

# 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.



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### Seeker of a Savior

by Katie Chullino

*I walked mile after mile, like the wise men of the night,  
Seeking a king, a messiah to end endless plight.  
Bringing gifts of gold and a lamb newborn  
As the shepherds listened in awe to the angels' song  
and horn.*

*I knelt and I saw a King like a lamb  
So gentle, so sweet, so soft was the child's hand.*

*In a single instant, His future I found,  
Was no throne on earth, but a thorn filled crown.  
He was the Messiah, the Christ, Immanuel, King  
The Lamb, our sacrifice, the song the angels sing.*

*I walked mile after mile, like the wise men of the night  
Seeking a king, a messiah to end endless plight;  
The Saviour I met, slumbering that night.*

The shepherds presumably came to the manger shortly after Jesus' birth. The wise men sought Jesus long after he was born—perhaps even years. Like them, we still seek Jesus, God with us. As we also celebrate a new year, making new resolutions to be happier and healthier, we might resolve to focus on our faith a little more, too. Consider where you see Christ, where you search for Christ, and the new ways you might seek Christ. Consider how you would welcome him—with gold, a lamb, a song? What gifts would you bring? What words would you say? This King is not only a tiny babe, but a healer of the sick, the teacher of students, the host of a great meal, and the friend of the friendless. Meet him in a new way this year.

Peace,

*Rev KJC*

### January 4 – Baptism of the Lord

We began our series this season by acknowledging our weariness and we conclude with trusting our belovedness; ultimately, our joy is rooted in the fact that we belong to God. In the story of Jesus' baptism, the heavens part open and the voice of God wraps Jesus in joy and loving care. Some translations of Luke 3:22 read, "in you, I find happiness and delight." As we too are called God's children, we can conclude that we are also the source of God's joy. When we trust our belovedness, we live and give fully—we are compelled to treat all of creation with tenderness and care. When we trust our belovedness, we have endless reasons to rejoice.

### January 14 – 2nd Sunday after Epiphany

All the baptized have a calling in God's world. God calls not just pastors and deacons but also the youngest child, like Samuel. The story of the calling of Nathanael plays with the idea of place. Nathanael initially dismisses Jesus because he comes from Nazareth. But where we come from isn't important; it's where—or rather whom—we come to. Jesus refers to Jacob, who had a vision in a place he called "the house of God, and . . . the gate of heaven" (Gen. 28:17). Jesus says he himself is the place where Nathanael will meet God. **Readings:** 1 Samuel 3:1–10; John 1:43–51

January 21 – 3rd Sunday after Epiphany

As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

**Readings:** Jonah 3:1–5, 10; Mark 1:14–20

January 28 – 4th Sunday after Epiphany

In Deuteronomy God promises to raise up a prophet like Moses, who will speak for God. For the church these are ways of pointing to the unique authority people sensed in Jesus’ actions and words. We encounter that authority in God’s word, around which we gather, the word that prevails over any lesser spirit that would claim power over us, freeing us to follow Jesus. **Readings:** Deuteronomy 18:15–20; Mark 1:21–28

February 4 – 5th Sunday after Epiphany

In Isaiah the one God who sits above the earth and numbers the stars also strengthens the powerless. So in Jesus’ healing work we see the hand of the creator God, lifting up the sick woman to health and service (diakonia). Like Simon’s mother-in-law, we are lifted up and healed to serve. Following Jesus, we strengthen the powerless; like Jesus, we seek to renew our own strength in quiet

*The Star* times of prayer. **Readings:** Isaiah 40:21–31; Mark 1:29–39

Month of November YTD to Date

Income:	\$ 25,775.78	Income:	\$361,163.69
Expenses:	\$ 42,975.96	Expenses:	\$372,664.77
Net:	\$-17,200.23	Net:	\$ -11,501.08

*We are over spent due to some quarterly payments as well as completing all of our tithe commitments to the Missions Support we give.*

**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).



# Council Notes

## Council Meeting Minutes - Approved

December 12, 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, Brian Carlson, Greg Schumann, Cindy Thompson, Sabrina Lee, Paul Puebla, Mike Smith, Glenn Summers, Cindy Tayler, and Jaime Updegraff. Absent: Cathy Goodman.

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: led by Pr. Katie.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: approved via email and posted.

