

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2026



Birthdays: Sept 4- Mya Hare, Conley Anderson, Marcia Henke, Jessica Kannegieter; Sept 5- Pastor Alan Cummins; Sept 7- Dave Drefke; Sept 8- Erich Saeger; Sept 9- Julie Bofenkamp, Alivia Hammond; Sept 10- Brian Winterhof; Sept 11- Seth Reinholdt, Cheryle Wenck; Sept 13- Braxten Hoepfner, Kendra Husman, Lori LaFave; Sept 14- Sarah Cummins; Sept 15- Tina Anderson; Sept 16- Michael Niemeier, Patrick Paulsrud; Sept 17- Jean Doherty; Sept 18- Braylund Hoepfner; Sept 19- Pat Anderson, Mason Campbell, Colton Woltman; Sept 20- Tyler Lundsgaard; Sept 21- Harry Bradstreet, Deena Jones, Richard Waterbury; Sept 22- Milly Kleihauer, Tim Tapper; Sept 24- Josh Cedar; Sept 25- Tion Schuknecht; Sept 27- Autumn Welch; Sept 29- Daxton Ebert



Anniversaries: September 3- Darren & Stacey Zwiefel; September 14- Simon & Karlee Fuller, Jerry & Kathy Woodall; September 20- Luke & Cassie Klaschen, Brent & Mary Peterson



Lectors Needed for September: Bethlehem is looking for volunteers to read the scriptures for the month of September. Lectors are needed for **September 13, 20, 26, and 27**. If interested, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex, or contact Linzi in the office.

YouNite News: As we are starting on our 5th year sharing with the Presbyterian church with our youth program, they have decided that our program needed to be revamped. When we started YouNite each church had about 19 volunteers each and about 16-19 kids each. Thru the years our volunteers and kids from Bethlehem have dwindled and theirs have stayed about the same. This last year they had 16 volunteers and we had 4, and they had 16 kids and we had 5. So starting this year, Presbyterian church will be hosting the Wednesday night program for the year. Christian Ed. Has decided that we will still be involved at this time, until we can grow our youth attendance at our church. At that time we may have enough kids to do our own thing at our church. We will still help and provide a few meals and encourage our kids to still participate at the Presbyterian church on Wednesday nights, 5:30-7pm. Also over the last few years, the name YouNite has been confused with the Cherokee Unite page on face book. So the name has been changed to GOTCHA (God of Teens, Children and Adults).



Confirmation Classes: Confirmation classes will start September 9th, and will be in the Library from 6:30-7:30pm each week. Please encourage any children from 7th grade up into High School to attend, if they may have need of being confirmed. We will be doing a one-year complete curriculum, as has been done recently at the church, and Pastor Alan will teach the classes.

Casual Choir Starting in September: Every third Sunday, starting September 20, the second hymn will be sung partly by the congregation, and partly by our new little casual choir. Please come early that Sunday at 9 and practice for a little bit to become familiar. On Sept 20, we will sing • ***Lord, Whose Love in Humble Service*** (ELW 712) (1,3 Congregation, 2,4 Choir). If you like singing, and wish to sing the melody or tenor, bass, or alto, I will pick songs easy to sing. If you don't need to practice, just come and join us to sing the hymn



after the sermon on those Sundays, over by the piano. Thanks to all who can participate because a little extra music will add meaning and depth to our worship service. Pastor Alan



Mowers Needed in September: The mowing sign up sheet has three open weeks in the month of September. If you are interested in volunteering to mow, please sign up on the sheet in the Narthex. The Property Committee greatly appreciates these volunteers!

Spiritual Formation: The Spiritual Formation sessions will begin on Sunday, September 13 in the library after worship. There are very interesting discussions that happen each time, and it is great to join other Bethlehem members to share our faith, ask questions, and learn new things. We enjoy the serious times together but we also enjoy the laughter we share! We will study the book, *A Tree Full of Angels*, by Macrina Wiederkehr. So come to the library for a cup of coffee and join us as we settle in for a great hour together! Please contact Vicky Brodale (sppath@gmail.com or 712-229-0064) if you have any questions



Evangelism In Action

Our **August Welcome Plate** meal was held on **Thursday, August 27th from 5:30-6:30 pm.** We served grilled hamburgers, jumbo hot dogs, brats, ramen noodle coleslaw, chips, ice cream floats, 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! It was wonderful to have Pastor Alan, Renata, Sarah, and baby Cecelia with us and helping out, also! We served 122, including 21 deliveries and 32 carry outs. It was a great turnout, with many new faces, 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 **still in need** of donations, as our guests have been showing a real need at this time! 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 **September Welcome Plate Meal** will be held **on Thursday, September 24th 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.

