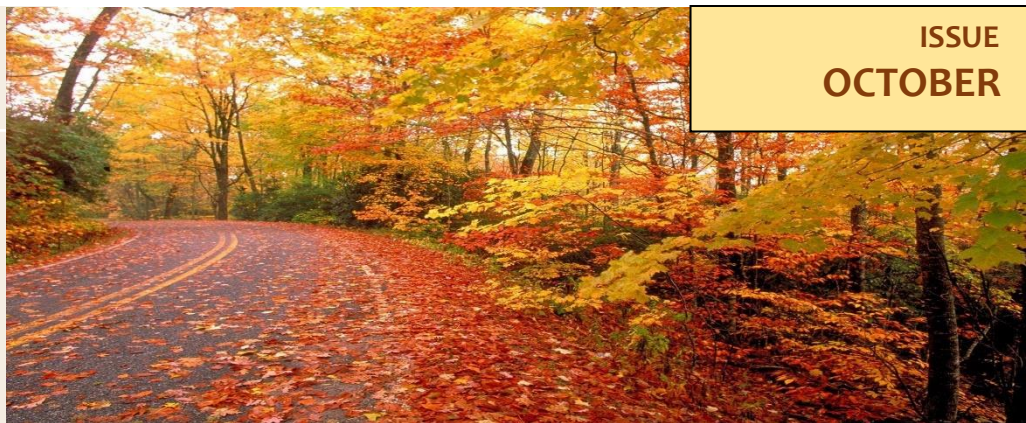


in this issue >>>

Pastor's Report
Committee Reports
Pandemic Status
Fall Happenings

ISSUE
OCTOBER



Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.

Oh Bethlehem



events>>>

- Oct. 4** Woman's Study 6:30 pm
5 Quilting Group 9 am
10 Communion Sunday
Adult Forum 11 am.
Harvest Soup Supper
4:30-6:30pm
11 Church Council Meeting 6 pm
17 Woman's Study 6:30 pm
18 Community Strategy Meeting 6:30
19 Quilting Group 9 am
31 3rd/4th Graders Bible Sunday

More event dates on page 7.

Food Bank Needs for October

Juice, Cereal, Soup, Brownie Mix,
Frosting, Fresh Apples, and Flour.

We are open and going forth with gathering in the house of our Lord. We have updated the Pandemic plan as listed below. We really look forward to seeing everyone again face to face. Services will continue to stream on our YouTube channel.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church has moved to Tier 0 for our pandemic plan.

While there are no special conditions at Tier 0, as always BLC will:

- Respect others by allowing them the dignity to protect themselves, as well as others to have the dignity of risk.
- Follow the guidance, as directed, by IDPH when appropriate.
- Clean areas with reasonable care
- As any, if they are sick, please take care and stay home.

Commemorative items: Bethlehem has a variety of items for sale. We have ornaments, postcards, coffee tumblers and mugs, and NEW "Oh Bethlehem" t-shirts. A table will remain set up in the fellowship hall. This is a fundraiser for Bethlehem. All funds will go to the General fund to support future fellowship and evangelism opportunities and outreach.

125th Thank you >>>

Thank you to all who attended Bethlehem's 125th Anniversary celebration. It was a wonderful day celebrating with old and new friends. Bethlehem would like to thank the musicians who provided special music, and all who shared their memories with us. The music, memories, and fellowship made it a day that we will not soon forget. Bethlehem would also like to sincerely thank all who made this event happen. It has been a busy year for the planning committee, and you all created a wonderful event. Thank you also to all the willing hands that stepped up to help leading up to the event and the day of the event. you are all appreciated. On August 29th, 2021, Bethlehem remembered its past, while passing the spirit onto its future. Bethlehem has entered a new age, and we look forward to celebrating all the big and milestones as we continue our ministry. Thank you again and God Bless!



