

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

Sundays at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m. | Sunday School at 9:15 a.m.

Christmas

AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

we invite all to join us

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

9:15 AM Sunday Service

4:00 PM Family Service

6:00 PM Candlelight Service

No Christmas Day Services

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Rev's Revelations

"There is Room"

Prayer by Rev. Sarah Speed

A Sanctified Art LLC | sanctifiedart.org

The world may feel like one long stretch of night,
like an endless winter, or a hovering rain cloud.
And life may feel like walking into the wind,
an uphill climb in every direction,
but we can still open the door.
We can't calm every storm,
but we can turn on the porch lights.
We can add chairs to the table.
We can keep clean sheets on the guest bed,
just in case.
We can hold the elevator,
and learn pronouns.
We can tell stories of belonging,
and take turns listening.
We can learn each other's names,
and plant trees for our children.
We can study privilege
and advocate for mental health.
We can insist,
every single day,
in a million different ways:
there is room,
there is room,
there is room for you here.
We can't calm every storm,
but we can turn on the porch lights.

There is room in Bethlehem. We have learned from the gospel of Luke that 2000 years ago there was no room in the "kataluma" which is often called the "inn" in our bibles. But it was more than an inn, it is a guest-room, part of a house—not a place where you pay to stay—but a place you are welcomed in as family and friends. Luke uses it one other time, much later in Jesus' life, and he describes it as the "upper room" where the Last Supper took place.

But in this first kataluma, that one in Bethlehem, there wasn't space for a woman to give birth, to care for a newborn baby with all of those people in town for the census. And, so, Mary laid her baby in a manger, the perfectly sized temporary bed for newborn. But mangers weren't kept in cold barns like we often expect.

Mangers were also kept in the lower room of a home, on the edge, in a living area. This room was kind of an all-seasons room where animals would come in for the night or during cold spells, and also what families would use for overflow when there were too many guests. Not a private chamber or guest room or upper room or a full-size barn or stable or cave as we might have imagined. It was a place where Joseph and Mary and Jesus would have space. A place where the cries of childbirth or the cries of a newborn might not wake the whole house. It was a place where mother and child would be safe and warm none-the-less. There was actually room in Bethlehem 2000 years ago.

And there is room in our Bethlehem today. The poem and prayer (above) is part of our Advent and Christmas worship series titled How Does a Weary World Rejoice. The poem reminds us that we all come with weariness, with apprehensions about being welcomed (or not). And the poem promises that there is room for each of us as we are. And the poem calls us to make room, to turn on the light and invite others--to the upper room, to the lower room, to our sanctuary, to our homes, to our hearts. We can't fix everything that's broken, we can't relieve every hurt, but we can light candles in the darkness. So whether you're bursting with the light of Christmas or feeling the darkness of winter, know that there's room for you here.



PS: If you're grieving, sad, or lonely this season, join Father Teri and me on December 21 at 7:00 p.m. for a Service for the Weary.

Sunday, December 3, 2023

Advent 2: Peace

We find joy in connection

In community, our joy expands. When we can't rejoice, we can carry each other's joy. That is what Elizabeth and Mary do for each other. The good news begins to take shape in Elizabeth's womb, but scripture tells us that she stays secluded, hiding her pregnancy from others—that is, until Mary arrives at her door, also pregnant. Perhaps Mary's arrival is the inbreaking that changes everything for Elizabeth, for in that moment, her child leaps in her womb and she is filled with the Spirit. She can't help but to rejoice. Her joy is contagious and wraps around Mary like a hug. Through the prophet Isaiah, we hear God speak tender words of comfort; this is the comfort we can give to and receive from each other during this season. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. **Readings:** Isaiah 40:1–11; Luke 1:24–45

Sunday, December 10, 2023

Advent 3: Joy

We allow ourselves to be amazed

After Elizabeth gives birth, her neighbors and family celebrate with her. When it comes time to name the child, Zechariah affirms the name given by the angel and by Elizabeth. In that moment of affirming the promise, Zechariah's speech is restored. Everyone is filled with awe. How often do you allow yourself to be amazed? Wonder is all around us—can we recognize it? As we learn how to rejoice in a weary world, can we live in a way that allows amazement and wonder to surprise us often? In Psalm 126, those who expect to reap tears are granted a surprise: shouts of joy. Amazement is a balm for the weary. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. **Readings:** Psalm 126; Luke 1:57–66

