

CHIMES Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2023 VOLUME 85, ISSUE 9

Grace and peace to you, BLC!

I pray that God has been meeting you wherever you may be currently and that the Spirit would grant you peace this day.

Next month will mark my two-year anniversary of being with you all here at Bethlehem as your pastor. Can you believe it? These past two years feel like they have moved so quickly and yet so much has happened in such a short amount of time. I am so grateful for the ways we have come together as a community, supporting one another, celebrating with each other, and so much more. We continue to live into our call of being the body of Christ in this time and in this place which is such a gift.

We have talked about the body of Christ on more than one occasion and how diverse that body is. We have also explored how God is multifaceted and meets each of us in different ways. This variety, this diversity is something to celebrate and cherish, both personally and as a community. In order to explore the many different ways God engages with us, we are going to try some different ways to engage God in the coming months, specifically in worship. Trying something new may make us feel uncomfortable or different at times. This is okay. Jesus doesn't call us to be comfortable, he calls us to be followers, which might involve some discomfort, but it will also lead to growth. Included in the Chimes this month you will find our proposed strategic plan for Bethlehem Lutheran Church which includes a new mission and vision statement along with some goals/directions we will focus on. All three of these directions are focused around growing, growing in our relationship with God, growing in our relationship with our neighbors and community, and growing in our financial sustainability. I would encourage you to read and pray over the strategic plan. We will vote on adopting this plan on Sunday, October 15th so please plan to attend that meeting which will follow worship that day.

This plan is focused on growth which is what a life of faith is about. Growth and change are part of the very fabric of being a disciple. We hear stories over and over again in Scripture of how God has impacted and changed God's people for generations. Growing and newness are not always smooth processes, but they do offer opportunities to discover, learn, and engage in a new way. So, when things don't feel familiar, could we lean into the grace that God first showed us and extend that grace to one another and to ourselves? We might be surprised how the Spirit shows up in a new way for us and/or possibly for a neighbor. Grace is key to navigating discomfort well and it might just lead to gifts we cannot even imagine.

Are you in?
Blessings,
Pastor Jaime Benson



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 3

Pastor Jaime Vacation

SEPTEMBER 4

Labor Day – Office Closed

SEPTEMBER 5

9 am Quilters

SEPTEMBER 10

9 am Outdoor Worship
10-12 Petfest

SEPTEMBER 13

Food Pantry Helpers
10:30 am Tai Chi
5:30 pm Worship
Confirmation Starts

SEPTEMBER 14

9 am Women's Group trip to Olbrich

SEPTEMBER 16

9 am Synod Stewardship Fall Kick Off

SEPTEMBER 21

6 pm Church Council

SEPTEMBER 23

9 am Arts and Craft Market

SEPTEMBER 24

10 am Youth Casserole Sale

Bethlehem Lutheran Church, ELCA

W8267 Hwy 33 East

Portage, WI 53901

608-742-8502

Email: office@blcportage.org
www.bethlehemLCportage.org

OUR CHURCH

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION

Are you interested in becoming a member? We will be having a new member orientation on October 22nd. Please let Pastor Jaime or the church office know if you are interested in attending.

THANK YOU

Thank you to everyone that supported the pie sale at the Taste of Portage.

CRAFT MARKET



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

Arts & Craft Market

SEPT. 23rd

8 AM to 2 PM
W8267 Hwy 33 East
Portage, WI

WOMEN'S GROUP

September 14, 2023 Olbrich Outdoor Gardens tour

The outdoor gardens tour will start at 11:00. We will be meeting at the church at 9:00 am to carpool. There will be time for shopping and visiting the Bolz Conservatory prior to the tour. The tour lasts approximately 1 hour and upon completion we will head to Garver Feed Mill for lunch. The outdoor gardens tour cost is \$5.00. If you plan to go to Bolz Conservatory there is a separate \$6.00 fee. Fees will be paid directly to Olbrich on the day of the event. Please contact the church office by September 11th at 608-742-8502 to R.S.V.P. The office is open 8 am to 11 am.

BLESSING OF THE PETS



**Blessing of the Pets
PET FEST**

SUNDAY, Sept. 10

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

9 am to 12 pm

NEW FOR 2023:

LURE DASH

A fundraiser for CCHS. A donation of \$10 is suggested for your dog to participate.

Please note: pets that play well with all other types of animals are encouraged to attend. Bethlehem is not liable for bad behaviors. Please also make sure all pets are leashed at all times & small pets are in carrier.

