

# CHIMES Newsletter

JULY 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 7

## MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JEN...

It has been said that when we make our plans God laughs.

For numerous reasons the Renewal Process did not happen as our human minds conceived. For those who were invested in our time together we had ideas of what was going to happen. But the truth is the only one who knew the plan was God; and God still knows.

The cool thing about renewal is that it is a part of who we are in Christ. We can develop a group effort to help us get with God's program but that isn't what makes renewal happen. Renewal happens when we listen to God. Period. Renewal should be happening in every person and every faith community all the time.

Listening to God is a faith-filled intentional way of life. It means letting go of agendas, egos, and personal expectations. It is trusting in what we "hear" God saying to us in scripture and prayer. It means that failure is of our own conception because we have put our own idea of success out for a measuring stick.

God's ways are not our ways and God's thoughts are not our thoughts. So when we operate under our own instruction we end up repeating old patterns that lead us away from abundant life in Christ.

My hope for Bethlehem Lutheran Church is that as a faith community you listen to God's voice, that you embrace the abundance already in you and with you, that you understand God's mission for you in the world, that you embody the truth that you are enough in the Triune God.

Amen, amen, amen!  
Pastor Jen



## UPCOMING EVENTS

JULY 1

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Info Meeting 6pm

JULY 4

Pr. Jen's last worship service

JULY 6

Finance Meeting 5 pm

JULY 7

Food Pantry Helpers  
Christian Ed. Meeting 6:30 pm

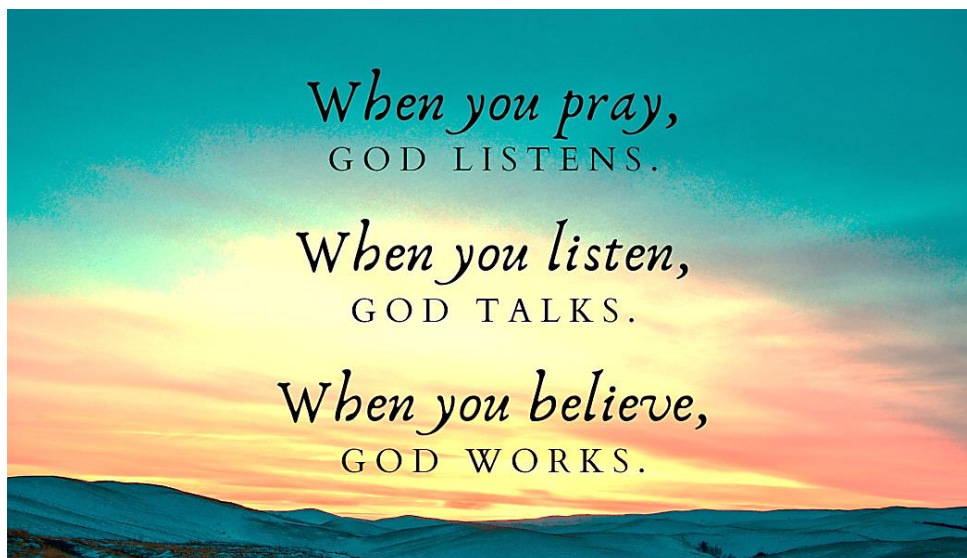
JULY 15

Council Meeting 6pm

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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

Email: [bethluch15@gmail.com](mailto:bethluch15@gmail.com)  
[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)



## Coffee Fellowship

Coffee hour is back! Looking for people to host coffee hour after worship. Sign up in narthex.

## OUR CHURCH

### COVID TASK FORCE UPDATES

After prayerful consideration, the Covid Task Force will be loosening restrictions while still following CDC guidelines around worship and gatherings.

- **Masks:** masks are not required for those who are vaccinated. Masks are recommended for anyone not fully vaccinated.
- **Food/eating:** food can be served and eaten indoors while following safe food handling procedures.
- **Singing:** congregational singing will be allowed starting immediately.
- **Communion:** starting July 4<sup>th</sup>, you will have a choice in how you would like to receive communion. We will continue to offer the prepacked elements which you can either pick up on your way into the sanctuary or come up to the altar to receive them. You will also have the choice to come to the altar to receive communion in the traditional way.
- **Classrooms:** Sunday School classrooms can now be used.

