

# CHIMES Newsletter

FEBRUARY 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 2

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

### Psalm 121

- <sup>1</sup> I lift up my eyes to the hills—  
from where will my help come?  
<sup>2</sup> My help comes from the Lord,  
who made heaven and earth.  
<sup>3</sup> He will not let your foot be moved;  
He who keeps you will not slumber.  
<sup>4</sup> He who keeps Israel  
will neither slumber nor sleep.  
<sup>5</sup> The Lord is your keeper;  
the Lord is your shade at your right hand.  
<sup>6</sup> The sun shall not strike you by day,  
nor the moon by night.  
<sup>7</sup> The Lord will keep you from all evil;  
He will keep your life.  
<sup>8</sup> The Lord will keep  
your going out and your coming in  
from this time on and forevermore.

Sometimes simply sitting together, abiding together in scripture and in prayer. I chose this psalm because it's one of my favorites. I notice that this psalm speaks to me in any situation I find myself. I notice that even though this psalm begins with lifting one's eyes to the hills in question, the rest of the psalm is about God.

I wonder in what situation is the psalmist? I wonder if the psalmist realized these things about God while walking, or if these were things they learned from the faith community. I notice that when I read this psalm and then pray, that in the quiet of my prayer I know these promises are true. I wonder what God is saying to you.

Peace be with you. Peace be in you. Peace show through you.

Amen, amen, amen.  
Pastor Jen



### UPCOMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 2

Finance Committee 6:30 pm

FEBRUARY 6

1 pm Confirmation Activity

FEBRUARY 8

Dwelling in the Word 2 pm

All Committee Meeting 7:00 pm

FEBRUARY 9-15

Pr. Jen out of office/vacation

FEBRUARY 11

Dwelling in the Word 7:30 pm

FEBRUARY 17

Lifeline Screening

Ash Wednesday Drive-in Worship  
5:30pm

FEBRUARY 18

Council Meeting 6:30 pm

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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608-742-8502

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[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)



"My sincere thank you to all for your prayers, get well cards, phone calls and wonderful thoughtfulness while I was ill. It's so heart-warming to know how great the family of Bethlehem is to their fellow man."

Del Molden

## OUR CHURCH

### DWELLING IN THE WORD

# Dwelling in the WORD



Dwelling in the Word Bible study groups via zoom will continue to be offered on the second Tuesday of each month at 2 pm and the second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. You can use the same Zoom link each month. All are welcome to attend! The Zoom information is below:

Time: Feb 8, 2021 02:00 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/99320101294?pwd=U0NkUXBtNjNeVVxWHpqQlNtclhXUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 2010 1294

Passcode: 587048

Time: Feb 11, 2021 07:30 PM

<https://zoom.us/j/95992050322?pwd=QXRtdWRiQ2ljdIEzUmMyRC9aTWpVZz09>

Meeting ID: 959 9205 0322

Passcode: 949055

### NO INTERNET, COMPUTER FOR CHURCH?

Do you not have a computer or connection to the internet at home to be able to enjoy “online” church? And are you not able or comfortable coming to church in person? BLC has purchased tablets that we can bring to those that have not been able to be a part of church worship services during the pandemic. You will be paired with a “buddy” who will either bring you the tablet and leave it for you to watch or will stay and watch church with you. If you are interested in this, please call the church office: 608-742-8502. We are also looking for “buddies”: people that would bring the tablet to those in need, watch it with them or drop it off, start it and pick it up later.



### ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



Please mark your calendars for **Sunday, February 7th** for our Annual Congregational Meeting. **The meeting will be held via Zoom** which is a free video conferencing software you use on your computer, tablet or cell phone. For those without any of those devices or the internet, there is an option to call in. Please be aware, there will be a long distance charge for the call. **Check-in starting at 10am with the meeting starting at 10:30am.** We have a check-in time to allow for people to log into their devices and call in as well as do roll call. This will also allow for any time to fix any technical issues people may have. Julie will be providing Zoom training for those not quite comfortable with Zoom and for those calling in. Those times are listed in the next article. If you do plan to attend and are calling in, please let Julie know as it will be easier to identify members as they call in and will make for an easier job for those taking roll call.

