



CHIMES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2022 VOLUME 84, ISSUE 9

OUR CHURCH

RUMMAGE SALE WRAP-UP



A big "Thank You" to all those that contributed to the annual Rummage Sale, in ways of items, buying, and volunteering to help. We raised \$2,381.45, which is great considering we did not sell brats this year. It was wonderful to see all those happy faces that walked through the doors

looking for bargains, and walking out with arms full of items. However, this year we ended up with more leftover items than would fit into the Saint Vincent de Paul truck, so an extra thank you to Ann Ciske's son and Tm Kratz for taking care of the leftovers.

GOD'S WORK OUR HANDS

This year for God's Work Our Hands, we will be volunteering for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace bed building day on **Saturday, September 10th**. The shifts

are for 2 hours between 9 am and 1 pm. Sleep in Heavenly Peace has their own sign up page and is online. [Here is the link](#) to sign up. Building happens at the O'Brian Agency, 628 Albert Drive, Portage.

We are also collecting bedding for the beds. They should be NEW Twin sized sheets and blankets and pillows and bedtime story books. Those can be dropped off in the narthex at church.



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

STRATEGIC PLANNING



Save the date! Sept. 17th, 8 – 11 am

All members are encouraged to come to this first meeting on Saturday, September 17th. The strategic planning process is going to help us articulate who we are, what our values are, and what we are called to in this time and place. This will help us to move forward as a church that is united in our mission.

You may be wondering, why this process and why now? A lot has changed in the last 3 years, 6 years, and beyond. The world that we live in has changed significantly and so has our Bethlehem community. 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. 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.

UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 1

9 am Women's Group

SEPTEMBER 5

Office Closed for Holiday

SEPTEMBER 6

9 am Quilting Group Begins
5 pm Finance Meeting

SEPTEMBER 10

God's Work Our Hands: Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day

SEPTEMBER 12

6:30 pm Worship & Music Meeting

SEPTEMBER 14

Food Pantry Helpers
6:30 pm Confirmation Classes Start

SEPTEMBER 15

6:30 pm Church Council Meeting

SEPTEMBER 17

8-11 am Strategic Planning All Church Member Meeting

SEPTEMBER 18

Sunday School Rally Day
9 am Praise Team Worship, Blessing of the Backpacks, Teacher/Mentor Installation
Hand Chime Practice

SEPTEMBER 24

8 am to 2 pm Arts & Craft Market

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

W8267 Hwy 33 East, Portage, WI
53901 608-742-8502

Office: office@blcportage.org

Pastor:

pastorbenson@blcportage.org

www.bethlehemLCportage.org

HAND CHIMES



Hand Chimes practice will start back up on September 18th. Stay tuned for more details. The purchase of the hand chimes was made possible because of the generosity of the Stewart family, contributing memorial money in

memory of George, who loved music and was very involved with the music program here at BLC. Thank you to them and to all who donated to make this a beautiful listening experience during worship.

MISSION KITS COLLECTION

We continue to collect the items for the Mission Kits.

We will be shipping these out in October. A

complete list of the items was attached to the July Chimes and a printed list can be found in the narthex. If you have questions, you can call Janice or Jeanette at



ALTAR FLOWERS



Altar Flowers

There are several spots available to sign up to provide altar flowers for the rest of the year. The sign up is in the narthex. The cost is \$40 and we ask that this money is donated at the time of sign up. Thank you for helping decorate our beautiful sanctuary.

BLESSING OF THE PETS & PET FEST

Thank you to all who came out to participate and help with our first Pet Fest. Although it was wet, we had a decent turnout. We even made it onto the front page of the Portage Daily Register! It was a fun event, and we plan to have it again next summer.

WORSHIP & MUSIC COMMITTEE

The Worship & Music Committee is starting up again and will be meeting on **Monday, September 12th at 6:30 pm.** Anyone who is interested in joining this committee is welcome to attend.



QUILT RAFFLE

2022 Quilt Donation Raffle



This year's quilt is a combination of quilt blocks which were donated to Bethlehem Lutheran Church, plus additional fabric and supplies for the making of this quilt. The quilt was designed by Barb Rothwell and finished by Marie Rohrbacher. There are also two zippered pillows included. Quilt measure ~86" x 138".

