



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

July 2022 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

I was reflecting recently on one of my favorite stories, the story of Ruth and Naomi. You might remember from Sunday School how Naomi is living in the land of Moab, her two sons get married, and first her husband Elimilech die, and then her two sons dies, and now it is just Naomi, Orpah, and Ruth, widows trying to figure out how to survive. Naomi tries to convince the girls to go back to their homelands. Orpah agrees and goes, but Ruth goes with her, saying “where you go, I will go. Your people will be my people.” It’s always been a favorite story of mine. But I didn’t realize until recently, in the middle of their hurt and grief, the town that they go to. Do you remember? They go together to Bethlehem. And although at first their time in Bethlehem remains a struggle, God works through them to give them more than they are looking for. It is at Bethlehem that God provides Naomi and Ruth with abundance and community. It is at Bethlehem that God provides for them relationship, togetherness, and plenty.

Which got me to thinking...what is it that people get when they come to our Bethlehem? What can they find when they walk in the door, worn out from whatever struggle they are facing? They might find medical equipment they couldn’t afford other ways. They might find a home away from home as a college student or new person to the Cedar Valley. They might find friends for a lifetime. They might find people who love and serve the Lord and who do their best to love and serve the community. They might find a church who loves “sharing the bread of life with a hungry world”.

It is my hope and prayer that when you come to Bethlehem, you too find a place of abundance and community. You find a church where you can nurture relationships, togetherness, and community. As we look toward the future together, I look forward to dreaming with you of ways that we might be able to welcome new people into our Bethlehem, ways that we might deepen the spiritual lives and personal lives of those already here, and ways that we all might deepen our relationship with the God who loves us so deeply.

As we live into the heart of summer, may God be working in each of our hearts to give us rest, hope, and joy as we look towards our future together. Thank you for the privilege of walking with you.

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*



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



We invite all ages to come and join us for Vacation Bible School **June 26-28!** Whether you are a kiddo ages 3 years-6th Grade, you are an older youth who wants to help, or an adult who just doesn't want to miss out on the fun of Vacation Bible School, there is something for you at VBS this year! **We invite everyone to come and join in the meal and the opening which will include the nightly telling of our theme story by Pastor Bill and Pastor Amy Eisenmann through puppets!** Want to come and join the fun?

Call the church office, and let us know that you plan to join the fun! (that way we make sure to have enough food/supplies for all invited!) Questions? Call Pastor Amy at 319-266-3541.

Grab your friends and family and come and join us for an overnight camp out on the Bethlehem Soccer Fields on Saturday, July 16! 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! **To sign up, sign up on the welcome table or let the church office know that you are coming to join us and we will get you all the info you need to know!**



**Take ME
Out to the
Ball
Game**

All members and friends of Bethlehem are invited to join the Joyful Times crew at the Waterloo Bucks game for "Bethlehem at the Bucks" on July 31 at 2:30 pm.

Sign up by Sunday July 24, cost is \$8/person. Meet near the will call table at 2 pm. Contact Jerry Mohling for tickets or drop off money at the church office by Sunday, July 24 if you want to join us!

Ways you can this month...

We are going to be collecting personal hygiene items for the Northeast Iowa Food Bank, July 3-24. The items needed include: soap, shampoo, toilet paper, diapers, feminine products, toothbrushes, baby wipes, and deodorant. Please place your items in the designated container in the Fellowship Hall.



This year the NEIA Food Bank also has an Amazon Smile wish list at the link:

https://smile.amazon.com/hz/charitylist/l?ref=org_clgs_gsl_ccl_x_mkt

items will get shipped directly to the Food Bank to get into the hands of our clients.

We will be collecting school supply items for Lincoln Elementary School students, July 31-August 14. A detailed list of school supplies will be posted on the Fellowship Hall doors. **A Blessing of the Backpacks will occur during worship on August 21.**



Invite your neighbors and friends to save the date!

On Saturday, August 27, at 11:00am-2:00pm, we are having our 2nd Annual Bounce Back to Bethlehem!

