



The

# Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

February 2022						
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		1	2	3	4	5
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13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28					

## BLC 2021 Annual Report

### Annual Report of the Minister

*For by grace you have been saved through faith, and this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God*  
– Ephesians 2:8

So many gifts.... God has saved us by his grace and given so many other gifts—gifts of talent to share. What a blessing it has been to be able to join Bethlehem Lutheran Church and be with so many that God has given these gifts. I give thanks to God for the many hands that make up our Congregation and Ministry Teams. The warmth and caring each of you bring being part of this church family... to me, to each other, and to our community.

*You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God, Built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus himself as the cornerstone.*  
– Ephesians 2:19-20

*Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.— Romans 12:13*

You have reached out these past years during a difficult season of pandemic to each other. I look forward to reading the annual reports from the different groups within this community – how each of these has shown Christ’s love.

Since I have become your Synod Authorized Minister (S.A.M.) April 1 we have had 8 funerals here at our church. All celebrations of life have been by me but one. Two family members of our first Pastor, H C Strandskov’s, were also celebrated at our cemetery.

We have welcomed 6 new members, 3 by application and 3 by baptism.

One member has moved away and another requested removal.

One wedding has taken place officiated by another Minister.

Thank you for asking me to be with you again in 2022. I look forward to God showing us His way - as we journey this coming year together.



-Clara

### February Worship Schedule



February 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Mary Jo Mettler	Worship 10 am
February 13 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
February 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Rick Martens	Worship 10 am
February 27 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion - <b>ANNUAL MEETING AFTER WORSHIP</b>	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 Petersen, Buzz & Sally Mortensen, Naevia Roth, Meghan Carlson, Kerri Gortmaker, Tracy Jensen, Joni F., Bob Carman, and their families.

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



**COUNCIL MEETING**

**January 12, 2021  
Unapproved Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Denny B, Bill J, Marilyn K, Clara E, Sandra P, Carolyn S, Yvette M (via phone).

**OPENING PRAYER:**

Devotion was provided by Clara.

**INTRODUCTIONS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Marilyn shared some general information with the new council and several items mentioned were added to “old and new business.”

**ELECTION OF OFFICERS:**

Motion by Sandra to elect the following: President: Bill J, Vice President: Denny B, Secretary:

Yvette M, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion passed. (Carolyn agreed to do pulpit supply, Sandra and Clara will do Heidi’s review).

**ACCEPT MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 2021 MEETING:**

Motion by Sandra, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion passed.

**DECEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT:**

Year-end report was not yet available. It will be emailed to council when complete.

**PASTOR’S REPORT:**

Clara provided a summary for her contacts and service work from last month. A copy of her contract was provided for the new council to review. She will cover services on February 13 and 27; March 2, 9, 13, 16, 23, 27, and 30. Pulpit supply is needed for the other dates.

**MINISTRY TEAMS:**

• Property (Denny)—Furnace repairs are com-

pleted. Lighting is fixed in the sanctuary.

- Family Ministry (Sandra)—No report.
- Music and Worship (Bill)—The committee meets again to select hymns on Jan. 20.
- Circle of Faith (Carolyn)—No report.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Pulpit Supply—Carolyn has agreed to set up the pulpit supply. She has the lists from Marilyn.
- Action Groups—Will review in detail in February meeting. Current and previous lists were provided by Marilyn and will be copied for all council members to review.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Wheelchair space in sanctuary—Motion by Bill to allow Property committee to modify the pews to allow more space for wheelchairs, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion passed.

- Congregational contact list—There is a need to gather more emails; tabled.
- Request for vacation payout—Motion by Bill to pay Clara for unused vacation time in 2021, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Sandra, motion passed.
- Set date for annual meeting—February 27<sup>th</sup>.
- Check signers—motion by Carolyn, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Yvette for Heidi Moon, Bill Jansen, Sandra Pavelka, and Denny Birkholm to be signers, motion passed.
- Motion by Denny for January 23 for installation of Council, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion passed.

