

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.

February newsletter

Mardi Gras Murder Mystery Party

The first Sunday of the month from 12:00 – 2:00 p.m. we have Traditions (Family) Sunday in the Fellowship Hall. We invite everyone to join us each month for lunch and participate in a fun activity.



The theme for February 4 is Mardi Gras! We will serve gumbo, cornbread and mac-n-cheese. We will have a murder mystery party for all ages and interactive games with beads and masks. If you want to dress up for Mardi Gras there will be a gift for the best dressed costume. Check the weekly email or bulletin for the murder mystery character list.

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Rev's Revelations

We love the imagery of the journey, the road, the walk. If you've ever been in a Lutheran church during the season of Lent, you've probably heard about the journey (probably ad nauseum). We tend to take an introspective approach to the season—contemplating your own mortality, your personal faults, your individual grief. Self-reflection is important. Recognizing where you are on this faith journey, on the road of life, is important for your own mental and emotional health. However, you weren't created to do it alone.

You probably remember the stories of creation—if you don't, I encourage you to open your bible to Genesis 2:4-22. There God creates the first person. Then God notices there is not a partner for the person. So, God creates the second person. Humanity is not created to walk the journeys of life or faith or any road alone. During this season of Lent—which begins with Ash Wednesday on February 14—don't go it alone. Come to worship. Join Adult Forum or Sunday School. Gather at Table Talk. Bring your bowl and fill up with soup, prayer, and conversation on Wednesdays this Lent. All are welcome—and that includes you!

Peace,



PS: If you've ever heard our Rocky Mountain Synod bishop, Rev. Jim Gonia, speak, you've probably heard that *synod* means *on the way together*. Take a few minutes to check out the synod annual report on page 14-15.

Worship

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 times of prayer.

February 11 – Transfiguration of Our Lord

The Sundays after Epiphany began with Jesus' baptism and end with three disciples' vision of his transfiguration. In Mark's story of Jesus' baptism, apparently only Jesus sees the Spirit descending and hears the words from heaven. But now Jesus' three closest friends hear the same words naming him God's Beloved. As believers, Paul writes, we are enabled to see the God-light in Jesus' face, because the same God who created light in the first place has shone in our hearts to give us that vision. The light of God's glory in Jesus has enlightened us through baptism and shines in us also for others to see.

February 18 – First Sunday in Lent

On Ash Wednesday the church began its journey toward baptismal immersion in the death and resurrection of Christ. This year, the Sundays in Lent lead us to focus on five covenants God makes in the Hebrew Scriptures and to use them as lenses through which to view baptism. First Peter connects the way God saved Noah's family in the flood with the way God saves us through the water of baptism. The baptismal covenant is made with us individually, but the new life we are given in baptism is for the sake of the whole world.

February 25 – Second Sunday in Lent

The second covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the one made with Abraham and Sarah: God’s promise to make them the ancestors of many, with whom God will remain in everlasting covenant. Paul says this promise comes to all who share Abraham’s faith in the God who brings life into being where there was no life. We receive this baptismal promise of resurrection life in faith. Sarah and Abraham receive new names as a sign of the covenant, and we too get new identities in baptism, as we put on Christ.

March 3 – Third Sunday in Lent

The third covenant in this year’s Lenten readings is the central one of Israel’s history: the gift of the law to those God freed from slavery. The commandments begin with the statement that because God alone has freed us from the powers that oppressed us, we are to let nothing else claim first place in our lives. When Jesus throws the merchants out of the temple, he is defending the worship of God alone and rejecting the ways commerce and profit-making can become our gods. The Ten Commandments are essential to our baptismal call: centered first in God’s liberating love, we strive to live out justice and mercy in our communities and the world.

Month of December YTD to Date

Income:	\$ 33,984.56	Income:	\$395,148.25
Expenses:	\$ 34,556.58	Expenses:	\$407,221.35
Net:	\$ -572.02	Net:	\$-12,073.10

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

January 9, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Cindy Thompson,
Secretary

CALL TO ORDER: Mark Holste called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

ATTENDING: Pr. Katie Chullino, Mark Holste, Brian Carlson, Greg Schumann, Cindy Thompson, Cathy Goodman, Sabrina Lee, Paul Puebla, Mike Smith, 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 that we were a little over in expenses but ended the year with a \$266 net loss. Some meaningful conversations will be coming up with regard to management of each ministry budget and how each ministry now has a designated account.

