

# The Bethlehem STAR ~ January 2017

From Pastor Jay

## An Invitation to Learn and Grow in Faith and Life

Each week, several outstanding groups convene to be strengthened by the Holy Spirit and one another as they learn. You are invited to three new groups beginning in January. You can sign up for any of these by contacting me at: [pastorjay@hickorytech.net](mailto:pastorjay@hickorytech.net) or 388-2925.

## Book of Faith Hebrews—Begins on January 11

Meets for six weeks on Wednesdays from 10:30-11:30 a.m.

Cost of the book is \$8

Our Book of Faith studies are about opening Scripture and joining in conversation. We look at texts historically, in a literary context, through our Lutheran theology, and devotionally. In January, we begin to study Hebrews. The Letter to the Hebrews is one of the more sophisticated New Testament writings, with the author connecting the Old Testament passages to the present concerns of the community of faith.

## Smart Money, Smart Kids—Begins on January 11; Sign-up by January 4

Meets for six weeks on Wednesdays from 6:45-7:45 p.m.

Cost of material/membership is \$59 (scholarships based on need available)

One of the challenges of parenting is helping our kids develop values consistent with our faith when it comes to consumerism and generosity. The hope of **Smart Money, Smart Kids** is to enable conversation with your family regarding how you steward your money. The material is produced by the Dave Ramsey group, the same folks who brought us Financial Peace University.

## Financial Peace University—Begins on January 8

Meets for nine weeks on Sundays from 6-7:30 p.m.

Cost of material/membership is \$99 (waived for Bethlehem members attending 7 of 9 classes)

Lives are changed in the nine weeks of Financial Peace. Come and join us and community members in learning how to wisely and faithfully manage what God has given us. Child care is provided.



Wednesday Night Suppers are served from 4:45—6 p.m. We welcome anyone who wishes to dine with us. There is no charge for the meals, but a free-will offering will be accepted.

### Menus for January

January 4 — lasagna and breadsticks

January 11 — beef commercials

January 18 — soup and sandwiches

January 25 — baked chicken, mashed potatoes, country gravy, and green beans

*Lettuce salad will be served weekly.*

## Pastor Russell Rudolf Returns to Bethlehem

The first of our former pastors to celebrate with us will be **Reverend Russell Rudolf** on **Sunday, January 29**. We share this background with you to introduce one of our own:

Reverend Rudolf was an assistant pastor at Bethlehem from November 1963 through February of 1967. He was ordained in 1960 at St. Luke Lutheran in Wishek, ND. He received his B.A. in 1955 from Wartburg College in Waverly, IA, and his Masters of

Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary in Dubuque, IA, in 1960. He was a solo pastor at St. John Lutheran in Raymond, MN, prior to coming to Bethlehem. He left Bethlehem to become the senior pastor at St. John Lutheran in Owatonna, MN, where he served from March 1967 through July 1995.

For many years in Owatonna, Russ was the host of a weekly radio program called “Music for Meditation” on KRFO. For more than ten years, he was a member of the Board of Contributors and provided a monthly column for “The Owatonna People’s Press.” A number of his articles have appeared in a variety of magazines; i.e., “The Lutheran Standard,” which published more than half a dozen of his fiction short stories for teenagers. For the past three years, he has written weekly “Reflections on a Hymn (thoughts on the authors)” that have appeared in the SEMN Synod “River Crossings Weekly” and on Facebook. An avid golfer, his shelves contain numerous championship trophies. He has been a member of The Exchange Club of Owatonna for nearly 50 years.

He and his wife continue to live in Owatonna since his retirement as a pastor at the end of July, 1995. Their son Thomas lives in Middletown, OH, and their son Peter lives in Plymouth, MN.



