

# Bethlehem Lutheran Church

## NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026



**Birthdays:** May 1- Luke Klaschen; May 2- Clarence Anderson; May 5- Taylor Myron; May 6- Jake Zwiefel; May 7- Bill Larson; May 8- Chris Perrin; May 9- Joanne Burgeson, Terry Graybill, Jacob Lewis; May 11- Donna Janssen, Karla Lundy; May 12- Jen Boger, Mark Segar, Tony Taylor; May 14- Annabelle Prunty; May 15- Don Bright, Norma Reinholdt; May 16- Madison Woodall; May 17- Ashton Beazley, Kip Nelson; May 18- Jodi Mongan; May 20- Christie Geerdes; May 23- Tyler Klotz; May 24- Tru Timmerman; May 27- Thianna Schuknecht; May 29- Derrick Sleezer



**Anniversaries:** May 5- Gary & Anne Borcharding; May 8- Brian & Lorri Winterhoff; May 20- Kevin & JoAnne Tapper; May 21- Brad & Chris Nelson



**Lectors Needed for May:** Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to read at the following Saturdays and Sundays in May: *May 9, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, and 31*. If interested, 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.



**Graduating Seniors:** On May 10, Bethlehem will be honoring the following graduating seniors: Mason Campbell (parents- Allen & Nicole Campbell), Maeryn Cedar (parents- Josh & Kristin Cedar), Joe Pitts (parents- Dan & Audrey Pitts), Dayn Simonsen (parents- Cody & Jill Simonsen), and Grace Woodall (parents- Jerry & Kathy Woodall). Card baskets will be set out, and cake and refreshments will be served after the service.



**Address for Pat Hyndman:** Patrick Hyndman  
1121 W Cherry St  
Cherokee, IA 51012



**Vacation Bible School:** Bethlehem will partner again this year with the Presbyterian Church for Vacation Bible School. It will be June 22-26 from 9am – 12noon at the Presbyterian Church. We are still looking for a preschool teacher and helpers. If interested, please let Karen Ferris (221-7580) or Connie Ladwig (229-5535) know.



**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!



**Thank You:** Thank you for the blue bike. I like it a lot. -Jacob Koch



## Evangelism In Action

Our **April Welcome Plate** meal was held on **Saturday, April 25th from Noon-1:00 pm**. Jim and Connie Mohn lead devotions at 11:45 am. We served taverns or coney's, potato salad or chips, baked beans, cookies 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 85, including 18 deliveries and 20 carry outs. Our guests were welcomed by Don Tisthammer and our church family 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 **May Welcome Plate Meal** will be held on **Thursday, May 21st from 5:30-6:30 pm**. Notice the change back to our summer schedule. We will be serving walking tacos 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!

On **Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**, we will be hosting a Free Laundry Day at the Laundry Room from **10:00-2:00 pm**. We will pay each person who comes into the laundry at those times to do their laundry. Treats will also be available for them to enjoy! It's always a fun day as we surprise them when they come in!

If you'd like to join our committee, we now meet on the **third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 am** in the Library. We have changed our time, so that Pastor Alan can attend. Perhaps this time will work better for you as well! We'd love to have additional members who would like to become involved in the events that we plan each month.



## LUTHERAN WORLD RELIEF QUILTS AND KITS FOR 2025

Lutheran World Relief started collecting quilts and kits 80 years ago to send around the world to ensure that our neighbors in crisis would be the first to receive a gift of love to bring them comfort and the promise of a brighter tomorrow. Bethlehem Lutheran has been donating to that cause for many years.

One year ago, Lutheran World Relief opened a new chapter by expanding our Ministry to our neighbors in crisis here at home. In addition to those abroad we are supporting those who have experienced hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and wildfires in 12 states here in the U.S. 21 containers of quilts and kits were shipped, and over \$1 million in cash grants were distributed.

There are two warehouses; one in Minnesota and one in Maryland. From there the quilts and kits are shipped to 15 countries around the world.

