

The Bethlehem STAR ~ March 2017

Lent

This weather has me wondering why we are not already in the middle of Lent, the forty-day season leading us to the festival of Easter. In the 500th anniversary year of the beginning of the Reformation, we are joining with other area Lutheran churches to celebrate *Luther's Small Catechism*. Each week at our Wednesday worship service, a different preacher will proclaim a Word based on one of the catechism topics, like the Ten Commandments, Apostles' Creed, or Lord's Prayer. We will continue our tradition of Holden Evening Prayer at the 6 p.m. service, with the Wednesday Band adding songs, and offer a noon worship service in the chapel as well. Dinner is served each Wednesday starting at 4:45. Come and join us.

Ash Wednesday, March 1 — The Lord's Prayer; Pr. Jay

March 8 — Holy Communion; Pr. Ronald Myers, Epiphany Lutheran, Eagle Lake

March 15 — Holy Baptism; Vicar John Odegard, Redeemer Lutheran, Good Thunder/Grace Lutheran, Mankato

March 22 — The Ten Commandments; Pr. Jarod Freeberg, Messiah Lutheran, North Mankato

March 29 — The Apostles' Creed; Pr. Patrick Patterson, Christ the King Lutheran, Mankato

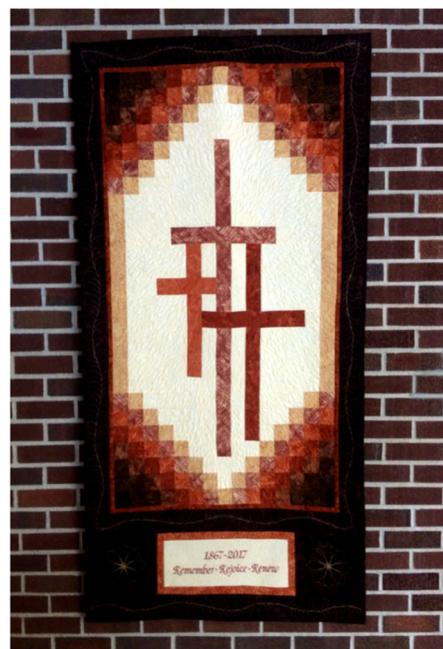
April 5 — Morning and Evening Prayer; Pr. Scott Olson, Grace Lutheran, Mankato

Tanzania Accompaniment Trip

You are invited to travel with members of Bethlehem to Tanzania in **January, 2018**. The purpose of our journey will be to build on our relationships with Dr. Mark and Linda Jacobson at the Arusha Lutheran Medical Center and with the students, staff, and faculty of Iambi Secondary School. We will hold an introductory meeting to tell about the planned trip and answer the questions of prospective travelers on **Sunday, March 19, at noon-1:30 in Grounds for Joy**. A light lunch will be served. There is no need to RSVP, and if you have questions in advance of our meeting, please let me know at pastorjay@hickorytech.net.

New Member Welcome Potluck

We will celebrate our new members with a potluck dinner in the Heritage Room **following the 10:45 worship service on Sunday, March 12**. We will begin serving at noon. Please bring some food to share and welcome our new Bethlehem members! ~ *Pr. Jay*



*150th Anniversary Quilt
1867 ~ 2017*

*Remember * Rejoice * Renew*

Pastors Al Girtz and Leland Johnson Join Us in March!



Two of our former pastors will join us in March to celebrate our 150th anniversary. **Pastor Al Girtz** will preach on **March 5**, while **Pastor Leland Johnson** will return to Bethlehem to preach on **March 19**. Let us celebrate with them!

