



The

# Parish Visitor

A Publication of Bethlehem Lutheran Church • Askov, Minnesota

October 2021						
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## A Message From Our SAM

When Jesus told his disciples, “You are the salt of the earth,” the weight of what he said must have come from the place of salt in worship and how God’s covenants are described.

Salt signified permanence, integrity, loyalty, faithfulness and preserving and staying power.

The disciples living in the kingdom are to be to the world like salt that is used to preserve food. The world that is turned against God decomposes, and its condition will rapidly deteriorate if not for spiritual salt that is applied to it through the lives and witness of the children of God (this includes you and I).

Wherever they are, God’s children slow down the decomposing and decay, and in some cases (as seen in history) they have even been able to reverse the decaying process and bring about new transformation and freshness in society.

We are spiritual salt to the world. Mark 9:49-50 - We are spiritual salt to each other when needed.

I pray that God will give you lots of spiritual salt as you journey this earth – I ask that you pray for me to receive it also.



Clara Edin, SAM



On August 15<sup>th</sup> the Council and the Property Committee mailed out a letter of appeal for the Property Fund in lieu of our hosting a Labor Day Dinner and Auction this year—as of September 19<sup>th</sup>, **a total of \$9,023.00** has been donated to the fund—**thank you everyone for your generosity!**

### October Worship Schedule



October 3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday Worship	Becky Gaede	Worship 10 am
October 10 <sup>th</sup> Holy Communion at the rail (individual cups for those who prefer)	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
October 17 <sup>th</sup> Sunday Worship	Becky Gaede	Worship 10 am
October 24 <sup>th</sup> Holy communion at the rail (individual cups for those who prefer)	Clara Edin, SAM	Worship 10 am
October 31 <sup>st</sup> Reformation Sunday Worship	Rev. Cindy Gray	Worship 10 am

Click or use the text below to watch our on-line recorded Sunday Worship Services on the BLC YouTube Channel:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/qXlcchWMIaCRqg>

### IN OUR Thoughts and Prayers

Please include the following people in your daily prayers:

Jan Ecklund, Lois Sahlen, Shirley Lund, Don & Lorraine Petersen, Buzz & Sally Mortensen, Naevia Roth, Greg MacDonald, Meghan Carlson, Bobby Hansen, Kerri Gortmaker, and their families. The family of Carole Maloney.

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

**2021 Church Council Members**



Marilyn Krogh  
*President*



Chuck Moon  
*Vice Pres.*



Bill Jansen  
*Secretary*



Denny Birkholm



Linda Jensen



Heidi Moon



Position Vacant



**September 8, 2021  
Unapproved Minutes**

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Clara Edin, Marilyn Krogh, Chuck Moon, Heidi Moon, Denny Birkholm, Bill Jansen; absent Linda Jensen.

**CHECK-INS, DEVOTION AND OPENING PRAYER:**

Devotion provided by Clara.

**ACCEPT MINUTES OF AUGUST 2021 MEETING:**

Motion by Heidi, second by Denny, motion carried.

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

Report was reviewed.

**PASTOR'S REPORT FOR AUGUST 2021:**

The pastor's report was received by Clara. Coverage issues were discussed.

**MINISTRY TEAMS:**

- Property—The elevator has been inspected. No issues. Will be inspected quarterly.
- Family Ministry—Blessing of the backpacks September 19, Sunday School/Faith Alive to start in October. Need to identify youth for and plan for the National Youth Gathering.
- Music and Worship—Hymns selected for September. To consider Thanksgiving Eve service.
- Circle of Faith—Letters and grant proposal to

request funding for the community meal were presented. Motion by Chuck to grant permission to submit requests, second by Marilyn; motion carried.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

- October worship schedule—3<sup>rd</sup> Becky G., 10<sup>th</sup> Clara, 17<sup>th</sup> Becky G., 24<sup>th</sup> Clara, 31<sup>st</sup> Cindy G. Quarterly congregational meeting will be October 24<sup>th</sup> following worship.
- Constitution update—recommended changes by the committee (Bill, Jo, Ron) were presented to council for review. Council made one addition. These changes will be on the agenda for the quarterly congregational meeting.
- Reminder of upcoming meeting with Grace/Emmanuel—September 13<sup>th</sup> at 6 pm at Grace.
- Action Groups—Marilyn offered to call the Action Group leaders to see if we could get this started again.
- Confirmation plan—Some plans were discussed. Nothing final yet. Will have more information and hopefully a plan after the meeting with GEL-Sandstone on September 13<sup>th</sup>.
- Synod Covid Zoom Report—No council member participated in the meeting. Need to get the information and distribute.
- Proposed 2022 Budget—To be presented at quarterly meeting. Marilyn, Heidi, Clara to prepare.

