

TO KNOW CHRIST...TO MAKE CHRIST KNOWN



PASTOR'S MESSAGE MEGAN FRYLING

Pastor

pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

I've never hosted or cooked Thanksgiving dinner. For more than 12 years, Kyle and I have spent our Thanksgiving dinners in the homes of family members: a few years with my aunts in New Jersey, once with my extended family in Ohio,

once with my sister in Arizona, and most years with all of Kyle's parents, siblings, and our nieces and nephews in the Bay Area. This will be a strange year with Thanksgiving at home as just our family of five.

In some ways, it's sad to think of the ways we've all needed to change things to adapt. In other ways, it's kind of exciting to try new and different things. We'll certainly cook different dishes than we've had when other people are hosting. (No turkey at our house- so we can look at different main dish options this year!) Maybe we'll find a new favorite dish or a new favorite post-dinner game or movie. It'll be a memorable Thanksgiving in our house and even with things being different, we'll be able to find ways that God has blessed us this year. We will find ways to enjoy things differently, as I'm sure all of you will as well.

This is the same kind of mindset we're all going to need to have for the season of Advent and Christmas this year as well. Things will be different. Traditions will have to be modified or completely changed this year, both in your homes and here at church. However- there will be memorable fun that will happen! We'll try new things and we'll laugh together when they don't turn out, we'll ponder the Christmas story with a renewed sense of wonder and hope together, we'll celebrate together in all kinds of ways!

The Worship & Music Team has been hard at work figuring out ways that we can do things safely and also provide everyone with a sense of the Advent and Christmas spirit with the right mix of fun, wonder, and holy reverence. Here's the schedule we've got planned (but please know and understand that changes may come up depending on the covid-19 updates).

SUNDAY WORSHIP:

Temporary Covid-19 Schedule 9:00 AM – IN-Person Worship (Postponded through August) 10:00 AM – Online Streaming

STAFF:

PASTOR:

REV. MEGAN HUNT FRYLING pastor@bethlehemlutheran.net

DIRECTORS OF MUSIC MINISTRY:

VICENTE DITTO MARISA RAWLINS-BRADFIELD MATTHEW A. KESSELL vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net marisabradfield@bethlehemlutheran.net matthewkessell@bethlehemlutheran.net

Youth Director:

JENNIFER ADKISON youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

BOOKKEEPER:

KAREN MEIER finance@bethlehemlutheran.net

BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR: WANDA MORENO admin@bethlehemlutheran.net

FRONT OFFICE ASSISTANT:

EVELYN CULAJAY office@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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Sunday, November 29: Advent 1 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Wednesday, December 2: Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 6: Advent 2 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Wednesday, December 9: Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 13: Advent 3 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Wednesday, December 16: Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 16: Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 20: Advent 24 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Wednesday, December 20: Advent 24 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.
Sunday, December 20: Advent 24 Worship- 9 a.m. Outdoors, 10 a.m. Livestream
Wednesday, December 23: Midweek Zoom Advent Devotional Study- 6:30 p.m.

5:00-6:00 p.m.: Drive Thru Christmas Eve Blessing & Candle Distribution7:00 p.m. Family Service Livestream8:00 - 8:30 p.m.: Outdoor Candlelight Service9:00 p.m.: Candlelight Service Livestream

It's a different schedule, for sure, but we're offering a midweek Advent devotion every week with casual scripture discussion and also a musical piece from our talented musicians. This midweek option will be on Zoom so you can join us from the comfort of your own home! Christmas Eve we have a variety of options because we know that everyone has a different situation in terms of covid-19 risks and concerns, so we have something for everyone. Both Livestream services will be best to watch live as they happen so you can interact and chat in the comments of the video with fellow church members, but they'll also be available to watch any time later that night or even on Christmas Day!

May you remember ways to give thanks this month and may you also be blessed as we begin the Advent season! Christ is with you through it all.

Blessings, Pastor Megan

THE BOUTIQUE IS NOW OPEN!!!

SHOP ONLINE TODAY!

