

Bethlehem Star

October, 2017

Friday, October 20th

Noah's Ark

Fall Festival

5:30 to 8:00pm



Noah's Ark

Fall Break

October 9th - 13th

- Holy Yoga:**
Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
- Room 9/10
- Heart Fire:**
Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm.
- Chancel Choir:**
Wednesdays at 6:30pm
- Men's Bible Study**
Thursdays, 7:30am
- Social Hall.
- Grandparent support group:**
1st Thursday of the month.
October 5th, 6:00-8:00pm
- Rooms 8/9/10
- Mexican Train Dominoes:**
2nd Wednesday of the month.
October 11th, 1:00pm-NCO
- WELCA**
3rd Thursday of the month:
October 19th, 10:00am-Noon
- Stitch 'n Knit:**
4th Wednesday of the month:
October 25th, 1:00pm - NCO.

As I write this newsletter article I have just found out about the death of my husband's Aunt Donna. The entire 40+ years I have been a part of my husband's family Aunt Donna has lived in Florida. It seemed therefore appropriate she would die in Florida and especially during Hurricane Irma – though the hurricane was not responsible for her death. There are many stories of Aunt Donna's life. Most of the stories are hysterical in nature – especially if a good story teller is telling them. But the story that Donna lived and shared most openly and in fact to any and every one she met was her belief in Jesus Christ.

Now there were several times family members that would turn the other way when they saw Aunt Donna coming toward them because they didn't want to hear the story of her confirmation for the 50th time. But, there isn't a one of us that didn't know faith was integral in who Donna was. The priest even forged through the hurricane to administer last rites when the time came. Donna and faith were so intertwined with each other it was impossible to separate the two.

So this made me start thinking, what characteristics will people remember about each of us when we die? What characteristics **do** we want people to remember about us when we die? Often I hear people referred to after they die as smart, well educated, successful (which really translates to the deceased made a lot of money in their life time) kind, loving, and giving... the list goes on. But as I think about it not very often is a person described as having a strong faith in Jesus Christ.

I am not saying people don't have a strong faith in Jesus Christ, I am saying that people's faith is often experienced, yet not shared with others. The reasons why people don't openly share their faith I am sure are endless. We Lutherans are known for being quiet and reserved after all.

However, as we approach the 500th celebration of the Reformation we know Martin Luther did not keep quiet. In fact, he shared his faith with everyone around him including the Catholic Church. He shared his faith so publically there was a decree to have him killed! Our faith heritage comes from a man that was willing to die to share his deep belief and faith publically of the man who died on the cross both publically and with great pain and suffering.

Even as I write this I feel inadequate in my faith and my faith practices. I question, will people remember me as being faith filled and faithful? When I die will I be afraid or ready to meet my maker with open arms as I am sure Aunt Donna did? Am I a good and faithful steward of my time, talent, treasure and terrain? Do I share the Good News of the scripture through my thought, word and deed out loud and to others? Do I give my time, talents, and money to the church out of guilt or out of the realization that they all belong to God any way and not to me in the first place? Do I continue to study and live in the Gospel? Do I ...?

Do you?

Contemplating our death makes us evaluate our lives and look at what is really important. Contemplating Christ's death shows us regardless of our short comings, we are loved and forgiven. Jesus died for us. How do we live for him?



Fall Church Office Hours:

Monday - Thursday: 8:00am - 1:00pm.

Friday: 8:00am - 12:00pm.

Please have announcements and prayer requests to the church office by **10:00am Friday**.

Need to talk to someone but the office is closed?

Urgent message:

Call Pastor Chon (480-560-6616) or Faith Community Nurse Carol Savoie (480-313-4739).

Prayer request: Call Carol Savoie (480-313-4739)

Non-urgent message: Leave a message at 480-832-0462 or email: ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com.

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles must be received in the church office by **Monday, October 23rd** to be included in the November Newsletter. If at any time you have an article for the newsletter, there's no need to wait until the deadline - write it up while it's fresh in your mind and send it in. It will be included in the following month's newsletter. **Receive the newsletter via email and save postage and paper costs.** Plus, it arrives in living color with occasional bonus items.

