



# The Bethlehem Record

*The Official Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

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

November 2014

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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

Have you ever been so mad, so irate, so disgusted at someone and just didn't know what to say because you knew it wouldn't come out the way it should? Would you be so bold to confront an enemy with these words: "*O daughter of Babylon, doomed to be destroyed, blessed shall he be who repays you with what you have done to us! Blessed shall he be who takes your little ones and dashes them against the rock!*"

Strong words, don't you think? Indeed, they are. And they're in the Bible! These words are the concluding verses of Psalm 137. Why would a loving, gracious, merciful God allow such harsh, judgmental language to be recorded for generations of His people? Because we need it.

We need words to pray when it seems that we're losing the battle – whatever the battle might be. It might be personal with the enemy of cancer or heart disease or diabetes. It might be political with the mess our country is in with liberalism plaguing our leaders and court officials that are turning God's gift of life and marriage upside down and inside out. It might be international with the enemies of the Christian faith with ISIS/ISIL, or terrorists in Canada (yes, really!), or the Ebola outbreak in Africa.

God knows that we need a way to express our feelings of anger in a constructive way. And so we find such prayer dispersed among the Psalms. They are known as the

imprecatory Psalms. They are prayers that call upon God to curse the enemy, because an enemy of God's people is also an enemy of God.

I knew a little about these Psalms from my reading of them, but was exposed to the greater reason for them while at the Pastors' conference in Lawrence last month. Now I have a greater appreciation for them and will put them to better use. I pray that you will, too! If you have the new ESV study bible from CPH, there is a whole page devoted to explaining them further (page 879).

Other imprecatory Psalms include 35, 55, 57-59, 69, 79, and 109. These are other Psalms that have similar language but is more limited. They flow from a variety of contexts, but all deal with some physical enemy that the writer feels is in need of God's judgment.

We need these words to allow God's will to be done on earth as it is in heaven. We pray for God to deliver us, avenge us, and deal with the enemy. In doing so, they we let God be God, and we are released from our emotions that might lead us to do something sinful in response to the enemy.

Baptized into Christ's death and resurrection, we are God's chosen people. The imprecatory Psalms help us to pray for deliverance in our distress, trusting God's will be done. Read Psalm 69 and be blessed by God's Word.

*In His service,  
Pastor Augustine*

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## November Stewardship Newsletter Article

Have you ever noticed how children emulate their parents? Children watch their parents and they do what they see them doing. This is how they learn to speak. They watch the shape and form of their parents' mouths and they try to make the same shape so that they can make the same sounds.

But children copy their parents even on a more mundane level. They watch how their parents cross their legs, how they fold their hands, how they stand and sit and walk, how they do and say most everything; and children try to copy it. This can be quite humorous when caught in the act. They do this even when parents don't want them to. Everyone has been in the uncomfortable, and sometimes rather embarrassing, situation where a child does or says what one of their parent's have done or said...something that is not too flattering! Sitcoms thrive on this sort of thing. And it only works because of the truth that children emulate their parents. And they do it because they want to be like them.

We are the children of God by grace, through faith. In Holy Baptism, God the Father declares of us what He declared of Jesus at His Baptism in the Jordan, "You are my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." God the Father claims us as His own. He takes away all our sins, and in exchange He gives us His righteousness, His purity, His holiness, and His Spirit, by which we cry out, "Abba, Father." We are born again, born from above, born of water and the Spirit, to a new life in Christ as His children. We are sons of God in Christ, through Baptism. And since we are sons, we are heirs; heirs who share in the glory of the Son of God. The inheritance is ours because of the Father's grace and mercy, because of His generosity in sending His Son in time to save us for all eternity.

And this is why we give generously of our income to the work of the church. Through the working of the Holy Spirit, we are enabled to lead holy lives. We are strengthened to emulate the generosity of our heavenly Father by being generous ourselves. We give to the work of the church because we have witnessed the generous giving of our Father in heaven. More than that, we are recipients of it. It is because we have received God our Father's gifts that we desire to give ourselves. And His gifts are not just spiritual. They are temporal and earthly as well. As the Small Catechism teaches in the Fourth Petition of the Lord's Prayer:

"Give us this day our daily bread. *What does this mean?* God certainly gives daily bread to everyone

without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving. *What is meant by daily bread?* Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like."

In other words, he gives us everything that we need for the care of both body and soul. His generosity knows no bounds.

Therefore we sit down at the beginning of the year, the beginning of the month, or the beginning of the week, and set aside a generous portion of God's daily bread for His work in the church. Not because He has commanded us so to do. But rather because we, as His children by grace, want to emulate His generosity in our own lives. He is our Father; we are His children. And children want to be like their parents.

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## BOCL Minutes

BOCL meeting was held on Tuesday Oct. 7 at 8:00 p.m. Members present were Warren Meitler, Barb Meitler, Marilyn Wenthe, Shirley Krueger, Kylie Ehrlich, Brock Mueller, Ruth Mueller, Pastor Augustine. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Minutes from previous meeting were read and approved. Shirley made a motion that we purchase 10 cookbooks from LWML at the price of \$5 each for the guest bags handed out to visitors at church, Barb seconded, motion passed.