Each year, on the first Saturday of May, an in-gathering is held in Spencer so that all of the churches in this area can bring all of the quilts and kits that have been made and collected that year. This year, Heiter Trucking, Inc. of Spencer will be providing a truck and deliver them to South St. Paul. Our WELCA group donates \$100 as a “love” offering to help with the transportation costs.

This year our church members donated a RECORD number of items to take to the in-gathering on **Saturday, May 2<sup>ND</sup>!**

With God’s help and the servant hearts of Jim and Connie Christ Care group; including Bill and Mary Larson, Sandy Gustafson, and Ellen Peters, they donated **334 Health Care Kits! 23 boxes!**

### Assembling Personal Care Kits

Include the following items in each Personal Care Kit:

- One light- to medium-weight, bath-size towel (approximately 52”X 27” or smaller), dark color recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of soap, any brand, in original wrapping
- One adult-size toothbrush in its original packaging\*
- One sturdy comb, remove packaging
- One metal nail clippers

**Thank you so much for your amazing donation to Lutheran World Relief!!!**



We also had a record number of **106 Baby Care Kits, that’s 17 boxes** donated by Lori Thomas! She spent countless hours sewing diapers out of T-shirts, sewing receiving blankets, and shopping for the many supplies to include in those! She accomplished to do this by herself! Lori, you are a blessing to SO MANY MOTHERS WITH YOUR LABOR OF LOVE THAT YOU HAVE PUT INTO EACH KIT! Thank you So Much!

### Baby Care Kits

Include the following items:

- Two lightweight cotton t-shirts
- Two long- or short sleeved gowns or sleepers (without feet)
- Two receiving blankets, medium-weight cotton or flannel, or crocheted or knitted with light-

weight yarn, up to 52" square

- Four cloth diapers, flat fold preferred
- One jacket, sweater or sweatshirt with a hood, or include a baby cap
- Two pairs of socks
- One hand towel, dark colored recommended
- Two bath-size bars (4 to 5 oz.) of gentle soap, In original wrapper
- Two diaper pins or large safety pins

Our WELCA ladies and many members of Bethlehem also donated for a record number of **106 School Kits, filling 9 boxes!**

### **School Kits**

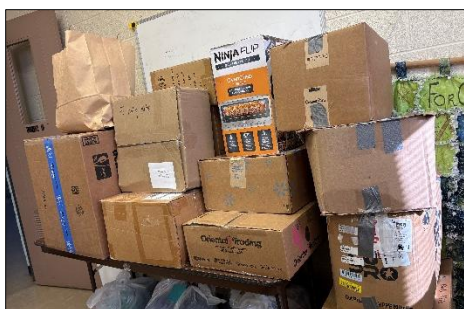
Include the following items:

- Four 70-sheet notebooks of wide- or college-ruled paper approximately 8"x10 1/2"; no loose-leaf paper
- One 30-centimeter ruler, or a ruler with centimeters on one side and inches on the other.
- One pencil sharpener
- One blunt scissors (safety scissors work)
- Five unsharpened #2 pencils with erasers
- Five black or blue ballpoint pens (no gel)
- One box of 16 or 24 crayons
- One 2 1/2" eraser
- One sturdy drawstring backpack-style cloth bag approximately 14"x 17" with shoulder straps



**Thanks to everyone who helped by donating items for those kits!**

Last but not least, our Workshop ladies have put together several quilts this year. That group of ladies meet the third Wednesday of every month to tie the quilts. Several women sew the tops at home for us to tie and then take them back home to sew the binding around them, after they are tied. This year we were pleased to have made **25 quilts**. **Thanks to all of the ladies who took time to help make those!**



## May Volunteers & Sponsors

### Sunday Lectors:

May 3: Chris Nelson  
May 10: Dave Zelle  
May 17:  
May 24:  
May 31:

### Saturday Lectors:

May 2: Bill Larson  
May 9:  
May 16:  
May 23:  
May 30:

### Altar Flowers:

May 3: Jim & Connie Mohn  
May 10:  
May 17:  
May 24: Jim & Connie Mohn  
May 31:

### Bethlehem On the Air:

May 3: Sandy Gustafson  
May 10: Jim & Connie Mohn  
May 17: Jim & Connie Mohn  
May 24: Kevin & JoAnne Tapper  
May 31: Bob & Mary Hahn

### Mission Support:

May 3: WELCA  
May 10: Bob & Mary Hahn  
May 17:  
May 24: Bob & Mary Hahn  
May 31:

### World Hunger:

May 3: WELCA  
May 10: Dave & Connie Ladwig  
May 17: Matt & Jodi Mongan  
May 24:  
May 31:



# Easter Egg Hunt





**May 2026 MEETING DATES:**

Executive Board Meeting- May 3- After the church service in the library

**Anna** Group- May 13, Lynde Lundquist, 9:30 in the library

**Vashti/Esther** Group- May 13, Annabelle Prunty, 1:30 in the library

**Lydia** Group-May 12, Pat Friedrichsen, 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall

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

**Quilting- May 20-** 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.

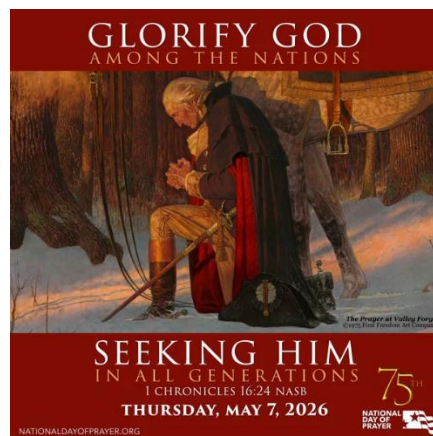
**Personal/Health Kits** - Please help us make some personal/health kits. Bath towel- dark in color and 2 bath size bars of soap.

**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.

On Saturday, May 2, Bethlehem workers will be taking the kits and quilts to Spencer. Thanks to all who donated this year. We have an amazing amount of boxes! Thanks to those who packed, weighed, and delivered them. Bethlehem has been a great supporter of Lutheran World Relief. Watch for a report to come on the amount we gave.

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



Father, I dedicate this month of May into Your loving hands. Bless my steps, guide my decisions, and surround me with Your favor. Let Your peace rest upon my home and Your wisdom lead me daily. Remove every hindrance that stands against Your purpose for my life. Fill my days with joy, strength, and divine protection. Thank You for going before me and preparing a blessed and fruitful month.  
Amen.

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church**  
**Cherokee, Iowa**

**MEETING:** **Church Council Meeting**  
**DATE/TIME:** **Thursday, April 9, 2026**  
**MEMBERS PRESENT:** **Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Karen Ferris, Jodi Mongan**

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** **Mike Niemeier, Kaleb Sleezer, Allen Campbell**  
**OTHERS PRESENT:** **Jim Mohn, Pastor Alan Cummins**  
**OTHERS ABSENT:** **None**  
**GUESTS PRESENT:** **None**  
**PRESIDING:** **Kevin Tapper**  
**RECORDING:** **Linzi Bierman**

