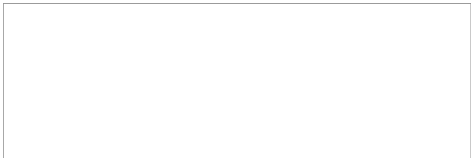


Breckenridge Lutheran Church  
301 6th St N  
Breckenridge MN 56520

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May  
2022

## Love is Our Identification Mark

*"Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your father in heaven."  
Matthew 5:16*

# GOOD NEWS

I remember the first time I came to America, I hardly spoke English. I had a hard time to communicate with people and express what I wanted to say properly. Since then, many years have gone by. Now, I speak well and communicate better. Yet, it is still with a strong accent. We all know how hard it gets to learn new things and master it as we get older. No wonder they say you can't teach an old dog a new trick.

Now, every time I meet new people and begin a conversation with them, they often stop me in the middle of conversation and ask me where I am from. Because, they know by my accent, that I am not from around here. This has taught me this hard truth. It doesn't matter how long I am going to stay in this land or how well I am going to speak the English language, as long as I am going to do it with an accent, people will continue to say to me "Ale, where are your from?" And I will always be known to them as a stranger.

Just as an accent is an identification mark for being a stranger, there is also an identification mark for being a Christian. In John 13:35-36, Jesus says, "Love one another as I have loved you By your loving one another, everyone will know that you are my disciples".

There could be many ways that people would identify us as followers of Jesus Christ such as by the cross we wear, the Bible we read, or by our faithful church attendance. All those are important and say something about our fellowship with the lord. But according to Jesus, living a life of love should be our identification mark as his followers. Isn't that nice when people see our act of kindness and say to us "Are you a Christian"? What a great way to witness God's love!

May his love continue to flow through your life to people around you.

Pastor Ale

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### Breckenridge Lutheran Church

301 6th St N  
Breckenridge, MN  
218-643-4892

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Pastor's email: [pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com](mailto:pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com)

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Office Hours:  
9:00-3:00 Mon-Thur

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2022 Northwestern Minnesota  
Virtual Synod Assembly

All for Love  
making God's way known on earth

Saturday, May 21





Last month we focused on the ELCA Lutheran Disaster Response program and its partners in Ukraine, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia and others who are responding to the humanitarian crisis created by Russia's war against Ukraine. Our church raised \$370 which will provide refugees with immediate support and supplies such as food, blankets, water and hygiene kits. We want to thank you for your kind generosity.

This month, our focus is on world hunger. Every year, millions of children die from preventable causes such as pneumonia, diarrhea, malaria and undernutrition. Hunger is still causing nearly half of deaths in children under 5 years old. It is estimated at least 6,200 children die each day from causes related to undernutrition. Feed My Starving Children is a nonprofit Christian organization dedicated to seeing every child whole in body and spirit. FMSC that has distributed food to 107 countries around the world and works with food distribution partners that stay with communities for the long haul, empowering them to move from relief to development. Through the efforts of volunteers, food distributors and food scientists, it is the mission of Feed My Starving Children to follow Christ's calling to feed the hungry and serve those in need. Through the donations we raise at Breckenridge Lutheran Church, we will bring to life the scripture that reads "For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat" in Matthew 25:35.

Please consider making a donation either by writing out a check to Feed My Starving Children and dropping it off in the office or offering plate. You can also make an electronic payment by going to the church website at [brecklutheran.org](http://brecklutheran.org) and clicking on the "Monthly Giving" icon. Thank you!




*B L W*  
Women's  
Ministry

Abigail Circle will meet at 1:30 pm  
in the Luther Room on Thursday,  
May 12th.

Rebekah Circle will meet at 7:00  
pm on Thursday, May 12th at  
Margaret Marohl's home.

### *Our Mission*


*Learning to be disciples and to make disciples,*  
*Reaching out to witness and support our community,*  
*Welcoming all to worship and serve Jesus Christ!*




# BRECKENRIDGE LUTHERAN CHURCH

# BLOOD DRIVE


*Give the gift of life.*



Register  
online:  
[vitalant.org](http://vitalant.org)




11:30 AM-  
5:45 PM



or call  
Mary Ann  
Conrad at  
701-403-  
7241


**Thursday, May 19th**




## DRAWN TO THE WORD


BRINGING THE WORD TO LIFE  
BEFORE YOUR EYES

Event Location: **Bethel Lutheran Church**  
Date/Time: **May 15, 2022 at 9:30 am**



**Paul Oman**  
Artist & Pastor

  
[LEARN MORE AT PAULOMANFINEART.COM](http://PAULOMANFINEART.COM)



# President's Message—Jill Blaufuss

## My Experience in Giving Nothing

Dear BLC family,

With summer on its way (I hope, anyway), our council anticipates the exodus of many of our members to the lake. It's the time of year where our offerings drop significantly and so I've made it my goal to compel members to sign up for Simply Giving before summer starts. Council came up with \$25/month as a good starting point. If you went from maybe giving nothing in the past, would you consider giving \$6.25/week?

