



# 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 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

*(Taken from 1940 November issue of Bethlehem Record By Rev A Winckler)*

**November.** When we hear the name of this month, almost at once we think of Thanksgiving. And when we think of Thanksgiving we usually think of it as a day of family get-togethers and big dinners. Of course, there is a special service on this day, is a thought that also may come to mind. Are you one that thinks thus? We hope not. To the sincere Christian this thought comes to mind: Thanksgiving although I thank God often for all the blessing he showers upon me daily this is one day that is set aside especially, so that I may leave all my work behind, go to God's house where I will hear a sermon reminding me of the many things for which I owe thanks to my God, where I still bring a special prayer of thanksgiving, and where I will bring a thank offering to my God as a token of appreciation, for all the favors the Lord has granted me. Our prayer is that you think thus. And the poorest of us have many things to be thankful for. Let me recall to your mind just a few; peace in the church and in the country; Gods Works in the home, school and church; rains, so that crops conditions are much better than they have been for many years; willing hearts to give, so that the contributions for the church are larger than they were a year ago; 105

children in our Christion Day school, so that we have a larger enrollment then last year; health to our teachers, who were sick, so that they again are able to teach our little ones; improvement on our church property; willingness to undertake new project in the future; the spirit of cooperation among the members of the various organization in the congregation, as well as in the meetings of the voters; and you and I have our own special reasons for being thankful to a kind father in heaven, who has blessed us with so many blessings that it is impossible for us to mention all them. Are we truly thankful for all these gifts? If so, then let us prove it. This we will do by being present at our Thanksgiving service- there to express our sincere thanks by word and deed. By deeds that is by bringing that special Thanksgiving envelope with a special sacrifice. "Oh that men would praise the Lord for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of men! And let them sacrifice the sacrifice of Thanksgiving." Psalm 107, 21, 22. This the faithful in Bible times always were willing to do; this the pilgrims who first came from abroad to make their home in the new world were willing to do; this the founders of our church were willing to do; and should also be willing to do.

## November Stewardship Newsletter Article

“In the course of time Cain brought to the Lord an offering of the fruit of the ground, and Abel also brought of the firstborn of his flock and of their fat portions. And the Lord had regard for Abel and his offering, but for Cain and his offering he had no regard” (Gen 4:2). Why did the Lord not have regard for Cain and his offering, but did regard Abel and his offering? Was it because Abel’s offering was better intrinsically than Cain’s? No. The Book of Hebrews tells us: “By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, through which he was commended as righteous, God commending him by accepting his gifts” (Heb 11:4). The thing that distinguished Abel’s offering from that of Cain’s is faith. By faith, Abel offered a more acceptable offering.

Faith and giving are inseparable. They are two sides of the same coin. It is faith in the promises of God that leads us to give. By faith we trust that God will do what He says. By faith, we receive everything God gives as a gift from His divine mercy and goodness. For what do we have that we have not received (1 Cor 4:7)? Nothing. Everything we have comes from the Lord. By faith we give to others because God has first given to us, and by faith we trust that He will continue to provide for us all that we need for this body and life. And when by faith we give, God accepts our offerings and commends us as righteous. For by faith we are accounted righteous before God on account of Christ. Giving is a spiritual issue.

But there is a flip side to this two-sided coin: Cain didn’t give an offering to God by faith. His offering did not come from faith but from someplace else. And since it didn’t originate with faith in God and His promises, it was not regarded by God. And he was not accounted righteous. This is a warning to us. Pay attention to your faith and your offerings, and from where they come.

From where do your offerings come? Like all good works, offerings acceptable in God’s sight flow from faith in Christ. They are given in response to the gifts God has given to us, especially the gift of forgiveness of sins in Jesus Christ. And since they are given by faith, they will be the target of Satan’s attacks to ruin the church, do damage to the gospel of Christ, and to weaken your faith in Him. For sin is crouching at our doors, and the temptation to sin in giving is great because of the fallen world and our sinful flesh. But Jesus is greater than our hearts. Jesus has overcome the world. And by faith, so have we. By faith, we rule over them.

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## BOCL October Meeting

Members present were Barb Meitler, Warren Meitler, Tyler Gier, Marilyn Wenthe, Marcy Hulburt, Brock Mueller, Elder Lloyd Gier, Pastor Bonine. Pastor opened the meeting with a prayer. Minutes were read and approved. Barb moved to accept minutes, Tyler seconded.

Details for the finalization of the town clean-up using grant funds were discussed. All volunteers are to meet at 9:00 a.m. at the parish hall on Sat. Oct 10. Doughnuts, coffee & juice will be served.

