



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

Tidings Newsletter

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

Volume LXVIII, Issue 2

February 2024

Take a few minutes with Pastor Lexy

"All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation to us." 2 Corinthians 5:18-19

Grace and Peace be with you as we enter the season of Lent,

Our world struggles with reconciliation. He said this, she did that, and I could never forgive them. They have always treated us like this, things will never change. I don't deserve a second chance. And what do we do when the person we need reconciliation with most is no longer alive? We may shove the feelings down, or hope to just move past them without having to bring anything up, but for many of us, the hurt continues with us no matter what, until we finally address it.

Our theme for Lent this year is Reconciliation. Reconciliation is all about relationships, and restoring what has been broken to the way God intended and created it to be. Centered around the bible verse above, we will dive deeper into this ministry of reconciliation we have been called into by God. We have received reconciliation through Christ, and so how do we then reconcile with one another or even ourselves?

Each week, using stories of restoration throughout the Bible, we will talk through different types of reconciliation: with broken relationships, the church, large groups, ourselves, and after the person has died. I hope that you are able to join us, either at the noon traditional or 7:00 p.m. Holden Evening Prayer Wednesday services throughout our Lenten season to reflect together on this important ministry of reconciliation that we have received as followers of Christ and children of God.

Peace, Pastor Lexy

Bethlehem's Mission Statement

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.

Worship Schedule

Sunday, February 4 **Communion at Both Services**

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

Wednesday, February 7

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

Sunday, February 11

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

Wednesday, February 14

Ash Wednesday

No Christian Education

Confirmation Students Attend Worship

Noon *Worship*
6:00 pm *Lenten Supper*
7:00 pm *Worship*

Sunday, February 18

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

Wednesday, February 21

Noon *Lenten Worship*
6:00 pm *Lenten Supper*
6:00 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:00 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Lenten Worship*

Sunday, February 25

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

Wednesday, February 28

Noon *Lenten Worship*
6:00 pm *Lenten Supper*
6:00 pm *Christian Education (PreK-4)*
6:00 pm *Ohhh Snap (5th-7th)*
7:00 pm *Lenten Worship*

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.

2024 WOMEN'S MINI-RETREAT

PRACTICE ORDINARY:

THE HOLINESS OF EVERYDAY

\$25 COST: RETREAT, MEAL, & CONCERT INCLUDED



WITH SPECIAL
MUSICAL GUEST
RACHEL KURTZ



SIGN-UP HERE!

OR CONTACT THE BLC OFFICE
AT 701-235-6522

Lent 2024: Reconciliation

Wednesdays During Lent:

Noon- Worship in the Chapel

6:00- Christian Education

6:00- Meal Together in the Fellowship Hall

7:00- Holden Evening Prayer Worship

February 14th: Ash Wednesday

February 21st: Reconciliation After a Relationship has Broken

February 28th: Reconciliation with the Church

March 6th: Reconciliation between Groups

March 13th: Reconciliation with Ourselves

March 20th: Reconciliation after Death

Library News

"Must Love Flowers"

by Debbie Macomber

Two women at different stages of life find themselves on a journey of renewal after going through difficult hardships.

One woman finds herself a widow and empty nester. She has hardly ventured out of her home (COVID didn't help). She gathers courage to take some long-awaited steps: hiring a landscaper who "must love flowers," joining a grief support group, and renting a room to a college student. Life becomes brighter.

The college student is the other woman in this story. She works as a barista, attends nursing classes and tutors two elementary students. She lives with her alcoholic father and struggles to pay household bills. She decides that she needs her own home, but rent prices are out of reach for her. She finds a room to rent, which brings a glimmer of hope to her life.

As these two women confront difficult life choices, they draw strength from their friendship in very surprising ways!

— Noreen Halvorson, Librarian

Lunch & Learn with Phil Nelson



On January 21, following worship, Phil Nelson gave an informative presentation on his last trip to Cameroon and Central African Republic.

If you would like to see the presentation, it is available on our website.



Our Circle Bible Study meets September through May as follows:

Elizabeth:

Tuesday, February 20, 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 February 7, 14, 21 & 28.

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.

You Belong at Bethlehem (January Edition)



Feed My Starving Children — January 10

Thirty People — 17 adults and 15 kids — met at the FargoDome to volunteer for Feed My Starving Children. You can see from the picture below the scope of the work done.



Bingo — January 14

Bingo master Jim Andersen did the calling. Attendees enjoyed a plate of appetizers following the games.



**Parish Planning Council Minutes
December 14, 2023**

Present: Pastor Lexy, Jim Sandsmark, Judy Coughlin, Sonja Lougheed, Kelly Nielsen, Shannon Brager, Carole Johnston, Jonathan Pikalek, Sue Gomke, Dave Buen, Erik Larson

Absent: Cathy Hanson

Executive Director Jim Sandsmark called the meeting to order. Pastor Lexy gave the devotions.