FINANCIAL REPORT: Greg shared he paid off all of tithing for missions. Missions paid out nearly \$4,000 for our final tithing for the year. We are finishing paying for the roof repair from the Capital Improvement Fund. Cindy Tayler moved to accept financial report, Mike Smith seconded. No discussion. Motion carried.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: See each ministry report for details but verbal highlights given include:

- Pastor/Staff: Visitation training will be scheduled Jan/Feb.
- Worship: Selling poinsettias two weeks before Christmas has worked well.
- Evangelism: Cindy shared she met with Amy, new property manager at Fields, regarding working together. Amy was very receptive about ASF&F planning and collaborating with BLC.
- Faith Formation: Jaime shared her report is coming. Advent Wednesdays are going well - 50 people at last week's event. Gary held first meeting for National Youth Gathering

(summer of 2024 in New Orleans). Due to the cancellation of the previously planned youth gathering, \$17,640 has already been raised to be used for the 2024 gathering.

- Mission: Please ready Cathy's report.
- Property: Church security team will meet mid-January. Rekeying the church will be discussed in January at safety meeting. Planning when the parking lot will be painted is in progress. Glenn is waiting for the county to release the latest water test results on the water fountain in the fellowship hall.
- Stewardship: Do we want to pass a plate at Christmas? Council believes it is time to go back to passing the plates for offering. We will begin passing the plate on December 17th and continue this process. Verbal and printed announcements will be made.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None.

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Girl Scouts: the Girl Scouts would like to hold a cookie booth February 4th and a Spring Bake sale.
  - Mark Holste moved that the Girls Scouts be allowed to hold a cookie booth February 4th and a Spring bake sale May 19th or May 26th. Paul Puebla seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
- Bob Cotton has requested for a St Patrick's Dinner to occur on Saturday March 16th with funds going to the next mission trip.
  - Mark Holste moved for a St Patrick's Dinner to occur on Saturday March 16th with funds going to the next mission trip. Brian Carlson seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.
- Cub/Boy Scouts: Mark Holste moved BLC authorize the renewal of the charter for Cub Scout pack 65 and Boy Scout Troop 548. Greg Schumann seconded. No discussion. Motion passed.

## Council Notes

- New Mower - Glenn and property ministry.
  - The property ministry is asking for \$4000 for the purchase of a new mower.
  - Greg Schumann moved that we approve the purchase of a mower and the money come out of capital improvement. Glenn Summers seconded. Discussion: Could we go electric? Colorado is looking at outlawing the sale of gas mowers: should we go electric? The law is regarding residential use so it doesn't pertain to . Glenn also shared there is no electric mower on the market that can handle the mowing needs of Bethlehem. Motion passed.

### DISCUSSION:

- Boulder AA will not be utilizing our facility on December 31st.
- Greg is asking everyone to watch their budget and double check line items.
- Reminder: Evangelism is doing a meet and greet with residents and kids on Dec 21st with hot chocolate being served.
- Ways to thank our members – Cindy Thompson shared ideas of how we can thank our volunteers.
- Light of Christ would like to place a bin in the narthex for a used/clean sock recycling project - Council is okay with them publicizing this project.
- Musical Ambassadors to The Atria – Sabrina Lee and Worship Ministry is taking over responsibility for this. Council shared how grateful BLC is to the Phipps' for their time and talents shared through this ministry.
- Musical Freedom small recital on Sunday, January 14 from 9:30 AM – 11:30 AM. If you are interested in attending talk to Jeanne Phipps immediately as it takes about 3 weeks for a background check to be completed.

- Solar panels – Greg shared Dave Hooley talked about the feasibility of solar for Growing Gardens. Dave is asking the church for permission to research this possibility. Council is appreciative of Dave's interest and agreed to allow Dave to go forward.
- Cathy Goodman sent out a fundraiser calendar. An update has occurred that is not on the emailed copy. Calendar gives ministries a good idea of when fundraisers are happening so we don't "overload" any particular date/Sunday.
- Bob's letter regarding gun surrenderance - Mark received a letter from Bob Cotton asking BLC to consider a gun surrenderance event. Council appreciates Bob's motivation but consensus was that we are overwhelmed at this time with events scheduled and are unable to coordinate such an event.

### PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS

#### PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Mark adjourned the meeting at 8.25p.m.

Upcoming Dates: next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 9 at 7:00pm.

Executive session at 6:30pm



### 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. During Advent this year bring HOPE, PEACE, LOVE and JOY to someone's Life.

### 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:** We'll meet all Sundays in January.

**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:** Classes in January are January 14 and 28.

**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 be gathering on January 9 and 23, from 10:30–11:00 a.m. and 6:00– 6:30 p.m. We meet in the sanctuary on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month and 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.

**National Youth Gathering:** Our senior high youth that will be going to New Orleans this year for the National Youth Gathering will meet on January 21 at 1:00 p.m. The theme for this is "Created to Be" and our scripture is surrounded by Psalm 139.



<sup>1</sup>O Lord, you have searched me and known me. <sup>2</sup>You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away... <sup>14</sup>I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; that I know very well...

## 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.
- Choir: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- First Friday: January 5, 6:00 p.m.
- Mercy Ships Chat: January 7, 11:30 a.m.
- Family Sunday: January 7, 12:00 p.m.
- Naomi Circle: January 9, 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: January 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Prayer Time: January 10, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- Book Club: January 11, 9:00 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: January 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Music Ambassadors: January 14, 11:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class; January 14, 11:45 a.m.
- Prayer Shawl: January 16, 10:00 a.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: January 16, 7:00 p.m.
- Visitation Team Training, January 20, 9:30 a.m.
- Scouts Chili Cook off, January 20, 11:00 a.m.
- Mission Planning Mtg., January 21, 11:30 a.m.
- Prayer Time: January 24, 10:30 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
- Safety Team Mtg., January 25, 7:00 p.m.
- Confirmation Class: January 28, 11:45 a.m.

## Bell Ringing

I'd like to thank everyone that rang bells this year for the salvation army! We had approximately 50 people from Bethlehem involved in this project. This was Bethlehem's 14th year of bell ringing. Four of the five days that were coordinated were for Bethlehem Lutheran and Light of Christ. The fifth day was a Lions club day, and the combined effort resulted in a donated amount of \$3,838. The entire amount collected is going to the Salvation Army and OUR center. This was due to all of the volunteers who stepped forward to ring and those that gave with all their heart. Thank you again for helping the Salvation Army and our local OUR center!





### 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.

### Word For Kids

by Dave Hooley

I became interested in oral storytelling some 30 years ago when I was studying AI, long before it became a thing.

One of the AI research branches is the exploration of how and why humans tell each other stories. When we listen to a story, it reminds us of something from our own past experience. Then we tuck that story away alongside that memory.

I also got interested back then in traditional storytelling. After I retired several years ago, I joined Spellbinders, a group of volunteer storytellers who perform at schools, senior centers, libraries and museums, and yes even churches. The Word-For-Kids time at BLC provides a good opportunity for me to integrate some biblical research into a fun story-time for the kids.

Please let me know if you're interested in joining in the fun, as well as hearing more about Spellbinders.

### Mercy Ships

I need YOU to come to see and learn all about MERCY SHIPS on Sunday, January 7, in the Fireside Room after either service. These are HOSPITAL SHIPS.

There are two ships, "AFRICA MERCY" and "GLOBAL MERCY," that operate by ALL VOLUNTEERS, that includes doctors, nurses etc. These people come from 24 nations. On these ships are all the necessary operating rooms and recovery wards.

Recently they have been docked in Senegal in western Africa. Adults and children are arriving, perhaps walking, as much as 100 miles to get FREE surgeries, for a multitude of issues, many that we do not see in this country. Often the pictures of their arrival, and pictures after surgery are TRANSFORMATIONAL. Please plan to join me and learn all about Mercy Ships, you will be inspired. Thank you — Bob Cotton



### Come, Eat Pizza, Give Your Input and Reflections!

Missions yearly planning meeting January 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Fireside Room. Do you have an interest in missions? Do you have ideas for the coming year or feedback on the past one? Do you want your voice heard in the planning? Do you already participate in the Social Justice Initiative, Share the Grace and God's Work Our Hands events, the Our Center, New Beginnings, Nicaragua, Annie and Millie's Place, Quilting, Mission Trips, the Little Pantry, the reentry Initiative, or the Immigrant Focus Group? Then....This meeting is for YOU! We will see you on the 21st!