Reformation Sunday is Oct 25. As usual a traditional brat dinner will be served. Art & Justine Dohl and Kenny & Shirley Small will do it.

Oct. 31 is our biannual bible walk. Justine will coordinate it, Coleen Ancell will get the candy.

Marcy H reported on midweek snacks. The group in charge of the snacks are trying to make it a more healthy version. Brock M suggested that we table a discussion on this topic until more members are present.

There has been an inquiry about if we are going to have a 135th anniversary celebration next year. The BOCL feels that should be a congregational decision, not ours.

Video recording has been put on hold for now until the trustees look into the electrical situation.

Bethlehem is hosting a fundraiser for Rev. Eric Stinnett. This is open to area congregations and general public. The date is Nov 3 at 6:30 p.m. The fundraiser is for raising funds to move his family to Ethiopia where he will be a professor training people to become ministers. There will be a potluck.

Advent services are set for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesdays. If meals are wanted then different groups and individuals can volunteer as they have in the past.

Christmas Eve service will be on Dec. 24 at 6:00 p.m. BOCL will check on donors for candy as they have done in the past.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tue. Nov 10 at 6:30 p.m. Warren Meitler will be guest greeter for Nov. Closed with the Lord's Prayer.

Respectfully submitted Brock L Mueller

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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  
Lorelei Dohl  
Adam Falcon  
Lowell Fischer  
Ashley Fruits  
Dell Gier  
Dirk Heine  
Kimberly Hiitter  
Casey Janssen

Blane Lamb  
Dustin McEntyre  
Laura Princ  
Elise Schulteis  
Timothy Schulteis  
Katherine Small  
Maren Sorensen  
Eunice Thaemert  
Lu Willingham

**BETHLEHEM LWML MEETING - - -  
OCTOBER 7, 2015**

The Lutheran Women's' Missionary League Group met on Wednesday evening, October 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. at the Parish Hall, for their bi-monthly meeting. Opening devotions were given by Emilie Wacker, followed by a short devotional "The Blessing of Redemption", based on Ephesians 1. This devotional was written by Vicar Travis Ferguson, who was our 'adopted' seminarian whom we supported the past year. President Coleen called the meeting to order. Roll call was answered by 11 members. Secretary Lois read the minutes of the last meeting and they were approved as read. She then read all the correspondence received, including some thank you letters. The Treasurer, Ramie, gave the treasurer's report. She reported a balance of \$3047.20. This includes \$1303.74 in the cookbook fund, \$1518.58 in the funeral luncheon fund, and \$224.88 in the general home fund. The treasurer's report was accepted as read. A few committee reports were given. Eunice reported that we still have quite a few all occasion cards available on the Parish Hall table, and some Christmas cards. A reminder was given to the flower committees for the next few months: October is Emilie Wacker & Shirley Krueger; November is Euni Thaemert & Lois Walter; and December is Anne Dohl & Marmie Wacker. Don't forget to water all the plants in the Parish Hall & Church those months. On our prayer chain, we were reminded to keep praying for Pastor Scot Kerns, St. Paul's, Lincoln, as he is still recovering from his pickup accident. Shelly Keller said to watch for the new 'Kansas Sonshine' coming out soon.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

Shelly and Coleen gave a report on our Bazaar which was held on Saturday, October 3rd – it was another great day, but we were short on helpers in the Parish Hall kitchen, the Bake Sale & Cashiers. The Garage Sale on the cement slab brought in a total of \$263.23 to be given to the church treasury. The LWML saw profits of \$1516.61 which includes the donations from the ‘left-overs’ LWML Sunday luncheon the next day after the Bazaar. The Executive Board will be making up a list of suggested mission projects to use our Bazaar funds on and then they will be voted on at our November LWML meeting. LWML Sunday was observed on October 4th. Our group sang a song of thanksgiving for the service that day. That was followed by the noon soup luncheon for whoever wanted to stay and eat. Ramie showed us all the beautiful little pillowcase dresses that her mom, Connie, had started at our Fall Event on Sept. 2nd, and which are now finished. She is sending them on to Orphan Grain Train in Grand Island, Nebr. New pew pads were discussed and it was decided to drop that project for now.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

The Lincoln Zone LWML Workshop will be held in Plainville, on Sunday afternoon, October 11th. Attending from here will be Coleen, Shelly, Emilie, & Ramie. Shirley Krueger and Lois Walter will make the 2 salads to take along for supper.

