



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Newsletter

September 2021

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Happy almost fall! As we prepare to enter into a new programming year here at Bethlehem, I wanted to let you know a couple exciting things that are happening with education and service this year!

September 12 will be our Rally Rollout! Come and bring a friend or neighbor to hear about the exciting educational opportunities for all ages happening this fall! We will worship together at 9 am and celebrate with hearing about the exciting happenings this fall while we have floats after worship! All are welcome to come join the fun!

September 19 will be our last Camp Bethlehem Community Service Day for this year. We will be sending some teams out to help with yard work, putting away furniture for fall, etc. Other teams will stay at church and help with projects for shut-ins and humane society. There really is a project for every age level, so bring the whole family to come lend a hand!

September 26 will be our God's Work our Hands Day. This year, we are trying something new by having a volunteer fair filled with opportunities of ways you and your family can volunteer in the Cedar Valley. Come and learn how you can get involved in everything from working with kids, seniors, and animals, too! There is something for everyone, as we celebrate how we can make a difference out in our community!

However you choose to spend your autumn season, we hope you will join us and walk with us through it all. There is a poem by Joyce Rupp called "Prayer for Autumn Days" I'd like to share with you as we transition into autumn months:

God of the seasons, there is a time for everything; there is a time for dying and a time for rising.

We need courage to enter into the transformation process.

God of autumn, the trees are saying goodbye to their green, letting go of what has been.

We, too, have our moments of surrender, with all their insecurity and risk.

Help us to let go when we need to do so.

God of fallen leaves lying in colored patterns on the ground, our lives have their own patterns.

As we see the patterns of our own growth, may we learn from them.

God of misty days and harvest moon nights, there is always the dimension of mystery and wonder in our lives.

We always need to recognize your power-filled presence. May we gain strength from this.

God of harvest wagons and fields of ripened grain, many gifts of growth lie within the season of our surrender. We must wait for harvest in faith and hope. Grant us patience when we do not see the blessings.

God of geese going south for another season, your wisdom enables us to know what needs to be left behind and what needs to be carried into the future. We yearn for insight and vision.

God of flowers touched with frost and windows wearing white designs, may your love keep our hearts from growing cold in the empty seasons. God of life, you believe in us, you enrich us, you entrust us with the freedom to choose life. For all this, we are grateful. Amen

Your partner on the journey, Pastor Amy

Honoring the Seasons

I always look forward to the season of fall. The cooler temperatures, colors on the leaves, and the sights and smells of apple and pumpkin signal change.

In a similar way, we experience seasons and changes in our lives that are part of the human life experience. Sometimes these changes are welcomed, and other times, they are unexpected and out of our control. A diagnosis, a move, or another life event changes up our routine and sense of what is “normal.” We can learn to identify the meaning of each season, how it is stretching us to grow and calling us forward. Remember, you never have to go through it alone. Christ goes before you, beside you, and behind you. Christ is with you always.

This fall, I am personally experiencing a change. I will be stepping down from the role of Visitation Pastor. I have discerned the need to focus on my personal health and family priorities in this season as I navigate my call as a hospice chaplain. My last day in this role will be Wednesday, September 8th, 2021. Thank you for the privilege to walk alongside you and share in visitation ministry with you. It has been my honor and joy to be invited into your lives and to sense the presence of Christ with us.

If you have any questions about this transition, you can contact Pastor Amy or leave a message for me at the church office (319) 266-3541. You can also email me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com.



God's peace in the journey. Pastor Kristi Grieder, Visitation Pastor



We would like to thank your church for supporting our students each year with backpacks and school supplies! Our students and their families benefit from your generosity! Thank you for supporting us!

-Ralph Bryant, Lincoln Elementary, Cedar Falls

Dear Pastor Amy and Bethlehem Families,

I'm deeply overwhelmed with your birthday greetings. Such beautiful cards and words! Wishing you God's love and peace. Thank you for thinking of me.

