January 2023



Worship Services

8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. Online and In-person Check website for current mask guidelines The BLC Office will be closed Monday, January 2

January 1, 2023 - Epiphany Sunday

The Magi were seekers. They sought wisdom, they sought the divine, they sought fortunes to tell the future. Their seeking leads them to Jesus, the newborn king of another culture and religion. And yet, their seeking is also what protects them from Herod's deception and harm. After the Magi go home by another way, Joseph is visited again by an angel in his dream. This time, the angel brings a warning, and like before, Joseph heeds the message. Fleeing from Herod's massacre, Joseph, Mary, and baby Jesus seek refuge in Egypt; they remain there, living as immigrants, until Herod dies. Like the Magi, may we seek the divine and be willing to journey closer to God. Like the Holy Family, may we seek safety for all families who are under threat. This new year and every year to come, let us keep seeking — wisdom, justice, and a better world.

In this Issue:

Rev's Revelations pg. 03

Council Notes pg. 04

> **Finances** pg. 07

Prayer Request pg. 08

Gather & Connect pg. 09

> To Serve pg. 10

> > Recipe

pg. 12

Monthly Events

pg. 12

Member Milestones pg. 13

Worship

January 8 - Baptism of Our Lord

In the waters of the Jordan, Jesus is revealed as the beloved Son of God. Through this great epiphany, Jesus fulfills all righteousness and becomes the servant of God who will bring forth justice and be a light to the nations. In the waters of baptism we too are washed by the Word,



anointed by the Spirit, and named God's beloved children. Our baptismal mission is to proclaim good news to all who are oppressed or in need of God's healing.

Readings: Isaiah 42:1-9, Matthew 3:13-17

January 15

Today's gospel opens with further reflection on Jesus' baptism. He is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world and the one anointed by the Spirit. In the liturgy we come and see Christ revealed among us in word and meal. We go forth to invite others to come and worship the Holy One and to receive the gifts of grace and peace made known among us.

Readings: Isaiah 49:1-7, John 1:29-42

January 22

Jesus begins his public ministry by calling fishers to leave their nets and follow him. In Jesus the kingdom of God has come near. We who have walked in darkness have seen a great light. We see this light most profoundly in the cross—as God suffers with us and all who are oppressed by sickness, sin, or evil. Light dawns for us as we gather around the word, the font, and the holy table. We are then sent to share the good news that others may be "caught" in the net of God's grace and mercy.

Readings: Isaiah 9:1-4, Matthew 4:12-23

January 29

Who are the blessed ones of God? For Micah, they are those who do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with God. For Paul, they are the ones who find wisdom in the weakness of the cross. For Jesus, they are the poor, the meek, the merciful, the pure in heart, the peacemakers, those who mourn, and those who hunger for righteousness. In baptism we find our blessed identity and calling in this countercultural way of living and serving.

Readings: Micah 6:1-8, Matthew 5:1-12

Rev's Revelations



The past month or so has been a whirlwind. We began a new church year with the season of Advent, we held our first December Annual Meeting (which was more than a month earlier than we have had these meetings in the past), we gathered for midweek evening prayer services and meals and intergenerational activities, we held our 37th Living Nativity, we lit all four Advent candles with various families throughout the season, and we gathered for three Christmas Eve Services before our final worship service of 2022 on Christmas morning.

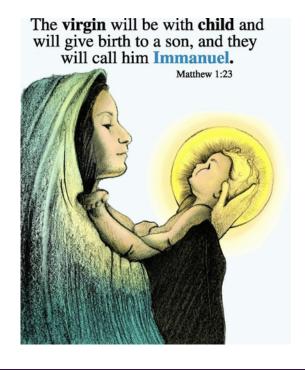
Throughout those events we kept hearing scriptures from the book of Matthew--which is the gospel assigned by the Revised Common Lectionary for this church year. And throughout those various readings, I've been pondering: what's Matthew's purpose?

Matthew begins with the genealogy of Jesus and the promise that Jesus will be born and he will be called Emmanuel which means God is with us. The entire book of Matthew tells stories of Jesus with his disciples and with all sorts of people. Jesus prays with people and eats with people. Jesus goes through life--and death--with people. In this person Jesus, God goes with people. In the end, Jesus--God with us--even promises, "I am with you always even to the end of the age."

God with us ← That's Matthew's purpose!

