



On Call Minister & Pastoral Care

One of the core convictions of Bethlehem's staffing strategies is that Bethlehem's pastors share the wide range of ministries including funerals, weddings, and other pastoral care. We believe that all God's people are ministers and that each of Bethlehem's pastors provide very good ministry.

We have an on-call system to rotate which pastor is on call at any given time. In case of pastoral emergencies outside of office hours, please call Bethlehem's on-call minister: 605-380-6627. If a pastor does not answer, please leave a message and we will get back to you as soon we are able. Another part of this system is regular practice that when a death occurs, usually the on-call pastor walks with the family for the funeral.

We also have two Pastoral Care Ministers (Ann Rasmussen and Janis Heier) who share in the overall pastoral care ministries of Bethlehem. Janis and Ann regularly visit people in the hospital as well as local care facilities, and coordinate our Home Communion Ministers.

Area hospitals do not notify the church when you are hospitalized. Thus, if you would like Bethlehem to know, please call the church (605-225-9740) to request a visit or prayer. It is through these partnerships that we are able to provide pastoral care.

FROM THE PASTOR

Beloved People of Bethlehem,

Ah, summertime! What a wonderful time of year. I hope and pray that you are enjoying a bit of a change of pace that summer often brings.

This summer at Bethlehem has not been a slow and relaxing pace. One of the Bethlehem traditions is Vacation Bible School the first week of June. Again, this year, hundreds of children we blessed to participate as they learned about and experienced the amazing love of God. As I write this in the second week of June, Bethlehem is journeying together with five families through the valley of the shadow of death. I don't know of another week that Bethlehem has had five funerals. I do know that I am incredibly grateful to be part of a church that teams up to minister to families who are grieving. I am grateful for Pastor Matt as he walks with three of these families and Pastor Amber as she does her first Bethlehem funeral. I am also grateful for the funeral reception teams that serve so graciously.

In addition to sharing a few of the life-changing ministries happening here at Bethlehem, it is also vital that you know the work that our Property Resources Team has been doing these last months to take a 360 degree look at our facility and grounds. We are nearing 30 years of "New Bethlehem" and 10 years in the expanded facility. Over these years thousands and thousands of people have been blessed by the ministries here. And the building and grounds need significant TLC. Thus, we invite everyone to participate in **Caring for God's House: the place where ministry happens**. In this special appeal we have an ambitious goal of \$360,000 dollars of special gifts.

Please take some time to reflect on how your life has been impacted by Bethlehem's ministries and pray about *Caring for God's House*. Every response to this invitation to generosity will not be the same, however every response makes a difference!

Thank you for the ways that you are a vital part of this "family of God journeying together in faith touching lives by welcoming, worshiping, teaching, and serving." Please continue to hold Bethlehem and our ministries in your prayers!

I thank God for you as well as your prayers and participation in this congregation

Pastor Jeff



My Favorite Scriptures & Songs Coming again this Summer

What are your favorite scriptures that you'd like to hear a sermon on? This summer, we'll do another worship series based on suggestions from the congregation. Please send your favorite scripture (and favorite music) to office@BethlehemAberdeen.org or note them on a Connection Card in worship.



A few spots remain for the 2026-2027 School Year

We offer **Pre-K only** Mondays – Thursday from 8 – 11 a.m. or 12:30 – 3:30 p.m.
or

Pre-K with Out of School Time (Daycare) Monday – Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Register online today at: www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/pre-k or contact Cyndi Holtz at choltz@bethlehemaberdeen.org for more information or to set up a tour!

Help support the Bethlehem Pre-K!

Bring your Kessler's and Ken's receipts to church and place them in the containers near the Pre-K Classroom or on top of the coat rack near the Hub. Thank you for your support!

Vacation Bible School

What a wonderful week of VBS! June 1st – 5th we had approximately 250 kids and 125 volunteers filling our building with excitement and learning! Our theme this year was *Rainforest Falls: Exploring the Nature of God*.

Thank you for praying for us as we prepared and cared for these children. Thank you for all who volunteered their time. Thank you to all who financially supported VBS either with your regular offering, a special gift to VBS, or by purchasing supplies from the donation board.

