



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 2022 Newsletter



Bethlehem Family and Friends,

While out and about this July, I came across this logo...

and it got me thinking about the ministry we have happening at Bethlehem. I think we all agree that our first couple of years together between pandemic and staff changes and life changes were a challenge. As we prepare to enter into another program year together, this idea caught my attention. I have had several of our members reaching out to me lately, wanting to re-connect. Some wanting to restore their connection with Bethlehem, others wanting to reconnect with friends they have been missing. It is a season of both restoring some things that were put on pause during the pandemic and also reimagining how our life together might look as we build upon our ministry in a more stable season.

So here is what I am wondering...is there any chance we could grab coffee or lunch? Or might you have time for a beverage after work? Will you take some time to tell me what you are hoping might be on the horizon for Bethlehem in the next year or several years? I would love to hear what you are thinking. I would love to hear what you feel is going well and what are our growing edges. I would love to dream with you about how we might feed whatever needs you or your family have that are not being met. I would love to talk with you about how we might deepen the discipleship opportunities at Bethlehem for people of all ages as we move into our unknown future together.

Maybe you are jazzed and ready to roll with new energy and new ideas. Maybe my request has you questioning what you have the time and bandwidth for as a family and as individuals this year. Maybe you are somewhere in between excited and still recovering from all that has happened these past couple of years. Wherever you stand, I hope we can take some intentional time this next month or two to reconnect and talk and dream together. At any rate, I hope you know that I am here and listening...as we continue to partner together on this journey. Thank you for the honor of walking with you.

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy

Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



Bounceback to Bethlehem on August 27, 11-2!
Come and join us for a bouncy obstacle course, dunk tank, carnival games, balloon animals, food truck, snow cones and more! It's gonna be a ton of fun, and we hope you bring a friend and join us!

BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

For students and teachers, **August 21**, in worship!
Bring your schoolbag for a special gift and blessing!

This hedgehog is cheering for you because



you can do any thing!
Pastor Amy wants to cheer you on, too! Make sure you get Pastor Amy your game

and concert schedules for the year so that she can be there to cheer you on! Email them to pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net or text them to 218-290-3982. Looking forward to cheering you on for the 2022-23 season!



Join us for our next game of **Giant Kickball** after worship and the Blessing of the Backpacks on **August 21!**



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

E-Eat Together



Pastor Amy is holding **Coffee with the Pastor** this month on **Wednesdays** from **10 am-Noon pm** at Sarah's Espresso (downtown CF). Come and chat, come and meet someone new, come and share your point of view!



Save the date! On **Saturday, August 27, from 11:00am-2:00pm, Bounce Back to Bethlehem** will occur! Come and enjoy an inflatable, dunk tank, balloon creations, face paintings, games, shaved ice, and a food truck! We hope you will enjoy this fun day and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join you!



S-Serve in love

It's that time of year again for school supplies! We could use your help supplying kids at Lincoln Elementary School with things they need to have a great school year. **In the narthex, choose a tag** (or more than one!), go and purchase the supplies, and **return them to the bins in the narthex by August 14!** Thanks for helping all our kids to have enough!



Joyful Times will be touring **Hansen's Dairy Farm** on **Thursday, Aug. 25, 2022.**

Meet at BLC at 9:00AM to carpool - departing at 9:15AM. Tour starts at **9:30AM** at Hansen's Dairy Farm, **8461 Lincoln Rd Hudson, IA.** The tour lasts approximately 1 1/2 hours and at the end of the tour we get ice cream!! Cost of the tour is \$8.

Recommended attire: Closed-toed shoes and clothes that you don't mind getting a little dusty. It IS a farm! Bring rain gear/umbrellas if rainy weather is expected. They typically do not cancel the tour for rain but only if severe weather is predicted. Hansen's accepts credit/debit and cash for product purchases after the tour. Bring a cooler for your car if you want to purchase any perishable dairy products or meat.

Lunch at Highway 63 Diner after the tour - 11:30AM





Our next **Congregational Quarterly Meeting** will be held this coming Sunday, August 7, at 10 am, following worship.

We will be discussing the possibility of changing to semi-annual meetings. The proposal has been made to change to semi-annual meetings, one in November (budget setting meeting) and one in May (celebration of ministry meeting). The new format would take hold in May 2023. Our meetings in 2022 would still happen in August, October, and January, in order to ratify this change to our constitution/bylaws. Questions about this proposal can be brought to the executive team. All members of Bethlehem are encouraged to attend our congregational meetings to have their voices heard. To keep up to date on when the next congregational



meeting is happening, you can always check the church website at:

L-Listen to others

<https://www.bethlehemcf.org/congregational-meeting.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.

