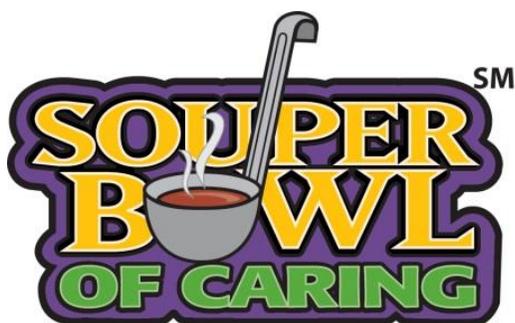


Bethlehem Star

February, 2018

Souper Bowl Sunday

Sunday, February 4th



Mary Beth Carlson

At Bethlehem
Friday, February 9th
7:00pm

East Valley Chorale

At Bethlehem
Sunday, February 25th
4:00pm

Looking Forward:

Ash Wednesday

Worship Schedule

February 14th

Noon & 7:00pm

Dinner: 5:30-6:30pm



Wednesday Lenten

Worship Schedule

February 14th, 21st, 28th

March 7th, 14th, 21st

Heart Fire: 5:00-6:00pm

Choir: 6:00 pm

Worship: 7:00pm

Lent will soon be upon us and I think it is appropriate that it begins on Valentine's Day, February 14th. What greater love has there ever been than God sending his son to an agonizing, painful, and degrading death simply to show God's amazing, undeserved and unconditional love for each of us.

This Lenten season the mid-week worship will be based on *The Seven Last Words of Christ from the Cross*. The format we will be using is Holden Evening Prayer. With the exceptional musical gifts Jordan brings it seemed right to highlight his musical gifts this Lenten season.

The format for this Lenten season will be:

February 14th, Ash Wednesday:

Noon: Congregation and Noah's Ark students

Soup supper 5:30-6:30pm

7:00 pm

Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.

Luke 23: 34

February 21st: 7:00pm (no soup supper)

Today you will be with me in paradise

Luke 23: 43

February 28th: 7:00pm (no soup supper)

Behold your son, behold your mother

John 19: 26

March 7th: 7:00pm (no soup supper)

My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?

Matthew 27: 46 and Mark 15: 34

March 14th: 7:00pm (no soup supper)

I Thirst

John 19: 28

March 21st: 7:00pm (no soup supper)

It is finished

John 19: 30

March 30th: Good Friday at 7:00pm

Father, into your hands I commit my Spirit

Luke 23:46

This season will be a time to take inventory of our personal walk with Christ. To identify our strength in him and our growing edges that will bring us closer to Christ. Lent gives us the opportunity to slow down and immerse ourselves and our life in our faith walk. I hope you will join me during this time of study, reflection, and wonderful music.

Pastor Chon

Bethlehem Star: February, 2018

From the Deaconess Intern

I am very grateful to be over half way through my required internship at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. I have been studying and working through the formation process with the LDA, (Lutheran Deaconess Association) based in Valparaiso, Indiana, for over 2 years. My goal to become consecrated Lutheran Deaconess, in both Word and Service, in the Winter of 2018.

What is a deaconess? The New Testament indicates that both men and women were appointed as deacons in the early church. In Romans 16: 1-2, Paul calls Phoebe a deaconess: "I commend to you our sister Phoebe, a deacon of the church in Cenchreae. I ask you to receive her in the Lord in a way worthy of his people and to give her any help she may need from you, for she has been the benefactor of many people, including me." (NIV)

As in the early church, the role of a deacon encompassed a variety of services which differs from denomination to denomination. In general, however, deacons functioned as servants, ministering to the body of Christ in practical ways. They assisted as ushers, tended to benevolence calls, and counted the offerings. No matter how one serves, the Scriptures make it clear that ministering as a deacon or deaconess is a rewarding and honorable calling in the church. It is my humble honor to serve the congregation at Bethlehem, A Third Chapter of Life Ministry: assisting during worship, visiting the sick, and compassionate service wherever the need abounds!

Elyse Wheeler



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 5:00 to 6:00pm during Lent.

