



Star on the Hill

The Newsletter of Bethlehem Lutheran Church, Lanesboro, Minnesota

August 2025

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**Watch our worship on
Facebook Sunday mornings
at 10:00 am**

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,
Lanesboro

Financial Summary

Year to Date thru June 2025

Income: \$93,570

Expenses: \$83,462



August 31, 2025 is a 5th Sunday.
That means you get to be in
charge of picking the music for
our church service.

If there is a song we haven't
sung for a while, now is your
opportunity. If it is in our hymnals
in the pews, we can do it.
Maybe we can even stump the
musician – doubt it, but we can
certainly try!



Buffalo Bill Days

August 1st -3rd

****Volunteers Needed**

Bethlehem is responsible for
staffing the Beer & Brat Stand
at Sylvan Park, Sunday,
August 3rd for the
2:00 to 6:00 pm shift.

Please sign up on the sheet in
the fellowship hall or contact
the church office.



**August 9
September 13**

At 6:30 in the Park

Bethlehem Lutheran will be
hosting **Campfire, S'mores,
and Song**. We will roast a few
marshmallows and sing some
of those songs you learned at
Bible camp.

We may even teach you a few
new ones. Come with your
lawn chair and be prepared to
praise God in God's
Cathedral. If there is rain, we
will meet in the church, without
the campfire.



Young artists from the
STRINGWOOD CHAMBER
MUSIC FESTIVAL in
Lanesboro will perform string
quartets for the Prelude and
Offertory at the 10:00am
Service, Sunday, August 10th.
at Bethlehem.

For more young artist concert
information, visit
<http://www.stringwood.com/young-artist-concerts>. All events are
Free.



Enjoy Artaria and other guest
performers August 5,7,12 &14
7:00 pm at the Sons of
Norway hall.

For program information and to
purchase advance adult tickets for
Festival Concerts visit:
<https://www.stringwood.com/festival-concerts>.



Mark Your Calendars!!

Worship By the River

September 21, 2025

10:00 a.m.

Hosted by:

Gene and Renee Bergstrom

FROM THE PASTOR



One of the guys I follow in Facebook is Mark Sandlin, a Minister at Presbyterian Church of the Covenant - Greensboro NC. I enjoy his messages, even though they can be a bit challenging. This is what he posted on June 30. To get the full effect, try to read with a southern accent.

Some of y'all need to sit with this. If, your church wouldn't welcome Jesus, you might want to get a new church. And before you say, "Well of course we would welcome Jesus." Would ya though? I mean, Jesus was a broke, brown skin, Middle Eastern refugee. Unhoused. No degree. Hung out with sex workers, and with people that your HOA would probably call the cops on. He flipped tables in churches that looked too comfortable. Called out religious leaders for loving rules more than loving people and constantly chose the margins over the mainstream. So, tell me, would your church really welcome THAT GUY? The one who challenged your comfort zones, the one who'd make your donors nervous, the one who'd interrupt your sermon series with actual justice work?

Let's be real. A lot of churches, these days, they'd hand Jesus a visitor card, but they wouldn't hand him the microphone. And they definitely wouldn't let him preach love that disrupts power. So, if your church only welcomes the clean cut, the comfortable, and the conforming, it's not following Jesus, it's following church culture. And Jesus didn't come to blend in with the empire. He came to flip systems of domination upside down. Seriously, some of y'all need to get to reading the Jesus-y parts.



We all love the Jesus that loves, forgives and comforts us. We all love promises of the 23rd Psalm that teaches us that Jesus will be with us through all the ups and downs of life. We all love Christmas with the infant Jesus in the manger, and we love Easter with the empty tomb and colorful flowers to celebrate. We love the stories where Jesus walks on water and all the other miracles. Those are the easy parts of our faith.

Then comes the challenging part. For all the things we love about the Jesus story, there are lessons to learn that can challenge us to our core. Why were Mary and Joseph so poor? Why did King Herod seek to kill him so that the new family needed to run to Egypt for protection? Why were the religious leaders so threatened? Why were the Romans so threatened? Why did people get so angry when Jesus took time to be with the

people on the margins of life, those who struggled daily to survive? Why did Jesus need to suffer so terribly? Why? Because Jesus was the incarnation of God's love for all of humanity, and love threatens power. Power will do anything and everything to stop love and stay in control.