Tickets will be available for purchase through the church office during the week and on some Sundays. The quilt will be raffled off at the Arts & Craft Market on September 24th.

ARTS & CRAFT MARKET

There is no PLACE like GNOME

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN

indoor & outdoor booths

Arts & Craft Market

SEPTEMBER 24
8 AM - 2 PM

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
W8267 HWY 33 E, PORTAGE

QUILT RAFFLE, FOOD STAND & BAKE SALE

FAITH FORMATION

WELCOME BACK TO CONFIRMATION!

We will be kicking off the Confirmation year starting on **Wednesday, September 14th at 6:30pm.** On the first night of class, parents, please attend with your student, we will be going over the calendar for the year, completing a couple of handouts, and will be participating in a couple of activities that Pr. Jaime has

planned. We are also adding an additional 15 minutes to our weekly classes this year to allow for games/ community building activities. The new class time will be every Wednesday, 6:30pm-7:45pm. Although everyone is strongly encouraged to stay for this time, it will not be required. Please reach out to Pr. Jaime Benson or Tania Anderson if you have any questions or concerns. We are looking forward to seeing everyone at class! You can register online [here](#). Make sure to bookmark our [Faith Formation](#) page on our website – it has all the information you will need for the upcoming school year. Look for a letter coming soon with additional details.

SEPTEMBER 18TH

Bring your backpacks to church on the 18th for a blessing. We will also be installing the teachers and mentors during worship.

SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY

Who's ready for **SUNDAY SCHOOL RALLY DAY!**



We are getting ready to kick-off the next year of Sunday School starting on Rally Day, **September 18th!** Join us for an orientation/activity day beginning at **10:15am**. We will be meeting in the Sanctuary that morning so the kids can meet their teachers and classmates. Once the kids leave for their classes, there will be a short orientation meeting for the parents. You may register for Sunday School that morning in-person, or you may fill out the online for at this [link](#). Additional details about the Sunday School can be found in [this letter](#) which was sent via email to everyone at the end of August.

PLEASE NOTE: We will be hosting traditional Sunday School with music and a lesson on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month (also on the 5th Sunday if there are five weeks). On the opposite Sundays, we will be hosting activity days for families and congregation members of all ages after worship to help build our intergenerational community here at BLC. If you have any questions or concerns about the Sunday School program this year, please contact Jeanette Gessner at or Tania Anderson at parishassociate@blcportage.org.

NEW PROGRAMMING AT BLC BEGINNING IN OCTOBER!

Fruit of the Spirit Kids Club

Children in **kindergarten through 5th grade** can join us on the 1st Sunday evening of each month from 4:00pm-5:15pm for fun lessons, activities, and games as we learn about the fruit of the spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control.

We will have additional information about the class and the registration forms available in September. Open to anyone in the community! If you have any questions about this VBS-style class, or if you would like to help us with the program, please contact Tania Anderson at parishassociate@blcportage.org.



Fruit of the Spirit Service Club

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.

Galatians 5:22-23

Youth ages **5th grade and above** are welcome to join us for various community service projects throughout the year. This is also open to anyone in the community to join! We are planning our first activity day in October with additional information coming out in September. Again, if you would like to assist with this program or if you have an idea for a service project, please contact Tania Anderson at parishassociate@blcportage.org.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATE

The mission trip to the Dominican Republic has been changed this year to collegiate week, **January 7th-January 14th, 2023**. You may find out more about the trip at [this link](#). Because this trip is for college-aged young adults, we will not be organizing any fundraising events at this time. Our fundraising efforts will be reserved for the next high school trip tentatively scheduled for 2024.

Please send this on to any college-aged alumni of BLC that you believe would like to attend. Please contact **Megan Jahoda** with any questions or concerns, or if you are interested in registering. She can be reached at

NEWS FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

WORSHIP VOLUNTEERING



We would like to get back to how we scheduled worship volunteers pre-Covid. This will help eliminate the last minute scramble to find people to fill spots. We

would like to organize groups, much like the Acolytes & Altar Guild, where all those interested in volunteering to usher, for example, would be on a list of Ushers. A schedule would be made for several months in advance and people would be assigned a day. If you are not able to fulfill that day, you can switch with someone in your volunteer group. You will find a signup sheet in the narthex to put your name down where you'd be willing to help out. You can also email Julie and let her know what you'd like to help with.