NEW ITEMS ! https://bethlehemwomenoftheelca.square.site

Stocking stuffers, home decor, Christmas wreaths, blankets (for pets, too!), scrunchies, masks. Kitty and unicorn patterned items going fast! Place your order, pay online, and pick up items at church. All major credit cards accepted. All proceeds help us help others. Questions? welca@bethlahemlutheran.net

Some Sample Items:

- Microwave Popcorn Snowmen (including the LAKERS!)
- Hot Pads (this one has kitties!)
- DOLLS! Santa and his Elves!
- Pillows



OCTOBER COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

By Marilyn Fursman, Council Secretary

ACTIONS

- 1. Beverly Compton will draft a letter of permission for the Scouts to continue meeting at Bethlehem and our willingness to remain as sponsor, on the condition that a church member agree to be the liaison.
- 2. There was a motion approving the \$7,000 overrun on the "back hall" project. An additional \$4,500 is needed to cover the cost of prefab cabinets.

MANAGEMENT

- 1. Discussed renewal of charters for Boy Scouts and Cub Scouts. Need to find a church member to be the representative, as Beverly Compton is leaving that position. The representative must be 21, take youth protection training and get a background check.
- 2. Indoor worship at churches is not allowed yet, but Bethlehem is preparing to be ready and needs to purchase a static electric cleaner (\$200-\$1,000) for sanitizing the pews.
- 3. The Nominating committee will begin seeking candidates for 2021. Members are Lisa Chow, Beverly Compton, Jan Maseda, and alternate Ron Kraus. Vacancies include Vice President. If possible, the Annual meeting and elections will be held at the end of January 2021.
- 4. Back Hall Project. Expenses have exceeded the original bid. and must come out of the budget. Mary Fisher reported that cabinets were purchased from Ikea for \$4,500 including installation. Windows, LED lights, bath-room and sound insulation were added; popcorn ceiling was removed; termite damage addressed, sprinkler lines removed. It works as the teachers' break room and could be used in the evenings as a youth room or small meeting room.
- 5. Treasurer's Report: Income was down. The school has a large overtime expense. It was not clear where the school is in terms of breaking even. Forgiveness of the Payroll Protection Plan loan should help considerably.
- 6. Pastor Megan's vacation is November 9-22; two supply pastors will preach.

MINISTRY

- 1. Worship outdoors, restarted in September, is receiving good reviews and has up to 20 participants. Because there are different elements to both services, the 9 a.m. service cannot be recorded for the 10 a.m. live-stream service.
- 2. The drive-through for communion, gift stress ball, and blessing were well-received.
- 3. There will be a drive-through animal blessing event on Nov. 8 and two Advent devotionals handed out.
- 4. Wednesdays, Dec. 2-23, at 6:30 p.m., Pr. Megan will lead an Advent devotional study based on the Names of Jesus.
- 5. Pr. Megan led a funeral service at the VA Cemetery for Bernadette Andrews' grandfather (Kenneth Mohlenkamp).
- 6 The Youth are having a virtual Sunday School Halloween party on Oct. 31 and playing bingo.
- 7. The Rite of Confirmation was live-streamed on Oct. 24 at Shepherd of the Valley.
- 8. Adult Education offers in-person Bible study, Wednesdays at 10 a.m. in Chandler Hall; and a book discussion (*Love Without Limits*) Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m. online via Zoom through Nov. 25.
- 9. Fellowship is offering a yoga/scripture/breathing session led by Pam Shea on Sundays at 7 p.m. Women of the ELCA will send out greeting cards to members as a transition from weekly phone calls.
- 10. Social Ministry will be collecting thanksgiving food for LSS.
- 11. School enrollment is 88. Two asymptomatic kids tested positive for Covid-19 after the break (their parents had the virus); had to close the TK room; two teachers were on guarantine, but not sick.
- 12. The Women of the ELCA virtual holiday boutique goes live online Oct. 24.



