



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDING BISHOP ELIZABETH EATON



Dear friends in Christ,

All around us, we see signs of God's love and goodness. A person who has stepped away from church for many years steps back into a congregation, feeling the call of the Holy Spirit. Young adults feeling isolated in a digital-first world start gathering in person in a small group, enjoying the warmth of a hug and a new friend asking about their week. A mother plants a garden, and it yields fruits and vegetables, giving her nutritious food for her kids and extra produce to sell at the local market. Everywhere we look, we see signs of Christ's love. In Psalm 93, we read: "More majestic than the thunders of mighty waters, more majestic than the waves of the sea, majestic on high is the Lord! Your decrees are very sure; holiness befits your house, O Lord, forevermore" (4-5).

God's love is a majestic thing, and it moves us to share it in word and deed. The ministries of our congregations, our synods and the ELCA churchwide organization are all working together to share God's love with people in our neighborhoods, across our country and around the world.

I am so grateful for you, dear church. Your generosity to each of these three expressions of the church — your congregation, your synod and the churchwide organization — has bolstered the church's ability to share the message of God's love to people who are longing for it. Through your

“More majestic than the thunders
of mighty waters, more majestic
than the waves of the sea,
majestic on high is the Lord!
Your decrees are very sure;
holiness befits your house, O
Lord, forevermore.”

—Psalm 93:4-5

financial resources, your time volunteering and accompanying others, and your voices, you've helped carry this message of God's majestic love. Thank you, dear church. As we look ahead to the coming year, I encourage you to stand steadfast in God's promises, sure of God's love and goodness.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elizabeth A. Eaton". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

Annual Meeting Agenda
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
January 26, 2025

Call to Order

Opening Prayer

Approval of Agenda

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

White pages

Reports

Pastor

White pages

Financial Officers

Green pages

Committees & groups

Ivory pages

BWELCA, Farm, Social Concerns, Memorial

Mission Endowment Fund

Gold pages

Old Business

New Business

1. Approval of the 2025 Budget
2. Approval of the 2025 Mission Endowment Budget
3. Elections – Council, Endowment Committee,
Farm Committee, Nominating Committee
4. Interim Pastor
5. Call Committee

Green pages

Gold page

Other Business

Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer

Adjournment

Voting Members

December 31, 2024

Bethlehem's Constitution defines a voting member as follows: ***Voting members are confirmed members. Such confirmed members shall have communed and made a contribution of record during the current or preceding year.*** Attendance records and offering statements based on envelope usage are the only records on which the following list can be based.

1. Shelley Beeck
2. Kathy Becker
3. Lary Becker
4. Meagan Behrle
5. Karisa Brown
6. McKenna Brown
7. Rochelle Busch
8. Debra Christiansen
9. Jerimiah Christiansen
10. Wyatt Christiansen
11. Kelly Doll
12. McKenna Doll
13. Scott Doll
14. Donna Dosland
15. Kathy Duffey
16. Leta Dunt
17. Joyce Feuss
18. Tricia Feuss
19. Darla Fields
20. Jeff Fields
21. Tom Gerdes
22. Jimmey Hicks
23. Marlene Hicks
24. Jenna Holtz
25. Jim Holtz
26. Jody Holtz
27. Joshua Holtz
28. Kelsey Holtz
29. Brent Ihns
30. Charlotte Ihns
31. Clara Ihns
32. Diana Ihns
33. Enos Ihns
34. Jessica Ihns
35. Warren Ihns
36. Jerry Kapinski
37. Connie Kleppe
38. Gale Kleppe
39. Joan Kleppe
40. Roger Kleppe

41. Barbara Labath
42. Jone Paarmann
43. Les Paarmann
44. Callie Petersen
45. Coy Petersen
46. Becky Ihns-Petersen
47. Josie Petersen
46. Bill Pithan
47. Ellen Pithan
48. Betty Rehmke
49. Al Schroeder
50. Jeanette Schroeder
51. Kelly Schroeder
52. Lucile Schurbon
53. Ed Sheldon
54. Allan Smith
55. Jason Sullivan
56. Haley Sullivan
57. Xera Tubbs
58. Tim Thiede
59. Ellen Tomasi
60. Stephen Tomasi
61. JC Watson
62. Madge White
63. Brent Willimack
64. Jessica Willimack
65. Kassidy Willimack
66. Doug Wulf
67. Noah Zeller
68. Sue Zeller

Associate Members

1. John Alden
2. Kris Becker
3. Kyle Behrle
4. Deanne Bennett
5. Elenor Bentrott
6. Chad Christiansen
7. Cody Current
8. Courtney Current
9. Gary Current
10. Stacy Current
11. Heth Davis
12. Shawna Davis
13. Lola DeMoss
14. Rex Duffey
15. Lisa Fields
16. Katie Fields
17. Melissa Ford
18. Stella Franck
19. Chase Gruenwald
20. Halie Gruenwald
21. Hannah Gruenwald
22. Ryne Gruenwald
23. Emily Kleinsmith
24. Marcia Kleinsmith
25. Paul Kleinsmith
26. Ryne Kleinsmith
27. Tracy Kleppe
28. Aaron Lubitz
29. Katie Lubitz
30. David Mickelson
31. Sara Mickelson
32. Kindy Nissen
33. Dale Rickels
34. Dylan Rickels
35. Laurie Rickels
36. AJ Schroeder
37. Jo Thiede
38. Bruce Von Sprecken
39. Joan Von Sprecken

2024 Annual Meeting Minutes

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 28, 2024

Call to Order at 9:37 am. Pastor opened with a prayer.

