



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

December 2022						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

A Message From Our SAM

This morning during our family’s devotional time, my husband was reading from the “Our Daily Bread”. November 15, 2022 was about “Using Your Voice”. This devotional book is available on the kiosk of the church – please pick one up or you can request for one to be sent to you.

Voice – This stuck with me- had me pondering. How do we use it?

I took out two translations of Exodus 4:10-12 and read them.

I would like to share these with you:

Lutheran Study Bible (which I received at the 2009 ELCA New Orleans LA Youth Gathering)

But Moses said to the LORD, “O my Lord, I have never been eloquent, neither in the past nor even now that you have spoken to your servant; but I am slow of speech and slow of tongue. Then the LORD said to him, “Who gives speech to mortals? What makes them mute or deaf, seeing or blind? Is it not I, the LORD? Now go and I will be with your mouth and teach you what you are to speak.

The Living Bible (given to me by BLC’s Superintendent Bill Rote back in 1972)

But Moses pleaded, “O Lord, I’m just not a speaker. I never have been, and I’m not now, even after you have spoken to me, for I have a speech impediment.” “Who makes mouth?” Jehovah asked him. “Isn’t it I, the Lord? Who makes a man so that he can speak or not speak, see or not see, hear or not hear? Now go ahead and do as I tell you, for I will help you to speak well, and I will tell you what to say.”

I am not – that is so true..... You and I are not- but with God we are!

Not just in speaking but in all things that we are called upon to do for our Lord and Savior.

How might God want to use you to help others?

How does it encourage you to know that He works through us - even in our fear and weaknesses?

He is always with us....



What a wonderful – amazing – comforting feeling we have knowing we are not alone.



-Clara

December Worship Schedule

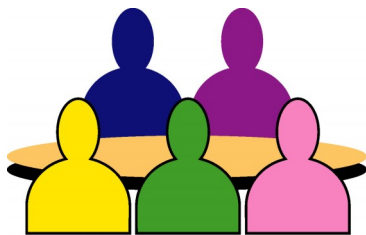
December 4 th Sunday Worship	Rick Gabriel	Worship 10 am
December 11 th Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
December 18 th Sunday Worship	Michelle Plagman	Worship 10 am
December 24 th Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 4 pm
December 25 th Christmas Day Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Don & Mike Petersen, Meghan, Tracy Jensen, Deb, Jo, Jeff, Bob Katon, Naevia, Iver, Rita, Chardae, Lynda, Chase, Terrah, McCoy, John Thinesen, and their families.

If you would like to add someone to the weekly list, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com or let Clara know



COUNCIL MEETING

November 9, 2022
Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Clara Edin, Bill Jansen, Sandra Pavelka, Denny Birkholm, Yvette Maloney, guest Rod Erickson.

DEVOTION & OPENING PRAYER

ACCEPTANCE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING: Motion by Denny, second by Sandra, motion passed.

OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT: Reviewed and discussed. We're running behind in income compared to expenses, and it was agreed that Bill will draft a letter requesting help from the congregation towards making up the difference.

PASTOR'S REPORT: Clara provided summary of her

pastoral care. Discussion about Thanksgiving Eve worship offering. We agreed that we were in favor of any offering collected being split between Sandstone and Bruno food shelves. Other congregations will be addressing this as well.

- MINISTRY TEAMS:** Property—The elevator is fixed. Has not heard back from Minnesota Power on the electric issue.
- Music and Worship—Met and selected hymns.
- Circle of Faith—No report.
- Visioning Committee—December 11th at 2:30 pm would like to do the joint Christmas hymn singing.

OLD BUSINESS:

- SAM contract—Changes to contract were made. Motion to approve changes by Denny, second by Yvette, motion passed. Discussion about areas we would like Clara to focus on.

- Thanksgiving Worship and Christmas hymn sing—The Thanksgiving Eve service will be held at Bethlehem this year, but it is a joint congregational event with Grace and Emmanuel.
- Action Group rework—Denny drew up schedule for 2023.
- Labor Day Dinner letter—It was decided to table this discussion until next month.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Inquiry about pay during jury duty—Motion by Yvette to pay Heidi's wages for any time she is required to serve on jury duty, second by Bill, motion passed.
- Live Nativity—It was decided to participate in the Live Nativity with Emmanuel Dell Grove.
- EcoFaith Network—Tabled until the new council is in place.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Bill to draft letter to congregation regarding finances.
- Denny to draft final version of the action

- group dates and get to Heidi for formatting.
- Bill will start the readers for January and start working on pulpit supply for January as well.

