



MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2025

Connecting through Small Groups

You are far too important in God's eyes to go through life alone. Consider participating in a group this fall at Bethlehem.

Launch Small Groups

Mondays 4:00 -- Anyone (Conference Room 1)

Tuesdays Noon -- Women (Fireside Room)

Tuesdays Noon -- Men (Conference Room 1)

Younger Men Group (Youth Center)

September 30th - 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Ages 15 - 51

GriefShare (The Hub)

Starting on Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30 PM

Contact Ann Rasmussen

Pickleball (Re-Creation Center)

Monday 10:30 - 12:30

Tuesday 12:30 - 2:30

Thursday 12:30 - 2:30

Cardmakers (Fellowship Hall)

2nd & 4th Monday - 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Handbell Choir (Music Room)

Monday 5:30PM

Contact Mallory Scott

Choir

Contact Mallory Scott for more information

Prayer Shawl (East Fellowship Hall)

1st Thursday - 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Sacrament Set-Up Team (Altar Guild)

Contact Mallory Scott for more information

Aging Gracefully (East Fellowship Hall)

2nd Tuesday - 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Piecemakers Quilters (Rooms E15-E18)

Tuesdays - 9:00AM - 12:00PM

Wednesday Supper Team (Fellowship Hall)

Wednesdays - 5:00PM - 7:00PM

(Serve/Dishes/Clean Up)

Usher Team

Sunday & Wednesday Services

Funeral Reception Team

Treats/Serve/Dishes

Stream Team (Tech Room)

Propresenter, Sound, Camera & Online Greeter

Contact Teri Johnson

Soundboard

Contact Mallory Scott for more information

Be Still & Know (Chapel)

Thursdays - 7:00 AM - 8:00 AM, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM,

Beloved People of Bethlehem,

One of the realities of life in Aberdeen is that the wind is almost always blowing. Sometimes it is a gentle breeze and other times it howls.

We have often reflected on the fact that in the scriptures the same words are used for “wind” and “spirit” (*ruach* in Hebrew and *pneuma* in Greek). For these ancestors, there was a powerful mystical connection between the wind and the Spirit.

For thousands of years, people have utilized the power of the wind – for milling grain, pumping water, sailing boats, and more. Tapping into the power of the wind takes intentionality, structure, and learning. And of course, the wind is essential!

In the scriptures there is a book that tells the story of the followers of Jesus after his death and resurrection. It is called “The Acts of the Apostles,” or “Acts” for short. However, many have observed that it could be called “The Acts of the Holy Spirit.” Throughout this book the Holy Spirit is blowing, and the people are learning how to go with the Spirit to fulfill the mission God gives them.

Our Fall worship series is ***Launch: Propelled by the Spirit***. We will join the early disciples as the book of Acts tells the stories of their journeys. While those stories were nearly two-thousand years ago, there are powerful ways that the Spirit is still moving in similar ways now.

I invite you to join in the journey this fall. ***Launch: Propelled by the Spirit*** will begin September 13, 14 & 17th and will include worship, Sunday School, Wednesday School, Route 67, as well as numerous adult small groups. Share in the journey this fall for I am confident that the Holy Wind of God is blowing in your life and propelling you to a deeper faith and loving service.

I look forward to sailing with you!

Pastor Jeff



Martin Luther on the Holy Spirit

In Luther’s Small Catechism he wrote this about the Holy Spirit in the explanation of the 3rd Article of the Apostles’ Creed:

The Third Article: *On Being Made Holy*

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

What is this? or What does this mean?

I believe that by my own understanding or strength I cannot believe in Jesus Christ my Lord or come to him, but instead the Holy Spirit has called me through the gospel, enlightened me with his gifts, made me holy and kept me in the true faith, just as he calls, gathers, enlightens, and makes holy the whole Christian church on earth and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one common, true faith. Daily in this Christian church the Holy Spirit abundantly forgives all sins - mine and those of all believers. On the last day the Holy Spirit will raise me and all the dead and will give to me and all believers in Christ eternal life. This is most certainly true.

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!



Sunday School and Route 67 will begin September 14 starting with families in worship at 10:10. Children ages 3 through 7th grade, along with anyone teaching or assisting in those classes, will be excused

after about 10-15 minutes of worship to go to their classrooms and learn together. Parents will stay in worship and have the chance to focus and hear the good news themselves. Both worship and the Christian Education time will wrap up around 11:00 a.m.