Sunday, December 17, 2023

Advent 4: Love

We sing stories of hope

As soon as Zechariah's voice returns, his first words are gratitude and blessing. He sings a story of praise for God's protection and promise, and then he showers a blessing on his newborn son. He sings a story of hope. After Elizabeth proclaims blessings upon Mary, Mary sings: "My soul magnifies God; my spirit rejoices in God." Mary sings about a God of liberation who pulls the powerful from their thrones and lifts up the lowly. Mary sings a story of hope, one in which justice and joy are interwoven. As we prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, may we also sing stories of hope, justice, and joy. In this weary world, may we find many ways to rejoice. **Readings:** Luke 1:46–55, 67–80

Service for the Weary

Thursday, December 21, 7:00 p.m.

For those who have experienced loss, the joy of the holiday season can often feel elusive and out of reach. As a result, churches around the world have adopted the practice of having a "Blue Christmas" or a "Longest Night" service during the Advent season. These services are designed to provide space for prayer, reflection, and remembrance amidst the twinkle lights and holiday hustle and bustle. Instead of advertising this as a "Blue Christmas" or "Longest Night Service," we are calling this a "Service for the Weary," inspired by our Advent theme. Bring your grief. Bring your weariness. Bring your fatigue, and allow yourself a quiet space to reflect and draw near to God. We hope that these words and this order of worship can be a gift to individuals and communities alike, providing a space of calm, quiet, and healing. May you find peace in your journey. *This service is in-person only. If you are unable to attend and would like an emailed devotion to use at home, please contact Pastor Katie.*

Sunday, December 24, 2023

Christmas Eve: We Make Room

Luke's Gospel tells us that when Mary gives birth to Jesus, she lays him in a manger, for there was no place for them in the guest room. Scholars argue about where, exactly, the birth occurs—and why. Was it in a stable or the living room of a simple peasant home? Was Bethlehem teeming with visitors who were also there to be counted in the census? Was Joseph's family inhospitable because they disapproved of his marital situation? Regardless of where the birth occurs, we know that Christ is born in a crowded, unlikely place. And yet, God makes a place here anyway. God draws the circle wider as shepherds and unexpected guests arrive. This Christmas, let us also make room—for strangers and neighbors alike. For this is good news of great joy for all people. **Readings:** Luke 2:1-20

Sunday, December 31, 2023

First Sunday after Christmas

We root ourselves in ritual

After eight days have passed, Mary and Joseph circumcise their child and give him the name Jesus. They return to the temple in Jerusalem to enact the sacred birth rituals of their culture and tradition. While they are doing what is customary, the unexpected occurs. A man named Simeon is led by the Spirit into the temple to proclaim Jesus as the "light of revelation." Then, a prophet named Anna suddenly approaches them; she praises God and speaks about Jesus to everyone longing for redemption. Rituals mark sacred turning points in our lives. They can help us make meaning of celebrations, losses, and transitions. As new parents to Jesus, Mary and Joseph could feel weary for what lies ahead, but perhaps these sacred rituals—and those who bear witness to them—bolster them and give them courage for the journey. How do our sacred rituals root us and help us live into new chapters with courage? **Readings:** Luke 2:21-38

Holiday Worship & Fellowship

Sunday, December 3

- Advent 2 Worship

Wednesday, December 6

- Festive Advent Wednesday Night
 - Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
 - Prayer at 6:30 p.m.
 - Activity at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 10

- Advent 3 Worship

Wednesday, December 13

- Festive Advent Wednesday Night
 - Dinner at 5:30 p.m.
 - Prayer at 6:30 p.m.
 - Activity at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 17

- Advent 4 Worship
- Children's Christmas Program at 9:15 a.m.
- Living Nativity from 5:00-8:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 20

- Caroling at 5:30 p.m.

