



Now that we have come to summer, I usually hear or feel a slight lament that happens in churches. As people often vacation for the summer and as certain programs, ministries, and groups take a break, it is not uncommon to hear “where is everybody?” or “it’s so quiet here on Sunday mornings.” Behind those words is usually a sense of sorrow for the change in worship patterns and activities over the summer months. It has always left me wondering if there’s a way that we can change our relationship with this season in our churches. Can we view this summer time through a different lens than simply sorrow or yearning for something to be different?

Summer in church does not necessarily have to mean that nothing is happening. That is certainly not the case at all! It’s just that the pace and rhythm of things is different from the rest of the year. For some people, summer is a time of rest from certain activities — but remember that God also marked the Sabbath as holy. Here at Bethlehem, summer is also a time of dreaming and planning as we look forward to the next program year in the autumn. Maybe summer can be a time of dreaming for you as well. Maybe God’s Spirit will stir within you over the summer and encourage you to do something new or provide inspiration for something we together as a congregation can do for our neighbors and the world!

Summer also does have a lot of things that are happening here at Bethlehem too. We have many youth programs running in the summer. We have our youth trip to Montana, Vacation Bible School, and Camp Week at Green Lake, just to name a few. Please keep the kids and families and leaders of these things in your prayers, and also please consider helping out if you can by either donating needed supplies or helping volunteer your time. This can be a great way to come and see for yourself what is happening in the summer outside of Sunday morning worship.

So my hope is, now that summer is upon us, that you will be able to feel and enjoy the change in rhythm. My hope is that summer will inspire you to dream and hope and listen to the calling of the Holy Spirit during this time. May this summer fill you with joy, and may you experience God in surprising ways both here at Bethlehem or wherever you find yourself this summer! ~ **Pr. Jacie**



Walk to End ALS

A **HUGE** thank you to all who participated in the ALS Walk in person or by donation! It was a sunny day and a great location at Spring Lake Park. We collected approximately \$1,500.

Thank you again!

BLC ADULT
BOOK EXCHANGE
IN GROUNDS FOR JOY

Like it.
Love it.
Share it.

SEED EXCHANGE
IN GROUNDS FOR JOY

Share Seeds.
Take Seeds.
Get Growing.

Could you sponsor a radio broadcast?
Please call, e-mail, or stop by the office to sign up.
Broadcasts are \$100 each.



Monthly Mission

Notes from the Community & Global Missions Board



Lutheran World Relief is our June mission. We have much to celebrate this month with Werner Fick's milestone for 100,000+ school kits! Werner has been the sole driving force behind the collection of

school kit items and assembly. We are grateful and blessed for his commitment to this cause and for God's work being done through his selfless giving. We also support this important mission through quilts, collecting medical supply items, and monetary donations.

Please consider donating to this important mission that touches those in need across the world.

For more information, go to lwr.org.

Bethlehem has set a goal of \$7,000.



Council Corner

Highlights from the Monthly Council Meeting



Here are the "highlights" of the Bethlehem Council meeting held on **May 16**. 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!

Welcome to the following approved new Bethlehem members: Jonathan & Susan Arntz & Kjera; Sharalyn & Floyd Arntz; Taylor Hayenga; David Juliar & Christine Mehegan.

Financial Report: No April report presented due to personal vacation of Financial Secretary.

Mortgage Update: The Mission Investment Fund, consistent with the periodic updating of the BLC mortgage terms, has revised the current interest rate of 4% to the new rate of 5.625% to reflect changing economic policies. This will restructure the monthly payment to \$5,736.81 through 2039. The Council agreed to maintain the current budgeted \$8,187 monthly payment to pay down the mortgage principal faster and save on interest charges.

Financial Review Format: Work continues on the development of a standardized reporting format for the annual BLC financial review. Feedback is being sought from BLC members involved with financial matters. Stay tuned for future news!

LSS Lease Renewal: Progress continues on new 5-year leases for LSS office space and the REACH effective August 1. Positive conversations have been held regarding future upgrades in humidity control and bathrooms in the LSS office. Thanks to James Arentson for facilitating this.

Thank You: Thank-yous were extended to President Mary Bliesmer and Member-At-Large Aaron Geringer for their 3 years of positive service to the Council and congregation.

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 & RSVP with Molly Nelson by May 30.

Weekend Janitor: Positive interview held with applicant and offer made for weekend janitor position effective August 1. Waiting for response from applicant.

WELCOME: Mankato-area church team meeting scheduled for May 23 with immigration lawyer to consider future legal representation of the Cruz family pertaining to their immigration status. More responsibility for personal financial matters delegated to family.

Crossroads Campus Ministry: Successful Lunch-For-A-Buck season concluded with summer break planned. Campus Cupboard will continue to serve MSU students. New job description for ministry coordinator drafted & shared with synod with 1 interview already planned. Updating building apartment lease for new tenants in the fall.