Wednesday School and Route 67 will begin September 17 and will be held in classrooms from 5:15 – 5:45 p.m. (Route 67 until 6:00). Following Wednesday School, families are invited to stay for supper each week from 5:00 – 6:15 and to share in a 30-minute (approximately) worship service at 6:15. Check out the weekly supper menu here: www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/serve/wednesday-night-supper

If you haven't registered yet, we encourage you to do so soon so we can be sure to have enough supplies and teachers!

3 years old through 5th Grade:

www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/children-age-3-5th-grade

Route 67 (6th & 7th Grade) & Confirmation (8th, 9th, & 10th Grade):

www.bethlehemaberdeen.org/teach/youth-6th-10th

Children's Bible Milestones

Receiving a Bible is a big milestone in one's faith life. Thank you to our congregation for your continued support in providing Bibles for children of Bethlehem. Students entering 3rd grade receive an NRSV Bible and those starting the preschool class receive a story Bible. Students new to our programs at different grades also receive an age appropriate Bible if they don't have one.

We will have a brief parent/child learning time on the following days:

3 years olds (Preschool) Sunday, September 14 at 9:40 in Conference Room 1 or Wednesday, September 17 at 5:15 in The Hub.

3rd Graders Sunday, September 14 at 9:40 in the East Fellowship Hall or Wednesday, September 17 at 5:15 in Conference Room 1.

We will be handing out Bibles and celebrating with families at the 10:10 service on September 14th and the 6:15 service on September 17th.

Families – If you have a child who should be getting a Bible, be looking for a reminder postcard in the mail a week or two before these dates. **We will only have postcard reminders and Bibles ready for children who are registered for Christian Education (either Sunday or Wednesday School) so please register if you haven't already done so.**

We look forward to seeing you soon!

With Christian Education starting up soon, we are looking for a few more leaders!

If you enjoy children, we can find a way for you to help. It's amazing how much you grow as you help the children learn. Join us as we travel through some Bible stories and learn more about how much we are loved and how we can spread that love throughout our families, schools, and communities.

If you are interested in helping or just curious about what that might look like, get in touch with Cyndi at cbishop@bethlehemaberdeen.org or 605-225-9740 ext. 118 for a no-pressure, no-commitment chat.

Children's Music Opportunities!



We are excited to announce that Sara Huber will be leading Children's Music! **Sara will be leading preschool - kindergarten and first through third grade music time during Sunday and Wednesday School, as well as coordinating a choir for kids in 1st - 6th grade!**

Kids Choir will be held on Wednesdays from 4:45 - 5:10 in the Re-Creation Center beginning October 1. This is open to any child in grades 1 - 6 who enjoys singing! This group will sing in church a few times this school year on Wednesdays at 6:15 and as part of the cantata.

If your child would like to be a part of the Kids Choir or if you have any questions, please contact Sara Huber at (605) 290-6105 or snshelbourn@gmail.com

At Home Blessing of the Bags

Autumn brings about a change in routine as summer schedules wind down and school begins. What a great time for all of us to remember that Jesus is with us always even in the midst of the unpredictability that change can bring about. The Milestone Ministry Team invites you to use this blessing in your home as you prepare for another school year.

- Place a "bag" for each person around a candle. The bag should be something you take with you daily. (Ex. Schoolbags, diaper bags, purses, briefcases, wallets)

- **Caring Conversation**

Fall ushers in a new school year as well as a whole series of post - summer activities and routines. Use the following sentence starters to reflect and converse: *"I am excited about..." "I am concerned about..." "I can't wait for..."*

- **Devotions**

Luke 2:52 reads, *"And as Jesus grew up, he increased in wisdom and in favor with God and people."* Matthew 28:20b reads, *"I will be with you always, even until the end of the world."* Discuss ways you will grow during the next few months (physically, mentally, relationally and spiritually).

Pray together (or pray in a "repeat after me" style for those who are still learning to read)

Dear Jesus,

Thank you for loving us and being with us all day, every day wherever we go. Help us to look to the year ahead with joy and thanksgiving. Please bless the child that carries this bag, be with them as they learn and grow knowing that you walk beside them always! Amen.

- **Blessing**

Let this be your blessing for the next week or weeks.

