

# The Star

Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church



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

# MARCH

## The Star Newsletter Changes

**\*\*COMING SOON!\*\***

After years of conversations with various members, we have decided that The Star, our monthly newsletter, is not the most effective form of communication. Feedback has been that the Weekly Email and Sunday Announcements are where most information is gleaned.

To better use staff and volunteer resources, we will transition from a monthly newsletter to a quarterly newsletter beginning in May 2025. We will have a shorter monthly newsletter this April before making the switch. The Star will then be published in May, August, November, and February.

***This means that ALL items for May, June and July are due before April 20!***

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Bethlehem  
Lutheran Church



Evangelical  
Lutheran Church  
in America

## Rev's Revelations

This year has been...a lot. It's hard to even go into detail as to why because every time I turn on the news, open email, or log into social media something seemingly major has happened. I know you have noticed it, too, because some of you send me the emails or post on social media or come to the office sharing whatever news is new. Many people are worried--about neighbors who might be immigrants, about friends (and yourselves) who are LGBTQ+, about people who are women, about Social Security and Medicare and Medicaid, about Lutheran Social Services, about jobs, about the future, about security, about the price of eggs, and about the "normal" things like illnesses and busted furnaces and car repairs and snow. Many people are angry--because there are human rights at risk that we've already fought to ensure. Many people are looking for something to do to make life better but are overwhelmed by the immense and intense needs. All year, I keep remembering one of our advent themes from December: do the good that is yours to do.

Friends, I wish I could tell you exactly what to do in response to everything happening right now. Maybe advocate, maybe call your representatives, maybe donate to local service agencies, maybe volunteer, maybe boycott, maybe offer your professional service, maybe hand a red card to the person who cleans your house or makes your dinner or lives next door. I do not know what you are most equipped to do. But I do know that there is good for you to do and that God--who loves the world and you in it--that God commands you to love, too.

Love neighbors, love strangers, love friends, love enemies, love God, love yourself, love in word, love in truth. You can find those commandments in the bible on your nightstand, or on your shelf, or in the pew at church. Today, God's love, though it's much bigger than us, also relies on us. God's love of the world happens where we are (whether we like it or not), with the people around us (whether we like them or not), when we choose to love.

When you don't know what to do with today's news, with your feelings, with yourself--and also when you think you do know what to do--pause and ask yourself: Is what I'm doing right now loving? Then do the loving thing.

With Love,

Rev Kc



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR

## Worship

### March 2: Transfiguration of Our Lord

Witnesses to the glory of God in the face of Jesus reflect that glory in the world. It was true for Moses. It was doubtless true for Peter, James, and John. We pray that it will be true of all of us who see God's glory in the word and in the supper and who are being "transformed into the same image" by God's Spirit.

### March 5: Ash Wednesday

Services at noon and 7:00 p.m.

### March 9, 2025 - 1st Sunday in Lent

These forty days called Lent are like no other. It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn. This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked. It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares. The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word, will uphold and sustain us.

### March 16, 2025 - 2nd Sunday in Lent

Though we sometimes doubt and often resist God's desire to protect and save us, our God persists. In holy baptism, God's people have been called and gathered into a God-initiated relationship that will endure. Lent provides the church with a time and a tradition in which to seek God's face again. Lent provides another occasion to behold the God of our salvation in the face of the Blessed One who "comes in the name of the Lord."

### March 23, 2025 - 3rd Sunday in Lent

The warnings are plentiful and blunt on the third Sunday in Lent. Cut it out or get cut down! The warnings are accompanied by God's invitation to attentiveness: "Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live." The landowner's ultimatum is forestalled by the gardener's readiness to till the ground one more year. That is good news for all of us. Thanks be to God!

### March 30, 2025 - 4th Sunday in Lent

The psalm sets the tone this day: "Happy are they whose transgressions are forgiven, and whose sin is put away!" Happy are those who have "become the righteousness of God" in the merits of Christ Jesus. Happy are those for whom the forgiveness of God has "rolled away . . . the disgrace" of former times. Happy is the father at the return of his prodigal son. Happy are we that our sins are forgiven for Jesus' sake. Rejoice!

