

The Star

Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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

Worship Services

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

Online and In-person

Check website for current mask guidelines

Raise the floor - Capital Improvement Fund Appeal

The East Wing (Cornerstone Preschool) and the West Wing (Fireside Room) are settling, causing damage to the walking surface, doors, etc.... The wings need to be lifted and stabilized. The estimated costs for the project is \$10,000. We are asking you to consider a special donation to the Capital Improvement Fund to help pay for this repair. All funds raised in excess of this amount will go into the Capital Improvement Fund. Please give this request your faithful consideration.

If you would like to contribute, you can write a check with Capital Fund Appeal in the memo or contribute online at Home | Bethlehem Lutheran Church (myvanco.com) and use the Capital Improvement Fund tile.

Worship Sign-ups

Join in leading worship today! Sign up at

<https://tinyurl.com/BLCWorship23>. Positions include: Altar Guild, Assisting Minister, Communion Minister, Usher, Audio/Visual, and Acolyte. For assistance please contact: Jim W.

@(jnswoodruff@gmail.com), Pastor Katie (pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net) or the church office (303-776- 3290).

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Last month, on Groundhog Day, I got a Facebook message from a church member. We had recently made plans to pray together before they would have surgery--which wasn't for a few more days. The message was a link to a post from another pastor, Lura Groen, and it began with this:

*"PSA: your pastor *wants* you to call them when you need them. Your pastor *wants* to be there for you. You are not a burden. None of us became pastors because we want to do committee work and answer more emails. We became pastors for God, and for people. We love worship leadership, and being with you."*

I nodded with agreement as I read the whole post--which included a bit about pastors complaining together when their people don't call when they're in the hospital or when something bad happens to them, which we totally do.

Specific instances came to mind, such as the time Ethel was upset because I didn't visit her in the hospital because she assumed the hospital just called the pastor when she was admitted. And the time I didn't get to Johnny's bedside before he passed because his family didn't know they could call the pastor "after hours." I also recalled that one time when I neglected to tell Bishop Jim--who is, in some ways a pastor to the pastors--that I was having surgery because I didn't think it was that big of a deal.

I share all of this because it feels lent-y. During the season of lent, we are immersed in stories of Jesus' journey to the cross, to the grave, and to new life. Accompaniment--which is what God shows us in Jesus--is one of the best parts of lent. In the stories we read during worship this season, we encounter God as one who walks with us in the entirety of life--and we seek that God. We seek to understand that God, to experience that God, to be more like that God. Our Lenten series this year guides us in that seeking, posing different questions each week to deepen our experience with God who is with us and who brings us together to be with each other.

As we journey this lent, I pose a question, too: Will you let me accompany you? Will you, please, call when you need a visit--and let your family know it's okay to call for emergencies, too? Will you look up my phone number in the directory (I promise, it's there) and add it to your contacts so that when you're in the hospital, or when your beloved passes, or when you have a rough day (or fantastic day!) you can call or text me?

Thanks and peace,

P.S. There's no shame if you don't want or need me to know you're in the hospital or having surgery--just please know that pastors don't get psychic abilities in seminary and I can't know you want pastoral care if you don't tell me. Seriously, I'm happy to visit, listen to worries and hopes and dreams, share communion, give a blessing, process life, or pray with you--it's literally what I went to school to do!



March 5 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Nicodemus comes to Jesus under the veil of night to ask him big faith questions. As a leader of Jewish law, Nicodemus holds beliefs that no longer align with the kingdom of God Jesus embodies. Jesus invites him to begin again, to learn a new way of knowing and living out his faith. In Genesis, God commands Abram and Sarai to leave everything — their home, their family, their land — to seek the land of Canaan and begin again. At 75 years old, Abram is called to start over, but through this new beginning, God creates a new family and a new nation. Like Nicodemus, what are the questions we ask in the dark? Like Abram and Sarai, how do we follow God's calling to begin again?