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

- Pastor/Staff: Pr. Katie asked that each Council member and ministry chair please get dates to Tiffany regarding approval for an event to be added to the calendar. December services went well. Pr. Katie is asking to do “Conversations in the Garden” for Lent where each week we’ll have someone reading the part of Jesus off stage and someone will be acting a part up front in a “garden” venue (February 11– Easter).
- Worship: Sabrina shared that December was great. She recommends that next year we have 3 stations for communion and that Worship Ministry look at different ways to disburse candles (possibly Confirmands).

- Evangelism: Soup suppers will begin during Lent.
- Faith Formation: Jaime shared caroling was a success. She thanked the adults that helped with the Christmas program.
- Mission: Cathy shared thanks to everyone for the success of the bake sale. Bethlehem Quilters is part of Evangelism Ministry. What ministry is overseeing Growing Gardens? The signup for Atria Worship is being handled by Sabrina and Worship Ministry. Thank you to Bob Cotton for his passion and presentation of “Mercy Ships”.
- Stewardship: Mike shared passing the plate amounts are in his report.
- Property: Glenn highlighted painting is occurring.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

- Share the Grace Events for 2024
 - Cathy Goodman moved that the First of two Share the Grace Events for 2024 occur on February 19th or 26th . Sabrina Lee seconded.

Discussion: Funds raised will go into Mission’s Designated Fund 4.02.1540. Motion carried.

- St. Patrick’s Day Dinner
 - Mark Holste moved that beer be allowed to be served at the St. Patrick’s Day dinner. Brian Carlson amended the motion stating that beer be allowed at the St. Patrick’s Day dinner but it must be monitored and served to a two beer maximum. The event organizers need to follow the Colorado Nonprofit guidelines for serving alcohol on the premises. Sabrina Lee seconded the motion as amended.

Council Notes (con't)

Discussion: Is this an open/closed event? How are we liable? No silent auction will be taking place. Motion as amended carried.

- Hopi Mission Trip: Cathy Goodman moved that the Hopi Mission Trip be allowed to occur October 12-17. Brian Carlson seconded. Motion carried.

DISCUSSION:

- Music director: Sabrina will continue this discussion with the Worship Committee.
- Changing Ministry name: Greg shared the process for changing the name of Missions to Social Action and Evangelism to Community Care. A formal written proposal must be given to Council with a copy of the current constitution and bylaws, a copy with the line-out of the old text and addition of the new text, and the third document would be the document after all those changes are made. It must be presented to Council 60 days before a congregational meeting. The congregation must be notified 30 days before the congregational meeting and presented all 3 documents. The congregational meeting must be announced two Sundays prior to the meeting. The name change must be presented at the congregational meeting and the congregation has to approve by $\frac{2}{3}$ of majority. A copy of all paperwork must be sent to Synod Secretary and then at the next congregational meeting the change must be ratified. Our bylaws list the definitions of each ministry. Please take a good look at the descriptions and see if they need to be changed. Greg will send individual ministry chairs documents regarding bylaws and financial budgets.
- Clarification of what service areas are under Mission Ministry
 - When and how will it be decided what ministry Growing Gardens will fall under? Growing Gardens will remain as part of the Land Use/Management team and will be invited as a partner to Missions. The Land Use agreement has been signed by Mark Holste on behalf of BLC.
 - Bethlehem Quilters are a part of Evangelism Ministry
 - Will Atria services now be under Worship? Sign-up for volunteers for Atria services will be done by the Worship Committee but discussion will continue with regard to what ministry or individuals will take sole responsibility.
- Campus Ministry Sunday is February 11 Student preaching: This is also Scout Sunday. Scouts (boys and girls) and members will be invited to wear uniforms. Love offering will be accepted for Campus Ministry. Money for Campus Ministry will go into Missions designated fund - 4.02.1540.
- Van maintenance: Glenn said Property Ministry will take over maintenance of the van. Council will discuss driver guidelines/usage in the future.
- Fundraising Calendar: Pr. Katie will add the fundraising calendar to the shared folders for each ministry.
- Financial Discussion: Greg will send each ministry chair their designated funds and go over funds with them. Karen sends each ministry a monthly summary. If you see an incorrect amount, notify Karen and Greg.
- Agenda: Mark stated that if items are not brought up on the agenda then discussion/action on these items will not take place.

