



CHIMES Newsletter

AUGUST 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 8

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAIME

Well, here we are in August already! How did it arrive so quickly? When things become especially busy and time seems to be moving faster than we are used to, I have found it often helps to reflect on where we are coming from and what we have been up to. I was reminded that I haven't done this in awhile, so I thought it might be good for us to reflect together this month. It was around this time last year that I was meeting some of you for the first time and a few weeks later you would call me to be your next pastor. What a journey we have shared together already! I am excited to see where this next season takes us! The time I have shared with you is not the beginning of Bethlehem's story, however. The history of this community goes back many years. Where has God shown up in Bethlehem's history? How have we worked with the Spirit as the body of Christ? How have we been surprised by God?

You may be wondering, why do we reflect on the past? Well, it helps remind us of who God is, the promises that God keeps, and how we have been called. This is not something new! Look at the Scriptures we read every week! These have been read again and again over many generations, the early church included. These stories, these witnesses to what God has done, give us the foundation we need to continue to follow Christ and partner in God's mission in the world. The past should not become our only focus, however. Our past reminds us of where we have been and helps orient us towards God as we embark on what the next season has in store. So, as the days of summer are savored, and fall comes to greet us once again, let us remember where we have been and let us dream together about where the Spirit is leading us.

In Christ's Peace,
Pastor Jaime Benson

OUR CHURCH

BAKE SALE DONATIONS NEEDED



We will be having a bake sale along with the Rummage Sale on Aug. 6th. We are looking for baked good donations which can be dropped off on Thursday and Friday, Aug. 4th and 5th, respectively. They should be packaged ready for sale and priced. Thank you!

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 1

6:30 pm All Committee Night

AUGUST 2

5 pm Finance Meeting

AUGUST 6

8 am to 4 pm Rummage & Bake Sale

AUGUST 7

3:30 pm High School Youth Group
Swim Party

AUGUST 9

Food Pantry Helpers

AUGUST 14

9 am Blessing of the Pets
9:30 – noon Pet Fest

AUGUST 17

6:15 pm Stewardship Meeting

AUGUST 19-30

Pastor on vacation

AUGUST 28

7:45 am Sunday School Teacher Mtg

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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Pastor:

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RUMMAGE SALE, AUGUST 6TH

Looking for volunteers to help with setup, take down and day of the sale. See the sign up sheet in the narthex.

The Rummage Sale will be from 8 am to 4 pm.



MISSION KITS COLLECTION

We continue to collect the items for the Mission Kits. A complete list of the items was attached to the July Chimes and a printed list can be found in the narthex. No items with religious, patriotic, American Flag, or military symbols can be used.

School Kits: a backpack filled with basic school supplies to educate a child.



Personal Care Kits

Personal Care Kits: a light towel wrapped with basic hygiene items.

Here are links to buying bulk items:

Most items on Amazon:

https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/2N4VW2BMYTMC?ref=wl_share

Best site for towels:

<https://directtextilestore.com/Prison-Towels-10s-Colored>

If you have questions, you can call Janice 608-742-8502 or Jeanette at 608-617-5228.

ALTAR FLOWERS

There are several spots available to sign up to provide altar flowers for the rest of the year. The sign up is in the narthex. The cost is \$40 and we ask that this money is donated at the time of sign up. Thank you for helping decorate our beautiful sanctuary.

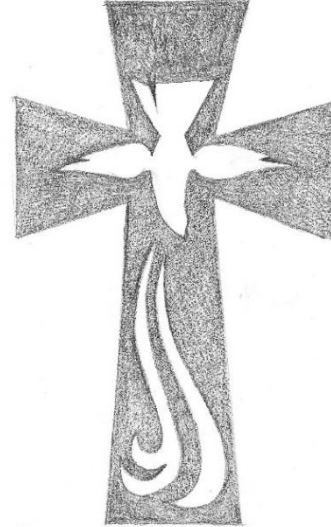


Altar Flowers

SYMBOL FOR WIND BREAK WALL

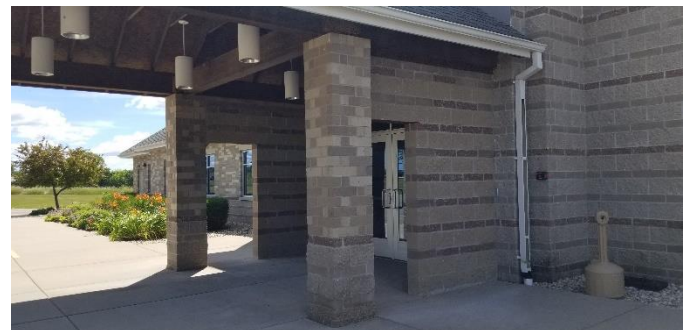
Thank you to all who voted for the symbol for the anodized metalwork going on the wind break wall. We had three options to vote on, and Option #1 had the most votes. This will be the image used:

OPTION #1 Greeting of the Holy Spirit



WIND BREAK WALL

The wind break wall has been constructed, is completed, and looks wonderful! There were some very hot days during the construction period. Thank you to the following people who came out to volunteer to help the mason, Neil Hurd, get this project completed: Del Molden, Tim Kratz, Jake Jahoda, Jeff Melby, Justice Oh.



