



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

October 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Recently in worship, we talked about how God always gives us enough. Enough to eat, enough money, enough love, etc. We talked about how when we share first from what we have been given, instead of holding tight and not sharing with others, God always provides what we need. We also talked about how sometimes God gives us enough through the love and care of others.

Trusting and leaning on others in times of need is not easy. We like to be able to handle things ourselves. But the reality is, at some point in our lives, we all need others. We need their love and care. We need their help when we can't do it on our own. As I approach surgery for my other foot later this month, I will once again, need to lean on others, and I just wanted to say up front, thank you. Thank you for the ways you stepped up last surgery and have offered to during this recovery time to help walk the dog, pray, send cards, etc. You have a way of lifting my spirits that is such a gift and a blessing. I hope that I do the same for each of you in your moments of joy and sorrow. We need each other and can be a blessing to each other.

Needing to lean on one another is also true for our church as well. We need each other, with everyone sharing their gifts, helping out when others are tired, encouraging each other along the way. We need each of us to take a part in the ministry that is happening, so that no one gets burned out along the way, and so that everyone feels like they play a part in the work of God through the ministry of Bethlehem.

I wonder this month how you might step into new ways of being church together. Could you sign up to help out on the value team meetings of relationships, worship, service/outreach, stewardship/generosity, or education? Could you go and visit someone from Bethlehem you haven't seen in a while? Could you invite friends and neighbors to come and join you for the exciting things that are taking place inside our walls and within our community?

If you need help finding your fit, I encourage you to come and have conversation with me. Let's grab a coffee or meet for lunch and help you find a place where what you love to do helps bring "enough" to other members of our community. Thank you for sharing your gifts friends!

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy



Do you like to cook?

We have some upcoming opportunities for you!

November 5, we will be hosting our Second Annual Treats and Eats.

We are inviting students to come down from campus and join us for free dinner and fellowship. **We are looking for folks who might be interested in helping cook, serve, and fellowship with students.**

If you are interested in helping with this event, please call the church office at 319-266-3541 and let them know.

As a part of mid-week Advent worship this year we are hoping to offer soup suppers to those who gather. If you are interested in hosting one of the Wednesday nights, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall on the bulletin board.



Our next congregational quarterly meeting will be on Sunday, Nov. 12, following worship. Come and join us as we dream about our next year together and talk through the proposed mission funding plan! All confirmed members of Bethlehem are encouraged to attend!

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
PLEASE JOIN US

THANK YOU!



Becky Anderson & Bethlehem Church-

Thank you so much for helping our students in need.

Your donations and thoughtfulness are truly appreciated.

Sincerely, North Cedar Elementary

A special thank you to all our volunteers who helped distribute door hangers throughout the community! We reached out to three different neighborhoods throughout late August and September, inviting nearly 600 households to Bethlehem! Thank you for helping us be a welcoming community to all who find their way into our church doors!

Thank you! for donating School Supplies to North cedar. We really appreciate it! Thank you!

Thank you so much!!!

Love, Sophie



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



Trunk or Treat and Touch a Truck! Saturday, Oct. 28, 2- 4 p.m

Bethlehem is bringing back Trunk-or-Treat this year! And bringing in a fire truck and ambulance for kids to check out too! We would love volunteers decorate their trunks, donate candy, or come and enjoy the event with the community! A sign up sheet is on the Welcome Table for those who wish to participate. We will also offer up our craft room area downstairs for you to work on your trunk decorations. A bin in the welcome space is provided for any candy or treat donations.

BLC Connect:

We created a private Facebook page for church members to chat, discuss, and hold more personal conversations rather than on our public church page. All are welcome to join, post comments, prayer intentions, etc. on the page and keep connected with your church community.



Joyful Times will be headed to John Deere Tractor Cab Assembly on November 16.

The tour will be led by our own Keith Graber! You'll want to sign up early in October because we are limited to 23 people for the 90 minute tram tour. Wear long pants, closed-toe & closed-heel shoes. Safety glasses will be provided. No cell phones allowed inside the facility. Lunch will take place at Other Place 3 in Evansdale. For more information, talk to Linda Mixdorf.



December 7 we will be getting into the Christmas Spirit by touring the C.C. Wolf Mansion Historical Home in Parkersburg! We'll tour all 4 floors of this beautifully restored 1895 Victorian home which will be all dressed up for Christmas. There are Christmas trees in almost every room - including the turret room! Meet at BLC 9:15. Depart BLC 9:30. Tour 10-11:00. Lunch afterwards.

Looking ahead to **January 23, 2024** - we will be hosting our **2nd Annual All Bethlehem Potluck** at noon.



Bethlehem will be having a Live Nativity on December 3

from 4:30-6pm. We are in need of many volunteers to help with the cast, kitchen help, and parking lot crew. We are looking for both those who can volunteer to be an actor, support staff, and those who might help with financial donations. Thanks for all your support!

Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS



Blessing of the Pets

**Blessing of the Pets is this Sunday,
October 1 at noon!** Bring your furry,
finned, fanged or feathered friend for a
blessing, a picture, and a treat!

If you have signed up to go with us to the Youth Gathering, make sure to check in with Pastor Amy!

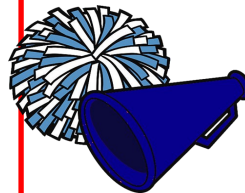
She has fundraising letters for you to send, and is scheduling Sunday mornings for you to help with fundraising at BLC!

2024 ELCA Youth Gathering

CREATED
TO BE MYLE
the table Young Adult Gathering

It is going to be a great trip!

Halloween Movie Night: October 14,
7:00 p.m. Enjoy a nostalgic
Halloween movie, popcorn, and
candy in the Fellowship Hall!



