



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

February 2023						
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Bethlehem Lutheran Church • 2022 Annual Report

Annual Report of the Minister 2022

Clara Edin SAM
Bethlehem Lutheran Church

By the Grace of our Lord we are moving forward with our Spiritual Worship here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

Please stop and admire God’s peace with your loved ones. It is a time of wonder and joy. Advent has led us now into the season of Christmas.... And a New Year!

Let’s look to the promises of our God and know we do not walk alone as we go forward in 2023.

This past year we have welcomed four new members and we transferred out one member because of their moving.

We have three youth in Confirmation which we are meeting with Grace and Emmanuel Churches.

Bethlehem has lost 3 members into the arms of Jesus this past year. One more member may not have been on the last annual report because of their passing at the end of 2022 – this would bring the total to four.

We continue with conversations of creating a 3-point parish with Grace and Emmanuel. Until that time – thank you for asking me to be with you again as your SAM in 2023.

The Gift of Love – 1 Corinthians 13



-Clara

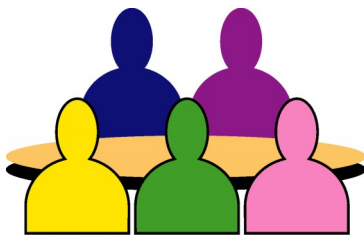
<i>February Worship Schedule</i>		
February 5 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	Deb Hanson-Carlson	Worship 10 am
February 12 th <i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
February 19 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	Al Overland	Worship 10 am
February 22 nd <i>Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion</i>	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 7 pm
February 26 th <i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>	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, Daniel, Iver, Rita, Chardae, Lynda, Chase, McCoy, Gavin, Janice, 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

**January 11, 2023
Unapproved Minutes**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Haley Lowe, Linda Jensen, Bill Jansen, Sandra Pavelka, Carolyn Steele, Denny Birkholm, Yvette Maloney.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

Sandra nominated Yvette for President, second by Carolyn, motion passed. Yvette nominated Haley Lowe for Vice President, second by Carolyn, motion passed. Yvette nominated Sandra as council secretary, Carolyn second, motion passed.

ACCEPT MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING:

(December meeting was cancelled due to snow storm). Motion by Sandra, seconded by Carolyn to

accept the November minutes, motion passed.

NOVEMBER TREASURER’S REPORT:

Was reviewed.

PASTOR’S REPORT:

Emailed in advance.

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Ask Denny Birkholm to submit a monthly summary of the activities.
- Music & Worship—This item will be removed from the agenda in the future. Bill Jansen will bring any issues to the council as needed.
- Family Ministry—Sandra to follow up with Bill Jansen on the other congregation who is welcoming our youth.
- Circle of Faith—Helped with the Christmas dinner; attendance was down tremendously. Possible cause was weather. Carolyn to follow up with Tracy Zinter regarding meal success and attendance. The Christmas craft fair netted more than \$800.

- Visioning Committee—Minutes to be submitted by committee.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Pulpit Supply—Yvette will be handling pulpit supply.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Passing the offertory plate —Discussion regarding passing the plate during service. It was agreed that we should pass the plate on Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day.
- Invitation for a joint Worship service and pot-luck on the 5th Sunday of January at Grace—Discussion about participating in these 5th Sunday services. We will pass on this one due to lack of time to make people aware, but would like to participate in the future.
- Request for Parish Visitor to be mailed again—Yvette will talk to Heidi.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Yvette to ask Heidi to

send treasurer’s report via email in addition to a paper copy, Haley doesn’t need a paper copy; ask Heidi for a report of the response of the letter sent at the end of the year requesting financial assistance; ask Heidi about printing the information about offering wording in the Sunday bulletin; ask Heidi about mailing the Parish Visitor quarterly; follow up on potluck invitation.

- Haley to ask Denny to e-mail a summary of activity for the property ministry team monthly.

Sandra moved to adjourn, Carolyn second, motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 7:50 pm.

Next meeting Wednesday, February 8, 2023, at 6:30 pm. Haley will be absent from the February 2023 meeting.

*Respectfully submitted,
-Yvette Maloney,
Council secretary*

BLC Church Council - Annual Report for 2022

As of January 11, 2023 my service on the council came to completion with the election of Yvette Maloney as the new BLC council president.

This past year, 2022, was the first year with a 5-member elected Council, and the addition of the Pastor/SAM as a full voting member. Overall, the change from a 7-member council seemed smooth, attendance was good, and the business of the church was maintained.