MUSIC NOTES

VICENTE DITTO Senior Music Minister vicenteditto@bethlehemlutheran.net The top of this month featured another

The top of this month featured another virtual choir collaboration with the musical forces of Bethlehem and St. Peter's By the Sea. I am very grateful that Marisa's friend Macain Treat

invited the Bethlehem music community to participate in these virtual choral pieces. They are a lovely way to see and hear our singers.

Earlier this year, allegations of sexual and spiritual abuse against the composer David Haas became public. As of October, 44 women have published their accounts of abuse against the songwriter that span a little over three decades. After initially denying the allegations, Haas' attorney released a statement in September acknowledging that his client is seeking "professional intervention" to help face and understand his harmful actions. We have decided to join with the religious communities and publishers, including GIA, who have removed Haas' music from their organizations and no longer program his songs in our services. Please pray for healing and guidance for everyone involved in this very difficult situation.



SCHOOL NEWS

MARY KANDILIAN Preschool Director Director@bethlehemlutheran.net

It almost feels like a broken record, "these are unprecedented times", "we're so disappointed to announce" - but guess what! These are unprecedented times and we're making the very best of them!

We just had our first Drive-Thru Trunk or Treat which was loads of safe fun for all our families, yes, it wasn't our traditional event, but these times helped shape a new type of fun! And everyone had a great time nonetheless!

Upcoming we will be having our See's Candy fundraiser as well as a Thanksgiving feast with our classrooms and we'll be starting the new month with our Virtual Advent Night on December 4th!

We hope you're all remaining safe and following the safety protocols outlined by the County as we all continue to do our part! Please keep an eye out in the Thursday emails for more information on these events and activities, we so appreciate and rely on you to make our events a success - we hope to 'see' you all soon!

SCREEN INSTALLMENT

Hello Bethlehem Family! I'm Kiera Nusbaum, one of the Youth at Bethlehem. As you may already know, I'm working with the Worship and Music Team to install screens in the sanctuary, to replace the excessive use of paper bulletins and to enhance service. This is something I wanted to do to improve the church for a while, so I decided to work on it for my Girl Scout Silver Award!

Our plan is to install three video screens in the sanctuary. There will be two 65 inch screens on either side of the sanctuary, in the front of the church. They'll face the congregation during service, and lay flat against the wall when service is over. The third screen will be 72 inches, and located on the back wall of the sanctuary, facing the altar for the music and worship team to view. This project will be financed with money set aside from the merger that was specifically for audio and visual improvements.

This will benefit our church community in several ways. We will waste a lot less paper, while also enhancing service by displaying many different types of media. In addition to the liturgy and music, we can display announcements before and after service, and provide important questions and key points of the service's lesson and readings. We can show the faces of our homebound members during service, for a more inclusive worship experience. Even though we're introducing modern aspects of worship into our church, we will still maintain our same traditional, sacred community. These screens will help to attract more young people, who will become the next generation of Lutherans.

The screens will create a more immersive environment for online worship, by including the liturgy and the livestream all in one location. When we go back to church in real life, these screens will make service safer, avoiding the direct contact that would occur while passing out paper bulletins. In addition, we can build our spiritual connection with the worship team, when no one's face is buried in a bulletin. This will help us all feel a little more connected.

Many of you might be hesitant to make what seems like such a major change in the way we worship. In my research, I've found one of the biggest concerns is about vision problems that could make it challenging to view the screens from some places in the sanctuary. Once the screens are installed, we are going to test out different formats to figure out which design is the clearest. We will still provide paper bulletins for those who request them as long as necessary. Plus, we are also working on options for those with more challenging vision impairments.

The success of this project depends on the feedback and responses from our own church community! Your views are all very important. A survey was sent out two weeks ago, and I'm still hoping to get more replies so I can have a better idea of the congregation's views and concerns. Please share your thoughts and ideas by filling out the survey: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BHJPVBW, or by answering the physical copy sent in the mail. Thank you to those of you who have already replied.

