

# The Star

Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

# February



Painting by Greg Olsen

## *Presentation of the Lord*

*Simeon took him in his arms and praised God*

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**Bethlehem**  
Lutheran Church



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

40 days.

The world rained and flooded for 40 days while Noah captained the ark. 40 days and nights passed while Moses received the commandments on Mount Sinai. Jesus spent 40 days with Satan, the adversary, in the wilderness. 40 days is how we number long and holy times--like Candlemas. Yes, you read that right. Not Lent (not yet anyway). Candlemas is a holy day, celebrated 40 days after Christmas, sometimes known as the Presentation of Our Lord. The festival commemorates a pretty regular event in the first century: a first-time mother (Mary) traveling to the temple for purification after childbirth with her husband (Joseph) and to present their first-born (Jesus) to God. What makes *this* presentation memorable is how the people in the temple react:

*Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,*

*"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."*

Another person, the prophet Anna, praised God and told other people about the child!

Consider that at the presentation of Jesus in the temple Mary's song (with the promise to lift up the lowly) and the angel's tidings (of good news of great joy) become real! Jesus is no longer known only to his family and the few lucky shepherds who were working the night he was born. Here, people are beginning to see who Jesus is *and* tell each other, too!

This year, I wonder why we don't make a bigger deal about this story. We breeze past the story and, at best, we maybe sing an extra song about light. But there are other traditions for Candlemas, too. Some have feasts (with pancakes or crepes), some keep out Christmas decorations until February 2, and some bring the candles they use at home to the altar to be blessed for the coming year. I would guess that this holiday gets lost between other big events; after Christmas and Epiphany we run into playoff games, inaugurations, and sometimes even the Super Bowl. This year, I challenge you to let Candlemas shine.

Soon, we'll enter the 40 days of Lent. We'll watch people deny themselves and suffer (in the name of Christ, of course). We'll be reminded of mortality (and eventually resurrection, too). But, right now, we're still in the time after Epiphany. We're still living in the light.

So, look for it! Imagine that you're Simeon or Anna. Don't just imagine that the lowly will be lifted and that good news is promised. Look for goodness around you. Look for salvation, look for good news. Praise God, yes, but more importantly, tell people when you see it. That's the blessing of Candlemas. That's how Christ is present today.

Peace,



## February 2: Presentation of Our Lord

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

## February 9: Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - Scout Sunday

The fifth Sunday after Epiphany continues to highlight unlikely instruments and circumstances appointed to reveal God's glory. "Who will go for us?" God asks. A person of unclean lips, a former persecutor of the church of God, and three fishermen who couldn't catch a thing. More surprising still, perhaps, is that we are also called.

## February 16: Sixth Sunday after Epiphany

Blessings and curses abound on the sixth Sunday after Epiphany. We would do well to listen closely to whom the "blessed are" and the "woe to" are directed and to find our place in the crowd among those who desire to touch Jesus. The risen Christ stands among us in the mystery of the holy supper with an invitation to live in him, and offers power to heal us all.

## February 23: Seventh Sunday after Epiphany

Mercy. Mercy. Mercy. Joseph lives it in Egypt. Jesus preaches it in the gospel. The Spirit guides us into merciful lives with the power of forgiveness to reconcile what is fractured and divided. Such merciful living is the baptismal blessing of having put on Christ. It is the gift of the life-giving Spirit. It is a reflection of God's glory revealed in Christ.

## Always Looking for Volunteers!

Help with worship! There are many positions available such as assisting minister, communion server, greeter.... Just reach out to Sabrina at [worshipchair@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:worshipchair@bethlehem-lutheran.net) or the church office. Or find the sign-up link online at <https://bethlehem-lutheran.net/worship/#volunteer>

## BLC Nursery

Open 10:10–11:30 a.m. Ages from birth to 3 years. If you would like to bring your little one, there will be two volunteers each Sunday. We will be located in the preschool area. Please contact Sabrina Lee or Sue Smith if you have any questions. Also, if you would like to volunteer and rock a baby for a service, talk with Sue Smith. Thanks!

## Scout Sunday

We welcome special guests from Cub Scout Pack 65, Boy Scout Troop 548, and Girl Scout Troop 76091 on February 9. These are the scouting groups which are chartered by or housed at BLC. We also welcome every BLC member who is or was a Scout and/or a leader to wear their uniform to church that day.

