

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2026



Birthdays: February 2- Doris DeForest; February 3- Carson Mongan; February 4- Shari Dunn; February 6- Vickie Hember; February 10- Nicole Campbell, Lisa Lundquist, Don Tisthammer; February 11- Khennadi Crum, Duane Reinholdt; February 13- Lori Thomas; February 14- Delores Green; February 16- Steve Shuck; February 18- Nancy Nelson; February 19- Ruth Hanson; February 20- Lynde Lundquist, Lisa VanDeLune; February 24- Laura Ebert, Kaitlan Kennebeck, Kiley Kennebeck, Magie VanDeLune, Malorie VanDeLune; February 25- Pam Dunn, Matthew Weeks; February 27- Matt Mongan, February 28- Al Peterson; February 29- Joyce Lundgaard



Anniversaries: February 4- Dave & Kallie Morrow; February 6- Duane & Rhonda Reinholdt; February 14- Todd & Sheila Anderson; February 20- Jeff & Lisa Lundquist



Lectors Needed for February: Bethlehem is looking for a volunteer to read at the following service in February- ***Saturday, February 14th***. If you are interested in reading, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office.

2026 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 2026!



Scholarship Applications Available: Scholarship Applications are available in the church office. The deadline to apply for scholarships for the 2026-2025 year is Sunday, March 22nd, 2026.

Valentine Gift Cards For Our College Students: Our WELCA ladies will again be mailing a Valentine card with a gift card enclosed to each of our college students. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for those, please make it out to WELCA and “put gift card donation” in the memo. You can give it to Lynde Lundquist or Ellen Peters, or bring it to the church office. We have 25 students that we will be remembering with a gift card this year. All donations will be welcomed to help with this expense!



Directory updates: If you have had a change of address or phone number in the last few years, please contact the office to confirm that Bethlehem has the correct information for the 2026 directory.

Address for Pat Hyndman:

Pat Hyndman
Encompass Health
4700 W 69th St. Room 108
Sioux Falls, SD 57108



*Put Pat's home address in the return address: 1121 W Cherry St, Cherokee, IA 51012



Message from Pastor Cummins: I give thanks to God for the gracious call extended to me by Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Cherokee, and I am deeply humbled by the trust you have placed in me. With a grateful heart, I look forward to beginning our shared ministry on February 28th, trusting that the Holy Spirit is already preparing the way for us. As we step into this new season together, I hold fast to the promise of Philippians 1:6, *“He who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ.”* May Christ’s mercy, guidance, and steadfast love shape all that we will do in His name. I am eager to walk with you in faith, service, and hope.
Pastor Alan Cummins



Evangelism In Action

Our January Welcome Plate meal was held on **Saturday, January 31st from Noon-1:00 pm**. We served scalloped potatoes and ham, glazed carrots or corn, coleslaw, bars, and drinks. Thanks to the many people who helped in the kitchen, donated food, lead devotions, and assisted with the HyVee baked goods, Papa’s Pantry, and the Caring Closet! We served 80, including 22 deliveries and 18 carry outs. Our guests were welcomed by our members to a warm meal and a time of fellowship! Jesus was helping us to brighten their lives and share the love of the Lord!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Papa’s Pantry, as many are looking to us for assistance. If you are out shopping 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 container is in the Narthex, so you can place your items in the container or in Classroom B downstairs. It is important that you not bring any perishable food and check the dates on each item, so that it is not close dated or out of date! Those who are attending our meals are very grateful for the tables full of food items ready to take with them each month!

Currently, we **are not** accepting any clothing donations for the Caring Closet. We need some time to sort through the many items that have been donated. Thanks so much for your patience!

Our **February Welcome Plate Meal** will be held on **Saturday, February 28th from Noon-1:00 pm**. We will be serving spaghetti as our main entree’. We urge you to invite your friends and neighbors to attend. Come and join us in welcoming our guests and showing them that God loves them and so do we! Invite them to come to church. We are so blessed, so let’s be a blessing to them!

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.

February Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

Feb 1: Todd Anderson
Feb 8: Chris Nelson
Feb 15: Dave Zelle
Feb 22: Connie Mohn

Saturday Lectors:

Feb 7: Bill Larson
Feb 14:
Feb 21: Jim Mohn
Feb 28: Harry Bradstreet

Altar Flowers:

Feb 1: Jim & Connie Mohn
Feb 8:
Feb 15: Todd & Sheila Anderson
Feb 22: Cindy Selfridge

Bethlehem On the Air:

Feb 1: Matt & Jodi Mongan
Feb 8:
Feb 15:
Feb 22: Cindy Selfridge

Mission Support:

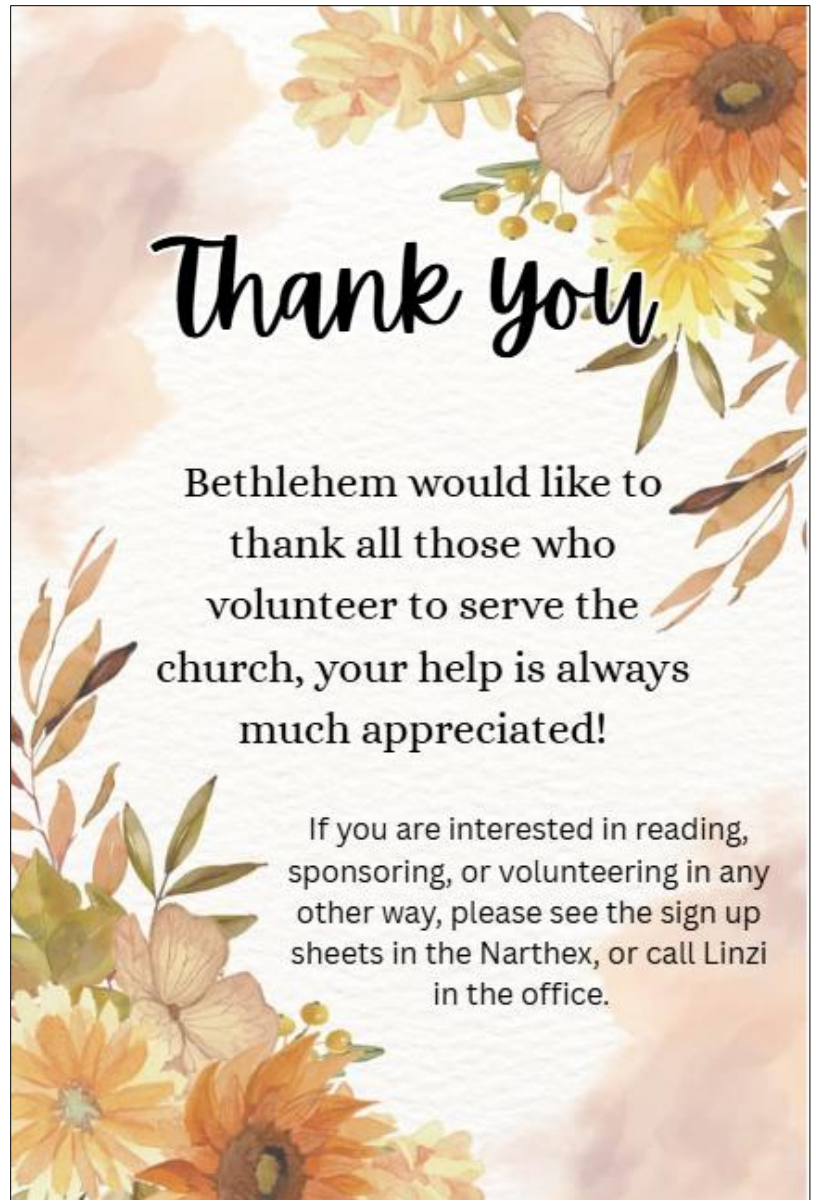
Feb 1:
Feb 8: Mission Support
Feb 15:
Feb 22:

World Hunger:

Feb 1:
Feb 8: WELCA
Feb 15:
Feb 22: Matt & Jodi Mongan

Pulpit Supply:

Feb 1: Deb Mechler
Feb 7/8: JoAnne Tapper
Feb 14/15: Don Tisthammer
Feb 21/22: Sarah Morphew



February 2026 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- February 1- After the church service in the library.

