



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

Birthdays: April 1- Harper Simonsen; April 2- Joel Anderson, Lou Graybill; April 3- Megan Boger, Hank Hayes; April 4- Wally Miller, Jr.; April 5- Bryan Chase; April 6- Deb Nelson; April 9- Jordan Beck; April 10- Denny Allen, Kara Klingborg, Taylor VandeLune; April 11- Lexi Keleher, Natalie Peterson; April 12- Chris VandeLune; April 15- Camille Zwiefel; April 17- Janis Lundsgaard, Todd Miller, Brodie Woltman; April 18- Larry Reilly, Marlin Saeger; April 19- Bob Ferris; April 20- Joan Anderson, Nancy Enstrom, Joseph Pomerence; April 21- Tyler Kannegeiter, Christian VandeLune, Brenda Weeks; April 22- Jodi Pigott; April 26- Noah Niemeier; April 27- Amber Lundquist; April 29- Shanda Reilly; April 30- Dave Ladwig

Anniversaries: April 4- Dave & Bev Drefke; April 8- Larry & Shanda Reilly; April 17- Todd & Kim Miller

Congregational Meeting April 6th: There will be a congregational meeting following service on April 6th to further discuss the stained-glass window. Brunch will be provided.

Church Clean Up April 5th: Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to help give the church a spring cleaning on Saturday, April 5th. If you would like to assist with this project, clean up will start at 9 am. Due to a funeral Saturday morning, we will meet at 9:00 to clean the sticks and trash up outside. We can also do some cleaning in the Sunday School wing minus vacuuming or making loud noise. After the funeral is over we will begin cleaning the Sanctuary and Narthex area. Once the meal is over (Approx 1:30 PM) we will clean the fellowship hall and bathrooms. If you come to help clean, please park by the outdoor ministry building on the east side of the parking lot to leave room for the funeral guests.

Easter Music: If you are interested in playing an instrument or singing on Easter Sunday, please contact Linzi in the office.

Easter Lily Sign Up: There is a sign-up sheet for Easter Lilies on the podium in the Narthex. There are 27 available at a cost of \$25 each. **Please sign up by April 6th.** If ordering more than one lily, please use a separate line for each.

Saturday of Holy Week: As was done last year, there will not be a church service on Saturday evening, April 19th. Members are encouraged to attend either (or both) the sunrise service (6:30 AM) or the service at the regular time (9:30AM) on Easter -April 20th.

Easter Egg Hunt April 19th: Bethlehem will be hosting an Easter Egg Hunt at 1:00 pm on Saturday, April 19th. This event is open to everyone in the community, so invite your friends!



Lectors Needed Last 3 Sundays of April: Bethlehem is looking for a volunteer to read the scriptures during Sunday Worship Service on April 13, April 20 (Easter), and April 27. If you are interested in

reading, please contact Linzi in the office or sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. Thank you to those who volunteer for this service!

Save the Date: The annual special summer evening service will be held on Sunday, August 17th at the church. There will be activities for the kids (word is that a bounce house might be included), entertainment by the Anthon Band, food, and a short worship time. This should be a great time for all ages. More details to follow.

Papa's Pantry- Donations for Papa's Pantry are always needed. Anything you choose to purchase will be greatly appreciated by our guests who attend. They look to us in their time of need! The containers to put them in are no longer in the Narthex. If you have any donations, please bring them down to Classroom B or the office, if that is more convenient for you. Monetary donations are also much appreciated. Thanks for your ongoing support of this project!



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!

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.

Reminder: Members are reminded to check out the sign-up sheets in the narthex and then encouraged to take this opportunity to serve Bethlehem in a variety of ways. The weekly expense for Bethlehem on the Air, altar flowers, mission support and world hunger is \$30. Thank you.

Bethlehem on the Air: Looking for a brief devotional time as you are getting ready for church, then tune in to KCHE (1440 AM or 92.1 FM) at approximately 8:15 AM each Sunday for Bethlehem on the Air. This devotional time (prepared and presented by members of Bethlehem) is one of the outreach efforts of your congregation.

Thank you: We would like to thank all the members of Bethlehem who have supported our family with prayers, letters and cards during the past several months as we navigate the complexities of our daughter, Elodie's rare psychological/neurological condition. Elodie is making steady progress, albeit at a measured pace. But your Christian love and caring helps our entire family stay strong and resilient. We also want to wish all of you a very blessed Easter as we celebrate Jesus' resurrection victory. Alicia, Eric, Elodie, Emerson & Augie

Blessing of the Quilts took place on March 16th. There were 30 quilts to donate to Lutheran World Relief.



April Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

April 6: Todd Anderson
April 13:
April 20:
April 27: Chris Nelson

Altar Flowers:

April 6: Marlin Saeger
April 13: Jim & Connie Mohn
April 20: Todd & Sheila Anderson
April 30:

Bethlehem On the Air:

April 6: Rusty & Tally Rasmus
April 13: Bob & Mary Hahn
April 20:
April 27:

Mission Support:

April 6: Filmore Gustafson
April 13: Lynn & Pat Friedrichsen
April 20: WELCA
April 27: Dave & Connie Ladwig

Coffee:

April 5:
April 6: Brunch
April 12:
April 13:
April 20:
April 26:
April 27:

Pulpit Supply for April:

April 5 & 6: Don Tisthammer
April 12 & 13: Sarah Morpew
April 20: Don Tisthammer
April 26 & 27: Sarah Morpew



Evangelism In Action

Our March Welcome Plate Meal was held on Saturday, March 29th from Noon-1:00 pm. Vicky Brodale led the devotions at 11:45 am. We served 83, including 27 deliveries and 11 carry-outs. Thanks to Filmore Gustafson, Karen Ferris, Hank Hayes, Lynn Friedrichsen, and Dale Springer for making the deliveries. Our guests enjoyed a warm meal and time of fellowship. Many were able to take home baked goods, food, and clothing, as they left.

Thanks to everyone who helped prepare and serve the meal; assisted with the baked goods, Papa's Pantry, and the Caring Closet. Several attend regularly and comment that they feel very welcome here and enjoy their time of fellowship with us! You are all wonderful servants of God and sharing 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 to take with them each month!!

This month we were also able to help a lady whose cupboards and refrigerator were empty with a generous donation of food. A member of our church also provided a ride for her to visit the Trinity Iowa Food Bank to pick of additional food, so that she could become responsible for her own well being. She was very appreciative of us helping her to becoming self sufficient! God's Work Our Hands!

Our April Welcome Plate Meal will be held on Saturday, March 26th from Noon- 1:00 pm. Devotions will begin at 11:45 am. We will be serving meatloaf and mashed potatoes as our main entree'. Please invite your friends and neighbors to join us. All are welcome! It is our way of reaching out to our community and making them feel that we are there for them in their time of need. God blesses us and wants us to bless others in return! If you'd like to join our committee, we meet on the first Thursday of each month at 3:00 pm. in the Library. 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!



April 2025 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- April 6- After the church service in the library

Anna Group- April 9, Vicky Brodale, 9:30 in the library

Vashti/Esther Group- April 9, Connie Mohn, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group-April 8, TBA, 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Quilting- April 16, 2024, 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 Marlin Segar for leading the group in March.

BLC Lenten Meals- Wednesdays until Holy Week.

"Gather" Bible Study- Read the devotions and lessons on your own. Gather Magazine has wonderful stories to inspire us and strengthen our faith. March/April- Peter and Cornelius

Cookbooks- We are selling our cookbooks for \$5 at several businesses in town. This money will go toward our Mission Groups we support all year. Let us know if you'd like one for a gift.

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.

We will be taking our quilts and kits to Spencer in May. If you'd like to donate anything, please do so ASAP so we can take as many as we can. The school kits would be easy to shop for at our stores in Cherokee. Thanks!

Thanks to all who helped at the Welcome Plate in March. If you'd like to help in April, 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

Sermons Ala Carte- Two more Wednesdays in April- 2nd and 9th. And then we will be busy with Holy Week. Thanks to all who furnished food and time at this great event. It is a great way to join as Christians in our community! Bless you for your servanthood.

Let us pray

Dear Father,

Of Spring once again regaling us in bloom,

In the songs of returning birds and fields soon to be planted,

We give you praise for an even greater sign of new life:

the resurrection of your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ,

that we especially celebrate at this time. Amen

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: Church Council Meeting
DATE/TIME: Thursday, March 13, 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT: Rusty Rasmus, Steve Shuck, Terry Janssen, Bruce Jones, Kelley Clausen, Karen Ferris, Kaleb Sleezer, Allen Campbell, Simon Fuller
MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: None
OTHERS ABSENT: None
GUESTS PRESENT:
PRESIDING: Rusty Rasmus
RECORDING: Linzi Bierman

<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
<u>Call to Order</u>	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rusty Rasmus @ 6:47 pm.	
<u>Approve Agenda</u>	Motion to approve agenda by Allen, second by Karen; motion carried.	
<u>Devotions</u>	Devotions by Kaleb based on reading scripture to create more of a connection to God and practicing gratitude for each day – Psalm 118:24 “This is the day that the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it”	Devotions for April by Karen
<u>Secretary’s Report</u>	March 13 minutes approved by council electronically to include in the March church newsletter. Minutes will be sent by email for review by council to include with newsletter.	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
<u>Financial Report</u>	February operating revenue \$16, 372.84; operating expenses \$14,632.48. YTD operating revenue \$34,111.95; operating expenses \$28,762.32. 2 members of our church who recently passed away made up 10% of 2024 contributions. Ways to make up for this loss include encouraging those who can increase contributions to do so when possible, as well as adding the QR code for Vanco to the bulletin and make a sign with the code to put in the Narthex to make contributing easier for members and for those who might not attend regularly but come to Easter/Christmas services with their families and would like to contribute as well. Motion to approve Treasurer’s Report by Allen, second by Terry; motion carried.	
<u>Correspondence</u>	-Received from: Legacy Grant – we were not approved for the grant. Rodeo – Do we want to be in the rodeo parade this year? Denny Allen has done in previous years but is wanting to step back.	
<u>Old Business</u>	Stained Glass – Stained Glass Store eliminated their profit and came up with a new bid of \$180,000 – cost of labor and materials. 2 nd company had an estimate that was lower, Council to ask for an itemized bid to compare what each company is offering to do for the price in order to compare apples to apples. We were	