Pastor Al has been an ordained minister in the ELCA for 50 years. He served at two parishes in Minneapolis and St. Paul, MN at the beginning of his pastoral ministry. He has served as interim pastor in four settings: St. John's and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Salina, KS, United Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Milberger, KS, and Redeemer Lutheran in Mankato. He was Coordinator of Pastoral Care at Bethlehem Lutheran, Mankato, for four years and most recently a chaplain for Mayo Clinic Mankato's hospice program. Pr. Al has spent most of his professional life in specialized ministry as a pastoral counselor, part of which he worked with the Lutheran Social Service systems of South Dakota and Kansas/Oklahoma. He founded the Counseling and Growth Center, Inc., in Salina, KS in 1976, directing it for 12 years and ministered through the Center for a total of 26 years. He currently is a board member of Lutheran Campus Ministry, serves on the Hunger Task Force for the S.E. Minnesota Synod, and was elected to be a delegate to the 2011 National Convention of the ELCA in Orlando. Pr. Al was widowed after 22 years of marriage. In 2003, he married Barbara Camp, a retired art teacher in Mapleton, Minnesota, and then moved from Kansas to Mankato. He has three adult children and one adult step-child, as well as six wonderful grandchildren, who are living in Wichita and Kansas City, KS, and Dallas, TX.

Information about Pastor Leland Johnson can be found on page 2.



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 March

March 1 — Tater tot hot dish

March 8 — baked chicken, mashed potatoes & gravy

March 15 — brats and mac & cheese

March 22 — fish & chips

March 29 — spaghetti

*Lettuce salad
will be served weekly.*

Fellowship News

(Continued from page 1)



Pastor Leland Johnson will return to Bethlehem to preach on **March 19**. Pastor Johnson was born and raised in Upsala, Minnesota. After graduating from the University of Minnesota, he served for five years in the U.S. Navy. Following this, he studied at Luther Seminary in St. Paul and McCormick Seminary in Chicago. Ordained in 1959, he served parishes in Clinton and Atwater, MN, before being called to serve at Bethlehem Lutheran in Mankato in 1967, where he was lead pastor until 1980. From 1980 to 1994, he was senior pastor at Lake Nokomis Lutheran Church in Minneapolis. After his retirement, he has been a visitation pastor in West St. Paul and Apple Valley, where he still serves. In 1957, Leland married Helen Granquist of Warwick, Rhode Island; she died in 2013. Their two sons are Randy and Kent, and grandchildren are Sophia, Elise, and James. Pastor Johnson now resides in Burnsville.



Celebrate with Our Former Pastors!

As part of the Bethlehem 150th Anniversary Celebration, the planning committee has invited former pastors to join us to preach and celebrate this milestone in our history. We are pleased to report that the following pastors have accepted our invitation for the following dates:

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| March 5 | Pr. Al Girtz |
| March 19 | Pr. Leland Johnson |
| April 2 | Pr. Don Roberts |
| April 30 | Pr. Don Walker |
| June 11 | Pr. Hans Jorgensen |
| July 16 | Pr. Norman Olson |
| October 8 or 15 | Pr. Duane Salness |
| November 19 | Pr. Paul Meierding |



Adult Forum Schedule for March
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 March's schedule:

- March 5** — Sandi (Heaberlin) Lubrant — Act on Alzheimer's
- March 12** — Abdi Sabrie — Being Muslim in Mankato
- March 19** — Tanzania Travel Group; Monthly Mission — Iambi Secondary School
- March 26** — Brad Widness — 150th Anniversary Mural

The Music & Worship Board will be selling flowers for the Easter garden between services on March 12, 19, and 26. Order forms will be available in upcoming bulletins and at the kiosk in the narthex.

UNDER CONSTRUCTION!

Heritage Room is Under Construction!

You might be asking yourselves, "What is happening with the wall in the Heritage Room?" Soon you will get an answer as a special 150th anniversary project is completed in March. Local artist and Bethlehem member **Brad Widness** has been commissioned to design and paint a historic timeline of our church. It will feature significant events in the history of Bethlehem, as well as notable symbols of our church. It will be a permanent reminder of our 150th anniversary every time we use this room.

If you have artistic talents, stay tuned for a call for volunteers to assist with the completion of this artistic contribution to our anniversary.

The church photo directory is being processed and sent to the printers. We will let you know when the new directory arrives.

Thanks for your patience!!!

Family Faith Formation Ministry

Anna Wencl, Family Faith Formation Ministry Director ~ annawencl@hickorytech.net

During the season of Lent, some schedules will be changing. Starting on March 1...

