

The Star

Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

SUMMER MOVIE NIGHT

FAMILY FUN FOR ALL AGES

Snacks, Karaoke, Bounce house,
Outdoor family-friendly movie
(Movie starts at dusk)

Bring a blanket or lawn chairs

AUGUST 6

6:00 PM



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Bethlehem
Lutheran Church



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America

Rev's Revelations

There's an often overlooked scene in the 6th chapter of Mark, between the beheading of John the Baptist and the feeding of the 5,000, where Jesus says to his disciples, "Come away to a deserted place all by yourselves and rest a while." Then, the disciples get on a boat and go to a deserted place. And, other people see them leave, follow them, and bring a bunch of sick people to be healed by them.

The disciples' work is unending. There is always someone to heal, to teach, to feed. When one need is met, another arises. The disciples are called to follow Jesus--who meets those needs. At the end of the scene--even though Jesus invites them to rest--the world does not give them rest.

For all the biblical things that don't relate well in our culture (slavery, patriarchy, disease, sacrifices, etc), the need for rest is one thing that most people can identify with. Our society thrives on keeping us busy--work, caring for family, civic engagement, being neighborly, volunteering. For many of us--myself included--resting does not happen easily. Usually, I rest after I've overworked, weakened my immune system, and caught the latest cold/flu/covid virus. I think that's characteristic of a lot of us--in following the savior, we think we have to sacrifice like the savior.

But that's not what Jesus asks us to do. Jesus asks his disciples and apostles to rest! In fact, God has never asked ANYONE to work without rest--from creation, God designated a day of sabbath, a day of rest. God commanded the Israelites to sabbath and to give their servants and animals sabbath, too.

This summer, I am taking a sabbath. I am fortunate to have received a Pandemic Relief Grant for a 6-week mini-sabbatical (a normal sabbatical is 3 months) through the Rocky Mountain Synod 3E Lilly Grant, "to provide support and relief to rostered leaders in the Rocky Mountain Synod so that they can continue to grow and thrive in ministry."The grant gives our congregation resources for a supply pastor and gives me resources to genuinely rest. When I applied for the grant, our BLC Council was gracious and supportive, ensuring that I would get to rest in a deserted place--well, not deserted so much as not right next door to the church and neighborhood shenanigans. I will spend this time relaxing and reconnecting with my personal spiritual practices. And, I am so thankful.

This is something those early disciples didn't get to do and something so many of us never get to do. I am thankful. I am also hopeful. I hope that our church's commitment to taking sabbath spreads further than the pastor. I hope that this sabbatical gives us each pause and empowers us to rest before it's needed. I hope that it helps us to enact policies in the workplace that give people vacation and sick leave and rest.

I hope that it normalizes not overworking and instead prompts you to cancel a meeting (with notice of course), take a vacation (even a staycation), or sleep in on a Sunday (gasp!).

Rev KJC

August 4 – 11th Sunday after Pentecost

Apparently not satisfied by Jesus' feeding of thousands, some who were there press him for a sign of his power; perhaps it is daily manna they want. As always in John's gospel when people want a sign, Jesus offers himself. He is the bread come from heaven to give life to the world. He calls us to come to him and believe in him, and through that relationship to know the one who sent him.

August 11 – 12th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus says that the bread he gives for the life of the world is his flesh, and whoever eats this bread has eternal life now and will be raised on the last day. In Ephesians Paul tells us what this life Jesus gives us looks like, this life we live as those marked with the seal of the Holy Spirit in baptism. We live in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. The whole purpose of life is giving yourself for the other.

August 18 – 13th Sunday after Pentecost (OUTDOOR)

Wisdom prepares a feast, sets her table, and invites all to come and eat her bread and drink her wine. The first chapter of John's gospel owes much to the biblical tradition that imagined Wisdom as existing before anything was created and having a role in the work of creation. Christ, the wisdom of God (1 Cor. 1:24), today invites us to eat his flesh and drink his blood. John's gospel includes no account of the institution of the Lord's supper, but here we can't help hearing Jesus' words as an invitation to the meal of bread and wine we share.

August 25 – 14th Sunday after Pentecost

In today's gospel many people take offense at Jesus' invitation to eat his flesh and drink his blood; even many of Jesus' disciples peel off. This is the backdrop in John's gospel for Peter's confession of faith. "To whom can we go?" asks Peter, in words we sometimes sing just before the gospel is read. "You have the words of eternal life." In order to take such a stand, as Peter and Joshua did, Paul tells us to arm ourselves with the word of God. We pray in the Spirit that we might be bold ambassadors of the gospel.