We will not ‘Adopt A Seminarian’ this year, but are discussing other ideas. Ramie is getting a list of college students together for the campus ministry project. We discussed whether we wanted to help with meals before the Advent services, if the Board of Church Life wants to do them this year. There was not much interest in them from our group. We understand that Advent services will be on Tuesday nights in December. A little discussion followed on our LWML Christmas Party dates but nothing was decided. We again will decorate the Parish Hall for Christmas. In our November

meeting we will have elections for the office of Vice-President and Treasurer.

The Nominating Committee is Cheryl Gier, and Lorelei Dohl. For our November 4th meeting, opening and closing devotions will be given by Coleen, Sophia Schofield will have the Bible Study, and hostess will be Lorelei Dohl.

The meeting was adjourned and we closed with prayer by Emilie. Delicious refreshments of sandwiches and cake was served by Cheryl Gier. Respectfully Submitted ,Lois Walter, LWML Secretary

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**Cards for sale!**

The LWML has a few Christmas cards for sale in the parish hall. There is also Religions Birthday, Anniversary, get well, and a variety of boxed all Occasion cards. You can buy just one card or a whole box. Just put your money in the box or give it to Ramie.

Thank you for supporting this cause!

**LWML Flower Committee**  
*November*  
*Lois Walter, Euni Thaemert*  
**December**  
*Anne Dohl, Marmie Schultz*



**Acolyte Schedule  
November**

Nov 1 Grace Chegwidden  
 Nov 8\* Marshall Hurlbut  
 Nov 15 Racheal Sebesta  
 Nov 22\* Mekelle Hurlbut  
 Nov 26 Marshall Hurlbut  
 Nov 29 Grace Chegwidden

**December**

Dec 1+  
 Dec 6 Racheal Sebesta  
 Dec 8+  
 Dec 13\* Marshall Hurlbut  
 Dec 15+  
 Dec 20 Grace Chegwidden  
 Dec 22+  
 Dec 24  
 Dec 25  
 Dec 27\* Mekelle Hurlbut

\* Communion service  
 + Advent

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Facts from November 1940 Bethlehem Record  
 (75 years ago)

201 communed  
 totals for the year is 1575  
 Total for all of 1939 was 1567  
 Also something to be thankful for,

Church attendance;  
 English 1947 average 487  
 German 79 average 40



*E-Mail Received from LCMS Rural & Small Town Mission*



**Mercy is at the heart of everything we do**

Jesus is our supreme example for life in this world. During His time on earth, Christ taught His disciples to care for the whole person, in both body and soul. He healed the sick, fed the hungry and forgave sinners. In His death and resurrection, He took on the sins of the whole world so all might be saved. Lives that have received this great mercy (grace!) cannot but be merciful toward the neighbor (love!).

The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod extends Christ’s mercy to those in need through its Life, Health, Deaconess, Disaster Response and Gospel Seeds ministries, among others. Visit [lcms.org/focus/mercy](http://lcms.org/focus/mercy) to learn about these mercy ministries and find resources and opportunities for you to love your neighbor.

**Prayers** *O God, who, through the grace of Your Holy Spirit, pours the love of charity into the hearts of Your faithful people, grant to all who serve as deaconesses or in life ministries health both of mind and body, that they may love You with their whole strength and, with their whole heart, perform those things that are pleasing to You; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

*Almighty and ever-living God, You make us both to will and to do those things that are pleasing to You. Bless the ministry of Gospel Seeds and every endeavor of Your people to spread the joy of Christ’s saving Gospel, that many may join us in confessing the Savior and singing His praises in the eternal kingdom; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*



Our Lutheran School Building was recently named to both the Register of Historic Kansas Place and the National Register of Historic Places. The native Limestone building was recognized for its local significance in the areas of architecture and social history. Built in 1913, it was once one of the largest parochial schools in the state of Kansas until it was closed in 1981 due to dwindling enrollment and financial reasons. At its heyday, regular enrollment for eight grades often exceeded 150 students per year, or more than 50 students per room per teacher.

Today, the school is very much the same inside as it was 100 years ago. The woodwork, blackboards, desks, bell, and other items from the past allow one to take a trip back in time. It continues to serve the congregation and community through mid-week classes (approx. 50 students), Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, and BL Teens meetings. However, the building does have some pressing renovation needs. Because rain gutters and downspouts have not been on the building for a number of years, moisture has accumulated in the basement, causing damage to the interior walls and floors and resulting in a potentially dangerous mold and mildew problem.

