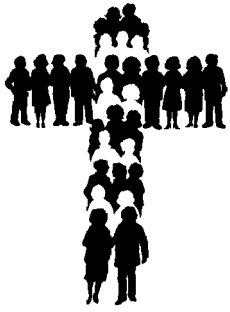


# CROSSINGS



OCTOBER 2019

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
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Dear Bethlehem,

Do you know what is your call or spiritual purpose? Last month, we took inventories and attended workshops designed to help us come up with a list of our potential spiritual gifts. Reading 1st Corinthians 12, Romans 12 and Ephesians 4, we compiled a list of the spiritual gifts noted by Paul. These include serving, leadership, encouraging, teaching, compassion, giving, wisdom, knowledge, faith, healing, miracles, administration, prophecy, apostleship, helping, communication, creativity, and craftsmanship. One or more of these lists of gifts was given to each of the baptized for the purpose building up the church and communicating the love of God in Christ. If you are not sure which fit for you, show the list to a church friend and ask them where they see your gifts. Where do they see God working in and through you?

If your *spiritual gifts* are what you are good at, your *passion* is what you love. Where your gifts and

passions overlap can point you to God's call (calls can vary over a lifetime). Of course, any time we hear something from God, it should be tested out to see if we heard correctly ☺. The church is one place where you can try out new things.

Here are some questions to help you identify your areas of passion:

1. What do you love to do?
2. If money were not an issue, what would you do with your time?
3. What gives you energy?
4. What do you want to change, shape, and leave better than you found it?
5. What people are you drawn to help?
6. What do you want to experience, to witness or to learn?

Let me offer an example. Teaching is one of my gifts, maybe also encouragement and mercy. I could always do a better job of using them, but that's not the discussion today. In my first career, I enjoyed teaching high school math very much. But when I was 24, I attended a Christian awakening retreat and discovered a passion for the bible and a gift of faith. (I excelled at math, but not with the same passion as telling the biblical stories and expressing my faith). I didn't immediately leave for seminary. But I did right away start thinking how I could teach what I really loved. I explored hospital chaplaincy and youth ministry.

It was the beginning of a journey to discern a call to be a pastor, where I could use overlapping gifts of

teaching, encouraging, faith, etc. In addition, I would be working in areas of passion, the bible, faith, and with children, youth and older adults. Another way of thinking of gifts and passion might be like this: your gifts are what your good and your passions are with whom, and in what specific situations, do you just love to share your gifts.

Today I find a lot of joy when we travel to assisted living facilities to share a bible study. I have even more fun doing that as a team with other people. Equally I find joy as a chaplain telling bible stories to the Child Development Center children, as well as many other aspects of my call as pastor. Essentially, I've shifted from teaching math to teaching/sharing about the bible and faith.

I hope this gets you thinking about how God may be calling you to use your gifts and passions for his purposes. There are other factors besides gifts and passions. Another important aspect of call is "the world's great needs". When you are able to serve in the zone of your gifts, passions and the world's needs you can be pretty sure that God is a part of that. We'll talk more about the world's needs next time. Without other people to be called to serve, there would be no call.

Peace,  
Pastor Carol

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**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND**

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

2019	August	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$13,296.50	\$126,095.80	\$129,984.00
Expenses	\$14,330.72	\$125,819.67	\$129,984.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	<b>(\$1,034.22)</b>	\$ 276.13	\$ 0.00

As all our programs start up for the fall, the church is grateful for the generous donations of our

members helping to keep Bethlehem a vibrant church.

**Bethlehem's Renovation and Property Trust Fund**

2019	August	YTD
Contributions to Renovation	\$ 535.00	\$ 3,837.50
Contributions to Property Trust	\$ 25.00	\$ 3,315.00

Our current Renovation loan balance is \$6,500. This will increase once we receive the invoice for our recent fire code improvements.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

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**THRIVENT CHOICE DOLLARS**

For those who have investments with Thrivent Financial, choice dollars are made available to be given to selected organizations. **A big thank you** to the members who have selected Bethlehem Lutheran Church as the recipient of their choice dollars so far during 2019. It's important to check your Thrivent account to see if you have Choice Dollars to donate. Your selection of BLC has resulted in additional income to BLC of \$1,204.00 as of August 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you have choice dollars available, please consider designating Bethlehem as the recipient. You can ask your Thrivent representative or call 1-800-THRIVENT for more information. You can also find information on the website:

[www.Thrivent.com](http://www.Thrivent.com).

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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 October 6.

**Reformation** is October 27. You are invited to wear red.

**All Saints Day Remembrance** is November 3.

**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 pm. 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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***COLLEGE COLLECTION***

The youth group will be collecting items to send to our college students in care packages. There will be a box in the narthex marked "College Care Package Items". You can contribute food items such as candy, chips, bars, cereal, instant soups, nuts, popcorn etc. Please bring your items through the month of October. Our college students love to receive packages.

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**OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS**



- 01 Bradley Burnett
- 02 Kristin Anderson
- 04 Martha Wolff
- 05 Elaine Shroder
- 11 Lin Cruise
- 13 Bill Lunsford
- 17 Patty Burnett
- Elizabeth Hadley
- 21 Anne Robbins
- 24 Bonnie Taskov
- Lindsey Morris
- Rob Quick
- 25 Ed Hernandez
- 28 Shirley Pflederer
- 29 Gisella Luna
- 31 Alex O'Claire

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

**September 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

No council minutes received.

