



CHIMES Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2023 VOLUME 85, ISSUE 11

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear BLC family,

This month I write to you with a heavy heart as violence in Israel and Gaza continues. As innocent people are killed, injured, grieving, and afraid and true peace seems to be so distant. With any conflict, we want to be on the “good” side, the ones who are justified in their actions, fighting the good fight. However, as with most conflicts, this is not a black and white issue. It is much more complicated than that, hence why this conflict has been ongoing for so long. Today, when we take sides, they often lead to political affiliation and lately God has been used in politics to bolster one’s perspective. However, Jesus isn’t about taking sides. Jesus came because of God’s love for the world, as we hear in John 3:16. Jesus calls us to love God and to love our neighbor as ourselves. Right now, our Palestinian and Israeli neighbors are hurting. The violence we witness on news broadcasts is not something these neighbors of ours can turn off and step away from. This is their lived reality, right now. When I witness just glimpses of their experience, I recall and recite Psalm 13:

¹ How long, O LORD? Will you forget me forever?

How long will you hide your face from me?

² How long must I bear pain in my soul

and have sorrow in my heart all day long?

How long shall my enemy be exalted over me?

³ Consider and answer me, O LORD my God!

Give light to my eyes, or I will sleep the sleep of death,

⁴ and my enemy will say, “I have prevailed”;

my foes will rejoice because I am shaken.

⁵ But I trusted in your steadfast love;

my heart shall rejoice in your salvation.

⁶ I will sing to the LORD

because he has dealt bountifully with me.

This is a psalm of lament which is something we could do well to practice more. Lament is expressing great sorrow or grief and is a key part of our practice of being Christ followers. Expressing our laments to God is a faithful practice. Lately, laments seem to be one of the most faithful and compassionate things to do. I want to invite you to lament as you are moved. We lament the violence our Palestinian and Israeli neighbors are experiencing as well as the suffering, pain, and sorrow of others. We lament together because lament is an act of love and when one of us is hurting, we stand with them in the pain and cry out for the suffering to end. We lament, knowing God hears our prayers and our cries and the Spirit rests with us always.

UPCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER 5

9 am All Saints Sunday Worship

10:00 am Sunday School

NOVEMBER 6

5:00 pm Finance Committee

6:30 pm Church Activity Planning meeting. All are encouraged to attend

NOVEMBER 7

7:00 pm Worship & Music Committee

NOVEMBER 8

Food Pantry Helpers

NOVEMBER 9

9 am Women’s Group

NOVEMBER 10

9 am – 12 pm Vaccine Clinic

NOVEMBER 11

Trivia Night

NOVEMBER 16

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

NOVEMBER 19

10:00 am Sunday School

NOVEMBER 22

5:30 pm Thanksgiving Eve Worship
No Confirmation Class

NOVEMBER 23 & 24

Office Closed for Holiday

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If you are interested in learning more about Israel, Gaza, the West Bank, and the ongoing conflict there, I invite you to [watch this video](#) which is a conversation between Rev. Brian Maguire and Rabbi Brad Hirschfield who were two of the leaders on my trip to the Holy Land this past summer. I continue to learn from them and their wisdom and wanted to share this resource with all of you. Beyond our prayers and witness, I would encourage you to act as the Spirit guides you in response to what you see and hear. True peace is not kept but made because at the root of true peace is justice and reconciliation, not violence. Let us be peacemakers, not peacekeepers, who share the peace of Christ and lament the injustice of the world.

In the promise of resurrection hope,
Pr. Jaime Benson

Full video link, if needed or click on the video to the right.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MvSYqir45SI>



OUR CHURCH

CRAFT MARKET

Thank You

A special thanks to all who helped Robin and I with the Art & Craft Market in September: Jerry Saalsaa, Brian and Sue Conner, Jeff and Kerry Melby, Margaret Molden, Ginny Paulson, Nancy Loether, and Jeanette Gessner. Thank you to everyone who donated baked goods for the sale and to everyone who came out to support the event. Despite the morning rain, it was a good day! Here is a breakdown of the funds raised: Total \$2,089.50 (show booths = \$860, bake sale = \$418.50, food stand = \$696, donation of 50% pumpkin sales - from Bisch Family = \$115).

Julie Saalsaa & Robin Kvalo

As a church, we also want to extend a big THANK YOU to Robin Kvalo and Julie Saalsaa for all their hard work over the years in planning, organizing, and facilitating such a wonderful community event! Julie and Robin are both stepping down from leading this event and we want to thank them for all that they have done in making the market such a success! Thank you!

THANK YOU



Thank you to the following people for keeping the outside of our church looking beautiful this summer by either mowing or watering the flowers and trees. The time and talents you have shared are greatly appreciated!

