



The

# Parish Visitor

*A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota*

November 2022						
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	30			

## *A Message From Our SAM*

What would life be like without being able to read the Bible? Most homes have at least one. There are many translations with different languages that countless people in our world can have access to God’s Word.

This all started many years ago.... 500 years of God’s word in common language. There is an article in the September *Living Lutheran* by J.R. Jones that offers us information of how this came to be – *The true story of Martin Luther’s “September Testament”*. Here is the link so you can read the whole article:

<https://www.livinglutheran.org/2022/09/500-years-of-gods-word-in-common-language/>

Martin Luther was known for his disagreements on the papacy. His study, translation and publication of the Bible brought God’s Word to all people not just those working within the church. It opened the eyes of many to what God was teaching when Luther translated the New Testament. This started the reformation of the church – where our Lutheran roots came from.

I have spoken of not chaining God’s Word. Martin Luther listened to God’s calling of bringing the Word to the people. You and I also have a calling as we are children of God. God’s Word sets us free to share – free to reach out – live freely – let’s be Jesus’ hands and feet of love to the world!



The room in Wartburg Castle in Wittenberg where Luther translated the New Testament into German. An original first edition is kept in the case on the desk.

Photo: Wikimedia Commons



*-Clara*

# November Worship Schedule

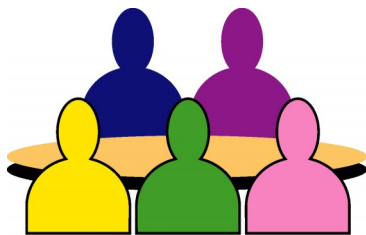
November 6 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Reed Fowler	Worship 10 am
November 13 <sup>th</sup> Worship with Holy Communion	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
November 20 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Circle of Faith will lead	Worship 10 am
November 23 <sup>rd</sup> Joint Thanksgiving Eve Worship & Pie Social at BLC	Clara Edin, SAM	Begins 6:30 pm
November 27 <sup>th</sup> Worship with Holy Communion	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 and Joni, Bob Katon, Naevia, Iver, Rita, Chardae, Lynda, Marge, Janice, Terrah, 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

**October 12, 2022  
Unapproved Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Clara Edin, Bill Jansen, Sandra Pavelka, Carolyn Steele, Denny Birkholm, Yvette Maloney.

**DEVOTION & OPENING PRAYER:** Led by Clara.

**ACCEPTANCE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER COUNCIL MEETING:** Motion by Denny, second by Carolyn, motion passed.

**SEPTEMBER TREASURER'S REPORT:** Discussed and reviewed. The audit report was received and is available to any member wishing to review.

**PASTOR'S REPORT:** Clara provided summary of her pastoral care. Clara will be doing the joint service on Thanksgiving Eve in addition to her scheduled Sundays.

- **MINISTRY TEAMS:** Property—Denny spoke with Arrow Lift today. They put the new part in and damaged another board while they were working on it. The replacement part has been ordered and is to be repaired next week. Denny and Chuck Drilling had a walk through with MN Power to evaluate our energy use. He is awaiting MN Power's recommendations. Denny sought an estimate for a chair lift from the main floor to the sanctuary from Arrow Lift. The estimate came in at \$5,500 with the costs for the electrician.
- Family Ministry—Heidi put the youth related items in the newsletter. Sandra has not heard of any interest in the fall youth gathering.
- Music and Worship—Music selections for October were made and the group will be meeting to plan November.
- Circle of Faith—The November 20<sup>th</sup> church service will be led by

Circle of Faith. There's still some discussion of a Christmas bazaar.

- Visioning Committee—The group met yesterday and some high level financials were put together. They reviewed and discussed the other multi-point parish models presented. A draft is expected by January.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- Fall congregational meeting agenda—Discussed proposed agenda items. Council member offices open: Bill Jansen and Denny Birkholm; Nominating Committee; 2023 Budget; update on the Visioning Committee; Labor Day Dinner.
- 2022 Proposed Budget—Discussion, no changes recommended.
- SAM contract—Discussion of contract terms, salary recommendations from Synod, congregational needs, changes to cell phone reimbursement, vacation time, Sunday commitments, pulpit supply,

There are 11 extra days of worship in 2023. A final version of the contract will be voted on in November.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Thanksgiving Worship and Christmas carol sing proposals—Carolyn to ask if Circle of Faith will serve for the pie social on Wednesday, November 23<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 pm.
- Margaret Christensen proposed that we do a Christmas carol sing on December 11<sup>th</sup> either as part of normal service or a later service in the afternoon to be followed by cookies.
- Action Group Leaders—Marilyn Krogh will no longer be an action group leader. Action group leaders are struggling to get people. Denny suggested some changes to how we organize the volunteers. He'll bring a proposal to the next meeting.



**Council minutes continued from page 2...**

- Confirmation Honorarium—Heidi brought up that we haven't compensated Pastor Cindy Gray for her time working with the confirmands. Bill moved giving her an honorarium for the full amount budgeted for 2022 for confirmation, Denny second, motion passed.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

- Bill to alert other parishes of time for Thanksgiving Eve service and pie social.

- Carolyn to check with Circle of Faith on serving pie on Thanksgiving Eve.
- Bill to put together the quarterly meeting agenda.

