

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
Newsletter January 2017*



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“Faith is taking the first step even when  
you can't see the whole staircase.”

- *Martin Luther King, Jr.*

# *From the Pastor*

Dear People of God,

Got a minute? How about an hour? Maybe two or three? For most of us, time is our most precious commodity. We work insane hours (ever wonder why?), negotiate some of the world's most congested roadways & transportation systems (ugh!), and try and squeeze in all the other important stuff in the time left over (whew!). It's not easy. And if we're not careful, we can find ourselves looking up at the stars one night and wondering, is this the life God intends for me?

Actually, that's not a bad question to consider from time to time. What does God have in mind for me? Because it's so easy to get caught up in the rigors of daily life that we can easily lose our way - our purpose - as the people of God.

Author, therapist, teacher Clayton Barbeau often used a tag line that read something like this - *Where you place your time, you place your love. And where you place your love, you place your life.* Notice, this thread begins with time. If I'm going to have a relationship with someone, I need to be willing to give them my time, first of all. On the flip side, if I want to kill a relationship, I can simply stop giving it any time. If we don't water a plant - or a relationship - it's not likely to survive, much less thrive.

Now think about your church. Specifically, how much time you invest in it. I am convinced there is a strong correlation between the amount of time members allow for participation in the body of Christ, and the health and vitality of that congregation. Think

about it. A room full of eager, happy people creates the kind of environment that attracts more inquisitive, interested people. As best as I can tell, Jesus built his movement through the lives of the people who showed up and followed him. It's impossible to do otherwise.

At this point you might be thinking, Thanks, pastor, now I have one more thing to feel guilty about. Not my intent! However, I do realize this is a challenging conversation. I'm not trying to make you feel badly about your life choices. However, I would be unfaithful to my call if I did not hold out for you another way, a new way to order you life - a way that tries to keep Christ and his body, the church, at the center, and not something we join in if there's nothing else to do.

I'll be talking more about these things in the weeks to come. I hope to see you in church. Until then, remember the sequence - *time, love, life*. And maybe think about what God has in mind for you.....

Blessings,

Pr Kern

# *This Month...*

## Pastor-After Sessions

### **Sundays, immediately following the worship service BLC Parlor**

These brief - 30 minutes - sessions are offered as food for thought and member growth, because every member has a responsibility to help make the future of Bethlehem as good as it can be! Join us in to prepare for the work we need to do to get ready to receive our next pastor

- **Sunday, January 8** - What is your next pastor thinking about? Congregations aren't the only ones with expectations! Come hear some of the questions going through their minds.
- **Sunday, January 15** - Calling your next pastor - \$\$\$  
Remember when I told you, the gospel is free, but ministry's expensive! Come learn how a pastor's compensation package is put together, what's negotiable, what's not, etc.
- **Sunday, January 22** - Leadership & Honesty. What are the expectations, spoken and unspoken, that govern Bethlehem?
- **Sunday, January 29** - Congregation Meeting -  
2016 Annual Report



**Bethlehem**  
LUTHERAN CHURCH

**Congregational Meeting**  
**Sunday, January 29, 2017**  
**11:00 a.m.**

*2016 Annual Report*



**Next meeting:**  
**Jan. 24<sup>th</sup>, 10:00 a.m.**  
**BLC Parlor**

*All women welcome!*

*Bethlehem Newsletter Jan. 2017*

8922 Little River Turnpike  
Fairfax, VA 22031  
Phone: 703.978.3131  
Website: [www.blclife.org](http://www.blclife.org)

*Feb. Newsletter Deadline: Jan. 22<sup>nd</sup>*  
*Email articles to:*  
[bakkemarie@gmail.com](mailto:bakkemarie@gmail.com)

Contacts:  
Intentional Interim  
Pastor Eugene Kern:  
[pkalongtheway@gmail.com](mailto:pkalongtheway@gmail.com)

Marie Bakke:  
[bakkemarie@gmail.com](mailto:bakkemarie@gmail.com)

Suji Trump:  
[sujikomusic@yahoo.com](mailto:sujikomusic@yahoo.com)

## Upcoming Hypothermia Center

BLC is hosting the FACETS Hypothermia Center the week of 5-12 March. Your help will be needed. Financial

gifts are needed and welcome; we pay transportation costs for the homeless folk, for instance. And we certainly will need all kinds of other support: volunteers to act as chaperons; gifts of travel size cosmetics and of clean (though used) winter clothes; people to prepare and serve evening meals; and so forth.

WATCH for opportunities to sign up to help!

For more information, see Kristin Haynes (or Marie Reed, or Dave Hartmann).



# Hypothermia Shelter at BLC Begins March 5th

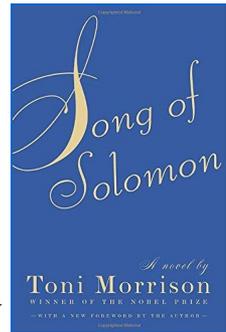
*Please mark your calendars for this  
important service opportunity!*

# *Educational Opportunities for Adults*

**The Thursday Book Group** meets in the BLC Parlor on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, from 12:00 ó 2:00pm. New members, male and female, are always welcome and the discussion is great! Bring a brown bag lunch, if you like. Call Zoe Parker, Group Leader (703-912-7630), pzoe20@yahoo.com for more information.

The book selection for January 5, 2017 is *My Sister's Keeper* by Jodi Picoult. Jodi Picoult tells the story of a girl who decides to sue her parents for the rights to her own body in this *New York Times* bestseller.

