

Bethlehem Star

June, 2017

Summer Church Office Hours

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

**Summer
Water Drive:**
Sunday, July 9th
& Sunday, July 16th

Looking Forward:

Summer Sunday Lunches

- ✚ June 25th: Nautical theme
(baby shower for Morgan Bracy)
- ✚ July 16th: Cowboys (*potluck*)
- ✚ August 20th: Baseball (*potluck*)

Noah's Ark

Summer Program

- ✚ HERO CENTRAL - Discover Your
Strength in God

VBS with Love of Christ

- ✚ July 10th - 14th



- ✚ **Sumer Video Series:**
Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30pm
June 20th & 27th and
July 11th, 18th, & 25th
- Pastor Chon & Danny's House
- ✚ **Holy Yoga:**
Tuesdays, 6:00-7:00pm
- Room 9/10
- ✚ **Heart Fire:**
Wednesdays, 5:30 to 6:30pm.
- ✚ **Men's Bible Study**
Thursdays, 7:30am
- Social Hall.
- ✚ **Mexican Train Dominoes:**
2nd Wednesday of the month.
June 14th, 1:00pm - NCO.
- ✚ **WELCA**
3rd Thursday of the month:
June 15th, 10:00 to 11:00 am.
- ✚ **Stitch 'n Knit:**
4th Wednesday of the month:
June 28th, 1:00pm - NCO.

I love worship. Even as a child I remember sitting in the pew with my legs straight out in front of me not quite long enough to bend at the knees, looking at my white patent shoes and white lacy socks trying to touch the toes together and not scuff them. I loved the feeling of my grandfather handing each grandchild a dollar bill every Sunday just before the offering. As the plate was passed down the pew we each, in turn, got to place “our offering” in the plate and pass the plate on to the next sibling or cousin seated beside us. The first time I could recite the Lord’s Prayer in full I was elated. And I held a hymnal before I could read, sometimes even upside down, and sang as loud as I could even if I didn’t know the words. I remember my grandfather telling me, “Sing loud, Chonniebee, even if you don’t know the words.” And I did.

I took extra seminary classes about worship during seminary. I love “high church”, “low church”, traditional and contemporary. **The most important part of worship is that it is about God.** Worship is not about the music, the setting, the way the church is arranged, the pastor, the communion assistants, the ushers, the readers, the acolytes, ... worship is about God!

I still remember sitting in a worship class one summer and the professor said, “Liturgy means the work of the people”. I love that. Each Sunday we get to all “work” together to work for God! How cool is that?

The liturgical worship service, of which **Lutheran worship is**, is divided into four parts: the Greeting, the Word, the Meal, and the Sending. Did you know there are appropriate times to be seated during a worship service?

During the “Greeting” portion of the worship service any time before or during the prelude you may be seated, or during the opening hymn. The Confession and Forgiveness, Kyrie/dialog, and prayers during the “Greeting” time is God’s time and we honor God by participating if already seated in the sanctuary or by remaining in the narthex and waiting for the opening hymn before we are seated.

During the “Word” portion of the worship service we respectfully remain in our seats or standing as appropriate such as during the Gospel verse. Walking around or leaving the sanctuary during the reading and proclamation of God’s Word is disrespectful of God’s Word, in less of course you are ill. Your movement affects those around you. As you stand up to leave and walk around you draw others attention from God and to you. The appropriate time to leave worship for a potty break, if you really need one, would be during the hymn of the day. However, if you leave then you need to wait until the sharing of the peace to return. The Apostle’s Creed and especially the People’s Prayers are times of respect to God and are times we join our voices together in reverence to our belief in God.

During the “Meal” portion of the worship service, an extremely important time as Jesus is sharing his own body and blood with us, we are invited through liturgy and prayer to be in conversation with God. Once again, unless you are sick, leaving worship at this time is disrespectful to God. Following you receiving communion, if you need to leave worship you may, just please be respectful of others in worship who are trying to pray during this time.

