

Journal for the Journey

October 2017

Reformation

A Story Worth Celebrating



In sleepy Wittenberg, Germany, 500 years ago, Martin Luther nailed to a church door 95 ideas that he wanted to see debated to improve the church of his day. Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Aberdeen, is a small part of that legacy today! This fall, we join with Christians around the world celebrating the unfolding story of God's grace in action started by the teachings of Martin Luther. Through the Small Catechism, we'll explore key ways Luther cuts through the red tape of religion and continually pushes us to see God's lovingkindness - for us. What is the Reformation summed up in one word? Grace!

Reformation Roots

Do you ever wonder why we have so many Christian denominations, and if there is really much difference between them? The answers to these questions lie in the dramatic and turbulent times of the Reformation. Join Adult Sunday and Wednesday School for a study series called *Reformation Roots* that brings to life the stories and struggles that still impact us today. Sundays at 9:40 a.m. East Fellowship Hall and Wednesdays at 7:10 p.m. in Conference Room 1. No sign up necessary.



Martin Luther stopped by Good News Time to share a little of his story.

RICK Steves' LUTHER AND REFORMATION

Luther and the Reformation

Have questions about the Reformation? Want to learn more about Martin Luther? We will be showing Rick Steves' public television special, *Luther and the Reformation*, for those that are interested in learning the whats, hows and whys of the Reformation. The Reformation—even if you're not a Lutheran—is a very big deal. Travel with Rick and his crew and visit important sites and locations of the Reformation and the life of Martin Luther. Screening will be on Sunday, October 29th at 4:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Light refreshments will be served and a brief discussion will follow. Please contact the church office to RSVP so we have enough snacks.

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

Kineermusik.



Emily Sternhagen graduated from NSU, taught at Mike Miller Elementary, and is now holding **Kindermusik classes at BLC.** She is teaching music for our Pre-Kindergarten classes each week. Welcome, Emily and Kindermusik families!

BLC Pre-K Daycare Assistants



The Bethlehem Pre-K Daycare is off to a great start thanks to our wonderful daycare assistants!

Kris Benning recently retired from her career as a nurse.



Mayce Huffman is an elementary education student at NSU and comes to us from Florence, SD.







The school year is off to a great start and during the month of September we learned about making friends, getting along with others, and our families. We also participated in some fun science experiments and learned all about magnets, Noah's Ark and started our Letter of the Week activities. We were also super excited to start our Kindermusik classes and have been enjoying our time learning more about music! We have lots of fun fall activities planned and are enjoying the beautiful weather. We are also blessed to have some visitors and some extra sets of helping hands in the classroom! Sanessa Lindemann (Director of Children's Music & Drama) has joined us as a Student Teacher, Sadie Hanna, an Elementary Education student at NSU, has joined us for her Sophomore

observation experience and we are also hosting a Central High School student who is interested in learning more about professions that work with children. We are excited for what the year has in store for us and all of the learning opportunities we will explore!





Reminder - We have a break from Christian Education on October 8 and 11. Enjoy a little extra family time this week!

Amazing Stories in the Bible

The October 2017 Bible Reading Plan is all about Amazing Stories in the Bible. Read about things that you can hardly believe are true. 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!

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.

Save the Date

Our annual children's Christmas programs will be on December 10 at 10:45 am for Sunday School students and December 13 at 6:15 pm for Wednesday School students. Clear your calendars now, share the dates with extended family, and be looking for more information in the upcoming months!



Baptism Orientation

Baptism Orientation will be held on Sunday, October 15 at 12:00 in the

Chapel. Anyone interested in becoming baptized or learning more about baptism is invited. During this time we will discuss the importance and reasons behind baptism as well as walk through the baptismal service. Contact Pastor Rhia with questions.

Wednesday School Service Project

We are adding an aspect of service to our Wednesday School program for students in grades 1-5 this year. The current plan is for these students to have six rotations of Wednesday School with a one session service project after each rotation. We are looking for donations to help make these activities possible. For the projects we have planned for this fall, we will need rocks with a fairly smooth surface (so kids could paint and write on them) and fleece in one and a half or two yard increments. If you would like to contribute financially instead of purchasing products, we could use Walmart or Hobby Lobby gift cards to purchase the fleece. Also, if you have certain types of insurance through Thrivent, you can apply for a Thrivent Action Team grant which could help us get this program started. See Melissa Zastrow, Director of Children's Ministries with any questions.







