

*A family of God sharing Jesus and serving Him faithfully*

# The Bethlehem Record

*The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

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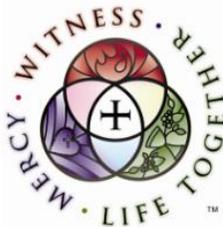
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**February 2015**

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### Our Mission Statement

As members of Bethlehem Lutheran Church who have been granted eternal life through Jesus Christ's death and resurrection, we worship Him as our Lord and seek to further His work of salvation through word and sacrament ministry in our community and world toward the goal of creating and strengthening personal faith in Him.

### The Pastor's Page

**The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'** *Luke 7:34*

One of our Pancake Day mission recipients is the Rural and Small Town Missions (RSTM) division of the Synods office of mission work. They provide services and resources for rural congregations looking for ideas, help, or ways to revitalize their ministries in their settings. One of their services is a monthly webinar (a presentation done over the Internet).

In January the webinar was on the topic "Don't They Know We're Here?" Mark Frith of Lutheran Hour Ministries was the guest presenter. Some of you may recognize his name as he served the Kansas district for many years as the contact for missions and stewardship. Much of what he presented came from his service in Kansas so there wasn't a ton of things I learned.

But one thing that did resonate with me is what he said about people becoming friends with new members of the church and community. He points out that there is a huge difference between just being friendly and being a friend.

In our strategic planning meetings we have talked about whether we are a friendly congregation or a cold one on Sunday morning. I think we are more on the friendly side but your impression and experience may be different.

But the point Rev. Frith was making is that it takes much more time and effort to truly befriend someone new than to simply offer a warm greeting on Sunday morning. He recalled his own upbringing and his family moving and going to a new church and how a family in this new church invited them to dinner. And it wasn't just one time. It happened again and again. This led to a much easier transition for him and his family to a new church home.

What can we do to be not only more friendly, but also more friend-ing? Well, like anything we think of doing, we must first repent and realize that has not happened like it should have. Only by the grace of God can we move forward knowing that our past sins and shortcomings have been covered by the blood of Jesus.

Then we must be faithful and courageous to be intentional in our efforts to connect with people. Connect at church, of course, but also in the community and in your homes. When was the last time you invited someone to dinner just to get to know them better?

Jesus dined with tax collectors and sinners. He shared in their food, their hopes and dreams, and their faith. He let them know that God's love and forgiveness were for them, too.

You want to befriend someone in church? Invite them to dinner! There are other ways, too, but this one really stands out in the Bible with Jesus.

*- Pastor Augustine*

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## February Stewardship Newsletter Article

“Be merciful as your Father in heaven is merciful” (Luke 6:36). The word for mercy that Jesus uses here has a more concrete meaning than what we typically associate with mercy. It means more than just being kind. It means to be concerned about your neighbor’s state and well-being. Thus, Jesus taught that we are to care, to be concerned about our neighbor’s state and well-being even as our Father in heaven cares for and is concerned about our state and well-being.

How has our Father in heaven cared for our state?  
How has He shown His concern for our well-being?  
How has He showered this mercy upon us?

He gave of Himself. He sent His only-begotten Son in human flesh, to become one of us—a man—and to suffer all that we suffer and to endure what we endure—a fallen world full of sinful people, temptation, the attacks of the devil, and death. He took upon Himself what rightfully belongs to us—sin and death—in order that He could give to us what rightfully belongs to Him—righteousness, purity, eternal life, and victory over the temptation of Satan and this fallen world. That is how He cared for our state. That is how He was concerned for our well-being. He entered into our state for the sake of our well-being, died in our place, rose for our justification, redeemed us to make all things new. He entered our state so that by water and His Word we would be granted entrance into His state as children of our Father in heaven. In other words, He had empathy toward us, which resulted in true sympathy.

Jesus, therefore, calls the church to empathy and sympathy for her neighbors. “Be merciful even as your Father in heaven is merciful.” He asks the church to give of herself, to enter into her neighbors’ state for their well-being. And the church gives of herself the only thing in her that is worth giving. As the Body of Christ, she gives Christ to her neighbors. She gives out the same mercy that she has received. She gives the mercy that the heavenly Father poured out upon her through the sending of His Son. And she does it through the preaching of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed, in Word and Sacrament. For this is how the church lives—in the forgiveness of sins received in the means of grace—and, therefore, this is what the church does. What else can she do?

