



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Newsletter

September 2022

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we watch our college students come back to campus, and our younger students head back to school, we see some are so excited to be “home”, back with friends and teachers they know and love, while we see others who are overwhelmed by the newness of it all. This combination of emotions got me thinking about our church and how we welcome others.

Some of you have been blessed to grow up at Bethlehem. Walking through the doors of our building feels like coming home to you. You know this is a place where you are loved, accepted, and cared for. Others of you are newer to Bethlehem, but you have found your fit here. You have found places where your gifts are meeting the needs of others, you have made new friends, and if you have children, your children have made new friends, too. Still others of you are still questioning if Bethlehem is the congregation for you... wondering if it is the place that could be “home” for you, too.

You may have noticed a couple of new happenings at BLC. We have a new sign out front, reminding everyone that **“you have a home at Bethlehem,”** and our hope is that everyone does. We pray that we can continue to work to be a congregation where people of all schools of thought, of all backgrounds, church and unchurched, can find a true sanctuary. We pray that all who come through our doors will find a safe refuge where they are welcomed, loved, and encouraged to keep growing deeper in relationship with God and with our church family.

The second thing you may have noticed is the updated church offices. While we strive to keep our offices current, we also are seeking to make our offices a place where each of you know you are welcome to set up a time to come and chat, come and be heard, come and be welcomed. Huge thanks to all who have helped move and make our offices feel even more homey than they already were.

The final thing you may have noticed or heard about is our new “pray-ground” coming to the sanctuary. Just as we want everyone to have a home here at Bethlehem, we especially want our children to feel welcomed and loved. This new “pray-ground” is being created for our younger Bethlehem members and friends who might struggle to participate from the back of the sanctuary. The “pray-ground” will have age appropriate activities that are relevant to worship. It will be movable, in case we need the space for other activities. Our hope is that you help our youngest friends know that they can stay and play and be a part of worship all at the same time, so that truly everyone can know that they have a home at Bethlehem.

If you have further ideas on how we might expand our welcome, I would love to hear them! You can join me at coffee chat on Wednesdays, or set up an appointment...let's chat!

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

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



Sunday, September 18th, begins a **twice-a-month** format for **education**. Sunday Schoolers (Ages 3 yr olds-6th graders) will meet at the same time as confirmation students (7th-9th graders) for education. We encourage families to join us for worship, to grab coffee and treats, and then everyone can head to their classrooms at 10:15 am. Adult education will be happening later this fall. **If you are interested in helping teach Sunday School or Confirmation, please talk to Pastor Amy.**

Teachers are still needed...each teacher will teach a couple of times (i.e. one month). That way, our kids get to know even more adults who love and care for them here! Questions? Please call the church office at 319-266-3541. **Keep your eyes out for registration forms coming soon!**

God's Work, Our Hands Volunteer Fair-Sunday, Sept 11

Come and find out how you can share your gifts throughout the Cedar Valley! On Sept 11, following worship we will have several different volunteer organizations here with us at Bethlehem so that you can learn about the work they are doing and how you might be a part of it!



Choir resumes for all ages on Sept 14 at 7 pm!

Come and meet our new choir director Brennan, and join us as we sing together! For more info, contact Brennan at bregan99@uni.edu

Do you like to plan parties and gatherings? Do you know a lot about the history of Bethlehem? We are planning a celebration dinner and organ concert to celebrate our church anniversary and could use your help! If you would like to help, please sign up at the welcome table at church!



All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, Sept 13, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary



We invite you to join us for our September 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:**

EDUCATION— This team has been working hard on some really exciting opportunities for fall. Want to help with Sunday School or Confirmation? Have an idea for a topic you'd like to see us cover in Adult Education or have ideas for guest speakers? If you are interested in helping make these things happen, then **EDUCATION** is the breakout for you!

CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY-Do you like to help with projects around the church? Do you want a say in the property insurance that we carry? Would you like to learn how you could be more involved in 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 is the place to meet with Heather and talk about activities that are coming soon. Activities this group are currently working on include: Trunk-or-Treat, and the Men of Faith Dinner. This crew will also be organizing Christmas Families this fall and working on the Live Nativity. Want to know more? Then this **FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH** breakout is for you!

Still confused about how all of this All Team stuff works? No problem! Come and join us on September 13th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!

Giving information as of July 30, 2022

Year to date income: \$159,914.34

Year to date expenses: \$175,322.84

Year to date total: **-\$15,408.50**



The finance team has completed a year-to-date reconciliation and numbers are back on track. Our year-to-date budget is \$210,495.25 Expenses are being kept as low as possible.

Thank you to all those who have given so far this year!
We cannot do this ministry without you!



We would like to thank your church for supporting our students each year with backpacks and school supplies! Our students and their families benefit from your generosity! Thank you for supporting us!

-Ralph Bryant, Lincoln Elementary, Cedar Falls

Thank you so much to Becky Anderson and Theresa Elevrum for putting the backpacks together for students at Lincoln Elementary school. Thank you, also, to everyone who donated school supplies or gave a monetary donation. Because of your help, several students were able to begin the new school year with big smiles.

-Bethlehem Staff

Bethlehem Lutheran Church,

Thank you for the donations of school supplies. They are greatly appreciated and will be put to great use.