Present: see sign in sheet

Approval of Agenda – Brent/m, Ellen/s, /c to approve

Approval of 2024 Annual Meeting Minutes – Al/m, Enos/s, /c to approve

Pastor's report: Pastor reported on the number of funerals, weddings, and baptisms that were performed in 2023.

Reports – Financial – Enos/m, Sue/s, /c to approve

Written reports – Brent/m, Trisha/s, /c to approve

Farm committee was corrected to list Brent instead of Enos

Pastor

Financial Officers

Committees & Groups

BWELC, Farm, Social Concerns, Memorial

Mission Endowment Fund

Old Business

Church use – will be left as written

New Business

1. Updated member list to include – Gale, JC, Ellen, Steve, Kelsey – Brent/m, Enos/s, /c to approve
2. Approval of 2024 Budget
 - a. Budget reflects new split of cost between BLC (75%) and SMLC (25%)
 - b. Jessica I/m, Jim/s, /c to approve
3. Approval of the 2024 Mission Endowment Budget
 - a. Lutheran Chaplaincy doesn't exist – moved funds to scholarships
 - b. Jone/m, Connie/s, /c to approve
4. Elections – motion for unanimous ballot – Brent/m, Warren/s, /c to approve
 - a. Council – Becky, Al
 - b. Endowment – Jessica I, Gale
 - c. Farm Committee – Jim
 - d. Nominating Committee – write in names most received will serve
5. Discussed removing two pine trees to south of church.

Other Business

Closing Prayer – Lord's Prayer

Adjournment – Enos/m, Jessica/s, /c to approve

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Ihns – Secretary Pro-tem

Grace, Peace, and God's love be with you all.

I must admit it is odd writing this to you all knowing that I will not be with you anymore. In a sense, this gives me a greater understanding of what the Apostle Paul must have felt when he would write to the numerous churches we visited, seen begin, go through changes, as well as those he had to say farewell to, not knowing if he would see the members ever again. Let me borrow some of the words that Paul used when addressing the churches in Rome: "First, I thank my God through Jesus Christ for all of you, because your faith is proclaimed throughout the world. For God, whom I serve with my spirit by announcing the gospel of his Son, is my witness that without ceasing I remember you always in my prayers... so that we may be mutually encouraged by each other's faith, both yours and mine."

It has been my greatest pleasure and joy to have had the time together, and I am inspired by the love and grace that you have shown to each other and to those that you have been in ministry with: well done good and faithful servants. Whether your love has been demonstrated in the sharing of meals together between churches, worshipping, praying, rejoicing and lamenting together, gathering supplies for schools and the community, quilting, gathering and feeding the hungry in your towns and abroad, or simply by gathering together, I have been privileged to see Christ present among you all. I pray and hope that this love can continue to grow in your hearts and through your actions as the church, the body of Christ in the world.

While I will not be able to see what the future has in store for all of you at both Bethlehem and St. Mark, I am full of confidence that wherever you go in life, you will be a testament to the love of God that makes all things new. Where you go, Christ goes forth with you, as Paul reminds us: "Who is to condemn? It is Christ who died, or rather, who was raised, who is also at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will affliction or distress or persecution or famine or nakedness or peril or sword? ... No, in all these things we are more than victorious through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

As my time has come to a close with all of you, I am still thankful for all the days memories that we have been able to share together. In close, let me share one final word of grace and love from Paul: "The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you" now and forever. Amen.

Pr. Daniel Pell

Pastoral Acts

Baptisms

Sutton Peterson, Hattie Petersen
Hudson Hute, Lennox Hute

Confirmations

Josie Petersen

Marriages

N/A

Funerals/Burials

Lola Berner
Eleanor Sheldon (Rev. Leah)
Herold Rehmke
Douglas Brown
Robert Beeck (CH Steve)
Terry Wink

Joint Confirmation Program

3 Students (BLC)

Membership Statistics

	Baptized	Confirmed
Membership: Dec 31, 2023	293 ^Δ	185 ^Δ
Membership Received		
Baptism	3	0
Transfers	0	0
Adult Affirmations	0	0
Baptized Youth Confirmed		1
Membership Removed		
By death	3	2
By transfer to ELCA	0	0
By transfer to Non-ELCA	0	0
Total Removed	3	0
Membership: Dec 31, 2024	293 ^Δ	186 ^Δ
Voting Membership	70	

Average Attendance

2022- 34

2023- 41

2024- 41

2024 Officers and Committees

Council:

President	Brent Ihns
Vice President	Enos Ihns
Secretary	Josh Holtz
Treasurer	Becky Petersen
	Al Schroeder- Property
	Tom Gerdes- Farm

BWELCA Board:

President	Connie Kleppe
Secretary	Diana Ihns
Treasurer	Darla Fields

Endowment:

President	Scott Doll
V-President	Sue Zeller
Secretary	Jessica Ihns
Treasurer	Jessica Willimack

Member:

Gale Kleppe

Farm:

Jason Sullivan, Jim Holtz, Tom Gerdes-council rep

Memorial:

Treasurer Jessica Ihns

Members:

Joan Kleppe, Kelly Schroeder

Social Concerns:

Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarman

Nominating Committee:

Jone Paarman, Connie Kleppe, Jody Holtz and Sue Zeller

Audit Committee:

Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Allan Smith

Education:

Church Financial Secretary: Jessica Ihns

Church Bookkeeper: Jone Paarman

Personnel: Organist: Brenda Vacek Church Secretary: Deanne Bennett
Custodian: Sara Mickelson

2024 Treasurer's Report

Income

Offering	\$ 65,252.38
Benevolence	\$ 247.50
Loose	\$ 1,320.01
World Hunger	\$ -
SMLC Reimbursement	\$ 20,956.70
Farm Rent	\$ 50,617.70
Other (food pantry, rent)	\$ 2,723.25
TOTAL	\$ 141,117.54

Expenditures

Our Mission In World/Community	\$ 10,937.60
Our Mission at Home	\$ 5,413.86
Our Pastoral Ministry	\$ 59,745.85
Supporting Mission/Ministry	\$ 56,217.62
Non-budgeted Mission World/Comm	\$ 1,061.37
TOTAL	\$ 133,376.30

Checking Account

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 4,879.49
Income	\$ 141,117.54
Expenses	\$ 133,376.30
Balance 12/31/24	\$ 12,620.73

Parsonage Fund

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 5,329.29
Income	\$ 6,000.00
Expenses	\$ 1,342.11
Balance 12/31/24	\$ 9,987.18

Savings Account

Balance 1/1/24	\$ 54,532.09
Interest for 2024	\$ 91.33
Transfer	\$ 1,500.00
Deposit	\$ 5,062.00
Withdrawal	\$ 50,000.00
Balance 12/31/24	\$ 8,185.42

ELCA Mission Support

	2024
8.25% of Member Giving	\$ 5,492.22
Designated Benevolence	\$ 247.50
World Hunger	\$ -
	\$ 5,739.72

CD 6mo@5% 3-5-2025 \$ 77,209.91

Total Liquid Assets **\$ 108,003.24**

2025 Budget

	2024 Budgeted	2024 Received	2025 Proposed Budget	
INCOME				
Member Giving	\$ 62,706.00	\$ 65,252.38	\$ 65,250.00	
Farm Rent	\$ 50,618.00	\$ 50,617.70	\$ 53,190.00	
Other	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 4,290.76	\$ 3,356.00	*A
TOTAL INCOME FOR BLC	\$ 116,024.00	\$ 120,160.84	\$ 123,796.00	
<i>St. Mark's 25% of Pastoral Ministry</i>	<i>\$ 30,150.00</i>	<i>\$ 20,956.70</i>	<i>\$ 19,874.00</i>	
Total Income for BLC including SMLC	\$ 146,174.00	\$ 141,117.54	\$ 143,670.00	
EXPENSES				
	2024 Budget	2024 Expenses	2025 Proposed Budget	
Our Mission in the World & Community				
1 ELCA Mission Support (8.25%)	\$ 5,150.00	\$ 5,680.04	\$ 5,150.00	
2 Synod Assembly Costs	\$ 500.00	\$ 195.56	\$ 500.00	
3 Gifts and Memorials	\$ 500.00	\$ -	\$ 500.00	
4 Fruits from Farm to Endowment	\$ 5,062.00	\$ 5,062.00	\$ 5,319.00	
	\$ 11,212.00	\$ 10,937.60	\$ 11,469.00	
Our Mission at Home				
6 Worship - supplies	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,308.36	\$ 1,500.00	
7 Organist	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,793.60	\$ 4,100.00	
8 Faith Formation / Education	\$ 300.00	\$ 166.50	\$ 300.00	
9 Community Assistance Funds	\$ 200.00	\$ 145.40	\$ 200.00	*B
	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,413.86	\$ 6,100.00	
Our Pastoral Ministry				
10 Pastor's Salary	\$ 47,768.00	\$ 47,658.76	\$ 49,590.00	*C
11 Pastor's Benefits (soc sec + med + pension)	\$ 9,903.00	\$ 9,896.03	\$ 10,592.00	
12 Extra Pastoral Services	\$ 900.00	\$ -	\$ 1,100.00	
13 Reimbursements	\$ 2,900.00	\$ 2,191.06	\$ 4,600.00	
	\$ 61,471.00	\$ 59,745.85	\$ 65,882.00	
Supporting Our Mission and Ministry				
14 Secretary	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 4,417.58	\$ 4,525.00	*D
15 Custodian	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 4,736.03	\$ 4,850.00	*D
16 Bookkeeper	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00	
17 FICA - Secretary & Custodian	\$ 800.00	\$ 782.79	\$ 800.00	
18 Office supplies / equipment	\$ 2,300.00	\$ 2,793.60	\$ 3,000.00	
19 Communications / Telephone	\$ 3,800.00	\$ 4,115.46	\$ 4,250.00	
20 Postage	\$ 200.00	\$ 220.30	\$ 225.00	
21 Repairs/upkeep - church	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 3,852.19	\$ 2,500.00	
22 Parsonage housing allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	*E
23 Electricity	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 4,317.29	\$ 4,500.00	
24 Fuel	\$ 6,100.00	\$ 3,221.25	\$ 6,000.00	
25 Water, Sewage, Garbage	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,161.65	\$ 1,250.00	
26 Insurance	\$ 8,900.00	\$ 8,849.48	\$ 10,100.00	*F
27 Farm Expenses and Taxes	\$ 5,400.00	\$ 5,488.00	\$ 5,700.00	
29 Retained savings from farm rent (10%)	\$ 5,062.00	\$ 5,062.00	\$ 5,319.00	
	\$ 57,462.00	\$ 56,217.62	\$ 60,219.00	
5 Non Budget Sharing (WH, 20/20, Food Pan)	\$ -	\$ 1,061.37	\$ -	
TOTAL	\$ 136,145.00	\$ 133,376.30	\$ 143,670.00	
<i>Reimbursements from SMLC for Pastor</i>	<i>\$ (18,821.00)</i>	<i>\$ (20,956.70)</i>	<i>\$ (19,599.00)</i>	
TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSES FOR BLC	\$ 117,324.00	\$ 112,419.60	\$ 124,071.00	