And since this is how the church lives and what the church does, this is likewise how Christians live and what Christians do. That is why giving to the church is so important. It ensures that the proclamation of the forgiveness of sins in Word and Deed continues. It

ensures that our neighbors’ state and well-being is cared for and attended to. It ensures that our neighbors have access to our heavenly Father’s mercy just as we have received it here in time for all eternity.

Therefore, I say, let us be merciful even as our Father in heaven is merciful.

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## Board of Church Life

The BOCL meeting was held on Wed. Jan. 7. Members present were Gary Frederking, Kylie Ehrich, Barb Meitler, Warren Meitler, Ruth Mueller, & Pastor Augustine. Pastor opened with a prayer, minutes from Nov. meeting was read and approved, since we had such a short meeting in Dec. no minutes were wrote up.

The Holiday gift baskets went very well & very much appreciated, it was noted that it was mostly Sylvan people helping to deliver the baskets.

It was agreed that a sympathy card from our church would be appropriate to Pastor Gary Wolf & family. The next blood drive is scheduled for Jan 30 from 12:15 to 6:00 pm Ruth volunteered to get things set up (with tables, etc.) & also provide snacks & help with calling people. Barb & Gary also volunteered to help. We should have things set up & ready by 11:15 am.

The topic of our church ad in the Wilson Lake Advertisement came up, Gary made a motion to approve a 2 1/2" x 5" ad of Bethlehem Lutheran Church in the Wilson Lake Directory for \$90, seconded by Barb, motion carried. The money will come out of the Peach Cobbler stand, not the Endowment fund.

Pastor handed out guidelines for church greeters and ushers to look over. One book was purchased & more may be bought if we so desire.

An opportunity for our church service to be broadcast on Wilson Cable was brought up. Pastor will look into it more to see what it all entails, cost, etc.

We are looking forward to some new members joining us, Mary Powell, Dale & Shirley Krueger are going off the board. Kylie & Barb agreed to stay on another term.

The next meeting is scheduled for Feb. 3 at 8:00 pm. Greeter for February will be Gary Frederking. We concluded with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Ruth Mueller (sub. secretary)

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## Annual Meeting Summary

On January 25 following the church service, the voters gathered in the parish hall to tend to the business of the congregation. Here is an unofficial summary of the meeting.

The usual reports from Pastor, Elders, Financial Secretary, Treasurer, Endowment Committee, BOCL, and Trustees were presented and approved. The Elders presented a membership request for Lisa Gier, and it was approved.

The congregation approved the 2015 budget for missions and the home fund as presented, including the local mission and evangelism budget as funded by a 4% distribution from the Endowment Fund (which is what the Endowment is supposed to do):

Total Missions and Evangelism: \$9,470

Home Fund:

Staff:	\$77,200
Christian Education:	1,700
Worship:	800
Support:	5,500
Building & Grounds:	<u>25,800</u>

Total Home Fund: \$111,000

Over 52 Sundays, that averages \$2,134 per week in envelopes and other donations to the home fund. Gifts of grain and cattle are a tremendous help to the home fund.

Election results are as follows:

- President: John Thaumert
- Vice President: Dell Gier
- Treasurer: Rozella Trapp
- Financial Secretary: Emilie Wacker
- Trustee: Coleen Ancell
- Elder: Phil Chegwidan
- Board of Church Life: Kylie Ehrlich, Barb Meitler, Tyler Gier, Tara Kubick, Marcy Hurlbut

They will be installed on February 1.

All appointed boards were reappointed with the same members. Special offerings for 2015 were adjusted so Lutheran Bible Translators would be a beneficiary of our efforts on Good Friday. Also, any mission offerings received via envelopes and our special offerings that exceed the \$2,500.00 pledge to the Kansas District will be given to Lutheran Hour Ministries.

Strategic planning efforts will also continue in 2015 with additional meetings and opportunities for financial planning. Please keep your congregation in your prayers.

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## Baptismal Birthdays in February

*God's blessings to you for all His gifts of grace that you have received, and we pray for many more blessings for Jesus' sake!*



Aaron Augustine  
 Kayla Augustine  
 Mark Buttenhoff  
 Lyle Dohl  
 Marcus Fruits  
 Keith Meitler  
 Tyra Meyer

Toni Nelson  
 Mary Powell  
 Allen Serrien  
 Randall Serrien  
 Clara Sorensen  
 Rachel Thaumert

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## Acolyte Schedule February - March

February 1	Kayla Augustine
8*	Grace Chegwidan
15	Marshall Hurlbut
Ash Wednesday 18*+	Hannah Wolting
22*	Rachel Sebesta
25+	Kilby Meyer
March 1	Kayla Augustine
4+	Grace Chegwidan
8*	Marshall Hurlbut
11+	Hannah Wolting
15	Rachel Sebesta
18+	Kilby Meyer
22*	Kayla Augustine
25+	Hannah Wolting
29	Grace Chegwidan

\* Communion service  
 + Lent service

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## RSTM Webinar for February

Anyone interested can watch or listen via phone to these free webinars. February's topic is "Building Partnerships Between Congregations" presented by the Rev. Todd Kollbaum, director, LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission — Thursday, Feb. 19, 2015, 1-2 p.m. CST. Find out more at [www.lcms.org/rstm](http://www.lcms.org/rstm) or contact Pastor Augustine.

