



CHIMES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2024 VOLUME 86, ISSUE 9

MESSAGE FROM THE PASTOR

Dear church,

We often talk about how we are given a new life or new beginning through our relationship with Jesus. This truth can be freeing and transformational, but I wonder how often we lean into the “newness” of a life of faith? When do we step into something new or unknown? Not only is this a gift Christ gives us in our baptism, we are given this new beginning each day. I want to encourage and remind us that our faith life is meant to have new beginnings over and over again. Is there a new beginning that you are being invited into? We may need to let go of something to fully embrace the new. Let us explore the “new” that God places before us, and may these words from John O’Donohue give us courage to do so.

In peace,
Pr. Jaime Benson

*For A New Beginning by John O’Donohue
from “To Bless the Space Between Us”*

In out-of-the-way places of the heart,
Where your thoughts never think to wander,
This beginning has been quietly forming,
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.
For a long time it has watched your desire,
Feeling the emptiness growing inside you,
Noticing how you willed yourself on,
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.
It watched you play with the seduction of safety
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,
Wondered would you always live like this.
Then the delight, when your courage kindled,
And out you stepped onto new ground,
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,
A path of plenitude opening before you.
Though your destination is not yet clear
You can trust the promise of this opening;
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning
That is at one with your life's desire.
Awaken your spirit to adventure;
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

BIBLE STUDY RETURNS

Bible Study will start back up on Tuesday, **September 10th**, 11:00 am in the fellowship hall. We will meet every other Tuesday and we’ll start where we left off in May!

QUILTING RETURNS

Quilting Group will be resuming our work on Tuesday, **September 10th**, 9:00-11:00 am. Anyone who’s interested is more than welcome to join us every week.

SANCTUS REAL

Sunday, Sept. 22nd, 3:00 pm
CAL Center in Reedsburg
Reserved Seating: \$35 * \$30 * \$25
Sanctus Real, Christian Rock band from Ohio formed in the late 90’s, has generated 19 top ten singles, eight #1 singles, Dove Awards and Grammy nominations.

The band consists of lead singer Dustin Lolli, drummer Mark Graalman, and guitarist Chris Rohman.

If you are interested in going, please contact the office by **September 12th**.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA
W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI 53901
608-742-8502
Email: office@blcportage.org
www.bethlehemLCportage.org

SEARCHING FOR FAITH STORIES!



Do you have a faith story to share? Of course you do! We all have a faith story to share. We may not always think we do, but God is always present in our lives, so how can we not have a faith story? **We are looking for individuals to write a short reflection or story about their faith and faith experiences.** These can be submitted to the office to be included in future communications (bulletin, Chimes, etc.) and can be submitted anonymously if you would like. Feel free to send these reflections to the office at your earliest convenience. We will try to keep sharing these in the months ahead and we welcome submissions on a rolling basis. If you have any questions, please contact Pastor Jaime or a stewardship committee member.

ENJOY SINGING?

Like to sing but afraid choir would be too much? Choir practices after church 2x/month from 10:15-11:00 am. We usually try to sing during a service once a month if possible. We have some strong singers who you can sit by to learn your part. We also have folks in the choir who cannot read music and who do great. Cannot be there all of the time? We understand, no problem. Want more information talk to a choir member or Carla Gerhardt.



EPIC HEALTH SYSTEMS COMMUNITY TOUR



You are invited to a one-hour walking guided tour of Epic Intergalactic-Headquarters on **September 12th**. The tour begins at 10:30 am, we'll **meet at church at 9:00 am** so we can arrange carpooling and leave by 9:15 am. After the tour we will go to Sugar River Pizza in Verona for lunch. If you are interested in going, please call Amy in the office (608-742-8502) by September 5th.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to **Ian & Alex Hayes** for all the trimming they did around the church property in July. Also, a special thank you to **Del Molden** for his continued effort to get the buzz entry system working properly.



RALLY DAY POTLUCK PICNIC – SEPTEMBER 15TH!



Join us after worship service **September 15th** for a potluck picnic! Pulled pork will be provided, a sign-up list of items needed can be found at: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0D4DADA72FA1FCC43-50748627-congregation>

CURRENT EVENTS

Be sure and check out the bulletin boards in the narthex area for current and upcoming events happening here at Bethlehem Lutheran as well as in the community!



SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Donation Drive

for Sleep in Heavenly Peace

WE'LL BE COLLECTING MUCH NEEDED BEDDING FOR THE BEDS MADE BY SLEEP IN HEAVENLY PEACE VOLUNTEERS

All items must be NEW, please

- twin size sheets and comforters
• standard sized pillows
• "Bed-in-a-Bag" sets

There is a specific need for gender-neutral, theme-free bedding for older kids (not cartoonish)

Want to learn more about SHP? check out their website at https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-portage

We're accepting donations now through September 8th!



