

APRIL 2026



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

340 Grand Blvd.
Elgin, IL 60120
Phone: 847-741-8434
Fax: 847-741-8996

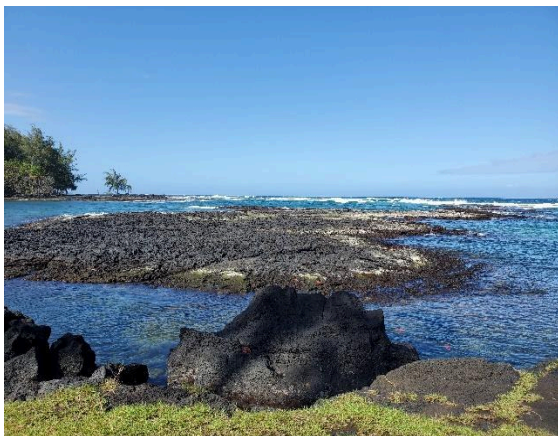
WHAT'S INSIDE

Birthdays	2
Church Council	3
El Salvador Trip	5
Habitat for Humanity	4
Holy Humor Sunda	4
Pastor's Letter	1
New Member Sunday	4
Treasurer's Report	2
Worship Schedule	2

Creating the NEW

“Normal” – *God's people*

lead New lives



What if I told you, there is no “Back to NORMAL”? Like in *Back to the Future* Michael J Fox’s Marty McFly learned you just can’t go back to the same place. Singer Bruce Cockburn tells us “The trouble with ‘normal’ is it always gets worse.”

Normal is a settled comfortable place or feeling, while newness can feel uncomfortable or awkward. Yet, times change and march on. And we serve a God who makes all things new!

Like God, Easter people are always converting the old into something new

The world has changed many times, and it continues changing. AND God’s promises to be with us always – through it all. All of us already have, and will continue, to adapt to a new way of living, working, and forging relationships. It can be done! Easter people trust that God is working in love, and for the good of all always.

New ways, new living has to be done here at Bethlehem as well. Now is the time to reset, re-calibrate, renew and reinvent Bethlehem’s mission and ministries. To be made new and whole by the power of the Holy Spirit. Isaiah tells us, “You’ll use the ruins of your past to build anew, rebuilding on your basic foundations; you’ll be known as one who can fix anything – restore ruins, rebuild, and renovate, make the community livable again.” (paraphrased Is. 58:12) Partnering with God we can create something new.

Are you ready for the hard work? Can we find a way, in this moment, to create a new normal that benefits all people? Even those not yet here? It can be scary and tough work, but people who believe in new life have the same power that is in Christ Jesus to be transformed and walk boldly into a God created future.

I get knocked keep me down (ooh)
 Refrain from **Chumba** down, (we'll be singing)
 but I get up again
 You are never gonna **-Wumba's "Tub-thumping"**
 (1997)

⁸ We are pressed on every side by troubles, but not crushed and broken. We are perplexed because we don't know why things happen as they do, but we don't give up and quit. ⁹ We are hunted down, but God never abandons us. We get knocked down, but we get up again and keep going. ¹⁰ These bodies of ours are constantly facing death just as Jesus did; so it is clear to all that it is only the living Christ within who keeps us safe. **2 Corinthian 4:8-10** (MSG Bible)

Yes, we may get knocked down, and as Easter people we get up again. Life around us is changing. We cannot change that, or go back. We believe that the power behind us is greater than the tasks ahead. Let us want to be good, to be faithful to God and to fix things that are broken. Let us live into the future, just as first Christians lived into the new normal - death was defeated and love wins! Our future starts NOW! This is what living as an Easter people means! We are not afraid of the future. We know that God goes with us, holding us, calling us, shaping us. Just where will Bethlehem go?

**BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL
 OPERATING FUND**

Below is the action report of our giving with dollar amounts for February and YTD.

2026	February	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$12,531.15	\$27,523.26	\$35,538.00
Expenses	\$20,746.47	\$40,196.32	\$43,718.00
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$ (8,215.32)	\$12,673.06)	\$(8,180.00)

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 Renovations or Property Trust will go into the Property Trust Fund for future planned major expense to our church that aren't covered by the budget.

Chery Peacock, Treasurer



- 02 Aiden Figueroa
- 04 Sharon Williamson
- 05 Kayla Hernandez
- Inez Tornblom
- 08 Judith Sorton
- 09 Anna Nail
- 17 Amanda Richoz
- 20 Ivan Figueroa
- 24 Warren Mette
- 26 Cameron Lichtenberg
- Jill Olson
- Karyn Lunsford
- 27 Dafne Villagomez
- 28 Vicki Edwards

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

Bethlehem Meetings

Call 1-312-626-6799

Meeting: 852 4417 3785

Password: 387195

Prayer List update:

Your Bethlehem family is always here to pray for you, your family and loved ones. Thank you, Lord, for hearing our prayers and healing many people for whom we have been praying. If the name of someone has been removed from our prayer list, but still needs our prayers, please call Cindy in the church office or speak with Pastor Dawn. We all know prayers are heard and help.