Motion to adjourn by Sandra, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Carolyn, motion passed.

Next meeting is February 9, 2022 at 6 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
- Bill Jansen  
Council Secretary*

**COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT FOR YEAR 2021**

The year started out still in the throes of the pandemic and with our church closed for services and events. Services were made available through an on-line choice thanks to Bill Jansen and others who gathered the “sharing the peace” messages from congregation members. At the end of January BLC sold the long-owned parsonage. The SMART team developed and updated a plan by which our church could gradually began to slowly reopen for services, observing mask mandates and other safety measures.

Our out-going SAM was replaced with our current SAM, Clara Edin. Lenten services were resumed with soup suppers as allowed by our SMART plan.

By June we were able to hold an in-person Special Congregational meeting at which time the approval for the re-shingling of the church roof was approved as was the purchase of a new laptop for the church office. At this time the SMART plan was suspended as mask mandates had been lifted.

During the year a team worked on the updating and revision of our Constitution as the one in place had not been updated for 13 prior years. Council term limits were reduced from 3 to 2 years and the number of council members was reduced from 7 to 5. In September talks had begun with Grace and Emmanuel Churches to discuss possible 3-point church options in the future. Action Groups at BLC were resumed.

In December council entered into a renewed one-year contract with SAM, Clara Edin, to serve Bethlehem Lutheran Church through 2022.

This church is truly blessed and has been so during this past year, and it has been my honor to serve as your council president.

*-Marilyn Krogh  
Council President 2021*



Circle of Faith met January 8, 2022 at church. The members in attendance were: Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Shawn Jansen, Jo Foss and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order.

**Devotions:** Devotions given by Jo.

**Reports:** Secretary minutes from December's meeting were reviewed.

Motion made to approve the minutes by Jo, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cookie, motion carried.

**Treasurer's report:** \$1053.25 in checking and \$1931.39 in savings.

**Old business:** Tracy reported that the Christmas dinner went well. She said there were more take outs than dining in. Shawn delivered meals to Ferndale Estates and Vossevangen. Tracy and Jo are checking on a commercial can opener for the kitchen. Shawn asked how the new kitchen floor mats were working out. COF decided to give them more time to decide.

Shawn spoke about the Kettle River conference,

WELCA, COF will be hosting this coming April.

**New business:** COF will be giving a plant to Lisa Waletzko of Kettle River Pizza as a thank you for her leadership of community meals and the products she contributes for meals.

A motion was made by Shawn to keep the same officers in place now for 2022, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cookie, motion passed. Tracy Zinter, President; Jo Foss, Vice President, and Mary Johnson, Secretary/Treasurer. COF will try to keep the meetings for the second Saturday of the month to allow time to put the minutes in the newsletter.

COF took down the Christmas tree in the fellowship area, had a pot luck and exchanged gifts. Christmas greeting from Elizabeth Sand and Elaine Smith. Cookie read the letter from Elaine.

**Annual report:** COF discussed what info to use in annual report for 2021.

Motion to adjourn was made by Cookie, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Shawn, carried. The meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Our next meeting will be at church on Saturday, February 12, 2022.

*Submitted by  
-Mary Johnson,  
Secretary*

### Circle of Faith Annual Report 2021

**Continuing Projects:** Circle of Faith (COF) continued to be the core support team for the community meals, preparing meals and serving with the volunteers. 11 Welcome Gift Baskets were given to new community families.

**Greeting Cards:** COF continued to send cards to those who are shut-ins or whose families have suffered loss or health problems.

**New Projects:** COF will host Kettle River Conference, WELCA in April 2022. COF had planned to host the conference in April 2021 but it was canceled due to COVID-19. Jo Foss and Mary Johnson volunteered to help with registration for the Kettle River, WELCA fall conference held at Grace Lutheran in Sandstone.

COF contributed \$25 to go towards bottled water for National Night Out.