We will have no NightLIGHT classes on Wednesdays. Instead, we encourage families to worship together and use the Lenten Take-Home Kits mentioned below. We will not have Confirmation class. Instead, 7th-9th graders will meet after worship with their Lenten mentors.



Grab Your Family Lenten Take-Home Kits!

This Lent, we're keeping you in mind as we want to equip our families to learn about this important season of reflection leading up to Easter. **Please plan to join us in worship on Ash Wednesday** to receive the start of your kit and each following Wednesday leading up to Easter. Each kit will come with a cross and altar cloth, and you'll get to add an item to your kit each week. The image shared here can give you an idea of what to expect! We'll also be posting short and fun videos to use for at home devotions.

Spring Fever Retreat at Green Lake for 2nd-6th Grade Youth: March 24-26

We're headed over to Green Lake for a fun weekend together with our elementary friends from around Southwestern Minnesota. We're hoping to take a group of kids, so jump on the bandwagon. The cost is \$50 per kid, or \$25 for an additional child in a family. Register by picking up and mailing in a form outside the main office, or by visiting gllm.org. Please only pay the \$25 deposit. Talk to Anna for more info!



Eagle Bluff Retreat: April 1-2 for Middle School & High School Youth

We're headed to Lanesboro for our annual retreat to Eagle Bluff Nature Center. There we get out in the great outdoors and go ziplining! Look for a registration form coming up in March, but for now...get it on your calendar. We'll be hanging out with youth from Our Savior's in Owatonna, which will be awesome!

A Big Fat Tuesday Thank You!

Wow! Thank you for coming to eat jambalaya and king's cake, buying gift baskets and mystery bottles of wine! What a beautiful celebration to get ready for Lent and support the youth of our congregation as they prepare to head to Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering next summer. **You all rock!**



SOUTHEASTERN MINNESOTA SYNOD ASSEMBLY

"Equipping congregations to follow Jesus into a changing world."

MAY 6-7, 2017

<http://semnsynod.org/assembly2017>

The Southeastern MN Synod Assembly will be held on Saturday-Sunday, May 6-7 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester. This is a great opportunity to learn more about and be involved with the work of the synod. More information is available at www.semnsynod.org/assembly2017.

If you are interested in representing Bethlehem as an official delegate, contact **Bob Ihrig** at robert.ihrig1@gmail.com **by March 10**. BLC will cover mileage, hotel, meals, and registration expenses. The Council will act on all delegate requests at its March 21 meeting.

In honor of the 150th Anniversary of Bethlehem Lutheran, **'House of Bread'** was again produced on Friday evening, February 10. Almost 100 people of all ages enjoyed the musical and comedic talent of many Bethlehem members and guests of all ages on a stage in the social hall. The Wednesday Band opened the talent show with musical selections and closed the show with "We are Family," a fitting finale! This was an enjoyable evening for attendees, and another important result was a donation of \$118 for the ECHO Food Shelf, February's mission project.

~ Mary Bliesmer,
150th Anniversary Committee

From Pastor Collette Broady Grund, Associate Pastor

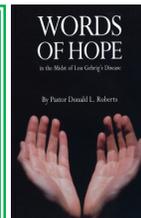
Pastor Collette will resume writing her monthly article for the Star after she returns from maternity leave in late March.

Cecelia Broady Grund was born on January 25, 2017.



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.



Have nothing to do with profane myths and old wives tales. Train yourself in godliness for, while physical training is of some value, godliness is valuable in every way, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come. ~ I Timothy 4:7, 8

These two verses show how important it is for us to grow in Christ. Growing in Christ is very important. Maturity in Christ can give us peace in our increasingly turbulent world. It lessens our (perfectly legitimate) fears. "There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear; for fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not reached perfection in love." (I John 4:18) As we continue to grow in our faith in Christ, we become increasingly sure of the forgiveness of our sins and of the reality of eternal life together with God. The author of I Timothy warned people to avoid myths and heresies. Myths and heresies exist in our culture today, as well. Focus on Christ, and prayer.

