



The Parish Visitor & 2019 Annual Report

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

February 2020						
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From the Council President

2019 has been a busy year at Bethlehem, and for the Council. Members of council were involved in several projects. Some of those include work on the Sacred Spaces grant, church safety and improved security. We also worked closely with our ministry teams as they planned events and projects.

We have tried to put together a plan for moving forward after the resignation of our Pastor. One of the things I learned is to be patient, as the process is quite involved. We attended several regional meetings with members of other area ELCA churches. We have also met with representatives of the Synod as part of our planning. We are in the process of putting a Call Committee in place, which we believe is the next step.

As president I represented the church in a lawsuit, along with our Cemetery Sexton. Unfortunately it did not have the outcome we had hoped for. It was a learning experience for all involved. One of the things we are more aware of is the need to consider liability of things we are involved in.

Lastly I would like to thank the members of Bethlehem for allowing me to represent them as their Council President. A very big thanks to everyone who donates their time and talents to make Bethlehem a wonderful place. And I ask members to please consider assisting with upcoming needs.

Thank you,

Chuck Moon
2019 Council President

BLC Annual Meeting Agenda February 9, 2020

- Call to Order
- Establish a quorum
- Opening Prayer
- Approve Minutes of 2019 Annual and Quarterly Meetings
- 2019 Treasurer's Report
- Approve 2020 Proposed Budget (tabled from October quarterly meeting)
- Ministry Reports
- Elect Synod Assembly Delegates
- Call Committee
- Food Service Class
- Chris' Food Stand
- Slide Show
- Parsonage Update
- Closing Prayer
- Adjournment



Our February 2020 Noisy Offering will be going to the East Central Backpack Food Program

The deadline for all bulletin announcements is Wednesday at Noon
The newsletter deadline is the third Wednesday of the month



February Worship Schedule

Sunday Morning Worship

9:00 AM Faith Alive! (not on Feb. 16th)

10:00 AM Worship Service

11:00 AM Coffee Fellowship

Holy Communion

February 2nd & 16th



The March Action Group is Group 1



Led by Denny & Carol Birkholm

Please help them fill in Sunday worship assistants and coffee servers when they call!

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

The following people will be included in the

Prayers of the Church each week:

Millie Sorensen, Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Dorla Clark, Donna Norgaard, Ann Olson, Ardis Jensen, Jo Jessen, Tony Ecklund, Shirley Lund and their families.

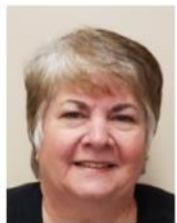
2020 Church Council Members



Bill Jansen



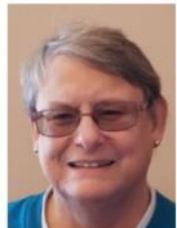
Marilyn Krogh



Cheryl Kohner



Chuck Moon



JoEllyn Foss



Andy May



Heidi Moon



COUNCIL MEETING

**January 8, 2020
Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chuck Moon, Jo Foss, Marilyn Krogh, Cheryl Kohner, Bill Jansen, Heidi Moon and Andy May.

APPOINT NEW COUNCIL MEMBERS: Bill Jansen and Heidi Moon were appointed to the council. Motion by Cheryl to appoint Bill, 2nd by Jo. Carried. Motion to appoint Heidi by Bill, 2nd by Marilyn. Carried.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS: Motion by Marilyn, 2nd by Jo to elect Bill Jansen as President, motion by Jo, 2nd by Chuck to elect Marilyn Krogh as Vice President, motion by Jo, 2nd by Chuck to elect Cheryl Kohner as Secretary. All carried.

APPROVE DECEMBER MINUTES: The minutes were reviewed. Chuck made a motion to accept minutes as written, 2nd by Heidi. Motion carried.

DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT: None available until year-end is complete.

MINISTRY REPORTS:

- Property—Chuck reported meeting with Denny. A new remote thermostat has been installed in the parsonage. An alert will be sent to Denny's phone. Electrical issue

with the ceiling fans has been fixed. Three security cameras are on order for the entrances.