A motion to approve and accept the minutes of the November 9, meeting was made by Dave Buen and seconded by Sue Gomke. The motion carried.

Evangelism/Fellowship – Carole Johnston. There was discussion around activities for younger members. A women's retreat will be held January 27. There will also be a movie night in January. The board discussed the need for a BeFrienders (or type of) group to assist with visitations. They also had some discussion about a new directory. The Giving Tree gifts have been packaged.

Stewardship – Kelly Nielsen. The board set up the December counting schedule. The auditors will check our accounts prior to the Voters' Assembly scheduled for January 16. The board discussed having someone other than members of the Stewardship Board do the audit. Board members are willing to do the audit if necessary. The board is recommending 2% salary increases for staff. The board recommended that Pastor Lexy receive an increase of 3.2%. Erik Larson stated the Ministry Board would have no problem approving that amount.

Youth – Shannon Brager. There was a good profit from the wreath fundraiser. Thirty-one people came to the family bowling event. Youth and other members of the congregation will volunteer at the Feed My Starving Children event at the FargoDome on January 10. Caroling is December 17. January 21 will be a board game night. The youth will serve taco in a bag at the Voters' Assembly on January 16. The board approved their 2024 budget.

Trust Foundation – Jim Sandsmark. The board met in November and approved two funding requests: The Neighborhood Church and Sing from Your Heart Chorus.

Ministry – Erik Larson. The board approved their 2024 budget. They reviewed a job description for an Associate Pastor position. A leave of absence was approved for Pastor Ann for January 1-22. Lexy will be taking the week between Christmas and New Year's off. They will not meet in January.

Worship –Jonathan Pikalek. The board had no formal meeting in December, but met informally around decorating activities. The 2024 budget was approved. Jonathan asked if it was possible to get suggested percentages for salary increases earlier. Kelly Nielsen said this could be done going forward.

Parish Education – Sue Gomke. The board put together goody bags for the Christian Education students. The Christmas program was held December 13. Overall, it went well. Sue baked eight dozen cookies to be decorated at the party. One cookie was left at the end. The 2024 budget was approved. Christian Ed students will once again be making valentines for Meals on Wheels recipients.

Property – Dave Buen. The board continues to look into a box or locked space to store the offering. More security monitors are needed around the building. Dave continues to look into repairing our roof. Pastor Lexy was contacted about rental of space for CPR classes. They would meet Thursdays from 6:30-9:30 p.m. and Saturdays from 10:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m. Rent would be \$300 per month. Pastor Sonja Kjar may also be using some space for spiritual direction classes. Pastor Lexy will meet with her on this. She would pay rent of \$25 per month.

New Business

Pastor Lexy presented our new Mission and Vision Statement. We would begin using it in January. A motion to adopt this statement was made by Kelly Nielsen and seconded by Erik Larson. The motion carried.

Suzy Sandsmark will be heading up the Nominating Committee for 2024. All board directors should poll their members to see who is willing to serve another term. They should let Suzy know who is staying on their respective board and how many additional members they will need.

Old Business

Pastoral Staffing – Additional staff was not budgeted for in 2024. The Ministry Board discussed the job description written by Jackie Walsh and whether this is a full- or part-time position. The need is there. This will be included in the Voters' Assembly agenda.

Capital Campaign – Repair of our roof is a priority item. However, to begin a capital campaign we would need to pay the consultants \$5,000 per month for ten months. We currently do not have funds for this. Further discussion will be tabled for one year. We will need to have a more solid plan in place, as well as people willing to work on it.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. A Voters' Assembly will be held Tuesday, January 16, at 7:00 p.m. The next meeting of Parish Planning Council will be Thursday, February 8, at 7:30 p.m.

Minutes recorded by Sonja Lougheed

From the Church Records

Memorials Received

Thank you to everyone who gave memorials to Bethlehem.

Bells

In memory of *Betty Wadeson*, given by Bernice Wadeson.

Debt Reduction

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Jim Andersen, Erv & Jean Beilke, Lyle & Marsha Songstad, Monte & Peggy Hoy, Roger & Joyce Dissmore, Jim & Linda Wilkie, Mark & Char Laney.

In honor of *Cleo Christenson's 90th birthday*, given by John & Ann Graupmann.

Emergency Fund

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Cal & Eloise Haglund.

Endowment

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Barb Johnson.

In memory of *Betty Wadeson*, given by Barb Johnson.

General Fund

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given Hank & Noreen Halvorson.

In memory of *Larry Schmidt*, given by Hank & Noreen Halvorson.

In memory *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Dennis & Helga Schuschke.

Roof Fund

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Elaine Baumgartner, Dave & Carole Johnston, Ruth Asmus.

In memory of *Betty Wadeson*, given by Dave & Carole Johnston.

In memory of *Betty Raftenvold*, given by Ruth Asmus.