In addition to this survey, I will be calling all of our members to get your personal viewpoints and communicate any questions and concerns to the Worship and Music Team. Our goal is to make sure that everyone's voice is heard, and any potential confusion is cleared up as quickly as possible. Thank you all for your continuous support, and I hope you're as excited for the result of this project as I am!



YOUTH NEWS JENNIFER ADKISON

Director of Youth Ministry youthdirector@bethlehemlutheran.net

October has been a busy month! The youth group began meeting in person in the church courtyard on October 11th! We had not met in person since before social distancing orders went into effect last March. We will be meeting in person in the church

courtyard (weather permitting) with COVID safety precautions in place every 2nd and 4th Sunday of the month at 12 noon. Activities that we did in October were studying the Psalms, croquet, "Describe That Movie Badly" game, watching a Halloween movie together, and helping out with Trunk n Treat. Our face mask fundraiser was a huge success! We sold all 100 masks and raised \$681.90 for the 2022 Youth Gathering trip! Thank you to everyone who supported our youth group in helping them to make this trip happen!

November does not look like it will be quite as busy as October was. On Sunday, November 8th, we will NOT have youth group so as to encourage all the youth and their families to participate in the drive-through pet blessing in the church parking lot.

Hope you all have a Happy Thanksgiving!

EMAIL COMMUNICATION UPDATE

We're constantly adjusting and adapting our communication based on what people are actually reading and what makes the most sense at the moment.

We used to send an email update once a week, then when the pandemic started we switched to twice a week.

Now we've adjusted our twice a week emails- you now receive one on Monday that lists everything upcoming for the week with times and the direct links to Facebook or Zoom. (Don't delete this email until the end of the week! It's an easy way to click and go to everything coming up online!)

The Thursday email lists more detailed info and announcements for things happening within the next couple of weeks. Please send Thursday announcements to Evelyn by Wednesday and any additions to the Monday schedule email should be sent to her by Sunday. Thank you.

NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORED MISSIONARIES

Dear friends,

Grace and peace be with you all.

As you read this, we are preparing to RETURN TO TANZANIA in the middle of next month. This has taken a lot of conversation, a lot of thought, and most importantly much prayer. We are grateful to be going back to our work. The public health situation in Tanzania is unclear, and at present, the US Embassy has lowered the risk level for travelers. The school year starts in late November and we take as blessing the fact that we will be there to take part.



THANKS TO ALL OF YOU who have invited us to speak, present, and teach in this season in the US! We have been blessed by sharing with you and hearing from you.

As we send this, we are thinking of you all. We, with the rest of the world and the church around the globe, are going through an especially challenging season. We hold you all in prayer that you may remain strong, safe, and healthy. We hope that this strange time may provide opportunities to hear God speaking and see the Spirit moving in new ways.

Thanks so much for your continuing support and for your continuing prayers. We feel them! We appreciate them!

Read what they're up to in Tanzania on their blog at https://mcintz.wordpress.com/

Your support makes a world of difference!

To help your congregation fulfill its covenant sponsorship, give directly through your church. You can include your missionary support donation in your weekly offering just indicate on your offering envelope how much is being contributed to the missionaries.

HOW TO CONTINUE SUPPORTING BETHLEHEM

Ways to Financially Support Bethlehem

- Mail in your check
- Through your bank's Bill Pay Donate
- On-Line through our church website (www.bethlehemlutheran.net) Enter through the Church site and locate the orange DONATE NOW button at the top right. You can set up an auto pay or one-time donation.
- Text 844-930-2811 to give a donation and follow the steps.
- Download the Giveplus+ app

Ways to Care

- Pray for our world, our leaders, our doctors and nurses.
- Follow the guidelines of the CDC.
- Check on family, friends, and those most vulnerable in our community during this time.
- Be generous in your giving of financial & material resources. Many people are in need and we want to be a blessing to them.

www.bethlehemlutheran.net

BLESS REPORT FOR NOVEMBER

As I'm writing this, our BLESS group is making final preparations for our Drive-Through Trunk-or-Treat on Halloween morning—we are very excited to be hosting this event for our school and church community, and we are so grateful to all those who have donated candy, signed up to volunteer, bought raffle tickets, and planned to attend the event with your kids. We truly appreciate your support as we look for creative and safe ways to continue celebrating and fundraising during this extraordinary time!

