



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

March 2023 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Thank you for those who were able to join us when Pastor Kristen Corr Rod was with us to help us discover what we value as a congregation. Together, we came up with a great list that I wanted to be sure to share with you.

Things that Bethlehem values (grouped into similar topics): **Relationships** (family, community, love, caring for those inside our walls, fellowship, fun, small size) , **Outreach** (inclusive communion, outdoor activities, caring for those outside our walls, sharing food, grief support), **Service** (Christmas family project, sweat/habitat for humanity, many hands make light work, lay involvement, justice work), **Education** for all ages (mentorship, personal growth) **Generosity** (financial giving, giving of self), **Faith** (trust, commitment), **Music, Heritage** (Danish, kids' voices in worship), satisfaction of a job well done

What a list friends! We forget sometimes all the blessings that we have here, and how we are already living into those values and working to strengthen them. This month we will be hosting several cottage meetings to hear from you how these values matter to you, and how we might continue to live into them as we move forward in ministry. It is our hope that each of you will make every effort to attend one of these meetings and let your voice be heard. If for some reason none of the dates works for you, I invite you to give me a call, and let's set up time for conversation over coffee or lunch!

We also invite you to the new opportunity of the Spiritual Practices group and to come join us for supper on Wednesday nights during Lent (5:45-6:45) and worship on Wednesday nights (7:00 pm) to live more deeply into our gospel stories this Lent.

Finally, I would be remiss to not say thank you for your support in my loss of Buhla, my Westie, this past week. Your love and care has carried me through this first week without her, and I am incredibly grateful to each of you for all the support.

We are blessed to be on this journey together friends, whether it is the journey of Lent, the journey of small groups we are a part of, or the journey of life in the whole. Thank you for letting me walk it with you.

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy



Here are the events coming up for the Joyful Times gang!

Tuesday, March 21- Hartman Reserve Nature Center Tour

- Tour 10:30 – 11:30. Tour remodeled nature center, see live animals, tour Sugar Shack & talk about maple syruping, see the new bird feeder patio, learn about a naturalist's job, hear about spring & summer programs.
- Sign Up Sheet is on the Welcome Table
- Meet at BLC to **carpool @ 9:45AM Depart: 10:00**
- **COST: \$40** for 1 hr. tour with naturalist Katie Klus. *Cost will be split by participants.*
- LUNCH: **OP on University** 12:00pm

Thursday, April 20 - April Tour to Rada Cutlery Manufacturing

- *Meet at BLC to **carpool @ 9:45am - Depart: 10:00am**
- **Must wear pants, closed-toe shoes and no flowy material that would catch in machinery
- *We are able to purchase items after our tour [individual knives, gift sets, pans, utensils, mixes]
- *Please look at their website prior to our tour: <https://radakitchenstore.com/>. Please note the exact name and item number to make purchasing easier.
- *LUNCH: Z's Pizza & Diner - 211 W. Bremer

Thursday, May 25 @ 1:30 - "War Bonds: The Songs and Letters of World War II" - Tama Hall, Hawkeye Community College

- a musical journey through the war years with headline news and personal letters from the Front presented by 2 actors.
- **Tickets \$11** – *must pay when you sign up.*
- Deadline to sign-up is **April 30.**
- **Tama Hall Auditorium**, 1501 E Orange Rd, Waterloo. Park in Lots J, I, K. There are 6 handicap spots. Allow at least 30 min. to drive/park. There is a long ramp for wheelchair access from lobby to auditorium floor

Sunday, June 11 @ 2:35pm BETHLEHEM at the WATERLOO BUCKS BASEBALL GAME! -

All ages welcome!

Tickets: \$9. Watch for more information and sign up opportunities in May!



Daylight Savings will begin on Sunday, March 12!

Change your clocks when you go to bed on March 11 so you can join us for worship on Sunday March 12 at 9 am!

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



We are inviting all members and friends of Bethlehem to come to a cottage meeting this Lent so that your voice can be heard! Please sign up in the Narthex for the cottage meeting of your choosing.

Cottage Meeting dates and times are:

Weds, March 8, 6:00 pm-St Peter Room

Mon, March 13, 6:00 pm-Zoom

Thurs, March 16, 10:00 am-Anderson's

Tues, March 21, 7:00 pm-1850 Patio Grill

Sun, March 26, 10:15 am-St. Peter Room

Thurs, March 30, Noon-Pastor Amy's

Addresses are available on the sign-up sheets. Note that if you are snowbirding, we hope you will join our zoom meeting on March 13. If none of these meetings work for you, we encourage you to call Pastor Amy and set up a time to chat over coffee or lunch! Thanks for being a part of this important process!

It's time to start thinking about Easter! If you would like to donate money for Easter flowers, here is the information: we have begonias, hyacinths, hydrangeas, and kalanchoes available. **Cost is \$16 per plant.** Questions? Talk to Roberta. Thank you for helping make our Easter worship extra special!



Easter
— — — — —
**Memorial
Flowers**



Have you been wondering when you might be able to get your First Communion instruction or how to get First Communion instruction for your children?

