

Bethlehem Star

January, 2018

Annual Budget Review

Sunday, January 21st
10:30am

Worship Team Meeting

Sunday, January 14th
10:30am

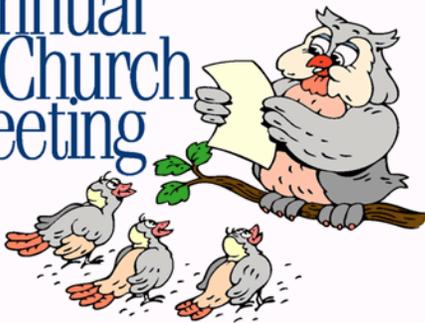
Annual Congregational Meeting

Sunday, January 28th
10:30am

New Member Class:

Sunday, January 14th
10:30am - 2:30pm

Annual
Church
Meeting



New Members Received:

Sunday, January 21st

Happy New Year...

...The liturgical one that began Advent One and the Secular one that begins January 1st.

I invite you to begin the New Year with prayer - I found these prayers on the website Latintimes.com.

I hope one or more of these meets you where you are and welcomes in the New Year in your heart.

A New Year's Prayer

Lord, You make all things new. You bring hope alive in our hearts and cause our Spirits to be born again. Thank you for this New Year for all the potential it holds. Come and kindle in us a mighty flame so that in our time, many will see the wonders of God and live forever to praise. Your glorious name. Amen.

Renewal New Year Prayer

God, bless to me the new day. It is to bless Thine own presence. Thou hast given me this time, O God. Bless Thou to me mine eye, may mine eye bless all it sees. I will bless my neighbor, may my neighbor bless me. God, give me a clean heart, let me not from sight of Thine eye. Bless to me my children and my wife, and bless to me my means.

Good Faith Quote for the New Year

"Every man should be born again on the first day of January. Start with a fresh page. Take up one hole more in the buckle if necessary, or let down one, according to circumstances; but on the first of January let every man gird himself once more, with his face to the front, and take no interest in the things that were and are past."

A New Start with Jesus

What a God we have! And how fortunate we are to have him, this Father of our Master Jesus! Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we've been given a brand-new life and have everything to live for, including a future in heaven - and the future starts now! God is keeping careful watch over us and the future. The Day is coming when you'll have it all - life healed and whole.

Prayer for the New Year

Lord, at the beginning of this New Year, I offer you my life. Come take my voice, may the words I speak be filled with encouragement and goodness. Come take my hands, may the work they create be generous and giving. Come take my feet, may the journeys I walk be led by your Spirit within. Come take my life Lord, for I love your goodness, your kindness and your leading. Amen.

May The Road Rise Up To Meet You

An ancient Irish New Year prayer blessing for a friend or loved one.

May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

A Prayer of Self-Dedication

Anglican Prayer for the start of a New Year.

Almighty and eternal God, so draw our hearts to thee, so guide our minds, so fill our imaginations, so control our wills, that we may be wholly thine, utterly dedicated unto thee; and then use us, we pray thee, as thou wilt, and always to thy glory and the welfare of thy people; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

A New Year's Prayer (My personal favorite)

May God make your year a happy one! Not by shielding you from all sorrows and pain, but by strengthening you to bear it, as it comes; not by making your path easy, but by making you sturdy to travel any path; not by taking hardships from you, but by taking fear from your heart; not by granting you unbroken sunshine, but by keeping your face bright, even in the shadows; not by making your life always pleasant, but by showing you when people and their causes need you most, and by making you anxious to be there to help. God's love, peace, hope and joy to you for the year ahead.

Happy New Year Eve's Prayer

On New Year's Eve we have to leave another year behind. We wonder what the future holds, what changes we will find. When the bells ring out at midnight and a new path is there to tread, go forward with hope in your heart and welcome the New Year ahead. I wish for you so many things God's blessings from Heaven above to make this the happiest year, filled with joy and peace and love.

The Way To A Happy New Year Prayer

To leave the old with a burst of song, to recall the right and forgive the wrong, to forget the things that bind you fast, to the vain regrets of the year that's past. To have the strength to let go your hold of the not worthwhile of the days grown old, to dare go forth with a purpose true, to the unknown task of the year that's new. To help your brother along the road, to do his work and lift his load, to add your gift to the world's good cheer is to have and to give a Happy New Year!

Blessings in the New Year!

Pastor Chon



Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm.

