



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

The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Email: bethlehem@wtciweb.com

Phone: 785-526-7152

www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

February 2020

Inside this Issue:

1	Pastor's Page
2	Stewardship Newsletter
3	BOCL LWML(Local) New Feb Flower committee Acolyte Schedule
4	Baptismal Birthdays 2019 Christmas Flowers Pancake ad
5-6	Pastor Craig 4 th Quarter report & Yearend Report
7	2020 Special offering designation
8	Lutheran Hour Mission
9	LWML Information



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

"Oh Pastor, you don't need to come visit us, we're doing fine."

"Pastor, shouldn't you be out visiting the inactives? You don't need to waste time visiting us." "Pastor, you just focus on visiting the shut-ins and the sick. We'll get by alright." "No Pastor, you don't need to come down to the hospital, it's not that big of a deal."

I haven't heard people say these words exactly, but I have heard people come pretty close to them. It makes me wonder, what happened that caused people to want to avoid a visit with me. To be fair, there's quite a few reasons that such a thing could occur. It's even possible that people who think or say those things, really and truly believe them. Or maybe something is holding them back. Maybe they had a bad visit with Pastor in the past. Maybe they think that Pastor just wants to come and talk about some of his crazy ideas, or try to get people to give more. Maybe they think Pastor is only doing it because he thinks he has to.

If any of those things are true, I'd like to know about it. In fact, for me, that is the second most important thing that happens when I visit. I get a chance to listen to our congregation. To hear what their concerns are, and what they think is going well. To hear what they would like our congregation to be doing, and what they think maybe needs to stop. A pastoral visit isn't supposed to be about Pastor coming in and sharing their new outreach program. It's about the pastor, as the spiritual leader of the congregation, coming in and making sure that people are being spiritually fed and nourished.

Which is why the most important things that a pastoral visit entails are Word and Sacrament. When I come to do visits, I will always bring the Word with me, and will always share a little bit from it. Oftentimes one of the readings from the last or upcoming Sunday, to keep us connected with the worship life of the church. I also will almost always bring along the Lord's Supper. That sacrament in which Christ has promised to do the very nourishing and sustaining that the Pastoral visit should provide. So, when you get a call from asking about a time to visit. I encourage you to try it out. To invite me into your home, so that I can listen to you. So that I can speak the Word to you and give you the sacrament that will help to strengthen your faith. That's

my goal with all my visits, and I hope to be able to listen to you all and give you that nourishment that we all so desperately need.

May God bless you all, Pastor Chris Craig

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod
LCMS Stewardship Ministry
Newsletter Article – February 2020

Of the three things a person is not to talk about in polite company – religion, politics, and money – the church is called, in one way or another, to talk about all three. Perhaps this is the reason why teaching about stewardship often seems to be an afterthought. It's something that happens only out of necessity when financial constraints are already nipping at the heels.

There is a more excellent way. Stewardship shouldn't be the kind of teaching that comes up only when there is a financial crunch. It should be part and parcel of the ongoing instruction of Christians as they live out their faith in their vocations – members of their family, their society, and their church. This teaching touches upon every facet of our lives; it stakes a claim upon our time, our presence, our prayers, and our possessions.

Stewardship begins with the acknowledgment that we are stewards. A steward is a manager of someone else's possessions. In Christian stewardship, we recognize, according to the Apostles' Creed, that God is the owner of all things as the Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. And in His fatherly divine goodness and mercy, He gives us what is His to manage here below.

The principal virtue for stewards is faithfulness. As St. Paul wrote to the Christians in Corinth:

“Moreover, it is required of stewards that they be found faithful.” (1 Cor. 4:2)

Stewards must manage that which belongs to the owner according to the owner's wishes. That is what it means to be faithful in stewardship.

That raises a question: How are Christian stewards to be faithful in their managing of what God has entrusted to them to manage? In other words, what are the specific duties of a Christian steward?

