

# CHIMES Newsletter

JANUARY 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 1

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

Epiphany; the day the magi, the wise men from the east enter the biblical scene. They come from somewhere beyond the reaches of Judaism, where the God of Israel is not known. This is not to say that the wise men were without faith. Indeed they were! It is said that the wise men were priests in Zoroastrianism, a religion practice in what is now western Iran. We've often labeled the magi as astrologers or sorcerers; perhaps because they saw a star and saw it as a sign? or perhaps because they knew things that others didn't? Whatever the case, these were devout people who, like the Israelites, worshiped one god. The founder of this religion was Zarathustra, also known as Zoroaster, was an Iranian prophet and religious reformer.

Zoroastrianism which is still practiced today in areas of Iran and India, is a faith where adherents believe in one universal, transcendent, all-good, and uncreated supreme creator deity. Flourishing before the 6th century BCE, this religion likely influenced the three Abrahamic faiths; Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. I share this with you to broaden your appreciation for this day that we observe each year on January 6th.

An epiphany: a realization about the nature or essence of something; a divine manifestation; an aha moment that speaks to the center of who we are. I have had epiphanies. I remember having them. I remember that great sense of awakening and awareness that accompanies such an event. I know my life was forever changed each time I had one. The odd part is that now, untold years later, I don't remember what the epiphanies were. Seriously. I haven't a clue.

But maybe that is part of what an epiphany is. Maybe an epiphany is at once profound and earth-moving, and at the same time so very basic that it doesn't get stored in our memories but instead becomes part of our very being. I like to think that what happened to Melchior, Gaspar, and Balthazar. When they saw the star (the convergence of Jupiter and Saturn?) they were stirred to follow it. When they arrived at the place where they were led they found not just a child, but Jesus the Christ. I like to think that at the moment these men saw Jesus they had an epiphany that embodies all definitions of the word. I like to imagine this was an event that they never forgot. I like to imagine that seeing God With Us changed their lives forever, from the inside out. I like to imagine these things because I know they happen in our day and our time. They happen to me. They happen to you. They happen to us, the family of faith called Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Amen, amen, amen.

Pastor Jen



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 1

New Year's Day – Office closed

JANUARY 5

Finance Committee 6 pm

JANUARY 6 EPIPHANY

Committee Reports for Annual Report due to office

JANUARY 11

Dwelling in the Word 2 pm

JANUARY 15

Voting deadline for new church logo

JANUARY 21

Council Meeting 6:30 pm

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA**

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## OUR CHURCH

### DWELLING IN THE WORD

# Dwelling in the WORD



Pr. Jen will continue to offer Dwelling in the Word Bible study groups via zoom the second Tuesday of each month at 2 pm. You can use the same Zoom link each month. All are welcome to attend! The Zoom information is below:

Time: Jan 11, 2020 02:00 PM Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/99320101294?pwd=U0NkUXBITnJNeVVxWHpqQlNtclhXUT09>

Meeting ID: 993 2010 1294

Passcode: 587048

### NO INTERNET, COMPUTER OR 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.



### CALL COMMITTEE

#### **THANK YOU, congregation members!**

The recent Bethlehem Lutheran Ministry Survey with your input on church life and ministry questions was successful! We had over 100 individual or household responses that will help guide us toward determining a candidate for a pastor called to serve and lead our congregation.

The committee is processing the results from the questions and reviewing comments. A profile of our church will then be put together and with council and synod help we will reach out to candidates for interviews. Thanks, and stayed tuned for more updates!

Respectfully, Jeff Melby

*The Call Committee's goal is to have good communication with congregation members of Bethlehem throughout the call process. We will strive for frequent communication to you via announcement updates, the Chimes, the church website, etc. The pastoral call is not simply the committee's decision. We are reaching out to members of Bethlehem of all ages to help and guide us as we determine a profile for our church life and find the optimum fit for a pastor we will call.*

*As a quick reminder, we are still in the 3-year renewal time with Pastor Jen. The renewal process for our church began with and includes the option of a call to Pastor Jen as candidate if our profile results show her candidacy is a good fit for our church. This will also be a part of the call decision in the upcoming year.*

### COMMUNION

Due to the Pandemic and difficulty keeping track of communion count with online services, Council is not able to strictly enforce the Bylaws requirement for voting purposes. We highly encourage all members to find their way to have weekly communion and keep track. If you'd like to provide the church office with a count monthly or the weekly card we appreciate that.

