



December 2021

Worship Services

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Online and In-person Services

"Gathered around Word and Sacrament, we live the Good News of Christ's love throughout our Community and the World."

Bethlehem Staff

Pastor Katie Chullino,
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Cornerstone Preschool

Andrea Becker,

Director of Cornerstone Preschool
andrea.j.becker@gmail.com

Ministry Events in December

- Worship Service: Sundays, 8:00 and 10:15 a.m.; 8:00 a.m. is live streamed on YouTube
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.–11:00 a.m., in person & Zoom
- Daily Walk Bible Study: Wednesdays, 9:00–10:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Holden Evening Prayers: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.; in person & YouTube
- Advent Family Time: Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m. (after Holden Prayer), Fellowship Hall
- Bethlehem Quilters: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. in Quilting room
- First Friday Fellowship: December 3, 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Schurmans
- Communication Committee Meeting: December 7, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Bethlehem Book Club: December 9, 9:00–10:30 a.m. via Zoom
- Ambassadors at The Atria: Sunday, December 12 at 11:15 a.m.
- Naomi Circle: Tuesday, December 14, Holiday Gathering 10:00–11:00 a.m. (Youth Room & via Zoom)
- BLC Council Meeting: December 14, 7:00 p.m. via Zoom
- December 24 Christmas Eve Services:
 - Family Worship: 4:00 p.m.
 - Candlelight Worship: 6:00 p.m. (also on our YouTube channel)
 - Light of Christ ECC Mass: 8:00 p.m.
 - Candlelight Worship: 11:00 p.m. (also on our YouTube channel).

For Zoom meetings, contact the meeting coordinator for the link information. More details of these events and additional information can be found on our website:

www.bethlehem-lutheran.net.

Rev's Revelations

Finish this sentence: *Christmas isn't Christmas without _____.*

I shared this request with friends and church members in late November. The top answer was *family* and was closely followed by *Jesus* and *hope*. Other answers referred to beloved traditions such as *The Living Nativity* and *The Magnificat*. Some folks reflected on the difficulties associated with Christmas related to *loss and grief, broken relationships, and stress*. Other answers brought levity—*mimosas, the eleven o'clock service, and someone accidentally being lit on fire*. (I probably don't need to explain this, but for every candlelight service there is someone with singed hair.)

For me, Christmas isn't Christmas without FOMO. As a kid, my immediate family spent Christmas bouncing between places and people. We'd be in a barn for afternoon service, then at home to change into nicer clothes, then back to church with our instruments and singing voices for a candlelight service, then carrying a pot of chili to my aunt's for supper, and sometimes back to church again before going home to wind down and read Luke's story of Jesus' birth.

The FOMO (aka: fear of missing out) came into play sometimes between taking our instruments to church and going over to my aunt's house. When we were at church, I always felt like I was missing time with my cousins. When we were with the family, I felt hurried to get to church for warm ups. Not to mention the many years I worried that regardless of where I was, I'd miss

my chance to see Santa Claus fly across the sky.

Even now, I have FOMO. I miss being with my family. I miss the opportunity to play Christmas songs with our little old church band. And, now, the FOMO begins earlier. This year I spent Thanksgiving with my family and I missed Christmas decorating at church! While planning Advent and Christmas worship, I agonize over which angel song to sing on Christmas Eve wondering if I or someone else will dearly miss the one we don't sing. (Agonize might be a strong word, but I do think about it!)

As I think about what makes Christmas *Christmas* for me, I remember that almost everyone misses out. That first Christmas, the one when Jesus was born, didn't include many people. The shepherds were few, the wisemen really probably came *much* later. But, somehow, we still celebrate Christmas. Even though we certainly missed out—none of *us* were there—we also didn't miss out. We hear the story. We gather to remember the gift of love born in this world. And we share gifts of love.

This Christmas season may your beloved traditions be held, may your family be at peace, and may you not miss the love which is born.

Peace,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Rev KC", written in a cursive, flowing style.

Worship

Advent 2021 - A Living Nativity: Traditions of the Seasons



Newness is a good thing. How good do we feel when we get to put on a new pair of shoes or drive a new car? We are filled with happiness when children are born. We grow in size and spirit when new people join our families or church. Reading a new book or watching a new movie entertains us and opens our minds. Even trying out a new dish for dinner can give us feelings of accomplishment. Newness can be exhilarating and good. But sometimes, we

need tradition. We need grounding and familiarity. Even new flowers need roots to grow.