Thursday, December 21

- Service for the Weary at 7:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 24

Christmas Eve Services

- 9:15 a.m. Traditional Sunday Service
- 4:00 p.m. Family Service
- 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service
- LOC has mass at 8:00 p.m.

No Christmas Day services

Office Closed from December 25 to January 1

Council Notes

Council Meeting Minutes - Approved

November 14, 2023

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Thompson,
Secretary

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

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

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: led by Pr. Katie.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: approved via email and posted.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Greg shared BLC is \$650 below budget in terms of giving, and approximately \$3000 under budget in spending. Year to date: \$335,000 income, \$331,000 outgoing which leaves approx. \$4000 in positive for the year. See Greg's monthly report for more details.

Cindy Tayler moved to accept the financial report. Sabrina Lee seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

Mark Holste moved to accept the September financial report. Cindy Thompson seconded. Discussion: a quorum was not present at last month's meeting so a vote was taken at this month's meeting. Motion passed.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS:

- **Pastor/Staff:** Pr. Katie shared the nominating committee's report. BLC will be represented at Synod Assembly by Mark Holste and Jenny Kelley.
- **Worship:** Sabrina shared poinsettias have been ordered. They will be sold for \$15 a plant on Sundays: December 10th and 17th.

- **Evangelism:** Cindy Tayler shared Trunk or Treat was awesome. ASF&F is planning an activity for each month. November: Kids will be coloring turkeys (Monday, November 20) to use as a decoration for Thanksgiving. December: hosting a "Toy Party" where kids can choose a donated toy and wrap it as a present for family member or friend. Activities are being planned for Jan 15, Feb 19, Mar 18 and Apr 26. Cindy **encouraged everyone to signup for Living Nativity on December 17th.** Evangelism is also working on a Christmas Ad for the Times-Call newspaper.
- **Faith Formation:** See Jaime's report. Highlights from this report include: Festive Advent time will be happening on Wednesday nights after the Holden Evening Prayer.
 - November 29th: Italian meal 5:30-6:30, and immediately after Holden Evening Prayer, this season's Advent craft will be introduced.
 - December 6th Advent meal: Mexican
 - December 13th Advent meal: breakfast for dinner
 - Wednesday prayer sessions continue the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays from 10:30-11:00am and from 6:00-6:30pm in the sanctuary.
 - An informational/planning meeting for the National Youth Gathering will be occurring in December.
- **Mission:** Cathy shared that the team that went on the border immersion trip to Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in El Paso was amazing. Six thousand dollars in donations were given to Cristo Rey.
- **Property:** See Glenn's report. Highlights from this report include:
 - Installation is in the process for the water fountain in the fellowship hall.

Council Notes

- The church/parsonage roofs/gutters are completed.
- The sprinkler system is winterized.
- Exterior signs have been posted.
- Repaired lighting in Cornerstone Preschool.
- New outside light fixtures have been installed.
- Painted the black lettering on the BLC stone sign.
- Electrical repair completed for a ground fault/GFI failure.
- **Stewardship:** Mike shared that pledges are down. Members are encouraged to submit their pledges for budgeting purposes. Mike thanked those members who submitted pledge cards and noted that 90+ people attended the Consecration Celebration luncheon.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Land Use Proposal for Annual Meeting – by Chil Chullino.
 - Financial commitment is water, electricity (\$2800 a year) Other expenses are infrastructure which may come from a variety of sources.
 - 7 year renewable lease for use of land (either part can ask to cancel the agreement. The agreement has been looked at by legal personnel.
- Girl Scouts Gift Wrapping – Late November / early December Fri, Sat, Sun afternoons

Mark moved to approve gift wrapping by Girl Scouts. Cindy Tayler seconded. Discussion: None. Motion passed.

- Nicaragua Project – Cathy Goodman
 - Winter matching funds challenge Month of December

Cathy Goodman moved that the Nicaragua yearly fundraiser occur between December 1-31st. Cindy Tayler seconded. Motion passed.

