



November 2021

Volume 10, Issue 3

The Bethlehem Star



Giving Thanks to God for the Building

In our regular Divine Service on Sunday November 14, 2021 we will celebrate the anniversary of another important event in Bethlehem's history: the dedication of the first church and school building. The actual dedication took place on November 22, 1896. We know that the Church is more than a building; it is the those saints in Christ gathered by our Lord around Word and Sacrament. At the same time we must not discount the importance of the building, the place where this regularly occurs for the congregation. We give thanks to God for the building, for the brick and mortar, for these are the good created gifts that God gives and that His people use for His glory.

In remembering and giving thanks to God for the buildings that God has blessed Bethlehem with over the years I would like you to read a sermon written by Lutheran pastor Wilhelm Löhe (1808-1872) at the occasion of a church dedication festival, as I find it very fitting for our anniversary celebration. The following is from *The Word Remains: Selected Writings on the Church Year and the Christian Life* (Fort Wayne: Emmanuel Press, 2016):

"Rejoice on this anniversary day of your church dedication. Rejoice that the Lord consecrates these walls, dwells in them, and in them shows you the way to the eternal tabernacle. There is hardly a more beautiful day in the year than the day of the church anniversary. Where is there cause for joy and thanksgiving, if not on this day?

It is just barely surpassed by the high feasts. Christmas is indeed a greater feast, but what good is that to us—that the Highest became man and was laid in the manger for my sake—if it is not preached to my fathers, to me, and to my brothers, if we cannot go to the manger and worship the child who is the desire of all the angels? Greater is that day on which the Lord bowed His head in death. But what good is that to me if His suffering is not revealed to me in the Word that preaches atonement, if I do not hear that He was abandoned on the cross for me, that I died in Him and am justified in Him?

Greater is the day of Easter, where men and angels sing their Hallelujah to the resurrected one. But how am I to know that He is victorious and has defeated death and the devil for my sake if the preaching of His resurrection does not pierce my ears? What good is it to me that He ascended to heaven, and will come back in the same, if I know nothing of His triumph and that I shall have a place in that holy city which is to return here with Him?

For me there can be no Pentecost without a place where the Holy Spirit can enter and work. I need a Bethel [house of God], in which testimonies of the great acts of God resound, a place of rest and of praise for His divine mysteries. Do we praise God that He has given us a place where His Word is preached and peace that can build up the congregation? A place where the ignorant are taught, the erring are corrected, where the faithful are led along the path of salvation? Indeed, it is a place where each of us is given what we need from the treasury of divine mysteries.

As much as I have encouraged you to rejoice, I do not consider it in any way superfluous to warn you against misplaced joy. Never forget in these days why you rejoice. Do not separate your joy from its source, that is, from thanksgiving for the church given to you. Be mindful of this so that you do not sin in your rejoicing. I know, my friends, that for you, or at least for many among you, this is a necessary warning. I have also learned from experience that I cannot count on obedience to the Word and office of the Lord that He Himself has commanded you. So I will do today what Job did for his children after their days of feasting; I will go about in my silence and prepare sacrifices and vessels filled with incense, so that I may pray for you, that the hand of the Lord in Christ Jesus may turn to you in blessing."

Rev. Samuel Wirgau



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A congregation of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod

November 2021

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 All Saints Day	2 7p Women's Bible Study	3 10:15 Chapel 1:30p Ladies Aid Meeting 7p Divine Service	4 Board of Educ. Meeting	5	6 Auction Gala
7 9a Divine Serv 10:15a ABC & SS Swiss Steak Dinner Daylight Savings	8	9 7p 125th Anniversary Meeting	10 10:15 Chapel 7p Divine Service	11 7p LWML Meeting	12	13
14 9a Divine Serv 10:15 ABC & SS	15	16	17 10:15 Chapel 7p Divine Service	18 Directory Photos	19 Directory Photos Square Dance at Lighted Gardens	20 Directory Photos
21 9a Divine Serv 10:15 ABC & SS 11:15a Voters Assembly Meeting	22	23	24 10:15a Chapel 7p Divine Service	25 9a Thanksgiving Service	26	27
28 9a Divine Serv 10:15 ABC & SS	29	30	NO SCHOOL Nov. 22-26			

October 29, 2021

BETHLEHEM FINANCIAL REPORT

General Fund (Home Fund) Account to Pay Operating Bills (\$11,008.47)