Scriptures: Genesis 12:1-4a, John 3:1-17

March 12- 3rd Sunday in Lent

Jesus crosses cultural, religious, and societal boundaries by leading his disciples through Samaria. In the heat of midday, he seeks out connection with a Samaritan woman drawing water from the well. His command to her is also a question and an invitation to a new way of life: Will you give me a drink? For the woman, to respond is risky but life-changing. This question creates a dialogue between them in which Jesus sees the woman fully; she leaves the well transformed. In the wilderness, the Israelites essentially ask: Will you give us a drink, God? Will you take care of us, even now? In their discomfort and fatigue, they question Moses and God. This week, we might imagine ourselves at the well or in the wilderness. Are we willing to care for our neighbors, seeking to not just quench thirst, but to find living waters that sustain us all? In this season, what are you thirsting for? In what ways are you needing sustenance?

Scriptures: Exodus 17:1-7, John 4:5-42

March 19 - 4th Sunday in Lent

When it comes to faith, sometimes there are bad questions — questions that are formed by assumptions, questions that lead us to judgment or isolation. When Jesus and the disciples encounter a blind man along the way, the disciples immediately ask, "Teacher, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" (John 9:2). They ask a bad question. Their question assumes that illness and disability are the result of sin; it assumes that the man deserved to be born blind; it assumes that physical blindness is a form of failure. Unfortunately, the crowd continues to interrogate the man and dissect the miracle of what happens to him. The crowd also asks bad questions because their intent is to drive him out and prove that Jesus is a heretic. This week, let us pay attention to the questions we ask. What assumptions do we carry? What is our intent? When seeking clarity or understanding, what are better questions we can ask?

Scriptures: John 9:1-41

March 26 - 5th Sunday in Lent

When you find yourself in a valley of dry bones, when all hope seems lost, when death and grief surround you, with desperation you might cry out, "Can these bones live?" In Ezekiel's vision, God asks this question of us. Do we believe new life can come after death? Can we find hope when things are bleak? Can we really trust in God's resurrection? While we look to God to carry us through the valley, God looks to us to embody hope for others. As we prepare to enter Holy Week, we remember how Jesus began his final journey toward resurrection: by returning to Judea after the death of his dear friend, Lazarus. As we walk through the valley of dry bones that leads us to Calvary Hill, let us seek out the hope that will stir in us and sustain us.

Scriptures: Ezekiel 37:1-14, John 11:1-45

Lent 2023

All are invited to gather for Lenten Soup Supper (5:30 p.m.) and Evening Prayer (6:30 p.m.). See information below on which group will supply soups. Please bring your own table service (bowls, cups, utensils) so that clean up is quick and we can all attend Evening Prayer together!

Daily Devotions

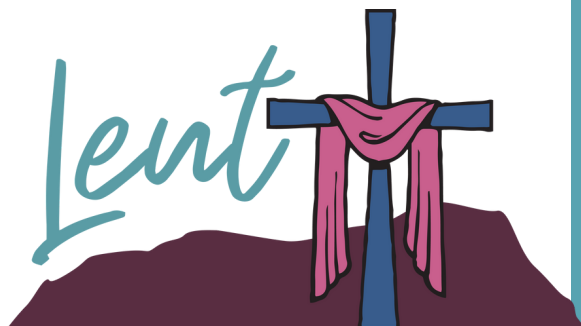
Daily devotions for Lent are available for use on computer or mobile devices. You can find the daily devotional in the weekly email. We ask that you do not share the devotional link with individuals outside of the congregation out of respect for the writers, artists and publishers at A Sanctified Art, LLC as this is copyrighted material.

2023 Lenten Soup Suppers

Our Lenten tradition at Bethlehem is to enjoy a soup/bread fellowship on Wednesdays before the services. The neighborhood groups take turns providing the soups, relishes and desserts. The Evangelism Committee provides the bread. The assignments are (some groups will be serving 2 times, but they will serve less in 2024 or at the summer coffees). We do keep a record and try our best to share the burden.

- March 1: Orange and Gold
- March 8: Pink and Red
- March 15: Teal and Orange
- March 22: Red and Purple
- March 29: Chili Cook Off

Pull out the crockpot or soup kettle and share your favorite soup with your fellow members. Your fellowship shepherds will be contacting you prior to your group's week. Also, please bring your own soup bowl, utensils, cups, etc. This saves lots of time for the serving neighborhood groups and allows them to worship with all of us.



Midweek Lenten Services

March 1

Where in your life would you like to say yes?

March 8

When was the last time you did something new?

March 15

What actions, if taken, would make you proud of yourself?

March 22

How do you describe God?

March 29

What do you worry about?

