

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2026



Birthdays: April 1- Harper Simonsen; April 2- Joel Anderson, Lou Graybill; April 3- 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- Lexie Keleher, Natalie Peterson; April 12- Chris VandeLune; April 15- Camille Zwiefel; April 17- Janice 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 17- Todd & Kim Miller



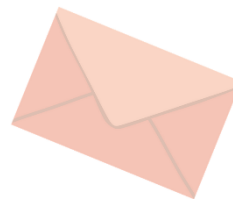
Lectors Needed for April: Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to read at the following services in April- ***Sunday, April 12, Saturday, April 25, and Sunday, April 26.*** If you are interested in reading, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex or contact the office.

Communion Changes: Beginning in May, Bethlehem will have communion on the first and third weekend of the month. Communion for both Saturday and Sunday will be on the same weekend.



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.

New Address for Pat Hyndman: Patrick Hyndman
Heartland Care Center
604 E Fenton St
Room 303
Marcus, IA 51035



Time Change for Saturday Services: Saturday Evening services now begin at 5:30 pm.

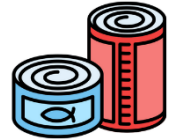
Worship Videos on Facebook: Check Bethlehem's Facebook page for a link to the videos used in Worship Service on Sundays!



Easter Egg Hunt: Join us on Saturday, April 4th at 1:00 pm for an Easter Egg Hunt! There will be juice & cookies and a bike raffle following the hunt. Everyone is welcome, invite your friends!

Papa's Pantry: We are in need of food items for Papa's Pantry. If you are out shopping please consider donating the following items: cereal, peanut butter, jelly, pasta sauce, pasta,

hamburger helper, soups- canned or dry, canned tuna or chicken, or any items you would like to donate. Thanks for your continued support and servant hearts! We are blessed in so many ways, so let's be a blessing to those in our community!



Quilters Give Austin Curtis a Quilt: On Sunday, March 29, Austin Curtis was home on leave from the Navy. The Quilters from Bethlehem gave him a quilt to honor his service to our country. Please pray for our Service Men and Women!



Evangelism In Action

Our March Welcome Plate meal was held on **Saturday, March 28th from Noon-1:00 pm.** Denny Allen's grandson lead devotions at 11:45 am. Our regular leaders were not able to do them, and he graciously volunteered to lead them and did an amazing job! We served meatloaf, buttered mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cole slaw, roll, creme' de menthe cake, 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! A special thanks goes to Denny and Connie Nelson who helped us out by getting the HyVee food items, as many of our workers were gone. We served 95, including 29 deliveries and 21 carry outs. Our guests were welcomed by our church family to a warm meal and a time of fellowship! Pastor Cummins was there to help meet and greet all who were in attendance. Jesus was helping us to brighten their lives and share the love of the Lord! Enjoy the pictures below!

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!

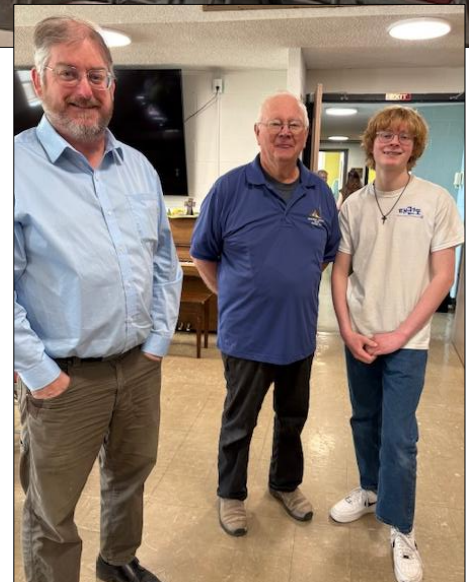
Currently, we **are not** accepting any clothing donations for the Caring Closet. We need some time to sort through the many items that have been donated. Thanks so much for your patience!

Our **April Welcome Plate Meal** will be held **on Saturday, 25th from Noon-1:00 pm.** We will be serving taverns or coney's 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.



Welcome
Plate



April Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

April 5: Chris Nelson
April 12:
April 19: Chris Nelson
April 26:

Saturday Lectors:

April 4: No Service
April 11: Bill Larson
April 18: Harry Bradstreet
April 25:

Altar Flowers:

April 5:
April 12: Brent & Mary Peterson
April 19: Todd & Sheila Anderson
April 26:

Bethlehem On the Air:

April 5:
April 12:
April 19:
April 26:

Mission Support:

April 5: Lynn & Pat Friedrichsen
April 12: WELCA
April 19:
April 26:

World Hunger:

April 5:
April 12: WELCA
April 19:
April 26:



**Bethlehem
Lutheran Church**
Holy Week
2026

April 2
Maundy Thursday
Holy Communion
Stripping of the Altar
Supper 5:30 pm
Worship 7:00 pm

April 3
Good Friday
Tenebrae Service
7:00 pm

April 5
Easter Sunday
Breakfast 8:00 am
Worship Service 9:30 am
Coffee Fellowship 10:30 am

300 East Bow Drive, Cherokee

April 2026 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- April 12- After the church service in the library (April 5 is Easter.)

Anna Group- April 8 or 15, Mary Larson, 9:30 in the library

Vashti/Esther Group- April 8 or 15, Jan Lundsgaard, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group- April 14, Rose Beazley, 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Quilting- April 15 or 22- 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.