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

I WILL LIE DOWN AND SLEEP IN PEACE FOR YOU ALONE, O LORD, MAKE ME DWELL IN SAFETY.

-PSALM 4:8



Sleep in Heavenly Peace's National Build Day is Saturday, September 14th. This will be our God's Work Our Hands Project. If you'd like to participate in building beds for this great cause, please visit their website at: https://shpbeds.org/chapter/wi-portage/



FREE CONCERT



Classically Christian 89.5 FM Presents: Cornelius Chin of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra with Pianist Sung Hoon Mo. Friday, September 13th, 2024 - Walnut Hill Bible Church, 1900 East St., Baraboo 7:00 pm - doors open at 6:45 pm.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are excited to invite you to Sunday School Rally Day September 15th following the worship service. There also is a congregational potluck picnic following the service. Sunday School is for children ages 3 year old through 5th grade. On Rally Day, you will meet your Sunday School Teacher and get acquainted with your classmates. After the children leave for their class there will be a short Sunday School orientation session with the parents in the sanctuary. This will not last long so all can attend the picnic.

We will meet the 1st and 3rd Sunday's of the month from 10:15-11:15 am starting in the sanctuary. Please visit our website for an online form or there are paper registration forms in the Narthex. We also need a teacher, please contact Jeanette Gessner if interested.

CONFIRMATION



Confirmation class begins **September 18th** following the Wednesday worship service at 5:30 pm. This is for grades 6th – 9th. Please register your child online at: <https://forms.office.com/r/ZdqimEaXk9?origin=lprLink>. **Confirmation is held the 1st and 3rd Wednesday from 6:30 pm – 7:45 pm.** Students – don't forget to turn in your Reflections. Previous services are posted online for viewing.

VBS RE-CAP

We had a fantastic week at Scuba VBS, where multiple churches came together in unity and joy. We had 61 children registered, 12 adult and 47 youth volunteers, for a total of 110 participants! Hosted by St. Mary Catholic Church, Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Portage United Methodist Church, and Briggsville United Methodist Church; *this event was a beacon of collaboration in a world that often feels divided.*

At Scuba VBS, kids dove into friendship with God through a variety of engaging activities. From hands-on science experiments and team-building games to unforgettable Bible songs and delicious treats, the experience was designed to make faith come alive. A highlight of the week was discovering “God Sightings,” or ways to see evidence of God in everyday life.

The youth also took part in a meaningful service project, raising \$301 for Heifer International to provide the “Gift of Clean Water.” This contribution will help families access fresh water through treadle pumps, rainwater tanks, and water conservation practices. Through this project, the children learned the importance of being grateful for the water they have and the impact they can make in the world.

The week ended with the wonderful Fin-tastic Finale, where family and friends gathered to see the children showcase what they had learned and sing their songs. The turnout was fantastic, and it was heartwarming to see the kids share their experiences and enthusiasm.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who contributed supplies, food, and money, with special thanks to Culver's, Festival Foods, and Portage Knights of Columbus for their generous support. Your contributions were greatly appreciated and made this year's VBS a memorable success.

We're already excited for next year's adventure with “True North: Trusting Jesus in a Wild World!” and look forward to another inspiring and joyful VBS experience.



Thank you,

Brenda Collins - VBS Director & The VBS Crew at Bethlehem Lutheran

YOUTH ADVOCACY RETREAT

Join us for "**Called to be Advocates**" at **Pine Lake Camp, Waupaca, October 4-6, 2024.** The event begins Friday from 4:00-6:00 PM & ends around noon on Sunday. We'll offer great speakers, time for relaxation and getting to know other youth, and opportunities to build advocacy skills and to take action. **Register [HERE](#).** Find more info here: <https://www.loppw.org/resources/youth-advocacy/> Please let us know if the \$100 fee will be a challenge.

The event is being hosted by the Lutheran Office for Public Policy in WI and the six ELCA synods with congregations in WI and the UP. But young people of all backgrounds are welcome. **Note about our main speakers: David Scherer** combines rapping, dancing, and storytelling to inspire people to break down the barriers that divide them and work for justice for all people. **Rev. Jonathan Barker** is a climate advocate and parish pastor at Grace Lutheran Church in Kenosha.

September 2024 BLC Worship Volunteers - Thank you!