Please pray for:

Our BLC members: Alex Sorton, Pastor Jane, Kathra Naviaux, Shirley Pfloderer, 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: Katie Pizzitola, Julie Anne Robbins, John Schafer, Carolyn Cowper (mother of Laurel Warren) in hospice, Marian Anderson, Ann & Bill Dice, Ed Fagre, Dennis Fagre, Kim Fiedler, Marlene Lamz, Greg Lunsford, Lynn Reuter, Kelly Quinn, Sandy Smart, Katie Sorton,

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

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.

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	

COMMUNION CUPS FOR ZOOM

If you are running low, please contact Cindy in the office for more – 847-741-8434

BIBLE STUDY

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

Signup Sheets for Serving at Worship

Readers, Greeters/Ushers (two are needed), communion assistants (2 people), and coffee hour host(s).

Please sign up on the sheets on the board in the Narthex by the stairs. If you aren't at church, call the church office by Wednesday to sign up. Cindy 847-814-3249

Group Meetings

Craft Circle – Meets on Monday, April 6 in the Red Room at 12pm

Church Council – Meets on Wednesday, April 8 at 7:00pm in the Red Room

Rebecca Circle – Meets on Monday, April 20 at 1pm in the Red Room

Soup Kitchen – serves on Friday, April 24 4pm-7pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church



Habitat for Humanity - Joyful Hope Partnership

April 2026 Update

New Hope and Joyful Hands are now merged into a combine partnership called “Joyful Hope.” The Presbyterian Church of Barrington is joining the five churches: Bethlehem, Christ the Lord Lutheran Church, First Congregational Church West Dundee, St Mary Catholic Church in Huntley, Shepherd of the Prairie Lutheran Church in Huntley.

Fundraising:

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_ou_ting_2026

Volunteer Build Opportunities

There are still plenty of opportunities!

Volunteers can sign up as an individuals (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.

For more information, please contact Cindy Lange at 847-814-3249 or clange50@sbcglobal.net

Let’s put God’s love into action!



Holy Week

Maundy Thursday Service—Thursday, April 2 at 7pm.

Good Friday Service - April 3 at 7pm

Easter Sunday Service – April 5 at 9:30am

NEW MEMBER SUNDAY

Sunday, April 18, 2026

If you know of anyone who would like to join our community of faith a Bethlehem, let Pastor Dawn or the office know.

Don’t forget to turn your **Easter Treasure Hunt** results in by April 10th! The first 3 groups/ families that submit their findings, receive a special Easter Basket for the whole team to share.

Special thank you to all the participants/ readers and our musicians in the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday services. You enriched our worship significantly.

Bethlehem family and friends,

If you have been praying for direction and adventure in your life, here is a wonderful opportunity. Join a well-established faith-based group that goes to El Salvador every year for more than 20 years. The dates are July 31 - August 6, 2026.

I have gone for the past several years and plan on going this summer. Activities include construction, children's bible studies, health campaigns, and inspirational worship. The cost is \$850.00 plus airfare and spending money. A brochure and application are available.

In the meantime, if you have questions, please call or email me.

Thank you,
Sherry L Liske
SLLISKE@gmail.com
847-857-0363

Please submit your articles for the Crossings to me via my email: smharnish@comcast.net. If you have any questions, please call me at 847-404-8099.



SUNDAY

Holy Humor (or Hilarity) Sunday, sometimes also called Bright Sunday or Laughter Sunday, is often celebrated the Sunday following Easter. For centuries Catholic, Orthodox and Protestant countries observed the days after Easter as “days of joy & laughter” with parties or picnics to celebrate Jesus’ resurrection. Early church theologians Augustine, Gregory of Nyssa, and John Chrysostom often mused that God played a practical joke on the devil by raising Jesus from the dead and getting the last laugh on death and the devil. Easter was “God’s supreme joke played on death.” They called it - *Risus paschalis* – the Easter laugh. We continue that tradition with our worship this week.

Some think of the Bible and God as serious business. Yet the Bible also is a reflection of human life with all the sorrows, challenges, and joys that come with living – **the glee and exuberance** – that come from a life of knowing and serving God. Let’s live up the joy of Easter with fun and laughter which comes from a life of following Jesus and celebrating his resurrection!

On Sunday, April 12th, **we invite you to wear bright colors, or a funny hat or something that brings you joy.** We've got a lot of things up our sleeve to make this a fun, funny and joy-filled time of worship.

Holy Humor Sunday!

Because we all could use a good laugh about now!

Seriously!



**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
340 Grand Blvd.
Elgin, IL**

**Join us the *Second Saturday* of every month
for an evening of fun and fellowship.
6:30 to 9:00 PM**

Bring your favorite board game or come and learn a new one. Are card games more like your style? Bring a deck and teach a few others to play your favorite game. Or just come and socialize, meet new people and have fun. All are welcome; couples, singles, families.

Questions: contact Cate Murschel 224-622-7423.