<<< from the heart of the pastor >>>

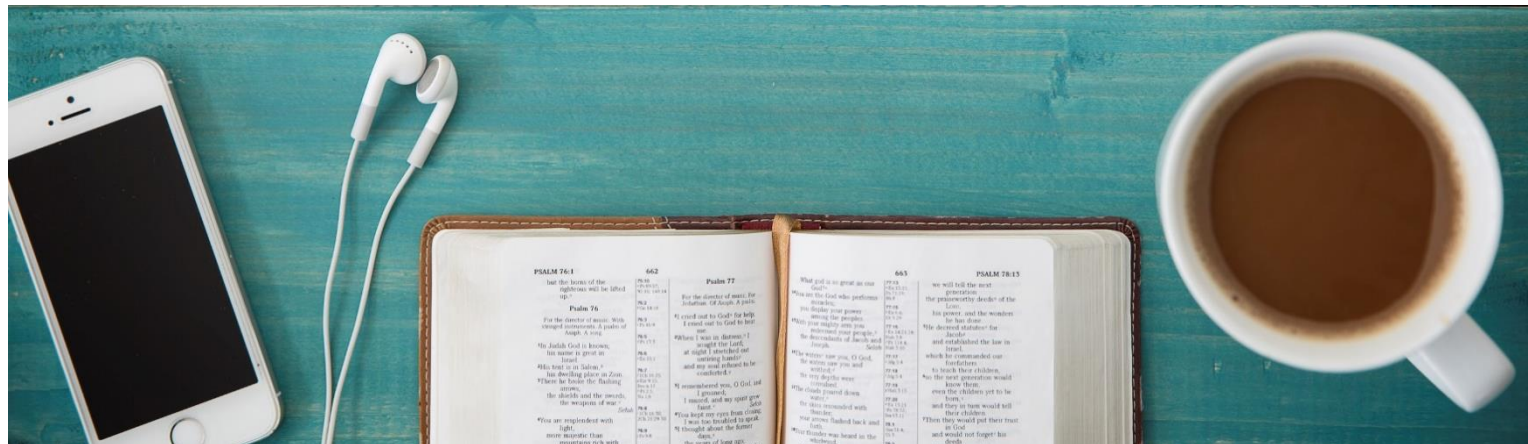
This picture was taken in downtown Orting, WA where we got to live for five years. During the summer, when it is mostly dry and clear, this towering view of Mount Rainier simply takes your breath away. This picture, though, does not even come close to doing this view justice. But gazing at this picture, you probably will not be surprised to learn that my Google picture album titled, Mount Rainier, has 185 pictures. My wife just rolls her eyes at me when I talk about it, but really, 185 is not nearly enough to capture the majesty of this mountain. People who have lived their whole lives in Western Washington will tell you that this view never gets old. Why? Well, for one, this mountain never looks the same twice. The time of the year; the time of the day; your position relative to the mountain, etc., all affect it's view. And do not get me started on sunrises and sunsets – Wow! If you want to see more pictures, just let me know and I will be happy to pull out my phone and show you.



But this mountain nestled in the Cascade Mountain range is so much more than its breathtaking beauty. You see, this mountain will someday blow its top and destroy the valley in which we once lived. Yes, Mount Rainer is an active volcano but that rarely gets any attention with those who have come to adore this view. For many, her power is just a story or something that will never be seen in their lifetime. And to be honest, I rarely thought about its pent up powerful potential. But do not make the mistake, for it is not a matter of “if” she will erupt but rather “when”. Mount Rainier is beautiful yet powerful.

What a perfect segway, do you not agree? Our awesome God is beautiful yet powerful. Scripture invites us to gaze at His beauty. Psalm 27:4 says, ***One thing have I asked of the LORD, that will I seek after: that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to gaze upon the beauty of the LORD and to inquire in his temple.*** The psalmist longs to gaze upon the beauty of the Lord, but not only that. The psalmist longs to probe the depths of the Lord; to inquire of the Lord, and it is that power, that knowledge, that depth of God, about which many people forget. Yes, it is easy to enjoy the idea of God, to look upon His outer attributes that are manifested in creation. But did you know that you are invited to inquire of His power; the depths of our awesome God. Yes, there is more to God than meets the eye. There is more to our Father than outward appearances. Our God is endless in power but it is not a power that will bury you in lahar and debris someday. It is a power that has destroyed sin through the death and resurrection of Jesus. It is a power that has saved you and will redeem you from destruction, *where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched*. This power, not something pent up and ready to blow, is something that has been revealed through the cross of Jesus.

