



Vacation Bible School

What a wonderful week we had! There were 262 kids filling our building with joy, laughter, smiles, and learning from June 5th through the 9th. Our focus this year was that we are all created by God and built for a purpose. Each day focused on a different theme:

- Monday – God made you!
- Tuesday – God is for you!
- Wednesday – God is always with you!
- Thursday – God will always love you!
- Friday – God made you for a reason!

We would like to share our thanks. Thank you for praying for us as we prepared and cared for these children. Thank you for all who volunteered their time. It took over 125 volunteers plus the Bethlehem staff to make this week happen. Thank you to all who financially supported VBS

either with your regular offering, a special gift to VBS, or by purchasing supplies from the donation board. We sincerely appreciate you!!

Our mission project this year was to raise money for clean water wells in Peru. Each day in one of their stations the children learned about the project and kids from areas where wells could be built. They learned that \$5 will provide clean water for an entire year for a child in a remote Peruvian village. Combining the \$317 the kids brought in as offering during the week and what was given to the Globe Offering for this cause, we will send almost \$1100 which provides clean water for a LOT of kids. Have your older children do the math to figure out how many kids we helped with our offerings!!

Ears to Hear: Stories that Jesus Told

Starting July 16th, we will dig deep into the Gospel of Matthew 13-14. In just two short chapters, some of the most challenging stories Jesus told are recorded. These parables push us to look at our life through different eyes. Weeds and wheat, mustard seeds, loaves and fishes seem so common, yet through the eyes of faith, these Gospel words can change your life completely. As Jesus says, "Let anyone with **ears to hear** listen!"

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

For You Through All Seasons

This will be my family's third summer in Aberdeen. My how time flies! Summer is a time that most people look forward to. School is out. The sun is shining, until almost 10pm around here! The pool is open. The lake is warm. Races, concerts and fairs. We plan our getaways and vacations to take rest and reconnect with loved ones. During summer we find ourselves coming and going—sometimes we feel our schedules are even more full than during the regular year.

In that spirit, I merely remind you to take a deep breath. Center yourself and remember who you belong to. The challenges of life don't take summer off....but neither does God through Jesus Christ.

Remember to take time to be refreshed in the waters of baptism—in the remembrance of your own baptism.
Remember to come to the table of life and grace and be forgiven and nourished so that you might have abundant life!

Remember to spend time in the word that shapes and guides us.

Worship is the rhythm that helps make sense of everything else happening in our lives. It helps us to be in balance and harmony with God and with each other.

Whether you find yourself at the lake or camp, Disneyland or grandma's house, or right here in Aberdeen—keep your faith active this summer. There are many different worship times to fit busy summer schedules—maybe it is time to try a different worship experience. Model for your family and friends the importance of your faith and wherever you find yourself, make time to remember who you are and who you belong to, connecting with God and one another. Remember that God's love is *for you*, in all seasons of this life.

Blessed Summer,

Pr. Rhia

Soulful Fitness



God is on the Move - Soulful Fitness

Exercise is God's good medicine. Bethlehem is hosting a gentle-flow fitness workout for the whole you—body, soul and spirit! This 45-minute, faith-based, fitness session will offer a comprehensive, total body, slow-flow workout. Bethlehem will offer 4 Friday sessions in July. These sessions will include stretching, low-impact aerobics, a strength-building floor routine which flows into a relaxation segment to gently end our sessions. Christian music and a devotion will be incorporated into the workout.

Soulful Fitness is a workout for people of all ages and fitness levels and will be held on Fridays from 12:10 -12:55 p.m. during the month of July (7th, 14th, 21st and 28th). Soulful

Fitness is a ministry of Bethlehem. There is no fee. Registration is not required, but preferred for planning. For questions or to register please call the church office at 225-9740 or email the group leader, Janis Heier, at jheier@bethlehemaberndeen.org.

Participants are asked to provide a floor mat. Small hand weights are optional and welcome if you wish to intensify your workout.