Middle School Ministry





Duluth, MN
July 15-20, 2018
\$60 Deposit Holds Your Spot
18 14 spots available

Contact Denny if you have questions.

How do I pay for these trips (retreats, camp, concerts, fun)?

Each student can open a Work Account to help bank fundraising money for any Bethlehem activity. This account can be open and help you through your senior year of high school. Some fundraisers are done as a group, some are individual, but it all adds up and helps teach students how to handle money and giving. Contact Denny to set one up, dsmook@bethlehemaberdeen.org.



Route 67 Retreat

You're invited to a "Kick Your Faith Up a Notch" retreat November 3-4 to Camp NeSoDak near Waubay, SD. We'll meet at Bethlehem on Friday at 4:00 p.m. and then head to NeSoDak. After lots of fun, food, serving,

sleeping over and growing in our faith, we'll return to Aberdeen about 3:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon.

The \$75 retreat cost covers transportation, food and lodging! The lodge at NeSoDak has limited space, which means that we can only take 24 kids, so the first 24 who sign up and pay the fee will be locked in! This retreat is a lot of fun and something kids talk about well into their high school years! Don't wait to sign up!

Registration forms along with \$75 must be turned in to Denny no later than October 27. Make checks out to Bethlehem Lutheran. Contact Denny at dsmook@bethlehemaberdeen.org for more information.



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!





Liturgical Dance - An expression of prayer or worship through body movement.

Bethlehem is forming a Liturgical Dance Team that is open to all kids in 3rd-8th grade. This team will learn Liturgical Dance and perform for the congregation several times during the year. The team will be led and taught by Brittany Ruppert who danced for 9 years through ARCC.

Classes will meet weekly on Sundays beginning October 8 from 5:00-6:00p.m. with the first worship performances prior to Thanksgiving. Registration forms are in the Stuff Rack outside Denny's office. Talk to Denny if you have questions.

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.

Talk to Denny or Sanessa to get registered (separate NeSoDak health form required).



Bethlehem will be hosting
Peer Ministry Leadership Training
for 10th-12th grade students
Wednesday, October 4 at 7:15 p.m.
in The Hub

Based on the Good Samaritan Story, Peer Ministry Leadership is a "Kick Your Faith Up a Notch" program that equips students with leadership and relationship building skills for listening, caring, welcoming and affirming, every day, everywhere, in every relationship. Loving because Jesus first loved us.

Over the past 11 years BLC has trained 74 high school kids with Peer Ministry leadership and relationship building skills that will last a lifetime. Don't pass up this opportunity to strengthen your faith. Contact Denny at dsmook@bethlehemaberdeen.org or 225-9740 if you have questions.

October Study & Share

All Women are welcome to join the monthly *Study & Share* Bible study. Women of all generations gather to discuss the study that is printed in the monthly Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America magazine called *Gather*.

October will focus on part two of three on the Apostles' Creed. Copies are available at the study 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, October 14**th **at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.** Please use either front doors or West entrance.

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. October 10th topic: *Grief and Loss*.

Kathy Frisco-Holsing from Avera @ Home will be with us to talk about grief and loss. She will explain how we cope with grief as we age and how we can still find the joy in the midst of our losses. Please join us and bring a friend! RSVP to the church office at 225-9740.

Personal Care Kits

BLC Piecemakers will soon assemble their personal care kits for donation to Lutheran World Relief (LWR) and are **in need of the following items by October 15, 2017.**

- Light-weight bath size towels, dark color preferred (20"x40" to 27"x52")
- Towels can be gently used
- Bath size bars of soap (8-9 oz.) in original wrapping
- Adult size toothbrushes in original packaging
- Sturdy combs
- Metal nail clippers with or without files attached

Many families must leave their belongings behind when forced to flee their homes during emergencies, natural disasters, or conflicts. The fresh scent of soap and the softness of a towel reminds them that caring people are thinking and praying for them as they arrive, usually scared, vulnerable, and dirty from travel, at a place of safety. Please let them know YOU care by donating a few of the above items.

For more information call the church office at 605-225-9740. Thank you for your compassion, love, caring and help.

2017 Aberdeen Area Healthy Aging Resource Fair

Thursday, October 5th 12:30 - 4:00 p.m. Bethlehem Lutheran Church 1620 NE Milwaukee Ave

A free informative health fair for those looking for resources, programs, and services provided in the area. Screenings & testing available on site. Free refreshments & door prizes. Flu shots available ~ bring your Medicare card.