- Building key for Lisa Waletsko—Lisa will be helping with the community meal. Motion to give her a key by Chuck, second by Denny, motion carried.
- Hymnal replacement—Bill requested hymnal replacement be added to the quarterly congregational meeting agenda. Agreed by consent.

Motion to adjourn with The Lord's Prayer, motion carried.

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, at 6 pm.

*Respectfully submitted,  
- Bill Jansen  
Council Secretary*



A volunteer is needed to call members to donate sandwiches and cakes for any upcoming funerals (we have a caller for salads already in place) This is a very important ministry at BLC and we need someone to step in to this position for any future funeral luncheons.

If you would be willing to take on this position, please let the office know at [blcaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blcaskov@gmail.com) or call 838-3191



# OCTOBER

## Birthdays & Anniversaries

Chloe Maloney—1 <sup>st</sup>	Wendy Ecklund—21 <sup>st</sup>
Donna Sahlen—3 <sup>rd</sup>	Doug Ecklund—26 <sup>th</sup>
Herman Velsvaag—3 <sup>rd</sup>	Brendan Zinter—30 <sup>th</sup>
Heidi Moon—5 <sup>th</sup>	Brayden Willie—31 <sup>st</sup>
Sue Kozlowski—8 <sup>th</sup>	
Margie Dubois—9 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Happy Anniversary!</b>
Molly Balut—13 <sup>th</sup>	Ovid & Linda Jensen—
Lynn Storrar—17 <sup>th</sup>	October 13 <sup>th</sup>

**The BLC Quarterly  
Congregational Meeting will  
be held on Sunday,  
October 24, 2021 following  
the worship service  
(starting time TBD by worship length)  
Plan to attend this very  
important meeting!**

### **BLC Quarterly Congregational Meeting—October 24, 2021 Agenda**

- 1) Establish a Quorum
- 2) Opening Prayer
- 3) Call to Order
- 4) Accept the Agenda
- 5) Proposed 2022 Budget (vote)
- 6) 2022 Nominating Committee (vote)
- 7) 2022 Council Members (vote)
- 8) Constitution Updates (vote)
- 9) Synod Giving (vote)
- 10) Hymnal Replacement (vote)
- 11) Sponsorships
- 12) Adjourn/The Lord’s Prayer

## In Loving Memory...



**Carole Jean Maloney**

September 10, 1944—September 11, 2021

*Funeral Services will be held at BLC on  
Sunday, October 3, 2021*

*Visitation 1 pm—Memorial Service 2 pm*

## **Church Representatives Are Needed**



If you would be willing to volunteer to be a representative at upcoming events such as weddings or funerals held here at Bethlehem—we are looking for **volunteers to serve as “Church Representatives”** during these events.

Duties would include unlocking and locking up the building before and after events (you must be present during the entire event), turning the sound system on and off, and lighting and extinguishing altar candles, etc.

One representative is needed per event, and **each event would pay \$150** (if you share the event with a friend or spouse, you would split the \$150)

If you would like to be added to our list of representatives, please let the office know: [blicaskov@gmail.com](mailto:blicaskov@gmail.com)

The following three (3) pages contain the proposed changes to the BLC Constitution that will be presented for a vote at our Quarterly Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 24, 2021

Proposed changes are in **bold**, with some items marked by a ~~strikeout~~

## CONGREGATION MEETING

- C10.01.** The regularly scheduled meetings of this congregation shall be held as specified
- the annual meeting during the month of February and
  - the fall quarterly meeting during the month of October as scheduled by the congregation council.
- C10.02.** A special Congregation Meeting may be called by the pastor or the Congregation Council and shall be called by the president of the congregation upon the written request of 10 percent of the voting members. The call for each special meeting shall specify the purpose for which it is to be held and no other business shall be transacted.
- C10.03.** Notice of all meetings of this congregation shall be given at the services of worship on the preceding two consecutive Sundays and by mail, **or electronic means as permitted under state law** to all voting members at least 10 days in advance of the date of the meeting. ~~The posting of such notice in the regular mail, with the regular postage affixed or paid, sent to the last known address of such members shall be sufficient.~~
- C10.04.** 20 voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- C10.05.** Voting by proxy or by absentee ballot shall not be permitted.
- C10.06.** All actions approved by the congregation shall be by majority vote of those voting members present and voting, except as otherwise provided in this constitution or by state law.
- C10.07.** *Robert's Rules of Order*, latest edition, shall govern parliamentary procedure of all meetings of this congregation.
- C10.08.** This congregation may hold meetings by remote communication, including electronically and by telephone conference, as long as there is an opportunity for simultaneous aural communication. To the extent permitted by state law, notice of all meetings may be provided electronically.

