



Bethlehem Star

April 2018

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church

Editor: Lynn Bulger

40 10th St. W
Billings, MT 59102
(406) 248-6427

bethlehembillings@gmail.com
www.bethlehembillings.org
Facebook: Bethlehem Billings

Bethlehem's Congregational Council

Pastor - Jean Hay	696-9586
President - Lynn Bulger	647-2749
VP - Andrew Smith	860-4706
Treasurer - Darlene Fernelius	652-2356
Sec - Johnna Voto	670-1370
Casey Anguiano	534-2198
Jerry Bauck	248-7946
Barb Bohle	534-2097
Gayle Breeding	694-4242
Dave Brockman	927-5729
Shellie DeHoyos	794-2666
Pat Gum	698-1259

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your materials for the May newsletter by Sunday, April 15th, to Lynn Bulger. You can leave the materials in her mailbox at church or Call/Text to the number above.

Friends in Christ,

The first year of any new ministry is all about congregation and pastor getting to know each other. We are almost a year and a half into our time together and it's good to reflect on where we want to go from here.

When I consider my role as the pastor of the congregation gathered at Bethlehem, the first thing that comes to mind is that I am NOT here to define the congregation. I do consider my role to be to help the congregation become what God has created it to be:

here in this place,

among these people,

who live in a world that has changed so much since the congregation was founded.

I see this helping role in three parts:

First, I want to help members of the congregation recognize, develop and make use of their spiritual gifts, according to their own faith. We can trust God to help and guide us to become the people God has created us to be.

Second, I want to help the congregation with the continuing process of discerning how it is being called to live out God's mission in a changing world.

The third part, and perhaps the hardest, is to help the congregation stay healthy so that together we foster a culture that promotes the first two parts.

Spiritual Gifts

Mission

Safe Space

Peace,

Pastor Jean



As a Community of Women

created in the image of God,
called to discipleship in Jesus Christ,
and empowered by the Holy Spirit

We Commit Ourselves to

grow in faith,
affirm our gifts,
support one another in our callings,
engage in ministry and action,
and promote healing and wholeness

Naomi Circle



Naomi Circle will meet on April 10th, the second Tuesday of the month, at 1:00 pm in the downstairs kitchen.

Mary and Martha Circle

Mary and Martha Circle will meet on April 12th, the second Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm in the downstairs kitchen.



The Bible Study for January, February, March and April will be by Mark Allen Powell. It explores what Biblical stories mean to people around the world.

Session four: The Prodigal Son

All women are invited to attend!

***UPDATE* Pie Social
Sunday, March 11, 2018**

Many delicious pies were served during Fellowship (aka coffee hour) on Sunday, March 11th. A good will offering & later donations of \$200 was collected for the different ministries WELCA supports. Thank you for your support!

Next WELCA Business Meeting

Thursday, May 24th, 2018 at 7:00pm.

**Lutheran World Relief - Care Kits
Collecting though Sunday, April 15th**

WELCA will be collecting items for Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief until Sunday, April 15th.

You can bring all or part of a kit. The collection basket, with full list of items needed, is located in the Narthex. Our goal is to send 20 kits. You can also donate money to pay for the shipping of the kits. It costs \$2.65 to ship one Personal Care Kit.



Garage Sale

Mark your calendars for the annual WELCA garage sale...Friday, May 18th & Saturday, May 19th. Both days, the sale will run from 8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

You can bring your donations anytime and store them in the basement (old Family Promise area). Larger items should be brought closer to the sale date.

Supporting Global Mission*

Editor's Note: The following is a letter from Bishop Jessica Crist, which has been edited for space. The complete letter and ELCA Missionary Profile of Gustavo Driau is located on the Community Bulletin Board in the lobby.

Two of our closest connections in the Montana Synod are our companion Synods, the Cape Orange Diocese in South Africa, and the Bolivian Evangelical Lutheran Church. Perhaps you have met visitors from those churches as they have been in our synod. Or perhaps you have had an opportunity to visit their churches.

One of the structures that keeps our relationships going through changes in bishops, changes in committees, changes in congregations is the Regional Representative. Regional Representatives, like all other missionaries, are supported both by churchwide funds, and by congregations. In Latin America, our Regional Representative, Gustavo Driau, is new. And, as an Argentinian national, he does not have a home congregation in the ELCA. Since the Montana Synod is in partnership with the Bolivian Church, and, by extension, with Gustavo Driau, we have been asked to consider congregational sponsorships of Gustavo. Some of our congregations were sponsors of his predecessors, Justin and Kerry Eller. We invite you to consider sponsoring Gustavo.