If Jesus was born today, would things turn out any differently? Maybe yes. Maybe no. Power is still threatened by love. As followers of the *broke, brown skin, Middle Eastern refugee*, we need to re-examine our priorities. Will we go to all the places Jesus went to share the love he has given to us. That is our calling and our battle cry against the evils of this world. That is also our challenge, should we choose to accept it.

Will we seek Jesus among the poor? Will we accept the refugee and homeless as though we were welcoming the holy family? Will we be open to the new things Jesus might have us be and do, or will we cling tenaciously to the ways of the past as the only way? Will we love all people, even the people on the margins? Will we love the powerful ones? Hard questions for all of us. As siblings in God's family, we can work on them together.

See you in church!
Pastor Lisa



***Sunday, August 3rd**

***Sunday, August 17th**

***Sunday, August 31st**



***Sunday, August 3rd**

First Reading: (NLT)
Ecclesiastes 1:2, 12-14;
2:18-23

Second Reading: (NLT)
Colossians 3:1-11

Doors: Luther Olson

Ushers: Luther & Corky Olson,
Trent, Tracy, Peyton & Reid
Olson

Reader: Tom Brudvig

Altar Care-H/C:

Luther & Corky Olson

Refreshments:

Luther & Corky Olson

Sunday August 10th

First Reading: (NLT)
Genesis 15:1-6

Psalm: 33:12-22 (NLT)

Second Reading: (NLT)
Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16

Doors: Trent Olson

Ushers: Trent, Tracy, Peyton &
Reid Olson

Reader: Phyllis Penheiter

Altar Care: Corky Olson

Refreshments:

Trent & Tracy Olson

***Sunday, August 17th**

First Reading: (NLT)
Jeremiah 23:23-29

Second Reading: (NLT)
Hebrews 11:29-12:2

Doors: Luther Olson

Ushers: Carrie Hanson

Sarah Pieper

Reader: Sarah Pieper

Altar Care/HC: Carrie Hanson

Refreshments: Carrie Hanson
Sarah Pieper

Sunday, August 24th

First Reading: (NLT)
Isaiah 58:9b-14

Psalm: 103: 1-8 (NLT)

Second Reading: (NLT)
Hebrews 12:18-29

Doors: Nate Boyum

Ushers: Nate Boyum, Tom
Brudvig, Mike & Laura Wilford

Reader: Tom Brudvig

Altar Care: Corky Olson

Refreshments: Mike & Laura
Wilford, Pam Engelbretson

***Sunday, August 31st**
Hymn Sing

First Reading: (NLT)
Proverbs 25:6-7a

Second Reading: (NLT)
Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16

Doors: Ben Taylor

Ushers: Ben & Darla Taylor

Reader: Ed Taylor

Altar Care: Darla Taylor

Refreshments: Ben & Darla
Taylor

September Service Group
Please reach out to your
Group Coordinators to
sign up for a Sunday of
Service.

Members of the September
service group are Mike &
Norine Ask, Deane Benson &
Mindy Albrecht-Benson,
Gene & Rene Bergstrom,
Don & Jean Brink,
Brett & Hollie Clarke,
Jim & Becky Iverson,
Jerry Johnson, Mike Johnson,
Lillian Linde, Tammy Nielson,
John & Sarah Peterson,
Greg & Shari Qualy,
Vern Riddle & Jennifer Wood,
and Ed Taylor.

Group leaders are Vern
Riddle & Jennifer Wood.

Senior Dining Servers
at Kenilworth Apartments

August 1st : Phyllis Penheiter
Denise Dahle

August 8th : Jennifer Wood
Phyllis Penheiter

August 15th: Deane Benson

August 22nd : Gwen Harmon
Norine Ask

August 29th : Norine Ask
Kathryn Wade



Our Confirmands

10th grade: Preston Clarke, Kaylee Gilbertson, Trinity Hareldson, Isabelle Peterson, McKenna Peterson, Henry Semmen, Prailey Willford

8th-9th grade: Lux Holst, Theodore Pruett, Oliver Hanson

Those Living with Cancer

Diane Haugen,
Tom Papenfuss,
Carroll Gilbertson,
Mavis Musselman,
Cora Slominsky
(niece of Matt & Stacy Schultz)
Alex Hall
Nancy Hall
Renee Reinhardt

