



The Bethlehem STAR

November 2022



I recently had a chance to preach on Luke 17, the story of the one man out of the ten healed by Jesus of his leprosy that returned to give thanks. Jesus says that ten were healed, but one was saved. This is the season of Thanksgiving. I always get a kick out of whenever science affirms what Jesus said 2000 years ago. If you

look up the benefits of gratitude, you find pages of results from reputable institutions that tell us thankfulness makes a significant difference to our relationships, health, and wellness – salvation indeed!

I am particularly thankful to you this season for your response to the capital campaign, for our call to Pastor Jacie, for our dedicated staff doing meaningful work, for your generous and prayerful support of all that God is calling us to do, and for the enthusiasm and spirit you have shown at the beginning of our fall season. If you ask me how I'm doing these days, I too might answer, "I'm thankful." ~ Pr. Jay



We only need ONE more radio broadcast sponsor for this year on December 11!

Lefse Time

LEFSE RETURNS

in 2022!

Making lefse is going to happen, thanks to you – the volunteers! We will be making it on Friday, November 18 at 9:00 a.m. in the downstairs kitchen. But...if you forgot to sign up...we might still have room for you to help.

We will be handing out the pre-sold lefse on **Friday, November 18 in the library at noon** and **Sunday, November 20 in the narthex after the church service (before the semi-annual meeting)**. HOWEVER...this year, why not add a few Norwegian sweet treats and make it a bake sale? Freshly made treats just in time for your Thanksgiving dinner. So...on Sunday, November 20, please visit us in the narthex to pick up your ordered lefse AND buy some Norwegian goodies! Any leftover lefse will be sold on Sunday. Thank you so much for the great response to making lefse! It only proves that our Nordic Bazaar has retired...but the spirit is still strong!

You can pre-order your favorite Norwegian treat now at blcmankato.org/forms or by calling the church during office hours (Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 9-5:00). The lefse will be sold in packs of 3 rounds only, \$5/pack. There is a limit of 2 packs per customer. The pre-sale is limited to 120 packs – first-ordered, first-served. Payment (cash or check) is due at the time of pick up.

Wednesday Night Supper

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, November 2:
Scalloped potatoes & ham, salad, roll

Wednesday, November 9:
Meat loaf, potatoes, vegetables, roll

Wednesday, November 16:
Roast turkey, potato, vegetable, roll

Wednesday, November 23:
NO SUPPER – THANKSGIVING BREAK

Wednesday, November 30:
Hamburger, Italian pasta, chips

Free will donations are welcomed to cover supper expenses.



Monthly Mission

Notes from the Community & Global Missions Board

Bethlehem's focus for the month of November is **Holy Grounds** housed at Centenary UMC. Holy Grounds is an important resource in the community for food security and a place where all individuals are treated with respect and dignity. What a wonderful way to live out the gospel call to love our neighbors as ourselves! There are many ways to help — through monetary donations, items such as underwear, tents, sleeping bags, and socks, as well as volunteering your time and talent. Our monthly mission goal for Holy Grounds is \$1,500. Thank you to Bethlehem members for your kindness and generosity.



Forum Schedule 10:45 a.m. In Grounds for Joy

November 6: Bethlehem's Endowment Fund

November 13: Council Budget Forum

November 20: Semi-annual meeting—**NO FORUM**

November 27: Thanksgiving weekend — **NO FORUM**

An EMV Visitor Shout Out of Thanks

On Sunday, October 2 (a sunny afternoon!), 38 Every Member Visit visitor units set out from church and visited the homes of 322 fellow

Bethlehem members. Their mission was to deliver Capital Campaign *Imagine - a Vision of Hope* bags with gifts and a special Congregational dinner invitation. This successful EMV happened because of the willing and conscientious efforts of the visitors. **A Shout Out of Thanks** goes to: Ray and Jolene Beckel, Paulette Bertrand, Marni Blickem, Brenda Boyer, Bob & Susan Brown, Sally Burdick, Michaela Bruder and Dowain Kerner, Annemarie Clemenson, John Corcoran, Carl Schoenstedt, Matt & Julie Drewitz, Joy Dykema, Cherryl Eigen, Danielle Elker, Linda Engstrom, Ginger Erlandson, Dave Hageman, Jack Halvorson, Bob Ihrig, Sue Larsen, Gordy & Marilyn Larson, Kristine & Scott MacLean, Sean & Marian Mallory, Jean Meyer, Carrol Meyers-Dobler, Gerry and Deb Morris, Jim & Marcia Nagel, Pat Nelson, Nancy Rorem, Shirley Ruby, Denny Sandersfeld, Tom Sanger, Jessie Schaefer, Joyce & Norm Stresemann, Joe Wagner, Anna Wencil, Christa Wolner, Scott & Amy Wolner, Zella Vandervort, and others (names unknown) who accompanied these visitors (you know who you are!). **Bravo, Three Cheers, and an Appreciative Thank You** to all these folks for a successful Bethlehem Every Member Visit!

