



Oh Bethlehem

<<<Events>>>

- May 8th Communion Sunday
SS kids Sing
- 9th Council meeting @6pm
- 11th Last day for Confirmation
- 13th Confirmation Retreat@ Okoboji
- 15th Grad Sr's Recognition
Last day of Sunday School
- 17th Worship meeting @9:30am
- 18th Baccalaureate, 6:30pm @NICS
- June 4th Meyering 60th Anniversary
2pm at Lions Park.
- 5th Communion
- 7th Ladies Study @2pm.
- 12th Communion

Greeters and Ushers

May

- *8 Braden Ullmann(c) Family and Mark & Kim Ostermann
15 Dave & Kate Kakacek and Joe Angstman Family
22 Nich Holland Family and Amy Walk Family and Mary Badje
29 Claire Hinz and Mark & Deb Landheer

June

- 5 Nich Holland Family and Linda Berhow
*12 Andy Buchs(c) Family and Glenda Sapp and Willmert Family
19 Billy Jensvold Family and Maryls Dotseth
26 Dana Greensky Family and Shirley Hagenson

NOTE:

offering will be brought to the front during offertory hymn

Making ourselves available...

May Food Bank

- Canned Fruit
Canned Veggies
Pie Filling
Pie Crust Mix
Hot Dog Buns

"Our numbers are increasing, so anything you donate will be helpful. Thank You.

All donations can be dropped off in the Narthex of the church

<<<Bethlehem Ladies>>>

The next study will be on June 7th @ 2pm.
and the topic of discussion will be about
"The Marks of the Church"....

What makes the church the church.

The study will follow Acts 2: 42-47.

Rides are available if you call the church office. 562-2552.
All ladies are invited to join in.

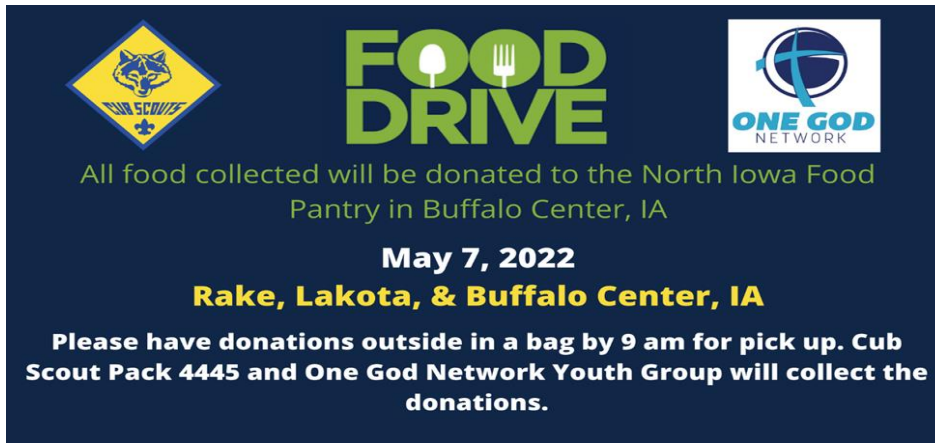
<<<Giving>>>

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.

1G Youth Network...This is for elementary and Middle School students. They meet after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. There is a meal served on Mon. evenings for students, families, and volunteers. These events take place at the Congregational and Methodist Churches. The meal is open to all families and volunteers.

We ask that you consider helping in ways of donations for snacks and meals and any monetary donations when it is our week to serve, also volunteering to help with the students and lastly praying for this ministry, the adults and the kids. **We give glory to God for being "Available to those around us."**



FOOD DRIVE

All food collected will be donated to the North Iowa Food Pantry in Buffalo Center, IA

May 7, 2022

Rake, Lakota, & Buffalo Center, IA

Please have donations outside in a bag by 9 am for pick up. Cub Scout Pack 4445 and One God Network Youth Group will collect the donations.

<<**treasurer**>>

Year to date giving is : **\$41,344.00**

Projected budgeted giving through April: **\$53,332.00**

Which puts us at 26% of our budgeted giving.

