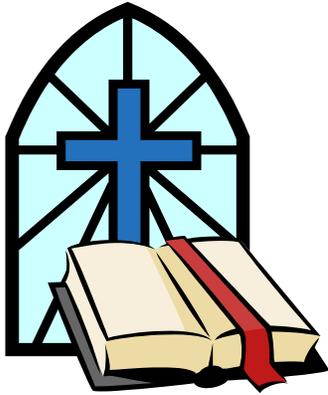


THE BETHLEHEM BEACON

December 2 0 1 4



Worship Schedule

Traditional

5:30pm Saturdays

8:30am Sundays

Contemporary

11:00am Sunday

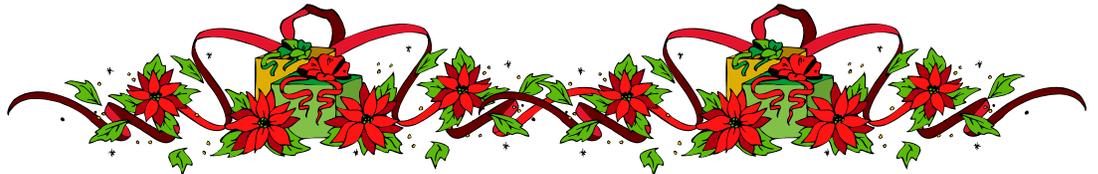
Sunday School

9:45am Sunday

CHURCH OFFICE HOURS

Monday through Friday
9:00 a.m. — 1:00 p.m.

Catch up on the
latest news from
the Indiana-
Kentucky Synod at
www.iksynod.org

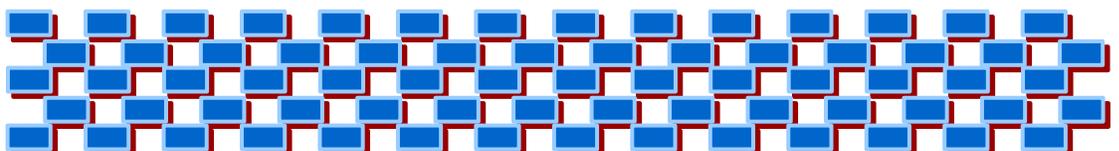


Poinsettias for Christmas

The Altar Guild will once again be offering the opportunity to purchase a poinsettia plant in memory or in honor of someone, or just because they will look beautiful decorating the sanctuary this holiday season. Starting December 1st, there will be a sign-up sheet in the Narthex. Please fill this out with who is ordering the plant, what (if any) dedication you would like, and place the \$20 charge upon ordering in the envelope by the sign-up sheet. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Thank you and *Merry Christmas!*

Retiring the Mortgage

Praise God! Our mortgage balance is currently under \$295,000.00. The Church Council has been discussing ways to increase giving to help retire the mortgage. In the narthex, you will be seeing a large picture board that is covered with red bricks with increments of \$1,000.00. At the end of each month, for each \$1,000.00 that is given to the mortgage reduction fund, a brick will be removed. Our goal is to remove bricks as quickly as possible. When all of the bricks have been removed, our mortgage will have been paid for! Is this a special fund drive? Yes and No. ALL monies received, including regular giving and special giving designated for the mortgage reduction fund will be put toward the mortgage. Members have suggested that for husbands and wives, instead of buying Christmas presents, donate that amount to the fund. Families may go together and purchase a brick above their regular giving. Bricks may be given in memory of loved ones or the birth of a baby or grandchild. Think of all of the programming and outreach that our church could do when the mortgage is retired. Red envelopes will be available to be used for this program, or you may also use your regular giving envelopes. Please pray about our efforts and discuss with your family. If \$1000.00 is received as a memory gift for someone who has passed, or the birth of a baby, a list of those people will be published in the Beacon. Thank you for all of the support you as a congregation has shown.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Pastor & Council Members

The Pastor and Church Council will be happy to assist you with any questions or issues that may arise. Please do not hesitate to contact us!

