

**BETHLEHEM  
LUTHERAN  
CHURCH**



401 West Main Street  
West Dundee, IL 60118

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**BETHLEHEM'S MISSION...**

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

**WORSHIP**

5:30pm Sat ~ Traditional  
8:00am Sun ~ Traditional  
10:30am Sun ~ Contemporary

**HOLY COMMUNION**

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

**FELLOWSHIP TIME**

9:10am

**SUNDAY SCHOOL  
CONFIRMATION**

9:15am

**ADULT BIBLE STUDY**

9:30am

**CHURCH PHONE**

847-426-7311

**WEBSITE**

BethlehemDundee.org

**E-MAIL**

BethChurchDun@aol.com



**BETHLEHEM NEWS - September 2023**

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**"THE NEXT CHAPTER..."**

Bethlehem is beginning a new chapter in its life as a LCMS Church in West Dundee.

Today there is no one in Bethlehem that remembers its beginnings in 1910 when Pastor Edward Sylvester became the first shepherd and spiritual leader at Bethlehem and served for the next 33 years.

Then came Pastor Mueller, a few of our older members remember that time and were baptized and confirmed by him.

Over the following years, our Lord continued to send Bethlehem, faithful servant and shepherds.

Their pictures are hanging on the wall as you enter the church from the parking lot.....Pastors: Walter Boss, Marvin Clausen, Matthew Becker, Steve Simon, John Carrier, Steve Woita, and Pastor Murr, who has left Bethlehem to serve our Lord at Immanuel Lutheran Church in Saint Clair, Michigan!

We at Bethlehem are sad to see Pastor Murr leave us, we all have this in common. Pastor Murr has served his Lord and us here at Bethlehem in so many ways, he has become our friend and confidant. We felt comfortable in talking to him about anything, and all have learned so much through his messages and his Bible classes!

But as Christians and followers of our Lord and Savior, Jesus, we can all see over the complete life of Bethlehem, God has reached down from heaven and touched our lives. Through his Holy Word, God has made a deep impression on all of us here through Bethlehem, in one way or another!

God uses his holy Christian church on earth, God has used....the Bethlehem congregation to reach out to others. We can look back and see the wonderful record of the love and mercy of God, who chose us to be his own, to live under him and to serve him here at Bethlehem.

*continued...*

Now on September 1, 2023, Bethlehem will begin a new chapter, a time of change. We all know that Lutherans don't like change! (no one likes change ) However, we are obedient and follow God's lead as he leads us into our new chapter.

None of us knows where the Lord is leading us, but we have learned that we need to trust in him. In the Bible, the book of Jeremiah, the 17th chapter we are told "blessed is the one who trust in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. He will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream it does not fear when he comes its leaves are always green."

And in Proverbs chapter 3, we are told "**trust in the lord, with all your heart, and lean, not on your own understanding; in all your ways, submit to him, and he will make your paths straight!**"

Even though we don't know what the future holds for us at Bethlehem, these are exciting times as we carry out the command that Jesus has given to us.

*Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." (Matthew 28: 18-20)*

Jesus has said that he will be with us always, and will never leave, nor for sake us!

At times like this, we simply need to follow *Psalms 46,verse 10*:

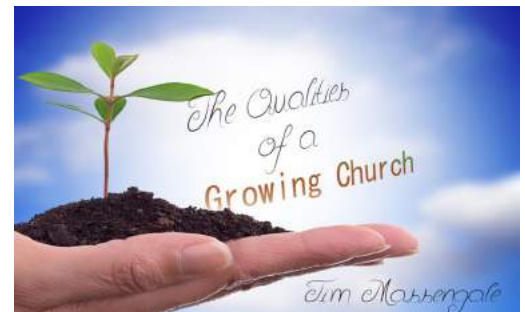
**Be still, and know that I am God.**

Frank

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## Season Of Growth

*(By: Matthew Schmidt - Council Chairman)*



As we say goodbye to Pastor Murr and his family, it is fair to feel grief and uncertainty. We thank God for his service to our church and pray for his family as he moves to Shephard a new congregation. Change brings about these feelings and we need to look to God to pray for comfort and strength. However, this will bring excitement and energy as we enter a season of reflection and growth.

Finding a permanent Pastor and church secretary will take some time. We all need to be prepared for this and pray that when God presents us with our next church Shepherd, we are ready. The church is very fortunate to have Pastor Steve Maske from Good Shepherd in Elgin be our support through this time of change. Pastor Maske attended our monthly Church Council meeting in August and helped us organize our thoughts on how we go through the season of growth.

His guidance was more geared around the immediate needs and concerns of the church. The Council/Elders will be meeting with President Buss in September to start the formal call process.

*continued...*



- 6 Rick & Pam Krumsee - 48 yrs
- 9 Michael & Pam Skibley - 51 yrs
- 10 Kevin & Stephanie Grimoldby - 12 yrs
- 10 Michael & Denise Korosec – 35 yrs
- 12 Mike & Lisa Hofbauer – 31 yrs
- 18 John & Helga Goskowicz 30 yrs
- 24 Randy & Cindy Weinert – 35 yrs

There are a few things that as a Church Council we are immediately acting upon.

**Pulpit Responsibilities:**

Elders/myself are working at finding some Pastors to cover the services in September. (Good News is that we have Pastor Jorge preaching the first week in September).

During the Month of September, we are still planning on having 3 services and bible study at 9:30.

**Vacancy Season (Starting October)**

We are actively looking for a Pastor that will cover the needs of the Church.

We are putting together a job description that tailors to the needs of our congregation. This would include: Church Services, Bible Studies, Funerals, Shut In visits, Hospital Visits and overall Pastor Care.