Gaze upon the beauty of the Lord and know His power in Jesus Christ. Inquire and be reassured that His power; His compassion, grace and mercy, is big enough to forgive you. To gaze upon this awesome God of ours, is a beauty that blows away any image of Mount Rainer. To God be all glory – and beauty and power – always and forever, **Amen**.



Adult Forum

Starting on **Sunday, Oct 10**, I am going to be offering and hosting an **Adult Forum** after worship from 10:50 to 11:30 AM. You will be invited to fellowship time after worship and then I will take the microphone. I will be situated at the south end of the fellowship hall so you will not have to move from one room to another. The content will be up to you. On Oct 10 I plan to share about my trip to the LCMC National Gathering in Ohio, and we will also talk about future forums. If you have ideas on topics to discuss, please let me know. Otherwise, I am more than happy to plan the time. I am looking forward to spending this time with you. To God be the glory 😊

worship>>>

Hello Bethlehem Family!

The worship committee has had their first meeting and the planning has begun for all the upcoming and important services. Please mark your calendars with the following dates. We look forward to worshipping with you!

“Serve the Lord with gladness! Come before His presence with singing!” Psalm 100:2

Megan

October 3-Hymn Sing, Usher/Greeters: Laurie & Andy Buchs and Glenda Sapp and Kevin Johnson Family

October 10- Communion, Usher/Greeters: Todd Corporon Family and Denny Meinders Family

October 17- Usher/Greeters: Dana Greensky Family and Annette Kahler Family

October 24- Usher/Greeters: Dave & Kate Kakacek and Mark & Kim Ostermann

October 31-Reformation Sunday, Usher/Greeters: Derrek Olson Family and Marlys Dotseth

November 7-All Saints Sunday & Communion

November 28-Hanging of the Greens and First day in Advent



Cradle Roll >>>

Welcome Angstman family to the Bethlehem Cradle Roll. Baby Drew officially joined the Cradle Roll roster during our Church Service on September 26th. Here is a photo from after the service of baby Drew with his big brothers Jay and Evan and his parents Emily and Joe.

The Cradle Roll roster now includes Drew Angstman (3 months) and Emma Thilges (5 months). Bethlehem family, please lift these precious babies and their families up in prayer.

Heating & Cooling System Fundraiser >>>

We are very grateful for the financial support we have witnessed to get our new Air Units paid for. We have had some warm days and it sure feels good to have the sanctuary cooled down for our weekly worship. We are currently **at \$10,540.00** of our \$15,000 goal. If you would like to help get the balance paid off, you can give to the fund by designating your donation on the memo line of your check. Thank You!

Annual Meeting Date Set >>>

Bethlehem's Annual Meeting is scheduled for Sunday, January 16th, 2022, following the church service. We will have one 3-year position and two 1-year positions to be filled. If this is something you would consider doing, please talk with a council member. We ask that all of you prayerfully consider how you can continue to serve your church family, as we have many roles and jobs to do.



DRIVE-THRU HARVEST SOUP SUPPER SUNDAY SCHOOL FUNDRAISER

**Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Buffalo Center, IA**

**Sunday, October 10, 2021
4:30-6:30 PM**

Free will donation.

Meal will include: Your choice of soup, dinner roll, apple dessert, and water.

Soup options: Chicken Noodle, Chili, and Corn Potato Ham Chowder.

Drive-thru is located in the alley West of the Church. Please enter the alley from the South.

<<< treasurer report>>>

Our general offering year to date is \$91,094. We are 74% through the year and our giving so far is at 70% of our budget needs.

We are a bit behind but overall, still looking good. We have accomplished so much and have some great plans to continue our mission with our new Pastor and his family.

We are doing great things at Bethlehem, please continue to give to support our mission of: Faith, hope, and love make us available for our neighbors near and far.

