

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026



Birthdays: June 4- Jennifer Buenger; June 5- Vicky Brodale, June 6- Dallas Boger, Greg Miller, Joe Pitts; June 7- Macie Gum; June 8- Jim Mohn, Mona Pomerence, Bethany Woltman; June 9- Jerry Bengtson; June 10- Bella Ahlers, Niels Lundsgaard, Cody Simonsen; June 11- Barb Kindwall, Heidi Letsche, Julia Letsche; June 13- Duane Henke; June 15- Kelly Clark, Mary Hahn; June 16- Zona Carlson; June 20- Bruce Jones; June 21- Christie Geerdes; June 22- Linda Peterson, Brianna Sleezer, Lorri Winterhoff; June 26- Kiley Schoen; June 27- Wayne Cave; June 28- Robert Allen, Jane Rasmus; June 29- Jay Schoen, Darren Zwielfel



Anniversaries: June 2- Jim & Brenda Perrin; June 5- Gary & Lynde Lundquist, Matt & Jodi Mongan, Steve & Barb Schuck; June 7- Allen & Nicole Campbell; June 11- Dave & Jean Van Natta; June 12- Clarence & Koreen Anderson; June 14- Jason & Jill Bird; June 15- Bill & Mary Larson; June 23- Bruce & Deena Jones, Don & Trish Tisthammer; June 25- Wally Jr. & Mary Ann Miller; June 27- Terry & Donna Janssen, Kyle & Penny Pingrey; June 29- Todd & Tina Larsen; June 30- Tyler & Jessica Kannegeiter



Lectors Needed for June: Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to read at the following Saturdays in June: *June 20 and 27*. If interested, please sign up on the sheet in the or contact the office.

Financial Update: A word of ‘thanks’ to the members of Bethlehem for their continued generous financial support. During the first months of 2026, it is gratifying to note that revenue has exceeded expenses. Members are encouraged to continue their financial support through the summer, thus allowing Bethlehem to avoid the “summer slump” of financial giving. – Church Council



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.

2026 Church Scholarship Recipients: Congratulations to the following scholarship recipients – 2026 graduates: Mason Campbell and Maeryn Cedar; Prior graduates: Julia Letsche, Tru Timmerman, Heidi Letsche, Aubrey Kannegieter, and Gavin Sleezer



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

Music Announcement: Pastor Alan is planning to get together some people who would like to form a very informal “choir,” that would assist in singing some verses in the hymns during the service. We are unsure when to begin, but more information



will be coming. Think about it as we are trying to be creative in adding to the musical experience during our worship services.



Seniors Mason Campbell, Dayn Simonsen, and Maeryn Cedar were honored during worship service on May 10th. Not pictured: Joe Pitts and Grace Woodall. Congratulations to the class of 2026!

Evangelism In Action

Our **May Welcome Plate** meal was held on **Thursday, May 21st from 5:30-6:30 pm.** We served walking tacos, fruit salad, ice cream treats, 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 81, including 28 deliveries and 10 carry outs. Our guests were welcomed by 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 **June Welcome Plate Meal** will be held on **Thursday, June 25th from 5:30-6:30 pm.** Notice the change back to our summer schedule. We will be grilling hamburgers, hot dogs, and brats 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 2nd**, hosted a Free Laundry Day at the Laundry Room from **10:00-2:00 pm.** We surprised several people as they came in the door to do their laundry! We put the quarters in the machine as each person put in their laundry. Treats were also available for them to enjoy! It's always a fun day to surprise them when they come in and visit with them while they are there!

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.

June Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

June 7: Kelley Clausen
June 14: Dave Zelle
June 21: Dave Zelle
June 28: Chris Nelson

Saturday Lectors:

June 6: Harry Bradstreet
June 13: Harry Bradstreet
June 20:
June 27:

Altar Flowers:

June 7: Matt & Jodi Mongan
June 14: Bill & Mary Larson
June 21:
June 28: Bob & Karen Ferris

Bethlehem On the Air:

June 7: Gary & Lynde Lundquist
June 14:
June 21: Sandy Gustafson
June 28: Bob & Karen Ferris

Mission Support:

June 7: Gary & Lynde Lundquist
June 14: WELCA
June 21:
June 28:

World Hunger:

June 7:
June 14: WELCA
June 21:
June 28:

Mowing Schedule:

May 31-June 6: Denny Allen
June 7-13:
June 14-20: Matt Mongan
June 21-27: Bob & Karen Ferris
June 28-July 4:



June 2026 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- June 7- After the church service in the library

Anna Group- June 10, Lynde Lundquist, 9:30 in the library

Vashti/Esther Group- June 10, Mary Hahn, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group-June 9, JoAnne Tapper, 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Quilting- June 17- 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.

