



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2025

Birthdays: January 1- Filmore Gustafson, Justin Peterson; January 2- Donna Bofenkamp; January 3- Curt Faist, Caty Hoepfner; January 4- Deb Engdahl, Jolene Smith; January 6- Amy Letsche; January 7- Marlene Lundsgaard; January 8- Pat Hyndman; January 11- Simon Fuller, Drew Puhmann, Clarence Rasmus; January 13- Amanda Schwanz; January 14- Dave VanNatta; January 15- Tracy Hoepfner, Dylan Husman, Sandy Taylor; January 17- Virg Harrison; January 18- Jill Simonsen; January 19- Tyler Faist; January 22- Hunter Morrow; January 24- Nic Ebert; January 25- Erika Weeks; January 26- Ethan Combes; January 27- Mike Gaffey, Jacob Kindwall; January 30- Frank Brodale, Gladys Mortenson, Roger Mummert; January 31- Barbara Mummert, Zach Woods

Anniversaries: January 6- Duane & Rhonda Reinholdt; January 7- Derek & Rachel Simonsen; January 15- Bruce & Karal Schuknecht; January 17- Kurt & Cheryl Peterson

Thank You: WELCA of Bethlehem, thank you for the nice banana loaf that Lynette delivered. Very much appreciated. - Harry Bradstreet

Thank you to Lydia Circle for the cake loaf. It is very good. - Joane Clark

Thanks to Pat Friedrichsen and the Vashti/Esther circle for the delicious banana loaf. It is so appreciated. Thanks again, Delores Green

Thank you Anna Circle for the delicious loaf of blueberry bread & poinsettia – Roger & Barb Mummert

Thanks to Lynette for bringing that delicious bread and the poinsettia. We enjoyed both. – Kip & Ione Nelson

Sign Up Sheets: Sheets are now available in the Narthex to sign up for flowers, Bethlehem on the Air, Mission Support, and Lector for those who are interested in signing up for 2025!

Thanks So Much!!- We enjoyed a wonderful start to the season of Advent again this year with our traditional Scandinavian Advent Supper! Thanks to all of you who helped with the preparation of the food, donation of delicious desserts, and assisting with the serving and cleanup. Things moved smoothly, thanks to the youth and their parents lending a hand! It's wonderful to watch the fellowship and fun that happens when everyone joins together to make this event so enjoyable! How blessed we are to share the love of the Lord and feel His presence among us! Have a blessed Christmas and Christ filled New Year!

Coffee Servers Needed: Volunteers are needed to provide snacks this month. Snack providers also provide a container of juice and make coffee for Coffee Hours after the service. We have been making 1 and ½ gallons of coffee each week in the Bunn coffee makers in the basement kitchen. Sign up sheets are located in the Narthex. Thanks to all who provide and help out with this activity!

Farewell & Godspeed: During the worship service on December 8, Bethlehem celebrated a **Farewell and Godspeed** blessing for Austin Curtis, who has enlisted in the US Navy. Austin has run the PowerPoint and played in the Bell Choir for at least five years. He is also a member of the Call

Committee. For the next 10 weeks Austin will be in Chicago undergoing basic training at the Great Lakes Naval Training Center, the Navy's largest training center and only Boot Camp. Following basic training Austin will go to Charleston, SC, to study in the Navy's Nuclear Propulsion Program

Austin's address is:

SR Austin Curtis
Ship 06 USS Constitution Div 082
3510 Illinois Street
Great Lakes, IL 60088-3119



Scholarship Applications Now Available: Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. The deadline to apply for scholarships for the 2025-2026 year is Sunday, March 23rd, 2025.

Volunteers Needed: Bethlehem needs a few people to put up Banners during the Church Year of 2025. It's an easy job and can be done in a few minutes. You can choose your month. Please email Lynette Hyndman at plhyndman@gmail.com or call 225-2081 or text 261-1432.

Committee Chairs: Please turn in your Committee Annual Report to Linzi in the church office before January 15th.

Proposed Budget: Attached to this email is the proposed budget for Bethlehem for 2025. This budget was initially developed by the Finance Committee, then reviewed by the Church Council. The Council made no changes to the budget proposal. In turn, the church voted to submit this budget proposal to the congregation at the annual meeting for consideration. Please note the expenditures for 2025 are through December 10, 2024.

Confirmation Update:

There are 3 confirmands this year. Ashton, Bode, and Brayden have completed a study of the Ten Commandments. Those commandments included a lot of "Thou shall not..." Our materials on the commandments challenged the confirmands to rewrite the commandments in a positive format. The class worked together to meet this challenge and agreed to share with Bethlehem's members through the newsletter.

