



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

The Bethlehem Record

The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church

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www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

The Pastor's Page

What's That You Say? The Post Communion Collect

Have you ever been following along with the order of service on Sunday morning only to find that you have been speaking the words without actually reflecting on what they mean? Are there parts of the Sunday morning liturgy that are a mystery to you, with words that you don't understand? Do you find yourself wondering why we do certain things or say certain things in the service? If that's the case, please join me in asking a very Lutheran question... "What does this mean?" As we ask this question and discover the answers, you will find that you will benefit more from what we do and say in the service. As your understanding of what is being said in the service is deepened, you will walk away from Sunday services with a deeper sense of satisfaction and a greater sense of having been fed by the Word of the Lord. Today let us focus our attention on the words of the **Post Communion Collect** found on page 201 of the Lutheran Service Book. This collect, or prayer, follows on the heels of the distribution of the Lord's Supper and is a prayer dedicated to thanking God for the gift of the Supper and to asking for the well being of those who have received it. Let us turn our attention to the Words that we speak...

"You have refreshed us through this salutary gift"

The Lord truly has refreshed us, or restored our strength, through giving us the true body and blood of our Lord and Savior to eat and drink. In your eating and drinking of this great gift, you have come into intimate contact with your Lord and Savior. You have taken Him into yourself so that He is a part of you and He has nourished both your body and your soul, strengthening you, in body and soul, for the days that are to come. For that reason it truly is salutary, or in other words it truly is healthful and beneficial **"we implore You that of your mercy You would strengthen us through the same in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another"**

With these words we implore, or urgently ask, the Lord to strengthen us through the gift of Christ's body and blood in, with and under the bread and wine. We ask that through this gift He would strengthen us in our faith in Him. However, we also ask that through this same gift, He would strengthen us in our love for each other as Christian brothers and sisters, and not just any kind of love but *fervent* love. Fervent is an interesting choice of words here, because fervent means to be boiling or frothing. Therefore, when we pray that the Lord

March 2016

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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.

would strengthen us in *fervent* love, it brings forth an image of love that is in constant motion and action. So I pose to you these questions: "Is your love for your brothers and sisters in Christ truly fervent? How do you show fervent love for your brothers and sisters in Christ? What can you do to be more fervent in your love?"

"Through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever." All these things we ask through Jesus Christ, who, being God Himself, is our intermediary, our advocate, who stands before God the Father and repairs our relationship with Him. Our Savior, Jesus Christ, has been given dominion and authority over all things as we read in Ephesians 1. Knowing that our Lord and Savior has laid down His life for us and not spared us any good thing in His love for us, we know that the ruler of this world is truly on our side.

I challenge you to reflect on these things the next time we pray the Post Communion Collect in the service. Perhaps you might even whisper along with me as I speak these words. May the Lord bless you and keep you. **Pastor Judson**

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March Stewardship Newsletter Article

Lent is a season of repentance. Repentance is turning away from sin, while we turn toward God for the forgiveness of sins. During Lent, we hear the Word of God and consider our lives in light of it. We confess our failures, and receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, and then commit ourselves to do better. What does God say about giving to the Church? The Bible tells us. Our giving should be first fruits giving (Genesis 4:4; Proverbs 3:9). Our giving should be regular, on the first day of week, which has the Divine Service in mind (1 Corinthians 6:1–2). Our giving should be proportional: according to our income (1 Corinthians 16:1–2), according to what we have been given (2 Corinthians 8:12; Luke 12:48), our giving should be given with a spirit of eagerness and enthusiasm (2 Corinthians 9:2), generosity and liberality (2 Corinthians 8:20), cheerfully without compulsion (2 Corinthians 9:7). Our giving should be directed to those who teach us (Galatians 6:6–7) because a laborer is worthy of his hire, and we

all know the going rate of such laborers in our communities (Luke 10:7; 1 Timothy 5:18).

