

Peace Out

We often yearn for peace. We long for peace in our personal lives, in our relationships, and in our communities. Jesus lived and died in this world longing for peace. The risen Jesus repeatedly brings peace to his troubled followers in the Easter stories. Jesus gives them peace and also sends them out to bring peace to others. **In the weeks following Easter,** we'll be exploring these powerful passages of scripture so that Jesus may bring us peace and send us out to make a difference in the world. **We look forward to seeing you in worship.**



On behalf of Bethlehem, Lyle Biegler & Nancy Hartung attended a medical mission trip to Nicaragua with Gloria Dei Lutheran Church in Sioux Falls. While in Nicaragua they learned about the community, provided medical care to residents, and learned how we, as a church here in Aberdeen, can better help the Nicaraguan community.

You are invited to hear more about their trip on May 7th at 9:40 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall & May 10th at 5:15 p.m. in Conference Room 1.



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

Bethlehem Lutheran Church + Aberdeen, SD + (605) 225-9740 + www.bethlehemaberndeen.org

Sabbatical Update

People of Bethlehem,

After working six days, on the seventh day God rested. God created and commands sabbath. Bethlehem's policy is that after six years of service, pastors are able to take a 3 month sabbatical – a time of rest and renewal.

It is with eager anticipation that I look forward to sabbatical. My last time of preaching before sabbatical is May 10th and I'll be back in worship Sunday, August 13th. This sabbatical will include times of rest and renewal of relationships. I'll be visiting our children & parents. I'll be doing some continuing education, visiting other churches, and reading. I'll be sleeping and fishing, scuba diving and spearfishing in Oahe, and participating in some runs and hopefully triathlons with my wife.

These last dozen years of ministry together have been an incredible blessing. We've shared many wonderful times and together faced many challenges. We accomplished much together. I look forward to this time away so that I may be refreshed and renewed, and return to rejoin the Bethlehem team to continue this journey together in faith as God continues to lead us into new adventures.

Thank you for the opportunity to have this time of sabbath. I am especially grateful for the wonderful staff and elected leadership that God has brought together that sets me free to step away.

Peace Out...

See you in August!

Jeff Whillock
Lead Pastor



School will be wrapping up for the year and we are getting ready to take kindergarten by storm! We will finish up the year by discussing the weather, the new adventures that await in kindergarten, as well as a cumulative review of all of the letters of the alphabet. We will also sneak in some extra fun with a trip to Storybook Land!

Our last day of school is Wednesday, May 17 in which we will celebrate our Pre-K graduates with a small program at 10:00 a.m. The children have learned so much this year and have really grown - they will do wonderfully in kindergarten.

I have enjoyed my time in the classroom this year and am looking forward to the 2017-2018 school year and all the new, bright, smiling faces! **Do you also enjoy working with children?** We may have a position that would be perfect for you! We are looking for a **Pre-K Assistant** as well as **Daycare Assistants** for the 2017-2018 school year. If interested in learning more about these positions please contact Erica Atkins at prek@bethlehemaberdeen.org or Melissa Zastrow at mzastrow@bethlehemaberdeen.org.



VBS will be June 5-9, 2017
from 8:45 a.m. to 12 noon



Register your children for **Maker Fun Factory** where kids will learn about being created by God and built for a purpose. **Register on the Bethlehem website ASAP as we are filling up fast!**

We are looking for a few good men, women, and young adults to help with Vacation Bible School. If you are free most or all of the mornings from June 5-9, contact Melissa to see how you can help. Though she may be biased, Melissa says it is the MOST fun week of the year around here.

Kids in the Bible – The May 2017 Bible Reading Plan is all about KIDS in the Bible. Gather your own children and make a list of as many kids in the Bible as you can before getting your handout from the window in front of Melissa's office. See if any from your list are part of this month's stories. The 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!



Graduating Seniors - We invite you to worship on either Wednesday, May 17th at 6:30 p.m. or Sunday, May 20th at 8:30 a.m. We look forward to recognizing you during these services and commend you for completing your high school degree. Also, if you haven't returned your bio board sheet, it's not too late. Grab a copy from Denny or Melissa if you need a new one.

Christian Education Registration!

Registration is open for the 2017-2018 Christian Education year. Sign your child up for Sunday or Wednesday School as soon as you know your plans.

Registration is available online under the Ministries tab at

www.bethlehemaberdeen.org. Hard copies of the form are available with Melissa or at the front desk.

