



Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As I sit here recovering from another foot surgery (the other foot this time!), I have become keenly aware of how much our perspective on possibility depends on our attitude. While I am non-weight bearing I could focus on all the things I cannot do. I can't walk Adalee, I can't go to my basement, I can't go to one of my favorite coffee shops (it isn't very accessible on a knee scooter), etc. Or I can focus on all the things I can do. I can slow down in the morning and enjoy the peace and quiet that a cup of coffee and cuddly pup brings. I can take time to write much overdue thank you cards to people I love who are making a difference in the world. I can slow down and appreciate the changing of the seasons and the way God slows down all creation this time of year to get ready for the next thing. I can use this down time to prepare for the next season of busy Advent and Christmas happenings.

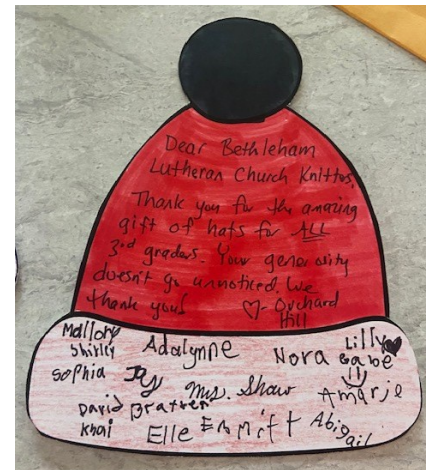
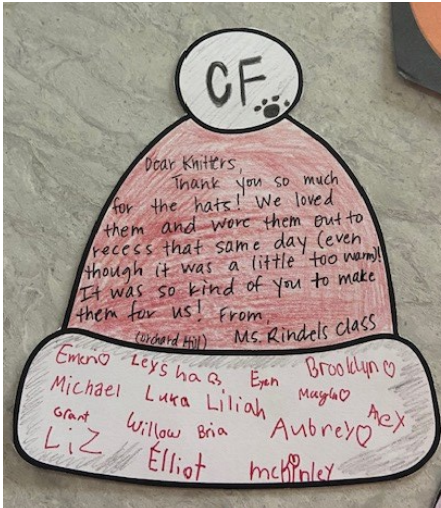
I wonder sometimes, if you might have the same experience? That you might focus on the negative and forget to find the positive in your own lives? I wonder if we all need to take some time in this changing season to change our perspectives. I often hear "I've done my time" or "I can't do that anymore" or "it is someone else's turn" from our members who just wish someone else would step up and help. And yet, I wonder what might happen if, instead of expecting others to step up, or wishing we had more energetic younger members to carry the load, or wishing our circumstances were different, if we might take a breath and look at what gifts God still has given us, and see where we might make a difference in the work being done through Bethlehem. We talked at our most recent council meeting about how God didn't just use young people in the Bible. Sarah had a baby when she was 90 years old. Simeon was still living and serving at the temple when he was over 300! David was just a young boy when he slew Goliath, but didn't let his being the weaker person in the battle stop him. Joseph was sold into slavery by his own family, but God still used him to help Pharaoh lead the people through the famine.

Over and over again, God uses imperfect people to do God's work. In the same way, dear ones, God uses us. Maybe your body won't let you do some of the things you used to, maybe you aren't sure how to help, but I **know** that God has gifted you in ways that will make a difference in our ministry together.

As we live into this month of seasons changing and thanksgiving, I invite you to reflect on what gifts and passions God has given you. How might you live into those gifts and passions becoming a part of your ministry in this place? How might you use **your gifts** to make a difference? Already have an idea? Awesome! Let me know how I can support you as you make it happen. Stuck on how you can engage your gifts into this community? Unsure about what opportunities are available? I would love to sit down to coffee and trust that together God will give us vision on how you can make a difference. God is at work in each one of us, friends, and he loves you deeply. You matter to us. You matter to God. Let's use our gifts and let God shine through us all! *Your partner on the journey, Pastor Amy*

Oh, give thanks to the LORD, for He is good; for His steadfast love endures forever! 1 Chronicles 16:34

Did you know that the Bethlehem knitters gave out over 530 hats and scarves to area 3rd graders this year? Talk about sharing your gifts with our friends and neighbors! Thanks knitters! We appreciate you!



**Thank you so much to everyone who donated candy for Trunk or Treat and the Threehouse Treat Trike, and to all who helped with Trunk or Treat event.
It is because of you that these activities were a success!**



Special thanks also to our friends at Cedar Falls Public Safety for bringing their vehicles for "Touch a Truck", too!