## Audio Visual Upgrades

AV and Worship Teams are making plans for audio-visual upgrades in the sanctuary. These plans involve using designated memorial funds and will be discussed with council in February. Look for more information in the March newsletter.



## Finances



### Month of December

Income: \$ 43,249.11  
Expenses: \$ 35,462.07  
Net: \$ 7,787.04

### YTD to Date

Income: \$ 417,100.60  
Expenses: \$ 437,319.91  
Net: \$ -20,219.31

**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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 our financial secretary (financialsec@bethlehem-lutheran.net, 303-651-6226).

## Property

### Rekeying

The Safety Team is finalizing plans for rekeying the church building. Expect changes during this calendar year.

### Solar Project Update

Ecology Solar and Dutch Creek Electric have received the first installment. The design and permitting process has begun. The installer was at the church and gathered information from the architectural drawings and measured the roof. They were very pleased with our roof pitch and project overall. They will need to store some equipment/parts in the big shed during the project, so Josephine will have to park outside for a while. Once the permitting is complete, the panels and Micro Inverters will be ordered. We don't know how long the permitting process will take. The install for the panels will take approximately three weeks. Our target for completion is May.

### From the Desk of the Faith Formation

**Director, Gary:** Our Word/Theme for the year is “Serve” and it represents our mission statement of who we are as a congregation.

(Serve) Matthew 25:35–40 For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

Romans 12:10–39 Love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor.

1Peter 4:10–11 Like good stewards of the manifold grace of God, serve one another with whatever gift each of you has received. Whoever speaks must do so as one speaking the very words of God; whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies, so that God may be glorified in all things through Jesus Christ. To him belong the glory and the power forever and ever. Amen.

### Children’s Sunday School

will be on February 2, 9, 16, and 23. We will start at 9:15 a.m. each week in the south Sunday School room.

### Confirmation 2024–25

will meet February 9 and 23. We are learning about World Religions this year and we will dive into other faith communities and learn what they are about. February we will be studying the Buddhism religion.

### Family/Traditions Sunday’s

we will meet on February 2 at 11:45 a.m. for our annual **Murder Mystery** (look in weekly bulletin for characters). We will have a Mardi Gras lunch of Gumbo and Jambalaya. We ask the congregation to bring cornbread and fruit.

### High School Youth Group

will meet on February 16 from 4:00–6:00 p.m. We will meet for fellowship, faith conversations and about our 2025 July summer mission trip. We will have snacks, games and have a great time in discussions. ALL high school youth are invited.

### The 2024–25 year Ministry Calendar of Events

is located on the wall next to the youth room. Please see it for information of dates and times of activities.

### High School Mission Trip

Our High School youth will be going to Elkhorn, Nebraska for their summer mission trip in July. They will help rebuild the community after the 2024 tornados; serving and representing BLC in our world. The high school youth will be doing two major fundraisers: March 4 as a Shrove pancake supper and April 13 as a Palm Sunday breakfast. Please mark your calendars for these dates.

## Plan Ahead

### Shrove Tuesday pancake supper!

Support the high school youth on **March 4** as they raise funds for their summer mission trip. Join us for a pancake supper!

### *Lent begins with Ash Wednesday on March 5!*

### 2025 Lenten Soup Suppers

Our Lenten tradition at Bethlehem is to enjoy soup and bread fellowship on Wednesdays before midweek Lent services. The neighborhood groups take turns providing the soups, relishes, and desserts. The Evangelism Committee provides the bread. The assignments are the following (sorry, Purple, you serve twice, but you will serve less at the summer coffees). We do keep a record and try our best to share the burden.

- March 12: Gold and Purple
- March 19: Orange and Teal
- March 26: Pink and Red
- April 2: Purple and Light of Christ
- April 9: Chili Cook Off – Anyone who wants to make their best pot of chili and maybe win the Bethlehem Trophy!!!

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.