Council Notes (con't)

PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Mark adjourned the meeting at 9:03p.m.

Upcoming Dates: Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 13 at 7:00pm. Executive session at 6:30pm.

Lent 2024

2024 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 below (some groups will be serving 2 times, but they will serve less at the summer coffees). We do keep a record and try our best to share the burden.

February 21: Pink and Purple

February 28: Teal and Red

March 6: Orange and Gold

March 13: Teal and Pink

March 20: Purple and Orange

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.

Upcoming Lenten Events

Ash Wednesday Services

Wednesday, February 14
12:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.

Midweek Lenten Celebration

Wednesdays, starting February 21
Soup Supper at 5:30 p.m.
Evening Prayer at 6:30 p.m.

Palm Sunday

March 24 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Maundy Thursday

Thursday, March 28 at 7:00 p.m.

Good Friday

Friday, March 29 at 7:00 p.m.

Easter Vigil

Saturday, March 30 at 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday

March 31 at 8:00 a.m. and 10:15 a.m.

Keep those in your prayers

Members: Jamie A., Jeanne P., Howie W., Joanne L., Joyce G., DeEtte E., Sharon P., Dean W., Nancy H., Gene S., 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, 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.



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 February (4th, 11th, 18th, 25th).

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 February 11 and 25.

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 February 14 and 28, 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 you Gathering will meet on April 20 from 11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. The theme for this is "Created to Be." Our scripture is surrounded by Psalm 139.



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



Lenten Mentoring: Would you like to be a mentor for one of our Confirmands? Lenten Mentoring begins February 21 and continues for the following five weeks. You can meet on Sundays or Wednesdays. This year's theme is "Why Church?????" Please contact Gary if you are interested.

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.

The Seven Dos of Mentoring (con't)

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.

- 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, 12:00 p.m.
- Choir: Wednesdays, 7:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- First Friday: February 2, 6:00 p.m.
- Family Sunday: February 4, 12:00 p.m.
- Brewsday: February 6, 8:00 a.m.
- Book Club: February 8, 9:00 a.m.
- Film Screening: February 10, 2:00 p.m.
- Music Ambassadors: February 11, 11:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class: February 11, 11:45 a.m.
- Naomi Circle: February 13, 9:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: February 13, 7:00 p.m.
- Prayer Time: February 14, 10:30 a.m.
- Ash Wednesday Services: February 14, 12:00 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.
- Brewsday: February 20, 8:00 a.m.
- Prayer Shawl: February 20, 10:00 a.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: February 20, 7:00 p.m.
- Midweek Lenten Dinner: February 21, 5:30 p.m.
- Midweek Lenten Prayer: February 21, 6:30 p.m.
- Safety Team Mtg.: February 22, 7:00 p.m.
- Habitat Build: February 24
- Share the Grace: February 25
- Adult Forum begins: February 25, 9:15 a.m.
- Confirmation Class: February 25, 11:45 a.m.
- Immigration Focus Group: February 27, 7:00 p.m.
- Prayer Time: February 28, 10:30 a.m.
- Midweek Lenten Dinner: February 28, 5:30 p.m.
- Midweek Lenten Prayer: February 28, 6:30 p.m.

To Serve

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.

To Serve

by Betty Rasmussen

Growing up in southern Wisconsin, my parents were very active volunteers in our church, in Scouts (Girl and Boy), and the wider community. They encouraged me and my siblings to be involved with the things that we cared about. Because of their faith and commitment, I learned the importance of giving back to my community by volunteering and offering my skills where they are needed.

Music has always been a passion for both me and my husband Doug. We sang together in college at the University of Wisconsin Eau Claire where we both majored in music. We have always been involved with our church choir – sometimes leading, sometimes just adding to the Joyful Noise. Since relocating to Colorado in 2015, I joined the Rocky Mountain Chorale and am currently serving as the President of the Board. The Rocky Mountain Chorale is a community-based choir in Boulder County, composed of singers of all ages. The Chorale sings a wide variety of diverse music for creatively themed concerts. The RMC is a welcoming group with a high level of excellence and sense of fun while striving to be a bridge to connect and inspire the community. I would love to see you at one of our upcoming concerts – Saturday, May 4 at First United Methodist Church in Boulder and Sunday, May 5 at Niwot High School. I'll be selling tickets! (Please forgive the shameless self-promotion).

