

## CHIMES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2021 VOLUME 83, ISSUE 9

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### OUR CHURCH

#### NEW PASTOR UPDATE

We held a Special Congregational Meeting on Sunday, August 15<sup>th</sup> to vote on the call of our new pastor. We had 99 voting members present. The congregation voted 98-1 in favor of calling Jaime Benson to Bethlehem. We are excited to welcome Jaime, who plans to start Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup>. The date of her installation is not yet set.

Here is a little bit about her if you were not able to make it to the meeting. Jaime Benson describes her calling to the ministry as "...devotion to and proclamation of the Word." She believes in relationships with our communities and feels called to "accompany people on their journeys of life, whatever that might entail." Jaime was born and raised in Lodi, Wisconsin. She attended UW Madison and graduated with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biochemistry. Near the end of her studies however she felt called to another path in life – that of ministry. She then received her Master of Divinity from Luther Seminary in St. Paul, Minnesota. Her ministry life has included experience as Sacristan/Admissions Ambassador at Luther Seminary and as a Vicar/Pastoral Intern at Hope Lutheran Church in Bozeman, Montana. She feels comfortable especially in areas of pastoral care and visitation, preaching and worship leadership, stewardship, and building a sense of community among other areas of church leadership and service. She describes herself as having a "calm, comforting presence" and is looking forward to building relationships within our congregation and sharing in service to others. Her hobbies include: hiking, spending time with family and friends, animal shows (county fairs, etc.), meditation & music ("things that ground me").

Jaime's Personal Ministry Statement: "I am called to embody God's love and abiding presence in the parish I find myself in through the Word, Sacraments, and prophetic witness. I am compelled to abide with my community as God abides with us by offering support, understanding, and compassion to those I care for."



Please help us give Jaime a very warm welcome to our church family. We will be asking people to wear name tags when they come to church to help her out and learn who we are; she has many names to learn and we only have one 😊.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 6

Labor Day – Office Closed

SEPTEMBER 7

Quilters begin to meet weekly 9 am

SEPTEMBER 8

Food Pantry Helpers

SEPTEMBER 9

Arts & Craft Market Set up

SEPTEMBER 10

Arts & Craft Market Set up

SEPTEMBER 11

Arts & Craft Market & Bake/Brat Sale  
8:30 to 2 pm  
Youth Highway Clean Up & Lock-out

SEPTEMBER 12

Sunday School Rally Day  
Teacher Installation  
Blessing of the Backpacks  
Fall Ministry Fair

SEPTEMBER 15

Confirmation Starts 6:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 16

Church Council Meeting 6:30 pm

SEPTEMBER 25

Trivia Night

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**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA**  
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[www.bethlehemLCportage.org](http://www.bethlehemLCportage.org)

## ARTS & CRAFT MARKET, BRAT & BAKE SALE



Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup> will be BLC's Arts & Craft Market from 8:30 am to 2 pm. We have many talented makers again this year. Help us spread the word! The church is hosting a table with artwork and crafts for sale. If

you have something you would like to donate, please send a picture to Robin Kvalo and Julie Saalsaa at [bethluch15@gmail.com](mailto:bethluch15@gmail.com). We would like to make sure we are not duplicating what our makers are selling. We are also looking for volunteers to help us take down and put things back into place after the show starting at 2pm. Sign up in the narthex or contact Robin or Julie.



Youth going on the Dominican Republic Mission trip in January will be hosting the brat and bake sale that day. They are **looking for church members to donate baked goods for the sale.** Please make sure they are wrapped/covered and

prepared appropriately due to Covid. Please help us spread the word.

## FALL MINISTRY FAIR – SEPTEMBER 12TH



Reminder to all the Committees and Ministry Groups to decorate your group's table. If you need any assistance from the office, please let Julie know.

Join us, Sunday September 12<sup>th</sup> for our Fall Ministry Fair. This is a great way to find out more about all the groups that support our church activities. It is also an

opportunity to find ways that you may be able to get involved to use your God given talents and help support our mission of "God's Family Serving Christ with Love".