## February 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.
- Table Talk: Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.
- BLC Quilters Group: Thursdays, 9:00 a.m.
- Men's Group (Promise Keepers): Saturdays, 8:00 a.m.
- Men's Group (LMM): February 1, 9:00 a.m.
- Family Traditions Sunday: February 2, 11:45 a.m.
- First Friday: February 7, 6:00 p.m.
- Music Ambassadors: February 9, 11:30 a.m.
- Confirmation: February 9, 11:45 a.m.
- Brewsday: February 11, 8:00 a.m.
- Naomi Circle: February 11, 9:00 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: February 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: February 11, 7:00 p.m.
- Book Club: February 13, 9:00 a.m.
- High School Youth Group: February 16, 4:00 p.m.
- Office Closed: February 17
- Prayer Shawl: February 18, 10:00 a.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: February 18, 6:00 p.m.
- Habitat Build Day; February 22
- Book Sale Fundraiser: February 22, 4:00 p.m.
- Book Sale Fundraiser: February 23, 9:00 a.m.
- Confirmation: February 23, 11:45 a.m.
- Nicaragua Board Meeting: February 23, 1:00 p.m.
- Brewsday: February 25, 8:00 a.m.
- Men's Group (LMM): March 1, 9:00 a.m.

## Gather & Connect

### First Friday

February 7 at 6:00 p.m. at Shirley Kasperbauer/ Mike Cooperman home. Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. For questions call Shirley at 303-775-6928. It is a great way to meet and get to know other people at Bethlehem. All adults are welcome to attend with no need to RSVP. *Need a sitter for younger children? Some of our high school students would be willing to be a sitter so parents can have an evening out. Contact Alisha at 303-359-7115.*

### Naomi Circle

February meeting will be in the Youth Room and on Zoom Tuesday, February 11, 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.

### Bethlehem Book Club

Please join other Bethlehem readers on February 13 on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. for a discussion of *The Four Winds* (nf) by Kristin Hannah. This "powerful American epic about love and heroism and hope during the Great Depression" (Amazon) will once again amaze you with the strength and character of the American people. Everyone is welcome! Contact Mary Jane (mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com) to be added to the contact list. Check the church website for the updated 2025 book schedule at [bethlehem-lutheran.net/bethlehem-book-club/](http://bethlehem-lutheran.net/bethlehem-book-club/)

### 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!

### First Friday

Friday, February 7, 6:00 p.m.

### Ambassadors at the Atria

Sunday, February 9, 11:30 a.m.

### Naomi Circle

Tuesday, February 11, 9:15 a.m.

### Book Club

Thursday, February 13, 9:00 a.m.

### Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, February 18, 10:00 a.m.

### Manna Bible Study

Every Monday, 9:00 a.m.

### Table Talk

Wednesdays, 12:00 p.m.

### Quilting Group

Every Thursday, 9:00 a.m.

### Men's Group (LMM)

Saturday, February 1, 9:00 a.m.

### Men's Group (LMM)

Men's Group (LMM) will meet on Saturday, **February 1** at 9:00 a.m. We invite all men to participate in this ministry. We will model our group after the Lutheran Men in Mission group that is formed nationwide in the Lutheran church. We will have breakfast followed by fellowship time with a short devotion. We look forward to seeing everyone. Please let Gary know if you are interested so that we have enough food for breakfast.

### Brewsday Mornings

meet on the 2nd Tuesdays at BLC and 4th Tuesdays at a local establishment. Join us at BLC on **February 11** and on **February 25** at a TBD location.

### OUR Center Food & Hygiene supplies Drive

Thank You to everyone who donated food, hygiene supplies and monetary donations to benefit the Our Center. Your donations along with the items purchased with the Thrivent Action Team grant of \$250 provided 376 lbs. of food and 146 lbs. of hygiene supplies for the Our Center. In addition, \$136 in monetary donations were received.

### Upcoming Mission Trip

We are going to do a mission trip to the Hopi and Navajo reservation **March 16 to March 20**. We'll be driving Josephine which can accommodate 12 passengers. We welcome everyone over 16 years old to join us in this rewarding experience. See Bob Cotton for more information.

### Habitat Build Day

February 22 at the Sugar Mill neighborhood. Please sign-up in the narthex!

### Book Sale Fundraiser

Mission Trip participants will be selling books and DVDs to raise money for the Mission Trip in March. Please show support on **Saturday, February 22** from 4:00–4:45 p.m. (before LOC service) and **Sunday, February 23** in between services and following the 2nd service.

### We NEED your book and DVD donations!

Please donate by putting items on the empty shelves in the library in the Fireside room. **We're collecting books through Sunday, February 16**. We appreciate your support!

### King Soopers helps Bethlehem Lutheran Church youth activities!

After a quick, one-time enrollment online, every time you use your Sooper Card or an alternate ID tied to your account for food or gas, you are helping donate to us at no added cost to you! All proceeds we receive go to youth activities.

1. To sign up: Visit [www.kingsoopers.com](http://www.kingsoopers.com)
2. Sign in or enroll to create an account
3. Go to "My Account" then "Community Rewards"
4. Look for Bethlehem Lutheran Church
5. 1000 W 15th Ave., Longmont, CO 80501
6. Enroll

### 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 **Sunday, February 9**.



## Member Milestones

### 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 17 Coqui Stetson  
Feb 17 Anna Kragerud  
Feb 18 Leonard Thieking  
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

### Anniversaries

Feb 6 Steven & Julie Winter (37)  
**Feb 14 Jim & Margot Hoffmeyer (55)**  
Feb 14 Jeff & Heather Ditillo (27)  
Feb 14 Sander & Kelley Wyjad (20)  
Feb 17 Gary & Helen Knutson (24)

### Keep those in your prayers

**Members:** Bluhm Family, Cathy G., Jerry P., Virginia P., Sandy F., Ken C., Matt J., Yvonne A., Irene R., Doris H., Jenny K., Gerry C., Bob D., Patty F., Irene M., Doris C., Jill H., Nancy H., Jamie A., Florence M., Coqui S., Paul P., Darlene B., Jan M., Kristal H., Jeremy G.

### Church Office

#### Directory updates!

Please check your directory for current information and let Nancy in the office know if you have any changes you would like to make.

#### Office Volunteers Needed

February 13, February 18, February 20 from 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. If you can help please let Nancy in the office know. Thanks!

### Community

#### Crossroads School

February Food & Fellowship is at The Roost on February 10. They offer Crossroads School 10% of all sales for the day!

## Local Resources

If you need assistance during this time, there are several resources available:

- **HOPE Longmont**, located at: 804 Lincoln St. Longmont, CO 8050, (720) 494-4673
- **THE OUR CENTER**, located at: 220 Collyer St. Longmont, CO 80501, (303) 772-5529
- **THE ROUND PANTRY**, located at: Westview Presbyterian Church 1500 Hover St. Longmont, CO 80501, (303) 776-3242



## Council Meeting Minutes – Approved

December 17, 2024

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Mickelson, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Brian Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Brian thanked Mark for his last 2 years of service.

**ATTENDING:** Pr. Katie Chullino, Brian Carlson, Mark Holste, Greg Schumann, Sandy Mickelson, Cathy Goodman, Sabrina Lee, Paul Puebla, Cindy Thompson, Jaime Updegraff and Glenn Summers.

### DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:

- Pastor Katie read the book Saint Nicholas the Giftgiver.
- Last year the council used a devotion book every month. This year P. Katie proposed that someone talks about a different saint/legend each month. Katie will send out the list of saints by month and we should each pick one.
- P. Katie said a prayer to start the meeting.

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** approved via email and posted.

**FINANCIAL REPORT:** We are hoping to hit \$35,000 in giving this month, which leaves us about \$25,000 upside down. Greg updated the congregation on our financials at the Annual Meeting 2025 on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

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

#### ● Pastor/Staff (P. Katie):

- Working on sermons for the upcoming week and Christmas.
- 2026 will be BLCs 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and we need to think about our legend, history and inspiration.

Some of BLC's history includes:

- = White Chrismons ornaments (from 60's)
- = Red and blue 2001 BLC ornaments.
- = 2020 Star ornaments given out during the pandemic

- **Worship (Sabrina):**

- She recommends recording the second service in the future. Jaime said it would be good to stream the service the choir is participating in. Worship team should think more about this and decide. Will need to put a notice in the bulletin to notify everyone.
- Poinsettias are coming in on Friday 12/20. There are about 7 more to sell.
- Sandy W. will continue working with greeters.

- **Service – formerly Missions: (Cathy)**

- Hope for the Holidays sent 480 cards to immigrants who are detained.
- \$1,248 was raised in the December bake sale to purchase shoes for children in Nicaragua.
- Needs:
  - A leader for the Immigrant Focus Group
  - A Social Justice person to help Cathy
  - Need someone to organize Our Center lunches
- We can't give out as much as we originally planned due to budget constraints. See Cathy's December Council Report for the list of planned contributions that we will not be able to make.
- Cathy proposed that the Quilters move to the Service Team instead of the Care Team. Jaime seconded the motion. All approved.

- **Faith Formation (Jaime):**

- Faith Formation has grown and has good participation and attendance. We also have a high school group now. Confirmation and Sunday school are on hold until January. Advent night had at least 40 people. Tomorrow night is the last Advent gathering and the youth will go caroling.
- Area of focus after the first of the year is the Lenten mentoring program. Then they will start planning for VBS.

