



The

# Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

December 2023						
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## A Message From Our SAM

### My Quilt Walk

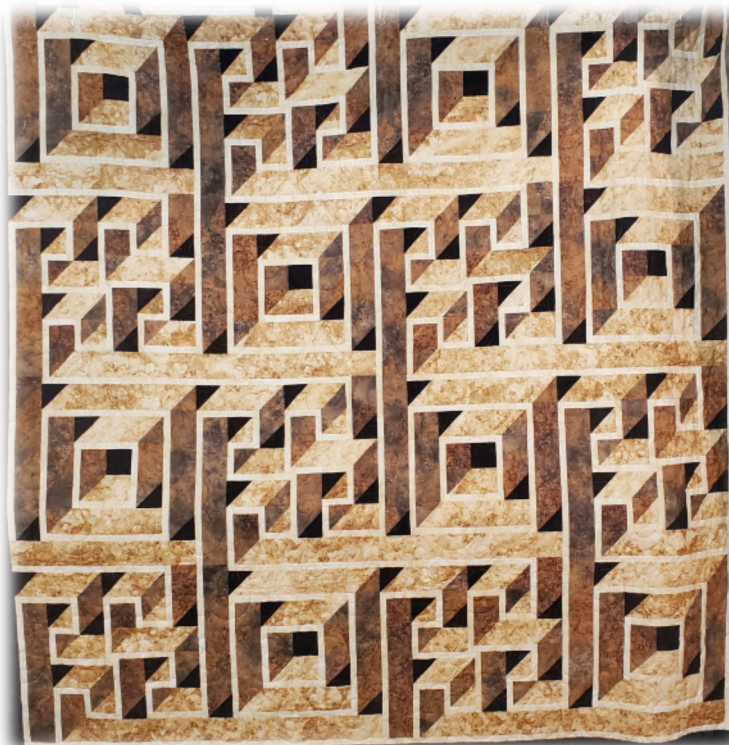
This quilt pattern is called the walking labyrinth by its sewer, Lori Kern. When I saw it, I had to stop and use it. Use it you may wonder? Yes, not as a cover but in prayer.

Many of you may have heard of or even walked a labyrinth. Unlike mazes, a real labyrinth has no tricks, turns, obstacles or dead ends. There is only one route to the center and back out again. It gently guides walkers, allowing them to enter a meditative state in which their focus is simply on placing one foot in front of the other (some people do this movement in a dance like form)... **while in prayer.**

They have become a popular spiritual practice among Christians. It lets you reflect, pray, and **connect with God** – which deepens our faith.

Labyrinths are used world-wide as a way to quiet the mind, calm anxieties, recover balance in life, enhance creativity and encourage meditation, insight, self-reflection and stress reduction. Prayer goes well with walking no matter how short or long the path. A single pathway labyrinth holds the walking pilgrim in the unifying context of sacred space, opening an accessible route into the **heart of grace** – teaching compassion and the recognition and appreciation of walking one’s path with presence, heart and peace.

I could not walk this quilt – but I could follow it with my eyes while I prayed – which I did. There are many patterns you can see during your day that you can follow and pray through. Or maybe create your own labyrinth to guide you. Shovel a path this winter or mow a circle next summer, are some suggestions.



I urge you to pray – create what you need to – to make this happen. December can bring about emotions that this sacred space could lift or lighten - God wants to hear from us in prayer.



-Clara

## December Worship Schedule

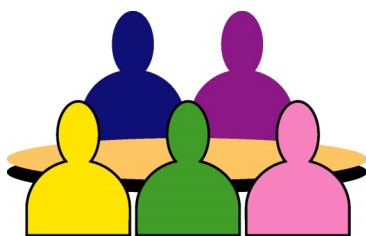
December 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship	Deb H-Carlson	Worship 10 am
December 10 <sup>th</sup> Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 10 am
December 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Music & Worship Team Led	Worship 10 am
December 24 <sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 4 pm
December 31 <sup>st</sup> Sunday Worship	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 10 am

## IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan, Lois, Mike, Deb, Jo, Jeff, Bob, Daniel, Iver, Rita, Chardae, Lynda, Chase, McCoy, Ron, Gavin, Jerry, Rod, Kris, Ron, Jenna, Loretta, Roy, Jeanine, and their families.

If you would like to add someone to the weekly prayer list, please email the church office at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) or let Clara know.



### COUNCIL MEETING

November 8, 2023  
Unapproved Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Yvette Maloney, Haley Loew, Carolyn Steele, Linda Jensen, Clara Edin SAM and Sandra Pavelka.

Yvette called the meeting to order. Clara SAM gave devotion.

**ACCEPT MINUTES OF OCTOBER COUNCIL MEETING:** Motion by Linda to accept minutes, Haley second, motion carried.

**OCTOBER TREASURER'S REPORT:** Reviewed by council.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Clara submitted her pastoral care for the past month.

**MINISTRY TEAMS:**

- Property—no report.
- Family Ministry—no report.
- Circle of Faith—Carolyn reported there will be a craft and bake sale on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please contribute for a successful event.
- Women of Kettle River Conference welcome meeting at 10 am on November 9<sup>th</sup>.

- Music & Worship—no report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Cooperative Ministry—Council discussed.