This Advent we will root ourselves in holiday traditions which proclaim the nativity of Christ (aka: the birth of Jesus) in our lives. We will see reminders of God's promises in the decorations we use, we will witness the light of the world in people like us, and we will remember Emmanuel, God is with us, in all of life.

This season, we will also gather for Holden Evening Prayer (a newer tradition in the grand scheme of Advent/Christmas) on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m.

Our Advent experiences culminate the week of December 19–24 with the BLC tradition of the Living Nativity and Christmas Eve Services.

December Lectionary Resources

December 5 - Advent 2: St. Nicholas

Nicholas was a bishop in present-day Turkey of whom little is known but to Whom much legend is attributed, earning him the title “wonder-worker” among Eastern Christians. Stories remember him as devoted to the care of children, including an instance where he secretly rescued three young girls from prostitution by providing their dowries in the middle of the night. Over time these legends evolved into the Santa Claus figure associated with Christmas gift giving. Nicholas was also present at the Council of Nicaea and was a signer of the Creed we still confess today.

Consider your gift giving this season. Can you be a wonder-worker in God's world? Check out ELCA Good Gifts (<https://goodgifts.elca.org/>). Consider giving a gift anonymously or in the name of someone else in the tradition of Nicholas.

- Readings: *Luke 1:68–79* and/or *Luke 3:1–6*
- Holy Communion

December 12- Advent 3: Santa Lucia

Lucy (or Lucia)—whose name means “light”—was a virgin and martyr in the early fourth century. In an example of how Christian observance often overlaps with and is informed by the cycle of seasons in nature, Lucy's feast day used to fall on the winter solstice—the shortest day of the year—prompting celebrations involving light. Those of Scandinavian descent are especially familiar with “Santa Lucia” festivals where a young girl is dressed in white and wears a crown of candles on her head. Lucy's real light, however, was her love for the poor, for which she was revered as a sign of Christ's self-giving love.

Remember a time when you were on the receiving end of unexpected generosity. How can that experience help you see God more clearly?

- Readings: *Luke 3:7–18*
- Holy Communion

December 19 - Advent 4: John of the Cross & The Dark Night of the Soul

John of the Cross was a Christian mystic in the sixteenth century, just decades after Martin Luther and the Reformation. Far from being interested in theological debate, however, John encountered God's love for him through an interior life of intense prayer and contemplation. Penning the phrase "the dark night of the soul," John began to understand his personal suffering—which was great—in light of Christ's suffering. In that way, his vivid and evocative poetry echoes Luther's theology of the cross, in which God's goodness can only be comprehended in what appears to be its opposite.

When have you experienced a "dark night of the soul," or a time when you have desired God's presence but God felt absent? What sustained your faith during that time—music, poetry, dance, journaling, art? How is our suffering transformed when we unite it with Christ's suffering on the cross?

- Reading: *Luke 1:39–55*
- Holy Communion

December 26 - First Sunday of Christmas

- 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26
- Colossians 3:12–17
- Luke 2:41–52
- Holy Communion

Midweek Services: Holden Evening Prayer

We will gather in the sanctuary at **7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays** during Advent for Holden Evening Prayer; the services will also be live streamed on our YouTube channel. One of the traditions of Advent is to read from the prophets of the Old Testament. We will hear the following scriptures as we prepare for Christmas!

December 1: *Jeremiah 33:14–16*

December 8: *Baruch 5:1–9*

December 15: *Zephaniah 3:14–20*

December 22: *Micah 5:2–5a*

Following evening prayer, Gary will lead Advent Family Time in the fellowship hall. Our first week, we will make an Advent calendar—so don't miss it!

December 24 Christmas Eve Worship

Our Worship Team and Pandemic Advisory Group are working out details for Christmas Eve Services. Mark your calendars now and watch for updates on seating availability for these services:

Family Worship: 4:00 p.m.

Candlelight Worship: 6:00 p.m.

Light of Christ ECC Mass: 8:00 p.m. (Please contact LOC office for information.)

Candlelight Worship: 11:00 p.m.

Our 6:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. will also be live streamed.