****Families of Wednesday**

School students: You may notice that the After School Program and transportation options are not available for 2017-2018. We are looking to focus our time and energy on the Christian Education portion (4:45-5:45) of our programming. Please direct any questions to Melissa Zastrow, Director of Children's Ministries.

**We'd like to give a huge
THANK YOU to all of the
volunteers who helped
make our programs
possible this year!
It takes a village to
faithfully raise up the
children of our
community, and we
appreciate every single
volunteer who helps us
do so!**



June 27 - July 1, 2018 Houston, TX

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. Watch for upcoming student/parent meetings.

It's not too early to begin fundraising!

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

There are still a few
openings for the
Idaho Servant
Adventure
Coeur d'Alene, ID
June 17-25
\$425

Open to 11th and 12th Grade and others, by application only. BLC returns to mountainous Northern Idaho. Stay at an old US Forestry camp, serve the valley community and go rafting. A short interview for each student required. This is a LutherHaven trip led by Pastor Kevin. To reserve your spot, please turn in a \$65 deposit to Denny.

Coming this summer...

June Middle School Activities

Middle Schoolers (going into 6th, 7th or 8th) are invited to join in the fun on Wednesday nights this June!

June 7	7:00 - 8:30	Youth Center Open
June 14	7:00 - 8:30	Dodgeball & Youth Center Open
June 21	7:00 - 8:30	Eliminator at Melgaard Park
June 28	8:00 - 10:00	Wylie Thunder Road (\$15 charge - meet at the church)

Talk to Denny if you have questions!

High School Sunday Summer Nights

Open to all high school students (going into 9th - finished 12th)
Every Sunday evening from 5:30-7:30, beginning Sunday, June 11, join Sanessa for some sizzlin' summer activity.

June 11	Eliminator meets Twist Cone - Meet at Wylie Park
June 18	Movie Night in the Youth Center
June 25	Mystery Night - Meet at the church at 5:30. Campfire to follow at 7:30.

Talk to Sanessa if you have questions!

2017 LO Summer Camps

Bethlehem will provide transportation to the following camps.

June 25 - July 30	Klein Ranch	Grades 6-8 and 9-12
July 16 - July 21	NeSoDak	Grades 3-4 & 5-6
July 30 - August 4	NeSoDak	Grades 7-8

How do I get the \$125 Campership?

Bethlehem will provide a \$125 Campership to LO for each BLC youth who registers! **In order to receive the Campership please return a copy of your email receipt from LO to Denny.** Contact Denny with any questions. There are also Camperships available from LO - contact info@losd.org for more information.



Father's Day Gift For Dad!



VS



Saturday, June 17

1:10 PM

Target Field

\$75 per person

(cost includes ticket & charter bus ride)

Hey Baseball Fans!

It's time for our annual Minnesota Twins Road Trip. Join us as the Twins battle the Indians at beautiful Target Field! We'll leave Bethlehem early Saturday morning (*departure time to be determined, we'll let you know later*) and return Saturday night.

Please fill out the form to the right and return it along with \$75 per person to Denny. Only 56 spots available! Talk to Denny if you have questions dsmook@bethlehemaberdeen.org or 225-9740

Minnesota Twins Family Fun Road Trip Registration Form

Name _____

Address _____

City _____

Phone _____

I would like to reserve _____ tickets.

Ticket Holder Names

Return this form and \$75 per person to Denny by June 14. Make checks payable to Bethlehem Lutheran Church.



NE South Dakota Youth Gathering

In collaboration with Zion and Good Shepherd, Bethlehem hosted the NE South Dakota Youth Gathering for 78 high school students on March 24 & 25. Together they brought Jesus front and center in their lives. Thank you for your generous support that allows ministries like this to happen.



May Study & Share

Study and Share Bible study will be held on **Saturday, May 13, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room.** There is no formal study in the May Gather magazine - instead we will discuss 10 reflections from 10 diverse women of many generations, sharing what it means to trust God, who knows us completely, with our joys and our struggles. There will be copies of these reflections available, if needed. **All women are welcome!**

A reminder that *Study and Share* is not held during the months of June, July or August and will resume in September.

Adult Education is currently studying, "My Neighbor is Muslim." Missed the previous sessions? No problem, there is always room. You can download the study at lirs.org/myneighborismuslim/.

Sessions meet Sunday mornings at 9:40 in the East Fellowship Hall and Wednesday evenings at 7:30 in Conference Room 1.