## MISSION KIT UPDATE

Thanks to all who have donated so far for the Overseas Mission Kits. We have assembled 31 Personal Care Kits and 26 School Kits. We have used most of our supplies and need more!! While we need almost everything, we DO NOT need pencils. We have compiled a



School Kits

list of bulk items available on Amazon and a Walmart shopping list. It doesn't need to be these exact items, but this is just a sample of cost-effective supplies. ***If you are interested in purchasing a bulk order of something, let us know at the church office.*** This will help us from having an overabundance of any one item! Pick up a list at church by the Mission Kit drop off shelf.



Personal Care Kits

We are also looking for volunteers to assemble the kits. So far, we have used youth who are looking for volunteer hours. We are instructing interested people, so that volunteers can do on their own time. If you are interested in being an assembly volunteer, let us know. Thanks for your Support!!

## ALTAR FLOWERS



Would you like to remember a loved one or honor a special occasion by donating towards the altar flowers? There are several spots open starting with September 19<sup>th</sup> and going forward. You can sign up in the narthex. We are asking that payment be made at the time of sign up as the greenhouse is now billing the church directly. The cost is \$40 for two arrangements. Thank you!

## QUILTERS START UP

Quilting will start again on Tuesday, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 9 am.

## QUILT DRAWING

Tickets for this amazing quilt are now available for purchase during office hours and after worship services. They will only be on sale until the end of the Arts & Craft Market which will be held on September 11th. The quilt is 73"x74" and was made and donated by Christie Rhinehart and Denise Bandt of Starry Lane Quilting.



## FELLOWSHIP TIME



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

## WOMEN'S GROUP

The Bethlehem's Women's Group will be getting together at Margaret Molden's home at 9 am Thursday, September 9th. Full vaccines required, masks optional. Meet at the church parking lot at 8:45 am to carpool.



## THANK YOU FOR THE PRAYERS

Praise and thank you Lord. Meghan Wade (Dorothy Waldo's granddaughter who was on our prayer list) is cancer free after having her kidney removed. She is healing from her surgery.

## FAITH FORMATION

### PIZZA FUNDRAISER



Thank you to everyone who ordered pizzas and to the youth, families, and volunteers who came very early in the morning to help make 770 of them!! We raised \$4793 to help towards their mission trip to the Dominican Republic.

## TRIVIA NIGHT – SEPTEMBER 25TH



## FUNDRAISER

This is a fun evening for a good cause. This event will help raise funds for the Dominican Republic mission trip. Get your trivia team together and sign up for a table of 6 people. Tickets are \$20 per person and include dinner and a drink. Must be 21 years old or older. There will be prizes for the winning team of each round, as well as a basket raffle. To sign up email Megan Jahoda [meganjahoda@yahoo.com](mailto:meganjahoda@yahoo.com) or contact the church office.

**Date:** September 25<sup>th</sup>

**Time:** Doors open at 5:30 pm with trivia starting at 6 pm.

**Location:** Masonic Lodge, 205 DeWitt St., Portage

## SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Our Sunday School Rally Day, the first day of Sunday school, will be Sept. 12th from 10:15-11:15 am in person. Our Sunday School program is for children age 3 (preschool) to 5<sup>th</sup> Grade. You can register for Sunday School by either filling out this [Registration Form](#) online or filling out the paper form (found in the church narthex or the one you may receive in the mail if your child has attended BLC previously).



We are following the Portage School District masking policy. At this time masks will be mandatory for all elementary and middle school aged children **when INDOORS**. If you have questions about this, please contact the church office.

We are looking for co-teachers and someone to help with music. If you are interested in helping us with Sunday school this year please call or see Jeanette Gessner, 608-742-8369, Cell 608-617-5228, email [jhgessner@charter.net](mailto:jhgessner@charter.net) as soon as possible.

We look forward to a great Sunday School year.

## TEACHER INSTALLATION

Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> will also be the day we install our Sunday School Teachers and Confirmation Mentors during 9 am worship. If you are a teacher or mentor, please make sure to be present for this important day.

