



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

January 2022 Newsletter

Happy New Year to you all! As I write this, it is the week before Christmas. Everyone is busy with preparations and getting ready for time with family. But by the time you read this, Christmas will be nearly over, and the holiday celebrations will be just a memory. We have entered the heart of winter, and it may seem like a struggle to find the joy in the midst of it all. If you are reading this after Christmas, I am likely recovering at home from my long awaited foot surgery, and will look forward to getting back to work with you soon!

I came across a beautiful poem written by Howard Thurman entitled "The Work of Christmas" that I would like to share with you:

*When the song of the angels is stilled,
when the star in the sky is gone,
when the kings and princes are home,
when the shepherds are back with their flocks,
the work of Christmas begins:
to find the lost,
to heal the broken,
to feed the hungry,
to release the prisoner,
to rebuild the nations,
to bring peace among the people,
to make music in the heart.*

As we enter into another year of ministry together, our work isn't nearly over but, instead, just beginning. We are called to "Share the bread of life with the hungry world"-to heal, to feed, to rebuild, to bring peace. We are called to shine with Christ's light in our dark and weary world. It is a big job, but we are reminded that even in the midst of dark winter nights, the light of Christ shines. And sometimes, in the darkest night; it seems that the light shines brightest of all.

Thank you for your partnership in this work the past two years. It has been a journey where we have learned and built relationships and grown together. I will see you soon ,my friends. Until then, know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. May God bless you today and always!

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*



The Council on Service would like to thank the congregation for your 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. Special thanks to the quilters for making each family a quilt and pillow cases, and to the knitters for making the families hats and scarves. Thanks and blessings to all of you.



Thank you so much to everyone who was involved in any way with the Live Nativity, from building the background, being a greeter, directing traffic, helping in the kitchen, making costumes, arranging animals, being in the cast, making a monetary donation, or purchasing an "adopt a prop" item. Live Nativity was a success because of you!



Thank you so much to everyone who brought food, helped with decorations, or helped in the kitchen for the Danish Christmas Brunch. Everyone enjoyed the brunch, making ornaments, and dancing around the Christmas tree. The tradition continues!



Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Thank you so much for the beautiful cards and gifts 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, Leah, Hudson, Patty, and Noah



Ways to get involved this month...



Are you tired of winter? We are, too! **Come and join us at Cedar Valley Sportsplex on Saturday, January 8th, for our annual pool party from 11-12:30.** Cost is \$5 per family to help cover the cost of pizza. There is a sign up sheet on the Welcome Table. Questions, talk to Heather or email her at heather@bethlehemcf.net. Hope to see you there!

Take time to step away and refresh after the holidays by participating in a sound bath!

What is a sound bath? A sound therapy bath uses sounds produced by Himalayan & crystal bowls, tuning forks, gongs, voice, etc. Sound therapy can bring clarity and balance, stress reduction, relaxation, improved memory & concentration, improve sleep and bring a heightened sense of self awareness of self & environment. If you would like to check into this a little further, please check out Collette's facebook page at www.facebook.com/knowyouarelove



This class will be moderated and facilitated by Collette Ellison, Owner of Heart Wide Open. There is a limit of 18 participants. A sign up sheet is in the narthex on the information counter. If needed, there will be a waiting list, in case we have more than 18 who would like to attend.

Date: January 20, 2022

Time: Arrive at 6:00 pm, set-up your space; class will begin promptly at 6:15 pm

Location: State Street Yoga, 602 State Street, #1, Cedar Falls, IA

Cost: \$22 payable to Collette Ellison at the door (cost does not include a gratuity. If you would like to share one after the class, please feel free to do so.)

What to wear / bring: Open heart; open mind; wear your comfy clothes; yoga mat, blankets and pillow, as we will be on the floor in a relaxed casual position of your liking (no, we will not be doing yoga poses unless you personally want to), whatever you need to help you relax, be warm, comfortable and peaceful.

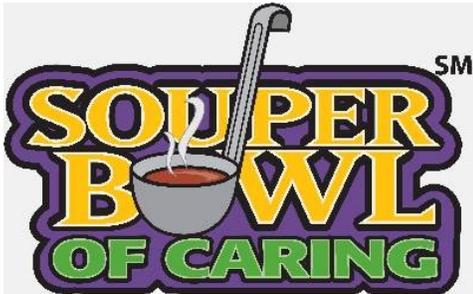
Any questions, please contact Kathy Thede at (319) 269-0463 or via email at ksthede@gmail.com

LET'S DO
LUNCH!

Come and join the **Joyful Times** crew for lunch & conversation at **Sakura** in Black Hawk Village. As long as the weather is good, we will gather on **January 12 at 11:30 am**. Hope to see you there!

