



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Newsletter August 2021

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Can you feel it? The excitement building at Bethlehem? The new energy? The new ideas? The new hands helping to make it happen?

We have been together now for 18 months, and it has been an adventure! I hope these last few weeks you have been around to feel the excitement and energy that is building. I hope you have been around to hear of fun church family campouts and outdoor worship, of new staff coming on board, of new ideas for how we might do education and music and worship and more!

We are excited for things coming this fall like chances to learn about other faiths and how we can partner together, opportunities for intergenerational learning...where kids can learn from adults, and adults can learn from kids, new opportunities for music and worship and so much more!

I hope you can feel the energy and excitement that is building here in this place: as more and more of our family return to worship and fellowship together, as we celebrate our differences and learn from each other, and as we continue to find new ways to reach out into our neighborhoods to meet folks where they are, and learn how we can be better together.

I welcome any chance to hear from you and learn from you as well. I invite you to sign up for "Table Talks" that will be happening in my home in August. A chance for me to welcome you into my space since I was not able to do that due to pandemic when I first arrived. I hope we can have a chance to deepen relationships, talk about church happenings, catch the excitement that is happening here, and just enjoy each other's company.

You dear ones, are a gift to this community, and I can not wait to see what God has in store for us next!

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy

P.S. Current Table Talk Dates: August 12, 7 pm –Appetizers and BYOB
 August 20, 10 am-Brunch
 August 24, Noon-Soup & Salad Lunch

To sign up for a Table Talk group, call the church office or sign up on the welcome desk in the narthex!



Our barrel overflows!! Thank you so much for your donations of personal care items to the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. Your kind donations will help several people in the Cedar Valley.



Thank you so much for all of your financial and school supply donations for students at Lincoln Elementary. We appreciate your help ensuring that each student has what is needed to make it a great school year!



We also invite students and teachers, on August 22, to bring their school bags to worship for a “Blessing of the Backpacks” during worship and a “Back to School Brunch” following worship. We hope all of the students and teachers have a wonderful 2021-22 school year!



We have good news to share!

After 3½ months of chemotherapy treatments for medulloblastoma cancer our grandson, Meyer Mixdorf, and his family are finally able to leave the Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, MO and return home to Fayetteville, Arkansas. Meyer’s last MRI showed there is no cancer in his system! Praise the Lord!! We are still praying for the next two years as Meyer continues to have tests and scans. This will be the critical time when the cancer may reoccur. It will also take a full year before his immune system is back up to “normal.” But for now, Meyer has been given the all clear to begin resuming his childhood again: playing outside, rough housing with his siblings, and laughing with his parents.

We are singing hymns of praise to our God who has kept a watchful eye over our family during this time. God has shown bright lights of love, compassion, care, hope, and faith in many and various ways, both large and small. Therefore, we want to give a very big and loud “THANK YOU” to our brothers and sisters here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church for all you have done. You have showered us with your prayers, words of encouragement, cards, letters and gifts for Meyer. We are blessed to be a part of this church family.

In Christ, Dan and Linda Mixdorf

All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, August 10, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary



We invite you to join us for our August 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:

CAMP BETHLEHEM-The first annual Bethlehem Campout was a huge success! Come and help us finalize our plans for our next service day, as well as celebrate all the great things that happened at the Family Camp Out. If you are interested in these events, and helping make them happen, then **CAMP BETHLEHEM** is the breakout for you!

EDUCATION- This team has been working hard on some really exciting opportunities for fall. Want to help line up guest speakers about other faiths and religions? Want to help plan intergenerational learning events? Want to help line up some service opportunities for people of all ages? 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 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 is the place to meet with Heather and talk about activities that are coming soon. Activities this group are currently working on include: Bounce Back to Bethlehem, God's Work Our Hands Sunday and the Garage Sale this fall. This is also the crew that often organizes in-kind donations. They've done school supplies and personal hygiene items this summer, and will be the crew that organizes Christmas families this fall. 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 August 10th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!



Do you read our church newsletter? First few folks to let Cayla know that you saw these eyes in the church newsletter and that you read the newsletter gets a prize! Call the church office at 319-266-3541 and claim your prize today!

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



Swing by the Bethlehem South Door on Monday, August 23 from 7-9:30 am for a free cup of coffee and a goodie to celebrate our kids and teachers going back to school. You don't even need to get out of your car! Don't have anyone in school? No problem! You are welcome to come and have coffee with us too!



August 28 11:00am-2:00pm- Bounce Back to Bethlehem

Come and enjoy a fun event for all ages! El Camino and Nelly's Weenies and Paninis food trucks will be available to purchase a yummy meal. Have fun with inflatables, twisted balloon creations by Living Characters, face painting, carnival games, snow cones and more! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors! All are invited & encouraged to attend!



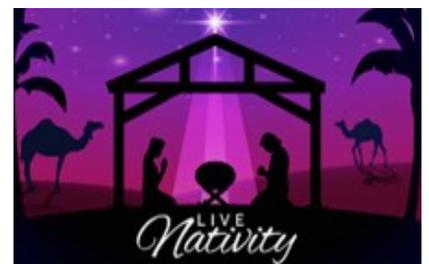
We are looking for volunteers for the following things this month:

***Adult Helpers for Bounce Back to Bethlehem-** whether you can run a carnival game, help keep the snow cone crew running with lugging ice, or just be around to help welcome folks and answer questions,

we need your help! Want to volunteer? Talk to Heather in the church office.

