

Bethlehem: A Story Worth Celebrating

Every fall, every participant in the congregation is invited to prayerfully consider an on purpose financial gift to support the mission and ministry of Bethlehem. Many people share gifts spread over the year, some people give online, some people give with stock, and others cattle or grain. All gifts matter. Two important events:

- **Giving Days (October 28 - November 1):** a special, short term giving opportunity over and above your regular, faithful gifts. Every dollar is given away to two worthwhile charities: Meals on Wheels (18,000 meals will be delivered in Aberdeen in 2017) and the new 211 Crisis Texting Line (Over 40 high schools in South Dakota are using this service).
- **General Fund Appeal:** Look for a mailing in November that invites an RSVP from you in the form of a Promise Card. Prayerfully consider your on purpose gift to Bethlehem. This is often a yearly commitment and will be made during the week of November 19th. The General Fund supports the vibrant day to day ministry of the church.

Your generosity is a story worth celebrating! Thank you!



Thanksgiving Day Worship

Thursday, November 23 at 10:00 a.m.

Thanksgiving Dinner

Thursday, November 23 at 11:00 a.m.

There is no charge for this traditional Thanksgiving meal that is prepared and served by volunteers, but a freewill offering will be available. **Reservations are requested to assist in planning - please call 225-9740.** Transportation is provided upon request. Riders will be picked up for worship and taken home after the meal.

All Saints Day

We will be observing All Saints Day at our regular worship services on **Saturday, November 4 at 5:15; Sunday, November 5 at 8:30 & 10:45, as well as Wednesday, November 8 at 6:15.** One of the rituals and traditions of All Saints Day worship is the tolling of a bell while reading the names of those who have died in the last year. At these services there is also the opportunity to light a candle in memory of loved ones.

Connecting with God, One Another and Our Mission in the World



Tuesday, October 31st
5:30-6:30

All are welcome! Bring the costumed kids (and adults) for a fun, safe evening of trick or treating in the west Bethlehem parking lot. See a fire truck and a police car!

Want to host a trunk? Email debrajoh@hotmail.com. Sponsored by the Youth & Family Team.



Pre-K Scholarship Fundraiser

The Bethlehem Pre-K team is partnering with Schwan's Home Delivery to offer you a delicious fundraising opportunity to help our scholarship fund. **The Pre-K scholarship fund allows families experiencing financial difficulties to send their children to our Pre-K program.**

Schwan's offers over 350 delicious foods and through Schwans-Cares.com, you can order from Schwan's Home Delivery and help the Pre-K meet our fundraising goals. **When you order between November 14 and December 29, 20% of product and 40% of e-certificate sales will go back to the scholarship fund.**

Order Online:

1. Visit Schwans-Cares.com
2. Enter **Campaign ID: 35175** into the search box located in the upper right hand corner then click to open the campaign.
3. Click the "Buy Now" button to purchase an eCertificate or "Shop Now" to place a product order.

Thank you for your support!



We've had lots of fun learning about fall during the month of October! We especially enjoyed pumpkin picking with Steve in the BLC garden. In addition to learning about fall we've also been exploring different types of families and shared some information about our own families. We visited Noah's Critters because pets are important parts of many families as well! We also took a trip to visit the new K.O. Lee Library. For Halloween we will be wearing our costumes and Trick-or-Treating at Primrose and throughout the church. The children can't wait!

Reminder – We have a break from Christian Education on November 22 and 26. Have a great Thanksgiving break!

The November 2017 Bible Reading Plan is all about

Forgiveness. Learn about saying “sorry” and forgiving others.

This month’s handout has Bible stories, questions, an activity, and a prayer you can pray together as a family. Grab your copy today. Kids can get a prize from Melissa if they bring back the sheet signed by a parent!

Book Fair

Parents, grandparents, and book lovers: We will be holding a Scholastic Book Fair on Sunday, November 12th and Wednesday, November 15th! Come pick up some books and support the Children’s Ministry programs at BLC. We plan to host a book fair each fall to help you stock up for the holidays and cold, winter months.

Family Faith Boxes

New to Bethlehem are **Family Faith boxes**. These are a great way to start faith conversations at home. Read the stories and devotions. Do the projects. Bring it back when you are done. Super simple! It’s like a library for faith activities. The best part...the activities are FUN and engaging for kids and parents alike. Stop by Melissa’s office to check out a box today.

Christmas Program

Our annual children’s Christmas programs will be on December 10 at 10:45 a.m. for Sunday School students and December 13 at 6:15 p.m. for Wednesday School students. Clear your calendars now, share the dates with extended family, and be listening for Christmas songs from your kids!

