

Bethlehem Celebrates 25th Anniversary of ELCA

The people of Bethlehem Lutheran Church will join with other Lutherans on Sunday, September 8, in rolling up their sleeves to work on community projects around the country. This is to mark the 25th Anniversary of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA). For several years the theme "God's work; Our hands" has guided the congregations of the ELCA.

The people of Bethlehem invite everyone for free ice cream sundaes on Sunday, September 8, from 5 – 6 p.m. at 403 Pleasant Street, using the Church Street door. There will be a basket where people may make donations to help cover the cost of the bus stop shelter being built across the street at Union Presbyterian where folks may await the school busses.

The ELCA formed in 1988, a merger of three other Lutheran church bodies. The denomination has 3.95 million members in 9500 congregations. It supports 8 seminaries, 26 colleges and universities, and 2000 schools, childhood programs and camps. They support missionaries and companion churches in 90 countries and have a strong network of social service agencies around the country. At its recent Church-wide Assembly, the ELCA elected its fourth Presiding Bishop, the Rev. Elizabeth Eaton.