Gary F had volunteered himself to drive his golf cart through the Homecoming parade to pass out water bottles (weather permitting). Anybody wanting to help is to meet at 1:30 at Falcon Station.

100 spirit basketballs with our (church) name and address have been ordered, these are to be distributed at the home games. The price of these is \$399 plus shipping to be paid by the endowment proceeds for outreach.

The next blood drive is scheduled for November 14. Brock will contact Art D to see about the food for Reformation Sunday.

We had a short discussion on a better way for our guest greeters to reach visitors, it was decided to greet people before the service starts instead of after.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 4 at 8:00 p.m. with a backup date of November 9 after church if something comes up on the 4th. Guest greeters for November will be Brock & Ruth Mueller. We ended the meeting with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted,  
Brock L Mueller, sec.

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**BETHLEHEM LWML MEETING**

The Bethlehem LWML met on Wednesday evening, October 1, 2014 for their bi-monthly meeting. The opening prayer was given by Emilie Wacker. Shelly Keller led our Bible Study on Galatians 6 with the topic on "Planting Seeds - We Reap What we Sow."

The meeting was called to order by President Coleen Ancell. Roll call was answered by 14 members, giving their middle names. Secretary Lois Walter read selected items from the August minutes, followed by correspondence. The Treasurer, Ramie Schulteis, gave the Treasurer's report. She reported a balance of \$3585.17 in the Treasury, of which \$1243.74 is designated for the cookbook fund, \$1782.50 for the funeral luncheon fund, and \$ 558.93 for the home fund. It was moved and seconded to accept the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports.

Committee reports were given as follows:

Greeting cards - - Euni Thaemert has a good selection of cards to buy, including Christmas cards.

Mission of love/quilts - - Lorelei reported that there have been 19 baby kits, 23 school kits, and 8 personal care kits packed up and ready to go to Lutheran World Relief. Emilie will take the boxes of kits to Trinity Lutheran, Salina, on Thursday, October 9th. Thanks and a money gift will be given to Melinda Howg, for making all our backpacks for the school kits.

Funeral luncheons - - Our next funeral luncheon will be Friday, Oct. 3rd, for the family & friends of Elvera Fischer. Thanks to everyone who brought food for the meal.

Cheer - - We signed sympathy cards to be given to Lowell Fischer and Loretta Beam.

There were no reports from the committees for banners, campus ministry, networker, library, historian, or the prayer chain.

Flowers - - Emilie and Shirley Krueger are the committee for October flowers in church, and Euni & Lois for the November flowers. Also, please water all

the plants in the Church and Parish Hall. Outside watering through Oct. 11th is Marmie Schultz, Oct. 12-18 will be Sophia, and Oct. 19-25, Barb Meitler. Thanks to all who helped water through the summer months!

OLD BUSINESS:

We discussed what to do with all the quilting supplies in the closet off the Parish Hall, since we don't plan on doing much quilting anymore. Elvera Fischer made so many of our quilts that we donated to LWR or Orphan Grain Train. Sometime soon we will go through all the supplies, especially the sheets for backing and filling for LWR quilts, and the comforters that are stored. We still have all the framing supplies. What completed quilts we do have on hand, will be donated to Orphan Grain Train and will be delivered to them at the LLL Convention on Nov. 1st, in Great Bend.

A \$40 memorial for Elvera Fischer will be sent for broadcast of The Lutheran Hour on Sunday mornings at 7:30 a.m., on Hays Radio.

Emilie and Ramie reported on the Fall Event which was a 'progressive supper' on September 7th. Everyone enjoyed going to 4 different places for our food surprises.

We are doing the 'Adopt a Seminarian' project again this year. Our new Seminarian is Travis Ferguson who is a sophomore at Concordia Seminary, St. Louis. The funds for this will come out of the Funeral Luncheon Fund.

The Thrivent for Lutherans Supper will be provided by the BLTeens.

LWML Sunday will be celebrated in church on Sunday, October 5th. Euni & Shirley Krueger are the committee. The ladies will again be singing in the church service - LWML bookmarks will also be placed in the church bulletins.

The LWML Bazaar will be October 4th, beginning with morning rolls & coffee. Most of the 'flea market' items will be on the cement slab between the church and school. All proceeds from that sale will go to the church to be used for church expenses & bills. We will again be selling tickets for a beautiful quilt made by Lois Gier. We voted to send her a money gift for making the quilt. More on the Bazaar will be reported in the November meeting. We are all encouraged to help cook the food for the luncheon and to help at the Bazaar Sat. morning.