September 1 – 15th Sunday after Pentecost

Jesus protests against human customs being given the weight of divine law, while the essence of God's law is ignored. True uncleanness comes not from external things, but from the intentions of the human heart. Last week Jesus told us "the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and life" (John 6:63). Now James says God has given us birth by the word of truth. We who were washed in the word when we were born in the font return to it every Sunday to ask God to create in us clean hearts.

September 8 – 16th Sunday after Pentecost

Someone who isn't part of Jesus' own circle is casting out demons in Jesus' name, and the disciples want him stopped. They appeal to Jesus, as Joshua did to Moses about the elders who prophesied without official authorization. Like Moses, Jesus refuses to see this as a threat. Jesus welcomes good being done in his name, even when it is not under his control. The circle we form around Jesus' word must be able to value good being done in ways we wouldn't do it, by people we can't keep tabs on.

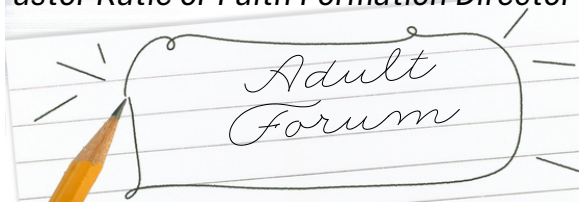
Adult Education

Adult Forum

Adult Forum plans for the 2024-25 program year are underway! You are welcome to join in any and all of the following opportunities for learning and fellowship:

- August 25: Budget Forum
- September 15: Bishop's Bible Study 1
- September 22: Budget Forum
- September 29: Bishop's Bible Study 2
- October 6: Bishop's Bible Study 3
- October 13: Holy Horror Stories 1 (The Scary, Gruesome Bible Stories You Never Read in Church)
- October 20: Holy Horror Stories 2
- October 27: Holy Horror Stories 3
- November 10: Budget Forum
- December 1, 8, 15, 22: Advent Series
- March 9, 16, 23, 30, 6, 13: Lent Series

Unlisted dates are "open" for special meetings, projects, or forum ideas that you have for the year. If you have an idea for any of the open forums, please contact Pastor Katie or Faith Formation Director Gary ASAP!



Keep those in your prayers

Members: Bob D., Patty F., Cathy G., Jim W., Dave B., Irene M., Doris C., Jill H., Nancy H., Jamie A., Joanne L., Florence M., Coqui S., Paul P., Darlene B., Jan M., Kristal H., Jeremy G.; **friends and relatives of our community:** Ken G., Matt V., Morgan K., Noah L., Ken F., Lenny W., Michelle T., Ron M., Abiba K., Katie T., Shannon M., Nancy P., Lydia M., Nora, Joyce P., Jordan, Mike, Pete C., Linda S., Howard P., Shawn M., Michael, Virginia, Victoria, John L., June D., Scarlett K., Erwin B., Donna S.; and **those serving your people:** Brett B., Bill W.

August Events

- Worship Service: Sundays, 9:15 a.m.
- Coffee Hour: Sundays, 10:15 a.m.
- Manna Bible Study: Mondays, 9:00 a.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- First Friday: August 2. 6:00 p.m.
- National Night Out Movie: August 6, 6:00 p.m.
- Book Club: August 8, 9:00 a.m.
- Nominating Committee, August 11, 10:15 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: August 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Music Ambassadors: August 11, 11:30 a.m.
- Council Meeting: August 13, 7:00 p.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: August 20, 6:00p.m.
- Budget Forum: August 25, 10:15 a.m.
- Immigration Focus Group: August 27, 7:00 p.m.

Fellowship

Summer Coffee Hour

The Neighborhood Groups will be providing goodies and clean-up after the 9:15 a.m. summer service.

Please bring with coffee cakes, donuts, fruit, deviled eggs, bagels, and other morning treats when your Neighborhood Shepherd contacts you.

- August 4 – Orange
- August 11 – Purple
- August 18 – Teal
- August 25 – Red
- September 1 – Gold





Council Meeting Minutes - Approved

July 9, 2024

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, Cathy Goodman, Sabrina Lee, Paul Puebla, Mike Smith, and Jaime Updegraff. Absent: Glenn Summers

DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER: led by Pr. Katie. "On Earth As It Is in Heaven" from *May It Be So: Forty Days with the Lord's Prayer* by Justin McRoberts & Scott Erickson.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING: approved via email and posted.

