

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

**February 2022**



**Matthew 22:37**

**Love the Lord your God  
with all your heart  
and with all your soul  
and with all your mind.**



# Oh Bethlehem

**<<<Events>>>**

Feb	10	1G Youth Ministry @ Methodist Church
Feb	13	Communion Sunday
Feb	15	Worship Comm @ 9:30am
Feb	20	Guest Speaker: Riding Light Ministries
Feb	21	BLC serves 1G meal
Feb	22	Quilting @9am
Feb	27	SS kids sing

**Making ourselves available...  
Food Bank Needs for February**

Kleenex, Dish Soap, Pancake Mix,  
Syrup, Juice, Snack Crackers and  
Saltines.

All donations can be dropped off in the  
Narthex 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](http://www.bethlehemlutheranbc.com/giving)  
If you would like more information or guidance on setting this up, please see Brian Blodgett or Jen McGrady.

**<<<Bethlehem Ladies>>>**

**We will gather on Tues. March 1<sup>st</sup>  
@ 2pm for Bible study, meeting  
and fellowship.  
Hope to see you there!  
Rides are available if you call the  
church office. 562-2552**

**1G Network Youth Ministry is happening in our community.**

There is a lot of planning and implementation with the area Churches, NICS and Ministerial Assoc. as they continue to launch this exciting after school event. This is for elementary through high school. They will meet after school on Mondays and Wednesdays. There will be a meal served on Mon. evenings for students, families and volunteers. These events will 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 out with the students and lastly praying for this ministry, the adult and the kids.

**We give glory to God for being "Available to those around us".**

<<Pastor Eric>>

When I accepted God's call to be the next pastor here at Bethlehem Lutheran Church and move to Buffalo Center, I was filled with excitement about what God was up to. Moving back to a small town in the Midwest; to a congregation with a varied age demographic and an active Sunday school; and coming off a productive interim period with strong leaders in place, there was much about which to be excited. And now, five months in, the momentum continues and is getting stronger. With stabilization comes building, and that building is happening and beginning to bear fruit; and this is just the beginning.

Listening to Cassie's president's report at this year's annual meeting really put things in perspective for me. She had looked back to prior president's reports and shared how bleak Bethlehem's picture looked back then: Financially strapped, a pandemic, pastoral transition, etc. I have also listened to stories from others and that sentiment is definitely shared. But now things are different. I see excitement and hope. I see passion and energy. I see purpose and drive. I see leaders ready to lead. And new leaders rising up. I see God on the march, and He is taking us with Him.

On Monday, January 24, there was a planning meeting for Buffalo Center's new community youth ministry called 1G (One God) Network (more information can be found in this newsletter). There were 25 people there (6 from Bethlehem) from a number of congregations in the North Iowa school district. A total of seven congregations have expressed a desire to be involved. People were excited and recognized the need for this ministry to thrive. I was thrilled to see the turn out.

Back on the home front, Sunday school is thriving, and confirmation is evolving. Women's Bible study is gaining traction and I am hoping other Bible studies will begin to form. Not in a Bible study? Let's get one started. You give me the day and time and I will be there (or help you be there to lead).

Yes, I know you are busy. You have jobs, careers, families, and activities with the kids or grandkids. You volunteer and serve; you give and give; and the thought of doing one more thing at church sounds overwhelming. But let me say this: Do not let it be overwhelming. Remember what I said, **God is on the march, and He is taking us with Him.** Therefore, whatever God is up to and wherever He is going, He will see that you have all that you need. So do not shy away but embrace the future that God has for us. Now, who's ready to march?

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Christmas has been put away and we have caught our breath, but now it is time to gear up for Lent. Who's getting excited. Okay, maybe it is just me, but let me prime your excitement pump with a little sneak peek at coming attractions:

~ **Ash Wednesday** is March 2 at 7 PM with the imposition of ashes and Holy Communion.

