



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

May 2024 Newsletter

Bethlehem Family and Friends,

As I write this to you in flip flops and a sweat shirt, I am well aware that summer is looming and we are all dreaming of trips we might be taking or time we will get away and relax. Sabbath time, time away from what we regularly do is essential to our well being. It helps us renew, restore and reconnect with God in a way that nothing else can.

I hope that this summer you and your family have scheduled in time to just relax and renew. I hope you get some well deserved time away from busy schedules and hectic lives. I hope that you are able to get out and enjoy the beautiful weather that summer brings and also have a chance to spend some quality time with friends and family that is so lacking in our busy lives these days.

I also hope that if you are in town on a Sunday, you will come join us for worship. I know that it can be easy to sleep in and take summer off, but we are still here doing ministry and sharing the Good News with one another and with the community all summer long . We hope that you can come join us, whether it is for Sunday worship; Vacation Bible School; Theology on Tap; Wine, Women and the Word; or all of those things and more!

I also want to offer you some ways to take church with you when you are on trips, at the lake, or just needing some down time this summer. We are offering the following summer options for ways to stay involved with Bethlehem when you are on the road!

Daily Bread– will once again go live from Memorial Day Sunday through Labor Day Sunday giving you simple devotions to listen to, to center your day in the word. This will also be the place to get updates from the youth who are going to New Orleans July 9-July 21. We are talking about moving this to our YouTube channel so that those of you not on Facebook could participate more fully. If you subscribe to our YouTube channel, it will email it directly to you! Our YouTube channel is: <https://www.youtube.com/c/BethlehemLutheranCF>

Facebook Fridays-Since Friday is often a day when folks are on the road traveling for the weekend, check out the church Facebook page each Friday of summer for a new post of pictures, a video or some other connection to living our faith in the community. Like our Facebook Page here: <https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemCF>

However you spend your summers friends, I hope you share it with us, and that it is a summer of growing our faith and staying connected to our church family. Thank you so much for being a part of Bethlehem. We are blessed by YOU!

Your partner on the journey, *Pastor Amy*

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



On **May 21** we'll drive to Edgewood, IA to tour **Kendrick Forest Products** Iowa's largest sawmill. We'll don headsets with microphones in order to watch the sawmill in action, mulch operation, saw file room, and kiln dried lumber operation. Then we'll drive to their North facility where we'll see how they take the lumber and make "Forever Cabinets" by Kendrick. After the tour we will have time to browse The Market, their retail destination. **Cost: \$5.00**, wear closed-toe shoes, tour will last 2-hours and you must be able to walk over uneven terrain and do steps. Early lunch will be at Woods Edge Golf Clubhouse. Sign-up deadline is Sunday, May 19. Contact Linda Mixdorf if you have any questions.



Did you know?? **Our Holy Dog has raised \$202.45 so far for Retrieving Freedom this last month!** Thanks for caring for our veterans and children with autism!



4th Annual Women's Retreat

The last day to sign up for the Women's Retreat is Sunday, April 28. We will gather for rest, renewal, learning, fellowship and fun at EWALU Stone Center, May 4-5. We will meet to travel together at Bethlehem Saturday morning, and be back on Sunday mid-afternoon. Consider giving this to your wife, mother, or daughter as an early Mother's Day gift! Cost of the retreat is: \$100. Scholarships are available. **Space is limited, sign up today!**



Mother's Day is May 12. To honor the important women in our lives: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, or sisters, we invite you to submit pictures of these individuals for a power point to be shared during worship.

Please submit your pictures to Pastor Amy at pastoramyblccf@gmail.com by Monday, May 6 at noon. Thank you!

Since YOU ASKED

The question was asked to one of our finance team members about the money that is currently in the Unified checking account. The total in our Unified checking account at the end of March was \$136,460.85. If that seems like a higher number than normal, that is partially because that number includes money that has been given for restricted funds (ie handicap bathroom remodel, service council, etc). **The current restricted total in the Unified account is \$66,536.08, leaving \$69,924.77 available for non-designated use.** Thanks for asking the question!

If you have questions about how something works, or want to know more about church policy and procedure, email pastoramyblccf@gmail.com and ask! Maybe your question will make our next newsletter!

Do you have jobs around the house that you could use help with? Maybe spring raking, putting out patio furniture, hosing off sidewalks and driveways, cleaning out flower beds, etc? Our youth headed to New Orleans are available for hire to help with any spring projects! **If you have a project you would like help with, just call the church office or email Pastor Amy, and she will help you connect with a youth to get your jobs done!** Thanks for supporting our youth!



Gathering at God's Garden: An intergenerational VBS

June 23-26

Meal 5:00-6:00

VBS 6:00-7:30

With supper, crafts, games, learning, and more, there truly is something for all ages! Kids, Teens, and Adults are all encouraged to grab a friend, and come join the fun!

