

CHIMES Newsletter

DECEMBER 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 12

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAIME

As the evenings lengthen and the days grow colder, we enter into the season of waiting, watching, and preparation for the birth of Jesus. The season of Advent is upon us. The church calendar year comes to a close with Christ the King Sunday and begins a new year with the season of Advent. I find it interesting that we begin a new year with a season of waiting, watching, and preparation. Oftentimes, how we begin sets the tone for what comes next. How we begin sets the stage for how things will be. For me, I often want to have a strong start, getting ahead of it all to really be on top of things as time gets going. But the start of our church year is marked by our waiting for the coming of Christ. In waiting there are gifts that we may not notice if we just charged ahead. When we wait, we open ourselves up to notice more things around us, to listen and look attentively at where we find ourselves, and to breathe more deeply in this space and time. In our waiting, we set the tone for what lies ahead.

In this season of waiting, how will you spend your time? How will you set the tone for this new church year? At this particular time and in this particular place we are given a unique opportunity to orient ourselves in a new way towards Christ. The world we once knew has been shaken up and turned upside down and the pieces are just beginning to settle. We are left to navigate new terrain and discern, "where do we go from here?". We cannot go back to where we were because not only has the landscape shifted, but we too have been changed. The way forward may not always be clear and we may not always get it "right" on our first try, but seeking out and following Jesus is still our calling. This Advent, I pray in our waiting, watching, and preparation, we might look deeply, listen intently, and soak in all this time has to offer. And when the time comes, may each of us be as bold and as faithful as the Magi who followed that star many years ago relying on the promised hope of the newborn king.

Advent blessings to you,
Pastor Jaime

OUR CHURCH

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION

**New
Members**
W·E·L·C·O·M·E

Please join us as we welcome the following members to the Bethlehem family on Sunday, December 5th:

*June Benson
Tyler, Kristy, Mikayla, & Zane Bovre
Beth Gilpin*



UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 1

6:30 pm Confirmation Potluck

DECEMBER 3

Marketplace set up

DECEMBER 4

Christmas Tree set up & decorating

DECEMBER 5

Gifts of Bethlehem Auction starts
10 am S.S. Parents Meet/Greet w/ Pr.

DECEMBER 6

6:30 pm D.R. Mission Trip Meeting

DECEMBER 7

5 pm Finance Meeting

DECEMBER 8

Food Pantry Helpers
6:30 pm Confirmation Game Night

DECEMBER 12

4 pm Gifts of Bethlehem Concert

DECEMBER 16

6:30 pm Council Meeting

DECEMBER 19

9 am SS Sings during Worship
Hope House Bake Sale

DECEMBER 22

5:30 pm Blue Christmas Service

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

We are looking to fill some spots on a few different committees: **Stewardship & Church Council**.

- Stewardship: we technically don't have a committee right now & are looking for people to help out. Stewardship covers projects such as the annual ministry fair (time & talents), volunteer appreciation, financial planning workshops, the annual stewardship campaign, other special projects.
- Church Council: two spots will be open in 2022. Council is a three year term.

Please prayerfully consider being involved and joining one of these committees. Contact the office if you are interested.

WE RISE BY LIFTING OTHERS

The Local & Global Committee will help with River Haven on a new campaign called "We Rise by Lifting Others". This is a community-wide campaign that promotes helping our members and others in need which, in return, will help River Haven. During this campaign, Bethlehem volunteers will help others with small projects, yard work, etc. and encourage that person to make a financial donation to River Haven in return for the work. This will be in lieu of "God's Work, Our Hands" this year. There are volunteer forms you can pick up in the narthex. If you volunteer, please fill out one of these forms and return it to River Haven.

If you are in need of some help around your home with a project, please let us know.



GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM CONCERT & AUCTION



Gifts of Bethlehem

Our annual Gifts of Bethlehem concert will be held Sunday, December 12 at 4 pm.

We will once again have an auction the week before the event. It will take place both online and in person. We will be collecting gift baskets until Friday, December 3rd, which you can drop off at the church office. The auction will be open for one week starting Sunday, December 5th and closing the day of the concert. You can view and bid



on the items online and in person during office hours or after worship service to bid in person. To see items online, you can visit this website:

<https://www.biddingowl.com/BLC>

BLUE CHRISTMAS EVENING PRAYER



While Advent is a season of hope and Christmas is a season of joy, not everyone feels hopeful or like celebrating. Grief, illness, aging, depression, loneliness, unemployment, and loss are magnified. Even those who are not struggling with losses may feel the stress of preparations and expectations around Christmas time. This year we will be having a **Blue Christmas service on Wednesday, December 22nd at 5:30 pm** to hopefully provide a time and place of solace during this often frenetic season surrounding the celebration of Christmas. We will come together to seek healing and give room to share grief, sadness, loneliness, or confusion when these emotions often feel out of place during the holidays. Please join us as you feel comfortable. **Pr. Jaime is looking for volunteers to read during this service. Please contact the office or Pr. Jaime.**

PRAISE TEAM & CHOIR CHIMES



Choir members and anyone who likes to sing. I would like to get the praise team going again. We need guitar players, drummer and singers. We will be all singing the melody and I will

pick out some easy songs. We will meeting after church on January 9.

