



Bethlehem Star

October 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

#healthychurch

What do you see in the hashtag above? Healthy Church? or Healthy Church?

What is a healthy church? I found an article by Jim Kitchens of the Center for Healthy Churches online. His article talked about how many of the CHC members came together to define a “healthy church” ...

Bethlehem's Congregational Council

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

A healthy church is a community of Jesus followers with shared vision, thriving ministry, and trusted leadership.

Notice that this is a qualitative definition as opposed to a quantitative one. We focus on who the community understands itself to be and how it exhibits that understanding in its shared life. Rather than looking at how much a church is doing or what it has accomplished, we look instead at how much that church follows in the way of Jesus.

A healthy church understands its most fundamental call is to be a **community of Jesus followers**. This understanding turns us away from institutional concerns and toward discipleship commitments. Such a church is clear that its core purpose is to incarnate Christ's healing and saving ministry in a hurting world, joining God in God's work in that world in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Newsletter Deadline

Please submit your materials for the November newsletter by Friday, October 20th, to Lynn Bulger. You can leave the materials in her mailbox at church or Call/Text to the number above. After Oct 20th, please call/text as there may still be space/time available.

A healthy church has a **shared vision** that all of its members seek to embody. When a church's vision is fractured, its ministry's impact weakens, both in its members' lives and in the community God has given it to serve. Having a clear and focused vision invites us joyfully to align all our resources – spiritual, mental/emotional, physical, financial, and structural -- toward shared Kingdom work.

Continued on Page 2

A healthy church has a **thriving ministry**. There is a sense of excitement and passion among its members. People experience meaning and purpose as they are given the opportunity to share their gifts. They experience God's deep generosity and grace and are glad to give of themselves and their resources. They understand that their church has all it needs to accomplish the mission God has given it.

A healthy church has **trusted leadership** – both clergy and lay. A congregation that deeply trusts its leaders can face any adaptive challenge, respond with enthusiasm to any new call, and work faithfully through any conflict that may arise. Clear communication and encouraging words and actions by leaders embolden the congregation to step out in faith.

This way of thinking about a “healthy church” reminds us of Paul's metaphor of the church as a healthy body in Ephesians 4.

(We must grow up in every way into him who is the head, into Christ, from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by every ligament with which it is equipped, as each part is working properly, promotes the body's growth in building itself up in love. (v. 15)

After reading this definition, what are your thoughts on Bethlehem Lutheran Church? Are we a healthy church?

Pastor Jean's two-year anniversary of Ordination is quickly coming up. Which also means that she has been with Bethlehem Lutheran Church for two years.

We are still figuring out how to work together. Especially, what changes we should be making as a council (which includes Pr. Jean) and a congregation. This is where we need the congregation's honest and constructive input. I would love to say that every person who attends Bethlehem gets *exactly* what they want, whether it be a traditional liturgy service, more contemporary music, less pot-lucks, etc. Change is inevitable and can bring new energy into our lives. I do hope that whatever changes come, that we cannot only “live with them” but even appreciate them. Mistakes are products of doing things. Somethings may sound like a good idea, so we try them and for whatever reason may not have the results we desired. Just because we have tried something in the past doesn't mean it won't work for us in the future.

As seen on the wall outside, we want Bethlehem to be a **safe place**. Not only being welcoming to all, but somewhere that everyone feels that they can express their views and ideas. And have open and healthy conversations. Change is inevitable, and so is conflict. We are a group of people with different opinions and priorities. While some conflict is good and can even strengthen relationships, we don't want it to become unbearable and unresolved or in other words...unhealthy.

Kind Regards,
Lynn Bulger
Council President



Highlights from the September 18th, 2018 Church Council Meeting

(Person who presented report is in parentheses)

Property (Johnna Voto): Scheduling the sprinkler blowout to take place in early October. We may be holding a fall cleanup on a Sunday afternoon after services. Rearranging the upstairs education wing will occur over the next few weeks.

Pastor’s Report (Pastor Jean): One of my goals is to visit each homebound member at least once a month. I’m happy to say, I met that goal in July and came very close in August. At those times when I know I will not be able to make this goal, I have been able to find others to participate in this important, shared ministry of visitation. Three members of our congregation have accepted the invitation to form a mutual ministry team (Bethlehem’s Constitution C13.04) We intend to meet three or four times a year. Our first meeting will be in October. August by the Numbers: 5 Church Business Meetings, 15 Pastoral Visits, 8 (of 9) Days Off, 12 Worship Services, & 4 Christian Education events.