Living Nativity

We will continue the Bethlehem tradition of the Living Nativity on the evening of Sunday, **December 19**. Please sign up at <https://tinyurl.com/blcnativity> to participate in this year's Living Nativity! Each shift is 45 minutes. We

will be glad to bring your clean costumes to you before the 19th. You can come to church dressed up or don your attire in the youth room. Be there at the Bethlehem Stable for the 36th Living Nativity. In addition, this year we will also be gathering non-perishable food items for the OUR center!

If you would like to volunteer as an actor in the scene or want more information, please contact Bob L. (evangelism@bethlehem-lutheran.net)!

Sign-up for Poinsettias

Poinsettias to decorate the sanctuary on Christmas Eve will be available to purchase starting **December 5–12**, 2021 in the narthex. Cost will be \$10.00 per plant (same as last year), and you may designate a person to honor or remember. Checks should be made out to BLC with “poinsettias” on memo line or use our [online payment option](https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home) (<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home>) and choose Altar Flowers with “poinsettias” in the designation. The plants can be taken home after services on Christmas Eve. Contact Jim W at jnswoodruff@gmail.com, or call Nancy in the BLC office (303-776-3290), for more information.

Faith Formation

Wednesday Evening Intergenerational/Family Time

Join us this Advent season on Wednesday evenings after the Holden evening prayer Advent service at 7:00 p.m. Our Wednesday evening intergenerational/Family time will follow in the Fellowship Hall, and our time together will consist of the following nights:



Advent #1, **December 1**- Theme Hope: Advent Calendar/ Reverse Advent Food calendar



Advent #2, **December 8**- Theme Joy: Family Christmas Movie Trivia Night



Advent #3, **December 15**- Theme Love: Mary, Mother of Jesus Christmas game



Advent #4, **December 22**- Theme Peace: Christmas Caroling to our congregation members

High School Youth Group

Our High School youth group will get together in December for a White Elephant gift exchange Christmas party at Gary's home on **December 16** at 6:30 p.m. Please contact Gary for his address. During this time, we will set a time for our youth group meeting times for the new year.

National Youth Gathering registrations are still ongoing. Contact Gary for more information (faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Sunday School News

Sunday School will be ongoing throughout December on **December 5, 12, and 19**. We will take a break on **December 26** and January 2 for the holidays.

Bethlehem Staff Updates



Karen Haag, our BLC Bookkeeper, has moved to North Carolina! Earlier this fall, Karen learned that her only sister was in need of help. In conversation with Pastor Katie, President Matt James and Treasurer Greg Schumann, Karen requested to continue serving with BLC remotely. We are thrilled she will remain part of the staff and congregation. Karen may be contacted at bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

Karen's last day in her Colorado office.

As previously announced, Brenda Harris, has resigned from her position as BLC Director of Worship and Music after her illness. She continues to recover in Arizona where she has support from her daughter. In October, choir members shared songs of hope and messages of gratitude with Brenda. Our Worship and Music team continues to organize volunteers and assess what our future needs may be. For questions or to volunteer, contact Jim W. at worshipchair@bethlehem-lutheran.net or Pastor Katie at pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

Mission and Social Justice

Bell Ringing for Salvation Army

We'll be ringing bells again this year for the Salvation Army. Bethlehem Lutheran has been among the top contributors for a number of years, and I'm hoping that many of you will be able to ring this year. The dates for bell ringing will be November 27, **December 4, 11, 14, and 16**. Bell ringing shifts will be one hour. If interested, please contact Duane P. (970-290-2220, duane.penny12@gmail.com).

ELCA Good Gifts

Even in a year when the needs can seem overwhelming, ELCA Good Gifts provide an easy way to make a real impact. Your gifts share the love of Christ—one goat, water well or school uniform at a time. They are introducing several new gifts this year, including: environmentally friendly cook stoves and internet connectivity. One of the best ways you can help is by sharing [ELCA Good Gifts](#) with your family and friends. What a wonderful gift to show loved ones you care about them during this holiday season!



Christmas Cards of Hope

Many congregation members stopped by the Christmas Card tables in November to send messages of Hope and support to individuals and families in detention centers. Thank you all so much! We sent 230 cards of support to LIRS (Lutheran immigration and refugee service) to be distributed before Christmas. (We sent cards in English, Spanish and French.) Thank you to the Sunday school children who made a huge contribution on November 14 by writing cards during Sunday school hour and thanks to all who staffed tables and helped set up and take down. Please continue your care of these people and families through prayer for their courage and

stamina in difficult conditions. Your Christmas will be blessed by your thoughtfulness! For more information, contact Mary Jane V (mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com).