With love, Margaret Cundy

Dear Rev. Eisenmann,

On behalf of the Lutheran men in Mission RAGBRAI Team, I would like to express our thanks to you for opening your church on a hot day for the team. Your gracious hospitality will be remembered. It was also neat to see the church where Ron had been ordained. Again, thank you.

God's peace, Mark Juhl

Thank you so much to Becky Anderson and Theresa Elevrum for putting the backpacks together for students at Lincoln Elementary and to Roberta Bodensteiner for delivering the backpacks to the school. Thank you, also, to everyone who donated school supplies or gave a monetary donation.

Bethlehem Staff

All Team Meeting Project Night!

Tuesday, Sept 14, 7:00 pm, in the Sanctuary



We invite you to join us for our September All Team Meeting! **Whether or not you served on a team previously, we invite you to come to All Team if you are interested in any of the following this month:**

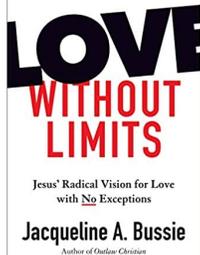
CAMP BETHLEHEM—Our first year of Camp Bethlehem has been a huge success. Come and help us plan our final event of the year...our second Camp Bethlehem Community Service Day. If you want to be a part of a fun team and celebrate all the great things that happened this summer, then **CAMP BETHLEHEM** is the breakout for you!

EDUCATION— This team has been working hard on some really exciting opportunities for fall. Want to help plan intergenerational learning events? Want to help line up some service opportunities for people of all ages? If you are interested in helping make these things happen, then **EDUCATION** is the breakout for you!

CONGREGATIONAL HOME/PROPERTY—Do you like to help with projects around the church? Do you want a say in the property insurance that we carry? 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/OUTREACH -This group is the place to meet with Heather and talk about activities that are coming soon. Activities this group are currently working on include: God's Work Our Hands Sunday and upcoming Trunk-or-Treat. This crew will also be organizing Christmas families this fall and working on the Live Nativity. Want to know more? Then this **FELLOWSHIP/OUTREACH** breakout is for you!

Still confused about how all of this All Team stuff works? No problem! Come and join us on September 14th at 7 pm in the sanctuary and we will figure it out together!



Join us this October for a **book read and discussion group** about the book "Love Without Limits: Jesus' Radical Vision for Love with No Exceptions," by Jacqueline Bussie. We will gather on Thursdays beginning in October to discuss this challenging and helpful book. Want to order a book? Let the church office know! Want more information or have questions? Talk to Pastor Amy.

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



August 28 11:00am-2:00pm- Bounce Back to Bethlehem

Come and enjoy a fun event for all ages! El Camino and Nelly's Weenies and Paninis food trucks will be available to purchase a yummy meal. Have fun with inflatables, twisted balloon creations by Living Characters, face painting, carnival games, snow cones and more! Invite your friends, family, and neighbors! All are invited & encouraged to attend!



Calling all Thrivent Members! We have some projects coming up that could use your help! Would you be willing to help make these events happen by applying for a Thrivent Action Team grant? If you are willing to help, or would like more information, talk to Pastor Amy today!

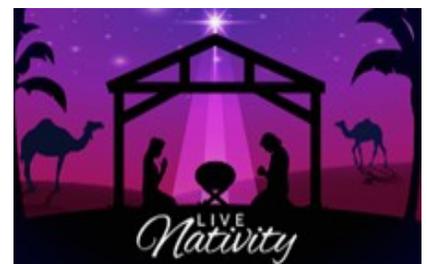


We are looking for volunteers for the following things this month:

Bounce Back Floaters-Recognizing that this coming Saturday is going to be a very warm day, we are looking for folks to help so that we can get volunteers into the air conditioning for a bit. If you can help, please let Heather know by emailing her or calling the church office.

Visitation Team-Bethlehem is forming a new team of folks to go out and visit some of our nursing home residents and home bound members. Whether you love to visit or are willing to be trained on how to keep some of our shut-ins connected to Bethlehem, we need you! Come and find out more at the informational meeting on Sept 1 at 4:00 pm!