Even though we are basically back to “pre-Covid normal”, we still want everyone to exercise caution as the virus is still out there and not everyone is vaccinated. A reminder, if you are not feeling well, stay home. If you have a cold/flu symptoms, wearing a mask is a good idea to protect others and yourself as cold/flu season starts. Please continue to wash/sanitize your hands before and after being around others and eating. Let’s all do our part to keep everyone healthy.

If you have any questions about our current Covid policies, please contact a member of the team. Thank you. *Ann Ciske, Kerry Melby, Del Molden, Larry Sween, Dan Pulsfus, Janice Petersen, Julie Saalsaa, Melissa Bradbury.*

### WORSHIP UPDATES



#### Outdoor Summer Worship

In light of the news from the Covid Task Force that we can now sing indoors during

worship, we will not be gathering outdoors for worship this summer.

#### Wednesday Night Worship

We were able to secure pastoral coverage for Wednesday nights. This means Wednesday night worship will continue and will not be postponed.

Thank you for your patience and understanding with all the changes the last couple of months. If you ever have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact the staff in the office. 608-742-8502.

### CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE



## Call Committee Update

Over the past two months, the committee has been working on reviewing candidate information and conducting interviews. Three candidates during this time were presented by the Synod, two were interviewed via a Zoom meeting and the call committee then requested a second interview with one of the candidates. The second interview was a face-to-face meeting that took place in May. After this meeting, the entire committee was extremely impressed feeling that the candidate would be a particularly good fit for our congregation. The committee then began the plans for initiating a call to the candidate through the Synod and church council. However, when the candidate was re-contacted days later, we found out that they had accepted another call. While this news was disheartening to the committee, we are prayerfully moving ahead and waiting for the synod to send additional candidate information for continuing review. Again, we will keep you informed on interviews and progress in the pastoral call!

For anyone who would like any additional information on the Call Committee's efforts please contact any **Committee** member. We will be happy to answer your questions, discuss the process we have prayerfully followed, and provide information on decisions made on behalf of the congregation. Our numbers are below.

Peace. *Jeff Melby*

*Review of Call Committee Timeline since October 2020: A Ministry Site Profile for Bethlehem was created from responses to the congregational survey completed in December 2020. The MSP was then submitted to the council and the Synod and approved. The MSP expresses information for finding a matching relationship with our congregation and a new pastor.*

*Considering the many factors from the survey and MSP, this led to the committee decision (from the congregation's input) that we would be seeking a new pastor this year. Pastor Jen has done wonderful work as a renewal pastor for the past two and half years and we have greatly appreciated her efforts especially during the disruptions in life the pandemic continues to put*

forth. Pastor Jen's ministry efforts for our congregation continue until July of this year and we are grateful for her service.

The Call Committee's goal is to have good communication with congregation members of Bethlehem throughout the call process. We will strive for frequent communication to you via announcement updates, the Chimes, the church website, etc. The pastoral call is not simply the committee's decision. We are reaching out to members of Bethlehem of all ages to help and guide us as we determine a profile for our church life and find the optimum fit for a pastor we will call.

The committee members are Bonnie Dixon (Chairperson), Jeff Melby, Melissa Bradbury, John Denhartigh, Kathryn Crawford, and Tina Thomas. Council Member Jack Paulson is the liaison between the committee and Church Council.

Bonnie Dixon	608-697-9579
Jeff Melby	608-697-8347
Melissa Bradbury	608-697-4972
John Denhartigh	262-308-1027
Kathryn Crawford	608-697-5262
Tina Thomas	608-577-6607

### SUMMER OUTDOOR MOVIE NIGHTS



We are looking for a person or a group of people who would be interested in organizing our Summer Outdoor Movie Nights. We have raised money to purchase the equipment to make this happen. We believe this will be a great opportunity to bring not only our members back together after a very long year, but also the members of our community. Contact the church office if you're interested.

