



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Newsletter

October 2020

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

I pray that this latest newsletter finds you well. I hope that you have found ways to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather we have been gifted with, that you are finding ways to take care of each other, and that you are discovering new ways to reach out in this time of distance and quiet.

I also am thankful to be able to announce that if the numbers of cases in Black Hawk County stay low (below 25 cases on average per 100,000 people), **we will begin in-person worship again on October 25 at 10 am.** We recognize that several of you will still not feel safe coming back to in-person worship, and we want you to know that **online worship will continue.** Each Sunday, you will still be able to go to the church website, or the church YouTube page and be a part of worship in your home.

For those who do choose to worship in person, you will notice several things are different. Hymnals and Bibles have been removed from the worship space. **We are asking all those who are present to wear masks into and throughout the worship service.** There will be no singing at this time. There **will** be music, and we look forward to enjoying music from both Hudson and Hanna live and in person! We are hopeful that we can stay in-person once we get in-person, but we will have a tab on the website entitled "This Week at Worship" that you can check to see if worship is in the sanctuary or not. If you do not have internet connections, you can sign up with the church office to receive a phone call if in-person worship changes.

There are also several other exciting opportunities for fellowship and gathering both online and in person this month. There will be a **Blessing of the Pets** and a **Drive Thru Trunk or Treat**, a community-wide **book study** beginning with the book "How to Be An Anti-racist" by Ibram Kendi and **choirs, worship band, Sunday School** and **confirmation** finally getting started. We hope that you are able to once again find joy in gathering together as the family of Bethlehem.

As we continue to live into what it means to be hybrid church...we recognize that we have people that will be able to join us in person, those who cannot safely join us in person at this time, and those who choose to join us from home for other reasons. We will continue to do our best to be community within our four walls, out in our neighborhood and across the internet, recognizing that God is at work in all of us, and in all that we do.

Keep the faith my friends, and may these brisk fall days present you with beauty to feed your soul, and hope that new life will spring out of old. May God bless and keep you today and always.

Your partner on the journey,

Pastor Amy



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Covid-19 Strategy for Returning to In Person Worship

The following strategy was passed by the Congregational Council at their meeting on September 21, 2020.

COVID-19 REOPENING STRATEGY FOR RETURNING TO IN PERSON WORSHIP

Should the average number of new cases of Covid-19 over a two week period remain under at 25 people or fewer (which it currently has), **the building will open to in person worship beginning Sunday, October 25** with the following caveats:

1. **Should the numbers go higher than 25 new cases per day on average, we will go back to drive in or online worship only.**
2. **An updated ongoing number and plan for worship will be posted each Friday on the church website and church Facebook pages. On the church website, look for the Worship and then the This Week for Worship tab.** Those without internet can sign up with the church office to be notified via phone call about worship status.
3. **Safety protocols must be in place.** This would include taping off pews, directional signs, hand sanitizer, social distancing being observed, **masks being worn by ALL people, and ushers to ensure that safety measures are being followed.**
4. **No singing will happen in worship at this time.** As it is not safe to sing unless spread out even more than 6 feet, the congregation will not be singing during worship until we are at a safer level.
5. **No fellowship on Sunday mornings** (before or after worship) would happen until we are at least into the elevated category (0-5 cases per 100,000 residents in the last 14 days).
6. Doors to the church building will not be open until 15 minutes before worship, and people will be ushered from the sanctuary and asked to leave right after worship. Chairs will be removed from the narthex to discourage congregating.

Thank you for understanding.

Bethlehem Church Staff & Leadership



The people of Bethlehem gave \$400 of gift cards to support the people of Zion in Dysart as they recover from the Derecho storms. Thank you for your generosity, and for reaching out with the love of Christ to our brothers and sisters in Dysart!



Check out ways you can get involved this month on this page!

Bring your pet next Sunday, October 4 at Noon, to the pet blessing! We are also still looking for someone who would like to photograph pet families! Camera will be provided if needed!



The Blessing of the Pets

Volunteers needed for Drive Thru Bible Story Themed Trunk or Treat



Saturday, October 24, 2:00-4:00pm

We are looking for folks who would be interested in decorating their cars and handing out candy to kids at our drive-thru trunk or treat. This year, we are looking for each car to have a Bible Story theme to their decorating. Need help picking a story? Contact Heather. She has lots of different stories. Already have a story in mind? Sign up with Heather soon so we don't

have duplicates. All helpers need to contact Heather by October 16 to sign up. Have questions? Ready to sign up? Email Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net

Candy Donations Welcome

We are doing a couple of fun things in October that involve candy. If you would like to donate candy for either the Drive Thru Trunk or Treat or for the candy bags for students at the University of Northern Iowa (through the ministry at Threehouse), please bring them to the church office or place them in the bin outside the South Entrance doors. Thank you for supporting our outreach to the community!



A note from Hanna our new music director....

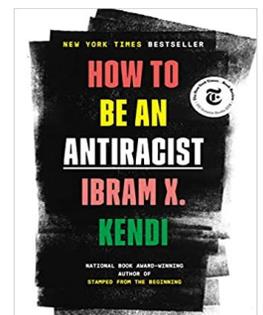


If you're interested in joining **adult choir**, please email me at hstolper@yahoo.com, to receive more information! Adult choir starts Wednesday, September 30th, but you're more than welcome to join after that date!

Kids choir does not have a planned meeting date yet, but if interested, please email me at hstolper@yahoo.com. Information will be sent out, once I get a better idea of how many children would like to participate!

If you are interested in singing or playing for **worship band**, email me any time at hstolper@yahoo.com If you don't feel ready to play in front of church, you're **more than welcome to just participate in practice!** We are currently welcoming anyone regardless of instrument, age and skill level! Looking forward to making beautiful music with you!

A new **community-wide book study** to read the book "How to Be An Antiracist" by Ibram Kendi is forming soon. The book study will include the Cedar Valley Interfaith Council, folks from UNI and John Deere, community law enforcement, community faith leaders, and more, and we would love it to include you too! **We will be hosting a weekly group discussion both in person and online at Bethlehem.** If you would like more information on how to get involved in this community-wide read, please sign up with the church office at 319-266-3541.





New Tech for a New Time

We are working on putting together the final details of a proposal that will update much of the technology at Bethlehem. As we move back into in-person worship and classes, we still have people that will be at home for their own health and safety. We want to do what we can to engage and encourage all the people of Bethlehem to stay connected.

The current technology proposal will be in four phases. Each phase includes:

Phase 1:

- 2 new tv screens in the front of the sanctuary that will be easier to read than the current projector and screen
- 1 new tv screen at the rear of the sanctuary for worship leaders and choir/band members who need a better angle to lead and read from.
- 2 cameras in the back of the sanctuary that will enable us to livestream sanctuary happenings...whether that be worship or concerts or classes, they will help us to stay connected with those who can't join us in person.
- 1 HDMI recording device (to ensure livestreams are able to get to folks in case of internet crashes, and to enable playback after an event)
- 1 video switcher (to enable mixing between screens and cameras)
- All the wiring needed to connect all of this technology

Phase 2:

- 1 new tv in the nursery, allowing parents to join in the worship service when their littles need a space to stretch and play.
- 1 new tv in the Fellowship Hall which would be used for running meetings, and overflow when needed.
- All the wiring needed to connect all of this technology.

Phase 3:

- 1 new tv for the Library which will be mounted on the walls and enable hybrid classes to be held (on zoom and in person)
- Wiring needed to connect all of this technology.

Phase 4:

- A new digital sign out front of the church that would enable us to update as events update, and keep current happenings reaching out to more people.

While we are working on finalizing quotes for each of these phases, we are hoping to move this project forward as soon as possible so that we might continue to offer the best connection both for people at home and those in our building. If you have questions or concerns about this project, we invite you to call the church office. If you would like to contribute to this project, we invite you to write "New Tech" on the memo line of your check. Thank you for supporting the ministry at Bethlehem as we move into a new future together!



Blessing of the Pets

Sunday, Oct 4 at Noon

Come bring your furry, finned, fanged, or feathered friends to a blessing just for them! Each pet will get their own blessing, family picture, and a special treat for any dogs or cats that join the fun! Don't have a pet? Come anyway, or bring your favorite stuffed animal for a blessing, too!



The Blessing of the Pets

Drive Thru Bible Story Themed

Trunk or Treat

Saturday, October 24, 2:00-4:00pm

Bring your kids and come join a safe, socially distanced drive-thru trick or treat just for them! Children of all ages and their families are welcome to join us!



Want to help make Trunk or Treat happen for our kids? Contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net



**7th-12th Grade Bonfire @
Pastor Amy's
Oct 7, 7 pm
Friends are
welcome!**



**Confirmation
Kick-Off
for students and parents
Weds, Sept 30*
7:00 pm
*Note new date!**

Help for Teachers Affected by the Derecho



Mindy Fisher works at a school in Cedar Rapids that was affected by the Derecho Storm on August 10.

The following items have been requested by Mindy's co-workers to help with their school year:

- Dry erase white boards
- New black socks (for erasing white boards)
- Small manual pencil sharpeners
- Big flare pens
- Amazon gift cards
- Fidget spinners (variety of moveable, no noise)
- Backpacks
- Basic school supplies
- Coffee pods-variety of flavors (no decaf)
- Stylus to be used with devices
- Scoop chairs (found at Walmart online)

If you would like to donate any of these items, please bring them to the church office. If you have any questions, please contact Heather at heather@bethlehemcf.net



www.bethlehemcf.org



Holy Communion Options During October

- Come to drive-in worship on the first or third weekends of the month. (This month Oct 4 and 18)
- Come to in-person worship in the sanctuary if numbers allow on October 25.
- Grab your friends and neighbors and set up a time with the church office to have your own communion service with Pastor presiding at Bethlehem's outdoor worship space.
- Call Pastor Amy to come bring you communion outside your residence.

BETHLEHEM STAFF

Church phone: 319-266-3541

Pastor Amy Eisenmann

Pastor Amy's cell phone: 218-290-3982
pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Cayla Morris- Office Manager

office@bethlehemcf.net

Heather Hurd-Schneider Director of Fellowship and Outreach

heather@bethlehemcf.net

Seth Bullerman-IT Director

bullerms@uni.org

Hanna Stolper-Music Director

hstolper@yahoo.com

Hudson Lourenco - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2020-20201

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



GIVING MADE EASY!

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



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)