Upcoming Lenten Events

Lenten Soup Suppers

Wednesdays beginning March 1 5:30 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Evening Prayer

Wednesdays beginning March 1 6:30 p.m.

Maundy Thursday

April 6 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

April 7 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, April 8 at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

April 9 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Council Notes

Council Meeting Minutes February 7, 2023-Approved

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Thompson, BLC Council secretary



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

Attending: Pr. Katie Chullino, Mark Holste, Cindy Thompson, Greg Schumann, Mike Smith, Cathy Goodman, Glenn Summers, Sabrina Lee, and Cindy Tayler
Absent: Steve Dawson, Jaime Updegraff

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: Pr. Katie shared devotions from All Creation Sings (ACS) pew edition. ACS is a collection of songs and prayers for community worship and is a supplement to our hymnal. Council joined in prayer response with Pr. Katie and felt this supplement really helped Council focus on ministry and the tasks of BLC as President Mark opened the business meeting.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: approved via email and posted

Email Motion: On January 25th, Cindy Tayler moved that the council approve the After School Food & Fun Club to begin Saturday, February 11th for registration and Wednesday, February 15th for the first event with ongoing Wednesdays throughout the school year. Seconded by Greg Schumann. Motion passed on 1/28/23.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Greg shared January's income was approx. \$41,000, expenses approx. \$33,000 with a net of \$8,000. The increase in the January income was partly due to pledges paid for the whole year. Greg shared that several people have come to him with positive remarks regarding the start of 2023. Additional information can be found in Greg's February Council report. Cindy Tayler moved to approve the financial report. Sabrina seconded. Motion passed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

Mission Ministry: Cathy shared that Bob Cotton has volunteered so many hours for the in-country mission trip/Hopi mission trip. Information regarding this trip is in her February report and a motion to approve a fundraiser for this trip is in the New Business section below.

Property Ministry: Glenn is moving forward with repairs. Property has launched the fundraiser for "raising of the wings" repairs. Information was posted in the February newsletter and Sunday 2/5 bulletin. Bob Lee will supervise Bethlehem's grass cutting (thanks Bob). Property will recruit LOC to participate in Spring/Fall cleanups.

Worship: Sabrina shared January was a very successful month as attendance numbers increased and members noticed several visitors returning to worship again at BLC. Members are encouraged to greet these visitors and let the Greeters know if they observe a visitor. She said several volunteers helped take down the Chrismon tree and all the branches are organized for an easy set-up come December. Bethlehem use to have 4-5 volunteers who organized and cleaned the worship center weekly and we may want to return to this process. Pr. Katie brought up the idea of setting up one computer with SignUpGenius in the narthex to get volunteers up to date.

Evangelism:

- Cindy Tayler shared the ASF&F (After School Food & Fun) club will begin sign-ups this Saturday 2/11 and begin next Wednesday 2/15. Cindy said the group that has worked hard to create/organize and set this up is amazing and such a blessing. Cindy is asking the Council to volunteer on Wednesdays, especially this first Wednesday. One adult per 10 children must be in attendance.

Evangelism

- Cindy said she has seen new members each Sunday. Council will need to schedule a new membership Sunday. Name tags have been reorganized and new name tags will be prepared for our newest members. Members are asked to begin wearing their name tags again. Council members need to wear their name tags.
- Evangelism will begin working on updating the picture wall.

Stewardship: See monthly report. On April 23rd the ministry will be introducing some ideas to the congregation. Special thanks to Jill and Fred who are helping with this.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

- **Staff Transitions:** Mark shared Tiffany is excited about taking on more hours. A couple weeks are planned for transition. Jenny Kelley is working with someone to be financial assistant secretary. The preschool director interview will take place Monday, 2/13.
- **Preschool Committee / Board:** The Preschool Advisory board will begin meeting in April. Council's executive committee is working on creating/implementing this board.
- **Outstanding Property issues:**
 - Fire system repairs are being scheduled
 - Raising the E&W floors will be scheduled for August
 - Van License Plates - Glenn will take care of transponder issue
 - Church security self assessment – A joint meeting is planned with LOC o Disaster plan for BLC: free training will occur in March for Pr. Katie and Matt James and anyone that is interested

NEW BUSINESS:

Land Stewardship Team: Chili Chullino, representing the Land Stewardship Team, shared "Growing Gardens" has been a community garden operating at the Longmont YMCA but the Y no longer has space for the garden due to their new turf project. The long term need is great. The team is interested in using the field north of the church for "Growing Gardens" to relocate. The Land Stewardship team would help with a land use agreement (legal document), as well as city planning requirements. This will require a congregational vote. Growing Gardens/BLC suggested a 2023-24 pilot year. Tim Villard, Food Project Manager at Growing Gardens said the budget would be \$3500. BLC would cover water usage cost only.

