workers, or any connections you may have in the community know the CDC needs their support. Then mark your calendars so that you remember to donate on December 3.

Giving Tuesday donations are an important part of our budget. These funds are earmarked for special projects and programs. In the past we have designated the funds to new carpet and field trips.

Remember no donation is too small and ALL do nations are greatly appreciated. We are excited to announce that an anonymous donor has offered to match funds again this year!

On December 3, please donate by visiting the following link: <https://bethlehemcdc.org/> and click the DONATE button. (A donate button on our Facebook page is also available)

**THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING US TO
HELP CHILDREN LEARN, GROW
AND CARE!!!**

THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE

Thank you for your many generous donations to the Fall Food Drive! The Caring Cube box has been overflowing with food and household items which have been donated to the Elgin Crisis Center emergency food pantry. Yea! God! for your generosity! Let's keep it going!

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

We can continue to help! The Service Team will focus its service efforts by assisting the All People's Inter-Faith Food Pantry and the Crisis Center Food Pantry, to help feed the people in our community. As we give thanks for our many blessings, let us bless others, especially at Thanksgiving. Each Sunday, during the month of November, we will spotlight one meal, and ask that you bring an item to contribute.

November 3rd – Breakfast

Please bring cereal, oatmeal, coffee, cans or bottles of 100% juice

November 10th – Lunch

Please bring peanut butter, jelly, boxed macaroni & cheese, canned soup, canned pasta, canned fruit, applesauce, saltine crackers, jello

November 17th – Dinner

Please bring canned meats, canned chicken, canned beef stew, canned vegetables, tuna, pasta, pasta sauce, tomato sauce, beans, rice

November 24th – Food of your choice

As we celebrate Thanksgiving, let us remember those who are hungry and please remember to bring a non-perishable food item.

Please place your non-perishable items in the Caring Cube in the Narthex. Let's fill up the box with nourishment for those who are hungry. Thanks for your support.



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

Amen.



OPERATION CRISTMAS CHILD

It's time to fill Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes with gifts for children in need around the world. Please take a shoebox!

Fill the shoebox with small gifts suitable for a child in 1 of the age categories:

- 2-4 years old
- 5-9 years old
- 10-14 years old

Including a personal note and a photo of yourself makes a big impact. Include a \$9 donation to cover shipping and other project costs. (You can also pay online and follow your shoebox to its destination.)

Most importantly, **pray** for the child who will receive your shoebox.

Shoeboxes need to be returned **Sunday, November 10th**.

Thank you for your support of Operation Christmas Child and sharing a shoebox gift and Jesus Christ with children around the world!

YOUTH MISSION TRIP CLOTHING DRIVE



Clean out your closets! And donate your gently used clothing to benefit the Youth Mission Trip!

We are again raising funds for our Youth Mission Trip by having a FUNDrive through Savers Thrift Stores. Savers is a global thrift retailer. They help more than 100 nonprofit organizations by purchasing donated goods from them. They believe that the impact your donated goods make, touches lives in our community, reaches developing nations and keeps the planet healthy!

On Sundays in November, bring your donations to the Narthex. All items must be in good, clean condition. (The Youth will be available to assist you with your clothing donations.)

We need:

- Clothing & Shoes – Men’s, Women’s, Children’s
- Textiles (towels, sheets, blankets, pillows, curtains, tablecloths)
- Accessories (purses, wallets, belts, backpacks, hats, mittens, scarves, ties)

Approximately 125 full 33-gallon bags or 200 full 13-gallon bags will equal 2,500 lbs. of soft donations! That will provide the Mission Team with \$500!

Thanks for your faithful support of the youth and the Youth Mission Trip!



DECORATE FOR CHRISTMAS

Please join with the youth in setting up the Chrismon tree and hanging the wreaths in the church on Friday, November 29 at 7 p.m. All are welcome.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
NOVEMBER 2019**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
					1 *Kathra Naviaux	2 *Ellen Nelson
3 Aimee O'Claire 9:00 Traditional Service with Children in worship 9:00 Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	4 *Alexander O'Claire 12:30 Craft Circle Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting	6 *M/M Robert O'Connor 10:00 Bible Study at The Sheridan 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	6 *Aracely Ojeda and family 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	7 *Drew Olson 3:00 Bible Study at The Vines 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	8 *M/M Greg Olson	9 *Kristin Olson
10 *Erik Olson 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	11 *Megan Olson 7:00 Church Council	12 *Gary Ottaviano family 10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	13 *Hilary Ottaviano 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	14 *Kyleigh Pacello 3:00 Bible Study at The Vines	15 *Barbara Paulsen	16 *M/M John Peacock
17 *Vivian Peck 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	18 *Wilma Peterson 7:00 Rebecca Circle at Libby Hoeft's home	19 *Shirley Pflederer 10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	20 *David Quick Crossing articles due to Shirley Harnish 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	21 *Joseph Quick 3:00 Bible Study at The Vined 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	22 *Amanda and Elias Richoz 4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church	23 * Sue Richoz
24 *Julie Ann Robbins & Anna 9:00 Traditional Service 9:00 Sunday School/Youth Group 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 4:00 Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at 2 nd Baptist Church	25 *Ali Rodriguez	26 *M/M Larry Rohrsen 10:00 Bible Study in the Red Room 7:00 Scout Troop Meeting	27 *Joyce Ross 9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:15 Confirmation Class 7:15 Adult Choir	28 *Anne-Marie Rozsa and Simon HAPPY THANKSGIVING	29 *Bermette Ryza 7:00 Decorate the Church for Christmas	30 *Brian Samuelson

*Members to be prayed for.

** Holy Communion served at all services