



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Newsletter

September 2023

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

Gabby (our Community Engagement Coordinator) and I recently had a great time at the ThreeHouse Collaborative Campus Ministry Block Party, welcoming UNI students back to campus. While we were there, we shared snacks and gave away cups that read “**Find where you belong at bethlehemcf.org**”. And it got me thinking about each of you, and how many of you have found places to plug in at Bethlehem or how others of you might be looking to find where you belong, as well. I also was reflecting on how some among our church family may be in a season of changing how we volunteer, or what ministries we volunteer with at Bethlehem, while others are looking at getting involved for the first time.

Regardless of what stage of belonging you are at, I wanted to let you know of a couple of opportunities to get involved coming up this month. First, we have a couple of new groups forming. One is a **Moms Group** of Infants-Prechoolers that is starting Sept 9. Another is a monthly **Grief Group** that will be meeting to support each other through the grieving process. If you have questions about either of these groups, I invite you to talk to Pastor Kristi.

We also have a new **College Age/Young Adult ministry** that is starting. Their first gathering will be a bonfire and cookout on Sunday, Sept 3 at 7:00 pm. This is the first of a monthly gathering for that age group. For more information on their ministry happenings, I invite you to talk to Gabby.

Our Kindergarteners-6th Graders have a new place to belong in our new **GAPP (Grace and Promise People) Program** taking place during early-out from school on Wednesdays. Our Junior High and High School students are encouraged to come to **Youth Group** on Weds nights from 7-9 pm for fun activities where friends are always welcome.

Finally, if you still aren't sure how to find your fit, or you just want to find out more about where you belong within the ministries happening inside and outside our walls, I hope you will consider joining us for the **Ministry Fair** that is happening **Sunday, Sept 10, at 10 am**. There will be lots of chances to learn more about how you can use your gifts to make a difference in our community. We encourage all members and friends of Bethlehem to come and explore new ways you might belong here.

It is our hope and prayer that Bethlehem can continue to be a place where all people find a home away from home, a warm welcome, and where each of you can be encouraged to share your gifts. Thank you for walking this road together.

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

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

Ministry Fair-Sunday, Sept 10

Come and find out how you can share your gifts through the many different ministries at Bethlehem! On Sept 10, following worship, we will have tables set up with information about many of the different ministries happening at and through Bethlehem and how you can be a part of them. Join us for worship at 9, and then stay and see how you can plug in and share your gifts!



New Moms' Group Forming! Calling all Moms of infants-preschoolers! We are forming a new moms' group that will meet the **second Saturday of each month at 10:00 am beginning Sept 9!** Kiddos will go and play with Pastor Amy and Moms will meet together with each other and Pastor Kristi! We pray this will be a place where you can find support, encouragement, and renewal, too, as well as providing a safe place for your kids to grow and learn! Interested in learning more? Sign up on the welcome table or online at:

<https://www.bethlehemcf.org/moms-group.html>

Choir resumes for all ages on Sept 13 at 7 pm!

Come and meet our choir director Brennan, and join us as we sing together! For more info, contact Brennan at bregan99@uni.edu



Join us for good food, fellowship, and fun on **Sunday, Sept 17, at 6:30 pm** for a **potluck!** We are inviting our friends to join us from UNI and Hawkeye, and asking you to invite your friends and neighbors, too! Bring a dish to share, and there will be plenty for everyone!



I am excited to announce that we are offering a new, ongoing, monthly Grief Group on the 4th Tuesday of the month, beginning September 26th, 10:00am-11:00am, in our recently updated Gathering Spot (Library). No registration is required, but if you would like to be added to our Grief Group Email List, please call the church office or email me at pastorkristi.grieder@gmail.com and you will automatically receive email reminders about upcoming offerings.

All are welcome to come and join us for coffee, support, and conversation. We ask each participant to uphold a covenant of trust and confidentiality to make it a safe place. This month will be an Open Topic Session, which means you are invited to share any loss that you are grieving with the group. You may have lost a loved one recently or years ago. You are also welcome to come and just listen if you are not ready to talk about your loss yet. Being present and listening to others process their grief can still be very beneficial to you.

There are numerous types of losses beyond losing a loved one to death. You may have lost a job, experienced a loss of health or loss of independence due to a new diagnosis, or a loss of relationship due to divorce or estrangement. These are what we call non-death or “living losses.” Regardless, all of these losses are valid, real, and appropriate to bring to Grief Group. A sense of loss can be stirred up in us during certain holidays and anniversaries, or even with the changing of seasons. This is why it is our goal at Bethlehem to have an ongoing group available to those who need it, where friends or individuals from the community are also invited to drop in.

In Matthew’s Gospel, Jesus teaches that, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches” (Matt. 13:31-32).