Featured expert speakers discussing:

Mental Health & Art Therapy Living a Healthy Lifestyle Caregiving Technology and more!

Volunteers on hand to help with tech issues ~ bring your smartphone, tablet or e-reader.

For more information, contact Julie at 225-2550.

FREE Respite Care Available at Bethesda Adult Day Health Center. Call 225-7602 to pre-register by September 28.

Grow Groups Return!

Connect in a small group and discover a new group of people, with similar interests and similar questions of faith. No experience necessary! Sign up at the round table by the Welcome Desk. Groups start October 1st. If you'd like to help lead a group, talk with one of the pastors.

Grief & Loss Workshop

Have you recently gone through a season of loss? Maybe you have lost a loved one? Maybe you have suffered a loss in employment? Maybe you are an empty nester missing your children? There are many reasons that we experience grief and loss.

Join others who have gone through similar experiences as we engage in discussion and a unique activity that expresses our loss and the new creation that God is creating. This workshop will be held on Saturday, October 21 from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Lunch will be provided. Cost is \$10 to cover lunch and supplies. Please RSVP to the church office at 225-9740.

Precious People of Bethlehem,

Thank you for the opportunity to have a sabbatical. During this season free from work responsibilities I was able to share time with family and reconnect with friends. I experienced rest, renewal, and recreation. I'd like to briefly share a professional and personal highlight from sabbatical.



In July I joined seven other pastors for a Luther Seminary sab·bat·i·cal /səˈbadək(ə)l/

A time of rest, renewal and refreshment, free from professional responsibilities, rooted in the practice of sabbath and the first story of creation and God resting after six days of working.

sponsored continuing education experience in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. I never went to camp as a kid, so for me this was like adventure church camp for pastors. Together we canoed, camped and cooked. We studied stories of Moses and Jesus and their times in the wilderness while we paddled through the wilderness of Northern Minnesota. It was refreshing for my soul to be immersed in the water and word in the wonder of God's creation.

One of my person sabbatical goals was to join my wife, Nancy, in her participation in triathlons (races that include swimming, biking and then running). As I shared in my first sermon after returning, the training included many challenges – physical and mental. I struggled to learn new skills and increase my stamina. During sabbatical I was able to complete five triathlons.

Bethlehem is blessed with wonderful teams of staff & elected leaders. I am grateful for the opportunity to return to rejoin the team and am eager for the adventure that God is calling us into. I hope and pray



that each of you may have times of professional growth, personal discipline, and celebration of goals achieved.

Thank you for the blessing of sabbatical.

Pastor Jeff



NSU Lutheran Campus Ministry Director

The Collegians in Christ's Service (CICS) Board is excited to announce a new director for the Lutheran Campus Ministry presence at Northern State

University in Aberdeen. Ann Fortin graduated from Northern State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in communication disorders, and from Montana State University with a Master of Science degree in rehabilitation and mental health counseling. Over the past 20 years Ann has been a camp counselor, youth and family director, and rehabilitation counselor. Ann is a daughter, sister, aunt, wife, and mother. She appreciates sports, running, and being outside. Two of her favorite things are the sound of an acoustic guitar and laughter. She looks forward to bringing her vocational experience to build community on campus and provide support to students discerning their direction in faith and life. Ann can be reached at 605-215-6812 or cic@northern.edu. Please let her know of any current students she should connect with on campus.

Attention busy moms looking to join in conversation and laugh with other busy moms!

Join us at Mother's Book Study October-February once monthly at 7:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room to discuss the book *The 10 Habits of Happy Mothers: Reclaiming Our Passion, Purpose and Sanity* by Meg Meeker, M.D. Our first gathering will be on Thursday, October 19th at 7:30 p.m. to discuss the introduction and Habit #1 and #2. A Facebook group has been created where group members can connect and share information about reading assignments and meeting dates.

If you would like to join the BLC Mother's Book Study Facebook group or need assistance in ordering a copy of the book (cost \$12), please contact Jill Malsam (jillmalsam@gmail.com) or Heidi Golz (heidi.golz@gmail.com).