Erik Grayvold, Pastor

pastorchestertonblc@gmail.com
219-926-5596 Church
906-364-1035 Cell or 219-250-2690 Home

Becky Cole - President

abccole97@yahoo.com
219-926-1938

Vice President - Lois Fancher

lois.fancher@frontier.com
219-926-2079

Ron Ludwig - Secretary

dlanor503@yahoo.com
219-926-2874

Marlene Knapp - Treasurer

marlene.knapp@comcast.net
219-787-8115 or 219-241-0655

Al Gaston - Finance Committee

gastonam@comcast.net
219-926-4322

Mary Jane Butz - Christian Education

mjbutz@gmail.com
219-929-8019

Evie Edborg - Outreach Committee

edborg11@gmail.com
219-928-8435

Bea Beyer - Social Ministry Committee

beabeyer2@frontier.com
219-771-9977

Carla Coffman - Building/Grounds Committee

coffmandc@comcast.net
219-926-7990

Karan Smith - Worship Committee

karansmith2000@comcast.net
219-926-4324

Ruth Ann Tuttle - Stewardship Committee

rgtuttle@comcast.net
219-926-1010

Sunday School News

Here's what's
happening!

A big thank you to the congregation for helping to make our annual Trick or Treat for Jesus a great success! Thanks to everyone who donated!

Keep an eye out for our changing bulletin board. For November, we had a turkey filled with feathers of thankfulness. December will bring the gifts of Christmas.

The Sunday School Christmas Program will be held on Sunday, December 21st during the Sunday School hour at 9:45. Please join us for a short and fun program — filled with music, followed by a cookie reception in the Social Hall. The kids are already hard at work and are looking forward to presenting this story to the congregation!

As a reminder, there will be no Sunday School on Sunday, December 28th and Sunday, January 4th, due to the Duneland Schools Winter Break. We will resume Sunday School on Sunday, January 11, 2015. Have a wonderful Christmas and New Year!

A NOTE OF



Many thanks to the children who participated in the Trick-or-Treat for the food pantry recently. Also, thanks to the congregation for their generous outpouring of groceries and cash. With colder weather and holidays approaching, our numbers will be increasing, so everything will be put to good use!

God bless, Betty Peterson

Westchester Neighbors Food Pantry Board Member and Bethlehem Lutheran Member



FROM THE PASTOR

Pastor Erik Grayvold

December 2014

December seems to be a time when people go absolutely bonkers over weird and bizarre issues in the world. In many ways, I do not blame folks for having as much stress as they do during this time of the year. From Thanksgiving until New Year's, there is an expectation that we are

supposed to be in a celebratory mood; to be in a constant, exhausting state of happiness and joy. However, the stress of maintaining such a mindset coupled with other factors such as family strife and/or grief, financial obligations, or many other apparent or hidden issues makes this time of year very difficult for some people. While this time of year could actually be helpful to people who suffer from mood issues due to longer nights, the depression rate sky rockets.

I wonder if maybe Advent should be a little longer. Advent, like Lent, is a season of preparation. During Advent we dwell on the mystery and our need for God to be incarnate in Jesus Christ. While there are some horrifying conclusions that can come from this (i.e. that one day this small child of Mary's would face death on the cross), we also speak about the concept of Immanuel, God with us, in Ancient Hebrew. It is in this very act of stepping away from the throne on high that God enters into history to forever transform it. The incarnation was not only a huge step for God, but a transformative act for all of creation. While other religions speak about gods and goddesses entering into the world, it is in Christianity that we speak of this incarnation in bold terms. God came to this world in Jesus Christ in order to liberate it from sin, death, and the devil and identify with even the lowliest of the low. The incarnation was an act of love for no intensive purpose for God, but was truly an act meant and directed to us.