- Family Ministry—Jo reported Faith Alive has started up after a break.
- Music and Worship—Bill reported music and pulpit supply is covered for January. He is working on scheduling for Lenten and Easter services. Arla will be joining the Music and Worship team.
- Circle of Faith—Jo reported they had a Christmas party in December.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Pastor/Synod Update—Chuck called and left a message with Deacon Tibbetts requesting guidance from the Synod and has not heard back yet.
- Ash Wednesday, Lent, and Soup Suppers—Bill reported he is working on scheduling a pastor. He will contact Ginger Leach regarding soup suppers. Jo will check with Circle about soup suppers. Heidi will put a sign-up sheet on the kiosk.
- Site Profile/Call Committee—Each one on council came up with a name to call regarding the Call Committee. Bill will locate our last site profile and pass it on to the new call committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Annual Meeting Agenda—Reviewed with changes, and approved.
- Remove Deb-Hanson Carlson from Good

Samaritan account. General checking account—Motion by Heidi, 2nd by Chuck to remove Jaime Fogt and Shawn Jansen as signers on the account; add Bill Jansen and Cheryl Kohner as signers, along with treasurer Heidi Moon. All approved.

- Meeting Change—Motion by Chuck, 2nd by Andy to move council meeting time to 6:00 pm. Carried.
- Ministry Liaisons—Jo will be on Family Ministry and Circle of Faith. No other changes.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Heidi will check on alternate internet options after year end.
- Bill will call Ginger Leach regarding Soup Suppers.
- Music and Worship team will check into ashes for Ash Wednesday.
- Each council member will contact one person about being on the Call Committee.

Chuck made a motion to adjourn, 2nd by Bill. Meeting adjourned with the Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, February, 12, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Cheryl Kohner
Council secretary*

NOTE:
The BLC Church Council meets on the second Wednesday of every month at 6:00 PM



Circle of Faith met on January 11, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

Elaine Smith read the minutes from the previous meeting. Motion by Mary and seconded by Cookie to accept the minutes. Motion carried.

Treasurer's report was given by Mary Johnson. Checking balance: \$108.25, savings balance \$740.42.

Old Business: Shawn questioned whether the letter to Pine Riders had been sent. Elaine will check with Cheryl.

New Business: Community dinner on 1-22-2020. Cookie suggested a ham and broccoli hot dish, buns, various bars. Cookie and Carolyn to make bars. Elaine will make gluten free bars. The group was reminded to save containers for dinner. Motion by Shawn and seconded by Jo to accept Mary Johnson as Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried.

Shawn explained that the spring WELCA gathering will be funded by them. There will be coffee, a meeting, silent auction, lunch. Lunch menu: Chicken salad and egg salad croissants, salads and fresh fruits.

Community dinner budget should have a separate line item in the general fund budget for 2020. Mary will talk to Heidi.

Jo asked for the floor to ask the group to set priorities for 2020. She suggested a bible study possible topic Women of the Bible. A book club was also suggested. Carolyn suggested that the order of the meeting be Bible study and then the meeting.

Circle of Faith will assist with the soup suppers. Cookie suggested that Cloquet Flooring be asked down to give a presentation on the various types of flooring available for our basement. Property to be asked to attend. Motion by Carolyn and second by Shawn to donate \$50.00 to Josie Rush. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m. with the Lord's Prayer.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Elaine Smith*



Community Meal

**Free Community Meal
Year 1 Report
September 2018 thru
August 2019**

In-kind food donations have not been included. This report does not include the annual Christmas dinner.

We served around 600 meals!

Community groups who helped serve in 2019 included:

- March—Askov American Legion
- April—Community Connection Allies
- September—Askov American Legion
- October—Askov Fire Department

*Submitted by,
-Shawn Jansen*

CIRCLE OF FAITH 2019 ANNUAL REPORT

Continuing Projects: In 2019 Circle of Faith (COF) continued to offer free monthly Community Meals, seeing a growth in attendance over the year. AED training was offered after one of these meals this fall by Askov Fire Department volunteers. Easter food baskets were again delivered to area residents. Food shelf donations were collected and members took turns delivering these items to area food shelves. Welcome baskets continue to be an ongoing project to welcome new residents to our community.

December was a busy month this past year. The Christmas Craft Fair was again held, realizing proceeds of over \$2,000 which will go toward the new flooring in the church basement. Also, in December the traditional "Mitten Tree" again accepted donations of warm mittens, coats and hats to be distributed to those in need. COF decorated Christmas trees for the fellowship area and basement.

New Projects: Circle of Faith embarked on some new projects this past year. A thank you column was started with an article being placed in the Parish Visitor each month acknowledging congregation members for their contributions of time, labor, dedication, service and general support to our events and other church needs, past and present, as every member has a talent and is a valued part of our church family. Without them we could not be a valued resource to the community.

In 2019, COF participated in the National Night Out event serving root beer floats. COF members delivered plants to local business owners to thank them for their support for BLC events, and held a birthday party for the church, jointly with Family Ministry, on Pentecost Sunday. Proceeds from the day were donated to First Light Birthing Unit.