The good news in this book of the bible is that no matter where people go, no matter how sick one might be, no matter how scared or sinful or lost or forsaken people are, God is with us. God is born with us. God lives with us. God dies with us. God goes with us wherever we go.

This month--and year--pay attention to where God goes. When do you realize God is with you? Where? How? While you're looking for God, take a look at the Missions Spotlight on page 10. See one place--outside the church--where one of our members has gone with God into the world.



Council Notes

Council Meeting Minutes December 13, 2022-Approved

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Thompson, BLC Council secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Mark Holste called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Attending: Pr. Katie Chullino, Mark
Holste, Steve Dawson, Cindy Thompson,
Greg Schumann, Todd Propp, Matt James,
Mike Smith, Cindy Tayler, Cathy
Goodman, Glenn Summers. Absent:
Jaime Updegraff, Sabrina Lee.
Mark welcomed newcomers and thanked
those leaving council.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

Minutes of the November meeting were approved.

FINANCIAL REPORTS: Greg reported giving was above budget by \$7,823 in the month of November. General expenses were over budget by \$2,760. For the year 2022 we are \$52,159 below budget in General Fund giving and \$37,803 under budget in General Fund expenditures. We are doing well at keeping expenses down in the general fund. We have not filled the Worship Director position so we automatically reduce our expenses by \$1,500 per month.

Greg shared that there are Bethlehem families who have consistently given in the past that have not yet pledged. He reminded Council that pledges are still

being accepted and to encourage members it is never to late to give/pledge to BLC.

Todd moved to approve the financial report as presented; Glenn seconded the motion. The motion was approved unanimously.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS (Pastor/Staff):

Stewardship: Todd reported that pledge dollars were up 28% and the number of givers increased from 67 to 81. Todd recommended to Mike that the Consecration Guide/Program used by the Stewarship Ministry was very successful and he highly recommended they use the program again. The Consecration Sunday program book recommends using this program for at least three consecutive years. Todd thanked everyone for all the support for the stewardship campaign this year. He said it was new and challenging, but very successful.

Evangelism: Cindy Tayler is looking forward to The Living Nativity on Sunday. No new news to report since annual meeting.

Missions: Mark shared that Thrivent action team grants have really helped this year with missions.

Property: Glenn reported on the fire protection deficiencies. He reviewed them and a quote was given to BLC on July 6, 2022. The quote was \$11,600. A contract was signed.

Council Notes (con't)

(Property con't) This contract can be canceled. An inspection has been scheduled for December 30th. Council, by consensus, told Glenn to move forward with this contract. A plumber is coming in on Friday, December 16th. Matt let Glenn know the bus was fixed for \$500 and it is back in the garage

NEW BUSINESS:

- Bob Cotton has brought up a possible mission trip March 11-19, 2023. Mission trip participants would like to use Josephine and do a fundraiser. Bob would work with Rick at Light of Christ to go forward with this mission. They will need limited funds because they will be housed in a church. Mark moved that BLC allow Bob to go forward with this mission. Greg seconded. Motion passed.
- Orientation I: Pastor Katie began orientation for new council members. She went over the links in tonight's agenda and outlined the pages of the constitution that applies to Council. Pastor Katie would like committees to schedule with her ahead of time if they would like her attending their ministry meetings.
 - When you plan a meeting or an event please notify Nancy (admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net) of the date/time/place so she can reserve a space ASAP--you will need to verify that the space you need is open. If you have a Zoom meeting please contact Pastor Katie, Matt James or Tiffany.

- It is important to pay attention to other groups using the space, too (BLC groups as well as, LOC, Cornerstone, Girl Scouts, Cub Scouts, and TOPs).Please, make sure that there is at least one hour open between events in the same room (for clean-up, sanitization, and set up).
- To place information in the Star please notify Tiffany (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net) before the 20th of the month prior.
- If you have a special announcement you'd like lifted up during worship, please talk to or text/email Pastor Katie prior to Sunday. People will pay more attention to the announcement if you or a team member gives it!!!
- Council reports should be sent out the Sunday before council meeting (council@bethlehemlutheran.net) so that council members have time to review the reports prior to the meeting.
 Report Template: Copy of Copy of Council Report template
- Note: Please name your file as "Ministry Month Year" for example "Worship January 2023"
- Agenda items should be sent to President Mark the Friday before council meeting.