Bethlehem will be having a Live Nativity on December 5 from 4:30-6pm. We are in need of a lot of volunteers to help with the cast, kitchen help, and parking lot crew. Another way you can help is to "adopt a prop." In the fall, there will be a list of props we will need and you can purchase that prop for the event. **The next planning meeting will be Sunday, August 29, following worship. If you are able to help in any way, please attend this planning meeting!**



Youth NEWS AND EVENTS



We had tons of fun at the Moonlight Movie! Thanks to all who came!
Special thank you to Megan Hermanson for donating the awesome new movie screen for everyone to enjoy!



Can you lend a hand? Grab your friends & family and join us for our next **Camp Bethlehem Community Service Day on Sept 19!** We need YOU to make it happen!



On **August 28, from 11am-2 pm**, grab your friends and family and **Bounce Back to Bethlehem** for a fun day of bouncy houses, food trucks, carnival games and more! Come join the fun! All ages are welcome!

Save the date for the **Blessing of the Pets!** It's coming **Sunday, October 3!** Stay tuned for more details!



Confirmation Kick-Off
(7-10 graders & parents)

Weds Sept 8,
7:00 pm

2022 ELCA YOUTH GATHERING

boundless

GOD BEYOND MEASURE

Youth Gathering Info Meeting for Parents & Students (grades 8-12)
Sunday, October 10, at 10:30 am
Church Library
Hope to see you there!

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 Cayla
office@bethlehemcf.net

or call Cayla 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.



Are you still not comfortable coming to worship in person? Are you unable to join us, but still wishing you could have communion?

Call the church office and Pastor Amy 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 in these days apart.



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
pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Cayla Morris- Office Manager
office@bethlehemcf.net

Heather Hurd-Schneider Director of Fellowship and Outreach
heather@bethlehemcf.net

Noah Anderson-Worship Tech
worshiptechbcf@gmail.com

Leah Gibbons-Choir Director
gibbonsl@uni.edu

Hudson Lourenco - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



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 Christiansen- Secretary
319-269-5634

Reed Hunemuller: 319-277-6381

Brendan Alexander: 319-290-1237

Ellen Hermanson: 319-573-0719

Kurt Leistikow 319-269-7178

Mindy Fisher 319-290-4365

YouTube

Live streaming

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>

Bethlehem is excited to welcome two new members to our staff! **Choir Director Leah Gibbons**, and **Worship Tech Noah Anderson!**

Welcome to the team!



My name is **Leah Gibbons**, and I am from a small town in Iowa called Harcourt. I'm currently a senior at the University of Northern Iowa studying Choral Music Education. I'm excited to make music at Bethlehem! Previously, I was the pianist for two churches near my hometown, so I am looking forward to working with a church choir. If you want to join the choir, feel free to reach out! In my free time, I enjoy singing, playing piano, spending time with friends, and drinking copious amounts of coffee. I look forward to meeting more members of the community. Let's make some music!

My name is **Noah Anderson**, I live with my family in Cedar Falls and Janesville. We have lots of pets between both houses, I am the 2nd born of 4 kids, my 3 siblings are Gabe, Kylar, and Autumn. My birth parents are Ben and Crystal, my step parents are Loren and Megan, My favorite season is winter and I enjoy walks with my family. I am very happy that I was able to join the Bethlehem team and I will be the one working the computer in the back most Sundays.



Our annual Garage Sale is cancelled for 2021. Due to rising covid numbers, the hard decision has been made to cancel this year's garage sale. If you brought anything to church for the sale and want to save your items, please pick them up by September 8. All items still at Bethlehem will be taken to Goodwill on September 11. We are also looking for volunteers to be at the church at 9am on September 11 to help take items to Goodwill. If you have any questions about this, please talk to Becky Anderson or Theresa Elverum. Thank you for understanding.





Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
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pastoramy@bethlehemcf.net

Our website:
www.bethlehemcf.org

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Our Instagram page:
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