Joint Commission Meeting Highlights

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

Membership Changes:

MEMBERS ADDED

Baptisms: Finley Richard Shilman 8/20/2017 Jameson Roy Linderman 8/26/2017 Maximus Lee Mardian 8/27/2017 Savi Jane Christenson 9/9/2017 Brooklyn Helen Ball 9/9/2017

MEMBERS REMOVED

Transferred: Amanda & Parker Schmidt became members of St. Michael's Catholic Church in Clark, SD 9/12/2017

Moved: Sarah & Hannah Albers moved to Plymouth, MN 8/24/2017

Collaborating -

ELT:

Teams are to be working on gathering names for nominations to fill terms on their teams. These will be presented and voted on at the December Congregation Meeting. Reports from the teams were received including:

PROPERTY RESOURCE TEAM:

- Chip sealing of the parking lot is complete. Striping will need to be done.
- The Joint Commission affirms the recommendation of the Property Resource Team regarding making the driveway loop one way and no parking. The team recommends signing the circle drive as "drop off/pick up only."
- Melissa Neville (Donna Alberts) moved to approve Ken Schuh as the PRT Joint Commissioner to fill the vacancy left by Mike Jung who has moved. All voted aye; motion carried.

HUMAN RESOURCE TEAM:

 The Joint Commission affirmed to move forward in searches and hiring of the Director of Welcoming & Serving Ministries and Coordinator of Contemporary Worship. Received a draft of the revised Director of Welcoming & Serving Ministries job description. Search teams have been formed.

Meeting closed with prayers of thanks and help.

Lunch & Learn

Spark Joy!

You are invited to gather with a small group in the Fireside Room over the lunch hour, 12:10 – 1:00 p.m., to share in caring conversation on the topics of living simply and seeking contentment and order in our lives with our time and our possessions. Discover the peace and joy that minimalism, organization and order can bring to our daily spaces and to our life routines. For each week's topic, participants will be provided with author and book references, articles and website resources for further study.

The 3 Friday noon sessions will be hosted by Marion Hartung, Joell Rachel and Janis Heier. Participants may come to any or all of the sessions. We welcome participants to bring their lunch. There is no fee, as this is a ministry of Bethlehem. Please register at the church office or email jheier@bethlehemaberdeen.org.

October 13 - Spark Joy...The Art Of Creating A Life Of Contentment

This session will focus on creating a life of contentment and order through healthy stewardship of your time, your spaces and possessions. We will explore the rhythms and rituals that can add joy to our daily lives and resources that help build order and tidiness into our lives and spaces. We will provide ideas and resources to support a peace-filled home, workspace and life. The content from this session is based on teachings from Luke 12:22-34.

October 20 - Spark Joy...The Art Of Wardrobe Contentment

Wear what you love and love what you wear. Participants will be given ideas and resources to simplify and organize your closet and wardrobe thereby saving precious time and financial resources. This session is rooted in scripture from Matthew 6:27-28.

October 27 - Spark Joy....The Art Of Biblical Meditation

We will explore the discipline and health benefits of meditation. Participants will learn the value of uncluttering our minds in order to open space to hear God speak to us and to take rest. This session is inspired by scripture from Romans 12:2.

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 or the Department of Social Services. More details to come closer to Christmas!

Advent 2017: A Story of Light in the Darkness

From the playground to the workplace, we know what it feels like to be judged. Based on our gender, our looks, our parents, our sports and our money, we cannot help ourselves from judging others. As a young teen mom, Mary felt judged and yet with that crying infant came a promise: "I have come as light into the world, so that everyone who believes in me should not remain in the darkness." (John 12:46) This Advent, celebrate that in our fear and complicated families and judging looks, God sends Jesus to show us a life of possibilities illuminated by love. This Advent will prepare you for Jesus, the light of the world, growing stronger in our lives and world, every day.

New Member Orientation

If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem you are invited to attend one of these orientations.

Sunday, October 22 at 12 noon Wednesday, October 25 at 7:10 p.m.

Please RSVP to the church office at 225-9740. Childcare is available upon request.



You are welcome to stop by the table in the narthex and share a word of appreciation for our pastors.



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

Watch for more information coming soon!





MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Norman Schuh by: Delores Deibert, Pam Flagtwet, Lonnie & Judy Anderson

Given in memory of Marianne Piehl by: Anonymous Given in memory of Elaine Roth by: John & Cindy Koerner, Hildegard Hanson

Mortgage Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Luella Leonhardt by: Linda Kirnan Given in memory of Elaine Roth by: Linda Kirnan Given in memory of Norman Schuh by: Elizabeth & Greta Maier, George & Ruth Casanova

Worship & Music Memorials

Given in memory of Doris Dahme by: Linda & Larry Kirnan Given in memory of Norman Schuh by: Bill & Linda Roth

Unrestricted Memorials

Given in memory of Joyce Mertz by: Raymond & Lisa Dewall, Tim & Kim Schlenker, Michael & Garry Mertz, William & Ruthann Wingfield

Youth Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Patricia "Trish" Hinds by: Harriet Heupel

Organ Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Elaine Roth by: John & Marcia Kittelson

Pre-K Scholarship Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Lana Flagtwet by: Pamela Flagtwet

Altar Candle Memorials

Given in memory of Beverly Angerhofer by: Marlys Sutten

General Fund Honorarium

Given in honor of Darlys & Dick Jensen's 60th Anniversary by: Geoff & Cathy Durst

Worship & Music Honorarium

Given in honor of Kathy & Jim Gross' 27th Wedding Anniversary by: Linda & Larry Kirnan

Given in honor of Darlys & Dick Jensen's 60th Wedding Anniversary by: LaRheta Fulker

Education Honorarium

Given in honor of Darlys & Dick Jensen's 60th Anniversary by: Patsy Weigel

August 2017 Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND

GENERAL FOND		
Analysis of Budgeted Revenues & Expenses	MTD	2017 YTD
Revenues	\$ 81,247	\$ 787,686
Expenditures	\$ 114,842	\$ 899,264
Net Operating	\$ (33,595)	\$ (111,578)
Summary of Assets & Liabilities		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 337,716	
Payables due within 15 days	\$ (19,577)	
Due to Restricted Funds	\$ (1,936)	
Reserved for Others/Designated accounts	\$ (54,042)	
Due to Mortgage Fund	\$ (112,561)	
Total Available Unrestricted Cash	\$ 149,601	
MORTGAGE & FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUNDS		
Income Statement	MTD	2017 YTD
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$ 22,439	\$ 165,560
Expenditures	\$ 7,297	\$ 155,809
Net Operating	\$ 15,142	\$ 9,751
Summary of Assets & Liabilities		
Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 153,018	
Due from General Fund	\$ 112,561	
Total Mortgage Fund Assets	\$ 265,579	
Future Maintenance Account Cash Assets	\$ 62,721	
Mortgage Loan Payable	\$ 2,161,379	
Monthly Mortgage Payment	\$ 13,238	
SPECIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS		
Restricted Accounts (Social Concerns, WELCA & Restricted Memorials &		
special gifts)	\$ 59,242	
Endowment Fund	\$ 488,918	

Bethlehem Staff Searches

With the departures of Jodi & Ron to pursue other opportunities, we will be seeking new staff partners. In this transition time, staff and elected leaders are reviewing the positions and updating them for this time in Bethlehem's mission. If you or someone you know may be interested in conversation about staff positions with Wednesday evening worship as well as Welcoming and Serving Ministries, please talk with a pastor or Janis Heier, Director of Administration. Also, please hold these ministries and transitions in prayer.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

1620 Milwaukee Ave NE Aberdeen, SD 57401 (605) 225-9740 www.bethlehemaberdeen.org office@bethlehemaberdeen.org

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.com/BethlehemAberdeen

Fall Schedule

Wednesdays:

4:45 p.m. Wednesday School 4:45 - 6:00 p.m. Supper 6:15 p.m. Worship 7:00 p.m. Route 67, Bridge8 and 9th Grade Confirmation

Saturday Evenings: 5:15 Worship in the Chapel

Sunday Mornings:

8:30 a.m. Traditional Worship 9:40 a.m. Education Hour 10:45 a.m. Blended Worship 10:45 a.m. Radio Broadcast on 1420 AM

Transportation is available for Wednesday and Sunday Worship, contact the church office for more information. FINE ARTS

ARLISS (KRUEGER) ALBERTS CHS Class of 1949 Bethlehem's organist, Arliss Alberts, will be inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame during a banquet September 30. The school had this to say:

Alberts continues to selflessly serve her community as a professional organist, making music her lifetime career. She has played for weddings, funerals, and church services without interruption for over 65 years.

We are so grateful to Arliss for her years of ministry at Bethlehem and in the community and congratulate her on this honor!



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

US Postage

PAID

Permit #18

Non-Profit Organization

Aberdeen, SD 57401

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.