Those Recovering From Illness or Surgery

Nancy Hall
Allison Tufte

Those Living in Care Centers

Jerry Johnson at Mn Veterans Home, Preston MN
Sandy Dybing at Birchwood Cottages, North Mankato
Lois Gilbertson,
Marlin & Ardella Miner
at Chosen Valley Assisted Living, Chatfield

Hospice Care at Home

Katie Ruen

Edward Ruen (*Husband and caretaker*)

Lanesboro

Our Members in the Military

Esme Decker, daughter of Sara Xavier and Eric Decker

Lisa Peterson Abell, daughter of Linda (Hareldson) Peterson

Leon Peterson, son of Linda (Hareldson) Peterson

Tom Moen, son of Lolly Melander

Claire Peterson, daughter of Joe & Jody Peterson

Devin Troendle, son of Pat & Chris Troendle, grandson of Ed Taylor

******Please notify the office if there are updates to any of these lists**



Please pray for the ELCA Churchwide Assembly. This year will include the election of a new presiding bishop. There are currently seven possible candidates for the office.

Bishop Eaton is concluding her time as presiding bishop of the ELCA. Her successor will be elected at the ELCA Churchwide Assembly (July 28—Aug 2). We are grateful for her leadership during some trying times. We also pray for her retirement. May God's blessings rest upon her and her family.

For the Life of the World

The first Council of Nicaea was convened 1,700 years ago, beginning the process of setting forth Christian convictions in what we know today as the Nicene Creed. The creed proclaims the life-giving truth of the triune God and our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ "for ... the life of the world to come." These convictions continue to live and breathe among us in word and sacrament.

Early in her tenure, Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton set forth her own convictions to guide the members of the ELCA in understanding our unique identity, and these convictions have become a recognized way of articulating who we are:

- We are church.
- We are Lutheran.
- We are church together.
- We are church for the sake of the world.

We are church for the sake of the world — for the abundant *life* promised by God and fulfilled in the life, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for all creation.

We recognize the wisdom of Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who said, "The church is the church only when it exists for others." Our constitution's "Statement of Purpose" boldly proclaims this commitment to be a people "called and sent to bear witness to God's creative, redeeming, and sanctifying activity in the world."

Rooted in the ancient creeds, we are called to live boldly in service to a world longing for healing, justice and hope. We will continue to faithfully pursue God's mission of reconciliation for the life of the world.



**Bishop Eaton Statement
on OBBBA's Passage**
July 3, 2025

"Whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all and especially for those of the family of faith." —Galatians 6:10
July 3, 2025

Dear church,

Today the U.S. Congress passed a budget package that will have a monumental impact on many in the country and on our ministries and communities. The scope of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act is generation-defining and life-altering for many, with provisions that will harm the well-being of local communities and the lives of many individuals for decades to come.

This church teaches that government has limits but fundamentally should seek the well-being of all. In at least three obvious ways, the bill undercuts that aspiration. This bill:

- **Abandons our commitments to people who are sick or who live with financial hardship.** For many decades now, our nation has made commitments to come alongside people when they are in their worst moments, through Medicaid, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits and other programs. Our church is on record in supporting such expressions of care and compassion. These lifelines are now endangered by massive cuts and policy changes. More than 17 million people could lose health coverage over the coming years, and 22.3 million U.S. families will lose some or all of their SNAP benefits. These cuts will make our nation sicker and more hungry, disproportionately impacting rural communities by putting hospitals and other community health providers at long-term risk of closure. According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office (CBO), the bill transfers wealth from those in the bottom 10% of income to those in the top 10% of income in our nation, shamefully funding tax cuts for the wealthiest Americans on the backs of the most vulnerable.
- **Threatens family and community stability.** As a church, we have worked for many years for comprehensive immigration reform, just asylum policies and a pathway to citizenship for immigrant neighbors. This bill abandons compassion by more than tripling federal spending on deportation and detention and by adding over \$170 billion for immigration and border enforcement.

This goes far beyond the reasonable goal of ensuring a safe and orderly border and risks tearing apart millions of families, communities and churches.

