“You shall also love the stranger, for you were strangers in the land of Egypt.”

Deuteronomy 10:19
From the Pastor’s Desk...

What is BLC’s Mission and Vision?

Dear Bethlehem, I’m sorry — I’m guessing you may have been asked some form of this question a time or two in recent years, as you’ve journeyed through pastoral and congregational changes. I know that our most recent official mission statement is “Building lives through worship, mission and connection.” But honestly, I haven’t talked to too many who have much to say about it, or even know it.

Anyway, I am asking a different kind of question; I’m not wondering if you can recite what was voted on a while back (if you voted on it)...

Here are my working definitions of mission vs. vision statements:

A mission statement says “who we are (right now).” It’s not about what we fancy ourselves to be, or where we’ve been in the past. Rather this reflects who we are as God’s faithful people in this moment. Bethlehem is a lot of good things...in this moment. Amid all our hopes and dreams for the future, and any sadness or frustrations about the past, who are we right now? How would you answer that about BLC? (It may be helpful to get at this by trying to imagine how God as opposed to me or you might describe us right now: beloved, forgiven, welcoming, quilted together in love, etc.)
Then, a vision statement says “where we are going”. Like Moses or Martin Luther King Jr., we might not ever get there. But a vision statement is most definitely clear about our direction. My favorite example from the secular world is Microsoft: Their vision statement a view years ago was, “to put a Microsoft computer in every home in America.” Probably not possible, they might not ever get there, but you know exactly where they're going and what they're all about. What is Bethlehem definitely all about, even if we have yet to arrive?

How I would love to retreat to the mountains for a couple days with you all and delve into this conversation at one of our Lutheran camps, with a bible and a guitar nearby, sipping coffee or wine. But alas, life is busy. And we probably need to settle for a virtual fireside chat...
So I am asking a couple things of you:

1) Please pray about this for at least a day, first.
2) Then, write a bit about who Bethlehem is right now as God’s faithful people in Fairfax. What are the unique gifts that describe us...today? *(Mission)*
3) Write a bit about what you believe God is calling us to be all about. Where are we going? *(Vision)*
4) Pray and let this marinate for at least another day before hitting the final “send”. (Think of this not as homework with a deadline, but soul work).

May I share your responses?

This article is also posted on our BLC sermon blog (themangerfairfax.blogspot.com), so that dialogue can happen there, too.

Grace and peace,
Pastor Dan
President’s Page

So many changes occur every September. It’s the start of a new school year, close of the summer with hopefully a refreshing vacation and rest, and the transition to cooler weather. We’re looking forward to many changes at Bethlehem this month: the beginning of our new partnership with LSS/NCA, the resuming of Sunday School again and Pastor Dan’s installation. We’re excited about hosting activist Darryl Davis on September 26th, as we focus on areas of hate and racism in our community and we remain, obviously, very hopeful the hateful crime spree against us will be solved soon.

Change is also stressful and we’ve had a lot of change in the past year. Please speak to a Council member if you need additional information or clarification on any of our new changes this fall. With all of these activities, comes the opportunity for participation and for sharing your time and talents! Please speak to me or any Council member if you wish to become more involved in any service area.

Wishing you a blessed September.

Love and peace,
Kristin
This Month

You are invited...

Installation
of
Pastor Daniel E. Roschke

September 23, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Worship Service with Holy Communion
Refreshments following Worship

New Member Orientation
Sessions in September

If you are interested in exploring
how you could connect more deeply at Bethlehem,
please contact Pastor Dan.
United to End Hate & Racism

An Interfaith Community Event with Nationally Recognized Musician, Speaker, and Anti-Racism Activist

Daryl Davis

September 26, 2018
7:00 p.m.
This Month

Let’s usher in the fall at Bethlehem, embracing the new season of opportunities—Sunday School, LSS, Adult Studies, and more!

Join us after church on September 9th for a picnic at the BLC Pavilion.

Hamburgers, Hot dogs and Drinks provided Please bring sides, salads, and sweets to share.

Please contact Mike Crum if you can help. Thanks!
**5th Sunday Favorite Hymn Sing**

**Do you have a favorite hymn?**

Please give the title of your favorite hymn(s) to our music director, Esther Cho.

Esther will try to work some of these in on the 5th Sunday in September: **September 30th**. Join us to sing your favorite hymns!

See Esther on Sundays or email your favorite to Esther Cho.

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**September 16, 2018—9:00 a.m.**

Join us in the Fellowship Hall to learn more about Lutheran Social Services. What programs do they provide? What is their impact in the world? What does the LSS staff at Bethlehem do? How can Bethlehem members get involved? Bring your curiosity and questions.

Hosted by Deacon Christine Connell, CEO of LSS/NCA
Children’s Education

A TIME FOR CHILDREN

Sunday Preschool Faith Ministry

Children are invited to the children’s ministry time and then dismissed to Time for Children for the Bible Story.