During this Season, we **potentially** will have to cut back on some of our weekly programs and **church services** because we will not have the capacity to support them. The Council does not know what this might entail so I would ask for patience while we understand the bandwidth of the Vacancy Pastor.



**SUE IHSEN**  
July 6, 2023

**Call Process:**

Council and Elders are meeting with President Buss in September. This will officially start off the process.

We will be putting together an official call committee that will work with both President Buss and Pastor Maske to help us find our next Pastor.

This will most likely be a lengthy process (average time pre-Covid was 18 months), so we ask for Prayers and patience while we work through the process.

**Church Secretary**

Debbie Smith and Gia Winkler have offered to help pick up this important position. They are working to understand the role and the tasks that need to be accomplished on a weekly basis.

As we get to a point of understanding the tasks, we will communicate any needs we have.

We are looking for volunteers to perform some of the duties of the office. If you are interested, please reach out!



*continued...*



Karen Murr	1
Karen Craker	2
Diane Drew	2
Marlis Davits	3
Michael Korosec	4
George Corcoran	7
Charlotte Kraus	7
Joshua DeDina	8
Hermann Pigors	13
Kim Post	14
Margaret Skibley	14
Stella Skibley	15
Abigail DeDina	19
Quinton Denk	21
Jim Albrecht	28
Henry Kraus	29
Dorothy Pigors	29

**What can the Congregation do?**

**Prayer:** God has already picked out our next Shepherd and when the time is right he will reveal him to us. Pray for support for our church leaders that they will work to keep Gods will at the forefront of every decision.

**Patience:** This process will take time. We all have things that we love to do at Bethlehem and we will work together to continuing those programs but the reality is that we will have a Pastor with different strengths, ideas and other time commitments.

**Volunteer:** If you have a gift or passion that you think the church can use, please reach out. Don't wait for someone to ask. Contact an Elder or Council member and lets figure out how we can use your talent.

**Communication:** Please reach out to a Council Member, or Elder if you have questions. As the Council we will do our best to keep everyone informed during the process but cannot anticipate or have answers to all of the questions/concerns that are out there.

**Season of Growth:** Pastor Maske challenged the entire Congregation to view this season of reflection, support and to look at what the future of Bethlehem could look like. We have to be able to challenge each other with new ideas and the characteristics that we would like to have as we search for our new Pastor.... *Matthew*



**OUR NEXT FELLOWSHIP EVENT...**

**WINE & CHEESE PARTY**

**Friday, September 22, 2023**

**6:30pm**

**Deb Hopp's Home**

**17N234 Ranch Road, Dundee**

This is the first wine and cheese party since March 2020 because of COVID. This is a perfect time to try a new wine you always wanted to taste but didn't want to commit to the whole bottle. Please bring a favorite appetizer (it does not need to be cheese) or a special dessert.





**July 2**

**Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$4,276.19

**Other Offerings/Income:**

Other: \$180.00

**July 9**

**Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$2,874.19

**Other Offerings/Income:**

Other: \$50.00

**July 16**

**Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$3,409.19

**Other Offerings/Income:**

Other: \$250.00

**July 23**

**Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$3,858.19

**Other Offerings/Income:**

Other: \$821.83

**July 30**

**Tithes/Offerings:**

General Fund: \$4,410.19

**Other Offerings/Income:**

Other: \$229.60



"Welcome to our church—even though you're sitting in our family pew . . ."

**PILATES CLASS**

**"Let's Get Moving"**

Every Friday - Arrive at 8:45am.

Everyone is welcome!

Linda Bryant 630-338-6515

**PORTALS OF PRAYER**

Don't forget to pick up a copy of this July-September daily devotional from one of the info tables.



**"LUTHERAN CHICKS"**

*Just for Women*

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month from 1:00-2:00pm.

Current study:  
**"Women of the New Testament."**



**WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP**

Mondays at 10:00am  
Fellowship Hall

**Come and bring a friend!**

*Then go out to lunch together afterwards if you'd like.*

## SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

Lutheran Church Charities is blessed to have more than 50 Lutheran Early Response Teams (L.E.R.T.) who help people regardless of their ethnic background, social standing, or religious affiliation. For L.E.R.T. volunteers, disaster response is an essential relief and outreach ministry. When invited, Lutheran Church Charities will respond to crisis situations within 24 hours of the time it is safe to do so.

As we all know, a firestorm fueled in part by fierce winds from Hurricane Dora's 140 mph winds triggered raging fires on the island of Maui. The wildfires also impacted the communities of Kihei and Kula.

Last week LCCF leaders along with food pantry leaders from Emmanuel and Wailuku Union Churches and a community distribution site in Lahaina meet to discuss how to get the needed food, hygiene, and paper products to distribution sites for survivors in need.

Orphan Grain Train (OGT), will also be partnering to provide requested items to designated sites. A shipment will arrive in Maui this week for those in need.

You can go to their website [www.lutheranchurchcharities.org](http://www.lutheranchurchcharities.org) to read more information or to inquire on how you can volunteer.



## **RALLY SUNDAY**

Welcome Back to Sunday School!

We hope everyone is doing well and had a wonderful Summer! We look forward to seeing all of our students for the kick-off to the Sunday School year on Rally Sunday, September 10.

Classes will meet every Sunday beginning at 9:15am and end at 10:20am. If your children have a friend they would like to bring to Sunday school, please encourage them to do so. Friends are always welcome!



## **THANK YOU!**

A BIG Thank you to Steve Stayner and Gia Winkler for the amazing Farewell dinner they put on for Pastor Murr and his family. We will miss you Pastor Jim and Karen.