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles must be received in the church office by **Monday, February 19th** to be included in the March 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.

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!**





**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.**

**Caring Evangelism
How to Live and Share Christ's Love**

Sometimes in the face of illness, yours or others, you may find it hard to express to God what is on your heart or mind. The words just won't come. At times like these, you can turn to someone whose has gone before you on a similar road of suffering. Prayers offer comfort and hope for times of deep physical, emotional, and spiritual suffering. They will help you renew your trust in God the Healer. They give voice to your pain, despair, and doubt. Sometimes these prayers become a word from God to lead you or rest silently in the presence of God.

Let one of Bethlehem's Stephen ministers share those words of healing with you. Our caregivers are from all walks of life. We have been blessed with talented, committed, Christ-centered individuals who continually develop their skills to support and deliver life-changing resources to our community.

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.

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

Save The Dates:

Mary Beth Carlson:

Friday, February 9th at 7:00pm. 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.

East Valley Choral Concert at Bethlehem:

It has taken almost two years to get on their schedule but Bethlehem did it. On **Sunday February 25th @ 4:00pm** the East Valley Choral will be performing live at Bethlehem. The members are our neighbors and family. The best of the best have joined together to provide an entertaining and uplifting experience for all. Come be a part of it. Get your toes tapping and your heart singing. Invite a friend or two and come enjoy the music.

Living With Chronic Illness

Every other Wednesday

February 14th & 28th

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 the church office.

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. 1/2 of the funds are sent to the ELCA World Hunger program, and the other 1/2 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.

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.

COPD or Emphysema

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a chronic inflammatory lung disease that causes obstructed airflow from the lungs. Symptoms include breathing difficulty, cough, mucus (sputum) production and wheezing. It's caused by long-term exposure to irritating gases or particulate matter, most often from cigarette smoke. People with COPD are at increased risk of developing heart disease, lung cancer and a variety of other conditions.

Emphysema and chronic bronchitis are the two most common conditions that contribute to COPD. Chronic bronchitis is inflammation of the lining of the bronchial tubes, which carry air to and from the air sacs (alveoli) of the lungs. It's characterized by daily cough and mucus (sputum) production.

Emphysema is a condition in which the alveoli at the end of the smallest air passages (bronchioles) of the lungs are destroyed as a result of damaging exposure to cigarette smoke and other irritating gases and particulate matter.

COPD is treatable. With proper management, most people with COPD can achieve good symptom control and quality of life, as well as reduced risk of other associated conditions.

Symptoms: COPD symptoms often don't appear until significant lung damage has occurred, and they usually worsen over time, particularly if smoking exposure continues. For chronic bronchitis, the main symptom is a daily cough and mucus (sputum) production at least three months a year for two consecutive years.

Other signs and symptoms may include:

- Shortness of breath, especially during physical activities
- Wheezing
- Chest tightness
- Having to clear your throat first thing in the morning, due to excess mucus in your lungs

- A chronic cough that may produce mucus (sputum) that may be clear, white, yellow or greenish
- Blueness of the lips or fingernail beds (cyanosis)
- Frequent respiratory infections
- Lack of energy
- Unintended weight loss (in later stages)
- Swelling in ankles, feet or legs

People with COPD are also likely to experience episodes called exacerbations, during which their symptoms become worse than usual day-to-day variation and persist for at least several days.

Causes: The main cause of COPD in developed countries is tobacco smoking. In the developing world, COPD often occurs in people exposed to fumes from burning fuel for cooking and heating in poorly ventilated homes. Only about 20 to 30 percent of chronic smokers may develop clinically apparent COPD, although many smokers with long smoking histories may develop reduced lung function. Some smokers develop less common lung conditions. They may be misdiagnosed as having COPD until a more thorough evaluation is performed.

How your lungs are affected: Air travels down your windpipe (trachea) and into your lungs through two large tubes (bronchi). Inside your lungs, these tubes divide many times - like the branches of a tree - into many smaller tubes (bronchioles) that end in clusters of tiny air sacs (alveoli).

