



# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## May 2022 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As days get warmer, we find ourselves dreaming of summer. Summer trips, summer activities, just a more relaxed schedule to breathe and be...it all sounds wonderful, doesn't it? And at the same time, as we are preparing for our women's retreat, the number of folks I am hearing from that are tired and stressed and stretched too thin seems to multiply. I wonder sometimes if when we try to do all the things that need doing, and try to be all the things for all the people... if we burn ourselves out and lose perspective on what is important.

In January we claimed our new theme for the year was to live out the idea of BLESS, with each letter standing for something different. You'll remember the acronym was:

**B**-Begin with Prayer, **L**-Listen to Others, **E**-Eat Together, **S**-Serve in Love, **S**-Share Your Story

We have been living into our theme with prayer prompts both weekly and monthly that get us praying...and we have been starting each meeting with prayer. We have been listening to others through creating intergenerational events like the Bethlehem Goes Bowling Day, making college care packages for our Bethlehem college and grad students, and taking treats up to those having finals at UNI. We've enjoyed eating together at Lenten Midweek Suppers and the Easter Breakfast. We have served in love through collecting items for Alternative Pregnancy Center and re-instating Community Meals. We have enjoyed Sharing our Story through midweek Lenten messages and across the table as we stuffed over 1550 Easter Eggs!

When we look back over these first 4 months of 2022, we are indeed blessed my friends! I invite you to check out the inside of this newsletter for even more ways that you can join our living into our yearly theme together!

Thank you for the blessing each of you is in my life! It is my honor and privilege to be your pastor! Your partner on the journey,

*Pastor Amy*

# Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



**Confirmation Last Gathering of the Year!** Grab a friend or two and join us for a night of games and a bonfire at Bethlehem at 7 pm on May 11! Hope to see you there!

Hey **7th-9th Graders**, we are headed to **Lutheran Lakeside** for an awesome week of fun, new friends, and learning too! Come and join us **July 17-22** for a week that will change your life! To register, talk to Pastor Amy today, and she will get you all the info!



**Come and join us in worship on May 29th to celebrate with our high school graduates and bless them on the next steps of their journey!**

You are also invited to join in on the following open houses:

**Zoey Golden at Barn Happy (11310 University Avenue, CF)**

**May 22, 5:00 - 9:00 pm**

**Camden Schneider at Schneider's (115 Lichty Boulevard, Waterloo)**

**May 28, 11:00 am-2:00 pm**

**Logan Guldager at Guldager's (707 4th St, Parkersburg)**

**May 7, 1:00-3:00 pm**



Do you play spring or summer ball? Run track? Play an instrument? Do something else? Make sure Pastor Amy has a copy of your schedule! She would LOVE a chance to come out and cheer you on!



**Woot! Woot! It's fishing day!** Come and join the fun down at Prairie Lakes on June 5. Check out our Facebook page for more information!



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

### E-Eat Together



We had a great time eating together during Lent! Let's do it again! **Join us on June 5th for an All church Cook Out** after a fun day of fishing! More info coming soon!

Also, Pastor Amy is once again holding **Tea Talk**, this year on **Wednesdays from 11 am-1 pm** at the River Place Plaza (next to Urban Pie). If the weather is too chilly to be outside, you can find her right across the street in the Tea Cellar. Come join her for tea and conversation! (note, no Tea Time on May 18)

### Tea Talk

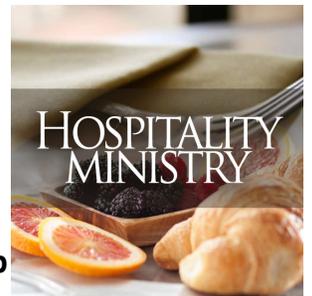


Mother's Day is May 8. To honor the important women in our lives: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, or sisters, we invite you to submit pictures of these individuals for a power point to be shared during worship. **Please submit your pictures to Pastor Amy at [pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net) by Monday, May 2 at noon.**



### S-Serve in love

Are you looking for a new way to be involved at Bethlehem, but don't have the time to make a long term commitment? Would you consider serving on our **hospitality taskforce**? This group is gathering to do a fun hospitality audit, to look at the way we welcome others, and to dream of some new ways that we might try and welcome folks to Bethlehem. Sound up your alley? **Sign up on the welcome table!**



Save the date! **On June 5,** we will go fishing as a part of Iowa's free fishing weekend! Following fishing, we will have a church- wide cook-out. We hope you will join us for fishing, the cookout, or both fun events! More info coming soon!



Consider praying for the following this month:

\*For teachers, professors, school staff and students as they finish out the school year

\*For people of all abilities, for those who struggle with physical and mental challenges

\*For Christians across our world who are persecuted, and unable to worship freely

\*For mothers, grandmothers, aunts, and all those who have been like a mother to us

\*For those who wish to be a mother but cannot, for those who have a difficult relationship with their mother

\*For those work daily to help us have what we need, for grocery store workers, retail workers, truck drivers, and farmers

\*For all those facing violence, those in the Ukraine, those in Afghanistan, and those right here at home, who live in violent households

**B-Begin with Prayer**



A prayer for peace for the month of May:

*God of all, may today there be peace within. May we trust that we are exactly where we are meant to be. May we not forget the infinite possibilities that are born of faith. May we use those gifts that we have received, and pass on the love that has been given to us. May we be confident knowing we are children of God. May your presence settle into our bones, and allow our soul the freedom to sing, dance, praise and love, for it is there for each and every one of us.*

-Adapted by a prayer by St. Therèse of Lisieux and St. Theresa of Avila

**L-Listen to others**



Dear Pastor Amy and members of Bethlehem Lutheran,

Thank you! Thank you for your warm welcome, hospitality and care for the pastors and deacons of our synod during the Synod Day of Renewal on March 31! Your thoughtfulness with signs, posters, food, and all the little things were noticed and celebrated in our evaluations and in comments throughout the day. You have set the bar high and I am grateful for your generous and hospitable spirit!

