



GOOD NEWS

November/December 2023



A message from the Presiding Bishop of the ELCA

"My God, my God, why have you forsaken me? Why are you so far from helping me, from the words of my groaning?" —Psalm 22:1

Dear church,

As Lutherans, we are accustomed to holding tension between two truths. Thus the ELCA denounces the egregious acts of Hamas, acts that have led to unspeakable loss of life and hope. At the same time the ELCA denounces the indiscriminate retaliation of Israel against the Palestinian people, both Christian and Muslim.

For the past week we have borne witness to the horrors of the escalating crisis between Israel and Hamas. We also watch a growing humanitarian crisis in Gaza as Israel blocks food, water, fuel and medical supplies and as airstrikes continue to cause unbearable civilian casualties ahead of a just-announced ground assault. We see Israelis and families around the world in the agonizing wait for word about the fate of loved ones killed or taken hostage by Hamas. We are in anguish, grieving and praying for all people who are living in trauma, fear and uncertainty.

Among us are Palestinian Lutherans who are fearful for their families, their communities and their homeland. In our communities we have Jewish and Muslim neighbors, who are also facing the horrors of this crisis and its impact on their loved ones.

It is difficult to find words that suffice in the complexity of this moment, and in the web of relationships that bind us together, as church, with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land and our interreligious partners. Yet God has called us to be a people who stand with others amid suffering.

We must also call a thing a thing. The power exerted against all Palestinian people — through the occupation, the expansion of settlements and the escalating violence — must be called out as a root cause of what we are witnessing. We are committed to our long-standing accompaniment of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

The God who liberates us calls us to be a liberating witness. May it be so.

In Christ,

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



Church Events

- Sundays—8:30 a Bible Study
9:30 a Worship
10:30 a Fellowship
- Tuesdays & Fridays at 9:30 a—
Coffee with the Staff
- Wednesdays (starting 9/13/23)
5:30 p Meal
6:15 p Worship
6:30 p Wed. School & Music
6:45 p Confirmation
7:00 p Bells Practice
7:00 p Choir Rehearsal
- Thursdays at 7:00 a—Men's
Breakfast at the Fryn' Pan
- November 7—5 to 7 p
Meatball Dinner
5:15 p Staff Meeting
- Nov 9 & Dec 14
1:00 p Abigail Circle
7:00 p Rebekah Circle
- Nov 14 & Dec 12
1:00 p Prayer Shawl
6:30 p Church Council
- November 16—1:30 pm-5:00 pm
Blood Drive
- Nov 20 & Dec 18
7:00 p Book Club
- Nov 21 & Dec 19
6:00 p Evening Quilting
- Nov 19 @ 4:00 p Joint
Thanksgiving Worship/Bethel
- Nov 22 & Dec 20
9:00 a Quilting
- Nov 23-24, Dec 25 & Jan 1
Office Closed for Holiday
- Dec 17—Children's Christmas
Program

Contact Information

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

Office email:
officebrecklutheran@gmail.com

Pastor's email:
pastorbrecklutheran@gmail.com

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

From the Vice President—Orrin Ausen

What's the best time to meet with God?

GOD DOESN'T PRESCRIBE WHEN OR HOW OFTEN we should connect with Him, but a “*standing appointment*” is a great place to start. There are parts of the day when we're better able to focus – times when we're most alert, more relaxed, or less likely to be distracted. When we're consistent in meeting with Him and our devotions become a top priority, true transformation takes place.

Take a moment to prepare.

1. Think of your get-togethers with the Lord as the blessing He intends.

Like the psalmist, we can be glad whenever we come to the Lord's presence (122:1), because that's where we will find “fullness of joy” and “pleasure forever” (16:11).

2. Consider setting a regular time to meet with God.

Let the following verses motivate you to seek Him consistently and approach each get-together with expectancy:

In the morning, Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly. -Psalm 5:3
Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life. Psalm 143:8

3. Ask the Lord to meet with you in a personal and unmistakable way.

Use our own words or the following prayer:

Father, Thank you for your Word and the reassurance it gives that you care about me and the details of my life. Help me come away from our time together certain that I've heard from you. And let today's interaction change me, even in small way, to be more like your Son. Amen

Remember: God delights in our fellowship. And while a routine tome for prayer is helpful, the One who never sleeps hears His children at any hour they call to Him (Psalm 55:17, 12:4).