Council Notes (con't)

- Orientation II: Matt shared information regarding Google accounts. We use Google email addresses (yourposition... @bethlehem-lutheran.net). Matt shared that BLC uses google workspaces. Each member has an email and committees have a google folder. Google groups is also used such as Council Group. There is also a staff email. There are also 23 team emails such as Land Management, Property Team, etc. Matt offered to help any members after the meeting and would also be happy to meet with anyone who would like a tutorial on how to use their Google account.
- Todd said during the Stewardship campaign it was difficult because only the financial secretary could look at pledges. Could the stewardship chair have access to that information? Another person in combination with the financial secretary would help Stewardship. It would help the committee see the trends. Also, Council may need to look at a financial secretary assistant. This position would be different from allowing someone on stewardship to see pledge information. It was the consensus of Council to table this for discussion at January's meeting.

Following prayer considerations and the Lord's Prayer, Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Upcoming Dates

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 10, 2023 @ 7:00 p.m. Exec meeting at 6:30 p.m.



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@bethlehemlutheran.net) with any changes in contact information.

Weekly Announcement Deadline

The Wednesday before you want the announcement to appear in the bulletin. Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Newsletter Deadline

Submit items by January 20 for the February newsletter. Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Finances

General Fund Actual Income:	\$ 43,740	General & Designated Funds Actual Income:	\$ 51,721
General Fund Budgeted income:	\$ 35,917	General & Designated Budgeted Income:	\$ 44,471
Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 7,823	Income Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 7,250
General Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 38,671	General & Designated Fund Ministry Expenses:	\$ 46,098
Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 5,069	Net Surplus/(Deficit):	\$ 5,623

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).

Finances

Thank You Thrivent Financial

Thanks to BLC members and Thrivent Financial for providing additional funding for several of our projects and fundraisers. Through Thrivent Action Teams, Thrivent provided numerous grants of \$250 which helped fund: four OUR Center lunches; supplies for the Little Neighborhood Pantry; supplies for God's Work. Our Hands. Sunday; cello repair and a new cello for the Musical Freedom program; pies for New Beginnings Thanksgiving service; food and toiletries for the OUR Center drive; advertising and fundraiser supplies for Casa de Paz, New Beginnings Prison Ministry, the ReEntry Initiative, the Nicaragua Project, and Marshal Fire victims. These were all funds outside our budgeted funds for BLC mission work - so thank you very much Thrivent Financial!

If you are a Thrivent member and would like to sponsor an Action Team in 2023, please contact Mark H (president@bethlehem-lutheran.net), Cathy G (missions@bethlehem-lutheran.net), or Jenny K (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net) for more information on how to use this wonderful resource for fundraisers, education opportunities, and service projects. There are also information and application examples on our BLC website: https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/serve/thrivent-members/.

Also, a reminder to Thrivent members to be sure and designate their 2022 Thrivent Choice dollars before the March 31, 2023, deadline. These can be designated to any non-profit organization of your choice, including Bethlehem Lutheran.

Prayers & Sympathy



Praying for:

Bob D., Cindy T., Greg S., Gary K., ShelleyK., Bruce B., Rini T. Cathy G., Darlene B., Gerry C.., Jan M., Kristal HH., George D., Lydia M., Jeremy G., and our homebound members: Esther G., Doris C., and Brenda H.,

Sympathy for:

Carol and Bob D. on the death of Carol's brother-in-law, Denny on Dec. 17, 2022

Pat Goecke and Family on the unexpected death of Pat's youngest daughter, Michaela Goecke Richardson on Dec. 22, 2022

Worship

Worship Sign-ups

Please help our Worship Team plan for the coming weeks by signing up to lead in worship today! If you need help signing up, please contact Jim W. (worshipchair@bethlehem-lutheran.net) or Pastor Katie (pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net) or the church office (303-776-3290).

January 2023: https://tinyurl.com/blcjan23

Gather & Connect

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).

First Friday Fellowship

Friday, **January 6** at Wanda and Gene Schnabel's home (1448 Ajax Way) at 6:00 p.m. Bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at 303-775-6928.

Ambassadors at The Atria

Please join us **January 8**, immediately following the second service while we make a joyful noise singing hymns and gospel songs with those in the Memory Care Unit at The Atria on 9th and Hover in Longmont. Contact Jeanne Phipps at jeanne@phippsweb.com

Naomi Circle

(Youth Room) and on Zoom Tuesday, **January 10**, 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.

January meeting will be in person

Bethlehem Book Club

We will start the New Year with a zoom meeting at 9:00 a.m.



on January 12. We will be discussing The Girl With Seven Names: Escape From North Korea (non fiction) by Hueonseo Lee. Book Club is open to everyone. Just email Mary Jane at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to request that your name and email be put on the book club list. You will get a reminder message including the zoom link the week before each meeting. Start something new in 2023!

