



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

August 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

What a summer it has been, and how hard to believe that we are winding our way towards another fall already! I pray that this summer has brought you some time out in God's good creation, places to be catching up with family and friends, and time to refresh and renew.

At Bethlehem, it has been a busy season. I invite you to check out our page of pictures of some of our events that happened so far this summer, and to pull out your calendars and start saving the dates of things happening this fall.

Included in this newsletter are several new programming opportunities for you and your family to participate in...whether it is GAPP: our new early-out education on Wednesdays for kids K-6th, the youth group forming for older kids, the new moms' group for infants and preschoolers, or the new teams working on our congregational goals. There promises to be something for all of you at Bethlehem this fall.

I invite you to take the time to look through this newsletter and find a way you might plug in. And, if you are still looking for more opportunities, or wondering where your gifts might best be a fit at Bethlehem, then come and join us for our worship and ministry fair on Sept 10.

But in the meantime, friends, before we get to the busy season that fall always brings? I invite you to remember that this ordinary summer season also brings the extraordinary. This poem, entitled "(Extra) Ordinary Time" was written by a colleague and classmate of mine, Pastor Meta Herrick Carlson. Thank you for walking these seasons with us, dear ones!

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

There is a season that stretches like
the days, long and green until
you think there's only this one way
of being alive.

There are prayers for sun & rain.
What we have planted bears fruit
and the gardens grow wild,
making us share and reminding:
There is enough after all.

When you dive into the lake
or wade with your legs in the river,
the cold water steals your breath
and your baptism comes to mind.

When you pack sandwiches and
wine and feast with neighbors and
crickets in the grass at sunset, and
the meal is enough with baskets left
over, remember the supper.

These are ordinary times, of course,
but they are also extraordinary, filled
with promises that follow you to the
ends of the earth and back again.

—(Extra)Ordinary Time written by
Rev. Meta Herrick Carlson



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

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 13!** Thanks for helping all our kids to have enough!



Come and join us at **Second State Brewing Co.**, 203 State St, Cedar Falls, on **Sunday, August 13**, at **7:00 pm**, for a chance to meet new friends, have good conversations, and enjoy a cold beverage of your choosing (non-alcoholic available, too!) on a warm summer night! See you at Second State!



Joyful Times will be touring **Sleepy Creek Tannery** on **Thursday, Aug. 17.**

Meet at BLC at 9:15 am to carpool - departing at 9:30 am - Tour 10:00-11:00.

Owner Ben Deters will explain how he started his business, an average day processing furs, what variety of animals he will tan, where his customers are from, and what the furs are used for.

Then we will head to lunch at The Landmark Bistro in Grundy Center.

Deadline to sign up is **August 13.**



Come and join the fun at **the ThreeHouse Campus Ministry Block Party, Sunday, August 27 from 5 pm-7 pm** at 2422 College Street in Cedar Falls! There will be food provided, lots of time for fellowship and meeting students, and Bethlehem will be there handing out food and welcoming students back to campus! Want to help out at Bethlehem's food spot and meet students? Talk to Gabby today!

What's Coming Up in September



Calling all Young Adults (18-25 year olds) Come and join us for a back-to-school bonfire at Bethlehem on **Sunday, Sept 3rd, at 7:00 pm!** Come and meet our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Gabby, and hear about all the awesome things she has planned for you this fall!

New Moms' Group Forming! Calling all Moms of infants-preschoolers! We are forming a new moms' group that will meet the **second Saturday of each month at 10:00 am beginning Sept 10!** Kiddos will go and play with Pastor Amy (and a helper!), and Moms will meet together with each other and a TBD staff member! We pray this will be a place where you can find support, encouragement, and renewal, too, as well as providing a safe place for your kids to grow and learn! Interested in learning more? Sign up on the welcome table or by calling the church office!



Have you ever wondered how you might get involved in a new or different part of Bethlehem? Now is your opportunity! Join us on **Sunday, Sept 10, at 10 am, for our Ministry Fair** to learn about many of the ministries that happen here and how YOU can play a part in them! All are welcome, members and friends, to come and find out more about Bethlehem!

