



Love one another.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

February 2021 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

We have a group from Bethlehem that is reading Brené Brown's book "Braving the Wilderness" together. In it, we recently read "*No matter how separated we are by what we think and believe, we are part of the same spiritual story.*"

I was reflecting on that quote and thought about how true it is for us at Bethlehem. It has been difficult this last year to stay united as a congregation when we are physically divided by the pandemic. It has been a challenging year as we have had a major restructuring of both staff and how our organization functions. We continue to live into those changes together. Sometimes, along the way, it has been challenging to remember that we are on this journey together, that we share the same story, that we are part of the same family.

Just like you probably have family members you might not agree with from time to time, that happens too within our church family. As the world around us grows and changes, and as the church itself continues to grow and change, we might find ourselves frustrated by the changes, or not liking some of them. We need to learn how to be able to discuss our differences, but also come to a place where we agree to move forward together.

Our theme for this year is "It's All About Love." It is a reminder for us to move forward and reach out in love. Our February focus is "Loving Your Neighbor, Reaching Out to Others."

Who is someone from our Bethlehem family that you can reach out to this month? Who is a neighbor that you could invite to come with you to worship, or that you could help navigate how to find Bethlehem worship online? Who is someone you might have had differences with this past year that you could reach out to and find some common ground?

However you continue to live into this year's theme of love, I hope you know without a doubt that you are loved by God unconditionally, and that you are loved by this church family, too!

In 1 John 3, from Eugene Peterson's *The Message*, it says: "*My dear children, let's not just talk about love; let's practice real love. This is the only way we'll know we're living truly, living in God's reality.*" **Let us continue to make Bethlehem a place where people feel loved from the moment they walk in our doors. Let us continue to love one another with our words and our actions!**

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

Youth NEWS AND EVENTS

Warm Winter Wishes treat bags will be given out to UNI students through the Threehouse treat trike. Each bag will have a package of hot chocolate, popcorn and ramen noodles.

Special thanks to our confirmands for helping to pack the bags for our friends at UNI!

Hey Confirmands! Don't forget that this coming Wednesday (Feb 3) is a Friends in Faith week! Grab a friend and bring them with you to class for some fun and learning, too!



We had lots of fun at Snow Day! From making snow art, to drinking hot cocoa, to enjoying a bonfire, fun was had by all! We were excited to have a couple of friends come down and join us from UNI ThreeHouse Campus Ministry, too!

Special thanks to Brendan Alexander, Deb Fulks, Hanna Stolper and Young Moua, Ellen and Megan Hermanson, and Mindy and Liam Fisher for helping make this event so much fun!



Ways to get involved at Bethlehem in the next few weeks...



As we enter into the Lenten season, we could use more folks helping with worship, as we have two worship services per week (Sundays and Wednesdays). If you are willing to help by **ushering, reading, or by being an assisting minister**, please let the church office know by calling 266-3541. Thanks!

Can you help us with tech during worship? Want to learn how to run the slides and camera? Seth, our Director of Technology, would love to have some more folks helping with technology! If you are interested in joining our tech team, please notify the church office at 266-3541 or by emailing office@bethlehemcf.net



Music Workshop

Do you miss singing in choir? Do you wish we had our praise band leading us in worship? Hanna (our contemporary music director) is going to be leading a music workshop for YOU! **Come and hear the plans we have for music moving forward.** If you play an **instrument**, bring it with you! If you love to **sing**, but feel you aren't "good enough," come anyway! If you have favorite songs that you wish we would have in worship, bring those with you! Come and make a joyful noise together and hear about some great new opportunities coming to Bethlehem...things like **Spontaneous Choir** and more! **We will gather on February 21st when worship is done (11ish).** Come to worship, come to make music, come join the fun!

Want to be more involved? Looking for new ways to volunteer? Check out the new page on our church website called "Lend a Hand" under the "Giving at Bethlehem" tab for more ideas!



Spring is going to be here very soon. When spring comes, so does new life, including the blooming of beautiful flowers. **Come and celebrate spring with us on Sunday, March 21, following worship for a Spring Flower event.** We will be **painting flower pots and planting flowers.** Everyone is invited to celebrate spring at this event, but space is limited so that we can safely socially distance from each other. **If you would like to participate, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net by March 14.**



Sabbath Space

Beginning on February 17 at noon, we will be offering a **prayer chapel** called “Sabbath Space” for you to visit on your own time to pray and spend time with our God who loves you so deeply. There will be resources that change weekly based around our midweek Lenten theme. There will also be items for all ages, so you can come alone or with your family. The Sabbath Space will be located in the children’s choir room just off the East Doors but please enter the building by the church office. **Sabbath Space will be open from 7:30-3:00 pm Monday-Friday. It will also be available from 6:00-8:30 pm on Wednesdays and 9:00-Noon on Sundays.** Questions? Talk to Pastor Amy



Holy Communion Options During February

- Grab your friends and neighbors and set up a time with the church office to have your own communion service at Bethlehem with Pastor Amy presiding.
- Join us for Zoom Communion at 12 pm on February 7 and February 21
- Call Pastor Amy to bring communion to you at your residence (garage, etc).



GIVING MADE EASY!

Scan the QR code with your smart phone to share your offering with Bethlehem.