## NEW MEMBERS

# New Members

W • E • L • C • O • M • E

We would like to formally welcome the following people as members of Bethlehem:

Butch, Sherry, Kelly, Megan, & Jake Jahoda



Judy and Conrad Ellingson



Joli, Nathan, Gerald, & Oleatta Guenther



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

## GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM SILENT AUCTION

We just completed a special event that helped raise money for our community. The Gifts of Bethlehem Silent Auction raised \$2542.49.

With the proceeds from the Silent Auction, we were able

to make additional donations to our local Community and Synod organizations.

The total donations for the year we made were:

River Haven \$1500

Food Pantry \$300

PACAP-Clergy Relief \$1000

ELCA SCSW- \$1540

ELCA World Hunger-\$987

Thank you to all who have participated in the Gifts of Bethlehem silent auction and video recording.



## QUILT DRAWING



Congratulations to Marie Rohrbacher who was the winner of this beautiful quilt which was handcrafted with love by: Christie Rhinehart, Joanne Hanson, and Denise Bandt of Starry Lane Quilting. The drawing raised \$249.

## ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7<sup>TH</sup>.** Time and format to be determined. Please attend this important meeting. We will be voting on the proposed changes to the Constitution and Bylaws that were in the November Chimes.

There will also be an open seat on the Council which will be voted on. Council members hold a 3 year term. If you are interested in being on the ballot or would like more information, please contact the church office.

## 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.



**LOGO FOR BETHLEHEM**

Four logos have been submitted for your consideration. Please cast your **vote by January 15<sup>th</sup>** by calling the church office at 608-742-8502 or by sending an email to [bethluch15@gmail.com](mailto:bethluch15@gmail.com).

**OPTION 1**



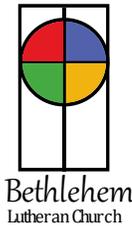
**OPTION 2**



**OPTION 3**



**OPTION 4**



Note about the log: digital version of Margaret Molden's painting of Bethlehem.

Note about the logo: Colors are ELCA colors. The symbol represents the architecture throughout our church building.

**FINANCIAL UPDATE**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

**PROFIT AND LOSS COMPARISON**

December 1-21, 2020

	TOTAL				
	DEC 1-21, 2020	DEC 1-21, 2019 (PY)	NOV 1-21, 2020 (PP)	JAN 1 - DEC 21, 2020 (YTD)	JAN 1 - DEC 21, 2019 (PY YTD)
<b>Income</b>					
Income	19,906.73	17,646.73	14,066.00	291,708.12	252,491.69
Other Income	575.00	1,912.18	250.00	11,417.68	40,311.46
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$20,481.73</b>	<b>\$19,558.91</b>	<b>\$14,316.00</b>	<b>\$303,125.80</b>	<b>\$292,803.15</b>
<b>GROSS PROFIT</b>	<b>\$20,481.73</b>	<b>\$19,558.91</b>	<b>\$14,316.00</b>	<b>\$303,125.80</b>	<b>\$292,803.15</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	<b>\$17,734.36</b>	<b>\$14,175.78</b>	<b>\$11,712.39</b>	<b>\$236,160.13</b>	<b>\$258,655.90</b>
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,747.37</b>	<b>\$5,383.13</b>	<b>\$2,603.61</b>	<b>\$66,965.67</b>	<b>\$34,147.25</b>
Other Income	\$1,500.00	\$2,315.00	\$2,036.22	\$12,841.10	\$19,767.37
Other Expenses	\$1,588.00	\$2,001.19	\$1,861.52	\$12,364.24	\$17,907.88
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$ -88.00</b>	<b>\$313.81</b>	<b>\$174.70</b>	<b>\$476.86</b>	<b>\$1,859.49</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$2,659.37</b>	<b>\$5,696.94</b>	<b>\$2,778.31</b>	<b>\$67,442.53</b>	<b>\$36,006.74</b>

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# January 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> Office Closed - New Year's Day 	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00 am Worship Online	<b>4</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>5</b> 6:00 pm Finance Committee 	<b>6</b> <b>Annual Report Items Due</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Chat 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>9</b>
<b>10</b> 9:00 am Worship Online	<b>11</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 Dwelling in the WORD 	<b>12</b>	<b>13</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Chat 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b> Chimes Articles Due <b>Voting deadline for church logo</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>16</b>
<b>17</b> 9:00 am Worship Online	<b>18</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Chat 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>21</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>23</b>
<b>24</b> 9:00 am Worship Online	<b>25</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Wednesday Evening Bible Chat 6:30 pm Confirmation Grades 6th - 8th Via Zoom	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>30</b>
<b>31</b> 9:00 am Worship Online						