Thank you to those members who served this past year: Caroline Steele, Sandra Pavelka, Yvette Maloney, and Denny Birkholm. The council also wishes to extend thanks to Dwain Ecklund for representing BLC on the Visioning committee that is looking into a 3-point parish agreement.

Each year the council conducts routine business: monitoring the budget, holding congregational meetings, filling the pulpit supply needs, approving wage increases, and addressing whatever needs arise. A special thanks this year to Denny who followed up on all the repair needs for the elevator that is now back in service! We are thankful too, that we were again able to extend Clara Edin’s contract for another year through 2023.

-Bill Jansen 2022 Council President



Circle of Faith (COF) met January 14, 2023 at church. The members in attendance were: Tracy Zinter, Cookie Nielsen, Carolyn Steele, Jan Parker and Mary Johnson. Tracy called the meeting to order.

Devotions: Psalm 24:10
 “The righteous will rejoice in the Lord and take refuge in him, all the upright in heart will glory in him!”

Reports: Secretary minutes from November 26, 2022 meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Cookie, 2nd by Jan, motion carried.

2022 annual report were reviewed. Motion to accept the 2022 annual report made by Cookie, 2nd by Carolyn, motion carried.

Treasurer’s report: Checking \$1410.26. Savings 1,030.08.

Old business: No old business to discuss.

Community meal: Will be January 25, 2023.

Card mailing: January Mary, February Jo.

New Business: Motion to give \$100 to the quilters group from proceeds of December’s annual luncheon/bake sale made by Cookie, 2nd by Jan, motion carried.

Motion to add Carolyn Steele as a signer on Cir-

cle of Faith’s accounts at Northview Bank made by Mary, 2nd by Jan, motion carried.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Tracy, 2nd by Cookie, motion carried. Ended meeting with The Lord’s Prayer.

Next meeting February 11, 2023.

Respectfully submitted
-Mary Johnson
Secretary

Circle of Faith Annual Report 2022

Continuing Projects: Circle of Faith (COF) continued to be the core support team for Askov community meals, preparing meals and serving with the volunteers. A \$4,000 grant from Pine County was used toward food, supplies, and incentives for Community Meals Oct 2021-July 2022. Purchases included kitchen floor mats, 2 chafing dishes, and 2 sandwich board signs. Ten Welcome Gift Baskets were given to new community families.

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

New projects: COF hosted the spring WELCA Kettle River Conference in April. Fourteen gift cards were given out with Easter cards. The 3rd Thursday of the month has been designated for lunch gatherings at the Mermaid at 11:30. All are welcome.

COF managed Chris’ Food stand/bake sale June 10th and 11th.

COF provided root beer floats at National Night Out.

On November 20th, COF led BLC Church service reviewing the 10 Commandments.

On December 3rd COF held the annual Christmas luncheon and bake sale.

COF purchased a new Christmas tree for the fellowship area.

Six \$25 gift certificates were given out for Christmas.

Circle of Faith 2020 Financial Report

Savings:

Beginning Balance.	\$1931.39
Deposits.	697.67
Interest.	<u>1.02</u>
	\$2630.08

Less withdrawals. \$1600.00

Ending Balance. \$1030.08

Checking

Beginning Balance.	\$1053.25
Deposits.	<u>2395.94</u>
	\$3449.19

Less expenses. 2038.93

Ending balance. \$1410.26

Pine County Mini-Grant
Askov Community Meal
via Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Meals & Incentives

- Oct 2021--Meat loaf, Fire Dept. volunteered, Gave away smoke detectors
- Nov 2021--Cheesy Potatoes w/Ham & Green Bean Casserole, smoke detectors
- Christmas 2021--Turkey & Trimmings, No incentive due to Covid outbreak
- Jan 2022--Chili & Toppings, Margaret Christensen's Piano Students Perform
- Feb 2022--Baked Potato Bar, Cribbage and Cards
- Mar 2022--Lenten Soup & Sandwich Bar, Cribbage & Cards
- Apr 2022--Spaghetti Pie, Live Music with Nathan Frazer
- May 2022--Enchiladas, Rice, and Beans; Live Music with Nathan Frazer
- June 2022--BBQ Meatballs & Mashed Potatoes; Volunteers thanked; Bingo with Prizes from Local Businesses; Piano Music by Margaret Christensen
- July 2022--Brats & Pasta Salad; Getting to Know You Games with Region 7E Adult Mental Health

Surveys

- Distributed and Collected Oct-Dec, Aug-Sept (We waited for road construction to end.)
- Top 3 reasons to attend: 1) visit with friends & neighbors, 2) greeted with hospitality, 3) eat a healthy meal
- Top 3 benefits for delivery recipients: 1) healthy meal, 2) greeted with hospitality, 3) enjoy meal in safety of home
- Top reasons to volunteer: socializing and like the work

Final Notes

- We were reimbursed for all grant funds for a total of \$4,000 (\$2,000--food, \$1,000--supplies, \$1,000--incentives)
- Top incentives were live music, cribbage tourney, and bingo.
- People also really appreciated the smoke alarms, for which the sensors expire after 10 years, and many did not know that.