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 9/1 9 am	Del Molden	Del Molden		Nancy Buckley	Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Colin Langan	Carla	
Wed 9/4 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Beau Grosklous	Jody	
Sun 9/8 9am	Larry Sween	Ellen Kabele	Lori/Brady Cox	Bobbie Goodman	Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Gabe Bishop	Jody	
Wed 9/11 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Lindsay Nickel	Carla	
Sun 9/15 9am	Dianna Bush	Dianna Bush	Joe Jackowski	Bonnie Dixon	Marie Kucksdorf	Marie Kucksdorf	Oleatta Guenther	Jody	Potluck Picnic
Wed 9/18 5:30 pm					Sharon Horvath	Sharon Horvath	Makenzie Schmidtke	Carla	
Sun 9/22 9am	Marie Rohrbacher	Nancy Buckley		Ginny McNeal	Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Mikayla Bovre	Praise Team	
Wed 9/25 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey	Clara Georgeson	Ronna	
Sun 9/29 9am	Sandy Sween	Robin Kvalo		Ellen Kabele	Lisa Cook	Lisa Cook	Kinleyh Anderson	Carla	



SEPTEMBER MOWING SCHEDULE

Week of **Sept. 1st**: Del Molden; **Sept. 8th**: Jeff Melby; **Sept. 15th**: Dennis Benson;
Sept. 22nd: Dan Kucksdorf; **Sept. 29th**: Butch Jahoda



*September Food Pantry
Help is Team C!*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Profit and Loss Comparison









July 21 - August 21, 2024

	TOTAL				
	JUL 21 - AUG 21, 2024	JUL 21 - AUG 21, 2023 (PY)	JUN 19 - JUL 20, 2024 (PP)	JAN 1 - AUG 21, 2024 (YTD)	JAN 1 - AUG 21, 2023 (PY YTD)
Income					
Income	23,884.26	24,066.13	23,690.81	186,449.33	173,304.20
Other Income	63.00	375.09	1,320.05	12,803.11	46,472.56
Total Income	\$23,947.26	\$24,441.22	\$25,010.86	\$199,252.44	\$219,776.76
GROSS PROFIT	\$23,947.26	\$24,441.22	\$25,010.86	\$199,252.44	\$219,776.76
Expenses					
Operating Expenses	21,904.26	18,851.07	19,126.57	167,032.61	191,639.73
Other Expense		3,750.00	850.00	3,656.00	15,181.30
Total Expenses	\$21,904.26	\$22,601.07	\$19,976.57	\$170,688.61	\$206,821.03
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$2,043.00	\$1,840.15	\$5,034.29	\$28,563.83	\$12,955.73
Other Income	\$1,600.00	\$2,600.00	\$200.00	\$11,195.00	\$20,115.00
Other Expenses	\$2,062.00	\$2,558.28	\$203.00	\$11,180.18	\$19,597.09
NET OTHER INCOME	\$ -462.00	\$41.72	\$ -3.00	\$14.82	\$517.91
NET INCOME	\$1,581.00	\$1,881.87	\$5,031.29	\$28,578.65	\$13,473.64

Cash basis Tuesday, August 20, 2024 09:49 AM GMT-05:00

Actual Cash Flow | **-\$ 1,111.57** | **-\$3,303.57** | **\$ 2,347.55** | **\$ 7,275.15** | **-\$ 7,065.18**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Sep 1 9:00am Worship	2 Office Closed for Labor Day 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	3 9:00am Quilters	4 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	5	6 10:30am Tai Chi	7
8 9:00am Worship 10:00am SS & Conf. Mentor Training	9 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:00pm SREA Meeting	10 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 	11 Food Pantry Helpers  10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	12 9:00am Epic Tour Outing	13 10:30am Tai Chi	14 Build Day for Sleep in Heavenly Peace 
15 9:00am Worship 10:00am Congregational Potluck Picnic 10:15am Sunday School 	16 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Meeting	17 9:00am Quilters 5:00pm SREA meeting	18 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship 6:30pm Confirmation Class	19 6:30pm Council meeting 	20 10:00am Chimes Articles Due 10:30am Tai Chi	21
22 9:00 am Praise Team 10:30 – 12:00 pm Financial Sustainability Task Force meeting	23 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club 6:30pm SRA Annual Meeting	24 9:00am Quilters 11:00am Bible Study 	25 10:30am Tai Chi 5:30pm Worship	26	27 10:30am Tai Chi	28
29 9:00am Worship	30 10:30am Tai Chi 1:00pm Card Club	 <h1 style="font-size: 4em; margin: 0;">September</h1> 				

The ***CHIMES*** is published monthly by Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Office phone: 608-742-8502

Office Email: office@blcportage.org

Website: bethlehemLCportage.org

Deadline for copy is the 20th of the month prior to publication. Editor reserves the right to edit for content and space.



November 22, 2024

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm

November 23, 2024

9:00 am – 3:00 pm

Sponsored by

The former Saddle Ridge Craft Group &
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

**Event held at Bethlehem Lutheran
Church**

W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage