

TO KNOW CHRIST ... TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN



#### Bethlehem Family,

This time of year is one that is often filled with purchasing of gifts. We're all looking at lists of people we need to buy gifts for, creating our own wish-lists, and shopping online and in stores. Giving gifts can be one of the ways that we express how beloved or how valuable the people in our lives are to us. Gift giving is a practice that has meaning and purpose.

One of the gifts that you can give this year is the gift of words of kindness and affirmation. This is a gift that is simple and quite inexpensive. Share compliments, offer someone a blessing. Say something kind to the people you encounter in your daily routine. Consider your kind words as gifts that you are giving to those around you and give generously!

Another wonderful present is the gift of being present. It seems there's much in December to keep us all occupied, yet one of the most meaningful gifts that you can give to each other is the gift of your time and presence. Plan to spend specific time with a friend, a spouse, a child, a family member, a fellow Bethlehem member, or a work colleague. Dedicated time together can mean a lot, especially if there's someone in your life who could benefit from a listening ear right now.

There are also many kinds of gifts that you can give that benefit someone beyond the recipient. Consider gifts of donations to charities like Lutheran Social Services, Lutheran World Relief, World Vision, Union Rescue Mission, and many different programs that help those in need. This year we will have a tree in Chandler Hall with ELCA Good Gifts ornaments to buy. Each ornament will feature a picture of what you're donating along with the donation amount. Pick the kind of gift you'd like to give and write a check to Bethlehem Lutheran Church (put it in the offering plate or the black mailbox outside of the office) and you can take that ornament home to put it on your tree or give it as a gift.

Spend your resources wisely and find ways to encourage, uplift, and support others through your gifts of time, energy, and money. May your Christmas gifts reflect the love of Christ and share the good news of Jesus' birth! Advent Blessings, Pastor Megan

#### **SUNDAY WORSHIP:**

9:00AM – CONTEMPORARY STYLE 10:10AM – SUNDAY SCHOOL (SEPT-MAY) 11:00AM – TRADITIONAL STYLE

#### **STAFF:**

SENIOR PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

ASSOCIATE PASTOR:

REV. IOAN ITTU pastorioan@bethlehemlutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD MATTHEW A. KESSELL vicente.ditto@gmail.com rawmisa@gmail.com matthewkessell@bethlehemlutheran.net

BOOKKEEPER:

RICK DEMLOW finance@bethlehemlutheran.net

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY office@bethlehemlutheran.net

Youth Director:

SAM MANUAL youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

PRESCHOOL DIRECTOR:

MARY ASHDJIAN-KANDILIAN director@bethlehemlutheran.net

#### CONTACT BY PHONE:

CHURCH:	818-360-4777			
Preschool:	818-368-6947			
FAX:	818-360-5559			

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## SUMMARY OF BETHLEHEM COUNCIL MINUTES – NOVEMBER 14, 2018

Present: Beverly Compton, Lisa Nakata, Pr. Megan Fryling, Betsy Kalusa, Scott Fisher, Sarah Karzel, Sue Akin, Nicole Hernandez Liva

Dianne Tillman was also present. She gave a presentation about Women of the ELCA and integrating the work that they do with Bethlehem. Council expressed its enthusiastic support for Women of the ELCA and is happy to see Bethlehem members become more involved.

<u>Modular Unit</u> – Sarah gave a report on the progress toward getting a modular unit installed for additional office and storage space. Gerry Puchlik is assisting with getting necessary approvals from the city. He met with Sarah, Sue Akin, Sam Manuel and Pr. Megan on November 6 to discuss options. He will be talking directly with the city to get us some additional information. Since Pastor Ioan will be returning from vacation at the end of November, the task for now is to get the office currently used by the bookkeeper cleared of stored music supplies so that it can be used by Pr. Ioan as well.