A Heritage Trust Fund grant application was recently submitted to the Kansas Historical Society to install rain gutters and downspouts on the building. If approved, funding to provide a 20% match is available from the Church's treasury. Any future improvement, such as repointing some stones, removal of surfaces containing mold and mildew, interior and exterior painting and other upkeep, will require fund-raising efforts.

If the Lutheran School holds a special place in your heart, please consider making a donation toward its preservation. Make your check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church marked "School." We want to keep this magnificent historic building viable and in good repair for our current needs and for the future. Should you have any question? Please contact Terry Lilak at 785-524-6034 (cell)

### *A Mid-Week Report*

The Ambassadors for Christ Midweek Program, is supported by Bethlehem Lutheran Church, is for the benefit of children who live in Sylvan Grove and surrounding communities. About 35-52 children ride a bus from the Sylvan-Lucas School in Lucas each Wednesday,

Teachers Lorelei Dohl and Sofia Scofield lead the children in studies from the Holy Bible and Luther's Small Catechism, as well as from other teaching materials.

They enjoy a snack/light supper meal. We are always open to donation of cookies, fruit, and drinks contact Anne Dohl, Dena Sorensen and Coleen Ancell.

They have lessons in the classrooms of the Lutheran School. They memorize Scripture, hymns and songs. Shelly Keller plays the piano as they sing the songs and hymns they have memorized. They perform and watch skits and plays. They on occasion sing at Bethlehem worship services. They are beginning to get ready for their annual Christmas Eve program.

They learn the Great Commission from Matthew 28. "Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

As Christ's Ambassadors, it is the children's great joy and pleasure to share this message of healing, forgiveness and unchanging love in Christ Jesus

## Rev. Eric Johanna Stinnett and family



**LEARN • PRAY • GIVE • TELL • SEND • GO • CELEBRATE**

(*Note of interest* Rev Eric Stinnett is the grandson of Pastor A Winckler & Ruth Winckler. Rev Winckler was Pastor here at Bethlehem from 1939-1943. His Mother is Esther Winckler Stinnett Nephew to Paul and Jim Winkler. He is a cousin of Phil Chegwiddden)

- BIRTHDAYS: Eric – April 12, Johanna – Feb. 15, Rachael – Feb. 22, Naomi – Aug. 27, Luke – May 9
- ANNIVERSARY: May 29
- HOME DISTRICT: Montana

Rev. Eric and Johanna Stinnett serve the Lord as career missionaries through The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) in Ethiopia. Eric accepted the call from the LCMS' Office of International Mission (OIM) to teach at Mekane Yesus Seminary in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. This seminary is dedicated to training faithful Lutheran pastors and other church workers to serve in Ethiopia.

Eric was born in Great Falls, Mont. He earned a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from the University of Montana, Missoula. He received his Master of Divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Ind. Prior to becoming a missionary; Eric worked as a hospital clinical staff pharmacist and as a triple parish pastor at Trinity Lutheran Church, Stanford, Mont., Our Savior Lutheran Church, Denton, Mont., and St. Paul Lutheran Church,

Lewistown, Mont. In his free time, Eric enjoys woodworking, reading and bow hunting.

Johanna was born in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She earned bachelor's degrees in biology and nursing from the University of Windsor and is a registered nurse. Before heading to Ethiopia, Johanna served as an obstetrics nurse at Hutzel Women's Hospital, Detroit, and with Benefis Health Systems, Great Falls, Mont. In her free time, she enjoys gardening, reading, playing the piano, being an organist and teaching choir. Eric and Johanna have three beautiful children – Rachael, Naomi and Luke – who join them on the mission field.

Please pray for Eric, Johanna and their children as they serve in Ethiopia. Pray God gives their entire family strength and peace as they transition to life overseas, learning the culture and the language. Please pray for the church in Ethiopia and for the students attending Mekane Yesus Seminary. Ask God to give Eric His wisdom and guidance as he teaches these students and helps them prepare to become faithful Lutheran pastors, lay evangelists and other professional church workers. Let us give thanks to God that Eric, Johanna and their family have answered the call to serve His people in Ethiopia.

Pastor Stinnett is working for funding for their Mission Work in Ethiopia. Give securely on line at [lcms.org/stinnett](http://lcms.org/stinnett) or contact



# Coming Events at Bethlehem

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

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- Nov 3** Mission Festival at Bethlehem
- Nov 4** LWML Meeting
- Nov 10** 5:30 p.m. Elders meeting
- Nov 10** 7 p.m. BOCL meeting
- Nov 24** Red Cross Blood Drive at Bethlehem
- Nov 25** No Mid-week
- Nov 26** 10:30 am Thanksgiving worship 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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