



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Office Hours

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.
Monday-Thursday

9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Friday

**Office Closed
January 1**

Tidings Newsletter

*Held in Grace ...
Belong, Believe, Befriend*

Volume LXVIII, Issue 1

January 2024

Take a few minutes with Pastor Lexy

"And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25

Grace and Peace be with you as we begin this new year!

At our upcoming Voters' Assembly on January 16, we will be discussing our new Mission and Vision Statement. This statement has been years in the making, and was built off of our logo's tagline, "Held in Grace... Belong, Believe, Befriend." After deep discussion, your Bethlehem leadership crafted this statement, proclaiming who we are as Bethlehem Lutheran Church:

Held in the Grace of God, centered in the Good News of Jesus Christ, and empowered by the Holy Spirit, Bethlehem Lutheran Church is called to Belong, Believe, and Befriend.

What Does This Mean? We all BELONG here, connected through our family centered worship, traditions, and fellowship. We BELIEVE that our Lutheran Faith anchors us in the Word and sacraments and guides us in service to our church and community. We BEFRIEND our neighbors through generous hospitality, by being present to the needs of our community and the world.

This year, as a test run for this statement, we have been focused on what it means to BELONG to Bethlehem. For the month of January, we invite you to ask yourself the same question! "You Belong at Bethlehem" is our theme for the month, and we will have many different events to join in on and invite others to see if they belong here as well! If your mobility has changed in the last few years, reach out to the office to get the information for our taxi cab service! Can't come at all? We give thanks for your prayers of support for the ministries of your church. Whether we see you every week or have not seen you in person since COVID, we hope you are able to join us in this month of belonging.

Peace, Pastor Lexy

Bethlehem's Mission Statement

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is a faith community that gathers to hear, teach and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Worship Schedule

Wednesday, January 3

6:00 pm *Worship w/Holy Communion*
6:45 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:45 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*

Sunday, January 7

Communion at Both Services

9:00 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Worship*

Wednesday, January 10

6:00 pm *Worship*
6:45 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:45 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*

Sunday, January 14

9:00 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Worship*

Wednesday, January 17

6:00 pm *Worship*
6:45 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:45 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*

Sunday, January 21

9:00 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Worship*

Wednesday, January 24

6:00 pm *Worship*
6:45 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:45 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*

Sunday, January 28

9:00 am *Worship*
10:30 am *Worship*

Wednesday, January 31

6:00 pm *Worship w/Holy Communion*
6:45 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:45 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Confirmation*

Communion will be celebrated as part of worship the first Sunday of each month and available in the Sanctuary following each worship service the second Sunday and on.

Voters Assembly: 2024 Budget January 16th, 7:00pm

**Taco-in-a-Bag Meal benefiting our youth
served from 6:30-7:00pm, free-will donation.**

This is the first of two Annual Meetings we will have in 2024, focused on the budget and financial health of Bethlehem Lutheran. We will be voting on the 2024 budget as well as having open discussion around future staffing needs and the new Mission and Vision Statement. The 2024 Narrative Budget will also be presented. Questions about Voters Assembly? Talk with Pastor Lexy or Executive Director Jim Sandsmark.

All confirmed/adult members of Bethlehem are welcome as voting members, we appreciate your presence and voice.

“Big Kid” Youth Group

**Looking for a post-graduation place
to explore your faith? This is the spot.**

**Open to “youth” 18+ thru 30s,
childcare is available, reach out to Pr. Lexy to confirm.**

**Sunday, January 14th and 28th, 6:30pm
in the Fireside Room.**

Luther League

Tuesday, January 23rd, from 7-8pm

Were you a member of Luther League (a few...) years ago? Not quite old enough for OWLs, but not young enough for Big Kid Youth Group? Not sure what church looks like when it's not centered around your kids?

This group is for you! We'll be gathering to walk down memory lane, remembering the youth group years of the 70's and 80's and creating some new memories together! For adults 40+ thru not yet retired.

Library News

"Remember Me"

by Tracie Peterson

This is the first book of the 'Pictures of the Heart' series.

A young woman escapes from the Yukon where she was beaten and sold by her brothers. She makes it to Seattle hoping she can hide her past and the belief that she would never have the future she dreamed of with her boyfriend. During the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Expo she works as a camera girl. She also trains other camera girls on how to photograph the people at the Expo and how to sell Brownie cameras. Her past (her boyfriend and her brothers) catches up with her. She must decide whether to run or to stay and face her past. She embraces life, her future, and her hope in God.

— Noreen Halvorson, Librarian



Golden Oldies performed on December 12 for our OWLs. Following everyone enjoyed Christmas goodies and a treat exchange.



