



Strategic Plan

We are completing the third strategic plan since you called me to be your pastor in 2009. Strategic plans have guided our mission, and been the framework for growth and transformation for Bethlehem. The plan comes from listening — to the Holy Spirit, to the community, and to one another. Thank you for your prayers and your voices. **Here are the strategic planning goals for 2022-2026:**

—We will implement creative and effective ways to better engage post-confirmation youth and their families, and young adults.

—We will empower our members to share the gifts God has given us.

—We will foster a climate of respect and appreciation to nurture the differing perspectives among our members and the greater Mankato community.

—We will continue to work in partnerships to serve the needs of the community with relevant purpose and meaningful action.

—We will embrace diversity by demonstrating welcome and respect for different identities; listening to develop growing relationships with diverse communities; and working for the good of all in the community.

I am excited to pray and work with you to make these goals take flesh and live among us. We will continue to develop objectives, ways to measure our progress, and accountability for these goals. The Strategic Planning Team will host a gathering following worship on **May 22 at 10:45** in Grounds for Joy so you can find out more about how you can be part of where the Holy Spirit is leading us ahead.

Thanks for your faithfulness, input, and prayers as we seek to be true to Christ's vision for the world God loves. ~ **Pr. Jay**



Join us between 5-6:15 p.m.
on **May 4** for our final
Wednesday night supper
of the season!

Menu:

Pizza party with Chef Barry!
Includes salad, dessert, & cookie



**We need radio
broadcast sponsors for
May 15 and 22, as well
as mid-summer
through the end of the
year. Please help
support our radio
broadcast ministry!**



ADULT FORUM SCHEDULE 10:45AM, SUNDAYS

Apr. 24: Green Gustavus-Green Bethlehem:
Promoting Sustainability

May 1: International Students at MSU--Jacy Fry,
Director Elizabeth Kearney International Center

May 8: NO FORUM (Mothers Day)

May 15: Call Committee Update





Monthly Mission

NOTES FROM COMMUNITY & GLOBAL MISSIONS BOARD

Our May mission is **Open Door Health Center**. Open Door is a non-profit community health center, providing quality affordable health care to everyone! The Open Door team has an unwavering commitment to improving the quality of life within our community by providing integrated health care services, regardless of the patient's ability to pay. Open Door providers offer quality medical, dental, and behavioral health care all in one place. Please consider monetary donations to support this important organization. *Thank you for your generosity.*



Scholarships Available!

HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS AND UNDERGRADUATE COLLEGE STUDENTS:

The Endowment Board looks forward to presenting scholarships from the Endowment Fund to Bethlehem's college students. The application form is available online at blcmankato.org/scholarship. Call the office if you prefer a paper copy. Be sure to read and follow all directions to avoid follow-up phone calls and e-mails. Applicants must be Bethlehem members. Scholarships are awarded for a maximum of five years during undergraduate studies.

Completed applications must be received by May 1. This is a firm date ~ no exceptions!

March 2022 Disbursements from the Bethlehem Lutheran Endowment Fund:

\$1,000	My Place - Mankato Youth Place
\$3,000	Lutheran Disaster Response - Ukraine & Eastern Europe Crisis
\$1,000	Friends of Toma Mi Mano - Nonprofit child care in border town of Los Algodones, Mexico
\$2,000	ELCZa in Zambia - Support for Pastor Kristin Engstrom's mission in Zambia



Financial Report

NOTES FROM ELIZABETH RUIZ, FINANCIAL SECRETARY

The month of March ended with a deficit of \$4,598. Member giving continues within budget as well as expenses. For those who use offering envelopes, please remember that envelope numbers are no longer used. Please be sure to write your name on the envelope, especially if you give cash. Any questions regarding contributions should be addressed to Elizabeth in the church office or by e-mail at elizruiz@blcmankato.org.



Council Corner

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE COUNCIL MEETING

Here are the "highlights" of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **April 19**. Meeting minutes with details are 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!

Financial Report: March 31 general fund balance finished at **-\$4,380.39** compared to positive February balance of **+\$601.16**. Mortgage principal balance is **\$1,116,573.89** with scheduled monthly payments of \$8,187. An additional mortgage principal payment of \$67,462 was made using unpledged mortgage contributions in 2021.

Nominations: Marie Slotemaker approved as new BLC Vice-President & Brad Groth approved as new Facilities Board member. Both stepped up after semi-annual meeting to serve BLC.

Capital Campaign: Positive unanimous support at semi-annual meeting acknowledged. Contract signed with GSB to coordinate campaign. Initial fees to be paid using untapped \$15,000 bequest. Council to discuss options for another project of value to be included with campaign.

Flags in the Church: Range of opinions received from BLC members on decision for placement of flags & messaging shared. Positive response to respectful listening process used.