Now consider your own giving in light of the Bible's teaching. Are you giving of your first fruits, taking it out of your paycheck first, or does God get what's left over? Are you giving voluntarily and cheerfully? Are you giving proportionally and generously? Are you giving with eagerness and enthusiasm? Are you giving to your local congregation, sharing all good things with the one who teaches you? If your answer to any of these is "No," then repent. Turn away from your sin and toward God for forgiveness. Confess your failure. Receive absolution. And commit to do better. We know that the Spirit is willing but our flesh is weak. We believe, and we pray that God, through Word and Sacrament, would help our unbelief, our lack of trust in His ability to provide.

And this is precisely what God promises. This is what St. Paul wrote to the Church in Corinth: "The point is this: whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has made up his mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work. As it is written, 'He has distributed freely, he has given to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.' He who supplies seed to the sower and bread for food will supply and multiply your seed for sowing and increase the harvest of your righteousness. You will be enriched in every way for all your generosity, which through us will produce thanksgiving to God" (2 Cor 9:6–15).

St. Paul tells us that the Lord of all will both supply and increase what you need to give to the church for its work in and for the world. He tells us that this work that God is doing in us will enrich and bless us in every way and through this it will produce thanksgiving to God. Everyone benefits. We will be blessed in our giving, and it will produce thanksgiving to God in those who receive it.

Giving to the church is not a burden, just like all of God's teaching (1 John 5:2–4). They are not a burden because of He who gives it: the God who loves us and gave His only Son to die so that we may live. He loved us in that He sent His Son, born of a woman, born under the law to redeem

those under the law, that we might receive adoption as sons. . . . So we are no longer slaves, but sons, and if a son, then an heir through God (Galatians 4:4–5, 7). We are heirs. We receive the full rights of sons, a status that Christ our Lord achieved for us by His death, resurrection, and ascension. So we strive to do what He asks because we are His children. And when we don't, we repent. We confess our sins. We receive absolution. We desire to do better, praying that God would work in us both to will and to do according to His good pleasure (Philippians 2:13).

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BOCL

The BOCL meeting was held on Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:00 p.m. We want to thank leaving members Gary Frederking, Warren Meitler, & Marilyn Wenthe for serving on the board, and welcome new members Lloyd Gier and Trey & Rhonda Watson.

Members present for the meeting were Lloyd Gier, Tyler Gier, Tara Kubick, Kylie Ehrlich, Marcy Hurlbut, Trey Watson, Rhonda Watson, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, and vacancy Pastor Judson.

Pastor opened with a prayer. Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved. Pastor pointed out that things had changed since the last meeting, whereas we will have our own Lent services on Thursdays at 5:00 p.m. The board also decided to have light meals or snacks after the services, we will need volunteers for these and there will be a sign up sheet in the entryway of the church. The BOCL will do the first meal on Feb. 11.

A print out of Appendix A, Board of Church Life Duties were passed out to review and discuss. We decided to divide into the 3 categories, which consist of Education, Evangelism, and Stewardship. Under Education will be Lloyd Gier, Rhonda Watson & Kylie Ehrlich. Under Evangelism will be Marcy Hurlbut, Trey Watson & Tyler Gier, & under Stewardship will be Barb Meitler, Tara Kubick & Ruth Mueller. This will help members of the congregation know who on the board to approach if anything needs addressing.

Pastor gave us guidance on different ways for us as a group to perform our jobs. Our first order of business was to elect a new chairman, Tara moved that Brock M serve as chairman, Kylie seconded, motion passed. Ruth will serve as secretary.

Ramie S had called about allowing the youth to use some of our bottled water with their sub meals on Super Bowl Sunday, we all agreed to let them have whatever needed.

Pastor reported that the VBS material has been ordered. Different topics were discussed about outreach, one being looking into showing an Easter movie, or sponsoring one. Also brought up was informational pamphlets on our church organizations & activities to pass out at different functions. Another activity we could look into is having youth help the greeters by holding the door open and greeting people as they enter the church, Marcy will contact Ramie about pursuing this.

We ended the meeting with Pastor encouraging us to think about our goals and dreams for our church in the coming years. Our next meeting is set for Tuesday March 8 at 6:00 p.m. The greeter for March will be Lloyd Gier. We ended by singing the Doxology. Respectfully submitted
Ruth Mueller

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Blood Drive on March 28

The **American Red Cross** will be at Bethlehem Lutheran Parish Hall, on March 28, 2016, from 12:30-5:30p.m. Contact Dell Gier for your appointment or call the Red Cross at 800-733-2767. Smartphone users can download the Red Cross donor app and schedule your appointment, or you can log on to www.redcrossblood.org.