Worshipping God is the first step to growing in your relationship with Christ. When Jesus was asked which is the greatest commandment, he responded, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind." (Matthew 22:37) When we listen as Christ has preached, the Holy Spirit increases our faith. Also, as we worship God together, we are united with our brothers and sisters in Christ. As well, when we worship together, we give strength to, and receive strength from, our sisters and brothers in Christ. "Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ." (Galatians 6:2) As a team in which all who love God are included, we encourage and strengthen one another in our personal growth in Christ.

Prayer is another way in which we grow in our relationship with Christ. Prayer changes us. Let me give a personal example. At first when I was diagnosed with ALS, I was bitter. Now, I have more peace and joy. That is how prayer changed me. Though I hope for a cure — yesterday! — I have peace and joy.

Serve God with our talents. No one can do everything. There are no vibrant Lone Ranger Christians — but we can each contribute something. If we are centered on Christ, we will not be self-centered as we travel through this world. Let us all, together, "grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen." (2 Peter 3:18)

***** Pastor Don and Bonnie need your help! They need access to a garage to keep their handicapped van in when it's not being used. They live on James Drive in North Mankato, so proximity to that area would be convenient. Also, Pastor Don is in need of another caregiver. This position is a day shift (7:30 a.m.—4:30 p.m.). One or two days are needed each week. Please call Bonnie at 382-7011 if you are able to help. *****

March Serving Group

Chair: *Jim & Gail Christensen (388-8985)*

Co-Chair: *Jan Boyum (420-2630)*

Jolene Anderson
Gene & Laurie Bentsdahl
Paul & Susan Boettcher
John & Judy Corcoran
Kathryn Hanson
Dave & Tammy Matteson
Sharon McDougall
Holly Meyer

Gerry & Debbie Morris
Diann Olson
Jodi Orchard
George & Mary Jane Patchin
Loren & Noreen Roberts
Norbert & Ruth Schoenrock
Audrey Simonson
Bob & Deloris Singelstad

Arlen & Kay Skorr
Jason Stresemann
Norman & Joyce Stresemann
Eunice Swanson
Rodney & Bonnie Torgerson
Amy Wolner

Monthly Mission Project for March: Scholarships for Iambi Students

In Tanzania, school is not government funded. Thus, persons need to pay fees to be able to attend. We know that at Iambi Secondary School, our mission partner, it costs \$300 a year for a child living near school to participate. For us, that is not an extremely large sum. However, when the YEARLY income averages \$1,200 for families in that area, a \$300 fee becomes nearly impossible. We know that we can help enrich and change future lives by our support.

Mr. Chima, the headmaster at Iambi S. S., has identified 10 kids who have great potential, but they do not have funding to

attend. Can we provide those 10 scholarships this year? In other congregations, members decide that they will sponsor one child annually on an ongoing basis. What a great gift!

Let's shoot for 10 scholarships this year and, if you will, an ongoing annual commitment to one student. Thanks much for sharing your heart for this mission.

~ Your Community and Global Missions Board

Endowment Fund Information for 2017

What is the Endowment Fund and how is it used? The Bethlehem Endowment Fund is money that has been donated and conservatively invested. As the fund grows, it continues to support needs both inside and outside of Bethlehem using only the interest, as the principal remains untouched. Each spring, students who are continuing their education beyond high school may apply for a scholarship if they qualify by being a member of Bethlehem and filling out a scholarship application form that must be turned in to the office **by May 1, 2017** – no exceptions. Application forms are located on the counter outside the office and need to be filled out on both sides. Only one scholarship per applicant will be awarded each year, but students are eligible for five years as long as it is for undergraduate degrees. Students who are applying beyond the first time must attach a copy of their unofficial transcript to be eligible. The Endowment Board will review applications and award scholarships.