I have experience in this "giving nothing."

Growing up, my mom always had her check ready for the weekly offering envelopes for church in Watford City. We didn't talk about money though, so I have no idea how much she gave. Much later on, in my adult life, I attended church in Fargo at Bethlehem Lutheran. Each service I scrounged in my purse for a couple bucks to put in the offering plate. I figured those couple bucks should cover the cost of my bulletin, my portion of the electricity for that worship service, and my portion of the pastor's wages for that day.

I loved Bethlehem. It was the first time I actually enjoyed going to church because I consistently loved hearing Pastor Tim's message. That hope of getting an inspiring message for my week is still the biggest reason I go to church. Back then, if someone would've asked what I'd pay if I had to buy a ticket to hear Pastor Tim's sermon every week, I would've said \$10. Yet I was only scrounging up a couple bucks each week, or sometimes absolutely nothing if I didn't have cash on me.

Good thing that church wasn't filled with more people like me, they would've gone under. Because what I didn't realize until getting on council here in Breckenridge, was the overhead of keeping a building functioning, that being a pastor is a job and you make a living wage, and that there are other employees and programs that each need money to do their work. A church is not just the worship service. Though that's really the public face of the church, and it can be hard to value anything beyond that unless you feel benefited by it, or understand how it's benefitting other people. I think that's normal.

Unlike some of our state governments, our church is not dealing with a constant surplus. We don't tax our members. BLC is as alive as all of our good will allows it to be. So, I ask that before summer starts, please consider: Is it worth at least \$25/month to you that Breckenridge Lutheran exists? If it isn't, it isn't. But if it is, and you can afford to spare at least \$6.25 each week, our church can keep its gears turning.

If you ever feel that it isn't worth it, and feel uninspired about how things are at BLC, you may not be the only one feeling that way. But maybe if your grumbles were addressed, more people would be satisfied too. I enjoy hearing different ideas, constructive criticism, and working with people who don't just complain, but courageously say, "This is what I want, now how do I try to get that accomplished, or who can I talk to in order to work on this?" I will either help you directly, or find people to work with you. I don't make the decisions for the church, but I do help committee or group ideas get passed through council. Those side groups are where the real progress gets made. So even if it's hard to speak up, I hope you'll muster up the courage and reach out. It doesn't have to come out perfect. I'm an imperfect person with a very open mind. I hope to hear from you.

Sincerely, Jill Blaufuss

P.S. I'm including a page with our annual budget so you can see how much money it takes to run our church for one year.

| Total needed for planned ministry of BLC                          | 2021 Proposed    | 2021 Adjusted    | 2021 Actual      | 2022 Proposed    |
|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| 1. For the preaching of the Gospel among us                       | \$107,901        | \$126,164        | \$110,736        | \$126,164        |
| 2. For the efficient administration of God's business in ministry | \$61,525         | \$61,525         | \$55,390         | \$61,525         |
| 3. For the care of God's house and properties                     | \$52,380         | \$52,380         | \$49,003         | \$59,430         |
| 4. For leading and enriching our worship of God                   | \$11,692         | \$11,692         | \$11,240         | \$20,362         |
| 5. For instructing our members in Christian discipleship          | \$1,885          | \$1,885          | \$1,351          | \$3,050          |
| 6. For the ministry of the Lutheran Youth Organization            | \$3,300          | \$3,300          | \$527            | \$3,300          |
| 7. For protection from claims against our congregation            | \$9,700          | \$9,700          | \$12,447         | \$12,500         |
| 8. For bringing people to Christ and to BLC                       | \$2,425          | \$2,425          | \$1,944          | \$2,550          |
| 9. For bringing Christ to all the world                           | \$7,565          | \$7,565          | \$6,584          | \$7,275          |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  | <b>\$258,373</b> | <b>\$276,636</b> | <b>\$249,221</b> | <b>\$296,156</b> |