We also have some other exciting events coming up as the holidays approach—if you have any questions, suggestions, or feedback, please feel free to reach out anytime.

Upcoming Events + Reminders See's Candies Fall Fundraiser

- Our annual See's fundraiser will be all online this year, with direct ordering and delivery.
- See's treats make great holiday gifts, so please plan to do some shopping through our sale to help support our school! More information will come soon, closer to the sale start date.

Menchie's Fundraiser

- Come join us for a Friday fro-yo treat at Menchie's in Granada Hills and Mission Hills all day every Friday in November! All proceeds benefit our preschool program.
- Share with your family and friends to help support our school—just mention Bethlehem Lutheran School at the register.

BLS Thanksgiving Cookbook

- We are planning a new holiday project this year, where families can submit a recipe online that represents their culture or traditions during the holidays, to assemble into a community cookbook.
- Cookbooks can then be purchased to benefit our preschool—more details to come soon.

Advent Family Night

- Friday, December 4 (time TBD)
- Join us to kick off the season of Advent and participate in activities together, including crafts! We are exploring options for how to host this annual event in a safe and fun way—more details to come soon.

Amazon Smile

- Sign up to designate Bethlehem as the charity for your Amazon Smile purchases, and Amazon will donate a percentage of all your orders to our school!
- In Amazon Smile, search for "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Granada Hills."

Thank you for your continued support of our preschool!

-Laureen Gleason, BLESS president (BLESS@BethlehemLutheran.net)

News From Lutheran Social Services

THANKSGIVING FOOD GIVE A WAY

LSS is collecting Thanksgiving food items to give away to our low-income families. The Give-a-Way will be: Monday, November 16, 2020.

We can pick up items from your congregation the week of November 9 - 13, or churches can deliver their items during that week between 9 A.M. AND 12:00 P.M.

Suggested food items: canned veggies, boxes potatoes, bagged rice, boxed dressing, pasta/sauce, canned mix fruit, cake/muffin mix, coffee, pumpkin filling, sugar, chicken broth.

2020 LUTHERAN SOCIAL SERVICES CHRISTMAS TOY GIVE A WAY

LSS/ San Fernando Valley is collecting new toys for our low-income families again this year for ages infant to 12, boys and girls. The Toy Give-a –Way will be December, 14, 15 AND 18, 2020. We will need all toys by the week of December 7-11th.

WE CAN PICK UP FROM YOUR CHURCH DURING THAT WEEK, OR YOU CAN DELIVER TO LSS BY DECEMBER 11TH.

For more information or to schedule a pick up, please call Jan Maseda at (818)288-7054 or email at Janicemaseda@gmail.com

Thank you.

Lutheran Social Services/San Fernando Valley 7400 TUJUNGA AVE., NORTH HOLLYWOOD, CA 91605

Jan Maseda/Director/SFV/LSS

A SCOUT IS REVERENT

Bethlehem Lutheran has been the chartered organization for Boy Scout Troop 104 and Cub Scout Pack 104 for over a year now.

I have served as the charter presentative for almost a year. The Charter renewal began October 1 and must be completed by December 4.

I have decided to step down as charter representative. As such we are looking for a volunteer to be the Scout Charter Representative for Troop/Pack 104.

This past year virtually everything involving the scouts has been virtually due to the pandemic. At which time guidance is issued such that in person meetings for the scouts can resume, the charter representative acts as a liaison between the scout leaders and the church leaders.

It is preferred that the volunteer have experience with scouts. The volunteer must be at least 21 years old, complete a background check, application and youth protection training. If you are interested, please contact Beverly at <u>scouts@bethlehemlutheran.net</u>, asap.