We sincerely appreciate each and every one of you!

We are already looking forward to next year!



Sunday and Wednesday School Registration

Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 school year. Getting your child signed up early gives you one less thing to do come August and helps us plan accordingly. Get your child's name on the list for whichever day works best for your family.

Registration is available online at: bit.ly/2026-27blcsunwedschool or by using the QR code.



Thank you to everyone who brought donations during VBS for the Community Alliance Group in McLaughlin!

Sunday and Wednesday School Volunteers Needed

As we begin to plan and prepare for Christian Education ministries this fall, we are in need of volunteers. We try to have team teachers for every classroom so you can alternate teaching and not have to be here each week. If you are interested in helping with Sunday or Wednesday School in any capacity or just want to learn more about the program, please contact Cyndi at 225-9740 or choltz@bethlehemaberdeen.org

Do you have a middle or high school student who likes working with kids?

We'd love to have their assistance with Sunday and Wednesday School. Assistants can help kids with projects, get involved with music, calm anxious children, and help teach lessons if they are interested. If you have a youth in grades 6-12 who would like to help, have them chat with Cyndi to get on the list!

First Communion Class

These students completed instruction about communion and the promise of forgiveness during the First Communion Class on June 17. They received their First Communion on Sunday, June 21 or Wednesday, June 24. Please hold them in prayer as they celebrate this milestone.



Savi Christenson
Arbor Koehler
Joseph Koehler
Ryder Saylor

Drake Danielson
Aspen Koehler
Westin Koehler
Braden Tiff

Nolan Graves
Clara Koehler
Anders Peterson
Addilyn Werlinger

Josie Hettick
Dashiell Hettick
Gage Russo

Not Pictured: Tavin Martin

Wild Water West Water Park Adventure!

Summer hasn't yet begun, but the planning for a trip to *Wild Water West* has started! **Friday, August 7th** will be the date for our annual trek to Sioux Falls to enjoy this fantastic water park.

Spots are limited, so please connect with Stan to reserve yours! The cost will still be the same (4 years in a row!) at \$25.00 per person. We leave around 9:00 AM and return around 9:15 PM. Don't miss out on a fun and wet day!

Route 67 Registration for Fall of 2026 Now Open!

Registration for this coming school year, 2026-2027, has begun! Please visit the BLC website to register your 6th or 7th grader (going into Fall of 2026) for Route 67. We will be offering a Sunday class during the 10:10 AM worship service (approximately 10:20 – 11:00 AM) or a Wednesday class from 5:15 – 6:00 PM. We are planning a fun and interactive lesson schedule as well as lots of time for relationship building by playing games, having snacks, doing fieldtrips, etc. All are welcome! See you in the Fall!



Board Game Night

You are invited to come to Board Game Night this July! All are welcome to come on **July 23rd starting at 5:30pm and ending at 8:00pm** in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to bring your own games, or come play games that others bring. New players are welcome to attend!

Pizza will be provided. If you arrive late or leave early, that's okay! If you would like more information about board game night, talk to Pastor Matt at mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org

15-51 Young Men's Group - Date Switch!

Come join Pastor Matt and other young men between the ages of 15-51 for a night of faith, fellowship, and good conversation! We've been meeting on the first Tuesday of the month, but **we are going to switch and experiment with meeting the first Monday**. Due to July 4th, **we'll meet on Monday, July 13th instead from 6-8pm**. For July, we'll be gathering at the Circus, it'll be a good time! This group is for all men who are seeking a supportive faith based community to think deeper about topics and issues that men wrestle with. If you have any questions about 15-51, please reach out to Pastor Matt at mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org

High School Youth Group

Youth Group is **open for all 9th - 12th graders**, and we do a variety of activities including Bible studies, service projects, community trips, and fun nights. If you are a high schooler looking for a community of peers who value faith, this would be a great group for you! Youth Group will meet each **Wednesday** during the summer from 7:30pm-9:30pm.