Music & Worship (Pat Gum): Services have been planned through Oct. 7th. A Blessing the Animals service will take place on Sunday, Sept 30. Animals will be caged or on a leash and will remain in church for the entire service. For Thanksgiving Eve, Wednesday November 21st, a service will be held at 5:30pm. The committee is still in the discussion stage of having Wednesday services during Advent. The next meeting will be 4:30pm, on Tuesday, October 9th.

Fellowship: Jerry Bauck reminded the council of the success of the “Trunk or Treat” event we had last year and recommended it be held again. Lynn Bulger will look into someone taking the lead on this event.

Treasurer’s Report (Darlene Fernelius): As of August 31, 2018 we are still left with a negative cash balance. In September, we will have 5 Sundays, which may help our bottom line.

Other: We plan to discuss the vacancy of the Vice-President position at the October council meeting. Chapters 10, 11 & 12 of the constitution were covered during the September meeting; however, it was felt that the contents of chapter 12 need further discussion and will be put on the October council meeting agenda.

TOTAL INCOME	TOTAL EXPENSES	NET INCOME	CASH BALANCE
\$8,332.06	(\$7,900.64)	\$431.42	(\$2,154.49)

Save the Date/Annual Meeting: Sunday, January 27th, 2019 has been scheduled for our Annual Meeting. More details to follow. One item up for further discussion is if we want to keep the pot-luck lunch before the meeting or use another meeting format.

Note from Council President (Lynn Bulger): Thank you for everyone who gives of their talents and resources! We continue to experience a negative cash balance, which prevents us from paying some bills. In particular, we have a balance of over \$1,000 in reimbursements for Pr. Jean. This includes her mileage, office supplies, lodging at Synod, etc. In hind-sight we should have been making good faith payments sooner. If you are able and willing to increase your giving, please do so for Current Expenses. Thank you!



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
in the church, the society, and the world.

Naomi Circle



Naomi Circle will meet on October 9th, 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 October 11th, the second Thursday of the month, at 7:00 pm in the downstairs kitchen.



The Bible studies used by the circles are from the *Gather* Magazine, published by the ELCA.

The fall 3-part Bible Study, written by Meghan Johnston Aelabouni, focuses on repentance.

October (Part 2) If I could turn back time:
Turning to others

All women are invited to attend!

Next WELCA Business Meeting

Thursday, November 15th @ 7:00 pm
(note: 1 week earlier due to Thanksgiving)
Hostess: Kay Hanson

WELCA Fall Fundraiser

The WELCA Fall event of Chili & Pie Lunch, Bake Sale, Lefse and Basket Raffle will be Saturday, October 13th, 2018 from 10 am—2 pm.

Please sign up to volunteer for this important fundraiser and make it a success! We need people to serve chili and pie, sell raffle tickets, set up, clean up.

We will also be collecting baked goods for the bake sale, chili, whole pies, and baskets to raffle.



And we look forward to seeing you there! It's a great opportunity to bring a friend!

Lefse Making

We will again be selling Lefse at the Fall Fundraiser. Are you an expert or want to learn how to make the potato based flatbread? Join Norma and Lyle Severance at church on Friday, October 5th @ 6 pm for step 1: mixing the dough. Saturday, October 6th, will start at 9 am: to roll, cook and package the lefse.

If you have any Lefse equipment: griddle, sticks, rolling pins, please feel free to bring them!



October Birthdays
Peace and Joy be with you!

- 2 Christopher Weber
- 4 Louis McComas
- 9 Don Bulger
- 14 Sue Nord
- 14 Ryan Weber
- 15 Marlys Hogg
- 17 Berkleigh DeHoyos
- 18 Katherine Brodersen
- 18 Lynley McComas
- 27 Norman Stai



Sparkhouse Book Fair
October 13, 2018
10 am – 4 pm

Bethlehem will be hosting a Sparkhouse Book Fair in conjunction with the WELCA Fall event. This fundraiser will sell Sparkhouse books and Bibles for kids age 0-12 and videos for kids ages 3-10.

