



BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN
CHURCH

BETHLEHEM NEWS SEPTEMBER 2024

401 West Main Street
West Dundee, IL 60118
PHONE: 847-426-7311

BETHLEHEM'S MISSION...

“To share the Living Water of Jesus Christ with all who thirst.”

WORSHIP

5:00 p.m. Saturday - Traditional

(Please note the return to our regular schedule beginning September 8)

8:00 a.m. Sunday - Traditional

10:30 a.m. Sunday - Contemporary at BCMC

HOLY COMMUNION - 1st, 3rd & 5th Sundays

FELLOWSHIP TIME - 9:10 a.m.

SUNDAY SCHOOL - 9:15 a.m.

ADULT BIBLE STUDY - 9:30 a.m.

VACANCY PASTOR - Reverend Joe Glombicki

Pastor's cell: (224) 239-4239

Pastor's email:

pastorjoe@bethlehemchurchdundee.onmicrosoft.com

WEBSITE - BethlehemDundee.org

E-MAIL - BethChurchDun@aol.com

END OF SUMMER WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Our summer hours will continue through Labor Day weekend, September 1. Beginning the following weekend, specifically September 8, we will go back to our regular Sunday service times: 8am traditional at BLC and 10:30am contemporary at BCMC.

Pastor Joe Glombicki will officially begin preaching as our vacancy pastor with the September 7 & 8 services.

CALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Bethlehem Members,

The month of August was a busy time for the Call Committee. We completed three Zoom interviews with potential pastors. We had great discussions with all three candidates that lasted one hour each.

In the month of September, we are planning on reviewing our notes specifically comparing them to the 5 key characteristics. Once we have this complete, the committee will determine if a follow-up call is needed for further clarifications and discussion with the candidates. Our plan is to have a voter's assembly in September/October to give the congregation an update.

As a reminder, our 5 key characteristics that the congregation has said are important for the future Pastor to demonstrate.

Pastor Characteristics

1. Inspirational Leadership
2. Outreach
3. Preaching & Teaching
4. Versatility
5. Relational

We appreciate your patience and understanding that we are all working to achieve the same goal of finding our next shepherd.

-Bethlehem Call Committee

PASTOR'S MESSAGE - September, 2024

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Grace to you and peace from God our heavenly Father and His son Jesus Christ.

A season of pastoral vacancy can be either overwhelming or exciting. Communication breakdowns, unclear job descriptions and unclear delineation of tasks can make it feel chaotic. At the same time one can feel excited and energized about the possibility of a new future. Where is your church life now? Overwhelmed or excited? Or a mixture of both.

What we do know is that God has not abandoned you during this time. Bethlehem is the church of God and Jesus is its head as it is written in Matthew 28:

“And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

In this passage, Jesus is comforting you by assuring you that he will always be with you as you continue to make disciples by baptizing and teaching them. This is the mission of Bethlehem to make disciples. Bethlehem is committed to this mission. This time of vacancy is a gift from God to allow Bethlehem to springboard into the future. Time now can be used to slow down, reflect, rejuvenate, and recommit to God's new plan of Bethlehem's growth. Reflect on the goodness of God, his grace and mercy poured out upon Bethlehem since 1909. Reflect also on what God might be calling Bethlehem to do in the future.

Rejuvenate by taking time to rest and be in God's word, worship, personal devotions, and Bible studies. Recommit to making disciples, loving God with your whole being, and loving your neighbor as yourself.

Most of all God calls us to live our life together in the church as Solomon writes Proverbs 3:

“Trust in the Lord with all your heart,
and do not lean on your own understanding.
In all your ways acknowledge him,
and he will make straight your paths.”

Trust in God with all your heart as you navigate this time of pastoral vacancy. His ways are higher than our ways and His thoughts higher than ours. Acknowledge God and all he has done for your salvation through Jesus Christ and for all he will do for His church Bethlehem.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Joe Glombicki
224-239-4239
Pastor Joe

VERSES OF THE MONTH FOR SEPTEMBER

(Matthew 22:37-39):

“Jesus said to him, “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself.”

GETTING ACQUAINTED

Greetings My Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Paul writes in Romans 12:

⁶ Having gifts that differ according to the grace given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, in proportion to our faith; ⁷ if service, in our serving; the one who teaches, in his teaching; ⁸ the one who exhorts, in his exhortation; the one who contributes, in generosity; the one who leads, with zeal; the one who does acts of mercy, with cheerfulness.

God has given us all different gifts, skills, and experiences to build up the body of Christ, His church. I would like to share with you what He has given me, and I would love to get to know all of you and the gifts that He has given you to use in the building up of His church, Bethlehem.

I grew up in Cary, IL and graduated from Cary-Grove in 1977, where I then received my bachelor's degree from Northern Illinois University (1981). My wife (Cheryl) and I have lived in the Dundee area most of our married life. We have two sons Jason and Justin (Rosa), and one granddaughter Lena.

I am a second career Pastor. After completing my seminary education from Concordia Seminary, St. Louis, I was ordained on August 29, 2020. Prior to being ordained, I was a called Certified Lay Minister and have served in many different church leadership roles.