### First Friday

We'll meet January 5 at 6:00 p.m. at DJ and Rod Christian home. Please bring an appetizer and a beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at 303-775-6928.

### Naomi Circle

Our January meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom on Tuesday, January 9, 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.

### 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.

### 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

We will be reading *Sing for your Life* by Daniel Bergner for our January 11 book club. We meet on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. This selection is from a Longmont Library Book Bag so there are 10 copies available. Mary Jane has the bag, so find her at church, or call 303-579-4324 to arrange getting a copy. You can keep the copy until after the January meeting. Email mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be added to the book club list and to receive reminders and zoom link before each meeting.

### Beginner Mindful Djembe Drumming Class

Learn to play the Djembe (jim-bay) Drum with **Gregg Hansen**, Professional Musician, Hand Drummer, Instructor & Facilitator! This is the ultimate class for getting started on playing a Djembe drum and learning meditational rhythms for ages 16 and up.

You will learn:

1. Origin of the Djembe drum
2. How to hold it
3. How to play the three notes - bass, tone, slap
4. Two trance and dance rhythms
5. How to read the color coded rhythm text sheet
6. How to play rhythms with other drummers
7. All lessons are presented clearly and patiently.

Within minutes you'll not only be making music on this magical drum—but reaping the health benefits, and jamming with your friends. A Limited number of Djembes are provided w/class tuition—reserve your drum and/or spot here:

[communitydrum@earthlink.net](mailto:communitydrum@earthlink.net)

WHAT: Beginner Mindful Djembe drum Classes

WHEN: Second Sundays @ 4:00–5:00 p.m. (Jan. 14, Feb. 11, Mar. 10 and continuing)

WHERE: Bethlehem Lutheran Church / 1000 W.15th Ave., Longmont 80501

HOW MUCH: \$20 per month (Bethlehem Lutheran members are 1/2 price - \$10.)

## Member Milestones

### Birthdays

Jan 1 Gina Alexander  
Jan 1 Alisha James  
Jan 1 Emily Dawson  
Jan 2 Zephyr Lautenschlager  
Jan 3 Bonnie Mason  
Jan 3 Racheal Goodman  
Jan 5 Heather Barnhouse  
Jan 7 Frances Rhoades  
Jan 7 Bob Urbach  
Jan 8 George Dillan  
Jan 10 Mike Davis  
Jan 11 Jim Woodruff  
Jan 11 Perrie Sanders  
Jan 11 Ryan Kragerud  
Jan 11 Alex Hebbert  
Jan 12 Nancy Habegger  
Jan 13 Colten Corner  
Jan 14 Justin Woodley  
Jan 15 Molly Summers-Stiver  
Jan 16 Emily Kunselman  
Jan 17 Mark Abromski  
Jan 19 Mark Herbst  
Jan 19 Grace Demmel  
Jan 19 Callie Bowman  
Jan 19 Emily Dickhans  
Jan 20 Betty Culbertson  
Jan 20 Mendy Goodman  
Jan 21 Margot Hoffmeyer  
Jan 21 Lily Romaszewski  
Jan 22 Marcella Myers  
Jan 22 Patty Fagler  
Jan 24 Morgan Dimmitt  
Jan 24 Hannah Thompson  
Jan 26 Dean Mickelson  
Jan 27 Alex Dickhans  
Jan 28 Kyle Curtis  
Jan 29 Steven Byrne  
Jan 31 Dennis Bloemker

### Anniversaries

Jan 3 Mark & Linda Holste (48)  
Jan 5 Robin & Frank Lee (34)  
Jan 5 Sandy & John Frazer (22)  
Jan 7 Dennis & Marcy Smith (57)  
Jan 22 Howard & Sharon Wirth (58)

### Prayers

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

### Bake Sale Appreciation!

Bless ALL of you who brought baked goods and all who donated for them during the "Eat a Treat, Put Shoes on a Kid's Feet" bake sale. It raised \$1155.98!!!! Shoes are from 20–25 dollars a pair, so approximately 50 children at our children center will get their feet protected. MUCHAS GRACIAS!

**Newsletter Deadline:** Submit items by **January 20 for the February 2024 newsletter**. Submit to BLC news form or the BLC news email (news@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

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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.