- **Property (Glenn):**

- Solar project contract was signed 12/17/24. Glenn will manage the project. So far, we have raised \$74,880. LOC has donated several thousand dollars of that total. We should be able to go live with solar in about 4.5 months.
- Cornerstone floors have been stripped and waxed.

## December 2024 Council Meeting

- **Stewardship (Cindy T.):**

- Mike agreed to mentor Cindy for a year.
- End-of-year letter needs to go with statements in January.

- **CARE - formerly Evangelism (Paul):**

- Living Nativity is coming up.
- CARE Team is starting to work on the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. In 2025 they will introduce this to the congregation and promote the 2026 event.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Resolution – Greg
- Council resolves that Bethlehem Lutheran Church, under the 501c3 of The Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation, remove Gene Schnabel and Matt James from the bank account as signers and add Brian Carlson as a signer. Signers will be Karen Haag, Greg Schumann and Brian Carlson. Mark moved to accept the resolution, Sabrina seconded it. Resolution passed.

**DISCUSSION:**

- Solar Energy Project – Mark / Cathy / Greg
  - Fundraising progress – to date we have raised \$74,880.
  - Project Status: Solar project contract was signed 12/17/24. Glenn will manage the project.
- Ministry description changes and bylaw changes – Greg
  - Send to Synod office
- Financial Procedure Changes – Greg
  - Greg shared 2 documents: Financial Procedures 2025 and Fundraiser Request Form.
  - Greg will review these procedures/documents with the BLC staff.
- List of Fundraisers for 2025 – P Katie / Cathy / Mark
  - P. Katie shared the list. We will vote on them next month.
  - Everyone agreed we should have a fundraiser for the BLC General Fund (maybe July/August) if funds are tight.
- February Council Meeting (Tuesday Feb. 11th) – P Katie
  - Potluck with LOC council prior to this meeting. Everyone should bring a side dish.



## December 2024 Council Meeting

- Presentation by Krystal from Habitat about our current partnership and the upcoming project in our neighborhood. Approved by Council.
- Staff reviews – P Katie / Brian / Greg / Mark
  - In progress
- Sundays currently planned for One Service – Sabrina / P Katie
  - Sunday after Christmas and New Years (Dec 29, Jan 5)

### **CONTINUING OPEN ITEMS:**

- Church ReKey project – Safety Team / Mark – Matt
  - Matt is working on getting quotes
  - Key zones have been identified
  - Meeting in January to discuss.
- Employee Handbook – P. Katie / Mark / Greg
  - Still have a few items to finish
- Synod Assembly May 22-24, 2025, Embassy Suites Albuquerque, NM
- One Service – Summer 2025

### **PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER:**

- Keep these members in our prayers; Virginia Postle who is in Hospice, Sandy Woodruff & Family, Dave Bluhm
- P. Katie led the Council in the Lord's Prayer

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:38 pm.

**Upcoming Dates:** next Council meeting will be Tuesday, January 14th.  
Executive session at 6.30pm and Council at 7:00pm.



### Council Meeting Minutes – Draft V2

January 14, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Mickelson, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Brian Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.

**ATTENDING:** Pr. Katie Chullino, Brian Carlson, Mark Holste, Greg Schumann, Sandy Mickelson, Sabrina Lee, Paul Puebla, Cindy Thompson, Jaime Updegraff, and Glenn Summers. Cathy Goodman was unable to attend.

### DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:

- Paul led the Devotions, discussing Martin Luther King, Jr, per our new Devotion Schedule below. He also provided a prayer authored by Martin Luther King, Jr.
- Upcoming Devotion Schedule:

December: Nicholas of Myra - Katie

January: Martin Luther King, Jr. - Paul

February: Valentine or Elizabeth Fedde - OPEN

March: Oscar Romero - Sandy

April: Dietrich Bonhoeffer or Catherine of Sienna - OPEN

May: Julian of Norwich - BC

June: Barnabas - Greg

July: Jan Hus or Birgitta of Sweden - Jaime

August: Mary the Mother of Our Lord - Cindy

September: Hildegard of Bingen or John Chrysostom - OPEN

October: Theresa of Avila or Francis of Assisi - Cathy

November: Isaac Watts or Soren Kierkegaard - Glenn

**MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:** approved via email and posted. Will be included in upcoming Newsletter along with January Council Meeting notes.