Cindy Tayler moved that Growing Gardens be allowed to use the existing garden space at Bethlehem this fall 2023-24 as a pilot year. Sabrina seconded.

Discussion:

1. Would Growing Gardens need to enter the building for restroom services? Yes
2. What about security regarding that space? Such as fencing? No security required
3. Do we need signage? Signage might help the space be respected and let the community know about this ministry. The Fields on 15th distributed flyers regarding this project. The group received 15 emails - all positives regarding this idea and offers of help
4. The Longmont Times Call should be notified of this pilot

The Land Stewardship Team has members from LOC on this committee. Growing Gardens has over 560 children visit, over 1200# of fresh produce has been donated/shared. They participate in Cultiva Youth Project: a youth leadership program where youth participate in the operations of the farm.

Motion passed.

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Bank signatures:** Greg moved Council pass a resolution adding Greg Schumann, Karen Haag and Mark Holste as designees/signers on the BLC bank account, Independent Financial, and removing Gene Schnabel and Matt James as signers. Mike seconded. Motion passed.
- **Agape Fund:** Pr. Katie shared King Sooper gift cards are in the front office to help those in need. Contact Pr. Katie if you would like to be trained on how to give out these gift cards.
- **BSA Troop 548:** Pr. Katie received a request from Paul Wiggins, leader of Troop 548. Troop 548 has been chartered by the Moose Lodge but the Moose Lodge has been asked to discontinue their sponsorship with the Boy Scouts. Troop 548 is asking Bethlehem Lutheran to consider chartering them. They currently have 19 scouts, a dozen active parents and maintain their own budget/funding. The Moose Lodge is willing to allow them to continue to meet at their facility. Pr. Katie talked to Paul about bank accounts and responsibilities of the head of charter which would probably be Pr. Katie and possibly another person. Pr. Katie asked him about if girls could be members. Paul shared they are open to girls joining but haven't had a significant interest. The Scouts require at least 5 interested girls and 2 female adult leaders. Cindy Tayler moved that we accept Boy Scout Troop 548 by chartering them. Sabrina seconded. Motion passed with 9 yeas and 1 nay. Glenn would like to see more discussion and Council agreed to wait for more information and a presentation to Council by a leader from Troop 548. Mark tabled the motion to next month's meeting.
- **Mission Trip Fund Raiser:** Cathy shared that Bob Cotton has quality books that he would like to offer up for a cost/donations at a fundraising book sale. LOC would do a book sale on Feb 18th and BLC would do a book sale on Feb 19th with all proceeds going to the Hopi mission trip. Bob also is inviting BLCers to donate books as well. The room across from the fireside room will be used for storage. Cathy moved that we grant permission to the Mission Team to conduct a book sale fundraiser. Glenn seconded the motion. Motion carried.
- **Volunteer Hours:** Do we need to continue keeping track of volunteer hours? After discussion, recording of volunteer hours will be placed on hiatus until further notice.
- **Thanks to Andrea Kragerud:** Special thanks to Andrea Kragerud for helping with worship the month of January in Pr. Katie's absence. Andrea and her family have been such a blessing to Bethlehem.
- What ministry does "Growing Gardens" come under? For now it will be designated as a special project.
- This summer we need to look at ministries and see what needs to be renamed/rearranged. We have to be mindful of changes to constitution and bylaws and the longevity of this process.

PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Mark adjourned the meeting at 8:44pm.

Upcoming Dates

Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 14, 2023 @ 7:00 P.M. Exec meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Month of January

Income: \$41,177.58
Expenses: \$33,015.67
Net: \$ 8,161.91

YTD to Date

Income: \$41,177.58
Expenses: \$33,015.67
Net: \$ 8,161.91

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).