If you would like more information about youth group, talk to Pastor Matt at mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org or Stan and sjung@bethlehemaberdeen.org



Be Still & Know

Thursdays in the Chapel
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM & 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
Enter through East Doors

Join us *July 16 & August 20*
for Music from 11:30 - 12:30

Music will be played at the quarter hours
for 10 minutes & then 5 minutes
of quiet reflection

Music will be played by:
Mallory Scott

PLEASE NOTE: There will be NO Be Still & Know on Thursday, July 2nd since BLC is closed.

Aging Gracefully

We will pause our gatherings for the summer months of June - August and will return in the Fall season for these educational events, curated specifically for persons age 50 plus.

When is it time for memory care?

Sara Siefken, Primrose Memory Care Director, will discuss when it is time to consider moving your loved one to Memory Care. She will share information on age related memory loss, dementia, safety at home and how best to move a loved one with dementia, along with myths about memory care and more.

Free & open to the community

Tuesday, September 8, 2026
2-3 p.m.
East Fellowship Hall

Medicare Updates

Mandy Boe with Mark Mehlhaff Insurance will present new Medicare information.

Tuesday, October 6, 2026
2-3 p.m.
East Fellowship Hall



FOR ADULTS
50 YEARS
& OLDER

2 PM
- 3 PM

EAST
FELLOWSHIP
HALL

AGING
Gracefully

VAN SERVICE IS AVAILABLE. CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE TO SIGN UP

We look forward to seeing you as we learn, connect, and *age gracefully*—together.

SAVE THE DATE – *Spark Joy*

Looking Ahead:

Friday, September 11 – William Deng,
founder of the Brother Deng Foundation

TUESDAY LADIES

Tuesday Ladies are currently on summer break.

We will gather again beginning on September 8.

Watch the bulletins for information about the book to be studied.

We gather at 7:00 pm, Tuesdays, in the Fireside Room. For more information, contact Crystal Swenson at crystal0955@gmail.com

DKG USED BOOK SALE



The **Delta Kappa Gamma Annual Used Book Sale** will be **September 10, 11 & 12** at the **Wylie Pavilion**.

Bethlehem's donations can be made in the designated bin at the church, at the East Entrance. This year they are also collecting puzzles that are in good condition.

Other drop-off sites will be Good Shepherd Lutheran, Kessler's, and Ken's. If you have a large amount, your books can be picked up; call Dee Zahn at 605-225-6713.

Please remember that magazines, textbooks, and encyclopedias will NOT be accepted. All proceeds will once again go to scholarships.

Greetings from Pastoral Care Ministry

Summertime Reading: A Practice To Interrupt the Interruptions
By: Janis Heier

Summer offers us a chance to slow down, yet modern life often keeps us in a constant state of interruption. Notifications, schedules, and endless distractions compete for our attention, making quiet moments seem increasingly rare.

I've come to realize that peace requires intentional space—time to pray, reflect, listen, and simply be still. Reading can be one way to create that space. Opening a good book invites us to step away from the noise and focus on something deeper. In a sense, reading interrupts the interruptions. Now, isn't that a clever idea?

When we slow down enough to read, think, and reflect, we reconnect with ourselves, with God's presence, and with the beauty around us. We notice the songs of birds, the warmth of a summer breeze, and the simple gifts that often go unnoticed in a hurried world.

This summer, I encourage you to seek moments of quiet and renewal through reading. Step aside a bit every day from the great interruptions. Whether through reading Scripture, a devotional, or a favorite book, may you discover the peace that comes from being fully present.

Proverbs 4:7

The beginning of wisdom is: Get wisdom; and at the cost of all you have, get understanding.

A wonderful reminder that seeking knowledge and understanding is a worthwhile pursuit, best supported by the gift of reading.