The air sacs have very thin walls full of tiny blood vessels (capillaries). The oxygen in the air you inhale passes into these blood vessels and enters your bloodstream. At the same time, carbon dioxide - a gas that is a waste product of metabolism - is exhaled. Your lungs rely on the natural elasticity of the bronchial tubes and air sacs to force air out of your body. COPD causes them to lose their elasticity and over expand, which leaves some air trapped in your lungs when you exhale.

Causes of airway obstruction include:

- Emphysema. This lung disease causes destruction of the fragile walls and elastic fibers of the alveoli. Small airways collapse when you exhale, impairing airflow out of your lungs.
- Chronic bronchitis. In this condition, your bronchial tubes become inflamed and narrowed and your lungs produce more mucus, which can further block the narrowed tubes. You develop a chronic cough trying to clear your airways.

(continued on p. 6)

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Cigarette smoke and other irritants: In the vast majority of cases, the lung damage that leads to COPD is caused by long-term cigarette smoking. But there are likely other factors at play in the development of COPD, such as a genetic susceptibility to the disease, because only about 20 to 30 percent of smokers may develop COPD. Other irritants can cause COPD, including cigar smoke, secondhand smoke, pipe smoke, air pollution and workplace exposure to dust, smoke or fumes.

Risk factors for COPD include:

- Exposure to tobacco smoke. The most significant risk factor for COPD is long-term cigarette smoking. The more years you smoke and the more packs you smoke, the greater your risk. Pipe smokers, cigar smokers and marijuana smokers also may be at risk, as well as people exposed to large amounts of secondhand smoke.
- People with asthma who smoke. The combination of asthma, a chronic inflammatory airway disease, and smoking increases the risk of COPD even more.
- Occupational exposure to dusts and chemicals. Long-term exposure to chemical fumes, vapors and dusts in the workplace can irritate and inflame your lungs.
- Exposure to fumes from burning fuel. In the developing world, people exposed to fumes from burning fuel for cooking and heating in poorly ventilated homes are at higher risk of developing COPD.
- Age. COPD develops slowly over years, so most people are at least 40 years old when symptoms begin.
- Genetics. The uncommon genetic disorder alpha-1-antitrypsin deficiency is the cause of some cases of COPD. Other genetic factors likely make certain smokers more susceptible to the disease.

COPD can cause many complications, including:

- Respiratory infections. People with COPD are more likely to catch colds, the flu and pneumonia. Any respiratory infection can make it much more difficult to breathe and could cause further damage to lung tissue. An annual flu vaccination and regular vaccination against pneumococcal pneumonia can prevent some infections.
- Heart problems. For reasons that aren't fully understood, COPD can increase your risk of heart

disease, including heart attack. Quitting smoking may reduce this risk.

- Lung cancer. People with COPD have a higher risk of developing lung cancer. Quitting smoking may reduce this risk.
- High blood pressure in lung arteries. COPD may cause high blood pressure in the arteries that bring blood to your lungs (pulmonary hypertension).
- Depression. Difficulty breathing can keep you from doing activities that you enjoy. And dealing with serious illness can contribute to development of depression. Talk to your doctor if you feel sad or helpless or think that you may be experiencing depression.

Prevention: Unlike some diseases, COPD has a clear cause and a clear path of prevention. The majority of cases are directly related to cigarette smoking, and the best way to prevent COPD is to never smoke - or to stop smoking now. If you're a longtime smoker, these simple statements may not seem so simple, especially if you've tried quitting - once, twice or many times before. But keep trying to quit. It's critical to find a tobacco cessation program that can help you quit for good. It's your best chance for preventing damage to your lungs.

Occupational exposure to chemical fumes and dust is another risk factor for COPD. If you work with this type of lung irritant, talk to your supervisor about the best ways to protect yourself, such as using respiratory protective equipment.

Information obtained from www.mayo.com

New Handicapped Parking Slots

You may have noticed
our 4 new handicapped parking slots.

Thank you to John Hepler for converting 6 existing parking slots to 4 handicapped slots.

Thank you to Jill Majestic for coordinating this project with John & the church office.

Thank you to the anonymous donor at Bethlehem who donated the funds needed to make this conversion.