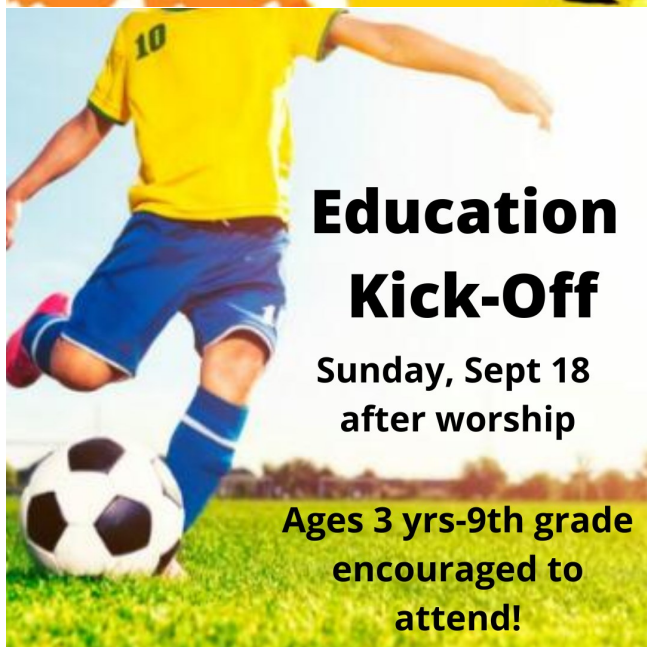
-North Cedar Elementary Staff



Pastor Amy would love to hear how you are and how she can be praying for you! Stop in at coffee chat, or set up another time that works better for you! Thank you for your partnership in this ministry!

Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS



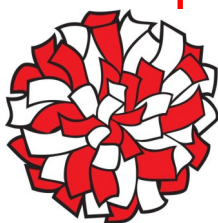
Education Kick-Off

**Sunday, Sept 18
after worship**

**Ages 3 yrs-9th grade
encouraged to
attend!**

Come and see your friends from Bethlehem! Classes are back for kids for all ages on Sunday, Sept 18! Invite a friend to come and join the fun!

Don't forget to invite Pastor Amy to your sporting events, concerts, and more...she'd love to come cheer you on! Text your events to her at 218-290-3982 and she will get to as many as she can!



Blessing of the Pets



Bring your furry, finned, fanged, or feathered friends on Sunday, October 2nd, at Noon for a Blessing of the Pets, special treat and photo, too! All animals and creatures are invited to attend...we will gather at the outside worship space.



**A Place for YOU!
Pray-ground
coming to BLC!**

Have you heard that there is a place coming in the sanctuary just for our younger BLC kiddos? Our new "pray-ground" will be a place in the sanctuary just for you to color, see church up close, learn how the parts of church work, and play and learn, too! Watch the Caution Tape area in the sanctuary to see what is changing each weekend! It's gonna be great!

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 Deb
(office@bethlehemcf.net)

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 pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net
or call Pastor Amy at the church office.



Do you wish
someone could
bring communion
to you? **Call the
church office and
Pastor Kristi or
Pastor Amy will
be glad to bring
communion to**

you! 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
pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Deb Estrem- Office Manager
office@bethlehemcf.net

**Heather Hurd-Schneider Director of
Fellowship and Outreach**
heather@bethlehemcf.net

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
pastorkristi.grieder@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 319-277-0325

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>

Bethlehem is excited to welcome two new members to our staff! **Pastor Kristi Grieder** returns to our staff as our **Visitation Pastor** and **Brennan Regan** joins the staff as our new choir director! Welcome to the team!



My name is **Pastor Kristi** and I am excited to return to serving on the Bethlehem team as the Visitation Pastor. I am fascinated by people's stories and seeing how God is at work in our lives. If you are going through a challenge or transition, I am especially here to listen and provide support to you. You can reach me by calling the church office. I look forward to visiting with you. Previously, I was a Spiritual Care Counselor for Cedar Valley Hospice and served my First Call at Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Waterloo, Iowa. I have a Master of Divinity from Wartburg Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Luther College, with a major in religion and minors in sociology and writing. I am originally from North Mankato, Minnesota but call the Cedar Valley "home". In my free time I enjoy spending time with my husband, two daughters, and our dog. I also enjoy many simple joys like going on walks, spending time at the lake, singing, writing, and of course, drinking coffee.

My name is **Brennan Regan**, and I am a Junior at the University of Northern Iowa majoring in Choral Music Education. I am involved in multiple ensembles at UNI, including Cantorei, Concert Chorale, and UNI Opera. In addition to music, I enjoy spending my time hiking trails, exploring local coffee shops, and rooting for my favorite baseball team, the Chicago Cubs. I am greatly looking forward to continuing the tradition of music at Bethlehem!



Do you love having kids in worship at BLC? Would you like to help make the Prayer Ground happen? Pastor Amy is looking for both financial backers and volunteers willing to give their time to help make this project a reality. If this is something that excites you...talk to Pastor Amy today!



Save the Date! "Celebrating God's Faithfulness"
Church Anniversary Service and Organ Concert
Sunday, November 20, 2022

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
(218) 290-3982 cell phone
(319) 266-3541 work phone
pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

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)