Motion to adjourn by Sandra, second by Bill, meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting Wednesday, December 14, 2022, 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Yvette Maloney
Council secretary*

DECEMBER Birthdays

- Ron Foss—2nd
- Bill Jansen—3rd
- John Zinter—10th
- Brent Jensen—12th
- Barrett Peterson—14th
- Lori Willie—18th
- John Ecklund—19th
- Ella Champagne—20th
- Marilyn Krogh—21st
- James Rolston—21st
- Dean Zeitz—21st



BLC Annual Christmas Bake Sale & Luncheon



Saturday,
December 3, 2022
9 am to 2 pm



Members please donate baked goods for the sale and plan to come to lunch!

Please bring items for the food shelf, we're collecting them in the fellowship area

Bake sale items may be dropped off at the church on Friday, December 2nd, from 1 to 4 pm



Join us on Sunday,
December 11, 2022
at 2:30 pm
for a community



Christmas Carol Sing-Along



Hosted by Bethlehem, Emmanuel and Grace Lutheran Churches

Location: Bethlehem Lutheran Church, 6318 Kirke Alle, Askov



Circle of Faith (COF) met October 29, 2022 at church. The members in attendance were Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Shawn Jansen, Carolyn Steele, and Mary Johnson.

Tracy called the meeting to order. Shawn led us in devotions

Reports: Secretary minutes from October 8th meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the

minutes made by Shawn, 2nd by Cookie, motion carried.

Treasurer's report: Checking \$129.47 Savings 2,030.08

Old business: Thank you to Cookie for the information she gathered regarding having fire extinguishers checked. Thank you to Carolyn and Bill for picking the new Christmas tree to be set up in the fellowship area.

On December 3rd COF will hold the annual bake sale and lunch from 9 am to 2 pm. Cookie will be doing a demonstration on making krumkaka. Other possible demonstrations were discussed.

Community meal: Will be November 16, 2022. The meal will be beef stew, salad, biscuits and pumpkin bars.

Card mailing: Jan in November, Mary in December, Jo in January.

New Business: Sunday November 20th COF will lead the worship service. The theme of the service will be The 10 Commandments. Ron Foss will lead the service by asking a question about each Commandment, COF will lead the congregation in the response to the question. Wednesday November 23rd, Thanksgiving eve, COF will serve coffee and pie following the service. Saturday November 26th,

COF will meet at 10:00 to have a meeting and set up the Christmas tree. Motion made by Carolyn, 2nd by Shawn to transfer \$1000.00 from savings into checking to cover upcoming expenses for COF, motion passed. Visa gift cards will be purchased for gifts for the music volunteers and Clara.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Mary, 2nd by Carolyn, motion carried. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting November 26, 2022 at 10:00.

Respectfully submitted
-Mary Johnson
Secretary



Join us on
 Christmas Eve,
 December 24th
 at 4 pm
 for a candlelight
 worship service
 with
 Clara Edin, SAM



Join Us
 for the



Annual Free Community
**Christmas
 Dinner**



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
 in Askov - 6318 Kirke Alle

Noon to 2:00 PM
 Christmas Day,
 December 25th

Info: 320-838-3191 (Church)
 218-341-5674 (Tracy)

All Are Welcome!



BLC has several
 volunteer
 opportunities this
 Holiday Season!
 Can you help?

- Volunteers are needed to bake for our annual Christmas bake sale on Saturday, December 3rd—baked goods can be dropped off on Friday, December 2nd from 1 to 4 pm at the church.
- We have joined Emmanuel Dell Grove for their Live Nativity on Saturday, December 10th. BLC will be filling the time slot of 4:30 to 5 pm. Volunteers are needed to make desserts, and also be one of the members of the live Nativity scene—a signup sheet is available on the kiosk.
- Donations of food for our annual Christmas Day Dinner are in need—there is a signup sheet on the kiosk—please take a look!

**All
 ANNUAL
 REPORTS**
 are due in the
 church office
 (electric format please)
 by
**Thursday,
 December 29th
 at 3 pm**

Each Team or
 Ministry Group is
 asked to submit an
 Annual Report



Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes November 15, 2022

Opened with a reading from Daily Bread.