## News from the Nursery

We are open with workers and kiddos; we have more room for both. If your child is under 3 we are here for your child to come play, read, or just chill. We can't wait to see you on Sunday mornings 10:10 to 11:30 a.m. If you are an adult and would like to join us (see Sue Smith for more info). ***\*\*We are in need of a rocking chair or two. If you have one you no longer need or use please consider donating.\*\****



### Midweek Lenten Prayer

Evening Prayer is at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesdays in Lent (Soup Supper at 6:00 p.m.). Bethlehem Lutheran and Light of Christ will join together for the season of Lent and Holy Week. This year's theme is *It's Time* based on the popular scripture, Ecclesiastes 3. Each week focuses on different verses and the different things we do at different times in life. Some weeks we have special guests from our community, too!

### Lent Themes

3/5: Ash Wednesday - A Time to be Born and a Time to Die  
3/12: Lent - A time to build  
3/19: Lent - A Time for Silence  
3/26: Lent - A Time to Mourn  
4/2: Lent - A Time to Plant  
4/9: Lent - It's Time  
4/17: Maundy Thursday  
4/18: Good Friday



### 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.

### Would you like to be a Mentor?

Through our Lenten Faith Mentoring, our congregation has the opportunity to model intentional intergenerational relationship building to other ELCA congregations. Mentoring our youth helps us live out our vision to be a community where our intergenerational ministries will be a model for other congregations.

Our Lenten Faith Mentoring pairs BLC's confirmands with non-family adults; they get to know one another through faith-based discussions and sharing of personal experiences. Mentor groups will meet five times during the months of March and April this Lenten season (March 12, 19, 26 and April 2 and 9).

Mentor meetings will last approximately 30-45 minutes and consist of sharing (highs and lows), reflecting (faith discussion) and prayer. Each week's Lenten theme is explored through a variety of discussion options. Use what works for your group and be open to where the Spirit might lead you in your reflections. The concept of mentoring is not about being right or wrong but sharing your personal experiences with one another in a trusting and caring environment! Contact Gary if you would like to be a mentor.



## Finances



### Month of January

Income: \$ 18,211.73  
Expenses: \$ 37,908.87  
Net: \$ -19,697.14

### YTD to Date

Income: \$ 18,211.73  
Expenses: \$ 37,908.87  
Net: \$ -19,697.14

**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

### ATTENTION KEYHOLDERS:

#### The locks are being changed!

The Safety Team is finalizing plans for rekeying the church late this winter/early this spring. We will soon have different levels of keys for people who need entry into different areas of the building. Everyone who receives a key will need to apply, have a background check, and be approved before receiving a key. This means that getting a key will take multiple days. ***If you have a key and/or have need for one in the future please email us today at: [safety@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:safety@bethlehem-lutheran.net).***



## Choir

Choir rehearses at 9:15 a.m. on Sundays. We'll perform at the following services:

- March 2: 10:15 a.m. service
- March 9: 8:00 a.m. service
- March 16: 10:15 a.m. service
- March 23: 8:00 a.m. service
- March 30: 10:15 a.m. service
- April 6: 8:00 a.m. service



## Sanctuary Upgrades

Do you hear what I hear? Do you see what I see? Over the past few years these two concepts have been challenging for many. During funeral services, not everyone can see the video monitor. The children's programs and the children's sermons are precious. Well, if you are in the first few pews you can see and hear but those online or those in the back cannot. Hearing the choir both in the building and online can be tough. I can go on...

People and dollars have spoken loud and clear. We need to do some upgrades. Through Memorial Funds designations we have approximately \$5,000 for video monitor(s) and related equipment to be permanently mounted on the front wall of the sanctuary. The initial use will be funerals and special events. Down the road the monitor(s) could be utilized for enhancing the worship experience as well.

The electronic equipment in the AV area is getting tired. The Worship Ministry, in conjunction with the AV team, have identified approximately \$5,000 - \$6,000 in upgrades to equipment and sanctuary adornments. Plans are currently being finalized to use funds from the Worship Heritage Fund to complete the upgrades needed. These dollars were set up several years ago, specifically to pay for non-General Fund (non-reoccurring) expenses related to Worship. Items being worked on include upgraded Assisted Listening equipment, new amplification systems, upgraded sound board, new dried flower arrangements, new brass vases, relocation of antenna systems, upgraded wiring and more.

