







#### Blessed to be a Blessing

## February 2022

#### **Worship Services**

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Online and In-person Services

"Through God's abundant love we invite, welcome, and serve as a light in the world."

#### **Bethlehem Staff**

Pastor Katie Chullino, pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Nancy Tiff, Office Coordinator admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net

**Director of Worship and Music** worship@bethlehem-lutheran.net

## Gary Knutson, Faith Formation Director

faithformation@bethlehemlutheran.net

#### Karen Haag, Bookkeeper bookkeeper@bethlehemlutheran.net

Tiffany Beisner, Communications Coordinator communications@bethlehemlutheran.net

Aaron Jurkovich, Webmaster webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net

**Cornerstone Preschool** 

Andrea Becker, Director of Cornerstone Preschool andrea.j.becker@gmail.com

## Ministry Events in February

- Worship Service: Sundays, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.– 11:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Bethlehem Quilters Quilting: Thursdays, 9:00
   a.m. in the Quilting Room
- ◆ Communication Committee Meeting: February 1, 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Confirmation Class (7–8 grade): February 2, 16, and 23, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
- First Friday Social: February 4, 6:00 p.m.
- Naomi Circle: February 8, at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room
- ◆ BLC Council Meeting: February 8, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- Bethlehem Book Club: February 10, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Music Ambassadors at Atria: February 13, 11:30 a.m.
- Social Justice Initiative Meeting: February 20, 11:30 a.m.

All meetings will be by video conferencing unless otherwise noted; 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

Through God's **abundant** love we invite, welcome, and serve as a light in the world.

On Epiphany Sunday, we received Star Words. In years past the words have come from various bible verses or Christian themes and even other languages. This year, our Star Words come from the mission statement written by our Strategic Planning Team in 2020/21. While you ponder your word (and while I ponder mine), I thought it might be helpful to ponder them all together. Today, we ponder *abundant*.



Merriam-Webster.com tells us that abundant means, "existing or occurring in large amounts." A few weeks ago we read the story where Jesus turns water into wine--

into six stone jars or about 1,000 bottles of wine (John 2:1-12). That's a large amount. That's abundant-- abundant wine, abundant delight for those drinking, abundant grace for the wedding host and couple. That abundance is also totally unnecessary. Jesus didn't have to turn water into wine--at all--and he didn't have to turn it into that much wine. But he did. He gave abundantly. And he does it again.

We see Jesus do the same with fish when he feeds the 5,000 and has leftovers. We hear abundance in the parables of the talents (Matt 25:14-30), the mustard seed (Mark 4:30-32), the sower (Luke 8:4-15), even

the widow's mite (Mark 1:41-44). Jesus tells his disciples, "I came that they may have life and have it

abundantly," (John 10:10).

Giving abundantly is why Jesus came. Jesus gives himself abundantly in service to those in need throughout the gospels and especially as he opens his arms to all on the cross.

We claim these stories as our holy scriptures and we say that we are to go, to do likewise! Which means we are called to live abundant life! Which means we are called to receive and to give abundantly--whether what we give is water or wine, food or medicine, love or ourselves. God's abundant love is a great gift and a great responsibility.

As you ponder your own Star Word, also ponder what it means for you personally to receive God's abundant love. How do you see, feel, or know God's abundance? How can you participate in that abundance? How can you share that abundance?

In God's abundant love,



## Worship

## **February Lectionary Resources**

February 6 - 5th Sunday After Epiphany
The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to
highlight unlikely instruments and
circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory.
"Who will go for us?" God asks. Today's
scriptures answer: a person of unclean lips and
three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing.
More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are
also called.

Reading: Isaiah 6:1-8, Luke 5:1-11

February 13 - 6th Sunday After Epiphany
Blessings and curses abound on the sixth
Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to
listen closely to whom the "blessed ares" and
the "woe tos" are directed and to find our place
in the crowd among those who desire to touch
Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the
mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to
live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

Reading: Jeremiah 17:5-10, Luke 6:17-26

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## Worship (con't)

## February 20 - 7th Sunday After Epiphany

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

**Reading:** *Genesis 43:3–11, 15, Luke 6:27–38* 

## **February 27 - Transfiguration of Our Lord**

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

**Reading**: *Exodus 34:29–35, Luke 9:28* –34

Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, March 2. Light of Christ will lead a service at noon and BLC will lead a service at 7:00 p.m. This will begin our Lenten Evening Prayer on Wednesdays. Please watch the website and announcements for information on additional services.



