



thankful
and
grateful

Thankfulness in May

So many wonderful observations and celebrations make us glad in the month of May!

I am thankful for our confirmands. On May 7, our ninth graders affirm their baptismal faith at worship. They join us in proclaiming our trust in God, and promising

continued faithfulness in the life of the church. It is a joyful day, and I hope you will join us as we pray for them and encourage them in their life in Christ.

I am thankful for moms. One day, May 14 this year, is not enough for us to show our gratitude and appreciation for those who care for us and nurture us. If you have faith in Christ, it's likely because a mom and/or a dad, or another significant adult in your life, demonstrated the love of God for you.

I am thankful for Werner Fick, and for the 100,000 school kits Werner has put together to bring the hope of an education to students in developing countries around the world. We will celebrate Werner and his work with us on May 21. A representative from Lutheran World Relief will be with us to say thanks. Come and show Werner your appreciation.

I am thankful for those who have served. Memorial Day is poignant, and we long for the day when swords are turned to plowshares and war is no more. We thank those who have sacrificed, and even given their lives, so that freedom might flourish, and peace and justice prevail.

I am thankful for you and for your faithfulness in Christ! ~ Pr. Jay



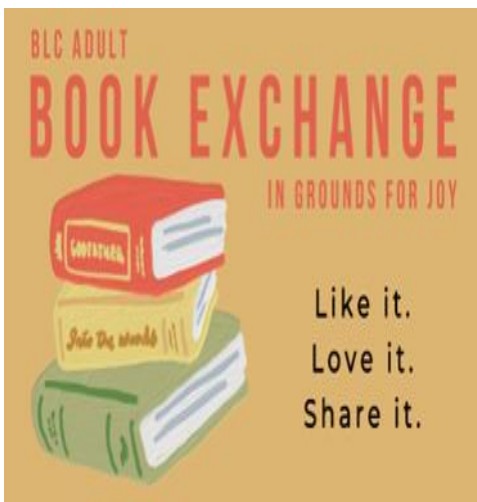
Join Us For Wednesday Night Suppers!

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.**

May 3

Hamburger rice hot dish, salad, and a roll

This will be our final Wednesday night supper in the dining room until September. On May 10, we will have supper & worship at Spring Lake Park (see pg. 3).



We need radio broadcast sponsors for 2023! Please call, e-mail, or stop by the office to sign up.

Monthly Mission

Notes from the Community & Global Missions Board

“We learned a long time ago that we are at our best when we look beyond ourselves.” ~ Pastor Kris Tostengard Michel, Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities, Minneapolis.

Our May Monthly Mission is Global Health Ministries (GHM). As a congregation, we would like to raise \$6,000 to support this important ministry as well as continue to gather newborn kit supplies with a bin in the narthex for your donated items. Bethlehem continues to be a strong supporter of GHM through projects such as newborn kits, quilting, and other important hands-on projects. GHM's hands-on projects are touching the lives of thousands of people around the world.

Global Health Ministries focuses on serving some of the most vulnerable people in the world through strengthening health systems, leadership, medical supplies, and grassroots efforts. GHM believes all people should have access to a healthy life. Together we can make a difference. Each year, thousands of volunteers gather in our Minnesota-based warehouse to help sort and pack medical equipment and supplies to share around the world. For more information, visit www.ghm.org.

Council Corner

Highlights from the Monthly Council Meeting

Here are the “highlights” of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **April 18**. Meeting minutes with more 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: Financial picture improved with February deficit of **-\$20,783** reduced to **-\$8,723** by March 31 on the basis of increased member giving above monthly budget. **Thank you!!** Higher March snow removal & utility costs responsible for continued deficit. **\$125,000** additional principal payment made to reduce mortgage balance to **\$724,699**. More great news!!

LSS Lease Renewal: Meeting scheduled on April 19 with BLC leadership & Lutheran Social Service facilities representative to review possible enhancements to current LSS office space and renewal of lease.

June 5 BLC Leadership Retreat: Pastors will meet with members of Council, boards and committees for pizza, training and strategizing for 2023-24. Put this on your calendars!

Personnel: Weekend janitor applications accepted until April 28 with interviews to follow in May. 6-month performance review scheduled on April 21 for Wednesday Night Supper Coordinator.

Financial Review Committee: BLC financial review policy revised & approved. Draft of a new standardized report form for future annual BLC financial reviews presented. Feedback to be sought from BLC financial representatives before being finalized for Council approval.

Youth: 11 youth will be confirmed at worship on Sunday, May 7. High school graduate recognition scheduled on May 21. Time to celebrate these milestones for our youth.

WELCOME: Progress continues for resettlement of Cruz family by BLC & 4 other Mankato churches. Contact Pr. Jacie with questions and donations.

Crossroads Campus Ministry: Review of operations, facilities and staffing being conducted by governing board. Contact Pr. Jacie if interested in filling a lay vacancy on board.

BLC Council/Boards/Committees: BLC members are encouraged to serve on Council & boards/committees effective June 1. Positions on Council, Finance, Music & Worship and Stewardship are available for your service. Contact **Bob Ihrig** at robert.ihrig1@gmail.com.