News does travel fast, as many have already approached folks from the AV team asking about the "new sound board". Opportunity knocked and an approximately \$10,000 like-new system was found and the asking price was quite a bit less. Seizing the moment, an offer of \$3,000 was made and accepted. It was paid for with private funds with the intention of using the above mentioned dollars to make it become a church owned system.

## March 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): March 1, 9:00 a.m.
- Advocacy Workshop: March 2, 9:15 a.m.
- Pancake Fundraiser: March 4, 5:15 p.m.
- Ash Wednesday Services: March 5, Noon & 7:00 p.m.
- First Friday: March 7, 6:00 p.m.
- Music Ambassadors: March 9, 11:30 a.m.
- Confirmation: March 9, 11:45 a.m.
- Mission Trip Meeting: March 10, 7:00 p.m.
- Brewsday: March 11, 8:00 a.m.
- Naomi Circle: March 11, 9:00 a.m.
- 11th Hour Project: March 11, 11:00 a.m.
- Council Meeting: March 11, 7:00 p.m.
- Lenten Soup Supper: March 12, 6:00 p.m.
- Lenten Prayer: March 12, 7:00 p.m.
- Book Club: March 13, 9:00 a.m.
- Faith Formation Meeting: March 16, 11:30 a.m.
- High School Youth Group: March 16, 4:00 p.m.
- Prayer Shawl: March 18, 10:00 a.m.
- Evangelism Meeting: March 18, 6:00 p.m.
- Lenten Soup Supper: March 19, 6:00 p.m.
- Lenten Prayer: March 19, 7:00 p.m.
- Confirmation: March 23, 11:45 a.m.
- Brewsday: March 25, 8:00 a.m.
- Lenten Soup Supper: March 26, 6:00 p.m.
- Lenten Prayer: March 26, 7:00 p.m.

## Faith Formation – Youth

### 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 March 2, 9, and 23. We will start at 9:15 a.m. each week in the south Sunday School room.

### Confirmation 2024–25

will meet March 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.

### Family/Traditions Sunday’s

will NOT meet in March. Our next meeting will be on April 6 to celebrate Earth Day! We’ll enjoy a baked potato bar and different salads and vegetables for our meal and then plant flowers to take home.

### High School Youth Group

will meet on March 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

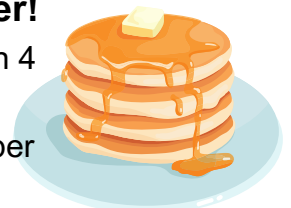
is located on the wall next to the youth room. Please see it for information of dates and times of activities.

### 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.

### 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 from 5:15-7:00 p.m.!



## Gather & Connect

### Men's Group (LMM)

Men's Group (LMM) will meet on **Saturday, March 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.

### First Friday

Join us **March 7** at Shelley Kunselman/ Sam Cox home at 6:00 p.m. Please bring an appetizer and beverage to share. All adults are welcome to come. For questions call Shirley at 303-775-6928.

### Naomi Circle

Join us in the Youth Room and on Zoom on **Tuesday, March 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.

### Brewsday Mornings

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



### Bethlehem Book Club

Join us on Zoom at 9:00 a.m. on **Thursday, March 13** to discuss *The Memory Keeper of Kyiv* (f) by Karen Litteken. This novel is about the Ukrainian spirit, evident in the 1930's when Stalin's activists occupied the country. Another powerful novel about the human spirit that sees us through the hardest of times. You are invited! Email Mary Jane at mjvoogt2003@yahoo.com to be added to the contact list and receive Zoom links.

### 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.

### Men's Group (LMM)

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

### First Friday

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

### Ambassadors at the Atria

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

### Naomi Circle

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

### Book Club

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

### Prayer Shawl

Tuesday, March 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.

### Table Talk

Wednesdays at 12:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room. We will continue studying Luther's Small Catechism during the month of March. All are welcome--you don't need to attend every week to be part of it. **We will NOT meet on March 5 because of Ash Wednesday services.** Email pastor@bethlehem-lutheran.net for more information.