A Big Shout Out
& Thank you



A huge THANK YOU to all who either walked or donated to the ALS Walk! It was a great turnout and even a nice weather day! The Bethlehem Gait Keepers donated \$1300.00! This money helps to find a cure, plus it helps the individuals who need assistance with material items. Thank you so much!!



Council Corner

Highlights from the Monthly Council Meeting

Here are the "highlights" of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **October 18**. Meeting minutes with details are posted at www.blcmankato.org and also are 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 officially joins us on Sunday, October 23 as our new associate pastor. Her official installation will take place on Sunday, December 4 during worship with a reception to follow in Grounds for Joy.

New Members: The following new BLC members were approved: Sara Maslakow and Mitchell Skluzacek, Ben Johnson, Bev Mathison, Carol Peterson, Wayne Luebbert, Isabella Thul, and Pastor Jacie Richmond.

Resettling Refugees & Asylum Seekers: Bethlehem is discussing potential collaboration with area ELCA churches to provide for future financial support of refugees & asylum seekers.

Financial Report: September 30 deficit is approximately **-\$43,000** compared to the August 31 deficit of **-\$39,834.95**. **Mortgage** balance is **\$1,025,000** with monthly payments of \$8,187 for principal & interest. 3rd quarter financial contribution statements were mailed to all members to ensure updated accounting of 2022 giving. Members should contact Elizabeth Ruiz with questions/concerns. Financial Review Committee to meet to complete 2021 financial review.

Capital Campaign: Congregational dinner scheduled for Sunday, October 23. BLC member campaign intent cards to be presented at worship services on Sunday, October 30 & Wednesday, November 2.

2023 Proposed Annual Budget: Budget proposal presented by Budget Committee. Proposed budget approved for semi-annual meeting. Council forum scheduled for Sunday, November 13 after worship service to review and discuss budget & other semi-annual meeting business.

Fall Semi-Annual Meeting: Agenda approved. Main new business topic will be approval of 2023 annual budget. Save the date on **Sunday, November 20 at 10:45 – 11:45 a.m.** in the dining room. A quorum of 75 members is needed.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, November 15.

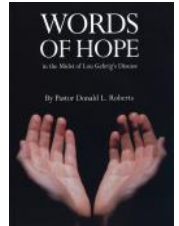


There is joy in giving and receiving gifts. The gift of prayer is one of those great gifts. Thank you, members of Bethlehem and Pastor Jay, for all the prayers, cards, notes, phone calls, and positive words of encouragement and hope. I appreciated and felt your support and love during my journey with cancer this summer. Thank you, Bethlehem. ~ **Sandy Kuper**



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.



To you, O Lord, I call; my rock, do not refuse to hear me, for if you are silent to me, I shall be like those who go down to the pit. Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings.
~ Psalm 28:1, 6

In verse 1, the psalmist was desperate for answers. The psalmist called God "My rock." The psalmist thought that the rock had failed. Most of us have felt that way. We all know what it feels like when it seems that our prayers have not been answered. I have prayed for 28 years for a cure for ALS, or that God would heal me. God wants what is best for us. I know this from my faith. God knows the big picture. All of us think we know what God should obviously do in the short term. God knows the big picture. God wants the best for us in the big picture.

The psalmist knew the answer when he said in verse 6, "Blessed be the Lord, for he has heard the sound of my pleadings." Either the psalmist had found the answers he needed, or the Holy Spirit had brought him closer to God. Praise can bring us closer to God. That is what we were created to do. Obviously, the psalmist was going through a hardship. Hardship can bring us closer to God if we focus on God.

The death and resurrection of Jesus brings us closer to God. Whatever hardships life may bring us, God promises us a glorious future. That is the big picture.



Bethlehem offers taxi service for members who are not able to drive themselves to and from church. Rides are available for Sunday worship services only. Please call WS one day before and tell them that it is for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. You will be asked to sign a voucher, and the church will be billed.

Family Faith Formation Updates

Anna Wencel, Family Faith Formation Director



TRADITIONAL SUNDAY CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

Practice: Nov. 13 & 20; Dec. 4 & 13
Rehearsal: Sat. Morning, Dec. 17
Program: Sun., Dec. 18, 9:30 am

INSTANT WEDNESDAY CHILDREN'S EPIPHANY PROGRAM

Wed., Jan. 4th, 6:15 pm

No practice participatory program for the whole family



CONFIRMATION YOUTH & MEN'S GROUP

Rake the Town

SATURDAY, NOV. 12TH
9-11:30 AM



Join us as we rake the lawns for our neighbors in need.

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
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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.*

**BLOOD
DRIVE**



**December 22
from 1-6 p.m.
Grounds for Joy**