◦ Bake sale Sunday December 17 .
Cathy Goodman moved for a bake sale to benefit the Nicaragua Project be at BLC Sunday, December 17th. Sabrina Lee seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

- Our Center food and toiletries drive
 - **Mark Holste moved to allow the Our Center food and toiletries drive during the month of December with a drive thru in conjunction with the Living Nativity on December 17th. Cindy Tayler seconded. Motion passed.**
- Mini Sabbatical
 - July 21-Aug 31, 2024. Pastor Katie received a \$4000 grant to be used for a mini sabbatical. **Mark Holste moved that Council approve Pr. Katie for a mini-sabbatical from July 21-August 31, 2024. Sabrina Lee seconded. Discussion: \$2000 of the grant is given to BLC to cover Pastoral Care/Coverage and \$2000 is given to Pr. Katie to cover expenses. Motion passed.**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Budget – Greg Schumann. Greg shared a budget forum will occur on Sunday between services. Greg will have updated copies of the proposed 2024 budget.

DISCUSSION:

- The Annual meeting will be Sunday, December 10th. Reports are due November 15th.
- Ways to thank our members – Cindy Thompson will cover this at December Council meeting.

Council Notes

- Process for changing the name of Missions to Social Action be started. Perhaps include changing Evangelism to (Community Care?). This discussion will continue.
- December 12th council meeting will be a joint meeting with current and newly elected council members.

PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Mark adjourned the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

Upcoming Dates: next Council meeting will be Tuesday, December 12 at 7:00pm with old & new council. Executive session at 6:30pm.

Announcements

Poinsettias

We have limited quantities for \$15 each. Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Sabrina at worshipchair@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Member Photo Wall

Submit your photos for the member photo wall! Please email your favorite individual or family photo to evangelism@bethlehem-lutheran.net and include family members names as you would like them to appear under the photo on the wall!

Scam Alert

Pastor Katie and BLC leaders will never ask for money or gift cards via emails or texts. Please be cautious when opening emails and always look at the sender email address to verify it is a legitimate BLC email address.

Finances

See 2023 Annual Report for Financial Numbers

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).



From the desk of the Faith Formation Director Gary:

Romans 15:7 states, "Welcome one another, therefore, just as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

How does God welcome us? With open arms and invites us into an amazing incarnational relationship. How do we invite people to be with us in our Faith Journey? We ask them to come and participate in events at BLC! Jesus welcomed everyone from all walks of life, be the olive branch for someone you know.

God's Peace and Love!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

This year's theme at BLC is WELCOMING!!!

Children Sunday School continues to meet at 9:15 a.m. for ages 3 to 18 years old. We gather in the south end Sunday school room for a story, craft and prayer time. **Schedule:** December 3 and 10.

****Please have your child attend Sunday school on the 3rd and 10th to prepare for the Christmas Program.****



***Children's Christmas Program
will be December 17 at 9:30 a.m.***

Festive Advent Wednesday Nights



December 6, 13, and 20. We start off with dinner at 5:30 p.m., Holden Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m., and a fellowship activity following the prayer. On December 20 we'll be meeting at the church to go Christmas Caroling.



Confirmation 2023–24 meets in the Youth Room at 11:45 a.m. for lunch followed by classroom time and ending around 2:00 p.m. We will be learning about Old and New Testament from the bible. Schedule: There are no classes in December. We invite everyone to attend Advent Wednesday Nights.

The Ministry Calendar of Events for the 2023– 2024 year will be located in the narthex on the west wall. See it for information of dates and times.

This month for **Prayer Time** we'll only be gathering on December 13 from 10:30-11:00 a.m. We meet in the sanctuary on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from 10:30–11:00 a.m. and 6:00– 6:30 p.m. Using our own words as well as historical and traditional prayers, we will pray together and for the many things going on in the world. Our normal schedule will resume in 2024.