<u>Endowment Committee</u> - Sarah presented the Minutes from the October 30 meeting of the Endowment Committee. She outlined the decisions made by the Committee which are reflected in the Minutes. The Committee decided to invest the long term funds resulting from the St. Stephens sale in an ELCA investment vehicle that is actively managed and focused on modest growth and income and protecting against downside risk. The Committee also approved the transfer of the short term proceeds into a newly created fund that Brian Grefsrud has set up for this purpose. Finally the Committee decided that rather than having to meet frequently to approve the transfer of funds from that new fund into the general fund of Bethlehem to pay expenses agreed upon in connection with the merger, those transfers could be made by Brian Grefsrud and Greg Imlay working together. The decisions and minutes of the Committee were approved.

<u>Nominating committee</u> – The Council discussed the open Council positions for 2019. There was conversation about the concerns that since both Scott and Sarah are terming off the Council, there will be a lack of continuity, which may be especially problematic because of the merger. Sarah indicated she would be willing to serve again, but that would require asking the congregation to waive the term limit provisions of the Constitution. The Council supports the idea of having her continue and supports the waiver of the term limit provisions in this case. The Nominating Committee for this year consists of Peggy Kossart, Dave Compton and Sunni Sears with Lisa Chow as an alternate. Sarah will reach out to the Committee with a list of positions to be filled.

<u>Pastor's report</u> – Pastor mentioned that she is looking for volunteers for the info booth after November 25 service. She is also seeking volunteers to tell advent stories, one each Sunday, at each service.

<u>School</u> – Bev mentioned that total enrollment has climbed and is now 122 students. Bev, Pr. Megan and Mary are beginning to review compensation for school employees for the coming year.

<u>Worship and music</u> – Council asked Sue if worship and music is going smoothly or experiencing any difficulties as the merger is implemented. She mentioned that she has heard some concerns about the intensity of the preparation and number of performances. She believes that adjustment to change can take some time, but she will keep her eyes and ears open. Council expressed its support.

<u>Youth and Education</u> – Lisa mentioned that Sam's review went well. As to the yard sale, she mentioned that without Byer goods (Richard Newcomb, our contact for these donations no longer works for Byer), it may not be worth the effort, but they are assessing this. She also mentioned their search for a more effective way to communicate digitally with kids and parents. Lisa shared that they are planning to have Youth Sunday the day

of the Annual Meeting after the first of the year. The youth will be responsible for most parts of the service. She also is exploring some new elements for the early Christmas Eve service. Many of the children who have participated have done so for many years and would be interested in changing things up. Sue agreed and thought the congregation would enjoy that as well.

<u>Social ministry</u> – Nicole received a lovely thank you from Hope Gardens (operated by Union Rescue Mission) for the money we donated for Halloween costumes. They included pictures of the children dressed up which Nicole will share with the congregation. URM is serving Thanksgiving dinner November the 17<sup>th</sup>. Volunteers are welcome. Nicole collected snacks to take to Foster All. This is the last weekend for LSS donations for Thanksgiving. Caroling is December 2.

<u>Fellowship</u> – Betsy discussed the use of Time and Talents questionnaires. Council is considering the best way to do this to identify potential volunteers for all of the many jobs that need to be done at Bethlehem. We want to be sensitive to the needs of our new members from St. Stephens and not make them feel pressured to serve but also make sure they know they are welcome to serve at any time. The next meeting is scheduled for December 12 at Scott's house.

Respectfully submitted by Sarah Karzel

## JILL'S HANDCRAFTED CHRISTMAS SALE

Jill's 15th Annual Handcrafted Christmas Sale will start on Sunday, November 25 and will carry on through all Sundays in Advent. She will be selling between services (10am) and following the second service (12pm) at Bethlehem. Contact Jill Goddard at 661-495-6503 or jigoddard@earthlink.net if you have any guestions or special

Handcrafted Christmas Sale

requests. Jill crochets and knits beautiful scarves, hats, afghans, throws, purses, ponchos, wraps, and other wearables.