## Chapter 11.

### OFFICERS

- C11.01.** The officers of this congregation shall be a president, vice president, and secretary.
- Duties of the officers shall be specified in the continuing resolutions.
  - The officers shall be voting members of the congregation.
  - The Congregational Council shall appoint financial secretary and treasurer.
  - If the Congregation Council elects its officers, the president, vice president, and secretary shall be selected from the elected membership of the Congregation Council at the organizational council meeting prior to the January annual meeting.
- C11.02.** The Congregation Council shall elect its officers; the president, vice-president, and secretary, and they shall be the officers of the congregation. The officers shall be elected by written ballot and shall serve for one year or until their successors are elected. Their terms shall begin at the January Council meeting at which they are elected.
- C11.03.** No officer shall hold more than one office at a time.

## Chapter 12.

### CONGREGATION COUNCIL

- C12.01.** The membership of the Congregation Council shall consist of the pastor **and/or SAM** and the ~~seven~~ **five (5)** elected members of the congregation. ~~The elected members are the voting members while the pastor functions as ex-officio member.~~ Any voting member of the congregation may be elected. A member's place on the Congregation Council shall be declared vacant if the member a) ceases to be a voting member of this congregation or b) is absent from four successive regular meetings of the Congregation Council without cause. Consistent with the laws of the state in which this congregation is incorporated, the congregation may adopt procedures for the removal of a member of the Congregation Council in other circumstances.
- C12.02.** The members of the Congregation Council (except the pastor **and/or SAM**) shall be elected at a legally called meeting of the congregation during the month of October. Their term of office shall be for ~~three (3)~~ **two (2)** years, with the term of office beginning on January 1<sup>st</sup> and ending on December 31<sup>st</sup>. Newly elected Congregation Council members shall be installed at worship ~~on a Sunday following their election and prior to the date they assume office~~ **at a time determined by the congregational council.** ~~The Congregation Council member's 3-year terms shall stagger, 3 members, 2 members, and 2 members. Elected members shall serve no more than two (2) consecutive terms.~~
- C12.03.** Should a member's place on the Congregation Council be declared vacant, the Congregation Council shall select/appoint, by majority vote, a successor until the expiration of the elected term.
- C12.04.** The Congregation Council shall have general oversight of the life and activities of this congregation, and in particular its worship life, to the end that everything be done in accordance with the Word of God and the faith and practice of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America. The duties of the Congregation Council shall include the following:

The following pages contain the proposed changes to the BLC Constitution that will be presented for a vote at our Quarterly Congregation Meeting on Sunday, October 24, 2021

