

in this issue >>>

Vacation Bible School

Pastor Call Vote

Committee Reports

Change in Pandemic Status

Issue
June



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

Oh Bethlehem



events >>>

June 6th

- Confirmation Sunday
- VBS meeting 11 am at Congregational Church

June 12th

- Cassidy Sachs Bridal Shower 9-11am.

June 13th

- Outdoor Worship
- Congregational Meeting/Vote today.

June 27th

- Pastor Mark's final Sunday/Meal and Fellowship to follow service.

July 3rd

- Jessica Adams Wedding

August 3-6th

- Rocky Railway VBS 2021 hosted by Congregational Church.

AUG. 29th

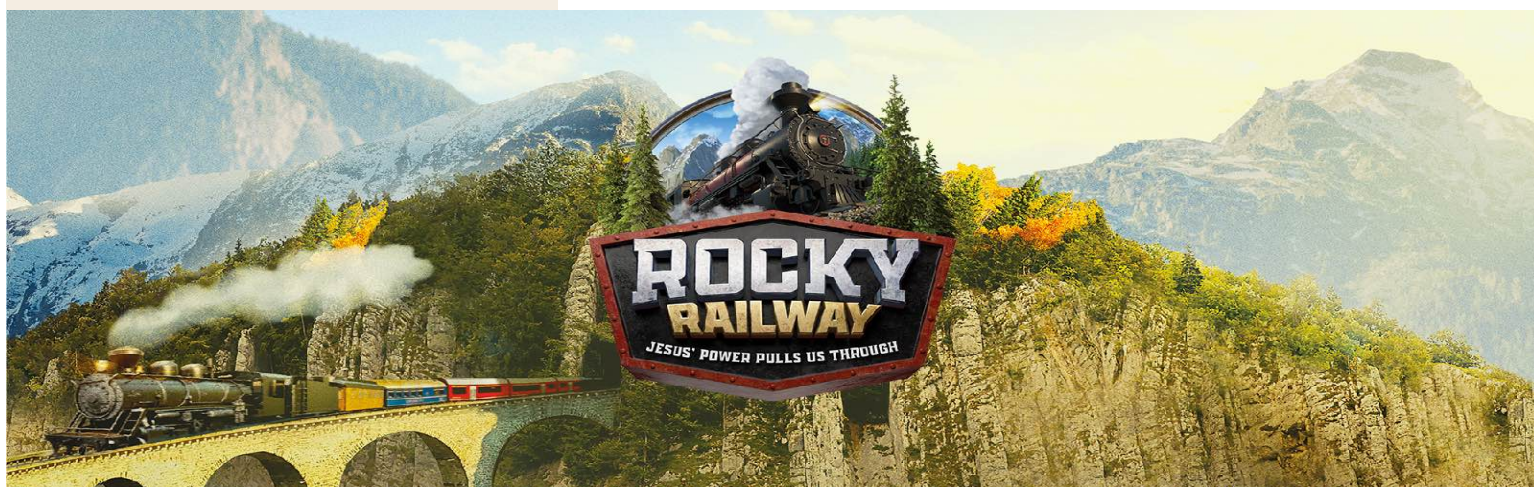
- 125TH Church Anniversary

VBS Announced

Aug 3rd-6th at the Congregational Church

Join in the fun this summer with vacation bible school. The Congregational Church will be the hosts this year from August 3rd through the 6th. If you are still in need of a form, please pick them up in the Narthex here at Bethlehem, bill out and You can also turn in your forms here. Please contact Kelsey Bosma ([Kelsey Bosma kelseybosma25@gmail.com](mailto:kelseybosma25@gmail.com)) for more info or contact the church office for more info.

At Rocky Railway VBS, kids Experience God's Word every day. Jesus' power helps us do hard things. Jesus' power gives us hope. Jesus' power helps us be bold. Jesus' power lets us live forever.



property >>>

As we look for a new pastor, it has been brought to my attention that there are a few things that need done in the parsonage before we would want someone moving in. I have been getting estimates in place for new flooring and baseboard in the kitchen. It is scratched, and very unappealing. The cupboards could probably be dressed up with different handles or painted at that time. There is some mold or wet drywall in the that will need addressed soon as well. The storage shed to the west of the church is projected to be taken down in July—we have been working on getting it cleaned out and organizing the contents to be consolidated and stored elsewhere. As summer is quickly approaching, the need for air conditioning in the sanctuary is becoming very apparent. We need about \$13,000 to get that done, and once we reach 80%, I will place the order. We would all really appreciate having that for our 125th! We blew through phase 1 when we realized how important it was, and I think we can do the same with phase 2. I am very pleased with the progress our church has made in the past year, and the cooperation of our congregation to get things done. We have come so far; I know we will get there! If anybody has any questions or concerns, feel free to get ahold of me.

