



The

Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

February 2024						
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		

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Annual Report

Annual Report of the Minister Clara Edin SAM

Let's look to the promises of our God and know we do not walk alone as we go forward in 2024.

This past year we have welcomed two new members into the family of believers at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. One member has been transferred to another church as they have moved out of our community.

We had three youth in Confirmation which we were meeting with Grace

and Emmanuel Churches. God blessed me with being able to confirm two of these youth in October. The other youth has moved away. We do have one new first year student that is attending at this time.

Bethlehem has lost two members into the arms of Jesus this past year. Four past members of our church and one extended family member have passed away with celebrations of life also being held.

Two couples were joined in marriage during the

past year at our beautiful church that God has given us to care for.

We have finished our conversations of creating a 3-point parish with Grace and Emmanuel. From these conversations we are supporting each other in our different service missions.

A cooperative among nine churches were in discussion. Six of these churches have joined this cooperative. Bethlehem Lutheran Church has decided not to join this year.

We have started a Children's Worship Service

and our Choir is again lifting their voices up in praise during the Worship Services on Sundays.

Please read the other reports from the groups that are among our church. All have served our Lord in servant hood and/or building up this worship place. We have been blessed by their being Jesus' hands and feet.

The Word of Life –
John 1:1-18



-Clara

In February we will be starting our period of 40 days during which we as Christians remember the events leading up to and including the death of our Lord and Savior - Jesus Christ - whose life and teachings are the foundation of our belief. We will be exploring the "Be Gracious to Me" series by Erik Rottman during our midweek soup suppers.

Sustained in Sickness
I Have Sinned
Soon and Never
Empty Words
Vindication

BE GRACIOUS TO ME

LENT

Wednesdays (February 21 – March 20) at 6:30pm
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Basement Fellowship Area
Soup Suppers – Askov MN

Bethlehem Lutheran Church—Askov MN

February 14
7 pm
Sanctuary

Ash Wednesday

Remember that you are dust,
and to dust you shall return.

ECCLESIASTES 3:20

Lent Begins
Ash Wednesday

All are Welcome
Handicap
Assessable

February Worship Schedule

February 4 th <i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 10 am
February 11 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	Council led service	Worship 10 am
February 14 th <i>Ash Wednesday Worship with Holy Communion</i>	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 7 pm
February 18 th <i>Sunday Worship</i>	Music & Worship led service	Worship 10 am
February 21 st <i>Lenten Worship</i>	Soup Supper Clara Edin SAM	Begins 6:30 pm
February 25 th <i>Worship with Holy Communion</i>	Clara Edin SAM	Worship 10 am
February 28 th <i>Lenten Worship</i>	Soup Supper Clara Edin SAM	Begins 6:30 pm

IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

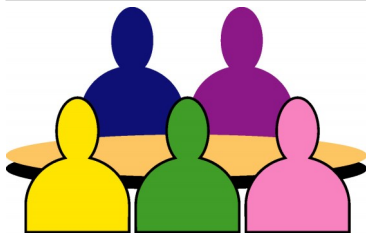
Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

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 or let Clara know.



Soup Suppers begin Wednesday, February 21st
Supper served at 6:30 pm
Worship will follow in the basement fellowship area



COUNCIL MEETING

January 10, 2024
Unapproved Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Yvette Maloney, Haley Loew, Carolyn Steele, Linda Jensen, Clara Edin SAM, Bill Jansen, and Sandra Pavelka.

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

ACCEPT MINUTES OF DECEMBER COUNCIL MEETING:

Motion by Haley to accept minutes, Linda second, motion carried.

DECEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT:

Report not yet available due to year end.

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

MINISTRY TEAMS:

- Property—Denny Birkholm used two pews from upper balcony to make two seating benches inside the entrances of the church.
- Family Ministry—No report.
- Circle of Faith—Carolyn reported the COF Christmas party will be held on January 13th. They will take down Christmas tree in entry that day.
- Music & Worship—Linda reports driplless candles did not drip in the candelabras.