Monthly Events

- Worship Service: Sundays, 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.
- Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m., Zoom
- Staff Meeting: Mondays, 9:15 a.m.
- After School: Wednesdays, 3:30 p.m.
- Lent Soup Supper: Wednesdays, 5:30 p.m.
- Lenten Worship: Wednesdays, 6:30 p.m.
- Choir Practice: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m. in the Quilting Room
- First Friday Social: March 3, 6:00 p.m.
- Family Sunday: March 5, 12:00 p.m.
- BLC/ LOC Joint Meeting: March 8, 10:30 a.m.
- Bethlehem Book Club: March 9, 9:00 a.m. via Zoom
- Mission Trip: March 11-18
- Music Ambassadors at Atria: March 12, 11:15 a.m.
- Confirmation: March 12, 11:45 a.m.
- Naomi Circle: March 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the Youth Room and via Zoom
- BLC Council Meeting: March 14, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room
- Social Justice Initiative Meeting: March 19, 11:30 a.m.
- Prayer Shawl: March 21, 10:00 a.m.
- Land Stewardship meeting: March 21
- Confirmation: March 26, 11:30 a.m.



From the desk of the Faith Formation Director Gary:

"We are to be the light of the world." What does that mean? *Matthew 5:14* is the verse that describes this best. *"You are the light of the world. A city/congregation built on a hill cannot be hidden!"* BLC is the light in our community. I challenge our congregation to continue to be that light and check out our SJC, a group that is doing amazing work. How can you be involved? Be a light whenever you can! Pass this on from **"Generation to Generation"**!

This year's theme is **"Be a Light, Be a Star"**

(All aged) Sunday School gather in the fellowship hall for a story about the lesson (lectionary) and then break into our smaller groups for conversation, craft and prayer time. Ages 3+ please. We are currently looking for Sunday school teachers.

Confirmation will meet March 12 and 26 from 11:45 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. We are currently taking a comprehensive look into the small Catechism, learning about why we do communion in the Lutheran Church.

The Ministry Calendar of events for the 2022-23 year is in the narthex on the west wall. Please see it for dates and times.

Summer camp is scheduled from June 18-23 at Sky Ranch.



Family Sunday will be March 5, from 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Join us for family fun and activities throughout the year. Please see the ministry calendar for events, dates and times. We will meet at noon in the Fellowship Hall and have lunch together before breaking out into groups.

Easter Extravaganza is Saturday, April 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. We begin with the Easter story then followed with an Easter egg hunt, food, craft and fellowship. If you are interested in helping, please contact the Faith Formation Team



Communion class is March 19 from 12:00 - 2:30 p.m. The class will provide instruction on how to properly receive communion and the history of communion in the Lutheran Church. We will make communion bread, and do a special project for our communion day. We will celebrate the youth's communion on Palm Sunday at the 10:15 a.m. service.



Top Ten Ideas for Mentors

1. Pray frequently for your mentee and the mentoring relationship. Tell your mentee you are praying for them. Ask if they have anything specific they would like you to include in your prayers.
2. Meet your mentee's parent(s).
3. Don't think you need to be an 'expert' or know everything.
4. Be authentic, transparent and vulnerable.
5. Read the discussion materials before each session.
6. Don't lecture or give a sermon – it's a discussion! Listen!
7. Don't be afraid to say you don't know.
8. Value and affirm your mentee's thoughts, ideas and discussion.
9. Agree to maintain confidentiality between you and your mentee.
10. Have fun!

Top Ten Ideas for Mentees

1. Pray frequently for your mentor and the mentoring relationship. Tell your mentor you are praying for them. Ask if they have anything specific they would like you to include in your prayers.
2. Be yourself.
3. Get to know your mentor by asking lots of questions.
4. Be honest and open.
5. Answer questions with more than one or two word sentences – it's a discussion! Listen!
6. Be willing to learn new things.
7. Value and affirm your mentor's thoughts, ideas and discussion.
8. Thank your mentor for their willingness to spend time with you.
9. Agree to maintain confidentiality between you and your mentor.
10. Have fun!

The Seven Dos of Mentoring

Be Consistent

I will be dependable and trustworthy as a mentor. To the best of my ability, I will honor my commitments and keep my promises. I will be there for the youth I am mentoring on a regular and consistent basis for as long as I am required to do so.