During this time of the year many people like to focus on the "War on Christmas," but I think the more horrifying factor is a lack of concern or desire to allow people to experience Advent. In many ways, even those who are strong proponents of the "War on Christmas" have started a "War on Advent." The world has become so excited for Christmas, that it has forgotten its need to prepare for the amazing act that God had done in the town of Bethlehem over 2000 years ago. Not only has Advent fallen by the wayside, but also culture denies our need to have this time of preparation and reflection in favor of celebrating a holiday before it actually arrives.

This Advent we will be having Advent midweek services where we will be focusing on our need for the Christ Child to enter into this world. In particular, this year has been a rather violent one across the world, and it has been decided that we will do the Litany of the Healing of the Nations as a part of an Evening Prayer service this Advent. This reflective time of prayer may make for a good respite to the holiday stress, and an opportunity to prepare us for the actual feast day of Christmas by renewing our minds in God's Word. During Lent, it is also a common practice to take up a new spiritual discipline whether it be fasting from a certain item or focusing more on prayer. Normally during Lent I translate a whole book in the New Testament and set my devotions within that book for the season and into Pentecost. However, this Advent I am thinking of trying to take one day during the week to make soup and write a reflection while making it. There are many spiritual practices around the act of cooking, which could help provide for some centering practices during Advent. For some, giving might be a better option by giving money to a local charity that would have been spent on something else.

Advent is meant to be a time of meditation and reflection. It is not a "have to" thing, but it is meant to be a spiritually uplifting time that prepares us for the joy of Christmas. Take care of yourself this Advent season. Jesus came into this world because of God's love for you. Take a little time to pray, to sing, to enjoy a little quiet and contemplate this radical love God has for you. You never know, you may find a peace that surpasses all understanding, that helps you deal with the stresses that this time of year brings.

Upcoming Special Worship Services

The first Advent evening prayer, including the Litany for Healing of the Nations, will be Wednesday, December 3rd and ending on the 17th. The services will start at 6:30pm.



Christmas Eve service times are: 4:00pm Children's Service; 7:00pm; 9:45pm.

The Saturday and Sunday after Christmas will be regular services with a combined Contemporary and Traditional setting.

WELCA LUNCHEON

There will be no regular meeting in December. Instead we are planning to go to Pesto's in Valparaiso for a Christmas luncheon at 11:30 on Thursday, December 4th. Please call Nancy Miller at 926.4337 by Monday, December 1st for reservations. Please keep in mind, as always, there will be no regular meeting in January.

Property Committee Update

By the time you receive this newsletter, the cracks in the floors in the narthex and sanctuary should be repaired. The cost for this was \$3,102. Painting the hallways and narthex has been delayed until next year. We just ran out of time before the holidays. Also, we may or may not be putting in more rocks. It all depends on the weather and finding a day when we can have as much help as possible.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from the Property Committee.

Bread of Love Monthly Report

	This Month	Last Month	Last 12 Months
Families Helped	1	3	32
Rent	\$100	\$205	\$2,158
Utilities		\$100	\$1,395
Sales Items	64	70	846
Sales	\$728	\$887	\$11,458
Listings	67	21	551
Shipments	2	0	14

**A percent of sales goes to paying expenses, commissions, and contributions to First Contact and BLC*

Appreciation Corner...

Appreciation Corner

A big thank you to the following people who are making dinner for the homeless shelter at Trinity:

Ruth Ann Tuttle, Karan Smith, Lois Fancher, Evie Edborg, Bea and Skip Beyer, Helen Sabinske, Ann Moodie, Sharon Skalku, Marcia Gaston, Jean Pass, Reynold and Joan Wolter, Becky Cole, Judith and Howard Peters, Patty and Mark Peterson.

May God bless you for your generosity.

Appreciation Corner...

Appreciation Corner...

Appreciation Corner...

December Worship Assistants

December 7

Assisting Minister:
Greeter(s):
Reader:
Acolyte(s):
Counters:
Altar Flowers:

8:30 a.m.

Susan Collins
Robert & Greta McKeough
Betty Lindenmeyer
Anna Leady and Ben Van Wagner
Richard & Rhonda Klaiber
Marilynne Dilley

11:00 a.m.