Please have announcements and prayer requests to the church office by **10:00am Friday**.

Face Book:

If you are already on Face Book be sure to go to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Face Book page and like us. If you are not on Face Book, consider joining, and then like Bethlehem Lutheran Church. If you want more information on how to join Face Book let us know and we will walk you through it. Tell your friends, neighbors, family - spread the word to like Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Face Book and the Good News of the gospel!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church>

Blue Stone Ministry:

A Gift of Stephen Ministry.

The Blue Stones in our baptismal font are sponsored by Stephen Ministry. When you pass by the baptismal font, you are invited to take one of the Blue Stones and carry it with you at all times. If you meet someone, friend or stranger, who is having a difficult struggle in their lives, this Blue Stone can help. Hand that person your Blue Stone and explain the following: *"Please take this blue stone and carry it with you. Let this be a reminder that God loves you, and you will always have God's love no matter how difficult your life may become. Let this also remind you that you have someone here on earth who cares about you and will keep you in their prayers."* After you have given away your new stone, please replace it with another from our baptismal font.

Heart Fire is the church's band. If you play an instrument, sing, or want to learn guitar, come join us. All levels of players are welcome. We lead worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

Worship Service Team Meeting:

Sunday, January 14th @ 10:30am: Everyone who wishes to take part in the volunteer opportunities on Sundays, plan to come to this short meeting as we sign up for the opportunities during February, March, and April. If you have any question about the job descriptions, come to the meeting or ask me or call me. Thanks for your time and efforts.

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles must be received in the church office by **Monday, January 22nd** to be included in the February Newsletter. If at any time you have an article for the newsletter, there's no need to wait until the deadline - write it up while it's fresh in your mind and send it in. It will be included in the following month's newsletter. **Receive the newsletter via email and save postage and paper costs.** Plus, it arrives in living color with occasional bonus items.

Bethlehem's Web Site: blcmesa.org

Share it with your friends, neighbors, and families.

A recent assessment of visitors to our Facebook page showed that more than 87% did so using smart phones. Our website was recently updated so our content displays to best advantage on today's newer technology of smart phones and tablets.

PowerPoint Pictures:

Taken any really good pictures lately? Want to share it on the PowerPoint overhead on Sunday? Email it to Laurel in the church office. Most of the pictures we use were taken by members, and we always enjoy receiving new ones. **Thank you for sharing!**

Did You Know:

If there is an emergency here at Bethlehem and it becomes necessary to call for assistance, **make the call from one of our land lines.** Why, you may ask? Because our information will come up on the screen when the emergency operator answers the call. There will be no need to try and remember the address or location - the operator will already have it.





**A Stephen Minister
Stays Connected to Jesus
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.**

Lord God,
When we suffer the inevitable losses of life, be with us, comfort us, help us know we are not alone.

When the days stretch out in barren deserts of sadness, when all we can see is the dry wasteland of meaninglessness, walk by our side whispering words of hope and encouragement.

When the world turns dark and we cannot even see where to put our foot for the next step of our painful journey, be the light of our world, showing us the path towards healing that you have laid out for us.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

As a Stephen Minister, caring for people that have suffered a loss of any kind, requires a lot of patience, good listening skills and a caring heart.

As a Stephen Ministry congregation, our prayer is for all individuals to know there are those patient caring hearts among you. All you need to do is reach out and we will be there.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
(Matthew 11: 28)



Blue Clipboard

There is a blue clipboard in the Narthex for everyone to update current address, phone number, and email address.

We are always looking for **Prayer Warriors** who want to be informed of immediate prayers via the telephone or email. Let us know if you want to join. Perhaps you would like to receive the email prayer list on Thursdays; if so, just let us know.

Bethlehem Star: January, 2018

Living With Chronic Illness

Every other Wednesday

January 3rd, 17th, & 31st

10:00 to 11:30am in Room 8

A special support group for anyone living with a chronic illness. We will focus on a different topic each week: managing pain; healthy living; staying positive; hope when it seems hopeless; and running on empty. Learn how to stay positive, which in turn can help others to live a healthier and a happier lifestyle. Questions? Call Elyse Wheeler, LDA deaconess Intern (480) 310-5918.

Newsletter: Receive the newsletter via email and save postage and paper costs.

E-Blast: Sent from the church office every Thursday via email. It allows you to get up to date information on what is going on at Bethlehem delivered straight to your computer, phone, pad, or other wireless device you use. If you are not receiving it and want to, please contact the church office and let Laurel know.

