

The Bethlehem STAR July 2023

"But in your hearts revere Christ as Lord. Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect."

-- 1 Peter 3:15 --

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have.
~ 1 Peter 3:15b*

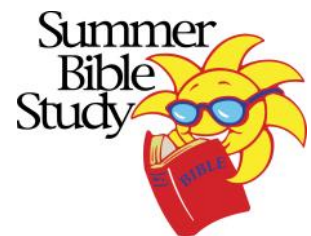
At our June all boards, committees, and council meeting, I asked our leadership, "What are you excited about at Bethlehem?"

They said:

- Pastor Jacie's arrival
- Making balloon animals at Pride
- Bethlehem inspires and nurtures values of compassion, acceptance, and inclusion in my children, which are values important to us as parents
- We don't put the strategic plan on the shelf, but take steps, and make these goals come to life
- The older members are willing to share leadership, and the younger members are willing to embrace it

I am hopeful and excited for Bethlehem because of the faithfulness of God, and the faithfulness of you!

~ Pr. Jay




Deborah Circle would like to invite all interested persons to join us for a summer Bible study. We will meet on July 15 and August 19 in Grounds for Joy from 10:00-11:00 a.m. We will use the summer study found in the Gather Magazine. Copies of the study will be available for those who don't have a subscription.

Hope to see you there!

Could you sponsor a radio broadcast?
Please call, e-mail, or stop by the office to sign up.



BLC ADULT
BOOK EXCHANGE
IN GROUNDS FOR JOY



Like it.
Love it.
Share it.

Monthly Mission
Notes from the Community & Global Missions Board



Our July mission is **Partners for Housing**. P4H is guiding people on a path toward housing stability. This program works by providing emergency shelters at Theresa House, Union Street Place, and the Welcome Inn. Transitional housing, rapid re-housing, and long-term housing all are part of their program. They collaborate with many other supportive services.

Homelessness in the Mankato Communities continues to be a big problem:

- 14,000 individuals live at or below the poverty level in Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties.
- 1 in 10 homeless have served in the military.
- In Mankato, 36% of renters spend more than 50% of their income on housing.
- Blue Earth and Nicollet Counties rank the worst in the state for cost-burdened renters.

For more information, go to partnersforhousing.org. Please consider Partners for Housing with a monetary donation. Our goal is \$1,300. Thank you!

Bethlehem Endowment Scholarship Presentation
June 4, 2023

In 1983, Bethlehem Lutheran Church established an Endowment Fund with generous gifts of \$17,000. In 40 years, that Fund has grown to almost \$1.4 million through contributions by individuals given in addition to their support for Bethlehem's operating budget, capital campaign, or monthly mission projects.

The funds donated to the Endowment are not touched, but each year the yield from investing the Fund advances Bethlehem's mission in ways that the regular budget cannot.

Since 1990, the Endowment has provided scholarships to high school graduates and college students who are part of our family here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. This year, each scholarship is \$600.

As these students pursue their educations into the future, we want them to know that we will pray for them and that they're always welcome at Bethlehem.

Best wishes in the year ahead.

These are the scholarship recipients for 2023:

- | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Tyler Adams | Alex MacLean |
| Brandon Bakke | Angela Matter |
| Alexa Bolstad | Sophia Nevills |
| Nate Dahlvang | Kellen Schaefer |
| Danielle Haigh | Kaylee Sivertsen |
| Abby Kalina | Matthew Smith |
| Parker Keenan | Lexi Stapleman |
| Olivia Lanz | |



2023 STAGO
Summer Organ Recital Series

The Sioux Trails Chapter of the American Guild of Organists is pleased to present its annual summer organ recitals each Tuesday (*except July 4*) at 12:10 p.m. through August 8. This yearly tradition is now in its 42nd year. Admission is free; a free-will donation will be accepted. Visit www.agosiouxtrails.org for more information.

At Grace Lutheran:
July 4 — **NO RECITAL**
July 11 — Garrett Steinberg

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At Bethlehem Lutheran:
July 18 — Wayne Wagner
July 25 — Craig Hirschmann
August 1 — Craig Windschitl
August 8 — Christine Schulz

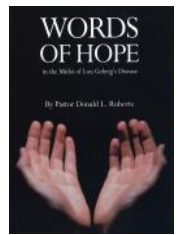
SIoux TRAILS
CHAPTER
American Guild of Organists

Financial Report
Elizabeth Ruiz ~ Financial Secretary

Once again, this financial report covers two months, April and May. In April, the general fund deficit grew to \$16,297, and in May, it grew to \$27,923. Member giving is at 96% of budget at the end of May (budget of \$222,200 vs. actual of \$213,206). In early July, mid-year statements will be mailed out. Please review your statement carefully. Pay special attention to pledged amounts for the capital campaign as well as for the general fund. If you are behind on your pledge, and you are able, please catch up. Thank you for your continuous support of the mission and ministry of Bethlehem.

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.



Let us hold fast to the confession of our hope without wavering, for he who has promised is faithful. And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds. ~ Hebrews 10:23, 24



We should be optimistic people. No matter what fears we face, or what troubles we face, we have hope. I have learned, through this battle with ALS, to be thankful for what I have. Jesus is faithful to be with us now and forever. Due to his death and resurrection, we have a glorious future ahead. That is why we should be thankful for what we have. We confess our hope every Sunday with the creed. Jesus is faithful to us.

We are believers in Jesus, and we are a community of faith. Let's show love to one another. Say a prayer for someone who is hurting. Send a card to someone who is hurting. I'm sure you understand these ideas. Jesus is faithful to us. Let us be thankful for what we have now and forever.



Family Faith Formation Updates

Anna Wencel, Family Faith Formation Director



FRIENDS WELCOME!

Valleyfair

DAY TRIP

WITH MANKATO-AREA ELCA CHURCHES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 9TH

Sign up coming soon!

Join us for

VBS!

July 24-27
Evenings with Dinner

Invite your friends and spread the word. All 3-year-old through 6th grade youth are invited. Older youth and adults are invited to help, too!



REGISTER BY JULY 10TH



Help us find

VBS DONATIONS

DROP THEM OFF BEFORE JULY 16TH

We need your USED items so we can REPURPOSE them!

- Shoeboxes
- Maps, Atlases, Globes
- Newspaper
- Artificial Plants (Flowers, Vines, Wreaths)
- Old T-shirts
- 12-16 oz. Water or Soda Bottles

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***
Summer 2023 

Worship

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

in sanctuary & online
*Wednesday worship
will resume 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**

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**Book of Faith will
resume in the fall.**

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.**

