



Blessed to be a Blessing

May 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

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Cornerstone Preschool

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

Ministry Events in May

- ♦ 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's Meeting: May 3, 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ First Friday Social: May 6, 6:00 p.m.
- ♦ Mother's Day: May 8
- ♦ Music Ambassadors at Atria: May 8, 11:30 a.m.
- ♦ Naomi Circle: May 10, at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room and via Zoom
- ♦ Bethlehem Book Club: May 12, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- ♦ Social Justice Initiative Meeting: May 15, 11:30 a.m.
- ♦ BLC Council Meeting: May 17, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- ♦ Memorial Day (office closed): May 30
- ♦ **Office hours will be limited May 24 to June 9. Please call ahead to access the building if you do not have a key.**

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.*

Who do you invite? To what do you invite them? Why?

There's one story I think about whenever church people talk about *invitation*--the parable of the banquet (aka: the parable of the wedding feast). Both gospels of Matthew and Luke tell the story of a man who invites friends and neighbors to a banquet. The guests decline. Having a feast already prepared, the man sends his servants to invite *anyone* to the feast--the hungry, the poor, the sick, the good, the bad. The parables include sidebars about what the guests wear or where they sit--but the heart of the story is invitation. We are called to invite a variety of people to share in our abundant celebrations. But, this is not the only bible story about invitation.

Look up Acts 8:26-40. Read it.

The gist of the story is this: *The apostle, Philip, has been sent into the world to preach, teach, heal, and baptize. He encounters a man, an Ethiopian and a eunuch, on his way. The man asks Philip to sit down and explain to him the scriptures. After that, the man asks Philip to baptize him.* And, I never realized it before, but, do notice who extends the invitation in that story? It's not the Christian.

The man, the Ethiopian eunuch, invites Philip to sit down. Then, the man listens. The man learns. The man is changed by the one he invited. This story is so different from other stories of invitation. Here, invitation is not about the right clothes or best seat, but about engaging in conversation. Here, invitation is not about growing a congregation's membership, but about an individual growing in faith.



Philip and the Ethiopian

Think again about who you invite, to what you invite them, and why you invite them. Is it for your own growth? For your own understanding? Is it to fill seats at a table? Are there other reasons you invite them?

What would it take for you to invite someone to sit with you, to read the scriptures (or to come to church, to play bridge or poker, to have coffee or dinner or a beer)? What would it take for you to invite someone to learn alongside you?

In God's abundant love,

Rev KJC

Worship

May 1

The disciples make a big splash and eat breakfast with the risen Jesus. Wading in the water (remembering baptism) and eating with Jesus (celebrating holy communion) is our weekly encounter with the risen Christ. Jesus asks us again and again: Do you love me? And Jesus invites us, again and again, to follow him, bringing the Easter life to others.

Readings: *John 21:1–19, Acts 9:1–6*

May 8

The gift of new life, of eternal life, is the gift of the risen Christ. It is the promise of Jesus. It was true for Dorcas in Joppa. It is true for us and for all the baptized: Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

Readings: *John 10:22–30, Acts 9:36–43*

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Worship

May 15

Easter initiates a new day. It anticipates a new heaven and a new earth. The risen Christ is making all things new. In the mystery of holy baptism God has made new people of us. Today Jesus invites us to see everyone in a new light—through the lens of love.

Readings: *John 13:31–35, Acts 11:1–18*

May 22

Visions abound in the readings for the sixth Sunday of Easter. Paul has a vision about what to do. John has a vision of what will be. Jesus provides visions of peace that surpasses human understanding and power beyond human imagination.

Readings: *John 5:1–9, Acts 16:9–15*

May 29

We hear Jesus' high priestly prayer, a prayer he offered shortly before his death. Notice the petitions prayed for Christ's own followers throughout history—to our day—and beyond. Jesus prays for us. In holy baptism we embrace the gift of life forever with all the saints

Readings: *John 17:20–26, Acts 16:16–34*

Spring Training

As our worship practices change, our opportunities to serve the community and God in worship change, too! Join current worship leaders on Sunday, May 22 between worship services to learn the basic roles of Greeter, Usher, Acolyte, Assisting Minister (and Reader/Lector), Altar Guild, and Audio-Visual (AV). Experts will be around to answer questions and give short tutorials (for some roles).