This depends upon what God has revealed in His Word for each of our vocations in life as those in a family (fathers, mothers, husbands, wives, children), society (governors or citizens), and the church (pastors or laity). The Table of Duties from *Luther's Small Catechism* lays this out in helpful and orderly way.

Let's look just at what the laity (hearers as it is labeled in the catechism) owe their pastors:

“In the same way, the Lord has commanded that those who preach the gospel should receive their living from the gospel.” (1 Cor. 9:14)

“Let the one who is taught the word share all good things with the one who teaches. Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.” (Gal. 6:6–7)

“Let the elders who rule well be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who labor in preaching and teaching. For the Scripture says, ‘You shall not muzzle an ox when it treads out the grain,’ and, ‘The laborer deserves his wages.’ ” (1 Tim. 5:17–18)

“We ask you, brothers, to respect those who labor among you and are over you in the Lord and admonish you, and to esteem them very highly in love because of their work. Be at peace among yourselves.” (1 Thess. 5:12–13)

“Obey your leaders and submit to them, for they are keeping watch over your souls, as those who will have to give an account. Let them do this with joy and not with groaning, for that would be of no advantage to you.” (Heb. 13:17)

We can see that the Lord commands hearers to support the work of the ministry with the gifts God endowed them – their time, their presence, their prayers, and their possessions. This is the means by which God blesses His people with His gifts: the ministry with the support of those whom they serve, and the hearers with the work of the ministry.

St. Paul expounds upon this further in his letters to the church at Corinth. He instructs them to give regularly (1 Cor. 16:1–2), proportionally (1 Cor. 16:1–2; 2 Cor. 8:12), and generously (2 Cor. 8:20) of our first-fruits (1 Cor. 16:2) with a spirit of eagerness (2 Cor. 9:2), earnestness (2 Cor. 8:7), cheerfulness (2 Cor. 9:7), and love (2 Cor. 8:23). All of this teaching is set forth squarely within the context of stations to which God calls us. This is always appropriate for the church to speak because it instructs God's people how they are to live out their faith as His stewards under those who are created, redeemed, and sanctified by Him.

BOCL

The BOCL met on Tuesday, January 7 at 7:00 p.m. Members present were Tyler Gier, Corey Hirsch, Lloyd Gier, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Coleen Ancell and Pastor Craig. Pastor led with a prayer.

Discussion was made about possibly having Pastor visiting with area Pastors about coordinating special congregational youth functions for future events. Dates for Higher Things is June 29, 30,, July 1st and 2nd. This will be held in Fort Collins, Colorado.

The youth will be taking money for their annual sub sandwiches for the super bowl.

As we've done in the past, during Lent we will have a meal before service. Ash Wednesday is February 26, so our first meal will be the following Wednesday. Pancake day is set for February 9.

The next meeting is set for Tuesday, February 4 at 7:00 p.m. Pastor closed with a prayer.

Respectfully submitted

Ruth Mueller

LWML News from January 8, 2020 Bible Study

Shelly Keller provided a light lunch before leading the evening's Bible study on knowing the difference between "knowledge" and "wisdom." "Fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." Ps.111. "For the Lord gives wisdom, and from His mouth comes knowledge and understanding." Proverbs 2:6. Both knowledge and wisdom require putting our trust in God. "He who trusts in himself is a fool." Proverbs 29:16.

2020 LWML officers are Coleen Ancell, Pres., Shelly Keller, VP, Justine Dohl, Sec. and Ramie Schulteis, Treas.

The Lincoln District is in charge of this year's LWML Kansas District Convention in Hoisington. Shelly Keller will attend the planning committee meeting January 18th.

LWML's next meeting is February 5. Emilie Wacker will have opening and closing devotions. Pastor Craig will have the Bible study and Euni Thaemert will host. On the agenda will be assembling the Valentine boxes, discuss Ash Wednesday for February 26 the Prayer Service in March. and the state convention in Hoisington.