Del Molden
Dennis Benson
Butch Jahoda
Kerry Melby
Marie Rohrbacher
Tania Anderson

Jeff Melby
Dan Kucksdorf
Steve McNeal
Carla Gerhardt
Ann Ciske
Darlene Anderson

WOMEN'S GROUP



Women's Group will be meeting Thursday, November 9th at 9 am. All are welcome to join us!

Have you wondered what women's group is all about? They meet the 2nd Thursday of each month. It is a time for fellowship. They do not meet during the summer months. They have a couple of events each year. In the spring they have a Saturday morning tea, in the fall there is typically an outing and in December they have a cookie walk. Please consider joining this great group of ladies.

COOKIE WALK – DEC 9



Save the date: December 9th will be our annual cookie walk. You 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.

CHURCH ACTIVITY PLANNING – NOV 6

Are you interested in being involved at church? Is there an event or idea you are excited to implement? You are invited to join us for Church Activity Planning on Monday, November 6th at 6:30 pm in the fellowship hall. All are welcome to join as we look at the next few months and dream and plan together.



FLU AND COVID SHOT CLINIC – NOV 10



O'Connell Pharmacy is coming to:
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Friday November 10th, 2023
9:00 am UNTIL 12:00 pm

For a vaccination clinic!

Vaccines Offered Include:
Influenza, COVID-19, RSV, Tdap, Shingrix, and more!!

Sign up today to reserve your spot!
Walk Ins also welcome!

It's Vaccine Season!
Get Caught Up Today!!



\$50 Kwik Trip Card
For COVID-19 Vaccine!

Questions?
Call us at:
608-837-5949 x1 x0

CHRISTMAS DECORATING – DEC 2

Save the Date: The large live Christmas tree will be decorated on Saturday December 2nd starting at 9 am. Come and join us in bringing in the holiday spirit and decorating the tree and the rest of our beautiful church. Many hands make lighter the work and more enjoyable the time!



GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM CONCERT – DEC 3



Gifts of Bethlehem

Gifts of Bethlehem is back on Sunday, Dec. 3rd during 9 am worship! What is Gifts of Bethlehem? Gifts of Bethlehem is a time to share a talent you may have with the rest of our church family. Talent can include musical talent or other talents (such as a reading, short skit, etc.). To join in the performance, sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or by contacting Tania Anderson or the church office.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM AUCTION



We will once again have a silent auction leading up to the Gifts of Bethlehem. It will take place both online and in person. We will be collecting gift baskets until Friday, November 17th, which you can drop off at the church office.

The auction will start on November 20th and close online December 1st and in person on December 3rd after the Gifts of Bethlehem 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.

QUILTS

This year many people helped contribute to the creation and assembly of 125 quilts completed by the Quilting Group of this congregation.

We meet to assemble them every Tuesday morning. Some of the quilts completed are smaller in size, called lap quilts, and they are given to people in nursing homes or anyone in the community needing some warmth. Some are sold at our annual church craft fair, and the proceeds help us to buy supplies. Much of the fabric used is donated. They have been boxed up and are being transported to Wisconsin Rapids by Jim Crawford. From there they will be sent to Fridley MN, and under the auspices of Lutheran World Relief, sent wherever they are most needed.

The quilting group consists of Angi Bucholz, Cloe Rehdantz, Dorothy Waldo, Margaret Molden, Ann Ciske, Marie Rohrbacher, Nancy Loether, Judy Traut and Ginny Paulson. If you are interested in joining please contact Ginny Paulson.



Thank you to all those that have made this important ministry happen. Thank you to all those that go into making these beautiful quilts but also those that have donated fabric and assisted in their transportation. Your time and talents are making a positive impact!

THANKSGIVING EVE WORSHIP

This year, Thanksgiving Eve Worship will be on Wed. Nov. 22nd at 5:30 pm. The Choir will lead us in a special music piece during worship. Be sure to join us for this special service and time to gather before the holiday.



ADVENT SEASON

Just a note that Advent begins the first week of December this year.

FAITH FORMATION

CONGRATULATIONS CONFIRMANDS

Congratulations! 

Please help us congratulate the following 9th graders as they celebrated their Confirmation on Sunday, October 29th.

Alex Hayes
Jackson Randall
Shia Grosklaus
Courtney Hernkind
Zoe Zellmer

Also, a big thank you to Geoff Gilbert and Linda Grosklaus for faithfully walking with these students during their time in Confirmation!

HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP



Calling all high school students! We are going to be gathering on Wednesday, Nov. 1st at 8-9 pm for Youth Group. Join us for an informal time of connection, games, devotions, and Friends! We will gather in the

youth room and we hope to see you there! Moving forward, we plan to meet about once a month. If you have any questions, please let Pr. Jaime or Tania Anderson know.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UPDATE

The lessons we will be learning in November:

Be Humble - Matthew 23:1-12

Parable of the Talents-Matthew 25:14-30

We will also be practicing for the Christmas program as part of these classes.

Looking ahead to December, Our Christmas program this year is *The Good News Flash*. This year's Christmas Program will be performed as part of Gifts of Bethlehem on **Sunday, December 3rd starting at 9 am**. We will be providing food for coffee hour. There will be gift baskets to bid on.

We will be having a practice and decorating day for the program on **Saturday December 2nd from 9 am-12 pm** with lunch provided. During practice time you are welcome to attend and help as needed.

If you have any questions, please see or call Jeanette Gessner (608-617-5228) or your child's teacher.

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERING

Thank you to everyone who has signed up to volunteer in worship! Worship is not possible without you. There are plenty of opportunities to volunteer in worship and we continue to need your help in making worship happen. If you are interested in helping in worship, please contact the office.



SCRIP



Do Your Christmas Shopping with SCRIP!

Scrip is a fundraising program where you can purchase gift cards for many different vendors and a portion of each sale is sent back to the church. As the holidays are approaching, you can get some shopping done and support Bethlehem at the same time! This is an easy way to support the church while purchasing cards that you already use or need!

See our "Giving" page on our website for more information. Order early too so they can be delivered in time for Christmas. Contact Carla Gerhardt with any questions.

CHURCH OFFICE CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

The church office will be closed Thursday, November 23rd and Friday, November 24th for Thanksgiving.



HOPE HOUSE FUNDRAISER



Greetings from UW-Green Bay to my friends at BLC! I'm so excited to announce I will be organizing another donation drive for Hope House in Baraboo this holiday season. Thanks to generous friends and family, this event has gotten bigger each year and you all have helped me exceed my goals each year.

I'm hoping you will help me kick off this year's project when I come home for Thanksgiving Break. With Pastor Jaime's go-ahead, I've been making arrangements to have a **Hope House staff member join us** at Bethlehem for worship on **Sunday, November 26**. She'll tell us about the important work Hope House does in our community, and throughout South-Central Wisconsin, and the things they need our help with. We'll also have a **bake sale** that day to raise money for the donation drive.

Please watch the upcoming bulletins and the BLC Facebook page for more information about items needed, including an Amazon wish list to make it easy to order items and have it delivered right to my house. And feel free to reach out to me or my mom, Lisa, for more details about how you can help!

I'll be bringing all of the items and money donated to Hope House during my Christmas break. I can't wait to see you all and I'm excited to see what we can do together to help our community!

Thank you,
Maddie Cook

ALTAR FLOWERS

Due to pricing increases we are moving away from fresh altar flowers. Ginny Paulson will be making seasonal silk arrangements for the altar. You can still honor people and events by making a \$20 donation to the church, we will continue to list the information in our weekly bulletin.



WINTER POLICY

Information regarding closing can be found in the following places: Facebook, our website, an email and text message will also go out.

Weekdays

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

Weekends

If activities have been planned (not to include worship) to take place at BLC, and if Portage is under a Winter Storm Warning, or warning of any kind, designated by the National Weather Service, a decision to cancel those activities will be mutually decided by the Pastor, Council President, a designated Property Committee member, and the activities' Coordinator.

Wednesday Evening Worship

If Portage is under a Winter Storm Warning, Tornado Warning, Severe Thunderstorm Warning, Flood Warning or warning of any kind, designated by the National Weather Service, and many other area churches are cancelling their services, a decision to cancel worship service will be mutually decided by the Pastor, Council President, and a designated Property Committee member, 2 hours prior to the start of worship, if possible.

Sunday Morning Worship

If Portage is under a Winter Storm Warning, or warning of any kind, designated by the National Weather Service, and many other area churches are cancelling their services, a decision to cancel worship service will be mutually decided by the Pastor, Council President, and a designated Property Committee member, 2 hours prior to the start of worship, if possible. If Sunday worship is cancelled, Sunday School will also be cancelled.



PERSONNEL COMMITTEE OPEN SEAT

Do you have gifts and/or experience in personnel related matters such as maintaining an employee handbook, hiring policies, and job descriptions? Do you have a passion for creating a positive employee atmosphere here at Bethlehem? If so, please consider this volunteer opportunity! There is a seat available on the personnel committee and we would love to have you! The committee meets at most a handful of times per year and guides/advises on employee best practices. Below please find a description of the Personnel Committee:



It shall handle all employee related matters, specifically the employee handbook, hiring policies and procedures, and job descriptions. It will follow all duties written in Personnel Committee description. Members of the Personnel Committee will not hold a concurrent seat on the Church Council. The Treasurer will a member ex officio.

