



sharing the bread of life with the hungry world

bethlehem lutheran church

newsletter

November 2022

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As we enter into the holiday season, I wanted to make sure you had a personal invitation to a few of the events that we have planned this month...

1. On **November 6, we will be celebrating All Saints Day**, and remembering the members and friends of Bethlehem who have passed away in the last year. We will also be saying **farewell to Heather Hurd-Schneider** who has been on staff at Bethlehem for 19 years. Heather has taken a new position at Unity Point Hospice as a Volunteer Coordinator. During worship on Nov 6, we will have a special blessing for Heather. After worship **we will gather for our quarterly meeting** and discuss the proposed budget.
2. On **November 20, we will be celebrating our anniversary**, as well as having a wonderful **organ concert from Hudson Lourenço**, our organist at 3 pm! With special things happening both in the morning and the afternoon, we hope you will join us for this day of celebration!
3. On **November 22 at 7 pm**, we will be gathering for a **Community Thanksgiving Worship Service** with the people of St. John's at **St. John's**. You'll remember we worshipped with them this summer at Overman Park. This month we go and worship with them, and next month, they will join us for our Quiet Christmas service on December 18 at 4:00 pm.
4. On **November 30, our midweek Advent worship returns**. This year we are serving a free soup supper before worship (5:45-6:45), and worship will begin at 7 pm. We are looking for folks who might want to help serve soup...you can sign up for that on the welcome table.

With these events and all those coming in December, I hope you can find places to plug in at Bethlehem that will feed your cup of life. I also recognize that the holidays while being joyous for many, can also be a struggle for some of us. I am available if you want to grab a cup of coffee and chat, or go for a snowy walk too. I welcome a chance to hear about your hopes and your challenges. Know that however you choose to spend the coming holiday season, that we are thankful that you are a part of our church family, and we are here for you!

Your partner on the journey,
Pastor Amy

From the Pastor's Pen



We begin this month celebrating All Saints Day on November 1st. You are invited to take a few moments of quiet reflection sometime this month to acknowledge those

who have gone before us and died in the faith, especially those who have died in the last year. You can do this ritual anytime at home or even outside. You can light a candle and have a quiet moment of remembrance like we will in worship on All Saints Day. You can remember the promises you have received as a beloved child of God. You are invited to remember your connection to the whole communion of saints in this “thin place” between life and death. Allow yourself to practice trust in God’s gift of everlasting life.

Here's a prayer by Jan Richardson to guide you on your journey:

God of the generations,
when we set our hands to labor,
thinking we work alone,
remind us that we carry
on our lips
the words of prophets,
in our veins
the blood of martyrs,
in our eyes
the mystics' visions,
in our hands
the strength of thousands.

(Jan Richardson, from her book ***In Wisdom's Path: Discovering the Sacred in Every Season***).

If you are desiring more support or conversation, you can reach me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com, or you can call the church office and leave a message for me and I will call you back as soon as I can.

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

Bethlehem members who have passed away since our last All Saints' Day are listed below.

Please keep their families in your prayers:

Janet Corbin

Irene Kuhlman

Dave Christian

Frances Nielsen

Freda Hansen

Karl Schwaab

Bill Heine

Eldora Sturm

Elin Koch



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

On **NOVEMBER 3** we are traveling to **Charles City** to tour the **Floyd County Museum**, lunch will be at **Pub on the Cedar**, Hopefully we'll have a beautiful fall day for a drive north.

*Extra Bonus: If we have a beautiful fall day we can stop to see Charles City's suspension bridge over the Cedar River after lunch! Charles City's historic Suspension Bridge was built 1906 and provided pedestrian access across the Cedar River for over a century. It spanned over 270 feet and was built to allow the townsfolk access to the Chautauqua events in Lion's Field Park. This bridge was listed on the National Historic Register of Historic Places. A beloved icon and landmark of the community, the bridge was lost during record floods in June of 2008. A new cable-stay pedestrian bridge was constructed at the same location in 2010.



Next Joyful Times meeting will be Wednesday, Dec. 9 at BLC at 9:30am. Please come and join us!



Bethlehem will be having a Live Nativity on December 4 from 4:30-6pm. We are in need of many of volunteers to help. You might consider helping sew costumes, being in the cast, helping set up the scenery, or helping in the kitchen or the parking lot on the day of the Live Nativity. Thanks for all your support!