Blue Stone Ministry:

A Gift of Stephen Ministry.

The Blue Stones in our baptismal font are sponsored by Stephen Ministry. When you pass by the baptismal font, you are invited to take one of the Blue Stones and carry it with you at all times. If you meet someone, friend or stranger, who is having a difficult struggle in their lives, this Blue Stone can help. Hand that person your Blue Stone and explain the following: **"Please take this blue stone and carry it with you. Let this be a reminder that God loves you, and you will always have God's love no matter how difficult your life may become. Let this also remind you that you have someone here on earth who cares about you and will keep you in their prayers."** After you have given away your new stone, please replace it with another from our baptismal font.

Heart Fire is the church's band. If you play an instrument, sing, or want to learn guitar, come join us. All levels of players are welcome. We lead worship on the 4th Sunday of each month. Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

Bethlehem's Web Site: blcmesa.org

Share it with your friends, neighbors, and families.

A recent assessment of visitors to our Facebook page showed that more than 87% did so using smart phones. Our website was recently updated so our content displays to best advantage on today's newer technology of smart phones and tablets.

Face Book:

If you are already on Face Book be sure to go to the Bethlehem Lutheran Church Face Book page and like us. If you are not on Face Book, consider joining, and then like Bethlehem Lutheran Church. If you want more information on how to join Face Book let us know and we will walk you through it. Tell your friends, neighbors, family - spread the word to like Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Face Book and the Good News of the gospel!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church>

PowerPoint Pictures:

Taken any really good pictures lately? Want to share it on the PowerPoint overhead on Sunday? Email it to Laurel in the church office. Most of the pictures we use were taken by members, and we always enjoy receiving new ones. **Thank you for sharing!**

Thank you to all who helped donate and assemble **Blessing Bags**. We made over 500 bags in 35 minutes. And the good news is we ran out of shampoo and drinks, so we will make more Blessing Bags in late Winter or early Spring.

Special Thanks to Elyse Wheeler and Jim & Ellie Thompson for helping me prep the tables the day before.

Thank you, Karen Vidot.





**A Stephen Minister
Stays Connected to Jesus
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
is a Stephen Ministry Congregation.**

Lord God,
When we suffer the inevitable losses of life, be with us, comfort us, help us know we are not alone.

When the days stretch out in barren deserts of sadness, when all we can see is the dry wasteland of meaninglessness, walk by our side whispering words of hope and encouragement.

When the world turns dark and we cannot even see where to put our foot for the next step of our painful journey, be the light of our world, showing us the path towards healing that you have laid out for us.
We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.

As a Stephen Minister, caring for people that have suffered a loss of any kind, requires a lot of patience, good listening skills and a caring heart.

As a Stephen Ministry congregation, our prayer is for all individuals to know there are those patient caring hearts among you. All you need to do is reach out and we will be there.

Jesus said, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."

(Matthew 11: 28)



Blue Clipboard

There is a blue clipboard in the Narthex for everyone to update current address, phone number, and email address.

We are always looking for **Prayer Warriors** who want to be informed of immediate prayers via the telephone or email. Let us know if you want to join. Perhaps you would like to receive the email prayer list on Thursdays; if so, just let us know.

Youth Activities:

- September 30th: Help with I-Help
- October 1st: Hospitality
- October 20th: Run games at Noah's Ark Fall Festival
- December Fundraiser (date TBD):
 - Parent's Day Out - Childcare
- January Fundraiser (date TBD):
 - Dessert Social/ Silent Auction



Celebrate ELCA Missionaries and Young Adults in Global Mission

Each year, more than 225 Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA) missionaries, including Young Adults in Global Mission, serve in more than 40 countries around the world. They are sent by the ELCA in response to invitations from our companion churches and serve in a variety of roles, working alongside our companions to proclaim the gospel, raise up leaders, care for those in need and learn new ways of being church together.

This Global Church Sunday, join us in celebrating and supporting our church's missionaries! No matter who they are or where they serve, every missionary needs your prayers, support and gifts to live out their ministry.

Together, we are building up Christ's global church.