First Communion



These students celebrated First Communion on Sunday, October 15.

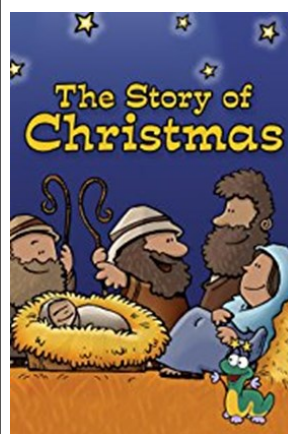
PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Parents: Do you need a couple of hours to do some shopping, clean the house, go on a date, or just “be”? Drop your kids off for **Parents’ Night Out from 5:00 to 7:30 on December 1.**

Kids will have time to get settled with some table activities in the Fellowship Hall, will be fed supper (pizza and sides), and will watch a fun children’s movie in the Re-Creation Center. We welcome children age 2 through 5th grade. **Cost is \$5 per child.**

Confirmation students: Sign up with Melissa to help and receive service hours for your time.

Parents: Please sign up in advance at the church office to ensure we have enough food and help. Contact Melissa Zastrow, Director of Children’s Ministries at 225-9740 with any questions.

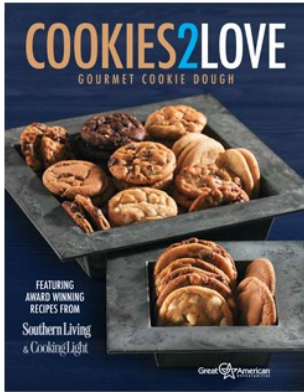


Family Christmas Party

Join us in our first ever Family Christmas Party on **Sunday, November 19th from 2:00 to 4:00.** Families are invited to come for an afternoon of fun

as we prepare for the Advent and Christmas seasons. We’ll watch Sparkhouse’s “The Story of Christmas” video before breaking into groups to experience fun and learning at multiple activity stations. Questions, contact Melissa Zastrow at 225-9740.

FUNDRAISING OPPORTUNITY
Beginning November 1st



Need to save money for the
2018 National Youth Gathering
2018 Duluth Mission Trip
2018 LO Summer Camps
or just begin saving money for a
far into the future trip or event?

Sell Cookies2Love Gourmet
Cookie Dough!

See Denny for order forms.

High School Retreat

November 10-12
NeSoDak

Escape to NeSoDak on Lake Enemy
Swim for a weekend! Outdoor
adventures, campfire and growing
in your faith.

There will be breakout times for
Confirmation, Peer Ministry, Life
after High School and Sports &
Faith.

Open to High School Students only.
\$100. This is a confirmation
requirement. Talk to Denny or
Sanessa to get registered (separate
NeSoDak health form required).



Spruce Up Your Front Door for Christmas!

The Youth & Family Team will be selling wreaths,
crosses and swags again this year.

Proceeds will help fund the

2018 ELCA Youth Gathering in Houston.

Pre-order forms can be found at the Welcome Desk
or in "Stuff Rack" outside Denny's office.

2017 College Freshman Care Packages



The Youth & Family Team will be sending Care
Packages to kids who are Freshman in college
or have moved away from home for military
service or work. Packages will be mailed out in
mid to late November. A \$25 donation will
put a sweet package together!

Talk to Denny if you have questions.

High School Sunday Nights

Open to all high school students. **Sunday evenings from 6:30-8:30.**
Watch for more information coming soon!
Questions? Just ask Sanessa at 225-9740!

FACE TO FACE WITH TEENS

Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. beginning
January 17th in the East Fellowship Hall

No one ever said parenting is easy. Now, add in technology, social media, drugs and self-esteem, and parents are either very worried or pretend there are no problems. Sometimes we just don't know where to turn? Five sessions over five weeks on crucial topics to help parents navigate through these teenage years. Come learn strategies to lovingly be face to face with your teen; be encouraged to know you are not alone on the parenting journey; leave with information and valuable resources.

Topics/Speakers will include: Social Media and technology, medical and counseling professionals on drugs/alcohol, depression, cutting, signs to watch for and resources that can help. **Wednesdays at 7:15 p.m. starting January 17th in the East Fellowship Hall.** Contact Pastor Kevin with any questions.

Leadership Elections Coming Soon...

Each year Bethlehem elects leaders to the ministry & resource teams that help to lead the church and our ministries. In December we'll elect persons to serve on teams to focus upon: welcoming, worshiping, teaching, serving, youth & family, and pre-kindergarten as well as Bethlehem's human, property and financial resources. If you would like to learn more or nominate someone or yourself to possibly help lead Bethlehem through one of these teams, please look over the nomination form and team descriptions available at the front office. You may also talk with any staff member.