Table Talk

Meets every Wednesday at Noon in the Fireside room

Faith Formation

Family Sunday

We will be making homemade noodles for soups and pasta dishes. We will meet in the Fellowship Hall, have lunch together, and break out into groups. See you on January 15 from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m.

Sunday School for all generations!

Please gather in the Fellowship Hall at 9:15 a.m. for a story about the lesson (lectionary) and then break into our smaller groups for conversation, craft and prayer time. We are currently looking for Sunday school teachers.

To Serve

Living Our Faith in the Community: January's Member Hi-Light.

Bethlehem has members who volunteer in the wider community both through programs within our church and outside of it. If you do, please contact Cathy G.



(cegood47@aol.com), Mission chair. We would like to know how members are living out their faith through volunteerism and if you are willing, we would like to highlight the organization or community that benefits and your work in it.

This month, we are highlighting Jeanne and Jerry P. who volunteer with Musical Freedom. They volunteer with 20-30 prisoners once a week to provide piano, violin, viola, cello, and vocal lessons. Often, one of their 3 other volunteers joins them. (If you would consider volunteering, check out their web site constructed by Jerry at MusicalFreedom.org or contact Jeanne P. at Jeanne@PhippsWeb.com)

Jeanne shared one of many stories:

When Mary (not her real name) was a young child, her mother paid someone to give her piano lessons, but Mary wasn't able to learn to play "inside the lines", the music written on the page, to the expectations of her mother or teacher, so both her music teacher and her mother became upset with her. In an act of defiance, Mary began playing the music inside her heart and head which she called "Outside the Lines". Her mother tossed her out of the home at age 11 and Mary lived on the streets of San Francisco. The Hells Angels took her under their wing and helped raise her. To say she had a rough life is an understatement. Mary plays the piano "by ear" and can play anything she hears almost immediately, but before being inside the prison system, she worked with a couple of music teachers, begging them to teach her to read music. The teachers found it impossible for them to do so and gave up.

Mary is now serving a life sentence without possibility of parole. Her behavior is exemplary and she has earned a right to be on the "incentive" unit with privileges. She came to Musical Freedom and asked us to teach her to read music, so we began giving her lessons. Although it is a very slow and laborious process for her, she is learning to read music and is delighted with her progress, slow though it may be because it is very difficult for her. During our Summer Recital, Mary played the piece she composed called "Outside the Lines". It was spectacular.

When Mary gets discouraged, I remind her of the music inside her heart and soul that she needs to put down on paper so she can share it with the entire world because THE WORLD needs to hear her music!!!

You can see her smile on our website: MusicalFreedom.org. Check it out!

To Serve (con't)

Social Justice Initiative

The Social Justice Initiative continues to meet the third Sunday of each month, via Zoom at 11:45. New participants are welcome!



As we kick off 2023, we'll be looking at several events throughout the year to help meet the many needs within our local and global communities. To learn more, contact Jane Lahman at janelahman@hotmail.com.

This year we will be convening an **Immigration Focus subcommittee** to explore ways in which Bethlehem can help immigrants coming into Denver (as well as other immigrant issues), and we'd love your help. Because of the current critical need, the group will initially focus on ways to help the immigrants coming into Denver. The first meeting is on **Zoom at 7:00 p.m. January 5, 2023**. Interested? Contact Cathy Goodman at cegood47@aol.com for the link.

New Year, New Socks!

Join the Social Justice Initiative next opportunity to Share the Grace with a sock drive to provide some comfort for some of the hundreds of immigrants arriving in Denver. Some are even arriving in Denver in winter with bare feet! Bring new, warm socks for adults and children on January 01, January 08, and January 15, 2023. Put them in the collection box in the narthex, and they will be delivered to immigration teams in Denver. To donate money to be used to purchase new socks, go to https://secure.myvanco.com/L-X6/home and choose the "Thanks from the Heart" giving tile; be sure to mark "for sock drive" in the 'Designation box.' The immigrants will thank you!

Thank you, Thank you!!