"[Person's name], Jesus goes with you wherever you go."

Your church family will be lifting you and your children up in prayer as well. It takes a village and we are so blessed to have you as a part of the Bethlehem community of faith! God bless you in all the adventures and opportunities that lie ahead in this new school year.



First Communion class will be held on Saturday, November 15 from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Following the class, First Communion will take place in worship on Sunday, November 16 or Wednesday, November 19.

At Bethlehem, families are welcome to decide when their children will receive First Communion. Most children take the class in mid to upper elementary. Older students are always welcome as well.

Registration with the church office by November 12 is required. Contact Cyndi Bishop, Director of Children's Ministries, at 225-9740 or cbishop@bethlehemaberdeen.org with any questions.

First Communion Class



Ready... Set... GO Route 67!

The heat and the mosquitoes are starting to wind down, and Route 67 is starting to wind up!

Please visit the BLC website to register your 6th or 7th grader (going into fall of 2025) for Route 67 if you haven't already done so. We will be offering a Sunday class during the 10:10AM worship service (approximately 10:20 – 11:00 AM) or a Wednesday class from 5:15 – 6:00 PM. There are many new experiences, friendships and faith places that we will encounter this year. We start with a fun and interactive lesson and then have lots of time for relationship building by playing games, having snacks, doing fieldtrips, etc. All are welcome! See you soon!

Kickoff is **Sunday, September 14th** and **Wednesday, September 17th**. Parents are encouraged to attend orientation on those dates, along with all 6th and 7th grade students.

Here is a look at the schedule for the first few weeks:

September 14th and 17th - Orientation, covenant, upcoming opportunities (retreat & 2026 mission trip) – Acts 1:1-5 and Acts 6-14 (Beginning and Ascension)

September 21st and 24th - Treat Day!

– Acts 2:1-42 (Pentecost)

September 28th and October 1st - Surprise Day!

– Acts 2:43 - 47, 4:32-37 (Early Believers)

October 5th and 8th - Game Day!

– Acts 3:1-6 (Peter Heals)

October 12th and 15th - NO ROUTE 67

– Indigenous People's Day holiday

8th Grade Milestone

All incoming 8th grade students will receive a Bible for confirmation (and other use!) on **Sunday, September 14th** at the **10:10 AM** service and on **Wednesday, September 17th** at the **6:15 PM** service. All students are encouraged to attend as well as parents/guardians.

This milestone is made possible by the generous giving of this congregation. A Bible can help young people learn about God's character, love and how to live a life of truth and serving others. A Bible is a "forever" book, not something you will read and give away.

Trunk or Treat!

Yes, Fall is very near! The Youth and Young Adult Ministry Team is once again planning for Trunk or Treat.



We will be handing out candy and faith related items to all youth on **Friday, October 31st**. We are currently looking for interested people to sponsor a trunk and/or donate candy for the event. Watch for a donation board in the narthex in the next month!

Please connect with Stan if you are interested in setting up a trunk for the event. This is a great way to connect with Bethlehem and local community youth.

Stan's contact info:

Phone (605) 225-9740 ext. 113

Email sjung@bethlehemaberdeen.org

8th Grade Confirmation Schedule

Welcome to confirmation 8th grade students! This year we will be following a similar schedule to last year and much of the same curriculum. Stan will be leading the 8th grade confirmation again this year with the excellent help of small group leaders. We will all be learning together through instruction, activities and games! Stan is busy recruiting small group leaders and reviewing material, but will be ready to go by Sunday, September 14th! Stan will have full calendars ready for each participant and parent at that time. **Here is a partial calendar for September into October:**

September 14th & 17th - Orientation (Sanctuary)

September 21st & 24th - Large Group: Bible Intro (Youth Center)

September 28th & October 1st - Small Group: Intro/Service Opportunities/Parent Meeting

October 5th & 8th - Small Group: God's Love

October 12th and 15th - NO CONFIRMATION – Indigenous People's Day holiday

9th Grade Confirmation Schedule

9/14 & 9/17 – Orientation (Sanctuary)

9/21 & 9/24 – Small Group Introductions and Service Opportunities

9/28 & 10/1 – Large Group: Small Catechism Intro (Fellowship Hall)

10th Grade Confirmation

This Fall, 10th grade students preparing to be confirmed in October will meet with Pr. Jeff in the Chapel on Sunday mornings at 11:00 or Wednesday evenings at 6:50. **Orientation sessions for students and parents will be September 14th at 11:00 and September 17th at 6:50 in the Chapel.** The Confirmation Faith Fair and Confirmation Milestone worship service will be October 26th.