### 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!





### Music Ambassadors

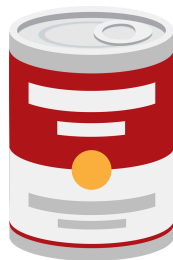
Singing at the Atria on the second Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. We invite everyone to join us – if you can or can't sing, young or old. The residents appreciate and enjoy the visits. We'll sing next on **Sunday, March 9.**

### Hello from The Little Pantry

We are alive and doing well because of YOU! We are very busy and I expect we will only get busier as the year goes on. I want to thank you for your support. All of our support is from volunteers like you. The food you bring, the monies you give and your prayers are very much needed and makes this ministry work.

It is cold outside, (I don't know if you noticed), we are in need of hats, gloves, scarves, and socks. We need protein: canned stews, soups, chili, peanut butter, and Vienna sausages. We need hot chocolate, oatmeal, and snacks.

We appreciate the support we receive from Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, Cub Scouts, TOPS, and Preschool for our big food drives.



We are grateful to You, our congregation, for your constant support of this important ministry as we feed the hungry.

### Habitat for Humanity Women's Build Day

Join Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, March 29 for a Women's Build Day. You can sign-up at [https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console\\_type=event\\_list&event\\_id=9607&console\\_id=0017&ht=1](https://www.cervistech.com/acts/console.php?console_type=event_list&event_id=9607&console_id=0017&ht=1)

### 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 from 5:15-7:00 p.m.!

### Loving Our Neighbors with "Know Your Rights" Cards

Many of our neighbors are at risk of being stopped by ICE or have ICE at their doors. Who are these neighbors? Ones who are not white, have an accent, or do not speak English well. Even people born in the US whose parents were also born here and those here legally with green cards are stopped and can be put into detention and some have been deported. It's important for everyone to know their rights with ICE.

If you know someone who may be at risk, you may give them one of the red cards (located on the narthex bulletin board). The cards explain the rights in English on one side and in Spanish on the other side. If necessary, the cards can be cut apart by them with one side informing them of their rights and the other side to slip under a door or show through a closed window if ICE shows up at their home. Make sure they know that they should never open a door to ICE! If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Cathy at [missions@bethlehem-lutheran.net](mailto:missions@bethlehem-lutheran.net).

### SAVE THE DATE!

#### Ladies Afternoon Tea & Silent Auction

Join us May 3 at Bethlehem Lutheran Church from 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. Doors open at 11:30 a.m. and tickets are \$10.00. Tickets go on sell March 30 and the deadline to purchase tickets is April 27. Proceeds to go to Rise Against Suicide, a non-profit suicidal prevention for teens.



## Member Milestones

### Birthdays

Mar 1 Kyan Bloemker  
Mar 2 Spencer Dickhans  
Mar 3 Cathy Goodman  
Mar 3 Jamie Adams  
Mar 3 Jacob Maki  
Mar 4 Cindy Thompson  
Mar 4 Michael Kasperbauer  
Mar 4 Brenda Torrez  
Mar 4 Katherine Haney  
Mar 5 Carol Hawkins  
Mar 7 Dick Kylo  
Mar 7 Rachel Kittelberger  
Mar 7 Zander Schumann  
Mar 8 Myrna Wiser  
Mar 10 Dean Wilder  
Mar 10 Jenny Kelley  
Mar 10 Carter Hoime  
Mar 11 Morgan Tiff  
Mar 12 Lu Kluck  
Mar 12 Ed Schlachtenhaufen  
Mar 12 Betty Bluhm  
Mar 14 Robert Alrick  
Mar 15 Luke Demmel  
Mar 17 Virginia Linder  
Mar 18 Kaiden Box  
Mar 19 Stacie Spendlow  
Mar 19 Mia Kunselman  
Mar 20 Jacy Neuhaus  
Mar 22 Dave Loberg  
Mar 24 Camille Herbst  
Mar 25 Jeanne Phipps  
Mar 25 Marisa Carlson

Mar 26 Helen Knutson  
Mar 26 Bonnie Hill  
Mar 26 Jeff Parker  
Mar 27 Laura Davis  
Mar 29 Patty Rehder  
Mar 30 Nancy Rumsey  
Mar 30 Gerald Watts  
Mar 31 Randy Snyder  
Mar 31 Colby Wyjad

### Anniversaries

Mar 19 Mike & Sue Anderson (48)  
**Mar 21 Paul & Rose Hansen (66)**  
**Mar 23 Dennis & Betty Koch (51)**  
Mar 24 Ryan & Ashley Lahman (13)



### Keep those in your prayers

Members: Ava V., Sandy F., Matt J., Ilene R., Doris H., Gerry C., Bob D., Patty F., Irene M., Doris C., Jamie A., Florence M., Coqui S., Paul P., Darlene B., Kristal H., Jeremy G., friends and relatives of our community: Linda M., Ilene M., Scarlett K., Michael S., Virginia, Yvonne A., Joann B., Brendan P., Katie P., Shawn M., Staci S., Lydia M.

