

# Annual Report of the Congregation



Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
God's work. Our hands.

## PASTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2008

*“So if anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.” 2 Corinthians 5:17*

This has been a year of transition: endings, beginnings, first conversations, welcome, faith and future. I have been deeply blessed to join you as your new pastor. The words that, for me describe this time are faith, grace and gift. Faith is the courage to trust God in all things; and with that faith you called your new pastor and I accepted that call. God has indeed been gracious. As I listen to conversation after worship on Sunday morning, I hear of gift and joy and hope and expectancy. God is mightily at work among us and never is that more palpable than in a time of transition. Thank you for your welcome, your prayers, your support, your care of my family, and for our partnership in Christ.

My ministry among you began in mid-June, therefore we began together with Vacation Bible School. What a joyful entrance into the life of this congregation. Kim Oswald took up her position with foresight and organization. The joyous energy of that week is emblematic of this congregation. Learning Circle attendance has risen this fall. I was particularly happy to bring Wombat Divine to the congregation, and watch its youngest star, 2 yr. old Hyla Hall. Youth and children's ministry will continue to be a central ministry of this congregation and one of my deepest joys. Jonathan Garman furthers this ministry so capably. He has superb gifts and tireless dedication to the faith development of the middle school and high school youth of the congregation. I am grateful for his collegiality.

The outreach of this congregation is expansive. Our full day and half day programs reach many young families in our community under the capable direction of Debbie Carr and Gail Winterbourne. Both programs began regular preschool chapel this fall and I am grateful for the partnership we share. This congregation's outreach to the community and beyond is wide in its scope and breadth—pajama project, CRC support, secret santa, TACO, the global awareness center, and the gifts of the women's ministry are but a few whose gifts were evident this fall and winter. I want to thank those who make these and many other ministries possible. Equipping and supporting these capable lay leaders will be a continual and growing ministry of the congregation.

We began in September the *Healthy Start* process. Through this process, the council, transition team and staff are working together on our shared vision and discerning God's voice for all that lies ahead. It continues to be a very productive process. Expect to hear more in the coming year from this team. On behalf of myself and the congregation I want to thank Tom Rappolt and all the members of the call committee for their dedicated and faithful attention to the congregation and God's call. The hours and heart invested by these committee members in a call process are incalculable and we are deeply indebted to you all. The transition team continues to meet regularly as a valuable asset to the congregation through this transition and in the Healthy Start process. Bruce Dugmore has served as this congregation's president in a challenging year of transition. His faithful and capable leadership have been a blessing to me and to the congregation. Judy

Foland has played an integral and central role in the smooth transition of this past year. Her professionalism, commitment, knowledge and expertise are essential in the daily life of the congregation and a gift to me.

Adult education began in a new way this fall with a seven week class on Islam and Christianity taught by Pastor Daren Erisman. The class was resoundingly well received with more than 70 people in attendance. Iriety's Burrows' class is consistently appreciated and well attended as well. Adult education will become a growing focus here at Bethlehem as we look toward a structure that will continue to bring new and expanded learning opportunities.

Twenty-two new members were welcomed into the congregation's life this fall. Meet and Greet the Sequel was begun so that I might quickly deepen my relationships in the congregation. I have structured it so that these conversations continue to be fertile ground for new ideas and vision and deepening relationships. Bethlehem is an extremely welcoming congregation. Welcome ministry and new member care will become another central focus of our shared ministry in the coming year.

I wish to thank Iriety's Burrows, all the Stephen Ministers, and Rose Moldenhauer, our parish nurse, for all they do in the care of this congregation. Those in need or crisis are blessed by a team of individuals whose compassion addresses their medical, spiritual and emotional needs. This Advent we began a Blue Christmas service to assist in that care. I am profoundly grateful to Iriety's and Rose for our regular partnership.

The sanctuary sound system was upgraded this fall to enhance the worship and music life of the congregation. Worship is the central event in our life together as the people of God. Our worship numbers are consistently growing which is a very healthy indicator of that truth. My thanks to Mona Goetsch for the superb musical gifts we receive on a weekly basis and thanks to all those who give of themselves to enhance our worship together.

