

**BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**



401 West Main Street  
West Dundee, IL 60118

+ + +

**BETHLEHEM'S MISSION...**

"To share the Living Water  
of Jesus Christ  
with all who thirst"

**REV. JAMES O. MURR, JR.**  
224-829-8840

**WORSHIP**

8:00am ~ Traditional  
10:30am ~ Contemporary  
11:45am ~ Traditional

**HOLY COMMUNION**

1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> - 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays

**FELLOWSHIP TIME**

9:10am

**SUNDAY SCHOOL /  
YOUTH CLASS**

9:15am

**ADULT STUDY**

9:30am

**CHURCH PHONE**

847-426-7311

**WEBSITE**

BethlehemDundee.org

**E-MAIL**

bethchurchdun@aol.com



**BETHLEHEM NEWS**

**DECEMBER 2021**

**"A SAVIOR HAS BEEN BORN TO YOU"**

*"Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of  
great joy that will be for all the people.*

*Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you;  
he is Christ the Lord."*

Luke 2:10-11

Everyone is afraid of something. On the night of Jesus' birth, the angel appeared to the shepherds and told them not to be afraid; no doubt referring to their fear of the angel and his great glory! Anyone would experience some level of fear in that situation.



So, the angel told the shepherds, "Don't be afraid. We're not here to harm you. We are here to tell you some really good news! You have a Savior!"



Again, everyone is afraid of something! The question is, are we afraid of the right thing? In this day and age, there is good reason to have some concern about the potential of war. There is reason to have a sense of caution in certain neighborhoods at certain times of the day. There is reason to have a heightened awareness of crime. And, certainly, we can't forget about that thing called COVID! No doubt, the world has become a scary place!

But do these things deserve to be in the position of the things we fear the most? The world is losing (if it hasn't lost it already) its fear of the one who deserves our fear the most! He is the Lord Jesus Christ! The world has misplaced its fear. People no longer even flinch at the name of Jesus, much less kneel before Him. For some reason, Jesus is brushed aside as being inconsequential. And yet, He is the One who sits in ultimate authority. He is the One who allows war to happen ... or not! He is the One who will call a stop to the pandemic when it suits Him to do so!

continued...



<b>Mike Albach</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Kate Skibley</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Sue Wilbrandt</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Tonda McPherson</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Marilyn Meyer</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Laura Robinson</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Dan Lee</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>Erich Korosec</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Marcus Robinson</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>Hunter Grimoldby</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>McKenzie Grimoldby</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>Bob Kaup</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Jeremy Pate</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Paul Schif</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Bev Ides</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Tami Kraus</b>	<b>23</b>
<b>Dave Isles</b>	<b>24</b>
<b>Baby Jesus!</b>	<b>25</b>



<b>Daniel Schmerber</b>	<b>25</b>
<b>John Kois</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Haley Schaffer</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Caitlin Strong</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>Sofia Wilbrandt</b>	<b>28</b>
<b>Jane Ebner</b>	<b>29</b>
<b>Edith Brink</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Penny Christensen</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Don Johnson</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Evelyn Slaght</b>	<b>31</b>

Jesus is the One we should fear. And yet He did not come into the world to make us afraid. He came into the world to take all of our fears away, especially the fear of death and the grave. He has conquered sin, death, and the devil ... our three greatest enemies. Since these have been conquered, there is no enemy who has power over us. We belong to God. We are His treasured possession. As Paul wrote in his epistle to the Romans: "For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."



With Jesus came the Good News! The Gospel! Our sins have been paid for. We bear the righteousness of God by grace through faith. No one can snatch us out of our Father's hand! So, God is on our side because of Jesus.

***Merry Christmas!***  
***~ Pastor Jim & Karen***



**Candlelight Christmas Eve**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
**Friday, December 24**  
**4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m.**

**Christmas Day**  
**Worship with Holy Communion**  
**Saturday, December 25**  
**10:00 a.m.**



*Happy Anniversary!*

December 12: Karl & Mary Schroeder - 57 years  
December 20: Jim and Pat Dawson - 52 years

# Giving is Worship

GIVING BACK TO THE ONE WHO FIRST GAVE

## October 31

### **Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$4,188.58

### **Other Offerings/Income:**

Capital Expansion: \$25.00

BCMC Mortgage: \$50.00

Oper Christmas Child: \$25.00

## November 7

### **Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$3,440.

### **Other Offerings/Income:**

Capital Expansion: \$75.00

BCMC Mortgage: \$95.00

Mission of the Month: \$100.00

Memorial (Marass): \$745.00

Oper Christmas Child: \$18.00

## November 14

### **Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$4,401.16

### **Other Offerings/Income:**

Capital Expansion: \$145.00

BCMC Mortgage: \$184.00

Mission of the Month: \$20.00

Oper Christmas Child: \$20.00

“Cherished Place” Rent: \$6,063.92

## November 21

### **Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$3,058.58

### **Other Offerings/Income:**

Capital Expansion: \$40.00

BCMC Mortgage: \$65.00

Aluminum Cans (Youth): \$39.20



### **WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Mondays at 10:00am in  
the Fellowship Hall

Then go out for lunch together afterwards!

