



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 2022 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

I pray this latest newsletter finds you well. Here at Bethlehem, we are gearing up for Lent to begin. We will have Ash Wednesday worship on March 2 at 7:00 pm to kick off our Lenten season. Each of the following weeks we will gather for midweek worship at 7:00 pm, with each week being a chance to hear a different person's story. We look forward to getting to know our church family in a deeper way, and living out the "listen to others" and "share your story" parts of our yearly theme.

One of my favorite poets, Jan Richardson, offers these words as we begin Lent together:

*Will you meet us in the ashes,
will you meet us in the ache
and show your face within our sorrow
and offer us your word of grace:
that you are life within the dying,
that you abide within the dust,
that you are what survives the burning,
that you arise to make us new.

And in our aching, you are breathing;
and in our weeping you are here
within our hands that bear your blessing,
enfolding us in your love.*

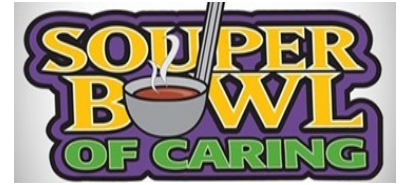
"Will You Meet Us?" taken from Circle of Grace: A Book of Blessings for the Seasons

It is my hope, dear ones, that this Lent you are met again by the God who walks with you in the joys and the sorrows. That through the stories in our scriptures and the stories of our church family, you can hear again the promises that God gives to us: to meet you where you are, and to provide for you in abundance.

May this Lent be a season where we are all once again reminded of the love that God has for us, and the love that God calls us to have for one another.

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Amy

Thank you to everyone who donated to the Souper Bowl of Caring. Through your generous contributions, we were able to give \$779 to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, and to celebrate a win for the girls!



Thanks also to those who ordered Soup 2 Go. You gave us a great jump on fundraising for our next Youth Trip! We appreciate you!



Let's Go Bowling!



Grab your family and friends and join us on Saturday, March 26, at 1:00 pm for "Bethlehem Bowls" at Cadillac Lanes in Waterloo! For just \$5 a person, you can come and enjoy fellowship and fun with your friends from Bethlehem! All ages are invited and welcome to attend! Please sign up on the Welcome Table or by calling the church office so that we ensure we have enough lanes rented for everyone! You're not going to want to miss this!

Save the date! On Saturday, April 15, at 10:00am, an Easter Eggstravaganza is happening! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join the fun!



First Communion



Retreat

If you have a student who is interested in receiving First Communion Instruction, please notify the church office. Once we have a group, we will hold our annual First Communion Retreat!



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

E-Eat Together



Part of our theme of BLESS is to eat together. Here are some places you can **come and dine with other folks this month:**

March 23-Come and join us before midweek worship for a lasagna dinner. All are welcome.

April 6-Come and join us before midweek worship for soup supper, and a time of fellowship together.

We are inviting people of all ages and abilities to join us for a morning of reflection and creativity. **"Paint Your Heart Out"** will combine journaling, painting, and a space to breathe and create together! Enjoy coffee fellowship with your friends on **Sunday, March 27**, and then join us at **10:30 am for painting** together! Each person will receive a canvas to take home with them!



March 2-April 15, Pack the Pack 'n Play



The following items are being collected and can be placed in the pack n' play in the narthex: baby blankets, baby wipes, crib sheets, baby towels and wash cloths, baby shampoo, lotion, powder, Bibles for children, diapers, infant formula, baby cereal, baby food, baby clothing, baby socks, baby shoes, neutral color onesies, baby toys, new pacifiers, new baby bottles, baby monitors, breast milk storage bottles/bags, baby thermometers, medicine measurement spoons or droppers. All of the donated items will be given to Alternatives Pregnancy Center.

Do you like to bowl? Grab your friends and family and join us on **Saturday, March 26, at 1:00 pm at Cadillac Lanes** in Waterloo for an afternoon of bowling for all ages! Are you a league bowler? Haven't been bowling in years? Want to bring your kids or grandkids? All are welcome to come join the fun!



Please sign up at the welcome table if you plan to join us so that we ensure we have enough lanes reserved!

Consider praying for the following this month:

*For the people of Bethlehem and other congregations across our community and world as they enter into the Lenten season

*For teachers and school staff as they hold conferences with parents this month

*For Social Workers and all who strive to help others

*For our knitters and crocheters who make prayer shawls, scarves and hats for others

*For those who are hungry or face meal insecurity

*For those who are unemployed or underemployed

*For the new Administrative Assistant who will soon be joining the staff at Bethlehem

B-Begin with Prayer



A simple morning prayer for March:

Dear Father in Heaven, this morning we come to you and give our day to you. Thank you for always being with us. Help us to walk with You today in all that we say and do, and help us to reflect your love to all we meet. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Pastor Amy is looking for some adults who might like to get to know our Confirmands better during the Lenten season. Through guided conversation (think interview style where you ask each other questions and learn from each other), our hope is that our confirmands can continue to build relationships with other caring adults at Bethlehem. What each mentor would need to do:

- **Commit to meeting with one of our confirmands for 6 different conversations during Lent.** This could be on Weds nights before or after worship, Sunday mornings before or after worship, or at another agreed upon time.
- **Show up in the life of your confirmand in one way this spring.** Whether you attend one of their sporting events or concerts, or you take them out to lunch, spend an hour or two letting your student shine and encouraging them to use their gifts.
- **Share something you love to do with your student.** Do you like to bake? Do woodworking? Go golfing? Something else? Share something you are passionate about with them sometime this spring.