We need adult leaders to take turns leading the Time for Children—lesson plan provided.

If you can help, please sign-up on the BLC website: www.blclife.org or contact Marie Bakke in the church office.

All children are welcome in the Worship Service!

If you and your child need a break from the Sanctuary, please try out the new Family Room (formerly the Parlor). We are equipping this room with toys and activities for kids. Coming soon…. The Facilities Team is working on getting the sound, and hopefully video, of the worship service brought into the Family Room.
Sundays, 9:15 a.m.

Grades K-3, Room 121
Teachers: Kelly Haynes, Michele Meyers, Julie Hogan

Grades 4-6, Room 115
Teachers: Barry Uhlig and Ron Gird

Music: Val Sharp
Helpers: High Schoolers

Contact Michele Meyers for more info
Educational Opportunities for Adults

The Thursday Book Group meets in the BLC Parlor on the first Thursday of each month, September through June, from 12:00 – 2:00pm. New members, male and female, are always welcome and the discussion is great! Bring a brown bag lunch, if you like. Call Zoe Parker, Group Leader for more information.

For September 6, 2018, the book is the River of Doubt by Candice Millard. It tells of the incredible adventure narrative and a biographical portrait of Theodore Roosevelt. He explores one of the most dangerous rivers on earth and he was able to change the map of the Western Hemisphere. Val Sharp is the reviewer.

For October 4, the book is Everything I Never Told You by Celeste Ng. A profoundly moving story of family, history, and the meaning of home, Everything I Never Told You is both a gripping page-turner and a sensitive family portrait, exploring the divisions between cultures and the rifts within a family, and uncovering the ways in which mothers and daughters, fathers and sons, and husbands and wives struggle, all their lives, to understand one another.

Zoe Parker, Group Leader
Women and Justice

The heart of the “Draft Social Statement on Women and Justice” is expressed in the first nine pages (2,800 words). The task force wishes to receive comments and feedback from readers so that our church is engaged in a broad discussion of these timely themes and commitments. The draft and form are available online at:

www.ELCA.org/womenandjustice

The draft begins with and is rooted in our common foundation, a confession of faith in the Triune God. From this certainty of faith flow 36 assertions. These assertions claim God’s intention of abundant life for all, confess sexism and patriarchy as sin, name the resources of Lutheran faith to address this sin, and articulate this church’s work and its call to religious and secular partners. It closes with an expression of hope for justice, grounded in trust in God’s promise of grace.

BLC Discussions: 9:00 a.m.
September 9, 23, and 30
Continuing Resolutions and Such

Earlier articles have described our BLC Constitution and Bylaws as updated in 2017. Here we will deal briefly with Continuing Resolutions (also called Policy Statements et al). Such Resolutions must not conflict with the Constitution or the Bylaws, and they can be adopted by a majority vote at a congregational meeting or a two-thirds vote of all voting members of the Congregation Council. At BLC, routine Resolutions are usually adopted by the Council, but major changes in how we are to do business are taken to the full Congregation for consideration. Resolutions (or policy statements) provide guidance and set rules and procedures regarding matters of interest to the Congregation. If you look under Governance on the BLC Website, you will find this list:

Statements

Updated September 5, 2017

- BLC Activities Prohibited or Limited Policy
- BLC Benevolence Policy
- BLC Budget Policy
- BLC Expectations for Leaders Policy
- BLC Gift Policy
- BLC Invitations and Visitors Policy
- BLC Issue Resolution Policy
- BLC Money Handling Policy
- BLC Occasional Facility Use Policy
- BLC Partnering with Others Policy
- BLC Personnel Policy
- BLC Regular Facilities Use Policy
- BLC Safety Policy
As you can see, these Statements cover a wide range of topics. One of the problems is that too few people know (or remember) this guidance. Perhaps we should include a different Statement in each newsletter so we can not only be reminded of current guidance but also be prompted to reconsider the underlying issues. Certainly we should encourage Council and other church leaders to take a look.

What else can you find on WWW.BLCLIFE.ORG?

The BLC Calendar
Details of Upcoming Events
The Monthly Newsletter
Link to Pastor Dan’s Blog
Link to Ministry Sign-Up
Link to Online Giving
Links to ELCA Organizations and other Ministries
BLC Constitution
BLC Bylaws
BLC Policies

and more...
Lay Assistants, Ushers, Acolytes, Tellers, and Time-for-Children Leaders

Please visit the 2018 Ministry Assistant sign-up sheet and select dates.

A new sign-up genius sheet has been posted on the BLC website:  www.blclife.org

The link is on the homepage, on the left bar
(Instruction card available at Welcome Center)

You can also reach the sign-up sheet directly at: http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0848a5ae29a3fe3-blcministry

The Ministry Team is a vital and valued part of every worship service!

