



CHIMES Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Greetings, Bethlehem!

Here we are, in November already! At this time last year I was writing my very first newsletter article to send to all of you. Can you believe we have been together over a year already? We have done a lot together these past twelve months and I am excited to see where the Spirit leads us in the next 12 months and beyond!

This time of year is often a busy time, as we celebrate milestones and holidays both inside and outside our church walls. We recently celebrated the Affirmation of Baptism for eight of our confirmation students and we will be remembering the saints that have gone before us in worship this week. This month also marks the end of the church calendar year and we will once again begin a new year with the season of Advent.

Thinking about these events and milestones in addition to some conversations I have had lately, I have been reminded time and time again about being present in this moment. In my experience, I often find myself thinking about what has happened in the past or what is coming up next. There is a time and place for reflection and forethought, however, if we stay in these places of thinking, we might miss out on the moment right in front of us. This present moment in time is a holy time and space. The present offers an opportunity to be grounded with God. It is in the present moment where God is, where God meets us, and where God shows up for us. If we get too caught up in what has been and what might be, we miss out on experiencing God right here and right now. So let us all take some time each day to breathe deeply, to ground ourselves in the present, and to be open to God here and now. God is there for us. Let us embrace the gift of God's presence today and always.

Amen,
Pastor Jaime Benson

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 5

Trivia Night

NOVEMBER 7

6:30 pm All Committee Night

NOVEMBER 10

9 am Women's Group

NOVEMBER 11

Parent's Night Out

NOVEMBER 17

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 22

6:15 pm Stewardship Meeting

NOVEMBER 23

5:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
No Confirmation Class

NOVEMBER 24 & 25

Office Closed for Holiday

NOVEMBER 30

Food Drive Ends

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

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OUR CHURCH

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE

Work on strategic planning continued as a draft of the mission and vision statements were brought to the church council meeting on October 20th for approval. Prior to this meeting, the congregation was given two weeks to look over the drafts and make comments or suggest changes. The approved draft vision and mission statements are listed below.

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.

Thank you to all who worked on these and added their input. These statements are still in the draft form and the congregation will vote at a later date for final approval. Work will continue to define goals and talk about our values as we move into the new year.

FALL FOOD DRIVE



We will be having our annual fall food drive for the Portage Food Pantry from October 23rd through November 30th. Here is a list of their greatest items of need:

Tuna, canned meats
Breakfast Cereal
Instant Oatmeal
Any soups

Canned Pasta: SpaghettiOs, Ravioli, etc.
Peanut Butter
Jelly

Pancake mix
Pancake Syrup

Condiments-ketchup, mustard, salad dressings
Granola bars
Laundry Soap

Toiletries: bar soap, shampoo, toothpaste, toothbrushes

WOMEN'S GROUP



Women's Group will be meeting Thursday, November 10th at 9 am. All are welcome to join us! Also save the date: December 18th will be our first cookie walk. Don't have to worry about doing

holiday baking this year, purchase your box of cookies right here at Bethlehem. Do you love to bake and want to help contribute towards the cookies? We'd love that too! Watch the weekly newsletter and bulletin for more details as the date approaches.

ALL COMMITTEE NIGHT



All are welcome to join us on Monday, November 7th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall.

ALL SAINTS SUNDAY



We would like to honor and remember all those who have gone before us on All Saints Day, which we will celebrate on Sunday, November

6th. Please submit the names of your loved ones to the church office by Monday, October 31st so we can include them in the bulletin. Thank you.

HOLIDAY SERVICES

Mark your calendar for these holiday services:

- Thanksgiving Day Eve Worship, Wednesday, Nov. 23, 5:30 pm
- First Day of Advent, Sunday, Nov. 27th, 9 am

MISSIONAL PARTICIPATION FOR 2023

Our pledge cards are getting a new name this year: Missional Participation form. As our Stewardship campaign comes to an end, the forms were handed out to member households in church on Sunday, October 30th, Wednesday, November 2nd, and Sunday, November 6th. If you were not at church these days, they will be mailed out. We are asking that they be returned to the church by December 4th. Thank you for

your continued participation in God's mission here at BLC!

