

**Announcements for the week of**  
**December 2-9, 2018**  
**www.BLCMankato.org**

**WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE**

**Week of November 25, 2018**  
**Offered for the Lord's Work:**  
**\$10,609.00**

**November Mission Project:**  
**Iambi Scholarships — \$3,600.00**

**Worship attendance**  
**Sunday, 11/25/18:**  
**9:45 — 114**  
**Wednesday, November 21 — 66**  
**Wednesday, November 28 — 59**

**SUNDAY SCHEDULE**

**8:15 & 10:45 a.m.** — Worship

**9:30 a.m.** — Education Hour; adult forum in the Heritage Room (Iambi Secondary School, with Headmaster Steven Chima & teacher Baraka Kingu); coffee in Grounds for Joy

**Today's Adult Forum:**  
**Iambi Secondary School**

Visit with headmaster Stephen Chima and teacher Baraka Kingu about the work of Iambi Secondary School in Tanzania. This is an opportunity to learn about a major Bethlehem global partnership and the difference we have made for students, teachers, and the community in Tanzania.

**Upcoming Forums:**

**December 9 — American Red Cross**  
Leah Pockrandt, Director of American Red Cross Southwest Minnesota, will share information on the vital work of the Red Cross in addressing various community needs and emergencies. Learn how the Red Cross makes a real difference for so many individuals and families!

**December 16 - Christmas Hymn Sing**

Join our talented Christine Schulz on the piano for a morning of favorite Christmas hymns. Get your coffee and donuts, warm up those vocal cords, and join us for an hour of holiday music.

**NO FORUMS on December 23 or 30**  
**(services are at 9:45 a.m.**  
**on those Sundays).**



***Bethlehem***  
***Lutheran Church***

**RADIO BROADCAST**



Today's radio broadcast is sponsored by **Ken & Barb Weldon** in memory of **Barb's mom, Alvera Schmidt**. If you would like to sponsor a radio broadcast in honor of/in memory of someone, there is a sign-up sheet on the counter outside of the church office.

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

**BETHLEHEM MISSIONS**



**ECHO**  
**FOOD SHELF**

**ECHO Food Shelf**

**Emphasis:**  
During the month of December, we'll be collecting "meal makers" — Hamburger Helper, etc.

**Our Mission Project for December:**  
**God's Global Barnyard**

Looking for the perfect alternate gift? Our December Mission Project is **God's Global Barnyard**. Giving the gift of a goat, pig, bees, or cow as a gift in honor of or in memory of a loved one has the ability to provide a needy family with food, funds, and fertilizer, breaking the cycle of hunger and poverty. For us, an animal is often a pet. For our sisters and brothers in Africa, it may be the difference between life and death.

God's Global Barnyard is a project of ELCA World Hunger. 93% of your gift goes to direct aid. Order forms will be in the bulletins throughout the month of December. Catalogs and acknowledgment gift cards will be at the mission display table in the narthex. Checks can be made out to *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*, noting the monthly mission project (Global Barnyard) on the memo line. Thank you for your continued support of a mission that changes the lives of those helped by your generous gifts.

~ **Community & Global Missions Board**

**720 South Second Street**  
**Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 388-2925**  
**E-mail: blchurch@hickorytech.net**

**LECTIONARY FOR 12/09/2018**

***Esther 4:1-17***

**IN OUR PRAYERS**

**Jean Hoppe**                      **Roberta Ganske**  
**Eric Barnes**                    **Charles Clark**  
**Harlan Lanz**  
**Kathy Yale**  
**Curt Halvorson**

*(Prayer request forms are in the pews and the office. Please place the completed form in the offering plate or in the Prayer Requests box in the narthex.)*

Included in our prayers each week are several "sister" congregations of our SE Minnesota Synod of the ELCA. The Synod encourages congregations to pray for one another. This week, we pray for:

**St. Olaf Lutheran in Austin**  
**Trinity Lutheran in New Richland**  
**Moscow Lutheran in Austin**  
**Gloria Dei Lutheran in Rochester**  
**Dinka Sudanese Worshipping**  
**Community in Rochester**  
**Ihanja Lutheran in Tanzania**  
**San Pedro Lutheran in Colombia**  
**Jokow Lutheran Parish in South Sudan**



Council minutes are available on the church website and also in a 3-ring binder in the office.