FINANCIAL REPORT: General Fund giving this month was below budget by \$1,330.17. General Fund expenses were under budget by \$1,527.17. This month's giving was approximately \$6,375 above last June's giving.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: See each ministry's monthly report for details.

- **Pastor/Staff:** Pr. Katie shared a thank you note written to Council. No other additions to her detailed monthly report.

- **Worship:** Sabrina said members like the one service. Should we consider going to one service? Council will continue to listen to feedback from summer attendees and discuss options for fall worship.

- **Missions:** The vet clinic hosted by Annie & Millie's place went well.

Mark Holste moved that the Nicaragua fundraiser be moved to July. Sabrina Lee seconded. Motion passed.

- **Evangelism:** Summer coffees have been a great success.

- **Faith Formation:** VBS was a success!

VBS was attended by 57 youths and 43 volunteers helped make it possible. **Over 500 hours** of volunteer time was given. Eight youths from Bethlehem attended Sky Ranch in June. We have 10 youths and 3 adult chaperones leaving Sunday, 7/14 for the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans. Rally Day is scheduled for September 8th.

- **Property:** See Glenn's monthly report.

- **Stewardship:** Mike shared that a letter will be included with the next quarterly statement going to congregation members articulating how much their giving supports BLC's missions and activities. Mike said his committee is looking at possibly sending out commitment cards with the quarterly report.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS: None

DISCUSSION:

- **Growing Gardens Fundraiser:** Greg shared we are going to send \$712.25 to Growing Gardens to be used at Pratt Street Farm.
- **Ministry description changes:** If you haven't sent them . . . send them to Greg ASAP.
- **Council Devotion:** Will someone take August's "Give Us Today Our Daily Bread" devotions? Cindy Thompson will lead devotions.
- **Nominating Committee:** Mark is sitting in on the Nominating Committee while Pr. Katie is gone.

CONTINUING OPEN ITEMS:

- **Solar Energy Project:** Mark shared Dave Hooley has a group together working on this endeavor.
- **Recommendation that BLC hire a Music Director:** Sabrina is forming a committee to get a job description together for a Music Director.

PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER

ADJOURNMENT: Mark adjourned the meeting at 7:55pm.

Upcoming Dates: next Council meeting will be Tuesday, August 13. Executive session at 6.30pm and Council at 7:00pm.

Month of May

Income: \$ 34,906.10
Expenses: \$ 40,834.43
Net: \$ -5,928.33

YTD to Date

Income: \$ 171,481.61
Expenses: \$ 184,690.83
Net: \$ -13,209.22

Month of June

Income: \$ 33,988.83
Expenses: \$ 33,468.83
Net: \$ 530.00

YTD to Date

Income: \$ 205,470.44
Expenses: \$ 221,159.21
Net: \$ -15,688.77

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.



Check Out Our Summer Giving Options!

Whether you are away on vacation or just relaxing at home, now is a great time to consider switching to one of our electronic giving options. That way, Bethlehem can continue all the many activities that we support during the summer—no matter who is on vacation, busy with family activities, or just taking a break! Online giving lets you go to our website at any time 24/7 where you can: choose and set up an automatic donation plan; change your donation plan; make a one-time donation, pay a registration fee, give to current mission projects; or view your online donation history.

Here are our current options for making electronic donations to BLC:

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 Donate page.
2. Use the Vanco Mobile app on your smartphone to make either single or recurring donations. Type in Bethlehem Lutheran Church or use the code AUTHZY to find our church (look for our logo). Vanco Mobile can be downloaded for either Apple iOS or Android; detailed instructions and links are on the Donate web page.
3. For recurring donations, another option is to download the BLC Vanco Enrollment form or get a copy from the BLC Office, complete and sign the form, and return with a voided check to the BLC office with Attention: Financial Secretary. The financial secretary will set up an account for you per your instructions on the form.

Of course you can also mail or drop off a check or cash to the BLC office (Attention: Financial Secretary, 1000 West 15th Avenue, Longmont, CO, 80501).

If you have any questions about either our giving or pledging options, please contact our financial secretary (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net or leave a message at 303-776-3290).



Children's Sunday School: It will be held at periodic times throughout the summer, please watch your emails each week for details.

Ministry Calendar of Events: Keep an eye out for it on the wall next to the youth room!

Confirmation 2024-25: Watch your emails for events happening during the summer.

