



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

July 2021 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we enter into the peak of the summer season, I hope you are doing well. I pray that you are finding time to relax, time to be with family, time to just breathe and be out in creation. As I am writing this, I am about to leave for my own sabbath break, a week in Minnesota with family and friends, and I can't wait. I am looking forward to time in the sun, soaking up some of the beauty of Minnesota lakes, and as always this time of year, enjoying fresh food from the garden and farmer's market.

I love to wander the farmer's market and see all the fresh produce...and I love to walk Buhla through the neighborhood and see everyone's flowers this time of year; all the bright colors bring so much beauty and hope and joy to our days. I hope you have been able to get out and enjoy the beauty too.

In a book I was reading recently, it spoke of trellises. You know what a trellis is if you are a gardener. They are the support system that enables a plant to grow upward and to bear fruit. And as I was reading about trellises, it got me to thinking that in many ways, our church is like a trellis.

We come to church to be able to worship alongside each other. We come to church to be able to be in fellowship with one another. We come to church to be able to hear the Word of God, be fed at God's table, and to be sent back into the world to support each other. We come to church to be supported and encouraged...to grow in our faith and to bear fruit in God's name.

I know in summertime, and due to pandemic, that some of our church family hasn't been able to be in worship. But I hope as we continue into summer that you can come back and reconnect to the trellis that is your church family, and that you can come and feel the energy of being in person with the people that you love and that love you. I pray that you can re-connect and grow and bear fruit.

I also pray that you can find ways to reconnect to the trellis of Bethlehem in others ways too...in fellowship and outreach events like Movie Night, or the Campout on the Fields, in acts of service like the Personal Care Drive or Backpack Project. I pray that when you come and go from this place that you do so with your energy restored and your joy renewed.

However you spend your summer days friends, know that you are loved and cared for by your Bethlehem family, and that we, your church are here to help you grow and shine with the gifts God has given you! Thank you for the privilege of walking with you through all the seasons.

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy



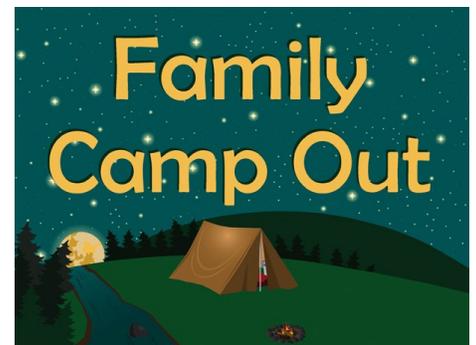
Ways to get involved at Bethlehem in the next few weeks...



During the month of July, we will be collecting personal care items for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank. The items needed are: soap, shampoo, Toothpaste, toilet paper, feminine hygiene, Toothbrushes, baby wipes, tissues, diapers, Deodorant. Items can be placed in the green foodbank can in the Fellowship Hall. Please bring items by August 1. Thanks for your support!

Grab your friends and family and come and join us for an overnight camp out on the Bethlehem Soccer Fields on Saturday, July 17! You can come

and set up your tents/campers anytime between 4 and 5:30. **Dinner will be served for anyone who wants to join us (even if you aren't camping out at 5:30 pm.** That will be followed by games and fun for all ages, a bonfire with s'mores and singing, and then a great night of sleeping under the stars. The next morning we will have breakfast and then worship outdoors together at 9 am! For more information, let the church office know that you are coming to join us and we will get you all the info you need to know!



Do you have a heart for music? Want to be with us as we re-imagine what the music looks like at Bethlehem? Want to hear more contemporary music? More traditional? We are having a **music visioning meeting**. A place to share ideas, dream, and listen to each other as we think about types of music, choirs, music worship styles, etc that we have happening at Bethlehem. We will gather on **June 30 at 7:00 pm**. All are welcome... even the kids! We've got basketball, cornhole, and more; they can play together while we plan and dream for them!



Take a break from your busy days and come have coffee with our church staff!

Coffee with the staff days in June and July are:

Tuesday, June 29 at 10:00 am-Coffee with Cayla, Heather, & Pastor Amy

Wednesday July 7 at 10:00 am-Coffee with Cayla, Pastor Kristi, & Pastor Amy

Thursday, July 15 at 9:30 am-Coffee with Cayla, Heather, & Pastor Amy

Thursday, July 29 at 9:30 am-Coffee with Cayla, Heather, & Pastor Amy



On Sunday, June 27, we are welcoming the following people into our church family:



Raymond and Irene Kuhlman-

Raymond and Irene have recently moved to Iowa to be closer to family; they are the parents of Sue Hrodey. We are excited to have you here!