We will be voting on the changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that were presented in the November Chimes. Since then, there have been two additional changes suggested which have to do with allowing us to hold an electronic meeting and a clarification in what a written ballot is. These additional changes were sent out in an email with the annual report. They were also printed for those picking up a hard copy of the annual report. You will also find them listed after this article. There will be an opening on the council which we will vote on. If you are interested in being on the ballot or want more information, please contact the office. We would like to have a ballot ready for the meeting.

**Church members that should attend are voting members:** those who have donated and communed in the previous calendar year. Due to Covid-19 that will be 2019. If you question whether you are a voting member, please contact the office.

## Here is the Zoom Link and call in number for the Annual Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/92714899557?pwd=WFI2ekJ6cld1TFdYUTVYM25QVG1oUT09>

Meeting ID: 927 1489 9557

Passcode: 250894

Dial by your location

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

## ADDITIONAL CONSTITUTION CHANGES

Below are the additional suggested changes to the Constitution.

### Addition of:

**C10.08. This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.**

### Current:

C12.02. The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected.

### Suggested:

C12.02 The members of the Congregation Council except the pastor(s) shall be elected by written **(recorded)** ballot to serve for 3 years or until their successors are elected.

The word “recorded” is being added for clarification, which came from guidance from the Synod that the ballot does not need to be hard copy, but recorded allowing for us to take votes when using an electronic platform like Zoom.

## ZOOM TRAINING

Julie Saalsaa will be holding several training sessions before the meeting to make sure everyone attending feels comfortable and confident with using Zoom. You will pick one or



more of the following dates to attend. All you need to do is click on the link to join the meeting or call the number if you are using your phone. Julie will guide you through how to use Zoom so when the meeting happens you'll be a pro!

### **If you are using Zoom on your computer, phone, tablet for the first time for training**

Here is a great YouTube Video that will help you open Zoom for the first time. Watch this first before you attend a training: <https://youtu.be/9isp3qPeQOE>

### **If you call in for training**

1. Dial the Chicago number – note long distance charges will apply
2. It will ask you to enter the “meeting ID” – that is listed below and is difference for each meeting
3. It will then ask if you are a host or participant. You are a participant; follow the directions for a participant.
4. It will then ask for the “passcode” – that is listed below and is different for each meeting.
5. You may have to wait until the host, Julie, lets you into the meeting.

These links will also be posted on our website:

[www.bethlehemCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemCportage.org)

You can attend one or as many as you like. If none of these times work for you, call the office. **You can come anytime during the one-hour time slot (it's open house style) and you don't have to stay the entire time.**

### **Offering daily training 11 am to 12pm, Jan 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> & Feb 1<sup>st</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup>**

<https://zoom.us/j/97854370519?pwd=dWJmOWVaMUZ2a3lpTFZ5cVINQXY3Zz09>

Call in use: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 978 5437 0519

Passcode: 065569

### **Thursday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/94009285804?pwd=dldwaVN2TmZjbVlOS3BEeE1rcVlOZz09>

Call in use: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 940 0928 5804

Passcode: 951336

### **Sunday, Jan 31<sup>st</sup>, 11 am**

<https://zoom.us/j/92910157078?pwd=OUdaMFEyNURpVjhqZW44WmNLazVjZz09>

Call in use: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

Meeting ID: 929 1015 7078

Passcode: 602733

**Thursday, Feb 4<sup>th</sup>, 7pm**

<https://zoom.us/j/97549359870?pwd=UVIJOTFzUyswZkdKMnNYdzd6VmNxQT09>

Call in use: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)  
Meeting ID: 975 4935 9870  
Passcode: 231457

*Want to share your faith story or moment when you felt God present in your life? Contact Pastor Jen or the church office.*

ALL COMMITTEE MEETING



**Monday, February 8<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm**

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/93071984276?pwd=ajBzbXVqS3N6d2xUZWpNclhaaFhaUT09>

Meeting ID: 930 7198 4276  
Passcode: 305579

IN PERSON WORSHIP AGAIN



Starting Sunday, February 21<sup>st</sup> we will start to offer in person worship on Sundays at 9am as well as Wednesdays at 5:30pm. Reservations will be required as we will cap the attendance to 15 members (this does not include the worship volunteers). The Covid-19 Task Force will look at the current case trends every two weeks to reevaluate the number allowed inside. We will follow the same protocol as before:

- masks are mandatory
- you will be asked to use hand sanitizer after entering the church building (you can use your own if you have some)
- pews will be marked off and seating will be at least 6 feet apart
- prepackaged communion will be offered (you can bring your own if you feel more comfortable)

- maximum of 2 people in the bathroom at one time
- the building fans will be running to help circulate the air
- reservations – You can call or email the church office during office hours, but please note no one checks the voice mail after noon on Fridays. If you sign up over the weekend, use our online form found on our website’s home page. A link will always be shared in the weekly email as well.

Here is what you can expect: When you arrive, you will be greeted by the usher who will check your name off the reservation list. You will then be asked to use hand sanitizer upon entering the narthex where you will pick up your bulletin, communion card and communion. You will be able to seat yourself in the designated pews, but in doing so we ask that you respect the space of those around you by keeping at least a 6 ft distance from others already in the church. There will be music but no signing at this time. Upon leaving you can place your communion card and offerings in the bowls near the exits. We ask that there be no visiting inside the narthex. We want everyone who comes to feel comfortable and safe and by following the protocol we can play our part in doing so.

FAITH FORMATION

CONFIRMATION DURING LENT



During Lent, there will be no Wednesday night confirmation classes. For those comfortable meeting in person, on Feb. 6<sup>th</sup> at 1pm we will have an Activity Day outside at church which will include burning of the palms for Ash Wednesday, like we did last year. We will have confirmation through February 10th and then students should use the Lenten calendar for the remainder of Lent through Holy Week. The calendar will be emailed out and can also be found on the [Faith Formation page](#) on our website. Activities do not need to be completed in order. Students and families can choose when to complete them. Please email [youthfamblc@gmail.com](mailto:youthfamblc@gmail.com) photos of any activities you complete so we can share with the congregation!

Classes will resume April 7th with an in-person option. There will be an activity offered in March most likely on a weekend- stay tuned for this.



## PJ TIME VIDEO STORY READERS NEEDED

We have had several church members volunteer to read a bible



story from the Sparks Story bible for our PJ Time videos for the Sunday School children. These videos are then shared on our website and YouTube channel. **We are in need of story tellers.** If you want to see what it is all about you can view them here:

<https://www.bethlehemlcpportage.org/faith-formation.html>

We have a list of specific stories that need to be read. You can pick up a Sparks Story bible from church and record it at home, or you come into church and Julie will record it for you. All ages are welcome to read. If you are interested, please contact the church office. Thank you!

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### NEW OFFERING ENVELOPES

The 2021 offering envelopes have arrived and are ready for pick up. They are located by the staff offices. Please note: new envelope numbers were assigned this year.



### BLC LOGO UPDATE

We had a good response for voting on the logo – 56 responses. Thank you to all who participated and to those who sent in logo ideas. We ended up with a tie between Option 3 and Option 4 – both receiving 22 votes. We will need to revote to break the tie. A few minor changes were made to the logos to make them more suitable for printing in black and white. I have included what they will look like in black and white as well. You can vote by calling church, emailing or using [this form](#).

#### OPTION #3



#### OPTION #4



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT COPIES



**ANNUAL REPORT**

If the office has your email, you should have received an email with a copy of the annual report and the suggested changes to the Constitution and Bylaws on Friday, Jan 22. For those without email, you can pick up a copy in the church office. Copies will also be available on Sundays for those that drive in for Worship.

## FOOD PANTRY HELPERS NEEDED

BLC is going to start helping the Portage Food Pantry on a monthly basis to pack food boxes. We will be getting trained on Feb. 10<sup>th</sup> at 4 pm. If you would like to be trained, please let the church office know. The time commitment from you would only be about 1 hour per time. We would send two people at a time. This would be a great thing to do with family members or someone you see on a regular basis. Thank you!!