During my corporate career, I have managed and led production operations, distribution centers, and transportation divisions of major companies. My last position was Assistant General Manager of a trucking division with revenues of forty-eight

million dollars. One of my major projects was selecting, modifying, installing, and operating a new transportation management system. I enjoy envisioning new ways of accomplishing goals and successfully collaborating with people.

When it comes to ministry, I want to serve the Lord Jesus in His commission of baptizing, teaching, and making disciples. I desire the Holy Spirit to use me, to collaborate with you to accomplish His commission.

To serve you, my scheduled office hours are:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 1pm to 5pm.

Wednesday: 8:30 to noon.

If you wish to schedule an appointment, please call me at 224-239-4239.

My prayer is that through this brief introduction you now know who I am and what God has made me to be, so that I can be of better service to you.

I am looking forward in the days to come, to hearing what skills and abilities God has given you along with how He has worked in your life.

Soli Deo Gloria

In His service,
Pastor Joe Glombicki
C: 224-239-4239

SUNDAY SCHOOL

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD SHOEBOXES

By Karen Lawson

Sunday School

Welcome Back to Sunday School! We look forward to seeing everyone back at Sunday school starting on Rally Sunday, September 8. This year we will have a Rally Day celebration between services starting at 9:15am inside the fellowship hall. At this celebration we will enjoy a light breakfast. There are sign up sheets in the narthex to sign up to bring your favorite breakfast item to share. Our new vacancy Pastor, Pastor Glombicki, will provide a special children's sermon and we will enjoy music by our praise band, The Messengers. We hope everyone will come and join us in the fellowship hall at 9:15am on September 8 to welcome in the start of the new Christian Education year.

Operation Christmas Shoeboxes

There is only 2 more months before we ship off our Operation Christmas Child boxes so for the month of September and October, Sunday School is asking for Cash/Check Donations to help defray the cost of shipping the shoe boxes. Each box costs \$10 to ship overseas and the Sunday School children will be building between 30-35 shoeboxes. If you would like to help with the cost of shipping, there will be envelopes available for your donations. Checks should be made out to Bethlehem Lutheran Church with "OCC shipping" written in the memo. Just place your envelope in the red and green boxes located at each church. If you would prefer to pick something up while shopping, we are still in need of Barbie type dolls, small flashlights with batteries, and plastic fillable water bottles. The Sunday School appreciates everything the congregation has done to support the OCC program this year. We are truly blessed. Thank you.

DEACONS MEETING

There will be a Deacons meeting Sunday, September 22 at 9 AM. This should not take more than 15-20 minutes, so there will still be bible study. The purpose of this meeting is to regroup as Deacons and review related responsibilities.

TREASURER'S UPDATE

By Mike Albach

The August Council meeting was held August 18, 2024, at which I presented the July 31, 2024 Treasurer's report. Some of the more notable items that I pointed out included:

- Bethlehem's general fund expenses have exceeded general fund income by \$45,000 year to date.
 - This income includes revenue from donations, interest on money market funds and CDs, and rental income from BCMC. It does not include market fluctuations on investments. Expenses include operating expenditures for both BLC and BCMC operations and depreciation.
- The lack of a tenant in previous space rented by Cherished Place is making a large impact on our deficit. Not having the rent for the past 7 months has impacted us by \$42,000. The council has a high priority on getting this space rented again.
- Designated fund expenses exceeded designated fund income by \$6,000. This is due to the relatively large amount of mission funds set aside in December 2023, which was paid out in January 2024.

· An analysis of revenue as compared to prior years, not including several large generous one-time donations, shows a downward trend which mirrors our attendance.

- At July 31, Bethlehem had:
 - o \$23,000 of operating cash
 - o \$213,000 in money markets and CDs
 - o \$211,000 “Market Value” investment in Transamerica
 - o \$269,000 “Market Value” investment in Thrivent Mutual Funds.

The Thrivent funds are designated whereas the majority of the others are not.

In closing, considering the loss of revenue from Cherished Place and the downward trend in donations, any increase in member giving is appreciated.

Financial Summary - as of and for the 7 months ended July 31, 2024:

General Funds: Shortfall (\$45,000) *Not including depreciation adjustment.

Designated Funds: Shortfall (\$6,000)

Operating Cash on Hand: \$23,000

Money Market, Certificates & Investments: \$696,000

Investment Unrealized Market Increase: \$32,000

Overall Spending: \$45,000 Under Prorated Approved Budget

 CHOIR - SINGERS WANTED 

The Senior Choir is looking for singers. If you are interested in singing with the choir, please contact Mary Pieper or Nancy Petersen.

Choir will be practicing each Thursday in September at 10 am.

All are welcome!

HELPING HAND MINISTRY

Helping Hand Ministry at Bethlehem is accepting donations of used medical equipment in good shape for our new lending closet.

We are looking for wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and other mobility aids. We will also accept other medical supplies.

This lending closet will serve our area and offer people free rentals of the medical equipment they need. This is a great community outreach for Bethlehem.