Submitted by Justine Dohl

February Acolyte

Feb 2 * Tevis Dohl , Allie Gier (white)
Feb 9 * Kale Sorensen, Isaac Schultz
Feb 16 Tevis Dohl, Rylan Gier
Feb23 * Vance Dohl, Kale Sorensen
Feb 26 * Aubrelle Hurlbut, Chloe Balluch (Ash Wed, Black)



*Communion



February Flower Committee
Euni Thaemert Coleen Ancell



Baptismal Birthdays February 2020

*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*



Allen Serrien
Dena Sorensen
Rachel Miller
Randall Serrien
Clara Sorensen
Lyle Dohl
Marcus Fruits

Tyra Meyer
Leyton Meitler
Toni Nelson
Mark Battenhoff
Allie Gier
Mary Powell
Keith Meitler

2019 Christmas Flower for Altar

From In

Shirley Krueger
Billie Groth
Ruth Sorensen
Lisa Gier
Lu Willingham
Lois Walter
Stephanie Lloyd
Emilie Wacker
Cheryl Gier
Pastor & Shelby
Shelly Keller

Memory Of

Ronald Krueger
Elmer & Margaret Groth
Grandparents & Parents
Bobby Gier

Both Parents
Cheryl Siddens
Sidney Wacker & Bobby Gier
Gier's & Meitler's Fam
Shelby's grandfather Rev Brian Dill
Grand Parent, Rev & Mrs Peter,
Ted & Anita Walter

The December Flower Committee

Thanks everyone who has
Donated Flowers & Wreath



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

308 N Indiana Ave
Sylvan Grove, Kansas



INVITES YOU
to our
Annual Pancake Day

Sunday February 9, 2020 11 a.m. to 7 p.m.



Serving Pancakes, Whole Hog Sausage, Scrambled or Fried Eggs,
Homemade Pie Drinks

Free will donations to support mission project



Please join us for a day of
Delicious Food & Christian Fellowship



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Pastor's Report for Fourth Quarter, 2019
January 19, 2020 Voter's Meeting

Month	October	November	December	Total	Last Quarter	Last Year
Sunday Services	4	4	4	12	11	12
Church Attendance	69	64	63	65	70	69
Midweek Services	5	3	N/A	5	12	6
Average Midweek Service Attendance	5	5	N/A	5	5	13
Seasonal Services		1	5	6	N/A	5
Average Season Service Attendance		64	32	37	N/A	57
Number of Communion Services	2	3	4	9	6	8
Average Communed per Service	43	36	44	41	50	49
Sunday Adult Bible Class Average	15	13	16	14	16	15
Children's Sunday School Average	13	14	0	13	10	9
Midweek (weekly average)	32	31	35	33	31	27
LifeLight Bible Study (weekly avg)			N/A		10	8
First Comm Catechesis/Conf (wkly avg)	9	9	N/A	9	8	8
Adult Catechesis	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	0	0
Youth Group Average	4	4	4	4	4	6
Ellsworth Numbers						
Pastoral Visits (Homebound)	5	5	4	14	10	
Pastoral Hospital Visits	2	0	0	2	1	
Individual Communion	7	6	4	17	12	
Counseling/Special meetings	1	0	0	1	1	
Funeral/Committal Services	0	1	0	1	0	
Wedding Services	0	0	0	0	0	
Nursing Home Services	1	1	1	3	0	
Regular Meetings (Elders, BOCL, Council, Voters, LWML, Winkel, etc.)	5	4	3	12	1	
Special Meetings (New Parents, Planning, Special Committees, Etc.)	0	0	0	0	0	
Continuing Education Events	2	2	2	6	0	
Request For Membership (in)						
Stephanie Lloyd (Transfer in)						
James Mehl (Transfer in)						
Request Transfer of Membership (out) None						
Request Release of Membership						
Pete Falcon, Jr.						
Baptisms						
Adelyn Grace Mills - 11-17-19						
Brayden Reiker Benjamin Mills - 11-17-19						
Felicity Adell Jo Mills - 11-17-19						
Caitlyn Dawn Mills - 11-17-19						
Marriage None						
Deaths/Funerals/Committals						
LeRoy Janssen (11-14-19)						