Don't forget to get a copy of your sports and concert schedules to Pastor Amy. She would love a chance to cheer you on!



Are you looking for ways that you and your family can "talk faith" and build faith in your home? Do you wish you could get your kids to Sunday School but you struggle to find the time? Our new "Family Table Talk" is being created just for you! Based on your family's make-up (ages, who is participating, etc), and recognizing that you have busy schedules, Family Table Talk is a resource that you can use at home, on the go, at weekend sporting events, and more! Be sure to sign up today so that you don't miss out on this chance to grow the faith of your family! Sign up at: <https://forms.gle/VuL5AWNimcsaJ7EQ9>

Family Table Talk



NEIA JR. HIGH LOCK-IN
AT THE UNI WELLNESS/RECREATION CENTER

CREATED TO...

OCTOBER 6-7, 2023

8:00PM-6:00AM

Did you know?? Our 7-9th Graders are headed to a super fun lock-in October 6-7 at UNI. Please keep them in your prayers for a safe lock-in and watch the November newsletter for pictures!

Educational Opportunities for All Ages



Family Table Talk



Are you wondering how you can fit time for Sunday School or Faith Formation in for your busy family? Wishing you had a way to talk faith with your grandchildren? We are offering a new resource to families that are interested for Faith Formation ideas for Infants-6th Graders. All you need to do is sign up here: <https://forms.gle/VuL5AWNimcsaJ7EQ9>

Family Table Talk Kits will be available to pick up for those who have registered for Nov-Dec weeks on Sunday, November 5. Be sure to register for your kit today!

Bible Study Opportunities this Month:



Men's Bible Study Breakfast-Saturday, Oct 21 at 8:00 am at Bethlehem. Coffee, juice, and coffee cake will be served. They will be talking about the 95 Theses in honor of Reformation Day this month.

Wine, Women, and the Word-Thursday, Nov 2 at 6:30 at a TBD location. They will discuss the upcoming lectionary texts as well as catch up on each other's lives after a couple of months away.

Calling all 7-9 Graders! Make sure you save the dates for our Fall Retreat November 17-19. We will be heading to Lutheran Lakeside for a weekend of learning and fun! Friends are welcome, but **make sure Pastor Amy knows how many friends you are bringing by Sunday, November 5.** Watch the church Facebook page and your email for a list of what to bring! See you at the retreat!



Join us for our upcoming Grief Group in the Gathering Spot on Tuesday, October 24 at 10:00-11:00 am.

This is an open topic group, which means you can come if you are grieving any type of loss (death of loved ones, loss of job, loss of relationship, etc).

You do not need to register ahead of time, however, if you would like to be on our Grief Group email list for ongoing updates, email Pastor Kristi at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com or call the church office.



Happy fall!

I love October. I especially think of the quote from Anne of Green Gables: "I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers. It would be terrible if we just skipped from September to November, wouldn't it?" October is a beautiful season of falling leaves, cooler weather, and pumpkin and apple flavors. But it's also a season of loss and change. When all seems lost, we hold onto the hope that what dies now will bring forth new life in the spring. October can be more emotionally difficult for this reason. Like with all loss and grief, or a particular life season, don't we often want to skip right past it?

I want to share with you a blessing from Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie's book, *The Lives We Actually Have*. It's written for caregivers. If you are caring for a loved one and feel overwhelmed or exhausted, this blessing is for you. You don't have to go through it alone. In fact, caring for others is built into our DNA as people of faith. All of us are called to care for others and love our neighbor (Mark 12:30-31). Imagine what our homes, neighborhoods, and communities would look like if we truly lived out this calling each and every day. But it's OK to allow ourselves to mourn the losses we accumulate in these demanding seasons, to take the time to be heard and seen, to depend on others for support. —*Pastor Kristi*

For Caregivers

Blessed are we
For whom the call to loving action is still strong,
Whose every urge is to keep going, keep working,
And not to count the cost.

And yet blessed are we,
Beginning to notice that we are
Slowing down, inexplicably,
Or just pausing, staring for no reason,
Or starting something,
But then quickly turning to another demand.
We who realize that we are beginning
To lose the thread.

Blessed are we who say,
I really can't keep going like this,
At this pace, under this weight,
And the momentum is so strong.

God, come and be the hands that sit me down
And keep me there long enough
For me to really feel what I feel,
And know what I know.

Come and be the wisdom
To find that the community is broad enough,
Kind enough, effective enough
To meet the needs that are here
—both mine and theirs.

Come and be the peace that frees me
To let my hands lie gently open awhile,
The grace to just receive.

Seek the rest you need,
And a little bit more.
And breathe.

(p. 96-97 in *The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days* by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie)

I am excited to be facilitating a new small group for Moms with kids 0-6 this fall! We will meet on the **2nd Saturday of the month at 10:00am** to connect and support one another. Please register at this link <https://forms.gle/7DTD4umjWMbPCssM8> to let us know if you are coming and the name and ages of the children you are bringing so we can plan for separate childcare and education.



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>



To add yourself to the prayer chain team:

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



Live streaming

Did you know you can now worship with us live? 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>



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
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Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
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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

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Derek Kettle (608) 314-4356

Sara Randall 319-269-2078

Rich Fisher 319-939-8055



As of August 31, 2023

Giving YTD: \$180,367.68

Total Income: \$182,951.90

Total Expenses \$188,303.59

YTD Total: -\$5,352.69

Issue 10, October 2023



**Blessing
of the
Pets**

This Sunday at Noon

Bring your furry, finned, fanged or feathered friends for a blessing and a picture! All animals and people are welcome to attend!



**CONGREGATIONAL
MEETING**

Nov 12, following worship to discuss the upcoming mission funding plan. All confirmed members encouraged to attend.

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)