National Youth Gathering

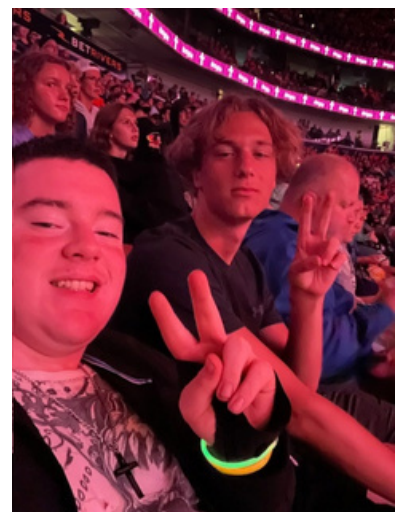
Our high school youth traveled to New Orleans for the National Youth Gathering from July 14 to 22. The theme this year was "Created to Be."



The daily themes were the following:

- **Created to be Brave:** You are not alone
- **Created to be Authentic:** You are seen
- **Created to be Free:** You are loved
- **Created to be Disruptive:** You are called
- **Created to be a Disciple:** You are sent into the world

Join us **August 11**, as our youth tell us about their experience at the National Youth Gathering during Sunday Service.



God's Work. Our Hands. & Share the Grace:

September 8, 2024 after Sunday service



Collect Items and Lend a hand!

Join an Activity for God's Work Our Hands:

1. Tie a quilt for Iglesia Luterana Cristo Rey in El Paso
2. Harvest or weed the Growing Garden plots
3. Put together back packs for Casa de Paz
4. Organize and sort donations for New Beginnings, Re-Entry Initiative, and Annie and Millie's Place.
5. Join the service in memory care at the Atria

Start collecting now to donate:

1. For Casa de Paz and The ReEntry Initiative: Back packs
2. For Reentry Initiative: Men's work clothes (no dress clothes). t-shirts, pants, jeans, polo shirts, new underwear; Shampoo, razors, soap, deodorant, socks, men's work shoes, tooth brushes and tooth paste; laundry soap pods
3. For New Beginnings at women's prison: New sports bras and underwear, large sizes of deodorant, shampoo, lotions, soap, conditioners, women's safety razors,
4. For Casa de Paz: snacks eaten by hand for back packs (no bars)
5. For Annie and Millie's Place: 4lb bags of dog food and cat food
6. Monetary donations for Casa de Paz, ReEntry Initiative, New Beginnings, and Annie and Millie's Place

Little Free Pantry

We need everything— peanut butter, bars, fruit, tuna, Vienna sausage, ravioli, spaghetti, spam, snacks, oatmeal, water, cereal, hot chocolate, plasticware, hygiene items.... Just a reminder— individual packages, pop top cans. Thank you ahead of time for all you do for those in need.

Thank You

Thank you to everyone who helped with shopping, cooking the meal, setup, check in, serving the meal, dish washing, clean up and helping out where needed at the Our Center Lunch Sunday, June 30. The next Our Center lunch served by BLC is Sunday, September 29.

Music Ambassadors

Singing at the Atria on the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. We invite everyone to join us – if you can or can't sing, young or old. The residents appreciate and enjoy the visits. We'll sing next on August 11!

Mission Trip Canceled

The Mission Trip scheduled for August 29 with Tipi Raisers has been canceled. There are plans to reschedule the trip for Spring 2025.

Habitat Build Day

On Saturday, August 24 we will continue working at The Sugar Mill Development (located 1/3 of a mile south of Hwy 119 and across from 3rd Avenue). Look for the signup sheet on the narthex wall under "Bob's Corner". Thank You!

Calling All Singers! Choir to Start September 11!

Bethlehem's choir will resume rehearsals on Wednesday, September 11 at 7:00 p.m. Choir is open to everyone who enjoys singing - no prior experience necessary. Choir rehearses Wednesday evenings and will sing at Worship one Sunday per month. Join the Choir and make a joyful noise!

Instrumentalists and Singers

Are you interested in sharing your musical talents at worship? BLC would love to include you and your gifts as part of Sunday services. Soloists, duets, small groups - all are welcome! If you are interested in providing special music for a Sunday service, contact Betty at betras83@gmail.com.

