

Policy. In our determination to serve people with unmet needs in our community and beyond, Bethlehem Lutheran Church often deliberately and carefully partners with Lutheran, ecumenical, or other organizations with similar objectives. We do this when we judge that such organizations—with their size, composition, resources, and expertise—are better capable of furthering our objectives than is BLC working alone. We selectively partner in many ways—in some combination contributing financial resources, goods, volunteer expertise, leadership, time, and/or the use of BLC facilities. While our prime objective is to serve needy people regardless of their backgrounds, religious history, or level of gratitude, we do hope that our efforts witness to our compassionate spirit and move others to seek to know our Christian motivations.

Guidelines and Procedures.

- BLC “partners” in a multitude of ways with other worthy organizations who we judge have similar worthy objectives.
- Partnering support can be from BLC as an entity (e.g. included in the annual budget) to simply advertising the need and a way that those persons interested may respond if they are interested in doing so. This is a continuum, with various combinations of support possibilities.
- The higher the level of BLC support proposed, the higher the level of involvement and approval required by the BLC Council and/or congregation.
 - Organizations to be included in the BLC budget and the amounts to be included are proposed by the Council in its budget building, and brought to the Congregation for approval.
 - Some partner organizations develop “capital fund drives” or other occasional major drives for needed funding. Such drives for important partners (e.g. Lutheran Social Services) will be brought to the attention of BLC members and friends, and many may choose to personally provide support. BLC as an institution will formally agree to promote these capital drives only when first considered and approved by the BLC Council.
 - Organizations which require considerable use of BLC facilities must be vetted and contractual or other arrangements approved by the Council and/or by the Congregation.