BLC Piecemakers

You are invited to join in making mission quilts for donation to Lutheran World Relief (LWR). **Piecemakers meet every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon at the church.**

No quilting or sewing experience is necessary...there are many processes involved including sorting donations, ironing fabric, cutting squares, pinning borders, tying layers, sewing edges, packing boxes, and rolling bandages...there is a job for anyone who wants to help.

No sign-up or registration is necessary...no mandatory weekly attendance...just come when, and how often, you are available.

Donations are also always welcome: Used sheets, blankets, bedding, pillowcases, fabric (no clothes please), quilt batting, crochet thread, sewing thread, working sewing machines and monetary gifts are appreciated.

The quilts made at BLC are taken to the St. Paul, MN LWR warehouse for distribution around the world to those facing hardship, disaster, or conflict.

In 2016, LWR gave out over 346,000 quilts to people and families who needed a helping hand, comfort, and hope for the future. These 60" X 80" quilts are used for sleeping mats, blankets, tents, floor coverings, wraps to cradle babies to their mother's backs, etc.

By simply combining fabric and thread, you can help send a message of faith to those who need to know they are not alone but that somebody cares and is praying for them. Making mission quilts is a worthwhile activity that not only provides warmth and comfort to those receiving a quilt, but also warms the hearts of all the volunteers who give their time, resources, and donations to make this project possible.

So, if you are looking for a winter activity, please join the BLC Piecemakers for a few hours each Tuesday for friends, fellowship, and fun. **For more information contact the church office 605-225-9740, or just come on Tuesday and observe the quilt making process.**

Thank you for your donations and your prayers.

Beth's Book Club

Beth's Book Club will meet **Monday, November 6, from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. in the Fireside Room to discuss the book "Through My Eyes."** The author, Tammy Wilson, will speak, Friday, October 27 at the K.O. Lee Library. **The book club will extend that discussion on November 6 and invite ALL INTERESTED individuals to join in this discussion.** "Through My Eyes" is the story of an 11-year old girl navigating her way through her new country and embracing her Somali values. The author is an elementary school principal in St. Cloud, MN, and the goal of her book is to inspire children and educate adults.

Grace Place

Come check out all of the new inventory in Grace Place. We have cards for nearly every situation including holidays. There are also great gift ideas for children, men, women, teens. Some of our top sellers include Bible covers/bags, a wide variety of Bibles, jewelry, and home décor items. There are also many gift items for Christmas, baptisms, and Confirmation events. Shop any time by bringing your items and payment to the front office. All proceeds support special purchases in the Children, Youth, and Family programs at Bethlehem.

November Study & Share

All Women are welcome to join the monthly Study and Share Bible Study. Women of all generations gather to discuss the study that is printed in the monthly Women of the ELCA magazine, "Gather". This magazine has many articles of inspiration and education as well as the monthly Bible study. For information on a subscription call Dee Sanderson, 228-2567.

The November study will focus on part three of three on the Apostles' Creed. Copies of the study will be available or can be picked up at the church office. Weren't able to make it last time? NO PROBLEM – come as you are able! There is a seat and a coffee mug for you. **Saturday, November 11 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.**

If you are around for the holiday season (Thanksgiving and Christmas), we will be looking for volunteers in the following areas: Communion servers, greeters, van drivers, & welcome desk. Contact the church office for more information.



following have said YES to the call as follows: Stacey Pence, Chair; Joan Ernst, Vice Chair; Brenda Glasford, Treasurer; Louise Stapert, Recorder; Mary Zumm, Mission Action; and Dee Sanderson, Mission Growth.

We want to thank the following ladies who have been faithful in leading our group through these past years: Susan Brick, Marlys Suttan, and Joan Foss. They have worked hard to help accomplish goals and we know they will continue to support us in prayer and with their presence at our various events.

Our next Bethlehem WELCA meeting will be held on November 11 following the November's Study and Share. All women are welcome and encouraged to attend. We will be discussing events and goals for the upcoming year as well as making decisions on year-end financial giving.

Shalom
Stacey Pence, Chair

Greetings to the women of Bethlehem Lutheran who are all Women of the ELCA, (WELCA). Fall brings changes to the season outside as well as inside our organization. The Bethlehem WELCA board, along with several other ladies of the church, met in September following the Study and Share led by Pastor Rhia. Election of officers was held for the upcoming year and the

Aging Gracefully

A group gathering to celebrate faith, community and education.