Nov 12, 5 pm: Men of Faith Dinner

The men of Bethlehem are invited to attend an evening out. **November 12 at 5:00pm**, we will have a Men of Faith Dinner. Jim Kelly will be the guest speaker and a delicious meal will be served. **Please sign up on the Welcome Table by Oct 30 if you plan to attend.**



We will be helping several families to have a nice Christmas by providing some gifts and food to them again this year. **The Christmas stars will be posted by November 27. Gifts must be returned to the church by December 11.** Monetary donations are also welcome.

On December 11, following worship, we will be celebrating Bethlehem's Danish heritage with a Danish brunch and **dancing around the Christmas tree**. If you would like to help with this event, please contact Pastor Amy or sign up on the welcome table.



Team Meetings this Month:



Exec Team will gather at 5:15 pm on Monday, November 7 for their monthly meeting

Outreach Team will gather at 6 pm on Tuesday, November 8 (Election Night) to discuss final things needed for the Live Nativity, discuss any needs for Christmas Families and to brainstorm what we might want to do for college students as the semester draws to an end

Fellowship Team will gather at 7 pm on Tuesday, November 8 (Election Night) to finalize plans for the Men of Faith Dinner, and the Danish Brunch

Finance Team will gather at 5:15pm on Wednesday, November 9 to discuss October finances, as well as the budget meeting held on Nov 6

Care and Connect Team will gather at 6 pm on Monday, November 14 to talk about those who might need some extra TLC as we enter into the holiday season

Church Council will gather at 6 pm on Monday, November 28 for their final meeting of 2022

Our midweek **Advent Worship Services begin on Nov. 30**. We invite you to come for a free **meal** (soup supper) served from **5:45-6:45** each Weds of Advent, and then join us for **worship at 7:00 pm**.

December 18, at 4 pm, we will gather again for **Quiet Christmas**. Quiet Christmas is a place for those to gather who might be feeling lonely during the holiday season, those who are missing loved ones, or those that just prefer a more quiet way to celebrate Christmas. All people are welcome to this service of peace and hope.

Christmas Eve, we will once again offer 3 very different services. The Christmas Eve Schedule is:

3 pm-Family Worship with Candlelight -geared towards kids with an ongoing, interactive message throughout the service

7 pm-Contemplative Worship with Candlelight -a quieter service, with a traditional sermon

9 pm-Drive-in Worship "Christmas Under the Stars"-A simple service, drive-in style where we sing a couple of songs, hear the Christmas gospel, and then gather outside under the stars to sing "Silent Night" together

Christmas Day, since it is a Sunday this year, we will gather at **9 am** for **"Cocoa and Carols"** more info on this gathering coming soon!



Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



Our Junior High Crew had lots of fun at the UNI Lock-In! Special thanks to Paul Rea and Sherri Larson for being our chaperones!



Calling all youth & families!
Come and be a part of the Live Nativity! We will be having Live Nativity again this year, this time on **Sunday, Dec 4 3:30-6:30**. Come and be part of the cast or help out behind the scenes!! For more info, you can sign up on the welcome table or talk to Ellen Hermanson!



Our next education hour, for 3 year olds-9th Graders is **Sunday, November 13**. Grab a friend and come join the fun!

Join the fun as we try some Danish foods (and some Christmas goodies too!), and dance around the church Christmas tree at the **Danish Brunch on Sunday, December 11 after worship!**





Dear Bethlehem Knitting Group,
 Thank you so much for the scarves and hats. As you can see, the 3rd graders LOVE them! We really appreciate your hardwork and the care you show to our students. ☺ CedarHeights 3rd/ graders



We've started getting thank yous from the many elementary children who received hats and scarves from our knitters! Thanks Bethlehem Knitters for making a difference in the Cedar Valley!



