



Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2025

Birthdays: July 1- Roger Anderson, Beau Kannegieter; July 2- Abbigayle VandeLune; July 3- Amaya Hammond; July 4- Todd Anderson; July 5- Kristen Cedar, Bev Drefke, Rhonda Peterson; July 10- Bruce Schuknecht; July 11- Joanne Lundsgaard, Dan Pitts; July 12- Noah Fuller; July 13- Kim Miller, Preston Rasmus; July 15- Alex Hammond; July 16- Shauna Henke; July 18- Sara Husman, Nicky Sleezer; July 20- Cheryl Peterson; July 21- Sandy Gustafson; July 23- Eddy Nelson; July 27- Brent Peterson; July 29- Ashlyn Nelson, Cindy Selfridge; July 31- Tina Larsen

Anniversaries: July 19- Duane & Marcia Henke; July 20- Frank & Vicky Brodale, Brandon & Shauna Henke; July 22- Bob & Karen Ferris; July 24- Jim & Mona Pomeranke; July 25- Tim & Lori LaFave; July 28- Larry & Val Carlson

Saturday Night Lectors Needed: Bethlehem is in need of volunteers to read the scriptures for 3 Saturday nights in July: **July 12th, July 19th, and July 26th**. If you are interested in reading on Saturday night please contact the office (712-225-4969, blcelca@gmail.com).

Summer Mowing Schedule: There is a sign-up sheet in the Narthex for those willing to mow this summer (weekly, May-September). The Property Committee greatly appreciates those who help with this task!

Papa's Pantry Needs Food- It seems that when we removed the tubs from the Narthex for the donations to Papa's Pantry, our donations have stopped! Our members have been very supportive of this project and have generously donated in the past. So, we just wanted to remind you to please help us replenish the food pantry. The containers are now in the office, or you can place your food in Classroom B downstairs by the elevator. This is something we can easily forget about, but those who are food insecure think about it all the time!

There are so many people who must look to us to help them! Of course, monetary donations are always appreciated too! Thanks so much for your generous donations and caring hearts!



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!

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.

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.

Evangelism In Action

Our June Welcome Plate Meal was held on **Thursday, June 26th from 5:30- 6:30pm.** Vicky Brodale led the devotions at **5:15pm.** We served 210 including 25 deliveries and 17 carry-outs. Thanks to Filmore Gustafson, Hank Hayes, Lynn Friedrichsen, and Dale Springer for making the deliveries. Our guests enjoyed a meal of grilled hamburgers, jumbo hot dogs, brats, baked beans, Snicker apple salad, watermelon, and drinks. We had a huge turn out and many were able to enjoy a meal and time of fellowship! All 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. We are grateful for your donations to Papa's Pantry and generous monetary donations for future meals! You are all wonderful servants of God who are sharing the Love of the Lord!

Our July Welcome Plate Meal will be held on **Thursday, July 31st from 5:30- 6:30 pm.** Devotions will begin at **5:15 pm.** We will again be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats 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 He wants us to bless others in return! God's Work Our Hands!

Please remember to donate to the **Papa's Pantry,** as many are looking to us for assistance. 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. The containers are no longer in the Narthex, so please place your items in the container in the office or in Classroom B downstairs. Those who are attending our meals are very grateful for the many tables full of food items ready to take with them each month!!

We will be helping the Worship and Music Committee on August 17th to serve the meal for the Outdoor Worship Service. An ice cream sundae bar will be available to everyone following the meal. It will be a fun family event with activities for the youth! Invite your friends and neighbors to join us for an evening of fun!

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.



July Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

July 6: Todd Anderson
July 13: Kara Klingborg
July 20: Jim Mohn
July 27: Chris Nelson

Altar Flowers:

July 6: Bob & Karen Ferris
July 13:
July 20: Sandy Gustafson
July 27: Jim & Connie Mohn

Bethlehem On the Air:

July 6: Pat & Lynette Hyndman
July 13: Rusty & Tally Rasmus
July 20: Phyllis Conley
July 27: Kevin & JoAnne Tapper

Mission Support:

July 6: Todd & Sheila Anderson
July 13:
July 20: WELCA
July 27:

Coffee:

July 5:
July 6:
July 12: Kevin & JoAnne Tapper
July 13: Kevin & JoAnne Tapper
July 19:
July 20:
July 26:
July 27:



Pulpit Supply for July:

July 5th & 6th: Sarah Morphew
July 12th & 13th: Rev. Jeff Backer
July 21st & 22nd: Don Tisthammer
July 26th & 27th: Don Tisthammer



July 2025 MEETING DATES:

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

Anna Group- No meeting

Vashti/Esther Group- July 9, brown bag lunch, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group-July 8, Karen Thomsen? 4:00 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Quilting- July 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 Julie Wright for joining the group this year at Bethlehem.

"Gather" Bible Study- Read the devotions and lessons on your own. Gather Magazine has wonderful stories to inspire us and strengthen our faith. July- Session One: Relationships that form us- Jacob and Esau, Mary and Martha.

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. Thanks to Jim Mohn's Christ Care group! We took 116 kits to Spencer in May!

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. Watch for sales!

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

Summer Retreat- Watch for an announcement for a Summer Retreat. Place and Date to be announced.

WELCA from Bethlehem go to Webster City for the WISWO Convention. Pastor Jean Morse welcomed us to her new church, Trinity Lutheran Church.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: Church Council Meeting
DATE/TIME: Thursday, June 12, 2025 @ 5:30 pm
MEMBERS PRESENT: Rusty Rasmus, Simon Fuller, Karen Ferris, Steve Schuck, Terry Janssen, Bruce Jones, Allen Campbell, Kaleb Sleezer
MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelley Claussen
OTHERS PRESENT: None
OTHERS ABSENT: None
GUESTS PRESENT: Pat Friedrichsen, Lynde Lundquist, Donna Bofenkamp, Vicky Brodale, Sandy Gustafson, Sandy Taylor, Kevin Tapper, Lou Graybill, Brent Peterson
PRESIDING: Rusty Rasmus
RECORDING: JoAnne Tapper for Linzi Bierman

<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Rusty Rasmus @ 5:31pm.	
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve amended agenda by Karen, second by Terry; motion carried.	
Devotions	Devotions by Terry from Hebrews 11:1 on Hope. Previous devotion on faith. These two are intertwined. Both are essential to Christian living.	Devotions for July by
Greeting of Guests	Lou Graybill recognized by chairperson Rusty Rasmus. Question from newsletter on call committee recommendation and what follow-up has been completed. Informed of meeting with candidate and call committee missing several council and call committee members. Also discussed meeting with Bishop Lorna and Pastor Judy regarding Synod obtaining church building and assets related to constitution changes being considered at National Convention this summer. Shared with guests that Bishop said they are not interested in obtaining our church. Council felt need to obtain legal council to review this topic in constitution to protect our congregation and church. Informed they have visited churches who have left the ELCA and their congregation's response to this. Questioned if have visited churches who have stayed with ELCA. Replied no. Suggested that should take place as well. Filmore Gustafson recognized by council chair congratulated council on the cleanup of our building. Understand the candidate was informed of concern with ELCA. Response that council following Bishop Lorna's suggestion to inform candidate of this. Question if call committee aware of ELCA discussion prior to meeting. Acknowledged they did not.	