Thank you,
Brandon Tilges
brandonthilges@gmail.com

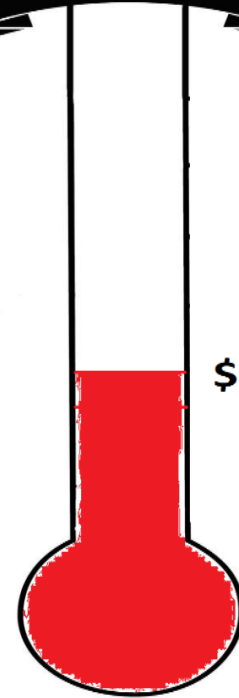


HVAC - PHASE 2

\$15,000

GOAL

\$5000



education >>>

Hello Bethlehem family! I just want to take a minute to thank everybody who made this year's Sunday school program and confirmation program a huge success. The parents who helped with Sunday mornings music, videos, lessons, and games for Sunday School- thank you. To the volunteers and parents who mentored and helped lead a successful confirmation retreat, program, and upcoming confirmation Sunday- thank you. Lastly to our staff, Pastor Mark, and Jen, for all of your extra work and support- thank you. We also had our first after school event that was a huge success, and took many church hands to pull it off, so thanks to all that helped with that too! I was anticipating a sigh of relief as the education year ended. There is so much behind the scenes work and preparation and doing the work with the kids during their programs, that it seems overwhelming at times. However, as the end of the year is now upon us, I am feeling a little differently than I expected. I am pre-missing the kiddos, and I cannot wait until we begin the hustle and bustle again in the fall!

I have a request for everybody though...

Kids- please keep reading your bibles this summer and get hooked up with the Superbook app and enjoy more fun and learning! Adults- please pray for our youth over the summer. I want everyone to have a great, fun, & relaxing summer vacation! The format of SS will slightly change in the fall, and we will need more volunteers. The team is currently assessing our needs and what the right fit/plan will be for our youth programs. Thank you for your willingness to be available and present in this exciting time. Have a great summer everyone, and keep your eyes peeled for upcoming dates and activities!

Live with love and joy, sincerely

Kelsey Bosma
kelseybosma25@gmail.com



evangelism >>>

I decided on a Bible study by Priscilla Shirer called Breathe. It is an older one but is about Sabbath and how we should be practicing it. Will start late summer or early fall. We decided that with everything happening to cancel the summer kickoff but are planning a Fall fun Sunday for all. I am planning on having signup sheets for coffee hour in the next couple weeks. This past weekend I had a wonderful time visiting with Pastor Eric & his wife. If anyone has any ideas or comments, please feel free to contact me.

God Bless All.

Amy Walk
641.590.5845/billwalkbc@gmail.com

Letter from the Executive Team

Letter from the Executive Team

Oh Bethlehem! We are entering into another season of transition. The time has come to say goodbye to Pastor Mark Neumann.



This goodbye is going to be more difficult than we imagined because it has been such a positive interim for our church. Thanks to Mark's direction, we have accomplished many of our leadership's goals and Bethlehem has a solid foundation and plan for moving forward. He directed the leadership team in making the strategic plan and that is a roadmap for Bethlehem's future. Besides leading us in worship and helping the leadership team, he has also been teaching us through his inspired sermons and his weekly Bible Studies. He has completely revived our confirmation program and given our confirmation leaders direction for moving forward with the program. Mark was a godsend to us during this time. We are planning a goodbye service/meal and a celebration of his 30th Ordination Anniversary on June 27, 2021.

Please plan on attending to celebrate Mark's 30 years of ministry and to celebrate his time with us this past year. It is important to say goodbye and to be proud of the work that has been accomplished this past year. We are positioned now for another season of growth. On the evening Sunday May 23rd, the Church Council had a meeting following Pastor Eric Hallstrom's visit. The Council unanimously voted to present to the congregation a vote to make a call to Pastor Eric Hullstrom. Bethlehem's next step is to vote to call Pastor Eric on June 13, 2021. We have heard a lot of positive feedback about Pastor Eric. We ask that you attend church on June 13th. There will be a congregational meeting to discuss and vote on this important item. A strong showing will demonstrate to our potential new pastor that we are 'together' on this.

Vote June 13th

Step 1	Build a strategic plan / infrastructure	DONE
Step 2	Compile congregation survey / needs	DONE
Step 3	Call committee recommends a potential candidate	DONE
Step 4	The church meets the candidate (and family)	DONE
Step 5	Discussion and Vote	June 13 th



Remember When?