**The BLC Annual Meeting is being held on Sunday,
 February 12, 2023 immediately following the
 worship service (time approximate)
 Please plan to attend this very important meeting**

**Chris' Food Stand
 June 10-11, 2022**

Started with \$100 change, \$50 in ones, 6 fives, 2 rolls of quarters--could use more ones and fives, one roll quarters

First increase in prices in years

Food:

- 60 lbs burgers
- 10 pks brats
- 5 pks hot dogs
- 3 cheese bricks

Beverages: 2 12-pks of Mountain Dew, Pepsi, Diet Pepsi, Sierra Mist, 24-pk water, 1 pk Diet Mountain Dew – 31 pops and water left over

Started with some leftover condiments from community meal

Lots of baked goods—filled two tables plus some in boxes to add to tables as items sold, plus some baked goods were brought in later Friday and Saturday

Sales:

Friday gross sales:	\$1,258.50
Gross total:	\$1,875.20
Food expenses after 15% discount:	\$ 537.98
Net proceeds:	\$1,387.22

Description of weather: Good—no wind, slightly misty in morning, mostly cloudy Friday; sunnier Saturday

Friday business: lunch rush, no dinner rush, bigger orders to go were rare if any

Saturday business: lunchtime busiest, no big orders to go, very light traffic

Proceeds to be split 1/3 quilters, 1/3 Circle, 1/3 community outreach (meal, etc.)

Submitted by
 Shawn Jansen

BLC Worship and Music Committee Report for 2022

Your Worship and Music Committee: Arla Budd, Linda Jensen, Ron Foss, and Bill Jansen continued to meet throughout this past year with the primary function of selecting the hymns for our services.

If you would like to join the committee, your participation would be welcomed. We meet at BLC on the 3rd Thursday of every month at 7pm.

Thank you so much this year to our music leaders: Arla Budd, Jean Hendrickson, Margaret Christiansen, Ron Koon, Bill Jansen, and Tony Ecklund.

Bill Jansen 2022 Worship and Music Committee member



Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes January 10, 2023

Members Present – Dwain Ecklund, Amy Frazer, Bill Jansen, Laura McCaughan, Marvin Rostberg, Pastor Jacob Burkman.

- Members of the committee were introduced to Pastor Burkman whose service contract with GEL Sandstone is pending with Bishop Amy.
- The group reviewed a hand-out of possible leadership scenarios that could be implemented with the 3-point parish. Some considerations in the various scenarios included
 - ◊ Overall costs
 - ◊ What needs could be met and how to meet them

- ◊ Should the focus be on maintaining worship in each building every Sunday
- ◊ If not every Sunday, how might worship services be rotated
- ◊ What alternatives to Sunday worship could be offered
- ◊ How could technology be used? Could services be held at one location and streamed to the others?
- ◊ How critical is it to have a paid youth leader?
- The committee agreed that it was very important to survey the feeling of our congregational memberships regarding a rotation of worship services.
- An invitation was extended to BLC to join GEL Sandstone on the 5th Sunday join service/pot lucks in 2023. The first opportunity is January 29. Bill will bring the item to the BLC Council which meets tomorrow, January 11.

Next Visioning Committee meeting will be February 28th at 6:30 pm at Grace

Submitted by Bill Jansen

This is something the Property Committee hasn't discussed yet—and will probably be a topic at the annual meeting...

We all need to help cut our energy costs by watching for lights left on when we leave the church in the evenings, and on Sunday mornings after worship—both upstairs and down. Lights have been left on after services many times, and multiple times the outside lights on the north side of the church are left on. We keep the basement and sanctuary temperatures at 62 degrees when not in use, and the fellowship area at 70 degrees. It is VERY important to keep the doors to the basement and the sanctuary closed when not being used, so we don't lose our heat in the fellowship area. Also the two doors to the main entry-

way need to be kept closed at all times, except during worship service. If you turn the heat up for an event, please turn it down when the event is over. If we all take note and watch for this, every little thing will help keep our costs down.