Join us for good food, fellowship, and fun on **Sunday, Sept 17, at 6:30 pm** for a **potluck!** We are inviting our friends to join us from UNI and Hawkeye, and asking you to invite your friends and neighbors, too! Bring a dish to share, and there will be plenty for everyone!



Congregational Goals & Teams 2023-24

This past Lent our congregation held cottage meetings to discuss what the values are of our congregation at this time. **The top values came back as: Faith/Worship, Relationships, Service/Outreach, Education, and Generosity/Stewardship.**

This summer the council and staff worked to define short term and long term goals for this year. At this last council meeting, the council members chose which value they would work on as a team.

As we continue to live into what the congregation is hoping and dreaming, council leaders are **looking for folks that would be interested in joining the teams to work on accomplishing the goals.** If you are interested in helping make these goals a reality, or you have a passion for a certain value of this congregation, you are encouraged to talk to the council representatives of that team, and join that team in their work today!

Team: Faith/Worship

Council Representative(s): Connie Johnson, Derek Kettle

Short term: Define what “contemporary worship” looks like

Long term: Increase active participation (24 by end of 2024)

Team: Relationships

Council Representative(s): Joan Christensen, Mardy Holst

Short term: Welcome those new to the Cedar Valley into the church

Long term: Handicap Bathrooms/Accessibility

Team: Service/Outreach

Council Representative(s): Adam Roise, Ellen Hermanson

Short term: Clarify who we are doing activities for, what is being done, why it is being done, where it is happening, and who to contact published in all forms

Long term: Expand the lives touched in the Cedar Valley

Team: Education

Council Representative(s): Sara Randall, Rich Fisher

Short term: Form a committee to explore ideas for Sunday School, Adult Education, and Confirmation
Long term: Develop community for youth and families

Team: Generosity/Stewardship

Council Representative(s): Reed Hunemuller, Pastor Amy

Short term: Time and Talent Survey Sheet

Long term: Grow giving of time and money

Do you have questions about these goals or how you can be a part of it? We invite you to have some conversation with our executive team: Ellen Hermanson-President, Reed Hunemuler-Vice President, Adam Roise-Secretary, Joan Christensen-Treasurer, or set up a time to talk to Pastor Amy.

Thank you for all the ways you help us continue to move forward in ministry!

Youth

NEWS AND EVENTS

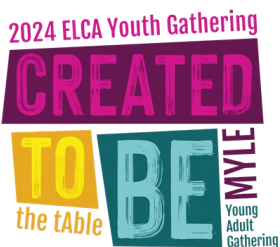
Wednesday Early-Out Education Offering for K-6th Graders

Come and be a part of our new GAPP (Grace and Promise People) program. Come to Bethlehem from 2 pm-4pm on Wednesday afternoons for fun with your friends including snacks, games, crafts, and a Bible Story too! Registration will fill up quickly, so be sure to sign up today! You can register on our church website!



Hey Confirmands and Parents! We will be gathering to talk through the new plan for confirmation on **Wednesday, Sept 6, at 7:00 pm**. Parents AND Students, please bring your calendars so we can set our retreat dates!

Hey 7th-12th Graders! Have you been wishing for a chance to just have a space where you could hang with your friends and have fun, too? This is your opportunity! **On Weds nights starting Sept 13 from 7-9 pm, the Youth Room will be open for you!** We will have some organized games and snacks and things at 8, for those who come hang with us after CHAOS, but come whenever, bring whatever friends you want, and just have some chill, fun time with your crew! Questions? Talk to Pastor Amy today!



Calling all 8th-12th Graders! We are headed to New Orleans!!! We finally get a chance to go to a youth gathering, and we are PUMPED! We hope you will join us for a trip that will take us to Tennessee for a service opportunity and then on to New Orleans to join thousands of other Lutheran youth for fun and learning, too. The information meeting for this event will be on Sunday, September 10th, at 11:00 am! Hope to see you there!