*A - Benevolence, World Hunger, Thrivent, use of church, Misc

*B - Evangelism / Stewardship / Benevolence

*C - see Pastoral Salary sheet for further information - This will be used for Interim Pastoral Care. Excess funds will go to savings.

*D - 2.5% increase per employee (cola)

*E - BLC will fund 100% as no one is living there. Funds will be used for maintenance & upkeep for potential future pastor.

*F - Insurance rate going up ~25%

2025 Budget Pastor Salary

	Yearly Full Time	75% Cost Share BLC	25% Cost Share SMLC	
Base Pay - 7-years	\$ 49,590.00	\$ 37,193.00	\$ 12,397.00	
2.5% Pay Increase per Year - 6-years	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	
Housing Allowance	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 4,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	synod guidelines Included in base pay
SS Allowance	\$ 4,575.00	\$ 3,431.00	\$ 1,144.00	Housing allowance - monthly amount \$ 500.00
Defined Compensation	\$ 60,165.00	\$ 45,124.00	\$ 15,041.00	8.23% upcharge per synod for taxes on 7.65%
Cash to Pastor (Base + 2.5%/yr + SS)	\$ 54,165.00	\$ 40,624.00	\$ 13,541.00	
Health Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.00% Covered by Reserves - No Cost
Disability	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	3.00% Defined Compensation
Life Insurance	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.30% Defined Compensation
Retirement	\$ 6,017.00	\$ 4,513.00	\$ 1,504.00	Defined Compensation - adjusted up from 12.00% 10% to 12% per synod guidelines
Retiree Support	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0.70% Defined Compensation
Benefits Cost	\$ 6,017.00	\$ 4,513.00	\$ 1,504.00	
Base Pay + Benefits	\$ 60,182.00	\$ 45,137.00	\$ 15,045.00	
Mileage	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00	\$0.670 (2024) Fed reimbursement rate - 300 miles/month
Continuing Education	\$ 850.00	\$ 638.00	\$ 212.00	per synod guidelines
Synod Assemble, Boundary Training, Fall Conference	\$ 850.00	\$ 638.00	\$ 212.00	
Books / Publications	\$ 500.00	\$ 375.00	\$ 125.00	
Misc. Expenses	\$ 4,600.00	\$ 3,451.00	\$ 1,149.00	
Total Pastoral Care Cash Expense	\$ 64,782.00	\$ 48,588.00	\$ 16,194.00	
Phone & Internet & Cable	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 225.00 per month
Garbage, Water, & Sewer	\$ 1,020.00	\$ 765.00	\$ 255.00	\$ 85.00 per month
Electricity	\$ 2,400.00	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 600.00	\$ 200.00 per month
Gas - Heat	\$ 1,800.00	\$ 1,350.00	\$ 450.00	\$ 150.00 per month
Utilities	\$ 7,620.00	\$ 5,715.00	\$ 1,905.00	
Total Cash Outlay with Parsonage	\$ 78,402.00	\$ 58,803.00	\$ 19,599.00	
Supply Pastor	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 825.00	\$ 275.00	\$ 275.00 per Sunday - 4 Vacation Sundays
Total Cost with Supply Pastor	\$ 79,502.00	\$ 59,628.00	\$ 19,874.00	

2024 - Savings Account CDs Balance

Church Savings A/C

1-1-24 Church Savings A/C Balance	\$	54,532.09
3-4-24 Budget line item 29 amt transferred from Ck	\$	5,062.00
3-5-24 Transfer to 6 month CD @ 5%; due 9-5-24	\$	(50,000.00)
6-28-24 Interest	\$	62.37
10-1/24 Transfer to Checking	\$	(1,500.00)
12-31-24 Interest	\$	28.96
	\$	8,185.42

Parsonage Savings A/C

1-1-24 Parsonage Savings A/C Balance	\$	5,329.29
12-27-24 Unused budgeted parsonage exp from Ck	\$	4,657.89
	\$	9,987.18

12-31-24 Totals Savings

\$	18,172.60
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Church CD

3-5-24 25,000.00 matured CD + 311.64 Interest	\$	25,311.64
3-5-24 Added funds from Savings	\$	50,000.00
9-5-24 Interest	\$	1,898.27
12-31-24 Total CD: 6 month CD @ 5%; due 3-5-25	\$	77,209.91

12-31-24 Total Savings + CD

\$	95,382.51
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BWELCA 2024 REPORT

Quilting began on Mon.Jan.8 and ended on Mar. 18. Some of us gathered on Wed. as well. We had around 15 diligent workers and completed 174 quilts!!! The kitchen crew consisted of 4 to 5 guys who ate with us, delivered some carry outs, and cleaned up the kitchen, which we greatly appreciated! Thanks to all who helped with this project.