OLD BUSINESS:

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS:

- Election of new council officers—Yvette Maloney President, Bill Jansen Vice President, Haley Loew Secretary. Motion by Carolyn, second by Linda, motion carried.
- Check signers—council will check who currently has check signing authority for BLC.
- Annual meeting scheduled for February 4, 2024—meeting agenda will include, moving money from parsonage fund to property fund, constitution changes, nominating committee/constitution change, Chris' Food Stand, bingo for funding idea/need

coordinator/committee, synod assembly representatives, annual reports.

- Council duties—Linda will coordinate reader list, Yvette will be liaison for family ministry, Bill will coordinate Sunday pulpit supply.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Sandra will ask Northview bank who current check signers are.

Motion to adjourn by Haley, second by Bill, motion carried. Clara SAM closed meeting with The Lord's Prayer.

Next council meeting, Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 6:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
-Sandra Pavelka
Secretary



If you'd like to receive your Parish Visitor by mail, please email the church office at blcaskov@gmail.com. Newsletters will continue to be available on-line at www.blcaskov.com/newsletter



Circle of Faith (COF) met January 13, 2024. The members in attendance were Cookie Nielsen, Jo Foss, Shawn Jansen, Carolyn Steele, Jan Parker and Mary Johnson. Jo called the meeting to order

Devotions: The importance of fellowship with our holiday party.

Reports: Secretary minutes from December meeting were reviewed. Motion to accept the minutes made by Carolyn, 2nd by Jan, motion carried.

Treasurer's report:
 Checking \$1,273.92
 Savings \$1,181.68
 Dedicated account \$1,066.50

Old business: Tabled discussion on W/ELCA and a Bible study.

Community meal: will be January 24, 2024.

Card mailing: Jan Parker January, February, and March, Jo Foss April,

May, and June, Mary Johnson July, August, and September.

New Business: Discussed having a potluck at the annual meeting in February. Carolyn will announce it at Sunday's church service and Mary will talk to Heidi regarding announcement in the Sunday bulletin.

Discussed ways to provide the community with services, education and support in connection with COF outreach. Shawn mentioned the possibility of a speaker from Arrowhead Transport to share information regarding

volunteering as a driver and the services they provide. Tabled.

COF may sponsor a potluck to bring the ladies from BLC together. Tabled

COF will lead church service on March 17, 2024. COF will discuss another date for later this year.

Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Jan, 2nd by Cookie, meeting ended with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting on February 10, 2024 at 10:00 am.

*Respectfully submitted,
 -Mary Johnson,
 Secretary*

Circle of Faith Annual Report 2023

Circle of Faith Financial Report 2023

Continuing Projects: Circle of Faith (COF) continued to support the volunteers for Askov 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 those families who have suffered loss or health problems.

New projects: Gift cards were given out with Easter cards.

COF managed Chris's Food stand/bake sale June 2nd and 3rd. COF provided root beer floats and kids games at National Night Out.

COF decorated the Christmas tree in the fellowship area.

On December 2, 2023 COF and quilters held a craft and bake sale. Proceeds will be dispersed for outreach into the community. Gift certificates purchased from Chris's for food shelves in Sandstone and Bruno. Money given to families for medical financial help.

*Respectfully submitted,
 -Mary Johnson,
 Secretary*

Savings:

Beginning Balance.	\$1080.08
Deposit correction 2022	<u>-50.00</u>
	1030.08

Deposits.	701.00
Interest.	<u>.60</u>
	\$1731.68

Less withdrawals.	<u>550.00</u>
Ending Balance.	\$1081.68

Checking

Beginning Balance.	\$1410.26
Deposits.	<u>3721.69</u>
	5131.95

Less expenses.	<u>3848.23</u>
Ending balance.	\$1283.72

*Respectfully submitted,
 -Mary Johnson,
 Secretary*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Treasurer's Report – December 2023

General Checking balance as of December 1, 2023	76,527.73
Checks and other debits	8,995.13
Deposits and other credits	9,714.07
General Checking balance as of December 31, 2023	<u>77,246.67</u>
Less dedicated account balances as of December 31, 2023	-30,076.28
Non-Dedicated General Checking balance as of 12/31/2023	\$47,170.39

	Current	Month	Year-	To-Date
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual
Income		9,909.55		83,065.73
Expenses	8,036.33	7,065.39	89,265.00	84,028.14
Net Difference	970.94	2,844.16	5,756.86	-962.41

Report Summary:

Month: We are **2,844.16** ahead in income vs. expenses for the month of December 2023; and **970.94** under our projected budget for the month of December 2023.

