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Pastor's Letter
Committee Reports
Change in Pandemic Status
125th Celebration

Issue
August



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

Oh Bethlehem



events >>>

- Aug 3-6th** Rocky Railway VBS 2021 @
Congregational Church, Church clean-up
7th Bonnie Johnson Memorial/11am
8th Church clean up 1 pm
29th 125th Church Anniversary
29th Pastor Eric's first Sunday



Oh Bethlehem, thank you for your support, understanding, and patience as we navigate our transition from our interim to our new full time pastor. July was a challenge finding pulpit supply, but our wonderful worship team met the challenge with creativity, and we continue to worship.

- August 1st** Mike Holstad
August 8th Pastor Tim Nappe, missionary from Reaching the Unreached West Africa Mission
August 15th Bonnie Iverson
August 22nd Darla Thompson

Food Bank Needs for August: Cereal, Juice, Snack Crackers, Cake Mix, Frosting, Canned Fruit and Vegetables. We will also accept fresh garden produce.

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.

Announcements >>>

- **Coffee Mugs for Sale!** Mugs for \$12 or tumblers for \$24. Available in the church office or at the coffee table Sunday morning.
- **Wanted! A Social Media Volunteer** If you enjoy curating posts and using social media, we need you! We currently have A Facebook page/group and a website to maintain, but would love to see our online presence grow. Talk to the church office or council member to get started today!
- **Mission Sunday** Mark your calendars for August 8th! Pastor Tim Nappe, missionary from Reaching the Unreached West Africa mission will be leading us in worship. We will have a special offering for Reaching the Unreached, so please come prepared to give if you feel called to support this mission. You can learn more about this mission on their website <https://www.reachingtheunreached.org/> See you on August 8th!
- **Church Clean Up Days** The first week of August is a cleanup week. If you have any availability, please consider donating a few hours. A to do list is posted outside the church office. Thanks for helping us get ready for our 125th!

Passing the Spirit from Age to Age



Bethlehem Lutheran Church Quasiquicentennial
August 29, 2021
Celebrating the years 1896-2021

The committees have been busy planning for our church celebration, and it is all coming together.

The Food Committee:

We are going back to one of our traditions and having grilled turkey sandwiches and a salad bar. There will be a sign-up sheet posted Aug. 8th to bring salads. To celebrate this momentous occasion, there will naturally be CAKE!!

The Decoration Committee:

These busy people have been updating the confirmation class pictures and names, dates and some pictures of former pastors. There a new bulletin boards made and more displays to come!

The Communication Committee:

Advertising and many letters, finding addresses of former members is a big job. Lots of work has been done in this category also. I hope you all noticed our entry in the 4th of July parade and also the county fair parade. We have a big sign on display to remind us all. We hope you are sharing the date and time with all your family member and inviting them to come home for this.

The Program Committee:

Our morning service and afternoon program involves people of all ages willing to make this day a day to remember. We have singers, organists, speakers, updates on former pastors, a little history of how we got her and even a slide show! We hope to fill our church on Aug. 29th, so make plans to join us and celebrate

Attention Singers

The 125 Anniversary Committee is getting together an adult choir to sing at the Sunday morning service on August 29th. If you would like to join the choir contact Cheryl Baumann.. We would love to have you!

If you have pictures of the original church, current church, pictures of groups or activities we would love to share them in the slide show. Please contact Amy Walk 641-590-5845 or Cheryl Baumann 515-538-1238.

The program committee is also asking for your stories or memories of Bethlehem Lutheran Church from as far back as you can remember to the current. You are welcome to share your stories during the program or they can be read for you. Please contact Cheryl Baumann or Vonnie Bosma 562-2703. Anyone who would like to volunteer or contribute ideas please contact Vonnie.

Thank You,
Cheryl Baumann and Vonnie Bosma

Remember When?

Here are a couple submissions:
Remember when?

“There was a cherub choir, Confirmation Choir and an Adult Choir?”

“We never used styrofoam cups for coffee?”

It need only be one sentence long.

Please call or drop off trivia at the office or email office@blciowa.org



From the Heart of the Pastor

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Amen.

Wow, what a joy it is to be writing a newsletter article for Bethlehem Lutheran Church in Buffalo Center, IA. A call process that began before Easter and ended on June 13 with the congregational vote, is finally coming to fruition in a few, short weeks.