Lydia- February 10 at 4:00 with ?

Anna- February 11 at 9:00 with Doris De Forest

Vashti/Esther- February 11 at 1:30 with ?

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

Quilting- February 18, 2026 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.

Personal/Health Kits - Please help us make some personal/health kits. Bath towel- dark in color and 2 bath size bars of soap, fingernail clippers, comb, and a toothbrush. Thanks to Jim Mohn's Christ Care group for putting together many kits.

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 Lori Thomas for putting together many kits!

Thanks to all who helped at the Welcome Plate in January. If you'd like to help in the kitchen in February, 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 Marlin Saeger. We will take excess clothing to New To You sometime.

Invite a Friend- We will be making our new program booklets for 2026. Please ask someone to join our Bible study groups. Spread the Word! All are welcome!

Watch for news about Sermons Ala Carte. Please let Pat Friedrichsen know if you'd like to work or contribute.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

<u>Meeting:</u>	<u>Church Council Meeting</u>
<u>Date/Time:</u>	<u>Thursday, January 15, 2026 @ 6:30 pm</u>
<u>Members Present:</u>	<u>Karen Ferris, Kaleb Sleezer, Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Mike Niemeier, Jodi Mongan</u>
<u>Members Absent:</u>	<u>Bruce Jones, Terry Janssen, Allen Campbell</u>
<u>Others Present:</u>	<u>Jim Mohn</u>
<u>Others Absent:</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Guests Present:</u>	<u>None</u>
<u>Presiding:</u>	<u>Kevin Tapper</u>
<u>Recording:</u>	<u>JoAnne Tapper for Linzi Bierman</u>
<u>AGenDA</u>	<u>Discussion</u>
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Tapper @ 6:30pm.
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve amended agenda by Karen, second by Kelley; motion carried.
Approve Council Replacement	Motion to approve Jodi Mongan to replace and serve out Simon Fuller's term on council, second by Kelley; motion carried. Jodi welcomed to council.
Devotions	Devotions by Karen – What is our purpose in life; our energy, our passion: Find our rest in God; Love the Lord your God.
Secretary's Report	January 15, 2026 church council minutes approved by council electronically to include in the February church newsletter.
Financial Report	<p>December operating revenue 2025 \$36,830.04. December operating expenses 2025 \$17,489.51. Net for December \$19,340.53. Capital Improvement expenditures 2025 \$272,694.41. \$18,320.60 as of 11/20 were from donations; \$197,374 came from current assets and \$57,000 from Thrivent account. 2025 operating revenue \$221,224.27; operating expenses \$153,965.87; net \$67,258.40. Motion to approve financial report by Jodi, second by Mike; motion carried.</p> <p>Endowment Report - \$15,425 available funds for distribution in 2026. Five funds for scholarships, 1 scholarship for those in seminary shared with Synod, 2 funds designated for music/organ, bequested funds for church council to designate. \$14,600 distributed in 2025. Motion to acknowledge endowment report by Karen, second by Kelley; motion carried.</p>
Correspondence	Christmas Greeting received from Lakes Glass LLC (door provider). Request for contribution to 'Sleep in Heavenly Peace Iowa' (no kid sleeps on floor in Sioux City)

	Spiritual Formation – Kelley/Jodi meeting February 15 after church	
Pulpit Supply	January 17/18 – Jim Mohn January 24/25 – Don Tisthammer January 31/February 1 – Pastor Deb Mechler February 7/8 – JoAnne Tapper February 14/15 – Don Tisthammer February 21/22 – Sara Morphey If needed; February 28/March 1 – Deb Mechler	
Communion Schedule	Sunday, February 1 – Kelley, Karen, Mike, Kaleb Saturday, February 14 – Kevin	
Adjournment	Motion to adjourn by Kelley, second by Jodi; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.	Next meeting Thursday, February 12 @ 6:30 pm



Lent
2026

February 18
Ash Wednesday
Imposition of Ashes
Holy Communion

Lenten Supper
5:00 pm
Worship Service
7:00 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
300 East Bow Drive, Cherokee

Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Saturday, February 28 • 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