The 125th Anniversary Committee would like to begin a remember when trivia in the weekly bulletin. Everyone be thinking of something from the past or current.

It need only be one sentence long such as:

"Remember when the churches in town had baseball teams that played on the 4th of July?"

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

Thank you
Anniversary Committee

125th Anniversary Celebration 1896-2021

Plans are being made and the anniversary for Bethlehem is going to be a fun, memorial event!

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 Vonnice Bosma 562-2703. Anyone who would like to volunteer or contribute ideas please contact Vonnice.

Thank You
Cheryl Baumann
Vonnice Bosma



treasurer >>>

After a sweaty day in church last Sunday, I am excited to see that phase 2 has over \$5000 raised towards our \$15,000 phase 2 goal for AC units and backup heating in the sanctuary.

Our general offering year to date is \$50,664.99. We are 40% through the year and our giving so far is at 39% of our budget. Great JOB, we are on track and in the ball game, keep it up Bethlehem, your support of our works is needed, appreciated, and being used well! As everyone can see, our donations are doing important work and we have some important things ahead of us as we vote to call a new pastor.

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

Brian Blodgett
brian@ngtnet.net



We are open and going forth with gathering in the house of our Lord. We have updated the Pandemic plan as listed below. YouTube. We really look forward to seeing everyone again face to face. If you have any questions, concerns, or joys to share, please see a council member. 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.



Coffee Mugs

Remember that we still have coffee mugs (12.00) and insulated tumblers (24.00) for sale. This is a fundraising project to help defray the costs of our big celebration this summer. These make great gifts for Graduation, Father's Day, and Birthday's! They are available in the church office or on Sunday mornings at the fellowship table.

Cleanup Day

We have a beautiful facility here at Bethlehem that takes a lot of upkeep and TLC. Especially this summer with our celebration in August, we will need a strong team to head up our lawn maintenance. There are landscaping needs, and we are looking for a few people to join the committee to see this thru. If this is right up your alley or love to work outside in the green, please see a council member. Keep on the lookout for another workday coming up!

Social Media

Social media is very alive and active in our church. We are so fortunate to be able to use these platforms to reach our members and community here and far. We have our own Facebook page for BLC and one for BLC Sunday School. We also have our own website, www.bethlehemplutheranbc.com This is a wonderful way to reach everyone and get our stuff out there. However, it does take some time to put things on them and keep them up to date. If you are a techy person or really enjoy spending time doing social media, we would love to talk with you. We are looking for someone or two, to help us with this. Please talk with a council member if interested.

Food Bank for June

Cereal, Juice, Cookie Mixes, Muffin Mixes, Pancake Mix and Syrup. Thank You.

technology >>>

Our online presence continues to be strong with average views of each service during and throughout the week averaging in the 50 views range each week. We are also seeing people going back to older services and watching these as well. What an exciting and excellent way to make ourselves available.

You will also notice on the website that we are now starting to post newsletters, bulletins, and a link to past services.

As of today (May 26th) we have replaced pastors' wireless microphone as the current one has reached its end of life.

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.



Bethlehem Lutheran Church
L.C.M.C.

In the word

Read: Ephesians 4:3-9

Reflections: God calls us to be in unity and in peace, we can be more successful if we focus on God, and not our selves.

Colossians 3:14, "Beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity."

Point to ponder: Where can I build in more unity around me? Let us think how we can make a difference in our church, family, friends, community, nation, and world.

1 Peter 3:8 states, "To sum up, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, brotherly, kindhearted, and humble in spirit.



Your 2021 Council Members

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

Membership Forms

Membership Forms are available in the Narthex and on our website, www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com. We are in the process of compiling and updating many old and new lists. 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 so good to have a completed and updated list for our new incoming Pastor. Please drop them at the office or in the offering plate 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 Gen Fund at the bank. This can be set up for you so that you do not have to remember every week and your giving becomes much more convenient for you.

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 now back in the fellowship hall after services. Coffee will continue to be available when entering for service on Sunday mornings. With us being able to get back to some good old normal routine, we need help! If you can take a Sunday to provide and serve, that would be wonderful! Please get with Amy W for more information.

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. We would love to have you!



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

641-562-2552 (Office)
641-562-2553 (Pastor)
office@blciowa.org
mark.neumann@blciowa.org
jen.mcgrady@blciowa.org

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes

Sunday, May 2, 2021

-after church-

held in the meeting room

Members present: Megan Holland, Cassie Willmert, Vonnie Bosma, Susan Jensen, Cheryl Baumann, Brian Blodgett, Kelsey Bosma, Pastor Mark, Jennifer McGrady

Meeting called to order @ 11:10 Mark opened with a prayer.