God Bless, Beverly Compton

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST

The men's breakfast group will meet at Cocos on Wednesday, Nov 4, at 8 a.m. at Coco's on Sepulveda.

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. Bethlehem's teachers and staff have been sharing videos of readings on the school Facebook page. If you have children in your lives or you would like to share with friends and family who have children, please do so!

BOOK CLUB

Our Book Club is still meeting virtually on November 12 at 6:00 p.m. Our book this month is still "Alone Together" by Jennifer Haupt.

ALONE TOGETHER: Love, Grief, and Comfort During the Time of COVID-19 is a collection of essays, poems, and interviews to serve as a lifeline for negotiating how

to connect and thrive during this stressful time of isolation as well as a historical perspective that will remain relevant for years to come.

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

- 3 Kurt Nusbaum
- 3 Connie Troe
- 12 Jane Pascoe
- 13 Kiera Nusbaum
- 19 Gale Gundersen
- 19 Lisa Nakata
- 22 Judy Cave
- 25 Diane Mason
- 29 Brycen Adkison
- 30 Bogart Rainey



NOVEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

- 3 Dave & Beverly Compton (1984)
- 6 Liva & Nicole Liva (2010)
- 16 Steve & Jan Maseda (1974)
- 21 Brian & Kathy Fisher (1987)
- 26 Robert & Carol Heyd (1983)

OCTOBER STATISTICS

October offerings were good, we made our budget! October offerings \$20,955.08

Oct Budget \$20,833

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NOVEMBER 2020 CALENDAR

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 All Saints Sunday <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM Zoom Fellowship</u> <u>2PM Confirmation Class</u> <u>7PM Scripture Breathing Sessions</u>	2	3	4 <u>8:00 AM Men's</u> <u>Breakfast @ Coco's</u> <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> Night Bible Study	5	6	7
8 9AM In-Person Worship 10AM Online Worship 11AM Zoom Fellowship 11:30A Virtual Sunday School 12PM Drive thru Blessing 7PM Scripture Breathing Sessions	9	10	11 <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> Night Bible Study	12 6PM Book Club	13	14
15 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM Zoom Fellowship</u> <u>2PM Confirmation Class</u> <u>7PM Scripture Breathing Sessions</u>	16	17 <u>4PM WELCA</u> <u>Bible Study via</u> <u>Zoom</u>	18 <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> Night Bible Study	19	20	21
22 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> 10AM Online Worship 11AM Zoom Fellowship 11:30A Virtual Sunday School 12PM Youth Group 7PM Scripture Breathing Sessions	23	24	25 <u>10AM Adult Ed</u> <u>6:30PM Wednesday</u> Night Bible Study	26 <u>Church</u> office Closed THANKS CIVING	27 <u>Church office</u> <u>Closed</u>	28
29 <u>9AM In-Person Worship</u> <u>10AM Online Worship</u> <u>11AM Zoom Fellowship</u> <u>7PM Scripture Breathing Sessions</u>	30	Dec. 1	2 10AM Adult Ed 6:30PM Wednesday Night Bible Study	3 6PM Book Club	4	5

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY TO FOCUS ON HOLY TIME

All women of the church are invited to join in this month's Bible study on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 4 p.m. via Zoom. Themes/Questions for the third and final session, Re-Imagining the Future:

- --How do we faithfully look to the future?
- --What does it mean to re-imagine the future in light of the promises of God's reign?
- --How do we live now in hope and active expectation, and how does this open us (individuals, churches, communities) to transformation?

The study is found in the November issue of Gather magazine at the church.

For more information, contact Dianne Tillman.

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DRIVE THRU BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Bethlehem is having another Drive-Thru Blessing! We'll have tables set up in the parking lot where you can get communion, drop off food donations for a local food pantry, pick up an Advent devotional booklet (Advent starts the last Sunday in November), and we'll have a special blessing and a small gift for animals-both your pets and stuffed animal. Even if you're not bringing an animal with you, please plan to join us that Sunday afternoon because there is a lot more to the drive-thru and we'd love to see you!