- **Harms future generations.** This bill compromises our children's futures by recklessly increasing the national debt and exposing our next generations to dirtier air and a hotter climate. The CBO projects that it will add between \$3 trillion and \$4 trillion to the national debt over the next 10 years. Such excessive spending will worsen, not improve, the fiscal sustainability of our government and the financial prospects of future generations. It also halts and reverses progress toward a clean-energy transition by reversing nearly all the clean-energy tax credits and other incentives passed in the Inflation Reduction Act. This will undo our country's efforts to mitigate climate change and preserve creation for our heirs.

In the Galatians text for this coming Sunday, Paul calls the church to do what is good, not simply for other Christians but for all. Luther echoes this in the Small Catechism when he explains the Fifth Commandment, "You are not to kill." "We are to fear and love God," Luther writes, "so that we neither endanger nor harm the lives of our neighbors, but instead help and support them in all of life's needs" (*The Book of Concord*, ed. Kolb and Wengert, p. 352).

As a church, we face this moment together with resolve, rooted in our trust in God, to work for the good of all as these policies begin to impact our congregations and communities. I ask you to:

- Pray with and for those made newly vulnerable, asking for God's presence and power.
- Identify community and interreligious partners to identify the impacts of this legislation and seek common approaches in your communities.
- Engage in faithful public witness through your networks as well as ELCA federal advocacy and the ELCA-affiliated state public policy office network.
- Follow and support the work of ELCA World Hunger and Lutheran Disaster Response.
- Become part of the ELCA AMMPARO network to walk with migrant neighbors.

In peace,

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

**Bishop Eaton Statement on the Attack on
Holy Family Church in Gaza**
July 18, 2025

Come, bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord, who stand by night in the house of the Lord! Lift up your hands to the holy place, and bless the Lord. —Psalm 134:1-2

Dear Church,

As reported by the Latin Patriarchate of Jerusalem and major news outlets yesterday, an Israeli military strike on Holy Family Church in Gaza City killed three people and injured several more, including the Catholic parish's priest, the Rev. Gabriel Romanelli.

We mourn the loss of Saad Salameh, Foumia Ayyad and Najwa Abu Dawood, who were killed in this attack.

For two thousand years, Christians have built structures in which to pray, worship and build faithful community, sanctuaries of spiritual — and sometimes literal — refuge. Throughout nearly two years of deadly violence in Gaza, Holy Family Church has provided this sanctuary for hundreds of Christians and their Muslim neighbors.

The Israeli military's repeated targeting of churches, as well as schools, hospitals and other civilian infrastructure, sends a clear message: no place is sacred. Any Palestinian in Gaza, from the youngest infant to the eldest grandparent, can become a military target. This is wrong. As Christians, we are called to uphold the sacredness of human life, a tenet of our faith that we share with neighbors of many other faiths around the world.

This church urges the U.S. government, as well as Christian leaders in our nation, to join Pope Leo XIV's renewed call for an immediate ceasefire. This church continues to call for international laws to be upheld that would grant the people of Gaza unhindered access to humanitarian aid, medical aid and safe shelters.

We urge dialogue between regional leaders to strive for a just peace in the Holy Land. Lord, have mercy.

The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Presiding Bishop
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

Women of the ELCA

WELCA activities

No WELCA Quilting
Will Resume in September

NO WELCA Bible study
Will resume in September



Anyone interested in taking part in the **knitting ministry** may contact Sue Holst at 507 676-3239 or Jacque Crutcher at 507 259-2453.



WELCA Quilting

Anyone interested in joining the **quilting ministry** may contact Elve Albrecht at 507 467-2910 or Phyllis Penheiter at 507-272-8643.

WELCA Outing

On July 16 seven women visited the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in the former Methodist Church in Spring Valley. Our guide described the Wilder family history and their many moves throughout the United States. The museum also contained Spring Valley historical items. Sue got a chance to play the pump organ in this church where she attended as a child. The fire wagon with leather buckets was amazing. Lunch was enjoyed at the Four Daughters Winery.



Begins September 17

6:00 p.m. supper

6:30 p.m. learning

7:15 p.m. song & prayer

We are calling all our Bethlehem and Fountain family together for a night of fellowship and learning.

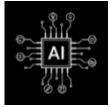
We will meet at Bethlehem, beginning with a light meal at 6 p.m. If you would be willing to prepare and serve a meal, please look to sign up to help.