LWML Flower Committee

March

Shirley Krueger & Shelly Keller

April

Justine Dohl, Emilie Wacker

**BETHLEHEM LWML MEETING - - -
FEBRUARY 3, 2016**

Bethlehem LWML members met for their bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday evening, Feb. 3rd at the Parish Hall. Eunice Thaemert presented our opening devotions, followed by Ramie Schulteis giving the Topic/Bible Study from our LWML Quarterly "How Great Thou Art". This was based on one of our favorite hymns from our hymnal, which is a traditional Swedish folk tune. Many Bible references were looked up and read pertaining to this hymn. During this Bible Study, we looked at the timeless truth that our Lord - - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit - - is truly great, and we should rejoice in our loving God's greatness, and praise Him for the great things He has done for us. We then sang the hymn which we just studied, and Eunice closed with a closing prayer & devotion.

The meeting was called to order by President Coleen Ancell, followed by roll call by the secretary, with 11 members present & the 3 Schultz boys as guests. This was followed by the reading of the minutes from the November 4th meeting by Secretary Lois. Correspondence was also presented, with 'thank-you's read from the groups who received our Bazaar funds. Ramie then gave the Treasurer's report and she reported \$3695.43 in the treasury, with \$1433.74 designated in the cookbook fund, \$1436.26 designated in the funeral luncheon fund, and \$825.43 in the home fund. The treasurer's books were found to be in order by the Financial Review committee of Barb Meitler and Justine Dohl.

A few committee reports were given. Euni will order more cards to sell. Ramie reported wanting to pack 9 Valentine boxes with 'goodies' to go to the college students at 9:30 on Sunday morning, Feb. 7th. Flower committee for Feb. will be Coleen & Euni, and for March will be Shirley Krueger. The April committee will be Justine Dohl & Emilie Wacker.

Coleen reminded everyone to be sure and water all the live plants in the church hall and Parish Hall weekly. Euni as Networker will order less LWML Quarterlies by the March 1st deadline, and

this will be given to Marj Aufdemberge, the Ks. District Distribution manager.

OLD BUSINESS:

Since we still have no Vice-President, we will try to use the chairmen of our various committees, until a Vice-President comes forward.

President Coleen is filling out the program booklet so they can be handed out soon to our members. Please refer to it often so each member knows what they're responsible for at the next meeting or Bible Study.

The Kansas District LWML Convention will be held in Manhattan on April 15-17, 2016. All members were encouraged to go to this since it's fairly close for us. We also need several delegates from our society.

NEW BUSINESS:

The new Prayer Service is on the LWML website, and it is entitled "Wanted: Workers in God's Harvest Field", written by Pastor John Heckmann, LWML Pastoral Counselor. We have decided to present it to the residents of Lincoln Park Manor on Sunday, April 21st, at 2:30. Annie Dohl is our Christian Growth Chairman and she will prepare and get it ready for our members to give.

Our LWML Spring Rally will be at Peace Lutheran Church in Natoma, May 1st.

We received information from Lutheran World Relief about a new project they are encouraging us to do. It is called 'Baskets of Promise'. We had discussion on this project and Lorelei thought the Mid-Week kids would enjoy putting this all together, so she is in charge of this. If she needs help, she will ask us for help. We also discussed doing something for Pastor & Kira Judson and their new baby due next week. We are considering doing a 'diaper drive' for the Judson family for the whole congregation to participate in. Watch the church bulletin!

We discussed whether we wanted to help with the light suppers preceding Lenten services on Thursday nights. Not much interest was shown, but if several go together and want to do a light supper, tell a BOCL member.