Give now: community.elca.org/globalchurch
800-638-3522
ELCA
P.O. Box 1809
Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

Make checks payable to "ELCA Global Church Sponsorship" and note Young Adults in Global Mission and/or Missionaries on the memo line.



ELCA Global Church Sponsorship
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
God's work. Our hands.

Learn more at
ELCA.org/missionaries



The Nurse's Corner:

Each month I highlight a health topic in the newsletter. Feel free to suggest health concerns that you would like to see added in future months.

Blessings,
Carol Savoie R.N.

Domestic Violence Awareness Month

Domestic violence is the willful intimidation, physical assault, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behavior as part of a systematic pattern of power and control perpetrated by one intimate partner against another. It includes physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence, and emotional abuse. The frequency and severity of domestic violence can vary dramatically; however, the one constant component of domestic violence is one partner's consistent efforts to maintain power and control over the other.

Domestic violence is an epidemic affecting individuals in every community, regardless of age, economic status, sexual orientation, gender, race, religion, or nationality. It is often accompanied by emotionally abusive and controlling behavior that is only a fraction of a systematic pattern of dominance and control. Domestic violence can result in physical injury, psychological trauma, and in severe cases, even death. The devastating physical, emotional, and psychological consequences of domestic violence can cross generations and last a lifetime.

For anonymous, confidential help available 24/7, call the National Domestic Violence Hotline at 1-800-799-7233 (SAFE) or 1-800-787-3224 (TTY).

It is not always easy to determine in the early stages of a relationship if one person will become abusive. Domestic violence intensifies over time. Abusers may often seem wonderful and perfect initially, but gradually become more aggressive and controlling as the relationship continues. Abuse may begin with behaviors that may easily be dismissed or downplayed such as name-calling, threats, possessiveness, or distrust. Abusers may apologize profusely for their actions or try to convince the person they are abusing that they do these things out of love or care. However, violence and control always intensifies over time with an abuser, despite the apologies. What may start out as something that was first believed to be harmless (e.g., wanting the victim to spend all their time only with them because they love them so much)

escalates into extreme control and abuse (e.g., threatening to kill or hurt the victim or others if they speak to family, friends, etc.). Some examples of abusive tendencies include but are not limited to:

- Telling the victim that they can never do anything right
- Showing jealousy of the victim's family and friends and time spent away
- Accusing the victim of cheating
- Keeping or discouraging the victim from seeing friends or family members
- Embarrassing or shaming the victim with put-downs
- Controlling every penny spent in the household
- Taking the victim's money or refusing to give them money for expenses
- Looking at or acting in ways that scare the person they are abusing
- Controlling who the victim sees, where they go, or what they do
- Dictating how the victim dresses, wears their hair, etc.
- Stalking the victim or monitoring their victim's every move (in person or also via the internet and/or other devices such as GPS tracking or the victim's phone)
- Preventing the victim from making their own decisions
- Telling the victim that they are a bad parent or threatening to hurt, kill, or take away their children
- Threatening to hurt or kill the victim's friends, loved ones, or pets
- Intimidating the victim with guns, knives, or other weapons
- Pressuring the victim to have sex when they don't want to or to do things sexually they are not comfortable with
- Forcing sex with others
- Refusing to use protection when having sex or sabotaging birth control
- Pressuring or forcing the victim to use drugs or alcohol
- Preventing the victim from working or attending school, harassing the victim at either, keeping their victim up all night so they perform badly at their job or in school
- Destroying the victim's property

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News from Noah's Ark

Autumn is here. Yeah!! Can't you just tell the difference? It's like night and day.

Well, anyway, it is a bit better now than in the past weeks. The kids are starting to play outside for longer periods of time. This is great for everyone. The kids are learning to use the four new pieces of gym equipment we have on the big playground. You have to smile at girls pumping iron and boys walking on a treadmill.

Mr. Jim, Mrs. Ellie, and Mr. Rich recently taught the kids about herbs. As a result we have the beginning of our own herb garden to tend in conjunction with the big garden boxes. We are also blessed with a mom and her two home schooled kids joining in the garden lessons. Kudos to our garden program!!