Youth: School-year activities have concluded with summer activities planned. Plans to review the Family Faith Formation comprehensive plan and update as needed.

May 14 Special Congregational Meeting: 2023-24 BLC Council, board & committee members approved at special meeting. New Council members include Vice-President Matt Drewitz and Members-At-Large Cynthia Zacharias & Amanda Neubert. Thank you! We still seek 3 new **Finance** members, 1 new **Stewardship** member & 2 new **Nominations** members. Contact **Bob Ihrig** if interested at robert.ihrig1@gmail.com.

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, July 18. No June Council meeting scheduled.



2023 STAGO

Summer Organ Recital Series

June 13-August 8



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 two Mankato churches for some beautiful music!

At Grace Lutheran:

June 13 – Kaleb Schmidt

June 20 – David Mertesdorf

June 27 – Chad Winterfeldt

July 4 — **NO RECITAL**

July 11 – Garrett Steinberg

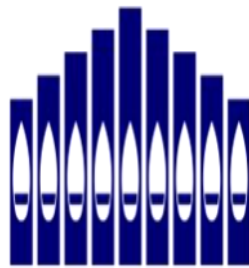
At Bethlehem Lutheran:

July 18 – Wayne Wagner

July 25 – Craig Hirschmann

August 1 – Kraig Windschitl

August 8 – Christine Schulz

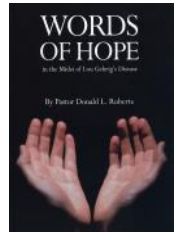


SIoux TRAILS
CHAPTER
American Guild of Organists



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.



***For Christ is the end of the law so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.
~ Romans 10:4***

“For Christ is the end of the law.” The law was the Jewish law and for today it is the Ten Commandments. We often think we are not good enough to please God, or we think we have to earn God’s love. I think that sometimes, too. As believers in Christ, this is false. Jesus gave his life for us. He died our death so we don’t have to die. We all die physically. We don’t die spiritually. On the last day, he will raise us to eternal life with Jesus and with one another.

With this wonderful news, our response should be to obey the Ten Commandments and love God with all our heart, soul, and mind, and love our neighbor as ourselves. We have all failed in this, including myself. When we fail, accept God’s forgiveness and love. Christ is the end of the law.



Family Faith Formation Updates
Anna Wencel, Family Faith Formation Director



Summer
FUN WITH
BLC
KIDS
& FAMILIES

- **June 9th, 6-8 pm:** School's Out Celebration at Wheeler Park w/ Dinner
- **July 24th-27th, 5-7:30 pm:** RENEW! VBS (All 3 y.o.-6th grade youth are welcome! Register at blcmankato.org by July 10th.)
- **July 30th-August 3rd:** BLC kids & youth are headed to camp at Green Lake Lutheran Ministries.
- **August 18th:** Outdoor movie in the Slotemaker family's backyard

ALL KIDS & FAMILIES ARE INVITED TO JOIN US!

Summer FUN WITH
BLC
YOUTH

SIGN UP AT BLCMANKATO.ORG/YOUTH

SERVICE & SUN (6TH-12TH GRADES)
JULY 10TH-12TH, 8 AM-5 PM:

WE WILL SERVE OUR COMMUNITY & DO A FUN ACTIVITY EACH DAY, LIKE VISIT THE POOL OR GO TO A MOONDOGS GAME. FRIENDS WELCOME!

VBS - JULY 24TH-27TH, 6-7:30 PM:

WE LOVE HAVING YOUTH HELP WITH GAMES AND ACTIVITIES. LET ANNA KNOW OR FILL OUT THE VBS VOLUNTEER FORM.

CAMP - JULY 30TH-AUGUST 3RD:

BLC KIDS & YOUTH ARE HEADED TO CAMP AT GREEN LAKE!

VALLEYFAIR DAY - AUGUST 9TH:

DAY TRIP TO VALLEYFAIR W/ MANKATO-AREA ELCA CHURCHES

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



@bethlehem.mankato

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 **Church Calendar**
Spring/Summer 2023 

Worship

**Sundays at
9:30 a.m.**

in sanctuary & online
*Wednesday worship
will return in the fall.*

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.

Sunday morning
Adult Forums
will resume
in the fall.

Adult Bible Study

**Tuesdays, 7 a.m.
Lectionary online**

**Wednesdays 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**

Sundays, 10:30 a.m.
Join us for
coffee & treats
in Grounds for Joy
after worship.

**Wednesday Night
Suppers will resume
in the fall.**

All calendar details can be found on our 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.**



What then shall we say to
these things? If God is for us,
who can be against us?

Romans 8:31