The **World Hunger Basket**, located in front of the altar, is a continuing mission activity. You are invited to donate before, during, or after worship. ½ of the funds are sent to the ELCA World Hunger program, and the other ½ remain at Bethlehem to purchase food for the food bank at First Lutheran when their shelves are empty. The second page of the monthly calendar reports how much we sent to World Hunger the previous month, and how much of the funds on-hand were used to purchase food for the food bank. The cash raised at the annual Souper Bowl event is handled in the same manner.

Save The Date: Friday, February 9th at 7:00pm **Mary Beth Carlson's** concert. She will have a mix of contemporary music, along with various hymns & love songs. There will be a freewill offering & some of her CDs for sale. Please come out for a romantic early Valentine's Day date night. There will be light desserts following the concert.

The Nurse's Corner:

Each month I highlight a health topic in the newsletter. Feel free to suggest health concerns that you would like to see added in future months.

Blessings,
Carol Savoie R.N.

Seasonal Flu

Seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. Approximately 5-20% of U.S. residents get the flu each year.

- Flu season typically starts in the fall and peaks in January or February.
- Getting the flu vaccine is your best protection against the flu.
- Flu-related complications include pneumonia and dehydration.
- Illness from seasonal flu usually lasts one to two weeks.

What is the seasonal flu?

Seasonal flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by flu viruses. It spreads between people and can cause mild to severe illness. In some cases, the flu can lead to death. In the United States, flu season occurs in the fall and winter. Seasonal flu activity usually peaks in January or February, but it can occur as early as October and as late as May.

How does seasonal flu spread?

Most experts believe that you get the flu when a person with the flu coughs, sneezes, or talks and droplets containing their germs land in your mouth or nose. You can also get the flu by touching a surface or object that has the flu virus on it and then touching your mouth, eyes, or nose.

Who is at risk?

Some groups are more likely to experience complications from the seasonal flu, including:

- Seniors (those age 65 and older)
- Children (especially those younger than 2)
- People with chronic health conditions

How can I protect myself from seasonal flu?

The best protection against seasonal flu is the flu vaccine. It is best to get the flu shot in October or November. You should also follow our everyday steps, such as washing your hands and covering your nose and mouth with a tissue when you cough or sneeze, to keep yourself healthy.

What are common complications from the seasonal flu?

Complications from the flu include:

- Bacterial pneumonia
- Ear or sinus infections
- Dehydration
- Worsening of chronic health conditions

Each year approximately 5-20% of U.S. residents get the flu and more than 200,000 people are hospitalized for flu-related complications.

How long does the illness last and how long am I contagious?

Most people who get the flu feel much better within one or two weeks. Most healthy adults can infect others one day before symptoms develop and five to seven days after symptoms appear. Some people, especially young children and people with weakened immune systems, might be contagious for a longer period.

Is the stomach flu really the flu?

Many people use “stomach flu” to describe illness with nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. Many different viruses, bacteria, or parasites can cause these symptoms. While the flu can sometimes cause vomiting, diarrhea, and nausea—more commonly in children than adults — these problems are rarely the main symptoms of the flu. The flu is a respiratory disease and not a stomach or intestinal disease.

Information obtained from [Home | Flu.gov](http://Home.Flu.gov)



News from Noah's Ark

We are in the Season of Advent. We use an Advent wreath to help us count the weeks until Christmas. We acquaint ourselves with the many names for Jesus. We anticipate the 12 days of Christmas following Advent. We count ourselves among the thousands upon thousands that call themselves children of God who will be celebrating this miraculous birth. Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel. Key of David. Prince of Peace. Messiah.

The children of Noah's Ark once again outdid themselves. The 2017 Christmas program was stellar. Every chair in the sanctuary and social hall was filled. We had standing room only. There were several moments when the banners moved away from the walls and we weren't sure if the Bethlehem star wasn't going to move. Thank you to all those from the Bethlehem church community for attending. Your support is greatly appreciated. Santa and Mrs. Claus made an appearance. We are always grateful for their time and enthusiasm shared with the children.

Thanks to parents and Bethlehem members, our Angel Tree was plucked clean within a few days. This year we are reaching out to 21 children from the crisis center. Each child will receive a toy, a top, a bottom, and a pair of shoes.