It's a New Year! Start collecting, sewing, and giving. Personal/Health Kits will be stored in the Confirmation Room as they are completed. Quilts and School Kits can also be stored there when complete. (new shelves) We will then be able to use Room B for our workshops and clothing donated.

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 May. If you'd like to help in June, 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.

Watch for a summer retreat or gathering! See an Executive Board Leader if you'd like to go to a Convention or to the Triennial Conference in Des Moines. This would be a great opportunity since it is so close and it is in Iowa!



June 20, 2026

Western Iowa Synodical Women's Organization Convention

Go and Do Likewise! Luke 10:37b

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, 1011 E 13th St. Atlantic, Ia 50022

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: **Church Council Meeting**
DATE/TIME: **Thursday, May 14, 2026**
MEMBERS PRESENT: **Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Karen Ferris, Jodi Mongan, Mike Niemeier, Kaleb Sleezer, Allen Campbell**

MEMBERS ABSENT: None
OTHERS PRESENT: **Jim Mohn, Pastor Alan Cummins**
OTHERS ABSENT: None
GUESTS PRESENT: None
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 Jodi; motion carried	
Devotions	Devotions by Pastor Alan based on waiting for God's timing	Devotions for May by Pastor Alan .
Secretary's Report	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
Financial Report	April Operating Revenue: \$23,318.02; Operating Expenses: \$19,718.54; Net: \$3599.48. Year to Date Operating Revenue: \$77,352.19; Operating Expenses: \$65,636.08; Net: \$11,716.11. Motion to approve Financial Report by Kelley, second by Karen; motion carried.	

Correspondence

Pastor’s Report

-Received from: None

Interest in starting a small, informal choir, working with Worship and Music Committee. July 11th, we have two funerals and a wedding, will need someone to do Saturday night service- Kevin will look for someone. Pastor would like to start Bible Class after Sunday Worship this fall- will look at calendar for a good day when other groups aren’t meeting. Ministerial Association is meeting at Bethlehem on Monday May 18. They have access to funds to help locals who need small amounts for things like food, gas, lodging, can call Pastor Alan’s cell phone. June 15th, Pastor Alan cannot be in the office.

New Business

East Hill- Volunteers do not like mowing the East Hill. Suggestion was made to plant CRP grass, but city will not allow that due to height limits.

All Welcome Statement- Will change in the bulletin to convey that all denominations are welcome to join for communion so visitors are aware. Remove paragraph from announcements, and add this information on Communion days to make clearer.

Sound system- Tech was here, a lot of our equipment is up to date, but the mics are not. Buzzing noise could not be replicated. Getting quotes for new wireless mics, new tech for hearing issues, and new over-ear pastor mic.

Old Business

Elevator Not Working- Elevator worked last Sunday but did not work the week before. Pin was out of place, Todd Anderson was able to fix.

Coffee Machine- Were not able to replicate problem. Repair Tech showed how to shut off when over flowing, next time it happens, take picture to send to them.

Credit Card- Linzi has been added to BLC credit card. Kelley to keep hers also.

Scholarships – Have decided to give all applicants the same amount (7 recipients, \$725 each). Jim will write the checks. Motion to approve scholarships as reflected by Kelley, second by Mike; motion carried.

Committee Reports

Property- Received two estimates on concrete for back lot- \$26,388 and \$35,825. Also got estimate on installing windows and to fix the wood and match the brick instead of using tin. Total of approximately \$1400/window. Motion to use Ruth Anderson CD to pay for Mike Mummert to replace cement, and Benson Construction and Loucks Masonry to do the windows by Allen, second by Karen; motion carried.

W&M- Christian flag has disappeared, recommend purchasing a new flag. Motion to use \$200 for a new flag by Allen, second by Kelley; motion carried. Also discussed Easter/Holy Week and the Summer Bash.

Endowment-

Christian Ed – Had last meeting two weeks ago, next week will do bags with a flyer for VBS to give out during rodeo parade. VBS this year, June 22-26, 9am-noon at Memorial Presbyterian Church. Looking for teachers and helpers. YouNite to start back at Bethlehem in September

	<p>Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions –</p> <p>Finance-</p> <p>Donations/Gifts/Memorial-</p> <p>Stewardship-</p> <p>Spiritual Formation – Finishing Chapter 5 of book on faith and angels among us, will finish the rest of the book next fall.</p>	
<u>Communion Schedule</u>	<p>May 16- Karen</p> <p>May 17- Karen, Jodi, Mike, Kaleb</p> <p>June 6- Kevin</p> <p>June 7- Kaleb, Kelley, Mike, Karen (Jodi around if needed)</p>	
<u>Adjournment</u>	<p>Motion to adjourn by Kelley, second by Allen; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.</p>	Next meeting Thursday, June 11 @ 6:30 pm



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/3QjWV03>
 to register
 for free



Welcome Plate



Free Community Meal



Thursday, June 25 • 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