“Your spiritual life goals are of utmost importance... Look at your quiet time or start one. Determine for yourself when you're going to have a quiet time and how many times a week. Don't leave it to chance. If you don't have a plan, you will come to the end pf your week and realize that other things have occupied your time.”

Your time spent with God should be the most important task of your day, after all, isn't that what we long for as we await heaven to arrive? Consider your quiet time with God in this life a foretaste yet to come!



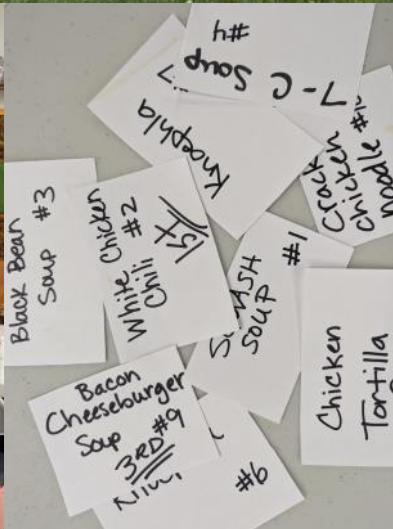
On September 28, 2023, the BLC hosted a concert by the Moline Sisters



Youth Ministry

The Youth have had an eventful Fall. On September 9th, they had a float in the Headwaters Parade and a booth where they sold Tacos-in-a-Bag. September 30th they went to the Haunted Farm in Moorhead. October 25th the LYO had a Soup Competition & Bake Sale to raise funds for the 2024 National Youth Gathering being held in New Orleans.

Upcoming events include the Northwest Synod Middle School gathering November 17-18, packing the food backpacks at the Richland Wilkin Food Pantry on October 30th & December 11th, attending Youth Mental Health presentations on November 15, 16 & 17 and packing Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes on November 19th. In January, 2024 we will participate in the Feed My Starving Children "10 Million Meal" packing event (more info to come).





Memorials and Gifts

In memory of:	Given by:
Debt Reduction	
Arlen Steffens	Pete & Connie Jensen
Dennis Milbrandt	Pete & Connie Jensen
Kevin Melkert	Pete & Connie Jensen
Olivia Mae Buth	Tim & Melanie Buth
Elevator	
Al Johnson	Jan Michels
Bernice Genereux	Ken & Cleo Reitan
Kevin Melkert	Jan Michels
General	
Al Johnson	Gary & Jane Fick
Arlen Steffens	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen
Kevin Melkert	Bryan & Cindie VanTassel, Kitty Hansen
William Brudvik	Gary & Jane Fick
Prayer Shawl	
Bernice Genereux	Michael & Diane Belseth
William Brudvik	Ken & Cleo Reitan
Property/Sewer Repair	
Bernice Genereux	Jan Michels
Kevin Melkert	Dennis & Rene Hasbargen
Sharon Larson	Joel & Melanie Herder
Tim Sell	Joel & Melanie Herder
Quilting	
Bernice Genereux	Pr & Sunny Tulu
Heather Mumm	Michael & Diane Belseth
Judy Siggerud	Jeff & Cathy Affield
Marlene Johnson	Jan Michels, Jeff & Cathy Affield
Sunday/Wednesday School	
Doug Coen	Michael & Diane Belseth

If you have had a recent change to your address, phone number or email address, please be sure to let the church office know!



Mission Report—Connie Jensen

Our September Mission was health and school kits gathered and distributed by the Rebekah Circle. We received enough donations to make several kits. Thank you for your ongoing generosity!

The October and November Mission is Operation Christmas Child. Last year we filled over 50 shoeboxes, worth nearly \$500 worth of goods to be sent to children around the world through Samaritan's Purse. This year, we are collecting donations to purchase shoeboxes (\$25 for 12 reusable plastic boxes) and items to fill the shoeboxes. Please refer to the lists available by either entrance of suggested gift ideas for boys and girls and their age groups. Feel free to take a box and fill it on your own, otherwise LYO youth will assist with the assembly delivery mid-November.