Meetings this Month:

Knitters, Weekly on Weds at 1:00 pm

Wine, Women, and the Word, Nov 2, 6:00 pm, at Gilmore's Pub

Care and Connect Team, Nov 6, 6:00 pm

Christmas Family Meeting, Nov 6, 6:30 pm

Service and Outreach Value Team Meeting, Nov 7, 7:00 pm

Joyful Times Monthly Planning Meeting, Nov 8, 9:30 am

Finance Team Zoom, Nov 8, 7:00 pm

Congregational Meeting, Nov 12, 10:00 am, following worship

Men's Bible Study Breakfast, Nov 18, 8:00 am

Keepsake Quilters , Nov 20, 8:00 am

Exec Team, Nov 20, 5:15 pm

Church Council, Nov 27, 6:00 pm

Grief Group, Nov 28, 10:00 am



We currently have 5 youth and 2 adults signed up to attend the National Youth Gathering in New Orleans this next summer! As the youth begin fundraising for their big trip, one of the ways they will be doing so is through a **Bethlehem Clothing Fundraiser**. The clothing is currently available to view and buy online at: <https://bethlehemchurchstore.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

You can **place your order directly online**, or if you are more comfortable doing it in person, **you can place your order with our youth on Sunday mornings**. Items available are short sleeve t-shirts, long sleeve t-shirts, crew neck sweatshirts, hoodie sweatshirts, 1/4 zip jackets, and golf shirts.

The Bethlehem logo on the shirts is white, and the colors of shirts available are purple, black, heather gray, and royal blue. Orders need to be placed by Sunday, Dec 3rd, and will be ready to be picked up at Bethlehem in time for Christmas. Questions? Talk to Pastor Amy today! Thank you for supporting our youth as they prepare to go to the gathering!





November is a good time to practice the spiritual discipline of gratitude. Did you know that thinking of a few things you are grateful for at the end of the day can boost your experience of joy and happiness? Our brains are hard-wired to scan for what could go wrong to keep us safe, but we can't live like this every day. When we train our brains to find the evidence for the good things in life, in addition to the scary things, people report greater satisfaction, contentment, and appreciation for life itself.

So, I want to share with you some questions you can ponder this month. You can journal or just check in with yourself. Maybe place your hand on your chest as you reflect:

Assess:

- How am I really doing right now? Why?
- What was enough for me today?
- How did I show up today in a way that made me feel good?
- What am I most grateful for today?

Allow:

- What gets in the way of allowing myself to experience gratitude?
- What would it look like to approach my days with awe and wonder?
- What surprised me today?
- What does it feel like in my body to feel gratitude?

Act:

- Where can I go from here?
- How can I make tomorrow even better?
- What is still missing?
- What's the next best step forward?

This month, as you celebrate Thanksgiving with your family and friends or show your appreciation for a friend or coworker, remember these three steps. You can put them in your pocket metaphorically or even write it on a note, so that you remember to practice gratitude as you go through your day.

I also want to invite you to join us for our **monthly Grief Group on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 10:00am-11:00am**. This month we are meeting in the Gathering Spot on November 28th. The darker and colder weather, in addition to the upcoming holidays, can be hard for those who are grieving. If you need some space to process your emotions and connect with others, please drop in or email me with questions at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.



Peace,
Pastor Kristi

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

Joyful Times will be headed to **John Deere Tractor Cab Assembly on November 16.** Sign up early; space is limited!

December 7 we will be getting into the Christmas Spirit by touring the **C.C. Wolf Mansion Historical Home in Parkersburg!** Sign up on the Welcome Table for both these events!



Bethlehem will be having its annual Live Nativity on December 3 from 4:30-6pm. We are in need of many of volunteers to help with the cast, kitchen help, and parking lot crew. If interested in helping, talk to Ellen Hermanson. Thanks for all your support!

Bethlehem will once again adopt 15 North Cedar School families in need of assistance at Christmas. Bethlehem will also assist Bethlehem members who need Christmas assistance. **Beginning November 26, 2023, look for the stars located in the fellowship hall** identifying a gift(s) to purchase. Choose your stars, then sign your name to the top star and place it in the box located near the wall of stars. Take the star identifying the gift to purchase. Purchase and wrap your gift with the star attached and return it to the color-coded box marked with the color of star you chose. Please **return your gift by December 10, 2023.** If you do not want to shop but want to participate in the star project, a monetary donation is also appreciated. The money is used to purchase all the fixings of a Christmas dinner as well as sundries such as paper towels, toilet paper, laundry detergent and cleaning supplies. Gently used clothing or toys, as well as Christmas decorations, can be donated and will be used for the families to shop for extra Christmas fun. The families will pick up their gifts on December 16, 2023. Thank you for making Christmas special for families who need extra assistance during the holiday season.



