



Bethlehem
Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Crossings

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

DOG DAYS OF SUMMER



August is here! It's hot and there is a ton of humidity too. My plants have all gone to seed or have burnt to a crisp, or both. And while it has been wonderfully cool outside in the evenings, those evenings can only be fully enjoyed for about 20-30 minutes at a time thanks to the pesky ubiquitous mosquitoes.

We have reached the "Dog Days" of Summer! That legendary span that during Greek and Roman times were described as *"when the sea would boil, the wine would spoil and the dogs would go mad."* [The dog connection likely refers to Sirius - brightest star in the northern hemisphere - not the satellite radio- which is in the constellation Canis Minor (large dog) and rose at the same time as the sun.]"

A more modern take is that it is a time when people go on vacations, slow down, laze around in the intense heat like a big ol' hound dog on a Texas porch. Whatever the theory, it does seem people's ambitions slow down a bit too this time of year - like there is a bit of mental and physical lethargy, stagnation, and just feeling blah. Despite our having air conditioning, just knowing how hot and humid it is outside causes us to feel a general disinterest in most things.

The longest part of the church year now too, that without a major feast day or real focus for the season, this ordinary time can feel dry and listless. Somedays it can even be hard to connect with God. My spiritual life seems listless sometimes too. And for many it's hard to get to worship. So what is one to do? (*cont. p2*)

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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Dog days of summer need not be a season of listlessness. In fact, this time of year can be a season for spiritual renewal, even with the limitations we sense in the weather of the heart and the world. One pastor friend calls this time, not the Dog Days of Summer, but the ***“God Days of Summer.”***

When confronted with tough times and the heat is on or I feel zapped of all energy, like late summer plants, I start by remembering my baptism. The cool refreshing water awakens my senses, reminding me I am cleansed, fresh, and spiritually hydrated. I remember that connection is crucial, and that God’s promise is the Spirit is my constant companion.

We started the summer with the questions, *“Who are we and what does it mean to be the Church together?”* Perhaps we could use the rest of these “slower” moving days to find some quiet time to do some further self-evaluation and discernment about where we are and where we want to go next.

May we all find moments of peace and inspiration in these final days of summer, and may our shared faith continue to light our path, wherever it may lead.

In the spirit of the dog days, I encourage each of you to take a moment to pause and reflect on your own journey this summer. Whether through the quiet of a sunset, the laughter of a family gathering, or the comfort of our church community, let us embrace this season as a time of renewal and gratitude. And as we come together once more, let us carry forward the lessons and blessings of these summer days, enriched by the warmth of our faith and the strength of our fellowship. Pastor Dawn

PRAYER LIST

Our BLC member Bruce Carey & family, Alex Sorton, Kathra Naviaux, Shirley Pflederer, Karen Allen, Judy Drommerhausen, Peggy & Bob Graham, Shirley Harnish, Chris Hunsicker, Bill Jones, Kathie Larson, Linda Leitner, Patrick O’Riley, Ashley Ottaviano, Larry & Juanita Rohrsen, Eugene Wilkening, Larry & Juanita Rorhsen, Sigrid Barker, Karen Dingel, Kathy Lehman, Mary Schalow.

For friends and relatives: Cindy Kruth, Marian Dudek, Annette 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

For our Church Council and all of us as we seek God’s guidance and vision.

BLC Council HAPPENINGS

- Council officers for 2026-27 elected - all officers remain as 2025-26
- Working to re-establish working committees/teams. Need involvement.
- Planning for worship & Picnic with RChurch on August 16th
- Second Saturday being revamped so it can be modified into a community wide Bingo Night and proceeds going to support local charities.
- Planning Volunteer Recognition Sunday - August 23, 2026
- Developing plan to fill position of contemporary music leader
- Approval given for hostas to be planted around the front of the property; specifically near the front entryway.
- Approval given for pastor Dawn vacations days - July 15-19 & Oct 11&12.

Regularly scheduled council meetings are on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm. Visitors are welcome and encouraged.

BETHLEHEM'S GENERAL OPERATING FUND

Action report: our giving dollar amounts for June and YTD.

2026	May	YTD Actual	YTD Budget
Receipts to Gen. Oper. Fund	\$17,954.20	\$108,365.73	\$106,614.00
Expenses	\$20,012.26	\$127,625.69	\$13,115,400.0
Total Receipts less Expenses	\$(2058.06)	(\$19259.96)	(\$245400.00)

Thank you for remembering your church with your offerings as we head into summer. The General Operating Fund remains in the black because of the 2025 carryover.

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 expenses to our church that aren't covered by the budget.