At 6:30, we will divide up for some small group learning. Brett Clarke has agreed to lead a session for adults. Pastor will lead a class for the confirmation class. We are still looking for someone to help with the elementary age students. Please let Pastor know if you are willing to help.

At 7:15 we will gather for songs, scripture and prayer. We will conclude our time together at 7:30 p.m.

We will be trying this for a minimum of six weeks. We've talked about having special projects as part of our time together. If you have other ideas, please let Pastor know.

Please come and have some fun with our church family.



Faith-Based Conversation About AI By Andrew Pruett

How Should Christians Think About AI?

As this technology continues to change our world, I am wondering what it means for our faith. Artificial Intelligence is a new and powerful tool, and like any tool, it raises good questions. Let's explore some of them together from a Christian perspective.

Can AI have a soul?

The Bible teaches that only humans are created in the image of God (Genesis 1:27). A soul is something God breathes into people, giving us life, purpose, and relationship with Him. AI is a tool made by people, like a hammer or a smartphone, it does not have a soul or eternal value like human beings do. **Even the most advanced AI cannot experience love, repentance, or salvation.**

Should Christians be worried about AI?

The Bible tells us not to be afraid, but to be wise (2 Timothy 1:7). Like many technologies, AI can be used for both good and bad purposes. Instead of fear, Christians are called to approach AI with careful thought and moral responsibility. We are called to be "salt and light" in the world (Matthew 5:13-16), and that means we as Christians should be influencing how this technology is used in our communities.

What does the Bible say about things like AI?

The Bible doesn't mention AI by name, but it gives us guidance on how to live faithfully in every age. We are reminded to be good stewards (1 Peter 4:10), to care for our neighbor, and to use every gift, including this technology, for God's glory, not for selfish gain. Tools change with time, but **our calling remains constant: to love God and love others.**

Could AI be used for evil?

Sadly, **yes**. Like money, power, or influence, AI can and is being used to deceive, harm, and control people in many unsuspecting ways.

That's why Christians must stay alert, call out injustice, and make sure these tools serve human dignity rather than destroy it (Micah 6:8). We should also be aware of how AI can subtly shape our thinking through news, entertainment, and social media. We must regularly test everything against the truth of God's Word (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

Can AI help spread the Gospel?

Absolutely! Just as radio and the internet have carried the Good News far and wide, AI can help translate Scripture, reach isolated people, and even answer spiritual questions. **Many missionaries are already using AI tools to help share the love of Jesus.** In some countries where Christians are persecuted, AI tools are helping believers access Bibles and Christian teaching more safely and quickly than ever before.

Could AI ever replace pastors or teachers?

No machine can ever replace the human heart or God's calling to ministry. Pastors are called to shepherd people, care for souls, and teach in relationship with others. AI may assist, but it cannot replace the unique role of those God has called to teach and lead (Ephesians 4:11-12). **People need real relationships, compassion, and accountability, things no machine can truly give.**

How do we make sure we're using AI in a God-pleasing way?

The key is discernment. We should ask: Does this technology help us love God and love our neighbor? Does it serve truth, justice, and mercy? If it draws us closer to God, helps us serve others, and glorifies Him, then we can use it faithfully. As Paul writes, "So whether you eat or drink or whatever you do, do it all for the glory of God" (1 Corinthians 10:31). **Let's be a congregation that uses every tool, including AI, to shine the light of Christ in our world.** Let's continue to be prayerful and wise as we navigate this new world together, always remembering that God remains the same, yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8).

May God bless you and keep you safe in every place that you are.

Andrew

MINUTES

Wednesday, July 9, 2025

Bethlehem Lutheran Church of Lanesboro, MN Congregation Council Meeting

Members present: Nate Boyum, Tom Holst, Pastor Lisa Shank, Tom Brudvig, Brett Clarke, Julie Kiehne, Andrew Pruett, JoAnna Pruett, Carrie Hanson

Absent: N/A

Others present: Dean Benson

Established Quorum

Call to Order by Tom Brudvig 6:05 pm

Opening Prayer/Devotion – Pastor Lisa read part of Luther’s Catechism and asked “what will our love show?” Discussion followed.