Elliot Thostesen

Kendall Klaiber and Andrew Skalku

December 14

Assisting Minister:
Greeter(s):
Reader:
Acolyte(s):
Counters:
Altar Flowers:

no service due to Advent Dinner

11:00 a.m.

Elliot Thostesen
David & Bev Stegeman
Darlene Kittredge
Jeremy Laeder and Bryce Thoma
Ron Ludwig and Reynold Wolter
Marilyn Ruoff

December 21

Assisting Minister:
Greeter(s):
Reader:
Acolyte(s):
Counters:
Altar Flowers:

8:30 a.m.

Judith Peters
Margaret O'Rourke
Margaret O'Rourke
Alyssa Cole and Ian Leady
Carla Coffman and Linda Peterson
Marlene Knapp

11:00 a.m.

Elliot Thostesen

Riley Hall and Andrew Skalku

December 24

Assisting Minister:
Greeter(s):
Reader:
Acolyte(s):
Counter:
Altar Flowers:

4:00 p.m.

The Leadys

Anny Leady, Jordan Huneryager

7:00p.m.

Elliot Thostesen

Elliott Thostesen
Caroline Scheidt, Andrew Skalku

9:45 p.m.

Mark Peterson
The Zaidemans
Gail Ludwig

December 28

Assisting Minister:
Greeter(s):
Reader:
Acolyte(s):
Counter:
Altar Flowers:

8:30 a.m.

Susan Collins
Betty Lindenmeyer
Betty Lindenmeyer
Alyssa Cole and Addison Cole
Marlene Knapp
Belle Branoff

11:00 a.m.

Elliot Thostesen

Jeremy Laeder

For you were called to freedom, brethren; only do not turn your freedom into an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. ~ Galatians 5:13 (NASB)

We Love Your Ideas!

We need your help! If you have any ideas that would be beneficial to our congregation or programs/events you would like to see in our church, please share them. Please feel free to write them down and put them in the basket in the back of the church or e-mail Becky at abccole97@yahoo.com.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH — CHESTERTON, IN
OCTOBER 2014 CHURCH COUNCIL MEETING

The October 2014 church council meeting was called to order at 6:14 P.M. The president and the secretary present. Mrs. Fancher was absent.

Pastor Grayvold opened with prayer and devotions: Matthew 25:34-36 (concerning radical hospitality).

Mrs. Beyer moved to accept the minutes from the September 2014 meeting as presented, seconded by Mrs. Butz and carried.

PASTOR'S REPORT: 20 meetings, 10 classes conducted, seven visits, one social event and two continuing educational opportunities. Since there is a large discrepancy among the practices across the ELCA, Bishop Eaton has requested all congregations to address who is welcome at the communion table.

Jonathan Rundman concert was held Friday, October 10, 2014 at 7:00.

Possible baptisms November 8, 2014.

Moving primary day off to Friday. Results of survey revealed Monday evenings are more favorable for events (Bible study, etc.)

COMMITTEE REPORTS —

Financial/Treasurer: Mrs. Knapp presented the September 2014 financial reports. The ending operating balance is \$11,654.93 and the ending mortgage reduction balance is \$6,412.58

There is no deficit in the operating fund, a deficit in the mortgage fund and no penalty for paying the mortgage off early.

Mr. Gaston moved to accept the financial reports as presented, seconded by Mrs. Smith and carried.

A visual display of a church with removable "bricks" will be placed in the narthex to indicate the progress of the mortgage reduction. A 'brick' will be removed for every \$1,000 contribution. Contributors may "team up" to achieve the \$1,000.00 'brick'.

The 2015 budget has been prepared, individual financial statements printed and mailed, VANCO approved taking contributions by debit and credit cards. Our insurance deductible has been lowered from \$2,500.00 to \$1,000.00.

Property:

Mrs. Coffman reported that a quotation was received by Stonhard to repair the cracks in the sanctuary and narthex floor for \$3,102.00. Discussion occurred with no motion was made.