1. God is #1
2. Speak kindly
3. Remember Sunday is a Holy Day
4. Mutual respect with Mom and Dad is most important
5. Respect other's lives
6. Respect your life partner
7. Respect other's possessions
8. Always tell the truth
9. Be a good neighbor
10. Respect all that is your neighbor's

These confirmands have been lighting candles on All Saints Day and throughout the Advent season and helped with the Advent Supper. Watch for them throughout the first 5 months of 2025.



Evangelism In Action

The month of December has been a busy one for our Evangelism Committee and church members. The confirmation youth put up and decorated the “Giving Tree”, right after Thanksgiving. The Careage Hills activities director made tags with numbers and gift ideas that were hung on the tree. Our members took a tag off the tree, purchased gifts, wrapped them, and brought them back to the church. Joanne Tapper and Pam Allen delivered all 36 of them to the care center for the Christmas party they held for the residents right before Christmas. You may want to check out the nice thank you and numerous pictures that are posted on the Careage Hills Facebook page. They were very much appreciated and grateful for our donations! What a wonderful way for us to brighten Christmas for all the residents at the Careage Hills! Thanks so much to those who donated gifts to this worthy project!

On Saturday, December 14th, Joanne Tapper, Deena Jones, and Pat Friedrichsen entertained the residents at the Accura Care Center in Aurelia with Bingo and prizes, donated by Karen Thomsen who is currently a resident there. Karen misses not being able to help with our evangelism activities and encouraged us to come and hold a Bingo party there. We miss her and were happy to bring a little cheer to those in attendance. Eighteen residents had a fun time and enjoyed donuts afterwards, also donated by Karen. It was heartwarming to share the Holiday Spirit with them! Jesus is the Reason for the Season!

The December Welcome Plate meal was held on Saturday, Dec. 28th from Noon-1:00 pm. Devotions were led by Jim Mohn at 11:45 am. Our main entree was Swedish meatballs over noodles. We served 73 members of our community, Gary and Lynde Lundquist, Hank Hayes and Lynn Friedrichsen, and Dale Springer delivered 21 meals, with an additional 10 carry outs. The HyVee baked goods tables were overflowing with donations, Papa’s Pantry was busy, and the Caring Closet is a great place for them to check out some warm clothing. Thanks to everyone who helped with the meal and welcoming our guests. Friendships are being made. This is a wonderful outreach to our community! God’s Work Our Hands!

Our January meal will be on Saturday, Jan. 25 from Noon-1:00 pm. Vicky Brodale will lead the devotions at 11:45 am. We will be serving potato and vegetable soup as the main entree. If you’d like to help in the kitchen please come at 9:00 am. Or, if you’d like to help with the HyVee baked goods, Papa’s Pantry, or the Caring Closet please come at 10:00 am. Bring your friends and family,

and join us for a warm meal and time of fellowship. Everyone is welcome to come and share the love of the Lord!

Thanks so much for your generous donations to the Papa's Pantry. If you are out shopping please consider donating some items: cereal, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, juices, pickles, Hamburger Helper, soups, canned spaghetti, snack crackers, pudding mixes, cake mixes, frosting, pickles, ketchup, mustard, canned veggies or fruit, or anything you choose. Please place your items in the containers in the Narthex or on the tables by the altar in the Fellowship Hall. Many are looking to us for assistance and are very appreciative of a table full of food items ready for them to take with them each month!!

If you'd like to join our committee, we usually meet on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm. in the Library. However, our next meeting will be on Thursday, January 9th, due to the New Year holiday. We'd love to have additional members who would like to become involved in the events that we plan each month. We are all God's servants!

January Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

January 5: Terry Janssen
January 12: Todd Anderson
January 19:
January 26:

Altar Flowers:

January 5: Bill & Mary Larson
January 12:
January 19:
January 26: Gladys Mortenson

Bethlehem On the Air:

January 5: Terry & Donna Janssen
January 12: Harry Bradstreet
January 19:
January 26:

Mission Support:

January 5:
January 12:
January 19: WELCA
January 26: Bob & Mary Hahn

Coffee:

January 4: Gary & Lynde Lundquist
January 5:
January 11:
January 12: Rose Beazley
January 18:
January 19:

January 25:
January 26: Barb Schuck



January 2025 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- January 5- After the church service in the library

Anna Group- January 8, Lynde Lundquist, 9:30 in the library

Vashti/Esther Group- January 8, Patty Anderson, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group-January 14- Lynette Hyndman- 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall

All are welcome at our group meetings. We'd love to have more fellow Christians participate.

