



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Happy New Year to you all! I hope you had a wonderful Christmas season and that this newsletter finds you ready to welcome the New Year!

This winter at Bethlehem, we will be working with the Northeastern Iowa Synod Office to do some vision and mission planning as we think about our future together. Pastor Kristen Rod, assistant to the bishop, will be coming to meet with our council in January, and then coming back again to preach and meet with all our congregation on **Sunday, February 26th**.

As we get deeper into this process, we are hoping to have some cottage-style meetings to have conversation about your hopes and dreams for our congregation moving forward. Stay tuned for more information about this in the coming weeks. We hope you will participate in these and help us hear from you. **Your voice is important!**

In the meantime, if you have feedback you would like to share, or ideas you have for Bethlehem, I would love to hear them. I am always available for a conversation; I would just ask that you call and set up a time so that our conversation can not be interrupted. Or, I invite you to come and join me when I have Coffee Chat at Sarah's Espresso downtown. **This month, Coffee Chat will be held on Jan 4, 18, and 25.**

Finally, as we enter this new year, I thought I would share a blessing that I came across, written by Joyce Rupp. It says:

May you give with a loving heart in the coming year, and receive the satisfaction that comes with doing so.

May you receive from others with openness, and allow them the gift of giving to you.

May you acknowledge your vulnerability, and have the wisdom to recognize your need.

May you reach out with continual kindness, and do so with a loving and peaceful heart.

Whatever the new year brings you, friends, may it fill you with hope, peace and joy. Thank you for allowing me to walk this new year with you.

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy

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

On **January 19**, the Joyful Times Group will meet at UNI's Gallagher Bluedorn Performing Arts Center at **10:00AM** for a tour. The tour will include: The Great Hall with new seats, Backstage, Green Room, Third Floor/Catwalks/Lighting system, Orchestra Pit, Basement storage, and Power system. Deadline to sign up is **January 8**. There will be UNI parking tags available so we can park in the metered lot closest to the GBPAC. **Lunch will be at Village Inn.**



We invite any men, members or friends of Bethlehem, to come and join us on Saturday, January 15, at 8:30 an for Men's Bible Study Breakfast. We will be discussing what we want to study during Lent this year. For more information, contact Kent Anderson.

Calling all crafters! If you enjoy knitting or crocheting, we would love to have you join us as we stitch together projects that we can share to bless others! Pop in anytime from **1-3 pm on Wednesday afternoons** at church and join us. We would love to see you there!



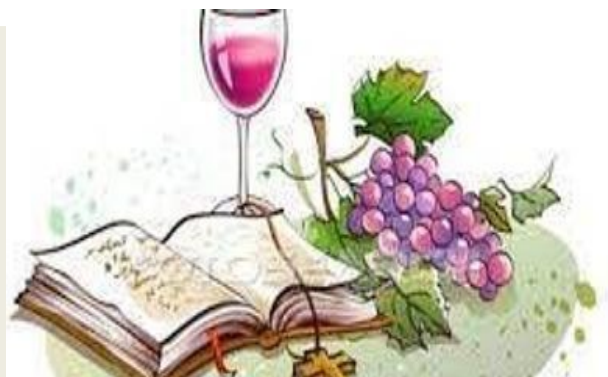
Grief Support

If you are struggling with grief, whether new loss or loss from years prior, we invite you to a new Grief Group starting in January here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church.

This small group will meet Mondays at

10:00 am for six weeks beginning, Monday, January 16th. If you are ready for support and want to find companions to walk with you on your grief journey, please sign up by calling the church office at 319-266-3541 or emailing Pastor Kristi.

Our next gathering of Wine, Women and the Word (women's bible study and fellowship) will take place on Thursday, January 26th, at 6:30pm at the 1850 Patio and Grill! All women and friends of Bethlehem are invited to join us! For more information, call the church office at 319-266-3541.



The Fellowship and Outreach Team would like to thank the congregation for your generosity for the Christmas project. You helped provide gifts for the children, gift cards for the parents and a big food basket for each family.

Special thanks to the quilters for making each family member a quilt and pillow cases, and to the knitters for making the families hats and scarves. Thanks and blessings to all of you.



Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in any way with the Live Nativity, from building the background, being a greeter, directing traffic, helping in the kitchen, making costumes, helping with sheep, being in the cast, making a monetary donation, etc. Our Live Nativity was a success because of you!