Pastor Grayvold received correspondence from LCC attorneys on behalf of SBA Communications and forwarded it to Mrs. Coffman. Mrs. Coffman presented the plan. SBA Communications would like to erect a communication tower in the corner of the church property using a 100' x 100' area. As of yet, Verizon Wireless has not yet approved the project. If the project is approved and all parties are in agreement, Bethlehem would lease the property to SBA. SBA Communications will be responsible for all of the expense associated with the project. Finalization of the lease agreement would require lawyer review and approval from the voter's assembly prior to signing.

A motion was made by Mrs. Smith to proceed with the proposal presented by LCC Law seconded by Ms. Edborg and carried.

Bread of Love:

Three families were assisted for \$205.00 in rent and \$100.00 in utilities. There were 70 sales items, \$887.00 in sales, 21 listings and zero shipments.

A percentage of sales goes to paying expenses, commissions and contributions to First Contact and Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Stewardship:

Campaign plan and dates were discussed. Pledge forms finalized and printed. Presentation planned.

Worship:

November hymns selected. Advent services beginning Wednesday, December 3, 2014. Service will reflect healing of nations, start at 6:30 P.M. and last 30-40 minutes. Winter season will begin November 30, 2014.

Christian Ed:

Children will sing at the 8:30 service October 12, 2014. The Christmas Program is still in the planning stage.

Sunday school will be doing the annual trick or treat for Jesus at both services on Sunday, November 2, 2014 for non-perishable food items, paper products or monetary donations. Costumes will be Biblical. Items collected and monetary donations will be distributed between the food pantry and Shady Side. Participation would be appreciated.

cont. 'd on next page

Service project for November, 2014, will be working with the social Ministry committee on the Thanksgiving baskets. Sunday school will be providing gravy and stuffing for the baskets.

Payment for VBS Lutheran Outdoor Ministries is due in December 2014.

Outreach:

'Tablegate' was a successful benefit. The Chesterton Firefighters were special guests, congregation and community members hosted. Around \$400.00 was collected for scholarships (vacation Bible school, camps, etc.).

Mr. Wilson has located cassette players to record services to take to shut-ins.

Toiletries for the women's homeless shelter are ready for delivery. Bags are needed.

Social:

Dinners for homeless women shelter at Trinity Valparaiso every other Saturday starting Nov. 18, 2014.

Old Business:

None.

New Business:

Mr. Gaston resigned as Stewardship Chairman and nominated Mrs. Tuttle as Stewardship Chairman. Voice vote was taken and Mrs. Tuttle elected. Mr. Gaston was nominated for chairman of the finance committee, a voice vote was taken and Mr. Gaston elected.

The insurance company has mandated that Bethlehem Lutheran Church adopt Anti-discrimination, Disciplining of Employees and Sexual Harassment Policies. The policies were disseminated, reviewed and discussed. A motion was made to accept the policies by Mrs. Butz, seconded by Ms. Edborg and carried.

