



CHIMES Newsletter

JUNE 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 6

MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JAIME

Happy Birthday, Church!

This month we begin with the celebration of the birth of the church with Pentecost when we remember the Holy Spirit coming upon the first apostles. The Spirit that inspired and moved them centuries ago is the same Spirit that resides with us today. This Spirit works and moves in, through, and around us here and now. How cool is that? We have a unique opportunity to join in the work of the Spirit in our world today, especially at this moment in time and in this specific place. How do we go about joining in the Spirit's work? It begins and continues with listening and paying attention to all that is around us, people and organizations, ecosystems and environments, Scripture and divine callings and then embarking on the challenging journey of discerning as a community what God is calling us to. This is not something new to the whole church or even to us here at Bethlehem. Discernment and working with the Spirit has been part of our identity as Christians from the very beginning at that first Pentecost and still is a crucial part to living out our calling as the body of Christ today.

So, where do we begin? As I said before, discernment lies in listening and paying attention to the people, community, and environment around us. This discernment may call us to unfamiliar places or familiar ones that we need to revisit with new eyes and ears. I want to encourage our BLC family to really dedicate this summer to listening and paying attention to the world around us and how God might be inviting us to respond. This fall we will move into discussions to share what we have been discerning as a community by beginning a new strategic planning process. This process is going to help us articulate who we are, what are values are, and what we are called to in this time and place. Now some of you may remember going through strategic planning processes before in our BLC history and may be wondering why we are doing this again. I definitely hear you and the concerns and questions you may have around going about this again. Please give me a moment to elaborate on why this process and why now. A lot has changed in the last 3 years, 6 years, 9-12 years, and beyond. The world that we live in has changed significantly and so has our Bethlehem community. I know I have changed a lot in the past few years, haven't you? The processes of the past were for that moment in time, with the specific people, places, and projects in mind. We are in a new season now in a world that looks different than it used to with people who have changed as well. This strategic planning process will offer us the opportunity to dive deep into who we are as a church family, what our values are, and what God might be calling us to here and now.

There may still be hesitations, questions, concerns, etc. and that is okay. The Council and I wanted to give you all plenty of time to think and wonder about this process, to ask your questions, and share your concerns.

UPCOMING EVENTS

JUNE 5

10:15 am Wellness Talk

JUNE 7

5 pm Finance Meeting

JUNE 8

Food Pantry Helpers

JUNE 10

Deadline to submit symbol ideas

JUNE 11 & 12

Nativity Lutheran Youth Group Overnight

JUNE 12

Pickle Ball Demo after Worship
10 am Praise Band Meeting

JUNE 14

6 pm Stewardship Meeting

JUNE 16

6:30 pm Council Meeting

JUNE 19

10 am Hand Chime Practice

JUNE 16

6:30 pm Council Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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This summer, as we continue our discernment journey, please feel free to have discussions with me and/or any of your Council members about what is on your mind about this process. Our goal with this process is to be transparent and communicative every step of the way. So please reach out and we look forward to exploring this next chapter together.

May the Holy Spirit be with you,
Pastor Jaime Benson

OUR CHURCH

MISSION KITS ARE BACK!!

Lutheran World Relief (LWR) reaches people in poverty around the world to help them adapt to challenges that threaten their livelihood and well-being, with the goal of becoming self-reliant. One way they do this is through their Quilt and Kit Ministry. 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.



We will be collecting the items at church and in the narthex. A complete list of the items is attached to the Chimes. No items with religious, patriotic, American Flag, or military symbols can be used.



Personal Care Kits

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.

PRAISE TEAM MEETING

For anyone interested in joining the Praise Team, there will be a meeting on Sunday, June 12 after worship.



SYMBOL FOR WIND BREAK WALL

We are welcoming ideas for a symbol for the anodized metalwork for the wind break wall. The symbol should be something that identifies us as Christians of Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Any and all ideas will be considered. Please submit your ideas to the office by June 10. There will be a committee formed to narrow down the submissions to three options which all members will have the opportunity to vote on. Voting will take place from June 19th until the 25th. Watch your emails for the online voting option. If you have any questions, please contact Del Molden.

JUNE IS WELLNESS MONTH



Wellness is the Stewardship Committee's topic for the month of June. Join us for some presentations during the month.

June 5th at 10:15 am

Julie Saalsaa will be giving a talk on what it means to be an Intuitive Eater and doing a cooking demonstration. When she is not here at church, Julie is running her nutrition consulting business. Come learn what intuitive eating is all about and how it can impact your health.

June 12th: Pickle Ball Demonstration

Come learn what the game of Pickle Ball is all about after worship. There will be a demonstration and an opportunity to try it out if you wish. We have the equipment to play now; it would be great to see it used.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Our last day for this session of Sunday School was busy. The children sang in church. Followed by a Congregational Potluck Celebration and game day. We were blessed with wonderful weather, and excited that we were able to be outside for games. Everyone had a great time. Thank you to all who attended and all those

that helped make this a great day of fellowship. We hope your child/children have enjoyed Sunday school this year as much as we have enjoyed being with them. We look forward to seeing you next year. Hope you have a great summer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School Staff

interested in attending, please contact Tania Anderson at parishassociate@blcportage.org.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

NEW STAFF EMAILS

To streamline the workings of the office and hopefully avoid any more scam emails, staff will be getting new email addresses. The current email addresses will be forwarded to the new ones, so there is no need to worry about missed emails. Staff will transition to the new system throughout the month of June and will be fully up and running by July 1st. The new addresses will be published in the July Chimes and weekly bulletins. If you have any questions, please contact the office.