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## Usher Schedule for Rest of 2015

Contact Willis Becker with any changes.

<b><u>February</u></b> Gary Frederking Art Dohl Tyler Gier Lowell Fischer	<b><u>July</u></b> Ryan Schulteis John Thaemert Dave Hurlbut Kirk Schulteis
<b><u>March</u></b> Jerret Kubick Clarence Thrun Willis Becker Gary Sorensen	<b><u>August</u></b> Kenneth Small John Sorensen Aaron Augustine Tyler Gier
<b><u>April</u></b> John Thaemert Pete Falcon Brody Schofield Tanner Kubick	<b><u>September</u></b> Dean Thaemert Mark Sebesta Kenneth Becker Blake Chegwiddden
<b><u>May</u></b> Lloyd Gier Lyle Wohler John Augustine Tim Schulteis	<b><u>October</u></b> Gary Sorensen Aaron Augustine Lukas Sebesta Pete Falcon
<b><u>June</u></b> Larry Groth Dean Thaemert Art Dohl Dell Gier	<b><u>November</u></b> Lowell Fischer Lloyd Gier Jerret Kubick Phil Chegwiddden
	<b><u>December</u></b> Brody Schofield Gary Frederking Lyle Wohler Dell Gier

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## LWML

The next LWML meeting will be February 4 at 7:00 p.m. Euni Thaemert has the opening and closing, Lois Walter is hostess, and Shelly Keller has the Bible study.

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## Special Mission Offerings for 2015

Ash Wednesday	Kansas District Scholarship funds
Lenten Worship	Missions/LHM*
Lenten meals	Organizer's choice
Maundy Thursday	LCMS Blind and Deaf Ministries
Good Friday	Lutheran Bible Translators
Pentecost	Kansas Dist. Guinea Missions (Loose)
Father's Day	Armed Forces (Loose)
Thanksgiving	Lutheran World Relief
Advent Worship	Missions/LHM*
Advent meals	Organizer's choice
Children's Program	Bethesda
Christmas Eve	Home Fund (if separate from Children's Program)
Christmas Day	Home Fund

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## One-Liners!

I don't trip over things, I do random gravity checks!

The biggest lie I tell myself is ... "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have gray hair. I have "wisdom highlights". I'm just very wise.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, he would've put them on my knees.

The kids text me "plz" which is shorter than please. I text back "no" which is shorter than "yes".

Of course I talk to myself, sometimes I need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in there for.

## LWML Flower Committee

### February

Eunice Thaemert & Coleen Ancell

### March

Kim Augustine & Shelly Keller

# 2015 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

## STAFF, TEACHERS, ALTAR GUILD, and OFFICE CONTACTS

<p><u>Pastor:</u> Rev. J. Philipp Augustine          Cell Phone # 785-260-1534          Email: rev.paugustine@gmail.com</p>	<p><u>Telephone number:</u> 785-526-7152  <u>Email:</u> bethlehem@wtciweb.com  <u>Website:</u> www.bethlehemsylvangrove.org</p>
<p><u>Secretary:</u> Mrs. Shirley Small</p>	<p><u>Organists:</u> Mrs. Lois Walter, Mrs. Shelly Keller</p>
<p><u>Sunday School volunteer teachers:</u> Ramie Schulteis, Tonya Chegwiddden, Marmie Schultz, Justine Dohl</p>	
<p><u>Midweek volunteer teachers:</u> Lorelei Dohl, Sophia Schofield, Anne Dohl</p>	
<p><u>Altar Guild:</u> Emilie Wacker, Ruth Mueller, Cheryl Gier</p>	

### CHURCH COUNCIL

### LWML

Elected Council and Board members are noted with the year first elected, year reelected, and underlined if serving the final term