BLESSING OF THE PETS & PET FEST



Our annual Blessing of the Pets will take place on Sunday, August 14th. It will start with a 9 am outdoor worship service and will be followed by something new this year: "Pet Fest" from 9:30 am to noon! There will be speakers on pet safety and health, training and agility demonstrations, and vendors. Dawn Brauner will be offering free pet photos and Safe at Home Pet Sitting will be offering \$15 nail trims. We will be taking donations for the Columbia County Humane Society and the first 40 donations will receive a free gift. See the list of needs below this article. If you have a pet that that is not able to travel, you can bring along a photo for the pet blessing. Please note: Pets that play well with all other types of animals are encouraged to join us. Bethlehem is not liable for bad behaviors. Please also make sure that all pets are leashed (or small pet contained in a carrier or crate) at all times.

The following businesses will be participating in the event:

- Aspen Chiropractic & Wellness
- Columbia County Humane Society
- Portage Vet Clinic
- Safe at Home Pet Sitting (\$15 nail trims)
- MATC Puppy/Dog Training
- All in the Family Creations (handmade dog coats)
- Mad Dogs Bake Shop (homemade pet treats)
- Photos by DMH (free photo booth)

Columbia County Humane Society Wish List:

- *Non-Clumping Cat Litter
- *Ground Canned dog food
- *High Efficiency (HE) Laundry Detergent
- *Dawn Dish soap
- *Bleach
- *Paper Towels
- *Nylabones
- *Monetary Donations
- *Hand Soap
- *Vitamin C

- *L-Lysine
- *Dry Erase Markers

Unique items can be found on their Amazon or Chewy Wish Lists.

QUILT RAFFLE

2022 Quilt Donation Raffle



This year's quilt is a combination of quilt blocks which were donated to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, plus additional fabric and supplies for the making of this quilt. The quilt was designed by Barb Rothwell and finished by Marie Rohrbacher. There are also two zippered pillows included. Quilt measure ~86" x 138".

Tickets will be available for purchase through the church office during the week and on some Sundays. The quilt will be raffled off at the Arts & Craft Market on September 24th.

VENDORS FOR ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

A poster for the Arts & Craft Market. At the top is the Bethlehem Lutheran Church logo, which is a stylized church building with a star above it, surrounded by the text 'BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN'. Below the logo, the text 'Arts & Craft Market' is written in large, bold, black letters. Underneath that, 'CALL FOR ARTISTS & CRAFTERS' is written in smaller, bold, black letters. At the bottom, it says 'EVENT: SEPTEMBER 24TH' and 'APPLICATION FOUND ON OUR WEBSITE: WWW.BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG'.

FAITH FORMATION

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING, AUG. 28TH



Every year we provide "Safe Church" training for everyone in our church who will be

volunteering either with youth or vulnerable adults, that would include all Sunday School teachers, Confirmation mentors, all staff, chaperones, youth group leaders or helpers. This is a requirement, not an option. If you plan to volunteer in some way this year, please attend the training on **Sunday, August 28th after worship**. If you are unable to come to the training or question whether or not you need to attend, please contact Tania Anderson.

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP & PARENT SWIM PARTY



High School Youth Group members and parents are invited for an afternoon/evening on Swan Lake at Jeff & Becky Johnson's house on Sunday, August 7th! Festivities begin at 3:30pm. Bring a friend, a swimsuit and a chair and join us for

fun on the lake, food, games, and a bonfire. **Please RSVP to Megan Jahoda by August 3rd** if you will be attending. We hope to see everyone there!!

SUNDAY SCHOOL TEACHER MEETING

On **Sunday, August 28th**, there will be a Sunday School Teacher meeting at 7:45am to discuss the upcoming school year. Anyone interested in working with the elementary aged children should attend. We are in need of your help and would love for you to join us this school year! We are making some changes to the Sunday School program which we will talk about at the teacher meeting. Come see how you can help with the fun classes and activities we have planned.



ENVELOPE NUMBERS ON OFFERING ENVELOPES

This is just a friendly reminder to put your envelope number on your offering envelopes, especially if you are using envelopes from the pews. This really does help our volunteers who do the weekly counting. If you don't know your number, you can contact Julie in the office. If you don't have envelopes and wish to use them, you can contact her about that as well. A great many thanks for your help with this!