Call Committee: Ministry Site Profile near completion to identify BLC priorities for new associate pastor. Mutual expectations for pastor & BLC reviewed and recommended for committee follow-up. Plan on attending **May 15 Town Hall** after worship service to hear more!

Strategic Planning: 5 strategic goals approved. Implementation actions to be developed.

BLC Semi-Annual Meeting: Positive response to discussion & decisions made. Meaningful discussion held on letter to Council from Welcome & Inclusion Board.

New Members: New BLC members approved.

Wednesday Night Supper: Chef Barry resigning as of May 31. Future food & staffing options for the fall discussed with more Council conversation to be held.

Lutheran Social Service: Waiting for signing of new one-year lease by LSS. LSS Meals & Wheels proposal for BLC kitchen use no longer being considered by LSS.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 17.



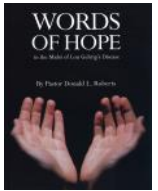
Call Committee

We last met on March 27 for a writing session. We've made great progress on the Ministry Site Profile (MSP). Over the next few weeks, we will be incorporating goals from Strategic Planning into the MSP. Please mark your calendar for **Sunday, May 15**, when we will host a Town Hall in the Heritage Room after worship. The Call Committee will meet next on April 24. Please reach out to us if you have questions. We have a mailbox in the office or we can be e-mailed at groups@blcmankato.org.



Pastor Don's Devotion

Pastor Don Roberts served as pastor from 1989-1996. He was diagnosed with ALS in 1995, and continues to be an inspiration of life & faith to our congregation.



What we see will last only a short time, but what we cannot see will last forever.
- 2 Corinthians 4:17-18 NCV -

For this slight momentary affliction is preparing us for an eternal weight of glory beyond all measure because we look not at what can be seen but at what cannot be seen; for what can be seen is temporary, but what cannot be seen is eternal.
~ 2 Corinthians 4:17-18



Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Christ's resurrection is the foundation of the hope expressed in the verses above. Christ has no desire to allow harm to befall anyone. The problems of this world, such as disease and hunger, are not God's will. In my view, these problems are a result of a world that is out of sync with God. As verse 17 says, whatever we may face in this life, God has a glorious future ahead for us. In the 27 years I have had ALS, there have been a few days where I doubted the goodness of God. There is good news. What is seen (ALS or your problems) is temporary; what is unseen is eternal. Whatever we face in this world, God has a better future for us.

What should we do with this good news? Worship God. Where Christ is preached, the Holy Spirit increases our faith. I know it has increased mine, even though I occasionally have doubts. Prayer is another tool to increase our faith. I know it has increased mine. Pray for others, as well as for yourself. **Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed! Thanks be to God!**

YOUTH DATES

Spring is here!

- April 20 & 27: Torchlight & Confirmation return on Wednesdays
- May 1: Confirmation Sunday for 9th graders
- May 4: Finale for NightLIGHT, Torchlight, and Confirmation



LIGHT & NIGHTLIGHT



- April 20 & 27: NightLIGHT
- April 24: LIGHT
- May 1: Outdoor LIGHT Finale
- May 4: Outdoor worship & NightLIGHT Finale

CAMP

7/31 - 8/4

- 1st-4th Grade: Half Blast (7/31-8/2 only!)
- 5th-7th Grade: Trailblazers

BLC will cover at least \$150 per BLC youth



Register today! Space is limited.

For more info or to register, visit www.gllm.org

VBS

Register by June 6th

Register at blcmankato.org/children

Two Options:

- 12-4pm: Off-Site Adventure Camp (Current 3rd-6th Grade Only) &
- 6:30-7:30 pm: On-Site VBS (Current 3yo - 6th Grade)



JUNE 20-23

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

Pastor Kristen Venne: (507) 995-2467
pastorkristen@blcmankato.org



@bethlehem.mankato

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Church Calendar-Summer 2022				
WORSHIP TIMES Sunday, 9:30am <i>In sanctuary & online</i> Wed., 6:15pm <i>Chapel only starting May 11th</i> ONLINE SERVICE WILL BE STREAMED LIVE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE & PLAYED ON KTOE RADIO AT 11AM.	EDUCATION PreK- Confirmation education ends May 4th <i>(See previous page for VBS and camp info.)</i>	BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, 7:00am • Lectionary, online Wednesday, 10:30am • Book of Faith, guided study <i>(Ends for the season on May 25th)</i>	SMALL GROUPS (BOOK CLUBS, MUSIC, SOCIAL GROUPS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES, ETC.) Check full calendar for times/places.	FELLOWSHIP WITH FOOD Sunday, 10:30am • Coffee & treats after worship <i>(Wed. meals end on May 4th and resume in the fall.)</i>

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.**

IN HIS GREAT MERCY
he has given us
new birth into a
living hope
through the resurrection
of **Jesus Christ** ...
1 PETER 1:3, NIV