I know that this transition time for you has been challenging; any transition is. Normal (whatever that is) gets interrupted, changed and/or transformed. Traditions get altered or put on hold. Patience gets tested. But also, new experiences are revealed. New leaders are raised up. Eyes are opened to new possibilities. And faith is stretched, worked-out and strengthened. So much has happened and so much more is on the horizon. God is definitely doing something and will be doing something great.

Our moving to the Pacific Northwest in 2016 was not an emotional decision to move to a beautiful part of the country. It was not a mistake but rather God's providential hand at work. Our coming to Buffalo Center is not emotional decision to be closer to family and friends, but rather God's providential hand at work to glorify His awesome name. Yes, we are excited to be close to family and friends, but we are even more excited to serve in God's kingdom with you in the name of Jesus, knowing that this is God's doing and thus God will bless this union. God is great and I praise him for bringing us together.

In the meantime, as we wait out this transition, let us prepare for ministry together. *How will we do that?* That is a great question, I am so glad you asked 😊

(1) Pray, pray and pray some more. Pray for my family and I as we wrap up loose ends here in Washington. Also, know that I will be praying for each of you and the leadership at Bethlehem.

(2) Get ready to, "***Go therefore and make disciples...***" I am not coming to preach to spectators. I will preach, of course, but we will be in mission together. Thus, I am coming to empower, to encourage and to join with you in mission, making disciples in our little spheres of influence.

(3) Pray, pray and pray some more. Wait, did I say that already? Oh well, it is worth saying again.

(4) Stay grounded in the Word. Satan is going to be working overtime to attempt to derail what God is doing (notice the word "attempt", because Satan will fail). Satan will try to plant seeds of doubt, discouragement, fear, and hopelessness. Therefore, keep your soil watered with God's Word and tell Satan to go back from where he came.

The time is inching closer and closer. Soon this long-distance relationship will be over. Soon, we will be joining hand in hand in mission, all in the name of Jesus. Soon, we will be seeing, together, the unfolding of God's glorious plan. Are you excited? I am. God bless, and we will see you soon.

Your brother in Christ,
Pastor Eric

Evangelism Report >>>

Another month has flown by. Evangelism has been quiet. I did get a Bible study called Breathe making room for the Sabbath by Priscilla Shirer. It is a video-based study and I'm very excited to learn how we should be slowing down for sabbath. If you are interested, please contact me @ 641-590-5845 or billwalkbc@gmail.com I have 5 study books but can order more if needed. I would like to start in September but want to wait for specific time and date to be sure it works for most that are interested.

Our farewell/ 30-year party went very well. As sad as it was to have Mark leave it is SO exciting to be a part of our new season. We have great things coming Bethlehem!

Remember if you have any suggestions for missions, please let Jen or I know.
Have a great month! Remember to love God and love others well! God Bless.
Amy Walk

treasurer >>>

Our general offering year to date is \$70,669. We are 57% through the year and our giving so far is at 54% of our budget, so a few percent under our giving goals, but still strong.

As the summer progresses, please be sure to continue your giving. With the arrival of Pastor Eric and family we will be extending some additional spending on parsonage repairs and updates. Several members have been working hard to make Bethlehem a welcoming place for our new family members.

We are doing some great things Bethlehem, please continue to give.

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

technology >>>

Our digital ministry continues to be strong. Current statistics show we are seeing an average of 43 households viewing the live stream and/or recordings of each Sunday's service during the month of July. This is exciting to see.

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.

Thank you
Brian Blodgett
brian@ngt.net

Education Report >>>

We are in full swing getting ready for the new education year and have so much excitement in store for Sunday school and confirmation. Our SS registration event was a success, and we are looking at a great group of kids and teachers to start the year off strong.

Our church has got one of, if not the largest number of active students and I am proud of the work everyone is doing to partner with parents, in raising our kids up with the Lord!

Our confirmation program is continuing this year with 7-9th graders, and we are excited to share this with Pastor Eric when he arrives later this month.

The first night of confirmation will be a sort of meet and greet, for pastor, and the kids and adult leaders to get to know each other a little bit.