Percy Grote marks milestone birthday

For lifelong Bethlehem member Percy Grote, it wasn't just another birthday party in his honor this April. It marked a century of celebrations for a man with a warm smile and an incredibly sharp mind. Family and friends of Percy gathered at Bethesda Towne Square to share golf-themed cupcakes, laughs, hugs, and lots of reminiscing with the now 100-year old Aberdonian.

So how does it feel to be a hundred? Percy has a quick answer spiked with his strong sense of humor:

"It depends on the day. As you get older, some things start to bother you a bit more. If it's a good day, I feel like I'm 60. If it's not a good day, I feel like I'm 150."

For Percy, the days of feeling like 60 seem to be the rule, not the exception. After all, it was just a couple of years ago, at age 97, that the man who has always loved to play golf finally put the clubs away, although you might still occasionally find him practicing on the putting green. His infectious positive attitude has gone a long way in leading to a long life.

"The secret is getting people to smile," says Percy. "Of all my lifetime accomplishments, the one I'm most proud of is making people feel better. After I got here [at Bethesda Town Square], I kept smiling, saying hello, and being friendly every day. People saw that and things changed. Now everyone else says hello, and sometimes they say it before I do. I think they caught on."

Percy's life story could fill a heavy book. Born and raised in the Aberdeen area, he pursued a passion for airplanes by enlisting with the US Army as part of the Air Corps during World War II. Models he made himself of the planes he learned to fly during training hang from the ceiling of his room at Bethesda. The stories he still tells of his flying days are vivid and put listeners on the edge of their seat. Percy returned to Aberdeen after his military service, married Dorothy, and opened an auto body shop with his brother. Grote Brothers Auto Shop is still operating in Aberdeen even though Percy retired in 1987. The new owners have retained the name over the years. Percy and Dorothy raised a son and a daughter. In retirement, Percy had more time to pursue another passion – golf. If there's one person most responsible for the development of the beautiful Moccasin Creek Country Club Golf Course, it's Percy Grote. From its beginning in 1973 through his work overseeing its rejuvenation after a severe drought in 1976, Percy poured weeks and months into making the golf course one of South Dakota's finest. And he did it without pay. Seeing it through was payment enough.

One would think such a positive, happy man has avoided hardship and challenges throughout his long life. Not so. Dorothy was diagnosed with Alzheimers' Disease in 1997. For nearly 18 years, Percy devotedly took care of her – sitting, talking, and holding her hand at her bedside until she passed away in 2014. Tragically, Percy lost his adult daughter 11 years earlier in a motorcycle accident. Despite the tragedies, his beaming optimism and love for life shines on. Faith has a lot to do with it.

"I've had the best life anyone could ever have, but I haven't been able to live this long without going through some terrible times," says Percy. "You've got to get through them. Somebody has helped me along the way. I have a [porcelain] angel on the cabinet shelf to remind me."

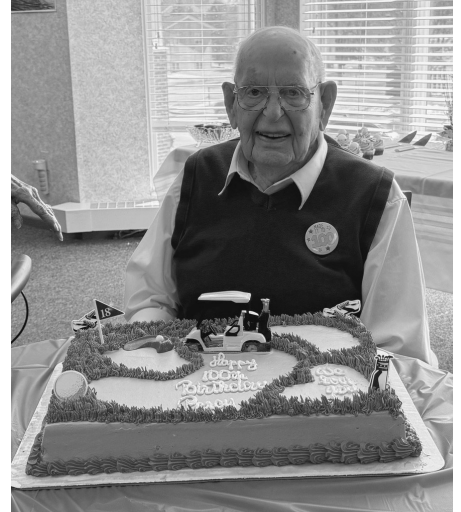
Baptized and married at the old Bethlehem, **Percy maintains ties to his lifelong house of worship.** He may not physically get to the church, but he takes home communion and stays connected.

"It's been a wonderful life. Every day is a blessing."

And what about his future plans?

"My future plan is to be here tomorrow".