Please remember that we NEED volunteers to help run worship and have it be the experience it is. Without you, it just doesn't work! If you have never volunteered for one of these jobs, we are happy to train you. If you have any questions, please contact Julie Saalsaa in the

office. Thank you in advance for your help and support with making our church be what it is!

NEW STAFF EMAILS UPDATE



A reminder that we have new email addresses. Please take a moment to remove our old email addresses and replace them with the following:

- Pastor Jaime email: pastorbenson@blcportage.org
- Julie/Office email: office@blcportage.org
- Tania/Parish Associate email: parishassociate@blcportage.org

We are having delivery issues with anyone with a Charter email. They do not seem to be getting them when a bulk email is sent. Julie has looked into the problem and it seems to be a Charter issue. If you have a Charter email, please look in your "Spam" folder and see if church emails are in there. If they are, you will need to open it and mark it as safe and not spam. If you need help with that, please call the office.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison August 1-23, 2022

	TOTAL				
	AUG 1-23, 2022	AUG 1-23, 2021 (PY)	JUL 1-23, 2022 (PP)	JAN 1 - AUG 23, 2022 (YTD)	JAN 1 - AUG 23, 2021 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	19,262.45	21,774.30	15,600.12	189,850.25	167,199.70
▶ Other Income	275.00	13,811.00	1,275.00	9,468.97	19,319.48
Total Income	\$19,537.45	\$35,585.30	\$16,875.12	\$199,319.22	\$186,519.18
GIROS PROFIT	\$19,537.45	\$35,585.30	\$16,875.12	\$199,319.22	\$186,519.18
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	14,807.85	13,013.88	11,587.03	167,074.01	153,659.51
▶ Other Expense		1,027.80	335.00	4,045.30	2,807.80
Total Expenses	\$14,807.85	\$14,041.68	\$11,922.03	\$171,119.31	\$156,467.31
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$4,729.60	\$21,543.62	\$4,953.09	\$28,199.91	\$30,051.87
▶ Other Income	\$1,750.00	\$2,311.03	\$2,350.00	\$21,181.09	\$18,844.19
▶ Other Expenses	\$2,463.00	\$2,201.50	\$2,304.11	\$20,422.83	\$18,066.00
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -713.00	\$109.53	\$45.89	\$758.26	\$778.19
NET INCOME	\$4,016.60	\$21,653.15	\$4,998.98	\$28,958.17	\$30,830.06

Praying with a Finger Labyrinth

- ◆ Sit comfortably, be still and gently pray: *I place myself in your presence O Lord, my God.*
- ◆ When you are ready... slowly trace the labyrinth path with a finger, use a finger on the hand that you do not write with, just let your thoughts come to the surface and let them flow... Jesus is with you every step of the way, you are never alone. You are always loved by God.
- ◆ When you reach the centre...consider your thoughts...
- ◆ ...stay in the centre for a while and spend some time in prayer and reflection receiving God's love and blessing.
- ◆ When you are ready... return along the same path... return gratefully, prayerfully ... you might like to sing or say aloud a line from the psalms or a favourite hymn.
- ◆ As you exit the labyrinth give thanks and praise to God: *Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit as it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.*



*... you will reveal the path of life to me,
give me unbounded joy in
Your presence...*

Psalm 16:1

Your labyrinth prayer time can be as open or as focused as you would like it to be. You might want to simply enter the labyrinth and be with the Lord...

or, before you enter the labyrinth, you might like to take time to:

- ◇ Read and reflect on a line or two from Scripture and ponder those words in the labyrinth
- ◇ Hold a memory or a photo of a loved one you wish to remember or pray for while you are in the labyrinth
- ◇ Consider an experience in your life where you are seeking healing or forgiveness and talk to God in the labyrinth
- ◇ Think about a key celebration in your life and walk a prayer of thanksgiving in the labyrinth.