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
2018 Annual Pastor's Report
January 21, 2019

Attendance Summary

		2019 Average Attendance	2018 Average Attendance	2017 Avg	2016 Avg
Sunday Services	#	67	70	68	75
Midweek Services	#	6	9	N/A	N/A
Seasonal Services	#	49	58	60	59
Average Communed	#	45	48	48	55

Membership Summary

2019 Baptized members: 223

Gains

Baptisms:	9
Transfers In:	2
Profession of Faith	5
Total gains:	16

Losses

Deaths:	2
Transfers Out:	
Released:	1
Total losses:	3

Baptized

Breyley White (1-15-19)
 Weston Allen Lyne (3-31-19)
 Claire Abigail Judson (6-23-19)
 Mason James Cleveland (4-21-19)

Bexton Pounds (9-8-19)
 Adelyn Mills (11-17-19)
 Brayden Mills (11-17-19)
 Felicity Mills (11-17-19)
 Caitlyn Mills (11-17-19)

Recognition of Baptisms

Chloe Balluch Baptism 8-18-19 (Baptized 2-10-13)
 Christina Balluch Baptism 8-18-19 (Baptized 2-10-13)
 Ryver Balluch 8-18-19 (Baptized 4-15-18)

Confirmation

Bailey Schulteis - Confirmation 7-29-19
 Tara Balluch - Confirmation 8-18-19

Deaths

Mary Ann Lovin - 1-30-19
 Elda Chegwidde - 8-9-19
 Laura Princ - 8-17-19
 LeRoy Janssen - 11-10-19

Wedding

None

Transfers In

Pastor Christopher Craig
 Shelby Craig

Transfers Out

Pete Falcon, Jr. - Friendly Release of Membership

2020 Baptized members: 236

2019 Communicant members: 162

Gains

Confirmation:	2
Adult Profession	0
Transfers In:	2
Total gains:	4

Losses

Deaths:	2
Transfers Out:	1
Total losses:	3

2020 Communicant members: 163

2020 Special Offering Designations

Ash Wednesday	Kansas District Scholarship funds
Lenten Worship	Missions/TIM*
<i>Lenten meals</i>	<i>Organizer's choice</i>
Maundy Thursday	Lutheran Blind Mission
Good Friday	Lutheran Bible Translators
Pentecost	West Africa Missions (Loose Collections)
Father's Day	Armed Forces (Loose Collections)
Thanksgiving	Lutheran World Relief
Advent Worship	Missions/TIM*
<i>Advent meals</i>	<i>Organizer's choice</i>
Children's Program	Bethesda
Christmas Eve	Home Fund (if separate from Children's Program)
Christmas Day	Home Fund

* As approved for 2020 all donations to Missions from envelopes and special collections that exceed the 2020 KS District Missions pledge amount will be given to Together in Missions.



LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES

www.lhm.org

Greetings from LHM!

The start of a new year often encourages us to challenge ourselves to grow! Have you thought about signing up for something new to start off the new year on the right foot? LHM offers several resources for **FREE** to help you grow in your faith, and to help you encourage others to do the same. Check out two of our most popular resources below!

LHM Learn

These **FREE** online courses and webinars cover five faith-strengthening categories and use an array of multimedia elements to help you gain a hearing for the Gospel message. They offer self-paced learning, time for self-reflection and journaling, easy access on any digital device, and so much more! Click the button below to see the dozens of available courses and sign up today!



Daily Devotions

Daily Devotions from LHM will help strengthen and encourage your faith as you do the same for others. Have them [delivered right to your inbox](#), [podcast the audio devotional](#), access them on your mobile device through the [FREE app](#), or listen

with [Spotify](#), [iHeartRadio](#), [Alexa](#) or [Google Home](#). Seasonal Devotions for [Advent](#) and [Lent](#) are also available in both English and Spanish. Perfect for personal reflection or to share with family, friends and congregations, these seasonal meditations will help prepare you to celebrate the true meaning of these seasons.