We need to be at 32% to stay on schedule for our yearly budget.

Budgeted giving for 2022: \$160,000.00

<<**Stewardship**>>

What does it mean to be a Christian Steward? There are many facets to the answer to this question! Christian Stewardship refers to the responsibility that Christians have in maintaining and using wisely the gifts that God has bestowed, both financially and through our spiritual gifts, time and talents.

Financially, it means that we are responsible for the blessings provided by God. Through the financial gifts given to the church, we are able to maintain our church building, the church grounds and take care of the essentials. But there is so much more to it than that. We also use these offerings to educate our children, to provide help to those in need through various missions (both local and globally), for fellowship, and for opportunities to spread God's word in various ways both in our church building, our community and our world.

Another facet of being a Christian Steward is using our spiritual gifts through our time and talents. We are all uniquely, fearfully and wonderfully made. Great things can happen when we allow God to work through us. Maybe your gift is serving, leading, teaching, encouraging, praying, singing...or multiple talents. It takes all of our time and talents working together to be the church that we were created to be.

Our church has been moving in amazing ways! My hope is that we continue to do so by exploring how we can best use our gifts, both financially and through time and talents, to continue to be good stewards and glorify God.

"God has given each of you a gift from his great variety of spiritual gifts. Use them well to serve one another."

~1 Peter 4:10

Blessings,
Patty Hassebroek

CHURCH SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE

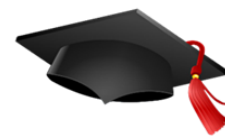
Spring is in the air and high school seniors are preparing for graduation!

The senior members of Bethlehem will be honored on May 15th

– one week before the graduation ceremony at NIHS.

It's been over 20 years since the first church scholarship was given by Norma Quame Bosma in memory of her sons Greg and Brad. The Sullivan Family Scholarship began in 2006, and the Bierle Family Scholarship in 2010.

We are now consolidating the Quame Scholarship and the Sullivan Scholarship into the "Bethlehem Lutheran Church Scholarship." This was decided because the Quame and Sullivan families are no longer able to support the previous scholarships. It is the hope of the scholarship committee that other members of the congregation will value the importance of supporting the youth of our church family and consider giving to this ongoing fund. You can do this in honor of someone, in memory of loved ones, or simply by making a donation. Just put your gift in an envelope marked "Bethlehem Lutheran Scholarship Fund."



Bethlehem's Graduating Seniors for 2022



Brock Jensen
Open House Graduation Party
Sat. May 21st from 2-5pm
at his home.



Parker Johnson
Open House Graduation Party
Sat. May 21st from 1-5pm
at Bethlehem Lutheran Church



Logan and Riley Sabin
Open House Graduation Party
Sat. May 21st from 1-4pm.
at the Buffalo Center Fire Station



<<Pastor Eric>>

Well, here we are, it is May. Lent and Easter are done, the end of the school year is rapidly approaching, which also means Sunday school, Confirmation and 1G (One God Network) are close to their summer hiatus as well. In some ways, it almost feels like the calm after the storm; a sense of slowness to catch our breath before we start again in the fall. And there is nothing wrong with catching one's breath, but let's not stop and breathe too long.

Back in my running days, which feels like a lifetime ago, I ran three marathons - Twin Cities once (2008) and Grandma's in Duluth twice (2010, 2011). Part of my strategy for each of those marathons was to walk through the water stations to catch my breath and rest a little while having a little drink. Those stations were approximately 2 miles apart. Once through I would take off running again. The danger, though, was to take too much time to rest, so I had to be careful and be self-aware. At one point towards the end of the Twin Cities marathon, I was in an incredible amount of pain due to severe leg cramping. It felt like someone had shot both of my legs. I remember passing the 20-mile mark and thinking, "I just need to stop and rest of a bit and then I'll be fine". But as soon as that thought entered my head, another came in right behind it, "Eric, if you stop and rest, you know that you will never get going again." And that second voice was right, so I pushed through, walking, and "running" the last six miles, in a lot of pain. But you know something? I finished and I was ecstatic. I learned a lot about myself during that race that helped me improve in my next two marathons.