Given the limit of this report, please know that my heartfelt thanks goes out to all the people who I have not named, but whose work is vital to this congregation and a personal joy to my ministry.

As we look back over the past year there is much for which to give God thanks and praise. This is a congregation of expansive gifts and deliberate hope. The road ahead offers much promise. We celebrate the gifts and grace of this year and lay all that is yet to be in God's hands as we faithfully attend his new call. Immediately after naming us a new creation, Paul says, "We are ambassadors for Christ." 2 Corinthians 5:20. And so we are. We are called to bear Christ to this world in word and deed.

It is my privilege and honor to serve a congregation, and to serve with a people, who faithfully live out that call every day. Thank you again for your gracious welcome of me and of my family. I look forward to many years of ministry together. God bless you all.  
In Christ, Pastor Laura Ziehl

# **AGENDA FOR THE 47<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL MEETING BETHLEHEM EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

**Call to Order:** Bruce Dugmore, Council President. (A quorum is 10% of the confirmed membership. On January 1, 2009, there were 757 Confirmed members, so a quorum is 76.

**Devotions:** Iriety Burrows

**Approval of Minutes:** Motion: I move that we approved the minutes (or approve as amended) of January 20, 2008 Annual Meeting. Second the motion, Discussion, Vote.

Adoption of the Proposed 2009 Budget: Motion: I move that we adopt the proposed 2009 budget in the amount of \$695,300. Second the motion, Discussion, Vote.

Election of Congregation Council Members: See report from the Nominating Committee. (If there are no additional nominations from the floor at this meeting, then someone may “move election of the slate as presented.” If there are additional nominations, we will need a ballot vote.) Motion, Second, Discussion, Vote.

Election of the Nominating Committee: This committee will bring nominations to the January 2010 Annual Meeting. (If there are no additional nominations from the floor at this meeting, then someone may “move election of the slate as presented.”). Motion, Second, Discussion, Vote.

Please use the enclosed sheet to offer comments and suggestions. They will be referred to the appropriate leaders, officers, or staff members.

The Reports: The printed reports from the staff and ministries of the congregation are received as presented unless there are questions or comments.

Adjournment: If there is no other business, the chairperson will declare the meeting adjourned.

**Report of the Nominating Committee for the Annual Meeting of  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
January 18, 2009**

Eleven members of the congregation comprise the church council, in addition to the pastor. Terms are staggered to maintain continuity in the experience and leadership of the council, with three or four new members joining the council each year to replace departing members. The recommendations of the Nominating Committee are as follows:

1. The following members of the Congregation Council will continue to serve:

Dee Smith, Jim Cowles, Audrey Murphy (terms ending 2009)

Karin Kloehn, Matt Dickerson, Dianne Nichols, Dennis Astroth (terms ending 2010)

2. The following are nominated to serve new three year terms on the Council, through December 2011:

Marji Wilkens  
Tim Staycer

Scott Anderson  
Ken Christensen

In addition, the Nominating Committee is charged with filling a Nominating Committee who will nominate church members interested in serving on the Congregational Council starting in 2010. The following individuals have agreed to serve on the next Nominating Committee:

Bruce Dugmore  
Wayne Yonda

Dave Ensberg  
Lori Wolf

This report respectfully submitted by the 2008 Nominating Committee

Jon Appel  
Karl von Schlieder

Nancy Ingman

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
2008 CONGREGATIONAL COUNCIL**

OFFICERS:	President	Bruce Dugmore
	Vice-President	Dennis Astroth
	Secretary	Dee Smith
	Treasurer	Jim Cowles

Jim Behun  
Doug Derouin  
Matt Dickerson  
Karin Kloehn  
Audrey Murphy  
Dianne Nichols  
Clemencia Pinilla  
Pastor Laura Ziehl

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH STAFF**

STAFF:	Pastor	Pastor Laura Ziehl (6/15/08 to present)
	Interim Pastor	Pastor Gene Holtz (1/1/08 – 6/01/08)
	Early Childhood Center Directors	Debi Carr & Gail Winterbourne
	Youth Director	Jonathan Garman
	Office Administrator	Judy Foland
	Director of Children's Ministries	Kim Oswald (4/15/08 to present)
		Linda Stuessi (1/01/08 – 4/15/08)
	Music Staff	Mona Goetsch, Coordinator Judy Collier, Organist/Keyboardist Mary Shaima, Liturgist
	Health Ministry	Rose Moldenhauer
	Financial Secretary	Carol Sanders