Savings Fund Balances

	Accrued <u>Amount</u>	Restricted <u>Amount Borrowed</u>	Account <u>Balance</u>
Improvement Fund	\$45,630.12	(\$10,000.00)	\$35,630.12
Scholarship Fund	\$ 4,182.15	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 4,182.15
Music Fund	\$ 4,958.55	(\$ 3,500.00)	\$ 1,458.55
125th Anniversary	\$ 2,387.26	(\$ 0.00)	\$ 2,387.26
Sound/Video System	<u>\$17,700.03</u>	<u>(\$ 0.00)</u>	<u>\$17,700.03</u>
TOTALS	\$74,858.11	(\$13,500.00)	\$61,358.11

Checkbook Balance (\$11,008.47)

Savings Account Balance \$61,358.11

Total Savings and Checking Balance \$50,349.64

Borrowed Amounts

Restricted Savings Account	(\$ 13,500.00)
Operating Loan Amount	\$ 0.00
TOTAL BORROWED	<u>(\$ 13,500.00)</u>

Current Balance Collected for Project	Current Balance
Project	Completed
Roof Phase II	AC Units
	\$26,189.12

Bills due week of November 1 \$2,000

Bills due week of November 8 \$13,100

LADIES AID NEWS

The Ladies Aid meeting of October 6, 2021 was started with a presentation by Delores Scheumann concerning activities of LWML. She read Psalm 19 from the reading of Psalms by Martin Luther. Mission and home fund baskets were passed around for any donations. Delores mentioned that there is an International Convention being planned for 2 years from now. The blanket project is now done with 32 blankets being made. The seminarians will be included in receiving a blanket. The programs for October and November meeting are being planned. Aaron Coggins is talking at some point and also Lloyd and Joellen Meyer about their trip to Saudi Arabia and Morocco.

Pastor Wirgau then gave devotions from Matthew 9 and the Martin Luther prayer.

Colleen Patrick conducted the meeting for Kathy Nahrwold and Wendy Boehm read the secretary's report for Joellen Meyer. Roll call showed 9 members and 0 guests present.

The secretary's report needed one correction showing the funeral for Bernice Gephart occurred on August 5. It was approved with this one correction.

Correspondence about the upcoming Seminary donation Day on October 12 was read.

The treasurer's report was approved as read. Reminder was made about dues of \$5 were due for 2021.

Altar Guild had nothing to report.

The Social Secretary, Delores Scheumann read the names of birthdays and anniversaries of members. She also told us of church family members she had sent cards to.

The Kitchen Committee has now found people to take all of the round trays. Sue and Kathy now have several recipes for the 125th celebration cookbook.

Old Business: Kathy has received the large serving bowls and they are ready to use in the kitchen.

125th Anniversary church celebration will be held June 12, 2022.

The Bona product and cleaning device are ready to use on the new kitchen floor.

The soup and pie sale was September 19 with a profit of \$90. Thanks to Patty Baker for setting up the sale.

The Fall Festival was on September 26. The Ladies Aid furnished the pies and ice cream. Thanks to Sue Buchinger and Amy Schueler.

There was some discussion of a church Women's Organization which will include both Ladies Aid and LWML. Every activity that each organization did will be combined and all women of the church congregation will be asked to participate. There will be one treasurer to handle all the events. A group meeting of all ladies of our congregation will take place in the near future, on a Sunday. The Ladies Aid can only dissolve by a 2/3 majority vote.

New Business: A pie and soup sale will be October 17th after church.

The Holiday Bazaar will be November 7th. It will be carry out only. No pies are needed for this event.

Cookies will be included in this meal. The meal will need payment at pick up.

The Ladies Aid Christmas Luncheon with the Bethlehem School will be Monday December 6th at 11:30 a.m.

We will have fruit baskets to be completed and delivered also in December.

It was mentioned by Wendy that maybe updating the bathrooms in the church should be considered.

Many at the meeting agreed.

Colleen mentioned that we are going through the old Ladies Aid records for any history that would be of interest for the anniversary committee. If anyone has any information they would like to share please contact a committee member. The meeting was adjourned with the Lord's Prayer followed by the Common Table Prayer.

The next Ladies Aid meeting will be Wednesday, November 3, 2021 at 1:30 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall.

Respectfully submitted by

Wendy Boehm for the secretary Joellen Meyer



MEMBERS ARE REMINDED TO SIGN UP FOR FLOWERS TO BE PLACED ON THE ALTAR OR HYMNBOARD.