### RUMMAGE SALE



Our annual rummage sale is scheduled for Saturday, August 7<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to help set up and work the sale. There are sign up sheets in the narthex of church. You can start to bring in your donated items for the sale after July 4<sup>th</sup>.

### BRAT FRY

A **big thank you** to all who helped organize the brat fry on June 20<sup>th</sup> and to those who came out to eat and support BLC's missions. We were able to raise \$361.

### MISSION KITS DONATIONS NEEDED

LWR Kit Ministry collects kits assembled from congregations to support people in these challenging situations. BLC will collect items for:



- School Kits: a backpack filled with basic school supplies to educate a child.
- Personal Care Kits: a light towel wrapped with basic hygiene items.
- Fabric Kits: two pieces of material with coordinating thread to help people learn a reliable, marketable skill.



Personal Care Kits



Fabric Kits

We are collecting the items in the Narthex. More information can be found in previous Chimes or in the Narthex. You can assemble a kit or kits yourself or bring donated items to church and we will assemble later. No items with religious, patriotic, American Flag or military symbols can be used.

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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
ART & CRAFT MARKET

# Call for Artists

Apply to be a part of our show by August 5th

Visit our website for more information:  
[www.bethlehemlcpportage.org](http://www.bethlehemlcpportage.org)



## FAITH FORMATION

### PUMPKIN PATCH CARE

We will once again be growing pumpkins. All youth (or adults) are encouraged to sign up with their families to help water and weed and get volunteer hours. You can sign up here:



<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-pumpkin>

### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC TRIP



Megan Jahoda will be organizing a trip back to the Dominican Republic in 2022. There is an informational meeting Thursday, July 1<sup>st</sup> at 6 pm. The meeting will take place in the fellowship hall at church. If you are not

able to attend in person, you can also join the meeting via Zoom. The meeting will be recorded for anyone who is not able to make it that night. Here is the link to join via Zoom:

<https://zoom.us/j/95443984000?pwd=cUNGYkIROVN0d2xkVnB2WGJMRXhRQT09>

### TRIVIA NIGHT – SAVE THE DATE



## FUNDRAISER

Save the date: September 25<sup>th</sup> - This event will help raise funds for the Dominican Republic mission trip.

### CHRISTIAN ED. PLANNING MEETING



There will be a planning meeting Wednesday, July 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall or you can join via Zoom if you cannot make it in person. Contact the office for Zoom link.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### OFFICE COVERAGE NEEDED



Looking for someone to help cover the phones in the office on the following days:

- Friday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 9 am to 12 pm
- Thursday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9 am to 12 pm
- Friday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9 am to 12 pm

If you're able to help, please contact Julie in the office. Thank you!

### ADOPT A BILL

BLCs Adopt-a-Bill is back. This program is a way to connect with the church and give back financially, above and beyond your current offerings. You can donate toward bills, either multiple bills or just a partial amount of a bill. See the attachment in this month's Chimes.

### PORTAGE LIBRARY HOMEBOUND DELIVERY PROGRAM



The Portage library is starting a new service; they are delivering materials to patrons living within the Portage Library's service area. A reader profile can be complete to assist them

in choosing materials, or the patron can place holds via the LinkCat App and the holds will be delivered to their doorstep. You must have a valid library card in good standing. If you are interested in this program, contact Linda Floeter at the Portage library: [linda@portagelibrary.us](mailto:linda@portagelibrary.us) or 608-742-4959 ext. 206. The library is also looking for delivery assistants who are at least 18 years old, have a valid driver's license, proof of insurance, and are willing to have a background check. Contact Linda if interested.

### PR. JEN'S LAST DAY


Pr. Jen's last official day with us will be July 4th. The Transition Team is planning a good-bye gathering for her on June 27th after worship to allow for more people to be there due to the holiday. We will celebrate all Pr. Jen has done for BLC with a cake & refreshments. We will also serve cupcakes on Pastor's last day. Write a note of well wishes for Pr. Jen; there is a notepad and jar in the Narthex in which notes will be collected.