In my conversations with people with whom I visit, we often talk about the hard stuff—the stuff that’s weighing on us, those things that keep us up at night, the things that stir up tears and leave us speechless. This is real work. It takes energy to process our feelings and emotions, to become more in tune with who we are and what we need, and discover new ways of living and being that bring us toward greater wholeness. It is a great privilege to walk with people through life’s challenges, but sometimes we need a dose of good joy for medicine. We can learn the spiritual discipline of celebrating these gifts and joys in our lives without fear that it will all fall away. We can learn to trust the feeling of joy, too. This can be a difficult or uncomfortable thing after many of us have been living in a survival mode for the past few years. It takes one crisis—whether personal or world-wide—to send us into this instinctive mode of survival. We are grateful for how our brain has tried to protect us. Maybe now is the time to learn to live fully again—to embrace the good and let go of our need for constant hypervigilance. Perhaps, we can learn to have fun again through laughter, play, joy, and rest. This season is a chance to refresh and be renewed together as a congregation and also in our personal lives and households. In the world in which we live, sometimes this is the hardest work we need to do.

I want to make you aware of a **Grief Group Meeting** that is coming up on **Tuesday, August 8th, at 10am**, at church. This is open to anyone who is looking for grief support. Bring a friend if you know someone who could also use support. Come and connect with others who are also walking the grief journey. Email me if you have any questions at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.

As always, please email, text or call me if you would like to make an appointment to talk through an issue you are facing in your life. I am available to meet with you at home, over the phone, in a coffee shop, facility, or the church office—wherever you are the most comfortable. I want to provide a safe place where you can be heard without judgment and supported as you walk through life’s hills and valleys.

God’s peace on the journey,
Pastor Kristi

“For Waking Up to Life Again”

Blessed are we, beginning to feel some release
From the crippling fear we’ve grown
Far too accustomed to,
From the drawn-out season of anxious vigilance,
From boredom and frustration of plans deferred.

Winter’s long frost is over.
New ground has appeared,
And paths too we didn’t know were there.
Blessed are we who need help waking up to
 The music, the movement,
 The color of living,
 Who need help trying on joy for a change.

The wonder of the daffodil,
The mystery and power of the tiniest seed,
Cracked open and sprouting new life,
Reaching, in its own time, toward the light.

Blooming.

Blessed are we who say, Wake me too, God.
Put me where beauty and love can reach me.
I’m ready for something new.

p. 52-53 from “The Lives We Actually Have: 100 Blessings for Imperfect Days” by Kate Bowler and Jessica Richie



Joyful Times Trip to the Amana Colonies



Wine, Women, and the Word Bible Study



Youth & Pastor Amy headed to WIYLDE @ EWALU

**What a
fun
summer!**



Theology on Tap @ Singlespeed in Waterloo



Community Worship at the Park



Learning,
Serving, and
Growing at
Vacation
Bible School-
F5 Refresh!



Joyful Times at the Waterloo Bucks game!

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>



To add yourself to the prayer chain team:



Email the church office at officeblccf@gmail.com or call us at 319-266-3541 and let us 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.



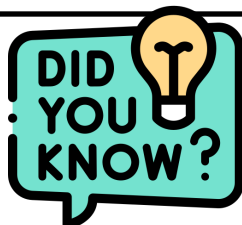
In our prayers this month:

Lexie, Kyle, Steve, Ruth, Cindy, Calvin, Jim, Patty, Janet, Jim, Carolyn,

Larry, LuAnn, Tim, Carol, LeRoy, Harriet, and Ken

Did you know that Love INC is looking for beds? They will even come and pick them up at your house!

Want more information, call Love INC at 319-266-1264 9-Noon on weekdays or or talk to Becky Anderson.



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

Gabby Greco-

Community Engagement Coordinator

engageblccf@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

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

Connie Johnson 319-610-7449

Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Derek Kettle (608) 314-4356

Sara Randall 319-269-2078

Rich Fisher 319-939-8055



GIVING MADE EASY!

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



Aug 13, 7 pm: Theology on Tap at Second State Brewing Co

Aug 17, 9 am: Joyful Times to Sleepy Creek Tannery

Aug 20, 10 am: Blessing of the Backpacks

Aug 25, 6:30 pm: Wine, Women, and the Word

Aug 27, 5:00 pm: ThreeHouse Block Party

Our Lead 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