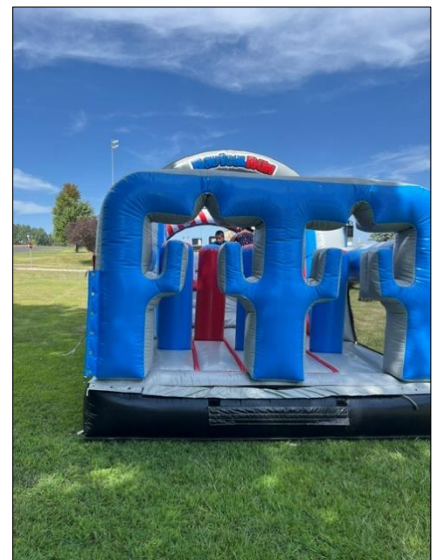
On **Sunday, August 30th**, we hosted our **Summer Bash**, again this year! Kids games started at 2:00 pm., the Anthon City Band played in the Sanctuary at 4:30 pm., and supper followed in the Fellowship Hall. We had a great turnout and lots of fun was had by all! Every child was able to win a cake in the popular Cake Walk! Many enjoyed a time of fellowship and we welcomed nearly 120 for a free supper! Thanks to all who helped make this event a success!

If you'd like to join our committee, we meet on the 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.

Welcome Plate



Summer Bash





September Volunteers & Sponsors

Sunday Lectors:

Sept 6: Dave Zelle
Sept 13:
Sept 20:
Sept 27:

Saturday Lectors:

Sept 5: Harry Bradstreet
Sept 12: JoAnne Tapper
Sept 19: Harry Bradstreet
Sept 26:

Altar Flowers:

Sept 6:
Sept 13: Sandy Gustafson
Sept 20: Brent & Mary Peterson
Sept 27:

Bethlehem On the Air:

Sept 6: Pat & Lynette Hyndman
Sept 13:
Sept 20: Kevin & JoAnne Tapper
Sept 27:

Mission Support:

Sept 6: WELCA
Sept 13:
Sept 20:
Sept 27: Lynn & Pat Friedrichsen

World Hunger:

Sept 6: WELCA
Sept 13:
Sept 20:
Sept 27:

Mowing Schedule:

Aug 30- Sept 5: Bob & Karen Ferris
Sept 6-12:
Sept 13-19:
Sept 20-26:



September 2026 MEETING DATES:

Executive Board Meeting- September 6, after the church service in the library

Anna Group- September 9, 9:30, Vicky Brodale

Vashti/Esther Group- September 9, 1:30, Patty Garriott

Lydia Group- September 8, 4:00, Connie Ladwig

All are welcome at our group meetings. We'd love to have more fellow Christians participate. This month we will all meet together.

Quilting- September 16, 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. We'll do the 1st Lesson 1 in Fall Magazine

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

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 August. If you'd like to help in September, 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.

Thanks to all who helped at the Summer Brunch- Joy in the Morning and Fireworks at Night. We hope everyone got their Diamond Art Flower/Fireworks Magnet done.

Thanks also to those who helped at the Summer Bash!



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Cherokee, Iowa

MEETING: **Church Council Meeting**
DATE/TIME: **Thursday, August 13, 2026**
MEMBERS
PRESENT: Kevin Tapper, Kelley Clausen, Jodi Mongan, , Kaleb Sleezer, Allen Campbell