During the time of “Sending” I personally ask you not to leave until after the official sending unless you need some extra time to leave. This allows those that have wheel chairs, walkers, or canes and need extra time to leave during the sending hymn before those of us that can negotiate quite quickly block their way or possibly contribute to them losing their balance. This is just respectful.

I realize not everyone loves worship as much as I do. But I have no doubt we all love and respect God as much as I do. Since liturgy is the work of the people, when anyone does something during worship to draw others focus away from God and to themselves we are no longer working together.

It is my privilege each week to work with each of you. And all God’s people say...Amen

Summer Church Office Hours:

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

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

Newsletter Deadline:

Articles must be received in the church office by **Monday, June 12th** to be included in the July 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.

Newsletter: Receive the newsletter via email and save postage and paper costs.

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. **Rehearsals are Wednesdays from 5:30 to 6:30pm.** All levels of players are welcome. We lead worship on the 4th Sunday of each month.

Bethlehem Star: June, 2017

Days Off:

In the summer the church office is closed on Friday. That means Pastor Chon and Laurel do not work. In case of emergency do not hesitate to contact Pastor Chon. If it is not an emergency please honor their time off to reenergize for the next weeks ministry.

Pastor Chon's June Office Hours

(Not Work Hours)

Monday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Tuesday: 9:00am-1:00pm

6:30-8:30pm: Video Study

Wednesday: 9:00am-2:00pm

Thursday: Work from home / sermon prep

Friday: Off

Other office hours are available by appointment – Just ask. We are trying to be mindful of energy costs during the hottest times of the day.

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 is more than 6 years old, and was designed for computer access. It needs to be updated so our content displays to best advantage on today's newer technology of smart phones and tablets. The cost will be around \$700.

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!**



**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.

Bethlehem Star: June, 2017

Grandparent support group:

1st Thursday of the month.
6:00-8:00pm - Rooms 8/9/10

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

In Arizona, more than 100,000 children are being raised by their grandparents or other relatives.

Nationwide, that number is more than 5 million. Many parents are unable to take care of their children due to substance abuse, incarceration, mental illness, child abuse or death.

Grandparents raising their grandchildren must deal with school systems, health coverage, legal issues, financial concerns, and complex family situations. This leaves many of these "second-time around" parents feeling overwhelmed.

By providing support to grandparents and other relative caregivers, we help keep children out of foster care.

Grandparents who have the primary responsibility for raising their grandchildren often face many challenges. Our support groups give you a place to share experiences, network with others, and find workable solutions to the challenges ahead.

Email info@duetaz.org

Phone: (602) 274-5022

Summer Video Reformation Study:

- ✚ Starts Tuesday, June 20th from 6:30-8:30pm
- ✚ At Pastor Chon & Danny's house. Contact the church office for directions.
- ✚ It begins with medieval Catholic theology to Lutheran nuances, to Biblical scholarship and more.
- ✚ Dates: June 20th & 27th, July 11th, 18th, and 25th.

Summer Water Drive:

It's that time of year again: Temperatures are rising, so it's time for our annual Summer Water Drive. You can bring cases of water, or donate money and the cash will be used to purchase water. Please be as generous as you can at it's hot out there! Either way, you are helping provide the much needed hydration for the homeless in our area. **We've designated Sunday, July 9th and Sunday, July 16th, so see Carol Savoie on those Sundays to donate!**

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.

Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis

Who Gets ALS?

ALS is a disorder that affects the function of nerves and muscles. Based on U.S. population studies, a little over 6,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year. (That's 15 new cases a day.) It is estimated that as many as 20,000 Americans have the disease at any given time. According to the ALS CARE Database, 60% of the people with ALS in the Database are men and 93% of patients in the Database are Caucasian.

Most people who develop ALS are between the ages of 40 and 70, with an average age of 55 at the time of diagnosis. However, cases of the disease do occur in persons in their twenties and thirties. Generally though, ALS occurs in greater percentages as men and women grow older. ALS is 20% more common in men than in women. However with increasing age, the incidence of ALS is more equal between men and women.

There are several research studies – past and present – investigating possible risk factors that may be associated with ALS. More work is needed to conclusively determine what genetics and/or environment factors contribute to developing ALS. It is known, however, that military veterans, particularly those deployed during the Gulf War, are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS.