Faith Formation



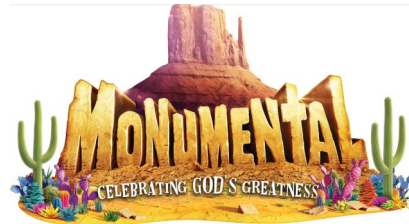
From the desk of the Faith Formation Director Gary:

Sunday School – In

May we will be studying Saul to Paul, Peter & Tabitha, Peter's Dream, and Lydia. Ages 4 year old to 6th grade gather in the fellowship hall for a devotion about the lesson, craft and prayer time.

High School News- Summer events include: Water World, Elitch Gardens, and a Rockies game.

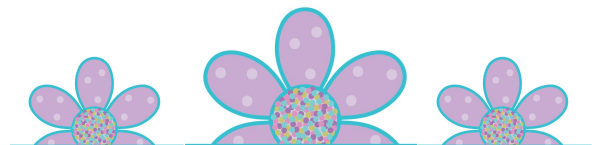
2022 VBS – Registration opens for VBS May 1. Mark your calendars for June 20–24. Our theme this year is “Monumental – Celebrating God's Greatness”.



Middle School Camp - this year is for incoming 6th graders through 8th grade. We will be going to Sky Ranch June 27–July 1. Registration started April 18. Please contact Gary in the church office for any questions. family. We will have fishing with Gary, high rope course, low rope course, hiking, games, smore's time

Family Camp: Mark your calendars for August 5–7 for family camp at Sky Ranch. A family is defined as being part of the Bethlehem Church and campfires. More information to follow

Summer Movie Nights will be held throughout the summer. Watch for the dates in your weekly email and bulletins.



Council Meeting



Summary of Council Meeting Minutes: April 12, 2022

Respectfully submitted by Jenny Kelley, council secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Matt James called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. He also read a thank you note from New Beginnings for our recent donation from Bethlehem.

Attending: Pr. Katie Chullino, Matt James, Jenny Kelley, Greg Schumann, Mark Holste, Todd Propp, Cindy Tayler, Jamie Updegraff, and Jim Woodruff; Absent: Steve Dawson, Alex Hoime.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: Pr. Katie's devotion was on the word 'invite' from our new mission statement. What does this mean to you? Various answers were given: welcome, ask to be part of, to come in, inviting/comfortable/attractive, hospitality, encouraging. Pr. Katie then read from *Acts:8*.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: The minutes from the March council meeting were approved via email and posted in the library. There were two votes by email in March:

- 1) Mark Holste moved to approve a March 11, 2022, request from Alisha James for the use of BLC facilities by the Girl Scouts on 4/30/2022 to host a fundraising event for Annie & Millie's Place. Greg seconded the motion, and it passed by email vote 3/22/2022.
- 2) Greg Schumann moved on March 21, 2022, to designate the refund of \$3,123 from Tiger Gas to the Capital Improvement Fund; Jenny Kelley seconded the motion. The motion passed by email vote. There was a question about switching to Excel, and Jenny will look into back minutes and reports.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Greg reports that we are now below budget in giving about \$11,000; pledged giving is on track but the non-pledged

giving dropped significantly in March. So far, giving for April is a little better. Expenses slightly over budget due to some quarterly payments. Greg and Mark will work on a simpler, clearer financial report. We discussed using a preliminary financial report in the weekly bulletin to update the congregation; it is also time for a quarterly update for the congregation. Mark moved to approve the treasurer's report as presented; Jim seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (Pastor / Staff / Ministry):

Pr. Katie: Tiffany is planning a website Q&A on Sunday, April 24, between services on zoom. Pr. Katie has continuing education week after Easter. Thank you to Jill W, Jenny K, and Carolyn B for cleaning out and sorting books in the Fireside Room. There is a plan to get together a committee to pick new furniture (using memorial funds) and to set up a new library committee.

