

**Announcements for the week of
December 30, 2018-January 6, 2019**

www.BLCMankato.org

WEEKLY GIVING/ATTENDANCE

Week of December 23, 2018

Offered for the Lord's Work:

\$6,086.00

December Mission Project:

God's Global Barnyard — \$12,642.00

Worship attendance

Sunday, 12/23/18:

9:45 a.m. — 211

Christmas Eve—Monday, December 24

4 p.m. — 341 6 p.m. — 132

Christmas Day--Tuesday, December 25

9:45 a.m. — 85

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9 a.m. — Coffee in Grounds for Joy

9:45 a.m. — Worship



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

Join with over 180 families and individuals in pledging your support to Bethlehem's mission in 2019. It's still not too late! Estimate of giving cards are available from the ushers, in the office, or you can pledge electronically on our website: blcmankato.org.

Thank you for your generous support of all that God is inviting us to do together!



**Bethlehem
Lutheran Church**

RADIO BROADCAST



Today's broadcast is sponsored by the family of Shari Prescher and Joey Juhlin. 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 2019 sign-up sheet is now available.

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/Good Gifts

God's Global Barnyard is a project of ELCA World Hunger. It's not too late to contribute — order forms are on the kiosk in the narthex. Checks can be made out to *Bethlehem Lutheran Church*, noting the monthly mission project (Global Barnyard) on the memo line.

ELCA GOOD GIFTS

Your gifts are needed to help our church respond to hunger and poverty in more than 50 countries around the world, including the United States. In 2017, our global partners have identified a minimum of \$19 million worth of projects and programs that urgently need your support. ELCA World Hunger works hard to ensure fundraising and administration costs are less than 9 percent annually. Consider giving a gift to support our church's causes. This year, disaster relief has been a strong focus.

~ *Community & Global Missions Board*

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LECTIONARY FOR 1/06/2019

Matthew 2:1-23

IN OUR PRAYERS

Jean Hoppe	Roberta Ganske
Eric Barnes	Carrol Meyers-Dobler
Harlan Lanz	Gwyneth Blickem
Curt Halvorson	Dorothy Knedel

(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:

Faith Lutheran in Winona
Highland Prairie Lutheran in Peterson
St. John Lutheran in Owatonna
Hayward Lutheran in Hayward
Puma Lutheran in Tanzania
Castillo Fuerte Lutheran in Colombia
Kule Lutheran Parish in South Sudan

Financial Peace University
Coming to Bethlehem on Monday,
January 28, from 6:30-8 p.m.

One Bethlehem family writes: "Financial Peace University has transformed our family finances. We have found freedom through discipline and planning. It has provided us the visibility needed so that we can be in financial control. Using the skills from Financial Peace, and involving our child in the entire process, we are able to provide her with solid tools to get started off on the right financial foot, that she will hopefully carry with her throughout her life. Most importantly, this process has brought us closer as a family. We believe this program will work for anyone, and encourage anyone interested to try the program and see if it changes your life as it has ours."

Up to three Bethlehem families can attend this nine-week program **at no cost to you!** Child care will be available. Please contact Pastor Jay at pastorjay@hickorytech.net to enroll.

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Knitters and prayer shawls are needed!

Stop in the office to pick up some yarn and instructions. If you have any questions, please call Kathryn Hanson at 385-0220.



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

The End of a Fine Old Tradition

The Nordic Bazaar started in 1919 and will end in 2019. After much discussion, 2019 will be our last Nordic Bazaar.

We feel that it's been a wonderful event, but the people involved are aging as well. It doesn't mean that we wouldn't do something else on a smaller scale, but times have changed — and we have to also.

2019 might be our last year... but it's going to be a **VERY BIG GRAND FINALE!** We are planning a great finish.

A HUGE thank you to everyone from the board. Without you, we wouldn't have had such wonderful and successful past years.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

In response to members' 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 e-mailed to 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.

Connections Q & A

Background information on Bethlehem and its role with the Connections Ministry is available on the kiosk in the narthex and on the BLC website. Members are encouraged to read this information prior to the **special congregational meeting on January 6.**

The more you know, the more you will understand!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Next BLC Men's Gathering

Join us for breakfast on **Saturday, January 5**, starting at 8 a.m. in Grounds for Joy. We will be learning about vision and perspective from photographer Dewitt Jones.

Please RSVP to Pastor Jay at pastorjay@hickorytech.net by Wednesday.

Engaging Worship with the Whole Family

Join Pastor Collette, Anna Wencl, and members of our Children's and Youth board to talk about how families worship together at Bethlehem. We'll talk about how worship builds the foundation for faith and church participation in children, and why it's important to support families worshipping together. You'll also hear about all the options available to families on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evenings, and have a chance to ask questions and share your strategies for all ages in worship.



"I made a New Year's resolution to eat broccoli. If I can't stand it, I'll give it up for Lent."