NEW BUSINESS:

October 26th the LWML Fall Workshop will be held at St. Johns', Lincoln. The theme will be "Harvest of Blessings". There will be an ingathering for the Lincoln County Food Pantry. Motel-sized toiletries are

always wanted by the Family Connection in Ellsworth. All are encouraged to attend this workshop!

We will have another LWML meeting & election on November 5th. The Nominating committee is Shelly & Marmie. Opening & closing devotions will be given by Emilie, and Sophia Schofield will present the Bible Study. Marmie will be our hostess for the evening. This November meeting takes the place of the December meeting. December we will only have our Christmas party, exchanging of prayer pal name gifts, collection of Mites & Love Sock monies, and maybe a Silent Auction again to be designated for Mites. More on this in the November meeting.

It was moved and seconded that we adjourn the meeting. Emilie closed with a prayer. Our hostess was Cheryl Gier, who served delicious refreshments.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Lois Walter, LWML Secretary



The LWML 2014 mission project of LWR kits



Emilie Wacker delivers the kits in Salina

## LWML Flower Committee

### November

Lois Walter, Euni Thaemert

### December

Anne Dohl, Marmie Schultz

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### **Baptismal Birthdays in November**

*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!*



Carolyn Blasé	Blane Lamb
Lorelei Dohl	Dustin McEntyre
Adam Falcon	Laura Princ
Lowell Fischer	Elise Schulteis
Ashley Fruits	Timothy Schulteis
Dell Gier	Katherine Small
Dirk Heine	Maren Sorensen
Kimberly Hiitter	Eunice Thaemert
Casey Janssen	Lu Willingham

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### **Together In Mission Update**

#### **From Pastor Joshua Gale**

*(Excerpts from his October newsletter)*

Dear Mission Partner,

We have now arrived in Lima, Peru! The year-long process of getting here has been intense, rewarding, enjoyable and a real blessing to me and my family. While fundraising, we were in something like 20 states, including Florida, Pennsylvania, Illinois, Iowa, Alabama and many more. We are so thankful for our partners in the States, the churches and the people, who have all been so generous to me and my family so that the work of the Church can continue here.

After visiting supporters in the US, we then spent three months in La Antigua Guatemala in the shadow of volcanos learning Spanish. We made many great friends there and, of course, learned so much. It was there that we became acclimated to Latin culture, including fútbol (“soccer” to us), tamalitos, street food and all the wonderful fruits grown there. We stayed with a very welcoming Guatemalan family in their home who helped us learn. We were even able to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time when we took a break from studies for a weekend on the black volcanic sand beaches of Monterrico, Guatemala.

After Guatemala, we spent two weeks in the Dominican Republic. The first week was an orientation for me to see our work there and learn from my Regional Director, Pastor Ted Krey, and the team. I really fell in love with the place there and the team was incredibly welcoming. We saw the work of mercy extending from our altars and pulpits in some places that, in order to get there, you literally have to go past where the road ends. After the week of training, we spent a week at the beach for a bit of needed relaxation time with the team in the Latin America and Caribbean Region. Rev Saunders from the Iowa East District was our presenter for the conference, speaking on Private Confession and Absolution as the ordinary form of pastoral care, and how forgiveness of sins is our message and theology. It was truly a great time to learn in the DR and to spend some time at the feet of such incredibly talented and skilled church workers.

The work here in Lima is to plant new altars and pulpits, to preach the Gospel, administer the Sacraments, and to have Christian mercy extend from the Divine Service that takes place around and returns us to those same altars and pulpits. About a year ago, we started Castillo Fuerte Mercy House. We are all excited to announce that Iglesia Luterana Castillo Fuerte (Castillo Fuerte Lutheran Church) will have its first Divine Service on November 9th. Continue to pray for the work here as we continue to work and gather in the neighborhood of La Victoria.

As always, keep us in prayer as we face many challenges with the transition, adapt to a new culture and continue to study Spanish.

Pastor Joshua Gale



In September, Rev. Joshua Gale was installed as the new pastor for La Mision Luterana del Peru

*Bethlehem supports the ministry of Pastor Gale through the Together In Mission (TIM) program. You can follow Pastor Gale’s updates on his blog found at <http://mercyfirsttolast.com>*

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**Acolyte Schedule  
November - December**

- November 2\* Grace Chegwidden
- 9\* Hannah Wolting
- 16 Kilby Meyer
- 23\* Kayla Augustine
- 30 Marshall Hurlbut
  
- December 3+ Rachel Sebesta
- 7 Grace Chegwidden
- 10+ Kilby Meyer
- 14\* Hannah Wolting
- 17+ Marshall Hurlbut
- 21 Rachel Sebesta
- 25\* Kayla Augustine
- 28\* Grace Chegwidden

\* Communion service  
+ Advent service

# Coming Events at Bethlehem

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

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- November 4 – Elders and BOCL meetings
- November 5 – LWML meeting
- November 14 – Blood drive in the parish hall
- November 16 – Pastor leading Lincoln Park Manor worship
- November 26 – Thanksgiving Eve service

## *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)*

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