## **Council Meeting**



# Summary of Council Meeting Minutes January 11, 2022:

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Kelley, BLC Council Secretary

The Council met on January 11, 2022, with Matt James, Mark

Abromski, Jenny Kelley, Greg Schumann, Pr. Katie Chullino, Bob Lee, Mark Holste, Eric Kittelberger, and Jim Woodruff in attendance; Brian Carlson was absent. Matt called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. Following a devotion from *Christ in the Home based on Psalm 29, it was noted that minutes from the last council meeting were approved by email and made available in the library.* 

Greg reported about \$1,000 over budget in monthly giving for December, which is normal for the end of the year; our spending this month was very low so we finished out the year okay. We were about \$18,000 below budgeted income for the year. We will start 2022 okay.

As the budget process continues (see Old Business below), Greg gives a special thank you to Mark H for helping with report formats. Eric moved to accept the financial reports, and Bob seconded the motion; the treasurer's report was approved unanimously.

#### MINISTRY REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

**Pastor**: Way to go for getting through Christmas Week! It took everyone to make it happen, and there are no reports of covid outbreak at BLC! There is a potential for starting a BLC Disaster Relief Committee, and Pr. Katie will work with Mark H and Missions on this.

**Worship**: Jim echoed how well all went in December, especially having families involved. He will be thinking about the future of the worship staff position.

**Missions**: Mark H thanked Bob and Evangelism for a very successful OUR Center Hygiene products drive; the Habitat for Humanity build had a good day; the Nicaragua challenge was very successful with 60% of the donations coming from outside BLC, and the

## Continued on next page

## **Council Meeting**

Children's Center is doing well; New Beginnings had a service in December for the first time in a while but now all volunteering is again on hold.

**Stewardship**: Eric hopes 2022 will bring nonpledge giving back to previous levels. Two additional goals for 2022 are to finish the Time & Talent project and to create a Bequest Policy. He is not sure how to get more members to pledge in the future—maybe a messaging issue?

Evangelism: Bob has pictures of the new members who recently joined. Thanks to Mark H for adding the Our Center food and hygiene products drive to the Living Nativity—worked perfectly. Living Nativity had 160 visitors; there was a great Times-Call TC line comment about the Living Nativity which Bob posted on our FaceBook page. Bob suggests that the Times-Call ad needs review. Bob suggested that we invite people to be part of an activity or event when we need volunteers.

**Property**: Matt reported there was another security incident at the PreSchool shed. The annual fire-alarm inspection report came back with a long punch-list of things to update—for example, all sprinkler heads need to be tested; some air compressor issues; and a need to replace batteries.

Faith Formation: Brian was absent.

#### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

- Pandemic Advisory group
  recommendations: There have been no
  further updates since December; Pr.
  Katie shared an email from the bishop,
  and the responses were to keep doing
  what we are currently with the possible
  exception of discouraging food and eating
  inside. We will continue to monitor.
- Annual Meeting Reports: Jenny reminded all that reports are past due; a list of missing reports was emailed shortly before the meeting. For the annual meeting email/letter, we should ask those who cannot download the annual report

- pdf and would like it mailed to them to notify the church office by January 22. Some printed copies will be available at the church for pick-up and for the meeting.
- 2022 Budget Proposal: Greg discussed feedback from the budget forum and presented the newest budget draft. He replaced "envelope giving" with "general fund giving" and recalculated the anticipated general fund giving from the three-year average minus 4%. After hearing from several members at the forum and by email, a 3% staff raise will be included in the budget along with a decreased budgeted allocation to \$6,000 for the Capital Improvement Fund. Council approved Greg's budget presentation by consensus.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

- Matt discussed the usual use of Robert's Rules of Order in the Annual Meeting; a copy of Robert's Rules of Order is in the office, along with a summary sheet.
- First Bank Credit Card users: Greg reported that fraudulent charges were reported on the First Bank card so it will be replaced. To change the card administrator to Greg, he needs a motion to do so from the council. Matt James moved to remove Jan Geiser as the card account administrator with First Bank and add Greg Schumann as administrator, plus remove all current card holders and keep Nancy Tiff as the sole card holder; Mark Holste seconded; the motion passed unanimously.
- Thank you to all council members, especially those who are going off council this month, for their service this year!