Member Milestones

Birthdays

Aug 2 Joanne Larsen
Aug 3 Mike Anderson
Aug 3 Madison Dirkes
Aug 4 Jean Propp
Aug 4 Jill Woodley
Aug 5 Jake Tiff
Aug 7 Talon Bloemker
Aug 8 Mary Boyer
Aug 8 Brian Carlson
Aug 10 Morgen Dirkes
Aug 11 Sue Starr
Aug 11 Ava Varas
Aug 12 Sharon Kirby-Cole
Aug 13 Sharon Peterson
Aug 13 Heather Ditillo
Aug 13 Mabel Stiver
Aug 14 Rose Hansen
Aug 14 Jim Starr
Aug 14 Lisa Kittelberger
Aug 15 Ken Creamer
Aug 16 Julie Winter
Aug 16 Emmalee Torrez
Aug 17 Matt James
Aug 18 Barbara Price
Aug 18 Eric Kittelberger
Aug 22 Betty Koch
Aug 23 Sue Smith

Aug 24 Travis Winter
Aug 27 Bob Lee
Aug 28 Carl Schurman
Aug 28 Sara Corner
Aug 28 Tiffany Beisner
Aug 28 Wyatt Davis
Aug 30 Rod Christian
Aug 30 Wyatt Hebbert
Aug 31 Emma Gordon

Anniversaries

Aug 3 Matt & Alisha James (16)
Aug 4 Don & Candy Tiff (40)
Aug 8 Gene & Wanda Schnabel (54)
Aug 13 Daylan & Paula Figgs (36)
Aug 15 Chili & Katie Chullino (15)
Aug 15 Morgan & Trevor Davidsen (3)
Aug 16 Gerald & Cherrelyn Watts (16)
Aug 17 Dave & Betty Bluhm (61)
Aug 17 Caleb & Cassie Payne (5)
Aug 17 Molly Summers-Stiver & Austin Stiver (5)
Aug 19 Art & Linda Holm (35)
Aug 23 Jerry & Jeanne Phipps (59)
Aug 23 Darwin & Carol Wissink (44)
Aug 26 Ed & Carol Schlachtenhaufen (63)
Aug 27 Dennis & Carolyn Bloemker (57)
Aug 31 Bill & Jen Dickhans (21)



First Friday

First Friday is August 2 at Bob & Sabrina Lee's home at 6:00 p.m. Their address is 1320 Whitehall Drive. Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at 303-775-6928.



Naomi Circle

Naomi Circle will not be meeting in August. 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..

Bethlehem Book Club

For our August 8 meeting we will be discussing *Africa Is Not A Country* (nf) by Dipo Faloyin. We meet at 9:00 a.m. on Zoom. To be included on reminders and Zoom links please email Mary Jane at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be placed on the communications list. Everyone is welcome to this insightful group of members!



Manna Bible Study

We meet each Monday morning at 9:00 a.m. for discussion and would love to have you join us. Please contact Phyllis W. (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 to learn something new!

Table Talks

Table Talk will take a break until October when we will discuss our summer reading picks: *The Cost of Discipleship* and *Letters and Papers from Prison* by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. All are welcome--and you don't need to have read to listen and ask questions!

Men's Bible Study

Join us for Bible Study, coffee and donuts every Saturday, 8:00 a.m. in the Fireside room. This group has met continuously for 32 years. Email Dan Kube at oledanl@aol.com/phone 720-272-0199 if interested.

First Friday

Friday, August 2, 6:00 p.m.

Ambassadors at the Atria

Sunday, August 11, 11:30 a.m.

Naomi Circle

No August Meeting

Book Club

Thursday, August 8, 9:00 a.m.

Prayer Shawl

Resumes in September

Manna Bible Study

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m.

Table Talk

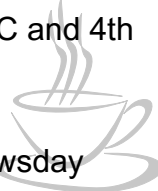
Resumes in October

Quilting Group

Every Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

Brewsday Mornings!

We will begin Brewsday Mornings again on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month beginning in September. 2nd Tuesdays will be at BLC and 4th Tuesdays will rotate local establishments. We have taken a "sabbath" from Brewsday Evenings this summer, but plan to resume them next summer. Look for details in the spring!



Men's Ministry

Coming to BLC in October 2024! If you are interested in a men's ministry here at BLC, we invite you to join us. We will meet once a month for breakfast, devotional and wonderful discussion. Let Gary know if you are interested at gary@bethlehem-lutheran.net

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
1000 15th Avenue
Longmont, CO 80501

Return service requested

Worship Services

Sundays
9:15 a.m.

Office Hours

Monday - Friday
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Bethlehem Staff

Pastor Katie Chullino - pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Nancy Tiff, Hospitality Coordinator - nancy@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Gary Knutson, Faith Formation Director - faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Karen Haag, Bookkeeper - bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Tiffany Beisner, Office Administrator - admin@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Aaron Jurkovich, Webmaster - webmaster@bethlehem-lutheran.net
Amanda Bueschen, Director of Cornerstone Preschool -
cornerstone_director@bethlehem-lutheran.net