The next meeting on March 2nd will be a Bible Study without the meeting. Refer to your

program booklet to see who is leading it. The meeting was adjourned with prayer. Lois Walter was the hostess and served sandwiches & cake earlier in the evening. Respectfully Submitted, Lois Walter, LWML Secretary

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Acolyte Schedule March – April

March
 6 Grace Chegwidden
 13* Marshall Hurlbut
 20 Rachel Sebesta
 27* Mekelle Hurlbut
 April 3 Marshall Hurlbut
 10* Grace Chegwidden
 17 Mekelle Hurlbut
 24* Rachel Sebesta

** Communion service*

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Baptismal Birthdays in March

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 Ancell	Aubrelle Hurlbut
Ashley (Ancell) Lapaille	Marshall Hurlbut
Coleen Ancell	Mekelle Hurlbut
Grace Chegwidden	Barbara Meitler
Ronald Frederking	Toby Meyer
Kaitlyn Fruits	William Reinert
Corey Gier	Sadie Small
Marlin Huehl Jr	Janna Sorensen
	Janice Tucker
	Denise Waymaster

2015 CHOICE DOLLARS®

EXPIRE SOON

Thrivent Financial members have until March 31 to direct any remaining 2015 Choice Dollars®. After that date, Choice Dollars® will expire. Remind members about the positive impact they can make by directing Choice Dollars® to Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The Thrivent Choice® charitable grant program engages Thrivent members and chapters in providing grants that support charitable activities, furthering Thrivent's mission and its purposes under state law. All grants are made at the sole discretion of Thrivent. Directing Choice Dollars® is subject to the program's terms and conditions available at Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

New Thrivent Action Team program

Everyone who is a Thrivent member, either by having an insurance policy or by investing, qualify to become a part of this program. It's not hard to do and can become very rewarding, by helping a good cause. If you have an idea that's worth looking into, give it a try. Another important thing to remember is that all Thrivent members qualify to do 2 of these per calendar year. If you're not a Thrivent member and have an idea, tell one that is and give it a try. . It's always within 5 days after an idea is turned in that you will know if it was accepted or not.. It's a great program, so let's use it. Our Church members have used this program for Food purchase for VBS, Midweek, Soup supper, Bible walk, Mission Festival, Midweek, quilt materials, repairs on sign. So let put our thinking caps on and see how we can use this awesome program for 2016. Please contact Les, Lois Walter, Coleen Ancell or Emily Wacker for more information on how to apply for this program. .

Day Light Saving Time Starts March 13



Pancake Day Report

Thank You to all who helped with another successful Pancake Day. **Thanks** to everyone who helped set up, cooked, served and tore down. **Thanks** to Art Dohl for all his hard work, assigning the work schedule, ordering & picking up all the food, making sure the sausage is made. **Thanks** to the youth for working the tables. **Thanks** to everyone who brought pies and cakes. **Thanks** to Shirley for handling the publicity and everyone who put up posters. **Thanks** to all our friends and neighbors who come to support our pancake day. **Thanks** to God for giving us the wonderful day and the opportunity to work together like a big family to share Jesus and serve Him faithfully! This year, we served, (2016) 299 people received \$3174. (Before expenses), (2015) 454 people at our Pancake Day & received \$3,321.93 in free will offerings (before expenses). In 2014 we served 372 people & received \$2,921.00 in free will offerings (before expenses)

Picture taken by Emilie Wacker on 2016 Annual Pancake day



School News



Two Grants for repairs to the Lutheran School have been approved. The Heritage Trust Fund grant through the Kansas Historical Society will fund up to \$4,320 for installation of gutters and downspouts, including labor, with matching amount of \$1120 (20%) provided by the church.. This grant although approved by HTF, is pending final approval of the State budget by the Kansas Legislature. Hopefully, the budget process will go smoothly this year, and the funds will be released timely. Terry Lilak will attend a grant orientation session in Topeka on March 9, which is required before funding can be released, so that we have the information needed to comply with state and HTF regulations.

The Post Rock Community Foundation grant, Made possible through funding from the Dane cover additional repairs needed at the school directly related to water damage in the basement, such as: tuck-pointing damaged areas of limestone, cleaning water-damaged limestone, removal of mold and damaged paint on walls and floors, repair and painting the basement; and painting exterior window and door trims.