Respectfully submitted,  
Karin Jones,

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**37th ANNUAL CROP HUNGER WALK  
IN ELGIN**

You can help feed the hungry right here in Elgin. The CROP Hunger Walk is Sunday, October 20, 2019. Get a donation envelope from me and ask family, friends, and neighbors to donate. There is even a Website where you can email friends and family for contributions: [www.crophungerwalk.org/elginil/](http://www.crophungerwalk.org/elginil/)

The mayor, city council members and Chief Anna Lalley are the honorary participants for the CROP Hunger Walk. Registration begins at 1:00 p.m. at the Civic Center. Step-off is 2:00 p.m. 25% of the money will go to the local food pantries and soup kettles.

Look for me on Sundays. Won't you join me to help end hunger? I'll have my donation envelope reading to accept your contribution.

Some history on the Crop Hunger Walk: Did you know that the Crop Hunger Walk is celebrating 50 years of helping feed the hungry? It goes back to 1969. Teens in Bismarck, North Dakota and York County, Pennsylvania decided it was time to do something for families who had to walk miles for food and clean water. So, they walked...and, because they took that first step, hunger has forever been changed.

Cindy Lange

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**FALL FOOD DRIVE**

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

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. We have been so blessed by God and wish to share those blessings with those whom Jesus would have fed.

Each Sunday, (we started September 15<sup>th</sup>) through CROP Walk Sunday, we will spotlight one meal or specific items, and ask that you bring an item to contribute.

October 6<sup>th</sup> – Clean & Healthy Week

Please bring soap, laundry soap, paper towels, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, deodorant, kleenex, toilet paper

October 13<sup>th</sup> – Dinner

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

October 20<sup>th</sup> – Food of your choice

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.

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**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**

Samaritan's Purse has been collecting Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes filled with gifts and delivering them to children in need around the world. Each box is an opportunity for a girl or boy to experience the love of God in a tangible way and hear the Gospel. As shoebox gifts are distributed, local pastors or church leaders present the Gospel in a fun way designed for kids while family and friends listen in. Along with their gifts, children also receive *The Greatest Gift*, a colorful presentation of the Gospel in their own language.

Shoeboxes will be available to take home on **Sunday, October 6, 2019.**

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 by **Sunday, November 10<sup>th</sup>**.

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

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### 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!

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**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
OCTOBER 2019**

<i>SUNDAY</i>	<i>MONDAY</i>	<i>TUESDAY</i>	<i>WEDNESDAY</i>	<i>THURSDAY</i>	<i>FRIDAY</i>	<i>SATURDAY</i>
		1 *M/M Larry Klemm  10:30 Bible Study at the Sheridan 7:00 Troop 111 Meeting	2 *M/M Zachary Kohen  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	3 *Jennifer Korp, Robert Luna and Gizelle  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines 7:00 Finance Meeting 7:00 Executive Meeting	4 *M/M Jeff Lange  9:30 CDC Music with Peg	5 *Kathie Larson  9:00 Council and Leadership Planning Group
6 *Paul Larson  9:00 Traditional Service with Children in worship 9:00 Youth Group in Loft 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	7 *Kathy Lehman  12:00 Craft Circle in Red Room 7:00 Worship Meeting 7:00 Learning Meeting 7:00 Witness Meeting	8 *Christopher Lempa  10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Troop 111 Meeting	9 *Eric Lempa  9:30 CDC Chapel 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	10 *M/M Len Lempa  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines	11 *Alan Lentz	12 *Cameron Lichtenberg family
13 *Sherry Liske  9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group in Loft 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service	14 *William Lunsford family  7:00 Church Council	15 *M/M Burt Lynn  10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Troop 111 Meeting	16 *Scott MacDuff  <b>CROSSING ARTICLES DUE To Shirley Harmish</b>  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	17 *Ronnie Malave family  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines 7:00 CDC Board Meeting	18 *Barkley Mapes  9:30 CDC Music with Ms. Peg	19 *M/M Ralph Mapes
20 *Jonathan Marquez family  9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group in Loft 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Service 1:00 Elgin Crop Hunger Walk	21 *James Massa  7:00 Rebecca Circle at the Home of TBD	22 *Stephanie Mathus  10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Troop 111 Meeting	23 *Susan McIntyre  9:00 Prayer Shawl Ministry 9:30 CDC Chapel 5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	24 *M/M Warren Mette  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines	25 *Katharyn Miller and family  4:00 – 7:00 Soup Kitchen Holy Trinity Church	26 *Lorraine Mink  10:00 -12:00 Little Saints Festival/Trunk or Treat
27 *Ida Mockler <b>Reformation Sunday – Wear Red</b> 9:00 Traditional Service with Sunday School 9:00 Youth Group in Loft 10:00 Hospitality Hour 10:30 Contemporary Worship	28 *James Muirhead  6:30 Strategic Plan Team	29 *M/M Mike Murschel  10:00 Bible Study 7:00 Troop 111 Meeting	30 *Joseph Nail family  5:30 Praise Him 6:00 Women's Bible Study 7:00 Confirmation 7:15 Adult Choir	31 *MaryLeslie Naker  3:00 Bible Study at The Vines		

\*Members to be prayed for.

\*\*Holy Communion at all services