Bethlehem carolers serenaded some of members on December 17. Hot chocolate and treats followed at the church.

Our Circle Bible Study meets September through May as follows:

Elizabeth:

Tuesday, January 16, 2:00 p.m.
Fellowship Hall

Chairwoman: Joyce Schepp
701-412-3244

Quilting

The quilters meet Wednesdays from 9:00 a.m. — Noon. They will meet January 10, 17, 24 & 31.

Please join them for another year of fund, fellowship, coffee and goodies. Come even if you don't sew — we will find something else for you to do. **New members are always welcome!**

Trust Foundation Board

It's wonderful to see the Endowment Fund's growth due to your envelope offering and memorial gifts. A Donation Request Form has been created and is now available in the church office.

Please consider including Bethlehem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund in your wills, estates and retirement accounts. Thank you.

Communing the Baptized

All who are baptized are welcome to participate in Holy Communion. Does your child show interest in receiving Communion?

Even if he/she is younger than 10 years of age, they are welcome to participate at the Lord's Table. We offer early Communion preparation for baptized persons younger than 10 years of age and their families. If you and your child are interested in such a conversation, please contact one of the pastors. They would be happy to schedule a time to speak with you!

Taxi Service

If you are in need of a ride to worship, Bethlehem has opened an account with Doyle Cab to provide the needed ride. You will need our account number and password to schedule a ride. Contact the church office for that information.

This January, we hope you remember...

You Belong at BLC!

Join us for a whole month of activities centered around this undeniable truth:
we are better because YOU are here!

Haven't been to church in a while (or even since Covid!)
or have some friends or family that you'd love to have here with you?
Come and see what BLC brings to 2024!

January 10th: Worship on the Go! We're going to the Feed My Starving Children pack at the Fargodome from 6-8pm, 50 spots are open, sign up or call the office.

January 14th: BINGO with Jim Anderson from 3-5pm!
Bring along one (1) BINGO prize per person and an appetizer to share
for an afternoon of fun for all ages!

January 14th and 28th: "Big Kid" Youth Group, 6:30-7:30pm
A group for those 18+ thru 30s, digging deeper into faith as an adult.

January 16th: Voters Assembly with Taco in a Bag Meal
Learn about the business and budget of your church,
and have your voice heard as we talk about the future staffing of BLC.
Meal begins at 6:30pm, Meeting begins at 7pm.

January 21st: Family Board Game Night!
Join our Youth Directors for an evening of Board Game fun for all ages!

January 23rd: Luther League! from 7-8pm
A group for those 40+ to not yet retired! Come relive the days of youth group!

January 28th: "Jesus Revolution" Movie Afternoon, 2-4pm
Bring along your comfy lawn chairs, pillows, and blankets, or just enjoy one of our Fellowship Hall chairs as we watch this 2023 film, starring Kelsey Grammer and Jonathan Roumie. Popcorn, candy, and beverages will be served!

From the Church Records



Memorials Received

Thank you to everyone who gave memorials to Bethlehem.

Bells

In memory of *Blake English*, given by Dave Pankow, Ken & June Pawluk, Mary Melroe, Sharon Toop, Jeff & Jill Rheault, Brent & Lorie Dietrich.

Debt Reduction

In memory of *Lloyd Hanson, Ronda Smith & All Loved Ones*, given by Dorla Hanson.

In memory of *Blake English*, given by Fred Holmly & Christine Olson.

In memory of *Larry Wilcox, baby Henry Deyle & Martha Schepp*, given by Clark & Lana Roscoe.

Emergency Fund

In memory of *All Loved Ones*, given by Dorla Hanson.

In memory of *Matt Walsh*, given by Clark & Lana Roscoe.

Endowment

In memory of *Bob Steffes*, given by Gary & Joyce Schepp.

In memory of *Martha Schepp*, given by Hank & Noreen Halvorson, Gary & Joyce Schepp.

In memory of *Matt Walsh*, given by Jim & Linda Wilkie, Lyle & Marsha Songstad, Randy & Jackie Walsh.

Roof Fund

In memory of *Ed Stensrud*, given by Jim Andersen.

Baptisms

12/10/23 — Chloe Rose Christenson, daughter of Daniel & Courtney Christenson. Sponsors: Brendan & Marti Christenson, Bryce & Monica Klein.

Burials

12/4/23 — Blake English

Bethlehem Lutheran Church is grateful for your consideration of a memorial gift for your loved one. The list of memorial needs has been established to guide families in their options and interests. It is also based on priority needs of the congregation. Although our preference is to accept memorials for these established funds, you may contact the Property or Worship Boards if you wish your memorial to be considered for another purpose. Thank you for this opportunity to honor your loved one.

