



CHIMES Newsletter

AUGUST 2023 VOLUME 85, ISSUE 8

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Grace and peace to you, BLC!

I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you this month wherever you may be and offers a reminder of the community you are a part of. I am grateful for each and every one of you and the presence you bring to this community. The body of Christ is not complete without you, and I want to give thanks to all of you for who you are and the gifts you bring to this community. So, thank you!

This past month I returned from a ten-day pilgrimage to the Holy Land with 24 other faith leaders from all over North America. We had various Christian denominations represented in our group and two of our group leaders were Jewish rabbis. I have included a couple photos of our group (on the next page) during our pilgrimage together.

Now what is the definition of a pilgrimage? According to Merriam-Webster Dictionary, a pilgrimage is the journey of a pilgrim, and a pilgrim is one who journeys to foreign lands. Some synonyms include traveler, visitor, refugee, and guest, among many others. Often, as Christians, we use pilgrimage as a way to describe our time on earth, it is even part of our funeral liturgy as we give thanks for time we have shared during our pilgrimage on earth.

Do we live as though we are guests in this time and place? Aren't we visitors in God's world? When on this pilgrimage I was surprised many times over by things I didn't expect. Curiosity and openness were necessities on this pilgrimage. I didn't know most of the people in my group before we embarked on this life-changing journey together and now we are connected in a whole new way. Even though we held a claim to this land in some way through our faith, we were still guests and visitors, navigating the layers and layers of history that these places hold. We were not the first to come here nor the last, but our story is part of God's larger story in this place. So, how are we contributing to God's larger story here and now? How might the identity of guest impact how we live? How can we lean on the gifts of curiosity and openness?

Let us ponder as we journey together.

In peace,

Pastor Jaime Benson

UPCOMING EVENTS

AUGUST 1

VBS

AUGUST 3

9:30 am Columbia-Sauk Synod
Conference meeting

AUGUST 7

6:30 pm Church Activity Planning
meeting (previous all committee night)

AUGUST 9

Food Pantry Helpers

AUGUST 14

6:30 pm SREA meeting

AUGUST 17

6:30 pm Church Council

AUGUST 21

6:30 pm SRA meeting

AUGUST 23

2-6 pm Farmers Market

5 pm Brendan Brooks Concert

AUGUST 25-26

Taste of Portage booth

AUGUST 27

Safe Church teacher training

AUGUST 9 TO AUGUST 20

AUGUST 28 TO SEPTEMBER 4

Pastor Jaime Vacation

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-8502

Email: office@blcportage.org
www.bethlehemLCportage.org



Our group gathered on the Temple Mount in front of the Dome of the Rock which is built on the peak of Mt. Moriah.



Our group on a boat on the Sea of Galilee.



Our group gathered around an ancient mikveh in the Jezreel Valley. A mikveh is a ritual bath used for purification purposes.

OUR CHURCH

WOMENS GROUP



September 14, 2023 Olbrich Outdoor Gardens tour

The outdoor gardens tour will start at 11:00. We will be meeting at the church at 9:00 am to carpool. There will be time for shopping and visiting the Bolz Conservatory prior to the tour. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour and upon completion we will head to Garver Feed Mill for lunch. The outdoor gardens tour cost is \$5.00. If you plan to go to Bolz Conservatory there is a separate \$6.00 fee. Fees will be paid directly to Olbrich on the day of the event. Please contact the church office by September 11th at 608-742-8502 to R.S.V.P. The office is open 8 am to 11 am. Here is the website for you to explore.

www.olbrich.org

CRAFT FAIR



Call for Artists & Makers

BETHLEHEM'S ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

Visit our website for application & more info.:
www.bethlehemlchportage.org

OUTDOOR BOOTHS AVAILABLE

Event date:
Sat. 9/23/23



Feed Your Soul

FARMERS' MARKET & CONCERT SERIES
SUMMER 2023

Featuring music by
BRENDAN BROOKS
brendanbrooksmusic.com

June 28th
July 26th
August 23rd

FARMERS' MARKET 2:00PM-6:00PM
OUTDOOR CONCERT 5:00PM-6:00PM

Market items include handmade candles, soaps, wood art/signs, denim and fabric bags/purses/accessories, jewelry, wooden toys, produce, baked goods, and more!

Bring your own chair for the concert.
Food and beverages will be available for purchase.

 **Bethlehem**
Lutheran Church
W8267 State Hwy 33, Portage
BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG

Are you a vendor? Scan the code below and apply!



Brendan Brooks sends his sincere apologies for making a statement about a sensitive topic prior to singing one of his songs during the last concert. It was not his intention to even discuss anything sensitive; he merely got carried away in his explanation of a song and pulled in current examples from society today. We ask that you offer him grace and support him wholeheartedly during his next outdoor concert here on Wednesday, July 26th during the farmers' market."



Blessing of the Pets

PET FEST

SUNDAY, Sept. 10

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage

9 am to 12 pm

It's once again time for our annual Blessing of the Pets outdoor worship service followed by Pet Fest! Please bring your furry friends and join us on **Sunday, September 10th from 9:00am-12:00pm.** Outdoor worship will begin at 9:00am (bring a chair or blanket) followed by the vendor market that will run approximately 9:30am-12:00pm. Our local dog trainer, Jaime Dresen from MATC, will be joining us again with her agility course. Also returning are Aspen Chiropractic, All in the Family Creations (dog coats), Safe at Home Pet Sitting services, and others. Please spread the word and invite your friends and neighbors.