With God's grace, we will all continue celebrating the second century of Percy Grote.



Board Game Night

Board game night will meet on **September 25th starting at 5:30pm and ending at 8:00pm** in the **Fellowship Hall**. Bring your own board game, or choose one of the many options that will be available. You are also encouraged to bring puzzles or other board game-like games.

All ages are welcome to come! All skill levels are welcome too! We have plenty of teachers who love helping new players learn games. Pizza will be provided. Water will also be provided, but you are welcome to bring your own beverage. 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

High School Youth Group is Growing!

In the Fall of 2023 we relaunched our high school youth group at Bethlehem. High school 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 free nights. We are blessed to have a strong and growing group!

One of the challenges that comes with this blessing is a need for additional adult volunteers. If you are passionate about youth ministry and want to help foster the faith of our high school students, we'd love to have more adults join us at youth group.

Youth group meets on **Wednesdays** from **7pm-9pm**. If you would like more information about youth group, talk to Pastor Matt at mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org or Stan at sjung@bethlehemaberdeen.org

Young Men's Night at Bethlehem

Over the summer, the desire and need for a young men's group at Bethlehem emerged.



Through conversation and the movement of the Holy Spirit, it was determined that having an opportunity to gather with other men of faith to converse about everything from fatherhood to faith to sports to work to life in general would be a gift. If you are a man **between the ages of 15 - 51**, you are invited to come and eat pizza and enjoy conversation with other men at Bethlehem on **September 30th**. We will meet in the **Youth Center** from **6pm - 8pm**. If you would like to bring your kids, the Re-Creation center (the gym) will be open and there will be folks who can watch them.

To best prepare for this time together, please RSVP by emailing Pastor Matt at mspoden@bethlehemaberdeen.org or use the QR Code.

KICK-OFF

picnic

Sunday, September 14th

11:00 AM

Fellowship Hall

Games Provided in Narthex

WALKING TACOS

Empowered for the Season Ahead

A Message from Pastoral Care

Dear Friends in Christ,

As summer fades and fall unfolds, we step into a season of reflection, renewal, and fresh beginnings. The turning leaves remind us that transformation is part of God's beautiful rhythm - and in that spirit, we launch into a new chapter of worship, learning, and growth.

This Fall, we journey together through the Book of Acts - a bold and Spirit-filled story of how the early church was born and the gospel spread like wildfire. Acts isn't just a history lesson; it's a powerful witness to what God can do through ordinary people empowered by extraordinary faith.

From Acts, we hear Jesus' promise of the Holy Spirit, and we watch the disciples wait, pray, and prepare to be launched into a new mission. It wasn't their strength or strategy that built the early church - it was their trust, their courage, and above all, the Spirit moving in and through them.

Our theme this season, ***Launch: Propelled by the Spirit***, invites us to see ourselves in that story. God still speaks. God still sends. And the Spirit is still on the move - in our lives, in our congregation, and in our community.

Whether the Book of Acts is familiar or new to you, come ready to be surprised, encouraged, and stirred. This is a season to grow deeper roots and to launch into what's next, together.

Here are some invitations to get us started:

- ▶ Join us on **Saturday, September 6th at 9 a.m.** at the **Odde Arena** for the **Aberdeen Area Out Of The Darkness Community Walk**. The walk, held annually in cities throughout the nation, raises awareness and funding, sending the message that suicide can be prevented and that no one is alone. Bethlehem is a sponsor for this event and will be present in the event hall and have staff and resources available.
- ▶ On **September 9th from 2-3 pm** we welcome you to share time with us in the East Fellowship Hall for ***Aging Gracefully*** (regardless of your age), as representatives from the Brown County Foundation for Suicide Prevention share a program titled: **"Talk Saves Lives"**.
- ▶ On **September 9th at 5:30 p.m.**, the Fall session of ***GriefShare*** begins. If you are interested in attending, please register with the church office. If you have questions about this ministry, please contact Ann Rasmussen, who will be leading the weekly ministry sessions. Ann's email is: **arasmussen@bethlehemaberdeen.org**
- ▶ Save the date for the **October Aging Gracefully** event scheduled for **Tuesday, October 7th**. We will have the opportunity to learn about the **Medicare Insurance program** changes from Mandy Boe, insurance representative. Mandy is a congregation member and is an agent with Mark Mehlhaff Insurance agency.