Memorial Needs

1. Debt Reduction
2. Emergency Fund
3. Endowment Fund
4. General Fund
5. Library
6. Organ Fund
7. Parking Lot Fund
8. Roof Fund
9. Shrubby
10. Elevator

Our most immediate needs are the roof, general and debt reduction funds.

Offering Envelopes

Offering envelopes are in and can be picked up at the church. They are located in the nursery hallway.

The envelope company will no longer mail out envelopes on a yearly basis.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN LOAN BALANCES

(As of 11/30/23)

Sweep (Operating Loan) Balance

\$76,668.48

Balances

January Youth News

January Schedule

3rd: Ohhh SNAP, 6:45-7:30 p.m.
10th: Feed my Starving Children at the FargoDome
14th: God Squad 2:00-3:00 p.m. at Babb's Coffee
16th: Voters' Assembly Supper 6:30 -7:00 p.m.
(Taco-in-a-Bag)
17th: Ohhh SNAP, 6:45-7:30 p.m.
21st: Youth Choir sings in church 8:30-11:00 a.m.
21st: Board Games! 2:00-4:00 p.m.
24th: Ohhh SNAP, 6:45-7:30 p.m.
31st: Ohhh SNAP, 6:45-7:30 p.m.

Board Games!

On January 21 from 2:00-4:00 p.m. we will have an afternoon of fun with board games and snacks!

You are invited to bring your family, your friends, and your favorite board/card game!

Snacks will be provided!

Voters Assembly

On January 16 from 6:30-7:00 p.m. our youth groups will be hosting a Voters' Assembly supper. We will serve taco-in-a-bag!

Join us for a free-will supper, served by our youth. See you there!

Do you have an upcoming event?

We want to get involved in your lives outside of youth group. Whether it's a play, musical, concert or game — let Brigham know when!

God Squad

This month God Squad is meeting Babb's Coffee on Main Avenue on January 14 from 2:00-3:00 p.m.

All youth in 8th-12th grade are invited! Feel free to bring friends!



The annual Christmas Program was held December 13. Thanks to the Parish Education Board, Brigham Drevlow and Judy Coughlin for their work on the program.

Stay in touch!



Bethlehem
Lutheran-Youth



youth@
blefargo.org

January 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1/New Year's Day Office Closed 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAhon	2 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	3 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship w/Holy Communion 6:45 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	4	5 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	6
7 Communion at Both Services 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	8 10:30 am One Oak Gathering 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAhon 7:00 pm Stewardship Board	9 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Education Board 7:00 pm Bell Choir	10 9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship on the Go/Feed My Starving Children 6:45 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap 6:45 pm Youth Board 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	11 6:30 pm Board Meetings	12 Pastor Lexy's Day Off	13
14 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 3:00 pm Bingo 6:30 pm "Big Kid" Youth Group	15 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAhon	16 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 7:00 pm Bell Choir 6:30 pm Voters' Assembly Supper 7:00 pm Voters' Assembly	17 9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship 6:45 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	18 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus 2:00 pm Coffee w/Pastor Lexy @ Luna	19 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	20 10:00 am Co-Creators Crafting Group
21 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Family Board Games	22 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAhon	23 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir 7:00 pm Luther League	24 9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship 6:45 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	25 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Chorus	26 Pastor Lexy's Day Off	27 1:00 pm Sing From Your Heart Concert
28 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Movie Afternoon "Jesus Revolution" 6:30 pm "Big Kid" Youth Group	29 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAhon	30 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	31 9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship 6:45 pm Christian Education 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir			

Bethlehem Lutheran Staff

CHURCH STAFF

Pastor	Lexy Steinle
Visitation Pastor	Ann Schutz
Administrative Assistant	Sonja Lougheed
Custodians	Tammy & Mike Binder
Treasurer/Organist	Judy Coughlin
Librarian	Noreen Halvorson
Youth Director	Brigham Drevlow
Music Coordinator	Aimee Martinez
Senior Choir Director	Dale A. Lammi
Senior Choir Accompanist	Alvina Deyle
Youth Choir Director	Brigham Drevlow
Bell Choir Director	Will Jacobson
Media Coordinator	Josh Vangness
Video Technician	Lexi Binder

EXTENDED STAFF

Missionaries: Willie and Anne Langdji
Madagascar, West and Central Africa

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday: Worship at 9:00 & 10:30 a.m.

Wednesday: Worship at 6:00 p.m.
Christian Education at 6:45 p.m.

Holy Communion Weekly
Office - 235-6522
Warm Line - 235-6548
Website — www.blcfargo.org

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH
613 16TH STREET SOUTH
FARGO, ND 58103