Motion to adjourn by Sandra, second by Yvette, meeting adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting Wednesday, November 9, 2022, 6:00 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
-Yvette Maloney  
Council secretary*

# NOVEMBER Birthdays & Anniversaries

- |                                   |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Cindy Jensen—6 <sup>th</sup>      | Larry Jensen—28 <sup>th</sup> |
| Tim Loew—6 <sup>th</sup>          | Shari Bigay—30 <sup>th</sup>  |
| Hannah Quam—9 <sup>th</sup>       | <b>Happy Anniversary!</b>     |
| Emma Jansen—12 <sup>th</sup>      | John & Tracy Zinter—          |
| Cindy Mortensen—12 <sup>th</sup>  | November 3 <sup>rd</sup>      |
| Bev Oderkirk—15 <sup>th</sup>     | Chuck & Heidi Moon—           |
| John Thinesen—15 <sup>th</sup>    | November 22 <sup>nd</sup>     |
| Kayleigh Maloney—18 <sup>th</sup> | Bill & Shawn Jansen—          |
| Andrew Jensen—23 <sup>rd</sup>    | November 29 <sup>th</sup>     |
| Joyce Larsen—26 <sup>th</sup>     |                               |



Circle of Faith (COF) met September 10, 2022 at church. The members in attendance were Jan Parker, Cookie Nielsen, Shawn Jansen, Joyce Larsen, and Mary Johnson.

Shawn called the meeting to order. Shawn led us in devotions from Gods Pause. Jesus healed 10 people with leprosy but only one returned to thank Jesus for the healing.

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

**Treasurer's report:** Checking \$129.47, savings 2,030.08.

**Old business:** Community meal for September is being moved to October. September's meals were tator tot hot dish, salad, rolls and apple crisp. October is kielbasa sausages, sauerkraut, German potato salad, and apple crisp. COF also discussed doing German chocolate cake for the dessert instead of the apple crisp.

Shawn showed a slide show of how the \$4,000 grant from Pine County was used. A big thank you to Shawn for all the work she put in setting up the grant and dispersing the money and the slide show she made.

**Card mailing:** Jan in November, Mary in December, Jo in January.

**New Business:** Discussed the need for a chair lift to have because the elevator

sometimes breaks down. Askov fire department will help with the October community meals. Discussed the possibility of offering fire extinguisher checks if people bring theirs from home. Cookie will check to see if we can find someone to check fire extinguishers.

COF plans to have the annual bake and craft sale on December 3, 2022. Cookie mention she could do a demonstration for making krumkake.

**Motion to adjourn:** Motion made to adjourn the meeting by Jan, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Joyce, motion carried. Adjourned with The Lord's Prayer.

Next meeting November 12, 2022 at 10:00.

*Respectfully submitted  
-Mary Johnson  
Secretary*



**You are invited to join us for a joint Thanksgiving Eve worship service hosted by BLC at 6:30 pm on Wednesday, November 23, 2022**



**A pie social will follow the worship service**



## Visioning Committee Meeting Minutes October 11, 2022

Present: Amy Frazer, Laura McCaughan, Bill Jansen, Dwain Ecklund, Greta Detzler, Minister Clara Edin, and Pastor Cindy Gray.

Opened with prayer.

Budget, income and expenses for both Grace and Emmanuel were shared.

Discussion ensued regarding the snapshot of the finances of the three churches. Things that were not discussed was the comparison of attendance, nor the Sunday offerings given. The following finances were compared.

At the end of July 2022, Bethlehem had \$49,698.15 available funds and \$154,944.35 dedicated funds. Bethlehem year-to-date (YTD) income at the end of July was \$49,065.32 and their YTD expenses were \$58,332.44. Bethlehem was behind \$9,267.12 in income versus expenses at the end of July 2022. Bethlehem currently has no monthly obligations. Bethlehem is expecting to need a new roof on the church in 5 to 10 years and is anticipating that cost to be \$25k - \$50k.

At the end of July 2022, Emmanuel had \$42,630.47 available funds and \$29,226.81 in dedicated funds. Emmanuel YTD income at the end of July was \$38,699.81 and their YTD expenses were \$38,994.94. Emmanuel was behind \$295.03 in income versus expenses at the end of July 2022. Emmanuel currently has no monthly obligations. Emmanuel is not expecting any major future capital outlay.

At the end of September 2022, Grace had \$9,603.76 available funds and \$178,885.63 dedicated funds. Grace YTD income at the end of September was \$63,471.24 and their YTD expenses were \$64,067.00. Grace was behind \$595.76 in income versus expenses at the end of September 2022. Grace currently has no monthly obligations. Grace is not expecting any major future capital outlay.

Some mutual ministry was discussed. The shared service for Thanksgiving is being hosted at Bethlehem this year. Margaret Christensen sent an email to Bill to suggest a Christmas Carol Sing at Bethlehem. Bill is to forward Margaret's email to Pastor Cindy to share with the Worship and Music Committee. Potentially Sunday December 11<sup>th</sup> at Bethlehem. More information will follow on this from the Worship and Music Committee.

Discussed the varying Parish agreement examples that were passed out last month. Discussed leading with the heart, addressing mission and service but keeping the business clear and straight-forward. Identities is a tricky subject. Are we planning on being three congregations or one parish. Eventually the Visioning Committee will need to address and identify what it would look like for Sunday bulletins, music, etc. We need to be willing to be a part of something new. Discussion was had and decided to make a mission statement in the next month or two.

Group to send ideas to Amy and Dwain for ideas for mission and purpose verbiage.

Next meeting will be November 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 pm at Bethlehem.

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 pm.

- Greta Detzler

**Action Group Leaders—please remember to turn in your list of monthly volunteers to the office so these can be included in the church calendar. Thank you.**