Come and enjoy a bouncy obstacle course, dunk tank, balloon creations, face paintings, games, shaved ice, and a food truck too! We hope you will enjoy this fun day and invite your friends, family, and neighbors to join the fun!

Save the date: Our next Congregational Quarterly Meeting will be held on 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 in November (budget setting meeting) and 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 be heard.

To keep up to date on when the next congregational meeting is happening, you can always check the church website at: <https://www.bethlehemcf.org/congregational-meeting.html>



There will be NO All Team in July, so that teams can enjoy some sabbath rest. We invite EVERYONE to come join us for our fall All Team kick off August 10, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary

Looking for a fun way to keep your faith alive as you spend time with your family doing your favorite things? Take “Flat Jesus” with you and share your adventures! Just like Flat Stanley, the children’s book, Flat Jesus is a printable image that can go with you wherever you go. Just check out our church webpage at:



<https://www.bethlehemcf.org/flat-jesus.html> for directions on how to print your very own Flat Jesus to take with you on all your summer adventures. Flat Jesus can go camping, out to eat, to ball games, relax on your back deck, you name it! He would love to see all you grandkids too! Flat Jesus is good for all ages ... there is no limit to who can take Flat Jesus with them and take pictures. Traveling this summer? Let’s see how many different states Flat Jesus can hit! Make sure you follow the directions for how to share your pictures too, and if we get enough pictures, we will put together a slide show

of all the places that Jesus traveled with us this summer...as a reminder that Jesus goes with us wherever we go! Need help with your Flat Jesus or want him laminated so that he can walk on water at your favorite pool or lake? Just let the church office know!

Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



We had fun at the Family Fishing Day/Cook-out and Bethlehem Builds Day too! Thanks to all who came! Be sure to join us for Vacation Bible School (June 26-28) and our events this month, and bring a friend or two!



On **August 27**, from **11am-2 pm**, grab your friends and family and **Bounce Back to Bethlehem** for a fun day of bouncy houses, food trucks, carnival games and more! Come join the fun!



2nd Annual Bethlehem Family Campout!

Grab your friends and neighbors and join us for an overnight outside Bethlehem on Saturday, July 16! From games to crafts to a campfire with s'mores, there really is something for everyone! Set up will begin at 4:00, dinner will be served at 5:30 pm. We will end our campout with outdoor worship the next morning (weather permitting) at 9 am that will send our Bible Campers to camp!

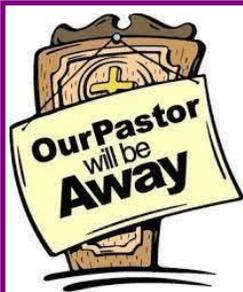




Not able to join us for worship in person?
No problem! All of our worship services can be found online on our church website at:
<http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>



To add yourself to the prayer chain team:
Email 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.



Pastor Amy will be away for part of July on vacation, away to attend her biological father's memorial gathering, and away with our confirmation kids at Bible Camp. During each of her stays away, there will be a pastor on call for emergencies, as well as visiting preaching pastors on the Sundays she is gone. Just check the google calendar, or call the church office if you need to know who is on call in her absence. Thank you for giving Pastor Amy some time away to refresh and renew!



GIVING MADE EASY!

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

BETHLEHEM STAFF
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Pastor Amy Eisenmann-Lead Pastor
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Hudson Lourenco - Organist
Patty Nelson-Custodian



2022-2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Ellen Hermanson-President
319-573-0719
- Kurt Leistikow -Vice President
319-269-7178
- Connie Johnson-Treasurer
319-610-7449
- Joan Christiansen- Secretary
319-269-5634
- 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

Don't forget that you can find Bethlehem on Facebook at:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemCF>

On Instagram at:
<https://www.instagram.com/bethlehemcf/>

Or on YouTube at:
<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>



Look inside for more information on:

- *Vacation Bible School,
June 26-28, 5-7 pm
- *Worship in the Park,
July 3 at 9:30 am at Overman Park
- *Family Campout on July 16
- *Outdoor Worship on July 17 (&
sending of the Bible Campers)
- *Quarterly Meeting Aug 7

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
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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)