Finger Labyrinth

and

Prayer Guide



Labyrinths are ancient pathways found across the world. The winding path helps us to 'unwind', to let go and rest in God. Members of the early church as well as Medieval pilgrims have used them as a support for prayer.

Today, labyrinths are being created in churches, retreat centres, schools, hospices and cathedrals to offer a spiritual space for prayer and reflection providing a stilling space in a busy world.

A labyrinth is different from a maze. A maze is full of dead-ends and designed to get you lost. A labyrinth has only one path that always leads to the centre... if you stay on the path you cannot get lost.

There is no right or wrong way to a labyrinth... no set pace... just follow the path in your own time...

Finger labyrinths can be used for prayerful reflection when it is not possible to walk a full-sized labyrinth.

*...did not our hearts burn within us as he
talked to us on the road...*

Luke 24:32

SEPTEMBER 2022 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 9/4 9am	Dianna Bush	Darlene Anderson	Jeff Melby			Nancy Schwenke	Josephine Bue	Carla	
Flowers:	Larry & Sandy Sween in honor of Larry & Scarlet's birthdays								
Wed 9/7 5:30 pm						Judy Donahue	Shia Grosklau	Samantha	
Sun 9/11 9am	Ann Ciske	Bonnie Dixon	Lori & Brady Cox	Darlene Anderson		Darlene Anderson	Alex Hayes	Samantha	
Flowers:	Tom & Denise Derey for the Glory of God								
Wed 9/14 5:30 pm						Cheryl Hebal	Everitt Schilling	Jody	
Sun 9/18 9am	Kory Anderson	Nancy Buckley	Justice Oh			Lisa Cook	Avri Anderson	Praise Team	
Flowers:	Cloe Rehdantz in memory of Bob Rehdantz								
Wed 9/21 5:30 pm						Kathy Lawrence	Zoe Zellmer	Jody	
Sun 9/25 9am	Mike & Robin Kvalo	Bobbie Goodman				Sue Conner	Kayson Bulgrin	Carla	
Flowers:	Ron & Judy Donahue in honor of their 64th Wedding Anniversary								
Wed 9/28 5:30 pm						Cara Druckrey	Josephine Bue	Ronna	

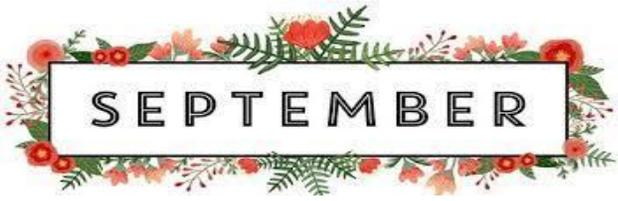


Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

September 2022

General Church Grounds x → Conference Room x → Music Room x → Fellowship Hall x

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				Sep 1 9:00am Women's Group 10:00am Strategic Planning Data Meeting	2 10:30am Tai Chi	3
4 9:00am Worship	5 Office Closed for Holiday 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 	6 9:00am Quilters 5:00pm Finance Meeting	7 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	8	9 10:30am Tai Chi	10 God Work Our Hands Sleep in Heavenly Peace Build Day 
11 9:00am Worship	12 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting 6:30pm Worship & Music Committ.	13 9:00am Quilters	14 Food Pantry Helpers 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation 	15 6:30pm Church Council 	16 10:30am Tai Chi	17 8:00am Strategic Planning Member Meeting 
18  Sunday School Rally Day 9:00am Praise Team Worship Backpack Blessing, Teacher/Mentor Installation	19 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	20 9:00am Quilters 6:00pm SREA Annual Meeting	21 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	22	23 10:30am Tai Chi	24 8:00am Arts & Craft Market
25 9:00am Worship	26 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	27 9:00am Quilters	28 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation	29	30 10:30am Tai Chi	Oct 1

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
W8267 HWY 33 EAST
PORTAGE WI 53901

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED



«Addressee»
«Street Permanent Address»
«City_Permanent_Address», «State_Permanent_Address»
«Zip_Permanent_Address»

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