Missions: Mark reported Share the Grace on Palm Sunday had a great response: the final donation amounts are not complete but as of Palm Sunday afternoon, we had collected over 300 pounds of food, signed 47 greeting cards for Christ the Servant and Trinity, received gift cards in the amount of \$410, and cash donations in the amount of \$207. All of this has been delivered to Sister Carmen and the two churches. The OUR Center lunch is set for April 24; Bob is looking for volunteers for the next Habitat for Humanity build. The SJI met on zoom with Pueblo de Dios and learned a lot; they will discuss any next steps at the next meeting on 4/24/22.

Worship: Jim reported the highlights are Lent/Holy Week/Easter services; he thanks the volunteers who stepped up for additional needs. Communion on Palm Sunday went well, and he has received good comments. There is still discussion on communion by stations or by around the altar, and more support is needed, especially communion

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servers. Jim discussed the possibility of holding a spring training workshop for worship assistants—possibly in mid-May between services. *An Ad hoc small choir formed as a starting point for choirs and additional music.*

Evangelism: Cindy reported there was no meeting in March due to travel and thanked Pr. Katie for creating the Easter ad. The committee decided to remove the weekly ad from Times-Call since no one had learned about us from the newspaper. She plans to work on a Time & Talent survey with Stewardship to invite more members to become involved. Evangelism plans to have Easter Sunday snacks.

Stewardship: Todd explained the fall campaign—Consecration Sunday and has books for his committee and leaders. The basis of this campaign is what is God asking you to give? We need to follow the plan closely to have the optimal outcome. The campaign uses the concept of moving up a giving step, if possible, and culminates in a congregational meal on Consecration Sunday. The program is about six weeks ending in the pledge Sunday. We will need to invite a guest leader. Some churches have seen an increase of 20% with this program. We discussed the timing of the program and need to coordinate with possibly moving the annual meeting to December. Todd is also working on a Time & Talent survey that rates gifts and then what to consider to act on—where you can use your gifts the best. His finance team is meeting soon.

Faith Formation: Jamie reported highlights include the Easter Extravaganza; plans are underway for VBS June 24-28, and more information on volunteers is coming soon; Sharon K-C volunteered to do the Christmas program; Sky Ranch dates are set. A question about scholarship funds for camp was discussed—Jamie will follow up with Gary and Greg on possibilities for camp scholarships.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- Pandemic Advisory group recommendations - no changes to the current guidelines.
- HVAC repairs: the preschool unit has been repaired; last week the Fireside Room unit broke and will be repaired with funds from the Capital Improvement Fund; it would cost about \$32,000 to replace both units. These are now the two oldest units in the building.

- Fire alarm system: Alex could not get a bid from a second company; a Centos rep did cold call but we have a concern that they would just recommend a new system, so we will continue with Western States for their bid of about \$11, 000. We need to inform the congregation and LOC so they have a chance to contribute to the Capital Improvement Fund if they desire.
- Property Day was a big success, and a lot of good work was completed. Thanks to all who came!
- Fence along apartment line—we still have a temporary fence; a suggestion was made to provide donuts for the apartment lobby as “a gift from your neighbor.” We need to explore other options to reach out to this new community literally in our backyard.

NEW BUSINESS

- Preschool Committee / Board: We need to update our documentation regarding our preschool—establishing our relationship; creating a preschool board of directors; and define our legal responsibilities and liabilities. We do have some example documents to start. Suggestions for nominees should go to Matt and Pr. Katie. Cindy moved that we, the council, form a preschool committee to re-establish and update our mission with Cornerstone Preschool; Greg seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously. Contact Matt with suggestions for the committee.
- Street Dog / AMP Clinic: Kristin Baltrum has applied for another clinic date using our facilities with the same parameters as last year; the date is 6/25/2022, 9:30 a.m.–2:30 p.m. Greg moved to approve the request for the Street Dog/AMP Clinic for 6/25/2022; Cindy seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

Following prayer considerations and the Lord's Prayer, Matt adjourned the meeting at 9:14 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, **May 17, 2022 @ 7:00 p.m.** Exec meeting at 6:30 p.m.

To Serve



The Little Free Pantry

The Little Free Pantry (LFP) is open to anyone in our community to participate by either filling the pantry or taking from it. It is located just north of the parsonage on Pratt Street. Please use

the list below to help keep the pantry stocked.

If you have any questions or need to report any issues with the LFP, please contact the LFP administrator, Chili at chili-bas14@gmail.com or (720) 281-5113.

