



Call Process

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, an established, thriving, mission-minded RIC congregation in downtown Mankato, Minnesota, seeks effective, caring candidates for full- or part-time Associate Pastor of Word and Sacrament, with special focus on mission, ministry with older youth and young adults, and leadership in social justice, inclusion, and connecting with community. Compensation package is in line with synod guidelines plus a sabbatical plan.

This sounds like a church I want to be part of! Thanks to the call committee, who put together this invitation to our next pastor. I want to update you on the progress of our discernment and preparation in calling our next pastor.

The call committee has been working faithfully over the last several months to put together what is known as a Ministry Site Profile (MSP). The MSP is a summary document of who we are at this time and shares the gifts and areas of responsibility we imagine our next pastor having to carry out the mission God is putting before us. The MSP was put together with prayer, using the results of our strategic planning process, as well as your input in conversations and surveys. The MSP will “go live” now that it has been completed by the call committee and approved by the council.

That means we are entering a new phase. Pastor Barb Streed from the Office of the Bishop will begin matching candidates that seem like a good fit, and who may be called to be our next pastor. The call committee will interview multiple candidates over the next weeks. They may ask a candidate, or candidates, to return for a second interview. When they have found one they believe God is calling to be our next pastor, they will be introduced to the congregation at a special meeting, where you will vote to determine whether to issue a call. We will receive information about the pastor before the meeting, though specifics — including name and where they are serving — will be withheld to protect their confidentiality and honor their current call.

We are confident, thanks to God’s faithfulness and your good work, that Bethlehem is a desirable call for a capable and faithful pastor. We are confident that the Holy Spirit is at work in this process, and thank you for your prayers. This is an exciting time for the church! ~ Pr. Jay

Worship Schedule

We will return to one service this summer, worshiping on Sunday morning at 9:30. Please join us in thankfulness for all that God is doing in the world and in our lives. Our Wednesday night worship service will be returning in the fall.



Celebrating the Church’s Birthday

On Pentecost (June 5 this year), we remember when the Holy Spirit descended on Jesus’ disciples. As they gathered in Jerusalem ten days after Jesus’ ascension, they saw tongues of fire, heard rushing wind, and began speaking in many languages. Because the disciples could then share the good news with all the pilgrims assembled for the Pentecost festival, the occasion marks the birthday of the Christian church. That day alone, about 3,000 people devoted their lives to Christ. Pentecost is still important and relevant today. The Spirit of Jesus comes to dwell within us so that we can become living Christs here and now.

Radio Updates:

The Twins baseball schedule will preempt our radio broadcast on the following dates this season:

June 5
July 24
September 18
October 2

On these days, the worship service will play at 5pm instead of 11am.

Reminder!

All board and committee members are invited to our annual June meeting. If you serve as a board or committee member and did NOT receive an email invitation, please contact Emily Heinis in the office. RSVP by June 10th (link in email).

MONDAY, JUNE 13 AT 5:30PM IN THE HERITAGE ROOM

Lutheran World Relief is our June mission. Our focus this month is on Ukraine. Since the conflict began in late February, millions of people have fled, and there remains more people in dire need within Ukraine. LWR is committing \$7 million, and we can help with our generous giving to this humanitarian crisis. Donations are used to support and provide medical supplies and equipment, and also to support Ukraine network partnerships that will provide shelter, food, and essential supplies -- basic living needs of the Ukrainian people.

Bethlehem has long supported LWR by donating quilts and assembling school kits. In June, we would like to focus our support to these efforts, with our goal being \$7,000. Your financial support will help LWR and accompanying partners to continue to help the Ukrainian refugees. For more information on supporting the Ukraine crisis and other ways to help, go to lwr.org.

Members and friends of the Sioux Trails American Guild of Organists Chapter will present organ recitals again this summer. Join us at 12:10 p.m. on Tuesdays at three different Mankato churches for some beautiful music performed by talented organists!

At Our Savior's Lutheran Church:
June 7 – Thomas Andrews
June 14 – David Mertesdorf
June 21 – Paul Otte

At Sts. Peter & Paul's Catholic Church:
June 28 – Chad Winterfeldt
July 5 – David Fienen
July 12 – Grace Kunkel
July 19 – Elisabeth Urtel

At Bethlehem Lutheran Church:
July 26 – Craig Hirschmann
August 2 – Kraig Windschitl
August 9 – Christine Schulz



**ADULT FORUMS
ARE DONE FOR THE
SEASON. WE WILL
RESUME
PROGRAMMING IN
THE FALL.**

Here are the “highlights” of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **May 17**. Meeting minutes with details are posted at www.blemankato.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: April 30 report not available at meeting due to vacation of financial secretary.

Lutheran Social Service Office Lease: 1-year lease approved effective August 2022. Future discussions to be held regarding LSS long-term facility needs and plans.

Call Committee: Great attendance at Town Hall meeting on 5/15. Ministry Site Profile completed, reviewed & approved by Council for submission to synod for use in identifying pastoral candidates. Committee thanked for excellent leadership in call process.

Strategic Planning: Adult forum scheduled for Sunday, May 22 to provide update on goals and begin development of specific implementation actions. Learn what we hope to do in next 5 years.