The quilts were gifted to: Domestic Violence Intervention Program in Iowa City, Re-entry program in Iowa City, Open Heartland in Iowa City, Lutheran Services of Iowa in Davenport, King House (men) and Hightower (women) both of Clinton, Bethlehem Lutheran, Union Presbyterian, and our Lady of The Holy Rosary Church all of Lost Nation, LWR, several quilts/wall hangings were delivered to EWALU for their annual Quilt Auction, and 3 quilts of Valor were presented at the Lost Nation legion Veterans Day program. 1 quilt was made for the Palomino Horse Breeders Heritage Foundation in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

We hosted the Annual Cheer Brunch on Sat. Feb.3 with special guest speaker Dalton Barrier who is the Camp Courageous Activities Director and handler of Skye, the camp's certified therapy dog. We enjoyed Dalton and Skye and learned a lot about the Camp from their presentation. We packed and delivered 35 cheer plates.

The Friendship Party was held on Sunday Feb. 18 with 45 adults and children enjoying tacos, ice cream, and bingo.

World Day of Prayer was observed on Feb. 25 with a noisy offering of \$63.37 which included \$25 of our annual budget. Palestine was the focal country this year.

The Lenten Soup suppers were held on Feb. 21, Feb. 28, Mar.6, Mar.13, and Mar. 20. The soup suppers offerings collected totaled \$498 which was given to the food pantry. The congregation and youth packed 64 baby care kits and 80 personal care kits during 2 of the soup suppers. They were delivered to LWR in Cedar Rapids along with the quilts.

The Spring Quilt Display and Luncheon with Bake Sale was held on Sat. Mar. 16.

The Senior/Senior celebration was held on Sunday Apr. 28. Coy Petesen and Miranda Rickels were the 2 graduating seniors and 7 senior members were honored.

Church Spring cleaning was contracted by Teena Beena's cleaning service from Maquoketa on May 7.

The Community Coffee was held on June 20.

The Ice Cream Social was held on June 30... a great success with 170 meals carry out and dine in.

We served the 1st evening meal for the Bible School kids which was held at the OLHRC. We also provided food for the Rustic Days Ecumenical Brunch following services also held at OLHRC.

We weren't able to serve a meal at the DVIP, but gave a monetary gift towards meals for the residents and sent items from their needs list.

Sept. was election of officers for 2025. Pres.- Connie Kleppe, Treas.- Darla Fields, Mission Action/ Discipleship – Rochelle Busch, Mission Community/ Justice – Jone Paarmann.

The EWALU Quilt Auction was held Sept. 21. Bethlehem's Quilts brought \$545.

We packed 128 School Kits in Oct. for LWR with the help of the youth and guys! They were delivered to Cedar Rapids on Oct.19.

We, with the help of the congregation, collected 20 full sets of coveralls for the homeless vets and others! Alda Buresh delivered these.

Other Fall events were the Harvest table, treat the Food Pantry, and the Thank Offering Service led by the mission Community/ Justice Committee.

On Dec. 1 we decorated the church for Christmas and enjoyed pizza afterwards for our Christmas Party.

BWELCA OFFICERS FOR 2024

Pres. – Connie Kleppe

Sec. – Diana Ihns

Treas. - Darla Fields

Mission Action/ Discipleship – Rochelle Busch

Mission Community/ Justice – Jone Paarmann

Mission Growth/ Stewardship – Kelly Schroeder

As we close another year, we thank God for all who helped with our many projects from baking, quilting, sewing, collecting, organizing, assembling, and delivering kits, making crafts and working at events. We couldn't have done it all without you!

May God continue to bless our work here at Bethlehem!

BWELCA President,

Connie Kleppe

Proposed BWELCA BUDGET FOR 2025

Special Gifts-Missions

Camp Courageous- Monticello	\$ 100.00
EWALU-Strawberry Point, Iowa	\$ 100.00
Habitat for Humanity-Scott Co.	\$ 100.00
Domestic Violence Intervention Program (Iowa City)	\$ 100.00
Lutheran Services in Iowa	\$ 200.00
Lutheran World Relief	\$ 100.00
Midland Post Prom-April	\$ 50.00
Clinton YWCA Domestic Violence	\$ 100.00
Wartburg Seminary-Chaplain Cindy Breed Scholarship	\$ 100.00
Global Health Ministries Shipping	\$ 100.00
World Day of Prayer Offering (Sunday, Mar. 2)	\$ 25.00

BWELCA Expenses

Materials, Handbooks, Quilting supplies	\$ 200.00
Sunday School Assistance/Bible School	\$ 200.00
Flowers \$ Gifts (fruit basket, community coffee)	\$ 150.00
Memorials (\$20.00 each member) *	\$
Youth Camperships (\$100.00 per camper)	\$ 500.00
Matching Funds for Bible School offerings up to(at BLC)	\$ 250.00
Lutheran World Relief Shipping (\$40 April, \$40 October)	\$ 80.00

Conventions (reimbursed)

Triennial Convention: (July) expenses will be reimbursed equally to all attending up to a total of \$600.00	\$ 200.00 yrly
Triennial Offering: (in addition to individual offering)	\$ 50.00
Synodical Convention: (June) Expenses will be reimbursed equally by all attending up to	\$ 200.00
Synodical Offering: (in addition to individual offerings)	\$ 35.00

Notes

- ... 50% all offerings sent to the WELCA Benevolence cause.
- ... 100% Thankoffering goes to the Treasure of WELCA. none credited to the congregation budget.
- ... \$.40 per mile for travel to Synodical Conventions and workshops.