100% of sales go to World Vision. Jill has had friends who have seen the wonderful work that World Vision has done and she is very impressed and excited to see what we can do to support them. Opportunities include farming, schooling, clean water, medical care, and sharing God's light through Bibles and Sunday School. To read more about World Vision, check out the website: worldvisiongifts.org

#### **HOLIDAY SCHEDULE**

Sunday, Dec. 2 at 12pm– Christmas Caroling following the second service. Sunday, Dec. 2 at 6pm -Congregational Christmas Party @ the Puchlik's home. Sunday, Dec. 9 at 6:30pm– Christmas Concert Monday, Dec. 10 at 6pm– Ladies' Christmas Party at Gale Gundersen's home. Sunday, Dec. 16 at 6:30pm– Advent Jazz Vespers Monday, Dec. 24 at 5pm-Family Service



## **MUSIC NOTES**

#### VICENTE DITTO MARISA RAWLINS BRADFIELD Directors of Music Ministry



December, a month that strikes fear in the hearts of music educators and parents. The ends of semesters, winter concerts, the beginning of ponderings about what to do with kids who are on winter breaks or even worse, what gifts do people want for Christmas? Chanukah!? KWANZA!? Fortunately for us, the music department is providing respites from holiday worries and strife on almost every Sunday evening. Caroling: Dec. 2nd after the 11 am service, Dec. 9th, the Christmas Concert at 6:30 followed by a reception that will have way too much food, Dec. 16th Jazz Vespers service featuring a jazz trio performing meditative music intermixed with poetry and scripture readings, also at 6:30, and then Dec. 23rd relax because Monday, Dec. 24th is Christmas Eve when we will have a 5 pm family service with a kids pageant of sorts and an 11 pm Candlelight service. ohne Kinder, aber mit Kerzenlicht. Sehr schoen!

- Vicente & Marisa

## **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Sign up to order your Christmas poinsettias! There's a sign-up sheet in the back of the church. The price is \$10 per plant and they come in 6 inch pots with a festive pot cover. They are yours to take home after the Christmas Eve worship services. The last day to order will be December 16.

Leave a check marked "poinsettias" in the offering

plate or in the black mailbox on the wall by the church office. Thank you for helping make our sanctuary look beautiful for our Christmas Eve services!



## **YOUTH NEWS**

**SAM MANUAL** Director of Youth Ministry youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

Happy Holidays! Wow does anybody else think that the year is



flying by? It's been a whirlwind but amazing! Last month we had some great gathering times with both youth groups ( where we finished the unit on prayer and now are taking a look at sin) and in Sunday school (which continues to be a blast learning about the incredible women of the Bible!). We even managed to work in a movie/lunch on Saturday as well! And now we are in the throws of the Advent season. There are events scheduled almost every week and tons of opportunities for the youth to be involved in! Check the info below for events, dates and times. Thanks again for all the support. -Sam

#### NOVEMBER 2018

• December 2nd Christmas Caroling (We will be leaving BLC @12:55 and back by 3 or 4)

• December 2nd Confirmation (BLC is hosting this month so if you have a confirmation student plan on them being here at church from 2-5)

• December 15th Annual Youth Christmas party (details tbd... if any one is interested in hosting please let me know ASAP)

• December 24th Christmas Eve service and youth play (5pm Family service)

## **ADVENT FAMILY NIGHT**

November 30 at 6pm. Join us for a family event as we begin the season of Advent together. We will learn about Advent, have dinner, make ornaments, frost cookies, sing carols together, and finish with the traditional tree lighting. The event is free and lots of Fun! We would love to have you come celebrate the season with us! Volunteers are needed to help that evening as well as make sugar cookies before hand.

## **PRESCHOOL NEWS**

#### MARY KANDILIAN

Preschool Director Director@bethlehemlutheran.net Happy December!



We're so excited for this holiday season and oh! has this year gone by quickly!