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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, **Your Computer Lady!** Pamela volunteers for Bethlehem to do social media work. Call *Your Computer Lady* for email marketing or social media 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.

Harvest from the Garden



2nd Wednesday of the month:
Mexican Train Dominoes
February 14th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Every Wednesday:
Choir Rehearsals

Wednesdays at 6:30 pm
During Lent: 6:00 pm



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](https://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 contact 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>



Mission Tables.

If you were at the Annual Meeting on the 28th, then you might have witnessed the ribbon cutting to the new Blessing Box for the community. How exciting to see an idea on a piece of paper many months ago come to fruition. God is good, all the time!

Now it is that time for the Mission Tables to put their heads together and brainstorm what to do next. Do you want to be part of this exciting ministry here at Bethlehem? We would like to see some new faces around our table. we meet a couple times a year unless a project is finally coming together, then we might meet monthly a few times. Please feel free to ask anyone already serving about coming to our next meeting on March 18th at 10:30am.

Track 1 members: Pat Gappa, Joe Wheeler and Charles Eisenbise.

Track 2 members: Arlene Jacobson, Joann Hunt, Charlie Vidot, Karen Vidot and Elyse Wheeler.

4th Wednesday of the month:

Stitch 'n Knit:

February 28th 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 ask Carol Savoie. 480-313-4739.

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.

Blessing Box

The following is a list of possible items that can be left in the Blessing Box by anyone who would like to help keep the shelves stocked for the community. It is an open shelf pantry for anyone who needs it. We have placed on the door the words,

Take what you need,
Leave what you can.
Little becomes much
in the Master's Hands.

We pray this is a successful ministry in both how we provide to our community and that the community makes use of the Blessing Box.

Blessing Box Items:

Water	Peanut butter
Baby Bottles	Baby Wipes
Box Dinners	Protein Bars
Gatorade or Powerade	Instant Oatmeal
Ramen in a cup	Dried Beans
Fruit cups or Canned Fruit	Any kind of Toiletries
Potted Meat or Vienna Sausage	
Diapers-any size for baby or toddlers	
Diapers-any size for adults	

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 call the church office at 480-832-0462.

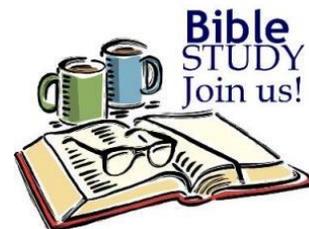


3rd Thursday of the month:

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, February 15th, 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.



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

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.

I-HELP

(Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church participates in the I-HELP program whenever there is a 5th Friday in a month, about four times a year. On that Friday approximately 25 homeless women and one to two facilitators from Mesa meet at Paz de Cristo and arrive at Bethlehem between 6:00 & 6:30pm for a meal and a place to sleep for the night. Bethlehem provides an inflatable mattress, sheet and blanket for the night.

On Saturday morning Bethlehem provides a breakfast and a sack lunch. The women leave around 7:00am. Due to I-HELP, homeless women in Mesa can have a safe place to sleep each night.

What is I-HELP?

I-HELP is one of the programs of Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest (LSS-SW) in their Partners in Caring division. Partners in Caring seeks to engage individuals, families and congregations to promote social, economic, health and other activities in the community. Partners in Caring programs include employment counseling, emergency food assistance, and the Interfaith Homeless Emergency Lodging Program (I-HELP).

Each year, between 2.5 and 3.5 million people experience homelessness for some period of time. I-HELP, through the assistance of the faith community, Mesa United Way, the City of Mesa, and community-based organizations provides lodging, food, comfort, hope and opportunity for homeless women in Mesa and the East Valley.

In addition, I-HELP also provides other supportive services such as case management, clothing and employment services to homeless women. Women served through the program are encouraged to develop "Life Plans" in which they set attainable goals leading to a greater level of self-sufficiency.

