



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 2021 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

I pray this latest newsletter finds you well. As I write to you, Lent has begun at church, and we are busy with worship services and planning for Holy Week. As I have been looking at calendars and getting things ready for Lent and Easter, I realized that it was a year ago, March 15 that we made the difficult decision to stop worshipping in person for a while due to Covid19. Little did we know that we wouldn't gather in person again for worship until drive-in worship on July 5th, and that we wouldn't return to in-person, weekly sanctuary worship until January of this year.

In the middle of our time apart, we have had a lot of changes. We said good-bye to staff who have worked here for years. We welcomed new staff to new positions, including our new Visitation Pastor who joins our staff the first week of March. We have re-structured how we work as an organization, and are continuing to live into that new reality.

All of these changes take time and space to process. There is grief as we let go of what we have known and a hope as we look into a new future. Recognizing that there are past hurts that need healing, and also the ongoing grief that continues to happen during this pandemic, we will be holding a special service of healing on March 14 at our 10:00 am worship service.

This will be a chance for us to name past hurts and to grieve what we have lost. This will be a chance for those who have lost loved ones during this time apart to name those they lost and remember them. This will also be a chance for us to see how God has been working around and within us to bring healing, new energy, and new life to Bethlehem.

We hope you will consider joining us for this service of healing in person. We will have extra space set up so that people can come and be socially distanced and wear masks, but still participate in the service. We also will offer a recording of the service online for those who are still not able to join us on Sunday mornings. We hope that the light of Christ will fill you as the healing of our journey together begins.

However you choose to join us this Lenten season, we hope that it will be a season of hope and healing for you. Pastor Kristi and I are lifting each of you up in our prayers. We give thanks for our partnership in ministry together with you, and we look forward to the day when we can once again all worship together in person. Blessed Lent to each of you, my friends.

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*



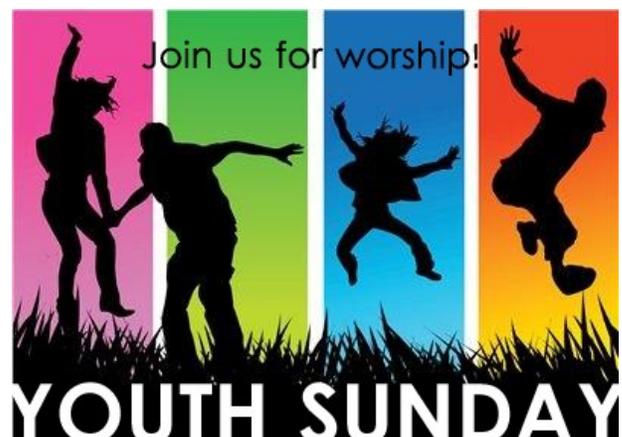
My name is Pastor Kristi Grieder and I am excited to become a part of the Bethlehem community as your new Visitation Pastor! I am passionate about building one-to-one relationships, sharing in spiritual conversation about life's deep questions, and facilitating small group ministry. When I am not at Bethlehem, I serve as a Spiritual Care Counselor for Cedar Valley Hospice in our surrounding community as a called and ordained minister of Word and Sacrament in the ELCA. In my free time, I love spending time with my husband and two young girls. I love to listen to music, write, and go to coffee! I look forward to visiting with you, listening to your stories, and providing companionship, prayer, and Holy Communion as your Visitation Pastor. -Pastor Kristi



Did you know that on Sunday, March 25, all of our music will be led by the Youth of Bethlehem?

Come and join us as we celebrate Palm Sunday together, and as our kids lead us in singing!

We invite ALL KIDS to come join the fun that morning at 9 am! Come and learn a song to share in worship, and come to play the rhythm instruments, too!



First Communion



Retreat

We invite students who are 2nd Grade and older who have not yet received their First Communion to bring their parent(s) or another special adult and join us for the **First Communion Retreat on Sunday, March 25, at 1 pm.** For more information, please register with the church office.



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

Can you help us with tech during worship? Want to learn how to run the slides and camera? Seth, our Director of Technology, would love to have some more folks helping with technology! If you are interested in joining our tech team, please notify the church office at 266-3541 or by emailing office@bethlehemcf.net



Spring is right around the corner! To celebrate and welcome spring, we will have a Spring Flower event. This event will occur on two different days. The first day is March 21, when we will paint flowerpots. The second day is April 25, when we will plant flowers into the pots. Both events will begin at 11:00am. This event is for all ages! If you plan to be a part of this event, please contact Heather by March 14 by calling the church office at 319-266-3541 or emailing her at heather@bethlehemcf.net

This Lenten season Bethlehem will be collecting items to assemble into **Personal Care Kits for Lutheran World Relief**. Each care kit will contain: 1 light-weight bath-size towel, 2 bath-size bars of soap in original wrapping, 1 adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging, 1 sturdy comb, 1 metal nail clippers. We will be assembling these kits at the end of Lent. **You can help by donating supplies** (into the tote in the narthex at church), **donating financially** to purchase supplies, **or by signing up to help assemble kits** (on the welcome center in the narthex). All ages are welcomed and encouraged to participate in this project. Let's see how many kits we can assemble!