Custodial Update: Dean Benson

Roof – some leaking with recent storms. Schmidt roofing called to calk. Some shingles blowing up on steeple-hope the summer heat will seal them-Schmidt roofing to look at.

Steps – Lance Papenfuss to fix - \$325.

AC – needs to stay on as there has been a musty smell and condensation on the basement floor. Currently there are 2 dehumidifiers that are emptied often. Need a sign to not touch the AC or another solution.

Kingsley called. AC fan not currently hooked up – can fix for \$125.

Dining Room Clock – not working. Dean will cap wiring and Tom B. will purchase 2 new battery clocks. Clocks-one for dining room, one for balcony.

Dining Room Windows – demo on how to open and close for cleaning.

Fans – Kitchen fan works with a pull cord and dining room fans are wired to the lights so turn on when lights are turned off.

Approval of funds to fix the AC fan – Andrew moved, and Carrie 2nd, motion approved.

- a) Secretary’s Report - reviewed the June minutes submitted by Julie Kiehne.
- b) Treasurer’s Report
- c) Pastoral Report – submitted and reviewed.
- d) Council Committee Reports
 - i. Worship and Music – 7/9 met-discussed:

Buffalo Bill Days service on 8/3-Hwy 30 will be having service in Sylvan Park @ 10am. We will have regular service at the church at 10am.

Brat stand – need volunteers. Hymn Sing with Heidi on 8/31.

Family Night to start Wednesday, 9/10, 6-730P, at the church – 6P food – 630-730 programming – Brett will do a John Maxwell Series, still need a volunteer to help with the kids group.

Campfires and S’mores at Sylvan Park - 7/12 and 8/9 @630P.

Church by the River on 9/21-Gene and Rennee Bergstrom to host with the church as a backup if poor weather. Potluck to follow. Praise band will sing.

- ii. Education
- iii. Youth
- iv. Stewardship and Finance
- v. Property
- vi. Endowment
- vii. Personnel
- viii. WELCA update

Approval of Agenda and Reports as presented – Brett moved, and Carrie 2nd, motion approved.

Old Business

- a) roof fund/ other ideas for gifts to church
 - getting close to having the roof paid off.

Meatball Dinner – Carrie presented and discussion followed. This can be a good income earner. Will need to check other local church schedules and come up with dates that don't conflict with other events. Will offer carryout and delivery. Possible time: 11-3P. Will need to check with the Golf Course to see if we can borrow the refrigerator trailer. Check with Gerry Ann Hanson from Fountain about getting a poster made. Sue Holst will help with advertising. Andrew suggested possible business sponsorships.
- b) Call Process Update

Tom Holst presented that they have a potential pastoral candidate to present to the congregation. Discussion followed. Per the Synod, must have an official Congregational Meeting and vote. There must be proper notice of the meeting for members and an announcement of meeting for 2 consecutive Sunday's prior. Plan to have meeting on 7/27. Plan to announce on 7/13 and 7/20. At the meeting, Tom Holst will present the strengths and gifts of the candidate to the congregation and say why the Call Committee thinks they are a good match. Then we will need a unanimous vote by members to extend a call. Meeting and vote to be the same day in Fountain.

Tom Brudvig presented that some of the church Constitution details are different that what the Synod mentioned. Tom H. to call Barb to clarify.

Update: Meeting to take place 7/27, Rhonda will send out a letter to church members on Monday, notifying them of the meeting and outlining the definition of a voting member.

Julie made a motion to move forward with the proposed call process(pending Synod clarification), Andrew 2nd. Motion approved.

New Business

- a) Buffalo Bill days working group- Sunday 2-6 beer and brat tent.

Council participation plus other members; raffle tickets

 - Raffle ticket money turned in to Tom B.
 - Volunteers needed for brat tent.
- b) Narthex chairs- re-upholster or not? Can they be cleaned?
 - cleaned by Pruett family. They look brand new. Everyone loves them!
- c) Cement step repair- see above.
- d) Ceiling repair in kitchen/ new water issue? – see above
- e) Sound system training and Facebook service- more to train?
 - Brett presented that it comes down to if you want it free or paid. Discussion followed. Brett working on clear instructions and will then train people. Backup plan and call tree suggested.
- f) Special congregational meeting date and time (review Constitution)-see above.
- g) Lawn issues/equipment etc./contract out?
 - Carrie offered to purchase a mower for the church with family money. Andrew will look into mowers.