I-HELP's History:

Lutheran Social Services of the Southwest Mesa I-HELP started in March, 2010 with three churches: Spirit of Joy and East Valley Bible Church in Gilbert, and First Presbyterian Church in Mesa. In the beginning Mesa I-HELP churches offered shelter three nights a week for up to ten women per night. Church volunteers offered support of meals and used clothes. Additional churches were added during the course of the year and in December, 2010 the addition of Sun Valley Community Church allowed I-HELP to operate seven nights a week.

Since its humble beginning I-HELP has grown to ten churches that host the women. Case Managers help assist the women with finding employment, housing, and other services that help them return to a stable life style. Mesa I-HELP collaborates with Tempe and Chandler I-HELP to enhance the services for single homeless women in the East Valley. One to two program facilitators are responsible for supervision of the program overnight. There is also a program director that oversees the entire program.

I-HELP Impacts Lives

Debbie is a recent graduate of the Mesa I-HELP program. She worked for a home care company and her husband worked as a welder. Transportation difficulties led to Debbie leaving her job, and unfortunately, soon after, her husband's construction contract was cancelled. Before they knew it, their savings were spent and they were evicted from their apartment. Through I-HELP, Debbie not only found lodging, food, and job counseling, but also medical services she would otherwise have missed. A mammogram led to effective treatment for stage 2 breast cancer. "I might have been without a job and I might have been homeless but I never felt helpless," says Debbie.

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

1. Get a group together and provide a meal for 25-27 women.
2. Provide items for sack lunch
3. Provide items for a cold breakfast
4. Monetary donation for meals

WISH LIST

1. Socks
2. Bars of soap – hotel size
3. Wash cloths
4. Thicker sleeping mats
5. 3 Pack of Lysol Wipes
6. Laundry Detergent (3)
7. Big bottle of hand sanitizer

2018 dates I-HELP will be coming to Bethlehem

June 29th August 31st November 30th
Bethlehem will not host I-HELP on March 30th.

Contact

- ◆ call the church office at 480-832-0462.
- ◆ for any questions and further information.
- ◆ Anna is looking for someone to work with her and be a backup for our I-HELP ministry.
- ◆ The information about the I-HELP program was obtained from the program director and the Lutheran Social Ministries of the Southwest (LSS-SW) website: <http://www.lss-sw.org> Click on "What We Do" and then click on "Partners In Caring".

News from Noah's Ark

Well, we are certainly feeling the effects of “winter”. All 3 to 4 days of breezy cooler temperatures have made it necessary to take the sweaters and hoodies out of moth balls. The flu season has hit all ages within our families. Our prayers are with everyone to maintain or return to health.

January brought us many new friends. So, as we approach February's heart filled activities, we share our love and deepest wishes for happy memories of years past and wondrous anticipation of memories yet to be come.

“Wheel Day” was once again a true delight. The kids are always over-joyed with the variety of wheels that are shared. RV's to wheel-barrels, radio controlled planes and cars to pizza cutters, bring endless smiles to everyone. We are already planning for next year. Thank you to all the participants. The day would never be as successful without you.

Our next outreach event will be March 9th. The finale of Lutheran Schools Week - the Trike-a-Thon. This is where the families and kids shine. It is our opportunity to raise funds for St. Jude's. Come and join us. Encouraging each child to ride as many laps as they can helps to bring home the concept of healthy vs. health impaired children. Be a part of what our kids can do in the spirit of service to others.

Until next time- stay healthy and full of grace.
Ms. Jill



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.

Prayer Ministry

We would like to lift up Bethlehem's Prayer Ministry and encourage each of you to make prayer a priority in your daily life. We have a lot of prayer warriors. Some have chosen to be on the Email Prayer Team, some are making Prayer shawls, some decide to pray on their own.

If you would like to be on the Email Prayer Team all you need is a working computer and a desire to pray. Just email Laurel at ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com and ask her to add you to the Team.