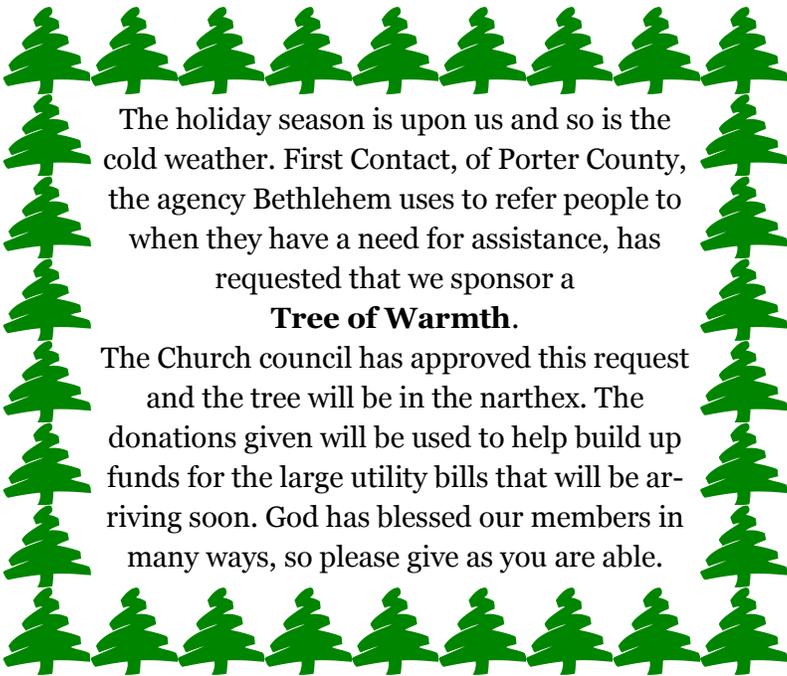
Mrs. Knapp presented the 2015 budget which was reviewed, discussed and revised. Mrs. Butz moved to accept the revised 2015 budget, seconded by Mrs. Smith and carried. The budget needs to be out by October 26, 2014 for congregational review prior to the budget meeting.

Pastor Grayvold closed with prayers

Mrs. Coffman moved to adjourn seconded by Mrs. Knapp. Meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Ron Ludwig

Secretary



The holiday season is upon us and so is the cold weather. First Contact, of Porter County, the agency Bethlehem uses to refer people to when they have a need for assistance, has requested that we sponsor a

Tree of Warmth.

The Church council has approved this request and the tree will be in the narthex. The donations given will be used to help build up funds for the large utility bills that will be arriving soon. God has blessed our members in many ways, so please give as you are able.

HELP WANTED!

We are in search of one or two VBS coordinators for next summer.

Please consider volunteering for this position. There isn't much to do right now with the program, however, we are asking now so we can begin preparing for next summer.

If you are interested, please see Mary Jane or Becky.



"Thank you to our Bethlehem family for your prayers and support during my most recent medical difficulties and surgery. You are, indeed, God's own healing hands."

Howard Peters



Finance Update

The month of October saw a slight increase in giving to our Mortgage Reduction Fund. Our monthly mortgage payment is \$5,813.36. In October, a total of \$4,526.00 was given, of which \$620.00 were memorial gifts. The mortgage balance currently is \$294,789.52. There are approximately 48 more payments. Although we struggle some months to make our mortgage payment, we as a congregation are blessed by the gifts that God has given us. Please prayerfully consider your giving. New and exciting times are ahead! **Our Mortgage is Below Three Hundred Thousand Dollars!!!! Watch in the next few weeks for some news regarding our mortgage.**

Giving to the Operating Account was up from 2013.

The balances in our various accounts as of October 31st are as follows –

Operating Account	\$ 4,606.94	— money from envelopes each week that pay bills
Savings	\$ 22,143.36	
Pastor's Fund	\$ 1,112.52	— money used to help people in need
Grants	\$ 4,539.00	— money given to Bethlehem from Thrivent to be used for community outreach and help
Mortgage Reserve	\$ 5,000.00	— money from the sale of the old building
Mortgage Reduction	\$ 1,869.88	— money from envelopes each week that pay the mortgage
Youth Group	\$ 2,460.34	— money earned by the youth from pancake suppers and Easter breakfasts
Bread of Love	\$ 163.13	— money from the sale of items on the Amazon storefront — a portion of these proceeds is given back to Bethlehem, 1 st Contact in Valparaiso, and transferred to Pastor's Special Fund
EJ Stock	\$ 100.00	— money from the sale of donated stock
Leadership Fund	\$ 24,575.00	
Audio Visual Fund	\$ 7,031.66	— money to be used for the installation of monitors in the church sanctuary

If there are questions concerning finances, please contact Marlene Knapp, Treasurer at 787-8115 or marlene.knapp@comcast.net.