Please contact the church office if you have any donations or want more information.

OFFERINGS FOR AUGUST

Date	General	Other	Total
8/4/2024	\$5,266.19	\$ 620.67	\$5,886.86
8/11/2024	\$2,182.19	\$ 520.00	\$2,702.19
8/18/2024	\$2,071.19	\$1,245.00	\$3,316.19
8/25/2024	\$5,703.19	\$40,340.00	\$46,043.19

CHURCH COUNCIL BOARD UPDATE SCHEDULE

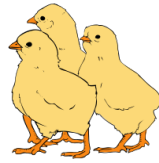
October: Education

November: Financial Secretary

December: Elders

WOMEN'S FRIENDSHIP GROUP

All are welcome! Mondays at 10 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall.



LUTHERAN CHICKS BIBLE STUDY

The Lutheran Chicks Bible study group is studying the series "Women and Identity." This series is focusing on learning about women who embraced God's strength and wisdom to live whole lives. This women's study group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of the month. The meeting dates for September are September 10th and September 24th. The meetings start at 1 p.m. and finish at 2 p.m. We meet in the library. All ladies are welcome.

PILATES "Let's Get Moving"

Classes are offered every Friday at 9 a.m. in the Fellowship Hall. Please arrive 15 minutes early and bring water. We'll be meeting on September 6, 20, & 27. **September 13 is canceled.** Everyone is welcome! Experience the fun of exercise and good health! Questions? Linda Bryant 630-338-6515

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - September

9/2	Karen Craker	9/14	Margaret Skibley
9/2	Diane Drew	9/15	Stella Skibley
9/3	Marlis Davitz	9/19	Abigail DeDina
9/4	Michael Korosec	9/21	Quinton Denk
9/7	George Corcoran	9/28	James Albrecht
9/7	Charlotte Kraus	9/29	Dorothy Pigors
9/8	Joshua DeDinal	9/29	Betty Volkening
9/13	Hermann Pigors	9/29	Henry Kraus
9/14	Kimberly Post		

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

9/02/1972	Michael & Pam Skibley	52 years
9/06/1975	Rick & Pam Krumsee	49 years
9/10/1988	Michael & Denise Korosec	36 years
9/24/1988	Randy & Cindy Weinert	36 years
9/12/1992	Mike & Lisa Hofbauer	32 years
9/18/1993	John & Helga Goskowicz	31 years
9/10/2011	Kevin & Stephanie Grimoldby	13 years

BETHLEHEM CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

Only 3 more months left until our Church Christmas Bazaar on the first weekend in December during the "Dickens In Dundee" village event. Many of us are already hard at work to fill our tables with a large variety of handmade items. I recently saw a very cute hand made girl doll (by Denise Korosec) that will be at the bazaar looking for a forever home. There is a set of Christmas table place mats, knit socks, fingerless gloves, dish cloths & scrubbies, all ready and awaiting our yearly event. Even so, we are still in need of tree ornaments, wooden articles, knit hats and scarves, things for a section containing lotions, soap and creams. Baby items, things for children, men and women. Gift items and seasonal things. The only requirement is that it is handmade. If you have any questions we will be glad to hear from you, call by phone or text to Dorothy Pigors at 224-489-3000, Denise Korosec at 847-828-0391 or Cindy Weinert at 847-217-5674. If you need a place to store finished items, please let us know or bring them to our church office with a note (For Christmas Bazaar).

SEPTEMBER MISSION OF THE MONTH

LCC (Lutheran Church Charities)

Lutheran Church Charities is blessed to have more than 50 Lutheran Early Response Teams (L.E.R.T.) who help people regardless of their ethnic background, social standing, or religious affiliation. For L.E.R.T. volunteers, disaster response is an essential relief and outreach ministry. When invited, Lutheran Church Charities will respond to crisis situations within 24 hours of the time it is safe to do so. As we all know, a firestorm fueled in part by fierce winds from Hurricane Dora's 140 mph winds triggered raging fires on the island of Maui. The wildfires also impacted the communities of Kihei and Kula. Last week LCCF leaders along with food pantry leaders from Emmanuel and Wailuku Union Churches and a community distribution site in Lahaina met to discuss how to get the needed food, hygiene, and paper products to distribution sites for survivors in need. Orphan Grain Train (OGT), will also be partnering to provide requested items to designated sites. A shipment will arrive in Maui this week for those in need. You can go to their website www.lutheranchurchcharities.org to read more information or to inquire on how you can volunteer.

Please consider making a donation in your giving envelope.

~ H.I.S. "Hearts in Service" Ministry/Missions

VIDA Y FE ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Vida y Fe is currently accepting donations for its annual garage sale in the BCMC building.

They are accepting donations of new or gently used items such as: household items, clothes, books, stationery, artwork, gardening tools, sporting goods, and toys.

They also accept small furniture including nightstands, dining tables, lamps, and headboards. Please no large furniture, old electronics or car seats.

Call (224-802-2949) or email (vidayfe.elgin@gmail.com) to set up a time to donate.

The actual garage sale is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, September 21 and 22.