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**Annual Meeting of the Congregation**  
**Sunday, January 20, 2008, 9:50 am**

Bruce Dugmore, council Vice President, called the meeting to order at 9:53am

By sign-in sheet, a total of 98 voting members were present, sufficient for a quorum, which was established as 74 voting members. The sign-in sheets are included with the official minutes.

Iriety Burrows gave the devotions at the beginning of the meeting.

The minutes from the January 21, 2007 annual meeting were approved.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the 2008 budget. Doug Derouin, council treasurer, went over the 2008 budget and highlighted the areas that have increased from the 2007 budget. A question was asked about what is the church's long-term debt. Doug Derouin answered the question saying that we owe \$1.1 million in mortgage debt. We have 15 years left to pay on the loan at the amount of \$115,000 a year. He also stated that the campus value is between \$7 and \$9 million. A question was asked if the church would consider looking in to establishing an endowment fund in which people can remember the church in their will and that is untouchable. Pastor Gene Holtz answered saying that we currently have an \$85,000 endowment fund that we can use the interest only. We will publicize this fund more often to the congregation. A question was asked about a statement on the 2008 Proposed Budget saying that "some of the new expenses and programs funding will be approved by the council only if the actual income in the opening months of 2008 indicates that we will be able to support them financially" and how will the decisions be made as to what programs will be funded. Doug Derouin answered saying that the council and the Pastor will have to make those decisions and sometimes they are very tough decisions. The question was asked if we are caught up with our Synod Benevolence payments. Doug Derouin answered yes. A question was asked what our Benevolence payment would be for 2008. Doug Derouin answered \$39,100. The congregation voted to approve the 2008 budget and the motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nomination of new council members. Nominated for three-years terms were Karin Kloehn, Matt Dickerson, Dianne Nichols and Dennis Astroth. Nominated for a two-year term was Audrey Murphy. The congregation voted and the motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the nomination of six members for the 2008 Nominating Committee. They are Dale Johnson, Jon Appel, Joan Lovell, Chuck Tyson, Karl Von Schlieder and Nancy Ingman. The congregation voted and the motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded that the Congregation resolve to borrow the sum of up to \$110,000 payable over a term of up to ten years, from Thrivent Financial for Lutherans

for the purpose of repairs, upkeep, or ministry needs and resolved that the Trustees, or such other officers as may be authorized by the Constitution and Bylaws, are authorized to negotiate terms and conditions for the Loan which will be secured by a second mortgage on all or any portion of the Congregation's property. The persons holding the following offices are authorized to execute all documents for the Loan: President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary. A suggestion was made that the wording in the motion be changed to read "the congregation authorizes the council to negotiate to establish a line of credit up to \$110,000 to be used as needed." Doug Derouin responded that he understands the suggestion, but the wording is at the request of Thrivent. The congregation voted to approve the motion as written. The motion passed.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the written reports of the pastor, committees, and staff included in the 2007 annual report. The congregation voted and the motion passed.

Bruce Dugmore asked the congregation members to use the enclosed yellow Comments and Suggestion page for any comments, questions or suggestions they may have.

The meeting was called to a close at 10:35am.

Danette (Dee) Smith, Secretary  
Bethlehem Lutheran Church Congregational Council, 2007

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church Proposed Budget – Fiscal 2009