Often, healing is like this small seed. God’s kingdom of compassion, mercy, and healing is planted in simple, often unseen, ways. But it has the potential to become a source of resilience and strength, not only for us, but for others who may be going through a similar thing. We hope that this group can be a branch or an extension of our ministry at Bethlehem so that people can find refuge, safety, and comfort as they continue to journey through life and loss.

As always, please email, text, or call me if you would like to make an appointment to talk through an issue you are facing in your life. I am available to meet with you over the phone, in a coffee shop, or the church office—wherever you are the most comfortable. My hope is to provide a safe place where you are heard, which can be so rare and hard to find these days.

God’s peace on the journey,

Pastor Kristi

Congregational Goal Group Meetings

Begin in September!



We invite you to join us for one or more of our Congregational Goal Group Meetings! If you are interested in either the short term or long term goal that a group is working on, come and find out how you can get involved! **Whether or not you served on a team previously, we invite you to come to any of the following:**

EDUCATION– Monday, Sept 11 at 5:30 pm

Council Representatives: Sara Randall, Rich Fisher

Staff Liaison: Pastor Amy

Short term goal: Form a committee to explore ideas for Sunday School, Adult Education, and Confirmation

Long term goal: Develop community for youth and families

SERVICE/OUTREACH-Tuesday, Sept 12 at 4:30 pm

Council Representative(s): Adam Roise, Ellen Hermanson

Staff Liaison: Pastor Kristi

Short term goal: Clarify who we are doing activities for, what is being done, why it is being done, where it is happening, and who to contact published in all forms

Long term goal: Expand the lives touched in the Cedar Valley

RELATIONSHIPS-Tuesday, Sept 19 at 7:00 pm

Council Representative(s): Joan Christensen, Mardy Holst

Staff Liaison: Pastor Amy

Short term goal: Welcome those new to the Cedar Valley into the church

Long term goal: Accesible Bathrooms/Accessibility in general

FAITH/WORSHIP-Wednesday, Sept 20 at 6:00 pm

Council Representative(s): Ellen Hermanson, Pastor Amy

Staff Liaisons: Gabby Greco,

Short term goal: Define what “contemporary worship” looks like

Brennan Regan

Long term goal: Increase active participation (24 by end of 2024)

STEWARDSHIP/GENEROSITY-Wednesday, Sept 20 at 5:00 pm

Council Representative(s): Reed Hunemuller, Derek Kettle

Staff Liaison: Pastor Amy

Short term goal: Create, hand out, and process a new Time and Talent Survey Sheet

Long term goal: Grow giving of time and money

Need more information? Want to get involved? Come and chat with the council members at the ministry fair on Sept 10 or call the church office for more information!



Thanks! She Claudine
Thank you! Katie Coughlin
We appreciate your generosity and support!
Thank you! Amy Kueber
Thank you! Krista Lindgren
Thank you! Lusi Sage
Thank you! Crystal Kowalski
Thank you! for your support! Thanks! Colinetes
Thank you! So much! We appreciate it! Tristan Bahr
Thank you! Kelly Pinkl
Thank you! Dee Sawawickoon
Thanks! Kelly Welter
Thanks! Megan Reed
Bethlehem Lutheran Church - We are so fortunate to have your support with school supplies each year! We are thankful for you! Leah Bryant
Thanks! Brieley Dideriksen
Thank you! Sami Steffensmeier
Thanks! Tanya Nelson
Thank you! Krista Lindgren
Thank you! Jay Jay
Thank you! Trish Draus
Thanks! Erin Gaines
Thanks! Janith Witt
Erika

Thank you so much to Becky Anderson and Theresa Elevrum for putting the backpacks together for students at Lincoln Elementary school. Thank you, also, to everyone who donated school supplies or gave a monetary donation. Because of your help, several students were able to begin the new school year with big smiles.

-Bethlehem Staff



Calling all Young Adults (18-25 year olds)

Come and join us for a back-to-school bonfire at Bethlehem on **Sunday, Sept 3rd, at 7:00 pm!** Come and meet our new Community Engagement Coordinator, Gabby, and hear about all the awesome things she has planned for you this fall!



Do you have a passion for welcoming our International students from Ukraine? We are working on assembling welcome baskets for them, and would love your support. There are envelopes available on the Welcome Table at church. For more info, talk to Gabby today!

Youth NEWS AND EVENTS

Don't forget to invite Pastor Amy to your sporting events, concerts, and more...she'd love to come cheer you on! Text your events to her at 218-290-3982 and she will get to as many as she can!



Bring your furry, finned, fanged, or feathered friends on Sunday, October 1st, at Noon for a Blessing of the Pets, special treat and photo, too! All pets and stuffed animals are invited to attend...we will gather at the outside worship space. See you there!