Thank so much to everyone who brought food, helped with decorations, or helped in the kitchen for the Danish Christmas Brunch. Everyone enjoyed the brunch, bringing their ornaments, and dancing around the Christmas tree. The tradition continues!





Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a very merry Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ. I would like to invite you to a new opportunity at Bethlehem beginning in January. We will be offering a Grief Group on Monday mornings at 10:00am beginning on Monday, January 16th. We will have 6 sessions with our final session on February 20th. For your benefit, we strongly encourage you to attend all 6 sessions, but, if you have a conflict, please come to the other sessions anyway! We ask that you RSVP by signing up on the clipboard at church, calling the church office, or emailing me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.

This group is for you if you have lost a loved one, especially within the last year, or, if you are processing a loss from years ago. This is for you if you are longing for a safe place to explore your feelings rather than a quick-fix or advice. This is for you if you want to learn what grief really is and what it is not and if you want to find some companions to journey with you. This is for you if the holiday season was especially hard this year. This is for you if you feel “emotional” a lot of the time, but don’t really understand yourself, your feelings, and what makes you do what you do. This is for you if you have been wanting support for awhile now, but feel more comfortable in a group setting versus one-to-one.

If you are not able to attend in person this time but would be interested in receiving some of the written materials, please let me know. Also, let me know if you might be interested in future groups. As always, please call the church office or email me if you would like a pastoral conversation for any reason.

God’s peace to you along the journey,

Pastor Kristi Grieder



Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful cards and gifts that you gave to us for Christmas this year! We appreciate it, and are so thankful that we get to be a part of Bethlehem’s ministry! Blessings to you and your families in the New Year!

Sincerely,

*Pastor Amy, Pastor Kristi, Deb, Hudson, Patty,
Noah & Brennan*

Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS



Thanks to all who joined us for Christmas caroling at the local nursing homes! You helped bring joy to others and we appreciate you!

Calling all Youth ages 3 yr old-9th Grade:

Our next Education Hour will be January 8th at 10:15 am! Come and celebrate the Baptism of Our Lord in worship at 9 am, and then learn all about baptism at 10:15 am!



Do you have a fun idea for a youth event? Is there something you want to learn about in Sunday School or Confirmation? We would love to hear your ideas! If you have a fun idea to share, talk to Pastor Amy today!

First communion class for all ages will be held on Palm Sunday, April 2nd. We encourage parents to attend this class with their youth. If you are interested in being a part of this day, please notify the church office.



Worship

WITH US ONLINE

Not able to join us for worship in person?
No problem! All of our worship services can be
found online on our church website at:

<http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>



Prayer Chain

**To add yourself to the
prayer chain team:**

Email Deb
(officeblccf@gmail.com)

or call Deb at the

church office (319-266-3541) and let her know
that you would like to receive prayer chain
emails.

To add a loved one to the prayer list:

Email Pastor Amy pastoramyblccf@gmail.com
or call Pastor Amy at the church office.



Would you like
communion
brought to you?
**Call the church
office, Pastor**

**Amy or Pastor Kristi will be glad to come and
visit!** Call the office at 319-266-3541 and we
will have communion brought to your
residence. May God bless you and keep you
today and always!



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-Lead Pastor
Pastor Amy's cell phone: 218-290-3982
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Deb Estrem—Administrative Assistant
officeblccf@gmail.com

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Brennan Regan-Choir Director
bregan99@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço - Organist
Patty Nelson-Custodian



2022-2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ellen Hermanson-President
319-573-0719

Kurt Leistikow -Vice President
319-269-7178

Joan Christiansen- Treasurer
319-269-5634

Connie Johnson-Secretary
319-610-7449

Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

Mindy Fisher 319-290-4365

Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Theresa Elverum 319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-319-290-5725

YouTube

Live streaming

When you aren't able to join us in person, we hope
you will join us on **Sunday mornings at 9 am** on our
YouTube page at: [https://www.youtube.com/c/
BethlehemLutheranCF](https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF)



Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 29,
following worship

We invite all members of Bethlehem to join us in person for the Bethlehem Lutheran Annual Meeting.

We will discuss 2022, as well as do some looking forward into 2023 and what the new year is bringing our way.

All confirmed members of Bethlehem are encouraged to attend!

See you on Jan 29!

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
(218) 290-3982 cell phone
(319) 266-3541 work phone
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

Our website:
www.bethlehemcf.org

Our YouTube Channel:
Bethlehem Lutheran CF

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

Our Instagram page:
[@bethlehemcf](https://www.instagram.com/bethlehemcf)