Members Present – Greta Detzler, Dwain Ecklund, Amy Frazer, Bill Jansen, Laura McCaughan, Minister Clara Edin, Pastor Cindy Gray.

Circling back to financials. Reviewing, and clarifying that each of the churches are struggling financially. While many dedicated accounts seem to be healthy in appearance, those funds are dedicated for mission, not for general usage.

Discussed a mission statement for the combined congregation. Two examples are:

- *“God’s people, united in Christ’s abounding grace, called to grow in our faith as we worship and engage in life, serving the world.”*
- *“Communities united in Christ, through faith, to bear witness of God’s grace, through worship and service.”*

The committee will pray on this and revisit again.

Discussing what our shared elements should be, suggesting to put together a rough draft of a contracting.

Shared Elements –

Youth – Is it possible to fund some sort of youth director. Would like to continue to do shared activities, yet don’t want to undo what is already working. Emmanuel has a strong Sunday school program. Confirmation can stay shared.

Music – Emmanuel and Grace have Steve & Laura McCaughan, Nathan Frazer, and Jane Grundmeier. BLC has Arla Budd who plays piano and organ, Bill Jansen who plays guitar, and Ron Koons sometimes visits and plays guitar, Margaret Christensen plays one

Sunday a month, and Jean Hendrickson comes down and plays piano. A choir would be a great thing to put together.

Outreach Ministry – Grace and Emmanuel do local outreach, like cookie baskets, hygiene kits, school supplies. Bethlehem has a Circle of Faith who puts together welcome to the community baskets. World hunger drives are huge. Food shelf drives. Nursing home visits and home visits. Steve and Laura McCaughan are doing a communion service the 1st and 3rd Thursday at the nursing home on Division.

Side note – Carol Sing December 11th 2:30 pm, Margaret Christensen, Arla Budd, Bill Jansen, Nathan Frazer, Steve and Laura McCaughan. Bill would like to have a meeting to come up with a plan for this event.

Next Visioning Committee meeting will be December 13th at 6:30 pm at Emmanuel.

Adjourned with Lord’s Prayer at 7:40 pm

*Respectfully submitted,
-Greta Detzler
Committee secretary*

Live Nativity

at

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

16726 Grindstone Lake Rd



Oh Holy Night

December 10th 4:30 - 6:30

*Join us to witness the Live Nativity
and enjoy food, fun, and fellowship*



**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
 QUARTERLY CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
 OCTOBER 23, 2022**

- Call to order by Bill Jansen immediately following the worship service. Thirty-three present. Quorum achieved.
- Opening prayer by Bill Jansen.
- Approval of agenda, motion by Carolyn Steele with Denny Birkholm seconded. Motion passed.
- Denny Birkholm updated the congregation on the repairs of the elevator. It will be functioning soon. This year the cost of maintaining is approximately 65 hundred dollars.
- Election of 2 council members for a 2 year term. Linda Jensen and Haley Loew volunteered. Motion by Bill Steele, seconded by Bill Jansen. Motion passed.
- Update on 3 point parish. Mission statement being developed by Dwane Ecklund and at November's meeting. There is a handout in congregational packets with a snapshot of Grace, Emmanuel, and BLC's financial information.
- Labor Day dinner-3 year cycle. Discussion if BLC would like to have a event every 3 years. Questions are would we get enough volunteers to have the event. One suggestion was having a silent auction instead of the actual auction. Discussion of sending out a letter to the congregation to ask for input and to ask for volunteers.
- Approval of 2023 budget. Motion made by Denny Birkholm, seconded by Bill Steele to approve 2023 budget. Motion passed.
- Selection of the 2023 nominating committee, Bill Jansen and Jo Foss volunteered. Motion made by Bill Jansen, seconded by Marilyn Krogh. Motion passed.

Adjourn with The Lord's Prayer lead by Clara Edin, SAM.

*-Sandra Pavelka
 Council secretary*



Poinsettias for Decorating our Church for Christmas Eve!



Donated By: _____

In Memory or Honor Of (specify): _____

Colors (number of each): _____ White _____ Red

Make check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for \$10.00/ea.

Please return to the church office no later than December 2nd

We were given a very short/early deadline this year—feel free to call or email the church to ensure your order gets in on time (blcaskov@gmail.com or 838-3191)