### Thank you!!

- A HUGE thanks to the volunteers who revamped the church office! We are so grateful for your many hours painting, fixing walls, moving furniture... Its so bright and cheerful! -- BLC Staff
- Big thanks to everyone who supported the March mission trip by donating at our February book sale! It was a great success!

## 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 – FINAL

February 11, 2025

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Mickelson, Secretary

**CALL TO ORDER:** Brian Carlson called the meeting to order at 7:11 pm.

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

### DEVOTIONS AND PRAYER:

- There was a Habitat presentation prior to the Council meeting which took the place of the Council devotion. Prayers were offered at the Potluck, prior to the Council meeting.
- Upcoming Devotion Schedule:

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.

### FINANCIAL REPORT:

- General Fund giving was **below budget by \$15,772.27 in the month of January**. General Fund expenses were above budget by \$128.87. The General Fund is what runs the church. This month's giving was approximately \$13,506.15 below last January's giving.
- In the first 10 days of February, we have received almost the amount of giving that we were down in January. Hopefully February will make up some of January's deficit.
- January's attendance was low due to the cold weather and other factors. This may have caused part of the General Giving deficits. We will wait to see how February comes in and if it is low again, we will need to communicate the issue to the congregation.



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

● **Pastor/Staff (P. Katie):**

- A few people have approached Pastor Katie about joining BLC. Part of the reason one person will be joining is because we have a nursery. Thanks Sue!!
- There will be a baptism on Easter.
- Newsletter Recommendation from Staff: Transition to quarterly newsletter to go out May (Summer), August (Fall/New Program Year), November (Winter/Holiday), Feb/March (Spring/Easter). We could transition this spring.

● **Worship: (Sabrina)**

- Attendance was down in January.
- Worship has purchased new artificial flower arrangements and found the missing artificial arrangements.
  - Will not put a flower sign-up chart up because the cost has gone up considerably to \$85 for 2 arrangements.
- We are having issues getting volunteers for second service. We may need to work around having no ushers by doing communion in stations and letting people pick-up their own bulletins.

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

- Two Nicaragua Project Board Members left for Somoto at the very end of the month and will return in early February.
- 7-8 people are signed up for the HOPI Mission Trip.
- The Social Justice Initiative will now be named the Social Justice Team and there will no longer be sub-teams for any social justice issue. The Immigrant Focus Group will now be part of the Social Justice Team.
- Three webinars: (Colorado Council of Churches, AAMPARO, and Justice and Mercy) were watched by various members of the Social Justice Team, including Father Teri. They were centered on the legal rights of churches to protect against ICE coming into the building and ideas on how to accompany our immigrant neighbors.
- Ed S will be working with Pr. Katie as a consultant on re-establishing the Ministerial Alliance so that churches can work together on challenges in the current political climate.
- Social Justice suggestions for acknowledging Immigration issues right now are:
  - Candle lighting area in back of sanctuary – light a candle for whatever is on your heart. TBD
  - Include immigrants in the prayers on Sundays - TBD
  - March 2nd – Social Justice would like to have an Advocacy Forum between services. This was approved by Council.
- Cathy reviewed immigrant rights – red cards outlining those rights will be put up on the Service bulletin board and will be made available for anyone that needs them.
- A "What you can do to help in the current political climate" list of ideas will be available for members to pick up in the narthex or on the Service bulletin board.