Women, you are invited! ***2017 Women of the ELCA Triennial Gathering*** ***Minneapolis, MN*** ***July 13-16, 2017***

Join the conversation as we explore the 2017 WELCA Triennial gathering theme "All Anew." We are real women talking about our faith. About our doubts and challenges. About joy and what inspires us. We'll experience simple conversations between friends—old and new—that will develop into a movement sweeping the church, inspired and infused with the Holy Spirit. Listen to inspiring speakers; participate in worship and praise; learn by attending workshops, viewing films and engaging in servant events. Visit the exhibit hall where you can gather, shop and connect. **Register at www.welcatg.org/registration-2017.** Scholarship money is available.

Aging Gracefully

Do you have a living will? Do you have a power of attorney established?

Join us Tuesday, May 9 from 2 - 3 p.m. when Amy Munsen, Licensed Social Worker/Patient Relations Representative and Kris Fastenau, Registered Nurse/Nurse Case Manager, will kick off our first *Aging Gracefully* gathering, discussing the topic of Advanced Care Planning.

We will meet in the East Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served and we kindly ask you to **RSVP at the church office.** Tell your friends & neighbors - all are welcome!

Bethlehem Piecemakers are collecting the following items to complete Baby Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief:

Lightweight Cotton T-shirts
Gowns or Sleepers (without feet)
Receiving Blankets
Cloth Diapers
Jacket or Sweatshirt
Baby cap
Socks
Hand towels
Gentle soap
Diaper pins

Items may be dropped off at the church office.
All soap must be new in the package, other items may be new or gently used.

MEET THE LEADERS OF BETHLEHEM

Deb Hardy - Youth & Family Team Commissioner



Deb, Madison, Mikayla, & Terry Hardy

Background: I grew up in Pierpont, SD, went to school in Langford, came to Aberdeen to go to NSU, and have been here pretty much ever since.

Work: I worked for Wyndham Hotel Group for almost 30 years as a Senior Schedule Analyst. In January of this year I began working with United Health Group-Optum (out of Eden Prairie, MN) as a Senior Schedule Analyst, working from home.

What brought you to Bethlehem? We started looking for a church when our girls were little, and we were looking for a place that had put a strong emphasis on children. The girls have been very involved since day one! Madison attended preschool, and both girls attended Wednesday School, Bible School, Route 67, helped with Easter Sunrise Service, Confirmation, helped with the Good Friday service, Peer Ministry, camp at NeSoDak, Ski Trips and the Valley Fair trip last summer and this time Mikayla went as a chaperone. Mikayla was lucky to go to 2 youth gatherings, both in New Orleans. Madison went to Detroit for the National Youth Gathering and has gone on mission trips to Minneapolis and Denver and is planning on attending the trip this summer to Couer D'Alene, ID.

What keeps you at Bethlehem? Bethlehem has become a family - on the day that Wyndham announced they were closing the Aberdeen site, after talking with my husband, the first place I went was Bethlehem, some place that felt "normal." Pastor Kevin prayed with me and Rhonda Haglund gave me the best hug ever. It was a Wednesday, so that evening I also attended worship and I received more hugs and many friends reached out. I also belong to the *Tuesday Ladies* and after praying and crying with them that next Tuesday I started to feel at peace, and I knew with the help of my BLC family, things were going to be okay, different but OKAY. I still find it hard to explain that after that Tuesday evening, when I still felt so "out of control" and that next morning, one week later, I woke up and I had a complete sense of calm, something I had not felt in that last week. This makes me so thankful for everyone here at BLC, these people who have become our second family.

How have the ministries at BLC affected your life and your faith? I think if I had not become involved with the Youth

and Family team years ago, I might not feel as comfortable as I do at Bethlehem. As my children got older and didn't need me to get them to their church activities, I may have just started not attending as much. I may not have felt I could come to pray in the time of a crisis. I may not be where I am right now in my faith journey. By becoming involved, I got to know more people, and I got to know them better. The people we worship with are not just the people who sit in a pew near us, they are people we know, and who have grown along with us in our faith. My faith becomes stronger every day, something I would not have believed even 5 years ago.

Spending my Tuesday nights with a group of wonderful ladies has also enriched my life immensely. These ladies have been there for each other on a weekly basis for some time now, and I look forward to the fellowship shared and lessons learned. I know that without these ladies my Christian faith would not be as strong as it is. The knowledge these ladies bring to our group is amazing and I thank God for them every day!