Since we have completely finished our basement with carpet, the church has gotten a lot more difficult to keep clean. This is a lot of square feet, and it takes a lot of time and effort to keep it clean. So, if we would all help clean/pickup after ourselves, it will make things easier and quicker for our cleaning person. We also want to thank Marilyn for her hard work and dedication to keeping our church looking so nice!

Thank you—Property Committee

Property Committee Annual Report 2022

We have experienced a certain amount of problems with our elevator this year. Both control panels on each side of the elevator have been replaced, along with a new backup emergency system if the power goes out. Starting last year, the State made it mandatory that we have a service contract. With this, they check and service it quarterly, and you get 20% off on any parts. Our elevator model is no longer made, so they have to manufacture any parts that need replacing, which is why it takes so long for repairs.

The cost of parts and labor this year was \$5,500, the service contract cost for the year was \$1,000.

We have been experiencing very high electrical costs in the winter months. We did a walk-thru

with a representative from Minnesota Power, and they took photos of every room's lighting system from the basement to the sanctuary. They have sent us a report on the cost to change all lights to LED and also give a rebate on each room for doing this. The rebate doesn't cover the cost to replace the fixtures, but in the long run, it will help dramatically. We're still working with Minnesota Power on this.

To replace all the bulbs in the church to LED would be \$6,013.

The rebate to do so would be \$1,738.

Cost to replace fixtures and ballasts \$13,149, labor not included.

The rebate for replacing fixtures and ballasts would be \$2,264.

-BLC Property Committee

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Dedicated Account Balance/Activity
Fiscal Year 2022**

**Bank Account Balances Less Dedicated
as of the end of December, Fiscal Year 2022
01 - General Checking**

Account Activity through December Beg. Balance Current Balance
 (* = Inactive)

Dedicated Accounts

017-10-40-03	Non-Designated Memorials	-240.24	5,387.09	5,146.85
017-20-40-01	Kitchen Fund	430.34	2,581.05	3,011.39
017-20-40-03	Community Outreach	346.78	5,869.48	6,216.26
017-20-40-04	Quilter's Dedicated Acct	297.72	966.12	1,263.84
017-20-40-05	Circle of Faith	400.00	0.00	400.00
017-30-20-02	Janitorial Fund	59.21	1,428.33	1,487.54
017-30-40-01	Property Maintenance Fund	-8,907.75	14,204.23	5,296.48
017-30-40-14	Parsonage Sale Account	0.00	127,963.00	127,963.00
017-70-40-01	Youth Fund	0.00	3,031.73	3,031.73
Total Dedicated Funds:		-7,627.89	161,444.98	153,817.09

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report – December 2022**

General Checking balance as of December 1, 2022	201,673.29
Checks and other debits	-9,236.99
Deposits and other credits	9,772.12
General Checking balance as of December 31, 2022	<u>202,208.42</u>
Less dedicated account balances as of December 31, 2022	-153,817.09
Non-Dedicated General Checking balance as of 12/31/2022	\$48,391.33

	Current	Month	Year-	To-Date
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income		8,931.02		77,230.37
Expenses	6,408.66	9,604.75	85,548.25	83,777.16
Net Difference	-3,196.09	-673.73	1,771.09	-6,546.79

Report Summary:
Month: We are **673.73** behind in income vs. expenses for the month of December 2022; and **3,196.09** over our projected budget for the month of December 2022.
Year-End Totals: We are **6,546.79** behind in income vs. expenses for the year 2022; and **1,771.09** under our projected budget for the year 2022.

Respectfully submitted,
 Heidi Moon,
 Treasurer



- Mary Johnson—3rd
- Dave Rote—5th
- Rod Erickson—7th
- Ann Rote—10th
- Arla Budd—12th
- Sandy Gutknecht—19th
- Gerry Klocke—19th
- Chuck Moon—21st
- Joyce Tabor—26th



Gerry & Mona
 Knapp—February 23rd

**BLC ANNUAL
MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2023
PROPOSED AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Opening Prayer
3. Approve Agenda (any additions)
4. Approve All 2022 Congregational Meeting Minutes
5. 2022 Treasurer's Report
6. Ministry Team Reports
7. Election of Synod Assembly Delegates
8. Appoint 2 Nominating Committee Members (if needed)
9. Chris' Food Stand 2023
10. Visioning Committee Update
11. Joint Worship on 5th Sundays with Grace & Emmanuel
12. Adjournment

The BLC Annual Meeting is being held on Sunday, February 12, 2023 immediately following the worship service (time approximate) Please plan to attend this very important meeting