Please mark your calendars for the annual Fall Festival. Friday, October 20th is the date.

Start thinking about participating in Trunk-n-Treat. We will have food and snacks for purchase, train rides, face painting, and plenty of family fun to be enjoyed by all. Be on the lookout for our "No Show" invitations. Those individuals who would like to support the festival, from a distance, this is a terrific way to go. More information will be coming in the near future.

From all of us at Noah's Ark, stay safe, healthy and full of grace.

In Christ,
Ms. Jill



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It is important to note that domestic violence does not always manifest as physical abuse. Emotional and psychological abuse can often be just as extreme as physical violence. Lack of physical violence does not mean the abuser is any less dangerous to the victim, nor does it mean the victim is any less trapped by the abuse.

Additionally, domestic violence does not always end when the victim escapes the abuser, tries to terminate the relationship, and/or seeks help. Often, it intensifies because the abuser feels a loss of control over the victim. Abusers frequently continue to stalk, harass, threaten, and try to control the victim after the victim escapes. In fact, the victim is often in the most danger directly following the escape of the relationship or when they seek help:

- 1/5 of homicide victims with restraining orders are murdered within two days of obtaining the order.
- 1/3 are murdered within the first month.

Unfair blame is frequently put upon the victim of abuse because of assumptions that victims choose to stay in abusive relationships. The truth is, bringing an end to abuse is not a matter of the victim choosing to leave; it is a matter of the victim being able to safely *escape* their abuser, the abuser choosing to stop the abuse, or others (e.g., law enforcement, courts) holding the abuser accountable for the abuse they inflict.

Information obtained from: www.ncadv.org

Worship Service Team Meeting

Sunday, October 22nd @ 10:30am: Everyone who wishes to take part in the volunteer opportunities on Sundays, plan to come to this short meeting as we sign up for the opportunities during November, December, and January. If you have any question about the job descriptions, come to the meeting or ask or call Elyse Wheeler. Thanks for your time and efforts.



A **Special Thank You** to Brian Myers of **PM Pest Control**. He volunteers his time and services to Bethlehem and Noah's Ark for free. **PM Pest Control** can handle all of your pest and weed control needs. Call 602-920-7032.

Have you noticed that the windows at Bethlehem are sparkling? Your windows can sparkle, too. Call Nathan and Bradley of **Sparkletime Window Washing** (480-225-5141) and tell them you attend Bethlehem Lutheran Church. **They will donate 10% of your window cleaning to Bethlehem.** They are also donating the cleaning of Bethlehem's windows for free. Thank you **Sparkletime!**

Business and Service Cards
Bulletin Board

Members and Friends of Bethlehem are invited to post your Business Cards on the Bulletin Board in the **Social Hall.**

Amazon Smile:

Do you shop online at Amazon.com? Bethlehem is part of the **Amazon Smile** program. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to **Bethlehem Lutheran Church** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile. When you log on to Amazon, you must do so through smile.amazon.com for Bethlehem to receive the benefits.

E-Blast: Sent from the church office every Thursday via email. It allows you to get up to date information on what is going on at Bethlehem delivered straight to your computer, phone, pad, or other wireless device you use. If you are not receiving it and want to, please contact the church office and let Laurel know.



Prayer Ministry

We would like to lift up Bethlehem's Prayer Ministry and encourage each of you to make prayer a priority in your daily life. We have a lot of prayer warriors. Some have chosen to be on the Email Prayer Team, some are making Prayer shawls, some decide to pray on their own.

If you would like to be on the Email Prayer Team all you need is a working computer and a desire to pray. Just email Laurel at ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com and ask her to add you to the Team.