I also am lucky enough to serve Bethlehem as part of the choir. I partner with Ray Leake to rehearse our choir and provide special music for Sunday services once per month. Bethlehem has a very talented group of singers and I feel blessed to be part of this group. We can always use more voices, so feel free to come on Wednesday evenings at 7:00 p.m. and check us out. No audition necessary!

Beyond music, serving the larger community is also very important to me. I volunteer to help serve lunches at the OUR Center when I can as well as supporting the Center in other ways. I also partner with friends from UCC Longmont to prepare a hot meal once a month for HOPE. Both these organizations are near and dear to my heart and I am happy that I can support their programs.

My time is somewhat limited as I work full time at the University of Colorado Boulder, but I am always looking for new ways to engage and support my community as an extension of my faith. I look forward to new ways to volunteer and ask God to “surprise me” with new opportunities to share my faith through action.

Donations Needed

The Little Pantry: We need peanut butter!!! I think I am always saying that. Also, we need canned soup, canned ravioli, spaghetti-Os, protein, Vienna sausage, canned chicken breast, hot cocoa packs. Right now we are good on oatmeal, cereal, bars, snacks, and fruit. Thank you BLC for making this happen; it is used everyday and usually emptied everyday. It is cold out there so remember socks, hats and gloves. You are a blessing to so many people and actually probably save lives.



Blankets Needed! Tipi Raisers has returned from a trip to Pine Ridge, South Dakota and found there is an acute shortage of blankets. If you feel moved to help these people on the reservation, please bring freshly laundered

blankets. There will be a table in the narthex with a sign for "Blankets" I will get these to Tipi Raisers to take to Pine Ridge shortly. Thank you. Bob Cotton

Thank You's

OUR Center Food & Toiletries Drive: Thank You to everyone who donated food, hygiene supplies and monetary donations to benefit the Our Center: Bethlehem Lutheran, Light of Christ, Cornerstone Preschool, TOPS, Djembe drums, and Living Nativity. Your donations along with the items purchased with the Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 provided 797 lbs. of food and hygiene supplies for the Our Center. In addition, \$231 in monetary donations were received.



Mercy Ships: Thank you for the great turn out for my January 7 presentation. If you were not able to attend and want to know about Mercy Ships please contact Bob Cotton.

Upcoming Trips

Attend the Border Immersion Trip with the Synod in April: Rocky Mountain Synod El Paso/ Juarez Border Immersion Trip from April 13–19, 2024. The Registration Deadline is March 13, 2024 or when capacity is reached. Registration does not include transportation to/from El Paso. To register and for more information please visit <https://tithe.ly/event-registration/#/7989805> Contact Rev. Brian Erickson (brianerickson50@gmail.com) with questions.



October Mission Trip with Tipi Raisers planned for Saturday, October 12 to Thursday, October 17. Plans are to make a mission trip to either the Hopi/Navajo Reservations in Arizona or the Ute Reservation located southwest of Durango, Colorado. We plan to use "Josephine" with BLC and LOC participants. Mark your calendars to save the dates now.



Participate

Come See This Provocative Film: On Saturday, February 10 at 2:00 p.m., we are invited to join LOC to view the film *This is [Not] Who We Are*. This film has won many awards and braids the lived experiences of Black people ranging in age from 12 to 78. Some stories are searing, while others are hopeful. The film seeks to open a space for dialogue among Boulderites about cities like Boulder—overwhelmingly white, wealthy, and conflicted about issues of diversity, inclusion, and equity. Is a more economically and racially diverse future possible in cities like Boulder across America? Please join us for this insightful film. If there is enough interest, SJI will meet to discuss it at a later date.