Simply use the 2021 flower chart posted on the bulletin board to sign up on the date you wish to have flowers. Purchased flowers should be brought to church before the designated date to be sure they are placed properly. For help in placing the flowers, please contact Amy Schueler, Dalene Springer or Deaconess Wendy Boehm.

Announcements concerning the flowers should be given to the church office. Thank you

Wedding Shower: The Ladies Aid will be hosting a "wedding shower" for seminarian Isaac Spangler and his fiancé Katie on Sunday November 14th. A table will set up in the narthex to leave cards or gifts starting next Sunday, November 7th. Here is the website for their registry.

<https://m.blueprintregistry.com/registry/isaac-and-katie-registry>

The LWML will be collecting Christmas gifts for our field workers, Aaron Coggins and Isaac Spangler November 7 – December 5. You can place your donations in the designated box in the entryway. Gift cards can be given to Delores Scheumann or put in the LWML mailbox in the office.

We are thankful to be able to put on our Bazaar and luncheon this year and would be very pleased with your assistance in spreading the word. It will take place on Saturday, November 20th at St. Paul Preble Lutheran Church from 10:30-1 pm. We will have baked sale items, cookie corner, noodles, and frosted Christmas cookies. We will also have homemade soups and sandwiches for dine in and carry out as well as a few crafts. Please join us and spread the word!

Cultivating Resilience after Trauma:

As we are approaching the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays, trauma and stress are chief concerns for many within our community. Coupled with the challenges created by the global COVID-19 pandemic, many people will have lived through all kinds of stresses and loss. To address this issue Zion Friedheim Lutheran Church will be hosting a two-hour seminar at their Family Life Center (10655 N – 550 W Decatur, IN 46733) entitled **Cultivating Resilience after Trauma** on Tuesday, November 23, beginning with a meal at 6 p.m. with the presentation beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Reservation may be made by contacting Joe Gorman by cell at 260.706.0999 or by e-mail at preblegorman@gmail.com. The reservation deadline is Sunday, November 14, 2021

There is no charge for the meal; however, a free-will donation may be received to offset the cost of the meal.

This one and one-half hour workshop will explore understanding how the neurobiology of trauma affects us as humans. The latest trauma information has gone from focusing on the traumatic event to focusing on the impact to physiology. Trauma actually creates physiological states in the body--- and these states will limit behaviors, emotions and relationship capacity. This has been highly significant to understand as it means that in a trauma state, there are actual limits in behavioral and emotional repertoire.

These trauma states will be covered to make them more identifiable. Understanding these states more deeply is critical to be more effective with others. We now know that trauma is not trauma if the body stays calm, as body symptoms are a hallmark of PTSD. This underlying physiology will be explained.

This change in the field of trauma has led to new interventions that are about making change on a deeper level and not just managing trauma symptoms. In cultivating resilience, more capacity is created to support recovery from difficulties. This workshop will cover direct skills to support resilience after trauma. This lens of understanding trauma through neurobiology tends to lead to less judgment of self and others, bringing in more compassion.

About our speaker Ruby Jo Walker:

Founder of Post-traumatic Growth Somatic Therapy

Somatic Experiencing Practitioner

Certified Hakomi Therapist

With 30 years of experience, Ruby Jo Walker, LCSW is an expert trainer and therapist specializing in the neurobiology of trauma and resilience. She is the founder of Post-Traumatic Growth Somatic Therapy--a unique blend of innovative somatic therapy practices rooted in the fields of neurobiology, trauma healing, attachment, resilience and polyvagal theory. She works with helping professionals and clients to incorporate interpersonal neurobiology for deep change and transformation.



November 7, 2021 – All Saints' Day

Psalm 149; 1 John 3:1-3; Matthew 5:1-12

“What Is and What Will Be!” -
Sermon Text: 1 John 3:1-3 - Rev.
Dr. Thomas Ahlersmeyer

God, in His amazing love, adopts us as His children right now in Jesus Christ. And He doesn't stop there. He continues to mold and shape us so that more and more we reflect His image. Children of God live in two realities—what is our status now as His children (warts and all) and what will be in an eternity where we serve and celebrate in “everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness.”

November 14, 2021 – Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost

Psalm 16; Hebrews 10:11-14; Mark 13:1-13

“The Sacrifice, the Reign” - Sermon Text: Hebrews 10:11-14 - Rev. Dr. Walter Maier III

Christ offered up a single sacrifice for the sins of the world, and then he sat down at the right hand of God the Father. Both of these truths are good news for us and mean much for our life each day.