	<u>Budget 2008</u>	<u>Actual 2008</u>	<u>Proposed Budget 2009</u>
<b>Income:</b>			
Offerings	\$525,000	\$491,478	\$526,000
Campus Usage Fees	163,000	163,500	169,300
Thrivent Loan		26,000	
Year-End Gifts		32,408	
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<b>\$688,000</b>	<b>\$713,386</b>	<b>\$695,300</b>
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
Pastors	\$144,184	\$123,242	\$122,620
Music	52,380	44,519	48,000
Worship	6,650	5,272	5,900
Christian Education	38,800	29,290	33,525
Youth Director	53,326	56,709	57,714
Outreach	48,874	45,866	52,153
Administration	90,300	91,908	91,245
Operating	81,650	71,433	74,150
Mortgage	115,550	115,548	115,550
Campus Maintenance	104,700	100,616	98,150
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$736,414</b>	<b>\$684,403</b>	<b>\$699,007</b>
<b>Excess (deficiency)</b>	<b>(\$48,414)</b>	<b>\$28,983</b>	<b>(\$3,707)</b>

### COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED 2009 BUDGET

The proposed 2009 budget Income is an estimate based upon our actual income for 2008 along with an increase in Campus Usage Fees reflecting an additional 4% revenues derived from the Preschool and Childcare programs. We began our Stewardship Campaign October 26 and, despite prevailing economic concerns, our pledged Stewardship has continued solid and committed. The accompanying report from the Financial Secretary indicates that as of January 5, we have 147 pledges for 2009 totaling \$408,558, compared to a \$410,000 budget of pledged Stewardship.

Summarized above, the 2009 budgeted Expenditures have been carefully established (at the individual line-item level) to reflect 2008 expenses and adjustments for specific projected efforts. Early in 2009 the Council will establish a financial committee with the charter of developing measures to extend our financial capabilities.

These 2009 Pastors Expenditures include \$15,000 for a part-time Pastoral Assistant to maintain some of the valuable past contributions from Pastor Ray Hartzell and Assistant Pastors Molly Knutson-Keller and Dave Nagler. Bethlehem's broad ministries and membership level

warrant increased Pastoral assistance. Unlike last year's budget, this is not a tentative placeholder but is budgeted as a continued improvement in the quality of our church life and mission.

The coming year's Pastors budget includes \$4,800 for a new item: Social Security payments as an element of realizing the benefits of carrying a greater portion of the Pastor's annual compensation as Expenses (rather than Salary).

The new budget retains \$3,500 in Contingency/Reserve which will be available for various needed but non-specific Operations (\$3000) and Maintenance (\$500) expenses that invariably occur. If this reserve proves greater than needed, it will contribute to a cash balance as we begin 2010.

The Operating budget includes \$2,000 in interest to cover a potential need (drawing upon a line of credit established with Thrivent Financial) to address cash-flow issues during the coming year. We project that the provided 2008 Year-End gifts will enable us to fully retire the current \$26,000 Thrivent loan (that facilitated our cash-flow management from October thru December 2008) in January 2009.

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH  
ANNUAL REPORT OF PLEDGES**

January 4, 2009

2008 HISTORY of PLEDGES MADE and PLEDGED OFFERINGS GIVEN

<u>PLEDGED</u>		
\$378,129	Pledges for 2008	125
\$12,160	Estimates for 2008	14
\$390,289	Pledge Offering Anticipated	139 Families

<u>GIVEN</u>		
\$393,383	Given as Pledge / Estimate 2008	
\$32,408	Given for End of Year Shortfall 2008	
\$425,791	Pledge Plus End of Year	157 Families

<u>CONTRIBUTORS</u>		
Member Families		Prospect Families/Others
35	Gave more than their Pledge	1
48	Gave exact Pledge	5
46	Gave less than their Pledge	1
12	Gave toward Estimate	4
141	Gave as Non-Pledge and Other	58
64	Had no recorded offering.	
346	Total Current Families	69

NEW COMMITMENTS MADE FOR FOLLOWING YEAR 2009

15	"As Able"		\$0
10	Pledged	\$ 1 to \$9 per week	\$2,593
23	Pledged	\$ 10 to \$19 per week	\$15,430
25	Pledged	\$ 20 to \$29 per week	\$30,746
14	Pledged	\$ 30 to \$39 per week	\$24,580
10	Pledged	\$ 40 to \$49 per week	\$23,380
12	Pledged	\$ 50 to \$59 per week	\$33,216
6	Pledged	\$ 60 to \$69 per week	\$21,500
4	Pledged	\$ 70 to \$79 per week	\$15,700
1	Pledged	\$ 80 to \$89 per week	\$4,200
2	Pledged	\$ 90 to \$99 per week	\$9,600
2	Pledged	\$100 to \$109 per week	\$10,912
13	Pledged	\$110 to \$109 per week	\$88,420
6	Pledged	\$200 & Over per week	\$91,380
4	Pledged	Prepaid in 2008 for 2009	\$11,721
		132-Pledged	\$383,378
15	Estimated	Contribution	\$25,180
162	Families Responded to 2009 Pledge Appeal		\$408,558 Total

