




**Congregation Meeting**

**Sunday, August 20, 2017**

# AGENDA

- Welcome and Call to Order
- Opening Prayer
- Mission Statement
- Blessings to Share
- Y-T-D Key Accomplishments
- Y-T-D Financial Summary
- Daycare Status
- Calling an Additional Pastor
- Reformation Event
- Circuit Visitor, Pr. Brones
- Courtyard
- Youth
- Call to Volunteer
- Thanks!
- Closing





# WELCOME AND CALL TO ORDER

- Welcome
- Voting members (first time) must be registered in the official church roster
- Introduce Executive Council members
- Call to order
- For time's sake, please hold your questions. There will be a Q&A after the meeting.

# OPENING PRAYER



# BLC MISSION STATEMENT

Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church is dedicated to:

*Preach the crucified and risen Jesus Christ as the Lord and Savior,*

*make disciples in all the world,*

*baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit,*

*practice Christian Fellowship with one another,*

*help each other grow in the Word,*

*and serve the needs of all people in Christian love.*

# BLESSINGS TO SHARE

- Car for Pastor Thwala
- VBS Program and Volunteerism
- Vicarage Program
  - Pr. Doug Hudson, Don Losey, Vicar Murphy, Vicar McCarty
- Operation Barnabas Start Up
- President's Equip Conference
  - (600-700 LCMSers in Ponte Vedra!)



# SOME YTD KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Ordination of Former Member Doug Hudson
- Member Don Losey to Seminary
- LWML "Re-booted"
- Music Program
- Moisture Proofing the Sanctuary Continues
- Day Care Beautification
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Party IT Security Audit



# YTD FINANCIAL SUMMARY (JUNE 30)

- YTD income over budget
- YTD expenses over budget (due to 3-cycle pay period in June)
- Total Assets increased (due to favorable market performance). Assets=building, endowment, and restricted funds.
- Our generous congregation has supported many missions outside of the operating budget (Baby Bottles, African Mission, FMS, and MANY more)



# PRESCHOOL

- **Mission:** *We exist to proclaim Christ's love and forgiveness to children and their families. To that end, our experienced, loving teachers provide the highest quality care and education for infants and children in a safe Christian Preschool.*
- **Introduce Board of Education Members**
- **Enrollment:** 53 young souls
- **Staff:**
  - 7 full-time lead teachers with CDA/educational certification
  - 3 full-time assistance teachers with DCF training
  - 2 new hires in training for assistant position (1 part-time, 1 full-time)
  - 1 part-time cook/janitor
  - 1 bookkeeper
  - 1 director



# CALLING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

- STRAW POLL TAKEN BY ELDERS Q4 2016
  - CURRENT MODEL (ONE CALLED SENIOR PASTOR AND ONE P.T. PASTOR) IS LEAVING SOME MINISTERIAL NEEDS UNDERSERVED
  - A FULL TIME ASSOCIATE PASTOR WOULD BE A MEANS OF CLOSING THE GAP
    - EMPHASIS ON YOUTH, EVANGELISM, FAMILY
    - ...BUILD A TOMORROW FOR BLC, THE LCMS, AND THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH AT LARGE
  - BUILD SUCCESSION (CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRY & VICARAGE PROGRAM)
- AT THE REQUEST OF THE ELDERS, A CALL COMMITTEE WAS FORMED IN Q2 2017.
  - COMMITTEE IS REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ENTIRE BLC CHURCH BODY
  - INTRODUCE MEMBERS

# CALLING AN ASSOCIATE PASTOR

- STRATEGY IS FORMATIVE, SO CONGREGATION'S INPUT IS WELCOME
- WE WILL FOLLOW SYNODICAL PROTOCOL AND THE BLC CONSTITUTION
- CALL PROCESS IS DIFFERENT WHEN CALLING A PASTOR VS A SEMINARIAN
- GOAL IS TO HAVE A CLEAR VISION BY LATE Q3 2017
- CONGREGATION WILL VOTE ON THE CALL
- SYNOD HAS OVERSIGHT ON CANDIDATE ROSTER