May God Himself, the God who makes everything holy and whole, make you holy and whole, put you together - spirit, soul, and body - and keep you fit for the coming of our Master, Jesus Christ." 1 Thessalonians 5:23 (MSG)

Christian Education Registration

Registration is open for the 2017-2018 Christian Education year. Sign your child up for Sunday or Wednesday School now!! Supplies are being purchased, classes put together, and volunteers organized. Get your child's name on the list for whichever day works best for your family. Registration is available online under the Ministries tab at www.bethlehemaberdeen.org. Click **Children** to register those going into grades 5 and under. Hard copies of the form are available with Melissa or at the front desk.

Passport to Summer

Want to encourage your child to be an active listener in worship this summer? Have them bring their *Passport to Summer* to write down or draw some things they observe. Don't have a copy? Grab one from Melissa's counter. Haven't been to church much yet this summer? Start now! Questions? Ask Melissa.

Before we know it, it will be back to school time. **Around here, back to school means Bible time!** Kids entering the preschool level (must be three by Sept. 1, 2017) will receive a Spark Story Bible, and those entering grade 3 will receive an NRSV Bible. **Be sure to have your child registered for Sunday or Wednesday School so they get their invitation to attend our worship service where Bibles will be handed out at the end of August.**

Save the Date!

Summer Musical August 6th - 10th

Open to all children in 2nd-12th grades.
Scripts available late July - sign up with Sanessa.

Family Faith Boxes

New to Bethlehem are **Family Faith boxes**. These are a great way to start faith conversations at home. Check a box out from the Children's Ministries office. 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 starting July 1 to pick up a box for a couple of weeks.

Bible Reading Plan

Pick up your Bible Reading Plan each month from the counter in front of Melissa's office. July focuses on Women of the New Testament and August is Road Trip time!! This is a great way to do some Bible reading and simple faith activities with your kids this summer. Kids will get a prize from Melissa if they bring back the sheet signed by a parent!

Middle School Activities!

Middle Schoolers are invited to join in the fun on Wednesday nights this summer! Talk to Denny with questions.

July 5, 7:00-8:30	Open Gym and Youth Center Open
July 12	No Activities
July 19, 7:00-8:30	Volleyball
July 26, 7:00 - 11:00	Lockette (watch for more info coming soon)
August 2	Day Trip to Sioux Falls (more info later)
August 9, 7:00-10:00	Movie Night

High School Sunday Summer Nights

*Open to all high school students
(going into 9th, finished 12th)*

Every Sunday evening from 5:30-7:30 join Sanessa for some sizzlin' summer activity. Questions? Just ask!

- July 2** Cookout/Disc Golf @ Melgaard
- July 9** Outdoor Game Tournament @ BLC
- July 16** Sunday Evening Sundaes @ Sunshine Park
- July 23** Movie Night @ BLC
- July 30** Mystery Night followed by Family Campfire at BLC



June 27-July 1, 2018 Houston, TX

Information Meeting for Kids and Parents

Sunday, August 6, 2017

7:00 PM - Fellowship Hall

Open to all kids who will be in Grades 9-12
this Fall (2017)

Join 30,000 HS youth and adult shepherds for this life changing event! We will be gathering in Houston for the ELCA Youth Gathering. Every three years we gather for a week of faith formation known as the ELCA Youth Gathering. Through days spent in interactive learning, worship, Bible study, service and fellowship, young people grow in faith and are challenged and inspired to live their faith in their daily lives.

Visit www.elca.org/youthgathering for lots more information!

High School Choir

Join fellow musicians to learn a couple pieces to sing in worship throughout the summer. Practice will be held once a week and will be set to meet the needs of everyone's schedules. See Sanessa with questions and/or to sign up!

High School Campout

Saturday, July 8 from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 a.m.

Come and hang out on the church lawn! Bring a tent or sleep underneath the stars. We'll be cooking over a fire, playing glow in the dark Ultimate Frisbee, Mafia over the whole outdoor church campus, and simply appreciating one another's company. Sign up on Sanessa's office door!

Valleyfair Road Trip! Thursday, August 3

Going into 9th - Finished 12th
\$50 - includes transportation and
admission

Rise and shine super early to head to Valley
Fair for a day in the park! One last road trip
before summer ends!