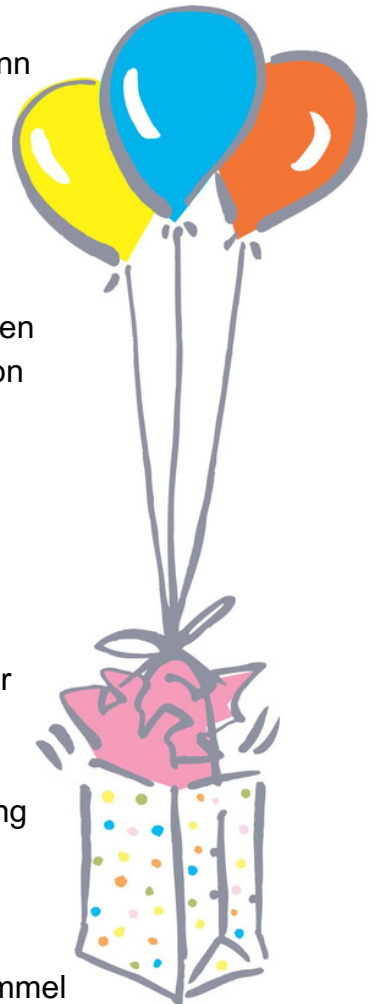
The next **Habitat Build Day** will be Saturday, February 24. We will be working on 6 pairs of homes on the Sugar Mill Property East of Longmont. Please sign up on the sheet on the Narthex Wall. Thank you.

The Immigrant Focus Group will meet February 27 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom. To get the link, contact Cathy G: cegood47@aol.com.

Saint Patrick's Dinner will be Saturday, March 16. We have been unable because of COVID to enjoy this event. Now LOC and BLC will work together to once again put on this joyful event. We may look for volunteers, please help if we call. This will be a fundraiser for our October Mission Trip.

Birthdays

Feb 2	Marcie Hushka
Feb 2	Jennifer Puebla
Feb 2	Sarah Demmel
Feb 2	Alexander Pemberton
Feb 2	Thomas Hoime
Feb 3	Linda Holm
Feb 5	Sandy Woodruff
Feb 6	Darlene Borgmann
Feb 9	Mark Holste
Feb 9	Maitland Gordon
Feb 10	Alice Geiling
Feb 11	Kristy Lee
Feb 12	Doris Haave
Feb 12	Doug Rasmussen
Feb 12	Ethan Thompson
Feb 13	Robyn Sloan
Feb 14	Dennis Smith
Feb 14	Chili Chullino
Feb 14	Kiowa Stetson
Feb 15	Katie Wissink
Feb 15	Kevin Kelley
Feb 16	Joyce Gallagher
Feb 17	Coqui Stetson
Feb 17	Anna Kragerud
Feb 18	Leonard Thieking
Feb 18	Scott Peterson
Feb 18	Gavin Neuhaus
Feb 22	Caleb Payne
Feb 22	Mackenzie Demmel
Feb 23	Josh Dimmitt
Feb 27	Georgene Gibson
Feb 27	Nancy Tiff
Feb 28	Brian Burrell
Feb 28	Andrew Gordon
Feb 28	Pr. Katie Chullino



Anniversaries

Feb 6	Steven & Julie Winter 36
Feb 14	Jim & Margot Hoffmeyer 54
Feb 14	Jeff & Heather Ditillo 26
Feb 17	Gary & Helen Knutson 23

First Friday

Will be at Shirley Kasperbauer and Mike Cooperman's home on February 2 at 6:00 p.m. Their address is 17 Vassar Court. Bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For questions call 303-775-6928

Naomi Circle

Our February meeting will be in person (Youth Room) and on Zoom Tuesday, February 13, 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 are 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 meet Thursday, February 8 at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom to discuss *Warrior Girl Unearthed* (f) by Angeline Bouilley. This Young Adult mystery from the Anishinabe Tribe presents an investigation into the increasing number of missing indigenous women and stolen tribal artifacts. Everyone is welcome to this meeting! Contact Mary Jane mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be added to the email list and to receive book club reminders, communications, and zoom links.

Adult Forum

During Lent we will meet at 9:15 a.m. between Sunday services. We will discuss the series, *Why Church?*, which was developed by the Rocky Mountain Synod Congregational Ministries Committee—on which Rev. Andrea Kragerud serves! The study will begin on February 18.

Table Talks

We are discussing a new and developing social statement from the ELCA on civics and faith. Table Talks meet on Wednesdays at noon in the Fireside Room. If you're interested in joining us, please talk to Pastor Katie now!

Brewsday Mornings

We'll meet Tuesday, February 6 at 8:00 a.m. at Wonder Press (1139 Francis St – the old Ziggi's) and Tuesday, February 20 at 8:00 a.m. at BLC.