<b>President:</b>	John <u>Thaemert</u> (2012, 15)	526-7206	<b>President:</b>	Coleen Ancell	
<b>Vice-President:</b>	Dell <u>Gier</u> (2012, 15)	526-7715	<b>Vice President:</b>	Emilie Wacker	
<b>Recording Secretary:</b>	Susan <u>Kurz-Sebesta</u> (2011, 14)	658-3360	<b>Treasurer:</b>	Ramie Schulteis	
<b>Financial Secretary:</b>	Emilie Wacker (2015)	526-7298	<b>Secretary:</b>	Lois Walter	
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Rozella Trapp (2015)	526-7446			
<b>Board of Elders:</b>	Lloyd Gier (2013)	526-7715			
<b>Board of Trustees:</b>	Kirk Schulteis (2013)	526-7433			
<b>Board of Church Life:</b>	Gary Frederking	526-7372			
				<b><u>Funeral Luncheons</u></b>	
				Euni Thaemert	
				Barb Meitler	

### CONGREGATIONAL BOARDS

<p><b><u>BOARD OF ELDERS</u></b>          Lloyd Gier (Chairman) (2013)      526-7272          Clarence <u>Thrun</u> (2011, 14)      526-7715  <u>Phil Chegwiddden</u> (2012, 15)      472-4280</p>	<p><b><u>BOARD OF CHURCH PROPERTY</u></b> (Trustees)          Kirk Schulteis (Chairman) (2013)      526-7433  <u>Pete Falcon</u> (2011, 14)      526-7366          Coleen Ancell (2015)      526-7271</p>	
<p><b><u>BOARD OF CHURCH LIFE</u></b>  <i>(5 elected annually to 2-year term – no term limits – underlined indicates 2<sup>nd</sup> year of term)</i>  <u>Gary Frederking</u> (Chairman)      526-7372</p>		
Tyler Gier	Tara Kubick	Brock Mueller
Kylie Ehrlich	Barb Meitler	<u>Ruth Mueller</u>
Marcy Hurlbut	<u>Warren Meitler</u>	<u>Marilyn Wenthe</u>

### OTHER COMMITTEES, APPOINTMENTS, and CONTACTS

<p><b><u>Financial Review Committee</u></b>  <i>(Appointed Yearly by President)</i>          Cheryl Gier, Terry Lilak, Anne Dohl</p>	<p><b><u>Head Usher</u></b>  <i>(Appointed yearly by Elders)</i>          Willis Becker</p>	<p><b><u>Circuit 13 Lay Delegate</u></b>  <i>(elected annually)</i>          Art Dohl</p>
<p><b><u>Endowment Funds Committee</u></b>  <i>(Appointed Yearly by President)</i>          Tonya Chegwiddden, Ruth Sorensen,          Emilie Wacker, John Thaemert</p>	<p><b><u>Kansas District Lay Delegate</u></b>          Trey Watson (2015-2018)  <i>(elected by congregation to a 3-year term for the district convention)</i></p>	<p><b><u>Circuit Visitor (2012-15)</u></b>          Pastor Philip Hoppe          (St. Paul, Ellsworth)  <i>(elected by the Circuit Forum to a 3-year term)</i></p>
<p><b><u>Bethlehem Scholarship Committee</u></b>          Dell Gier, Emilie Wacker,          Roger Gier</p>	<p><b><u>Thrivent Advocates</u></b>  <i>(volunteer from Thrivent members)</i>          Les &amp; Lois Walter, Coleen Ancell</p>	<p><b><u>Synod Delegates (2013-16)</u></b>  <u>Pastoral:</u> Pastor Phil Augustine          Bethlehem, Sylvan Grove</p>
<p><b><u>BLTeens</u></b>          Ramie Schulteis (Sponsor)          John Augustine (Treasurer)</p>	<p><b><u>Cemetery Sexton</u></b>  <i>(3-year appointed by President)</i>          Terry Lilak (2013-16)      526-7868</p>	<p><u>Lay:</u> Mr. Don Hanson          Immanuel, Ellsworth</p>

# Coming Events at Bethlehem

*Also available online at [www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org](http://www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org)*

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February 1 – BLTeens Super Bowl Subs

February 3 – Elders and BOCL meetings

February 4 – LWML meeting

February 8 – Pancake Day

February 18 – Ash Wednesday Worship Service @ 7 pm

February 22 – Midweek Lenten dinners begin @ 6 pm, worship @ 7 pm

## *Our Weekly Worship schedule:*

*9 a.m. – Sunday School and BLTeens Bible study (school)*

*9 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)*

*10 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays and some festivals)*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
308 N Indiana Ave  
Sylvan Grove, KS 67481-8835

Apply  
postage  
here

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