December Nicaragua Mission Matching Funds Drive

The Nicaragua Mission of Bethlehem has built and provided the Support for a Christian Children's Project in Somoto, Nicaragua since 2007. Please read below.

Milagros's family is homeless in Somoto. She struggles to keep her three children, Manuel (4), Luis Carlos (7), and Luis Ivan (9) fed and under a roof at night. Each morning finds her trying to find work for a dollar by washing clothes and when she doesn't, she cannot feed her precious family. At night, sometimes they are allowed to put up a black plastic cover to sleep under for a number of days. Other times, they are told to move off the property right away, even in the middle of the night. Some nights a tree provides the only roof over their heads. The Children's Project has embraced them, providing meals and snacks, safety and preschool education for Manuel and a meal and educational support each day for Luis Ivan and Luis Carlos in the after school program. All is served with a generous helping of loving care.

Will you help us continue this vital work for these children and 84 like them by giving \$25, \$50, \$100, \$300, \$500, or \$1000 or more? Up to \$5000 dollars will be matched!

The Nicaragua Project as well as 84 impoverished children and families thank you!

Checks should be written to Bethlehem-Nicaragua and sent to Bethlehem Lutheran Church-Nicaragua, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO 80501.

To make an online web donation go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home>. Scroll to the Nicaragua options (tiles) and click on the Nicaragua project you want to support, and click on Donate Now and follow the instructions to complete your donation.

For more information on the Nicaragua Project, contact Mark H (mission@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Share the Grace



Thank you so much to all the members of Bethlehem who stepped forward and shared their grace with the newly released from the Denver Women's Prison and the ICE Detention Center in Aurora. As a result of your donations on Sunday, October 31, we collected over 200 backpacks and over 100 reusable water bottles. More than 300 individual snack items were collected as well as two large boxes of toiletries.

There were 12 large bags full of clothing for the Reentry Initiative. There will be 17 10-ride bus passes, and there were gift cards and cash donations amounting to about \$450. Very abundant grace!

The Social Justice Committee thanks you so much.

So many individuals and groups helped—too many to list here. But we were especially grateful to the help from the Sunday School at our collection table outside and for the generous donation from the Naomi Circle. It was gratifying to watch our congregation work together to help some of the most marginalized people in our community. Any questions or suggestions, contact Margot H (nordatter@gmail.com).

Gather and Connect

First Friday Fellowship



First Friday will be **December 3** from 6:00–8:00 p.m. at Gail and Carl Schurman's house. First Friday is a monthly adult fellowship opportunity to get to know other church members in a relaxed setting. No reservations are required; just bring an appetizer easy to share and a beverage.

Bethlehem Book Club

The next meeting of Bethlehem Book Club will be on Zoom on Thursday, **December 9** at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom to discuss [*The Power of Half: One Family's Decision to Stop Taking and Start Giving Back*](#) by Hannah Salwen and Kevin Salwen. Book Club is open to everyone! If you would like to read the book and join the discussion, just email Mary Jane (mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com) to be put on the list. You will receive a reminder the week before the meeting, and the Zoom link will be included in the email.



Ambassadors at The Atria

Our next trip to bring joy in song and scripture to the memory unit at The Atria (9th and Hover, Longmont) will be on Sunday, **December 12** at 11:30 a.m. immediately following our second service. Our beloved Peggy Peterson is one of the residents. All are welcome, including children. You do not need to be able to carry a tune—just bring a joyful heart. A mask is required in the lobby area but may be removed in the unit. You do not need to sign in individually. The first person to arrive may sign for the group. For more information, contact Jeanne P (Jeanne@PhippsWeb.com)



Quilting Queens

Quilters are meeting in the Quilting Room and Music Room on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. to tie quilts. Anyone interested in quilting is invited to join us! For more information, contact Barbara P (bjprice47@yahoo.com), or if you would like to donate or purchase a quilt, please contact the church office (303-776-3290).

Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will have a Christmas get together in person and on Zoom, Tuesday, **December 14**, from 10:00–11:00 a.m. Our membership is open to all who are interested in joining us. Please contact Linda H. (holstell@outlook.com) or Sue S. (suesmith512@msn.com) for further information and for the Zoom link to join remotely.