TRIVIA NIGHT

Save the date! Saturday, November 5th. We will be having our annual Trivia Night. This is a super fun event! The funds raised will go towards future mission trips for the youth group. Part of Trivia Night is a basket raffle. If you would like to help support this event, we are accepting donations for the basket raffle which can be brought into the church office by November 4th. Thank you for your continued support of our youth!



Bethlehem presents **TRIVIA Night**

Sat. Nov. 5th
Doors open 5:30 pm
Trivia from 6 - 9 pm
@ Masonic Lodge
205 DeWitt St., Portage

Tables of 6 players
\$150 per table
FOOD & DRINKS
GAMES, RAFFLE & PRIZES

must be at least 21 yrs old
Tickets email: meganjahoda@gmail.com

PARENT'S NIGHT OUT



Bethlehem Lutheran will be hosting a Parent's Night out on Friday, November 11th from 5:30pm-8:00pm. We will be providing sandwiches and light snacks and will have plenty of activities for the kids: games, crafts, and a

children's movie in the sanctuary to close the night. Children in Kindergarten through 5th grade are invited to attend, and any confirmation students and BLC youth are encouraged to participate and help with games and activities (an opportunity to earn service hours for church and school!!). Parents: you will need to fill out a form when you drop off your children that night so we have all of the information we need to make this a safe and pleasant experience for the kiddos.

The confirmation students and youth are invited to stay until 10:00pm that night for additional games & a bonfire with smore's (if the weather cooperates). Additional emails will be sent out soon to gather headcounts, etc. Please contact Tania Anderson with any questions: __

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

Save the Date: The large live Christmas tree will be brought in on Saturday, Dec. 3rd at 9 am. We need as many people as possible to help with the tree and decorating our beautiful church.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM CONCERT



Gifts of Bethlehem

We are looking for talents of all kinds for the Gifts of Bethlehem event on Dec 11th. **NOTE: there has been a time change – the concert will now be at 9 am in place of Sunday Worship.** Talent can include musical talent or other talents (such as a reading, a short skit, etc.). Sign-up sheet is in the Narthex or contact Tania Anderson: __ or call church office.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM AUCTION



We will once again have an auction the week before the event. It will take place both online and in person. We will be collecting gift baskets until Friday, December 2nd, which you can drop off at the church office. The auction will be open for one week starting Sunday, December 4th and closing the day of the concert. You can view the items online and in person during office hours or after worship service to bid in person. Watch the bulletin, Chimes and/or our website for more details in December.

QUILTS & MISSION KITS SENT!

THANK YOU!

This year many people helped contribute to the creation and assembly of the Quilts and Mission Kits. Items were purchased and donated by many members of the Congregation. The Quilters have spent the last year constructing the quilts, confirmation kids put

together and packed the Mission Kits, and Jim Crawford transported the boxed items to the Lutheran World Relief pick up site.

Personal Care Kits: 104

Quilts: 112

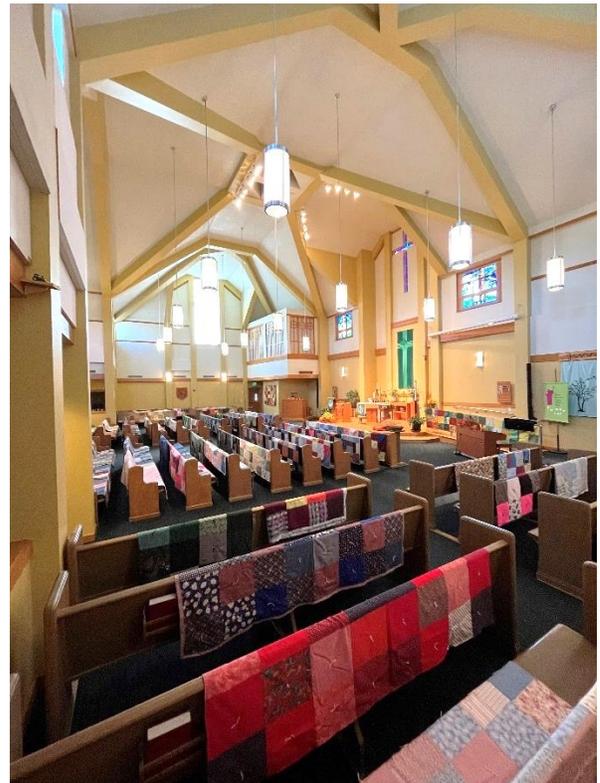
School Kits: 25



This year we were able to attach bar codes to the boxes so we can track our Quilts and Kits to see where they end up in the world. We will continue to collect items for these kits and the quilters will keep quilting. If you are interested in being a part of any of these projects, call the church office.