### VERSE of the MONTH

*But the angel said to them,  
“Do not be afraid. I bring you  
good news of great joy that  
will be for all the people.  
Today in the town of David  
a Savior has been born to  
you; he is Christ the Lord.”*

Luke 2:10-11

### **CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS**

Purchase a Poinsettia (\$15)  
to help beautify our altar area for  
Christmas Eve/Day Worship!

Order forms are due back to the  
Church Office by **Sunday,**

**December 12.** Cash is fine or  
make checks made payable to “Bethlehem.”



### **CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**Sunday, December 12  
4:00pm**

Featuring the Bethlehem Choir, The Messengers  
Praise Band, and the Sunday School Children!

Refreshments will be served afterwards  
in the Fellowship Hall.

Consider inviting a friend or neighbor  
to this always joyful event!



### **PILATES CLASS**

**“Let's Get Moving”**

9:00am Friday (10<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>)

Everyone is welcome!

Questions?

Call Linda Bryant 630-338-6515



# Dickens in Dundee



## BETHLEHEM'S DICKENS ACTIVITIES

**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 4<sup>th</sup>**  
**9:00am - 3:00pm**

### **SOUP & SANDWICH LUNCHEON:**

Come warm up and enjoy delicious hot soup and Sandwiches between 10:30am - 1:30pm. All proceeds from the Luncheon will be donated to the F.I.S.H. Food Pantry in Carpentersville to assist local families in need this holiday season.

### **BAKE SALE:**

Pick up some homemade sweets/baked goods or load up with tasty treats to bring along to your next Christmas party.

### **CRAFT BOUTIQUE / BAZAAR:**

Do your Christmas shopping where everything is handmade and unique!

### **"DICKENS OF A SALE":**

Visit Dundee Township Historical Society's Sale in our Sunday School room which features new and gently used Christmas items sold at reasonable prices.

### **\*\*\*\*\*Homemade desserts are needed to make the Bake Sale a success\*\*\*\*\***

So if you are able to make a batch of cookies, individual breads, or some specialty sweet item, please bring them on Friday the 3<sup>rd</sup>. Wrap/bag them in small portions that a person might purchase for eating after the luncheon. We have found that this size item sells the best. Questions? Contact Debbie Newman 847-428-9663 or [dnewman56@comcast.net](mailto:dnewman56@comcast.net)



### **Ladies' Christmas Party**

**Thursday, December 16 - Noon**

Lunch: Pizza & Dessert  
Followed by White Elephant Bingo

Bring a wrapped gift —  
something you no longer need.  
All women of Bethlehem are invited!  
Please join us for a fun time!



The Thursday Morning Quilting Group has been making quilts (60"x80") for more than 50 years at Bethlehem! In March (163 tied quilts) and in May (75 tied quilts) were donated to Orphan Grain Train.



Orphan Grain Train is a Christian volunteer network that ships donated food, clothing, medical and other needed items to people in 69 different countries including the USA.

### **Congregational Voter's Meeting**

**Sunday, December 5**  
**9:15am - Fellowship Hall**



Main agenda item will be the approval of the 2022 Budget.



### **Are you in need of a wheelchair?**

The red and silver wheelchair that sits in the entrance by the elevator is going to be replaced. So if you are in need of one, please contact Karen in the Church Office.



### **Transfer to other LCMS**

Tracy, Hailey and Frankie Schläffer

## TRUSTEE NEWS / BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

There has been quite a bit of activity around the outside of Bethlehem in the last month!



The 2 sets of glass doors (west side of BLC and (south side of BLC) have been repaired. Most folks do not use these doors — but for those that do, the repair has made a HUGE difference in opening/closing them!