*Agencies receiving memorial gifts: Camp Courageous, YWCA
Domestic Violence, Lutheran Services of Iowa, EWALU, L'Arch,
Iowa Veterans Home

Memorial Fund

Balance as of 12/31/2023 **\$6153.39**

Income – Memorial Gifts

Pauline Schoop	25.00
Darrel Hicks	25.00
Eleanor Sheldon	25.00
Herold Rehmke	1015.00

Income – Interest 3.16

Total Income **\$ 1093.16**

Expenses

None

Total Expenses \$ 0.00

Balance (1/1/2024) + Income for 2024 **\$ 7246.55**

Expenses - 0.00

Balance as of 12/31/2020 **\$ 7246.55**

Committee Members

Jessica Ihns, Treasurer Joan Kleppe Kelly Schroeder

Social Concerns 2024 Treasures Report

Beginning Balance 1/1/24 **\$ 1,207.51**

INCOME:

Fellowship \$ 617.32

Interest \$ 1.13

Total Income **\$ 618.45**

EXPENSES:

Fellowship Expenses

Christian Outreach \$ 800.00 See breakdown below

Total Expenses \$ 800.00

Ending Balance 12/31/20 **\$ 1,025.96**

February	\$200 – Project Hope- Ghana Wells
April	\$100 - Water bill-partial
May	\$100 – Water bill-partial
August	\$200 – Coveralls for vets
December	\$200 – DVIP – gift cards

Members, Rochelle Busch, Jone Paarmann

Farm Committee 2024

This year (2025) is the last year of the 3-year lease with Keith Dexter. The rent payment for 2025 will be \$53,189.50 with payments due March and October 1st of the year.

Farm Committee – Tom Gerdes (Council Member), Jason Sullivan, Jim Holtz

Audit Committee

The audit committee met on January 9, 2025. They found the books satisfactory.

Committee:

Connie Kleppe, Joan Kleppe, Al Smith

2025

**Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund
2024 Budget**

	2024 Budget	2025 Budget
Endowment Value	\$786,249.00	\$803,176.00
Interest Income	4.60%	4.63%
1 Interest on CDs	\$36,132.00	\$37,147.00
2 10% returned to CD principal	<u>\$3,613.00</u>	<u>\$3,714.00</u>
Total Interest Income to Disburse	\$32,519.00	\$33,433.00

Disbursements

I. Local

1 LN EMTs	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
2 LN Food Pantry	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
3 LN Cemetery	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
4 Busch Cemetery	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
5 Smithtown Cemetery	\$ 600.00	\$ 600.00
6 Veterans - LN Legion	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
7 LN Scoop	\$ 750.00	\$ 800.00
8 LN Fire Department	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
9 Sleep in Heavenly Peace	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Local Total	\$ 9,350.00	\$ 9,400.00

II. Synod & Area

7 LSI - Bremwood, Beloit	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
8 Women's Resource Center	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
9 Anamosa Prison Ministry	\$ 500.00	*****
10 DVIP - Iowa City	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
11 Ronald McDonald House	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
12 Camp Courageous	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
13 YMCA	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
Synod and Area Total	\$ 7,900.00	\$ 7,400.00

III. World

14 Missionary Sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
15 BWELCA Quilts/LWR Kits	\$ 1,100.00	\$ 1,100.00
16 Mawuvio Outreach-Child Sponsorship	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>
World Total	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,100.00

IV. Bethlehem

17 Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,600.00	\$1,700.00
18 Parsonage/Church Remodeling	<u>\$1,200.00</u>	<u>\$2,700.00</u>
Bethlehem Total	\$ 2,800.00	\$4,400.00

V. Education

19 College Scholarships (Full & P.T.)	\$	1,500.00	\$	1,500.00
20 EWALU - General	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
21 EWALU - Camperships	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,000.00
22 Midland Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,100.00
23 Delwood Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,100.00
24 Cal-Wheat Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$	1,000.00	\$	1,100.00
25 Lost Nation Library	\$	1,169.00	\$	1,233.00
26 Maquoketa Schools – Food/Clothing Fund		*****	\$	1,100.00
27 Midland Comm School – Leader in Me	\$	800.00		*****
28 Maquoketa Middle School – Leader in Me	\$	<u>1,000.00</u>		<u>*****</u>
Education Total	\$	9,469.00	\$	9,133.00

Total Interest Income Disbursements		\$32,519.00		\$33,433.00
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First Fruits from Farm Income	\$	5,062.00	\$	5,319.00
Disbursements				
28 Carroll Assistance Center	\$	1,000.00		\$1,100.00
29 DAC, Inc. - Maquoketa	\$	1,000.00		\$1,100.00
30 VNA - Hospice	\$	1,500.00		\$1,519.00
31 Wartburg Chaplain Cindy Breed Scholarship	\$	1,000.00		\$1,000.00
32 LN Hometown Pride	\$	562.00		\$600.00
33 Veterans - LN Legion		Moved to Local		*****
34 LN Scoop		Moved to Local		*****
35 LN Fire Department		<u>Moved to Local</u>		<u>*****</u>
Total First Fruits Disbursements	\$	5,062.00	\$	5,319.00