It's time to pick up your scholarship forms, as May 1 is quickly approaching, and that is a firm deadline. Requests received after that deadline will be denied. The application has all of the instructions on it, but don't leave it until the last minute! Be sure to take a 'scholarship' form, not the other application form. We will continue with reminders in the upcoming bulletins because we want to be sure that no one misses this opportunity. Some colleges will also grant matching funds. Find out if yours does. **The Bethlehem Endowment Board awaits your application!**

SUNDAY NOON MEAL AT THE SALVATION ARMY

On Sunday, January 22, Bethlehem shared a meal with our neighbors at the Salvation Army. After serving dinner to 125 guests, eleven Bethlehem volunteers also sat down to eat in the dining room. The menu included a variety of casseroles, fresh fruit salad, hard-boiled eggs, dill pickles, warm French bread, pies & cake, plus milk and coffee.

Thank you to these church members for generously donating food, money, and time to this local mission and for living out their faith in community service: Chuck/Kathy Piehl, Wayne/Gail Date, Gert DeRemer, Audrey Gatchell, Rod/Bonnie Torgerson, Steve/Lynette Freyberg, Roger/Deb Pipes, Newt Moen, Alice Kolloos, Mary Hall, Jay Backstrom, Amy Haigh, Roger/Joyce Kamrath, Randy/Rachel Wood, Brad/Ann Widness, and Bob/Susan Brown (Team 1 leaders).

Contact Bethlehem coordinator Marsha Qualset (388-4970) for more information and to offer your help when one of Bethlehem's four teams serves dinner at the Salvation Army.



WE'RE READY! WE'RE SET! WE'RE GOOD TO GO! We are ready for spring and everything that goes along with it. **WE'RE**

PLANNING OUR 2017 ALS WALK. We will be at Sibley Park, located at Shelter 2 on the grand lawn by the animal farm. Registration will begin at 9:00 a.m., and the walk will begin at 10:00. We need your feet to make our voices heard! **The date to put on your calendar is April 29.** Look for more info in the April Star.

WORSHIP PARTICIPANTS

| Date | Time | Reader | Usher | Communion Assistants | | | Greeters | Comm. Set-up | Coffee |
|------|-------|-----------------|-------|----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 3/5 | 8:15 | Roger Kamrath | 8 | Nancy Rorem | Sue Thul | <u>Need volunteer!</u> | Jeff & Amy Smith | Bob Singelstad & Carl Schoenstedt | Eunice & Florence Sassenberg |
| 3/5 | 10:45 | Anna Wencl | 2 | Wally Boyer | Brenda Boyer | Al Girtz | Denny & Shirley Ferris | | |
| 3/12 | 8:15 | Christa Judkins | 3 | Jeremy Carter | Julie Drewitz | Gary Pipes | Jack & Pat Bengtson | Tom & Betty Sanger | Gail Christensen & Chris Deike |
| 3/12 | 10:45 | Laurie Rossow | 4 | | | | Al & Barb Girtz | | |
| 3/19 | 8:15 | Kathryn Hanson | 5 | Jane Sletta | Shirley Ruby | Holly Meyer | Steve Schmiel | Eunice & Florence Sassenberg | Brad & Betty Groth |
| 3/19 | 10:45 | Brad Widness | 6 | Confirmation student | Jeannie Phillips | Kathy Yale | Tammy Dahlvang & Gail Christensen | | |
| 3/26 | 8:15 | Dave Hageman | 7 | Frank Larsen | Gordy Larson | Sandy Kuper | Kevin & Holly Nevills | Sally Burdick & Bonnie Torgerson | Tim & Amy Heiser |
| 3/26 | 10:45 | Tammy Dahlvang | 8 | | | | Tom & Betty Sanger | | |

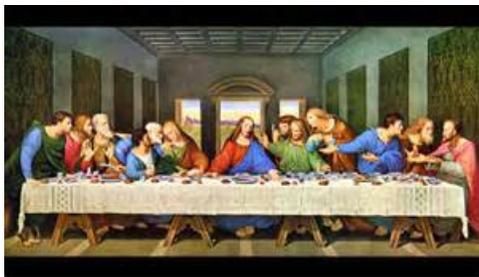


SOUND TECHNICIANS

March 5
March 12
March 19
March 26

8:15 — Randy Wood
8:15 — Brad Butler
8:15 — Tim Heiser
8:15 — Brad Butler

10:45 — Elisabeth Larson
10:45 — Christian Butler
10:45 — Gary Pipes
10:45 — Christian Butler



SAVE THE DATE!