Capital Campaign: GSB Company has held interviews with a dozen BLC members. The pre-campaign prospectus to be mailed to members. GSB will meet with Council on June 9 to review pre-campaign feasibility study. Campaign leadership to be identified & approved.

June Leadership Meeting: BLC Council, board & committee members will meet on June 13 at 5:30 p.m. to review major initiatives & launch new year of activities. Attendance is encouraged!!

Facility Needs: Discussion of possible projects for installation of security cameras, new office phone system, and plumbing updates in LSS. Costs & details to be worked out.

Confirmation, Graduates, Scholarships: 8 BLC youth confirmed on May 1. Recognition of graduating seniors planned for May 22. Endowment Board has approved scholarships for 15 BLC youth.

Summer Wednesday Night Worship: Being reassessed based on low attendance. Stay tuned!

Synod Assembly: BLC represented by Pr. Jay, Jason Bruns, Marian Mallory & Bob Ihrig on May 7 in Mankato. Thanks to BLC volunteers who facilitated registration & Fair Trade sales.

Nominations: Dowain Kerner approved as new member of Personnel Committee.

New Members: Ted and Sue Glaser & Joshua Herzberg approved as new BLC members.

Thank You: James Arentson was thanked for his strong & effective leadership as Council president during the past year. Council acknowledged for its service to Bethlehem.

Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 19 (no regular June meeting scheduled).

Call Committee

From the Call Committee

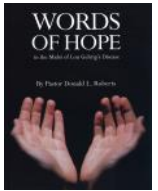
We want to thank you for attending the Town Hall on May 15. Council approved our Ministry Site Profile (MSP) at their May 17 meeting. We have passed a big milestone of finishing our profile paperwork. Our committee members received interview training from Rev. Barb Streed. We're looking forward to the next phase of reviewing candidates. We kindly ask for your patience and cooperation during this next phase. Confidentiality is extremely important as we review candidates.

Please continue to pray for our committee and our next pastor (whoever that might be).



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.



Do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand. ~ Isaiah 41:10

Fear not for I am with you,
Do not be afraid for I am your God,
I will strengthen you, I will help you,
I will uphold you with my
victorious right hand. Isaiah 41:10



We all have fears. It might be fear of a disease. It might be fear of a job layoff, or that we won't find another job. I have these legitimate fears, too. **Fear not.** "Do not fear, for I am your God." Who is your God? Martin Luther said whatever is the most important thing in your life is your God. It might be popularity, or it might be wealth. These might satisfy us in the short term. In the end, however, they won't satisfy us. **Fear not.**

God will strengthen us. If we focus on our problems, we might think this is not true. If I focus on my problems with ALS, it doesn't go well. When I focus on God, it is okay. Focus on God. Pray to God when things are not going well. When we feel weak, pray to God. I promise you will be strengthened. Jesus died to forgive our sins. We no longer feel that we are unloved by God. We no longer feel that we aren't worthy of heaven. God will strengthen you with God's victorious right hand. Whatever we face in this life, God promises a better future. **Fear not.**

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

2022 Endowment Fund Scholarships

Congratulations to the 15 undergraduate students who applied for a scholarship from Bethlehem's Endowment Fund! Each student will receive a \$500 scholarship on June 5. With the congregation, the Endowment Board offers best wishes to these students as they study and achieve their goals.

Tyler Adams
Allysa Bruns
Annika Bruns
Nate Dahlvang
Abigail Kalina
Sophia Nevills
Kellen Schaefer
Alexis Stapelman

MN State U – Mankato
SW MN State – Marshall
MN State U – Mankato
SCC – North Mankato
U of MN – Duluth
U of MN – Duluth
MN State U – Mankato
Gustavus – St. Peter

Angela Bakke
Andrea Bruns
Sam Csizmadia
Danielle Haigh
Alex MacLean
Emily Pipes
Kaylee Sivertsen

Walden U – Online/Mpls.
St. Cloud State U
MN State U – Mankato
Concordia – Moorhead
Gustavus – St. Peter
Winona State U
MN State U – Mankato

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
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Church Calendar-Summer 2022				
WORSHIP Sunday, 9:30am <i>In sanctuary & online</i> ONLINE SERVICE WILL BE STREAMED LIVE ON FACEBOOK & YOUTUBE & PLAYED ON KTOE RADIO AT 11AM. <i>Wednesday Worship will return in the fall.</i>	EDUCATION PreK- Confirmation & Adult Forums resume in the fall <i>(See previous page for VBS and camp info.)</i>	BIBLE STUDY Tuesday, 7:00am • Lectionary, online Other studies will resume in the fall.	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 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.**



We are blessed beyond measure to have Bethlehem as partners in our ministry to feed hungry MSU students through our **Lunch for a Buck** program! Bethlehem provided **Lunch for a Buck** five times during the school year. Your volunteers served approximately 128 students and faculty over the course of those five lunches and brought in \$155.32 in donations that went right back into the program. We know that one cannot be fed the Word of God on an empty stomach, and it is our calling to prepare students so that they may be nourished by God's Word. Thank you and bless you for your generosity and continued support of this very impactful ministry.

~ *Crossroads Campus Ministry*