- Quarterly meeting agenda and 2024 proposed budget—Reviewed and discussed.
- 2024 SAM contract for Clara Edin—Reviewed and discussed by council. Council approved and signed the 2024 contract and will send to Synod Bishop for approval and signature.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Acknowledgement of 2022 audit by Dawn Golly of Pine Tax and Accounting—reviewed by council.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Clara will make 5x7 children's worship flyers to pass out in the community.

Motion to adjourn by Haley, second by Carolyn, meeting adjourned with prayer.

Next council meeting, Wednesday December 13, 2023 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
-Sandra Pavelka  
Secretary

### Please Note:

**BLC will not be hosting our annual Christmas Day Dinner this year.**  
We apologize to those who look forward to this meal each year.



If you'd like to receive your Parish Visitor by mail, please email the church office at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com)

Newsletters will continue to be available on-line at [www.blcaskov.com/newsletter](http://www.blcaskov.com/newsletter)

### October Treasurer's Report Summary:

**Month:** We are **4,524.89** ahead in income vs. expenses for the month of October 2023; and **2,225.09** under our projected budget for the month of October 2023. **Year-to-Date Totals:** We are **4,702.82** behind in income vs. expenses for the year 2023; and **3,945.03** under our projected budget for the year 2023.





Circle of Faith (COF) met November 11, 2023 at The Little Mermaid. The members in attendance were Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Jo Foss, Jan Parker, Carolyn Steele, and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order.

Jo's devotion, "What is enough for you".

**Reports:** Secretary minutes from October's meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Cookie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Jo, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:**  
 Checking \$971.87  
 Savings \$1,183.66  
 Dedicated account \$1,066.50.

**Old business:** On Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> COF will meet at church between 2 and 4 pm to price items and baked goods for the craft and bake sale. Mary and Carolyn will get the

cash box set up for the sale.

**Community meal:** November 15, 2023.

**Card mailing:** Mary, December.

**New Business:** COF will meet at church to set up the Christmas trees on Saturday, November 25<sup>th</sup> at 10:00 am.

A motion made to consider changes in meal delivery for community meals made by Jo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion carried.

COF will have a holiday celebration at January's meeting.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Jo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cookie, meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting on December 9, 2023 at 10:00 am.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
 -Mary Johnson,  
 Secretary

**Don't forget!**  
 We need your donated baked goods and craft items for our Craft Fair & Bake Sale on December 2<sup>nd</sup>. Please have items at the church by December 1<sup>st</sup>.

*Bethlehem Lutheran Church*  
 Annual

**Christmas  
 Craft Fair!**

**Saturday, December 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**9 am to 2 pm**

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Askov**

**Craft & Bake Sale • Coffee & Lunch Served**

**Donations for the Bake Sale and  
 Craft items are greatly appreciated!**



**Card Ministry**



The Circle of Faith sends greeting cards as one of our outreach missions to BLC and community members. The cards provide a personal and caring contact to the recipients from BLC. We are in current need of sympathy, thinking of you, get well, and blank greeting cards. A Basket for card donations will be in the coffee area. COF maintains a list of regular recipients but we rely on BLC members to keep us updated on contact or card need information. A sign up information gathering sheet will be next to the basket and will be checked regularly in order for cards to be sent. COF will also be sending out Christmas cards from BLC this season so please add any names to this list if you know of a need. Thank you for your help.



## Congregational Meeting

Sunday,  
November 12, 2023

Quorum established with over 20 members. Clara Edin SAM led opening prayer. Yvette Maloney called the meeting to order.

- Accept the Agenda—Motion by Ovid Jensen to move Cooperative Ministry discussion up to item 5 instead of 9, second by Marilyn Krogh, motion carried.
- Cooperative Ministry—

Question and answer discussion by members of the congregation. Motion to join the cooperative by Bill Jansen, second by Jo Foss. 21 voted to approve by raised hands, motion carried to join cooperative ministry.

- Proposed 2024 Budget—motion by Bill Jansen to decrease Pulpit Supply to \$1,500, second by Haley Erdman. Linda Jensen made a motion to accept budget as amended, Haley Loew second, motion carried.
- 2024 Nominating Committee—Bill Jansen made a motion to table appointing a new com-

mittee for 2024-2025 until the Annual Meeting, Ron Foss second, motion carried.

- 2024-2025 Council Members—Cindy Jensen made a motion, seconded by Haley Loew to accept Yvette Maloney, Carolyn Steele, and Bill Jansen for open 2 year positions on the council, motion carried.
- Move funds from parsonage sale to the Property Fund—Motion by Bill Jansen to table item until the Annual Meeting, second by Carolyn Steele, motion carried.
- Update the constitution for quarterly meeting date—Discussion on

meetings and wording that may also need to be changed. Motion by Ovid Jensen, second by Jo Foss to table agenda item until the Annual Meeting to investigate further changes in the constitution, motion carried.

Motion to adjourn by Sandra Pavelka, second Cookie Nielsen, motion carried.

Closing pray led by Clara Edin SAM.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
*-Sandra Pavelka*  
*Secretary*



**Congratulations to our new Confirmands Hayden Loew and Sophia Ecklund!**



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

(There will be NO morning  
worship on Christmas Eve)

## DECEMBER Birthdays

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

**All ANNUAL REPORTS are due in the church office by Thursday, December 28<sup>th</sup>**

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



Poinsettia order forms to decorate the sanctuary for Christmas Eve will be available on the kiosk in the fellowship area—if you are unable to pick one up in person, please email or call the office. **Deadline 12/10**  
Email: [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) • Office: 320-838-3191