



Bethlehem
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Crossings

MAY 2026 NEWSLETTER

WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE

Saint Paul wrote, ***“Just as Christ was raised from the dead... we too may live a new life.”*** Romans 6:4

Easter is not just a day, or even a season, on a calendar—it’s a life each of us are invited to live. We are called and gifted to be Easter People. Easter People live in light of the resurrection. Easter People live confidently in the fullness of this new identity. Easter People let the promise of life shape how we act, speak and rest.

Living in resurrection hope requires practice. Below are some practical ways to continue to live Easter joy and resurrection power each day. You can integrate these spiritual disciplines into daily life remembering that you are raised with Christ and called to live differently.

Practice 1: Morning Resurrection Ritual - Start your day with a brief ritual that reminds you of your new life. Perhaps, as Martin Luther did, splash your face with water and remind yourself you are a baptized beloved child of God.

Practice 2: Weekly Sabbath Reset - Sabbath is a practical reminder that you aren’t defined by productivity and that resurrection life is not all about doing but being with God.

Practice 3: Confession and Renewal - Create a simple habit of regular confession—write down one small step you will take toward change. Pair this with prayer for the Spirit’s power to follow through. Each positive change illustrates resurrection.

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Worship /Study Schedule

Worship Services: 9:30am

In person or on

Zoom/YouTubeLive

Call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting ID: 947 2112 9583

Password: 058733

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Bethlehem Meetings

Call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting: 852 4417 3785

Password: 387195

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WE ARE EASTER PEOPLE

Practice 4: Resurrection-Centered Choices -

When decisions feel heavy, ask: “Which choice best reflects resurrection life—love, reconciliation, service?”

Practice 5: Small Acts of Resurrection -

Embody resurrection—reach out to someone who’s hurting, forgive an offense you’ve been nursing, volunteer to help others.

Every time Easter People gather is a counter-cultural statement that says we believe in the possibility of resurrection for each of us, even in the darkest of days. This doesn't mean we're never sad, or afraid, or hurting. But it does mean that we believe that God walks with us, we'll get through it and we'll experience fullness of life again.

Blessings, Pastor Dawn

Gracious God, Thank You for the gift of new life in Jesus. Help me to live in the power of the resurrection today—to let old patterns die and allow Your Spirit to shape my heart. Give me courage to rest, to forgive, and to act with mercy. Open my eyes to small, daily signs of Your renewal and lead me into community that strengthens my faith. In Jesus' name, Amen.

PRAYER LIST

Our BLC members: Alex Sorton, Kathra Naviaux, Shirley Pflederer, Karen Allen, Char Carey, Judy Drommerhausen, Peggy & Bob Graham, Fred Harnish (in Hospice), Shirley Harnish, Chris Hunsicker, Bill Jones, Kathie Larson, Linda Leitner, Patrick O’Riley, Ashley Ottaviano, Eugene Wilkening, Sigrid Barker, Karen Dingel, Kathy Lehman, Mary Schalow

For friends and relatives: Marian Dudek, Karen Aurand, Laura Antos, Katie Pizzitola, Julie Anne Robbins, John Schafer, Marian Anderson, Ann & Bill Dice, Ed Fagre, Dennis Fagre, Kim Fiedler, Marlene Lamz, Greg Lunsford, Lynn Reuter, Kelly Quinn, Sandy Smart, Katie Sorton, Larry

Church Council: Cate Murschel, Patrick O’Riley, Jennifer Luna, Sean Edwards, Marilyn House, Heidi Irani, Sherry Liske, Don Samuelson

Habitat for Humanity Joyful Hope Partnership May 2026 Update

Joyful Hope Partnership will be building its next house located at 67 Genessee in Elgin. Waiting for the foundation to be poured.

Volunteer Build Opportunities

There are still plenty of opportunities! Volunteers can sign up as an individual's (please put "New Hope" in the "Group Name" field):

1. Visit

<https://volunteerup.com/Login.asp?w=i&o=175>

2. If you've never logged in, please select "I Am A New Volunteer".

3. Fill out the registration form, and select New Hope Partnership as your group/team.

Golf Fundraiser at Whisper Creek Friday, May 29th

This will be our third golf fundraising event hosted by the Team!