# Fellowship News

## Thank You to our Monthly Chairpersons in 2016!

**January** ~ Audrey Gatchell & Dorothy Norland  
**February** ~ Mary Hall & Lucy Knowles  
**March** ~ Jim & Gail Christensen and Charlene Zimmerman  
**April** ~ Carolyn Hovick & Donna Engles  
**May** ~ Kathy Crosswell & Karen Sandersfeld  
**June** ~ Pat Bengtson & Kelli Woelfel  
**July** ~ Ginger Erlandson & Jean Bender  
**August** ~ Joyce Kamrath & Sandy Kuper  
**September** ~ Diana Olson & Cindy Crooker  
**October** ~ Darryl & Karen DeRemer and Tom & Betty Sanger  
**November** ~ Bob & Susan Brown and Duane & Jan Ahlness  
**December** ~ Florence & Eunice Sassenberg

Serving a funeral luncheon is an important mission of Bethlehem.  
It is a way we can minister to those who are grieving and  
show them that we care about them.

**THANK YOU** and blessings to all of you who volunteered!  
~ **Donna Engles, Overall Serving Chair**

## Bethlehem's Beginnings

Below is an excerpt from an article commemorating the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, which was written by historian and lifetime Bethlehem member, Bryce Stenzel, for the January, 2017 issue of Mankato Magazine. Watch for it to be delivered with The Free Press the week between the Christmas and New Year's holidays.

The oldest of three Norwegian congregations that would eventually form Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Mankato was Our Savior's Lutheran Church, organized in 1867 by the Reverend T.H. Dahl. He started with a congregation of 25 members. At first, Sunday services were irregular and held in the German Lutheran Church (Immanuel), whose original church building was built at the corner of Washington and Broad Streets. It was formally dedicated in October, 1867. In 1874, Our Savior's built a brick sanctuary building on the corner of Carroll and Pleasant Streets for \$7,000.

Trinity Lutheran, the second parent congregation of Bethlehem, was founded in 1869. Originally, it carried the name "First Scandinavian Evangelical Lutheran Church." Reverend Nils Olsen, Trinity's first pastor, served for five years. The original church consisted of only seven families. Services were conducted in the Blue Earth County courthouse (not the present one), as well as in private homes. In 1875, Trinity constructed its own sanctuary at the corner of Carroll and Van Brunt Streets, only a block away from Our Savior's, under the leadership of Pastor Nils Heggerness. The church building cost \$3,200 to construct.

LeSueur Lutheran Church was organized in 1886 in a location along the LeSueur River, approximately seven miles south of Mankato. The congregation met in a remodeled schoolhouse. It was served by pastors from Trinity until the unification with Our Savior's and Trinity. Our Savior's, Trinity, and LeSueur Lutheran churches finally merged in 1919 to form "Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church of Mankato."

## **Bethlehem 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt**



A special thank you to **Cathy Young** and the Bethlehem quilting group for creating a special quilt for our anniversary in 2017. Cathy put her special talents to work in producing this commemorative artwork once we suggested the idea to the quilters. It is prominently displayed for your viewing on the narthex wall leading to Grounds for Joy. Once again, we are blessed with dedication to Bethlehem from our members. Thank you!

**During Bethlehem's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary year of 2017, we:**

**Remember** our church's rich heritage that brought us to where we are today;

**Rejoice** in God's gifts to us as a congregation; and

**Renew** our purpose as fellow believers in Jesus Christ.

## **Adult Forum Schedule for January**

### **Sundays from 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. in the Heritage Room**

Each week, we bring compelling speakers and interesting topics to light at our adult forum. Here is January's schedule:

**January 1**—No Forum

**January 8**—Kathy Chatelaine, Southeastern Minnesota Synod Director of Global Mission/Companion Synods; our companion synod relationships in Colombia, South Sudan, and Tanzania

**January 15**—Abdi Sabrie — On Being Muslim in Mankato

**January 22**—Speaker TBA — Partners for Affordable Housing

**January 29**—No Forum (TEC in Heritage Room)

**Food Donations** We would like to express our heartfelt thanks to the wonderful Bethlehem crew



who spent two chilly mornings in December picking up 1,248.6 pounds of donated food at Kiwanis Holiday Lights, transporting it to Crossroads, and sorting it all out for Campus Cupboard: Bob Brown, Werner Fick, Al Girtz, Bob Ihrig, Gordy Larson, Jim Nagel, and Dennis Sandersfeld. **We love you guys!**

*Kathy Yale, Campus Cupboard*

# Family Faith Formation Ministry

Anna Wencl, Family Faith Formation Ministry Director ~ [annawencl@hickorytech.net](mailto:annawencl@hickorytech.net)



## Children's Christmas Program

**A big thank you to all the children and adults who made our Christmas programs possible! What a joy it was to celebrate the birth of Christ through the stories shared by our LIGHT and NightLIGHT kids.**



## LIGHT & Night LIGHT Kids —

### Let's Start Out the New Year with a Scavenger Hunt!



We'll get warmed up from the cold by following clues around the church to find the "X" that marks the spot! NightLIGHT will meet on January 11, and LIGHT will meet on January 15. After our big kick-off, we'll continue with a new rotation. NightLIGHT kids will use the Living the Word curriculum to learn about the stories we hear in worship. LIGHT kids will jump into a new rotation about Jesus' Disciples.

## Confirmation

January 4 — No Class; January 11 — Mary Magdalene; January 18 — Thomas; January 25 — Saul/Paul

**Teens Encounter Christ Retreat** — All 9th graders are expected to attend either the January TEC retreat at Bethlehem held January 27-29 or the April retreat in Blue Earth. To register, go to [southernotec.org](http://southernotec.org)!



← We had a great crew of 15 for NERF Wars in December!

## Youth Events

Save the date for these awesome opportunities up ahead!

**Chicago Mission Trip — Spots Still Open:** We're headed to the Windy City this July 15-21. Spots may still be available. If you're interested, get \$50 to Anna to hold your spot. The trip is open to current 7th-12th graders.

**Fat Tuesday Youth Gathering Fundraiser:** Confirmation students, we need you for this awesome fundraiser. Please add Tuesday, February 28, to your calendar and plan to work this fun and fruitful event. We'll raise money for next year's youth trip to Houston!



Save the date!! **On February 28, 2017**, the youth of Bethlehem are once again putting on an amazing **Fat Tuesday fundraiser** complete with an awesome meal of jambalaya, music, atmosphere, a silent auction, and a wine wall. We would ask if anyone (including boards and committees) is willing to donate items for the silent auction or wine wall, please get them

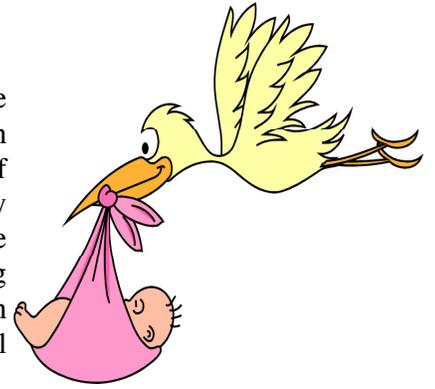
to Anna, our Faith Formation Director. Please let us know who the items are from and the approximate worth. Thank you so much in advance for your support of our youth! The youth are fundraising for the upcoming Chicago mission trip, as well as the 2018 National Youth Gathering in Houston, Texas. God's blessings!



## From Pastor Collette Broady Grund, Associate Pastor

### Baby's Coming!

The time is short now as we wait for our baby girl to be born on January 25! We are getting very excited and a plan is in place for my maternity leave. My last Sunday with you will be January 22, and I will return toward the end of Lent in the last week of March. During the nine weeks I am away, I expect everything to go very smoothly under the capable leadership of Pastor Jay and the staff. It is wonderful to be part of the dynamic Faith Formation team with Anna and Jens and to know they have everything covered in my absence. Special thanks are due to our member pastors who will be on call for Pastor Jay when he needs extra pastoral care, worship and funeral help, as well as to lay visitors who will help to cover hospital and nursing home visits.



Though I am sure that you will see members of my family during my leave time (this is their church too, after all!), I'm not sure you will see me. Please treat this as you would a sabbatical time period by refraining from contacting me. If we run into each other around town, I'll be happy to see you and introduce you to the baby if she's with me. Otherwise, I will look forward to a formal introduction to the whole congregation when I return in March.

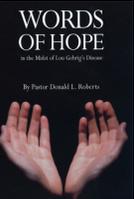
Also, *please* be extra kind to Pastor Jay while I'm away and ask him often how you can help keep things running smoothly while he is the only pastor at Bethlehem!

Blessings in this new year, *Pr. Collette*

Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year ♡ Happy New Year

### Pastor Don's Devotion

*Pastor Don Roberts served as pastor at Bethlehem from 1989-1996. He was diagnosed with ALS/Lou Gehrig's disease in 1995 and continues to be an inspiration of life and faith to our congregation.*



*For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, have not perished.  
Ever since the days of your ancestors, you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them.  
Return to me and I will return to you, says the Lord of Hosts. But you say, 'How shall we return?'*  
~ Malachi 3:6,7

Those are good verses for the new year. There will be changes in the new year. Sometimes change brings stress. Let's take comfort in the fact that God does not change. God is the same "yesterday, today, and forever." When Malachi says, "O children of Jacob," he is speaking to the Israelites. In spite of their sins, they did not perish. In spite of our sin, neither will we — but only because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Because of his resurrection, we have the promise of eternal life forever with God. In the previous verses, Malachi talks about the day of the Lord. The day of the Lord, the Israelites believed, was a day in which the Lord would return and make everything right. In the same way, we anticipate the return of Christ. Jesus will come again! "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:30) Malachi pointed out to the people their sin against God. We all have sin in our lives. Malachi tells people to return to the Lord. He also calls people to repentance. Repentance means turning to the Lord. It means turning around. We should all repent of our sin. Jesus will return — let's rejoice in that fact. Let's all repent so that we may receive God's forgiveness.

## January Serving Group

Chair: Audrey Gatchell (388-1048)

Co-Chair: Dorothy Norland (388-3063)

Allan Asleson  
Barry & Mary Bliesmer  
Rich & Karen Bouquet  
Derek & Shawna Brown  
Jeremy & Kaitlin Carter  
Jim & Gail Christensen  
Chris Deike

Royce & Vonnie Elker  
Robert & Lynea Flom  
Tanya Gale  
Jasmine Grams-Haugesag  
Roger Haug  
Chuck Heaberlin  
Gail Heaberlin

Chad & April Lanz  
Harlan & Joan Lanz  
Mark & Sue Larson  
Jean Lorentz  
Kris Osdoba  
Al & Laurie Rossow  
Ron & Jean Smith

### *Monthly Mission Project for January: Partners for Affordable Housing*

**Partners for Affordable Housing** provides shelter for homeless families and individuals and helps them to secure economically viable long-term housing. For over 30 years, Partners has been a staple in the Mankato area providing temporary shelter to community members at their Theresa House and Welcome Inn shelters. In addition, Partners temporary transitional housing program provides support, case management services, and rental assistance to individuals in need. The agency also has a myriad of rental properties that offer housing at less than market rent to low-income individuals and families. Its mission cannot be performed without the

wonderful support volunteers and donors within this community.

Want to get involved? Partners for Affordable Housing's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual "Pedal Past Poverty" fundraising event on **February 25, 2017 at the YMCA from 9-2 p.m.** is now accepting sponsorships and team registration! Visit [www.partnersforhousing.org/pedal](http://www.partnersforhousing.org/pedal) for more information.

~ Your Community and Global Missions Board

### *Financial Report*

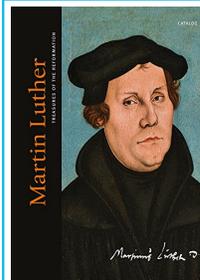
At the end of November, the general fund deficit was \$26,205. Member giving was at 92% of budget (\$422,354 received vs. a budget of \$461,353). This translates into a giving shortfall of \$38,999. General Fund expenses were \$20,000 under budget year-to-date. At this point, the deficit situation is income related. At the December Finance Committee meeting, discussion began regarding possible options and/or actions needed if the deficit situation carries over into 2017. Your support of the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church is greatly appreciated. Any questions about your pledge or giving should be directed to Elizabeth in the church office.

**In case of inclement weather on Sunday mornings, listen to KTOE 1420 AM/KTOE 102.7 FM for cancellation announcements for worship and church activities. In case of inclement weather on Wednesdays, our evening events will follow the cancellation decision of the Mankato Public Schools.**



### From the Library

A copy of *Martin Luther: Treasures of the Reformation* has been purchased and donated to Bethlehem's Library in honor of Arlene Stenzel as she celebrates her 89<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sunday, January 15, 2017.