Another way we are "growing" is actually implementing a true "Education Committee" with myself, our new education co-chair Amanda Jamison, and a handful of parents from both SS and confirmation. I look forward to working with these awesome individuals and am honored they have agreed to help lead the way for our church's future.

Dates to remember:

August 29- kids sing at 125th service.

September 8- first night of confirmation.

September 12- first day of SS.

I hope the end of everyone's summer is safe, fun, and relaxing. I am most looking forward to seeing everyone soon!

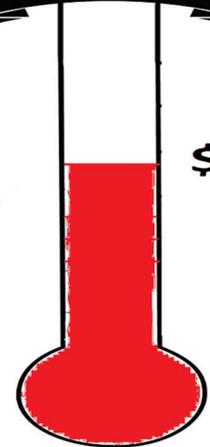
**With joy- Kelsey Bosma,
Education Superintendent**



HVAC - PHASE 2
\$15,000

GOAL

\$7260



Crabby Road

7-20-11

BREAKING NEWS!

This heat wave is brutal!
Not only is it hot enough to fry
an egg on the sidewalk, but
you can use your mailbox
as a toaster oven.



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Maxine.com

Air-conditioning in the sanctuary sure has helped us beat the heat this past month, but we have not met our fundraising goal **YET**. Please continue to give to the Phase 2 Heating and Cooling System Fund. We are currently at \$7,260 out of our \$15,000 goal. You can give to the fund by designating your donation on the memo line of a check.
Thank You!

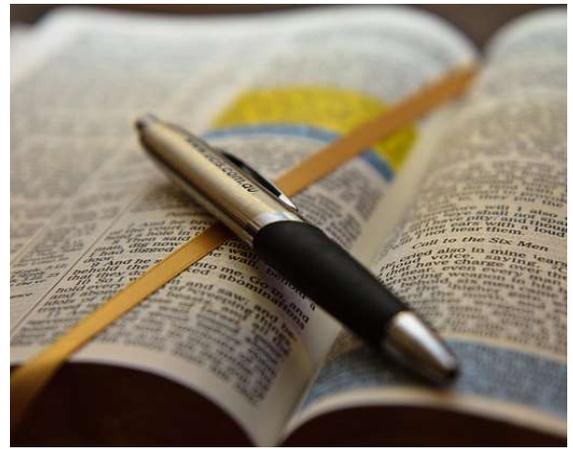
In the word...

Read: 1 John 2:1-3

Reflections: Jesus already died for our sins, we just need to ask for forgiveness. What a beautiful gift of grace, for all that is willing to receive it.

Point to ponder: Who do I need to share the gospel with or just talk about Jesus to? It is truly a gift of eternal life!

Prayer: May God impress on each one of us, who He would like us to share the gospel with. Amen



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

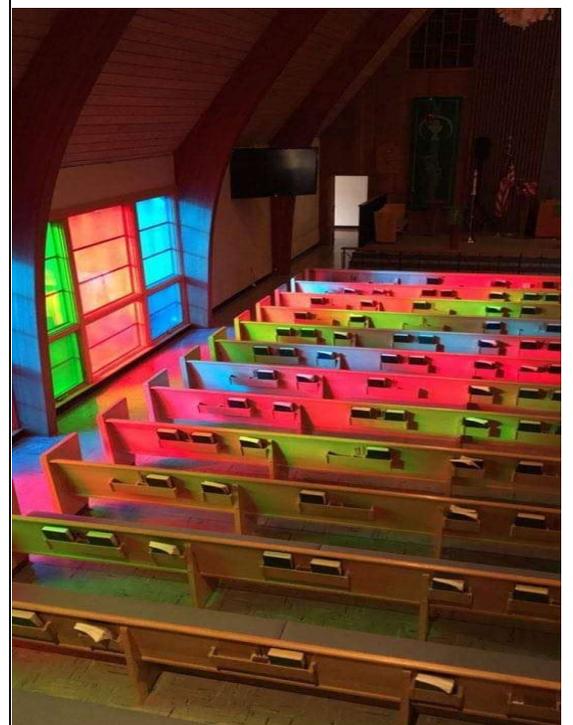
Coffee Fellowship is available in the entrance prior to the service and in the Fellowship Hall after the service. With us being able to get back to some good old normal routine, we need help! Please contact Amy Walk to get signed up for a Sunday. Thanks!