# Council Meeting

- **Faith Formation (Jaime):**

- Jan/Feb Highlights:
  - Family Tradition Sunday - February's Murder Mystery event
  - Lutheran Men and Mission met on Saturday, Feb. 1st.
  - Sunday school - Will continue weekly through spring break.
  - Confirmation - In January, Confirmands had a great time engaging with a guest speaker from the Islamic Temple. This month's focus is Buddhism as this year's curriculum focuses on world religions.
- On March 12th the Lenten Mentor Program will start. We still need more Mentor volunteers!
- Upcoming Fundraisers for High School Youth mission trip:
  - On March 4th, the youth will host a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper.
  - On April 13th, the youth will host a Palm Sunday breakfast.
- The Murder Mystery event was a big success. Thanks to Eric Kittelberger for serving his delicious jambalaya at the Murder Mystery lunch! We'd also like to say thank you to Rick Green for volunteering to play the role of emcee.

- **Property (Glenn):**

- Solar Update – Hopefully we will hear this week or next about when permitting and connect requirements for the city will start.
- Office project is moving forward.
- Will look at painting the Narthex next.
- Getting cost estimates from Pace for replacing some of the failing kitchen equipment (ovens, stove, washer) in future years. They pay 80% of all costs (tear out, disposal, and install). We will not replace the equipment now but will have a cost number we can plan for.
- We are now parking the BLC van (Josephine) on Glenn or Rick Green's property, rather than on church property, for security reasons.

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

- Cindy met with Mike and received historical Stewardship materials.
- Thanks to Mark for putting instructions in the bulletin re; registering your King Soopers account to donate to BLC.
- Pastor Katie and Cindy are meeting on new things Stewardship can do in the future.

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

- Lent suppers begin in March.
- Photo Church Directory is still active.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None

# Council Meeting

## NEW BUSINESS:

- Immigration Stance Policy -Pastor Katie, Brian
  - Pastor Katie distributed Protocols for Staff and Volunteers Engaged In Mission and Ministry and definition of public and private spaces and reviewed them at a high level with Council.
    - If approved, we would need to review with all people in the building.
  - Pr. Katie proposed putting a Private Property sign up at the main doors of the building.
  - We need to have just a few people that are authorized to let ICE into the building. Likely the Pastor, President and Vice President.
    - Do not open a door or window to talk to ICE, or you are authorizing them to come in.
- Discussion around being prepared as a church
  - We have rights, and will not harbor immigrants, but do not want people coming to the Preschool to be picked up by ICE.
- LOC HOPI Trip participants have asked for Food Barrel donations for their upcoming Mission Trip (Pastor Katie or Brian)
  - BLC Council cannot approve another fundraiser at this time but we have a lot of food we collect for the Our Center that could be shared with the Mission Trip participants. LOC can put their own basket up in their area but BLC will not make announcements and ask for donations.
  - Reminder: that we need a Fundraiser Request Form completed for these type of requests.

## DISCUSSION:

- Church Rekey Update - Special Guest Matt James
  - Matt is working on rekeying the building and upgrading/repairing locks and adding an electronic keypad to the front door.
  - Matt reviewed the building floor plan and new key plan.
  - Goals of plan:
    - Increase security of office areas.
    - Allow for meeting spaces
    - Minimize the number of keys needed.
  - If someone just needs to get into fellowship hall they will not be able to get into other areas. The Master Key will get into fire alarm, HVAC, furnace room, etc. Some areas will not require a key.
  - New keys will be unable to be duplicated without permissions and using a specified licensed locksmith.
    - Background checks, agreements, and multiple approvals will be required.
  - Once a year we will need to review and revise who has keys/access.
  - The rekey project will cost a little over \$13,000.
    - Additional expenses include; Medico keys are approx. \$30 each, plus background checks.
  - The site walk-through was last week and installation will be approx. 3 weeks after they get all materials. It will likely be March before they do the actual



# Council Meeting

rekeying. Pastor Katie asked for them to be rekeyed in late March to give congregants more notice of this plan.