Please consider being part of our 3rd annual "Wheel Day". Bring your favorite, unique, or unusual wheels to share with the children. For more information contact Mrs. Estelle or Mrs. Arlene in the school office (480-325-0687). We look forward to seeing you on Thursday, January 25, 2018.

May God bless each and every one of you with a safe, healthy and joyous Christmas. We look forward to seeing you in the new year.

In Christ,
Ms. Jill



New Member Class:

Are you interested in becoming a member at Bethlehem?

The next new member class is:

Sunday, January 14th, 10:30am - 2:00pm.

Lunch will be provided.

RSVP by Thursday, January 11th. Call the church office at 480-832-0462 and let Laurel know so we will know how many to prepare for.

On Sunday, January 21st, new members will be received during worship.



You know you're a Lutheran if...

- When it's 100 degrees, with 90% humidity, you still have coffee after the service.
- You hear something really funny during the sermon and smile as loudly as you can.
- Donuts are a line item in the church budget, just like coffee.
- The communion cabinet is open to all, but the coffee cabinet is locked up tight.
- All your relatives graduated from a school named Concordia.
- When you watch a "Star Wars" movie and they say, "May the Force be with you," you respond, "and also with you".
- And lastly, it takes ten minutes to say good-bye.

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A **Special Thank You** to Brian Myers of **PM Pest Control**. He volunteers his time and services to Bethlehem and Noah's Ark for free. **PM Pest Control** can handle all of your pest and weed control needs. Call 602-920-7032.

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Thank you **Sparkletime Window Washing!** They are donating the cleaning of Bethlehem's windows for free. Your windows can sparkle, too. Call 480-225-5141 and tell Nathan and Bradley that you attend Bethlehem Lutheran Church. **They will donate 10% of your window cleaning cost to Bethlehem.**

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Thank you to our **Computer Lady, Pamela Bir.** She volunteers her time and services to Bethlehem by making our social media posts. Call Pamela for any computer needs. 480-929-0335.  
[www.YourComputerLady.com](http://www.YourComputerLady.com)

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Noah's Ark is a part of **Fry's Community Rewards**. The next time you shop at Fry's, stop by the front desk for details.

Amazon Smile:

Do you shop online at Amazon.com? Bethlehem is part of the **Amazon Smile** program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. When you log on to Amazon, you must do so through smile.amazon.com for Bethlehem to receive the benefits.

Business and Service Cards

Bulletin Board

Members and Friends of Bethlehem are invited to post your Business Cards on the Bulletin Board in the **Social Hall**.

2nd Wednesday of the month:
Mexican Train Dominoes
January 10th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Every Wednesday:
Choir Rehearsals
Wednesdays at 6:30pm



Every Thursday:
Men's Bible Study
7:30am in the Social Hall.

Vimeo:

If you want to hear the sermon again or share it, recorded sermons and special events at Bethlehem are available to be watched and downloaded at Vimeo.com/blcmesa. Check out Preschool activities, Heart Fire activities, the latest wedding or baptism, and Pastor Chon's sermon. The site supports HD quality videos and is not restricted by length or storage capacities (other than a maximum of 5 gig per week). If you record a video of a church-related function and would like it posted on our site, please the church office at 480-832-0462.

4th Wednesday of the month:
Stitch 'n Knit:

January 24th at 1:00pm in the NCO.
Bring your project of choice and join us for a couple of hours of camaraderie and quiet. Don't have a project? Just join us anyway.
Questions? Just the church office at 480-832-0462.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

Anyone who is making Prayer Shawls (or wants to learn how to make them) is encouraged to come to Church on the **4th Wednesday of every month from 1:00-3:00pm**. This is when the Stitch & Knit Group meets and we enjoy getting together for fellowship with them.

The Prayer Shawl makers are also welcome to join the quilters on Tuesday mornings to knit & crochet while the quilters do their quilting.

If you have any questions, please call the church office at 480-832-0462.

Our **Weather Station** which is mounted on the pergola in the Community Garden reports the weather, real time, on line. On your computer go to weatherunderground.com. In the search window located at the top right of the screen, type in our weather station ID. KAZMESA121. You can view weather conditions real time and see graphs that report the history. Enjoy. The direct link on your computer is:
<http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KAZMESA121>

Please return the chairs in the Sanctuary and the chairs & tables in the Social Hall to their proper places. A lot of time and effort was put into their placement. Can't remember where the chairs & tables in the Social Hall should be? There's a really nifty diagram on the wall.