Following prayer considerations and the Lord's prayer, this council meeting was adjourned at 8:47 p.m. The next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 8, 2022, @ 7:00 p.m.; the Exec meeting is at 6:30 p.m. Comments and suggestions for the council can be sent to council@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

#### Faith Formation



From the desk of the Faith Formation Director Gary. We still are having some challenges

with coming back together, pandemic protocols and starting new routines. We have seen some major changes on how we do ministry and I am glad to say that we are slowly coming back together as a community. We have some exciting ministry opportunities coming up in the future and I look forward to seeing the community come back together. Here are some ministry opportunities that are going on in February and March. I hope to see some new faces and meet more new people in the coming year. If anyone wants to talk please make time and come by the office or we can do lunch together.

### **Sunday School**

In February, we will be studying The Disciples, Beatitudes, Joseph feeding his family and Transfiguration. Youth 4 years old to 6<sup>th</sup> grade age gather in the fellowship hall for a devotion about the lesson, craft, and prayer time.

## **Confirmation**

We have learning events on February 2, 16, and 23. We are studying the Jesus parables and Jesus' crucifixion.

## Wednesday Night Lenten Mentoring

We need adult volunteers to make this happen. If you would like to be a Mentor please email Gary.

### What is Lenten Faith Mentoring Ministry?

Faith mentoring is part of a new ministry at BLC. It pairs individual youth with individual adults of the congregation to discuss faith and life issues and to experience the Lenten journey together. Young people are free to select an adult, with their consent, to be their Faith Mentor.

Faith Mentors do not take the place of parents, pastors, teachers or peers, but provide an additional connecting point to other Christian adults and the congregation.

## How does the Lenten Faith Mentoring Ministry Work?

On Tuesday, March 1, the Faith Mentors, young people and their parents will meet for an orientation. During Lent, each youth will meet with their Faith Mentor for five 30-45 minute sessions on March 9, 16, 23, 30, and April 6 to discuss the week's theme, a certain aspect of faith, and life issues. Discussion guides are provided to help facilitate this time together.

## What Characteristics should a Mentor have?

- Love God and kids
- Able to accept youth where they are and let them progress at their own speed
- Accessible, open and willing to take the time to listen
- A caring, non-judgmental supportive attitude
- Mature and trustworthy
- Faithful in their own Christian life

Faith Mentors are special people in the lives of our young people. They will receive as much as they give -- it is an honor to participate in another person's growth in faith.

#### What training does a Mentor need?

No special background or training is required for someone to be a Faith Mentor. Faith Mentors, students and their parents will attend an orientation session for the faith mentoring process on Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.

Continued on next page

## Faith Formation (con't)

## What is the purpose of Lenten Faith Mentoring?

- Expand each young person's circle of trusted adults in the congregation. In a Search Institute report, only 29% of youth felt that adults in the church cared for them.
- 2. Enable each young person to see and learn how another adult (besides their parents) lives out their Christian faith.
- 3. Offer each young person a personalized learning opportunity to make sense of their own Christian Faith. In the same Search Institute report, more than 60% of the youth surveyed said they wanted to know how to learn to love life more, recognize right from wrong, and gain a sense of life's purpose.
- 4. Gain broader adult participation in the young person's learning process.

## What are the responsibilities and role of Faith Mentors:

- Attend the Faith Mentor Orientation on Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m. in the sanctuary. Your mentee and his/her parent(s) will also be at this orientation.
- 2. Meet the parents of your mentor at least once. (This may be done at the mentor orientation.)
- 3. Meet with your mentee five times during Lent for 30-45 minutes to discuss the week's theme and related faith issues from the provided discussion guides. Both student and mentor have mutual responsibility of attending these sessions and making up any missed sessions. Preferably, worship with your mentee and meet after or before the Wednesday evening Lent worship services.
- 4. Pray regularly for your young person during the mentoring process.
- 5. Respect and uphold the confidentiality of your discussions with your young person.

#### Who can be a mentor?

Each youth is free to choose any adult to be their faith mentor who is:

- an active member of BLC or other Christian congregation
- 2. at least 21 years of age or 18 and older whom have been trained
- 3. not their parent or relative of any kind
- someone they see as a good example of a Christian life style
- 5. someone with whom they feel comfortable having "guided discussions" with
- 6. someone who consents to be their faith mentor
- someone who your youth can get to know that is a positive Christian role model

#### **High School Youth**

We will be having high school activities throughout the month, stay tuned.