## **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

- December 2024 giving was up about \$8,000 over budget with December expenses less than \$500 over budget. Overall income vs. expenses for December were \$7,787 in the positive for the month!
- December giving was approx. \$9,000 more than December 2023. This is a good sign that we are on the right track despite overall 2024 financial issues.
- Overall, 2024 came in approx. \$10,000 below budgeted annual giving and approximately \$10,000 over budgeted annual expenses, giving us a total deficit for the year of \$20,000.
- Greg will be meeting with the staff to review the new Financial Procedures 2025 and Fundraiser Request Form.
- Greg distributed the three December Financial Reports to the Council prior to this Council Meeting.

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

### **• Pastor/Staff (P. Katie):**

- Pr. Katie distributed the latest Fundraiser List for 2025 for Council to review prior to the Council Meeting.
- We have two members in hospice care right now.
- LOC wants to help buy new oil candles for Advent next year.
- Staff meetings will be changing to the second and fourth weeks of the month.

### **• Worship: (Sabrina)**

- Christmas worship services went well and were well attended.
- Worship will order 30 instead of 40 poinsettias next year.
- Spring bulbs will be available for Easter.
- Sandy W. is organizing and calling the greeters.
- We are having an issue getting enough Ushers to cover services.

### **• Service – formerly Missions (Mark for Cathy):**

- Sharon Petersen will head the Social Justice Initiative.
- Mentioned that funds to Nicaragua were cut in both 2024 and 2025. 2024 Spring and Fall fundraisers also fell below what we need. Mark mentioned we have reserves if needed but they will not last long-term.
- Missions would like to propose the following be approved (see 2025 events below):
  - That Bob Cotton can have a book sale in mid-February to

## January Council Meeting

- raise funds for the Hopi Reservation service trip in March.
- That Sharon Peterson's team can have a fundraising tea the first Saturday in May to raise funds to help prevent teen suicide.

### ● Faith Formation (Jaime):

- Sunday school, confirmation and high school youth groups are all back from winter break and meeting again.
- Lutheran Men in Mission Group continues to meet.
- Mentors are needed for Lenten Mentor Program Confirmands by March 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Next Family Tradition event will be February 2<sup>nd</sup>. The youth will host a murder mystery event.
- They have a couple fundraising events coming up to fund their Mission trip to Nebraska.

### ● Property (Glenn):

- The hot water heater has been replaced. It cost approx. \$10,000. These expenses came from the Capital Improvement Budget.
- Electrical & engineering will be here January 15<sup>th</sup> for the Solar project. Permitting process starts after that.
- The fire suppression inspection was done on Dec 30<sup>th</sup>. It went well.

### ● Stewardship (Cindy T.):

- Stewardship will be putting a letter in the end of year financial statements. Cindy has gathered letters sent in the last several years and will pass those onto Pr. Katie. Pastor Katie will be writing this letter this year.
- Mike and Cindy will write letters for the quarterly financial reports.
- Cindy will work on getting something posted on the Stewardship part of the bulletin board.

### ● CARE - formerly Evangelism (Paul):

- Living Nativity had 140 visitors in December vs. 214 the year before. Many said they could not see the people in the Nativity. Next year we will have the firepit going to better light the Nativity.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None



## **NEW BUSINESS:**

- **Thrivent Choice Dollars Resolution:** (Greg)
  - Faith Formation has asked for a Resolution to move \$500 from our Choice Dollars account (which includes about \$2,000) to Faith Formation Camp Scholarship Fund which was eliminated in the 2025 Budget Process. Sabrina moved to accept this resolution; Paul seconded it. The resolution passed unanimously.
  - Mark is willing to teach any Thrivent member how to request Thrivent Grants.
  - Greg will look into inviting a Thrivent agent to speak in a forum about Thrivent Grants and other programs.

- **2025 Fundraiser Calendar Resolution:** (Brian) –  
It was mentioned that we need to be cognizant of the number of fundraisers we are having and the fact that we also need to replenish our Capital Improvement Fund.

Council approved the 2025 Fundraiser Calendar below. Sabrina moved to accept the calendar; Paul seconded it. This 2025 Calendar was approved unanimously.