November 30th was our Advent Night and I'd like to take a moment to personally thank all the school and church staff who dedicated their time and efforts into making this a huge success! We had a wonderful time learning about Advent, having dinner with our families, decorating and lighting our Christmas tree and having a blast making cookies and working on crafts. We hope to see a lot more church members involved next year too!

We're excited to announce our Christmas Program on December 20th at 4pm. Our students have been performing their performance pieces for weeks now and are eager to put on a lovely show for our families and friends! After the performance our courtyard will be

transformed into a Winter Wonderland, with snow, hot cocoa, treats and a Santa station as well! With only a \$5 entry for adults, we truly hope to see our church members joining us in the celebration of the birth of Christ!

And finally on behalf of all our Bethlehem students, staff and administration we'd like to wish all our church family members a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year! *Mary Kandilian* 

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

<u>Dec. 20 at 4pm</u>. Join us for the student performances, hot cocoa, snacks, games, snow, and

Santa! Kids are free, adults are \$5.



#### **CHRISTMAS CAROLING**

On December 2 we will have a light lunch following the second service and then we will all caravan to sing Christmas carols for homebound church members and local nursing homes. Join us!

# CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTMAS

PARTY

The Congregational Christmas Party is Sunday, <u>December 2, 2018 at 6pm</u> at the Puchlik's home. The dinner will be catered again by Stonefire Grill, and the cost is \$18 per person. Bring an appetizer or a dessert to share. The sign-up sheet is at the back of the church. If you have any questions, contact Betsy Kalusa at 818-833-8441.

## **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

<u>Sunday, December 9 at</u> <u>6:30pm</u>. Our Annual Christmas Concert is filled with joyful music of the season! A reception will follow. Please invite your family & friends! This is a free event.



#### LADIES' CHRISTMAS PARTY

<u>Monday, Dec. 10 at 6pm</u> at Gale Gundersen's home. Bring a wrapped \$20 gift for the Pirate Exchange and an appetizer or a dessert to share. If you have any questions, contact Betsy Kalusa 818-833-8441.

#### **ADVENT JAZZ VESPERS**

Sunday, December 16 at 6:30pm. The service will feature meditative music performed by a jazz trio intermixed with poetry and scripture. A reception featuring tea will follow the service. This is a free event and everyone is welcome!



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#### **ANGEL TREE**

A program for children who have a parent who is incarcerated in prison. The gift is from that parent. We are God's Angels bringing a gift of Love for one of God's children.



-Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> bring gifts back to church, wrapped with the Angel Sticker attached. -Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> the gifts will be picked up by the children's guardians.

If you would like to help or have any questions, please contact Judy Cave at 818-894-7773.

#### **2019 FLOWER CHART**

The 2019 flower chart has arrived. It's behind the current one. Please sign up for your special day. Flowers are \$35 for two bouquets and are yours to take home after worship. Thank you.

#### **SEE'S CANDIES FUNDRAISER**

Orders are due December 3. Products will then be delivered by the second week of December, just in time to distribute ahead of the holidays—the See's goodies make great gifts, so please consider our sale when thinking about your holiday shopping list.

See Desmond Fryling or any other preschool child to place your order.

## Rehearsals Start December 8th!

**KID'S CHRISTMAS PLAY** 

This year we have a new short play as a part of our 5 pm Christmas Eve service!

We're looking for kids who are interested in acting in the play to come to our first rehearsal on <u>Saturday, December 8th from 10 am to 12 pm</u>. If you're interested, click here to contact the church office to let us know BEFORE December 8th.

We'll be reprising the beloved characters of Jilly & Smucker from our VBS program and it's going to be a lot of fun.

This play was written by our own creative members Kiera Nusbaum & Lisa Chow. Actress Chriselle Almeida will be helping direct the rehearsals.

Younger kids (preschool & lower elementary age) will be singing as a part of the play. If your child is interested in being involved in the singing, please be sure to send them to Sunday School every Sunday in December at 10:10 a.m. to learn the songs!