All funds raised will go to the church’s current expenses. There are little upfront expenses (the sample books are free), and we get to keep 20% of whatever we sell!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact Lynn Bulger at (406) 647-2749. We will need people to work the event and then distribute the orders after the sale.

October Special Offering
Washington Elementary School

Items most in demand are:

small individually wrapped candy or treats
(ie lollipops, tootsie rolls, life savers, etc.)

This year, the school is focusing on attendance and are giving each student in classes with perfect attendance a small individually wrapped candy or treat.



Please place items in the marked collection box! Or you can donate money (be sure to mark it on your offering envelope) and we can use that to purchase the items needed! Thank

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 27th, 2018

4:30pm to 6:30pm

Note: Time change will now be 3:00 to 5:00pm

A great time of fellowship for dressing up in costumes and passing out candy/treats! We are looking for volunteers to set up/decorate a trunk.

More details to follow. Thank you to Jessie Hanna & Norma Severance for hosting this year’s event!



October 2018

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday																																																																																																									
	1	2 11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study	3 6:00 PM Youth Faith Formation	4	5	6 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Service																																																																																																									
7 8:30 AM First Service 9:30 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Second Service	8	9 11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study 1:00 PM Naomi Circle 4:00 PM Worship & Music Committee	10 6:00 PM Youth Faith Formation	11 7:00 PM Mary/Martha Circle	12	13 10:00 AM -4:00 PM Sparkhouse Book Fair 10:00 AM -2:00 PM WELCA Fall Event 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Service																																																																																																									
14 8:30 AM First Service 9:30 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Second Service	15	16 11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study 6:30 PM Congregational Council Meeting	17 6:00 PM Youth Faith Formation	18 7:00 PM Central / Terry Park Neighborhood Task Force	19	20 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Service																																																																																																									
21 8:30 AM First Service 9:30 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Second Service	22	23 11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study	24 6:00 PM Youth Faith Formation	25	26	27 4:30 PM -6:30 PM Trunk or Treat 5:30 PM Saturday Evening Service																																																																																																									
28 8:30 AM First Service 9:30 AM Learning Hour 10:30 AM Second Service Reformation Sunday	29	30 11:00 AM Billings ELCA Clergy Text Study	31 6:00 PM Youth Faith Formation	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Sep 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> </tr> <tr> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> </tr> <tr> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> </tr> <tr> <td>30</td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>		Sep 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S							1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30							<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="7">Nov 2018</th> </tr> <tr> <th>S</th> <th>M</th> <th>T</th> <th>W</th> <th>T</th> <th>F</th> <th>S</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td>1</td> <td>2 3</td> </tr> <tr> <td>4</td> <td>5</td> <td>6</td> <td>7</td> <td>8</td> <td>9</td> <td>10</td> </tr> <tr> <td>11</td> <td>12</td> <td>13</td> <td>14</td> <td>15</td> <td>16</td> <td>17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18</td> <td>19</td> <td>20</td> <td>21</td> <td>22</td> <td>23</td> <td>24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25</td> <td>26</td> <td>27</td> <td>28</td> <td>29</td> <td>30</td> <td></td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Nov 2018							S	M	T	W	T	F	S						1	2 3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	
Sep 2018																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
						1																																																																																																									
2	3	4	5	6	7	8																																																																																																									
9	10	11	12	13	14	15																																																																																																									
16	17	18	19	20	21	22																																																																																																									
23	24	25	26	27	28	29																																																																																																									
30																																																																																																															
Nov 2018																																																																																																															
S	M	T	W	T	F	S																																																																																																									
					1	2 3																																																																																																									
4	5	6	7	8	9	10																																																																																																									
11	12	13	14	15	16	17																																																																																																									
18	19	20	21	22	23	24																																																																																																									
25	26	27	28	29	30																																																																																																										
<table border="1"> <tr> <td colspan="7">Family Promise Commitment</td> </tr> </table>							Family Promise Commitment																																																																																																								
Family Promise Commitment																																																																																																															

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
40 10th St. W.
Billings, MT 59102

Address Correction Requested

All Are Welcome

Chili & Pie Lunch, Bake Sale, Lefse & Basket Raffle*



Saturday
Oct 13th, 2018
10 am to 2 pm



*The basket raffle winners will be drawn on Saturday, Oct 13th at 2:00pm