# SIMPLY GIVING AUTHORIZATION FORM 2022

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <b>FOR OFFICE USE ONLY</b>   | <b>ENVELOPE/DONOR #</b>   | <b>DATE</b>  |
| Effective date of authorization: ____/____/____  |   |  |
| <b>Type of authorization:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> New authorization <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation amount <input type="checkbox"/> Change donation date<br><input type="checkbox"/> Change banking information <input type="checkbox"/> Discontinue electronic donation |   |  |
| Last Name  |   | First Name   |
| Address  |   |  |
| City   |   | State      Zip   |
| Email Address  |   |  |
| <b>DATE OF FIRST DONATION:</b><br>____/____/____   | <b>FREQUENCY OF DONATION:</b><br><input type="checkbox"/> Weekly – Mondays<br><input type="checkbox"/> Semi-Monthly – 1 <sup>st</sup> and 15 <sup>th</sup><br><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 1 <sup>st</sup><br><input type="checkbox"/> Monthly on the 15 <sup>th</sup> | <b>FUNDS:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> General/Operating      \$ _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> Building      \$ _____<br><input type="checkbox"/> _____      \$ _____<br><br><b>Total</b> \$ _____ |
| <b>CHECKING / SAVINGS</b>  | Please debit my donation from my (check one):<br><input type="checkbox"/> Savings Account (contact your financial institution for Routing #)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Checking Account   | Routing Number: _____<br><b>Valid Routing # must start with 0, 1, 2, or 3</b><br><br>Account Number: _____<br>   |
|  | I authorize the above organization to process debit entries to my account. I understand that this authority will remain in effect until I provide reasonable notification to terminate the authorization.<br><br>Authorized Signature: _____ Date: _____                          |  |

## *Financial Summary*

| March Financial Summary                    |             |
|--|-------------|
| General Account Income in April 2022       | \$21,575.50 |
| General Account Expenditures in April 2022 | \$18,055.00 |
| Cash income for the month                  | \$3,520.50  |
| General Account Cash Balance 3/31/2022     | \$43,303.00 |
| General Account Income as of 4/30/2022     | \$44,732    |

| Weekly Giving |                    |
|---------------|--------------------|
| April 2022    |                    |
| April 3       | \$5,964.00         |
| April 10      | \$4,781.75         |
| April 17      | 9,213.75           |
| April 24      | \$1,616.00         |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$21,575.50</b> |

| Breckenridge Lutheran Church Financials | Total 2022 Budget (adjusted) | Year to Date Income | Year to Date Expenses | Year to Date Net Income | Monthly Budget | Weekly Budget |
|---|------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|---------------|
| 4/30/2022                               | \$98,719                     | \$79,358            | \$78,094              | \$1,264                 | \$24,680       | \$5,695       |

# Planning Council Minutes

April 12, 2022—7:00 pm in the Luther Room

Present: Pastor Ale Tulu, Jill Ockhardt Blaufuss, Teresa Pearson, Connie Jensen, Lois Fenske, Joel Herder, Orrin Ausen, Kennedy Niska and Deb Berndt