## BETHLEHEM WOMEN OF THE ELCA BIBLE STUDY

The Bethlehem Women of the ELCA are gathering for the December Bible Study Wednesday, December 18 at 4:00 pm at The home of Dianne Tillman, 19443 Cypress Point Drive, Porter Ranch. Bring your Gather magazine if you have one (others may be available) and your Bible. All women are welcome.





#### **STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

With all the excitement and activities during the holiday season, sometimes it's easy to overlook our financial promises to the church. December is a good month to catch up on contributions for a number of reasons, one of which is taxes—this is the last month to include your donations for the 2018 tax year.

Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Ron Kraus, Stewardship Chair

#### **CHRISTMAS EVE SCHEDULE**

On December 24, we offer two traditional services. Our Family Service will be at 5pm and our Candlelight service will be at 11pm. We hope you will join us. Merry Christmas!

Date	12/24/2018 <b>5PM</b>	12/24/2018 <b>11PM</b>
Assisting Minister	Ron Kraus	Mary Fisher
Reader	Emily Carlson	Ruth Anne Sitko
Ushers	Kevin Rubinstein	Scott Fisher
	Alison Rubinstein	
Greeter	Х	
Altar Guild	All	All
Acolyte	Hannah Carlson	
Communion Asst.	Jill Goddard	
	Dylan Yribe	
	Ryan Yribe	
Glow Stick Assistants	Katie Nakata	
	Kiera Nusbaum	

## NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

We write you from warm and sunny Arusha, TZ. The grass is green, the flowers In Tanzania for the ELCA, Serving with the are blooming, and classes are in session at Evangelical Lutheran Church in Tanzania Tumaini



University Makumira. We spent time in the US over the last couple months, spending time with loved ones, visiting congregations, and speaking at conferences and other events. There were so many moments for which we are thankful! Here we share a few glimpses. Sharing God's Good News It was such a joy to meet many interested, active disciples in several local congregations. We're grateful for invitations to share, preach, teach and lead in New Jersey, Kansas, Missouri, Illinois and Ohio. Visits remind us and grant us a sense of awe about the very great number of people witnessing, serving, and leading, who also lift us in prayer. What a gift to be part of Christ's Body in the world!

We learned so much at the TEEM (Theological Education for Emerging Ministries) conference, where we were invited to speak. In an effort to grow capacity in serving congregations, the ELCA engages with immigrant pastors from across the globe, bringing them education that is relevant to the needs of these pastors and of the congregations they serve. Many Tanzanians are graduates or current students in the program. A New Academic Year Begins It's great to be here for our SECOND YEAR, with many of the "firsts" behind us and a welcome sense of comfort and home here at the university for us both. The academic year began with Convocation and Opening Worship. We are teaching courses in Systematic Theology, Christian Education, Gender and Counseling, Research, and New Testament this term.

ELCT initiatives include work to empower and protect people living with albinism, who are oppressed and in peril in much of Tanzania. One result is that many people with albinism enroll at the University, This year, the student body president has albinism. He serves with a very diverse group of student body ministers, who planned and led many University opening week activities. The week helped the year get off to a great start. Thank you! Thank you to you all for your notes, emails, calls, and sharing of interest in what God is doing here in Tanzania and particularly at the University. Particular thanks to the saints of Bethany Lutheran, Crystal Lake, IL; Our Saviour Lutheran, Sandwich, IL: St. James Lutheran, Johnston, IA; and First Lutheran, Monmouth, IL, for covenanting financial support for our ministries. A warm welcome to you all to this journey of faith, service, witness and discovery! IF YOU OR YOUR CONGREGATION are interested in supporting us on the way, PLEASE BE IN TOUCH-there are many ways to take part with us in the sacred work of supporting God's mission. Peace in Christ, Cynthia Holder Rich (Cynthia.HolderRich@elca.org) and Mark Rich (Mark.Rich@elca.org)