9 am – Blessing of the Pets Outdoor Worship Service (Bring a blanket or chair)
If your pet isn't able to travel, you may bring along a photo for the pet blessing

9:30am-12:00pm – Outdoor Event/Vendors

Participating businesses:

Aspen Chiropractic & Wellness
Columbia County Humane Society (CCHS)
MATC Puppy/Dog Training
All in the Family Creations
(handmade dog coats)
Photos By DMH (FREE Pet Photo booth)

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
W8267 Hwy 33 E, Portage 608-742-8502

If you would like to help with this event, please contact Tina in the office. We will need a few volunteers that day to help with traffic control in the parking lot as well as food sales. We could also use a few junior helpers as well to keep the water bowls full for the pets.

LIFE LINE SCREENING



Lifeline Screening will once again be here on **October 26th** to offer health screenings. Life Line Screening looks inside your arteries for dangerous plaque buildup that can increase your risk for stroke and cardiovascular disease. They offer 5 vital screenings for \$139 and take 60-90 minutes to complete. If you are interested in reserving a spot you can register here: <https://llsa.social/HSC> or by calling toll free 1-888-653-6441.

FAITH FORMATION

SUNDAY SCHOOL



We are excited to see the kids back again this year for Sunday School! Sunday School officially starts on registration day, Sunday, September 17th, and includes any child 3K through the 5th grade. We will be having class on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month, similar to last year. Class will begin at 10:15 am and will be about 1 hour in length. We would love to see more kids this year! Please invite a friend to come with your child. We are also excited to start planning for the children's play that will be in the Gifts of Bethlehem event on Sunday, December 3rd during the 9am worship. If you are interested in helping with Sunday School or the Gifts of Bethlehem event this year, please contact the office.

CONFIRMATION:



Confirmation begins with family night on Wednesday, September 13th and will continue to meet every Wednesday after that from 6:30 pm -7:45 pm. Any child in grades 6th through 8th grade is invited to join our confirmation classes. At family night, Pr. Jaime will talk about what we have planned for the year and help new students become familiar with our program. For the outgoing 9th graders: Confirmation will be on Sunday, October 29th during the 9am worship service. We look forward to celebrating your time with us! New for 2023-2024: We are adding a confirmation retreat weekend at Lutherdale in Elkhorn, WI this year, and we are excited to talk about this soon and plan a little fundraising. If you have any questions about confirmation, please contact Tania Anderson at 608-697-5999.

GIFTS OF BETHLEHEM 2023:

We are excited to announce that our Gifts of Bethlehem event will be held on Sunday, December 3rd at 9am! We are looking for any talented members that would be willing to participate in our event and share their talents with us. This includes singing, playing an instrument, performing a reading, etc. We also host a silent auction during this time as a fundraiser for the mission and ministries of Bethlehem Lutheran. If you are willing to donate an item or a gift basket for the auction, please contact the church office. If you are interested in participating in the event, please contact Tania Anderson.

FROM THE CHURCH OFFICE

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

The Church Council with your input has wrapped up it's strategic planning. We have a new proposed mission, vision and goals statements. The mission and vision statements to be voted on. Please attend the congregational meeting on October 15th following the 9:00 am church service.

On the next page you will find the vision, mission and our value statements.

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.

We will grow in our relationship with God.

- **Pray**
- **Practice Sabbath**
- **Share Stories**
- **Explore spiritual practices**

Every relationship we treasure requires a personal investment and courage to be open and accepting, and a relationship with God is no different. Through new and existing educational and fellowship opportunities for all ages, individuals and the congregation together will commit to learning or, listening to and sharing God's word. Our deeper relationship with God will lead us in all aspects of our personal and church lives.

We will grow in our relationship our neighbors and our community

- **Listen**
- **Practice Hospitality**
- **Be present**
- **Explore ways to engage and provide for others**

Cultivating deep and diverse relationships with our neighbors, both near and far, will guide us to be the hands and feet of God, Doing what we were called to do in service to those around us. We will open our hearts and doors to welcome community, as well as venture out to meet those who need our help. Opportunities to share God's love are everywhere

We will grow our financial sustainability

- **Give**
- **Practice Stewardship**
- **Communicate regularly**
- **Explore additional resources and income**

Our financial plan will acknowledge the importance of budgeting, prioritizing and generating funds to balance a need to prepare for the unexpected while strategizing for future growth. We will focus on sound financial practices and controls to build our general reserves and increase new revenue streams in order to care for and maintain our building and property while providing for the mission and ministry of Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Growing our relationship with God

We will start to record options and number of people who participate in activities for spiritual growth. We will continue to evaluate the variety of options to worship.

Growing our relationship with Community

We will track our events and number of people involved to evaluate community reach and impact. We will continue to evaluate Bethlehem's relationship with our neighbors.