This two-volume set, containing the Essays and Catalogue books, is in a special slipcase. The Catalogue brings together a thematically structured description of the various exhibits, most of which are being shown abroad for the first time. Original Luther objects and autographs, as well as archaeological finds from the Luther sites in Eisleben, Mansfeld, and Wittenberg, illuminate the personality of the Reformer and his environment. The Essays volume is a companion to the exhibition Catalogue. In 50 essays by church, art, and cultural historians, as well as archaeologists, this book presents state-of-the-art research on the Reformation. The scope of topics ranges from Martin Luther's geographical and ideological origins to Lutherans in America. New light is shed on the most important events and issues of Reformation history. The essays are supplemented by 18 innovative maps. This two-volume set offers a unique overview of the Reformation and the cultural treasures that reflect it.

Many Bethlehem congregational members have expressed strong interest in viewing the Martin Luther exhibit at the Minneapolis Institute of Art. With this gift, they will now get the opportunity to see the artifacts displayed and learn the history, even if they couldn't view the exhibit in person.

## WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

Date	Time	Reader	Usher	Communion Assistants			Greeters	Comm. Set-up	Coffee
1/1	9:45	Lois Anderson	5	Jessica Lanes	Brad Groth	Betty Groth	Al & Barb Girtz	Tom & Betty Sanger	Linda Bristol
1/8	8:15	Jane Sletta	6	Jill Evenson	<u>Need volunteer!</u>	Sandy Kuper	Duane & Janice Ahlness	Sally Burdick & <u>volunteer</u>	Scott & Kami Matteson
1/8	10:45	Mary Bliesmer	7				Jack & Pat Bengtson		
1/15	8:15	Kate Thul	8	Gordy Larson	Holly Meyer	Nancy Rorem	Lynor Blom & Angela Bruns	Eunice & Florence Sassenberg	Tim & Amy Heiser
1/15	10:45	James Dahlvang	2	Confirm. student	Jeannie Phillips	Al Girtz	Wally & Brenda Boyer		
1/22	8:15	Karen Sandersfeld	3	Shirley Ruby	<u>Need volunteer!</u>	Kelli Woelfel	Bob & Ginger Erlandson	Brad & Betty Groth	Kevin & Holly Nevills
1/22	10:45	Maria King	4				Tammy Dahlvang & Gail Christensen		
1/29	8:15	Kathy Piehl	5	Nancy Rorem	Sue Thul	Sandy Kuper	John & Sharon Finucane	Bob Singelstad & Carl Schoenstedt	Brad Widness & Charlie Leftridge
1/29	10:45	Jennifer Nord	6	Wally Boyer	Brenda Boyer	Marcia Nagel	Susan Brown & Jeremy Carter		



### SOUND TECHNICIANS

<u>January 1</u>	9:45 — Randy Wood	
<u>January 8</u>	8:15 — Brad Butler	10:45 — Christian Butler
<u>January 15</u>	8:15 — Jens Nielsen	10:45 — Gary Pipes
<u>January 22</u>	8:15 — Brad Butler	10:45 — Christian Butler
<u>January 29</u>	8:15 — Randy Wood	10:45 — Gary Pipes



The Bethlehem quilters donated 20 quilts to the Belgrade Avenue United Methodist women's shelter, and 20 quilts to the House of Hope women's shelter.



### Final 2016 Disbursements from the Bethlehem Lutheran Endowment Fund:

\$500 -- Belgrade Avenue United Methodist Church for cold weather shelter for women and children

\$500 -- Campus Cupboard at LCM Crossroads

\$500 -- Scholarship fund for nursing students at Arusha Lutheran Medical Center (Tanzania)

\$500 -- Doctors Without Borders

Endowment Board members are Susan Brown, Jim Erdman, Bob Qualset, Audrey Gatchell, Barbara Girtz, plus Jim Christensen (Council liaison), and Pastor Jay Dahlvang