Yes, we have had a long and busy year (a good busy), after coming out of a couple challenging years due to the pandemic and a pastoral transition. The temptation now is to stop and rest in this calm after the storm, but we must be careful that we do not lose the momentum we have built. So many good things have happened over the past 8 months or so, and even though you may be tired, let's keep pushing through. Walk through the aid station, refreshing yourself with the Living Water of Jesus, casting your burdens on him, and resting in his amazing love. But once through, let's hit the ground running in the fall. Do not let your tiredness now destroy your momentum. Satan would love nothing more. Turn to Jesus.

Soon, fall will be here, and it will be time to run again, with Jesus by your side, of course. How you rest and refuel during this calm time will pay huge dividends as we continue to advance the Kingdom of God. So, catch your breath and get ready. The marathon continues...

Pastor Eric

FELLOWSHIP TIME

I (Pastor Eric) want to talk with you. All of you. And no, you are not in trouble, I just want to talk with you and get to know you (and so does everyone else) And so, I invite you to stay for **fellowship time after worship**. It is not that I am bored with the same people who stay every Sunday (I love you all), but I want to get to know more of you. Grab a yummy treat and/or some coffee and say "hi", or just stay and say "hi". No judgment here if you do not drink coffee. And I am not asking you to stay all morning, just don't rush out like the building is on fire. If you just cannot stay after worship, stop in during the week sometime and we can chat then. My door is always open (and coffee available if that is what you do). And so, I'll be waiting for you (in a good way) in the fellowship hall this Sunday (and every Sunday thereafter). Let's chat 😊

FACEBOOK BIBLE READING GROUP

For those of you on Facebook, I am leading a Bible reading group. Each morning I post a devotional for you to ponder as you read your chapter for the day. You are invited into a conversation, or you can just read. This is a private group so if you want to be let in, just let me know or anyone else in the group. You can join anytime (of course, Facebook is required).

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL

This is not dead. Keep your eyes and ears open...

Church Council Meeting Minutes

April 11, 2022 @ 6 pm

held in the meeting room

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

Members present: Pastor Eric, Cassie Willmert, Amy Walk, Brandon Thilges, Derek Thilges, Patty Hassebroek, Brian Blodgett, Kim Ostermann, Jen McGrady

Absent: Susan Jensen, Kelsey Bosma

Meeting called to order @ 6:09pm

1. Pastor Eric opened with prayer.
2. Old Business
 - a. March minutes approved via email. Motion to approve by Amy; seconded by Patty.
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Savings Account: \$3,582.48
 - b. Checking Account: \$8,051.96
4. Committee Reports
 - a. Technology
 - i. A sound bank was donated, but at this point we're not sure what it will cost to integrate it with the organ.
 - ii. The sound for the social hall is working well. It's just an on/off and volume inside a box in the social hall. Also capable of adding a microphone.
 - b. Property
 - i. Picking up new locks for both front door and back door to have the same key.
 - ii. Parsonage bathroom lights/ kitchen fluorescent have been replaced.
 - iii. Landscaping rock going between the house and the garage.
 - iv. Replacing garage door opener – whole unit.
 - v. The sign in front of church is needing some TLC. We are currently checking into possibilities.
 - vi. Custodial position is temporarily being filled while we wait for applications. Thanks to Linda Berhow for her years of service – we appreciate all she did!
 - vii. Jen McGrady will be following up with ordering supplies for cleaning.
 - c. Worship
 - i. Fifteen First Communion students have completed instruction. They plan to participate in Maundy Thursday Communion.
 - ii. Easter services will include a 7:00am Sunrise service and a 9:30am service with a brass choir. Breakfast will be served between services.
 - iii. Communion will be continuous for Sunrise service and at the altar rail for the 9:30 service.
 - iv. Pastor Eric will be gone the Sunday after Easter. Brian Blodgett will lead worship.
 - d. Stewardship
 - i. Patty Hassebroek and Pastor Eric will meet to discuss "Time and Talents update.
 - ii. Financial giving is important. We consider it a personal issue as well as a Faith Issue. Each individual gives from their heart in ways they feel they can afford.
 - e. Education
 - i. Confirmation students are working the Easter breakfast. They will meet Sat., April 16 to prepare. Thrivent funds are being used for supplies.
 - ii. Sunday School kids sing April 24 and May 8.
 - iii. Confirmation retreat on May 13, 14, and 15th at Okoboji will include grades 7, 8, and 9.
 - iii. Last day of Sunday School and Senior Recognition is May 15.
 - f. Fellowship
 - i. The Chosen Bible study is going well. Another group might start watching the series.