Peace, Cynthia Holder Rich and Mark Rich

#### Your support makes a world of difference!

Here's how to give: By Check: make payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" with "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047 in the memo line. Give through your synod office or mail your check to: Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Gift Processing Center, P.O. Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009. By credit or debit: see https://community.elca.org/Tanzania or call 800-638 -3522 and specify "Cynthia Holder Rich/Mark Rich GCS2047

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#### **BLESS REPORT FOR DECEMBER**

#### Hello, Bethlehem families!

Thank you to everyone who has been supporting our See's Candies sale, both by selling goodies and by purchasing treats! As a reminder, we are taking orders through December 3, so please consider buying something if you haven't already—the See's products make great holiday gifts for family members, friends, and coworkers.

Thank you also to everyone who has been signing up to help with Advent Family Night—we are very excited to celebrate the beginning of Advent together as a church and school community, and we hope that the crafts, cookies, and carols we share will get everyone into the spirit for a fun and inspiring Advent season.

We also hope that the Advent mason jars that the kids will put together will help you create some wonderful memories with your families in the weeks ahead. **Please remember to share your experiences on our Instagram and Facebook pages**, by using the tag #BLCSAdventJar—we can't wait to see what you come up with!

**Our next BLESS meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 5, at 5:00 p.m.** During this meeting, we will look forward to the plans for our 2019 fundraisers, including our annual spring waffle breakfast. If you have any ideas for the waffle breakfast or for other activities, please let us know! We welcome any suggestions you have. And, as always, please reach out to us if you see any needs at the school that BLESS can help support through the funds we are raising.

Thank you for your continued support!

—Laureen Gleason, BLESS President (bless@bethlehemlutheran.net)

#### PUCCINI'S LA BOHEME TO BE PERFORMED BY CAROL LANDE

Carol Lande, one of our choir members from St. Stephen's, will be performing as the Lead Role of Mimi in Puccini's La Boheme, sung in Italian with English Supertitles. Carol is also one of the Artistic Directors. The performances will be Friday, December 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 at LA Mission College, and Sunday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 3 p.m. at Valley Beth Israel. Tickets must be purchased directly from Carol, and they are \$20 for general admission and \$15 for students. Carol is donating a portion of the proceeds of the tickets that she sells back to the Bethlehem Music Dept. If you do not see Carol at church to purchase your ticket(s), you can call her directly at (818)781-5885 or (818)421-9876.

#### **MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST**

We invite men of all ages to join us for fellowship the first Wednesday of every month at 7:30am at Coco's Restaurant in Mission Hills. See you on December 5.



#### **LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS**

#### Thank you from Lutheran Social Services

LSS thanks all of the members of Bethlehem and St. Stephen's for the wonderful support given during the Thanksgiving season, with lots of and lots of food, clothes and household donations. We packed and gave away 150 bags of Thanksgiving food, and gave away over 200 gift certificates for turkeys, thanks to all of you! Many, many families thanked us for their bounty, and wanted us to tell you that. So thank you, thank you.

#### CHRISTMAS TOY GIVE-A-WAY AT LSS

Lutheran Social Services/ San Fernando Valley is doing their "Toy Give –A- Way" to our low income families again this year – ages infant to 12 years of age, boys and girls.

The Toy Give- A -Way will be Saturday, December 15, 2018.

We will need all toys by Monday, December 10th.

We can pick up from your congregation on that date or prior to that date, or you can deliver to LSS by December 10th.

Thank you for your continued generosity for these events!

For more information or to schedule a pickup, please call Jan Maseda at (818)288-7054 or email at JANICEMASEDA@GMAIL.COM LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES 7400 TUJUNGA AVE., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605

## **S**OJOURNERS

Sojourners will meet on December 12 for their monthly potluck lunch at 12:30pm in Chandler Hall. If you're 55 years or older, male or female, please join us for a time of fellowship! Bring a friend, a dish to share, and a wrapped \$15 gift for our gift exchange.