2024

ENDOWMENT FUND REGISTER 2024

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2024	BAL	Balance Forward		6,699.80
1/1/2024	1317	Schumacher Elevator – annual maint	-1569.31	5,130.49
1/2/2024	1318	Maquoketa Middle School	-1000	4,130.49
1/9/2024	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.77	4,131.26
1/31/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2247.25	6,378.51
02/09/24	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.65	6,379.16
02/28/24	Dep	CDARS Interest	2012.02	8,391.18
03/08/24	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.71	8,391.89
04/01/24	1319	Lost Nation Food Pantry	-2000	6,391.89
04/01/24	1320	Lost Nation Cemetery	-1200	5,191.89
04/01/24	1321	Busch Cemetery	-600	4,591.89
04/01/24	1322	Smithtown Cemetery	-600	3,991.89
04/01/24	1323	EWALU – General	-1000	2,991.89
04/01/24	1324	EWALU – Camperships	-1000	1,991.89
04/01/24	1330	Camp Courageous	-1000	991.89
04/01/24	1331	VOID	0	991.89
04/01/24	1332	Ronald McDonald House	-1000	-8.11
04/01/24	1333	YMCA	-1000	-1,008.11
03/29/24	Dep	Interest – Correction	90	-918.11
03/29/24	Dep	Interest – CDARS	2247.25	1,329.14
04/09/24	Dep	Interest – Checking	1.03	1,330.17
4/30/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2174.64	3,504.81
5/9/2024	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.61	3,505.42
6/17/2024	1334	Lost Nation Scoop	-750	2,755.42
6/17/2024	1335	Lost Nation Fire Department	-1000	1,755.42
06/17/24	1336	Sleep in Heavenly Peace	-1000	755.42
6/17/2024	1337	LSI – Bremwood	-1200	-444.58
6/17/2024	1338	Women’s Resource Center	-1200	-1,644.58
6/17/2024	1339	Anamosa Prison Ministry	-500	-2,144.58
6/17/2024	1340	DVIP	-2000	-4,144.58
6/17/2024	1341	Mawuvio Outreach	-1000	-5,144.58
5/31/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2247.25	-2,897.33
6/7/2024	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.67	-2,896.66
6/28/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2174.64	-722.02
7/9/2024	Dep	Interest – Checking	0.76	-721.26
7/31/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2247.25	1,525.99
8/9/2024	Dep	Interest – checking	0.47	1,526.46
8/24/2024	1344	Midland Comm School District	-1000	526.46
08/24/24	1345	Delwood Elementary	-1000	-473.54
8/24/2024	1346	Cal-Wheat Community School	-1000	-1,473.54
8/24/2024	1347	Lost Nation Library	-1169	-2,642.54
8/24/2024	1348	Midland Comm School Leader in Me	-800	-3,442.54
8/24/2024	1349	Northwest Comm College	-375	-3,817.54
8/30/2024	Dep	CDARS Interest	2247.25	-1,570.29

2024

9/5/2024	DEP	CDARS Interest from reinvestment	281.51	-1,288.78
09/09/24	DEP	Interest – checking	0.55	-1,288.23
09/30/24	Dep	CDARS Interest	1854.81	566.58
10/03/24	DEP	CDARS Interest – Correction	8	574.58
10/09/24	Dep	Interest – checking	0.51	575.09
10/31/24	Dep	CDARS Interest	2212.16	2,787.25
11/01/24	1350	LN Legion	-1200	1,587.25
11/01/24	1351	Missionary Sponsorship	-1000	587.25
11/01/24	1352	BWELCA	-1100	-512.75
11/08/24	Dep	Interest checking	0.54	-512.21
11/29/24	Dep	CDARS Interest	2140.67	1,628.46
12/09/24	Dep	Interest – checking	0.57	1,629.03
12/11/24	Dep	Lost Nation EMTs	-1000	629.03

2024

FIRST FRUITS FUND REGISTER 2024

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2024	BAL	Balance Forward		897.58
03/04/24		Transfer from First Fruits	5062 \$	5,959.58
04/01/24	1325	Carroll Assistance Center	-1000 \$	4,959.58
04/01/24	1326	DAC, Inc	-1000 \$	3,959.58
04/01/24	1327	VNA – Hospice	-1500 \$	2,459.58
04/01/24	1328	void	0 \$	2,459.58
04/01/24	1329	LN Hometown Pride	-562 \$	1,897.58
07/01/24	1343	Wartburg Seminary	-1000 \$	897.58

DISCRETIONARY FUND REGISTER 2024

DATE	CHECK#	DESCRIPTION	AMOUNT	BALANCE
1/1/2024	BAL	Balance Forward		9,548.09
6/17/2024	1342	Jessica Willimack – cemetery flowers	-53.49	9,494.60

CHECKING BALANCE 12/31/2025

Endowment Fund Balance	629.03
First Fruits Fund Balance	897.58
Discretionary Fund Balance	<u>9,494.60</u>
TOTAL ENDOWMENT FUND	11,021.21

2024

Bethlehem Mission Endowment Fund

		2024 Budget
	Endowment Value	\$786,249.00
	Interest Income	4.60%
	1 Interest on CDs	\$36,132.00
Dec	2 10% returned to CD principal	<u>\$3,613.00</u>
	Total Interest Income to Disburse	\$32,519.00