There are many ways that we can support global mission: prayer, communication, visits, financial sponsorship*. Please keep all our global personnel in prayer. They are working hand in hand with God's beloved children in many countries, in many contexts, living the Gospel and serving our brothers and sisters in Christ.

*Note: Our special offering, here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church, for June is Global Mission. Please consider supporting this program with a financial gift.



**WELCA Spring Luncheon
Atonement Lutheran Church
Saturday, April 7th, 2018
11:00 am - 1:00 pm**

Women of all ages are invited to the spring luncheon where there will be a guest speaker and an offering will be taken. Come and eat good food, learn more about what Atonement has to offer, share in fellowship...and maybe win a door prize! Bring a friend!

1290 Sierra Granda Blvd (Heights)

**Beartooth-Shepherd Cluster
Spring Meeting
Saturday, April 14th, 2018
10:00 am**

All women are invited to the spring cluster meeting. It will be taking place this year at Our Savior's Lutheran Church.

707 West 3rd (Laurel)



Registration is from
9:30—10:00 am.

CHURCH COUNCIL



Highlights from the March 20th, 2018 Church Council Meeting

(Person who presented report is in parentheses)

Education (Jerry Bauck): Gary Koch has been a big help with Sunday School! Youth Faith Formation (Confirmation) will resume on Wednesday, April 11th. Jerry will be taking over as facilitator/mentor of Adult Education. Vacation Bible School is in the planning phase and we should have more information after the April council meeting. Please let Jerry know if you would consider helping with any aspect of religious education.

Fellowship (Lynn Bulger): Thank you to everyone who attended and/or helped with the March 17th Corned Beef Dinner! There were 65 people in attendance, and more meals were served to people who could not attend. We collected \$543.00 in free will offering and seem to be breaking even.

Membership (Andrew Smith): This is a new committee that Andrew will be leading. His first order of business is creating welcome packets for visitors.

Outreach (Shellie DeHoyos): Shellie has taken over for Sharon King as the new leader of Outreach. Read more about her plans on page 5.

Pastor's Report (Pastor Jean): Many positive things emerged during February 2018:

- I think the noon Ash Wednesday service was appreciated. Thirteen (13) people attended the noon service and eighteen (18) came to the evening service.
- The noon and evening services on Wednesdays also seem to be appreciated and well attended.
- Consultation with the Synod led to the offering of the Peace in the Parish workshop, which holds exciting possibilities for our future together.
- Having the follow-up congregational meeting gave us an opportunity to seek wider input for the congregational vitality survey, which was included in the congregation's annual report to the ELCA Churchwide.
- February by the numbers: 1 Baptism, 3 Christian Education Events, 6 Church Business Meetings, 12 Pastoral Visits, 6 Professional Meetings, 14 Worship Services

Property (Johnna Voto): As the weather improves, Johnna will be checking the exterior of the building to see how it stood up during the winter. She is aware of a window in the sanctuary, as well as two toilets, that need attention. If you see anything else, please contact Johnna.

Worship and Music (Pat Gum): Since their meeting was rescheduled for March 21st, Pat submitted her report via email on that same Wednesday. Services were planned thru April 8 and the next meeting was scheduled for April 10 at 4:30.

Youth Group (Casey Anguiano): There were many hands (4 youth & 6 adults) for cleaning at Luther's Lodge on Saturday, March 10th. The bingo game that was planned got rescheduled and happened during the Corned Beef dinner of March 17th. What fun! Thank you to everyone who donated prizes! The Youth's next fundraiser will be Easter Sunday, between the worship services.

continued from Page 4

A pancake breakfast will be serviced with a free will offering collected. On April 22nd, the youth will host the Family Promise Sunday dinner at Peace Lutheran.

Treasurer's Report (Darlene Fernelius): With the anonymous donation of \$9,000 to current expenses in February, we were able to show a positive cash balance in February! April will have five Sundays, which historically has helped our net income.

TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME	CASH BALANCE
\$18,017.60	(\$10,645.86)	\$7,371.74	\$1,915.82

Other: The Montana Synod will meet in Great Falls from June 1st to 3rd. Pastor Jean, Lynn Bulger and Andrew Smith are scheduled to attend. If you are interested in attending, please let Pastor or Lynn know.