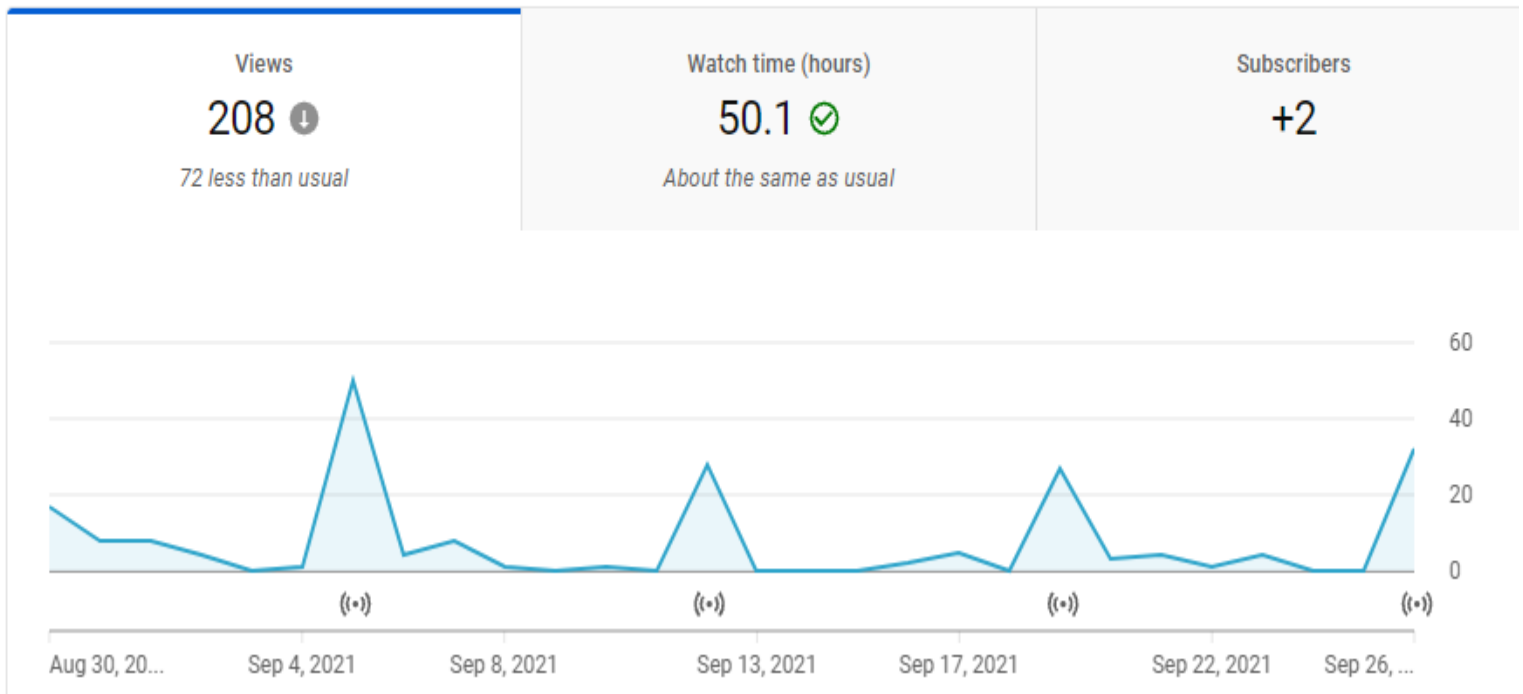
If anyone has any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Brian Blodgett
brian@ngtnet.net

technology >>>

Our digital ministry continues to be strong. Current statistics show we have seen 208 views on our live stream and/or recordings throughout September. We also have 80 subscribers to our YouTube Channel.

Your channel got 208 views in the last 28 days



The technology group includes Kyle Winter, Logan Willmert, Thomas Blodgett, and Brock Jensen. If anyone is called to help and/or donate, please contact Brian Blodgett.

If you would like to support the technology mission at Bethlehem please note on your giving – “Technology” on any extra donations.