- AV Upgrades in the Sanctuary - Special Guest Matt James
  - We purchased a new sound board due to issues with wireless microphones, wiring, audio when streaming, etc.
  - We also need a new AMP and computer.
  - All AV upgrades are covered by Memorial funds and some Worship funds.
  - The new TV/Screen/Display in front of the sanctuary is here and needs to be installed. Initially it will be used for funerals, occasional display needs, etc. Down the road, it can be used for many other things – TBD.
- We ran out of time to discuss:
  - Fundraiser for general fund ideas
  - Fundraiser sheets

## RESOLUTIONS:

- Greg presented the following resolution:
  - Be it resolved on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of February, 2025 that the Church Council of The Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Congregation makes the following changes to the signers for the below listed bank accounts at Independent Financial.
    - For account xxxx50 Brian Carlson will be added as a signer. This account will have the following signers: Greg Schumann, Karen Haag and Brian Carlson. Matthew James and Gene Schnabel will be removed and no longer signers.
    - For account xxxxxxxx97 Brian Carlson will be added as a signer. This account will have the following signers: Greg Schumann, Karen Haag and Brian Carlson. Gene Schnabel and Cynthia Tayler will be removed and no longer signers.
  - Resolution passed unanimously.
- Paul proposed a resolution to distribute the BLC Newsletter quarterly instead of monthly starting this Spring. Sabrina seconded it. The resolution passed unanimously.
- Paul proposed a resolution that we adopt the Protocols for Staff and Volunteers Engaged In Mission and Ministry and definitions of Public and Private spaces that Pr. Katie routed to council as a policy. Sabrina seconded the resolution. The President asked for discussion. It was determined that an attorney has not reviewed the Policy and we should have it reviewed before adopting. The President tabled the original resolution to adopt the policy.
- A new resolution was proposed by Paul to have the proposed policy (Protocols for Staff and Volunteers Engaged In Mission and Ministry and definitions of Public and Private spaces) be reviewed by a qualified attorney ASAP and then vote on via email to adopt these documents as policy. Sabrina seconded the resolution. Resolution was adopted unanimously.

## CONTINUING OPEN ITEMS:

## Council Meeting

- Employee Handbook – P. Katie / Mark / Greg
- One Service – Summer 2025

### PRAYER CONSIDERATIONS & LORDS PRAYER

- Paul and Pr. Katie led the Council in the Lord's Prayer
- Keep these members in our prayers; the Postle family and Sue Smith.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Brian adjourned the meeting at 8:54 pm.

**Upcoming Dates:** Next Council meeting will be Tuesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 Executive Session and Council Meeting at 7:00pm.

## Community

### Annie and Millie's Place -- "Pet Charrette: An Imagination Party"

Join us on **March 6, 2025** from 4:00-7:00 p.m., to spark the imagination of how we can come together and explore the vision for a co-shelter space, where unhoused community members with pets can sleep safely and securely, together. We believe that no human should have to choose between a safe place to sleep and the unconditional love of their pet. This party will show how we can support the human-animal bond and create that space. The event will be held at 801 Main Street, Longmont and while it is a free event, we'd love it if you would RSVP to help us in our planning at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnHwW4quBbnSITKR\\_X9L8zQVgUpjcSlbcumMb5Q9PMIGlwPg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScnHwW4quBbnSITKR_X9L8zQVgUpjcSlbcumMb5Q9PMIGlwPg/viewform)

### OUR Center Empty Bowls Fundraiser

Join us to support our meal program, will be on **March 15** at Longmont High School. More info please visit [www.ourcenter.org/product/empty-bowls-tickets/](http://www.ourcenter.org/product/empty-bowls-tickets/)

### The Lutheran Chorale March Concerts

Presenting The St. John's Passion by Bob Chilcott. This is a beautiful piece of music and highly recommended for the Lenten season.

- Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 2:30 p.m., Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 7691 S. University Blvd., Centennial, CO 80122
- Sunday, March 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m. , Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 2100 Wadsworth Blvd, Denver, CO 80214

### The 11th Hour Project

We are an Inter-Faith coalition of people who intend to build hope and actions that lead to solutions to the growing Climate Crisis. Join us at the BLC Bell Tower on **March 11** at 11:00 a.m.



# He is Risen

CELEBRATE THE EASTER SEASON  
AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

## EASTER SERVICES

Sunday, April 20

8:00 a.m.

10:15 a.m.

## HOLY WEEK SERVICES

**Palm Sunday** April 13 at 8:00 a.m. & 10:15 a.m.

**Maundy Thursday** April 17 at 7:00 p.m.

**Good Friday** April 18 at 7:00 p.m.

## EASTER EGGSTRAVAGANZA (EGG HUNT)

Saturday, April 19 at 10:00 a.m.

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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**Amanda Bueschen**, Director of Cornerstone Preschool -  
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