Monthly Events

- Worship Service: Sundays, 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.
- Sunday School: Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.
- Staff Meeting: Mondays, 9:15 a.m.
- Spanish Group: Mondays, 6:00 p.m.
- Table Talk: Wednesdays, Noon
- Choir: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Nicaragua Project Fundraiser: All Month
- First Friday: Dec. 1, 6:00 p.m.
- Advent 2: Dec. 3
- Brewsday: Dec. 5, 8:00 a.m.
- Immigration Focus Group: December 5, 7:00 p.m.
- Advent Dinner: Dec. 6, 5:30 p.m.
- Holden Evening Prayer: Dec. 6, 6:30 p.m.,
- Advent Family Time: Dec. 6, 7:30 p.m.
- Girl Scout Gift Wrapping: Dec. 9, 2:00 p.m.
- Advent 3: Dec. 10
- Annual Congregational Meeting: Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m.
- Music Ambassadors: Dec. 10, 11:30 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: Dec. 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Naomi Circle Christmas Brunch: Dec. 12, 11:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: Dec. 12, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC/ LOC Joint meeting: Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m.
- Open Prayer: Dec. 13, 10:30 a.m.
- Advent Dinner: Dec. 13, 5:30 p.m.
- Holden Evening Prayer: Dec. 13, 6:30 p.m.,
- Advent Family Time: Dec. 13, 7:30 p.m.
- Book Club: Dec. 14, 9:00 a.m. 9:00 a.m.
- Quilters Brunch: Dec. 14, 11:00 a.m.
- Boy Scout Breakfast: Dec. 16, 8:00 a.m.
- Advent 4: Dec. 17
- Nicaragua Bake Sale: Dec. 17, 8:00 a.m.
- Living Nativity: Dec. 17, 5:00 p.m.
- Prayer Shawl: Dec. 19, 10:00 a.m.
- Land Stewardship Team: Dec. 19, 5:30 p.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: Dec. 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Caroling: Dec. 20, 5:30 p.m.
- Service for the Weary: Dec. 21, 7:00 p.m.
- Christmas Eve: Dec. 24
- Worship: Dec. 24, 9:15 a.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:00 p.m.
- Christmas Day: Dec. 25
- Office Closed: Dec. 25- Jan. 1
- ONLY ONE WORSHIP: Dec. 31, 9:15 a.m.
- Welcome to 2024: January 1

Pack 65 invites you to
to have

BREAKFAST WITH Santa

Enjoy breakfast and take
pictures with Santa

DECEMBER 16TH 8 - 11 AM

FREE EVENT; DONATIONS ARE WELCOME

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1000 15th Ave, Longmont, CO

Contact Nolan for more information:
Nolan.nguy@gmail.com

DELICIOUS BREAKFAST
PHOTOS WITH SANTA
SILENT AUCTION
YOUTH CRAFTS
AND MORE!




Girl Scouts Of
Northern Colorado

Holiday Craft Fair

THURSDAY, December 14, 2023
5 PM - 8 PM

Boulder County Fairgrounds Exhibit Building
9595 Nelson Road
Longmont, Colorado 80501



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.

Mercy Ships

by Bob Cotton

I started supporting Mercy Ships on a monthly basis five years ago. They send me regular stories with pictures showing the before and after operations often of children, who without Mercy Ships were being outcasts in their own communities.

Mercy Ships was founded in 1978 and is a Christian Interdenominational Organization. Three smaller ships were placed in service from 1978 thru 1994 and later decommissioned. In 1999 "Africa Mercy" was put in service, and in 2022 "Global Mercy" was added.

The staff on board are all volunteers. For these two ships to operate successfully there is a need for 1500 persons coming from 24 nations including: ship crews, doctors, nurses, orderlies, and an on land support team.

As passionate as I am about what Mercy Ships is doing to make people healthy again, AT NO COST TO THEM, I hope you will want to support this organization too!

I will be showing the story about Mercy Ships and talking about it on Sunday, January 7 in the Fireside Room after each service! So get your coffee and join me!

Card Collecting for New Beginnings

New Beginnings at Denver Women's correctional center is collecting cards for the inmates to send to friends and families for Christmas and other occasions during the year. Please donate any you have available and we will get them to them. You can drop them off at Bethlehem or give them to Mike Smith for delivery. This has been an ongoing ministry for years that was on the back burner due the Covid shutdown but is now active again

Habitat For Humanity

The 8 homes at the Meadow Brook Development are completed and they have a new team of AmeriCorps just arriving. For this reason, there was no need for us to be there in October or December. Thank you to all those who helped this year on the homes! In 2024, Habitat will be building 12 homes on land that was part of the Sugar Mill property off 3rd Avenue, to the east of Hwy 119. There are 6 Saturdays for us to help next year: February 24, April 27, June 29, August 24, October 26, and December 7. It is nice to have a group of say 8 persons working each day we are there.