April 23 Semi-Annual Meeting: Plan on attending the semi-annual meeting on Sunday, April 23 after worship. Vote for new Council/board/committee members & hear of 2022-23 activities & accomplishments at Bethlehem. We need you for a 75-member quorum! Come one, come all!

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, May 16.

Adult Forums
10:45 a.m. in Grounds for Joy

May 7: Teachers: Challenges and Changes Panel, with Todd Hanselman & Educators

Ever wonder what is going on in public schools in the area? Want to know more about what things have changed in schools since the COVID restrictions ended? Well, here is your chance! A panel of four or five teachers of varying experiences, school districts, and subject areas will be there to answer any questions you may have after church on Sunday, May 7.

May 14 — Mother’s Day — **NO FORUM**

May 21 — Celebration of 100,000 School Kits, with Community & Global Missions Board/Lutheran World Relief

May 28 — Memorial Day weekend — **NO FORUM**

Financial Report

Elizabeth Ruiz ~ Financial Secretary

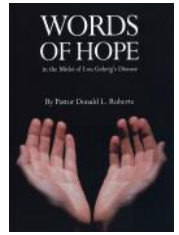
Since no financial report appeared in the April STAR, this report will cover both February and March, 2023. In February, general fund giving dropped to 86% of budget. By month end, the general fund deficit had reached \$20,784. In March, however, year-to-date general fund giving rebounded to 109% (\$143,393 actual vs. \$131,300 budget). The general fund remained in a deficit position at \$8,724. There were several large expenditures in March including snow removal, exceptionally large gas bills, and a quarterly property insurance premium. Thank you for your continued support of the church.

THANK YOU to all our musicians for amplifying Holy Week with their bells, horns, keys, pedals, recorders, strings, and voices! Bethlehem is blessed to have such rich music-making, and it's all thanks to YOU. If you're interested in participating in BLC Brass, BLC Choir, Brass & Sass, cantors, or Gospbells, contact Charlie—we'd love to have you.

Though BLC ensembles are wrapping-up for the season, we're looking for SPECIAL MUSIC this Spring/Summer! If you have something you'd like to play or sing, or need help with an idea, contact Charlie at cleftridge@blcmankato.org.

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.



I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

~ John 13:34, 35

On the night before Jesus gave his life for us, he gave a new commandment for all of us. That commandment was to love each other. Jesus loved us enough to give his life for us. It is not so much our decision to give our life to Jesus but his decision to give his life for us. Jesus loves us unconditionally no matter what our shortcomings are. We find it easy to love others when they agree with us. Jesus calls us to love others

when they disagree with us. No matter what they believe politically or religiously, what their sexual orientation is, or if they just bug us, Jesus calls us to love them. That way the world will know that we are Jesus' disciples.

Discipleship is not an easy ride. There are many obstacles, but we have the peace of Christ when we love others. There is more good news to come. Jesus rose from the dead. That means no matter what obstacles we face in the life of discipleship, Jesus has a glorious future ahead. ***Love one another as Jesus loves us.***



Family Faith Formation Updates

Anna Wencl, Family Faith Formation Director



WEDNESDAY FINALE

OUTDOOR DINNER,
WORSHIP, AND FUN
FOR ALL AGES



Outdoor Lawn Games
Water Balloon Volleyball
VBS Preview
Zip Zap Ice Cream

MAY 10
5:30-7:45 PM
AT SPRING LAKE PARK
SHELTER NEAR VOLLEYBALL COURTS

SCHOOL'S OUT CELEBRATION

A FLIGHT EVENT



Water
Games,
Snacks,
& Fun!



JUNE 9TH
6-8 PM AT
WHEELER PARK

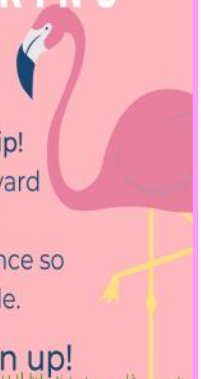
BUY A
CINNAMON ROLL
& SEND KIDS TO CAMP!



Suggested
donation:
1 for \$3
4 for \$10

**Sunday, May
7th before
and after
worship**

FLAMINGO FLOCKING Fundraiser



Support our youth Montana trip!
For \$25 you can flock a friend's yard
during May and early June.

\$10 gets you anti-flamingo insurance so
your yard becomes unflockable.

Flock to our website to sign up!

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 Jacie Richmond: (612) 581-8855
pastorjacie@blcmankato.org



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Church Calendar
Spring 2023

Worship

Sunday, 9:30 a.m.
in sanctuary & online

Wednesday, 6:15 p.m.
through May 3
**(May 10 is at Spring
Lake Park)**

Our Sunday service is
streamed live on
Facebook &
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.
Join us for
coffee & treats
in Grounds for Joy after
worship.

**Wednesday Night
Suppers**—May 3 in the
dining room & May 10
at Spring Lake Park

All calendar details can be found on our website at blcmankato.org/calendar.



May 25 in Grounds for Joy

**To make an appointment, download the
Red Cross Blood Donor App,
visit www.redcrossblood.org,
or call 1-800-REDCROSS.**