Guidelines for the Prayer List:

- All prayers are submitted to the Prayer Coordinator, Carol Savoie (anniesavoie@yahoo.com) or the church office. Any prayer request that is submitted must have the consent of the person being prayed for.
- All requests for acute prayers will be kept on the list for one month from the time it is posted. At the end of one month if you would like for that request to remain, please call or email the Prayer Coordinator. If no request has been given at the end of the month, the request will be taken off the list. If continued short term (up to 2 months) prayers are needed they will be on the Short Term prayer list.
- Acute and Short Term lists will be on the weekly announcement sheet and in the newsletter.
- The Long Term prayer list will be sent out to the Email Prayer Team only. The list will also appear in the newsletter. These prayers would include those with chronic illnesses, long term cancer treatments, God's guidance, etc.
- Each week the complete prayer list is updated and posted on the bulletin boards in the Social Hall and the office and sent to each person on Bethlehem's the prayer chain.
- Answered prayers and praise are welcome.
- We continue to pray for our Military Servicemen/women.

With these updated guidelines we can pray more attentively to the needs of all people. Our leadership look forward to seeing how these changes enhance our ministry and your prayer life.

Noah's Ark Fall Festival

Friday, October 20th
5:30-8:00pm

- ✚ Fun activities for kids and adults alike.
- ✚ Family friendly food available for purchase.
- ✚ Face painting
- ✚ Train rides in the parking lot for \$2
- ✚ Mobile petting zoo will be here.
- ✚ As always, the cake walk
- ✚ Silent and live auction
- ✚ More fun activities kids and adults can enjoy
- ✚ Trunk-or-Treat: Bring your car, truck or van and pass out candy to the cutest and scariest trunk-or-treaters around. Or, perhaps a little game for the kids to play would be to your liking and giving that super hero or princess a treat afterwards.
- ✚ Please invite your friends, neighbors and family to come and have a spooktacular time.

Room Usage:

We've got a lot going on at Bethlehem. This is terrific! It's what we want! It also means that sometimes we may have multiple people wanting to use the same space at the same time. So, when that happens, how is it decided who gets to use what space? That's easy: whoever called the church office and scheduled the room. Remember: if you have a meeting or event, always call or email the church office to get it on the calendar.



The Pastors of the Cactus Conference
of the Grand Canyon Synod
invite everyone to the celebration of the Holy Eucharist
on the occasion of the 500th Anniversary
of the Reformation.

Tuesday, October 31st at Noon

Shepherd of the Desert Evangelical Lutheran Church
11025 N. 111th Avenue Sun City, AZ

Interim Bishop Lowell Almen presiding
The Rev. Dr. Peter Perry of St. John's Lutheran, Glendale,
preaching the Good News

The Pastors of the West Valley, participating
Light refreshments and continuing fellowship to follow.

2nd Wednesday of the month:
Mexican Train Dominoes
October 11th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Every Wednesday:
Choir Rehearsals
Wednesdays at 6:30pm



Every Thursday:
Men's Bible Study
7:30am in the Social Hall.

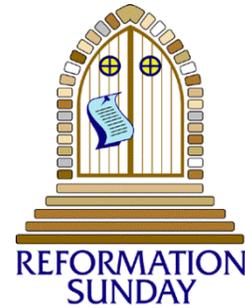
Vimeo:

If you want to hear the sermon again or share it, recorded sermons and special events at Bethlehem are available to be watched and downloaded at Vimeo.com/blcmesa. Check out Preschool activities, Heart Fire activities, the latest wedding or baptism, and Pastor Chon's sermon. The site supports HD quality videos and is not restricted by length or storage capacities (other than a maximum of 5 gig per week). If you record a video of a church-related function and would like it posted on our site, please contact the church office at 480-832-0462.

Quilters:

The quilters will start up again in late Fall. We don't make "fancy" quilts, as all our material is donated and we use what we have. They may not be fancy, but they all turn out pretty & they are great for keeping people warm in winter.

We would love to have you join us, as we enjoy making the quilts and sharing how they are made with anyone who would like to participate. No experience necessary - we have "on the job" training & we also have Coffee & Treats each Tuesday! Please think about joining us in the Fall.



4th Wednesday of the month:
Stitch 'n Knit:

October 25th at 1:00pm in the NCO.
Bring your project of choice and join us for a couple of hours of camaraderie and quiet. Don't have a project? Just join us anyway.
Questions? Just ask the church office at 480-832-0462.