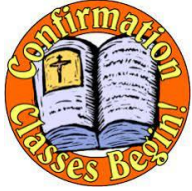


## BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

Attention students of all ages!! Bring your backpack, briefcase, tote bag, etc. with you to church on Sunday, September 12<sup>th</sup> for a special blessing.



## CONFIRMATION



Confirmation for students in grades 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup> grade will start on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm. We will be meeting in person this year and will be spending as much time outside as possible. We are following the Portage

School District masking policy. At this time masks will be mandatory for all elementary and middle school aged children **when INDOORS**. Masks will not be required outdoors. If you have questions about this, please contact the church office.

You can register your student online using this [Registration Form](#) or sign up the first night of class.

## YOUTH GROUP ACTIVITIES

There is a lot going on Saturday, September 11<sup>th</sup>! The youth going on the Dominican Republic mission trip will be organizing a brat & bake sale during the Arts & Craft Market. All youth from middle school and high school are asked to come help with Highway Clean up – this is a great opportunity to get those service hours you need. In the evening there will be a “lock-out” for high school youth. We will be camping out. Watch your emails for more details.

## NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

### LEARN HOW TO RUN WORSHIP LIVESTREAM

We are looking for more people who would like to be trained on how to run the video equipment to live stream Sunday worship. This position helps us reach our members who are not able to join us in person. ***It is a blessing that we are able to offer this service with the volunteers we have. We would like to be able to continue, but we really do need more help.*** A huge thank you to all who have been helping already. If you are interested, please contact the office.

## TEXT MESSAGE OPT-IN

We have a great feature in our church database that allows us to send out text messages to our members. If we have your email on file, you should have received an email (sender is “automail”) asking if you want to “opt-

in” to receive text messages from us. These messages would be for the following: meeting reminders, special announcements, event reminders, Christian education updates, inclement weather closings. If you did not receive the email, it may be that I don’t have it on file or it went into a Spam folder. Instructions on how to opt-in are in the August Chimes.



### **OPT-IN WITHOUT AN EMAIL**

If you don’t have an email, but have a cell phone, you can still receive messages. All you have to do is contact Julie in the office (608-742-8502) and give her your cell phone number and she can sign you up.

If you have any questions about this or need help, please don’t hesitate to ask Julie Saalsaa in the office.

## LIFE LINE SCREENING



Life Line Screening, the nation’s leading provider of preventive health screenings, will offer affordable, non-invasive and painless health screenings at Bethlehem Lutheran Church on Tuesday, October 12, 2021.

A package of five screenings to identify risk for stroke, heart disease and other chronic conditions will be offered:

- Carotid artery ultrasound to identify plaque buildup in the carotid arteries, a major risk factor for stroke
- Abdominal aortic aneurysm ultrasound to identify presence of an enlargement in the largest blood vessel in the body
- An EKG to identify the presence of atrial fibrillation, which increases the risk for stroke
- Ultrasound of the lower legs to look for plaque buildup known as peripheral artery disease
- Ultrasound of the shin bone to identify risk for osteoporosis

These 5 vital screenings are offered for only \$149 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you register today, you will receive a \$10 discount.

Register by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441 or text the word "circle" to 797979.

## CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTIONS

Are you getting close to your Required Minimum Distribution age for your retirement plan? Getting ready to look at making adjustments to your retirement plan distributions? Ask your financial advisor and/or tax professional if you could benefit from using the Qualified Charitable Distribution that is available for retirement plan distributions. Our Church qualifies under this and it could save you tax dollars while helping your Church.

## ADOPT A BILL

BLCs Adopt-a-Bill 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.