On December 10, following worship, we will be celebrating Bethlehem's Danish heritage and all of our heritage with a celebration of good food and **dancing around the Christmas tree.** If you would like to help with this event, please contact the church office. P.S. Word on the street is that Santa is coming!



Bethlehem members who have passed away since our last All Saints' Day are listed below. Please keep their families in your prayers:

Suzette Fisher, Horst Zimmerman, Mary Bro, Janene Marcussen, Joan Bond, Marilyn Gossage, Donald Brown, Ron Bro, Betty Hilton, Inge Kress, Jim Timmer



This year, Advent is set to begin on December 3rd, with the final Sunday in Advent being the morning of Christmas Eve.

After some conversation and prayer, we have decided at Bethlehem to move Advent up a week so that we can fully appreciate the season. **With that in mind, for us at Bethlehem, the first Sunday in Advent will be Sunday, November 26 and**

Midweek Advent Worship will begin on Wednesday November 29th.

On **Sundays during Advent, we will worship at 9 am** and be exploring the theme of **Immanuel: God with Us**. Each week will be centered around a gospel text, and we will walk through the themes of the Advent wreath candles. Our weekly themes will be:

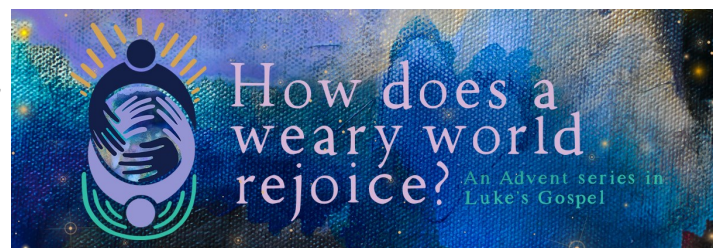
- *Week 1: We have hope because God is with us.* Scripture: Matthew 1:1–17
- *Week 2: We have peace because God is with us.* Scripture: Matthew 1:18–25
- *Week 3: We have joy because God is with us.* Scripture: Luke 1:39–48
- *Week 4: We have love because God is with us.* Scripture: Luke 1:57–80

On **Wednesdays nights**, we will gather first for **soup supper from 5:45-6:45 pm** for those who would like it. The proceeds from soup suppers this year will go towards the Youth Gathering next summer. Then we will gather for **Wednesday Midweek Worship at 7 pm**, where we will sing **Holden Evening Prayer** and be exploring the theme of **"How Does a Weary World Rejoice?"**. Our weekly Wednesday themes will be:

- *Week 1: We acknowledge our weariness.* Scripture: Luke 1:1-23 and Psalm 80:1-7, 17-19
- *Week 2: We find joy in connection.* Scripture: Luke 1:24-45 and Isaiah 40:1-11
- *Week 3: We allow ourselves to be amazed.* Scripture: Luke 1:57-66 and Psalm 126
- *Week 4: We sing stories of hope.* Scripture: Luke 1:46-55 and Luke 1:67-80

Our prayer would be that when your family joins us for any or all of these Advent worship opportunities, that they will give you a place to reconnect with the reason for the season, a space to slow down and be filled with the love of God for you, and a chance to be refilled with the hope that can only come from that tiny child in the hay.

May your Advent season be filled with hope, peace, joy and love, friends, and may your weary souls find rest in God's greatest gift to you!



Youth NEWS AND EVENTS

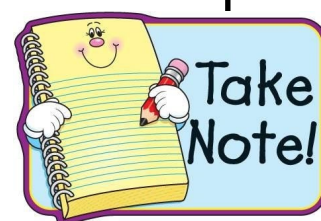


Congratulations to Aiden Schmidt who was confirmed on Sunday, October 29!

We had a blast at the NEIA Jr High Lock-In "Created to Be..."
Special thanks to Pastor Amy and Adam Froyum Roise for chaperoning!



Those of you headed to the Youth Gathering in New Orleans next summer... be sure to sign up to work a Sunday for selling Bethlehem gear, and to mail the letters to your friends and loved ones!



Events coming to Bethlehem this holiday season:



On **December 10**, following worship, we will be **dancing around the Christmas tree** and eating some yummy Christmas treats. We have heard that **Santa is coming**, too, so bring your friends and neighbors and come join the fun!



We will be helping some families have a nice Christmas by providing some gifts and food to them. **The Christmas stars will be posted by November 26. Gifts must be returned to the church by December 10.** Monetary donations are also welcome.