As we open our hearts to the Spirit's leading we will see where God is calling us to go.

In hope and faith,

Janis Heier & Ann Rasmussen
Pastoral Care Ministers

GRIEFSHARE

A new session of **GriefShare** will begin on **Tuesday, September 9th at 5:30PM** in **The Hub**.

If you or someone you know has recently gone through the loss of a loved one, GriefShare offers a safe and confidential place to connect with others. If you are interested in attending an afternoon class, please contact the church office or email arasmussen@bethlehemaberdeen.org

TUESDAY LADIES



Women are invited to gather as **Tuesday Ladies** will begin the **2025-26** study year on **September 9th at 7:00 pm**, in the **Fireside Room**. The first book this year is Max Lucado's *Anxious for Nothing - Finding Calm in a Chaotic World*. Quoting from the cover of the book, "Do you feel weighed down with worry? Does the uncertainty and chaos of life keep you up at night? Could you use some calm? While anxiety is a part of life, it doesn't have to dominate your life." Looking at Philippians 4, we will explore God's treatment plan for anxiety.

If you have any questions, please contact the church office or Jamie Milbrandt.

SPARK JOY...A Century of Fashion

You are warmly invited to **Spark Joy: A Century of Fashion**, a delightful celebration of style and history on **Friday, September 5th**, from **12:10 to 12:50 p.m.** in the **East Fellowship Hall at Bethlehem Lutheran Church**. Join us as we journey through 100 years of fashion, highlighting the decades from **1890 to 1990**. This unique presentation will showcase a captivating collection of men's and women's clothing, accessories, and timeless pieces that tell the story of each era. A special feature of the event will be the magnificent jewelry and handbag collection of **Mrs. Esther Decker**, offering an elegant glimpse into the finer details of fashion.

We are honored to welcome **Patricia Kendall**, Director of the **Dacotah Prairie Museum**, as our presenter. With her engaging storytelling and historical insights, Patricia will bring each decade to life in a way that is both educational and inspiring.

Whether you're a fashion enthusiast, a history lover, or simply looking for a joyful midday experience, this event is for you. We hope to see you - and your friends - on **Friday, September 5th**, for this charming and memorable presentation. **All are welcome!**



**JOIN THE
CHOIR**

If anyone would like to receive
Choir-related information,
contact Mallory



Bell Choir will begin on Monday,
September 8th at 5:30 PM
in the Choir Room

Be Still & Know

Everyone 18 & older is welcome to gather
Thursdays from **7:00 AM - 8:00 AM &
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM** in the **Chapel**.

Be Still & Know is a quiet, individual time in the Chapel for you to reflect & grow in your faith. Stay 5 minutes, 20 minutes, or as long as you want. Prayer cards, books & devotionals are provided for use or bring your own personal journal or devotional.

COLLECTING SCHOOL KITS & PERSONAL KITS

Piecemakers Quilters want to say *Thank You* for all of the donations made thus far. We are still in need of the following to finish partially assembled kits...

SCHOOL KITS

Black or blue pens

70 sheet notebooks of wide or college ruled 8" x 10 1/2" paper

(NO loose-leaf paper)

PERSONAL CARE KITS

20" x 40" or 27" or 52" lightweight dark color bath towels

Wide tooth combs

Large toe nail clippers

FOR QUILTS:

Blankets or Mattress Pads for quilt middles/

Please drop donations at the church office.

Memorials and Honorariums

General Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Sherwin Schwab by: Patty Weisz-Kalmes

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Stan & Kari Jung

Given in memory of Betty Pinkerton by: Terry & Kathryn
Larson

Given in memory of Pam Handke by: Sue Helling

Given in memory of Susan Van Dover by: Eloy & Janis Heier

Given in memory of Delores Buechler by: Cheri Naeve,
Wade Dosch

Education Memorials

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Joe & Char Akkerman

Given in memory of Judy Anderson by: Deb Rieck

Community Alliance Group Memorials

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Maggie Russo

Worship & Music Memorials

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Ron & Jean Johnson,
Pamela Gese, Scott & Roberta Hagen, Aubrey Anderson, Craig
& Carolyn Schaunaman, Galynn Nichols, Jim & Becky Kuch,
Carol Eisenbeisz, Gary & Connie Palmer, David & Peggy
Bunsness, Joe & Cindy Senger, Mikel & DeAnna Hauge, Terry
& Kathryn Larson

