



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 2021 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

What a year our first year together has been! From staffing and structure changes, to living into a new way of doing things with the pandemic, in some ways it feels like a lot longer than just a year that I have been walking with you. We have learned a lot, begun to get to know each other, and have done our best to strengthen our ministry during our time apart.

As we prepare to enter into a new year of ministry together, we are also entering a new year-long theme for Bethlehem, which is **"2021: It's All About Love"**. In this newsletter, you will find a pink colored page. On one side is our January calendar. On the other side is the break down of each month's theme, and some proposed happenings during the month. We recognize while we are still in pandemic, some of these are tentative, but **we are also super excited about the chance that these activities give us to rebuild our relationships with one another, as well as build new relationships within the Cedar Falls community.**

Our focus in January is: "Love Yourself: A New Start". We will be offering a few new options this month...a **Chair Yogadevotion class** on Wednesdays at noon (either in person or from your own home zoom), we will be having a fun **Eating Healthy Zoom**, and a **new book group** to read the book **"Braving the Wilderness" The Quest for True Belonging and the Courage to Stand Alone "** by **Brene' Brown**. Together this book club will learn and discuss ideas that challenge everything we think we know about cultivating true belonging in our communities, organizations, and culture.

On **January 12th at 7:00 pm**, the church council, executive team, and other council leaders from Bethlehem will be gathering to learn and dream together of how the new structure can work for the best of all members of Bethlehem. That work will continue at our **congregational meeting** on **January 31 at noon**, we will be hearing about what was accomplished this last year, as well as looking forward into the new structure and new theme for our year.

On **January 24**, we invite everyone to come join us for a fun **snow day**! There will be a snowman building contest, hot cocoa and marshmallows by the bonfire after worship, and some other snowy, fun too!

We hope as we begin this new year together, that you will be excited about living into our "It's All About Love" theme with us. We give thanks for each one of you, and look forward to living loved together.

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*



The Council on Service would like to thank the congregation for their generosity for the Christmas project. You helped provide gifts for the children, gift cards for the parents and a big food basket for each family. **There were so many donations, we will be able to forward extra funds to several agencies in our community.** Thanks and blessings to all of you.

Bethlehem-

Thank you for the care package. It was great to hear from home. I appreciated you thinking of us during this time.

-Madison Schulte



Bethlehem Church-

Thank you all so much for your generous gifts and food for our North Cedar families. We truly appreciate the time and energy you all put into it! We are blessed! Thank you!

Heidi Guse, School Counselor, North Cedar Elementary

Thank you so much to the several volunteers who helped fill and deliver Advent/Christmas bags. Over 160 bags were given to the members of the congregation! We couldn't have done that without your help!



Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the generous staff gift that you gave to us for Christmas this year! We appreciate it, and are so thankful that we get to be a part of Bethlehem's ministry! Blessings to you and your families in the New Year!

Sincerely,

Pastor Amy, Cayla, Heather, Hanna, Hudson, Patty, and Seth





Ways to get involved this month...

Snow Day at BLC! This fun event will be held at the church on **January 24, following worship**. Snowman building and other snow activities will be held. More information will be coming soon. All ages are encouraged to join the fun!



Would you like to be on a team to help organize a **Chili Dinner to Go?** We are looking into ways to still celebrate our annual Chili Cookoff in a safe way. If you are interested in helping make that happen, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net

We are looking for a couple of people to join our tech team to help with slides, sound and recording during worship. Seth, our Director of Technology would love to help a couple of other folks learn the new tech that was installed in December. If you are interested in joining our tech team, please notify the church office at 266-3541 or by emailing office@bethlehemcf.net



A new chair yogo-devotion class is coming to Bethlehem via Zoom! Join your friends in the Fellowship Hall or online from the comfort of your living room for this class to help you stretch and strengthen your body and soul. This class is being offered as a gift to our congregation through an anonymous donation. For more information, or to sign up for the class, please contact the church office at 319-266-3541 or email Pastor Amy at pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Want to be more involved? Looking for new ways to volunteer? Check out the new page on our church website called "Lend a Hand" under the "Giving at Bethlehem" tab for more ideas!