Our December Mission is gift cards for needy families in Wilkin County. Cards for groceries, hardware, gas, or oil changes make their use convenient for families and support local businesses. Cards may be dropped off with Lois or dropped into the door slot in the church office. Cash donations will be used to purchase gift cards. Through these gifts, we communicate to children and their families what the angel said to the shepherds about Jesus' birth: "I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people" (*Luke 2:10, ESV*).

Thank you for your continued support!

Planning Council Minutes can be found in the back of the church.



On September 30th, BLC had a Fish Fry (Thank you, Harvey) to raise funds for the sewer repairs.

October was Clergy Appreciation Month so we celebrated with some cake for Pastor Ale.



We will be creating both an online and print version of the Church Directory—but we need photographs of all Breckenridge Lutheran Church's members. If you have a current family/individual photo we can use, please submit it either electronically (officebrecklutheran@gmail.com) or drop off a hard copy in the office. We will also be offering photo shoots here in the church beginning September 13th. (*More details to follow.*)



Financial Summary (as of September 30, 2023)

September 2023 Financial Summary	
General Account Income in September 2023	\$21,597.50
General Account Expenditures in September 2023	\$17,635.18
Cash Profit for the month	\$3,629.33

Year to Date Income	Year to Date Expenses	Year to Date Net Loss	Monthly Budget	Weekly Budget
\$166,456.95	\$175,086.28	(\$8,629.33)	\$24,016	\$5,542

On behalf of the church Council, I'd like to extend a thank you to those who returned their updated membership information. It is important that our records are current and that your contact information is accurate. If you haven't returned your postcard, please do so by December 1st so that data for the 2023 Annual Report is as up to date as possible.

Connie Jensen, Council Secretary

Upcoming Events

**November/
December
Events**

SCHEDULE

- 19 NOV** THANKSGIVING WORSHIP
BETHEL LUTHERAN | 4:00 PM
- 17 DEC** CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PROGRAM
BLC | 9:30 AM
- 21 DEC** BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE
EVERGREEN UMC | 12:00 PM
- 24 DEC** CANDLELIGHT SERVICE
BLC | 4:00 PM

FEED MY STARVING CHILDREN

MOBILEPACK™

FargoPack

10 days, 10 million meals!

Celebrate Year 10

Jan 5-15th

YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

A Community Weekend of Hope!

David will teach us how to effectively identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among youth ages 12-18.

WEDNESDAY, NOV 15
5:30 pm- 6:45 PM Pizza Dinner
7:00 PM - Presentation for Youth
@ Bethel Lutheran Church
607 6th St N, Wahpeton, ND

THURSDAY, NOV 16
6:30 pm - Presentation for Parents & Community Members
"IF YOU ONLY KNEW: MENTAL HEALTH, SUICIDE & FAITH"
@ Inspiration Lutheran Church
1130 Main St, Breckenridge, MN

THURSDAY & FRIDAY
Look for David at our local schools!

SATURDAY, NOV 18
8:30 to 4:30 - Presentation for Professionals
"YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID"
FREE TRAINING, LUNCH AND CEU'S
@ United Methodist Church
910 Main St, Breckenridge, MN
LIMITED TO 30 PARTICIPANTS
REGISTRATION REQUIRED

REGISTER NOW!



SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT
TINYURL.COM/YMHFA-MN



Speaker DAVID GALVAN
David is an engaging and dynamic speaker who has been equipping thousands of students and adults with the focus of healthy relationships, teen mental health and suicide prevention. David is dedicated to the mission that every person should have access to help, healing and hope!



YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID

WHY YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?
Youth Mental Health First Aid teaches you how to identify, understand and respond to signs of mental health and substance use challenges among children and adolescents ages 12-18.

WHO SHOULD KNOW MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID?

