



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

April 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Recently in worship, one of our younger members chose to donate her art, and put it in the Holy Cow. Another one of our young friends asked why she did so, and it got me thinking. Her giving her artwork was a beautiful example of how we can give our gifts to God.

Our gifts to God are often financial, and without those gifts, Bethlehem could not function, so I would be remiss if I didn't say thank you. For all the financial ways you support our congregation, thank you!

However, I think our young friend's generous gift can also remind us that giving to God isn't just financial. It is also about sharing the gifts and skills that we have been given. Just as she shared her art with the Holy Cow, and in turn with God himself, so we, too, can share the gifts that we have been given.

Can you help with mailings? Help visit the lonely? Write a card to someone who needs to be reminded they are cared for? Can you help with property concerns? Assist in worship? Teach our young children? Can you sing or play an instrument? Would you be willing to do special music in worship?

Can you lead an adult education class you are passionate about? Can you teach someone to knit or crochet? Can you help serve Community Meals? Do you love giving generously to others and want to help the Endowment Team give away the gifts we have? Are you a good leader who listens to all sides of an issue and could serve on the church council?

The opportunities for us to share our gifts are endless, friends. And it takes ALL of us to make the ministry at Bethlehem happen. So if you can find it in your heart to spare some time and share your gifts, let's have a conversation about how to get you plugged in to Bethlehem.

And if it has been a while since you have been plugged in, that's okay. Let's all use Easter as a way to find new ways at Bethlehem and in the wider community to share our gifts. Let's recognize how God has gifted us so that we, in turn, might be a gift and blessing to others.

Let's give thanks that Jesus gave his life so that we could be given eternal life, and let's respond to God's love by loving others through the sharing of our gifts and skills. Keep shining, Bethlehem. You are a blessing, and God is at work in and through each of you!

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy

Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS

Do you wish you could do more at our church? Are you looking for ways to volunteer at Bethlehem or out in the wider community? Here are some ways you can make a difference this month:



- **Volunteer to help in worship.** You could read the lessons, help with ushering, be a greeter, or even be an assisting minister! Want to help with these things? Talk to Pastor Amy today!
- **Help at Community Meals:** This month is Bethlehem's month to serve at Community Meals! Sign up on the welcome table! On April 18, join the crew down at United Methodist Church at 5:00 pm and ask Keith how you can help!
- **Sign up with a friend or with your family to serve coffee fellowship!** Want different snacks after worship? Here's your opportunity! Pick a Sunday and make it happen!
- **Have a fun youth event idea you would like to try this spring or summer?** Talk to Pastor Amy. She would love to plan with you and make it happen!



Are you wanting to go to Bible Camp this summer? Either for Confirmation camp or just for a week of fun with new friends? Let's make it happen! We are looking at options now, for what dates work best. If you are interested in attending camp this summer, please let Pastor Amy know ASAP!



Join us Sunday, April 2, at 8:55 am (just before worship) to grab a Palm and be part of our Palm Parade! We encourage kids of all ages (confirmands, too!), as well as adults to participate!

Is someone in your family interested in First Communion class? We have a couple of other families interested. Let Pastor Amy know, and we will find a date that works for you. We look forward to welcoming your kids to the Communion table!



Education Hour this month will happen two different Sundays! We invite you to join us on April 16 as we learn about Doubting Thomas and April 23 when we learn about the disciples on the Road to Emmaus! We hope you will join us and bring a friend! Confirmation will be meeting on both of those Sundays, too! Don't miss it!





COMMUNITYMEALS

Bethlehem's Mission Statement is Sharing the Bread of Life with a Hungry World. One way this is done is through is our outreach with being a participant in Cedar Falls Community Meals.

During the Farm Crisis of the 1980s, Bethlehem along several other churches provided meals to help the Cedar Falls/Waterloo families get through those tough times. Today Bethlehem plus 8 other churches serve meals every Tuesday evening at the United Methodist Church in downtown Cedar Falls. Around 120 meals are served on an average Tuesday. The guests that come are from group homes, single adults and families.

Each church prepares their own meals and funds them. Bethlehem gets its funding from Bethlehem's Endowment Fund and other gifts. Bethlehem serves meal on the third Tuesday in the months of February, April, June, August, October and December. It takes around 16 Volunteers to get this job done.

The tasks of the volunteers are setting up the tables and chairs, making the food, serving the food and clean up. The majority of the volunteers arrive around 4:15. Three weeks before Bethlehem serves there will be a sign-up sheet on the welcome table. Please consider volunteering if you are able. One area that could use more people is from 5:00 or later to assist with clean up and taking down the tables and chairs.

If you can help or have any questions, please contact Keith Graber at 319-269-7784.

Make a Difference Monthly-Love INC

You may have noticed a new 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: **paper towels, all purpose cleaner, and garbage bags.** 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!



New Church Directory in the Works!