(Gather and Connect cont.)

Manna Bible Study

Beginning November 27, and continuing through January 5, Manna Bible Study will reflect on the Advent and Christmas devotionals of Dietrich Bonhoeffer using the book *God Is In The Manger*. For Bonhoeffer one of the central themes of Advent was waiting—as he was waiting to be released from prison, waiting to reunite with his fiancée, and waiting for the war to end. He wrote in 1943, “Life in a prison cell may well be compared to Advent. One waits, hopes, does this, that ,or the other—things that are really of no consequence—the door is shut, and can only be opened from the outside”.

Please join us in person or on Zoom each Monday **beginning November 29**, at 9:00 a.m. as we contemplate our own journey through Advent. All are welcome. Please contact Phyllis W. for the location or any other questions. To join through Zoom, use this link:

Topic: Manna Bible Study

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87213990208?pwd=alExaTZsV2U0L1BFdDRnWS9NZTZrQT09>

Meeting ID: 872 1399 0208; Passcode: Manna123

New Website Is Here!



The communications committee is excited to announce that the new BLC website has launched! Check it out using the same URL:

<https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/>. We will be posting more details in the weekly emails and bulletin. The same features are included in the new website--such as worship details and access to worship bulletins; Covid19 updates; Faith Formation; and small group information. Please note, however, there is no longer a member's login site; you can find the documents usually posted there in the Fireside Room library. The *Star* now

contains a Summary of Council Meeting Minutes and continues to post the monthly finances.

Please contact communications@bethlehem-lutheran.net with any questions or suggestions regarding content or webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net with any technical questions.

Stewardship

Financial Update YTD Through October

General Fund Actual Income:	\$ 360,162	General & Designated Funds Actual Income	\$ 470,959
General Fund Budgeted income:	\$ 405,800	General & Designated Budgeted Income:	\$ 521,830
Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (45,638)	Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (50,871)
General Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 380,509	General & Desig'ed Fund Ministry Exp:	\$ 495,217
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (20,347)	Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (24,258)

Full Financial Reports and copies of the Council Meeting Minutes are available in the BLC Library. Contact Greg S. (treasurer@bethlehem-lutheran.net) for more information or with questions and suggestions.

Pledge Drive 2022!

As we kick off our pledge season to prepare for 2022, you will hear updates from our council ministry chairs. You will hear about the work we do with Habitat, OUR Center, Prison ministries, Sky Ranch, confirmation and youth faith formation, as well as many other projects and causes that BLC has supported for years. In order to continue providing for these causes, we will be asking you for your continued support. You'll be receiving a letter in the mail shortly with some additional information.



You will be able to make your pledges either manually with a printed pledge form or electronically via the BLC web page at <http://bethlehem-lutheran.net/donate/>.

Please consider your pledge carefully. We are asking for everybody to have their pledges in no later than Sunday, **December 5**. As always, please feel free to reach out to me, Eric K, with any questions you may have (stewardship@bethlehem-lutheran.net). I want to personally thank all of you who have provided the ongoing support that has become a staple of our community.

Multiple Giving and Pledge Options for BLC

We have several options for making donations to BLC:



1. To make an online web donation (one time or recurring), scan the QR code or go to the [Donate web page](#) and click on the Online Giving icon to access our secure giving page and then follow the instructions. Detailed instructions are also available on the website.
2. For recurring donations, another option is to download the [BLC Vanco Enrollment form](#) or get a copy from the BLC Office, complete and sign, and return with a voided check to the BLC office with Attention: Financial Secretary. The financial secretary will set up an account for you.
3. Use the Vanco Mobile app* on your smartphone to make either single or recurring donations. Type in Bethlehem Lutheran Church or use the code **AUTHZY** to find our church (look for our logo). Follow the instructions to make a donation. You can also check out this [Vanco Mobile How-To Guide](#) for step-by-step instructions.
4. Mail or drop off a check or cash to the BLC office (Attention: Financial Secretary, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO, 80501).

Online giving lets you go to our website at any time 24/7 to set up an automatic donation plan, change your donation plan, make a one-time donation, or view your online donation history.

Options for Making Your 2022 Pledge to BLC

- 1) To make a pledge online, go to the Donate page on our website and click on the Pledge Online icon to access our online pledge form. Complete the information and **submit**. You will receive a confirmation by email.
- 2) Fill out the 2022 Pledge form in your pledge letter and drop it in the pledge collection box at church or mail it to the office (Attention: Financial Secretary, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO, 80501).
- 3) Download and fill out the [Bethlehem Pledge form](#) and mail to the office (Attention: Financial Secretary, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO, 80501).

