



CHIMES Newsletter

JANUARY 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 1

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAIME

Merry Christmas! Jesus Christ is born and God is with us all!

As the calendar turns over from 2021 to 2022, we find ourselves still in the Christmas season. This season lasts twelve days beginning with Christmas Day on Dec. 25th and ends Jan. 6th with Epiphany, the time when we celebrate the arrival of the wise men to greet the newborn king. When you receive this letter, you may be well over Christmas or still very much in the Christmas spirit or maybe somewhere in between. Whatever you may be feeling, the gifted hope of Christ still lingers in the air and the fulfilled promise brings new life. As Christians, we proclaim that God is near, Jesus is alive, and the Spirit is working in the world around us. However, proclamation is more than the words that we say, it is also about the way that we live and proclaim the Gospel in our actions. How do we not only witness with words to Christ's coming but also through our bodies, time, and treasures? What is God calling us to do in this time and in this place? What gifts does the presence of Christ in our lives give us that we can share with others?

You may remember that I mentioned the wise men in my letter from last month and now as Epiphany is upon us, I think it is good for us to turn to them again. The wise men travel a great distance to follow the star and find the newborn Jesus. They hear from the angel the promised savior has arrived and so they follow the star to find the long-expected king. A journey of this magnitude would have been a great commitment to make. In their travels, they gave days to make the trip, money to fund their travels and the costs that come with them, not to mention the gifts they brought Jesus. The journey they made was an investment of time, talent, and treasure, but by sharing their gifts they came face-to-face with the Christ child. The Creator gifted the wise men and us with all that we have, and we have been given the important task of stewarding those gifts. How will we share all that God has gifted us, not just our time, talents, and treasures, but also the gift of hope and new life in Christ Jesus? In this new year, it is my hope and prayer that we can all share the light of Christ in the world and the gifts we have been given. For in our generosity, we come closer to Christ.

Christmas blessings to you, *Pastor Jaime*

OUR CHURCH

NEW MEMBER INSTALLATION



Please join us as we welcomed Nancy and Emil Loether as members to the Bethlehem family on Sunday, December 12th.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JANUARY 4

5 PM Finance Meeting

JANUARY 5

6:30 pm Confirmation Classes Resume

JANUARY 9

9 am Worship & Mission Trip Blessing

10 am Praise Team Meeting

10 am Sunday School Resumes

JANUARY 15

Groups leaves on Mission Trip

JANUARY 20

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

JANUARY 22

Group returns from Mission Trip

JANUARY 30

Annual Congregation Meeting

following 9 am worship

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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COMMITTEE UPDATES

We are looking to fill some spots on a few different committees: **Stewardship & Church Council**.

- Stewardship: we technically don't have a committee right now & are looking for people to help out. Stewardship covers projects such as the annual ministry fair (time & talents), volunteer appreciation, financial planning workshops, the annual stewardship campaign, other special projects.
- Church Council: two spots will be open in 2022. Council is a three year term. You must be a voting member to serve on council.

Please prayerfully consider being involved and joining one of these committees. Contact the office if you are interested.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM CONCERT & AUCTION

A big Thank You to everyone who participated in and volunteered for the Gifts of Bethlehem concert in December. It was a nice evening full of many talents. Also thank you to all who participated in the auction either by donating or bidding. We raised about \$1600 which went towards the Clergy Relief Fund, ELCA mission support and BLC mission support.

PRaise TEAM & CHOIR CHIMES



Choir members and anyone who likes to sing. I would like to get the praise team going again. We need guitar players, drummer and singers. We will be all singing the melody and I will

pick out some easy songs. We will meeting after church on January 9.

Choir chimes are similar to hand bells but are mellower. I am willing to start a choir chime group which would be open to anyone grades 3 and up. You do not have to be able to read music. If we have enough interest in starting a group we will go ahead and buy some chimes. Please contact me if interested either phone: 608-697-2887 or email:

cgerhardt@frontier.com.

Carla Gerhart

MISSION TRIP UPDATE



On Saturday, January 15, a group of 22 members, youth and chaperones, will be leaving for a mission trip to the Dominican Republic for one week. This will be our church's second trip to this location.

There, they will be helping build a home for a family in need, as well as other service work. They are still in need of financial assistance to cover the cost of the luggage containing the donations they will take with them. If you are able to help out, please mark your donations as "mission trip". On Sunday, January 9th, the group going on the trip will receive a special blessing during worship before they head out. Please hold them all in your prayers for a safe and health filled journey.

LIFE LINE SCREENING



Lifeline Screening will once again be here on February 17th to offer health screenings. Life Line Screening looks inside your arteries for dangerous plaque buildup that can increase your risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease. They offer 5 vital screenings are for \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you are interested in reserving a spot you can register here: <https://lisa.social/HSC> or by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441, or text the word "circle" to 797979

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL



This year due to COVID we did not do a Christmas Program. Instead, the children sang several songs for Gifts of Bethlehem and at service on December 19th. We did coffee hour following service on the 19th. There was a very nice turnout for both weeks. We would like to thank everyone that helped on these days. There are so many people that helped and all of you are truly appreciated.