g. Evangelism

- ii. Spring Coffee is planned for April 21st from 9:00-11:00 Rolls and Coffee Cake – everyone welcome!
- iii. Blood drive was successful. 33 donors reported with some first timers. A total of 28 pints of blood were collected which can help up to 84 patients. Another blood drive is planned for June 2 at the Heritage Town Center.

5. Pastor Report

- a. Connie Melz funeral was March 16th. There was a large crowd for both the visitation and funeral. The funeral committee did a great job of serving the meal.
- b. Pastor was invited to be a part of a monthly pastor's group. First meeting was at Okoboji on March 31. The next gathering is April 28th at Okoboji again.
- c. OneGod (1G) Network continues to average around 38-40 lower elementary students on Mondays of each week. The kids seem to be having a lot of fun. Middle School students have around a dozen participating on Wednesdays. Murra Hardware is providing all of the water. Extra food has been sent home with families when asked. We see the importance of this ministry and have committed to doing this again next year.
Some of the success stories include:
 - 1. One little guy said, "Is that JESUS on the donkey? Jesus is God and He was HERE, on EARTH?" YES! He had never made that connection until now.
 - 2. When making "Prayer Jars", someone commented, "We don't pray at our house. I don't know how to pray." What a wonderful opportunity it is to reach out and touch the children with the GOOD NEWS!
- d. Lenten services wrapped up preaching on the book of Jonah. Consistent attendance for worship. Confirmation students were required to attend as part of class time. Meals went very well. Thank you to Kelsey Bosma for coordinating and to everyone who provided meals and helped serve.
- e. Holy Week and Easter update was shared. Holy Week devotions are also being posted each morning in the Facebook Bible reading group. Hard copies are available in the narthex and on the web page.
- f. Positive feedback has been received regarding the Facebook Bible reading group. The Gospel of Mark, Hebrews, Acts, and part of Romans have been read so far.
- g. Pastor is taking a week of vacation after Easter through April 24. Brian Blodgett is covering worship on the 24th. Pastor's family is also planning some time off around July 4th.

6. Office Report

- a. Membership roster/email update is allowing us to email the church newsletter. April is the last month for a mass mailing. Please contact the church office if you still want a hard copy.

7. Old Business

- a. The Ministry Plan has been updated. This was brought forward to the church council after the executive committee met to review.
- b. A thank you card had been prepared to send for memorial donations.

8. New Business

- a. April Mission will go to LCMC (regular rotation is LCMC, local, global)
Motion made by Amy Walk. Seconded by Derek Thilges

9. Additional Comments/concerns/questions

- a. Interested in having a pork meal fundraiser. Could have both drive-thru and picnic tables available. Looking for a possible date.
- b. Prayers for Our Savior's Lutheran in Jackson, MN who continues discussion about LCMC.

10. Next meeting: May 9th – 6:00pm

11. Newsletter deadline: April 25th

13. Motion to Adjourn made by Brian; seconded by Patty

Meeting adjourned at 7:50pm

Closed with the Lord's Prayer

Kim Ostermann, Sec.



C

J



C

C

A

B



B

D



O





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

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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK
Bethlehem Lutheran Church
Bethlehem Lutheran Sunday School
www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com

641-562-25(Office)
641-562-25(Pastor)
pastor@blciowa.org
office@blciowa.org
jen.mcgrady@blciowa.org