## **Vacation Bible School**

Mark your calendars for Vacation Bible School this summer June 20-24, 2022. This year BLC will be putting on VBS called "Monumental" where we celebrate God's greatness!



## Gather and Connect

#### First Friday Fellowship

First Friday will be **February 4 at 6:00 p.m.**, at Bob and Sabrina Lee's home. Bring an appetizer to share and a beverage.

#### Naomi Circle



The February meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom Tuesday, February 8, from 9:15-11:00 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.

#### **Bethlehem Book Club**



The February meeting of Bethlehem Book Club will be on February 10, at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. We will be discussing Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng. For

February we are taking advantage of Books in A Bag from the Longmont Library. Phyllis W. has the bag and will be available to give you a copy at her door, or will leave a copy outside for you to pick up if you just contact her at pkwright1360@gmail.com. Bethlehem Book Club is open to everyone! Contact Mary Jane V at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com if you would like to be added to the group. You will receive a reminder and zoom link the week before the next meeting. See you on Zoom!

#### Ambassadors at The Atria



We are delighted to once again be able to bring joy in song and scripture to the memory unit at Cing for Joy The Atria located at 9th and Hover in Longmont on the

second Sunday of each month. Our next trip will be on Sunday, February 13 at 11:30 a.m.—immediately following our second service. 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 and each individual is now required to sign in individually in the lobby.

#### Quilting Queens

Quilters are meeting in the Quilting Room and Music Room on Thursdays at 9:00 a.m. to tie quilts. If you would like to donate or purchase a quilt of your own, please contact the church office for more information (303-776-3290).

#### Manna Bible Study



We will be reading and discussing Life Together by Dietrich Bonhoeffer beginning February 7th. Life Together is Bonhoeffer's

inspiring account of a unique fellowship in an underground seminary during the Nazi years in Germany. It reads like one of Paul's letters giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and in groups. Manna meets every Monday morning at 9 am. We hope you will join us to discuss this wonderful book! Please call Phyllis W. if you have questions, need to know our location, or need the Zoom link.

#### Adult Forum

Adult forum will be studying Faith, Sexism, and Justice: A Call to Action, the latest ELCA Social Statement throughout six sessions to be held on February 6, 13, 20 & March 6, 13, 20 at 9:15 a.m.

Please sign up online or contact the church office to sign-up. Signing up now will help ensure there is room for those attending in-person and a Zoom set up for those attending online. Sign up at https://forms.gle/43dUExt7hpfRKPUL9 or call the church office and leave a message for Pastor Katie.

#### Star Words

We received 2022 Star Words on Epiphany Sunday. If you have not received or chosen a Star Word for this year, these are the words given out a church, pick one to focus on this year or month: abundant, love, invite, welcome, serve, light, world.

During February, focus on the meaning of your word. Think about what the word means to you. Look it up in a dictionary or ask a friend what the word means to them.

## Mission and Social Justice

#### **Habitat Work Day**



Our next work day is Saturday, February 26 at the Hospitality Center. Please sign up on the board on the Narthex Wall, or call Bob C.

# The Nicaragua Project and 84 Children Thank You



This very day children who would otherwise go a day or even days without food in Somoto, Nicaragua, were able to have two meals and two nutritious snacks. They were safe while their parents

were seeking work, and they were able to attend school, learning about the love of God in the process. Why? Because of wonderful donors who came forward during our winter fund drive for our Nicaragua mission. We raised nearly enough for 6 more months of serving them in our children's project in Somoto.

Is it too late to donate? No. We accept donations all year. Would you like to become a monthly donor? On the Bethlehem website, go to "donate", then "online giving" and then scroll down to the Nicaragua Project.

Bless you for your prayer and monetary support.

Cathy G and The Nicaragua Project

## **Disaster Response Team**



Thank you, to all who have shared funds, goods, and homes with neighbors in need during and after the Marshall Fire. As our larger community moves through the early stage of disaster, the relief phase, and

into the recovery phase, we will have new opportunities to help. Bethlehem has long been a place and a people of service. To

prepare ourselves for this next stage, I would like for Bethlehem to form a small team (3-5 people) to evaluate how and when we can best serve the long-term needs of our neighbors during this disaster.