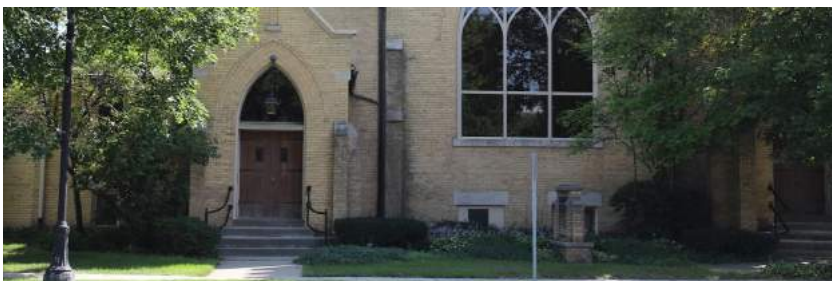


Many small trees, stumps, bushes, plants and groundcover were removed from around the property. Some of the garden areas were made smaller by installing sod and then planted with fresh bushes. Large gardens with flowers are beautiful but only if they are meticulously maintained. Otherwise, they begin to look like a weedy mess which detracts from the beauty of God's House and does not give a good first impression to those we are striving to reach with the Gospel.

Much of the landscaping was done on the Main and 5<sup>th</sup> Street sides of 417. An additional benefit to doing this is that our church is now more visible to the many folks that pass by each week in their cars or on foot. Future projects at 417 include: an easier-to-read sign for the front, replacement of the unsafe steps and railing, and replacement of the lights over the Main Street doors. In the Spring, the remnants of the old vines will be removed from the Main Street side.



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If you have some spare time to help out on a short-term project, please call Scott Heifetz at 847-305-0571.



**Thank you to everyone who supported our Operation Christmas Child donation drive.**

*Whether you purchased items for our boxes or simply prayed for the children who would be receiving them, the Sunday School children and teachers greatly appreciate it. We were able to fill 45 boxes with all of our donations!!*

*God's Blessings to All!*

**SUPPORT  
OUR  
YOUTH!**



As the Holidays are upon us, please remember to save all of your favorite empty aluminum beverage cans, place them in a garbage bag and deposit them in the garbage can located on the parking lot side of the red garage at church.

Your cans bring extra money to our Youth group. A BIG thank you to Paul Schif who recently delivered 98 lbs of cans to Elgin Recycling. Thank you Paul! Your can donations go a long way ...

Thank you for your support!!

**DECEMBER  
MISSION OF THE MONTH**

Since 1975, the Crisis Center, a non-profit social service agency located in Elgin, has provided emergency services to individuals and families dealing with the trauma of domestic/sexual violence, homelessness, and other life crises. They are available 24/7. Services are cost free to victims and unduplicated within our service area that includes northern Kane and far NW suburban Cook counties.



During the past year, the Community Crisis Center provided service to 1,705 women, 760 men, and 190 children. A total of 151 women and 68 children spent 4,378 safe nights in our shelter due to homelessness caused by domestic violence and/or financial crisis. 1,180 individuals requested assistance with housing, transportation, food, diapers, medical issues, employment and more from our Economic Crisis Program: they received 2,049 hours of service. We continue to have others that request assistance with housing and with utilities to prevent homelessness. Our service area includes northern Kane and far NW suburban Cook Counties as well as portions of McHenry, DuPage and Lake Counties.

Since the onset of the pandemic in March 2020, the Crisis Center has followed protocols set by the Kane County Health Department and CDC; services are offered on-site and remotely; masks, social distancing, and increased sanitizing are mandated; our shelter capacity has been reduced and off-site shelter is also offered.

**Currently, the Crisis Center's greatest need is winter wear... specifically large size, new or gently-used winter coats for men and women — parkas and ski jackets are preferred — new heavyweight gloves for men and women, and new neutral color hats.**

We do NOT need any children's coats or hats currently. Please contact the Crisis Center directly at 847-742-4088 x130 or Debbie Smith 630-939-3731 if you have items to donate or any questions.

~ H.I.S. Ministry/Missions  
"Hearts in Service"

***In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be registered. This was the first registration when Quirinius was governor of Syria. And all went to be registered, each to his own town. And Joseph also went up from Galilee, from the town of Nazareth, to Judea, to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and lineage of David, to be registered with Mary, his betrothed, who was with child. And while they were there, the time came for her to give birth. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in swaddling cloths and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.***



***And in the same region there were shepherds out in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night. And an angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were filled with great fear. And the angel said to them, "Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,***

***"Glory to God in the highest,  
and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!"***

***When the angels went away from them into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let us go over to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has made known to us." And they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the baby lying in a manger.***

***And when they saw it, they made known the saying that had been told them concerning this child. And all who heard it wondered at what the shepherds told them. But Mary treasured up all these things, pondering them in her heart. And the shepherds returned, glorifying and praising God for all they had heard and seen, as it had been told them.***

***Luke 2:1-20***