*Submitted by
-Marilyn Krogh, COF Liaison*



Mary Johnson & Brooke Qvam—3rd
 Dave Rote & John Thinesen—5th
 Ann Rote—10th
 Arla Budd—12th
 Jo Jessen—16th
 Sandy Gutknecht—19th
 Gerry Klocke—19th
 Chuck Moon—21st
 Jacob Jensen—25th
 Joyce Tabor—26th



Gerry & Mona Knapp—
 February 23rd



The Family Ministry Team is hosting dessert and a movie at church on **Thursday, February 13, 2020 at 7 p.m.**

We will show "Sweet Land", a movie based on Minnesota author Will Weaver's short story by the same name. It is a heartwarming story about Norwegian bachelor farmers and their mail order brides in southern Minnesota in the early part of the century. *Come enjoy a free night out!*

2019 Treasurer's Report

Reconciled General Checking Account balance as of 12/31/19	\$73,539.61
<u>Less Dedicated Accounts as of 12/31/19</u>	<u>-31,032.05</u>
Total Non-dedicated General Checking balance as of 12/31/19	\$42,507.56
Good Samaritan Checking Account balance as of 12/31/19	\$ 272.31
2019 Annual Budget	\$86,946.00
<u>Total 2019 Expenses</u>	<u>\$73,751.64</u>
Amount under our projected budget for 2019	\$13,194.36
Total Income in 2019	\$81,279.55
<u>Less Total Expenses in 2019</u>	<u>-73,751.64</u>
Amount ahead in Income versus Expenses in 2019	\$ 7,527.91

-Heidi Moon, Treasurer

2019 Family Ministry Annual Report

The Family Ministry Team has offered educational programs and a variety of community and congregational activities in order to serve all age groups at Bethlehem Lutheran Church this year. Highlights for the 2019 year include:

- The 2018-2019 Faith Alive! Sunday School program resumed on January 3rd at 9 am each Sunday and ran through Sunday May 12th. Special projects included the class making Easter Cards to be given with Easter Baskets distributed by Circle of Faith in April; the Congregational Heart Connections Prayer Ministry to reach out to all children and older members with "Heart Pals" to send cards and create supportive relationships between BLC members of all ages; and the Danish Baskets project where participants made the baskets and then visited and distributed them at area care centers.
- Family Ministry once again offered a \$200.00 scholarship for anyone wanting to attend a faith based camp in 2019.
- Pentecost was celebrated with a Congregational Birthday Party on June 9th in order to Thank GOD for our being born as a special child in His Family. This was also a chance to visit, play games and spend special time with our BLC brothers and sisters who share a birth month. Honors were given for oldest, youngest, best birthday ever and top birthday disaster Penny donations were collected for the Mora hospital birthing unit.
- Vacation Bible Camp was held July 29th through August 1st, 2019. Adults held a Bible study upstairs while the youth occupied the lower level. Each evening concluded with songs by the campfire. There was a family pot luck dinner on the last day of camp.
- The 2019 – 2020 Faith Alive! Program had a Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks on Sunday, September 15th. The fall project has been collecting items for care packages for infants, children and teens entering foster care.
- December 15th we capped off 2019 with our annual Christmas pageant "The No Practice Pageant" where congregation members were able to participate and choose their roles and costumes. Since everyone had to have a part several members chose to be "Designated Audience Members"! This was also our annual Christmas Cookie Exchange and distribution. Cookies were delivered to BLC members not able to attend services as well as to friends and neighbors in Sandstone Health Care Center and Golden Horizons. A special thank you to Carol and Denny Birkholm for the handmade greenery table decorations which were distributed with the cookies.

- Family Ministry Team

CEMETERY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Scott Peterson, Treasurer

Investments 12/31/2019

CD#	Face Value
4537	25000.00
4548	17055.43

Total 42055.43

Income 2019

Sale of Lots	2875.00
Interest	911.80
Donations	10443.40

Total 14230.20

Value of Investments 12/31/2019

CD'S	42055.43
NOW ACC	15286.32

Total 57341.75

EXPENSES 2019

Gas Trimmer	219.29
Caretaker	3500.00
Gas, Oil, Etc.	376.09
Safety Deposit	15.00
Snow Removal	1095.00
Electric MN Power	222.05

Total 5427.43

Balance 12/31/2018 48538.98

Income 2019 14230.20

Sub-total 62769.18

Expenses 2019 5427.43

Balance 12/31/2019 57341.75



LENTEN WORSHIP

For Lent, we will be diving deep into reconciliation and forgiveness. We will look at some examples of forgiveness and reconciliation, the role of confession, road-blocks that keep us from forgiving, more helpful perspectives, and what ministry of reconciliation means to us and BLC.