- **First Quarter 2025**
  - Girl Scouts Cookie sale Feb 2nd (Including using bulletin board to announce)
  - Mission Trip - Bob Cotton: mid-February - book sale to raise funds for the Hopi Reservation service trip in March
  - BLC Capital Improvement Fundraiser (March date TBD)
  - Youth: Fat Tuesday Pancake Supper - March 4
- **Second Quarter 2025**
  - Youth Palm Sunday Breakfast: Sunday April 13
  - May 3rd Tea fundraiser for teen suicide prevention
  - Boy Scouts Breakfast--suggested dates Sunday after Easter or Mother's Day (11 May)
  - Youth: June Fundraiser (TBD)
  - Nicaragua: June appeal (Month of June)
- **Third Quarter 2025**
  - Djembe Orchestra: Spring/Summer (We generally give them a few options)
  - God's Work Our Hands/Share the Grace: Sept 14 (or coordinating with ELCA designated day)
  - Cub Scouts: Popcorn Sales (Fall - September)
  - Boy Scouts: wreath/popcorn sales in Fall

- **Fourth Quarter 2025**

- Girl Scouts: Bake Sale in November
- Nicaragua: December bake sale (Sunday 14 December) and appeal
- OUR Center Food/Hygiene Drive (all of December and during Living Nativity (Sunday 21 December))

Notes Regarding 2025 Fundraiser Calendar:

- The St. Patrick's Dinner will be cancelled this year due to the conflict with the Mission Trip. The Youth Group already has a Fat Tuesday dinner around that time.
- We will only have one Share the Grace Event in 2025 (in the Fall).
- We need to replenish the Capital Improvement Fund so have added a fundraiser in first quarter.

### **DISCUSSION:**

- Solar Energy Project Update – Glenn (see Property update above)
- Ministry descriptions changes and bylaws changes - Greg
  - We expect to hear from them the Synod this week.
- Updated sound system in the Sanctuary.
  - Our AV equipment is very old and in need of an upgrade.
  - We have approximately \$5K in memorial funds designated towards AV/TV equipment. AV equipment includes a variety of items including sound boards, TV, hearing assisted devices, cameras, computers, wiring, etc.
  - Matt found a great deal on a fairly new system worth at least \$10,000 and had Greg look at it. We were able to get it for \$3,000 and is currently privately funded. We also need a new AMP and possibly a few other items.
  - Greg knows a person who can set it all up.
  - Greg will write an article for the newsletter about this project.
- Thrivent – we have 2 endowment funds with Thrivent. One is for Worship.
  - Our Worship fund has approx. \$5-6K in fund growth that can be used for Worship.
  - Pastor Katie, Sabrina and Greg are looking at what is needed for Worship.
- Church focus/priority areas – Brian
  - Think about what our priorities should be for 2025 so we can prioritize should we need to cut expenses in 2025.
- February Council Meeting: 2/11/25 – P Katie
  - We will have a potluck with LOC council prior to Habitat presentation to both Councils.
    - Greg – will bring the protein.

## January Council Meeting

- Coordinate what everyone else is bringing over email.
- Presentation by Krystal from Habitat about our current partnership and the upcoming project in our neighborhood.

### **CONTINUING OPEN ITEMS:**

- Church ReKey project – Safety Team / Mark – Matt
  - Matt is working on getting quotes.
  - Key zones have been identified.
- Employee Handbook – P. Katie / Mark / Greg
- One Service – Summer 2025
- Staff reviews are still in-process.

### **PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER**

- P. Katie led the Council in the Lord's Prayer
- Keep these members in our prayers; Virginia Postle who is in Hospice, Cathy Goodman, Dave Bluhm, Bob Dunkel, Jerry Phipps, Landon Kaplan, and the relatives and friends of BLC members impacted by the LA Fires.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:35 pm.

**Upcoming Dates:** next Council meeting will be Tuesday, February 11th.  
6:00-7:00 Potluck, 7:00 Executive Session and Council Meeting at 7:15pm.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
1000 15th Avenue  
Longmont, CO 80501

Return service requested

**Worship Services**

Sundays  
8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

**Office Hours**

Monday – Friday  
9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

**Bethlehem Staff**

**Pastor Katie Chullino** - [pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net)  
**Nancy Tiff**, Hospitality Coordinator - [nancy@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:nancy@bethlehem-lutheran.net)  
**Gary Knutson**, Faith Formation Director - [faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:faithformation@bethlehem-lutheran.net)  
**Karen Haag**, Bookkeeper - [bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:bookkeeper@bethlehem-lutheran.net)  
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