



The Bethlehem STAR



October 2022



Welcome Pastor Jacie!

We are excited to welcome the **Rev. Jacie Richmond** as our new associate pastor. Pastor Jacie's first Sunday with us will be **October 23**, and she will be formally installed on **December 4**.

Pastor Jacie is a Twin Cities native who graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College and Luther Seminary. For the past five years, she has served as associate pastor at St. John's Lutheran in Owatonna. She brings gifts for preaching and worship leadership, innovation and creativity, and for building a sense of community. She is excited to be coming here, and we look forward to the beginning of her call among us.

Let's pray for Pastor Jacie. Let's welcome her to town by inviting her to coffee or lunch, or stopping by the office to say hello and introduce ourselves. Let's be generous to ensure the viability of our staff and to offer them fair compensation for their dedicated work. Let's celebrate Pastor Jacie's arrival and the start of her ministry among us!

Imagine: A Vision of Hope

There is real energy and enthusiasm among our leadership for our coming capital campaign. It comes from the Holy Spirit, who is making everything new. It comes from love and loyalty to one another and the possibilities of a future of hope. It comes from our confidence, that with generous spirits, we can continue to celebrate God's faithfulness here and make a difference in the community and world. There is so much more to come in October as we together imagine a vision of hope! ~ *Pr. Jay*



Connections Shelter is reopening for the season on October 3, and Bethlehem is signed up for the week of Oct. 17! Some changes this year: there will be no morning shifts, and only meal providers and servers are needed. Meals will be served daily from 5:45-7:30 p.m. Grocery donations will be needed for our weeks, and a wish list will be sent out the weekend before the week starts. There is also an afternoon cleaning session once a week. Call or text Derek at 210-863-4202 for more info.

You can sign up to prepare food and bring it to the shelter, sign up just to serve the meal, or do both — go to connectionsshelter.org and click on "volunteer." We serve up to 35 guests every evening. If that number changes, we will notify you beforehand. Bethlehem is signed up for the following weeks: October 17, December 5, January 23, March 20, and May 22. Please text Derek if you are interested in helping to coordinate Bethlehem's weeks.



We only need FOUR more radio broadcast sponsors for the rest of the year: one in November and three in December. Can you help?

The broadcasts are important to our members who are not able to attend worship in person. If you would like to sponsor a broadcast in honor of or in memory of someone — or just because! — please contact the office.

Thank you!



Join Us For

Wednesday Night Suppers!

JD Truffles Catering will prepare a variety of delicious weekly meals, and Bethlehem volunteers will greet and serve you. **All are welcome! Join us between 5:00 and 6:15 p.m.**

Wednesday, October 5:

Hamburger rice hot dish, salad, garlic toast

Wednesday, October 12:

Turkey noodle casserole, salad, roll

Wednesday, October 19:

NO SUPPER ~ MEA BREAK

Wednesday, October 26:

Spaghetti with meatballs, salad, garlic toast

Free will donations are welcomed to cover supper expenses.



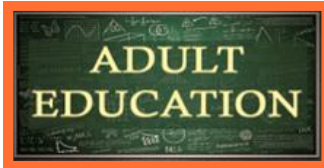
Monthly Mission



Notes from the Community & Global Missions Board



Bethlehem's October Monthly Mission is the **ECHO Food Shelf**. ECHO has been an important part of the Mankato area and surrounding communities since 1981, when a group of concerned people recognized a crisis in the community and organized the collection of food in a church basement. The need for services has increased, and ECHO has expanded to meet the growing needs of our community. Volunteers bring food to local families who are unable to get to the food shelf, and the summer feeding program fills the meal gap with many families. Several volunteer positions are available for those who are interested in helping ECHO with their program. We have set a monetary donation goal of \$3,000. We thank Bethlehem members for their commitment to our community.



Forum Schedule ~ 10:45 a.m. in Grounds for Joy

October 2: YMCA Mentoring Program, with Allison Braswell

October 9: How We Count the Vote in Blue Earth County, with Michael Stalberger

October 16: ECHO Food Shelf

October 23: NO FORUM ~ MEA Weekend

October 30: NO FORUM



We want YOU on the Lefse crew! Rollers and flippers are needed to make lefse on **Friday, November 18, at 9:00 a.m.** No experience required — we will teach you this delicious tradition! Once we are able to secure enough volunteers, we will begin

taking lefse pre-orders. We hope you will join us in creating this yummy treat in time for Thanksgiving! Contact Ginger Erlandson **by October 1** to sign up. E-mail rerlandson2@gmail.com or call 507-278-3007.



God is a busy worker, but he loves help!



Council Corner



Highlights from the Monthly Council Meeting

Here are the “highlights” of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **September 20**. Meeting minutes with details to be posted at www.blcmankato.org and are also available in the church office notebook. Visit with Council members with questions and concerns! We welcome your conversation & feedback!

New Associate Pastor News: Pr. Jacie Richmond has officially joined Bethlehem as our new associate pastor. Her first Sunday with us will be on **October 23** to meet BLC members. Her official installation will take place on **Sunday, December 4** during worship with a reception to follow in Grounds for Joy.

Financial Report: **August 31** deficit is **-\$39,834.95** compared to July 31 deficit of **-\$28,459.21**. Expenses are normal but planned member giving continues to lag. Actual member giving is at 83% of what was budgeted since January 1. **Mortgage** balance is **\$1,029,555** with monthly payments of \$8,187 to cover principal & interest. Funding available for 15 months resulting from continued member contributions.

