

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2026



Birthdays: July 1- Roger Anderson, Beau Kannegieter; July 2- Abbigayle VandeLune; July 3- Amaya Hammond; July 4- Todd Anderson; July 5- Kristin Cedar, Bev Drefke, Rhonda Peterson; July 9- Ryder Mortenson; July 10- Bruce Schuknecht; July 11- Landon Hare, Dan Pitts; July 12- Noah Fuller; July 13- Kimberly 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- Ed 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 25- Tim & Lori LaFave; July 28- Larry & Val Carlson



Lectors Needed for July: Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to read the scriptures for the month of July. Lectors are needed for **July 12, 19, & 26**. If interested, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or contact Linzi in the office.

Save The Date: The annual special summer bash will be held on Sunday, August 30th at the church. There will be activities for the kids, food, entertainment, and a short worship time. This should be a great time for all ages. More details to follow.



Congregational Meeting: There will be a congregational meeting after worship service on July 12 to discuss updating the sound system, concrete for the East parking lot, and installation of kitchen and youth room windows.



Independence Day Observance: The office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd, and there will **not** be a Saturday night service on July 4th, in observance of Independence Day. Join us Sunday, July 5th, instead!

Installation for Pastor Cummins: Installation for Pastor Alan Cummins will take place on Sunday, July 19th, with a meal to following in the Fellowship Hall. **Please Note: there will NOT be service on Saturday, July 18th.*



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



Welcome Plate Meal Deliveries: We have lost a faithful servant of God at our Welcome Plate Meals. For many years, Hank Hayes, has helped deliver meals to members of our church and community, a job he looked forward to every month! He will be missed by everyone! Peace to his memory! We are now seeking to find someone to take his place. If you would be interested in helping with that, please contact Pat Friedrichsen.

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.



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!

Altar Flowers: Those who provide the altar flowers for Sunday’s services can take the flowers home or distribute them however they’d like. After Sunday, they will be available in the Narthex.



Evangelism In Action

Our **June Welcome Plate** meal was held on **Thursday, June 25th from 5:30-6:30 pm.** We served grilled hamburgers, jumbo hot dogs, brats, chips, cole slaw, Frito corn salad, watermelon, 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 96, including 18 deliveries and 13 carry outs. It was a great turnout and a wonderful time of fellowship! Jesus was helping us to share the love of the Lord!

Thank you so much for your generous donations to Papa’s Pantry! We are now in need of donations, as they have been slowing down the last couple of months. If you are out shopping, please consider donating any of these items: cereal, oatmeal, pasta sauce, peanut butter, jelly, juices, pickles, soups, canned spaghetti, snack crackers, snack bars, pudding mixes, cake mixes, frosting, pickles, ketchup, mustard, BBQ sauce, salad dressing, muffin mixes, sugar, brown sugar, baking soda, salt, pepper, canned tuna or chicken, canned fruit, kidney beans, pork and beans, gravy, mashed potato packets, egg noodles, chips, pretzels, or anything you choose. A container is in the Narthex, so you can place your items in that container. 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 **July Welcome Plate Meal** will be held on **Thursday, July 30th from 5:30-6:30 pm.** We will again 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 missing Hank Hayes who helped with deliveries for many years, a job he looked forward to every month! If you would be willing to take his place, please contact Pat Friedrichsen.

On **Sunday, August 30th**, we will be hosting our **Summer Bash**, again this year! Kids games will start at 2:00 pm., the Anthon Community Band will play in the Sanctuary at 4:30 pm., and supper will follow in the Fellowship Hall. Save the date, and be watching for further details. Invite your friends to come!!

If you’d like to join our committee, we meet on the **third Wednesday of the month at 11:00 am** in the Fellowship Hall. We’d love to have additional members who would like to become involved in the events that we plan each month.



Wayne Cave celebrated his 99th birthday on Saturday, June 27th before chapel services.



June Welcome Plate



July Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

July 5: Dave Zelle
July 12:
July 19:
July 26:

Saturday Lectors:

July 4: No Service
July 11: Bill Larson
July 18: No Service
July 25: Bill Larson

Altar Flowers:

July 5: Matt & Jodi Mongan
July 12: Caryl Lee Cline
July 19: Sandy Gustafson
July 26: Brent & Mary Peterson

Bethlehem On the Air:

July 5: Todd & Sheila Anderson
July 12: Bob & Mary Hahn
July 19: Phyllis Conley
July 26: Jim & Connie Mohn

Mission Support:

July 5: WELCA
July 12:
July 19:
July 26:

World Hunger:

July 5: WELCA
July 12:
July 19:
July 26:

Mowing Schedule:

June 28-July 4: Todd Anderson & Brayden Schoenfeld
July 5-11: Matt Mongan
July 12-18:
July 19-25: Matt Mongan
July 16-Aug 8: Todd Anderson & Brayden Schoenfeld



July 2026 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- July 5- After the church service in the library

Anna Group- No meeting

Vashti/Esther Group- July 8, Ellen Peters, 1:30 in the library

Lydia Group-July 14, Potluck, bring a snack to share, 3:30 in the Fellowship Hall

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

Quilting- July 15, 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 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 Lynde Lundquist, Marlin Saeger or Lynette Hyndman.

Watch for a summer retreat or gathering! Our plan now is to have a Brunch on August 12 at 10:00. If you have a great idea for activities or food, please tell someone on the Executive Board. We will invite friends from other churches as well.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: **Church Council Meeting**
DATE/TIME: **Thursday, June 11, 2026**
MEMBERS
PRESENT: Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Jodi Mongan, Mike Niemeier, Kaleb Sleezer, Allen Campbell

MEMBERS

ABSENT: Karen Ferris
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 6:30 pm	
Approve Agenda	Motion to approve agenda by Allen, second by Kelley; motion carried	
Devotions	Devotions by Pastor Alan based on the courage to act without hesitation when called by God.	Devotions for May by Pastor Alan .
Secretary's Report	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
Financial Report	May Operating Revenue: \$14,360.16; Operating Expenses: \$13,743.24; Net: \$616.92. Year to Date Operating Revenue: \$91,712.35; Operating Expenses: \$79,299.32; Net: \$12,413.03. Motion to approve Financial Report by Allen, second by Jodi; motion carried.	

	Stewardship- Spiritual Formation –	
<u>Communion Schedule</u>	June 20- Kevin June 21- Allen, Kelley, July 5- Allen, Kaleb, July 11- July 19- Kaleb, Mike, Jodi, Allen	
<u>Adjournment</u>	Motion to adjourn by Jodi, second by Allen; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer.	Next meeting Thursday, July 9 @ 6:30 pm



Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Thursday, July 30 • 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