Year-to-Date Totals: We are **962.41** behind in income vs. expenses for the year 2023; and **5,756.86** under our projected budget for the year 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Moon,
Treasurer



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



Gerry & Mona
Knapp—February 23rd

**Family Ministry
Annual Report
2023**

- Youth Worship was started in September to be held during the sermon for children of all ages.
- Bill and Shawn Jansen were the Synod representatives in 2023.
- BLC took part in the Live Nativity event held at Emmanuel Dell Grove.

**-Sandra Pavelka,
Family Ministry
Council Liaison**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bank Account Balances Less Dedicated
as of the end of December, Fiscal Year 2023
01 - General Checking

Account	Activity through December	Beg. Balance	Current Balance
Dedicated Accounts			
017-10-40-03 Non-Designated Memorials	-3,699.25	5,146.85	1,447.60
017-20-40-01 Kitchen Fund	290.57	3,011.39	3,301.96
017-20-40-03 Community Outreach	-3,798.22	6,216.26	2,418.04
017-20-40-04 Quilter's Dedicated Acct	42.00	1,263.84	1,305.84
017-20-40-05 Circle of Faith	666.50	400.00	1,066.50
017-30-20-02 Janitorial Fund	2.08	1,487.54	1,489.62
017-30-40-01 Property Maintenance Fund	-2,244.49	5,296.48	3,051.99
017-30-40-14 Parsonage Sale Account	-115,000.00	127,963.00	12,963.00
017-70-40-01 Youth Fund	0.00	3,031.73	3,031.73
Total Dedicated Funds:	-123,740.81	153,817.09	30,076.28

CEMETERY BOARD ANNUAL REPORT 2023

Scott Peterson, Treasurer

Investments 12/31/2023

CD#	Face Value
4537	25387.15
4548	17350.81

Total 42737.96

Income 2023

Sale of Lots	9800.00
Interest	1048.08
Donations	268.25

Total 11116.33

Value of Investments 12/31/2023

CD'S	42737.96
NOW ACC	16165.26

Total 58903.22

EXPENSES 2023

Tree/Brush Removal	500.00
Caretaker	4000.00
Gas, Oil, Etc.	779.67
Safety Deposit	15.00
Snow Removal	825.00
Electric MN Power	177.09
Treasurer	200.00
Sexton	600.00
Finlayson Ag	265.75
CD Penalties	199.21

Total 7581.72

Balance 12/31/2022 55368.61

Income 2023 11116.33

Sub-total 66484.94

Expenses 2023 7581.72

Balance 12/31/2023 58903.22

ANNUAL MEETING

Join us for the BLC Annual Meeting following our worship service on Sunday, February 4th



A potluck will be served during our meeting, please plan to attend this important meeting, and bring a dish to share!

Lilies for Decorating our Church on Easter Sunday!

Please use this form for ordering your lilies

Please include your payment with your order—thank you!



Donated By: _____

In Memory or Honor Of: _____

Please specify so we know whether this is or isn't a memorial—unspecified orders will be "In Honor of"

Make check payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church for \$10.00

Orders should be to the church no later than Sunday, March 3rd

Photo Ops!



**New benches
inside our
entrances
made from
an old pew
by
Denny
Birkholm
-Thank you
Denny!**



**No more loose faucet
in the fellowship
kitchenette!**



**Are you missing a
cross? If you are,
contact the
office to have it
returned**

**New seasonal
decorations in our
fellowship area!**