The Lutheran Social Services (LSS) item this month is toothpaste for hygiene kits.

Thank you to everyone who participated in the November Toy Drive. See you on the 12th!

## LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES TOY COLLECTION

Each year we collect new unwrapped toys for kids in need ages 0-12 for the LSS Toy-Give-Away. This year we will be taking in donations every Sunday at both services from Nov.18-Dec. 9.



#### **BETHLEHEM BOOK CLUB**

Book club will take a break for the holidays. We will resume in January. Contact Pastor Megan if you have any questions.

## **CONFIRMATION CLASS**

Our Confirmation Class will meet on December 2 at 2pm at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Email Pastor Ioan if you have any questions.

## TWIN VALLEYS CONFERENCE STRATEGIC VISIONING TEAM

The TV Team met at Bethlehem in November. Ms. Chapek, our consultant has met with most of the Pastors and churches from our conference.

Ms. Chapek led our team thru various steps of the process. The purpose is to gain collaborative priorities from these congregations/churches such that the conference can establish a strategic vision.

At this time focus has been on homelessness prevention and youth ministry. There is also interest in church mergers. Another thought was that we should gather monthly or quarterly as a conference.

In the next step Ms. Chapek will be meeting with external stakeholders of our congregations.

We are taking a break during the holidays, but this will be a time to review the work completed to date. We will reconvene in January.

Beverly Compton

## LIKE US ON FACEBOOK!

If you would like to stay in touch and get updates of events happening at Bethlehem, please visit www.facebook.com/BethlehemGranadaHills and like us!

Also, check out our preschool Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bethlehemlutheranschool

#### **DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS**

- 4 John DeCoursey-Thomas
- 4 Ryan Nakata
- 5 Leslie Petit
- 7 Alison Rubinstein
- 13 Jonelle Miller
- 15 Sue Akin
- 16 Shirley Cooper
- 28 Dave Compton

**DECEMBER ANNIVERSARIE** 

None

## **OCTOBER STATISTICS**

#### Offering:

November offering: \$18,835.77; Budget: \$16,250.00

October offering: \$ 12,016.74; Budget: \$ 16,250.00

Fiscal YTD: \$48,888.51 Budget: \$48,750.00

#### Attendance:

November average at 9am: 61 November average at 11am: 68

October average at 9am: 32 October average at 11am: 41 October 28 10am— 167

#### WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

If you see an empty spot on the worship leader schedule and you're able to fill in, please call the church office. You can serve one time or be put on a monthly rotation. Thank you.

#### **PASTORS' SCHEDULES**

Pastor Megan: Monday-Thursday 610-680-7220; pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net Pastor Ioan: Tuesday-Friday 626-419-6331; pastorioan@bethlehemlutheran.net



## DECEMBER 2018 CALENDAR

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Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
25 <u>9+11AM Worship</u> 10:10AM Sunday School	26	27	28	29 5:30PM Youth Choir 6:15PM 9am Ensemble 7PM Faith Choir	<b>30</b> <u>6PM Advent</u> <u>Family Night</u>	1
2 9+11AM Worship 10:10AM Sunday School 12PM Caroling 2PM Confirmation Class 6PM Christmas Party	3	4	5 7:30AM Men's Brkfst 10:15AM Adult Ed	6 <u>5:30PM</u> Youth Choir 6:15PM 9am Ensemble 7PM Faith Choir	7	8
9 <u>9+11AM Worship</u> <u>10:10AM Sunday School</u> <u>6:30PM Christmas</u> <u>Concert</u>	<b>10</b> <u>6:00PM Ladies</u> ' <u>Christmas Party</u>	11	12 10:15AM Adult Ed 12:30PM Sojourners Potluck Lunch 7:00PM Council Mtg	13 5:30PM Youth Choir 6:15PM 9am Ensemble 7PM Faith Choir	14	15
16 <u>9+11AM Worship</u> <u>10:10AM Sunday School</u> <u>6:30PM Advent Jazz</u> <u>Vespers</u>	17	18 <u>4PM WELCA</u> <u>Bible Study</u>	19 <u>10:15AM Adult Ed</u>	20 <u>4PM School</u> Christmas Program 5:30PM Youth Choir 6:15PM 9am Ensemble 7PM Faith Choir	21	22
23 9+11AM Worship 10:10AM Sunday School	24 <u>5PM</u> Family Service 11PM Candlelight	25 Merry Christmas	26 10:15AM Adult Ed	27	28	29
30 <u>9+11AM Worship</u> 10:10AM Sunday School	31	Jan. 1 (*:) (appy*) (*) (ew) (ear*)	2 7:30AM Men's Brkfst 10:15AM Adult Ed	3 5:30PM Youth Choir 6:15PM 9am Ensemble 7PM Faith Choir	4	5