2021-It's All About Love: A Year-Long Focus for Bethlehem

January-Love Yourself, A New Start

(Chair Yoga Devotion Class, Healthy Eating Zoom Gathering)

February-Love Your Neighbor, Reaching Out to Others,

(Love INC, Lent Connection to each household)

March-Love the Lord, Living into Lent

(Spiritual Practices, Prayer Space)

April-Loving the World God Made, Caring for Creation

(Learning how we can be greener at church,
at home, out in the world)

May-Loved from the Beginning, Celebrating Women, Mothers

(Women's Retreat)

June-Loved by Family and Friends, Celebrating Men, Fathers, and Families of all Varieties

(Fishing Day, Family Camp?)

July-Loving our Community-Celebrating Being in the Cedar Valley, Exploring our Place Here

(VBS, Food Truck & Bouncy House Neighborhood Gathering)

August-Loving our Heritage-Celebrating our Past, and the Wisdom of our Elders

(Heritage Sunday, Danish Festival?)

September-Loving to Learn, Celebrating Children, Back to School, Back to Discipleship

(Back to School Perks, Blessings for Students & Teachers)

October-Loved, not Lost-Reaching Out to Those Who Have Been Connected and No Longer Are

(Focus on finding those who have been lost from our roles, re-connecting and reuniting; former pastors invited back for worship?)

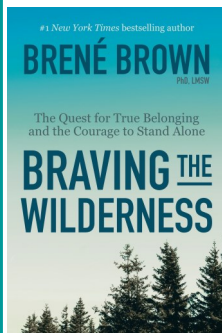
November-Loved and Grateful-Celebrating the Blessings We have been Given

(Harvest Dinner, Joint Thanksgiving Worship)

December-Loving to Give-Giving to Others and Sharing the Love We Have Felt All Year

(Christmas Families, Advent Workshop)

New book group forming to read the book:



“Braving the Wilderness” by Brene’ Brown. Time and date of the 5 week discussion will depend on when folks that want to read it are available. Interested in learning more? Call the church office at 266-3541 or email Pastor Amy at pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net for more information.

Looking for some time to Fellowship? Join us **Wednesday mornings at 10 am for Coffee with Pastor Amy on**



Zoom! The meeting ID is: 665 765 0414 All are welcome!



Holy Communion Options During January

- Grab your friends and neighbors and set up a time with the church office to have your own communion service with Pastor Amy presiding at Bethlehem.
- Join us for Zoom Communion at 12 pm on January 3 and January 17
- Call Pastor Amy to come bring communion to you at your residence (garage, etc).



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

Pastor Amy's cell phone: 218-290-3982
pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Cayla Morris- Office Manager

office@bethlehemcf.net

Heather Hurd-Schneider Director of Fellowship and Outreach

heather@bethlehemcf.net

Seth Bullerman-IT Director

bullerms@uni.org

Hanna Stolper-Contemporary Music Director

hstolper@yahoo.com

Hudson Lourenco - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2020-2021

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Kurt Leistikow - President

319-269-7178

Kent Anderson-Vice President

319-290-4866

Jill Schulte- Treasurer

319-290-5725

Mindy Fisher - Secretary

319-290-4365

Mardy Holst: 319-277-0328

Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

Brendan Alexander: 319-290-1237

Ellen Hermanson: 319-573-0719

Joan Christiansen: 319-269-5634

Giving Update as of December 28:

YTD Income: \$366,472

YTD Expenses: \$371,452

Thank you for all the ways you support the ministry of Bethlehem!



Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 31, at Noon

We invite all members of Bethlehem to join us either on Zoom or in person (pending numbers make it safe to do so) for the Bethlehem Lutheran Annual Meeting.

We will discuss 2020, as well as do some looking forward into 2021 and what the new year is bringing our way.

The Zoom Meeting ID will be: 665 765 0414

There is no password to enter the meeting.

Need help getting connected to the meeting or setting up your zoom? Call the office at 266-3541.

See you on Jan 31 at Noon!

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)