***Visitation Team Members-** Pastor Kristi is forming a new team of folks to go out and visit some of our nursing home residents and home bound members. Whether you love to visit or are willing to be trained on how to keep some of our shut-ins connected to Bethlehem, we need you! **Come and find out more at the informational meeting on Sept 1 at 4:00 pm!**

Bethlehem will be having a Live Nativity on December 5 from 4:30-6pm. We are in need of a lot of volunteers to help with the cast, kitchen help, and parking lot crew. Another way you can help is to "adopt a prop". In the fall, there will be a list of props we will need and you can purchase that prop for the event. **The next planning meeting will be Sunday, August 29, following worship. If you are able to help in any way, please attend this planning meeting!**



Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



We had a blast at the Family Fishing Day and Cookout! Thanks to all who came! Be sure to join us for our events this month, and bring a friend or two! **Don't forget to join us for the Blessing of the Backpacks and the return of Giant Kickball on Sunday, August 22 after worship and back-**



We invite youth and teachers of all ages to bring your school bag with you to worship on **Sunday, August 22 for a Blessing of the Backpacks** and a gift to take with you as you head back to school!



On **August 28, from 11am-2 pm**, grab your friends and family and **Bounce Back to Bethlehem** for a fun day of bouncy houses, food trucks, carnival games and more! Come join the fun! All ages are welcome!

Calling all ballers... There are basketballs, a soccer ball, and a football in Pastor Amy's office if you would like to use them while you are at church, as well as an awesome basketball hoop in the parking lot! Just be sure to return them so they are there for the next person!



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 Cayla
(office@bethlehemcf.net)

or call Cayla 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.



Are you still not comfortable coming to worship in person? Are you unable to join us, but still wishing you could have communion?

Call the church office and either Pastor Amy or Pastor Kristi will be glad to bring communion to you! Call the office at 319-266-3541 and we will get communion brought to your residence. May God bless you and keep you in these days apart.



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

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
Pastor Kristi's email:
Pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Cayla Morris- Office Manager
office@bethlehemcf.net

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

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

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 Christiansen- 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

YouTube

Live streaming

Did you know you can now worship with us live??
We are excited to announce that we are finally
livestreaming worship on **Sunday mornings at 9 am**

What's New in Visitation Ministry?!

This summer we have launched a monthly Worship Service at New Aldaya for Holy Communion, coffee, and fellowship. This had been an important part of Bethlehem's ministry, and it has been a joy and privilege to be able to reconnect and worship together again. Thank you to those of you who have been a part of these events. If you are a resident of New Aldaya, please mark your calendars for this month, **Wednesday, August 18th, 10:00am in the Glen Arbor 2nd Floor Lounge**. Even if you are not a resident of New Aldaya, you are still welcome to come and worship with us! It is wonderful for participants to see a familiar face! Visitors will need to screen and check in at Entrance 4.



Visitation Ministry is for everyone. There are numerous reasons someone might request a visit from the Visitation Pastor. Are you feeling alone or isolated? Has it been a while since you have been able to receive Holy Communion? Do you desire personal prayer? Is there something you would like to talk about that requires deep listening and reflection? Are you unable to join in Sunday worship right now? Do you enjoy fellowship? This is just a glimpse of some of the reasons why someone may request an appointment with the Visitation Pastor. **If you would like a visit, please call the church office at (319) 266-3541 or email Pastor Kristi at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.**

I am also excited to announce we are **starting a Visitation Team at Bethlehem!** This is one of the ways you can minister to others in your daily life. God gives us gifts to meet the abundance of need in our community. If you are passionate about caring for others, you are encouraged to consider becoming part of our new Visitation Team! You will be paired with members of the congregation for regular visits. You will also receive ongoing training and support in active listening, practicing presence, distributing Holy Communion, etc. This is an awesome learning opportunity that you can take in all areas of your life. I encourage you to join us for an introductory meeting on **Wednesday, September 1st at 4:00pm.**

Thank you for the privilege of listening to your stories and the invitation into your lives. I look forward to getting to know many more people who make Bethlehem the amazing community that it is.

God's peace,

Pastor Kristi Grieder, Visitation Pastor

Our annual Garage Sale will be September 11 8:00am-2:00pm. If you have items you would like to donate for the garage sale, you can bring your items Tues, Sept 7 and Thurs, Sept 9- 8am-4pm; Weds, Sept 8- 8am-5pm; and Fri Sept 10- 8am-noon. If you need to bring items at night or have items you would like to be picked up, please contact Heather to make arrangements. Please do not bring televisions, work out equipment, and Christmas decorations. Children's clothing and toys are needed. If you know of a place that we can donate items left over from the garage sale, please contact the church office.





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Our Pastor
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Our website:
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ELCA-451552121584266](https://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA-451552121584266)**

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