Carol Sanders  
Financial Secretary

## Bethlehem Lutheran Church Endowment Fund 2008 Annual Report for Reporting Period October 1 2007 to September 30 2008

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church (BLC) Endowment Fund was established in December 2001 with the Lutheran Community Foundation (LCF) as the investment manager. The first member gift was deposited with the LCF in February 2005.

Gifts from Bethlehem members are sent to the fund and invested in a mutual fund. Grant requests approved by the Bethlehem Lutheran Council are sent to the LCF and grant checks sent back to BLC. Investment interest and capital gains accrue in the endowment fund and investment losses and administrative fees reduce the value of the endowment fund.

At the beginning of the reporting period there were five major gifts. One gift, the Gene Pease Scholarship Gift was granted to \$0.00 during the reporting period. As of September 30, 2008 there are four major gifts that comprise the BLC Endowment Fund. Three of the gifts have grant restrictions and one gift has unrestricted grants. Two of the gifts are Permanent and two are Temporary. A Permanent gift type is intended to be managed so as to maintain the principal and make grants from the gift earnings. A Temporary gift is intended to be granted without the restriction of maintaining the principal.

<b>Gift Name</b>	<b>Restriction</b>	<b>Gift Type</b>	<b>Balance Sept 30 2008</b>
<i>Anonymous</i>	Global outreach, scholarships for students in need attending Bethlehem Early Childhood Center, and local outreach.	Permanent	<b>\$41,183.07</b>
<i>Columbarium</i>	Additional construction of columbarium niches	Temporary	<b>\$8,904.10</b>
<i>Bill and Patti Harman Vision Fund</i>	Bethlehem Lutheran Church initiatives as identified by the current Pastor.	Permanent	<b>\$9,002.49</b>
<i>General BLC Gifts</i>	None	Temporary	<b>\$360.18</b>

The financial report for the Endowment Fund for the reporting period ending September 30 2008 is shown in the table below.

<b>Balance on Sept. 30 2007</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>86,984.94</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Contribution to Columbarium Gift	\$	3,750.00	
Grants from Anonymous Gift	\$	(11,500.00)	Student scholarship grant to Early Childhood Center, grant to Center for Global Awareness, portable sinks for Early Childhood Center 1/2 day program.
Grant from Gene Pease Scholarship Gift	\$	(2,528.99)	Student scholarship
Grant from Bill and Patti Harman Vision Gift	\$	(2,000.00)	Healthy Start Initiative
Grant from General BLC Gifts	\$	(1,420.00)	Healthy Start Initiative
Capital Gains / (Losses)	\$	(14,951.04)	
Fund Administrative Fees	\$	(801.46)	
Dividends / Interest	\$	1,916.38	
<b>Balance on Sept. 30 2008</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>59,449.83</b>	

2009 will see the formation of an Endowment Fund Committee. This committee will report to the Congregational Council and will create Endowment Fund By-laws,

administer the Endowment fund, and make grant recommendations. Three congregational members have been asked to serve on this committee. If you are interested in serving please contact a member of the Congregational Council.