Join with others the second Tuesday of each month at 2:00 p.m. in the East Fellowship Hall. November 14th we will hear a presentation from NAMI, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. This presentation is an interactive public awareness presentation that provides insight into what it's like to live with mental illness. Participants will recognize that mental illnesses are treatable medical conditions, discover that recovery is possible and see people living meaningful lives beyond stereotypes. There will also be time to discuss questions in a safe environment and learn the importance of getting involved to help yourself and those you love. **This is a great topic for all ages.**

Coat Drive

The Serving Ministry Team is hosting a new and gently used coat drive **now through November 23 in the Narthex**. Clean coats of all sizes are welcomed. The donated coats will be available for anyone who needs a coat for the winter, whether this person is you or someone you love. All remaining coats at the end of the drive will be donated to a local charity. Thank you for your generosity.

Midweek Advent Pause

Gather together in the Chapel at 12:10 each Wednesday during Advent for a time to pause, meditate and pray. Advent is historically a time to slow down and prepare but unfortunately many times the opposite is the case. Hit the pause button and take **20 minutes** to reflect on the meaning of the coming Christ child. **Beginning Wednesday, November 29th.**

Christmas Service Project

Bethlehem will be doing an Angel Tree project this Christmas. Be looking for the trees and tags with items local agencies often need. We plan to help stock the Salvation Army's backpack pantry with snacks and provide commonly needed items to places such as Safe Harbor and the Department of Social Services.

Joint Commission Meeting Highlights October 17, 2017

President Reed Rasmussen called the meeting to order.
Pr. Kevin opened with devotions.

Membership Changes: Members Added

Baptisms:

Brett Michael Andrews 9/23/2017
Ridge Robert Andrews 9/23/2017
Liv Elizabeth Geary 10/1/2017
Landry Jean Scherr 10/7/2017
Harley Jack Smith 10/11/2017
Kolton Jaxon Holler 10/11/2017
Lillie Marie Shape 10/14/2017
Karrie Jo Shape 10/14/2017

Members Removed

Deaths:

Marlene Ketelhut 9/29/2017
LaVina Keil 10/1/2017
Monte Herting 10/10/2017

Transferred:

Gordon & Dorothy Larson transferred membership to Peace Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls, SD 9/21/2017

Richard & Corinne Holland transferred membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Tea, SD 10/12/2017
Jered Holland transferred membership to Trinity Lutheran Church in Tea, SD 10/12/2017

Collaborating – Reports from each of the teams were shared including:

FINANCIAL RESOURCE TEAM:

- Bethlehem received an estate gift from Israel Stoecker that will be disbursed according to his wishes.
- Communication of the financial situation continues in various ways including quarterly giving statements, quarterly update from Financial Resource Team members in worship, and printed bulletins & newsletter.

PROPERTY RESOURCE TEAM:

The team is receiving bids for striping the parking lot and for cleaning the sediment from the pond from which we draw water for irrigating the grounds.

Meeting closed with prayers of thanks and help.

MEET THE LEADERS OF BETHLEHEM

Ryan Erickson - Pre-K Team



Ryan, Amy, Hunter & Mikaela Erickson

On what team are you currently serving at BLC? I am serving on the Pre-K team.

Have you served on any teams in years past at BLC? I also served on the call committee for Pastor Rhia. Also served on a team for Kairos meetings with church members.

Background: I was born in Aberdeen and have lived here all my life.

Family: I have been married to my wife, Amy, for fifteen years and we have two children, Hunter and Mikaela.

Work: Co-owner and General Manager of Dairy Queen

Hobbies: Golf, bowling, and hunting

How long have you been a member of BLC? I have felt like a member since I started coming almost 19 years ago. I thought I completed the membership process when preparing for our wedding. I realized years later I wasn't and officially became a member in 2012.

What brought you to Bethlehem? Before marrying my wife, I attended services with her family. We were married at Bethlehem and it then became our church as a family.

What keeps you at Bethlehem? As a member of Bethlehem, I have always felt welcomed as a part of the church. The children's ministry programs such as Sunday School and VBS have been a big part of our children's lives. It's fun to see their excitement about faith at such a young age. The pastors do an amazing job of serving and they make their messages engaging and relatable to everyday life.

How has your involvement with your team affected your perspective of this church and/or yourself? You get a better understanding of just how many ministries the church is involved in and how these impact the members and community.

What is the biggest challenge placed before your team? The biggest challenge was transitioning the Pre-K from two half-day sessions to an all-day option. The new program provides a half day of instruction with child care provided for the remainder of the day to better meet the needs of the families.