Name	Amount
Alliant Energy (gas/electric)	\$354.76
Brotherhood Mutual (Insurance)	\$1708.75
GFC Leasing (Copier)	\$263.18
GFL Environmental (Garbage)	\$180.66
USPS (postage)	\$56.85
Rhyme (office supplies)	\$76.07
Thrivent (mortgage)	\$5613.00
Vanco (simply giving fee)	\$25.58

Name	Amount
QuickBooks (financial software)	\$50.00
Frontier (phone/internet)	\$297.47
1517 Media (Spark Family renewal)	\$17.90
1517 Media (Word in Season Devotionals)	\$51.75
Wisconsin Pest Control (	\$140.00
O'Brion Agency (office supplies)	\$70.00

## FINANCIAL UPDATE

### Bethlehem Lutheran Church

#### Profit and Loss Comparison

August 1-24, 2021

	TOTAL				
	AUG 1-24, 2021	AUG 1-24, 2020 (PY)	JUL 1-24, 2021 (PP)	JAN 1 - AUG 24, 2021 (YTD)	JAN 1 - AUG 24, 2020 (PY YTD)
Income					
Income	21,774.30	13,239.70	18,249.86	167,199.70	172,444.86
Other Income	13,811.00	570.00	335.00	19,319.48	8,127.68
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$35,585.30</b>	<b>\$13,809.70</b>	<b>\$18,584.86</b>	<b>\$186,519.18</b>	<b>\$180,572.54</b>
GROSS PROFIT	\$35,585.30	\$13,809.70	\$18,584.86	\$186,519.18	\$180,572.54
Expenses	\$16,434.63	\$7,710.14	\$18,638.31	\$158,860.26	\$156,749.38
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$19,150.67	\$6,099.56	\$-53.45	\$27,658.92	\$23,823.16
Other Income	\$2,311.03	\$0.00	\$2,550.00	\$18,844.19	\$7,461.00
Other Expenses	\$2,201.50	\$0.00	\$2,484.75	\$18,066.00	\$7,164.22
NET OTHER INCOME	\$109.53	\$0.00	\$65.25	\$778.19	\$296.78
NET INCOME	\$19,260.20	\$6,099.56	\$11.80	\$28,437.11	\$24,119.94

## September 2021 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Music	Coffee Hour
Wed 9/1 5:30 pm				Ronna	
Sun 9/5 9am			Justice Oh	Carla	
<b>Altar Flowers:</b>	In honor of Larry Sween & Scarlet Sween birthdays				
Wed 9/8 5:30 pm				Ronna	
Sun 9/12 9am				Carla	Crawfords
<b>Altar Flowers:</b>	Jim & Kathryn Crawford in memory of Pearl Crawford				
Wed 9/15 5:30 pm				Samantha	
Sun 9/19 9am				Ronna	
<b>Altar Flowers:</b>					
Wed 9/22 5:30 pm				Samantha	
Sun 9/26 9am	Jeff Melby	Kerry Melby		Carla	
<b>Altar Flowers:</b>					
Wed 9/29 5:30 pm				Samantha	



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

# September 2021

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<b>1</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person	<b>6</b> <b>Office Closed</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Card Club 	<b>7</b> 9:00 am Quilters	<b>8</b> <b>Food Pantry Helpers</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person	<b>9</b> <b>Arts &amp; Craft Market Set Up</b>  <b>Food Pantry Helpers</b>	<b>10</b> <b>Arts &amp; Craft Market Set up</b>	<b>11</b>  8:30 am – 2pm Arts & Craft Market  Youth Highway Clean up & Lock-Out
 <b>12</b> <b>Fall Ministry Fair</b> <b>Sunday School Rally Day &amp; Teacher Installation</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person- Blessing of the Backpacks 10:15 am Sunday School 	<b>13</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:00 pm SREA meeting 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>14</b> 9:00 am Quilters 5:00 pm Finance	<b>15</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation 	<b>16</b> 6:30 pm Council Meeting	<b>17</b> <b>Chimes Articles Due</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>18</b>
<b>19</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>20</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Card Club 6:30 pm SRA Mtg	<b>21</b> 9:00 am Quilters 7:00 pm SREA Annual Meeting	<b>22</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>23</b> 6:30 pm SRA Annual Meeting	<b>24</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi	<b>25</b> Trivia Night 5:30 pm 
<b>26</b> 9:00 am Worship Online & In Person 10:15 am Sunday School	<b>27</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 6:30 pm Card Club	<b>28</b> 9:00 am Quilters	<b>29</b> 10:30 am Tai Chi 5:30 pm Worship In person 6:30 pm Confirmation	<b>30</b>		