## DECEMBER WORSHIP LEADER SCHEDULE

Date	12-2-18	12-9-18	12-16-18	12-23-18	12-30-18	1-6-19
Assisting Minister	Lisa Chow	Mary Fisher	Ryan Nakata	Laureen Gleason	Max Stark	Scott Fisher
Reader	Sue Akin	Emily Carlson	Marisa Bradfield	Kathy Fisher	Kevin Rubinstein	Lisa Chow
Acolyte	Rocco Rainey	Hannah Carlson	Katie Nakata	Natalie Nakata	Alison Rubinstein	
Ushers	Pat St. Michel	Lisa Chow	Scott Fisher	Brian Grefsrud	Mary Fisher	Laureen Gleason
	Nicole Hernandez-Liva	Shea Clancy		Brooke Coffin	Katie Nakata	Pat St. Michel
Refresh + Juice	Barbara Yeager	Pat St. Michel	Kathy Fisher	Leslie Petit	Leslie Petit	Lisa Chow
Altar Guild	Cookie Cline	Betty & Cookie	Susan Van Deest	Cookie Cline	Meredith Taylor	Pat St. Michel
WORSHIP LEADE	RS - 11:00 SERVICE					
Assisting Minister	Sandy Lazaros	Sarah Karzel	Bud Gundersen	Jan Maseda	Ron Kraus	John Cooper
Reader	Meredith Taylor	Kevin Rubinstein	Dylan Yribe	Betsy Kalusa	Ruth Anne Sitko	Jill Goddard
Communion Asst.	Dylan Yribe		Dylan Yribe			
Ushers	Ryan Yribe	Ron Kraus	Jan Maseda	Kevin Rubinstein	Jerry Sitko	Janet Puchlik
	Janet Puchlik	Fred Ophus	Ryan Yribe			Hannah Carlson
Greeter	Jan Maseda	Susan Van Deest	Gale Gundersen	Janet Puchlik	Donna Ophus	
Refreshments	Shirley Cooper	Betsy Kalusa	Yribe	Donna Ophus	Ruth Anne Sitko	Jan Maseda
	Donna Ophus		family			
Offering Counters	Fred Ophus	Bonnie Tharp	Mary Fisher	Janet Puchlik	Dwayne Schmidt	Brian Grefsrud
	Brian Grefsrud	Susan Van Deest	Barbara Bond	Pat St. Michel	Gene Denney	Barbara Bond

www.bethlehemlutheran.net

#### SHARE YOUR FAVORITE ADVENT & CHRISTMAS TRADITIONS!

Do you have some interesting Advent or Christmas traditions? Maybe there's a story that you have of a particularly special or interesting Christmas?

Bethlehem is looking for people who are willing to share a story of their Advent and Christmas traditions with the congregation during a 5 minute Temple-Talk time during worship for each of the 4 weeks of Advent. It can be something poignant and meaningful or it could be something humorous that happened. We want to hear your stories!

We're looking for 4 people for 9 am worship & 4 people for 11 am worship. Contact Pastor Megan to get on the schedule. pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net