A huge thank you to all the children and adults who signed Christmas cards with messages of hope for immigrants and refugees detained in prison-like settings during this holiday season. These detained individuals have requested asylum from the United States government. They have endured life-threatening situations and trauma. Lutheran Immigration and Refugee Services (LIRS) coordinated this drive for cards with the goal of gathering 25,000 cards that would be enough to distribute to all detained persons. Our Church has contributed 245 cards this year!! By your simple and generous gift of time and thoughts you will encourage many people this holiday season. Thank you.

OUR Center Food & Toiletries Drive

Thank You to everyone who donated food, toiletries and monetary donations to benefit the Our Center. Your donations along with the items purchased with the Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 provided 672 lbs of food and toiletries for the Our Center. In addition, over \$150 in monetary donations were received.

Recipe

Company French Toast 1/2 cup butter 1 cup brown sugar 1 teaspoon cinnamon 1 loaf of Brioche bread 6 eggs 1 1/2 cups milk dash of salt 3/4 teaspoon vanilla

Melt butter, add brown sugar & cinnamon, mix well then spread in bottom of lightly greased 9×13 pan. Remove crusts from bread, cover sugar mixture with 2 layers of bread. Beat eggs, add milk, salt and vanilla. Pour over bread. Cover and refrigerate overnight.

Bake 350° for 30 minutes. Cut in squares & invert to serve. Has its own syrup



Monthly Events



- Office Closed: January 2
- 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
- Staff Meeting: Mondays, 9:15 a.m.
- Table Talk with Pr Katie: Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m. in Fireside
- Bethlehem Quilters Quilting: Thursdays,
 9:00 a.m. in the Quilting Room
- Communication Meeting: January 3, 6:00 p.m.
- Immigration Focus Group of SJI Meeting: January 5, 7:00 p.m.
- First Friday Social: January 6, 6:30 p.m.
- Music Ambassadors at Atria: January 8, 11:15 a.m.
- Confirmation: January 8
- Naomi Circle: January 10 at 9:15 a.m. in the Youth Room and via Zoom
- BLC Council Meeting: January 10, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- BLC/ LOC Joint Meeting: January 11, 10:30 a.m.
- Bethlehem Book Club: January 12, 9:00
 a.m. via Zoom
- Social Justice Initiative Meeting: January 15, 11:45 a.m.
- Family Sunday: January 15, 12:00 p.m.
- Prayer Shawl: January 17, 10:00 a.m.

Member Milestones

Birthdays

<u> </u>	<u> </u>		
Jan 1	Gina Alexander	Jan 11 Alex Hebbert	Jan 21 Bonnie Schumann
Jan 1	Alisha James	Jan 12 Nancy Habegger	Jan 21 Margot Hoffmeyer
Jan 1	Emily Dawson	Jan 12 Ryker Mercer	Jan 21 Lily Romaszewski
Jan 2	Zephyr Lautenschlager	Jan 12 Lincoln Ramer	Jan 22 Marcella Myers
Jan 3	Bonnie Mason	Jan 13 Colten Corner	Jan 22 Patty Fagler
Jan 3	Racheal Goodman	Jan 14 Justin Woodley	Jan 23 Sean Riley
Jan 5	John Dickkut	Jan 15 Molly Stiver	Jan 24 Connie Nelson
Jan 5	Heather Barnhouse	Jan 16 Emily Kunselman	Jan 24 Hannah Thompson
Jan 7	Frances Rhoades	Jan 17 Mark Abromski	Jan 26 Dean Mickelson
Jan 7	Bob Urbach	Jan 18 Cameron Taylor	Jan 27 Janelle Wappel
Jan 8	George Dillan	Jan 18 Stephanie Taylor	Jan 28 Kyle Curtis
Jan 9	Sarah Wagner	Jan 19 Mark Herbst	Jan 29 Philip Gustafson
Jan 10	Mike Davis	Jan 19 Grace Demmel	Jan 29 Steven Byrne
Jan 11	Jim Woodruff	Jan 19 Callie Bowman	Jan 30 Carley Riley
Jan 11 Perrie Sanders		Jan 20 Betty Culbertson	Jan 31 Dennis Bloemker
Jan 11 Ryan Kragerud		Jan 20 Mendy Goodman	

Anniversaries

Jan 3 Mark & Linda Holste (47)

Jan 5 Robin & Frank Lee (33)

Jan 5 Sandy & John Frazer (21)

Jan 7 Dennis & Marcy Smith (56)

Jan 14 Larry & Tonja Twito (17)

Jan 22 Howard & Sharon Wirth (57)



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@bethlehem-lutheran.net

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Aaron Jurkovich, Webmaster - webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net

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

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Return service requested