November 21, 2021 – The Last Sunday of the Church Year

Psalm 93; Isaiah 51:4-6; Mark 13:24-37

“Watch Friends” - Sermon Text: Mark 13:35-37 -
Rev. Thomas Eggold

Jesus came to make us ready, and he did it by taking on human flesh and, with it, He took on our selfishness, and He took on our doubt, and He took on our impatience. He took these sins and with them He went to the Cross, and He did all of this so that we would be prepared for what comes next. In the death of Jesus Christ, God punished the sins that separated us from Him, and in His resurrection, He made us ready!

November 28, 2021 – The First Sunday in Advent

Psalm 89:6, 14-16, 18, Antiphon: Zechariah 9:9; Jeremiah 33:14-16; Luke 19:28-40

“Your Coming King” - Sermon Text: Zechariah 9:9 -
Rev. Shayne Jonker

Your King comes to you, righteous and having salvation. He came once in humility to die and rise. He comes now to bless, to forgive, to make you His own, and give you a share in His life and royalty. He comes to establish His reign, not on earth, but in the hearts of men, turning hearts in faith toward Him and to the Father.

November 2021



- 02) Whitney Smith
- 03) Raeann Stoppenhagen
- 04) Andrew Roembke
- 06) Brian Scheumann
Dalene Springer
- 09) Victoria Brickley
Ashley Bultemeier
Shalynn Saalfrank
- 10) Amber Corwin
- 11) Joyce Bauermeister
- 13) Evan Springer
Ryan Werling
- 15) Bruce Bultemeier
- 16) Laura Meyer
- 19) Austin Miller
Greg Mishler
Tonya Pynaert
Tiffany Roose
Dean Scheumann
Ben Schueler
- 21) Kathy Nahrwold
- 22) Daniel Buchinger
- 24) Jeff Holtzclaw
- 25) Jerry Meyer
- 26) Addison Roembke
- 27) Lydia Harkless
- 28) Haley Green



**The Endowment Committee thanks the Lord and the congregation
for the generous gifts to the Endowment Fund.**

Here is the monthly report for the Bethlehem Lutheran School Endowment Fund by the Lutheran Foundation that just became available today. The following information is accurate as of August 31, 2021:

\$176,927.82 - Amount Bethlehem sent in since 2009
164,283.00 - Amount the Lutheran Foundation matched
245,171.18 - Amount generated since 2009
-104,500.00 - Amount disbursed to Bethlehem since 2009
\$481,882.00 - Value of the Endowment Fund as of August 31, 2021

Enjoy the convenience of Electronic Giving!

Please consider setting up a recurring giving plan. Automating your financial commitments means your contributions will be received on a steady, uninterrupted basis.

If you wish to make a single online donation or set up recurring donations, you may do so on our website, www.bethlehemossian.org through our third-party provider-Vanco Payment Solutions. Online giving may be done as a credit card payment or ACH bank transfer. Please note, the church will incur a \$0.45 processing fee on each online transaction. Credit card transactions will be charged at least 2.75% fee. For ACH bank transfers, there is a fee of 1% of each dollar charged. This may affect how you wish to direct your online donations. You may also elect to increase your gift to cover the cost of the transaction fees.

Happy Anniversary!

Nov. 4 Brad and Amanda Meyer (3)
Nov. 10 Dale and Marcia Meyer (49)
Nov. 14 Kim and Gina Graft (41)
Nov. 16 Jay and Cheryl Louison (30)
Nov. 17 Aldon and Charlotte Bultemeier (14)
Nov. 20 Rory and Tina Geiger (28)
Nov. 20 Stan and Pat Meyer (39)
Nov. 23 Landon and Emily Sands (2)
Nov. 25 Neil and Susan Stoppenhagen (32)
Nov. 27 Brian and Janice Scheumann (22)
Nov. 28 Loren and Anita Dathe (34)
Nov. 28 Lane and Jeni Harkless (23)
Nov. 28 Seth and Natalie Wanner (6)
Nov. 29 Steve and Clara Conrad (25)
Nov. 29 Ted and Denise Schumm (35)
Nov. 29 Leon and Arlene Werling (46)



Elder Routes

Brian Bauermeister A-B
Glen Werling C-F
Mike Meyer G-K
Bruce Meyer L-P
Lloyd Meyer Q-S
Dave Flesch T-Z