Kannon
 Charlic
 Dylan
 Braysa
 Audrey
 Xander

Bethlehem Knitters,
 Thank you so much for all the wonderful hats and scarves for 3rd grade. We appreciate all the time you put into them. We can't wait to wear them this winter!
 Mrs. Barry's Class

Proposed Budget for 2023

Benevolence (Giving to Others)

ELCA Mission Support	32,300	
Benevolence Growth	0	
Benevolence Total	32,300	

Administrative

Synod Assembly/Meetings/Convent.	600	
Copier	7,020	
Office Postage	2,750	
Office Supplies	3,000	
Telephone	1,000	
Bank Service Fees (Simply Giving)	700	
IT Support	3,220	
Covid/Emergency Expenses	200	
Office Supply Total	18,470	(down 620)

Building Repairs/Maintenance	5,500	
Grounds Maintenance	8,800	
Insurance	8,300	
Parking Lot Maintenance	8,800	
Utilities	14,000	
Building/Maintenance Total	45,400	(up 4,100)

Pastor Salary	60,900	
Pastor Housing	17,000	
Pastor Self-Employment Tax	5,929	
Pastor Insurance/Pension	20,006	
Pastor Continuing Education	1,000	
Pastor Travel/Expense	2,500	
Pastor Cell Phone	900	
Pastor Student Loan (1/year)	1,000	
Office Manager Salary	37,380	(hired in March)
Office Manager Health Benefits	6,564	
Office Manager Continuing Ed	250	
Dir of Fellowship/Outreach	16,250	
Dir of Fellowship Continuing Ed	250	

Organist Salary	11,850	(given a raise fall of 22)
Organist Continuing Ed	600	
Choir Dir Salary	6,400	
Custodian Salary	15,965	
Worship Tech Salary	2,740	
Visitation Pastor Salary	15,000	
*Accompanist Salary	2,400	
Employer FICA	8,769	
Staffing Total	234,683	(down 1,096)

Worship and Music

Devotional Material	300	
Worship Supplies	1,200	
Sundays & Seasons (Worship Planning)	600	
Choir Music	300	
Org/Piano Maintenance	1,000	
Worship Copyright Licenses	1,000	
Contemporary Worship Supplies	200	
Guest Musicians	400	
Stewardship/Envelopes	450	
Worship & Music Total	5,500	(down 250)

Youth and Education

Curriculum & Supplies	500	
Adult Education	750	
Vacation Bible School/Camp Bethlehem	1,200	
Confirmation Camp/Mission Trips/NYG	1,200	
Retreats	500	
Teacher Education/Volunteer Appreciation	200	
Elementary Youth Events	400	
Middle School Youth Events	400	
High School Youth Events	400	
UNI Programming/ThreeHouse	800	
Family Ministry	1,000	
Youth & Ed Continuing Ed	1,000	
Milestone Ministry & Cradle Roll	800	
Youth and Education Resources	300	
Youth & Education Total	9,450	(down 800)

Fellowship/Outreach

Fellowship Activities	1,800	
Advertising	2,000	
Harvest Dinner/Men of Faith	500	
Picnic/Bounceback	2,200	
Easter Egg Outreach Event	1,500	
Live Nativity/Christmas Program	1,500	
Fellowship & Outreach Total	9,500	(down 4,180)

Total Proposed 2023 Budget **355,303** (down, 5346)

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 Deb
(officeblccf@gmail.com)

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.



Do you wish someone could bring communion to you? **Call the church office and Pastor Amy or Pastor Kristi will be glad to**

bring communion to you! Call the office at 319-266-3541 and we will have communion brought to your residence. May God bless you and keep you today and always.



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
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

Deb Estrem- Office Manager
officeblccf@gmail.com

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

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

Mindy Fisher 319-290-4365

Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Theresa Elverum 319-277-3306

Jill Schulte-319-290-5725

YouTube

Live streaming

When you aren't able to join us in person, we hope you will join us on **Sunday mornings at 9 am** on our YouTube page at:

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

QUARTERLY MEETINGS
= YEAR-LONG
SUCCESS

Our next congregational quarterly meeting will be on Sunday, Nov. 6 following worship (also daylight savings)! Come and join us as we dream about our next year together!

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](http://www.facebook.com/Bethlehem-Lutheran-Church-ELCA-451552121584266)

Our Instagram page:
[@bethlehemcf](https://www.instagram.com/bethlehemcf)

We have much to be thankful for this year! **Come and join us on Tuesday, November 22 at 7:00 pm for Community Thanksgiving Worship at St. John's Lutheran** as we give praise to God for all our blessings!