Quilting- January 15, 2025, 9:00, Church Basement- We have lots of fabric that has been donated. Please let us know if you'd like to sew quilt tops or bottoms for us. Thanks to all who have done this for years. A special thanks to those who have made quilt tops for us!

"Gather" Bible Study- Read the devotions and lessons on your own. Gather Magazine has wonderful stories to inspire us and strengthen our faith. December Study- Receiving Grace or January Study- Faithfulness, Ruth and Naomi.

Thankoffering- Thanks to all who turned in a Thankoffering envelope.

Personal/Health Kits - Please help us make some personal/health kits. Bath towel- dark in color and 2 bath size bars of soap.

School Kits- Backpack, notebooks, ruler, eraser, unsharpened, pencils, pens, scissors, crayons, pencil sharpener

Baby Kits- Socks, gowns, sweater or jacket, cloth diapers, diaper pins, receiving blankets, towels, T-shirts, soap.

Thanks to all who helped at the Welcome Plate in December. If you'd like to help in January, please contact Pat Friedrichsen. We are all God's Hands and Feet! Let's help our neighbors in need. If you'd like to help in the Caring Clothing Closet, please contact Lynette Hyndman. We would like to have clothing racks with wheels to be able to display our clothing and be able to put it back in Rooms A & B.

Thanks to all who baked bread for our special friends for Christmas. Thanks to all who delivered them after our December meetings. We apologize for giving the bread to you at church instead of bringing it to you. The weather changed quickly right when we had our meetings, and we also have many special friends in our groups who are unable to deliver to other special friends. I hope that makes sense.

Advent Supper- What a wonderful Advent Supper! We had a full house! Thanks to everyone who helped with all the various jobs. We had so many delicious desserts. The decorations were beautiful. And if you didn't try Lutefisk, you may want to next time. "Lutefisk: A Piece of Cod That Passes All Understanding."

Heavenly Father,

Thank You for making all things new! As another new year begins, help me live each day for You. May I continually have a new song in my heart to sing to You, no matter what comes my way. I trust in You because I know that Your mercies are new every morning, and nothing ahead of me will take You by surprise.

In Jesus' Name, Amen.

—*Joan Walker Hahn*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: Church Council Meeting
DATE/TIME: Thursday, December 12, 2024 @ 6:30 pm
MEMBERS PRESENT: Rusty Rasmus, Kevin Tapper, Harry Bradstreet, Kelley Clausen, Simon Fuller, Karen Ferris, Steve Schuck
MEMBERS ABSENT: Terry Janssen, Bruce Jones
OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Mohn
OTHERS ABSENT: None
GUESTS PRESENT: None
PRESIDING: Kevin Tapper
RECORDING: JoAnne Tapper

<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Tapper @ 6:30 pm.	
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Karen, second by Rusty; motion carried.	
Devotions	Devotions by Karen based on “A Gift Too Wonderful for Words.” God gave us Jesus on the very first Christmas.	Devotions for January by Simon.
Secretary’s Report Financial Report Budget	December 12, 2024 church council minutes approved by council electronically to include in the January church newsletter. Minutes will be sent by email for review by council to include with newsletter. Total operating revenue YTD \$224,910, Total operating expenses YTD \$184,665. Revenue includes \$15,794 reimbursement from Spencer. November operating revenue \$36,075. November operating expenses \$11,963. Motion to accept financial report by Simon, second by Rusty; motion carried. 2025 budget reviewed from Finance Committee recommendation. Total budget recommended \$251,145; much more reasonable than the past few years. Motion to approve recommended budget as is by Karen, second by Simon; motion carried. Budget to be presented to congregation.	Council members to text approval to Kevin or email so they can be included with the next newsletter.
<u>Correspondence</u> <u>Old Business</u>	- Received from: Lutheran Lakeside, World Hunger, SafePlace of Sioux City. Discussion – members will be donating to campaign, donate weekly to World Hunger. Discussion on needs for Narthex, office furniture – council agrees to no donations at this time. - Sign – Insurance payment received for \$2261.85, additional funds of \$3500 received. Brick work has been completed. Sign options reviewed – option with church name approved by Steve, second by Kelley to have QR code connected to Website for church times, programs, etc. Motion carried. - Narthex Floor- Contact to plan for redoing, dates, etc. YoUnite will meet at Presbyterian church in January. There will be no access to the Narthex or balcony during that time. - Nominating Committee – Have initial persons that have been asked; one declined. List to be complete for two persons by January council meeting. - Flood Relief Money – Discussion by committee. Erick Schwanz needed to relocate and Jacob Kindwall’s home was damaged. Ministerial Association has flood relief account. Motion by Simon, second by Rusty to	