2020 Lutheran Women's Missionary League

BETHLEHEM SOCIETY

Chartered November 3, 1946

ELECTED OFFICERS

PRESIDENT Coleen Ancell

VICE PRESIDENT Shelly Keller

SECRETARY Justine Dohl

TREASURER Ramie Schulteis

All Bethlehem Lutheran Women Members are welcome to the belong to LWML



MISSION STATEMENT + + + The mission of the Lutheran Women's Missionary League is to assist each woman of The Lutheran Church - Missouri Synod in affirming her relationship with the Triune God, so that she is equipped to use her gifts in ministry to the people of the world. **LWML KANSAS DISTRICT MISSION STATEMENT** + + + Empowered by the Holy Spirit, the LWML Kansas District will nurture, motivate, and prepare LCMS women to serve the Lord with gladness. ALL GLORY TO GOD The LWML was started as an act of faith: faith in God, that He would provide the means to carry on His work; faith in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who not only gave the command to carry the Gospel to all the world but also promised that He would always be with us; faith, too in the love and loyalty of our women and their willingness to consecrate themselves to serve Him wherever and whenever He has need of them. This faith has been more that justified by the blessings He has showered on the LWML. May our Lord continue to guide and bless the efforts of this organization, and may the LWML members always remember to put "first things first" in their humble service to Him. To Him alone be glory

Bethlehem LWML members each have their own **Love Sock** which are used for monthly offerings. In January, one dime is put lovingly in the sock, in February two dimes, in March three dimes, and so on throughout the year. At the end of the year, each member brings their love sock to the December LWML Christmas Party, and the money is sent to the Children's Christian Concern Society for the children in Guatemala. Each member's love sock offering will total \$7.80 or whatever they wish to give to the glory of God! **MITE Funds** to support projects come from voluntary individual MITE offerings: 75% or less are attained by the District, 25% or more are allocated to District & National LWML mission projects. By recognizing mission needs, providing financial support not available through other means and adding the vital power of prayer, each LWML member can join in the great commission "Go ye therefore and teach all nations

2020 LWML Committees & Duties **GREETING CARDS:** Shelly Keller (orders and displays all-occasion & seasonal cards) **QUILTS / PROJECTS:** Justine Dohl & Coleen Ancell (Best Choice UPC, stamps, ingathering's, & quilts for LWR & OGT) **FUNERAL LUNCHEONS:** Eunice Thaemert & Barbara Meitler (contact members for food / organize meals / obtain workers) **CHEER:** Shirley Krueger (visit or send cards to LWML & congregation members) **BANNERS:** Shelly Keller (design & construct new banners & hang appropriate banners in church) **CAMPUS MINISTRY:** Ramie Schulteis (keeps an update of college students) **FLOWERS:** Executive Board (appoint members to serve on monthly flower committees) **NETWORKER:** Eunice Thaemert (distribute mailings, quarterlies, & information to appropriate people) **LIBRARY:** Justine Dohl, Cheryl Gier, Ramie Schulteis (select & report on new books in the library) **HISTORIAN:** Justine Dohl & Marmie Schultz (gather society data, news articles, programs, pictures, etc.) **DISASTER RESPONSE:** Ramie Schulteis **PRAYER CHAIN:** Coleen Ancell **EMAIL PRAYER CHAIN:** Lois Walter

DUTIES OF THE FLOWER COMMITTEES: ☐ place flowers / plants / arrangements in church prior to the worship services or other church events AND remove after the service ☐ water all indoor plants in the hallways and Parish Hall as needed ☐ if you are unable to serve during a week or Sunday of your designated month, please call someone to take your place for the time you are absent

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

10a.m. – Sunday School

10 a.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

11 a.m. – Worship Service (Holy Communion on 2nd and 4th Sundays and some festivals)

3:45 p.m.-- Wednesday's Midweek

6:00 p.m. - Wednesday's Worship Service

February 9, 2020 Pancake Day 12am-7 p.m.

(Ash Wednesday February 26 Worship service @ 7 p.m. with communion)



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

Apply
postage
here