<p>Secretary's Report</p> <p>Financial Report</p>	<p>May 8, 2025 church council minutes approved by council electronically to include in the June church newsletter. Minutes will be sent by email for review by council to include with newsletter.</p> <p>May operating revenue 2025 \$12,813.31. May operating expenses 2025 \$8998.51. \$1000 donation to Social Ministry which needs to be changed to Evangelism as committees have merged. Net for May \$3814.80. First five months net \$14,144.19. Motion to approve financial report by Terry, second by Allen; motion carried.</p>	<p>Council members to email to blcelca@gmail.com so they can be included with the next newsletter.</p> <p>Check with accountant as appears to be duplication in Worship & Music expenses.</p>
<p><u>Correspondence</u></p> <p><u>Old Business</u></p> <p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p>Thank you for graduation gift received from the church by Dylan Husman.</p> <p>-Treasurer Position/Linzi – Discussion on how to combine secretary and treasurer position. Bruce to draft combination of secretary/treasurer job description. Motion to offer Linzi secretary/treasurer position of 35 hours/week by Steve, second by Allen; motion carried.</p> <p>-Synod Discussion/Pastor Candidate Discussion – Discussion on contacting Pastoral candidate for formal interview for 5:30 pm June 19 or earliest date available for candidate. Motion to contact for interview by Allen, second by Karen; motion carried.</p> <p>-Music Director – Nicole willing to take position. Discussion of lack of choir near future; probable bell choir in the fall. Motion to offer salary as budgeted to Nicole as music director by Steve, second by Karen; motion carried; Allen abstained from vote.</p> <p>-Alternative seating in Narthex – Concern with safety in use of pews. Exploring alternative seating. Probability of donation as majority of clean up and changes have been donated. Altar to basement and searching new table. Signup currently in office until replacement found.</p> <p>-Janitor – Table to July.</p> <p>-Pastor Voting Member?? - Review of constitution – to vote must have made donation to Bethlehem <u>and</u> have received communion.</p> <p>-Temple Talk – Discussion of need for communication to congregation. Plan to address congregation this coming weekend with concerns shared and discussed with meeting guests. Terry to present Saturday and Simon will present Sunday.</p>	<p>Rusty to contact candidate for interview.</p>
<p>Committee Reports</p>	<p>Christian Ed –Karen, alternate Bruce – \$500 payment to Presbyterian church for Bible School. VBS program Friday. Flash drive available for use as possible fill in during summer service.</p> <p>Endowment – Kevin, Rusty – Need replacement member. Motion to contact Brandon Henke by Bruce, second by Steve; motion carried</p> <p>Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions – Kelley – Welcome Plate served 70 total with carry-outs, deliveries by Hank & Lynn Friedrichsen, Filmore, and Dale Springer to Autumn Park. \$124 in donations. Next Welcome Plate July 31 @ 5:30 serving burgers, brats, and hotdogs. Bingo at Accura Aurelia. Trish to cover wedding June 14. Next meeting July 3.</p> <p>Worship & Music – Simon – Pulpit supply complete through end of July. Father's Day service reviewed. Two new pastors doing last of openings in June & July. Outdoor service August 17, face painting, other kids activity.</p> <p>Finance – Rusty, Steve – No meeting.</p> <p>Donations/Gifts/Fundraising – Bruce, alternate Simon – No meeting.</p> <p>Stewardship – No meeting</p> <p>Spiritual Formation – Kaleb, Kelley resume in the fall.</p> <p>Property – Next concern is parking lot repair on south parking lot of building near canopy.</p>	
<p>Pulpit Supply</p>	<p>June 14/15 – Hymn Sing June 21/22 – Don Tisthammer June 28/29 – Pastor Ben MacIntire July 5/6 – Sarah Morphew</p>	

	July 12/13 – Pastor Jeff Backer July 19/20 – Don Tisthammer July 26/27 – Don Tisthammer	
Communion Schedule	Sunday, June 6 – Terry, Steve, Karen, Bruce Saturday, July 12 – Kevin will do if no council rep available	?Kaleb
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Terry, second by Karen; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer, challenged to pray with eyes wide open as suggested by Pastor Chuck at a Saturday service.	Next meeting Thursday, July 10 @ 6:30 pm

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL





Welcome Plate



Free Community Meal



Thursday, July 31 • 5:30-6:30 pm

Devotions • 5:15 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 E Bow Drive (lower level)*

*Handicapped Accessibility Available

Everyone is welcome!

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet
will be open during this time