Both grants must be expended within one year. If you have any question about the two grants please let terry know. She can be reached at 785-524-6034



2016 BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH DIRECTORY

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Secretary: Mrs. Shirley Small, Cell # 785.658.5886

CHURCH COUNCIL

President:	John Thaemert (2012, 15)	785.526.7206
Vice-President:	Dell Gier (2012, 15)	785.526.7718
Recording Secretary:	<u>Susan Kurtz-Sebesta</u> (2011, 14)	785.658.3360
Financial Secretary:	Emilie Wacker (2015)	785.526.7298
Treasurer:	Rozella Trapp (2015)	785.526.7446
Board of Elders:	<u>Clarence Thrun</u> (2011, 14)	785.526.7272
Board of Trustees:	<u>Gary Sorenson</u> (2011 2014)	785.277.3795
Board of Church Life:	Brock Mueller (2016)	785.526.7372

CONGREGATIONAL BOARDS

ELDERS

Clarence Thrun (Chairman) (2011, 14) 785.526.7715
 Phil Chegwidden (2012, 15) 785.810.8261
 Tyler Gier (2016) 785 534 0673

CHURCH PROPERTY (Trustees)

Gary Sorensen (Chairman)(2011, 2014) 785.277.3795
 Coleen Ancell (2015) 785.526.7271
 Kirk Schulteis (2013, 2016) 785.526.7433

BOARD OF CHURCH LIFE

Brock Mueller-2016 (Chairman) 785.526.7372

(Evangelism)

Marcy Hurlbut
 Ruth Mueller (2016)
 Trey Watson (2016)

(Stewardship)

Ruth Mueller (2016)
 Barb Meitler
 Tara Kubick

(Education)

Lloyd Gier (2016)
 Kylie Ehrlich
 Rhonda Watson (2016)

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

APPOINTMENTS AND OTHER CONTACTS

Sunday School volunteer teachers: Ramie Schulteis, Tonya Chegwidden, Marmie Schultz, Dena Sorensen

Midweek volunteer teachers: Lorelei Dohl, Sophia Schofield, Anne Dohl

Organists & Music Directors: Mrs. Lois Walter, Mrs. Shelly Keller

Head Usher: (Appointed yearly by Elders) Willis Becker

Altar Guild: Emilie Wacker, Ruth Mueller, Cheryl Gier

Cemetery Sexton: (re-appointed 2016) (3-year appointed by President) Terry Lilak (2013-16) 526-7868

Endowment Funds Committee: (Appointed Yearly by President) Tonya Chegwidden, Ruth Sorensen,
 Emilie Wacker, John Thaemert

Financial Review Committee : (Appointed Yearly by President) Cheryl Gier, Terry Lilak, Anne Dohl

BLTeens : Ramie Schulteis (Sponsor) Morgan Kubick (Treasurer)

GIER Scholarship Committee: Dell Gier, Emilie Wacker, Roger Gier

Kansas District Lay Delegate: Trey Watson (2015-2018) elected by congregation to a 3-year term for the district convention)

Circuit 13 Contacts: Lay Delegate: Art Dohl (elected annually)

Circuit Visitor: Rev Mark Lovett, Concordia, Hoisington, Kansas (elected by the Circuit Forum to a 3-year term)

Synod Delegates: (2013-16) Pastoral: TBD

Synod Lay Delegate: Mr. Don Hanson, Immanuel, Ellsworth

Thrivent Representative: Becky Ostermann 785.526.720

Coming Events at Bethlehem

Also available online at www.BethlehemSylvanGrove.org

March 3, 10, 17--- 5 p.m. Lenten Worship Service -- Light luncheon Following service

March 8 — 8 p.m. BOCL meeting

March 13 — Daylight Saving begins

March 20 — 11 am Psalm Sunday

March 23— Maundy Thursday worship with Holy Communion @ 5 p.m.

March 25 — Good Friday worship @ 5 p.m.

March 27 — Easter Sunday POT LUCK breakfast @ 9:30 am

@ 11 am worship with Holy Communion

Our Weekly Worship schedule:

10:00 a.m. – Sunday School and BLTeens Bible study (school)

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

12:10 p.m. – Adult Bible study (Parish hall)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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