Be Yourself

I will be thankful for who I am – for the personality, gifts, talents, abilities, and attributes that God has specifically given to me. I believe that God knows me, loves me, and has called me to serve as a mentor to youth. And I am confident that God will be able to use me just the way I am.

Be a Listener

I will take every opportunity to be a good listener in my mentoring relationship. I will avoid judging and lecturing. I will listen attentively because I care, and because I desire to treat the youth I am mentoring with dignity and respect.

Be Honest

I will do my best to tell the truth always in my mentoring relationship, even when it hurts. In so doing, I will inspire the youth I am mentoring to be honest with me. When either of us is unsure of the truth, we will be honest with each other and seek to discover the truth together.

Be Patient and Forgiving

I will be realistic about the expectations I have for the youth I am mentoring. I will do my best to demonstrate unconditional love in every circumstance by being gracious, understanding, slow to anger, patient and forgiving. I will not allow failures to destroy our relationship.

Be Encouraging

I will bring out the best in the youth I am mentoring by being generous with affirmation, encouragement, gratitude, and praise. I will do all that I can to inspire my youth to dream dreams and to recognize the potential that he or she has in Christ Jesus.

Pray Hard

I will not become frustrated or discouraged because of my inability to change a young person's life. Instead, I will pray daily for the youth I am mentoring, and trust God to do what I cannot do.

Gather & Connect

First Friday

March 3 at 6:00 p.m. at the home of Margot and Jim H. (1168 Fletcher Dr. Erie 80516). Bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. For questions contact Shirley 303-775-6928.

Naomi Circle

Our March meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom **Tuesday, March 14**, 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.

Quilting Group

We meet 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). No experience necessary!

Ambassadors at The Atria

Please join us **March 12**, immediately following the second service, to sing 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@phippswb.com

Bethlehem Book Club

The next book club will meet **March 9 at 9:00 a.m.** Book club is for any man or woman who enjoys discussing a wide variety of books with a caring group of people. This month our book is *Self-Made Man* by Norah Vincent. This book was originally published in 2006 and later reprinted. It has two different subtitles, but either the original or the reprint are fine! We meet on Zoom to accommodate travelers and other restrictions. The zoom link is sent out a week before the meeting day. Email Mary Jane mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be put on the book club list and receive these announcements.

Group Schedule

First Friday

Friday, March 3, 6:00 p.m.

Book Club

Thursday, March 9, 9:00 a.m.

Ambassadors at the Atria

Sunday, March 12, 11:15 a.m.

Naomi Circle

Tuesday, March 14, 9:15 a.m.

Social Justice Initiative

Sunday, March 19, 11:45 a.m.

Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, March 21, 10:00 a.m.

Manna Bible Study

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m.

Quilting Group

Every Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

Film Screening

This Is [Not] Who We Are

Saturday, March 4 at 6:30 pm

Heart of Longmont
350 11th Ave Longmont

Discussion to follow the screening with
special guest speaker,
Katrina Miller, co-producer.

<https://www.thisisnotwhowecarefilm.com/>



Living Our Faith in the Community: 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, or know someone who does, please contact Mission Chair, Cathy G. (cegood47@aol.com). 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 person and the organization or community that benefits.

Our Mission spotlight this month is a reflection on faith and immigration by Mike Smith of the Social Justice Initiative, a part of our Missions Ministry. In December SJI created the Immigration Focus Group to learn more about immigration issues and needs. Please contact Cathy G, cegood47@aol.com, to join the Immigration Focus Group as it explores ways to support immigrants.

Why am I interested in Immigration?

by Michael Smith

Growing up in Florida in the 1960's, I remember hiding under our desks in case of a nuclear attack from 90 miles away and many Cubans immigrating there. They came to escape Communist oppression, arrest and the seizure of their property and assets. The positive contributions made to our society were numerous, welcomed and appreciated. These refugees became our neighbors and friends.

In the 1980's our church, Grace Lutheran, sponsored several Vietnamese families. We came to know and admire their desire for freedom, perseverance, determination and work ethic. Our pastor, August Bernthal, who worked intently with LIRS, instilled in us the scriptural basis for helping the immigrant and stranger amongst us.