<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p>give \$500 each to Erick and Jacob and remaining \$600 to Ministerial Association.</p> <p>-Welcome Plate Thank-yous – Council secretary to complete</p> <p>-Cornucopia Thank-yous – Council secretary to complete</p> <p>-Christmas Decoration Thank-yous – Council secretary to complete</p> <p>-Wedding Policy – Sound compensation has been \$75 – requires rehearsal and wedding. Motion to change Sound compensation to \$100 by Karen, second by Rusty; motion carried.</p> <p>-Coffee Machine Replacement – Bunn would be \$3000, alternative request by women for coffee machine; discussion – motion by Karen, second by Harry to recommend a second machine as have been using recently in kitchen; motion carried.</p> <p>Synod Donation – Previously with +bottom line, a percentage was shared with the Synod. Discussion by council, concerns voiced with future needs of our building. Motion not to share percentage with Synod by Rusty, second by Kelley; motion carried.</p>	
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Christian Ed –Karen, alternate Bruce – Christmas program for YouNite to be Wednesday, December 18. Resumes in January at Presbyterian church.</p> <p>Endowment – Kevin, Rusty – No report</p> <p>Evangelism/Social Ministry – Harry, alternate Karen – Welcome Plate served 122 total with 56 carry-outs, 28 deliveries by Filmore, Hank, Lynde, and Dale Springer to Autumn Park. \$309 in donations. Next Welcome Plate December 28 @ noon. Next meeting January 9.</p> <p>Worship & Music – Harry, alternate Steve – Thanksgiving Decorations up in sanctuary. Christmas will be up by Dec 8. Christmas Eve 5pm service by Don, JoAnne to play. Pulpit supply complete through end of April except March 29/30.</p> <p>Finance – Kevin, Rusty – Budget recommendation as above</p> <p>Memorial – Phil Kindwall is chair; Bruce, alternate Simon – No meeting.</p> <p>Missions – Kelley- See Evangelism</p> <p>Property – Terry, Rusty – met Nov 3, discussion of soffit, Matt Mongan will be able to complete in the spring</p> <p>Stewardship – Terry, Kent – Magnet backordered for family units and college students with grateful message. Temple talk shared at Saturday & Sunday service.</p> <p>Spiritual Formation – Simon, Kelley –Resume in January. No meeting in December d/t Advent Supper.</p> <p>Fellowship – Need leader(s)</p>	
<p>Pulpit Supply</p>	<p>Dec 21/22 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>Dec 24 – Don Tisthammer (5pm only service)</p> <p>Dec 28/29 – need</p> <p>Jan 4/5 – Dave Hickman</p> <p>Jan 11/12 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>Jan 18/19 – Dave Hickman</p> <p>Jan 25/26 – Don Tisthammer</p> <p>Feb 1 /2 – Dave Hickman</p> <p>Feb 8/9 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>Feb 15/16 – Don Tisthammer</p> <p>Feb 22/23 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>Mar 1 /2 – Dave Hickman</p> <p>March 8/9 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>March 15/16 – Don Tisthammer</p> <p>March 22/23 – Sara Morpew</p> <p>March 29/30 – Pastor Deb Mechler</p>	
<p>Communion Schedule</p>	<p>Tuesday, December 24 – Karen, Kelley, Simon, Terry?</p> <p>Sunday, January 5 - Steve, Karen, Kelley, Simon</p> <p>Saturday, January 11 – Kevin</p>	
<p>Adjournment</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Rusty, second by Steve; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	<p>Next meeting Thursday, January 9 @ 6:30 pm</p>

Thank You! **Tank YOU!** Thank Ewe! *Thank You!*

The Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council would like to extend a

Bright Star  *of Thanks*

for your attendance and financial support this past year.

WE ARE WINNING!

In an effort to attract a new pastor, the Council is leading a mini makeover of the church. Have you noticed- new hall lights, new office carpet and furniture, and a refurbished kitchen?

Plus all classrooms and the balcony closet need to be cleaned out. The goal is to complete this “spruce up” before the January 26th Annual Meeting. But... we will need your help! Stay tuned for a listing of available areas of the church clean-up options.

Meanwhile - *Thank you!!*

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council

Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Saturday, January 25 • 12:00-1:00 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
300 E Bow Drive (lower level)*

Everyone is welcome!

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
will be open during this time

*Handicapped Accessibility Available