<<< **education** >>>

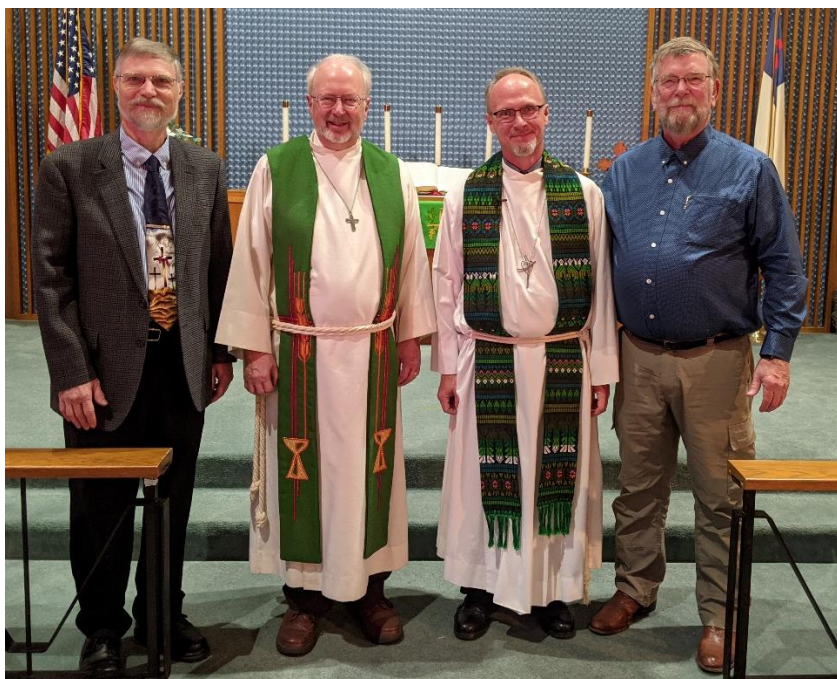
The start of our Sunday School and Confirmation year is off to an awesome start. We are having great attendance, and better yet, a great time growing in our faith. We are blessed to have had a fantastic Rally Sunday fundraiser, so thank you to all who participated! There is more fun coming soon, so stay tuned for more announcements!

Blessings, Kelsey Bosma, Education Superintendent

Below: Children's Sermon on Rally Sunday



INSTALLATION SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2021
PASTOR ERIC HULLSTROM



Left to right: Supply Lay Minister Michael Holstad, Pastor Stephen Anenson, Pastor Eric Hullstrom, and Pastor Steve DeKok



LCMC Iowa District Coordinator, Pastor Stephen Anenson and Pastor Eric Hullstrom

Membership Forms

Membership Forms are available in the Narthex and on our website, www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com. You may be thinking that we already have your information, but we have a new program that is a little more detailed and user friendly. It will be great to have a completed and updated list for our new incoming Pastor. Please drop them at the office or in the back of the church. Thank You.

Giving

Giving can be done easily online, right from your phone or computer. We have had great success this last year with weekly offering coming right into our General Fund at the bank. This is an easy and convenient option, check it out today!

www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com/giving

If you would like more information or guidance on setting this up, please see Brian Blodgett or Jen McGrady.

Coffee Fellowship

Coffee Fellowship is available in the entrance prior to the service and in the Fellowship Hall after the service. With us being able to get back to some good old normal routine, we need help! Please sign up for a Sunday. Thanks!

Cradle Roll

Are you expecting a new addition to your family? Do you know someone who is? Enroll them in our new Cradle Roll program! The Cradle Roll is a ministry for expectant families and children 0 to 3 years old in our church and community. To enroll someone in the Cradle Roll, sponsor a child, or join the ministry team, contact Cassie Willmert at cassondra.willmert@gmail.com.