Table the discussion and decision for now.

h) Communion supplies?

-Wine-local store no longer carries Concord grape wine. Need a new plan. In the past church members have not been open to trying a new wine. Local store will still donate if church can use a different kind of wine. Pruett's also willing to donate wine. Plan to go with local store for now and try a new kind. Rhona to pick up.

Extra:

Corporation reports - Tom B. reviewed the constitution – reports for Bethlehem Corporation have not been submitted since 2013 to the Secretary of State – Tom B. has volunteered to correct this.

Air Purifier – Lisa mentioned Heidi is sensitive to smells and has needed to borrow an air purifier in the past when playing piano at the church. Can get an air purifier on Amazon for \$139. Tom B. will talk to Heidi to see what is needed. Also agreed to wait until AC fan fixed to see if problem resolves.

Income Stream to pay for misc. expenses – Andrew suggests looking into solar panels for the roof, discussion follows with Tom H. volunteering to research further.

Words of Appreciation – Who can we recognize this month for their faithful service to our church community?

-Nate Boyum for mowing the church lawn.

-Pruett's for cleaning the chairs.

Adjournment – Motion to adjourn by Carrie, and Andrew 2nd, approved.

Closing Prayer with the Lord's Prayer

Submitted by: JoAnna Pruett - “published but not approved”

ELCA Requests Donations for Kits

Imagine having to choose between a meal or purchasing a notebook. Lutheran World Relief school kits are sent to places where even the few required school supplies may be more than a family can afford. Your donation of pencils and paper can help write a positive future!

School supplies are on sale right now. Please see the list of specific supplies needed for each school kit. Place supplies in the drawstring bags that are available in the narthex. Lutheran World Relief is also in need of personal care kits, baby care kits and fabric kits. Please see a List of items to be included in each kit.

Please compile kits

The WELCA asks for your donations to fill kits for Lutheran World Relief. Items may be brought to the church any time on or before **September 17th** to be included in this year's shipment to LWR.

Please do not add other items or leave out any of the items listed. All items should be new and in good condition. Remove excess packaging.

Each personal care kit should include:

- ✓ One bath-size towel (approximately 52" x 27") preferably a dark color
- ✓ Two bath-size bars of soap in original wrapper
- ✓ One adult-size toothbrush in original wrapper*

- ✓ One sturdy comb (remove wrapper)
- ✓ One metal nail clipper - attached file optional (remove wrapper)

*Toothbrush multi-packs may be used by sealing an individual toothbrush in a business envelope; no plastic bags or wrap.

Wrap all items in the towel and tie securely with ribbons or yarn. Do not enclose the kit or any of its contents in plastic bags.

Each school kit should include:

- ✓ Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide or college-ruled paper approximately 8 x 10 ½ inch. No loose-leaf paper.
- ✓ One blunt scissors (safety scissors with embedded steel blades work well)
- ✓ One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other
- ✓ One pencil sharpener
- ✓ Five new, unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers; secure together with a rubber band
- ✓ One eraser approximately 2 ½ inches long
- ✓ Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no ink gel); secure together with a rubber band
- ✓ One box of 16 or 24 crayons

**Place items in a drawstring backpack available in the narthex.

Each fabric kit should include:

- ✓ Two pieces of cotton or cotton-blend fabric (No knits or 100% polyester).

- ✓ Fabric should be cut into pieces measuring either 2¼ yds of 60" wide fabric or 3 yds of 44" wide or 4 yds of 36" wide.
- ✓ Two spools of neutral-colored general-purpose thread, 250-300 yards each.

Fold thread and one piece of fabric inside second piece of fabric and tie with yarn.

Each baby care kit should include:

- ✓ Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- ✓ Two long- or short-sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- ✓ Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with lightweight yarn, up to 52" square
- ✓ Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- ✓ One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- ✓ Two pairs of socks
- ✓ One hand towel, dark color recommended
- ✓ Two or three bath-size bars (equal to 8-9 oz) of gentle soap, in original wrapper
- ✓ Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Gently used, clean items can be substituted for new ones. Wrap items in one of the receiving blankets and secure with diaper pins. Do not put in plastic bags. Sizes should be 3-6 to 24 months.

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