- Teachers
- School Staff
- Coaches
- Camp Counselors
- Youth Group Leaders
- Parents
- Adults who Work with Youth

10.2% of youth will be diagnosed with a substance use disorder in their lifetime.
Source: Youth Mental Health First Aid**

1 IN 5 teens and young adults lives with a mental health condition.
Source: National Alliance for Mental Illness**

50% of all mental illnesses begin by age 14, and 75% by the mid-20s.
Source: Archives of General Psychiatry***

WHAT MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID COVERS

- Common signs and symptoms of mental health challenges in this age group, including anxiety, depression, eating disorders and attention deficit hyperactive disorder (ADHD).
- Common signs and symptoms of substance use challenges.
- How to interact with a child or adolescent in crisis.
- How to connect the youth with help.
- Expanded content on trauma, substance use, self-care and the impact of social media and bullying.

Learn how to respond with the Mental Health First Aid Action Plan (ALGEE):

- A**ssess for risk of suicide or harm.
- L**isten nonjudgmentally.
- C**ive reassurance and information.
- E**ncourage appropriate professional help.
- E**ncourage self-help and other support strategies.

REGISTER NOW!
Date: Saturday, Nov. 18 | 8:30a - 4:30p
Cost: No cost - Registration required!
Location: Breckenridge UMC
910 Main Street
Breckenridge, MN 56520

SCAN ME

Scan the QR code or visit tinyurl.com/ymhfa-mn to sign up!

Sources:
** National Alliance on Mental Illness (n.d.). <https://www.nami.org/our-journey/kids-teens-and-young-adults/6163>.
** Mental Health First Aid (2020). *Mental Health First Aid USA*. For adults assisting children and youth. National Council for Mental Wellbeing.
*** Kessler, R., Berglund, P., Demler, C., Jin, R., Merikangas, K.R., Walters, E.E. (2005, June). Lifetime prevalence and age-of-onset distributions of DSM-IV disorders in the National Comorbidity Survey Replication. *Archives of General Psychiatry*, 62(6), 593-602. doi: 10.1093/psychiatry/kni068



Breckenridge Lutheran Church
301 6th St N | Breckenridge, MN

2023 Annual Election Night Meatball Dinner

Tuesday, November 7th
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm

- ✓ \$15 MEAL TICKET INCLUDES: HOMEMADE MEATBALLS W/ GRAVY, MASHED POTATOES, CORN, COLESLAW, DINNER ROLL AND DESSERT
- ✓ IN-HOUSE DINING WITH OPTION FOR CARRY-OUT OR DELIVERY
- ✓ RAFFLE TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE FOR \$25 EACH (Only 130 raffle tickets available)



1st Prize: KHS Envoy 200 Electric Bike
Valued at \$1,850
Color - Matte Dark Gray
2 hour/40 mile range run time
Kickstand, Fenders, Alloy Rear Carrier included, Upgraded Seat, 700x35c tires.

2nd Prize: \$200
3rd Prize: \$50

FOR MEAL/RAFFLE TICKETS, CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE AT (218) 643-4892, A MEMBER OF THE WELCA, OR SCAN THE QR CODE TO PURCHASE MEAL TICKETS ONLINE.



DRAWING TO BE HELD NOVEMBER 8TH
(NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN)

City of Breckenridge

Tree Lighting & Holiday Event 2023

Join us in kicking off the holiday season at this free, family event.

Monday, November 27th
5:00-7:00 PM *Tree Lighting at 6pm
Family Community Center
521 6th Street North

Variety of free activities indoor & outdoor, including refreshments, music, crafts, games, bonfire & much more.



More information at www.breckenridgemn.net & Facebook event: Breckenridge Tree Lighting & Holiday Event

SCAN ME



City of Breckenridge



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
BRECKENRIDGE MN
PERMIT NO. 42

Breckenridge Lutheran Church

Located at 301 6th St N | Breckenridge, MN

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!



Worship Schedule

Worship Service—Sundays at 9:30 am | Fellowship at 10:30 am

Wednesday Meal at 5:30 pm | Worship Service at 6:15 pm | Education at 6:30 pm | Confirmation at 6:45 pm

Holy Communion on the 1st and 3rd Sunday