Given in memory of Millie Harris by: Tom & Barb Paepke

Given in memory of Sherwin Schwab by: Tom & Barb Paepke

Given in memory of Susan Van Dover by: Tom & Barb Paepke

Plecmakers Quilters Memorials

Given in memory of Betty Pinkerton by: Betty Pinkerton family

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Florence Barton

Future Maintenance Fund Memorials

Given in memory of Norg Sanderson by: Robert & Wilma Luce

Save the Dates

for the upcoming Spark Joy gatherings:

October 3: The Joy of Hunting with
Kellie Kolb & Lori Goldade

**November 14: The Joy of Creative
Holiday Gifting**

SERVE

ON A CHURCH TEAM



Do you know someone with gifts for leadership in the church? We're currently seeking applicants and nominations to serve on our elected leadership teams next year. *Are you interested in serving? Do you know someone who would be excellent in these roles?*

Every year our Nominating Committee recommends a slate of candidates to serve on our Ministry Teams, Resource Teams and our committees. If you know someone you think we should contact about serving, or if you are willing to be personally considered, please let us know.

If you have questions about the process, please contact a pastor or e-mail the office at office@BethlehemAberdeen.org

You may also pick up a form from the front office.



Curious = the opportunity to learn about Bethlehem

Connect = time to gather with others who are currently part of Bethlehem or looking to join

Commit = the milestone of joining Bethlehem on New Member Sunday/Wednesday

CURIOUS about Bethlehem?

Sunday, September 7th

9:30 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

The Hub

Wednesday, September 10th

7:00 p.m.

The Hub

CONNECT with Bethlehem

Sunday, October 5th

11:00 a.m.

East Fellowship Hall

Wednesday, October 8th

7:00 p.m.

East Fellowship Hall

July 2025 Financial Update

GENERAL FUND

Analysis of Budgeted Revenues & Expenses

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Undesignated Offerings	\$73,617.54	\$666,337.88
Other Designated Revenues	\$23,915.21	\$379,315.26
Total Revenue	\$97,532.75	\$1,045,653.14
Budget Expenditures	-\$141,429.87	-\$1,006,768.80
Net Operating Total from Budget Operations	\$ (43,897.12)	\$ 38,884.34

Other Non-Budget expenditures from designated sources

	\$ -	\$ -
Net Operating Total	\$ (43,897.12)	\$ 38,884.34

Summary of Assets & Liabilities

Cash & Cash Equivalents	\$ 1,152,461.82
Accounts Payable due within 30 days	\$ (8,087.00)
Pre-paid tuition & fees	\$ (4,050.00)
Due to Restricted Fund Accounts	\$ (4,896.11)
Temporary reserve for D. Hagenson estate gift	\$ (205,137.35)
Reserved for Others/Temporary Restricted accounts	\$ (173,216.47)
Total Unrestricted Cash Assets	\$ 757,074.89

RESTRICTED FUND ACCOUNTS

Restricted Memorials & Accounts	\$ 24,907.08
Prairie Mindset Scholarship	\$ 24,066.77

ENDOWMENT FUND

Endowment Fund Assets	\$ 1,350,382.18
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FUTURE MAINTENANCE FUND

Income Statement

	<u>MTD</u>	<u>YTD</u>
Revenues, Investment Activity & Other Sources	\$40,692.93	\$72,523.70
Expenditures	-\$34,376.95	-\$87,787.71
Net Operating	\$ 6,315.98	\$ (15,264.01)

Future Maintenance Fund Assets	\$ 21,941.73
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together in faith, touching lives by
Welcoming, Worshiping,
Teaching and Serving.*

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BETHLEHEM
LUTHERAN CHURCH
Newsletter

Bethlehem seeks to be good stewards of God's creation and the resources given to the church. One of the ways we do this is by reducing our paper use and printing expenses. Many people already receive our Journal via email. If you would like to receive the newsletter electronically, please contact the church office at 605-225-9740 or email office@BethlehemAberdeen.org

Following this issue of The Journal we will adjust our routine so that those who receive the newsletter electronically will no longer receive a duplicate paper copy in the mail. If you would like to receive both the paper and electronic version, please contact the office.