Kristi and Jonathan Grieder, Nora and Kate-

The Grieder family started visiting Bethlehem when Pastor Kristi became our Visitation Pastor. We are excited to welcome them all into our church family and look forward to baptizing Kate in the future!

**There will be NO All Team in July.
Please join us August 10, 7:00 pm,
in the Sanctuary**



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 begin to bring your items on Sunday, September 5. Items can also be brought to the church: Tues, Sept 7 and Thurs, Sept 9-8am-4pm; Weds, Sept 8- 8am-5pm; and Fri Sept 10- 8am-noon. 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 Heather. On September 5, following worship help is needed to set up tables in the Fellowship Hall .



Pastor Amy would love a chance to get to know you better! She will be available for conversations on **Thursdays in July from 11 am-1 pm at the Tea Cellar** from 11 am-1 pm. There will not be Tea Time on July 22 but will be Tea Time every other Thursday in July. Hope to see you there!

Tea Talk



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!



Grab a friend, and come join us for **Big Hero 6** on **July 31 at 8 pm**. You are invited to watch the movie from your lawn chair or your car. The movie will be shown in the sanctuary if it is raining.



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

Calling all ballers!!! Did you know there are balls that you can use while you are at church? Both after worship and during meetings your parents are at, you are welcome to use the basketball hoop. There are also basketballs, a soccer ball, and a football in Pastor Amy's office if you would like to use them! 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.



Holy Communion Options During July

- Join us in worship on Sundays on July 4, 18
- Grab your friends and neighbors and set up a time with the church office to have your own communion service at Bethlehem with Pastor Amy presiding.
- Call Pastor Amy to 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-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

Seth Bullerman-IT Director
bullerms@uni.edu

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**

Ministry Partnership Team needs your help:

The Ministry Partnership Team has been given the task of filling staff vacancies. We presently have four part-time positions to fill and our first place to turn is our own church members. A full job description for these positions can be found on our website, but here is a brief summary:

Communication Coordinator: The person in this position will be given the task of publishing information and events to our members through such avenues as the newsletter, email, social media and our website. If you have knowledge of these various medias, have strong writing & editing skills, and a passion to share our story, we would love to hear from you.

Worship Tech: The person in this position will develop and edit church services, website, and other communication tools to reach out to all. Knowledge of video recording and editing are essential. We would also like the director to have the ability to train other church members to be on a worship technology team as well.

Choir Director: We are all aware of the importance of music within the life of our worship service, and the choirs (both adult and childrens) play a very important role in this ministry. If you are interested in directing this ministry, please take a look at the job description and prayerfully consider contacting us.

Contemporary Worship Director: There are Bethlehem members who are encouraging us to bring back our contemporary music. In addition to finding a director who is able to bring this ministry to life we are in need of your understanding and support. Here are two things you can do:

1. We need musicians and singers who are willing to be a part of the program.
2. We need to increase our Sunday morning worship attendance to justify a second worship service. As we continue to come back from the pandemic experience, it is our prayer that worship attendance will eventually get back to the strong numbers we once had. The facts are simple: we need people in worship. We do have the option for now of continuing for our one worship service to blend music that is both traditional and contemporary. If you are passionate about the music at Bethlehem, we invite you to come to the music visioning meeting on Wednesday, June 30 at 7:00 pm.

How can YOU help?

First, be patient. As you have heard in the news every business is pleading for employees. Many are even offering signing bonuses and high pay in order to draw applicants. We are hard pressed to compete with this. Although it is our goal to have these positions filled by the beginning of the school year, there are still a lot of unknown factors involved. So, please be patient.

Second, spread the word. If you know of people you feel may be able to fill these positions, within or outside our congregation, please invite them to check out our website.

Third, support Bethlehem by worshipping with us on Sunday, **praying** for us during the week, and **being positive** as we work hard to fulfill our tasks.

Fourth (and perhaps *most* important), **support Pastor Amy.** Shortly after her arrival COVID hit and we all know what that did. She worked through staff changes within the church and the various reactions by our own people. Pastor applied creativity, dedication, and extensive time to prepare church services via multiple venues in order to reach and serve us all. She continues to love this church family. She continues to serve her Lord and the Church. Please support her in thought, word and deed.

Yours in Christ,

Ministry Partnership Team

Mardy Holst, Kathy Green, Pastor Dan Mixdorf, Helen Pearce, and Lynn Smith



Congregational Quarterly Meeting

July 11, 2021

Worship is at 9 am

Meeting to follow in Fellowship Hall

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)