As a result of 9/11, our attitude toward immigrants seemed to change in the 2000's. It didn't matter if the immigrants came from Venezuela, Miramar, Bosnia or Rwanda-- they were all lumped into being an Al Queda terrorist or drug smuggler. The vast number, (probably 99%) were like the 1960 Cubans, humans wanting a chance for freedom and an opportunity to work to provide for their families and escape the violence in their native land.

I worked in agriculture for 40 years and can say without any reservation that American agriculture would not exist as it is today without immigration. In an attempt to regulate immigration the H2A program was established. Although it was greatly beneficial, it provided only a small part of the agricultural labor needed.

The scriptural basis for welcoming are numerous; a few include Lev. 19:33-34,23:22, Deut.10:19,24:21,27:19, Job 31:32, Matt. 12:35-43, and Heb.13:2-3.

In Summary, welcoming the immigrant and stranger is the right thing to do to help others. It is important to our economic future as our aging population and declining birth rates require a younger workforce, and it is what God through the scriptures calls us to do.



Lutheran Campus Ministry is in Need of Tuesday Meals

Every Tuesday night of the semester, Lutheran Campus Ministry has a dinner program called "Bread and Belonging". Anywhere from 20 to 30 students gather to partake in the meal and the affirming community. People can sign up to either bring some groceries or make a dish at <https://lutheranbuffs.org/food>. Thank you for your help supporting Lutheran Campus Ministry!

Lutheran Campus Ministry at CU Boulder

We received a thank you (posted in the Narthex) for hosting Colin as a student preacher on February 12. After hosting Colin, we received a request from LCM at CU Boulder for a volunteer campus ministry board member. If you are interested, please contact Pastor Katie for more information.

Bethlehem Bell Ringers for Salvation Army

This year was Bethlehem Lutheran's 14th year of bell ringing, in coordination with the Longmont Sunrise Lions Club for the Salvation Army. In 2009 we had 12 members from Bethlehem that rang for two days and this year we had 28 members from Bethlehem that rang for four days. The Longmont Sunrise Lions Club did help out some, but most of the time spent ringing was by members of Bethlehem. During the four days of ringing we brought in \$2,503.82 this money went mainly to the OUR Center in Longmont. Most of the folks that rang have rang for many years in the past but we also had some new ringers. If you've rang bells in the past for the Salvation Army you know how it touches your heart to be part of this and how it brings the holiday season alive, and brings purpose to the holidays. If you haven't rang please consider being part of this next year, and you too will be amazed how much more you will enjoy the holidays.

Empty Bowls Fundraiser

The fundraiser supports the food program at OUR Center. Saturday, March 11 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Trail Ridge Middle School. Your ticket includes a ceramic bowl to take home and soup lunch. Find more information at <https://www.ourcenter.org/emptybowls/>

Social Justice Initiative

In-Person and on Zoom

Starting with the March 19 meeting, the Social Justice Initiative will now offer both in-person (in the Fireside Room) and Zoom options for meetings and have reset the start time to 11:30 a.m. Please join us however you are able!

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 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 **March 20 for the April newsletter**. Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Member Milestones



Birthdays

Mar 1 Kyan Bloemker
 Mar 3 Cathy Goodman
 Mar 3 Jamie Adams
 Mar 3 Jacob Maki
 Mar 4 Cindy Thompson
 Mar 4 Michael Kasperbauer
 Mar 4 Brenda Torrez
 Mar 4 Cory Boaz
 Mar 4 Katherine Haney
 Mar 7 Dick Kylo

Mar 7 Rachel Kittelberger
 Mar 7 Zander Schumann
 Mar 8 Myrna Wiser
 Mar 8 Brett Boaz
 Mar 9 Carter Hoime
 Mar 10 Dean Wilder
 Mar 10 Jenny Kelley
 Mar 10 Ali Curtis
 Mar 11 Nicole Ramer
 Mar 11 Morgan Tiff
 Mar 12 Lu Kluck
 Mar 12 Ed Schlachtenhaufen
 Mar 12 Betty Bluhm
 Mar 14 Robert Alrick
 Mar 15 Luke Demmel
 Mar 17 Virginia Linder
 Mar 18 Kaiden Box
 Mar 19 Stacie Spendlow
 Mar 19 Mia Kunselman
 Mar 20 Jacy Neuhaus