In our prayers this month: Steve, Ruth, Cindy, Antwan, Eldora, Linda, Jeremy, Julie, Kathy, Calvin, Judy, Dick, Linda, Suzette, Jim, Tamara, Dean



Do you like teenagers? Do you wish you could get to know our youth better? Do you want to build relationships with some of the Bethlehem youth? Do you like to teach? We are exploring trying a new approach to Confirmation this year, to give our kids more voices to hear, and to build relationships between our adults and teens. We are looking for folks that might be interested in teaching a unit (2-3 weeks) of confirmation. **If you are interested in being part of this idea from the ground up, talk to Pastor Amy today!** You wouldn't be alone in the room, as Pastor Amy will still be present, building relationships and helping as needed...we are just looking for ways to strengthen our kids relationships with more folks at BLC!



All Team Meeting Night!

Tuesday, August 9th, 7:00 pm, Sanctuary

EDUCATION– As we continue to live into what life looks like post-pandemic, we would love to hear what you would like to see as educational offerings here at Bethlehem. Do you have ideas for youth or adult education? Do you have a passion for helping others learn? 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: Bounce Back to Bethlehem, God's Work-Our Hands Sunday and the Live Nativity. 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 the Christmas Families Project 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 9th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!



S-Share your story

Thank you to everyone who donated items for the Personal Hygiene Drive in July! You overflowed the donation bin! Thank you for your generosity! Your donations will benefit several people in the Cedar Valley.



Are you looking for new ways to get involved in volunteering in the wider Cedar Valley? Please join us on **Sunday, September 11**, as we host a **Volunteer Fair** after worship, in connection with God's Work-Our Hands Sunday. Various organizations will be present and you will have the opportunity to learn more about them and how you can get involved!

How are YOU living into
our theme for 2022: B.L.E.S.S.?

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

Not able to join us for worship in person on
Sundays? No problem! All of our worship services
can be found online on our church website at:

<http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>



YTD Giving: \$132,417.33
YTD Income: \$134,262.66
YTD Expenses: \$153,899.67
Total YTD: \$-19,637.01



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- Administrative Assistant
office@bethlehemcf.net

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

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Brennan Regan-Choir Director

Noah Anderson- Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Hudson Lourenco - 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

Secretary

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

Connie Johnson-319-610-7449



GIVING MADE EASY!

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

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship	1 4:15pm - Piano Lessons 5:15pm - Exec Team	2 9am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Text Study @ Waverly, 3:10pm - Piano Lessons	3 10am - Coffee Chat w/ PA @ 1pm - Knitters 1:50pm - Piano Lessons 5:15pm - Finance Team	4 4pm - Piano Lessons	5 Nolan's One Year Anniversary 4:15pm - Piano Lessons	6
7 9am - Worship 10am - Coffee Fellowship	8 4:15pm - Piano Lessons	9 9am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Text Study @ Waverly, 3:10pm - Piano Lessons 6pm - Care & Connect Team 7pm - All Team Mtg	10 NEA Food Bank picks up Hygiene 9:30am - Joyful Times Mtg 10am - Coffee Chat w/ PA @ 1pm - Knitters 1:50pm - Piano Lessons 5:15pm - Finance Committee	11 Pastor Amy @ wedding in ND 4pm - Piano Lessons	12 4:15pm - Piano Lessons	13
14 Pastor Amy @ wedding in ND Debi's Birthday	15 Newsletter Deadline Office Move Day	16 Office Carpet Install Community Mass Haather Off	17 10am - Coffee Chat w/ PA @ 1pm - Knitters	18 Debi on vacation	19 OFFICE CLOSED Pastor Amy's Day Off	20
21 9am - Worship w/Backpack 10am - Coffee Fellowship	22 6pm - Church Council	23 9am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Text Study @ Waverly,	24 10am - Coffee Chat w/ PA @ 10am - NewAldays Worship 1pm - Knitters	25 9am - JT to Hansen Farm 7pm - Wine, Women, and the Word	26 Pastor Kristi gone Pastor Amy's Day Off	27 Bounceback to Balthasar
28 Pastor Kristi gone	29	30 9am - Staff Meeting 11:30am - Text Study @ Waverly,	31 10am - Coffee Chat w/ PA @ 1pm - Knitters	1	2	3



Events you don't want to miss this month:

Sunday, Aug 7-Worship at 9 am,

Quarterly meeting to follow

Sunday Aug 21-Blessing of Backpacks @ 9 am,

Giant Kickball game to follow

Saturday, Aug 27-

11 am-2 pm Bounceback to Bethlehem

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)