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 cassandra.willmert@gmail.com.

Greeters are back!!!

Starting in August, assigned families will serve as **greeters AND ushers** (please don't hesitate to include your children). An informational letter was mailed out, highlighting each family's assigned date. If your assigned date does not work for your family, please switch with another family, or contact the church office at 562-2552 or Megan Holland at 562-2024. You may also find the 2021 list on the bulletin boards by the office and at the back of the church. Thank you for your time and being available!



Back to School Supply Drive

August 1-22, Bethlehem will be taking donations for school supplies. A box can be found in the Narthex, along with an itemized list. Suggestions include: scissors, loose leaf paper, glue sticks, 24 box crayons, dry erase markers, Ticonderoga #2 pencils, Kleenex, disinfecting wipes, wide ruled spiral notebook, large erasers, folders with pockets, or highlighters.

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Sunday, July 11 2021

-after church-

held in the meeting room

Members present: Megan Holland, Cassie Willmert, Vonnie Bosma, Susan Jensen, Brandon Thilges, Kelsey Bosma

Members absent: Brain Blodgett, Amy Walk, Cheryl Baumann

Meeting called to order @

10:36 Megan opened with a prayer.

Old Business

1. Secretary minutes for June and congregation vote(6/13) approved via email, so they could be published in June newsletter; Brian motioned to approve; Cassie seconded
2. Welcome Pastor Eric!!!

Committee Reports

A. Property

- The drywall in the basement needs repair. Along with the doorframe on the Northside of the house between the garage and house. Brandon will take the next step to get it fixed.
- Parsonage flooring will be done around the end of July
- clean up days, to prepare for 125 Celebration, are scheduled for August 3,4,5 & possibly 8th. Thought this would be a good time for parents to volunteer, as children will be at VBS
- Vonnie would make a phone call to Deacons for a quote for new carpet in Pastor's office. This would match the carpet in the meeting room.
- Council will take a Sunday starting in August to be "door keeper"
- will continue to check on humidifier in basement

C. Worship

- Pulpit supply= July 25: Recorded sermon from Pastor Eric with Jen leading worship, August 8: Pastor Nappe, August 22: Darla Thompson
- Family greeter and usher schedule has been created. This will be mailed out this coming week.
- Need to have a new member church service in the fall

D. Education

- Cassie motioned, Susan seconded to make Kelsey Superintendent of the Sunday school Program, to include confirmation. All in favor.
- Kelsey will continue to work on Sunday school rooms to get them ready for fall.
- profit from the Ice Cream Float fundraiser on July 4=\$290.00
- Council will need to approve SS curriculum once Kelsey has picked it.

E. Stewardship

Will continue to brainstorm ideas for fundraisers.

F. Technology

New mic is working great! Thank you for feedback.

G. 125th Committee

- will have another meeting on July 14
- Vonnie would double check on float for the Winnebago Parade
- rethinking the food menu
- The banner will be placed in front of the church after parade on July 18

Treasurer Report(as of 7/7/2021)

Checking – \$12,983 Savings –

\$12,568 LOC - \$0 (renewed)

Facilities (HVAC) - \$6,566

Large Expenses paid in last 30 days:

- Construction (Shed removal) - \$2,266
- \$12,000 for HVAC equipment (being paid this week) with special funds.

Kelsey motioned to approve; Susan seconded; all in favor

Pastor Report- would like to attend LCMC conference

New Business

1. \$200 Mission Giving for August: Tim Nappe's International Mission in Africa. Megan motioned, Vonnie seconded. All in favor
2. Council approved for Pastor Eric to attend LCMC conference in October; as stated in his contract for continued education
3. Mailboxes were approved for removal in April meeting. Moving forward all BLC Newsletters will be mailed. Megan motioned, Susan seconded; all in favor.
4. August newsletter deadline is Tuesday, July 27
5. Cassie will check with Jen to see if there is any documents on a rental agreement for weddings, etc. If not, one will be created as well as a special event checklist

Next meeting: August 1, after church

Motion to adjourn made by Vonnie; seconded by Susan Meeting ended @12:25

Closed with Lords Prayer

Secretary,
Megan Holland

SUNDAY



SCHOOL



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
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