The most effective assistance we can offer at this time is that of funding. Opportunities can be found on our website at: <a href="https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/serve/marshall-fire/">https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/serve/marshall-fire/</a>

Thank you for your service, Pastor Katie pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net

#### **Social Justice Initiative Update**



Our Social Justice Initiative (SJI) group met on January 23 and discussed the projects completed in 2021 and ones the group is interested in for 2022. There are a number of exciting possibilities, so

check out our website (https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/serve/sji/) and stay tuned for details! The group has decided to meet monthly on the third Sunday of the month at 11:30 a.m. by Zoom. Everyone is welcome to join us--see the link below. For more information, please contact Jane L (janelahman@hotmail.com) or Margot H (nordatter@gmail.com).

Zoom meeting:

Topic: BLC SJI Monthly Meeting

Time: 11:30 a.m.

Join Zoom Meeting: https://us02web.zoom.us/

i/81184599825?

pwd=WmhMY3I3ZUxoR0IOWnMzMldsaDJjQ

T09

Meeting ID: 811 8459 9825

Passcode: SJI2022

To dial by phone only: 253 215 8782

Meeting ID: 811 8459 9825

Passcode: 4026538

## Stewardship

#### **Finances for December 2021**

General Fund Actual Income:	\$ 433,298
General Fund Budgeted income:	\$ 486,950
Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (53,652)
General Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 450,255
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (16,957)

General & Designated Funds Actual Income:	\$ 563,692
General & Designated Budgeted Income:	\$ 626,175
Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (62,483)
General & Designated Fund Ministry Expens-	\$ 592,113
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (28,421)

### Financial Summary Reports Presented to Council are Available

Contact Greg S. (<u>treasurer@bethlehem-lutheran.net</u>) for more information or with questions or suggestions. Printed copies of all the reports are available for review in the Fireside Room library.

### **Multiple Giving Options for BLC**





- 1. To make an online web donation (one time or recurring), 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 <u>BLC Vanco</u>

  <u>Enrollment form</u> 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. 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.

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

#### 2021 Donation Statements

2021 End of Year donation statements will be mailed by USPS and should be received by January 31, 2022. These statements are provided for your convenience; however, be advised that any decisions regarding tax implications are at your discretion. Please review these statements as soon as possible, and if there are any questions, comments or corrections, contact our Financial Secretary, Jenny K. (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net), 303-651-6226.

### Member Milestones





Feb. 2 Feb. 2 Feb. 2 Feb. 3 Feb. 5 Feb. 6 Feb. 9 Feb. 11 Feb. 11 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 12 Feb. 13 Feb. 13	Sarah Demmel Alexander Pemberton Thomas Hoime Griffin Hebbert Linda Holm Sandy Woodruff Darlene Borgmann Mark Holste Maitland Gordon Julie Geiser Kristy Lee Doris Haave Erik Ritzen Eric Van Dyke Ethan Thompson Daelyn Carlock Robyn Sloan Jacob Parker
Feb. 14	Dennis Smith
Feb. 14	Chili Chullino
Feb. 14	Brady Parker
Feb. 14	Kiowa Stetson
Feb. 15	Katie Wissink
Feb. 15	Kevin Kelley
Feb. 16	Joyce Gallagher
Feb. 17	Coqui Stetson
Feb. 17	Anna Kragerud
Feb. 18	Leonard Thieking
Feb. 18	Scott Peterson
Feb. 18	Gavin Neuhaus
Feb. 20 Feb. 22	Charlotte Chaussart
Feb. 22	Caleb Payne MacKenzie Demmel
Feb. 23	Erik Kessler
Feb. 27	Georgene Gibson
Feb. 27	Nancy Tiff
Feb. 28	Brian Burrell
Feb. 28	Pr. Katie Chullino

Feb. 4 Feb. 6	Pete & Cindy Schlagel (38) Steven & Julie Winter (34)
Feb. 14	Jim & Margot Hoffmeyer (52)
Feb. 14	Jeff & Heather Ditillo (24)
Feb. 17	Gareth & Helen Knutson (21)



#### **Healing Prayers for:**

Praying for: Mark and Ruth P., Brenda H., Mark A., Roberta F., Lorie C., Kristal H., Darlene B., Gerry C., Jan M., Dion B., Dennis B., George D., Lydia M., candy T., Jeremy G., Bruce B., Esther G., Doris C.

### Sympathy for:

Mark and Ruth Peterson and family on the death of Mark's mother, Peggy Peterson on January 3, 2022

Coqui Stetson and family on the death of her mother, LaVonne Marcus on January 24, 2022

## Thank you!

I would like to send a note of thanks for the concern and prayers for my eye surgery.

It is much appreciated!

Mark A.