Absent: Ashley Johnson

- A. The meeting was called to order by President Jill.
- B. Pastor Ale opened the meeting with devotions referring to Romans 8:37 and reminding us that the ultimate victory over death and sin was the Resurrection of Christ.
- C. Consent Agenda:
  1. Minutes:
    - a. March Council Meeting minutes were handed out at the meeting.
      - i. Motion: A motion was made by Orrin to approve the minutes as presented
      - ii. Second: The motion was seconded by Joel.
      - iii. Action: The motion passed with no opposition.
  2. Financial Reports: Financial report for March 2022 were handed out. They included a Profit and Loss Statement for the month and a Balance Sheet dated March 31, 2022, were handed out to all members present. There was discussion about whether we should continue to use envelopes for offering because of the cost. We decided to table this discussion until a later date.
    - a. Motion: A motion was made by Teresa to approve the minutes and the financials as presented.
    - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Orrin.
    - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- D. Additions to the agenda: Adding additional work to Lois's workload, and the possibility of hiring a part-time youth director.
  - a. Motion: A motion was made by Connie to add the items listed above to the agenda under New Business.
  - b. Second: The motion was seconded by Teresa.
  - c. Action: The motion was passed with no opposition.
- E. Old Business: None
- F. New Business:
  1. Pastor's Report –
    - Men's breakfast started April 7<sup>th</sup> at the Frying Pan, 10 men attended first week, and they will collect \$1.00 each week.
    - Funeral Service was held for Tom Dietz
    - First baptism was performed for Evelyn Marie Fuder.
    - First Communion will be held on Maundy Thursday, April 14, 2022, for Tyce Miller, Sydney Tischer and Easton Vig.
    - Rene will preach at the 7:30 service on Easter morning and Pastor Ale at the 9:30 service.
    - After Easter there will be three more weeks of Wednesday night services and confirmation and Wednesday school with supper.
    - May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2022 will be new member recognition Sunday – with Pastor Ale and Sunni joining, Kennedy and Karen Platt.
    - Laurie's benefit plans are under way.
    - Senior Recognition Sunday, possibly May 22, 2022
    - Vacation Bible School – Contact Bethel regarding dates.
    - May 15<sup>th</sup>, joint service with Bethel with Paul Oman giving a presentation, place to be determined.
  2. President's Report
    - i. Kennedy has signed a contract to be our Music Director and to be paid a yearly stipend of \$5,000.00 per year. He will be paid once a month and his duties and responsibilities are outlined in the contract.
    - ii. Elevator Update – Kyle with Schindler has been contacted and someone should be coming to the church shortly to inspect it and get it up and running again as soon as possible. It has been determined that the sump pump is too low in the pit. A new one has been installed. We need a plumber to revamp the conduit and check valves. We need to reach out to the electrician who did the work last summer to determine if it was compromised. The electrical work needs to be moved above the door and possibly another needs to be added. Teresa stressed the need to have an alarm system to notify someone if it fails.
    - iii. Auto-withdrawal Sign-up Drive Update – Jill purchased the prizes to be handed out to the people who sign-up for automatic withdrawal or increase their giving. She asked for volunteers for people to sit by the table to help people sign up. We will have two tables set up the first two weeks after Easter on Wednesday nights and the two Sundays after Easter
    - iv. Laurie Allen Benefit – April 23, 2022, from 5:00 pm until 8:00 pm. There will be a silent auction – Evie Fox in charge, a bake sale – Cindie VanTassel in charge, Raffle tickets for cash prizes, Teresa Pearson in charge, and a free-will offering Pasta supper – Teresa and Connie Jensen in charge. Jill will set up the sign-up genie for people to sign-up on-line for jobs and shifts. Joel will gather clipboards to be used for Silent auction. People can sign up with Thrivent for funds to help defray the costs.

v. Directory Update – Jill is planning on setting up pictures at the church for anyone who would like to instead of submitting a picture electronically. Lois will help draw all the information together Pastor Update – Pastor Ale reported that he had four 10<sup>th</sup> graders with their mentors attend the meeting he had. He reminded us that Ash Wednesday is on March 2, 2022, and asked Teresa to help him get Palms and ashes ordered. He reported that he was planning on ending Confirmation for the school year the week of Mother's Day, the first week of May and said he thought if the Sunday School sang at the Church service that day. Pastor Ale reported that Bethel Lutheran is going to use the videos with the artwork of Paul Aman for their Lenten services like we had last year. He wondered if we wanted to show those again. We brainstormed on how we could get a large enough screen and a projector to make that happen but decided it might be hard to do this year with such little notice. He announced that the Choir will sing during the Lenten services, the bells will play on Maundy Thursday, we will have a joint service with the Methodist on Good Friday. Pastor Ale also reported that the men would start meeting on Friday mornings for Breakfast at 7:00 am at the Frying Pan. Pastor also reported that there is a day of worship in Detroit Lakes on March 12, 2022, and the Synod Assembly will be held virtually May 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022.

vi. Communion – Back to normal? It was decided because of the increase in cases of COVID recently that we would continue having communion with the self-contained cups.

vii. Wednesday Services / Location – Jill suggested that since there are three Wednesday night services left that we try having them in the sanctuary to see how it goes since some people felt they should be held there.

viii. Raychel Bertelson and sons have transferred their memberships to Bethel Lutheran in Wahpeton.

ix. Quarterly Contribution statements – A suggestion was made to send them out quarterly to members, possibly with the newsletters. We will investigate the possibility of this by the mid-year mark.

3. Jill proposed adding the task of working with all the bids that come in for any property matters to Lois's duties. Deb will train Lois on the weekly giving reports when she has time next month.

