

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Buffalo Center, IA 50424



Oh, Bethlehem!

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

GREETERS & USHERS

FEBRUARY

- *2 Tate Engelbarts Family & Jamie Price Family
- *9 Jackson Holland Family & Logan Willmert Family
- 16 Aubri Wubben Family & Joe Angstman Family
- 23 Julian Ernster Family & Brant Boekelman Family

MARCH

- *2 Beckett Jensen Family and Patti & Travis Hassebroek
- *9 Lily Winter Family & Teresa Roth Family
- 16 Tanner & Anne Weaver and Doug & Kim Ostermann
- 23 Elsa Adams Family and Derek Thilges Family
- 30 Gabby Andersen Family and Mark & Deb Landheer

*Indicates Communion

CALENDAR of EVENTS

Please see the monthly calendar on **page 5** for all church activities this month.

Prayers for our Members & Friends

- | | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Jaya Fever | Carolyn Bartz |
| Brian Bashans | Karen Buss |
| Christina Coughlin | Deloris Steffensen |
| Ashley Cox | Claire Rustemier-Hinz |
| Roger Burnside | Joy Albert |
| Emmagene Silber | Darlene Hofbauer |
| Virginia Cooper | Darlene Huston |
| Penny Mitchell | Harlan Melz |
| Joan Sunde | Jason Christensen |
| Pastor Mark Neumann (BLC's deployed pastor) | |



Birthdays for the month of February:

- | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| 1– Susan Jensen | 16– Harlan Melz |
| 2 - Virginia Hagedorn | 16 - Jessica Resutek |
| 3 - Annette Kahler | 18 - Brian Blodgett |
| 7 - Grayson Corporon | 18 - Katie Mathahs |
| 8 - Delores Griffin | 18 - Carl Waugh |
| 12 - Eric Hullstrom | 22 - Kelly Ruth Winter |
| 15 - Amy Walk | 24 - Beau Holland |
| 15 - Kimberly Ostermann | 26 - Kim Thompson |

**Please let me know if I'm forgetting anyone or if any dates are incorrect. I'm planning on doing this monthly so I want to make sure I have everyone's birthday on file!



Don't forget your Valentine! Order your 9 ounce, heart-shaped decorated brownie today! **\$10/each**

There are sign-up sheets in the Fellowship Hall and Narthex. You can also contact the church office or Kelsey Bosma to order. Deadline is Feb 9.

Pick up will be February 13, 4:00 - 6:00 pm in the Fellowship Hall.



In the AFC Divisional playoff game (football – in case you are not familiar) between the Baltimore Ravens and the Buffalo Bills, Lamar Jackson, quarterback for the Ravens, threw a touchdown pass with 1:33 remaining in the game. The score put the Ravens 2 points away from tying the Bills. Needless to say, the Ravens lined up for a two-point conversion try. As Jackson rolled to his right, he saw a wide-open Mark Andrews, an all-pro tight end, at the goal line. Jackson threw a perfect throw, but in the snowy conditions, Andrews dropped the tying score. The world was shocked (including me). Andrews had not dropped a pass since week 6 of the season, but in that game, he dropped two critical passes that proved to be costly. Immediately following the game, I checked social media to see what the sports world was saying. Sadly, and not surprisingly, people were ripping Andrews apart for his drop. He was receiving the blame for the loss, never mind the other mistakes that the Ravens made throughout the game. Though I was rooting for the Bills, I felt sorry for Mark Andrews and the Ravens. What a tough and disappointing way to end the season.

Later that night, as we were waiting for Mayah so we could start devotions, I turned to Malachi and said, *“Never, ever, let one mistake, no matter how big or small, define you.”* Malachi gave me a quizzical look as he said, *“What do you mean, ‘define me’?”* Connie and I went on to talk about how it is God’s opinion of us that matters. He is the one who determines your worth, not others. Malachi seemed to understand, and hopefully that was a seed planted in his heart, because I have no doubt that he will be faced with that someday. Being an athlete, he is bound to make a mistake that will draw criticism from others, but it is not their opinion of him that matters. It is God’s opinion and God thinks very highly of him, and you.

Child of God, you are worth so much to God that he sent Jesus to die on a cross for you and then rise from the grave for the forgiveness of your sins. The world may define you as a loser, or a mess-up, or not good enough, or a sinner beyond redeeming. But through Jesus, God defines you as His child. So win or lose now, through Jesus you have already won. Let THAT be your definition.



Confirmation Class News

Confirmation is back in action after a couple weeks off for Christmas. We have finished the 10 Commandments and now are studying Bible study. This may sound redundant but really, it is not. We are learning how to read and study scripture. Last week the kids used various Bible tools to study Matthew 14:22-33, Peter walking out on the water to Jesus. This week we will look at an Old Testament story and then wrap this unit up the following week.

On Sunday, Feb 23, from 11 AM to 1 PM, there will be a baked potato bar fundraising meal to pay for the confirmation retreat in May. We hosted this meal last year and through your generosity, our retreat was completely covered. Please mark your calendars and come to support our confirmation students. And, as always, continue to hold them in your prayers.

Our 2025 Church Council

Derek Thilges - President
Kelsey Bosma - Vice President
Thomas Blodgett - Treasurer/Technology
Kim Ostermann - Secretary
Kelsey Bosma - Stewardship
Grant Jacobs - Education
Darryl Friest - Evangelism
Katie Mathahs - Fellowship
Darla Thompson - Worship
Larry Lawson - Property

Grant Jacobs, Katie Mathahs, and Kim Ostermann were nominated and approved at our annual congregational meeting on January 26. Welcome to the church council!