Take a sneak peek (more to come!) – https://www.golfinvite.net/new_hope_habitat_outing_2026

For more information, please contact Cindy Lange at 847-814-3249 or clange50@sbcglobal.net
Let's put God's love into action!



Julissa Gomez is graduating from Aurora University earning a degree in Social Work and Psychology. She will begin work on a Master's degree in social work.

Leslie Gomez is graduating from Streamwood High School. She plans to attend Aurora University and major in Chemistry.

Tamsin Saylor, daughter of Eric and Amy Hoeft Saylor graduates from Urbandale High School in Urbandale Iowa. She is planning to attend Western Carolina University in North Carolina studying Parks and Recreation Management.

Celebration of the graduates will be at coffee hour on **Sunday, May 24.**

Please contact the office with information about anyone who is graduating from high school or college. Please provide school name and future plans. Call (847-814-3249) or email Cindy (churchoffice@blcelgin.org)



Pray for peace and for those who gave their life for their nation.



Join **Bethlehem Lutheran Child Development Center**
for our **Annual Spring Fling!**

Enjoy an evening of food, fun, and fellowship as our students delight you with their spring song performances. After the show, stay for dinner and family-friendly activities. We hope to see you there! 🌸

Kelly Aurand, Director
Bethlehem Lutheran Child Development Center

BLC Council HAPPENINGS

- Council approved creating a church directory using InstantChurchDirectory.com. Watch for more information to come in the future.
 - Council is also researching grants to widen main floor bathroom doors for wheelchair accessibility.
 - We're exploring a summer Vacation Bible School, possibly with RChurch, BLC, and CDC children. If anyone is interested in volunteering to plan, develop and help execute VBS, please reach out to Cate Murschel or Pastor Dawn.
 - Pastor Dawn and Jennifer Luna will gauge Confirmation students' interest in the 2027 ELCA National Youth Gathering.
 - Bethlehem will receive the 2026 Elgin Heritage Commission Mayor's Award for Historic Preservation on May 5, 2026 for restoring the Gethsemane window. Thanks, Gary Ottaviano, for all of your hard work!
- Respectfully, Jennifer Luna

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Action report of our giving with dollar amounts for March and YTD.

2026	March	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen Oper	\$27,962.03	\$55,485.29	\$53,307.00
Expenses	\$21,210.58	\$63,406.90	\$65,577.00
Total Receipts	\$4,751.45	\$(7,921.61)	(\$12,270.00)

The General Operating Fund remains in the black because of the 2025 carryover. Thank you for your faithful offerings. In 2025 we paid off the Renovation Loan, so any donations to Renovation or Property Trust will go into the Property Trust Fund for future planned major expenses to our church that aren't covered by the budget.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer

2025-2026 CHURCH COUNCIL

Regularly scheduled council meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7pm.

- Cate Murschel 224-622-7423
President
- Jennifer Luna 224-678-3428
Secretary
- Sean Edwards 847-695-2868
- Marilyn House 847-567-0281
- Heidi Irani 847-774-9314
- Sherry Liske 847-857-0363
- Patrick O'Riley 847-802-2110
Vice-President
- Don Samuelson 630-965-7479

Stuff to Know

GROUP MEETINGS

Craft Circle - Meets on Monday, May 4 in the Red Room at 12p

Church Council - Meets on Wednesday, May 13 at 7:00pm in the Red Room

Rebecca Circle - Meets on Monday, May 18 at 1pm in the Red Room

Soup Kitchen - serves on Friday, May 22 4pm-7pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Council Retreat-Saturday, May 24 at Nazareth Retreat Center

ALTAR FLOWERS

Mark your family's special day and beautify the church by signing up to purchase altar flowers for Sunday Service. Order in honor of or in memory of a family member. Contact the office for Sundays that are available. Cost is \$15 for 2 bouquets for our vases or \$36 for two arrangements from Town and Country Florist.



Happy birthday!