Quilters & packed boxes



Confirmation kids at mission kit assembly night

FAITH FORMATION

DECORATING DAY & SUNDAY SCHOOL PROGRAM REHEARSAL

Save the Date for Saturday, Dec 3rd

Decorating begins at 9:00am. There will be trees for the children to decorate in the fellowship hall.

9:00-10:30 – Tree decorating & other activities

10:30-12:00 – Sunday School play/program rehearsal

12:00- 12:30pm – Pizza Lunch!!



SUNDAY SCHOOL



We will be continuing with regular Sunday School and music on the 1st and 3rd Sundays in November. On the first Sunday, November 6th, there will be a teacher's meeting after classes at 11:15am. On the 2nd Sunday

of the month there will be an intergenerational activity after church; more information about that will be coming soon. On the 4th Sunday of the month, there will be no Sunday School or activity due to Thanksgiving break. We hope that you and your families have a wonderful holiday!

Throughout November, we will begin our planning for the Sunday School program which will be a part of the Gifts of Bethlehem program on Sunday, December 11th. Please "Save the Date" for our Sunday School program rehearsal on Saturday, December 3rd at 10:30am with a pizza lunch to follow. If you can, come a little early that day to help decorate the church for the holiday season! Decorating begins at 9:00am. If you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Tania Anderson at ___

NO CLASS NOVEMBER 23



CONFIRMATION PROJECT

On October 3rd, the 9th graders worked on building the church a new bridge for their confirmation project. A special Thank You to Travis Cox for his guidance on this project.



CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS

Congratulations!

Please help us congratulate the following 9th graders as they celebrated their Confirmation on Sunday, October 30th.

Isabel Bue
Josephine Bue
Brady Cox
Brynn Langan
Maren Marcks
Justice Oh
Riley Paulsen
Everett Schilling

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

OPEN COUNCIL SEATS

We are looking for confirmed members interested in being on Church Council. There is still an open seat currently and two will be opening up January of 2023. If you have any questions, please see Kerry Melby.

TIME CHANGE REMINDER



November 6th

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer on a regular basis. We could still use some more people to be communion assistants.

If you are interested in learning the live stream system, we could use a couple more people there as well. Please contact Julie Saalsaa



NEW ONLINE GIVING OPTIONS

VANCO
FAITH

We have new options for online giving with a company called Vanco Online. Vanco is the company we currently use for our Simply Giving program (automated, reoccurring payment options). You can support seasonal and year-round missions, make one-time gifts or set up recurring donations. There is also an app you can download and use. Julie will be going over these options in church for several weeks in November. There will also be a video you can watch on our website's "Giving" page that walks you through all the steps. To access the online giving, go to our website's "Online Giving" page: <https://www.bethlehemlcpportage.org/online-giving.html> (or use this QR code to get there).

If you give your offerings using Simply Giving, you can continue to do so, or you can choose to switch over to Vanco Online. The benefit to switching is you will have access to a free account where you can control your payments instead of having to fill out paperwork through the office. Please see Julie in the office if this is something you'd like to do.

in the office if you are willing to be on the schedule. Thank you in advance for your help and support with making our church be what it is!

SCRIP

Scrip is fundraising while you **shop!**

Do Your Christmas Shopping with SCRIP!