Hey Confirmands and Parents (7-10th Graders)! We will be gathering to talk through the new plan for confirmation on Wednesday, Sept 6, at 7:00 pm. Parents AND Students, please bring

STUDENT/PARENT MEETING

your calendars so we can set our retreat dates!

Calling all K-6th Graders

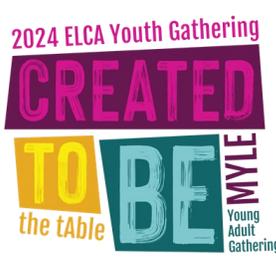
Come and be a part of our new GAPP (Grace and Promise People) program! On Weds from



2 pm-4pm you can come have fun with your friends, including snacks, games, crafts, and a Bible Story, too! Registration will fill up quickly, so sign up today!



Calling all 7th-12th Graders! Don't forget the youth room will be open just for you from 7-9 pm on Weds nights starting Sept 13! Grab your friends and come join the fun! Snacks and some organized games will be provided!



Calling all 8th-12th Graders! We are headed to New Orleans!! We finally get a chance to go to a youth gathering, and we are PUMPED! We hope you will join us for a trip that will take us to Tennessee for a service opportunity and then on to New

Orleans to join thousands of other Lutheran youth for fun and learning, too. The information meeting for this event will be on Sunday, September 10th, at 11:00 am! 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 Kelly at office@bethlehemcf.net or

call Kelly 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.

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>



As of July 31, 2023
Income YTD: \$167,261.42
Expenses YTD: \$156,034.73
Total: \$11,226.69*

*Note, there are several large expenses coming in August with our door to door campaign to raise awareness of BLC and with the return of fall programming. Thank you for your prayers and continued financial support of all our ministry!

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

Connie Johnson 319-610-7449

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.

Bethlehem is excited to welcome Kelly Rodriguez to our staff! Kelly joined the staff August 1 as our new Administrative Assistant. We invite you to stop in during office hours (Monday-Friday 9 am-1 pm) to welcome Kelly to Bethlehem!



Hello! My name is Kelly Rodriguez. I am the new Administrative Assistant here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church. I was raised in Waterloo, which is where all my family is from. I am married with children (two in the home still that keep me very busy with sports/activities) and I have a chocolate lab. My hobbies include spending quality time with family, and cheering on my children at their events. My favorite things are sunshine and flowers. It's a great honor for me to be here to serve and get to know all of you over time.

Take a trip with the



Thursday, September 14 - Edgewood Locker - Edgewood, IA

Meet at BLC @ 9:15, Leave @ 9:30, Tour 11-12, LUNCH: Brady's Bar & Grill - After lunch stop at *The Markket* Deadline to sign up is Sept. 10.

In September we'll drive to Edgewood, Iowa, to learn the story of the Edgewood Meat Locker and how it started with Tom and Joan Kerns in 1966. Since then, two of their sons joined the family business, as well as 4 grandchildren, to make it a three-generation operation. Our tour will take you through all the processing departments, including cutting and trimming, packaging, sausage, and end in the retail store. Wear closed-toe non-slip shoes and bring a light jacket (locker is kept at 55 degrees). You might also want to bring a cooler to load up on some yummy meat products! After lunch there's the option to stop by *The Markket* in Edgewood to do a little shopping.

Monday, October 2 - Amish Luncheon - Fairbank/Amish Blvd.

Meet at BLC @ 10:30, Leave @ 10:45, Lunch at 11:30

Pay \$15 when signing up - non-refundable - Deadline to sign up is Sept. 24

Our traditional fall tour to Amish Country for a delicious meal is on MONDAY, OCT. 2. After lunch, you are free to shop at other Amish businesses. Our hostesses, Clara & Freda Miller, have a new bakery on their farm so you may want to shop there first. Others plan to visit other stores in the area for fall mums, spices, pickles, baking supplies or homemade goodies.

WHAT'S HAPPENING

Sept 3, 7:00 pm	Young Adult Bonfire and Cookout
Sept 6, 7:00 pm	Confirmation Parent and Student Meeting
Sept 9, 10:00 am	Moms Group
Sept 10, 10:00 am	Ministry Fair
Sept 10, 11:00 am	Youth Gathering Information Meeting
Sept 13, 2:00 pm	GAPP Begins
Sept 13, 7:00 pm	Choir and Youth Group Begin
Sept 14, 9:15 am	Joyful Times Trip to Edgewood Locker
Sept 26, 10:00 am	Grief Group Gathering

Our Pastor
Rev. Amy Eisenmann
(218) 290-3982 cell phone
(319) 266-3541 work phone
pastoramyblccf@gmail.com

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)