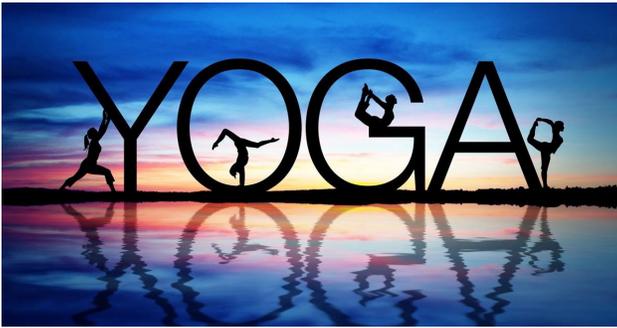
Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Parent(s) _____

**Return this form and \$50 per person to the
church office by July 16. Make checks
payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.**



God is on the Move – Yoga Style

We welcome back Mrs. Kiersten Sombke, a 200 hour Certified Yoga instructor, to provide Christian based Yoga **every Tuesday from 12:10-12:45 through August 8**. Bring your mat, or let us know if you need to borrow one.

This yoga time is a judgment free zone, beginner level and will be focused on not only poses but meditation and God’s word. Take a break from your day, and come try it. Can’t make it every week? No

worries just come when you can. Bring a friend, all are welcome!

There is no cost for the class, but each month we will adopt a cause in the local area to help support. Watch for more information to come.

Aging Faithfully

The South Dakota Synod is again partnering with Augustana University and the Good Samaritan Society to host the 2017 Aging Faithfully Conference in Sioux Falls, Thursday, July 27th from 8:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

This year’s speaker is Dr. G. Scott Morris who is a family practice physician and an ordained United Methodist minister. He will speak on topics associated with the second half of life as well as his book, “If Your Heart Is Like My Heart.”

Registration is \$25 through July 17th. Please call the church office to register.

Aging Gracefully

On the second Tuesday of each month Bethlehem extends an invitation to all to experience community, education and faith.

The next gathering will be an “old fashioned church picnic” July 11th at 2:00 p.m. We will be singing our favorite hymns, hearing stories from the past and enjoying refreshments. Bring your friends and neighbors! Please call the church office to RSVP.



Social Concerns presented a check for \$200 to Jeannette Kriz to help with the cost of providing food at the Brown County Relay for Life.

Save the Date!

**God’s Work. Our Hands
Sunday, September 17 from 2-4 p.m.**

Welcome New Members

*The following new members were received on May 27, 28 or 31.
Please give them a warm welcome into this community of faith.*



Jason, Audra, Jayden & Bailey Engel



Carly and Quinn Evans



Lacey Hilgemann



Kyle & Shelby Kraemer



Deb Silvernagel

PASTORAL CARE CORNER

The Power of Prayer By Kari Reder

When I was first married in 1972 my mother said you need to do this and be a part of this prayer chain. As I remember there were 15 to 16 teams of 15 people on each team. One person would call the first of each group and they would call the 2nd person who would call the 3rd person etc. until we were through the list. The last person would call the leader to assure the list had been completed. We also have the email list but some don't have computers or just like the personal contact.

With all of my health issues I understand how important the power of prayer is. Praying for healing is not a matter of a special technique. It is Jesus who heals people not us, so all we can do is ask him for his mercy and healing touch. The Holy Spirit leads us and guides us as we pray for others. It seems when more people are praying, more good things seem to happen.

Anyone may call in to the church office to request prayers through the prayer chain and/or the bulletin prayer list.

Contact Kari Reder at 225-4562 to sign up to be a part of the prayer chain or with any questions. Instructions will follow after the sign up is completed.

Let us accept this calling and pray for those who need us. Please join us.

God Bless

MEET THE LEADERS OF BETHLEHEM

Eric Vetter - Serving Ministry Team Commissioner



On what team are you currently serving at BLC?

Joint Commission and Serving Ministry team. I also help with Wednesday supper at least once a month.

Background: I am originally from Cresbard SD. I graduated from Cresbard in 1995 and attended NSU for 2 years then transferred to South-

west State University in Marshall MN for a semester. I then moved to Huron to work at the CellularOne store. After a year they decided to close the store and gave me the option to move to Sioux Falls or Aberdeen. Since I had family close and I knew Aberdeen the choice was easy and I moved to Aberdeen in 2001 and have been here since.

Work: I sell real estate with Century 21 and own the website www.rentaberdeen.com which helps landlords find tenants and tenants find properties to rent.