How has your involvement with the Youth & Family Team affected your perspective of this church and/or yourself? It always amazes me the amount of time and work that goes into the everyday business of running this congregation. Not just staff time but the amount of time spent by volunteers as well. One small example would be the Easter Breakfast that the Youth and Family team help sponsor as a fundraiser for our youth to help raise money to attend mission trips and summer camps. 5 hours of setup time on Saturday, and volunteers starting as early as 5:30 a.m., others working until 12:30 p.m. 15-20 people volunteering each hour for an approximate 100-150 of worked hours to complete just this ONE project during Holy Week. As members of this congregation WE are the church.

What is the biggest challenge placed before the Youth & Family Team? With the growth of the building, I believe the biggest challenge will be with the resources available to our members and community. These resources would include finances, staff, and time. A larger building means more things are happening- which is great, but then we need more staff and volunteers to give more time and those people become stretched thin. A larger building means more opportunities to grow our ministries; but with the use of the building costs also increase.

If you had to pick one current ministry at BLC you think is instrumental for the future development of this church, what would that be? I believe that each ministry is vital. But since I am involved with the Youth and Family team, I know my heart belongs in that area. We have a strong ministry for youth age 15 and under; it is the young people age 16 and up that need our attention. The Youth and Family team will continue to work to find that right component that fits this age group.

March 2017 Financial Summary

GENERAL FUND

Income Statement

	MTD	2017 YTD
Revenues	\$ 95,480	\$ 298,134
Expenditures	\$ 112,477	\$ 335,983
Net Operating	\$ (16,997)	\$ (37,850)

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 268,374
Payables due within 15 days	\$ (23,733)
Due to Restricted Funds	\$ (258)
Reserved for Others/Designated accounts	\$ (17,358)
Due to Construction Fund	\$ (116,118)
Total Available Unrestricted Cash	\$ 110,907

CONSTRUCTION FUND

Income Statement

	MTD	2017 YTD
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$ 23,203	\$ 67,064
Expenditures	\$ 9,699	\$ 82,667
Net Operating	\$ 13,504	\$ (15,603)

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 149,803
Due from General Fund	\$ 116,118
Total Assets	\$ 265,921
Construction Mortgage Payable	\$ 2,193,404

SPECIAL DESIGNATED FUNDS

Future Maintenance Account	\$ 69,050
Restricted Accounts (Social Concerns, WELCA & Restricted Memorials & Endowment Fund)	\$ 66,301
	\$ 478,899

Memorials and Honorariums

We invite you to consider celebrating the life of a loved one and special occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries with a memorial or honorarium gift. These gifts are a vital source of support and provide \$6,000 - \$8,000 annually to our ministries.

Memorials can be designated for the General Fund, which touches on the financial support of worship and day to day ministry or they can be offered to a designated ministry area.

Another opportunity for memorials and honorariums is to sponsor a bulletin (\$55/ Wednesdays; \$75/Sundays or \$125/week), broadcast (\$125/week) or website sponsorship (\$100/month). The associated fees for our sponsorships support the actual cost associated with the sponsorship of your choice.

Thank you to all who support these ministries!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

My gift of \$ _____ is made

☐ in memory of _____

☐ in honor of _____

Please use my gift in the following area:

- ☐ General Fund
- ☐ Technology Equipment Fund
- ☐ Pre-K Scholarships
- ☐ Wednesday Night Supper
- ☐ Youth Ministries

- ☐ Milestone Ministries
- ☐ Kitchen Fund
- ☐ Education
- ☐ Future Maintenance Fund
- ☐ Worship & Music

- ☐ Mortgage Fund
- ☐ Social Concerns
- ☐ Prayer Shawl Ministry

EASTER GIFTS

Gifts to the Adult Education Ministries given in memory of...

John E. Kolb, Milton & Thelma Howell, Michael Howell,
and Melvin Voegelé by Paulette Kolb
Elroy & Arlone Youngman by Roger & Karen Youngman
Hubert Dinger by Roger & Karen Youngman

Gifts to the Adult Education Ministries given in honor of...

Beverly Voegelé by Paulette Kolb
John & Cindy Koerner by the Kiesz family
Pastors & Staff by Geoff & Cathy Durst

Gifts to the Adult Education Ministries given by...

Tom & Marcia Dosch

Gifts for the Prayer Shawl Ministry given in memory of...

Herbert A. Bertsch by Lynn & Lance Kallas
Deanna Klipfel by Lynn & Lance Kallas
Ryan Suttén by Marlys Suttén
Howard & Ina Peterson by Marlys Suttén
John E. Kolb, Milton & Thelma Howell, Michael Howell,
and Melvin Voegelé by Paulette Kolb

Gifts for the Prayer Shawl Ministry given in honor of...