If you are interested, please contact Pastor Jaime or one of the current members, Robin Kvalo and Barb Olson-Rothwell.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church





Profit and Loss Comparison

October 1-18, 2023

	TOTAL				
	OCT 1-18, 2023	OCT 1-18, 2022 (PY)	SEP 1-18, 2023 (PP)	JAN 1 - OCT 18, 2023 (YTD)	JAN 1 - OCT 18, 2022 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	18,011.76	14,908.47	14,929.94	219,943.48	228,151.93
▶ Other Income	3,958.00	1,202.84	650.00	53,224.61	13,362.53
Total Income	\$21,969.76	\$16,111.31	\$15,579.94	\$273,168.09	\$241,514.46
GROSS PROFIT	\$21,969.76	\$16,111.31	\$15,579.94	\$273,168.09	\$241,514.46
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	14,205.86	14,046.62	13,045.01	232,633.40	213,762.90
▶ Other Expense	320.00	695.00		15,491.55	5,140.30
Total Expenses	\$14,525.86	\$14,741.62	\$13,045.01	\$248,124.95	\$218,903.20
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$7,443.90	\$1,369.69	\$2,534.93	\$25,043.14	\$22,611.26
▶ Other Income	\$3,050.00	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$26,265.00	\$26,431.09
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,796.85	\$1,469.10	\$0.00	\$25,545.04	\$24,675.93
NET OTHER INCOME	\$253.15	\$30.90	\$0.00	\$719.96	\$1,755.16
NET INCOME	\$7,697.05	\$1,400.59	\$2,534.93	\$25,763.10	\$24,366.42

Cash basis Wednesday, October 18, 2023 12:11 PM GMT-05:00

NOVEMBER 2023 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 11/1 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Lindsay Nickel		
Sun 11/5 9 am	Del Molden	Mark Teslik	Jeff Melby	Marie Kucksdorf	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Kathryn Thiele		Dianna Bush
Flowers: Tina Thomas - Don & Bonnie Bender Wedding Anniversary									
Wed 11/8 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Kenzie Schmidtke		
Sun 11/12 9am	Kory Anderson	Nancy Loether	Brady and Lori Cox		Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Mikayla Bovre		Nancy Loether & Kristy Bovre
Flowers: Dianna Bush in memory of Don Monthey, Ken Bush, Richard Wilcox									
Wed 11/15 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence	Gerald Guenther		
Sun 11/19 9am	Bonnie Dixon	Bonnie Dixon	Ben Rudolph		Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Leah Haroldson		Heather Laird
Flowers: Tom & Denise Derey Memory of Denise's brother Marty									
Wed 11/22 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Clara Georgeson		
Sun 11/26 9am	Ellen Kabele	Ginny McNeal			Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Avri Anderson		
Flowers: Robin & Mike Kvalo - Celebration of 42nd wedding anniversary									
Wed 11/29 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Beau Grosklaus		



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

November 2023

General Church Grounds × → Conference Room × → Music Room × → Fellowship Hall ×							
<div>November</div> <div></div>				Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Nov 1				2	3	4	
10:30am Tai Chi					10:30am Tai Chi		
5:30pm Worship							
6:30pm Confirmation							
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi	9:00am Quilters	<div>FOOD pantry helpers</div>	9:00am Women's Group	9:00am Flu Shot and Covid Shot Clinic		
10:00am Sunday School	1:00pm Card Club	6:30pm Worship & Music Committee; Bethlehem Lutheran Church Office		10:30am Tai Chi	10:30am Tai Chi		
<div>All Saints Sunday</div>	6:30pm Church Activity Planning			5:30pm Worship			
				6:30pm Confirmation			
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi	6:30pm Church Council	10:30am Tai Chi		
	1:00pm Card Club		5:30pm Worship	<div>Church Council</div>			
	6:00pm SREA Meeting		6:30pm Confirmation				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	
DR Youth Casserole Sale	10:30am Tai Chi	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi		10:30am Tai Chi		
9:00am Worship	1:00pm Card Club		5:30pm Worship				
10:30am Sunday School	6:30pm SRA Meeting		6:30pm Confirmation				
26	27	28	29	30	<div>HAPPY Thanksgiving</div>		
9:00am Worship	10:30am Tai Chi	9:00am Quilters	10:30am Tai Chi				
	1:00pm Card Club		5:30pm Worship				
			6:30pm Confirmation				