Old Business

1. Secretary Minutes was approved via email by Brian, seconded by Cheryl
2. COVID updates: retire the campus radio after May 9. It will be used for outdoor services only. In June, look at different options for communion; allowing people to do what they feel comfortable with.

Committee Reports

A. Property

- Boiler inspection did not pass. Violation details came in the mail, very minimal fixes
- getting bids on kitchen flooring and base trim in the parsonage. As well as getting the tub working correctly. Create a budget for these repairs and possibly have a special offering?
- in the future create a space for the youth
- Pastor office needs paint, new carpet and furniture. Wait to move forward on this until the new Pastor is called

C. Worship

- continue to work on future services to include: Mother's Day, Senior Recognition, Confirmation Sunday, and outdoor service on June 13
- on the Sundays when Cheryl is not playing, we need to have music before and after the service

D. Education

- 45 kids attended the Eggstravaganza with around 70 for the supper meal.

Kelsey would like to start the process for another one in the fall

- final day of Sunday school is May 23; working on the details
- VBS will be held at the Congregational church; details will be available soon
- Start thinking on how fall Sunday school will look

E. Stewardship

- Phase 2 of the Heating/Cooling System well underway! Around \$4,000 has been raised

F. Technology

- Pastor's mic is on loan from NGT. A new one does need to be purchased. This cost is around \$900
- QuickBooks update has been done

G. Fellowship

- Cradle Roll will use the Splash curriculum. This has been purchased.
- Pastor Eric will be here May 21-23
- June 27 is Pastor Mark's last day, as well as his 30th year of ordination. Jen and Cassie are working on the details for this celebration.

H. Evangelism

- The movie sponsored at Lake Mills Theater "*The Girl Who Believes in Miracles*" was attended by 38.
- Amy will begin work on a Bible Study featuring "*Breathe*"
- Family Summer kick off date: June 13. Possibly new location as the shelterhouse is booked.

I. 125th Committee

- will have another meeting on May 5

Treasurer Report Checking: \$8,782

Savings: \$19,273

- PPP loan is forgiven
- Grinnell Mutual Insurance - \$4486
- Down payment for the boiler - \$5000

Pastor Report

- last Sunday will be June 27 and will NOT be available after that date
- know that the parsonage is open for any and all repairs
- will be in training May 3-5 for LCMC

New Business

1. \$200 Mission Giving: May=LCMC and June=Crisis center. With quarterly missions given to LCMC. Cheryl motioned, Kelsey seconded. All in favor.
2. Special meeting with the Call Committee, will be held May 23 @ 7:00 to recap Pastor Eric's visit
3. Upcoming wedding on July 3. Communication will be held with the bride regarding Covid procedures to include: masks at personal discretion, please use social distancing practices, full capacity in sanctuary is 200 and fellowship is 100.

Next meeting: June 7 @ 5:30

Motion to adjourn made by Amy; seconded by Brian Meeting ended @ 1: 25

Lord's Prayer

Secretary,
Megan Holland

Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Special Meeting Minutes

Sunday, May 23, 2021

@ 7:00

held in the meeting room

Members present: Megan Holland, Cassie Willmert, Vonnie Bosma, Susan Jensen, Brian Blodgett, Kelsey Bosma, Brandon Thilges, Jen McGrady via Zoom

Meeting called to order @ 7:10

New Business

Council gathered to review the visit of potential Pastor candidate Eric Hullstrom.

Overall, the visit was a great! Pastor Eric was joined by wife Connie and children Mayahand Malachi. The family had time to look at the community, as well as the school. They viewed the parsonage. Pastor Eric closed the visit with providing the Sunday service.

Followed with a Q and A with congregation. After, Eric and Connie meet with the executive council to answer any questions and talk about our compensation package.

After Council discussion, Brian motioned to call Pastor Eric, pending vote. Seconded by Amy. All in favor-unanimous! Christina Blodgett would make the call to Pastor Eric to give him the news.

Per by-laws, 2-week notice must be given to congregation before actual vote date. Official vote will be held June 13th.

Old Business

1. The Church will now move to Tier 0 for Covid procedures; Brian will finalize the write up and present to council via email.
2. Campus radio back in action (for a bit)
3. Cassie presented a new layout for the offering count sheet. She and Logan will have this completed soon

Motion to adjourn made by Brian; seconded by Kelsey Meeting ended @ 8:15

Lord's Prayer

Secretary,
Megan Holland



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

641-562-2552 (Office)
641-562-2553 (Pastor)
office@blciowa.org
mark.neumann@blciowa.org
jen.mcgrady@blciowa.org