approached by a company in Sutherland, Rusty will also ask for a bid from them. Feedback was that The Stained Glass Store was very professional. Memorials have been donated for updating the church, donations and fundraising will help cover costs as well. Church members could also make pledges to contribute a certain amount over a number of years towards this project. Motion to approve a congregational meeting on April 6th to make a decision for moving forward made by Karen, second by Allen; motion carried. Would be a good idea to replace the doors with 40” handicap accessible doors while working on Stained Glass project. Windows on the sides are ok and do not need to be repaired, but do need to be painted. Talk to Mongan Painting. Check into possible grants from the synod for windows.

Spring Clean – Date for Spring Cleaning – Saturday, April 5th starting at 9am. Pews in sanctuary to be oiled among other cleaning needs. Linzi will make announcement in bulletin and newsletter for volunteers.

Pantry & Clothes Closet- Both are open during Welcome Plate. Outside of Welcome Plate, people can call the office and give their phone number to Linzi who will pass the number along so an appointment can be made for them to come in if it’s not possible for them to come during Welcome Plate. Motion to set times for clothing closet and food pantry by Allen, second by Kelley; motion carried.

Easter Egg Hunt – Bethlehem to host an Easter Egg Hunt at 1pm on the Saturday before Easter (April 19), same day as the City-wide egg hunt – parents can bring their children after the City’s hunt is over. Denny Allen has offered to supply eggs and things to fill them. We could serve juice and cookies in the basement. Steve brought up the possibility of having a drawing for a bike.

Easter Sunday- No service the Saturday before Easter. Sunrise service outdoors – bring your own chair. For Easter Breakfast, Rusty can get a ham, Karen will talk to Jess about the rest of the breakfast items. Bells are playing on Palm Sunday, not Easter Sunday.

Sign- Some concern has been expressed about the colors of the sign and association with the LGBTQ+ flag. We can replace the colors with a white strip instead. Motion to call about replacing by Steve, second by Bruce; motion carried.

Attorney- Church does not currently have an attorney. Motion to hire Jason Cook to look over constitution and any other needs made by Steve, second by Simon; motion carried.

Service Locations- Lenten services are in the basement currently, started with Pastor Peter – would prefer to move back upstairs, encourage people to come up front- sit closer together.

New Business

Committee Reports

Christian Ed – YouNite will meet once more in March, 4 times in April. Presbyterian church would like to share VBS again this year, will have a meeting in next few weeks.

Endowment –

Evangelism/Social Ministry – February Welcome Plate served 80, next meal is March 29. Bethlehem is serving Sermons Ala Carte on

	<p>March 19th. Hyndmans are now taking communion to the Beck on the 1st Tuesday of the month</p> <p>Worship & Music – Altar should be used wherever conducting a worship service for the symbolism. W&M committee to add happier songs to services. No Saturday service for Easter weekend, Sunrise service, breakfast, and service at the regular time on Easter Sunday. Summer Service will be August 17th here at the church as there is no longer a Yacht Club at Spring Lake. We could add a carnival for kids/families and with games and maybe a bouncy house, grill burgers/hot dogs</p> <p>Finance –</p> <p>Memorial – Change to Gifts & Donations committee. Rusty, Steve, Kaleb, Bruce to be involved. Will meet on 2nd Sunday.</p> <p>Missions –</p> <p>Property – In addition to the stained-glass repair, the handicap parking lot needs to be addressed. Get bids for repairs. We can do the painting ourselves.</p> <p>Stewardship –</p> <p>Spiritual Formation –</p>	
Pulpit Supply	<p>March 15/16 – Don Tisthammer March 22/23 – Sara Morpew March 29/30 – Pastor Deb Mechler April 5/6 – Don Tisthammer April 12/13 – Sara Morpew April 19/20 – Don Tisthammer April 26/27 – Sara Morpew</p>	
Communion Schedule	<p>April 6- Steve, Kaleb, Terry, Allen April 12- Karen April 17- Rusty, Kelley, Karen, Terry April 20- Simon, Allen, Rusty, Kelley</p>	
Adjournment	<p>Motion to adjourn by Terry, second by Karen; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	<p>Next meeting Thursday, April 10 @ 6:30 pm</p>





EASTER EGG HUNT



APRIL 19, 2025 | 1:00 PM
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 E Bow Drive | Cherokee





Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Saturday, April 26 • 12:00-1:00 pm

Devotions • 11:45 am

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 E Bow Drive (lower level)

Everyone is welcome!

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
will be open during this time

*Please listen to KCHE for cancellation information due to weather