Financial Sustainability

Bethlehem Lutheran Church will continue to replenish our general reserves with a profit of at least \$5,000 per year and generate enough building designated funds to maintain our church and grounds.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church







Profit and Loss Comparison

August 1-23, 2023

	TOTAL				
	AUG 1-23, 2023	AUG 1-23, 2022 (PY)	JUL 1-23, 2023 (PP)	JAN 1 - AUG 23, 2023 (YTD)	JAN 1 - AUG 23, 2022 (PY YTD)
▼ Income					
▶ Income	19,053.70	19,121.45	16,602.27	173,786.09	189,709.25
▶ Other Income	180.04	275.00	617.00	46,472.56	9,468.97
Total Income	\$19,233.74	\$19,396.45	\$17,219.27	\$220,258.65	\$199,178.22
GROSS PROFIT	\$19,233.74	\$19,396.45	\$17,219.27	\$220,258.65	\$199,178.22
▼ Expenses					
▶ Operating Expenses	14,403.20	11,920.29	12,444.00	194,235.23	164,186.45
▶ Other Expense	3,750.00			15,171.55	4,045.30
Total Expenses	\$18,153.20	\$11,920.29	\$12,444.00	\$209,406.78	\$168,231.75
NET OPERATING INCOME	\$1,080.54	\$7,476.16	\$4,775.27	\$10,851.87	\$30,946.47
▶ Other Income	\$1,300.00	\$1,750.00	\$3,225.00	\$20,115.00	\$21,181.09
▶ Other Expenses	\$741.75	\$2,463.00	\$2,907.00	\$19,597.09	\$20,422.83
NET OTHER INCOME	\$558.25	\$ -713.00	\$318.00	\$517.91	\$758.26
NET INCOME	\$1,638.79	\$6,763.16	\$5,093.27	\$11,369.78	\$31,704.73

Cash basis Wednesday, August 23, 2023 09:51 AM GMT-05:00

September 2023 WORSHIP VOLUNTEERS

Date	Usher	Reader	Video Production	Communion Assistant	Communion Assistant	Altar Guild	Acolyte	Music	Coffee Hour
Sun 9/3 9 am	Bobbie Goodman	Bobbie Goodman	Ben Rudolph		Ginny Paulson	Ginny Paulson	Courtney Hernkind		
Flowers:									
Wed 9/6 5:30 pm					Cheryl Hebel	Cheryl Hebel	Shia Grosklaus		
Sun 9/10 9am	Dianna Bush	Ginny McNeal	Brady/Lori Cox		Sue Conner	Sue Conner	Pet Fest		
Flowers: Deb Brown- Parents									
Wed 9/13 5:30 pm					Judy Donahue	Judy Donahue	Kenzie Schmidtke		
Sun 9/17 9am	Del Molden	Del Molden	Jeff Melby		Kerry Melby	Kerry Melby	Dayne Wagner		
Flowers: Ron & Judy Donahue 65th Wedding Anniversary									
Wed 9/20 5:30 pm					Kathy Lawrence	Kathy Lawrence	Avri Anderson		
Sun 9/24 9am	Ann Ciske	Nancy Buckley			Nancy Loether	Nancy Loether	Zoe Zellmer		
Flowers: Cloe Rehdantz - Family Members									
Wed 9/27 5:30 pm					Cara Druckrey	Cara Druckrey			



Looking for volunteers! Contact the Church office to volunteer.

<div> <div>General Church Grounds</div> <div>→ Conference Room</div> <div>→ Music Room</div> <div>→ Fellowship Hall</div> </div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						
					Sep 1	2
					10:30am Tai Chi	
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
<div>Pastor Jaime Vacation</div> <div>9:00am Worship</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>1:00pm Card Club</div>	<div>9:00am Quilters</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>5:30pm Worship</div>		<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div>	
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
<div>9:00am Worship/Petfest</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>1:00pm Card Club</div> <div>6:00pm SREA Meeting</div>	<div>9:00am Quilters</div>	<div>Food Pantry Helpers</div> <div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>5:30pm Worship</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation</div>	<div>9:00am Women's Group Meet at Church - Olbrich Trip</div> <div>BLC Women's Group</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div>	<div>9:00am Synod Stewardship Fall Kick Off</div>
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
<div>9:00am Worship</div> <div>10:30am Sunday School</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>1:00pm Card Club</div> <div>6:30pm SRA Meeting</div>	<div>9:00am Quilters</div> <div>6:00pm SREA Meeting</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>5:30pm Worship</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation</div>	<div>6:30pm Church Council</div> <div>Church Council</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div>	<div>Arts and Craft Market</div>
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
<div>DR Youth Casserole Sale</div> <div>9:00am Worship</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>1:00pm Card Club</div>	<div>9:00am Quilters</div>	<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div> <div>5:30pm Worship</div> <div>6:30pm Confirmation</div>		<div>10:30am Tai Chi</div>	

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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