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!

VBS – SAVE THE DATE



Vacation Bible School will be taking place **August 1-5th**. Registration forms can be found [here](#) and printed ones in the narthex. We are looking for volunteers to help during that week. If you'd like to sign up, please use this [Volunteer Form](#). Printed copies will also be in the narthex. Both forms should be mailed to or dropped off at the Portage United Methodist Church. If you have any questions, please contact Tania Anderson.

SYNOD YOUTH GATHERING

The Synod Youth Gathering is scheduled for July 29-31 at Bethel Horizons. This retreat is open to any of our youth going into grades 8th through 12th. If you are

DID YOU KNOW?



We are welcoming suggestions from members for this section. It will be at the staff's discretion to make sure the topics are appropriate. Hope you have fun reading this!

Pentecost and Shavuot

As Christians, we celebrate the day of Pentecost as the beginning of the Christian church. It is when the gift of the Holy Spirit came to the apostles. The name Pentecost comes from the Greek word pentekoste, meaning fiftieth. It is celebrated on a Sunday 50 days after Easter. The first Pentecost took place during a Jewish harvest festival called Shavuot. Originally Shavuot took place between the beginning and ending of wheat and barely harvests, respectively. It also marked when the Jews were given the Torah.

There are three symbols representing Pentecost:

FLAME



WIND (breath of God)



DOVE



These all represent the Holy Spirit. The color red is used on this day. This year we celebrate Pentecost on June 5th.

Source: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/christianity/holydays/pentecost.shtml>

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison

May 1-24, 2022

	TOTAL				
	MAY 1-24, 2022	MAY 1-24, 2021 (PY)	APR 1-24, 2022 (PP)	JAN 1 - MAY 24, 2022 (YTD)	JAN 1 - MAY 24, 2021 (PY YTD)
Income					
Income	34,879.37	20,087.97	20,332.54	125,710.49	94,099.58
Other Income	1,366.76	280.48	415.40	7,352.23	4,883.48
Total Income	\$36,246.13	\$20,368.45	\$20,747.94	\$133,062.72	\$98,983.06
GROSS PROFIT	\$36,246.13	\$20,368.45	\$20,747.94	\$133,062.72	\$98,983.06
Expenses					
Operating Expenses	15,356.68	11,148.25	12,704.48	100,633.05	88,871.84
Other Expense				2,845.30	1,000.00
Total Expenses	\$15,356.68	\$11,148.25	\$12,704.48	\$103,478.35	\$89,871.84
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$20,889.45	\$9,220.20	\$8,043.46	\$29,584.37	\$9,111.22
Other Income	\$2,356.45	\$3,200.00	\$800.00	\$14,906.09	\$10,831.42
Other Expenses	\$740.00	\$3,099.25	\$789.25	\$13,523.72	\$10,364.50
NET OTHER INCOME	\$1,616.45	\$100.75	\$10.75	\$1,382.37	\$466.92
NET INCOME	\$22,505.90	\$9,320.95	\$8,054.21	\$30,966.74	\$9,578.14

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Mission Kit Needed Supplies

SCHOOL KIT ASSEMBLY INSTRUCTIONS

Include the following items in each School Kit:



x1

One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag, approximately 14" x 17", with shoulder straps (no standard backpacks)



x4

Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper, approximately 8" x 10½"; no loose-leaf paper



x1

One box of 16 or 24 crayons



x1

One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other



x1

One pencil sharpener



x1

One pair of blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)



x5

Five unsharpened No. 2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band



x5

Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel ink); secure together with a rubber band



x1

One 2½" eraser

PERSONAL CARE KITS

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:



x1

One light-weight bath-size towel (between 20"×40" & 52"×27"), dark color recommended



x2

Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping



x1

One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging*



x1

One sturdy comb, remove packaging



x1

One metal nail clippers (attached file optional), remove packaging



Wrap all the items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn.

Bring supplies and completed kits to the Church Narthex

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

June 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pmWorship	2	3 10:30 am Tai Chi	4
5 9 am Worship 10 am Hand Chimes Practice 10:15 am Wellness Talk 	6 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club 6:30 pmWCL Class	7 5 pm Finance	8 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pmWorship 	9	10 10:30 am Tai Chi	11 Nativity Lutheran Youth Overnight
12 9 am Worship Nativity Lutheran Youth Overnight 10 am Pickle Ball Demo, Praise Band Meeting	13 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club 6 pm SREA meeting	14 6 pm Stewardship Committee 	15 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pmWorship	16 6:30 pmChurch Council Meeting 	17 Chimes Articles Due 10:30 am Tai Chi	18
19 9 am Worship 10 am Hand Chime Practice 	20 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club 6:30 pmSRA	21	22 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pmWorship	23	24 10:30 am Tai Chi	25
26 9 am Worship	27 10:30 am Tai Chi 1 pm Card Club	28	29 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pmWorship	30		