Thank you to all who share their talents by serving our church through council.

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact Derek at 641-430-3903.

Confirmation Baked Potato Bar Fundraiser!

Sunday, February 23, 11:00 am - 1:00 pm @
Bethlehem's Fellowship Hall

Funds raised will be used for our Confirmation Retreat in May.

Our Confirmation Retreat group is made up of 3 churches: Bethlehem Lutheran, First Reformed, and St. Paul's Lutheran in Lakota.

Please come out and support these kids as they strengthen their relationship with God and with each other.





Leaders' Event

**UNLOCKING THE HIDDEN POTENTIAL:
Cultivating Leaders in
Your Congregation**

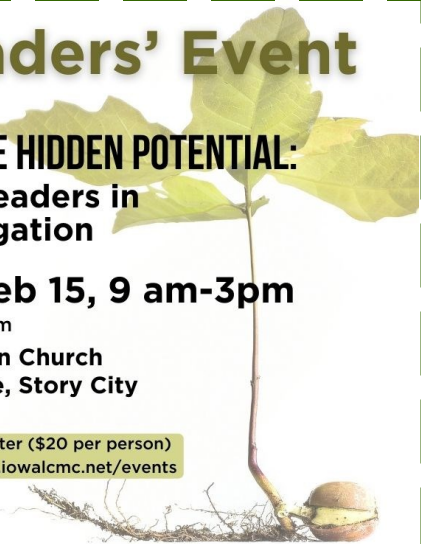
Saturday, Feb 15, 9 am-3pm

Registration at 8:30 am

**Immanuel Lutheran Church
604 Lafayette Ave, Story City**



scan to register (\$20 per person)
or visit www.iowalcmc.net/events



Are you ready to unlock the hidden potential within your congregation? Join pastors Steve Perkins and Jeff Gustafson for a transformative day of learning, growth, and practical tools to cultivate leaders who will take your church to new heights. It's the one day that could change everything for your ministry—because your church's future leaders are waiting to be equipped. All are welcome!

No Church Council minutes are available this month because council did not meet in January.

Our next scheduled council meeting is Monday, February 10, at 6:30 pm.

Upcoming Dates to Remember!

- March 5 - Ash Wednesday
- March 9 - Daylight Saving Time Begins
- April 6 - Confirmation Kids Lead Worship
- April 13 - Palm Sunday
- April 17 - Maundy Thursday, 5th graders receive 1st Communion during 7:00 pm worship
- April 18 - Good Friday
- April 20 - Easter!

February FOOD BANK NEEDS:

- Jello Dry Pkg (Red)
- Green Beans
- Whole Kernal Corn
- Cherry Pie Filling
- Tomato Soup
- Beets

Please drop off donations in the church narthex. Thank you!



General Fund Giving (As of 01.27.25):

Actual YTD: \$11,666

Budgeted YTD: \$12,252

Year to Date Deficit:
-\$586

CA Wildfire Special
Offering: \$857

Fellowship Serving Rotation:

Feb 2—Work Group #3

Feb 9 - Sunday School

Feb 16 - Church Council

Feb 23 - Work Group #1

March 2—Work Group #2



We have a few options for your giving here at Bethlehem. If you are a Thrivent member, you can direct your dollars to the church. We also have a very easy and simple way with our online giving. This QR code will access our website and take you to the Vanco giving page. Thank you!



Bethlehem Lutheran - FEBRUARY 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2 Worship with Communion, 9:30 am SS, 10:45 am Handbell Choir Informational Meeting after SS	3	4 Bible Study with Pastor, 2:00 pm Scouts—Tiger Den Meeting 5:00 pm	5 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation 6:45 pm treats, 7:15 class starts	6	7	8
9 Worship with Communion, 9:30 am SS, 10:45 am	10 MOMS2MOMS, 3:30 - 5:00 pm Church Council Meeting, 6:30 pm	11 Quilting, 1:00 pm	12 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation 6:45 pm treats, 7:15 class starts	13 Valentine Brownie Pick-up, 4-6 pm Fellowship Hall	14	15 Iowa District LCMC Leaders' Event, Story City, 9 am-3 pm
16 Worship, 9:30 am SS Kids Sing SS, 10:45 am	17	18 Worship Committee Meeting @ 8:30 am Scouts—Tiger Den Meeting 5:00 pm	19 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation 6:45 pm treats, 7:15 class starts	20	21	22
23 Worship, 9:30 am SS, 10:45 am Baked Potato Bar, Confirmation Fund-raiser, 11 am—1 pm TMNH Worship, 1:30 pm	24 MOMS2MOMS, 3:30 - 5:00 pm	25 Quilting, 1:00 pm	26 Community Bible Study, 10:00 am Confirmation 6:45 pm treats, 7:15 class starts	27	28	

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
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Buffalo Center, IA 50424

Phone
641-562-2552 — office
641-562-2553 — Pastor Eric



We're on the web!

<https://bethlehemlutheranbc.com>



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
And
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SUNDAY
SCHOOL

Please feel free to reach out to us.

If you have any questions or need assistance, don't hesitate to ask. Our church community is here to support you.

Our Mission Statement:

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