We will start the New Year, on January 9th studying Jesus' Baptism (Luke 3:15-17, 21-22), Wedding at Cana (John 2:1-11), Jesus Goes to Nazareth (Luke 4:14-30), Jeremiah (Jeremiah 1:4-10)

Happy New Year from your Sunday school staff.

CONFIRMATION

Confirmation classes will resume on Wednesday, January 5th at 6:30 pm. [Here](#) is the link to sign up to bring snacks for the kids since many come right from other activities.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

LEARN HOW TO RUN WORSHIP LIVESTREAM



We are looking for more people who would like to be trained on how to run the video equipment to live stream Sunday worship. This position helps us reach our members who are not able to join us in person. ***It is a***

blessing that we are able to offer this service with the volunteers we have. We would like to be able to continue, but we really do need more help. A huge thank you to all who have been helping already. If you are interested, please contact the office.

TEXT MESSAGE OPT-IN



We have a great feature in our church database that allows us to send out text messages to our members. These messages would



be for the following: meeting reminders, special announcements, event reminders, Christian education updates, inclement weather closings. You can sign up by going to this website:

<https://bethlehemportage.360members.com/opt-in/texting>

You can take a picture of this QR code with your smart phone's camera and it will take you directly to the website to sign up.

OFFERING ENVELOPES



If you received paper offering envelopes last year, your new envelopes are ready to pick up and are located on the back counter near the coat closet in the narthex.

ANNUAL MEETING

Our Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 30 and will follow the 9 am worship service. In case of bad weather the snow date is scheduled for Feb. 13.



COMMITTEE & MINISTRY GROUP REPORTS



Committee and Ministry Group reports for inclusion in the annual report are due to the office no later than January 7th.

WINTER WEATHER POLICY REMINDER



Now that winter has officially arrived in the form of snow, this will be a good time to go over our Winter Weather Policy.

The full policy can be found on the Council bulletin board in the narthex, as well as on our BLC website. In summary it states: "If Portage Public Schools are closed or dismissed early due to inclement weather, the church office will be closed, and all church activities, **except worship**, will be cancelled for the day and that evening. If there is a delayed start, the church office may be closed until staff can safely travel. Notifications will always be posted on the BLC website and Facebook page and when called for an email and text (for those that have opted in for text messaging) will be sent out to those involved in the activities.

For Worship services: "If Portage is under a Winter Storm Warning, and many other area churches are cancelling their services, a decision to cancel worship service will be made 2 hours prior to the start of worship. If Sunday worship is cancelled, Sunday School will also be cancelled." If worship is cancelled, it will be posted in the following places:

- BLC Facebook page & website
- Email will be sent to all those on the monthly newsletter list
- Text message for those that have opted in for text messaging
- Local TV and radio stations

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison


December 1-21, 2021

	TOTAL				
	DEC 1-21, 2021	DEC 1-21, 2020 (PY)	NOV 1-21, 2021 (PP)	JAN 1 - DEC 21, 2021 (YTD)	JAN 1 - DEC 21, 2020 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	15,834.71	19,956.73	15,058.93	245,060.22	291,848.03
▶ Other Income	6,115.25	375.00	836.80	37,639.43	11,242.68
Total Income	\$21,949.96	\$20,331.73	\$15,895.73	\$282,699.65	\$303,090.71
GROSS PROFIT	\$21,949.96	\$20,331.73	\$15,895.73	\$282,699.65	\$303,090.71
▶ Expenses	\$14,320.97	\$15,245.17	\$27,071.50	\$237,786.10	\$233,697.18
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$7,628.99	\$5,086.56	\$ -11,175.77	\$44,913.55	\$69,393.53
▶ Other Income	\$4,688.50	\$1,700.00	\$2,450.00	\$33,277.69	\$13,041.10
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,961.25	\$1,588.00	\$4,797.50	\$30,547.54	\$12,364.24
NET OTHER INCOME	\$1,727.25	\$112.00	\$ -2,347.50	\$2,730.15	\$676.86
NET INCOME	\$9,356.24	\$5,198.56	\$ -13,523.27	\$47,643.70	\$70,070.39

Cash basis Tuesday, December 21, 2021 11:24 AM GMT-06:00

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 9:00 am Worship	3 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club	4 9:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm Finance	5 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	6 9:30 am Hosting Synod Conference Meeting	7 10:30 am Tai Chi	8
9 Mission Trip Blessing Service 9:00 am Worship 10am Praise Team Mt 10:00 am SS	10 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:00 pm SREA meeting	11 9:00 am Quilters	12 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	13	14 10:30 am Tai Chi	15 Dominican Republic Mission trip Depart
16 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS	17 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club 6:30 pm SRA	18 9:00 am Quilters	19 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	20 6:30 pm Church Council Meeting	21 Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	22 Dominican Republic Mission trip Return
23 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS	24 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club	25 9:00 am Quilters	26 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship 6:30 pm Confirmation	27	28 10:30 am Tai Chi	29
30 Annual Congregational Meeting 9:00 am Worship 10:00 am SS	31 10:30 am Tai Chi 1:00 pm Card Club					

