



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

June 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

To say that this has been an exciting season at Bethlehem would be a large understatement! With two new staff on board, a new set of congregational goals that the council has set (both short term and long term), and some exciting new programming coming down the pike these next few months widening our community engagement, it is a fun time to be a part of what the spirit is up to here at Bethlehem!

I hope in the coming days and weeks, that you too can catch the excitement! I wanted to take a chance this month to share with you the new goals that the council has worked on for all of us to do together, as well as introduce you to the new staff members. You'll remember that as a congregation, in cottage meetings, you set forth your top values as being: Faith and Worship, Relationships, Serve and Outreach, Stewardship and Generosity, and Education. In response to those values, and after deeply listening to all that was said in the cottage meetings, our new congregational goals are:

Faith and Worship

This year: Work to define what "contemporary worship" could look like here Bethlehem

Next year: Increase active participation number by 24 people by the end of 2024

Relationships

This year: Develop New Comer's Group for those new to Cedar Valley

Next year: Build handicap bathrooms to improve accessibility for all

Service and Outreach

This year: Be intentional in sharing our "who, what, why, where, who to contact" for what we do in all forms of publications

Next year: Expand the number of lives we have touched in the Cedar Valley

Stewardship and Generosity

This year: Create, distribute, and process a Time and Talent Survey for all involved at BLC

Next year: Grow our giving of both our time and our money

Education

This year: Form a committee to explore ideas for Sunday School, Confirmation & Adult Ed

Long term: Develop deeper community for youth and families

(continued on next page)

As you can see, it is going to be an exciting couple of years. If you see things within these goals that excite you, I encourage you to get involved. Talk to myself, or our executive team (Ellen Hermanson, Reed Hunemuller, Joan Christensen, Adam Roise) about how you can help make these goals happen. Together we can do far more than we can apart friends. Find your fit where you belong. Find the things that ignite your passion, and together, let's "share the bread of the life with the hungry world!" Thank you for the honor of walking with you through it all!

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

meet our
NEW

Staff

We invite you to join us for an office open house on Tuesday, June 6 from 10 am-11 am, drink some coffee, eat some goodies and get to know Patricia, and Gabby, and visit with the pastors too!



Hello. I am Patricia Van Wey, the new Administrative Assistant for Bethlehem. I grew up in North Carolina, so an occasional southern saying is bound to come out here in Iowa. I served 20 years in the United States Air Force and was fortunate to travel to numerous places throughout the world. I am married and have three children and three grandchildren as well as one lovable cat. I love doing extreme jigsaw puzzles, crocheting, and reading.

Hello! I am Gabby Greco, the new Community Engagement Coordinator here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. I grew up in Cedar Falls, Iowa, and attended the University of Iowa and Northern Iowa to complete a bachelors and masters degree in history. I have kept active in my faith life throughout my young adulthood, and hope to inspire more young adults to do the same with my work here. I am excited for this experience to work for and engage with the community here at Bethlehem!



Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS

COME TO
VBS!

Do you miss your church friends? Did you have fun at VBS last year? Then come and join us again! Miss out last year? Come and join us this time!

This year Vacation Bible School is happening June 25-28 from 5-7:30 for all ages, age 3-103!

There will be games, snacks, crafts, service projects, Bible Stories and more! There truly is something for everyone!

Be sure to register at www.bethlehemcf.org or grab a green form from the Welcome Table and return it to the church office! See you there, it is going to be awesome!



Puppy & Popsicles with Pastor Amy

Come meet Adalee (Pastor Amy's new pup) and help her get to know you on Mondays from 11-Noon, July 10, 17, 24, and 31



EWALU

Camp & Retreat Center

Did you know that we have 5 guys (confirmation age) headed to EWALU with Pastor Amy from **June 19-22**? They are headed there to learn, have fun, explore the high ropes course, and bring what they learn back to BLC! Please keep all of them in your prayers while they are at camp!

Do you wish you could go to camp too, but just can't be gone a whole week? Then come join us for our camp out at Bethlehem fields on **Saturday, July 22** this year! There will be camp games, crafts, campfire, and more! Then join us Sunday morning for outside worship and a cook out! Want to join the fun? Talk to Pastor Amy, Gabby, or sign up on the welcome table!



Don't forget to join us for the **All Church Birthday Party on Sunday, June 25** to kick off VBS! Worship is at 9, Birthday Party at 10!

Father's Day is June 18. To honor the important men in our lives: fathers, grandfathers, uncles, or brothers, we invite you to submit pictures of these individuals for a power point to be shared during worship. **Please submit your pictures to Pastor Amy at pastoramyblccf@gmail.com by Sunday, June 11.**



Save the date! Joyful Times and friends are headed to the Amana Colonies on Thursday, July 20!

Watch for more info and sign-up coming soon!



Come and join us for coffee and goodies on Tuesday, June 6 at 10:00 am at our office open house! Come and get to know Patricia, our new Administrative Assistant, Gabby, our new Community Engagement Coordinator, and both Pastor Amy and Pastor Kristi will be here for conversation too! We hope you will make the time to join us!