2026-2027 CHURCH COUNCIL

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

Cate Murschel	224-622-7423
Jennifer Luna	224-678-3428
Sean Edwards	847-695-2868
Marilyn House	847-567-0281
Marti Jernberg	847-337-0903
Sherry Liske	847-857-0363
Patrick O'Riley	847-802-2110
Don Samuelson	630-965-7479
Pastor Dawn Roucka, ex officio	331-335-0489

Stuff to Know

GROUP MEETINGS

Craft Circle - Monday, August 3 in the Red Room at 12p

Worship at The Vines -

Wednesday August 12 at 1:15pm

Church Council - Weds. August 12 at 7:00pm in the Red Room

Rebecca Circle - Monday, August 17 at 1pm in the Red Room

Worship at The Woodlands -

Wednesday, August 19 at 10:15am

Soup Kitchen - Friday, August 21 4pm-7pm at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church

Happy birthday!

03 - Karin Jones	18 - Sean Edwards
03 - Faye Latigo	18 - Libby Hoeft
04 - Larry Klemm	19 - Evan Malave
04 - Nnnny Klemm	19 - Jorge Sanchez
06 - Karen Allen	20 - Steve Jernberg
07 - Bob Graham	21 - Abigail Sensor
07 - Kiki Jernberg	23 - Fernada Sanchez
09 - Paul Larson	23 - Kevin Hadley
13 - Darlene Albert	26 - Kathy Lehman
14 - Bruce Carey	28 - Hilary Ottaviano
16 - Rachel Campbell	29 - Matthew Hadley
16 - Marti Jernberg	
16 - Jonathan Sensor	

ALTAR FLOWERS



Mark a special day and beautify the church by signing up to purchase altar flowers for Sunday Service.

Cost is \$15 for 2 bouquets for our vases or \$36 for two arrangements from Town and Country Florist

Order in honor of or in memory of a family member. Contact the office for Sundays that are available.

Pastor Dawn's Office Hours

Come visit with me! Or let's have coffee somewhere sometime.

Best times for connecting are:

Mondays - Noon - 4 PM

Tuesdays - 2PM - 5PM

Wednesdays - Noon - 4PM

(2nd Wedstimes vary please call)

Thursdays - 2PM-5PM

Fridays - Pastor's Day off

Other days & times are available by appointment, please do not hesitate to call the office or my cell- 331-335-0489. In emergencies, always please call or text.

Pastor Dawn

BIBLE STUDY

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



ZOOM COMMUNION CUPS

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



Sunday, August 16

BLC/R Church joint

Worship at 9:30am

Followed by a picnic in the Parking Lot

Come have fun in the sun!

Meet new friends, play some games,
and have some great food!

The TACO TRUCK WILL BE SERVING

Sign up sheets are posted on the narthex board to attend and bring a dish to share.

Contact the church office to sign up to attend and volunteer a dish to share.

Sunday, August 16

ALL AGES are invited to bring your
backpacks/bags to worship for a blessing and
receive a book bag tag



On Sunday, August 23
we will hold a Volunteer
Recognition during worship.
Anyone who has helped at BLC
or served in the greater
community, come be
recognized.



When you take a weekend
away, or if you worship
online, you can easily
support BLC's ministry by
using the QR code to give. We
thank you for any gifts and
support! Blessings.



SUNDAY SCHOOL TO BEGIN
SUNDAY SEPT 13 for all the littles
to get registered. Big Kick off for
all September 20. Including
Confirmation/ Adults

SAVE THE DATE!

Watch for a Special day of
PET BLESSING on October
4 St. Francis of Assisi Day. It
will be an opportunity to
invite and meet the
neighborhood and their
pets.





Instant Church Directory™

Your church directory
on your
mobile device.
Instantly!

If you still haven't signed in, please
let us help you!

Throughout August we will have a
people at the ready to help you log
on and get you started

EDUCATION IDEAS – Survey

handed out August 2 and
attached below to help us get an
idea of our growth for mission
aspect. How ready are we to
continue our growth in Jesus?
And what are the best ways you
want/ can do that? Ideas might
include things like *an adult
confirmation class (open to all) or
a Bible study on current events or
workshop on planning for living
our best life even as we age.*

Installation of Metro- Chicago Synod Bishop

The Reverend Erik Christiansen
was elected Bishop of the
Synod Synod at the MCS
Assembly. He will be installed
on **Saturday, Sept. 19**, 3 p.m., at
St. James Cathedral in
downtown Chicago. ELCA
Bishop Yehiel Curry will preach
and preside. ALL ARE
WELCOME. Go on Synod
website to register by Sept 1.

SERVANT LEARNING EVENT

SUNDAY, AUGUST 23 following worship

Bethlehem will hold an inhouse servant learning event! Join us for an opportunity
to learn more and put your spiritual gifts in action around our church in roles
such as serving as an altar preparer, a lector/reader, an assisting minister for
communion, ushering/ greeting and more. Even if you already do these things
(we thank you!) we invite you to come and share your skills with others.

2026 CROP Hunger Walk Action Planning Opportunities

#1 Come to a pre-Rally for CROP Sunday, Aug 30 from 1-4pm at the Gail Borden Library. There will be a presentation and discussion about the pressing needs on global hunger due to greatly diminished budgeting for international aid and US projects. At this rally we will also gather and assemble Hygiene kits.