Thank you for Serving!
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Welcomes Lutheran Social Services

The day is finally here, and while not every bit of repair work has been completed, our friends at Lutheran Social Services/National Capital Area are hard at work preparing to move to Bethlehem!

As the days go by you will see a banner sign welcoming LSS and offices get set up on the lower level. Your Bethlehem Facilities Team has been hard at work to make sure that we can host LSS, have room for our current Sunday School and room to grow, can support the needs of our two other congregations worshiping at BLC, and can continue to support our community.

September 6 (or very soon) will be the big Move In for LSS. In the spirit of this season of God’s Work. Our Hands. Day, we invite you to come by and help with the move.

**Impact:**

*LSS/NCA Boldly welcomes families and children who seek refuge from war, poverty and persecution. LSS/NCA engages the community to gather the resources refugee families need, providing support, compassion and hope as they build new lives and new homes in the Washington DC Metro Area. Together, with local partners, volunteers, and supporters, LSS/NCA resettles over 1,000 refugees each year.*


Council Notes

BLC Council Meeting Highlights
August 6, 2018

Lutheran Social Services Q&A:
Ms. Christine Connell was present to discuss the proposed arrangement between BLC and LSS/NCA. She answered many questions: The anticipated timeframe is 1-3 years, though it is possible LSS could ask BLC to host a different service (e.g., adoption) after that time. Ms. Connell explained that it was the intention of LSS that they cover all expenses related to their use of the building and that this covenant agreement not impact BLC’s finances negatively. Ms. Connell addressed several logistical questions, and explained that room sharing was not a viable solution due to the privacy of files, the design of the programs such that each department maintains their own records, and the desks/dividers needed for the staff. On the question of security for BLC, Ms. Connell explained that the LSS clients are scheduled and are escorted between the rooms. Entrance to the building would require an LSS staff person to open the door. Ms. Connell also confirmed that LSS carries liability.

A motion was unanimously approved: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council approves the request to host Lutheran Social Services, using 5 rooms on the west side of the lower level, for a period of 1-3 years, pending the signing of a Covenant Agreement.

Finance Report:
Dave Cross noted that regular giving is still trending up, but is short of the budget plan. He pointed out that regular facility expenses are current up due to security enhancements. A fall stewardship plan was discussed and supported.

Dave Cross reported that about $5,000 of designated contributions have been received for the vandalism recovery, and these are being tracked outside our normal financial reports.

Facilities Report:
Security Update:
Anning Smith advised that there are no police updates at this time. Door ajar alarms have been installed. These are not notification alarms, but serve the purpose of deterrence against propping doors open.

Continued...
Insurance:
Donna Hartmann is working with the insurance company to provide the information needed for the multiple incidents. She has been obtaining quotes for the stained glass repair, upholstery, and carpeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

UNITED AGAINST HATE AND RACISM EVENT:
Anning Smith presented a proposal to build on the energy from the United Against Hate event; this proposed event would feature public speaker and anti-racism activist, Daryl Davis. The suggested date is September 26, 2018. The council concurred with the plan.

FALL FELLOWSHIP
Melanie Smith is investigating opportunities for fall fellowship. Suggestions included a baseball game, soccer game, game night at BLC, etc. It was noted that we will also have Pastor Dan’s installation on September 23, 2018.

GOD’S WORK, OUR HANDS, SUNDAY:
This ELCA national service day is scheduled for September 9, 2018. One suggestion was that BLC assist with the LSS move-in. No final plan was determined.

The next Council Meeting will be Sept. 10, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

The BLC Council Meetings are open to the congregation.

The full minutes of the Council Meetings are available to review in the BLC Office.
Amazing how the weeks fly by,  
And summer's about to end,  
Vacation is but a memory,  
With school now to begin.

How great the hosts  
For their hospitality,  
That we might better know  
Heather and Pastor D.

Gather us in  
To know one another  
For in God's house  
We're sister and brother.
For the beauty of the quilts,  
Sent to us from all the land.  
Showing us support and love,  
It's God's work, but it's our hands.

We come to the golf course to play,  
Then rain comes and showers upon us,  
So we pack up our clubs,  
And say "another day"--

O come, little children,  
O come, one and all.  
To Sunday School hasten,  
"Twill begin in the Fall.

Now this month is over,  
September is drawing nigh,  
But God's love is forever,  
We're always in His eye.