We invite any youth who are wanting to have their first communion this year to grab your parents and come and join us for the **First Communion Retreat on Sunday, April 2, at 1 pm.**

All ages are welcome to join us...we just ask that you sign up on the welcome table with the number attending so that we have enough materials for everyone! Looking forward to learning with you!



The Lenten season has begun and I would like to invite you to join a small group on Mondays at 12:00-1:00 PM to engage in spiritual practices. The group is called “Deep Dive: Exploring Everyday Spiritual Practices” and will be exploring (and practicing) a new spiritual practice each week.

You can participate in person or via ZOOM. We will meet for about an hour and you can bring a lunch if you choose. I invite you to come and connect with other members of Bethlehem in a new way. I encourage you to sign up by emailing me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com or signing up on the welcome table, in case I need to reach you with important information. Drop-in's are also OK. Here is the ZOOM Room ID you will need if you are joining virtually:

665 765 0414

As we begin this journey you might be wondering: what is the importance of practicing our spirituality? One helpful perspective comes from a psychologist and researcher, Brenè Brown, who writes about this in her book, *The Gifts of Imperfection*. She writes:

“Spirituality is recognizing and celebrating that we are all inextricably connected to each other by a power greater than all of us, and that our connection to that power and to one another is grounded in love and compassion. Practicing spirituality brings a sense of perspective, meaning, and purpose to our lives.”

Each of us will express our spirituality in different ways, yet spirituality is a gift God uses to connect us to one another. We have included a variety of spiritual practices for this reason. You can come every week or choose one or two that resonates with you.

Monday, February 27th: Introduction to Spiritual Practices

Monday, March 6th: Lectio and Visio Divina

Monday, March 13th: Forgiveness

Monday, March 20th: Wonder and Imagination

Monday, March 27th: Revitalization

Monday, April 3rd: Labyrinth

We hope you join us this Lenten season as we explore more deeply our spirituality that shape our connection to God and one another.

God’s peace to you along the journey,
Pastor Kristi Grieder



Education Hour for 3 year olds-6th Graders and 7th-9th

Graders will be held **Sunday, March 5th at 10:15 am.**

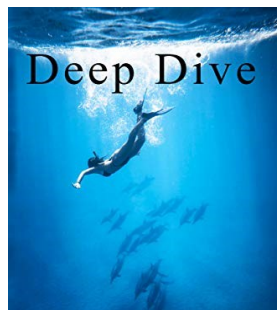
Sunday Schoolers will be with Maddy, and Confirmands will be learning from Erica Nelson, all about Lent and Holy Week!



Sabbath Space

Did you know there will be a **prayer chapel** called "Sabbath Space" for you to visit on your own time to pray and spend time with God throughout Lent as soon as the library carpet is complete? There are resources that will change weekly based around our midweek 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 (St Peter room) just inside the East Doors. Please enter the building by the church office. **Sabbath Space is open from 8:30 am-1:00 Monday-Thursday. It is also open from 6:00 pm -8:30 pm on Wednesdays and 8:00-Noon on Sundays.** Questions? Need it open a different time? Talk to Pastor Amy or call the church office.

Not able to join the Deep Dive group at noon, but interested in learning more about spiritual practices? **Each week at Weds worship, different handouts about what has been talked about will be available for you!**



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
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Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
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Brennan Regan-Choir Director
bregan99@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2022-2023

CONGREGATION COUNCIL MEMBERS

Ellen Hermanson-President
319-573-0719

Kurt Leistikow -Vice President
319-269-7178

Joan Christiansen- Treasurer
319-269-5634

Connie Johnson-Secretary
319-610-7449

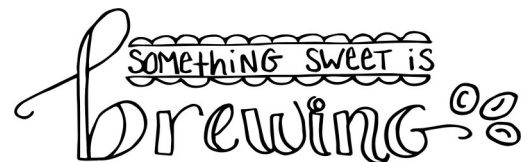
Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

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Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Theresa Elverum 319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-319-290-5725



CALLING ALL WOMEN! Save the date for a Women's Retreat happening just for you! We will be gathering for relaxation and renewal the weekend of April 29-30. More info coming soon!

Healing



Waters

Join us on Wednesday evenings during Lent for a time away from the busy parts of your lives. **Join us as we sing, as we hear the stories of those who lived in our bible readings, and as we live into the healing waters this Lent is bringing us.** Come and be reminded of how God provides for and blesses us even in the hard times. All are 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>

or on our church YouTube page at:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>

Worship
WITH US ONLINE

Holy Week Schedule



**Palm
Sunday**

Worship at 9 am



**Maundy
Thursday**

Worship at 7 pm
with Communion



**Good
Friday**

Worship at 7 pm



**Easter
Sunday**

Sunrise Worship
6:30 am

Easter Breakfast
7:30-8:45 am

Festival Worship
9:00 am

Ongoing Prayer Vigil-The Sacred Space will be available any time during office hours during the Lenten Season (once the library is complete). There will also be a chance to walk the labyrinth during Holy Week. More info coming soon!



Join us on Wednesdays during Lent for supper and worship!

**March 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 we will gather for supper at 5:45 pm,
and worship at 7:00 pm.**

**We hope you will join us for this time of fellowship
and worship! All are welcome!**

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
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(319) 266-3541 work phone
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

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)