Outreach Dollars at Work

- ✚ This summer Bethlehem contributed \$515 to the summer heat respite program at Grace Lutheran in downtown Phoenix. Grace provides a place for the Phoenix homeless to get out of the scorching heat Monday - Friday, June - August, from 8:00am - 5:00pm.
- ✚ In November sever young adult members of "The Forge" visited Bethlehem and shared their ministry and music with us. Bethlehem was gracious and donated \$574 to this wonderful ministry as well as our old sound boards.



E-Blast: Sent from the church office every Thursday via email. It allows you to get up to date information on what happening at Bethlehem - delivered straight to your computer, phone, pad, or whatever wireless device you use. If you are not receiving it and want to, please contact the church office and let Laurel know.

Ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com

Memorial Tiles:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church participants have the availability of purchasing memorial plaque tiles to go on our master plaque. An individual name tile costs \$15. If you choose two names, one on each tile, the cost is \$25. If you are interested or need more information, please contact the church office at 480-832-0462.

Holy Yoga

A Christ-centered yoga class on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 9/10. No experience needed. Can be done from chairs or the floor. Bring: yoga mat, comfortable clothes, water, & \$5 suggested donation. Questions? Call Renaya VanDusen at 480-717-3477.

Media at Bethlehem

We're always on the lookout for new ideas about how Bethlehem can use social media. Tell us yours. We want to share God's promises with all creation.

Fair Trade Coffee for Mission:

The coffee we use for Hospitality on Sunday, which is also on sale in the social hall, is bought through Lutheran World Relief. This is an Equal Exchange program which takes out the "middle man" so the small farmers get the fair trade value of their coffee. A small amount of our purchases go to support Lutheran World Relief. You June notice that we don't have as many different types of coffee as they were not selling. If there is a coffee type that you would like please let me know.

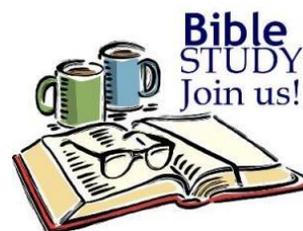
Thanks, Carol Savoie

3rd Thursday of the month:

WELCA

Every woman who worships at Bethlehem is a member of WELCA, and we welcome your presence at our monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month. WELCA returns to its regular schedule which is from 10:00am to Noon. Beverages and snacks will be furnished. A typical meeting includes fellowship, Bible study and a business meeting. **Mark your calendar for Thursday, January 18th, at 10:00am.** We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please call or talk to Audrey Anderson or Ellie Thompson, co-chairs of WELCA.



WELCA

Thank You – Christmas Angels

The ladies of WELCA want to thank all of you in the congregation who were Christmas angels. WELCA had a total of four families recommended by Lutheran Social Services. Three of the families are single mothers. One mother has three children, another has two children and the last mother, one child. The other family is a family of four being raised by a single father. Each family received food, clothing, gift cards, and quilts.

We also collected toys, books, games, etc. for LSS and supported ELCA Good Gifts, which is our global mission. ***We just couldn't have done this huge project without your help.*** Thank you Bethlehem for being so charitable with your gifts. The ladies of WELCA appreciate you and all of the support that you so graciously give to us.



Garden Seeds: *Life began in a garden... (Genesis 1:11)*



EAGLE PROJECT – Thanks to **Jacob Diemer** and the **Scouts, friends & family of Mesa Troop 653** for making this happen, and to **PAVESTONE** for their generous pavestone donation, and **VITOS** for their pizza donation. – *Thank you !!!*

HAPPY NEW YEAR - and with the new comes new opportunities. In 2017 we laid the foundation to improve our community service. We expanded our garden footprint, adding the Garden Patch, and as such, should be able to increase our record breaking yield of 2017 which exceeded 1000lbs. With the pavestone walkways, access is improved throughout, and plans include a pavestone patio beneath the pergola early 2018. Electricity has been added to the pergola to allow for evening activities. Volunteerism has improved and we continue to be recognized by local educational and community garden groups. We may still have a box available if you're interested.



Hey Rich – got your back...

^^^

^^^

964lbs – Total harvested crops in 2017 with two weeks to go....

Bethlehem Star: November, 2017

Thanks to Jim & Ellie for their **APPLES** presentation to Noah's recently. THANK YOU. 😊