NEW STAFF EMAILS UPDATE



We have fully transitioned to the new email system. Please take a moment to remove our old email addresses and replace them with the following:

- Pastor Jaime email: pastorbenson@blcportage.org
- Julie/Office email: office@blcportage.org
- Tania/Parish Associate email: parishassociate@blcportage.org

We are finding that when Julie sends out a bulk email it sometimes ends up in a person's "Promotions" folder (if you have Gmail) or sometimes Spam. Please make sure you check here for the weekly newsletter as well. If it ends up here, you will need mark the church email address as being a safe email. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

NEW CHOIR DIRECTOR



Please help us give a warm welcome to our new Choir Director, Katie Zirbes. If you have been in the choir, Katie will be reaching out to you. Here is a little about Katie:

I am excited to begin a new adventure with all of you at Bethlehem Lutheran Church! My name is Katie Zirbes and I am going to be your new choir director. I have lived in Portage for 18 years with my husband, 3 kids, and 2 dogs. I work as a special education teacher for the Wisconsin Dells Schools and teach piano lessons out of my home. Music has been my passion since I started playing piano when I was 4. I have been the music director at another church for the past 17 years,

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

but God has guided me a new direction which is to your church. I strongly believe that music is one way that we pray and share our faith with God and with others. I am very excited to get to meet all of you and begin sharing God's word through song. If you are interested in being part of the choir, please feel free to contact me at. I will

be having a Welcome Gathering in August (date to be determined) where you can meet me and talk about the start of choir. I want to thank you for letting me be a part of your ministry here and can't wait to get started.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Overall, we are having a successful financial year. In June our general offerings have dipped from previous month and previous year. We are watching this offering situation closely. Benevolence money was paid to the Synod for general benevolence and World Hunger. The insurance claim for our lightning strike that damaged our fire panel has been paid and we are waiting for final installation of an annunciator panel. This summer, once it is scheduled and completed, we will be paying for the sealing and striping of the parking lot.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison

July 1-28, 2022

	TOTAL				
	JUL 1-28, 2022	JUL 1-28, 2021 (PY)	JUN 1-28, 2022 (PP)	JAN 1 - JUL 28, 2022 (YTD)	JAN 1 - JUL 28, 2021 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	18,553.12	21,105.74	22,571.06	170,494.79	145,128.25
▶ Other Income	1,325.00	365.00	408.84	9,176.07	5,508.48
Total Income	\$19,878.12	\$21,470.74	\$22,979.90	\$179,670.86	\$150,636.73
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,878.12	\$21,470.74	\$22,979.90	\$179,670.86	\$150,636.73
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	19,958.69	25,958.50	25,667.19	152,750.26	139,293.84
▶ Other Expense	335.00	780.00	865.00	4,045.30	1,780.00
Unapplied Cash Bill Payment Exp...			-470.00	-470.00	
Total Expenses	\$20,293.69	\$26,738.50	\$26,062.19	\$156,325.56	\$141,073.84
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -415.57	\$ -5,267.76	\$ -3,082.29	\$23,345.30	\$9,562.89
▶ Other Income	\$2,350.00	\$2,550.00	\$1,675.00	\$19,431.09	\$16,533.16
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,304.11	\$2,484.75	\$2,132.00	\$17,959.83	\$15,864.50
NET OTHER INCOME	\$45.89	\$65.25	\$ -457.00	\$1,471.26	\$668.66
NET INCOME	\$ -369.68	\$ -5,202.51	\$ -3,539.29	\$24,816.56	\$10,231.55

Cash basis Thursday, July 28, 2022 10:26 AM GMT-05:00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 5:00 pm Finance	3	4	5 10:30 am Tai Chi	6 Rummage & Bake Sale 8 am to 4 pm
7 9:00 am Worship 3:30 pm HS Youth Group Swim Party	8 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club	9 Food Pantry Helpers 	10 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship	11	12 10:30 am Tai Chi	13 Carol Schumacher Funeral
14 9:00 am Outdoor Blessing of the Pets Worship 9:30 am – noon Pet Fest Event	15 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:00 pm SREA mtg	16	17 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:15 pm Stewardship Meeting 	18	19 Pr. on Vacation Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	20 Pr. on Vacation
21 Pr. on Vacation 9:00 am Worship	22 Pr. on Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:30 pm SRA	23 Pr. on Vacation	24 Pr. on Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship	25 Pr. on Vacation 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting 	26 Pr. on Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi	27 Pr. on Vacation
28 Pr. on Vacation 7:45 am Sunday School Teacher Mtg 9:00 am Worship	29 Pr. on Vacation 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club	30 Pr. on Vacation	31 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship	28	29 10:30 am Tai Chi	30
31 9:00 am Worship						

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
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PORTAGE WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



«Addressee»
«Street_Permanent_Address»
«City_Permanent_Address», «State_Permanent_Address»
«Zip_Permanent_Address»

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