



CHIMES Newsletter

JULY 2023 VOLUME 85, ISSUE 7

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, BLC!

I hope and pray that this newsletter finds you well. As I write this, I am just days away from my vacation in which I will be traveling to the Holy Land. As I was thinking about what to include in the Chimes for this month, I was drawn to a book of blessings called *To Bless the Space Between Us* by John O'Donohue. One of the blessings he writes is for the traveler and I wanted to share it with all of you as it impacts me in my preparations. I know many in our community travel during the summer months but not all. I hope these words, found on the next page, wherever you are in these days, might inspire and expand our experiences beyond our expectations.

Trusting in the promise of resurrection hope,
Pastor Jaime Benson

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 22 TO JULY 11

Pastor Jaime out of office

JULY 3 AND 4

Office Closed

JULY 10

6 pm SREA Meeting

JULY 12

Food Pantry Helpers

JULY 15 AND 16

Youth from Minnesota staying at church

JULY 17

6:30 pm SRA Meeting

JULY 20

6:30 pm Church Council

JULY 25

VBS Training

JULY 26

2-6 pm Farmers Market

5 pm Brendan Brooks Concert

No worship service

JULY 30

11 am Worship at the Fair

VBS training

JULY 31 TO AUGUST 4

8:30 am -11:30 am VBS United Methodist Church

**"For the Traveler" by John O'Donohue from *To Bless
the Space Between Us***

Every time you leave home,
Another road takes you
Into a world you were never in

New strangers on other paths await.
New places that have never seen you
Will startle a little at your entry.
Old places that know you well
Will pretend nothing
Changed since your last visit.

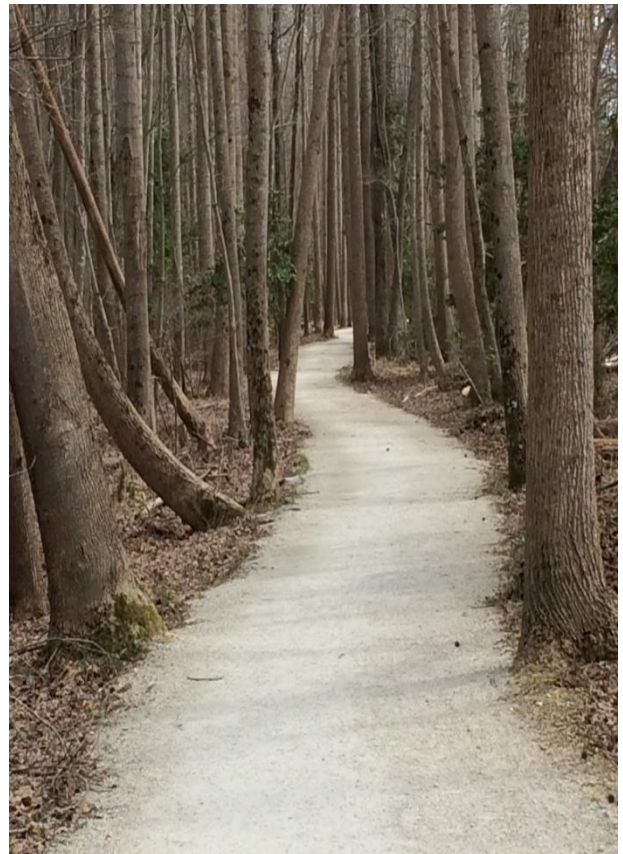
When you travel, you find yourself
Alone in a different way,
More attentive now
To the self you bring along,
Your more subtle eye watching
You abroad; and how what meets you
Touches that part of the heart
That lies low at home:

How you unexpectedly attune
To the timbre in some voice,
Opening a conversation
You want to take in
To where your longing
Has pressed hard enough
Inward, on some unsaid dark,
To create a crystal of insight
You could not have know
You needed
To illuminate
Your way.

When you travel,
A new silence
Goes with you,
And if you listen,
You will hear
What your heart would
Love to say.

A journey can become a sacred thing:
Make sure, before you go,
To take the time
To bless your going forth,
To free your heart of ballast
So that the compass of your soul
Might direct you toward
The territories of spirit
Where you will discover
More of your hidden life,
And the urgencies
That deserve to claim you.

May you travel in an awakened way,
Gathered wisely into your inner ground;
That you may not waste the invitations
Which wait along the way to transform you.
May you travel safely, arrive refreshed,
And live your time away to its fullest;
Return home more enriched, and free
To balance the gift of days which call you.





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.


W8267 State Hwy 33, Portage
BETHLEHEMLCPORTAGE.ORG

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


"Farmers' Market & Summer Concerts- Donations Needed"

"We are excited to host our first annual summer Farmers' Market & Concert series at Bethlehem Lutheran! The markets will be open from 2:00pm-6:00pm with a worship concert performed by Brendan Brooks from 5:00pm-6:00pm. Please bring a chair for the concert and enjoy the wonderful music that day!

In case you missed the announcement, BLC will be hosting a tent at the Farmer's Market where we would like to sell produce and baked goods donated by our members. There is a sign-up form in the narthex at church showing the three dates of our event (June 28, July 26, and August 23) with the options to donate produce and baked goods. All the sales from our tent at the events will benefit the mission and ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran!

If you are interested in donating produce or baked goods, please drop them at the church the day of the market no later than 1:30pm. It would be wonderful if they could be packaged and labeled, ready for sale, upon drop off. If you would like to help in the tent that day with sales, please contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999 or parishassociate@blcportage.org.

Confirmation Families:

We will be selling walking tacos at the farmers' markets to raise money toward our Confirmation Retreat weekend at Lutherdale next year. You can sign up to help with sales and/or donate and item [here](#). We will be selling walking tacos from 4:00pm-6:00pm at each of the farmers' markets.

