

August 26, 2025



Greetings, friends at Bethlehem:

This message is being sent with great excitement to you - the “many ministers of Bethlehem” - as an update for our continued work in new Mission and Vision together. We give thanks for the input and assistance of the congregation who have collectively completed our Mission and Vision Statements (below). Now it is time to put our words into action. We are excited to be at this stage...looking forward to moving ahead together!

On Sunday, September 7, we will join the many ELCA congregations working on ministries we share with “God’s Work, Our Hands” (i.e. “GWOH”) Sunday. This year our work at BLC will be gathering for updated information and moving into teams as we begin planning and organizing for our next phase. If you have not been too involved with the process up until now, no worries! Come and join in! There will be great information shared to help you determine where it is you would like to be involved. All are welcome!

The day’s agenda looks like this:

Worship at 10:00 a.m. followed by a brief fellowship gathering in the Fellowship Hall. There will be light refreshments as we hear a few general announcements giving guidance to our day. Following that, each person will move into one of the three various spaces to join a team of interest to them. The various teams include: **Social Ministry and Outreach, New Life Together, and Creation Care.** Many of you already indicated which team you feel called to join - and some have picked multiple! (See the attached “Summary of Vision” sheet/s on separate colored pieces of paper if you already identified an interest area on May 18th.) **But for the sake of our time on September 7th, we ask that you pick the core team that interests you most and attend that meeting (as all three groups will meet at the same time).** We are planning that core team conversations will conclude by 12:30 p.m. so that folks can get on with their day.

Between now and September 7th, we ask that you place your name on the sign-up sheet found in the narthex of the church (even if your name is on a “core team” list.) **This will help us to better plan for refreshments, handouts, space, etc., on the 7th.** There is nothing else you will need to do other than to come with an open and willing heart on Sunday, September 7.

Throughout the Mission/Vision process, we have held three congregation conversations, one retreat, and a ministry fair to help our congregants give input and become better informed as to the direction the congregation is desiring to move. **Now we are ready to talk with participants, get organized, invite leaders to come forward, and get started!** This is a very exciting time for Bethlehem and a new chapter in our life together. So please join us and pray also for our ministry at Bethlehem! Pray for guidance as to how you may be involved. There are many tasks in which we can participate...one of those is being fervent in prayer!

God is Good, All the time!! All the Time, God is Good!!!! Hope to see you on September 7th!

Your Vision Team

Kathie Bair, Craig Bauer, Tim Goebel, Jana Rockne, Kelly Thomson, Pastor Paul, and Sherri Helman

Our mission: *We worship, work and welcome...Sharing God’s love and grace with all.*

Our vision: *Together, we embody our mission by BOLDLY following Jesus, serving the needs of the world and one another, and caring for all of God’s Creation. ALL ARE WELCOME.*

To see electronic copies of all these documents, visit www.bethlehemtc.org/GWOHSunday