- 01 Barkley Mapes
- 05 Chery Peacock
- 06 Aracely Ojeda
- 07 Christina Alfaro
- 10 Megan Olson
- Jennifer Shroder
- 14 Heather Thomas
- 16 Deb Sensor
- 17 Leslie Gomez
- 18 Kathryn Miller
- 22 Ronnie Malave
- 23 Zayleigh Kohen
- 26 Patrick O'Riley
- 29 Jeff Lange

ZOOM

COMMUNION CUPS

If you need more, please contact Cindy in the church office for more - 847-741-8434

“Navigating Anew: Finding our way Forward”

MAY 23RD COUNCIL RETREAT

Charting our course as we move together into strong future, we will examine roles, create missional course and explore ways to reach new shores (the community) for Jesus in this 21st century.

Pray for us as we listen for God's direction and follow what God calls us to do and be together.

BIBLE STUDY

Join us for study on Tuesdays. Peg leads the study in the Chapel at 10 a.m. It is available on Zoom.

SIDEWALKS OF APPRECIATION

Kick Off Teacher & Staff Appreciation Week!



Sunday, May 3rd
after church

Join us as we celebrate
our amazing teachers and staff!

We'll have chalk in all colors—just bring your
creativity and kind words.

Let's fill our church walkway with uplifting messages
and appreciation! Help us cover the church walkway
with positivity—so when staff arrive Monday morning,
they're welcomed with smiles and gratitude everywhere
they look.



But shhh... it's a surprise!

Teachers

SECOND SATURDAY

An evening of fun and fellowship

6:30 to 9:00 PM

Bring your favorite game – Board Games! Card games! Or come learn a new one.
Or just come and socialize, meet new people and have fun.

All are welcome; couples, singles, families.

Questions: contact Cate Murschel 224-622-7423.
Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 340 Grand Blvd. Elgin, IL



Where do you see God at work in our midst?

In pictures or short stories, share with us on our social media! Send your stories or pictures to Pastor Dawn at

Pastor@blcelgin.org

Watch our Facebook page to see who has “won” the challenge.

Contest rules: All who send a story or picture are winners! You will have shared your faith, and you will be eligible for a prize drawing each week on Thursdays, announced on Sundays. Winners will win prizes ranging from coffee at Sugar & Rhyme to some kind of BLC swag to special handmade items.

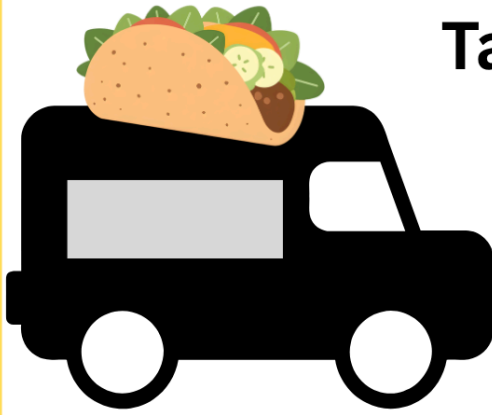
Contest will go through May 22, 2026.

Also, let's see if we can help BLC to 1000 followers on FB!

Bethlehem Honored – Bethlehem is being awarded the **2026 Elgin Heritage Commission Mayor's award for Historic Preservation!**

We are the recipients of the award for fundraising and restoring the Gethsemane-stained glass window in our Narthex.

The award will be presented to the church on Tuesday May 5, 2026 at the 1927 historic Elk's Lodge (aka The Lodge Performing Arts Center). The ceremony will be live-streamed on Elgin's YouTube page that day and recorded for later viewing. Please celebrate our heritage and share the word.



Taco Tuesdays Returns

Each Tuesday in June and July RChurch serves tacos and care in BLC parking lot. You are invited to come eat and/ or serve our community. See sign-up board for info and to help.

ALSO, WATCH FOR INFORMATION ABOUT A SUMMER PICNIC AND FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITY WITH BETHELEHEM & RCHURCH

Joy of Serving at Worship
Readers, Greeters/Ushers,
communion assistants, and coffee
hour host(s).

Please sign up on the sheets on the board in the Narthex by the stairs. If you would like to serve, call the church office by Wednesday to sign up.
 Cindy 847-814-3249

Vacation Bible School

Bethlehem is planning a 3 day VBS in July or August serving our CDC's summer programs and their families. We will need day volunteers to help present "SUPER-FRUITS." Talk to Pastor Dawn about your availability.