Please remember to join us the day of each event to support our local vendors as well as the mission and ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran Church and the Confirmation program!! Thank you!"



Call for Artists & Makers

BETHLEHEM'S ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

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

OUTDOOR BOOTHS AVAILABLE

Event date:
Sat. 9/23/23

FAITH FORMATION

VBS



Please join us for a week of activities, learning and fun! The ecumenical VBS program meets daily from 8:30am-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. We also need donations to make VBS week possible! Please review the presentation board in our lobby for a list of items needed. Thank you!



NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

RIVER HAVEN

River Haven has an Amazon wish list. For June we will be doing a drive for items on this list. Please bring the items to the church. After June items can be sent directly to River Haven. <https://a.co/1Ne9bnr>

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

The Church Council, with input from the congregation, has been working on a Strategic Plan. Below is a timeline of what has been completed and what we hope to complete in the next couple of months. If there are any questions or comments, please reach out to any one of the council members.

April 4, 2022, first planning meeting

September 17, 2022, congregational work on Mission and Vision Statements

Vision: God's family working together to welcome all.

Mission: Bethlehem Lutheran church is a growing community where we love inclusively, welcome, serve, and thrive through our relationship with God.

October 20, 2022, council approves Mission and Vision statements

March 8, 2023, soup supper Values worksheets

March 15, 2023, soup supper Values worksheets

March 19, 2023, Values worksheets after church

April 10, 2023, Values worksheets due in office

April 20, 2023, Council presented with congregational survey of top 3 values

Faith, Kindness, Service

May 18, 2023, council meets with Carol Pulfus to work on putting values into goals using collected data going back 3-5 years

June 15, 2023, council works on finalizing goals of strategic plan

July 20, 2023, council finalizes strategic plan

August 2023, Strategic Plan is posted for congregation

September 2023, Congregation votes on accepting finalized Strategic Plan

Bethlehem Lutheran Church








Profit and Loss Comparison

June 2023

	TOTAL				
	JUN 2023	JUN 2022 (PY)	MAY 2023 (PP)	JAN - JUN, 2023 (YTD)	JAN - JUN, 2022 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	15,425.23	22,856.05	26,162.62	129,065.05	151,941.67
▶ Other Income	1,115.00	408.84	17,912.01	44,840.42	7,868.97
Total Income	\$16,540.23	\$23,264.89	\$44,074.63	\$173,905.47	\$159,810.64
GROSS PROFIT	\$16,540.23	\$23,264.89	\$44,074.63	\$173,905.47	\$159,810.64
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	20,838.54	25,425.15	21,316.28	158,911.65	132,080.47
▶ Other Expense	200.00	865.00		10,321.55	3,710.30
Total Expenses	\$21,038.54	\$26,290.15	\$21,316.28	\$169,233.20	\$135,790.77
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$ -4,498.31	\$ -3,025.26	\$22,758.35	\$4,672.27	\$24,019.87
▶ Other Income	\$2,100.00	\$1,675.00	\$1,900.00	\$12,890.00	\$17,081.09
▶ Other Expenses	\$789.75	\$2,132.00	\$3,136.83	\$12,535.71	\$15,655.72
NET OTHER INCOME	\$1,310.25	\$ -457.00	\$ -1,236.83	\$354.29	\$1,425.37
NET INCOME	\$ -3,188.06	\$ -3,482.26	\$21,521.52	\$5,026.56	\$25,445.24

Cash basis Tuesday, June 20, 2023 09:07 AM GMT-05:00

JULY 2023 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 7/2 9am	Ann Ciske	Lisa Cook	Lori & Brady Cox		Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Avri Anderson		
Flowers: Carla Gerhardt									
Wed 7/5 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Zoe Zellmer		
Sun 7/9 9am	Bonnie Dixon	Bonnie Dixon	Ben Rudolph		Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Courtney Herkind		
Flowers: Carla Gerhardt									
Wed 7/12 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Shia Grosklau		
Sun 7/16 9am	Marie Rohrbacher	Nancy Buckley	Jeff Melby		Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Dayne Wagner		
Flowers: Ron & Judy Donahue in Memory of Mike									
Wed 7/19 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence			
Sun 7/23 9am	Jim Crawford	Darlene Anderson-Prest			Darlene Anderson-Prest	Darlene Anderson-Prest			
Flowers: Kerry & Jeff Melby - Wedding Anniversary									
Wed 7/26 5:30 pm	Brendan Brooks Concert								
Sun 7/30 9am	Worship at the Fair								

Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

July 2023



							Saturday
							Jul 1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	
Pastor Out of Office							
9:00am Worship	Office Closed		10:30am Tai Chi		10:30am Tai Chi		
	10:30am Tai Chi		5:30pm Worship				
	1:00pm Card Club						
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	
Pastor Out of Office 7:00pm			Food Pantry Helpers		10:30am Tai Chi	Youth Group from MN	
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi		10:30am Tai Chi				
	1:00pm Card Club		5:30pm Worship				
	6:00pm SREA Meeting						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22	
Youth Group from MN	10:30am Tai Chi		10:30am Tai Chi	6:30pm Church Council	10:30am Tai Chi		
9:00am Worship	1:00pm Card Club		5:30pm Worship				
	6:30pm SRA Meeting						
23	24	25	26	27	28	29	
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi	6:00pm VBS Training	10:30am Tai Chi		10:30am Tai Chi		
	1:00pm Card Club		2:00pm Feed Your Soul Farmers Market				
			5:00pm Brendan Brooks Concert				
30	31						
11:00am Worship @ the Fair; Columbia County Fairgrounds Portage, WI	10:30am Tai Chi						
12:30pm VBS Training	1:00pm Card Club						