Come join us Wednesdays at 7 pm beginning with Ash Wednesday on February 26th thru April 1st



Nominating Bishop Candidates

The Kettle River Conference is holding an assembly at 3 pm on Sunday, February 9th, at Hope Lutheran Church in Moose Lake to nominate candidates for bishop to the NE MN Synod. A bishop will be elected at the synod assembly in May.

Candidate forums will be held at the following times for anyone wishing to learn more about the candidates brought forward from all the conferences:

- March 12, Calvary Lutheran, Mora, 7:00 pm
- March 13, St. Andrew's Lutheran, Grand Rapids, 7:00 pm
- March 14, Grace Lutheran, Hermantown, 2:00 pm.

Additional candidates may be nominated on the first ballot at the synod assembly in May.

If you want to learn more about the process of electing a bishop, go to <http://www.nemnsynod.org/> and select the link to 2020 Bishop's Election.

If you are interested in serving as a delegate for BLC at the synod assembly and be able to vote for bishop, make sure to attend BLC's annual meeting after worship on February 9th and nominate yourself to be a delegate. If you can't attend the annual meeting, be sure to speak to someone who will be attending and have them nominate you.



For years Charlie Johnson has blessed us with his musical talents and beautiful voice. Charlie is moving down south, and joined us for the last time on January 19th. Best wishes to Charlie in his future endeavors, And thank you for all you've done for BLC!

2019 Labor Day Annual Report

We again had a very good turnout for Labor Day this year. People coming for the dinner and auction, and all the people that come and help out with everything on Sunday and Monday.

There are many different jobs that need doing before Sunday and Monday, and without all of your help, the day wouldn't be such a big success.

A special thank you to Daryl Klocke for the donation of pigs and a place to cook them; Bruce Christensen for donation the rutabagas; Pete Seits for donating the milk; the quilting ladies for donating the beautiful quilts for the raffle, and again, everyone who came out and helped with all of the tasks!

The money from Labor Day goes towards the upkeep of the church and parsonage.

- Denny Birkholm

Labor Day Raffle	
Raffle income	926.00
Quilt raffle	1,119.00
	2,045.00
Labor Day Dinner	
Dinner ticket sales	3,169.00
Leftover food sales	1,095.50
	4,264.50
Labor Day Auction	
Auction income	3,205.00
	3,205.00
Labor Day Advertising	
Display ads multiple papers	(301.06)
Thank you ads	(157.50)
	(458.56)
Labor Day Misc Income	
Mail-in/other donations	447.99
Food donations	327.00
	774.99
Labor Day Expenses	
Charcoal, ice, spray bottles, coffee, etc.	(253.56)
Food/paper product reimbursements	(200.00)
Chris' Food bill	(745.08)
Raffle ticket printing	(106.00)
Letter postage/misc	(40.15)
	(1,344.79)

LABOR DAY NET 2019: \$ 8,486.14

Circle of Faith 2019

Financial Report

Savings:

Beginning balance:	\$ 469.36
Deposits	977.50
Interest	.32
	\$1447.18

Less withdrawals \$ 706.76

Ending balance. \$ 740.42

Checking

Beginning balance	\$ 138.47
Deposits.	559.02
	\$ 697.49

Less expenses. \$ 589.24

Ending balance. \$ 108.25

2019 Property Annual Report

The dewatering of the church basement was a big project completed in January 2019. We had a lot of snow to melt in the spring, and one of the wettest summers on record. The basement has been completely dry since the dewatering was done. Hopefully having a wet basement has been solved.

Below are the major items that were done in 2019:

Church

- Pavilion shelves/fix roof shingles \$520.00
- Repair furnace 253.00
- Install new thermostat in sidewalk 200.00
- Remove trees in front of church 500.00
- Annual elevator service/repair 500.00
- Misc. bills for maintenance 500.00
- Dewatering basement floor 16,520.00
- Install new church thermostats 100.00

Parsonage

- Fix basement light/replace breaker 155.00
- Repair ceiling and wall, and paint 400.00
- Repair faucet and heating system 250.00
- Install Wi-Fi thermostat upstairs 100.00

-Denny Birkholm

For Lent, the Family Ministry Team will be giving out cans to members to collect change for the food shelf. Thank you for taking part in the Lenten discipline of giving!