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!



Sabbath Space

Did you know there is a **prayer chapel** called "Sabbath Space" for you to visit on your own time to pray and spend time with God throughout Lent? There are resources that will change weekly based around our mid-week Lenten theme. There are items for all ages, so you can come alone or with your family. The Sabbath Space is located in the children's choir room just inside the East Doors. Please enter the building by the church office. **Sabbath Space is open from 7:30 am-3:00 pm Monday-Friday. It is also open from 6:00 pm-8:30 pm on Wednesdays and 9:00-Noon on Sundays.** Questions? Talk to Pastor Amy or call the church office.



Holy Communion Options During March

- 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.
- Join us for Zoom Communion at 12 pm on March 7 and March 21
- 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 Krist'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

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



CALLING ALL WOMEN! Save the date for a Women's Retreat happening just for you! We will be gathering and filling our cups on Saturday, May 1. More info coming soon!



March All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, March 9

7:00 pm in the Sanctuary or on Zoom

We have figured out the breakout rooms, and invite you to join us for our March All Team Meeting!

Whether or not you served on a team previously, we invite you to come to All Team if you are interested in any of the following this month:

HOLY WEEK-This group will meet to talk about what still needs to happen for Holy Week. They may talk about such things as: Details for Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and whatever might be needed for Sunday Worship. Want to be in this crew? Look for the **HOLY WEEK** breakout either in person or on Zoom March 9.

EDUCATION-This group will meet to continue their exciting work for moving forward in education at Bethlehem. Want to hear about the possibility of family camp? Service activities for all ages? New Bible Study opportunities? If you have a desire to help make our educational program stronger at Bethlehem, or are interested in any of these happenings then **EDUCATION** is the breakout for you!

CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY-Do you like to help with projects around the church? Would you like to learn how you could be more involved in the behind-the-scenes happenings? Do you have time to volunteer to help set up and take down events when needed? Then **CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY** is the breakout for you!

PASTORAL CARE/PRAYER CHAIN-Are you on the prayer chain and want to be more involved? Would you like to be a part of the prayer chain? Do you know of folks at Bethlehem that need some extra pastoral care? This group will be gathering to talk about the re-vamped prayer chain that has started at Bethlehem, as well as helping our new Visitation Pastor, Pastor Kristi, get to know folks in our church family who need our care. Want to know more? Then the **PASTORAL CARE/PRAYER CHAIN** breakout is the place for you!

SPRING FELLOWSHIP-This group will continue to be working on what is needed to make the spring flower planting event a success. This also would be the place to meet with Heather and talk about any other fellowship you would like to see this spring/early summer. Have an idea for a small group? Want a chance to gather in the building for something else? Have a traditional fellowship event you would like to see continue? Then this **FELLOWSHIP** breakout is for you!

Still confused about how all of this All Team stuff works? No problem! Come and join us on March 9th at 7 pm in the sanctuary or on Zoom and we will figure it out together!



Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a time away from the busy parts of your lives. Join us as we sing Holden Evening Prayer, as we hear the Word spoken from people of all ages, and as we navigate the mess of our lives together. Come and be reminded of how God provides and blesses us even in the middle of our mess. All our welcome! Worship is at 7 pm!

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>



Holy Week Schedule



**Palm
Sunday**

Worship at 10 am,
First Communion
Retreat 1:00 pm



**Maundy
Thursday**

Worship at 7 pm
with Communion,
1st Communion
students receive
their First
Communion



**Good
Friday**

Worship at 7 pm,
Prayer Vigil Friday
& Saturday



**Easter
Sunday**

Sunrise Worship 7 am
Festival Worship 10 am

Ongoing Prayer Vigil-The Sacred Space will be available for Prayer from 9 am-9 pm Good Friday and from 10 am-6 pm on Saturday.



Daylight Savings will begin on Sunday, March 14!

Change your clocks when you go to bed on March 13 so you can join us for our special service of healing on Sunday March 14 at 10 am!

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)