Guidelines for the Prayer List:

- All prayers are submitted to the Prayer Coordinator, Carol Savoie or the church office. Any prayer request that is submitted must have the consent of the person being prayed for.
- All requests for acute prayers will be kept on the list for one month from the time it is posted. At the end of one month if you would like for that request to remain, please call or email the Prayer Coordinator. If no request has been given at the end of the month, the request will be taken off the list. If continued short term (up to 2 months) prayers are needed they will be on the Short Term prayer list.
- Acute and Short Term lists will be on the weekly announcement sheet and in the newsletter.
- The Long Term prayer list will be sent out to the Email Prayer Team only. The list will also appear in the newsletter. These prayers would include those with chronic illnesses, long term cancer treatments, God's guidance, etc.
- Each week the complete prayer list is updated and posted on the bulletin boards in the Social Hall and the office and sent to each person on Bethlehem's the prayer chain.
- Answered prayers and praise are welcome.
- We continue to pray for our Military Servicemen/women.

With these updated guidelines we can pray more attentively to the needs of all people. Our leadership look forward to seeing how these changes enhance our ministry and your prayer life.

Sabbatical

During the annual meeting January 2015 a sabbatical policy was voted on and passed by Bethlehem's Congregation. Since then, the church council has submitted sabbatical grant forms to the Lilly Foundation for the years of 2016, 2017 and 2018. The grants would fund up to \$35,000 to the candidate for sabbatical expenses and \$15,000 to the congregation to cover sabbatical expenses. None of the grants have been funded. The council then decided that if the sabbatical wasn't funded by grants then it would be funded by the selling of the land. That hasn't happened – so the next step was to have the congregation fund the sabbatical by donations.

The church and church council realize the importance of sabbatical. The need for sabbatical leave is documented in Leviticus 25; there is a commandment to desist from working the fields during the seventh year. Strictly speaking, this means a sabbatical would last one year. In Jesus' ministry, time and time again he would leave for private time to pray and re-center as found in the passage in Mark 1:35 New International Version (NIV): 35 Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed.

At Bethlehem the length of sabbatical was agreed upon to be 12 weeks, every seven years. Pastor Chon will have been at Bethlehem for eight years in April, 2018. It was agreed between Pastor Chon and the church council to divide the sabbatical into two 6 week time periods. The 6 week time periods would then be divided between 2018 and 2019. Meaning, in 2018 Pastor Chon will be on sabbatical for six weeks in the months of September and October. The exact dates have not been decided upon. Pastor Chon will also have another six week sabbatical in 2019, the dates to be determined at a later time.

Currently the funding of the 2018 sabbatical will be by donations from the congregation. There is not a line item in the current budget for sabbatical, so any donation toward this will be over and above your present donations. To donate to the sabbatical fund simply place your donation in the offering plate and specify it is for the sabbatical fund. All donations received by August 31 will be shared with Pastor Chon for 2018's sabbatical. Any funds collected after that time will be saved for the 2019 sabbatical.

Pastor John Schaumberg and Chris have volunteered their gifts to the ministry at Bethlehem during the 2018 part of the sabbatical. Thus, Bethlehem will have superb ministry coverage with no out of pocket expense. The church council and Pastor Chon are very grateful for this gift.

Deaconess Sunday

Sunday, February 4th

We will learn about the Deaconess Community and celebrate Pastor Chon's 20th anniversary of consecration.

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

And we are off with a **BLAST!!!** After what may have already been a record breaking production year for us at the garden we started off 2018 with a **harvest of 68 lbs** just second week of Jan.



SAVE THE DATE:



You're INVITED!!
6th Italian Dinner
& Auction
FUNdraiser
3rd March @ 5PM

It's BAA...AA...AAK. ☺ We've heard from you that you missed us. So. Here it is. The Garden has joined with HEARTFIRE to present the **6th ITALIAN Dinner & AUCTION FUNdraiser** on **03 March** beginning at **5pm**. Yes, we have all your favorites; the dinner with servers; salad, bread, spaghetti; desert; coffee; sweet tea & perhaps specialty drinks. And the Auction; We already have great opportunities lined up – DISNEY; DIAMONDBACKS; TARGET; GOLF; FOOD – so are YOU READY?

So: What do farmers give their wives on Valentine's Day? *Hogs and kisses!*



Thank you always, to Ellie and Jim, for again presenting their garden class to our Noah's neighbors. This month's theme, Jim tells me was Citrus.