If you have any questions about either our giving or pledging options, please contact Jenny, our financial secretary (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net, 303-651-6226).

Pandemic Advisory Group

Information From Your Pandemic Advisory Group



The Pandemic Advisory Group (PAG) and Council have updated guidelines for Groups and for Worship based on current trends and guidance. You can read the updated Group and Worship Guidelines plus the PAG Meeting Notes on our website [COVID19 Updates page](#). See below for the latest information on guidelines for worship services. If you have questions, comments, suggestions, or concerns, please contact the PAG using pag@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

BLC Guidelines for Worship (as of November 15, 2021)

These guidelines are based on current CDC, State of Colorado, Boulder County and Rocky Mountain Synod guidelines for worship services. They are reviewed by the Pandemic Advisory Group, approved by the BLC church council, and updated as new pandemic information becomes available.

We offer online worship services on our YouTube channel for those not ready to worship in person. You can find additional information on our website ([Bethlehem Lutheran Church](#)).

By entering our space, you agree to answer Jesus' call to love others by wearing an appropriate face mask and keeping social distance. Our approach to COVID-19 mitigation is layered: we encourage vaccinations as the main way to stem the spread of the pandemic; we wear appropriate face masks to protect ourselves and others; and we keep social distance to further decrease the chance of spreading an infection. Our goal is to keep a safe environment for all who worship with us, even the youngest ones.

These guidelines and recommendations use the latest CDC, State of Colorado, Boulder County, and Rocky Mountain Synod information. Where there are discrepancies, groups should follow the strictest advice whether it is from one of these organizations or from BLC:

- CDC: <https://covid.cdc.gov/covid-data-tracker/#county-view> (continued on next page)

(BLC Guidelines for Worship cont.)

- State of Colorado: [Places of worship & associated ceremonies | Colorado COVID-19 Updates](#)
- Boulder County: [Indoor Mask Order - Boulder County](#)
- Rocky Mountain Synod: <https://www.rmselca.org/corona-virus>

Guidelines:

- 1) All travelers who have attended a high risk event or been in a high risk area, especially international travelers, should wait at least five (5) days from the day of return to participate in BLC worship and events *or* have a negative COVID-19 test result at least three (3) days after their return.
- 2) All individuals attending worship should:
 - a) Have no COVID-19 symptoms. (For a list of symptoms see: <https://covid19.colorado.gov/covid19-symptoms>);
 - b) Have no known exposure to anyone with COVID-19 in the past 14 days;
 - c) Wear an appropriate face mask while in the building. You may not enter the BLC building without an appropriate mask. (For mask guidance see: [Your Guide to Masks | CDC](#).) Only

worship leaders are permitted to be unmasked as needed during the service, and they must remain 12 feet from others when unmasked;

Be advised that Boulder County Health department inspectors are visiting churches and issuing citations if people are found inside in violation of the mask requirements. The first violation is a warning; the second is a \$5000 fine; and the third violation (by anyone) could result in BLC being closed.

- d) Remain six feet apart from individuals who do not live in their home; our seating arrangement is as close to 6 foot distance as possible using the quilts as guides;
- e) Report to the church office (303-776-3290) if they develop COVID-19 symptoms or test positive for COVID-19 within the 14 days following attendance at a service (your personal information will not be shared as others affected are notified).

We thank you for your attention and cooperation and look forward to having you join us in worship. If you have any questions, concerns, or suggestions, please feel free to contact our Pandemic Advisory Group (pag@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Council Meeting Summary

Note: There will be a monthly Council Meeting Summary in the Star, and the printed copies of the full minutes will be available to read in the library or from the office after they have been approved. This change is due to our new website which does not have a separate member's only section.

Summary of Council Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2021:

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Kelley, BLC Council Secretary

The Council met on November 16, 2021, with Matt James, Mark Abromski, Jenny Kelley, Greg Schumann, Pr. Katie Chullino, Bob Lee, Brian Carlson, Mark Holste, Eric Kittelberger, and Jim Woodruff in attendance. Matt called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Following a devotion centered on the importance of returning to focus on the common good and prayer, it was noted that minutes from the last council meeting were approved by email and made available in the library along with reports.