Change a Child's Life:

Read Johnny's story and make your donation to our Nicaragua Children's Center today!

When Johnny was two years old, his mother abandoned him, leaving him with his father and grandmother, Angélica. Although his father desperately wanted to work, like 70% of the men in Somoto, he was unemployed because of dire economic conditions.

Ever since Johnny was two, from dawn to dusk, his father has combed the streets of Somoto, picking up anything that recycles and turning it in for 25-50 Cordobas a day, the equivalent of \$.75 to \$1.50 in the US. It has provided only a tiny bit of food for Johnny and his grandmother as well as himself and on some days, there is not enough for even that. Johnny was weak and malnourished and had not been growing despite his age; our Children's Project coordinators found him a year ago and welcomed him. Today he is four years old and from the Children's Center he receives two meals and two snacks five days a week, attends preschool, has strength to play with others, and has shot up in height! Angélica told our coordinator Cándida that the Children's Project is a great blessing to her and her grandson. To everyone, she sends a huge, "Thank You!"



Donations of \$50 \$100 \$150 \$250 \$500 \$1000 or more will be matched up to \$5500.

To make a donation write a check to Bethlehem-Nicaragua and put it in the offering or send it to 1000 W. 15th Ave, Longmont, CO 80501 OR make an online donation at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home>. Scroll to the options (tiles) and click on The Nicaragua Project, then click on Donate Now and follow the directions. One hundred children and families in our Children's Project thank you!

Choose a Sweet; Put Shoes on a Child's Feet

Nicaragua Project is hosting a **bake sale** for impoverished children on December 17.

We are looking for people to donate items for the sale! Please sign up in the Narthex or contact Cathy (cegood47@aol.com) to volunteer.

ON DECEMBER 17: Come check out the goodies, make a donation for them, and take some home for your Christmas gathering. **We'll be selling before, between, and after services.**

All proceeds will help provide shoes for 60 very impoverished preschoolers who attend the Nicaragua Project school in Somoto, Nicaragua. The Nicaragua Project is a mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Urgent need. The Little Pantry needs YOU.

Our pantry is emptied everyday by those who are hungry. We need protein (soups, stews, tuna, chicken, peanut butter...). We need oatmeal packages, cereal, protein bars, cookies, crackers, fruit cups, pudding cups, hot chocolate packages, plastic ware, toothbrushes/paste, feminine hygiene products, hats, gloves, and socks. We take money donations that the committee can shop with! I wish you could meet some of our recipients; the thankfulness and gratitude is overwhelming. Remember, we are *The Little Pantry* so our sizes must be smaller. Also, we need pop-tops whenever possible and please no fresh fruit or vegetables-- we have small critters who enjoy dinner on us and they make a mess! Please place items on top of the bins in the narthex, we can put them away. We are so blessed that no one ever needs to go hungry here! Any questions or suggestions please call Sue Smith.

Our Center Food & Toiletries Drive

During the month of December and the Living Nativity (Sunday, December 17 from 5:00–8:00 p.m.) we are collecting food, toiletries and monetary donations to benefit the Longmont Our Center. Please drop off items in the baskets in the Narthex anytime in December. Email if you have a donation you would like picked up.

You can also make monetary donations via check or online at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-YXX6/home>. Please contact Mark H. (holstemarka@outlook.com) with questions.