Thank you for your faithful support of the ministry we do in and through the Northeastern Iowa Synod. You make it possible for us, your synod staff, to show up and help congregations be their best.

May this season of Easter be one of surprising joy, resilient hope and defiant kindness!

Thanks, Bishop Kevin Jones and Assistant to the Bishop, Pastor Liz Albertson

## S-Share your story



Special thanks to all those who shared their stories during midweek Lenten services. Reed Hunemuller, Jeff Hermanson, Kathy Thede, Rumen Hulmequist, and Jill Schulte's stories can all be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>

Thank you so much to everyone who helped with Easter Eggstravaganza! The donations of plastic eggs, candy, and stickers made the Easter Egg Hunt a success! The volunteers setting up, helping during the event, and taking things down were amazing! The event was a success because of wonderful donations and fabulous volunteers!



A BIG THANK YOU to all that helped with Community Meals on April 19. Those who brought bars and those who helped serve the meal. **Bethlehem's next time to serve is June 21st.**

Becoming Beloved Community: Fourth Session:  
"Legacies: Racism's Long Life",  
May 22 following worship.

This session will look at some examples of multigenerational legacies of racism. Given that since the 1960s, American society "officially" has committed perjury to overt racism, this session invites consideration of how the history of racism still casts a long shadow.

This session is not geared, however, toward statistically proving that there are still racial disparities plaguing our society. Rather, the focus is on what might be called "psychological legacies" – specifically trauma – and what tangible shape and form those take, which begs the question of how to "repair the breach."

Videos and short readings to review before May 22nd will soon be posted at the following link:

<https://sites.google.com/view/blcbecomingbelovedcomm/home?authuser=1>



Join the **Joyful Times** crew as they drive north to **K & K Gardens in Hawkeye, IA on May 24** to buy flowers, see the gardens, and eat lunch together. Rain date is May 26. Sign up on the church welcome table.



## All Team Meeting Night!

**Tuesday, May 11, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary**

**YOUTH**-Last year's Camp Bethlehem event was a huge success! Come and help us plan the next overnight campout on the Bethlehem fields in July as well as talk about some possible upcoming events for youth at Bethlehem this summer and fall. This also will be the group talking about our upcoming community service day. If you are interested in any of these happenings, then **YOUTH** 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!

**FELLOWSHIP ACTIVITIES**-This group is the place to meet with Heather and talk about fellowship activities for this coming summer and fall. Some ideas this group is brainstorming include: Fishing Day, Bounce Back Bethlehem, monthly service projects, and Live Nativity this December. Want to know more? 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 May 11th at 7 pm in the sanctuary, and we will help you find a place to share your gifts!**

It has been decided that there will no longer be a garage sale at Bethlehem. If you have items at your home you were planning to sell at the garage sale, please donate the items to an organization or collection site in the Cedar Valley that could benefit from your things.



*In the spirit of giving,  
we thank you for  
your generosity!*

Thank you so much to everyone who helped pack the pack 'n play! You definitely met the challenge! Your kind donations have been taken to Alternatives Pregnancy Center and shared with those who need the items.

How are YOU living into our theme for 2022: B.L.E.S.S.?

- B** Begin with prayer
- L** Listen with care
- E** Eat together
- S** Serve in love
- S** Share your story

**BETHLEHEM STAFF**

Church phone: 319-266-3541

**Pastor Amy Eisenmann-Lead Pastor**  
Pastor Amy's cell phone: 218-290-3982  
[pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net)

**Heather Hurd-Schneider- Director of Fellowship and Outreach**  
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**Leah Gibbons-Choir Director**  
[gibbonsl@uni.edu](mailto:gibbonsl@uni.edu)

**Hudson Lourenco - Organist**

**Patty Nelson-Custodian**

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



YTD Giving: \$72,696.39  
YTD Income: \$73,751.17  
YTD Expenses: \$75,052.58  
**Total YTD: \$-1301.41**



**We also collected \$2,429.80 during Lent for Lutheran World Relief that has been sent to help in the Ukraine. Thank you for all the ways you continue to support the ministries of Bethlehem!**

 **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 Christensen- Secretary  
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**GIVING MADE EASY!**  
Scan the QR code with your smart phone to share your offering with Bethlehem.

## Notice of Special Congregational Meeting

**Sunday, May 15 following worship**

Come and see the pictures and plans for the new conference/heritage room that is being created (formerly called library remodel).



Our Pastor  
**Rev. Amy Eisenmann**  
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(319) 266-3541 work phone  
[pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net](mailto:pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net)

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Our Instagram page:  
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