## LIFELINE SCREENING



Lifeline Screening has been here in the past and they will be here again on February 17<sup>th</sup> to offer health screenings. Life Line Screening looks inside your arteries for dangerous plaque buildup that can increase your risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease. If you are interested in reserving a spot you can register here: <https://www.lifelinescreening.com/community-circle>

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

Below is this month's financial report and a condensed summary of 2020's financial statement. More detailed information will be in the annual report. Thanks for your continued support of the ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

#### PROFIT AND LOSS COMPARISON

January 1-20, 2021

	TOTAL				
	JAN 1-20, 2021	JAN 1-20, 2020 (PY)	DEC 1-20, 2020 (PP)	JAN 1-20, 2021 (YTD)	JAN 1-20, 2020 (PY YTD)
<b>Income</b>					
Income	11,726.73	12,260.40	19,731.73	11,726.73	12,260.40
Other Income		739.68	375.00		739.68
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$11,726.73</b>	<b>\$13,000.08</b>	<b>\$20,106.73</b>	<b>\$11,726.73</b>	<b>\$13,000.08</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$11,726.73</b>	<b>\$13,000.08</b>	<b>\$20,106.73</b>	<b>\$11,726.73</b>	<b>\$13,000.08</b>
<b>Expenses</b>					
Operating Expenses	12,572.41	17,112.37	13,576.03	12,572.41	17,112.37
Other Expense			4,000.00		
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$12,572.41</b>	<b>\$17,112.37</b>	<b>\$17,576.03</b>	<b>\$12,572.41</b>	<b>\$17,112.37</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -845.68</b>	<b>\$ -4,112.29</b>	<b>\$2,530.70</b>	<b>\$ -845.68</b>	<b>\$ -4,112.29</b>
Other Income	\$2,100.00	\$1,350.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,350.00
Other Expenses	\$2,031.25	\$1,326.75	\$1,588.00	\$2,031.25	\$1,326.75
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$68.75</b>	<b>\$23.25</b>	<b>\$112.00</b>	<b>\$68.75</b>	<b>\$23.25</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -776.93</b>	<b>\$ -4,089.04</b>	<b>\$2,642.70</b>	<b>\$ -776.93</b>	<b>\$ -4,089.04</b>

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

#### PROFIT AND LOSS COMPARISON

January - December 2020

	TOTAL	
	JAN - DEC 2020	JAN - DEC 2019 (PY YTD)
<b>Income</b>		
Income	300,583.98	260,857.53
Other Income	11,252.68	40,388.46
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$311,836.66</b>	<b>\$301,245.99</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$311,836.66</b>	<b>\$301,245.99</b>
<b>Expenses</b>		
Operating Expenses	231,707.97	234,101.97
Other Expense	8,345.38	37,896.96
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Expense	0.00	2,529.52
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$240,053.35</b>	<b>\$274,528.45</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$71,783.31</b>	<b>\$26,717.54</b>
Other Income	\$13,041.10	\$19,767.37
Other Expenses	\$12,364.24	\$17,907.88
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$676.86</b>	<b>\$1,859.49</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$72,460.17</b>	<b>\$28,577.03</b>

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# February 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<b>1</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 11:00 am Zoom Training 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>2</b> 11:00 am Zoom Training 6:30 pm Finance Committee	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 11:00 am Zoom Training 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Chat 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>4</b> 11:00 am Zoom Training 7:00 pm Zoom Training	<b>5</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 11:00 am Zoom Training	<b>6</b> 1 pm Confirmation Activity at church
<b>7</b> 9:00 am Worship Online 10:00 am Annual Congregational Meeting via Zoom	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 2:00 pm Dwelling in the Word w/ Pastor Jen 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:00 pm SREA meeting 7:00 pm All Committee Meeting	<b>9</b> PrJ Vacation	<b>10</b> PrJ Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>11</b> PrJ Vacation 7:30 pm Dwelling in the Word w/ Chaplin Mark	<b>12</b> PrJ Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>13</b> PrJ Vacation
<b>14</b> PrJ Vacation 9:00 am Worship Online	<b>15</b> PrJ Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> Ash Wednesday LifeLine Screening 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Drive-in Worship	<b>18</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>19</b> Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>20</b>
<b>21</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In person	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship Online & In person	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>27</b>
<b>28</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In person						