Endowment News: Board is preparing new plan for future investment & distribution of funds. Attend November 6 adult forum to learn more & meet board members.

New Strategic Plan: 5 major goals & background information now posted on BLC website. Specific objectives being completed to measure progress in meeting goals during next 4 years.

Capital Campaign: All is on schedule for launch of campaign on 9/25. Plan on attending major congregational dinner on Sunday, October 23. Stay tuned for more details!

Lead Pastor Performance Review: Annual review conducted on 9/19 with Pr. Jay and Council leadership team. Very positive review approved by Council.

2023 Lay Staff & Pastoral Compensation: 2023 recommendations forwarded to Finance Committee for October 5 annual budget setting meeting.

Fall Semi-Annual Meeting: Save the date on **Sunday, November 20** for semi-annual meeting.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, October 18.



Financial Report

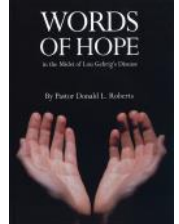


Notes from Elizabeth Ruiz, Financial Secretary

The deficit situation continued at the end of August. As we enter the fourth quarter of the year, it is important for everyone to review their giving so far in 2022. In early October, 3rd quarter contribution reports will be mailed to all members. Please review your report carefully. Report any errors or questions to Elizabeth in the church office or by e-mail at elizruiz@blcmankato.org. Thank you for your continuing support of the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

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.



Listen! I am standing at the door, knocking; if you hear my voice and open the door, I will come into you and eat with you, and you with me. ~ Revelation 3:20



For our eternal salvation, it is not so much our decision for Christ, but his decision for us. He makes it personal in baptism. Whatever our problems in this life, God has a better future for us. It is not so much as we open the door for Jesus, but he opens the door for us.

In everyday life, Jesus is calling for us to open the door to him. Our lives may seem lonely or hectic, but Jesus is calling us to open the door. Pray for your situation. That way we open the door. Pray for others in the same way. Jesus has a solution for our loneliness or our hecticness. Remember that Jesus died for us to forgive our sins and on the third day he rose to guarantee us eternal life. The risen Christ is with us every day of our lives. That includes a heart attack or a cancer diagnosis. He is with us no matter what situation we find ourselves in. He promises us a better future.

He promises to eat with us. That is in communion. He promises us forgiveness in communion. If you feel guilty, come to communion. You are forgiven. **Thanks be to God.**



Family Faith Formation Updates

Anna Wencil, Family Faith Formation Director

OCTOBER UPDATES

*for Children,
Youth & Families*

OCT. 21-23: T.E.C. RETREAT

High School youth, especially those in Confirmation, can register for the TEC retreat, which will be held at Bethlehem October 21-23. Register your child ASAP at southernotec.org.

OCT. 28: 5TH-9TH GRADE YOUTH LOCK-IN

We'll be locked in the church for an evening of halloween fun, games, and shenanigans up in the youth room. Young adults from Gustavus will join us! Invite your friends and join us for this free youth event for 5th-9th grade youth..

OCT. 26: TRUNK OR TREAT

Our annual parking lot Halloween celebration is back! For the first time in a couple years, we'll be opening it up to the community. So welcome your friends and family, donate candy, and/or host a trunk! Look for a sign up soon. Prize awarded for the best trunk.

NOV. 2: SAINT (& SINNER) SHOWCASE

Our Torchlight youth will be showcasing images of saints they've known or been inspired by during our lessons this fall. Come and see their creations in Grounds for Joy on Wed., Nov. 2 as we prepare to celebrate All Saints Day!

NOV. 12: RAKE THE TOWN

Confirmation youth and the men's group are joining forces for the sake of our neighbors. Join us Saturday, Nov. 12th 9 am-12 pm as we do this act of love for our neighbors. Don't worry--there will be donuts!



October 26 in the parking lot

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(507) 388-2925
blchurch@blcmankato.org



*A Reconciling in Christ
Congregation*

Pastor Jay Dahlvang: (507) 469-3792
pastorjay@blcmankato.org



@bethlehem.mankato

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Church Calendar — Fall 2022

Worship

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
in sanctuary & online

Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.

Our Sunday service is
streamed live on
Facebook & YouTube
and broadcast
on KTOE Radio
at 11 a.m.

Education

Please check Family
Faith Formation on
our website for details
about children's/
youth activities.

See the Adult Forum
schedule on page 2.

Adult Bible Study

Tuesday, 7 a.m.
Lectionary online

**Wednesday at
10:30 a.m. in
Grounds for Joy.**

Small Groups

Music rehearsals,
book clubs,
social groups,
boards/
committees, etc.

Please check online
calendar for times
& places.

Fellowship With Food

Sunday, 10:30 a.m.
Coffee & treats
in Grounds for Joy
after worship.

**Wednesday Night
Suppers** are served
from 5-6:15 p.m.

All calendar details can be found on the website at blcmankato.org/calendar.



OUR MISSION STATEMENT:

*Bethlehem is an inviting community
that is growing in Christ, loving our
neighbors, and serving God's world.*

*The deadline for submitting
newsletter articles is the 15th
of each month.*



*I will give thanks
to the Lord because
of his righteousness.*

PSALM 7:17