Welcoming sign for Bethlehem Lutheran and community meal was erected along Hwy 23. Bethlehem Lutheran received a \$4,000 mini-grant from Pine County for community meals. See Shawn's report for details.

COF helped host Chris's food stand fundraiser in July and the annual Christmas Craft sale in December.

COF gave 6 gifts to families in times of loss or hardship.

#### Circle of Faith 2021 Financial Report

**Savings:**

Beginning Balance.	\$ 636.08
Deposits.	1620.00
Interest.	<u>      .31</u>
	\$2256.39

Less withdrawals.	<u>\$325.00</u>
Ending Balance.	\$1931.39

**Checking**

Beginning Balance.	\$ 128.25
Deposits.	<u>2217.25</u>
	\$2345.50

Less expenses.	<u>\$1292.25</u>
Ending balance.	\$1053.25

*Respectfully submitted,  
-Mary Johnson  
Secretary/  
Treasurer*





Mary Johnson—3<sup>rd</sup>  
 Dave Rote—5<sup>th</sup>  
 Ann Rote—10<sup>th</sup>  
 Arla Budd—12<sup>th</sup>  
 Sandy Gutknecht—19<sup>th</sup>  
 Gerry Klocke—19<sup>th</sup>  
 Chuck Moon—21<sup>st</sup>  
 Joyce Tabor—26<sup>th</sup>



Gerry & Mona  
 Knapp—February 23<sup>rd</sup>

## 2021 Treasurer's Report

Reconciled General Checking Account balance as of 12/31/21	\$218,124.48
<u>Less Dedicated Accounts as of 12/31/21</u>	<u>-161,444.98</u>
Total Non-dedicated General Checking balance as of 12/31/21	<b>\$56,679.50</b>
Good Samaritan Checking Account balance as of 12/31/21	<b>\$ 142.31</b>
2021 Annual Budget	\$ 81,920.13
<u>Total 2021 Expenses</u>	<u>\$ 75,128.83</u>
Amount under our 2021 Budget	<b>\$ 6,791.30</b>
Total Income in 2021	\$ 71,969.28
<u>Less Total Expenses in 2021</u>	<u>-75,128.83</u>
Amount behind in Income versus Expenses as of 12/31/21	<b>\$ -3,159.55</b>

*-Heidi Moon, Treasurer*

**The BLC Annual Meeting will be held following worship on Sunday, February 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Time is approximate due to worship length.**

**Plan to arrive early**

## In Loving Memory...



**Lorraine Christine Petersen**

December 15, 1934—  
 December 25, 2021

*Funeral Services were held at BLC on January 15, 2022*



Join us for  
 "Open Prayer"  
 on Thursday,  
 February 17, 2022  
 at 6:30 pm

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church will have a prayer hour - individual need or prayer of praise. Have questions about prayer? Clara Edin, SAM will share some of her different prayer times.**

## PROPERTY COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT

Starting off the year in 2021 the parsonage was sold. That money was put into a dedicated account. The only way the money can be used is by a congregational vote.

We had some repairs on the elevator, new backup batteries and some miscellaneous things. We also got a service contract on the elevator that was mandated by the State. The elevator will be checked and serviced quarterly.

We had some repairs on the church heating system. We had to replace 3 mixing valves and pumps. Replaced 2 pressure tanks and 8 heating elements on the hot water boiler.

The shrubs on the north and south sides of the church were removed and replaced with red mulch.

There was a new sign installed for the church on the west side of town in the triangle.

The steeple had new shingles put on it and was also scraped and painted. The money for this project came from the parsonage money in the dedicated account, that the congregation voted to use.

Since we weren't able to have our Labor Day dinner and auction, we had no money coming into the property fund for maintenance and upkeep. We sent out a letter to the membership asking if people would donate money to the fund since we weren't having our dinner. We ended up receiving over \$9,000 from the congregation for this.

We thank everyone who donated toward this, it is very much appreciated. What a fine contribution!

*Thank you,  
 -Property Committee*