Choir chimes are similar to hand bells but are mellow. I am willing to start a choir chime group which would be open to anyone grades 3 and up. You do not have to be able to read music. If we have enough interest in starting a group we will go ahead and buy

some chimes. Please contact me if interested either phone: 608-697-2887 or email:

cgerhardt@frontier.com.

Carla Gerhart

CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SCHEDULE



As we all know, Christmas services are very well attended. It is our main goal to provide options for worship that are as safe as possible and to give people choices based on their comfort level. Historically, our early (4:30 pm) Christmas Eve service is quite full in comparison to the later service. With that said, we are adding another service earlier in the day to help spread out the attendance. We share this information to help you make a decision that is best for you. Please note, one of the services will be live-streamed for you to view at home, as well as an option to listen from your car in the church parking lot.

December 24th: 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, and 6:30 pm. Masks are highly encouraged.

December 26th: Lessons & Carols – we are looking for a few people to read for this service.

December 29th: No Worship

ELCA GOOD GIFTS



As members of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), we believe that God is calling us into the world – together. And with generous,

loving hands, we can make a difference. This year we

are hoping to make that difference with the Good Gifts Giving Tree.

ELCA Good Gifts is your opportunity to provide critical support to the ministries and programs that mean the most to you and the people you love.

In the entryway to church will be a tree with ornaments. Each ornament will have a gift you can contribute towards. How it works:

1. Select an ornament off the tree – it's yours to take home
2. Two ways to give:
 - a. Put your money in a Good Gifts envelope (they will be near the tree) with your name and dollar amount and turn it in with your normal offerings or into the office. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem. At the end of Advent, we will send the money to the ELCA.
 - b. You can visit <https://goodgifts.elca.org/> and contribute directly to the ELCA
3. If you are giving this gift in honor of someone, there are cards available next to the tree to let them know of your contribution.

Let's help make a real difference in the lives of people in need.

HOPE HOUSE

Sunday, December 19th there will be a bake sale to raise money for Hope House of South Central Wisconsin. Hope House's mission is to prevent abuse and provide support to victims of domestic and sexual violence in Sauk, Columbia, Juneau, Marquette, and Adams Counties. Hope House is in need of certain items and, Maddie Cook has made it a goal to donate 200 items this Christmas season and is looking for our help to reach that goal.

You can help by donating a baked good for the bake sale, bringing in needed items (a box and list will be in the narthex) or shopping online using their Amazon Wish List. Watch the weekly news and bulletins for this link.



You can visit the Hope House website if you'd like to learn

more information about the organization:

<https://www.hopehousescw.org/>

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving.

There will be no Sunday school on Sunday, December 26th, or January 2nd.

December 5th Pr. Jaime will be coming to class to have a meet &

greet with the Sunday School Parents and children in grades 3rd -5th. Parents, we hope to see you there.

We will be singing on December 19th during the church service and for Gifts of Bethlehem concert on December 12th at 4 pm. Following the December 19th service, we will be hosting an expanded coffee hour in place of class this day.

Our lessons for December are Zechariah-Luke1:68-79, John the Baptist-Luke 3:1-18, Mary Visits Elizabeth-Luke1:39-55.

We hope you all have a Very Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year. We are very grateful to have your child/ren in Sunday School this year. If you have any questions, please contact Jeanette Gessner at 742-8369/617-5228.

THANK YOU!



The 9th Graders had most of the items they were able to purchase or make on display Sunday, November 14th and hosted a nice coffee hour as a thank you. They give a heart-felt Thank You to all who donated and helped with their project.



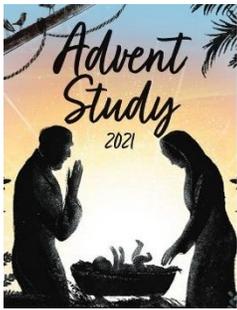
CONFIRMATION

Here is the Confirmation schedule for December:

- December 1st Family Potluck, Q&A with Pr. Jaime, Acolyte Training – 6:30pm ([Potluck online sign up](#))
- December 8th Class – Game Night (9th Graders invited) – 6:30 pm
- December 15th Class – Service Project – 6:30pm
- December 22nd No Class – Christmas Break
- December 29th No Class – Christmas Break
- January 5th Class – 6:30 pm

[Here](#) is the link to sign up to bring snacks for the kids since many come right from other activities.