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Tina in the office. We will need a few volunteers that day to help with traffic control in the parking lot as well as food sales. We could also use a few junior helpers as well to keep the water bowls full for the pets.



Taste of Portage

BLC will have a booth at the Taste of Portage on August 25th and 26th. Do you love to bake pies? We are needing around 130 pies. Pies can be homemade or purchased and dropped off at the church starting August 24th or they can be brought down to the booth on the day of the event. Taste of Portage is from 5-9 pm on Friday and 10 am-5 pm on Saturday. Please call the church office and let us know how many pies you are making. We are also looking for volunteers to sell pies. Any questions contact the church office.

SAFE CHURCH TRAINING

As we prepare for the next education year here at BLC, we would like to remind all of our volunteers who will be working with vulnerable adults and youth under the age of 18 about our Safe Church training scheduled for Sunday, August 27th after the 9:00am worship. We will meet in the sanctuary that morning for a short presentation and will distribute some forms that will need to be signed. Please set aside approximately 30 minutes for this. If you have any questions, please contact Tania Anderson at parishassociate@blcportage.org.



Walk in's are welcome on Monday July 31st at Portage United Methodist Church

Please join us for a week of activities, learning and fun! The ecumenical VBS program meets daily from 8:30am to 11:30am. Children 4K through 5th grade can register to attend VBS, and children 6th grade-12th grade may sign up as volunteers to help with activities that week. You can register online by scanning the QR code shown, or you may pick up a registration and/or volunteer form from the church in the narthex.











Year to date general offerings have dipped from previous years. We are watching the situation closely.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison

July 1-24, 2023

	TOTAL				
	JUL 1-24, 2023	JUL 1-24, 2022 (PY)	JUN 1-24, 2023 (PP)	JAN 1 - JUL 24, 2023 (YTD)	JAN 1 - JUL 24, 2022 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	16,652.27	15,600.12	15,725.12	149,535.07	167,541.79
▶ Other Income	617.00	1,275.00	1,215.00	46,097.47	9,143.97
Total Income	\$17,269.27	\$16,875.12	\$16,940.12	\$195,632.54	\$176,685.76
GROSS PROFIT	\$17,269.27	\$16,875.12	\$16,940.12	\$195,632.54	\$176,685.76
▶ Expenses	\$15,032.46	\$11,922.03	\$16,883.77	\$185,052.84	\$147,712.80
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,236.81	\$4,953.09	\$56.35	\$10,579.70	\$28,972.96
▶ Other Income	\$3,225.00	\$2,350.00	\$2,100.00	\$17,515.00	\$19,431.09
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,907.00	\$2,304.11	\$789.75	\$17,038.81	\$17,959.83
NET OTHER INCOME	\$318.00	\$45.89	\$1,310.25	\$476.19	\$1,471.26
NET INCOME	\$2,554.81	\$4,998.98	\$1,366.60	\$11,055.89	\$30,444.22



AUGUST 2023 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS									
Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 8/2 5:30 pm					Darlene Anderson	Darlene Anderson	Alex Hayes		
Sun 8/6 9 am	Kory Anderson	Ginny McNeal	Ben Rudolph		Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Kinleyh Anderson		
Flowers: Donna Stewart In Memory of George Stewart									
Wed 8/9 9 am					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Zoe Zellmer		
Sun 8/13 9am	Larry Sween	Robin Kvalo	Brady/Lori Cox		Sue Conner	Sue Conner			
Flowers: Robin & Mike Kvalo In Memory of Ted Rebholz									
Wed 8/16 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Beau Grosklaus		
Sun 8/20 9am	Del Molden	Kerry Melby	Jeffy Melby		Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf			
Flowers: Barb Rothwell In Memory of Wedding Anniversary									
Wed 8/23 5:30 pm									
Sun 8/27 9am	Ellen Kabele	Ellen Kabele			Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Dayne Wagner		
Flowers:									
Wed 8/30 5:30 pm					Cara Druckery	Cara Druckery			



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 2023

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Aug 1	2	3	4	5
		VBS				
			10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	9:30am Columbia-Sauk Conference Meeting; Fellowship Hall & Sanctuary	10:30am Tai Chi	
6 9:00am Worship 6:30pm Worship & Music	7 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm Church Activity Planning	8	9 FOOD pantry helpers Food Pantry Helpers 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	10	11 10:30am Tai Chi	12
13 9:00am Worship	14 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	15	16 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	17 6:30pm Church Council 	18 10:30am Tai Chi	19
20 9:00am Worship	21 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	22	23 10:30am Tai Chi 2:00pm Feed Your Soul Farmers Market 5:30pm Worship 6:00pm Brendan Brooks Concert	24	25 BLC Booth at Taste of Portage 10:30am Tai Chi	26 2:00pm Bowling Fundraiser at JJ Lanes
27 Back to School Year Kick - Off Carnival 9:00am Worship 10:00am Safe Church Teacher Training	28 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	29	30 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	31 