Prayer Shawl Ministry:

We are meeting on the 4th Wednesday with the Stitch 'n Knit Group at 1:00pm in the NCO.

Thanks to everyone who has made or is making Prayer Shawls. It is a great way to share God's love and prayers with people who are hurting and to let them know they are loved.

After the Prayer Shawls are blessed on the 3rd Sunday of the month, they are displayed in Church for anyone to take at any time. You do not have to be a member of BLC to take a Shawl when you know of someone who is hurting and could use one.

We would appreciate it if people would refrain from using them to keep warm while in Church, as that is not their purpose. Thank You.

Carol Wendlandt, member of the Prayer Shawl Group

Our **Weather Station** which is mounted on the pergola in the Community Garden reports the weather, real time, on line. On your computer go to weatherunderground.com. In the search window located at the top right of the screen, type in our weather station ID. KAZMESA121. You can view weather conditions real time and see graphs that report the history. Enjoy. The direct link on your computer is:

<http://www.wunderground.com/personal-weather-station/dashboard?ID=KAZMESA121>

E-Blast: Sent from the church office every Thursday via email. It allows you to get up to date information on what happening at Bethlehem - delivered straight to your computer, phone, pad, or whatever wireless device you use. If you are not receiving it and want to, please contact the church office and let Laurel know.

Ps46v1@blc.phxcoxmail.com

Memorial Tiles:

Bethlehem Lutheran Church participants have the availability of purchasing memorial plaque tiles to go on our master plaque. An individual name tile costs \$15. If you choose two names, one on each tile, the cost is \$25. If you are interested or need more information, please contact the church office at 480-832-0462.

Holy Yoga

A Christ-centered yoga class on Tuesdays from 6:00-7:00 pm in Room 9/10. No experience needed. Can be done from chairs or the floor. Bring: yoga mat, comfortable clothes, water, & \$5 suggested donation. Questions? Call Renaya VanDusen at 480-717-3477.

Media at Bethlehem

We're always on the lookout for new ideas about how Bethlehem can use social media. Tell us yours. We want to share God's promises with all creation.

Kitchen Supplies

All of us need the occasional reminder that God loves us no matter how difficult life may be. The funds that we receive on Sundays don't always cover the costs of all of the supplies that are needed for this busy kitchen. The ladies of WELCA want to thank all of you who have contributed so generously to the coffee fund in the past.

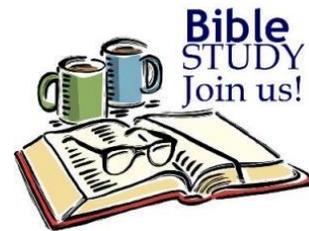


3rd Thursday of the month:

WELCA

Every woman who worships at Bethlehem is a member of WELCA, and we welcome your presence at our monthly meetings on the 3rd Thursday of the month. WELCA returns to its regular schedule which is from 10:00am to Noon. Beverages and snacks will be furnished. A typical meeting includes fellowship, Bible study and a business meeting. **Mark your calendar for Thursday, October 19th, at 10:00am.** We hope to see you there!

If you have any questions, please call or talk to Audrey Anderson or Ellie Thompson, co-chairs of WELCA.



The **World Hunger Basket**, located in front of the altar, is a continuing mission activity. You are invited to donate before, during, or after worship. 1/2 of the funds are sent to the ELCA World Hunger program, and the other 1/2 remain at Bethlehem to purchase food for the food bank at First Lutheran when their shelves are empty. The second page of the monthly calendar reports how much we sent to World Hunger the previous month, and how much of the funds on-hand were used to purchase food for the food bank. The cash raised at the annual Souper Bowl event is handled in the same manner.

Fair Trade Coffee for Mission:

The coffee we use for Hospitality on Sunday, which is also on sale in the social hall, is bought through Lutheran World Relief. This is an Equal Exchange program which takes out the "middle man" so the small farmers get the fair trade value of their coffee. A small amount of our purchases go to support Lutheran World Relief. You June notice that we don't have as many different types of coffee as they were not selling. If there is a coffee type that you would like please let me know.

Thanks, Carol Savoie