<<< new committees >>>

Bethlehem has new committees! In the last month, we have added an Education Committee and a Worship Committee! Our Worship Committee is organizing to make all worship components run smoothly and open lines of communication. We have a good group together, but if you have an interest in worship and would like to help on the committee, come to the Worship Committee meetings. They take place the 3rd Tuesday of each month. The next Worship Committee meeting is October 19th at 9:30 am. Thank you to all who have volunteered their time and talents to be on the Education and Worship Committee! You are appreciated! We still have more committees that need to be filled! Here is a list of committees looking for volunteers and the leader to contact for more information.

Evangelism - Amy Walk
Stewardship - Susan Jensen
Fellowship - Cassie Willmert
Cradle Roll - Cassie Willmert
Property - Brandon Thilges

Bethlehem is blessed with lots going on, but we need teams to make things happen. Thank you for considering joining a committee. Many hands make for light work and more ministry opportunities.

SO MUCH HAPPENING AT BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN!!!!

October	4th Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
October	5th Bethlehem Quilting Group 9 am
October	10th Pastor Appreciation Sunday, Communion Sunday, Adult Forum 11 am Drive-thru Harvest Soup Supper 4:30-6:30 pm
October	11th Church Council Meeting 6 pm
October	17th Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
October	18th Ecumenical Community Strategy Meeting Methodist Church 6:30 pm
October	19th Quilting Group 9 am, Worship Committee Meeting 9:30 am
October	31st Reformation Sunday, Presentation of Bibles to 3rd and 4th grade students
November	1st Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
November	2nd Quilting Group 9 am
November	6th Tiarra Jensvold's Bridal Shower 10 am - 2 pm
November	7th All Saints Sunday
November	8th Church Council meeting 6 pm
November	15th Women's Bible Study 6:30 pm
November	16th Quilting Group 9 am, Worship Committee Meeting 9:30 am
November	28th Hanging of the Greens Worship Service
November	30th Quilting Group 9 am
January	16th Annual Meeting

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Monday, September 13

*@ 6:00 ***held in the meeting room****

Members present: Pastor Eric Hullstrom, Brian Blodgett, Megan Holland, Cassie Willmert, Brandon Thilges, Kelsey Bosma & Jen McGrady

Members absent: Susan Jensen & Vonnie Bosma

Meeting called to order @ 6:04

Opened with a prayer, led by Pastor Eric

Old Business

1. Secretary minutes for August approved via email, so they could be published in newsletter: Motion to approve by Brian, Amy seconded.

2. No new Covid procedures.

Committee Reports

A. Property

-HVAC=\$10,290

-Eric's Dad will be working on some updates for the parsonage

-Eventually, spare keys will need to be made, to have in case of emergencies.

C. Worship

-Worship Committee had been formed and will meet the 3rd Tuesday of every month @ 9:30

- 9/26 Pastor Eric's installation service

- 10/3 will be a Hymn Sing, as Eric will be gone to LCMC conference

- Moving forward the offering will be collected in the offering plate and brought forward, by the family ushers, for offering prayer

D. Education

-Rally Sunday was a great success! The day brought in just under \$1000 for the Sunday school program.

-May need to break the first thru fourth grade class into two. Kelsey will check in with the teacher after a few Sundays

E. Stewardship

Harvest Drive Thru Soup Supper on October 10 from 4:30-6:30.

F. Technology

-There will be subs in the coming weeks; Always looking for new help!

-nursery TV needs some help with playing live stream

G. Fellowship

working on serving schedule for the coming weeks

H. Evangelism

Bible study "Breathe" will start on September 21

I. 125th Committee

What a FABULOUS DAY! Thank you 125th Committee!!!

"The anniversary showed the many efforts of so many volunteers and was enjoyed by so many!"-Vonnies Treasurer Report

Treasurers Report

Checking - \$6130

Savings - \$3868

LOC - \$0

Approximately 5% behind on the current budget, but that is typical for the summer months. Please continue to give!