In Christ's peace,
Janis Heier & Ann Rasmussen
Pastoral Care Ministers

May 2026 Financial Update

GENERAL FUND

Analysis of Budgeted Revenues & Expenses

	MTD	YTD
Undesignated Offerings	\$ 98,652.29	\$ 575,118.92
Other Designated Revenues	\$ 81,400.00	\$ 239,363.41
Total Revenue	\$ 180,052.29	\$ 814,482.33
Less Budget Expenditures	\$ (159,627.81)	\$ (792,446.64)
Net Operating Total from Budget Operations	\$ (20,424.48)	\$ 22,035.69

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,145,946.12
<i>Parking Lot payoff / to be reimbursed to GF</i>	\$ (268,203.83)
Accounts Payable due within 30 days	\$ (18,561.75)
Pre-paid tuition & fees	\$ -
Due to Restricted Fund Accounts	\$ (5,864.38)
Temporary reserve for D. Hagenson estate gift	\$ (205,137.35)
Reserved for Others/Temporary Restricted accounts	\$ (175,318.03)
Total Unrestricted Cash Assets	\$ 472,860.78

RESTRICTED FUND ACCOUNTS

Restricted Memorials & Accounts	\$ 22,243.84
Prairie Mindset Scholarship	\$ 24,260.29

ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment Fund Assets	\$ 1,585,621.77
-----------------------	-----------------

FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUND

Income Statement

	MTD	YTD
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$ 5,902.73	\$ 57,255.00
Expenditures	\$ (7,644.29)	\$ (50,308.21)
Net Operating	\$ (1,741.56)	\$ 6,946.79

Future Maintenance Fund Assets	\$ 42,443.18
--------------------------------	--------------

FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUND - Parking Lot

	MTD	YTD
Revenue	\$ -	\$ 108,000.00
Parking Lot Expenditures	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating	\$ -	\$ 108,000.00

Due to General Fund (FM owes GF for Parking Lot Exp)	\$ 268,203.83
--	---------------

Memorials and Honorariums

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Elynor Rud, Richard & La Vonne Brick, Robert & Geneva Uttermark, Lonnie Anderson, Sue Helling

Given in memory of Jim Rausenberger by: Marva Rausenberger

Given in memory of June Schliebe by: Sonnie & Diane Beaman

Given in memory of Kaitlyn Weisenburger by: Melody & Orvin Torstenson

Remembrance Walkway Memorials

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Galyann Nichols, Crystal Swenson

Pre-K/OST/Daycare Memorials

Given in memory of Marilyn Flemmer by: Al Flemmer

Van Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Jim Rausenberger by: Marva Rausenberger

Grounds Beautification Memorials

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Jill Lang, Bill & Linda Roth

Given in memory of David Roth by: Lonnie Anderson, Roger Rozell

Wednesday Night Supper Memorials

Given in memory of Loretta Koch by: Darlene Atkinson

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Jerry & Susan Brick

Wednesday Night Supper Memorials

& Good Samaritan Memorials

Given in memory of DeWayne Holm by: Lonnie Anderson, Sylvia Alberts

Worship & Music Memorials

Given in memory of DeWayne Holm by: Darlene Atkinson, Bill & Linda Roth

Good Samaritan Memorials

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Sandy Kleinknecht

Youth Ministry Memorials

Given in memory of Ken Schuh by: Gary & Dlon Kvernevig

Christian Education Memorials

Given in memory of Janet Bergman by: Sonnie & Diane Beaman

Caring for God's House Memorials

Given in memory of DeWayne Holm by: Sandy Kleinknecht, Crystal Swenson

Plan for Tomorrow, Promise for the Future

Creating a will is one of the most meaningful ways to care for the people and causes you love. It provides peace of mind for your family and helps ensure your wishes are clearly known.

Through our trusted partner, **FreeWill**, you can create your legal will online in about 20 minutes — completely free of charge.

Visit: <https://www.freewill.com/>

If your situation is more complex or you would simply prefer personal guidance, you also have the option to work with an attorney of your choosing.

Many members choose to include a gift to the church or other ministries that have impacted their lives, helping share God's love for future generations.

Questions? Please contact Jeannie Haaland in the Business Office at 605-225-9740 or jhaaland@bethlehemaberdeen.org



BLC OFFICES & BUILDING CLOSED

Due to the 4th of July holiday

- Thursday, **July 2** & Friday, **July 3rd**
- NO SATURDAY WORSHIP SERVICES on **July 4th**

We are a family of God journeying together in faith, touching lives by Welcoming, Worshiping, Teaching and Serving.