We are finally getting around to compiling a new directory of Bethlehem members. We are asking you to please submit a photo of your family for the directory to the church office email. You can email your pictures to: officeblccf@gmail.com Questions? Call the office at 319-266-3541. Thanks for helping us to update our photo directory!





Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Easter is coming! The weather will be getting warmer (hopefully) and signs of spring are soon among us. I love celebrating Easter—not just the one day, but the whole season. Just as we have a Lenten season, we celebrate an entire season of Easter until Pentecost. It is a time to look for the Risen Christ among us, especially in the people around us. The Easter season renews our hope in the One who gives us new life each and every day by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Just as we have seasons in the church year, we also have seasons in our lives. Seasons of joy are just as important as seasons of struggle. Grief has its own seasons, too. Though the grief journey is never really “over” and you can’t just “get over it”, our grief journey looks differently over time. This is why it is important to have continual support and places for community where you can bring your grief and be yourself. This month we will have a follow-up gathering for our first Grief Group that met in January and February. We will reconnect with one another and continue to support each other on the ongoing grief journey. We will meet at church at **10:00am on Monday, April 24th**.

I also want to invite all of you to consider joining a new Grief Group that will be beginning at the end of April. You can join this group regardless of when the loss occurred. It does not have to be recent. You can be grieving any person in your life; it does not need to be immediate family. The group is an opportunity to connect with others who are also on their own individual grief journeys. In the 5 sessions, we will hold space for you to express your authentic feelings and challenges as well as cover some frameworks to equip you for the journey, such as what grief is and what it is not, how to process emotions, the role of faith and spirituality in grief, and finding meaning. Members of the group will form a covenant of safe space practices including confidentiality, active listening, and practicing non-judgment. I hope you will consider joining this group if you are struggling and needing support in your grief journey.

We will meet **Tuesday evenings at 7:00PM April 25th through May 23rd**. You can sign up on the Welcome Table or by emailing me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.

God’s peace to you along the journey,
Pastor Kristi Grieder

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Thursday, April 20 - April Tour to Rada Cutlery Manufacturing

- *Meet at BLC to **carpool @ 9:45am - Depart: 10:00am**
- **Must wear pants, closed-toe shoes and no flowy material that would catch in machinery
- *We are able to purchase items after our tour [individual knives, gift sets, pans, utensils, mixes]

*Please look at their website prior to our tour: <https://radakitchenstore.com/>. Please note the exact name and item number to make purchasing easier.

*LUNCH: Z's Pizza & Diner - 211 W. Bremer

Thursday, May 25 @ 1:30 - "War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II" - Tama Hall, Hawkeye Community College

- a musical journey through the war years with headline news and personal letters from the Front presented by 2 actors.

- **Tickets \$11** – *must pay when you sign up.*
- Deadline to sign-up is **April 30**.
- **Tama Hall Auditorium**, 1501 E Orange Rd, Waterloo. Park in Lots J, I, K. There are 6 handicap spots. Allow at least 30 min. to drive/park. There is a long ramp for wheelchair access from lobby to auditorium floor

Sunday, June 11 @ 2:35pm, BETHLEHEM at the WATERLOO BUCKS BASEBALL GAME! -

All ages welcome! **Tickets: \$9.** Watch for more information and sign up opportunities in May!



Join us for our 3rd Annual Women's Retreat out at the Stone Center of EWALU April 29-30. Come away for the day on Saturday to rest and renew, or stay for the longer overnight option and end with worship before heading home on Sunday!



This year's theme will be about how we can be whole... our physical, emotional, interpersonal, vocational and spiritual well being! Come and find yourself restored and renewed to head into spring in a more complete way!

All female members and friends of Bethlehem are invited to attend this retreat. Sign up on the welcome table.

For more info, talk to Pastor Amy today!



Sabbath Space

During Holy Week we will have an opportunity to walk the Prayer Labyrinth. **The Prayer Labyrinth will be available in the Fellowship Hall Monday-Thursday at noon.** If you have any questions about how to walk the labyrinth, check out the information provided in the Fellowship Hall or talk to Pastor Amy or Pastor Kristi! Blessings on your Holy Week, friends!

New Grief Group forming April 25. This group will meet Tuesday evenings at 7 pm for 5 weeks. Sign up on the welcome table, or if you have questions, ask Pastor Kristi!

Grief
SUPPORT
GROUP

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

Not able to join us for worship in person on Sundays or Wednesdays? 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>

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

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Brennan Regan-Choir Director
bregan99@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço-Feld - 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

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Theresa Elverum 319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-319-290-5725



GIVING MADE EASY!

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

Holy Week Happenings **April 2-9**



**Palm
Sunday**

Worship @ 9am



**Maundy
Thursday**

Worship at 7 pm
with Communion



**Good
Friday**

Worship at 7 pm



**Easter
Sunday**

Sunrise Worship
 Drive-In 6:30 am
 Easter Breakfast
 7:30-8:45 am
 Festival Worship
 9:00 am

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)