Proposed changes are in **bold**, with some items marked by a ~~strikeout~~

- a. To lead this congregation in stating its mission, to do long-range planning, to set goals and priorities, and to evaluate its activities in light of its mission and goals.
  - b. To seek to involve all members of this congregation in worship, learning, witness, service, and support.
  - c. To oversee and provide for the administration of this congregation to enable it to fulfill its functions and perform its mission.
  - d. To maintain supportive relationships with the pastor(s) and staff and help them annually to evaluate the fulfillment of their calling or employment.
  - e. To be examples individually and corporately of the style of life and ministry expected of all baptized persons.
  - f. To promote a congregational climate of peace and goodwill, and, as differences and conflicts arise, to endeavor to foster mutual understanding.
  - g. To arrange for pastoral service during the sickness or absence of the pastor.
  - h. To emphasize partnership with the synod and churchwide organization of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America as well as cooperation with other congregations, both Lutheran and non-Lutheran, subject to established policies of the synod and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.  
To recommend and encourage the use of program resources produced or approved by the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America.
  - j. To seek out and encourage qualified persons to prepare for the ministry of the Gospel.
  - k. To appoint necessary boards, committees, and sub-committees.
- C12.05.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the financial and property matters of this congregation.
- a. The Congregation Council shall be the board of trustees of this congregation, and as such shall be responsible for maintaining and protecting its property and the management of its business and fiscal affairs. It shall have the powers and be subject to the obligations that pertain to such boards under the laws of the State of Minnesota, except as otherwise provided herein.
  - b. The Congregation Council shall not have the authority to buy, sell, or encumber real property unless specifically authorized to do so by a meeting of the congregation.
  - c. The Congregation Council may enter into contracts of up to \$500.00 for items not included in the budget, but may enter into contracts concerning the repair and building funds not to exceed the balance in those funds.
  - d. The Congregation Council shall prepare an annual budget for adoption by this congregation at the legally called meeting in October, shall supervise the expenditure of funds in accordance therewith following its adoption, and may incur obligations of more than \$500.00 in excess of the anticipated receipts only after approval by a Congregation Meeting. The budget shall include this congregation's full indicated share in support of the wider ministry being carried on in partnership with the synod and churchwide organization.
  - e. The Congregation Council shall ascertain that the financial affairs of this congregation are being conducted efficiently, giving particular attention to the prompt payment of all obligations and to the regular forwarding of benevolence monies to the synodical treasurer.
  - f. The Congregation Council shall be responsible for this congregation's investments and its total insurance program.
- C12.06.** The Congregation Council shall see that the provisions of this constitution, and its bylaws, and the continuing resolutions are carried out.
- C12.07.** The Congregation Council shall provide for an annual review of the membership roster.
- C12.08.** The Congregation Council shall be responsible for the employment and supervision of the ~~salaries lay workers~~ **staff** of this congregation.
- C12.09.** The Congregation Council shall submit a comprehensive report to this congregation at the annual meeting.
- C12.11.** The Congregation Council shall normally meet once a month. Special meetings may be called by the pastor **and/or SAM** or the president, and shall be called by the president at the request of at least one-half of its members. Notice of each special meeting shall be given to all who are entitled to be present.
- C12.12.** A quorum for the transaction of business shall consist of a majority of the members of the Congregation Council, including the pastor, interim pastor, **or SAM** except when the pastor or interim pastor, **or SAM** requests or consents to be absent and has given prior approval to the agenda of routine matters which shall be the only business of the meeting.

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### Chapter 13.

#### CONGREGATION COMMITTEES

- C13.01.** The officers of this congregation and the pastor **and/or SAM** shall constitute the *Executive Committee*.
- C13.02.** A *Nominating Committee* of two voting members of this congregation shall be elected at the legally called meeting in October for a term of one year. Members of the nominating committee are not eligible for consecutive reelection.
- C13.03.** An *Audit Committee* of two voting members shall be appointed by the Congregation Council. Audit Committee members shall not be members of the Congregation Council.
- C13.04.** A *Mutual Ministry Committee* (in the absence of a mutual ministry committee, the duties shall be fulfilled by the executive committee) shall be appointed jointly by the president and the pastor. Term of office shall be two years, with two members to be appointed each successive year.
- C13.05.** When a pastoral vacancy occurs, a *Call Committee* of seven non-council members shall be elected by this congregation. Term of office will terminate upon installation of the newly called pastor.
- C13.06.** Other committees of this congregation may be formed, as the need arises, by decision of the Congregation Council. Each member of the Congregation Council will serve as liaison to committees formed.
- C13.07.** Duties of committees of this congregation shall be specified in continuing resolutions.

### Chapter 14.

#### ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN THE CONGREGATION

- C14.01.** All organizations within this congregation shall exist to aid it in ministering to the members of this congregation and to all persons who can be reached with the Gospel of Christ. As outgrowths and expressions of this congregation's life, the organizations are subject to its oversight and direction. This congregation at its meeting shall determine their policies, guide their activities, and receive reports concerning their membership, work, and finances.
- C14.02.** Special interest groups, other than those of the official organizations of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, may be organized only after authorization has been given by the Congregation Council and specified in a continuing resolution.

#### Continuing Resolutions:

##### Add:

**CR.10.03.01** The church shall maintain membership contact information including both physical address (mail), electronic address (email, etc), land-line phone, and cell phone, and shall attempt to ascertain the preferred contact methods for each member household.

**CR.10.03.01** Membership contact information shall be reviewed and updated at a minimum on an annual basis.

##### Strike:

- CR12.05.01 (Church Usage)**  
**CR13.07.02 (Adult Education Ministry Team)**  
**CR13.07.03 (Youth Ministry Team)**  
**CR13.07.06 (Social Justice Ministry Team)**  
**CR13.07.07 (Prayer Ministry Team)**  
**CR13.07.08 (Stewardship/Finance Ministry Team)**