Dennis J Astroth

**BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**2008 PASTORAL ACTS**

**Baptisms = 21**  
**Confirmations = 10**  
**Funerals = 4**

**2007 – 2008 STATISTICAL SUMMARY**

**Average Weekly Worship Participation in 2007 = 280**  
**Average Weekly Worship Participation in 2008 = 270**

**Membership at the end of 2007**  
**Baptized (Includes Children) = 1153**  
**Confirmed (Teenage & Adult) = 742**

**Baptized Members received in 2008 = 70**  
**By Transfer, Affirmation & Restoration = 49**  
**By Baptism = 21**

**Baptized Members removed in 2008 = 50**  
**By Death = 5**  
**By Transfer = 11**  
**Inactive/Removed/Moved = 34**

**Confirmed Members received in 2008 = 42**  
**By Transfer, Affirmation & Restoration = 30**  
**By Baptism = 2**  
**Confirmed = 10**

**Confirmed Members removed in 2008 = 27**  
**By Death = 5**  
**By Transfer = 6**  
**Inactive/Removed/Moved = 16**

**Membership at the end of 2008**  
**Baptized (Includes Children) = 1173**  
**Confirmed (Teenage & Adult) = 757**

# BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

## MISSION STATEMENT

**The mission of Bethlehem Lutheran Church  
is to announce boldly the love of God through Christ.**

**We do this because we are:**

- \*Included through baptism**
- \*Nourished by Word and Sacrament**
- \*Rooted in the Gospel**

**We do this by:**

- \*Celebrating our faith in worship**
- \*Listening and responding to needs and concerns**
- \*Including children and youth in all aspects of our ministry**
- \*Applying our faith in loving, caring actions in our community and throughout the world**

## VISION STATEMENT

**We see Worship as a means by which we are continually called and drawn into renewed relationship with God through Christ.** We are called by God through Baptism and reach out through Word and Sacrament-centered worship. We believe that through worship we experience anew the healing power of the Gospel in our lives and God's redeeming love for our broken world. We acknowledge God's abiding grace with prayer, praise and thanksgiving for all that God has done for us, most especially the gift of salvation through God's son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We are sustained and nourished by the Holy Spirit. We encourage our pastors to boldly preach the Gospel, keeping its message alive and meaningful to the diverse needs of our congregation and the larger community of God's people. We celebrate the Eucharist as being the real presence of Christ for all people embodying God's renewing and sustaining love and forgiveness. We value diversity of worship styles, in an environment of openness and acceptance which expresses God's love for people of every age and background.

**The spiritual well-being of our members is a responsibility shared by everyone in the congregation.** We provide an environment that promotes ongoing spiritual self-examination and maturity. We support each other on our faith journeys, and seek to strengthen everyone facing the challenges life brings. We are a congregation willing to take risks and to act on faith as reconcilers, care-givers and missionaries through a ministry of witness, service and evangelism.

**There is a gladness in service, in reaching out to people in need, both in our community and throughout the world.** We see outreach as a response to the Gospel, and believe that in touching the lives of others we make known God's love for all people. We see our congregation and our community as interdependent. We invest human and financial resources in our society, and take an active role in addressing unmet community needs.

**Christian Education is essential to the life and growth of our congregation.** Through education God develops an enriching relationship with us through Jesus Christ. We provide a wide range of educational programs and each person is encouraged to participate in ongoing experiences designed to be meaningful to every age.

**We view stewardship as an act of worship which is a natural outgrowth of the Gospel.** Stewardship is a biblical imperative, and begins with the recognition that all we have is a gift from a loving God. It involves how we use all the resources God has given us – our lives, our time and our possessions. It

includes the money we give that is necessary to meet the financial needs of the congregation, its mission, and social responsibilities throughout the world. But, good stewardship goes well beyond just gifts of money. It recognizes each individual's opportunity and responsibility of daily managing God's gifts of time and talents. Growth in stewardship goes hand in hand with growth in the Gospel as stewardship is a practical expression of an individual's faith.

**Our Christian Faith is encouraged through fellowship with one another.** We are committed to witnessing joyfully to our Christian faith in ways that will draw others into our caring community. We encourage the formation of small groups to preserve our sense of family. We promote a sense of intimacy that facilitates that healing of brokenness. We assist one another to discover, sustain, and nurture the use of our inherent talents. We seek opportunities to gather in fellowship and are strengthened through our communion with fellow believers. We see ourselves as a center for cultural and community events.

**We are called by God to go forward with courage to share the message of the Gospel.** We recognize that our lives can be a living illustration of God's love in Christ. It is the privilege of our entire congregation to share the love of God in a broken world. We are willing to experience rejection in order to announce justice, peace and God's love.