OUR CENTER Shopping List

- Canned Protein (tuna, chicken, peanut butter, etc.)
- Cereal, hot & cold
- Dried or canned beans
- Canned soups & stews, preferably low salt
- Canned fruits, preferably low sugar
- Canned vegetables, preferably low salt
- Granola bars, healthy snacks
- Pasta, rice, etc.
- Pasta sauce, canned tomato products
- Toiletries (soap, shampoo, conditioner, body wash, deodorant, lotion, toothbrush, toothpaste, toilet paper, tampons, maxi pads)
- Baby diapers- size 4-6 most needed (no adult diapers)
- Baby wipes
- Dish soap, Laundry Detergent, Cleaning Products
- Grocery gift cards & Cash

Colorado Gives Day



The gifts to Rainbow Trail received on this day help us to provide great staff, excellent facilities, and life-changing experiences for our campers. The goal for this year's Colorado Gives Day is \$110,000. We know this is an aggressive goal, but with the help of people just like you, this is a very attainable goal! We reached \$139,021 with just 331 gifts last year. Imagine where we would be if we doubled the number of people giving to RTALC on this day! And here is the best part: Even a \$5 donation is significant and can be a difference maker. All gifts made during November to Rainbow Trail through the Colorado Gives Day site will count towards RTALC's total amount for Colorado Gives Day on Tuesday, December 5th. Questions? Contact Cathy G, cegood47@aol.com, ambassador to Rainbow Trail

Immigration Focus Group

December 5 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom

Would you like to learn more about immigration? Would you like to help discuss how to move forward and grow in our interactions with and helping of immigrants? Contact Cathy Goodman to get the link for the meeting: cegood47@aol.com or text 303-242-0850.

Supporting Cristo Rey in El Paso

Thank you so much Bethlehem and LOC! After the burrito and "Saguaro" cactus fund raisers, we were able to donate a total of \$6618 to Cristo Rey and its ministries. That money has and will help feed immigrants in shelters, shelter immigrants temporarily at Cristo Rey, help immigrant children attend their after school program, allow Cristo Rey to have their important Posada celebration at Christmas, provide Christmas baskets for immigrant families, clothe a family of three, and help the church congregation continue to worship and serve within their ministries.

In addition to monetary gifts, the Border Immersion Trip participants were able to donate 100 quilts of all sizes from our quilters. Some are already comforting and warming small children and others will be used for immigrants who stay at Cristo Rey and by immigrants who are cold in the winter on the streets. Thank you quilters for your incredible gifts of quilts!

Other items taken were: several computers for the after school program, numerous Thrivent shirts, 192 bottles of ketchup, 33 leggings, 34 sports bras, more than 800 Clif Bars, and LOC Peace Pal yarn dolls for children.

You are a blessing to the immigrants who are both within and outside of Cristo Rey.

Thank you!

The warm and hopeful Christmas greeting cards for refugees in detention centers have been sent off to the distribution point. A HUGE thank you to all who participated by writing greetings, contributing Christmas cards, working at the tables, or making announcements. Our congregation, with the help of our Sunday school and the Light of Christ congregation has contributed 413 cards to this ambitious project. That is well more than 100 cards above last year's good total. We are truly "sharing the hope"!



Bell Ringing

We'll be ringing bells again this year for the Salvation Army with money going to OUR Center. As many are aware Bethlehem Lutheran has been among the top contributors for a number of years and I'm hoping that many of you will be able to ring again this year. The dates for bell ringing will be Nov 25, Dec 2, Dec 9, and Dec 12. Bell ringing shifts will be 1 hour. If interested please sign up in the Narthex or contact Duane Penny at 970-290-2220, or e-mail; duane.penny@cbrealty.com

First Friday

First Friday is December 1 at Dave and Kathy Loberg's home at 6:00 p.m. Their address is 1818 W County Road 6 in Berthoud. Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at (303) 775-6928.

Naomi Circle

We're having a Christmas Brunch on **Tuesday, December 12 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room. Our membership is open to all who are interested. Please contact Linda H (holstell@outlook.com) or Sue S (suesmith521@msn.com) for more information.

Manna Bible Study

We will be reading *God is in the Manger* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. We meet each Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for discussion and would love to have you join us. Please contact Phyllis W. at pkwright1360@gmail.com if you have any questions.

Table Talks

We meet **Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m.** in the Fireside Room using the devotional from the Advent series, "How Does A Weary World Rejoice?" Printed copies will be available.

Adult Forum

We will be discussing an *Advent Lectio* and *Visio Divina*. All are welcome!