One item of business was approved by email since the last council meeting. On Friday, November 5, Matt moved to approve adding an Ionization unit installation to the November maintenance scheduled for the sanctuary HVAC unit. The quoted amount for the installation is \$2,295.60 to be paid from the capitol improvement fund. Brian seconded the motion. The motion passed, and the installation is scheduled for Friday, November 19, 2021.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Greg reported good news that we were below budget in expenses (no mortgage or intern expenses), and with the addition of the C120 funds, the net budget picture is better. We are only down \$4000 in general income compared to \$10,000 in previous months. Greg believes we now have a good chance of ending the year in balance. Thanks to all of the ministry chairs and staff for due diligence in keeping expenses down. Bob moved to accept the treasurer's report; Jim seconded. The motion was approved unanimously.

(Continued on next page)

Council Meeting (con't)

MINISTRY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

Pastor: Thanks for all the pastor appreciation; it was very much appreciated. There are lots of good things happening here; Reformation service was awesome, and the thesis board has a good many encouraging hope messages. The confirmation kids were impressive. There have been two face mask issues recently: a mesh mask at a funeral and a refusal to wear a face mask at worship; we need to have someone responsible for watching for this in future events. Point of information: our worship leaders are distanced/spaced so they can remove masks as needed during the service.

Evangelism: Bob said the Dining for 6 is at the end of its term, and the next First Friday is planned for December. He is now planning for the Living Nativity—looking at signups and costumes.

Faith Formation: Brian says things are really going well with Gary. The Sunday School moved inside; the confirmation class is going strong; and plans are in place for the HS Youth Gathering in 2022 in Minneapolis.

Property: Matt reports there are a few things going on: clean and service the stove; the service and fix the air compressor on the fire sprinkler system; installation of an ionization unit in the sanctuary HVAC. The property committee has a list of repairs and maintenance needed and is working on it.

Mission: Mark H reported that Habitat for Humanity had a good build day; the Share the Grace campaign by SJI really went well. The OUR Center lunch is this coming Sunday, November 21, and a crew is in place.

Stewardship: Eric says the Celebrate 120! campaign did not meet the goal of 200 members giving \$120 but ~60 people gave ~\$18,000. The feedback he received was supportive of the initiative. He suggested that we do not finalize the budget until the pledges come in and then base the budget only on those pledges, not guesses. This would hopefully encourage more members who give regularly but haven't pledged to do so and maybe encourage some who have not given regularly to consider a pledge. The pledges will be due December 5. Temple talks by ministry chairs are planned for next several Sundays, and a pledge letter with form will be mailed out next week. Pledges can also be made online.

Worship: Jim and his committee continue to plan for Advent and Christmas; he has put out numerous communications regarding the Christmon tree decorating. He will begin looking for team leaders for regular services post-pandemic.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

The PAG met November 15, and Matt and Jenny gave the following summary: Keep Group Guidelines as they are and emphasize keeping a list of attendees and wiping down afterwards; write up a similar document for Worship Guidelines; increase signage for face masks and distancing in the sanctuary and continue to increase communications about a layered approach; with the holidays coming up, emphasize the importance of following the travel guidelines; and agreed with the worship committee on signup for Christmas services and no choir until spring.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: (Matt moved to enter executive session; Mark A seconded): we entered at 8:13 p.m.; Mark H moved to exit executive session; Matt seconded, and we exited at 8:47 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

- 2022 Budget considerations: Greg reminded all to be able to justify dollars they want to spend and to consider whether the dollars not spent this year was because something we couldn't do this year or just do not need anymore. Greg would like the preliminary budgets in the next week.
 - 2022 pledge drive: Eric (see above Stewardship highlights)
 - Faith Formation Position: Brian discussed a transition for Gary from 0.75 time to full time. The position would have additional responsibilities: a change from just maintenance during

(Continued on next page)

Council Meeting (con't)