4. Joel stressed the need to have someone to help with the record-keeping of the LYO funds, but we determined that at this time it is not in the Church's budget.

G. Church Pulse – Committee reports from the Mission committee and the Worship committee were distributed to members

Property – Teresa also reported that there is work that needs to be done on the roof, there needs to be insulation added in several spots because there was severe heat loss this last winter causing ice jams, the heat tape needs to be put up again, there need to be more gutters put up in the back where people park. Several people have been reached out to fix their work or continue to finish projects.

Stewardship – Orrin is continuing to work on the time and talents surveys.

Education – The Wednesday School kids will sing Palm Sunday, Wednesday, May 4<sup>th</sup> and Mother's Day at worship and will wrap up the year with something special on May 4<sup>th</sup>, which will be the last day of class for this year.

Easter Morning Breakfast - it was suggested to order 3 doz. caramel rolls from Hills 210 or see if Jackie Mertes would make some.

H. Pastor Ale led us in the Lord's Prayer to close out the meeting.

I. Adjournment –

a. Motion – A motion was made by Orrin to adjourn the meeting.

b. Second – Motion was seconded by Joel.

c. Action – Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted by: Debra Berndt



"Thank you!!" to everyone who donated items for the bake sale and silent auction, for those who bought items, those who purchased raffle tickets, and to all who joined us for the meal. Thank you to the many volunteers who helped put on the benefit. If you weren't able to attend and still want to be part of the benefit, you may make a donation at Bremer Bank.

# May 2022

June 2022

May 2022

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 5  | 6  | 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 |
| 12 | 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 |
| 19 | 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 |
| 26 | 27 | 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Su | Mo | Tu | We | Th | Fr | Sa |
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  | 7  |
| 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 | 14 |
| 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 | 21 |
| 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 | 28 |
| 29 | 30 | 31 |    |    |    |    |

| SUNDAY   | MONDAY  | TUESDAY  | WEDNESDAY   | THURSDAY  | FRIDAY  | SATURDAY                              |
|--|---|--|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| <b>May 1</b><br>New Member Sunday<br>8:30am Choir Practice<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship                               | <b>2</b><br>6:30pm Book Club  | <b>3</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff<br>5:30pm Staff Meeting                                   | <b>4</b><br>5:30pm Meal<br>6:15pm Wednesday School<br>6:15pm Worship<br>6:45pm Confirmation | <b>5</b><br>7:00am Men's<br>Breakfast-Fryn' Pan   | <b>6</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff<br>6:30pm Eagle Court of Honor | <b>7</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff  |
| <b>8</b><br>Mother's Day<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship   | <b>9</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff<br>12:00pm Ministerial Meeting<br>7:00pm Council Meeting | <b>10</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff<br>12:00pm Ministerial Meeting<br>7:00pm Council Meeting | <b>11</b><br>1:00pm Prayer Shawl  | <b>12</b><br>7:00am Men's<br>Breakfast-Fryn' Pan<br>9:00am Conference Meeting<br>1:30pm Abigail Circle<br>7:00pm Rebekah Circle | <b>13</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                               | <b>14</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff |
| <b>15</b><br>8:30am Choir Practice at Bethel<br>9:30am Joint Worship Service at Bethel<br>10:30am Fellowship with<br>2:00pm HyperBowling | <b>16</b><br>6:30pm Book Club   | <b>17</b><br>9:00am Quilting<br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                                       | <b>18</b><br>9:00am Quilting<br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                                    | <b>19</b><br>7:00am Men's<br>Breakfast-Fryn' Pan<br>11:30am Blood Drive (Fellowship Hall)<br>6:30pm LYO Meeting (Luther Room)   | <b>20</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                               | <b>21</b><br>Synod Assembly           |
| <b>22</b><br>Senior Recognition<br>9:30am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship  | <b>23</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff   | <b>24</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff  | <b>25</b><br>BLW Pentecost Celebration<br>7:00am Men's<br>Breakfast-Fryn' Pan               | <b>26</b><br>BLW Pentecost Celebration<br>7:00am Men's<br>Breakfast-Fryn' Pan   | <b>27</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                               | <b>28</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff |
| <b>29</b><br>9:30am Worship Service<br>10:30am Fellowship  | <b>30</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff   | <b>31</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff  | Jun 1   | <b>2</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff  | <b>3</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff                                | <b>4</b><br>9:30am Coffee with Staff  |