Quilting Group

We meet on **Thursday mornings at 9:00 a.m.** and would love to see you there! You don't need any experience. Join us for an enjoyable morning and perhaps learn something new!

Bethlehem Book Club

Our next meeting is **December 14 at 9:00 a.m.** on zoom to discuss *Poet Warrior*, a memoir by Joy Harjo. The author is the first Indigenous Person to serve as poet laureate of the United States. Harjo moves between prose, song and poetry as she relates her personal experiences of nature and culture, inviting us to share the human experiences of her ancestral culture as formative in her life. Email me at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be added to the list and to receive announcements and the zoom link before each meeting.

Brewsday

Feel free to stop by, have a drink, and talk about what's brewing in life and church and Longmont! We meet 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at the location indicated by the date.

- December 5 at Landline Donuts



Living Nativity

The Living Nativity will be **December 17 from 5:00 - 8:00 p.m.** Sign up to volunteer for the 2023 Living Nativity at <https://tinyurl.com/BLCLivingNativity>. Please enter off 15th Ave. We're collecting non-perishable items to donate to the OUR Center.

Member Milestones

Birthdays

Dec 1 Michael Kasperbauer
Dec 1 Kyle Buck-Gengler
Dec 2 Jill Haney
Dec 5 Doris Cotton
Dec 5 Kirk Moors
Dec 8 Lilah Corner
Dec 10 DeEtte Eikenberg
Dec 11 Pam Bischoff
Dec 12 Brooke Lahman
Dec 13 Dennis Koch
Dec 13 Jeff Ditillo
Dec 13 Viviana Jurkovich
Dec 13 Reegan Zigler
Dec 16 Gail Schurman
Dec 16 Barbara Wedemeyer
Dec 16 Ella James
Dec 17 Ruby James
Dec 19 Duane Larsen
Dec 19 Jakob Cook
Dec 21 Laurie Parker
Dec 21 Jeff Hopp
Dec 21 Carrie Crespo
Dec 22 Jerry Phipps
Dec 23 Mason Watts
Dec 24 Lynda Coonrod
Dec 24 Dale Grindeland
Dec 24 Nolan Zigler
Dec 25 Mary Fjeld
Dec 26 Ruth Tilson
Dec 27 Carol Wissink
Dec 30 Beatriz Ramos
Dec 30 Roxanne Kessler
Dec 30 Levi Davis
Dec 31 DJ Christian

Anniversaries

Dec 2 Gerry Cole & Sharon Kirby-Cole (29)
Dec 19 Cindy & Byron Thompson (31)
Dec 27 Jenny & Michael Kelley (48)
Dec 28 Carrie & Brandon Crespo (5)

Prayers

Members: Howard W., Gene S., Joanne L., Joyce G., Carl S., Florence M., Gerry C., Sally M., Coqui S., Paul P., Darlene B., Jan M., Kristal H., George D., Lydia M., Jeremy G.; **friends and relatives of our community:** Shawn M., Gene W., Mike, Joyce P., Caryn M., Jim S., Ruth F., Lynn N., Nora, Duane, Scott P., Matt M., Darlene, Hannah, Michael, Virginia, Victoria, Debra, Irene D., John L., Marilyn M., June D., Scarlett K., Erwin B., Donna S.; **and those serving your people:** Brett B., Michael K. Jr., Bill W.

Gratitude

I would like to thank the quilters for the wonderful quilt that was made for Evan Jr. It means a lot to us coming from the ladies whom my Mom was a part of for so long. -- Mark Abromski

I want to thank all the people who volunteered to help me with Andrea's Ordination dinner. There were 19 who set up and cleanup and 26 people who brought and prepared food. And a special thank you to Andrea for all the delicious cupcakes she made. We couldn't have done it without everyone's help. I feel truly Blessed to have your help to make this happen for Andrea's special milestone day. -- Shirley Kasperbauer

Newsletter Deadline: Submit items by **December 20 for the January 2024 newsletter.**

Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1000 15th Avenue
Longmont, CO 80501

Return service requested

Office Hours

Monday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Tuesday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Thursday: 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

