



CREATED *in the* IMAGE *of a* GENEROUS GOD

2023 COMMITMENT APPEAL

FROM INTERIM LEAD PASTOR VERN CHRISTOPHERSON:

I am so very grateful to be with you at Bethlehem as your Interim Lead Pastor. Everything from spirited worship services to passionate support of neighborhood ministries to lively conversations at Transition Team Listening Sessions gives me hope for what's coming next at Bethlehem Lutheran Church Twin Cities. At the same time, we know that our church and our world have changed dramatically over the last three years. Now more than ever, discerning ministry priorities is an exercise in faith.

Friends, wherever you are on the journey of faith, I invite you to help us put these priorities on the back of this document into action. We believe we are Created in the Image of a Generous God. We trust God's Spirit to inspire us in our generosity and lead the way.

Pastor Vern

2023 BETHLEHEM COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

1. PREPARE FOR A NEW SENIOR PASTOR
2. WELCOME ALL
3. RECONNECT POST COVID
4. ENSURE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY
5. PRIORITIZE OUR CONNECTION WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH
6. INJECT HOPE AND VITALITY INTO MINISTRY

[Turn over for detailed information.]

2023 BETHLEHEM COUNCIL PRIORITIES:



- 1. PREPARE FOR A NEW SENIOR PASTOR.** We will actively support the work of the Transition Team with its Listening Sessions and Ministry Area Evaluations. As the team finishes up its work with a Ministry Site Profile, we will pay careful attention to how it defines us as a congregation. Then we will get to work forming a Call Committee that will lead us in the search for a new Senior Pastor.
- 2. WELCOME ALL.** We will create and live into a robust welcome statement. We commit to go wherever this welcome takes us, including conversations about racial equality, gender identity, political division, mental health, and a whole host of other areas that often make us uncomfortable.
- 3. RECONNECT POST COVID.** We will reconnect with Bethlehem members we haven't seen in a while, not to interrogate them, but simply to check on their well-being. Whether they still feel connected to Bethlehem or not, they need to know they are not forgotten. We routinely bump into folks whose lives have changed, who are disenchanted with Christianity or the Church, or who are simply busy. Reaching out to them is hard. In all humility, we ask God to give us the most helpful words to say.
- 4. ENSURE FISCAL TRANSPARENCY.** We will strive for more transparency in fiscal matters, both setting out the financial challenges that we face and encouraging people to support us as generously as they are able.
- 5. PRIORITIZE OUR CONNECTION WITH CHILDREN & YOUTH.** We will work to strengthen our children's ministry, listening to parents and children to determine how best to support them in their efforts to live as followers of Jesus.
- 6. INJECT HOPE AND VITALITY INTO MINISTRY.** We will embrace the maxim that good ideas are our lifeblood, and that we are one good idea away from transformation. We know we can't do everything, but we pledge to be strategic in our efforts to inject hope and vitality into the ministry of Bethlehem.



4100 Lyndale Ave S.
Minneapolis, MN 55409
612.312.3400

16023 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
952.935.3419

bethlehem-church.org