- pandemic (only Sunday School and confirmation) to also rebuilding youth & high school programs; also add background checks/Safe Haven responsibilities; and include some worship responsibilities. Brian moved that we provide Gary a bonus in November and December totaling \$1500 and move his position to full time in the 2022 budget, pending approval of a budget that includes the increase. Jim seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- Ionization units for HVAC System: Matt has a proposal from Timberline of \$11, 822.80 for the installation of ionization units in all the HVAC units other than the one for the sanctuary (which is already approved and scheduled). Mark H moved to proceed immediately with scheduling and pay from Capital Improvement Fund; Eric seconded. The motion passed unanimously after discussion about how to replenish the Capital Improvements Fund.
- Mark H. said that Jeanne Phipps had requested a line item in the Mission budget for Musical Freedom. After discussion, Mark H suggested that funds from the local missions fund be used for a donation at the end of this year.
- Nicaragua Project Fall matching funds challenge: Mark H. requested approval for the annual Nicaragua Matching Fund Challenge in December; Greg seconded. The motion passed unanimously.
- Point of information. What are we using volunteer hours information for? Several years ago, it was used to track a single year to see the number of volunteer hours across all ministries to let the congregation know how many volunteer hours were needed to run our ministries and to compare how many part-time
- hours that would cost if someone was hired to do some of the work. It is indicative of how much we do and how much we volunteer. Is this something we want to look at again?
- Mark H moved to add a food drive for the OUR Center with the Living Nativity (to be collected at the entrance of the Living Nativity), and Bob supported the idea. Greg seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously.

Following prayer considerations and the Lord's Prayer, the meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 14, 2021, at 7:00 p.m.



Member Milestones



December 01 Kyle Buck-Gengler, Michael Kasperbauer, Jr.

December 05 Doris Cotton, Kirk Moors

December 08 Lilah Corner

December 09 Jennie Abromski, Wayne Kluck, Ethan Hebbert

December 10 DeEtte Eikenberg

December 11 Pam Bischoff

December 12 Brooke Lahman, Brittany Pate

December 13 Jeff Ditillo, Mike Frank, Viviana Jurkovich, Reagan Zigler

December 15 Cindy Schlagel

December 16 Ella James, Gail Schurman, Mackenze Spendlow, Barbara Wedemeyer

December 17 Ruby James

December 19 Jakob Cook, Duane Larsen

December 20 Jill Luere

December 21 Jeff Hopp, Laurie Parker, Carrie Wissink

December 22 Jerry Phipps

December 23 Ruth Conrad, Mason Watts

December 24 Lynda Coonrod, Dale Grindeland, Nolan Zigler

December 25 Mary Fjeld

December 26 Ruth Tilson

December 27 Carol Wissink

December 28 Dave Beyer

December 30 Levi Davis, Roxanne Kessler, Bea Ramos

December 31 Jayleigh Gordanier



December 02 Sharon Kirby-Cole & Gerry Cole (27)

December 17 Diana & Wayne Bruckner (55)

December 19 Cindy & Byron Thompson (29)

December 20 Nicole & Jesse Ramer (13)

December 27 Jenny & Michael Kelley (46)

December 28 Marilyn & Dave Voorhis (53)

December 28 Trudi & Patrick Boaz (25)



Healing Prayers for: Tiffany B., Kate A., Dennis B., Brenda H., Racheal G., Lu K., Sandy W., Cathy G., Darlene B., Gerry C., Jan M., Kristal H., George D., Lydia M., Bruce B., Candy T., Jeremy G.; our homebound members: Esther G., Doris C, Peggy P.

Sympathy for:

Linda Ferguson and family on the death of Jim Ferguson on October 31, 2021.

Sabrina and Bob Lee on the death of Sabrina's father, Ben Gray, on November 11, 2021.

Joyce Gallagher and family on the death of Joyce's cousin, Charity Dawn Munoz, in October and Joyce's sister-in-law, Tina Stoddard, on October 27, 2021.

Tiffany Beisner and family on the death of Tiffany's mother, Becky, on November 23, 2021.

Office help: Jenny Kelley and Gary Knutson.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1000 15th Avenue
Longmont, CO 80501

Return service requested

Keep the BLC Office Up to Date

Please keep the church office up to date with address, email and phone information for your family. Contact Nancy at the church office (303-776-3290, admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net) with any changes in contact information.

Weekly Announcements are also available in our weekly worship bulletin found each week on our website (<https://www.bethlehem-lutheran.net/>).

Deadline for weekly announcements: The Wednesday before the announcement should appear in the bulletin.

Submit all announcements through the [BLC news form](#) or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Deadline for the 2022 January Star: December 20!

Submit all articles through the [BLC news form](#) or directly to the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net). If you have any problems, please contact webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