The Living Last Supper will be performed at Bethlehem at **6 p.m. on April 9 (Palm Sunday) and 6 p.m. on April 13 (Maundy Thursday).**

You will want to invite your friends and neighbors to this memorable presentation during Holy Week!



On teh rode agin, jst cant wayt
to git on teh rode agin.

Do you like to sing?
Would you like to participate in something *really* big? You're invited to be a part of the 150th anniversary choir that will sing on **Sunday, May 21, at the 9:45 a.m. worship service.** Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings at 6:45 in the choir room downstairs. If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Rossow at 507-779-9114. Bishop Delzer will be preaching that morning, and we will have a celebration luncheon following the service — *so come and make a joyful noise to the Lord* to celebrate Bethlehem's 150th anniversary!



Laughter is the sun that drives winter from the human face. ~ Victor Hugo





March 2017



| SUNDAY | MONDAY | TUESDAY | WEDNESDAY | THURSDAY | FRIDAY | SATURDAY |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | 1 ASH WEDNESDAY Noon—Worship 1 pm-Staff mtg. Wed. evening activities | 2 7 pm-Bible study | 3 Office closes at noon | 4 |
| 5 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour, new member class 6 pm-FPU, Children's Board | 6 6:30 pm— Bethlehem Brass | 7 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, Evang.. | 8 Noon—Worship 1 pm-Staff mtg. 3:30-Women's bk. club Wed. evening activities | 9 | 10 Office closes at noon | 11 11 am-Sons of Norway in the Heritage Room SET CLOCKS AHEAD TONIGHT! |
| 12 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour Noon-new member potluck 6 pm-FPU, Youth Bd. | 13 6:30 pm— Bethlehem Brass, Life in the Spirit | 14 7 am-Bible Study 10 am-PUSH in GFJ 10:15-Comm. at Pathstone 1 pm-Library Comm. 7 pm-Personnel | 15 9 am-Women's Bible Study Noon—Worship 1 pm-Staff mtg. 4 pm-Finance Wed. eve. activities | 16 3 pm-Book Club 7 pm-Bible Study | 17 Office closes at noon | 18 |
| 19 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour Noon-Tanzania trip meeting in GFJ | 20 First Day of Spring! 6:30 pm— Bethlehem Brass, Lincoln Park Assn. | 21 7 am-Bible Study 8:30 am-Quilters 1 pm-Library Comm. 7 pm-Council, Nurses' Support Panel | 22 Noon—Worship 1 pm-Staff mtg. 3:30-Women's bk. club Wed. evening activities | 23 | 24 Office closes at noon Spring Fever retreat at Green Lake through Sunday | 25 |
| 26 8:15 & 10:45-Worship 9:30-Education Hour | 27 6:30 pm— Bethlehem Brass | 28 7 am-Bible Study 1 pm-Library Comm. | 29 Noon—Worship 12:45-Staff planning meeting Wed. evening activities | 30 | 31 Office closes at noon | |

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**
- 6:45-7:30 Bethlehem Gospbells rehearsal in the basement
- 6:45-7:30 Confirmation students meet with their mentors
- 6:45-7:45 BY (Bethlehem Youth) Today in the youth room
- NO** NightLIGHT — instead, use the Lenten take-home kits (*see page 3 for information*)
- 6:45-7:45 Voices in Praise choir rehearsal in the choir room



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
720 South Second Street
Mankato, MN 56001

NON-PROFIT
ORGANIZATION
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
PERMIT NO. 418
MANKATO, MN

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

(507) 388-2925
blchurch@hickorytech.net
@BLCMankato

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

Pastor Collette Broady Grund:
(on maternity leave)



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

www.BLCMankato.org

Sunday Worship: 8:15 & 10:45 a.m.

Wednesday Worship during Lent: Noon and 6 p.m.

*The 8:15 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:

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