Half of all people affected with ALS live at least three or more years after diagnosis. Twenty percent live five years or more; up to ten percent will live more than ten years.

There is some evidence that people with ALS are living longer, at least partially due to clinical management interventions, riluzole and possibly other compounds and drugs under investigation.

Facts You Should Know

- ALS is not contagious.
- Although the life expectancy of a person with ALS averages about two to five years from the time of diagnosis, this disease is variable, and many people can live with the disease for five years and more. More than half of all people with ALS live more than three years after diagnosis.
- Once ALS starts, it almost always progresses, eventually taking away the ability to walk, dress, write, speak, swallow, and breathe and shortening the life span. How fast and in what order this occurs is very different from person to person. While the average survival time is 3 years, about twenty percent of people with ALS live five years, 10 percent will survive ten years and five percent will live 20 years or more.
- Progression is not always a straight line in an individual either. It is not uncommon to have periods lasting weeks to months where there is very little or no loss of function. There are even very rare examples in which there is significant improvement and recovery of lost function. These ALS "arrests" and "reversals" are unfortunately usually transient. Less than 1% of patients with ALS will have significant improvement in function lasting 12 months or more.
- Approximately 6,000 people in the U.S. are diagnosed with ALS each year. The incidence of ALS is two per 100,000 people, and it is estimated that more than 20,000 Americans may be living with ALS at any given time.
- ALS occurs throughout the world with no racial, ethnic or socioeconomic boundaries and can affect anyone.
- Military veterans are approximately twice as likely to develop ALS.
- The onset of ALS often involves muscle weakness or stiffness as early symptoms. Progression of weakness, wasting and paralysis of the muscles of the limbs and trunk as well as those that control vital functions such as speech, swallowing and later breathing generally follows.
- There can be significant costs for medical care, equipment and home health caregiving later in the disease. It is important to be knowledgeable about your health plan coverage and other programs for which you may be eligible, including Social Security Disability, Medicare, Medicaid and Veteran Affairs benefits.

Riluzole, the drug approved for ALS, was approved by the FDA in late 1995. This antiglutamate drug was shown scientifically to prolong the life of persons with ALS by at least a few months. More recent studies suggest Riluzole slows the progress of ALS, allowing the patient more time in the higher functioning states when their function is less affected by ALS. [Click here for more information on the drug.](#)

Information obtained from www.alsa.org

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 Arlene Jacobson at (602) 686-2400.

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.

Volunteer Opportunity:

If this is your calling, please contact the church office (480-832-0462).

Nursery:

Our nursery is run by volunteers who are available during worship one Sunday each month to care for young children when needed. Our nursery caregiver on the first Sunday of each month is no longer able to continue.

Every Thursday:

Men's Bible Study

7:30am in the Social Hall.

The **World Hunger Basket**, located in front of the baptismal font, is a continuing mission activity. You are invited to donate before, during, or after worship. ½ of the funds are sent to the ELCA World Hunger program, and the other ½ 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

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. During the summer months, our time together consists of fellowship and Bible study only. Please bring your own bag and beverage (*BYOB*) during the summer months. Our meetings are from 10:00-11:00 am. **Mark your calendar for Thursday, June 15th, at 10:00 am.** 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.

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**.

Fall Festival: Even though the Fall Festival is months away, planning is already in progress. During the summer months, if you are out and about and you are able to pick up a **gift certificate** to donate to the Fall Festival, please do. Gift certificates to restaurants, grocery stores, or anything else in any domination would be appreciated.

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.

Outreach: News from Noah's Ark

Another school year has come to an end. We have witnessed eight new 1st Graders emerging from what were kindergarteners last August. A fresh crop of kindergarteners have grown from seedling pre-kindergarteners. The continuous evolving of itty-bits to the next level of development is always exciting to witness.

Once again we have been blessed with great numbers going into the fall. Our kindergarten is full. Three of those children are from families new to Noah's Ark. Each of the remaining 4 classes have only a few openings available. The joy in knowing we are a firm layer of foundation in Christian education for our families is very gratifying.