Hobbies: I love nature, so I love to bow and rifle hunt deer, pheasant hunt, fish, ride my 4 wheeler, and ride my motorcycle.

What brought you to Bethlehem? I went to a few different churches before coming to Bethlehem. I found those churches somewhat inviting but no one ever went out of their way to welcome me. I also found these churches more by the books with little imagination on worshiping.

What keeps you at Bethlehem? The people and pastors... everyone is so nice and caring and if you need their help they are there for you. I also recognize a lot of faces I know in the community and it is nice to see people you know.

How have the ministries at BLC affected your life and your faith? They have made me want to come to church and further my faith in Jesus Christ. The ministry (pastors and team members) understand that life happens and in order to be a good Christian you don't have to be at church 24/7, just follow the word and it will guide you.

If you had to pick one current ministry at BLC you think instrumental for the future development of this church, what would that be? Children's/teen ministry. Children/teens are our future and in order for them to grow up to be lifelong members of the church we need to make sure they are following the path of God. Also, as children growing up in today's world it can be confusing and if the church can help them through any of that then they have a leg up in the world.

Thank You!

Thank you for your faithful generosity to support the ministries of our Bethlehem family of faith. By being generous, we are allowed the opportunity to follow in Jesus' footsteps, to become more focused on needs around us while caring for our families, our neighbors and our community. As we are generous, we become aware that everything we are and everything we have is a gift to each of us.

We pray: *Grant us the spirit of sacrifice to always seek your will and to share our gifts with our brothers and sisters. May we be good stewards of all we have received to help build the kingdom of love and justice here on earth. Amen.*

Bethlehem needs to be financially solid and healthy so we can continue to be a blessing to people in need and continue to partner in God's work in this world. Christ's ministry through Bethlehem profoundly impacts our community and world beyond our walls. Electronic or automatic giving to our mission (General Fund) makes an enormous difference during the busy summer months. If you give electronically, thank you. If you don't make your offerings this way, we encourage you to consider this simple, consistent way to give. Visit our website or call the Business Office to help you get started.

WOW Choir July 16 and 30

Come and sing with the WOW Choir at both 8:30 and 10:00 worships on July 16 and 30. WOW means- With Out Warning....except we are "warning you" with this friendly invitation since we have never done this before. There will be no rehearsals! Just an announcement at the beginning of each of these worships for anyone who would like to come up front and sing a familiar hymn as an anthem. Anyone! Just come on up. Music will be handed out as you come forward. Sing the melody or one of the harmony parts. WOW!



Bethlehem Piecemakers

Bethlehem Lutheran Piecemakers construct mission quilts for donation through Lutheran World Relief (LWR). **They meet every Tuesday, 9:00 a.m. - 12 noon**, at the church to assemble the quilts which are made almost entirely from donated materials. Everyone is welcome to help. Any skill level is needed...no quilting or sewing experience necessary. Many processes are involved including ironing, cutting fabric, pinning edges, tying knots through the layers, machine stitching the binding, packing, etc. Please join the fun and we will find a job for you. No reservations or sign up needed; no mandatory weekly attendance; just come when you are available.

If you cannot join us on Tuesdays but still want to support the quilt project, donations are always welcome. **We need all size sheets and larger size fabrics for the quilt backs; blankets, quilt batting, fleece and heavier fabrics to provide warmth for the middle layers; fabrics to be cut into squares for the quilt tops which can include sheets, material, drapes, fabric shower curtains, tablecloths, fleece, flannel, etc. (no clothes please); any color sewing thread, and any color crochet thread for tying the quilts together.**

Clean used items work well so before you discard these things, please consider donating them to Piecemakers. If suitable items don't sell at your rummage sale, please drop them off at the church office. Monetary donations are also appreciated to help get the quilts to LWR in St. Paul, MN for distribution.

In 2016 LWR gave out over 346,000 quilts around the world 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.

Bethlehem Piecemakers also put together baby care kits, personal care kits, fabric kits, and school kits. Bandage rolls are made for Global Health. For more information on these projects and other LWR activities, visit their website lwr.org or call the church office 605-225-9740

Lenten Sacrificial offering for Salvation Army summer sack lunch program

Children who aren't getting enough food at home during the school year stand an even greater chance of going hungry once summer starts.