Pastor Report:

1. Moving went well. Thank you to all who helped
2. Will be submitting articles for the paper twice a month with a series called "From the Heart of a Pastor".
3. Confirmation is off to a good start with 11 students. Class requirements are memory work and worship notes. Students will also be expected to read scripture, acolyte and help with Sunday School.
4. First Ministerial meeting is Wednesday, September 15 @ United Methodist Church.
5. Has been welcomed to a text study in Emmons at the Lutheran Church. They will meet Tuesday, September 21 @ 9:30
6. LCMC gathering is Sunday, October 3-6. Thank you for the flexibility to have that day off to travel. Will bring back a full report in October.
7. Would like to get a Bible study going
8. Please let me know if you know of someone in need of pastoral care and/or visit.

New Business

1. How does BLC define a member? Brain will reference other churches and bring details to next meeting, for a clearer definition.
 2. September mission: SMILE - Single Mother in Life Empowerment Britt, IA
Cassie motioned; Brian seconded. All in favor.
 3. Motion to Accept the Boy Scouts use of the church facility; Motioned by Amy, seconded by Cheryl 2nd, all in favor.
 4. Strategic Plan review meeting Monday, November 1st @ 6:00 pm
 5. Annual meeting date is set for January 16th after church service
- Next meeting: October 11 @ 6:00

Motion to adjourn made by Amy; seconded by Brain

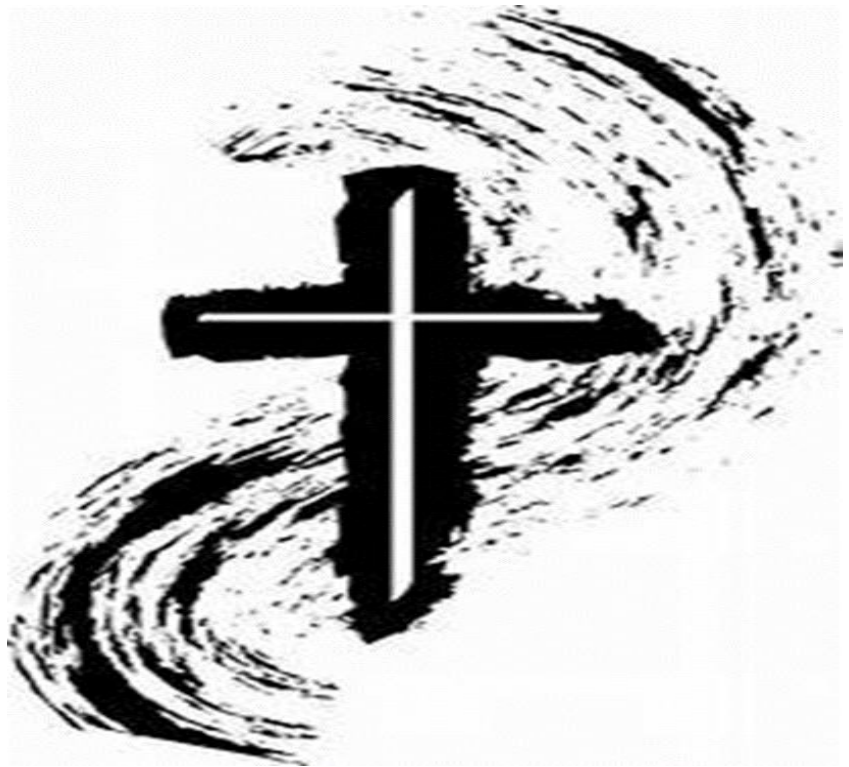
Meeting ended @7:37

Closed with Lord's Prayer

Secretary,

Megan Holland

**THOUGH
DIFFICULTIES
ABOUND IN THIS
WORLD, REJOICE
THAT I AM ALWAYS
PRESENT WITH YOU...
-GOD**





Bethlehem Lutheran Church
201 4th St NW
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

"FAITH, HOPE AND LOVE make us available
for our neighbors near and far."

President: Cassie Willmert
Vice President/Evangelism: Amy Walk
Secretary/Worship: Megan Holland
Treasurer/Technology: Brian Blodgett
Stewardship: Susan Jensen
125th Anniversary: Vonnie Pilgrim-Bosma
Education: Kelsey Bosma
Property: Brandon Thilges
Fellowship: Cheryl Baumann

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School

www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com

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