*"Filling a vacancy is ultimately only something God can do. Without His guidance, our best human efforts would result in a "hiring." The calling of a pastor is an act of faith. It is, finally, God who calls and not the congregation."*

-LCMS guidance on calling a pastor

# REFORMATION EVENT

- A HISTORICAL MILESTONE IN THE HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY
- WE WANT TO TELL **OUR STORY: SALVATION THROUGH GRACE ALONE**, PROACTIVELY VS OTHER NARRATIVES
- REGIONAL EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY
- DR. PAUL ROBINSON, PROFESSOR AND DEAN OF HISTORICAL THEOLOGY, CONCORDIA SEMINARY, ST. LOUIS.
  - UNF'S ROBINSON THEATER COMPLEX
  - SATURDAY, OCT 28, 9:00-12:00



# REFORMATION EVENT

- ▶ Event Committee will be the “Mission Planning Committee” and Other Volunteers
- ▶ REGISTER: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/celebration-of-the-500th-reformation-anniversary-tickets-36844696479>
- ▶ Worship Service (Without Communion) That Evening at BLC
- ▶ **MANY, MANY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!**
  - ▶ See Pr. Bicknase or contact the church office



# Circuit Visitor, Pr. Brones

- A circuit, in the Lutheran Church–Missouri Synod (LCMS), is a local grouping of congregations within one of the Synod's 35 districts.
- Circuits typically include 8 to 12 congregations.
- A circuit visitor is a pastor who helps to oversee the other pastors within a circuit.
- Customarily circuit visitor is a seven year commitment
- Pr. Brones has completed six years
- Friday, the Synod and the circuit members requested BLC to approve one more year for Pr. To serve as Circuit Visitor
- Motion: Nominate Pr Dana Brones as Circuit Visitor for one year

# COURTYARD

- CURRENT COURTYARD HAS SERVED THE CONGREGATION WELL FOR MANY YEARS
- REALITY: ONGOING REPAIRS, TRIPPING ACCIDENTS, DRAINAGE ISSUES, TRAFFIC DESIGN
- HIRED A "HARDSCAPE" PROFESSIONAL FOR DESIGN PROPOSAL
- FOUNTAIN WILL REMAIN 😊
- ESTIMATED COST OF \$40,000.
- EXPENSE MAY BE PAID IN PART BY OFFERING PERSONALIZED PAVER BRICKS





# YOUTH

- WE RECOGNIZE THAT THE TIME OF ACTION IS TODAY...TO HAVE A CHURCH TOMORROW
- EXCELLENT VBS PARTICIPATION
- CONFIRMATION CLASSES
- CALENDAR OF EVENTS
  - MISSION ACTIVITIES
  - SUMMER CAMP
  - YOUTH CONVENTION IN 2018
- NOT JUST PARENTS, OUR ENTIRE CONGREGATION MUST BE ENGAGED WITH OUR YOUTH





# GET CONNECTED!

- **WEBSITE:**

- <http://www.bethlehemlutheranjaxbeach.org/>

- Tons of information

- Sermons on demand

- Church calendar

- eMail blasts for timely news

- Keep ALL your contact information up to date

## STAY CONNECTED!

# CALL TO VOLUNTEER

- Altar Guild
- CD Ministry
- Coffee Fellowship
- Columbarium
- Fellowship
- Funeral Help
- Greeters
- Hand bells
- Kitchen Cleanup
- Mission House
- Outreach
- Prayer Ministry
- Preschool
- Property
- Screen Operators
- Sunday School Teachers
- **Transportation**
- Ushers
- VBS

AND MORE TO COME!





**GOD HAS BLESSED  
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH!**

**I GIVE THANKS TO EACH AND  
EVERY ONE OF YOU,  
BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN  
CHRIST, FOR ALL YOU HAVE  
DONE FOR OUR MISSION.**



*Go In Peace,  
To Serve The Lord!*

**THANKS BE TO GOD!**