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

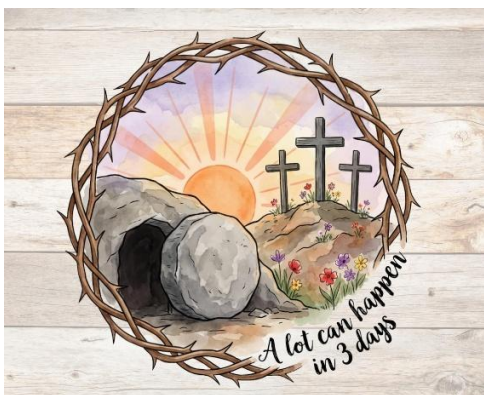
Cookbooks- We are still selling our cookbooks for \$5. This money will go toward our Mission Groups we support all year. Let us know if you'd like one for a gift.

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.

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 Lynde Lundquist or Marlin Saeger.



Let us pray

"Good and gracious God, we give you praise for the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. The sadness of his death has given way to the bright promise of immortality. As we celebrate this Easter season, change our lives and hearts to be messengers of joy and hope. We make our prayer through Jesus Christ, our risen Lord. Amen."

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: **Church Council Meeting**
DATE/TIME: **Thursday, Mar 12, 2026**
MEMBERS PRESENT: **Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Karen Ferris, Kaleb Sleezer, Mike Niemeier, Allen Campbell**

MEMBERS ABSENT: **Jodi Mongan**
OTHERS PRESENT: **Jim Mohn, Pastor Alan Cummins**
OTHERS ABSENT: **None**
GUESTS PRESENT: **JoAnne Tapper**
PRESIDING: **Kevin Tapper**
RECORDING: **Linzi Bierman**

<u>AGENDA</u>	<u>DISCUSSION</u>	<u>RESPONSIBILITY</u>
Call to Order	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Tapper at 6:31 pm	
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Allen, second by Karen: motion carried	
Devotions	Devotions by Allen based on Jeremiah 29:11, When going through hard times, need to remember that God sees the full picture and to trust in God's plan.	Devotions for Apr by Pastor Alan .
Secretary's Report	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
Financial Report	February Operating Revenue: \$17,446.21; Operating Expenses: \$11,005.12; Net: \$6,441.09. Year to Date Operating Revenue: \$37,705.16; Operating Expenses: \$28,361.42; Net: \$9343.74. CD's matured in March. Motion by Karen to put CD#66270 (excess operating funds) into 11 month CD and CD#66269 (capital items) into a 6 month CD; Second by Kaleb; motion carried. Motion to approve financial report by Allen; Second by Mike; motion carried.	
<u>Correspondence</u>	-Received from: Rodeo Parade letter. YouNite kids will ride on MPC float to promote VBS.	
<u>Pastor's Report</u>	*Communion will be twice a month on 1 st and 3 rd weekends; Saturday and Sunday Communion will be on the same weekends starting in May. Saturday evening services will start at 5:30, beginning March 21. *Pastor made a 30 second commercial with Simon @ KCHE, he would like to invite community to worship at Bethlehem in his own voice. There are 3 options for number of commercials and running time. Motion by Kelley to choose option #3, 400 commercials over 4 weeks for \$1000. Second by Allen; motion carried. *April 18 th is Synod Assembly, Pastor Alan will be unable to do Saturday service that weekend. He will also be gone for May 9 th service and Don will fill in.	

<p><u>New Business</u></p>	<p>*Funeral planned for July 11th.</p> <p>Bomgaars Account- Need to update Bomgaars account to remove previous Council members and add Linzi, Pastor Alan, Kevin, Kelley, and Karen. Linzi to contact Bomgaars to make changes.</p> <p>Quilting/Kits- Room B is full of boxes of quilts and kids. Quilters would like to move the kits to a Sunday School room and put in shelves for quilts. Motion by Allen to look into getting shelves from Walmart and have delivered to the church; Second by Karen; motion carried.</p> <p>Banners- We will need a different plan for hanging them in a Sunday School room, the racks will not work. Side banners need to be changed for Easter.</p> <p>Sound System- At least 3 members are having difficulty hearing service on Sundays. Ask Property to look into updating the sound system with a blue tooth system ASAP. May be able to use phones as a short term solution.</p> <p>Easter- No Sunrise Service this year, regular service at 9:30 am. Changing time of Easter breakfast to 8:00 am – 9:00 am. No service on Saturday, April 4.</p>	
<p><u>Committee Reports</u></p>	<p>Property – Todd is working on getting bids for back lot concrete. Guy from Grimes is coming sometime in the next month to look at the gap in the window.</p> <p>Christian Ed – YouNite meets 5 more times, will do VBS with the Presbyterian Church again this year.</p> <p>Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions – February Welcome Plate served 91 people, \$149 donated, March Welcome Plate on March 28 with meatloaf and mashed potatoes. Not accepting clothing donations currently. Will not do Good Friday Easter baskets this year, helping with Summer Bash instead. 2 weddings this summer.</p> <p>Worship & Music – Holy Week- will strip altar after Maundy Thursday service, Good Friday service will be at 7pm and Easter breakfast was moved to 8am. 6 bikes to raffle at the Easter Egg Hunt, we have over 1000 eggs this year, some with candy some without, will have candy in baskets for kids to take after the hunt. Rain date is Monday, April 6th. August 30th will be the summer bash.</p> <p>Scholarship Committee- Have had a few scholarships returned, deadline is March 22.</p>	
<p><u>Communion Schedule</u></p>	<p>March 15- Karen, Allen, Kaleb, Kelley Maundy Thursday- Karen, Kelley, Allen, Kaleb if needed Easter Sunday- Allen, Karen, Kelley, Mike</p>	
<p><u>Adjournment</u></p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Allen, second by Kelley; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	<p>Next meeting Thursday, April 9 @ 6:30 pm</p>



EASTER EGG HUNT



APRIL 4, 2026 | 1:00 PM
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH

300 E Bow Drive | Cherokee

**JUICE & COOKIES AND BIKE RAFFLE
AFTER THE HUNT**

AGES 1-12





Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Saturday, April 25 • 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