Bring your fake houseplants to church!

We will be setting up a scene for our Lenten Evening Prayer services and need lots of greenery. If you have fake houseplants that we can borrow, please bring them on or before Sunday, February 11. We recommend putting your name on a tag somewhere on the plant so we can return it to you. Plants can be placed in Pastor Katie's office for the time being

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



Rocky Mountain Synod: On the Way Together

To be a **synod** literally means to be *on the way together*
- on the **way of Jesus** together.

With **profound gratitude**, we celebrate the many ways your mission support has empowered our ministry and mission as **Christ's Church, Better Together** in the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod in 2023.

- In May we met in **Assembly** in El Paso to experience the power of "Cruzando Fronteras/Crossing Borders" for the sake of the gospel, and in September our rostered ministers gathered in four locations across our synod to engage in the discernment about the 2024 bishop's election.
- The **Global Mission Network** supported RMS missionaries and began planning for a RMS border immersion trip and visit by Malagasy companion synod leaders in 2024.
- **Excellence in Leadership (EiL)** added trainings on healthy boundaries, adaptive leadership, conflict management & congregational systems. Since 2019, EiL has trained 179 leaders in courageous, resilient & faithful leadership.
- **3E (Educate, Equip, Enact)**, funded by the Lilly Foundation, provided 11 mini-sabbatical grants for rostered leaders, stewardship learning opportunities for congregations, non-profit management training for 40 leaders, and funding to support rostered leaders engaging in counseling, coaching and spiritual direction.



Rev. Angela Chacon's ordination and installation at Ascension St. Matthew's Lutheran Episcopal Church in Price, UT.

BY THE NUMBERS

30

CANDIDATES
being accompanied
from discernment
through first call

6

ORDINATIONS
of new pastors &
deacons

28

INSTALLATIONS
of pastors and
deacons into new
ministry settings

21

FIRST CALL
deacons & pastors
being accompanied
through their first
three years of
ministry

47.5

**% of MISSION
SUPPORT** received
in our synod was
shared with our
Churchwide
Organization

TOGETHER IN 2023

- The **Campus Ministry Committee** regrouped to better accompany our seven synod campus ministries.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - Colorado** worked on a number of bills including the passage of House Bill 1112 (Rep. S. Bird), which will make significant changes for Colorado tax filers who claim the Earned Income Tax Credit and Child Tax Credit. It's one of our state's most effective and proven anti-poverty measures.
- **Lutheran Advocacy Ministry - New Mexico** advocated successfully for \$10 million in additional one-time funding for low-income/affordable housing, \$30 million in additional annual funding for low-income/affordable housing, and an increase in the state's child-tax credit and universal healthy school meals for all New Mexico children.
- The **RMS Disaster Response Committee** organized to better accompany and support congregations in areas that have been impacted by major disasters
- The Synod was represented at board meetings & gatherings of our **Social Ministry Organization partners**, including Lutheran Family Services Rocky Mountains, Eben Ezer Lutheran Care Center, Urban Servant Corps and Border Servant Corps.
- A **multi-cultural ecumenical pilgrimage** to Greece and Rome included members of the Rocky Mountain Synod and the Episcopal Church in Colorado walking in the footsteps of Paul while praying for peace in the Holy Land.
- **Vital Right Shaped Ministry** provided tools for congregations and rostered ministers to review their congregational life, set a course for their future, and strengthen leaders for their journey ahead.
- Our **Congregational Transition Team** supported ministries throughout the synod during their transition and call process.
- Synod staff accompanied two of our congregations as they moved into new spaces, with **Highlands Lutheran** in Denver relocating to the Lutheran Center and **Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver** moving into the building generously donated to the synod by Christ the King Lutheran upon its conclusion of ministry.

Your generosity fueled these ministry opportunities, while supporting the countless ministries of our whole church across this country and around the world.

**Thank you for your commitment to being synod -
on the way together!**

Pictured at right from top to bottom: Wyoming Conference Rostered Leaders Retreat, Cristo Rey/Latino Ministry West Denver's Christmas celebration, Lutheran Campus Ministry at Luther House in Albuquerque, NM gather for a meal, community time, and worship, Racial Justice train-the-trainer event in April.



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.

Bethlehem Staff

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