Deloris Hilgemann by Lynn & Lance Kallas
Beverly Voegelé by Paulette Kolb

Gifts for the Prayer Shawl Ministry given by...

Tom & Marcia Dosch

Gifts for Wednesday Night Suppers given in memory of...

Burton Flagtwet by Pamela Flagtwet
Lennis "Butch" Sauvage by Pamela Flagtwet
Herbert A. Bertsch by Lynn & Lance Kallas

Gifts for Wednesday Night Suppers given in memory of...

Deanna Klipfel by Lynn & Lance Kallas
John Kokales by Chris Buss
Heath Tople by Jack & Penny Tople
Dwayne Liebel by Greg & Ruby Liebel
Dale Shillingstad by Jim & Gloria Barringer
Don Daly Jr. by Delbert & Deb Bierman
Our loved ones by Joe & Darlene Atkinson
Ned & Tillie Hundstad by Jim & Barb Hundstad
Donald W. Sauer Sr. by Helen Sauer
Marvin Schlepp by Terry, Cindy & Rich Banker;
Dan, Chris, Kayla, Brooklyn, & Aspen Bosma
Bill & Edna Banker by Terry, Cindy & Rich Banker;
Dan, Chris, Kayla, Brooklyn, & Aspen Bosma
Eugen Skokin by Roxanna Uttermarck
John E. Kolb, Milton & Thelma Howell, Michael Howell,
and Melvin Voegelé by Paulette Kolb
Earl & Earlean Sorenson by Kelli Murphy

Gifts for Wednesday Night Suppers given in honor of...

Deloris Hilgemann by Lynn & Lance Kallas
Elizabeth & Greta Maier by Sandra Maier
Colleen Schlepp by Terry, Cindy & Rich Banker
Beverly Voegelé by Paulette Kolb
Grandparents by Kelli Murphy
Pastors & Staff by Geoff & Cathy Durst

Gifts for Wednesday Night Suppers given by...

Kim Dorsett
Tom & Marcia Dosch

Gifts to Adult Education Ministries, Prayer Shawl Ministry and
Wednesday Night Suppers given anonymously.

MEMORIALS AND HONORARIUMS

Worship & Music Memorials

Given in memory of Vernon Bunsness by: Ron & Jean
Johnson, Joell Rachel
Given in memory of Rich Hanson by: Nancy Stange

Education Memorials

Given in memory of Deb Schuchhardt by: Gary & Pam
Erickson

Youth Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Rich Hanson by: Nancy Stange

Milestone Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Butch Sauvage by: Patrick, Lynn, Sarah
& Jennifer Aman

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Vernon Bunsness by: Linda & Larry
Kirnan, Selma Miller-Bedwell, Lela Meirose, Sonnie & Diane
Beaman, Crystal Swenson, Stan & Kari Jung, Patsy Weigel,
Marcella & David Bunsness
Given in memory of Phil Valle by: Jerome & Joyce Pfeiffer,
Evan & Milliscent Harris, Betty Sanders & family, Dolores
Charboneau & family

Unrestricted Memorials

Given in memory of Vernon Bunsness by: Brenda Glasford,
Helen Anderson
Given in memory of Faelynne Hammer by: Helen
Anderson
Given in memory of Dean Borge by: Helen Anderson

Worship Candles Memorials

Given in memory of Vernon Bunsness by: Marlys Suttén

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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.*

Summer Schedule

Wednesday Evenings:

Supper from 5:00 - 6:15
Worship at 6:30
(changes to 6:15 on May 31)

Saturday Evenings:

Worship at 5:15

Sunday Morning:

Worship at 8:30
Worship at 10:45
(late service changes to 10:00 on May 28)

Beginning May 28 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.

New Member Orientation

If you are interested in becoming a member of Bethlehem you are invited to attend **one** of the upcoming orientations:

Sunday, May 14 at 9:40 a.m.
Tuesday, May 16 at noon
Wednesday, May 17 at 5:15 p.m.

Please RSVP to Jodi Schwan at 225-9740.
Childcare is available upon request.

Sergio Rios Carillo,
our Missionary from
Nicaragua, will be at
Bethlehem for worship
on Wednesday, May 24.

Following worship there
will also be a meet and
greet with Sergio in the
Fellowship Hall.
Please join us.