Announcing a NEW and SIMPLE Way to Donate to Your Church

Bethlehem has established an account at Edward Jones in Chesterton that will allow you to donate stock to the Church. By donating stock to the Church, you are allowed to take the value of the stock at the time of the sale, on which you pay no taxes, and the Church receives the proceeds.

If you are interested in learning about this means of donating or have questions, please contact Eric Isakson at Edward Jones at (219) 926-8966.

Households Being Prayed for in December

December 6 & 7	December 13 & 14	December 20 & 21	December 27 & 28
Orlich	Greene	Lakatos	Smith, A.
Tuttle	Hess	Moodie	Nagel
Wilson	Klaiber, R.	Thoma	DeHem
Wolter	Sabinske	Vela	Potrzebowski
Dille	Stevens	Scheidt	

The Council decided at a recent meeting, in appreciation of the work of the confirmands, which was enjoyed and admired, to put forth their faith statement or testimonies. Each month, one Council member will publish their statement in the newsletter.



I was raised in a large Irish Catholic family. I attended Catholic school for 12 years and raised my children Catholic.

The Stephen Ministry of BLC found me after an horrific accident and suffering from depression.

We moved to Chesterton from a large home full of friends and activity. In the first months of being here, my life changed drastically. Becky stayed back to finish school. My husband's job was now to travel. Our youngest daughter started Purdue, main campus. Even our dog suddenly died. I felt totally isolated and alone.

I fell and broke my leg and found myself with every complication under the sun. After a long hospital and rehab stay, I came home in a wheelchair with months of rehab yet to face. It was during this time that God answered my prayers and sent me an angel. She not only took me to rehab but she changed my life. She listened to my fears, prayed with me and offered me hope. One day she asked if I would like to attend church with her. That was the beginning.

I looked at the people of Bethlehem and saw God's love in action. Being part of this family is a privilege. I had never seen such true caring selfless and devoted people in my life. My faith was renewed and my eyes were opened. I was accepted and I felt determined to help BLC in any way I could to spread God's love.

My husband has had several heart problems over the past 20 years. Three years ago, during a routine angiogram, something went wrong and his bypasses collapsed. The doctors told me he would not survive.

Then a miracle was given to us. Somehow he pulled through. His doctor came into the room a few days later and my faith will never be the same. He began with the words, "I am a Muslim, but your God must be very powerful. I passed the waiting room and heard your family and friends praying for you. I can't explain it. Medically we did all we could but knew it was not enough to save you, so it must have been their prayers that got you through."

I have been blessed by God much more than anyone deserves. I feel His love every day. I only hope I can do His will and somehow help others to see how truly good He is.

Bethlehem is more than my church. It is my family who every day love and support me. I see God at work at BLC and only hope to do my small part in accomplishing His plan. Thank you, Bethlehem, for giving me a place in your truly special family.

~ Bea Beyer



Due to a scheduling conflict, our annual Advent Dinner will be held on Sunday, December 14. The schedule for that day will be: 9:45 Sunday School; 11:00 Only service that day; 12:30 Advent Dinner.

As in the past, WELCA will provide meat and beverages. You are asked to bring a covered dish to share and your table setting (plates and silverware) to cut down on the clean up.

Please come and enjoy the fellowship and good eats.