-Atonement Lutheran Church has once again coordinated a large ad in the Billings Gazette for the ELCA churches in town. If you can help cover our \$300 portion of the ad, please mark your offering envelope "Holy Week Ad" and drop it in the basket during services or send it to the office.



**Family Promise
April 22 -24**

Thank you to Shellie DeHoyos who will be taking over as Family Promise Coordinator! We especially need overnight hosts. The sign up is located in the fellowship hall for the remaining 2018 dates.

Sunday, April 22 Evening Meal Youth Group (Lasagna)

Sunday, April 22 1. Overnight Host _____ 2. Overnight Host _____

Monday, April 23 Evening Meal Nita Adams & Kay Hanson

Monday, April 23 1. Overnight Host _____ 2. Overnight Host _____

Laundry: Lavonne Rice-Gordon

Outreach Committee

Hello from the Outreach Committee! I would like to start an outreach program for our seniors, home bound, shut-ins and anyone else who would be in need. It is called...**In the Loop**. It will be a way to keep us all connected and feel the warmth of community. Weekly calls will be made and visits scheduled. If you would like to be a part of this or the Outreach Committee please contact Shellie at 794-2666.



April Birthdays
Peace and Joy be with you!

- 03 Sara Anguiano
- 04 Freda Whitcomb
- 10 Marjorie Engum
- 11 Joyce Peterson
- 16 Carolyn Kelso Heggem
- 18 Gwen Weeks
- 19 Jason Fernelius
- 22 Quinley Johnson
- 24 Evelyn Leuenberger
- 27 Cheryl Stene
- 28 Mary Grob
- 29 Kristina McComas
- 30 Jan Harper



Youth Group
Sunday, April 22nd, 2018

The Youth Group will be hosting the Sunday Dinner for Family Promise. If you would like to participate, they will meet at Peace Lutheran Church at 5:00 pm.

Any Questions:
Contact Casey



Reminder: Youth group is open to anyone young of age or young at heart. The more the merrier!



Christikon Benefit Auction
Sunday, April 29th, 2018
4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

The annual *Christikon Benefit Auction - The 4 R's - Restore, Rebuild, Renew, Recreate* is held on Sunday, April 29th at the Billings Depot (2310 Montana Ave).

Food and beverages are available. Live and silent auctions to include a variety of hand-made quilts, art work, gift baskets, Viking Football Package, jewelry and much more. Admission at the door is \$15. They will also be seeking special support for their Sojourners Camp for at-risk youth.

Special Offering - April - St. John's Lutheran Ministries

St. John's is a social ministry owned by 23 ELCA congregations (including Bethlehem Lutheran Church). They provide an array of services primarily to the elderly, including Independent and Assisted living, full-skilled nursing-home care, Home Health Care and Transitional Care with a state-of-the-art rehab center. While the primary focus is to care for the elderly, St. John's also operates one of the largest licensed daycare facilities in Yellowstone County and runs Lutheran Social Services, a statewide adoption agency. Established in 1998, St. John's Summer Concert Series is a FREE event that is a lot of fun...Stay tuned for 2018 dates!



Central Christian Church - Book Sale

The spring book sale is coming up April 10-14, 2018 at 1221 16th Street West.
Times: April 10th from 5-8 pm, April 11-13 from 9 am - 6 pm, and April 14 from 9 am - 4 pm.

April 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																	
<p>1</p> <p>8:30 AM First Service</p> <p>9:30 AM Breakfast Hosted by the Youth Group</p> <p>10:30 AM Second Service</p> <p>Easter</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study</p>	<p>4</p> <p>10:30 AM PEO Meeting (Fellowship Hall in Use)</p>	<p>5</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p> <p>11:00 AM Atonement WELCA Spring Luncheon</p> <p>11:00 AM Baptism of Charlotte Joy Mahlen</p>																																																																																																	
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church
40 10th St. W.
Billings, MT 59102

Address Correction Requested

All Are Welcome

Springtime Prayer (by Ralph Waldo Emerson)

For flowers that bloom about our feet;
For tender grass, so fresh, so sweet;
For song of bird, and hum of bee;
For all things fair we hear or see,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

For blue of stream and blue of sky;
For pleasant shade of branches high;
For fragrant air and cooling breeze;
For beauty of the blooming trees,
Father in heaven, we thank Thee!