Easily contribute extra money to the church by using Bethlehem's SCRIP program. See our "Giving" page on our website for more information. Contact Carla Gerhardt for questions.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING



The church office will be closed Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th for the Thanksgiving holiday.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison
October 1-25, 2022

	TOTAL				
	OCT 1-25, 2022	OCT 1-25, 2021 (PY)	SEP 1-25, 2022 (PP)	JAN 1 - OCT 25, 2022 (YTD)	JAN 1 - OCT 25, 2021 (PYYTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	20,152.43	18,154.53	17,185.15	233,395.89	207,863.39
▶ Other Income	1,349.84	1,597.57	1,372.67	13,509.53	26,548.05
Total Income	\$21,502.27	\$19,752.10	\$18,557.82	\$246,905.42	\$234,411.44
GROSS PROFIT	\$21,502.27	\$19,752.10	\$18,557.82	\$246,905.42	\$234,411.44
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	20,083.86	12,417.94	21,694.83	220,050.14	179,703.76
▶ Other Expense	695.00		400.00	5,140.30	5,888.17
Total Expenses	\$20,778.86	\$12,417.94	\$22,094.83	\$225,190.44	\$185,591.93
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$723.41	\$7,334.16	\$ -3,537.01	\$21,714.98	\$48,819.51
▶ Other Income	\$1,405.00	\$500.00	\$3,750.00	\$26,336.09	\$22,789.19
▶ Other Expenses	\$1,469.10	\$496.25	\$2,784.00	\$24,675.93	\$21,867.05
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -64.10	\$3.75	\$966.00	\$1,660.16	\$922.14
NET INCOME	\$659.31	\$7,337.91	\$ -2,571.01	\$23,375.14	\$49,741.65

NOVEMBER 2022 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 11/2 5:30 pm						Cheryl Hebel	Zoe Zellmer & Kinleyh Anderson (training)	Samantha	
Sun 11/6 9am	Ann Ciske	Darlene Anderson	Justice Oh	Kathryn Crawford	Darlene Anderson	Darlene Anderson	Courtney Hernkind & Lindsey Nickel (training)	Samantha	
Flowers:	Dean & Judy Traut in honor of Bethlehem's mission work								
Wed 11/9 5:30 pm						Judy Donahue	Beau Grosklaus & Kenzie Schmidtke (training)	Ronna	
Sun 11/13 9am	Larry & Sandy Sween	Ginny McNeal	Lori/Brady Cox	Ann Ciske	Nancy Schwenke	Nancy Schwenke	Colin Langan & Mikayla Bovre (training)	Jody	
Flowers:	Tom & Denise Dery in honor of November birthdays								
Wed 11/16 5:30 pm						Kathy Lawrence	Avri Anderson & Hartley Bell (training)	Ronna	
Sun 11/20 9am	Jim Crawford	Nancy Buckley		Nancy Buckley	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Dayne Wagner & Clara Georgson (training)	Praise Team	
Flowers:	Robin & Mike Kvalo in honor of 41st wedding anniversary								
Wed 11/23 5:30 pm						Cara Druckrey	Kinleyh Anderson	Carla	
Sun 11/27 9am	Dianna Bush	Bobbie Goodman		Bobbie Goodman	Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Kayson Bulgrin	Carla	
Flowers:	Travis & Cara Druckrey in honor of my parents Dean & Bonnie Halsizers 50th anniversary								
Wed 11/30 5:30 pm						Cara Druckrey	Alex Hayes	Jody	



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

November 2022

General Church Grounds × → Conference Room × → Music Room × → Fellowship Hall ×						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Oct 30 9:00am Worship 10:15am Sunday School 10:30am Confirmation Service	31 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	Nov 1 9:00am Quilters	2 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm All Saints Worship 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation	3 Hosting Synod Conf. Meeting	4 10:30am Tai Chi	5 Trivia Night 
6 <i>All Saints Sunday</i> 8:30am Choir Warm Up 9:00am All Saints Worship - Choir Singing 10:15am Sunday School	7 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm All Committee Night 	8 9:00am Quilters 5:00pm Finance Meeting	9 Food Pantry Helpers  10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation	10 9:00am Women's Group	11 Parents Night Out 10:30am Tai Chi 	12
13 9:00am Worship 10:15am SS Activity Day	14 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	15 9:00am Quilters	16 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:15pm Praise Team Practice 6:30pm Confirmation	17 6:30pm Church Council 	18 10:30am Tai Chi	19
20 9:00am Worship - Praise Team 10:15am Sunday School	21 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	22 9:00am Quilters 6:15pm Stewardship Meeting	23 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship	24 Office Closed for Holiday 	25 10:30am Tai Chi	26
27 9:00am Worship	28 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	29 9:00am Quilters	30  Food Drive Ends 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:15pm Choir Rehearsal 6:30pm Confirmation			