#2 2026 CROP Hunger Walk – Beyond Hunger: This year along with the Walk, (scheduled for Sunday, Sept 27) they will be collecting HYGIENE kits that will be distributed both locally & globally with Church World Service. The BLC Service Committee is collecting items for these HYGIENE kits. The collection will run until **Sunday, August 2nd**, please take a list, buy one item or a whole kit and return to BLC. Thank You.

HYGIENE KIT MATERIALS

One 1-gallon resealable plastic bag
(for packing)

One Washcloth

One Toothbrush (keep in original packaging)

One fingernail or toenail clipper

One bath-size bar of soap

One travel-size deodorant (3.4 oz or less, non-aerosol)

One travel-size lotion (3.4 oz or less, fragrance-free, new only)

One travel-size shampoo (3.4 oz or less, new only)

One travel-size toothpaste (3.4 oz or less, with at least 1-year expiration date)

One sturdy, wide-tooth comb
(Minimum 6 inches; remove packaging)

#3 CROP Hunger Walk (& Bike Ride) to be held on Sunday, September 27 at 2 PM beginning and ending at the Gail Borden Library. To register go to:
<http://www.crophungerwalk.org/elginil>



Habitat for Humanity Joyful Hope Partnership August 2026 Update

Joyful Hope Partnership is building its next house located at 67 Genessee in Elgin – Foundation was dug.

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.

Vacation Bible School July 29-30

“Super Fruits” - gifts of the Spirit” VBS was a success! Thank you to all who participated and attended! Check out the pictures below and online.



BE HEARD - Share ideas with your Council. Attend a meeting!

NEWS and Articles for the NEXT CROSSINGS due to Church Office via email:
churchoffice@blcelgin.org by Friday, August 21.



To produce the Crossings each month. Someone is needed to cut and paste articles, pictures and information into a Canva (this)template. Training will be offered. Interested???? Talk to Cindy or Pastor

COMMITTEES - RESTABLISHED

To help Bethlehem better collaborate and create the church we want to see, Council is recommending the re-establishment of teams/committees. **WE NEED YOU!** to get involved with Worship, Christian Ed, , or Christian Care Team. Talk to a Council Member or Pastor Dawn for a job description and more information tooday!

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
ALSO - Come on August 23 to learn roles.

Vacation Bible School

SUPERFRUITS

July 29-30



BETHLEHEM EDUCATION SURVEY

NAME/S _____

Circle the age/s for whom you are filling this out within your household:

Birth-PreK (0-4 years)

Young Adult (College-Age 30)

Elementary (Kind-6th Grade)

Adult (30s-45 yo)

Confirmation (7th-9th Grade)

Middle Adult (46-59 yo)

High School Youth (10th-12th Grade)

Older Adult (60+)

What Educational opportunities have you participated in within the last year? (include things in AND away from church)

What keeps you from attending Educational offerings?

What educational opportunities would you like to see offered at Bethlehem? Circle what you would attend. (offer any suggestions for speakers, topics, etc that you would like to see/ find helpful)

When/where would you be most likely to attend education opportunities for your age group (and others in your family)? (i.e. Saturday afternoons via Zoom or Thursday evenings at coffee shop)

How often would you attend? (once a week, once a month, short commitment studies – 6 week class, etc)

Anything else you would like to share/ us to know about growing in God? (use back if necessary)

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2026



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
*Members to be prayed for	Mon-Fri 9am – 6pm Casa Michoacán					1 * Lindsey & Lily Morris
2 * Cate Murschel 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	3 * Mike Murschel 12pm Craft Circle – Red Room	4 * MaryLes Naker 10:30 Bible Study 7:00 pm Scout Troop #9111	5 * Kathra Naviaux	6 * Robert O'Connor 6:30pm Finance & Exec Meeting on Zoom	7 * Diana O'Connor	8 * Aracely Ojeda
9 * Leslie Gomez 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	10 * Analiah Gomez	11 * Drew Olson 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Scout Troop #9111	12* Cassie Olson 1:15pm Worship at The Vines 7:00pm Church Council Meeting	13 * Liam Olson	14 * Madi Olson	15 * Erik Olson
16 * Jill Olson Joint worship with RChurch 9:30am Worship 11:00 Church Picnic	17* Greg Olson 1:00 pm Rebecca Circle – Red Room	18 * Patrick O'Riley 10:00 Bible Study 7:00 pm Scout Troop #9111	19 * Gary Ottaviano 10:30am Worship at The Woodlands	20 * Karen Ottaviano 7:00 CDC Board Meeting on Zoom	21 * Ashley Ottaviano CROSSINGS ARTICLES DUE to church office 4:00 Soup Kitchen – Holy Trinity Church	22 * Chery Peacock
23 * David Quick 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour with Volunteer Recognition	24 * Joe Quick	25 * Rob Quick 10:00am Bible Study/Chapel 7:00 pm Scout Troop #9111	26 * Luke Resener	27 * Amanda Richoz	28 * Sue Richoz	29 * Elias Richoz-Latigo
30* Larry Rohrsen 9:30am Worship 10:30 Coffee Hour	31 * Juanita Rohrsen					