Answer Key:
#4 - For the Beauty of the Earth  
#5 - In the Garden  
#6 - O Come Little Children  
#7 - Now the Day is Over  
#3 - Gather Us In  
#2 - How Great Thou Art  
#1 - Amazing Grace  
ELW
**Golf Update**

An unusual outing on Sunday, 12 August. As the first team was reaching the 9th green, the Storm Alert horn sounded so all play was stopped. There was thunder and lightning in the area and golf courses are not good places to be during electrical storms! Consequence was the match was curtailed at eight holes. The team of Mark Barbour, Barry Uhlig, Kevin Grosicki, and Jay Sharp squeaked out a one-stroke win over the team of Janet and Carl Samuelson, Pastor Dan, and David Cross. Janet won for "Most Fairways," Mark Barbour for "Closest to the Centerline," and Barry Uhlig for "Closest to the Pin on hole #6. Appropriate prizes were awarded and everyone received a 9-hole rain check.

We'll go back to the Greendale course on September 16th, with tee times starting at 1:27pm (please note this is a half hour earlier than usual). Please don't be late. Cost will be the usual $45 to the course plus a buck to me to help defray prize costs. And there will be prizes. Please sign up at the Welcome Center or contact Jay Sharp.

Watch the Sunday bulletin insert and the weekly email for information as it breaks.

See you on the course,

Jay
Community Assistance

Habitat for Humanity
September 2018 Update

The townhome renovation in Herndon is complete! People will be moving in soon. Work continues on the renovation in Lorton (scheduled to complete by the end of September) and on the new construction in the Groveton area of South Alexandria. Next work will be another renovation, this one on Frye Road also in South Alexandria. County approval of plans for two more new homes on Clayborne Avenue, Groveton area. We'll start work on those as labor availability allows. There's quite a list of future projects so we don't expect to be twiddling our thumbs for some time.

Like to be a part of the effort? Please let me know and I'm sure I can get you scheduled. Habitat will provide the tools, safety equipment, and training needed for the work at hand. No particular experience or skill set is required.

Gods Work, Our Hands.
Jay

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MOCO INTERFAITH 5K WALK AND RUN

WHEN: Labor Day Monday
      Sept. 3rd, 2018, 8AM-10AM

WHERE: Maryland Soccerplex
       18031 Central Park Cir, Boyds, MD

Organizers: Shaare Torah Jewish Community, Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, Islamic Society of the Washington Area

Register at: WWW.MOCOINTERFAITH5K.ORG

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Pastor Christine Dunn's Church
Water Walking
Great Low-impact Exercise

A small group of BLC folks having been getting together at Wakefield Rec Center to Water Walk

Give it a try!
Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 10:30 a.m.

*If you’re the first one there, go ahead and walk!*

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Esther Circle

Next Meeting:
Sept 25th
10:00 a.m.
in the Narthex

On Summer Break!
The Circle provides an opportunity for better understanding of the Bible and fellowship.
Barbara Chadbourne is the group leader and members lead the discussions.
All women are welcome!

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23
Dining Out Group  
Saturday, September 22, 7:00 p.m.

Red, Hot & Blue  
4150 Chain Bridge Road., Fairfax

Everyone Welcome  
Please sign-up at the Welcome Center  
or contact Helen Crum

Samaritans

Milano's Restaurant  
6230-G Rolling Road, Springfield  
12:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 13th

The Samaritan gatherings are the 2nd Thursday of each month, and we normally have about 15 congenial people in attendance. Come join us for a good meal and fellowship.

For more info, please contact Phil Case
Bethlehem Family with Special Days in September

**Birthdays**

Sept. 1: Jennifer Chadbourne
Sept. 2: Ruth Uhlig
         Jessica Samuelson
Sept. 3: Colin McMenamin
Sept. 4: Julia Hendrick
Sept. 5: Henry Schofield
Sept. 7: Lily Schofield
Sept. 8: Mary Schmidt
Sept. 12: Greg Grosicki
         Alyce Jalloh
Sept. 13: Jay Sharp
Sept. 17: Kristin Haynes
Sept. 18: Val Sharp
Sept. 19: Laura Smith
Sept. 23: Michele Haselbarth
         Mitzi Hendrick
Sept. 27: Stuart Recher

**Anniversaries**

Sept. 1: Andrew Gyourko & Deb Bauer
Sept. 2: Barry & Mary Lou Uhlig (51st)
Sept. 8: Ken & Barbara Campo (34th)
         Harry & Barb Chadbourne (39th)
Sept. 12: Joe & Joanne McKinney (20th)
Sept. 22: Jim & Judy Myers (55th)
Sept. 23: Joe & Nadine Jones (51st)
Sept. 26: Carl & Marlene Becker (26th)
# The Bethlehem Lutheran Church
## Council 2018

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<td>Kristin Haynes</td>
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<td>Dir. Of Finance</td>
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Sunday Schedule:

Learning Hour, 9:00 a.m.
Worship Service, 10:00 a.m.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
www.blclife.org
Email: bethlehemlutheran@blclife.org
Phone: (703) 978-3131

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Newsletter
It is available on our website: www.blclife.org