Looking for something new to do this summer? Come and join others as we fellowship, discuss different topics and enjoy a good beverage too! On Sunday, **July 9th** we will be meeting at **SingleSpeed Brewing Co in Waterloo at 7:00 pm!** On Sunday, **August 13**, we will meet at **Second State in Cedar Falls**. Mark your calendar and come join us! More info coming to the website soon!



Last call for church directory pictures!

We are hoping to get our new church directory sent to the printer, but we need your help! We are still missing several photos. If your family has not yet submitted a photo, please do so, by emailing them to: pastoramyblccf@gmail.com or if you need someone to take your photo, please call Ellen Hermanson 319-573-0719 to arrange a time for her to take your picture.





This June begins a new season in our church year. During the Sundays after Pentecost we experience what is called Ordinary Time in the liturgical calendar. I always appreciated this designation because many of my days feel quite ordinary, shaped more by mundane activities than by milestones. Our days follow a certain rhythm of repetition of all the things that demand our labor, attention, and care.

I want to invite you this Ordinary Time to embrace all that is simple and seemingly insignificant in your daily life. I encourage you to slow down and take that moment to get outside and notice God's presence in the trees, the wildlife, and the sounds of birds chirping. I invite you to take that deep breath when you feel the weight of anxiety or worry on your chest and allow yourself to release it. I encourage you to call that friend when you need someone to listen. I invite you to look for glimpses of God's love showing up *for you* in the most personal way when you are taking care of everyone else. We might just see that what seems ordinary is actually quite holy because of God's extraordinary love.

In honor of this ordinary season, I want to share with you a blessing called, "For this Ordinary Day". It is written by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie in their new book of blessings, *The Lives We Actually Have*.

God's Peace to you on the journey, Pastor Kristi Grieder

"For this Ordinary Day"

Lord, here I am.

*How strange it is,
That some days feel like hurricanes
And others like glassy seas
And others like nothing much at all.*

Today is a cosmic shrug.

*My day planner says,
Rather conveniently,
That I will not need you,
Cry for you, reach for you.*

*Ordinarily, I might not think of you at all.
Except, if you don't mind,
Let me notice you.*

*Show up in the small necessities
And every day graces.*

God, be bread.

Be water.

Be laundry.

*Be the coffee cup in my hands
And the reason to calm down in traffic.*

*Be the gentler tone in my insistence today
That people pick up after themselves for once.*

*Be the reason I feel loved
When I catch my own reflection
Or feel my own self-loathing
Fluttering in my stomach.*

*Calm my mind,
Lift my spirit,
Make this dumb, ordinary day
My prayer of thanks.*

Would you like a pastoral visit? Just want to go with one of the pastors to coffee or lunch? Want them to bring communion to your home? Rather go for a walk? Pastor Amy and Pastor Kristi would love a chance to spend time with you! To set up a visit, simply call the church office at 319-266-3541 and talk to one of the pastors! We look forward to meeting with you!



Make a Difference Monthly-Love INC

You may have noticed a drop box in our narthex. Love INC has started a program called "make a difference monthly."

Each month they

suggest things that would help them with their programming that we can donate.

This month they are asking for: **laundry detergent and dryer sheets.** Please consider bringing these items and placing them in the box in the narthex in order to support the wonderful ministry that Love INC does!

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

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

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>

Or catch the most recent worship offerings on our church website here:

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

Vacation Bible School is for adults this year too!

Come and share in the fellowship! Come and learn new things about why we do what we do in worship, how to have

healthy relationships, what it means to be generous, and join us in doing several service projects for the community too! There truly is something for everyone! Register today!

**COME TO
VBS!**

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

Pastor Kristi's cell phone: 507-995-1535

pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Patricia Van Wey-Admin. Assistant

officeblccf@gmail.com

**Gabby Greco-Community Engagement
Coordinator**

engageblccf@gmail.com

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech

worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Brennan Regan-Choir Director

bregan99@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço-Feld - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2022-2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Ellen Hermanson-President

319-573-0719

Reed Hunemuller -Vice President

319-277-6381

Joan Christiansen- Treasurer

319-269-5634

Adam Roise - Secretary

919-208-3171

Connie Johnson 319-610-7449

Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Derek Kettle (608) 314-4356

Sara Randall 319-269-2078

Rich Fisher 319-939-8055



GIVING MADE EASY!

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

Important Dates to Note!



June 6, 10:30 am Office Open House
with the BLC Staff

June 11, 2:35 pm Bethlehem at the
Waterloo Bucks

June 25-June 28, 5-7:30 pm F5-Refresh/All Age VBS

June 29, 6:30 pm Wine, Women, and the Word @
Pastor Amy's –come meet Adalee, her new puppy!
(in case of inclement weather, we will gather at BLC)

July 2, 9:00 am Community Worship @ Overman Park
w/ St. John's Lutheran

Our Pastor

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

Our website:

www.bethlehemcfc.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