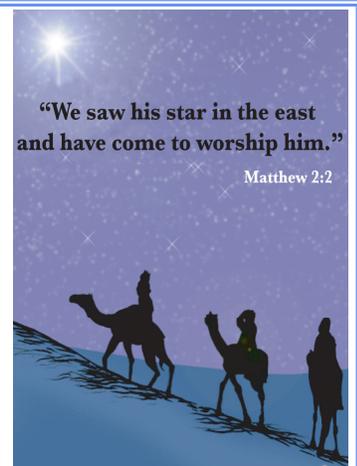
# January 2017



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1  <b>New Year's Day</b> 9 am-Coffee 9:45—Worship	2 <b>Office closed</b>	3 7 am-Bible Study 8:30 am-Quilters 1 pm—Library Comm., Comm at Old Main 3:30-C & G Missions 5 pm-Stewardship 6 pm-Music & Worship 7 pm-Facilities, Evangel.	4 10:30-Bk of Faith 1 pm-Staff mtg. <b>Wed. evening activities BUT no confirmation or NightLIGHT</b>	5 7 pm-Bible study-GFJ	6  <b>EPIPHANY</b> <b>Office closes at noon</b>	7
8 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour NO LIGHT 2-5 pm-TEC meeting 6 pm-Children's Bd., Financial Peace Univ.	9 6:30 pm- Life in the Spirit	10 7 am-Bible Study 10 am-PUSH in GFJ 10:15-Comm. at Pathstone 1 pm-Library Comm. 7 pm-Personnel	11 10:30-Bk of Faith 1 pm-Staff mtg. 3:30-Women's bk. club <b>Wed. evening activities</b>	12	13 <b>Office closes at noon</b>	14 11 am-Sons of Norway in the Heritage Room
15 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour 2-5 pm-TEC meeting 6 pm-FPU	16 <b>MLK Jr. Day</b> <b>Office closed</b> 6:30-8 pm- Lincoln Park Association	17 7 am-Bible Study 8:30 am-Quilters 1 pm-Library Comm. 7 pm-Council, Nurses' Support Panel	18 10:30-Bk of Faith 1 pm-Staff mtg. <b>Wed. evening activities</b>	19 3 pm-Book Club 7 pm-Bible Study-GFJ	20 <b>Office closes at noon</b>	21
22 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour 2-5 pm-TEC meeting 6 pm-Youth Board, FPU	23 <b>Pastor Collette begins her maternity leave</b>	24 7 am-Bible Study 1 pm-Library Comm.	25 10:30-Bk of Faith 1 pm-Staff mtg. 3:30-Women's bk. club <b>Wed. evening activities</b>	26 TEC (Teens Encounter Christ) through Sunday	27 <b>Office closes at noon</b> TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)	28 TEC (Teens Encounter Christ)
29 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour 6 pm-FPU TEC ends	30	31 7 am-Bible Study 1 pm-Library Comm.				

## Wednesday Evening Schedule

- 4:45-6:00 Supper served in the dining room
- 5:00-8:00 Child care available in the nursery
- 5:15-6:00 Junior Gospbells rehearsal in the basement
- 6:00-6:45 Worship service in the sanctuary**
- 6:30-7:30 Bethlehem Gospbells rehearsal in the basement
- 6:45-7:45 Confirmation
- 6:45-7:45 BY (Bethlehem Youth) Today in the youth room
- 6:45-7:30 NightLIGHT for 3-year-olds through 6th grade in basement classrooms
- 6:45-7:45 Voices in Praise choir rehearsal in the choir room



Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
720 South Second Street  
Mankato, MN 56001

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MANKATO, MN

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

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@BLCMankato

**Pastor Jay Dahlvang:** 387-4187  
pastorjay@hickorytech.net

**Pastor Collette Broady Grund:** 380-3049  
pastorcollette@hickorytech.net



## *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*

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

**Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 a.m. (9:45 a.m. on January 1)**  
**Wednesday Evening Worship: 6 p.m.**

*The 8:15 (or 9:45) a.m. Sunday service is broadcast at 11:00 a.m.  
on KTOE 1420 AM / KTOE 102.7 FM.*

Visit our website or Facebook page and listen to Sunday services online!

*Our mission statement:*

*We worship, serve, and celebrate God, embodied in Jesus Christ  
to love and save the world.*