MEMBERS
ABSENT: Karen Ferris, Mike Niemeier
OTHERS PRESENT: Jim Mohn,
OTHERS ABSENT: Pastor Alan Cummins
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 Jim Mohn based on Matthew 15:21-28.- who's in and who's out. We don't decide that, Jesus does.	Devotions for Aug by Pastor Alan .
Secretary's Report	Minutes approved electronically	Council members to text approval or email approval to Linzi
Financial Report	July Operating Revenue: \$11,878.06; Operating Expenses: \$17,701.76; Net loss: (\$5,823.70). YTD Operating Revenue: \$145,541.23; Expenses: \$111,436.26; Net: \$34,104.87. Note- there were 3 payrolls in July, not 2 increasing the normal monthly payroll cost by roughly \$5,500. Motion to approve report by Allen, Second by Jodi, motion carried.	
<u>Correspondence</u>	Received from: Graduate thank yous, Thank you from Ruth Hanson's family, notice to trim the trees from the city, letter from Lakeside Camp- funding campaign to repair sewer infrastructure.	
<u>Pastor's Report</u>	No report	
<u>New Business</u>	Insurance- Review of insurance quotes for 2026-2027. Cost has decreased from last year. Motion by Allen to go with Quote 3- lowers deductible to \$25,000 from \$50,000 and increases the percentage insured from 80% to 90% (\$1,709 decrease from last year's cost). Second by Kaleb; motion carried. Motion by Kelley for Jim and Linzi to call Church Mutual and find out what is required to make changes. Second by Allen; motion carried. Choir & Confirmation- both are to start in September. Announcement to go in bulletin.	

<u>Old Business</u>	Rate Change- Email received from the Synod that mileage rates have increased from 72.5 cents/mile to 76 cents/mile. Motion by Kaleb to approve change, Second by Allen; motion carried. Will need to pay Chuck Wolff the difference in mileage due to these changes. Roof- Brentwood will be here to look at the roof on Monday (8/17)	
<u>Committee Reports</u>	Property- Still need to call on chair lift. Cement work has started- cost to come out of CD (Ruth Anderson Estate- matures 9/2026). Windows- going to get 2 more, Benson will start on installation. Bricks may take awhile. MidStates Audio sent contracts for e-signature. Original quote was from 2024, costs have gone up. Some changes were also made to the original package by Bill. Current cost: Video: \$80,996.80; Audio- \$21,197.29. MidStates Audio needs ½ down- \$51,000. Motion to e-sign contracts and move forward by Jodi, Second by Kelley; motion carried. Motion to take \$50,000 out of Trivent and use \$1,000 from operating for down payment by Allen, Second by Kaleb; motion carried. W&M- Summer Bash- had Temple Talk last weekend. Pastor Wolff challenged everyone to bring one person with them. Choir will start in September. Endowment- Christian Ed – Connie, Rose, and Karen met with YouNite coordinators from Memorial Presbyterian Church. They’ve decided to host all of the meetings at their church because they have more volunteers and children that attend. Christian Ed has decided for now we will still be involved with YouNite at this time until we can grow youth attendance at our church. Will still help and donate some meals, and encourage our kids to participate. VBS will remain the same. YouNite will also be changing its name to Gotcha (God of teens, children, and adults). Evangelism/Social Ministry/Missions – Evangelism will pay for Ditzzy the Balloon Twister for the Summer Bash. Cost- \$100/hour + \$60 travel fee. July Welcome Plate on July 30th, will be grilling. Will also grill for August 27th Welcome Plate. Trifold needs to be revised, have started gathering pictures. Finance- Donations/Gifts/Memorial- Stewardship- Spiritual Formation – will start again in September.	
<u>Communion Schedule</u>	Aug 15- Kevin Aug 16- Jodi, Kaleb, Allen, Karen Sept 5- Kevin Sept 6- Allen, Kelley, Kaleb,	
<u>Adjournment</u>	Motion to adjourn by Allen, second by Kaleb; motion carried. Meeting closed with the Lord’s Prayer.	Next meeting Thursday, Sept 10 @ 6:30 pm

GOTCHA

(God of Teens, Children & Adults)

Wednesdays

Starts September 16, 2026
5:30 – 7:05 PM

Free for all ages!

Supper
Children's choir
Adult choir
Dance team
Arts & crafts
Bible Study



Memorial Presbyterian Church
127 E Willow Street, Cherokee, Iowa

"Do not fear, for I am with you!" —Isaiah 41:10

"God's got you covered!"

Welcome Plate

Free Community Meal



Thursday, September 24 • 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