The February 2nd selection is *Song of Solomon* by Toni Morrison. Milkman Dead was born shortly after a neighborhood eccentric hurled himself off a rooftop in a vain attempt at flight. For the rest of his life he, too, will be trying to fly. With this brilliantly imagined novel, Toni Morrison transfigures the coming-of-age story as audaciously as Saul Bellow or Gabriel García Márquez. As she follows Milkman from his rustbelt city to the place of his family's origins, Morrison introduces an entire cast of strivers and seeresses, liars and assassins, the inhabitants of a fully realized black world.



## Upcoming Books :

March 2ô Swans of Fifth Avenue by Melanie Benjamin.

April 6ô The Absolute True Diary of a Part-Time Indian  
by Sherman Alexi.

May 4ô Team of Rivals by Doris Kearns Goodwin.

June 1-ôBury My Heart at Wounded Knee by Dee Brown.

# Sharing God's Love

*Below are some immediate serving needs for our church community. Can you serve by providing help to us?*

## **Join the Care Team**

There are countless opportunities where we can help one another, be it sending a card, making a call, dropping off food, and so many other ways. We are all one family and what better way to demonstrate this than through caring for one another?



We hope to involve all of BLC in this program, either caring or being cared for. Remember, we all are only temporarily able!

For more information, contact:  
Barbara Burfeind at 703-978-8962  
(leave a message)  
or email: burfante81@yahoo.com

## **Ministry Assistants:**

BLC is always in need of individuals to serve as Lay Assistants, Ushers, and Acolytes. Any member high school age or up is able to serve as a Lay Assistant. Children over the age of 10 can serve as Acolytes. Ushers can be of any age! Laura Smith is available to provide training, advice, and assistance for any of these positions that fill critical roles in our worship services. Please feel free to talk with Laura about it at church or contact her at lsmith42@cox.net.

# Opportunities to Give

Throughout the year we may have addition opportunities to give to support the mission of spreading the Gospel by word and our hands. Below are some opportunities to support missions that are either part of our overall church mission or supported by our church family. If you have an extra opportunity to give this year, please consider the following programs:

## **Mortgage Elimination Campaign**

Bethlehem has made excellent progress in reducing the mortgage. If you are able to make a contribution beyond your regular giving, your gift would be greatly appreciated. Cash donations of any amount, stock transfers, etc., will all help us achieve our goal.

## **Hypothermia Shelter**

Beginning March 5th, BLC will host a Hypothermia Shelter, serving the critical needs of the chronically and vulnerable homeless persons when they are in most danger of exposure to cold and frigid weather. Donations to our week will provide food, toiletries, and transportation for those in great need.

To Our Bethlehem Lutheran Church Family,

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Staff would like to thank our BLC family for their generous Christmas gifts to the staff.

It is our honor and joy to serve Christ through Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

- The staff of Bethlehem

To our BLC family,

Once again, you have shown us why we love Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The love and caring you feel and display for each other and those around you is always present. You were there for us during one of our worse possible times, the death of our son and brother, Chris. We thank you for the cards, the luncheon, the kind words and the hugs. Thank you for being there for us. We are blessed to be a part of this community.

Dave, Donna, Tim and Shelley Hartmann

**Dining Out Group**  
**Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup>, 7:00 p.m.**

## **Giardino Italian Restaurant**

8944 Burke Lake Rd., Springfield, VA  
Kings Park Shopping Center

### **Everyone Welcome**

Please sign-up at the Welcome Center  
or contact Helen Crum: [helenkcrum@gmail.com](mailto:helenkcrum@gmail.com)

## SAMARITANS

Please join us for lunch  
and fellowship at

**Milano's Restaurant**  
6230-G Rolling Rd., Springfield

Everyone Welcome! bring your friends.  
Please join us at our next luncheon on

**January 12, 2017, 12:30 p.m.**

For more info, please contact Phil Case:  
[casep29@gmail.com](mailto:casep29@gmail.com)

## *Bethlehem Family with Special Days in January*

### *Birthdays*

- January 5: Kristen Chadbourne  
Lana Birdwell
- January 6: Marie Bakke
- January 9: Jackson Recher
- January 10: Zoe Parker
- January 12: Deb Bauer  
Jordan Cocker
- January 17: Andrew Gird  
Joe McKinney
- January 18: Brennan Hutchinson
- January 19: Joseph Beal
- January 20: Karla Kalb
- January 27: Carley Metzger
- January 28: Debi Berry
- January 29: Marva Benn  
Marie Reed
- January 31: Pat Frodigh  
Kimberly Metzger



### *Anniversaries*

- January 5: Dave & Sharon Cross (15th)



## The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Vestry 2017

<u>Vestry Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Telephone</u>	<u>Email</u>
President	Jim Trump	703-204-0640	jim.trump@usdoj.gov
Vice President	Kevin Metzger	703-239-1080	kmetzger39@yahoo.com
Vestry	Dave Hartmann	703-978-4902	chartmann@cox.net
Vestry	Kristin Haynes	703-698-5484	haynesfamily5@cox.net
Vestry	Anning Smith	703-447-9089	anning@cox.net
Vestry	Melanie Smith	703-830-9514	mwestler4@verizon.net
Vestry	Tsion Tesfaye	703-941-4639	yetsiont1@yahoo.com
Interim Pastor	Pastor Eugene Kern	407-427-4846	pkalongtheway@gmail.com

## BLC Ministry Team Leaders

Discipleship Team Leader	Laura Smith	703-447-2942	lsmith42@cox.net
Evangelism Team Leader	Kristin Haynes	703-698-5484	haynesfamily5@cox.net
Fellowship Team Leader	Mike Crum	703-978-2405	kmcrum@gmail.com
Resources Team Leader	Vacant		

**Sunday Schedule:**

Learning Hour, 9:00 a.m.

Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**

[www.blclife.org](http://www.blclife.org)

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Phone: (703) 978-3131

The **Bethlehem Lutheran Church Newsletter**  
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