ADVENT STUDY



Rejoice and reflect this Advent season through study and prayer. ELCA World Hunger's 2021 Advent study is full of weekly devotions. These booklets and matching advent calendars will be in the narthex for anyone who wishes to use them. Please only take one calendar per household.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

LEARN HOW TO RUN WORSHIP LIVESTREAM



We are looking for more people who would like to be trained on how to run the video equipment to live stream Sunday worship. This position helps us reach our members who are not able to join us in person. ***It is a***

blessing that we are able to offer this service with the volunteers we have. We would like to be able to continue, but we really do need more help. A huge thank you to all who have been helping already. If you are interested, please contact the office.

PLEDGE CARDS

Thank you to everyone who has returned their fall pledge cards. If you have not yet returned it to the office, you still have time. This helps the Finance Committee in determining the budget for the next fiscal year. Thank you for your help!

TEXT MESSAGE OPT-IN

We have a great feature in our church

database that allows us to send out text messages to our members.

These messages would be for the following: meeting reminders, special



announcements, event reminders, Christian education updates, inclement weather closings. You can sign up by going to this website:

<https://bethlehempottage.360members.com/opt-in/texting>

You can take a picture of this QR code with your smart phone's camera and it will take you directly to the website to sign up.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30. You will be receiving a letter in the mail in early January with more details.

OFFERING ENVELOPES

If you received paper offering envelopes last year, your new envelopes will be ready to pick up Sunday, December 5th. If you opted to have an offering number



last year (500 number), your number will stay the same – there will be no change for you. If you want envelopes and you can't find yours in the narthex, contact the

church office. If you are interesting in ways to make giving simpler by using automatic electronic payments, you can either see our [Offering page](#) on our website or contact the church office. Thank you for your continued generosity and support.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS



December 24th & 31st

The church office will be closed on Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison
November 2021

	TOTAL			
	NOV 2021	NOV 2020 (PY)	JAN - NOV, 2021 (YTD)	JAN - NOV, 2020 (PY YTD)
▼ Income				
▶ Income	17,675.98	16,275.50	225,786.67	271,891.30
▶ Other Income	4,969.84	510.00	31,517.89	10,867.68
Total Income	\$22,645.82	\$16,785.50	\$257,304.56	\$282,758.98
GROSS PROFIT	\$22,645.82	\$16,785.50	\$257,304.56	\$282,758.98
▼ Expenses				
▶ Operating Expenses	20,947.15	17,500.69	203,587.83	214,081.63
▶ Other Expense	15,368.72	1,084.62	21,256.89	4,370.38
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Exp...				0.00
Total Expenses	\$36,315.87	\$18,585.31	\$224,844.72	\$218,452.01
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -13,670.05	\$ -1,799.81	\$32,459.84	\$64,306.97
▶ Other Income	\$5,350.00	\$2,036.22	\$28,139.19	\$11,341.10
▶ Other Expenses	\$4,797.50	\$1,861.52	\$26,664.55	\$10,776.24
NET OTHER INCOME	\$552.50	\$174.70	\$1,474.64	\$564.86
NET INCOME	\$ -13,117.55	\$ -1,625.11	\$33,934.48	\$64,871.83

Cash basis Monday, November 22, 2021 02:05 PM GMT-06:00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

December 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 making live wreath 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation Potluck & Acolyte Training	2	3 Setting up market place 10:30 am Tai Chi	4 setting up tree & decorating
			5 Gifts of Bethlehem Auction Starts 9:00 am Worship & New Member Installation 10 am SS Meet the Pastor	6 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:30 pm Dominican Republic Meeting	7 5:00 pm Finance	8 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation Game Night
12 Gifts of Bethlehem Auction Ends 9:00 am Worship 10 am S.S. 4pm Gifts of Bethlehem Concert	13 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:00 pm SREA meeting	14 take down marketplace	15 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	16 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	17 Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	18
19 9:00 am Worship - Sunday School Children Sing 10:00 am S.S. Hosts Coffee Hour	20 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:30 pm SRA	21	22 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Blue Christmas Service	23	24 Christmas Eve Office Closed 2:30 pm Worship 4:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Worship	25 Christmas Day
26 9:00 am Lessons & Carols	27 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club	28	29 10:30 am Tai Chi	30	31 Office Closed 10:30 am Tai Chi	