If you had to pick one current ministry at BLC you think instrumental for the future development of this church, what would that be? I feel that youth education is very important for the future of Bethlehem. By creating a strong foundation for faith at a young age, our youth will carry that with them throughout their lives.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Social Concerns Honorarium

Given in honor of Doug & Nan Reiersen by: Saturday Morning Circle

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Joyce Jansen by: Alecia Bean

Given in memory of Marlene Ketelhut by: LeRoy Adam, Susan & Jerry Brick

Special Gifts Memorials

Given in memory of Russell Alexander's Birthday by: Naomi Alexander, Linda Ellis

Wednesday Supper Memorials

Given in memory of Marlene Ketelhut by: Sandra Maier

Mortgage Fund Memorials

Given in memory of LaVina Keil by: Dlon & Gary Kvernevig

Given in memory of Alger Roseth by: Dlon & Gary Kvernevig

Given in memory of Luella Lambert by: Linda & Larry Kirnan

Worship & Music Memorials

Given in memory of Marlene Ketelhut by: Roger & Lana Rozell, Bill & Linda Roth

Flowers and Landscaping Memorials

Given in memory of Marcene Strivens Rigsby by: Don & Carolyn Lang, Linda Siefkes

September 2017 Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND

Analysis of Budgeted Revenues & Expenses

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u>
Revenues	\$ 93,958	\$ 881,644
Expenditures	\$ 116,303	\$ 1,015,567
Net Operating	\$ (22,345)	\$ (133,923)

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 328,228
Payables due within 15 days	\$ (22,534)
Due to Restricted Funds	\$ (532)
Reserved for Others/Designated accounts	\$ (58,548)
Due to Mortgage Fund	\$ (117,214)
Total Available Unrestricted Cash	\$ 129,400

MORTGAGE & FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Income Statement

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u>
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$ 19,268	\$ 184,829
Expenditures	\$ 57,760	\$ 213,569
Net Operating	\$ (38,491)	\$ (28,741)

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 152,991
Due from General Fund	\$ 117,214
Total Mortgage Fund Assets	\$ 270,205
Future Maintenance Account Cash Assets	\$ 13,617
Mortgage Loan Payable	\$ 2,155,392
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$ 13,238

SPECIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS

Restricted Accounts (Social Concerns, WELCA & Restricted Memorials & special gifts)	\$ 57,718
Endowment Fund	\$ 498,363



Watch a FREE Live Stream of Dave Ramsey's Smart Money Event

Tuesday, November 7 from 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Over the last 25 years, millions of lives have been changed through Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. This November, Dave will be live streaming his Smart Money event to churches and Financial Peace University classes across the country. We are excited to announce that we will be a host site for this event. The best part? It's absolutely free for you to attend!

Dave and Rachel Cruze will take the stage on November 7 in Phoenix, and we will stream the event in real time. We'd love for you to join us and learn the steps you and your family can take to live like no one else. Sign up today to be a part of this amazing event. **Register at tinyurl.com/SmartMoneyBLC.**

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

*We are a family of God
journeying together in
faith, touching lives by
Welcoming, Worshiping,
Teaching and Serving.*

Find us on

facebook

facebook.com/BethlehemAberdeen

Christmas Worship Times

Early Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and Candlelight

Saturday, December 23 at
5:15 p.m. in the Chapel

Christmas Eve Worship with Communion and Candlelight

Sunday, December 24 at
10:00 a.m.
1:00 p.m.
3:00 p.m.
5:00 p.m.
9:00 p.m.

5:00 service will be broadcast
live on KGIM 1420 AM

Christmas Day Worship with Communion

Monday, December 25 at
10:00 a.m.

There will be no supper or
worship on Wednesday,
December 27.

US Postage

PAID

Permit #18

Non-Profit Organization

Aberdeen, SD 57401

Congregation Meeting

On Sunday, December 17th at 9:40 in the Fellowship Hall will be a Congregation Meeting which will include elections of leaders and written reports from teams. **Everyone is invited to share in the Congregation Meeting and voting members are encouraged to participate in the election.**

Advent 2017: In a Different Light

We are people wired to judge others. We judge their clothes and kids, their jobs and their choices. Jesus was constantly judged for the people he spent time alongside. This Advent, we walk with Mary as she and others experience the harsh light of judgment from those around her as a young, single mom. Little did she know, the child she carried would put all creation, wounded and broken, in a different light. We believe there is a "light no darkness has overcome." (John 1:5) May the light of Jesus help you see your family, work and play in a different light!

Advent Worship Schedule beginning November 25: Saturdays at 5:15 p.m.; Sundays at 8:30 and 10:45 a.m.; Wednesdays at 6:15 p.m.