Coming this Summer!



Mondays on Main are coming May-August, 10-Noon. Come have coffee or another beverage and chat with Pastor Amy on NewAldaya's Main Street. **In May, Pastor Amy will be on Main St in May on May 6 and May 20.** Stop by and she will treat you to coffee!

Wine Women & the Word



Wine, Women, and the Word is back as well, with a chance to gather with other women for fellowship, bible study, and usually some food and beverages too! **We will gather May 23, June 20, July 25, August 29,** locations coming soon!



Theology on Tap is back! Last summer, Theology on Tap began as a chance to get to know others and fellowship together in the summer. We will gather June 26, July 24, and August 28.

Our first gathering will be June 26 at 8:00 pm at Second State Brewery in Cedar Falls!



Save the date! **Our worship at Overman Park with St. John will be July 7th this year!** Grab your friends and neighbors, and come join the fun!



You've been asking, and it is finally almost here! We are hoping to have our new directories available Mother's Day weekend. Please take the time to ensure that your info is correct by Sunday, May 5, on the proof in the office, and initial by your info. If you have any changes, we ask that you notify the church office at 319-266-3541. Thank you for your patience in this project!!

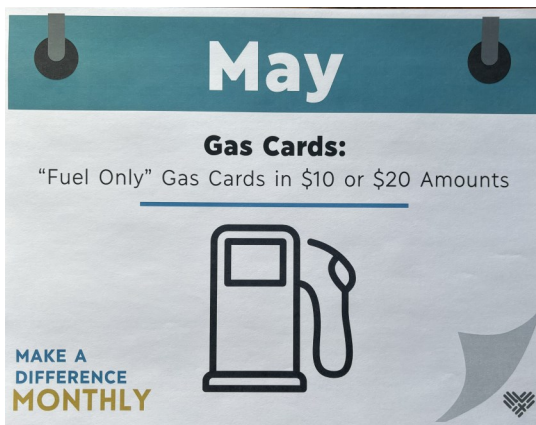


Not able to join us for worship in person? No problem! All of our worship services can be found online on our church website at:

<http://www.bethlehemcf.org/online-worship.html>

or on our church YouTube page at:

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



Love INC is collecting "gas only" gift cards in the amounts of \$10 or \$20 during the month of May. Please bring these items to the box in the narthex at Bethlehem. Thank you for supporting Love INC!

BETHLEHEM STAFF

Church phone: 319-266-3541

Pastor Amy Eisenmann-Lead Pastor

Pastor Amy's cell phone:
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Brennan Regan-Choir Director

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Hudson Lourenço-Feld - Organist

Patty Nelson-Custodian



2024-2025

CHURCH COUNCIL

Adam Roise 919-208-3171

Derek Kettle 608-314-4356

Sara Randall 319-269-2078

Rich Fisher 319-939-8055

Cindy Stow 319-290-8575

Jeff Hermanson 319-610-4965

Gary Klodt 319-269-1509

Gary Johnson 319-266-1322

Elaine Brown 319-290-7457



GIVING MADE EASY!

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



Pastor Amy is looking for folks who might want to grab lunch or coffee this summer! Whether inside or outside, let's make a plan and get together! You can set up lunch or coffee by calling the church office!

Education Surveys were filled out at the Annual Meeting. Missed your chance to have your voice heard? They are available to complete on the Welcome Table, or you can call the church office with your answers to the questions below! Thanks for sharing your thoughts!

Education Survey Spring 2024

Name _____

Circle your age (or the ages for whom you are filling this out within your household):

Birth-Pre-K (0-4 years)

Elementary (Kind-6th Grade)

Young Adult (College Age-30)

Adult (30-45)

Confirmation (7th-9th Grade)

High School Youth (10th-12th Grade)

Middle Adult (46-59)

Older Adult (60+)

What education opportunities have you participated in within the last year?
(examples: Vacation Bible School; Confirmation; Joyful Times; Adult Education;
Wine, Women, Word; Men's Bible Study Breakfast; Book Study; Milestone events; etc.)

What educational opportunities would you like to see offered...what would you attend?
(offer any suggestions for speakers, topics, etc. that you would like to see)

When would you like education to be offered for your age group? (ie Sunday mornings,
Saturdays, daytime, online evenings, etc.)

How often do you see yourself (or those you are filling this out for) attending? (once a
week, once a month, short studies (like a 6 week class), etc.?)

Anything else you would like us to share about education (use back if nec.)?

Issue 5 May 2024



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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:
<https://www.facebook.com/BethlehemCF>

Our Instagram page:
@bethlehemcf