Does this sound like something you might be interested in? Sign up on the welcome table or talk to Pastor Amy today!

L-Listen to others





Sabbath Space

Did you know there is a **prayer chapel** called "Sabbath Space" for you to visit on your own time to pray and spend time with God throughout Lent? There are resources that will change weekly based around our mid-week Lenten theme. There are items for all ages, so you can come alone or with your family. The Sabbath Space is located in the children's choir room just inside the East Doors. Please enter the building by the church office. **Sabbath Space is open from 7:30 am-3:00 pm Monday-Friday. It is also open from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm on Wednesdays and 9:00-Noon on Sundays.** Questions? Talk to Pastor Amy or call the church office.

B**Begin** with prayer**L****Listen** with care**E****Eat** together**S****Serve** in love**S****Share** your story

GIVING MADE EASY!

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

BETHLEHEM STAFF

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Heather Hurd-Schneider- Director of Fellowship and Outreach
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Leah Gibbons-Choir Director
gibbonsl@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenco - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian

**2021-2022**

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mardy Holst-President
319-277-0328

Theresa Elverum-Vice President
319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-Treasurer
319-290-5725

Joan Christensen- Secretary
319-269-5634

Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

Brendan Alexander: 319-290-1237

Ellen Hermanson: 319-573-0719

Kurt Leistikow 319-269-7178

Mindy Fisher 319-290-4365

*Something Sweet is
Brewing*

CALLING ALL WOMEN! Save the date for a Women's Retreat happening just for you! We will be gathering for relaxation and renewal on Saturday, May 1. More info coming soon!

March All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, March 8

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary

We invite you to join us for our March All Team Meeting! **Whether or not you served on a team previously, we invite you to come to All Team if you are interested in any of the following this month:**



WORSHIP-This group will meet to talk about what still needs to happen for Holy Week. They may talk about such things as: Details for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and whatever might be needed for Easter Sunday Worship. Want to be in this crew? Look for the **WORSHIP** breakout.

CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY-Do you like to help with projects around the church? Would you like to learn how you could be more involved in the behind-the-scenes happenings? Do you have time to volunteer to help set up and take down events when needed? Then **CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY** is the breakout for you!

FELLOWSHIP & OUTREACH-This group will continue to be working on the upcoming Easter Eggstravaganza, the ongoing outreach of “pack the pack n’ play” and some other upcoming service opportunities. This also would be the place to meet with Heather and talk about any other fellowship you would like to see this summer. Have an idea for an event? A small group? 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 March 8th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!

Volunteer Opportunity - NewAldaya needs your help!

Thinking of volunteering, or would like to volunteer? NewAldaya is looking for volunteers to help serve dinner trays on the weekends, to be wheelchair pushers for Sunday services, or helping with their Main Street music events such as serving, greeting, reading to residents, visiting, etc?

We would love your help! All you have to be is at least 16 years old. Please contact NewAldaya at (319) 268-0401 to volunteer. Thanks so much for any consideration given.

Kathy Thede, Bethlehem's NewAldaya Representative , (319) 269-0463



S-Serve in love





Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a time away from the busy parts of your lives. Join us as we sing, as we hear the Word spoken from people of all ages, and as we navigate the challenges and blessings of our lives together. Come and be reminded of how God provides for and blesses us even in the hard times. All our welcome!

Worship is at 7 pm!

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>

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

Holy Week Schedule



**Palm
Sunday**

Worship at 9 am



**Maundy
Thursday**

Worship at 7 pm
with Communion



**Good
Friday**

Worship at 7 pm



**Easter
Sunday**

Sunrise Worship
6:30 am

Easter Breakfast
7:30-8:45 am

Festival Worship
9:00 am

Ongoing Prayer Vigil-The Sacred Space will be available any time during office hours during the Lenten Season. There will also be a Holy Week Prayer Vigil for all ages from 9 am-9 pm Good Friday and from 10 am-6 pm on Holy Saturday that you are welcome to participate in.



Daylight Savings will begin on Sunday, March 13!

Change your clocks when you go to bed on March 12 so you can join us for worship on Sunday March 13 at 9 am!

Our Pastor
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Our website:
www.bethlehemcf.org

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