BETHLEHEM STAFF

Church phone: 319-266-3541

Pastor Amy Eisenmann

Pastor Amy’s cell phone: 218-290-3982
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Hudson Lourenco - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian

2020-2021



CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kurt Leistikow - President

319-269-7178

Kent Anderson-Vice President

319-290-4866

Jill Schulte– Treasurer

319-290-5725

Mindy Fisher - Secretary

319-290-4365

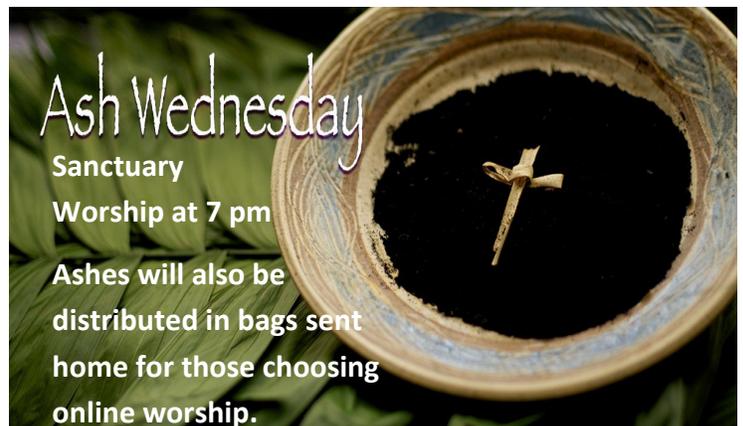
Mardy Holst: 319-277-0328

Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

Brendan Alexander: 319-290-1237

Ellen Hermanson: 319-573-0719

Joan Christiansen: 319-269-5634



Ash Wednesday

Sanctuary

Worship at 7 pm

Ashes will also be distributed in bags sent home for those choosing online worship.

February All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, February 9

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary or on Zoom



Beginning in February, we are trying our new way of getting things done in All Team style. **Whether or not you served on a team previously, we invite you to All Team if you are interested in any of the following this month:**

LENT-This group will meet to talk about what still needs to happen in Lent. They may talk about such things as: Mid-week Worship, Sacred Space (the Lenten Prayer Chapel), Spiritual Practices (being sent home in Lent Bags), as well as any needs for Sunday Worship. Want to be in this crew? Look for the **LENT** breakout either in person or on Zoom Feb 9.

EDUCATION-This group will meet to begin making next plans for both Adult and Youth Education at Bethlehem. What do we want to have happen for the remainder of spring? Do we want to do VBS? What educational topics would we like to see covered for our adults? If you have a desire to help make our educational program stronger at Bethlehem, then **EDUCATION** is the break out for you!

MUSIC-This group is going to begin brainstorming about music at Bethlehem. How do we help make Spontaneous Choir happen? What kind of special music would we like to see? What can we do to help make the Contemporary Band happen? If you have a love for music, then the **MUSIC** breakout is for you!

SPRING FELLOWSHIP-This group will be working on what is needed to make the spring flower planting event a success. This also would be the place to meet with Heather and talk about any other fellowship you would like to see this spring. Have an idea for a small group? Want a chance to gather in the building for something else? Have a traditional fellowship event you would like to see continue? Then this **FELLOWSHIP** breakout is for you!

Still confused about how all of this All Team stuff works? No problem! Come and join us on Feb 9th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!

Questions or concerns, please email Pastor Amy at pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net



Bless This Mess

This Lenten Season we are recognizing the mess of the world we are living in, and the mess that we ourselves can be.

Come and join us on Wednesday nights in person or online beginning **Weds Feb 24** as we live into the idea that with the help of God, our mess can not only be blessed, but we can change the way we see the world and interact with it.

Week 1: Changing ourselves through God's love

Week 2: Changing the world through God's love & our actions

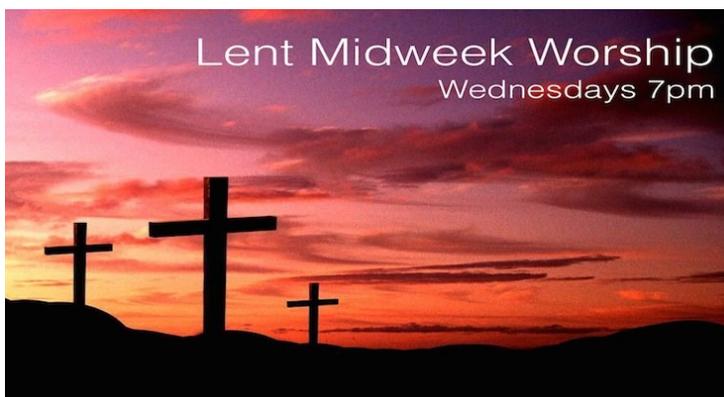
Week 3: Changing the world through anger & blessings

**Week 4: Changing the world through loving others
and changing ourselves**

**Week 5: Changing the world through raising our awareness
and recognizing racism**

Join us in person Weds nights at 7 pm at
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
4000 Hudson Road in Cedar Falls
or join us online at <http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>

For more information, contact the church office at 319-266-3541.



Join us at 7 pm in person in the sanctuary or afterwards online for Midweek Worship. Whether you are looking for a place to re-center your week, or just needing a break along the way, we invite you to worship with us. **Lent Midweek Worship begins on Wednesday, Feb 17th, at 7 pm with Ash Wednesday Worship,** and then will continue each Wednesday night with our theme "Bless This Mess." **All are welcome to attend!**

Our Pastor
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pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Our website:
www.bethlehemcf.org

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Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-
ELCA-451552121584266](https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA-451552121584266)**

Our Instagram page:
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