Summer Camp is only a week away. All the superheroes coming to the ark are fortifying themselves for a fabulous 8 weeks with many old/new friends. There will be many activities and new experiences for the campers to participate in throughout June and July. Be listening out for "BAM, POW, WHAM", and maybe even a "DYNAMITE or AMAZING" coming from our direction. That will be our super campers engaging in a summer of fun!!

If you're in the area, come and visit Hero Central this summer. You don't even have to don a cape.

We look forward to seeing you in the fall. We pray for everyone to have a safe, healthy, and joyous summer.

Ms. Jill

Mark Your Calendar:

Third Sunday Potlucks in July and August. Dress according to the theme, bring a potluck dish, and join in with the games. We will begin around 10:30am following worship with the games followed by the potluck around noon. This is a really fun time and a good opportunity to get to know each other better, eat some delicious food and stay out of the heat!

On June 25th we will have a Nautical theme, which will include a baby shower for Morgan Bracy. Food will be supplied. Watch for the sign-up sheet so the hosts will know how much food to bring. (This is not a potluck.)



Summer Potluck "Thank You"s to:

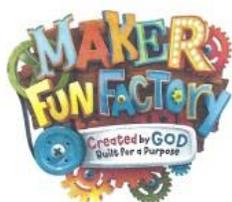
Karen Vidot for coordinating the July 16th cowboy-themed potluck.

Pat Gappa for coordinating the August 20th baseball-themed potluck.

This summer, Bethlehem is again joining with Love of Christ for **Vacation Bible School**. You are invited to join us in making this a special event for all kids.

For more information, contact Karen Vidot.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL



Join Us For Maker Fun Factory, Created by GOD,

Built for a Purpose!

on July 10-14, from 5:30-8:00p.m.

at Love of Christ Church (1525 N Power Rd, Mesa)

Open to kids entering Pre-K through 6th grade.

The cost is \$20 per child (dinner included)

\$50 max per household Scholarships are available.

You can also download a registration form online at LoveofChristChurch.net or register in the LOC front office.

TEAM VBS!

Be a part of this special team! Servants are needed in all areas of VBS!

We are in need of Kitchen Assistants, Crew leaders and Station Assistants for both Preschool and Elementary Age areas.

Whatever your gifts, we have a job for you!



Cursillo

'A once in a lifetime experience'

You are all invited to a Cursillo Ultreya on Friday, June 23rd at 7:00pm.

In the Cursillo movement, the community spirit is continued after the Three Days by Ultreyas (ûl-tray-âhs), or reunions, of the community. Our church is hosting this next one at Bethlehem. You don't have to go thru the 3 days, to be able to attend an Ultreya. This is a good way for you to see what we do to renew our faith walk together. Heart Fire will be playing, so come out to support them, as well. If you are interested in attending the fall Cursillo weekend, please talk to Pastor Chon or Estelle, for any info.



Every Tuesday:

Quilters:

The quilters are taking the Summer off and 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 more women 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.

Every Wednesday:

Choir Rehearsals

Choir rehearsals resume in the fall.

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.

2nd Wednesday of the month:

Mexican Train Dominoes

June 14th at 1:00pm in the NCO.

4th Wednesday of the month:

Stitch 'n Knit:

June 28th 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.

Members and friends are encouraged to take Prayer Shawls for friends or family who are having difficult times, grieving, illness, etc. The book we ask people to sign showing where the Shawls are going is really interesting. It's amazing how far reaching this Ministry is!

Thanks to all the women who have been making Prayer Shawls. It's so nice to see so many shawls on the 2nd Sunday of the month when they are blessed. There have been 10-12 shawls every month, which is great! The prayer shawls have been going out to many friends & neighbors locally and also all over the US. It's such a great way to share God's blessings. Thanks so much for helping to share this ministry.

If anyone is interested in learning how to knit or crochet Prayer Shawls, we will be pleased to teach you. Questions? Call the church office at 480-832-0462.

We now have a **Weather Station** mounted on the pergola in the Community Garden that 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>