Proposed Budget for 2023

Benevolence (Giving to Others)

ELCA Mission Support	31,300	
Benevolence Growth	0	
Benevolence Total	31,300	

Administrative

Synod Assembly/Meetings/Convent.	600	
Copier	7,500	
Office Postage	2,500	
Office Supplies	3,000	
Telephone	1,000	
Bank Service Fees (Simply Giving)	1,000	
IT Support	3,500	
Covid/Emergency Expenses	50	
Office Supply Total	19,150	(up 680)

Building Repairs/Maintenance	6,500	
Grounds Maintenance	8,800	
Insurance	8,300	
Parking Lot Maintenance	9,000	
Utilities	13,000	
Building/Maintenance Total	45,600	(up 200)

Pastor Salary	66,198	
Pastor Housing	18,500	
Pastor Self-Employment Tax	6,479	
Pastor Insurance/Pension	21,069	
Pastor Continuing Education	1,000	
Pastor Travel/Expense	2,500	
Pastor Cell Phone	900	
Pastor Student Loan (1/year)	1,000	
Administrative Assistant Salary	19,760	
Administrative Assistant Health Benefits	0	
Administrative Assistant Continuing Ed	250	
Comm Engagement Coor Salary	16,250	
Comm Engagement Coor Continuing Ed	250	
Organist Salary	12,881	
Organist Continuing Ed	600	
Choir Dir Salary	6,818	
Custodian Salary	15,600	
Worship Tech Salary	2,978	
Visitation Pastor Salary/Pulpit Supply	17,280	
Accompanist Salary	2,826	
Employer FICA	6,100	
Staffing Total	222,839	(down 11,804)

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	1,200	
Outdoor Worship/Contemp Worship Supp	250	
Guest Musicians	400	
Stewardship/Envelopes	450	
Worship & Music Total	5,700	(up 200)

Youth and Education

Curriculum & Supplies	500	
Adult Education	750	
Vacation Bible School/Camp Bethlehem	1,700	
Confirmation Camp/Mission Trips/NYG	1,500	
Retreats	500	
Teacher Education/Volunteer Appreciation	200	
Youth Events	1,200	
UNI Programming	800	
Family Ministry	800	
Youth & Ed Continuing Ed	1,000	
Milestone Ministry	600	
Youth and Education Resources	300	
Youth & Education Total	9,850	(up 400)

Fellowship/Outreach

Fellowship Activities	2,200	
Advertising	3,000	
Harvest Dinner/Men of Faith	500	
Picnic/Bounceback	1,000	
Easter Outreach Event	1,500	
Live Nativity	1,500	
Fellowship & Outreach Total	9,700	(up 200)

Total Proposed 2023 Budget **344,139** (down 11,164)



It is once again that time of year to order your poinsettia for the Christmas services for Bethlehem. This year, poinsettias are \$15 each and can be purchased in memory or in honor of your loved ones. **Please use the form enclosed and place it in the offering at church, or mail your form and payment to the church office by December 10.** Thank you for helping us celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus!

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 Kelly
(office@bethlehemcf.net)

or call 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.



Did you know you can now worship with us live??

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>



As of September 30, 2023

Giving YTD: \$196,352.92

Total Income: \$199,201.51

Total Expenses \$206,305.77

YTD Total: -\$7,054.26

BETHLEHEM STAFF

Church phone: 319-266-3541

Pastor Amy Eisenmann-Lead Pastor
Pastor Amy's cell phone: 218-290-3982
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

Pastor Kristi Grieder-Visitation Pastor
Pastor Kristi's cell phone: 507-995-1535
pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com

Kelly Rodriguez-Admin Assistant
officeblccf@gmail.com

Gabby Greco-
Community Engagement Coordinator
engageblccf@gmail.com

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Brennan Regan-Choir Director
bregan99@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenço-Feld - Organist
Patty Nelson-Custodian



2022-2023 CHURCH COUNCIL

Ellen Hermanson-President
319-573-0719

Reed Hunemuller -Vice President
319-277-6381

Joan Christiansen- Treasurer
319-269-5634

Adam Roise - Secretary
919-208-3171

Mardy Holst 319-277-0328

Derek Kettle 608-314-4356

Sara Randall 319-269-2078

Rich Fisher 319-939-8055



GIVING MADE EASY!

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

**Our next congregational meeting
will be on Sunday, Nov. 12,
following worship!**

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](https://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 as
we host the people of
St. John's Lutheran &
Bethlehem on Tuesday,
November 21, at 7:00 pm
for Thanksgiving Worship!**