- Cereal (individual boxes) - qty 16
- Peanut Butter - qty 6
- Canned Soup - qty 8
- Fruit Cups/ Apple Sauce— qty 9
- Canned Meat— qty 4-9
- Ramen— qty 6
- Instant Oatmeal Packets— qty 18
- Jelly— qty 6
- Canned Veggies— qty 8
- Canned Beans— qty 4
- Macaroni & Cheese— qty 6
- Granola Bars— qty 12
- Box of Bandages— qty 6
- Tampons (box)- qty 8
- Sunscreen— qty 6
- Toothbrush/ paste packs— qty 12
- Menstrual pads (individual)- qty 18
- Socks— qty 12
- Canned Dog Food— qty 4
- Canned Cat Food— qty 4

OUR Center's Empty Bowls Fundraiser

OUR Center's upcoming Empty Bowls fundraiser to support their Food Programs (Community Café and Community Market) is on **Saturday, June 11**. This year's event will be an ice cream social rather than a soup luncheon. Attendees take home a custom bowl as a reminder of our neighbors who face hunger, receive a summer treat, and can bid on auction items after the event. Contact Elain Klotz at elaine@ourcenter.org with any questions.

Social Justice Initiative

Helping the People of Ukraine

The Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Service (LIRS) reports that more than 4.7 million refugees have fled Ukraine since Russian began its attack. Wondering how you can help? At its website, LIRS offers a way people can donate to relief efforts. Go to LIRS website (<https://www.lirs.org/ukraine-crisis>) and click on donate under "How to Help Ukrainian refugees"

Your support will help provide essential support for newly arrived families, including emergency medical care, temporary housing, financial support for necessities, and more.



Share the *Grace*

Thank you for Sharing the Grace!

Thank you to the congregation and our volunteers for your generous support on Palm Sunday with

the Marshall Fire Share the Grace event.

Your generosity sent 300-plus pounds of food, toiletries, and cleaning products; \$207 in cash; and \$620 in gift cards to Sister Carmen for our neighbors in need. "In addition, we'll be delivering \$1,375 from checks and online donations for a grand total of \$2,202. The \$1375 in checks and online donations will be sent to the Chrysallis Initiative at Christ the Servant. The fund is available for all Marshall Fire victims.

Support for our Neighbors

Bethlehem members also sent prayers and words of support to Christ the Servant and Trinity Lutheran Churches through the Connect Pray Love program. In all, we sent 4 videos and 50 handwritten greeting cards offering prayers and encouragement, in addition to support sent directly from members of the congregation to Christ the Servant.

Special thanks to Thrivent for providing an Action Team card that helped get our congregation involved in this important project.

Our next meeting is **Sunday, May 15 at 11:30 a.m.** on Zoom. All are welcome to join. For more information, please contact Jane L (janelahman@hotmail.com) or Margot H (nordatter@gmail.com).

Gather and Connect

First Friday Fellowship

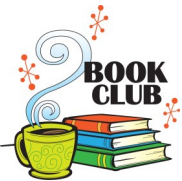
First Friday is **May 6 at 6:00 p.m.** at the home of Jim & Sandy W. Please bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. **Hosts needed!** Please contact Shirley at 303-775-6928 to sign-up.

Naomi Circle



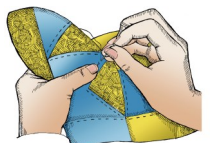
Naomi Circle March meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom **Tuesday, May 10, from 9:15 to 11:00 a.m.** Our membership is open to all who are interested in joining us. Please contact Linda H. (holstell@outlook.com) or Sue S. (suesmith512@msn.com) for further information. (<https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/ministries/adult/#naomi-circle>)

Bethlehem Book Club



Our next meeting is **Thursday, May 12 at 9:00 a.m.** on Zoom. Due to unforeseen complications at our April meeting we are rescheduling discussion of *Dancing in the Mosque* by Homeira Qaderi for our May meeting. So you have another chance to read this insightful and timely book and join the conversation. If you are interested in participating please email Mary Jane at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be put on the email list. You will receive an email reminder containing the zoom link a week before the meeting. (<https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/ministries/small-groups/#book-club>)

Quilting Queens



QUILTING GROUP

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).