Disbursements

			PAID	Ck #
I. Local				
Dec	1 LN EMTs	\$ 1,000.00	12/11/24	1353
April	2 LN Food Pantry	\$ 2,000.00	04/01/24	1319
April	3 LN Cemetery	\$ 1,200.00	04/01/24	1320
April	4 Busch Cemetery	\$ 600.00	04/01/24	1321
April	5 Smithtown Cemetery	\$ 600.00	04/01/24	1322
Nov	6 Veterans - LN Legion	\$ 1,200.00	11/01/24	1350
June	7 LN Scoop	\$ 750.00	06/17/24	1334
June	8 LN Fire Department	\$ 1,000.00	06/17/24	1335
June	9 Sleep in Heavenly Peace	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	06/17/24	1336
	Local Total	\$ 9,350.00		
II. Synod & Area				
June	7 LSI - Bremwood, Beloit	\$ 1,200.00	06/17/24	1337
June	8 Women's Resource Center	\$ 1,200.00	06/17/24	1338
June	9 Anamosa Prison Ministry	\$ 500.00	06/17/24	1339
June	10 DVIP - Iowa City	\$ 2,000.00	06/17/24	1340
April	11 Ronald McDonald House	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1332
April	12 Camp Courageous	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1330
April	13 YMCA	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	04/01/24	1333
	Synod and Area Total	\$ 7,900.00		
III. World				
Nov	14 Missionary Sponsorship	\$ 1,000.00	11/01/24	1351
Nov	15 BWELCA Quilts/LWR Kits	\$ 1,100.00	11/01/24	1352
June	16 Mawuvio Outreach-Child Sponsorship	<u>\$ 1,000.00</u>	06/17/24	1341
	World Total	\$ 3,000.00		
IV. Bethlehem				
Jan	17 Elevator Maintenance	\$ 1,600.00	01/01/24	1317
	18 Parsonage/Church Remodeling	<u>\$1,200.00</u>		
	Bethlehem Total	\$ 2,800.00		

V. Education

Sept/Jan	19 College Scholarships (Full & P.T.)	\$ 1,500.00	08/24/24	1349
April	20 EWALU - General	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1323
April	21 EWALU - Camperships	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1324
Aug	22 Midland Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 1,000.00	08/24/24	1344
Aug	23 Delwood Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 1,000.00	08/24/24	1345
Aug	24 Cal-Wheat Youth Food/Clothing Fund	\$ 1,000.00	08/24/24	1346
Aug	25 Lost Nation Library	\$ 1,169.00	08/24/24	1347
Aug	26 Midland Comm School – Leader in Me	\$ 800.00	08/24/24	1348
Jan	27 Maquoketa Middle School – Leader in Me	\$ 1,000.00	01/02/24	1318
Education Total		\$ 9,469.00		

Total Interest Income Disbursements**\$32,519.00****First Fruits from Farm Income****\$ 5,062.00****Disbursements**

April	28 Carroll Assistance Center	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1325
April	29 DAC, Inc. - Maquoketa	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1326
April	30 VNA - Hospice	\$ 1,500.00	04/01/24	1327
April	31 Wartburg Chaplain Cindy Breed Scholarship	\$ 1,000.00	04/01/24	1328
April	32 LN Hometown Pride	\$ 562.00	04/01/24	1329
Total First Fruits Disbursements		\$ 5,062.00		

ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

OPENING LITURGY

Confident in God's generosity and gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us praise God and give thanks ...

God, we praise you and give you thanks.

You are good, and your mercy endures forever.

You gave us a garden with good food to eat.

We praise you for food that nourishes us.

You rescued your people from slavery.

We praise you for freedom.

You gave us prophets to correct, rebuke and encourage us.

We bless you for your justice and mercy.

You gave us your Son, Jesus, to love, redeem and save us.

We praise you for his death and resurrection.

You gave us your Holy Spirit to be our Advocate and Comforter.

We bless you for the gifts of every tribe and nation.

Strengthen your church with every spiritual gift

and commission us again to be your servant people.

Multiply in us the fruit of the spirit:

love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.

Send us in your love and mercy,

that the world may know you and praise you.

Now Thank We All Our God



1 Now thank we all our God with hearts and hands and voices,
2 Oh, may this bounteous God through all our life be near us,
3 All praise and thanks to God the Father now be given,



who wondrous things has done, in whom this world rejoices;
with ever joyful hearts and blessed peace to cheer us,
the Son, and Spirit blest, who reign in highest heaven,



who, from our mothers' arms, has blest us on our way
and keep us all in grace, and guide us when perplexed,
the one eternal God, whom earth and heaven adore;



with count-less gifts of love, and still is ours to-day.
and free us from all harm in this world and the next.
for thus it was, is now, and shall be ever - more.

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, 840

Text: Martin Rinkhart, 1586-1649; tr. Cathering Winkworth, 1827-1878

Music: NUN DANKET ALLE GOTT, Johann Crüger, 1598-1662

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you are the giver of every good gift. Bless us with all that we need for ministry in your name, that we might be a blessing to others. In the name of the one who broke bread and fed the multitudes, Jesus Christ, our Lord.

Amen.

Through your generosity, God is at work across the ELCA. A portion of your offering, called Mission Support, advances the ministry of our church, helping the ELCA nurture Christian community, raise up leaders, serve our neighbors and strive for justice. Read stories and learn more at **LivingLutheran.org/SOFIA**.



Evangelical
Lutheran Church
in America