Our Tanzanian guests, Baraka Kingu and Stephen Chima, arrived in Mankato on November 19! Be sure to introduce yourselves and welcome them to Bethlehem this morning.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Foster Grandparent and Senior Companion Volunteers Needed: Earn an extra \$150 - \$200 per month tax-free!

Lutheran Social Service of MN is looking for volunteers (age 55 & older) to serve in our Foster Grandparent or Senior Companion Programs. Our volunteers receive a tax-free hourly stipend, as well as mileage reimbursement and other benefits.

For more information, please call Gail Sumerfelt at Lutheran Social Service of MN (507-530-2295) or e-mail [gail.sumerfelt@lssmn.org](mailto:gail.sumerfelt@lssmn.org).

## FROM OUR LIBRARY

With the coming of the first Sunday in Advent, we look forward to seeing the lovely reds and greens of Christmas. If you go into our library looking for Advent reading or just want to see the Christmas decorations, we wish you a happy Advent and fond hopes for the Christmas to come.

### Distribution of Bazaar Funds

On Monday, December 3, at 10 a.m., we will distribute the funds from our Nordic Bazaar in Grounds for Joy. All interested people are invited.



### Christmas with Musicorum Saturday, December 8 7:30 p.m.

Chapel of Our Lady  
of Good Counsel  
170 Good Counsel Drive, Mankato

\$15 general admission

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### The Bethlehem Council Invites YOU to Special Congregational Meeting Sunday, January 6, at noon.

In response to member's requests, as presented at the Semi-Annual Meeting held November 18, the Council is planning to host a congregational meeting on **Sunday, January 6, at noon in the Dining Room**. This meeting will serve to provide a historical documentation of Connections Ministry as well as provide opportunity to attendees to garner additional information regarding future plans for Bethlehem's continued leadership in this mission.

If you have specific questions you would like addressed, please forward them to Council President Carrol Meyers-Dobler. You may place your questions in a sealed envelope and leave them in her mailbox within the church office or simply place them in the offering plate on Sundays. Questions can also be mailed to her home at 2238 St. John Court in North Mankato or e-mailed to [delainistorm@gmail.com](mailto:delainistorm@gmail.com).

We look forward to your attendance at this very important meeting and appreciate the opportunity to visit with you, in depth, about our plans for most effectively sheltering and serving the homeless of our community.

The **BLC Men's Group** began meeting monthly in September.

- 1) We Are Social—we gather to make friends and build relationships.
- 2) We Serve—the combined efforts of many make a difference.
- 3) Our Faith Matters—we want to be closer to God.

Our next gathering is **Friday, December 7, starting at 5:30**. We meet at the church, go together for food, and then the MSU vs. Alaska Anchorage hockey game. **All men are welcome!** RSVP to [pastorjay@hickorytech.net](mailto:pastorjay@hickorytech.net).

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



The Board of Directors for the Connections Shelter invites YOU to:

### A Pizza Ranch Fundraiser Monday, December 3 5-8:30 p.m.

The Connections Shelter Board of Directors invites you to kick off your holiday shopping with a buffet of pizza, fried chicken, and all the fixings (including dessert!) on **Monday, December 3, from 5-8:30 p.m. at the Pizza Ranch on Madison Avenue**. Connections Shelter volunteers will be waiting tables that night while visiting with guests about this important ministry. All tip proceeds will support the shelter operations this winter.

*See you at The Pizza Ranch!*

### A Note from the Endowment Board

The Endowment Board accepts requests for funds for specific Christian purposes. If you are aware of special ministries in Christian education or specific projects consistent with the ecumenical work of the whole Christian Church and want to apply, there are forms on the counter outside the office. Funds are awarded based on available endowment earnings and specific needs in communities. The next Endowment meeting where these could be considered is **December 10**, and they should be placed in the Endowment box in the office. If you have questions, please contact Susan Brown (387-2976).



### Pathstone Christmas Bows Are Here!

There is a basket of bows from Pathstone Living on the kiosk in the narthex. Attached to the bows are tags, which list items that the residents have requested for Christmas gifts. Choose a bow (or more than one!) and find a gift, wrap it, attach the tag and bow, and drop it off in the church office or at Pathstone's main entrance **by December 17**.

Thank you for helping to make Christmas a little brighter for some of the Pathstone residents!