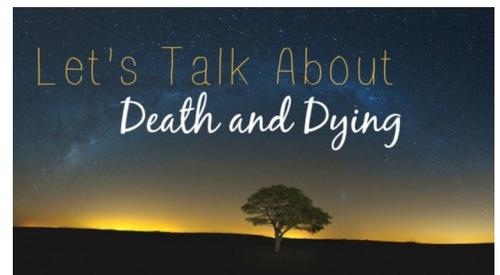


Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



This year, instead of voting on which division team will win the big bowl game, our **Souper Bowl of Caring**, will have **boys vs. girls of all ages!** So save your change and bring it in to add to the soup pot/team of your choice! **We will collect money beginning on January 30 through the end of coffee hour on Feb 13.** Winners will be announced in church on the 20, and on Facebook! **All proceeds are going to the NEIA Foodbank**, so help your team win and help ensure no one in IA is hungry!

Hey Confirmands! Our next class is going to be January 16. We will be worshipping together at church and then heading together to Richardson Funeral home for a tour and conversation about death and dying and how we can help those we love who are grieving people they have lost. Parents, with Pastor Amy's foot still in recovery, we could use some help driving to the funeral home. If you are able to help drive, or want to join in the discussion and tour, please email Pastor Amy at pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net



BINGO				
10	18	40	53	74
3	23	37	55	70
15	24	★	51	62
5	30	43	54	65
1	28	33	58	67

BINGO! Come and join the fun as we head to NewAldaya Main Street for some bingo with our Bethlehem friends, February 6! All ages are welcome to come and join the fun! Talk to Heather for more information! More details coming soon!

Calling all those attending the Youth Gathering in Minneapolis this summer! Let's have a **brief meeting after worship on Feb 6** to talk through details of our first fundraiser! Let Pastor Amy know if you need more details!





Since the last 18 months have been a challenge for many of us, let's focus during our January men's prayer breakfast on words of encouragement and guidance found in the Bible. We will review Joshua 1:9, Matthew 6: 31 to 34, and Isaiah 41:10. See you then! We won't be having a late December Prayer Breakfast since so many of us have busy schedules coming up. **We invite any men, members or friends of Bethlehem, to come and join us on Saturday, January 15, at 8:30 am.** Hope to see you there! Thanks and peace! -Kent Anderson

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.

Our next **All Team Meeting is Tuesday, January 11th, at 7:00 pm.**

Come and join your Bethlehem friends for breakouts like: Worship (looking at Lent), Outreach and Fellowship (looking at Family Fun Day, bingo with NewAldaya, and an upcoming chance to be artistic together in March), Congregational Home (checking in to see what projects need doing). Want to know more? Come and join us at All Team on the 11th!



Sunday, February 27 we will be having a Family Fun Day! Stay tuned to see if it is our **Second Annual Snow Day** or a **Movie Day** inside if the weather is frightful! :) Either way, we will look forward to spending a fun day together, and hope you can join us!

LOVE WITHOUT LIMITS

Jesus' Radical Vision for Love
with **No** Exceptions

Jacqueline A. Bussie
Author of *Outlaw Christian*

New book group forming to read the book: "Love Without Limits" by Jacqueline Busse.

Time and date of the discussion will depend on when folks that want to read it are available.

Interested in learning more?

Call the church office at

319-266-3541 or email Pastor Amy at pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net for more info.



Pastor Amy will be recovering from surgery on her Achilles Tendon from Dec 27-Jan 9. Thank you for giving her time away to heal and recuperate. During that

time there will be a pastor on call for pastoral emergencies. From Dec 27-Jan 3 the on call pastor will be Pastor Victoria Shepherd. The Jan 4-9 on call pastor will be Pastor Brian King from Nazareth Lutheran. For their contact information, please contact our council president, Mardy Holst at 319-404-0421 or the church office at 319-266-3541.

WEATHER RELATED CLOSINGS

Remember if the Cedar Falls schools are canceled or dismissed early, due to bad weather, the church

office is also closed and all activities at the church are canceled. You can also check out the church Facebook page for up to date announcements.



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

Cayla Morris- Office Manager
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Heather Hurd-Schneider
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Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
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Leah Gibbons-Choir Director
gibbonsl@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2021-2022

CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS

Mardy Holst-President
319-277-0328

Theresa Elverum-Vice President
319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-Treasurer
319-290-5725

Joan Christiansen- Secretary
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Brendan Alexander: 319-290-1237

Ellen Hermanson: 319-573-0719

Kurt Leistikow 319-269-7178

Mindy Fisher 319-290-4365

As we finish out 2021 together, thank you for all the ways you support the ministry of Bethlehem! Whether it is through giving your time, your prayers, or sharing your finances, you help to make this ministry possible, and we appreciate and give thanks to God for each of you!



Annual Congregational Meeting
Sunday, January 30,
following worship

We invite all members of Bethlehem to join us in person for the Bethlehem Lutheran Annual Meeting.

We will discuss 2021, as well as do some looking forward into 2022 and what the new year is bringing our way.

All confirmed members of Bethlehem are encouraged to attend!

See you on Jan 30!

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
(218) 290-3982 cell phone
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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)