That's why The Salvation Army and two area schools are running summer lunch programs that help make sure kids get the nutrition they need.

"We were at a meeting in about February and we were talking about the snack packs and one person said, 'If the kids don't eat on the weekend, what do they eat for the summer?'" Maj. Mary Hunt of The Salvation Army of Aberdeen said.

The solution was delivering sack lunches to city parks and mobile home communities around town. The lunches are pretty basic - a sandwich, some fruit, a granola bar and something sweet, along with juice to drink.

It was a "no-brainer" for the Serving Ministry Team to designate this local program for Bethlehem's Sacrificial Lenten offering. **The offering raised more than \$2400 and will help to provide 970 meals this summer.** Thank you for your on-going generosity!



The BLC staff had a great time packing sack lunches. If you are interested in helping, contact the Salvation Army at 225-7410.

May 2017 Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND

Income Statement	<u>MTD</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u>
Revenues	\$ 85,839	\$ 513,176
Expenditures	<u>\$ 122,122</u>	<u>\$ 572,313</u>
Net Operating	<u>\$ (36,283)</u>	<u>\$ (59,137)</u>

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 249,183
Payables due within 15 days	\$ (21,697)
Due to Restricted Funds	\$ (832)
Reserved for Others/Designated accounts	\$ (66,904)
Due to Construction Fund	<u>\$ (115,992)</u>
Total Available Unrestricted Cash	<u>\$ 43,756</u>

MORTGAGE & FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUNDS

Income Statement	<u>MTD</u>	<u>2017 YTD</u>
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$ 19,363	\$ 108,029
Expenditures	<u>\$ 7,101</u>	<u>\$ 118,271</u>
Net Operating	<u>\$ 12,261</u>	<u>\$ (10,241)</u>

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 139,313
Due from General Fund	<u>\$ 115,992</u>
Total Mortgage Fund Assets	\$ 255,305
Future Maintenance Account Cash Assets	\$ 73,011
Mortgage Loan Payable	\$ 2,181,388

SPECIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS

Restricted Accounts (Social Concerns, WELCA & Restricted Memorials & special gifts)	\$ 62,278
Endowment Fund	\$ 493,845

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Susan Tonner by: Alecia Bean

Given in memory of Doris Dahme by: Sandra Maier, Howard & Arlowine Dahme, Brenda Glasford, George & Ruth Casanova

Given in memory of Delores K. Anderson by: Wes & Amanda McCullough

Given in memory of David Maine by: Donna Alberts

Pre-K Scholarship Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Butch Sauvage and Burt Flagtwet by: Pamela Flagtwet

Milestone Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Our Parents by: Joe & Char Akkerman

Given in memory of Doris Dahme by: Yvette Hines &

Cindy Kocabinski, Harriet Heupel Family, Dolores Green, Diane & Sonnie Beaman, Linda Siefkes

Mortgage Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Faelynne Hammer by: her family

Worship and Music Memorials

Given in memory of Doris Dahme by: Richard & Corinne Holland, Arnold Krueger & Arliss Alberts

Youth Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Alex Bowman by: Art & Maggie Russo

Altar Candle Memorials

Given in memory of Doris Dahme by: Marlys Suttan

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Aberdeen, SD 57401

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Summer Schedule

Wednesday Evenings:

Supper from 5:00 - 6:15
Worship at 6:15

Saturday Evenings:

Worship at 5:15

Sunday Morning:

Worship at 8:30
Worship at 10:00

Transportation is available
for the 8:30 Sunday service,
as well as for supper and
worship on Wednesday
evenings.

Office Hours

Monday - Thursday
8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Friday 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.



See you at the Brown County Fair!

Be sure to stop by the Bethlehem booth in the Odde Building for some Fair fun in honor of the 500th Anniversary of the Reformation! Two hour volunteer spots available now! Contact Cyndi or Pr Kevin to sign up!

3 on 3 High School Boys & Girls Basketball Tournament

(max of 16 teams)

Sunday, July 16 at Sunshine Park

First game is at 12:00 p.m.

\$10

Teams of 3 or 4. **Registration forms can be found in the front office and are due July 9.** Questions? Talk to Sanessa or Chad Vetter.