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church

### Profit and Loss Comparison

June 1-21, 2021

	TOTAL			
	JUN 1-21, 2021	MAY 1-21, 2021 (PP)	JAN 1 - JUN 21, 2021 (YTD)	JUN 1-21, 2020 (PY)
Income				
Income	19,678.53	17,776.14	115,184.41	18,076.05
Other Income	140.00	115.48	5,023.48	590.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$19,818.53</b>	<b>\$17,891.62</b>	<b>\$120,207.89</b>	<b>\$18,666.05</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,818.53	\$17,891.62	\$120,207.89	\$18,666.05
Expenses	\$13,389.42	\$9,900.12	\$109,402.34	\$7,876.94
<b>NET OPERATING INCOME</b>	<b>\$6,429.11</b>	<b>\$7,991.50</b>	<b>\$10,805.55</b>	<b>\$10,789.11</b>
Other Income	\$801.74	\$3,200.00	\$11,633.16	\$1,200.00
Other Expenses	\$0.00	\$3,099.25	\$10,364.50	\$1,158.35
<b>NET OTHER INCOME</b>	<b>\$801.74</b>	<b>\$100.75</b>	<b>\$1,268.66</b>	<b>\$41.65</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>\$7,230.85</b>	<b>\$8,092.25</b>	<b>\$12,074.21</b>	<b>\$10,830.76</b>



# ADOPT-A-BILL

This program is a way to connect with the church and give back financially, above and beyond your current offerings. You can donate toward bills, either multiple bills or just a partial amount of a bill.

Below are a list of current bills. If you choose to donate indicate Adopt-A-Bill and what bill in the memo section\*


















Name	Amount
Alliant Energy (gas/electric)	\$689.77
Brotherhood Mutual	\$1708.75
GFC Leasing (copier)	\$202.29
GFL Environmental (garbage)	\$176.14
USPS (postage)	\$56.85
TH Stemper (communion supplies)	\$84.99
Thrivent (mortgage)	\$5613.00
Vanco (simply giving fee)	\$25.91

Name	Amount
QuickBooks (financial software)	\$40.00
Frontier (phone/internet)	\$303.29
Concordia 360 <sup>o</sup> (church member software)	\$650.00
1517 Media (Word in Season Devotionals)	\$51.75
Main Street Checks (check reorder fee)	\$41.48
CCLI (music licensing fee)	\$88.00



Questions?  
Call Janice or Julie at the church office: 608-742-8502

## July 2021 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS




Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Music
Sun 7/4 9am	Jeff Melby	Kerry Melby				Carla
Wed 7/7 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert					Samantha
Sun 7/11 9am	Kory Anderson	Angela Pace	Tania Anderson			Carla
<b>Altar Flowers: Ron &amp; Judy Donahue: in memory of Ken</b>						
Wed 7/14 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert					Samantha
Sun 7/18 9am		Nancy Buckley				Carla
Wed 7/21 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert					Carla
Sun 7/25 9am		Ellen Kabele				Ronna
<b>Altar Flowers: Don &amp; Bonnie Bender: in memory of Tammy Kay Bender</b>						
Wed 7/28 5:30 pm	Geoff Gilbert					Ronna



**Looking for volunteers!** Contact the Church office to volunteer.

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# July 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				<b>1</b> 6:00 pm Dominican Republic Trip Info Meeting 	<b>2</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person 	<b>5</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>6</b> 5:00 pm Finance	<b>7</b> Food Pantry Helpers 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Christian Ed Planning Meeting 	<b>8</b> Food Pantry Helpers	<b>9</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>10</b>
<b>11</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>12</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:00 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person	<b>15</b> 6:00 pm Council Meeting	<b>16</b> Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>17</b>
<b>18</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>19</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>20</b>	<b>21</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>24</b>
<b>25</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>26</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Call Committee Mtg 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>31</b>