Mar 22 Dave Loberg
 Mar 24 Camille Herbst
 Mar 25 Jeanne Phipps
 Mar 25 Marisa Carlson
 Mar 26 Helen Knutson
 Mar 26 Bonnie Hill
 Mar 26 Jeff Parker
 Mar 27 Laura Davis
 Mar 29 Patty Rehder
 Mar 30 Nancy Rumsey
 Mar 30 Gerald Watts
 Mar 31 Randy Snyder
 Mar 31 Colby Wyjad

Anniversaries

Mar 15 John & Marla Dirkes 48
 Mar 19 Mike & Sue Anderson 46
Mar 21 Paul & Rose Hansen 64
 Mar 24 Ryan & Ashley Lahman 11

Prayers & Sympathy

Praying for:

Mary F., Meghan B., Gary K., Shelley K., Bruce B., Rini T., Cathy G., Darlene B., Gerry C., Jan M., Kristal H., George D., Lydia M., Jeremy G., Doris C., Brenda H.

Sympathy for:

Paul and Roberta Fjeld on the death of Roberta's mother, Esther Gies on Jan. 30,,2023

Lynda Coonrod and family on the death of her mother, Elizabeth Webber on Feb. 7, 2023



Bethlehem Staff

Pastor Katie Chullino - pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net
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Let's celebrate Saint Patty's Day with some Irish recipes. Recipes courtesy of The Food Network.

Irish Coddle

Ingredients

- 1 pound thick-cut bacon, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 1 pound Cumberland sausage or any mild pork sausage, cut into 1-inch pieces
- 2 large white onions, halved and thinly sliced
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 1 cup fresh parsley leaves, finely chopped
- 3 pounds russet potatoes, peeled and quartered

Directions

- Preheat the oven to 300 degrees F.
- Add the bacon to a large Dutch oven and set over medium heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the fat renders, about 10 minutes. Add the sausage and increase the heat to medium high. Continue to cook, stirring occasionally, until the bacon and sausage are nicely browned, about 10 more minutes. Remove the pot from the heat and use a slotted spoon to transfer the bacon and sausage to a plate.
- Drain the fat from the pot and return it to medium heat. Add the onions, a pinch of salt and 1/4 cup water. Use a wooden spoon to scrape the brown bits from the bottom and sides of the pot, then sprinkle 1 tablespoon of the parsley and plenty of black pepper. Layer the bacon and sausage over the onions and sprinkle with 1 tablespoon parsley and more black pepper. Layer the potatoes over the meat and add enough water to submerge everything but the potatoes, about 2 cups. Season the potato layer with a pinch of salt and plenty of black pepper and sprinkle with 1 tablespoon parsley. Bring the liquid to a boil (don't stir!), then cover and transfer to the oven. Bake, checking halfway to add more water if needed, until the onions are very tender and caramelized and the liquid has reduced slightly, about 2 hours.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/irish-coddle-12348168>

Fried Cabbage

Ingredients

- 2 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 slices bacon sliced crosswise into 1/2-inch strips
- 1 medium onion, diced
- 3 cloves garlic, sliced
- 1/2 large head green cabbage, quartered, cored and sliced crosswise into 1/2-inch-thick slices
- Salt and ground black pepper
- 2 teaspoons Worcestershire sauce

Directions

- Place the butter and the bacon in a large Dutch oven or pot with a lid over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring occasionally, until bacon is lightly browned and crisp, 7 to 8 minutes (lower the heat if the bacon begins to get too dark). Remove the bacon and reserve (do not wipe out pot).
- Add onion, garlic, and 1/2 teaspoon salt to the pot, stirring frequently and scraping up any browned bits from the bottom of the pan. Cook until the onion is very soft, about 8 minutes.
- With the heat at medium-high, add the cabbage, 1 teaspoon salt, and 1/4 teaspoon black pepper. Stir until the cabbage starts to soften, 5 minutes. Reduce heat to medium-low or low and cook, covered, until the cabbage is very tender, with a little bit of texture remaining in the thicker rib pieces, 12 to 15 minutes, stirring occasionally to make sure the bottom isn't getting too dark.
- Uncover the pot and increase heat to high. Add the Worcestershire sauce and stir for about a minute. There should be almost no liquid in the pot. Transfer to a serving bowl and top with the reserved bacon bits.

<https://www.foodnetwork.com/recipes/food-network-kitchen/st-patricks-day-fried-cabbage-3542641>

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Return service requested