Quilters

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Gary & Joyce Schepp.

Youth

In memory of *Nancy Wickoren*, given by Gary & Masayo Sollid.

Burials

1/5/24 — Lindsey Mickelson
(nonmember @ West Funeral Home)

1/6/24 — Nancy Lee O'Brien-Wickoren

1/10/24 — Betty LaVerle Wadeson

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. Shrubbbery
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 12/31/23)

Sweep (Operating Loan) Balance

\$74,220.91

Balances

February Youth News

Youth Calendar:

Feb. 7: Youth Choir 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Ohhh SNAP 6:45- 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 11: God Squad @ Caribou on 25th 2:00 p.m.

LENTEN SCHEDULE BEGINS

Feb. 14, 21, 28:
Youth Choir 5:30-6:00 p.m.
Christian Ed 6:00-6:30 p.m.
Youth Go to Lenten Meal 6:30-6:55 p.m.
Lenten Service (Youth Zone) 7:00-7:45p.m.

Feb. 25: Youth at Skyzone 2:00-4:00 p.m.
Youth Choir Sings for Church

Youth Lenten Schedule

5:30-6:00 p.m.: Youth Choir
6:00-6:30 p.m.: Christian Ed
6:30-6:55 p.m.: Lenten Meal
7:00-7:45 p.m.: Lenten Service (Youth Zone)

Lenten Suppers

As the Lenten services approach us, here is the schedule for Lenten suppers, serving from 6:00-6:45. Services begin at 7:00 p.m.

Feb. 14: Tater Tot Hotdish
Feb. 21: Soup and Salad
Feb. 28: Pulled Pork
March 6: Taco-in-a-Bag
March 13: Pasta Bar
March 20: Sloppy Joes

Thank You ...

for attending our Voters' Assembly supper! It was a total success, and all proceeds benefit our youth! Our total attendance was recording breaking since 2020. Nearly 60 members showed! We will be back for the next Voters' Assembly in April!

Youth Zone

We will be having the Youth Zone in the south wing (near the grand piano) during the Lenten services! All BLC youth and friends are welcome to join us! We will have special guided activities oriented for the youth. See you there!

SkyZone Event!

Sunday, February 25 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Check the Youth Facebook for information and sign up!
(Under Events Tab/Going, Interested)

February 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
4 Communion at Both Services 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	5 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAAnon 7:00 pm Stewardship Board 7:00 pm Bell Choir	6 9:00 am Staff Meeting 6:15 pm Ministry Board 7:00 pm Education Board 7:00 pm Bell Choir	7 9:00 am Quilting 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Worship 6:45 pm Ohhh Snap (5th-7th) 6:45 pm Christian Education (PreK-4th) 6:45 pm Youth Board 7:00 pm Confirmation 7:00 pm Senior Choir	1 1:00 pm Sing from Your Heart Chorus	2 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	3 9:00-3:00 Women's Mini Retreat
11 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm God Squad @ Caribou on 25th 6:30 pm "Big Kids" Youth Group	12 10:30 am One Oak Gathering 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAAnon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	13 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	14/Ash Wednesday No Christian Education. Confirmation students required to attend worship. 9:00 am Quilting Noon Worship 6:00 pm Meal 7:00 pm Worship	15 1:00 pm Sing from Your Heart Chorus 2:00 pm Coffee w/Pastor Lexy @ Luna	16 Pastor Lexy's Day Off 7:30 am M.E.A.T.T.	17 10:00 am Co-Creators Crafting Group
18 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship	19 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAAnon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	20 9:00 am Staff Meeting 2:00 pm Elizabeth Circle 7:00 pm Trust Foundation 7:00 pm Bell Choir	21 9:00 am Quilting Noon Lenten Worship/Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Ohhh Snap (5th-7th) 6:00 pm Christian Education (PreK-4th) 6:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Kids Eat Lenten Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	22 1:00 pm Sing from Your Heart Chorus	23 Pastor Lexy's Day Off	24
25 9:00 am Worship 10:30 am Worship 2:00 pm Youth @ SkyZone 6:30 pm "Big Kids" Youth Group	26 6:00 pm SA 7:00 pm SAAnon 7:00 pm Bell Choir	27 9:00 am Staff Meeting 7:00 pm Bell Choir	28 9:00 am Quilting Noon Lenten Worship/Chapel 5:30 pm Youth Choir 6:00 pm Lenten Meal 6:00 pm Ohhh Snap (5th-7th) 6:00 pm Christian Education (PreK-4th) 6:15 pm Senior Choir 6:30 pm Kids Eat Lenten Supper 7:00 pm Lenten Worship	29 1:00 pm Sing from Your Heart Chorus		

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 Vangsness
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

FARGO, ND 58103

613 16TH STREET SOUTH

CHURCH

LUTHERAN

BETHLEHEM

ELCA