<b><u>AGENDA</u></b>	<b><u>DISCUSSION</u></b>	<b><u>RESPONSIBILITY</u></b>
<b><u>Call to Order</u></b>	Meeting called to order by Chairperson Kevin Tapper at 6:34 pm	
<b><u>Approve Agenda</u></b>	Motion to approve agenda by Kelley, second by Jodi: motion carried	
<b><u>Devotions</u></b>	Devotions by Pastor Alan based on Corinthians 12:12, Easter promise: the risen Christ is known through a living body. Resurrection means renewal is possible; life, not death, has the final word.	Devotions for Apr by Pastor Alan .
<b><u>Secretary's Report</u></b>	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
<b><u>Financial Report</u></b>	March Operating Revenue: \$16,326.89; March Operating Expenses: \$17,534.00; Net: (\$1,207.11). Year to Date Operating Revenue: \$54,034.17; Year to Date Operating Expenses: \$45,897.54; Net: \$8,136.63. Certificates of Deposit have been renewed as determined in March Council meeting. Motion to approve Treasurer's report by Jody, second by Karen; motion carried.	
<b><u>Correspondence</u></b>	<b>-Received from:</b> Cherokee Fireman's Dance letter, Thank yous from Lakeside Camp and Shelley Baker family. Motion to donate \$200 to fire department by Karen, second by Kelley; motion carried	
<b><u>Pastor's Report</u></b>	*People enjoyed lent services being downstairs, has a cozy feel. *New family wants to join, Jillian Hare – was a member previously. Youngest child being baptized on Saturday (Apr 11) *Some kids have not had their first communion yet as there was no pastor here. Anyone old enough to start communion can come see Pastor Alan. *Have had a lot of comments from people about the radio ad. *Schedule: April 25 <sup>th</sup> and 26 <sup>th</sup> Sarah Morphew will do the service. Pastor Alan is gone. May 8 <sup>th</sup> and 9 <sup>th</sup> , graduations- Pastor can do service on Sunday but not Saturday night. Don will do Saturday night as well as April 18 <sup>th</sup> .	

<p><b><u>New Business</u></b></p> <p><b><u>Old Business</u></b></p>	<p>*Evangelism to change meeting time to 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday @ 11 after quilting.  *July 11<sup>th</sup>, there is a funeral lunch and a wedding. Pastor will not be able to do Saturday night service.</p> <p><b>Coffee Machine-</b> Multiple emails have been sent back and forth trying to get this issue resolved. Currently waiting to hear back from BUNN</p> <p><b>Credit Card-</b> Remove Kelley, add Linzi to church credit card.</p>	
<p><b><u>Committee Reports</u></b></p>	<p><b>Christian Ed</b> – May 10<sup>th</sup> will be honoring the graduating seniors</p> <p><b>Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions</b> – Welcome Plate on Apr 25<sup>th</sup>- taverns, coney dogs, chips, potato salad, and ice cream planned. March Welcome Plate brought in \$142 in donations and served 95 people. Will switch to Thursdays in May. May Welcome Plate will be walking tacos, fruit salad, and cookies. In June will start grilling through September. Free Laundry Day on May 2<sup>nd</sup>. Will deliver quilts, baby, and health kits to Spencer in May.</p> <p><b>Spiritual Formation</b> – Met on the 8<sup>th</sup>, usually meet on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday. Currently focusing on little miracles.</p>	
<p><b><u>Communion Schedule</u></b></p>	<p>May 2- <b>Kevin</b>  May 3- <b>Karen, Jody, Kelley</b>  May 16-  May 17- <b>Karen, Jody</b></p>	
<p><b><u>Adjournment</u></b></p>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Karen, second by Jody; motion carried.  Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	<p>Next meeting Thursday,  May 14 @ 6:30 pm</p>



# Vacation Bible School



June 22-26  
9:00-12:00



Hosted by

Memorial Presbyterian & Bethlehem

Lutheran Church

at 127 E Willow St, Cherokee, IA 51012



Call: (712) 229 1868



or



Scan:

<https://bit.ly/30jWV03>

to register

for free



# Welcome Plate

## Free Community Meal



Thursday, May 21 • 5:30 - 6:30 pm

Devotions • 5:15 pm

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

300 E Bow Drive (lower level)

*Everyone is welcome!*

Food Pantry and Clothing Closet  
will be open during this time



*class of*  
**2026**

*congratulations and happy graduation*

**Mason Campbell**

**Maeryn Cedar**

**Joe Pitts**

**Dayn Simonsen**

**Grace Woodall**