Star Words



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), we will ponder together a new word each month. During May we will focus on invite.

Ponderings for May: Who has invited you? To what have you been invited? Who have you invited? To what have you invited others? Why have you (or why would you) invite others to that?

Ambassadors at The Atria



We bring joy in song and scripture to the memory unit at The Atria located at 9th and Hover in Longmont on the second Sunday of each month. Our next trip will be on **Sunday, May 8 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.

Manna Bible Study



We will be reading and discussing *Life Together* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. **Manna meets every Monday morning at 9:00 a.m.** 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.

Stewardship

Finances for March 2022

General Fund Actual Income:	\$ 24,309	General & Designated Funds Actual Income:	\$ 39,942
General Fund Budgeted income:	\$ 35,917	General & Designated Budgeted Income:	\$ 44,470
Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (11,608)	Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (4,528)
General Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 39,176	General & Designated Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 44,637
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (14,867)	Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ (4,695)

Financial Summary Reports Presented to Council are Available

Contact Greg S. (treasurer@bethlehem-lutheran.net) 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

We have several options for making donations:



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 [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. 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 (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net, 303-651-6226).

Important Update to Bethlehem Scholarships for 2022-2023

Due to the downturn in the market we will not be able to offer scholarships to qualifying Bethlehem students for 2022. We hope to be able to return to offering scholarships for 2023. Sorry for any confusion this may have created for potential applicants. If you have any questions, contact Pat W. at wilder.pat@eagle.uwlax.edu.



Member Milestones

MAY

BIRTHDAYS

May 2	Jean Flanagan
May 2	Sydney Boaz
May 3	Kaylee Nelson
May 3	Laina Carlson
May 4	Billy James
May 5	Bob Dunkel
May 5	Joel Sutter
May 5	Michelle Nelson
May 6	Carolyn Bloemker
May 6	Patricia Wilder
May 6	Angela Zhang
May 7	Virginia Postle
May 7	Beverly Coody
May 8	Bob Ritzen
May 9	Corinne Herbst
May 9	Brayden Payne
May 14	Carol Dunkel
May 14	Amy Zigler
May 16	Dorothy Sutter
May 16	Greg Schumann
May 17	Deanna Hebbert
May 17	Pete Schlagel
May 18	Karen Aumann
May 18	Darwin Wissink
May 18	Kathy Loberg
May 19	Kennar Bowman
May 19	Theo Ditillo
May 20	Roger Jurgens
May 20	Heather Haukoos
May 21	Trudi Boaz
May 22	Abe Payan
May 23	Elliott Riley
May 24	Eli Bloemker
May 25	Audrey Marquardt
May 25	Jeremy Goodman
May 27	Jan Stoffer
May 29	Phil Goode
May 29	Morgan Rawlins
May 30	Claudia Byrne
May 30	Ava James

MAY

ANNIVERSARIES

May 3	Jamie & Christopher Adams (36)
May 8	Bob & Sabrina Lee (46)
May 9	Bob & Carol Dunkel (36)
May 12	Mike & Sue Smith (50)
May 13	Jesse & Sarah Demmel (22)
May 21	Roger & Jane Lahman (40)
May 24	Dean & Patricia Wilder (42)
May 25	Kirk & Debbie Moors (37)
May 26	Bob & Patti Ritzen (43)
May 27	Amy & Abe Payan (5)
May 28	Howie & Shirley Wayne (62)

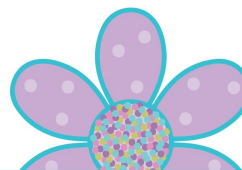
Healing Prayers for:

Howard W., Doris S., Ilene R., Cathy G., Darlene B., Gerry C., Jan M., Kristal H., George D., Lydia M., Bruce B., Candy T., Jeremy G., and our homebound members: Esther G., Doris C., Brenda H.

Sympathy for:

David Voorhis and family on the death of Marilyn Voorhis on April 3, 2022.

Ruth Tilson on the death of her last living sibling and close sister in Omaha, NE



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 you want the announcement to appear in the bulletin. *Submit all announcements through the Members website/Resources/ Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).*

Deadline for the June 2022 Star:

May 20. Submit all articles through the Members website/Resources/Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net). If you have any problems, please contact webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net.