DECEMBER 2014

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

<p>(T) = Traditional Worship</p> <p>(C) = Contemporary Worship</p>		<p>Notes:</p>				
	<p>1</p>  <p>6:00p Bible Study Omega</p>	<p>2</p> <p>6:00p Girl Scouts</p> <p>6:30p Stephen's Ministry</p>	<p>3</p> <p>10:00a Alpha Bible Study</p> <p>5:15p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30p Advent Evening Prayer</p> <p>6:30p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>4</p> <p>11:30am WELCA Luncheon</p> <p>6:00p Confirmation Class</p>	<p>5</p> <p>5:30p Confirmation Lock-in</p>	<p>6</p> <p>10:00am Lock-in Ends</p> <p>5:30p Worship</p>
<p>7</p> <p>8:30a Worship (T)</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School</p> <p>11:00a Worship</p> <p>1:00p Synod Fall Conference</p> <p>6:00p N.A.</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>8</p>  <p>6:00p Bible Study Omega</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>9</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>10</p> <p>10:00a Alpha Bible Study</p> <p>5:15p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30p Advent Evening Prayer</p>	<p>11</p> <p>6:00p Confirmation Class</p>	<p>12</p>	<p>13</p> <p>5:30p Worship (T)</p>
<p>14</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School</p> <p>11:00a Only Service</p> <p>12:30p Advent Dinner</p> <p>6:00p N.A.</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>15</p>  <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>16</p> <p>6:30p Stephen's Ministry</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>17</p> <p>10:00a Alpha Bible Study</p> <p>5:15p Choir Rehearsal</p> <p>6:30p Advent Evening Prayer</p> <p>6:30p Girl Scouts</p>	<p>18</p> <p>6:00p Confirmation Class</p>	<p>19</p>	<p>20</p> <p>8:00a Dancebizz</p> <p>5:30p Worship (T)</p>
<p>21</p> <p>8:30a Worship (T)</p> <p>9:45a Sunday School Children's Program</p> <p>11:00a Worship (C)</p> <p>6:00p N.A.</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>22</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>23</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>24</p>  <p>Christmas Eve</p> <p>4:00p Children's Service</p> <p>7:00p Worship</p> <p>9:45p Worship</p>	<p>25</p>  <p>CHRISTMAS</p>	<p>26</p>	<p>27</p> <p>2:00p Nidelchoff Christmas Reunion</p> <p>5:30p Worship</p>
<p>28</p> <p>8:30a Worship (T)</p> <p>9:45a No Sunday School</p> <p>11:00a Worship (C)</p> <p>6:00p N.A.</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>29</p>  <p>6:00p Bible Study Omega</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>30</p> <p>6:30p Stephen's Ministry</p> <p>8:00p A.A.</p>	<p>31</p>	 <p><i>Happy Holidays!</i></p>		

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
2050 W. 1100 N.
CHESTERTON, IN 46304-9598

Phone: (219) 926-5596

E-mail: chestertonblc@gmail.com

Office Hours:

Monday through Friday: 9:00 am-1:00 pm



Worship Schedule

5:30 pm Saturday—Traditional

8:30 am Sunday—Traditional

9:45 —Sunday School

11:00 am—Contemporary



All are welcome!



Enjoy the Convenience of Electronic Giving

Please leave your checkbook at home. Bethlehem Lutheran Church wants to remind you that we offer electronic giving as a way to automate your regular weekly offering. Electronic giving offers convenience for individual congregation members and provides much-needed donation consistency for our congregation. Direct Debit Giving, as well as EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer), is used to automatically transfer funds from your checking or savings account to the church's bank account.

If you are currently giving on a weekly basis, you will no longer need to write out 52 checks per year or prepare 52 envelopes. And, when in travel, illness, or when other circumstances may prevent you from attending services, this program will allow your weekly offerings to continue on an uninterrupted basis.

Churches, because of their heavy weekly check volumes, were among the earliest organizations to embrace electronic giving as a way to automate contributions. Today, electronic giving in all its forms provides convenience for frequent check writers.

A less frequently discussed benefit of electronic giving is its positive impact on the environment. An enormous amount of natural resources are consumed in the production, transportation, processing, and disposal of paper checks. That is why paying bills electronically always ranks high on any list of actions an individual can take to improve the environment. The trend toward electronic payments has already produced more than a 50% decline in check use since the year 2000.

As you consider the payment method you use to make your regular offering, we hope that you will think about the unique connection between financial stewardship and environmental stewardship.

We hope you will consider electronic giving. It is a simple, generous choice. Authorization forms are available from the church office.

If you have any questions, please contact Marlene Knapp at [\(219\) 787-8115](tel:2197878115) or by e-mail at marlene.knapp@comcast.net.