~ Starting on March 9 and going for five weeks, there will be **Lenten suppers at 6 PM followed by worship at 7 PM.** I will be preaching through the book of Jonah on those Wednesday nights. Jonah is the story of a prophet who knew God and His mercy; he just did not like God's application of mercy. Jonah repented but in the wrong way. And if we are honest, Jonah looks unsettlingly familiar.

~ **Confirmation** will continue during Lent, incorporating worship into the class time.

~ And then on Maundy Thursday we get to have **First Communion** with our 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> graders.

Getting excited yet? Yup, just what I thought, so am I. There is definitely more to Lent than just this so keep your eyes and ears peeled for more information.

<<<**FIRST COMMUNION**>>>

Holy Communion is one of the two sacraments that we as, brothers and sisters in Christ, are privileged to partake together. With Jesus as the host, he shares his body and blood and proclaims to us the forgiveness of sin through his death and resurrection. It is a holy meal, and one in which one ought to be prepared, but really, the learning and understanding process is life-long, but it does begin at a certain point. That point for our **5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> graders** is coming soon. First Communion classes will be held **Sundays, March 6 and 13** during the Sunday school hour. Students will meet with me (Pastor Eric) in the conference room. They will then receive their First Communion at the community Maundy Thursday worship service, here, on **April 14 at 7 PM.** Please make every effort to be here on those dates. If there is an unavoidable conflict, please let me know so we can make other arrangements. What a joy and privilege it is to share this holy meal with our youth. Thank you for entrusting them to me.

## <<< EVANGELISM AND FELLOWSHIP>>>

Happy February all! The first month of the year flew by. I am so excited for this year at Bethlehem. Kim Ostermann and I have decided to combine our two groups and work together.

The first thing we have planned is on February 27. The council will be having a thank you brunch for our church family after church. More details on that to come.

Secondly, Kim is working on having a blood drive at Bethlehem.

Thirdly, I am going to be starting a bible study on the Chosen. I will have a copy of the book in the office so anyone can look at it. I may do two different times so hopefully it will work for anyone interested. I have to warn everyone that it will take between one-half to two hours per session so please consider that. I am so excited to be teaming up with Kim. GOD is on the move in Bethlehem! Thanks to everyone for all your support. Any ideas you may have please feel free to contact me.

Amy Walk

Email: [billwalkbc@gmail.com](mailto:billwalkbc@gmail.com)

Phone: 641-590-5845 (call or text)

## ***Greeters and Ushers-February and March***

### Feb

- \*13 Alex(c) & Alyssa(c) Olson Family and Denny & Dawn Meinders
- 20 Brandon Thilges Family and Derek & Shelby Thilges
- 27 Rod & Gayle Hansen and William & Marge Becker

### March

- \*6 Neely Jensen(c) Family and DeWayne & Bernice Mass
- \*13 Brendan Price(c) Family and Jim & Karen Meyering
- 20 Tim Weaver Family and Todd & Lori Corporon
- 27 Rande & Mary Geisking and Mike Weaver

## ***Bethlehem Lutheran Church Council Minutes***

Monday, January 10, 2022

@ 6:00 \*\*\*meeting room\*\*\*

Members present: Pastor Eric Hullstrom, Brian Blodgett, Cassie Willmert, Kelsey Bosma, Amy Walk, Vonnie Bosma, Cheryl Baumann, Megan Holland & Jen McGrady  
Members absent: Susan Jensen, Brandon Thilges

Meeting called to order @ 6:03

### Old Business

-Secretary minutes from December approved via email. Motion to approve by Susan. Seconded by Brian. Will be published in December/end of the year newsletter.

-Prepare for Annual meeting-"Paint the Picture"

### Treasurers Report

Checking - \$12,136.27

Savings - \$2839.88

-Budget is on spot! Had wonderful giving so far this year. With additional giving for the HVAC!

## Committee Reports

### A. Property

none

### B. Worship

-Worship Committee is asking that each Council member take a month to help with Communion; February: Cassie, March: Kelsey, April: Brian

-Weekly accompanist = \$40/Sunday; As always, this is upon worship committees discretion.

### C. Education

-Sunday school will sing monthly(4th Sunday of the month) starting in January.

-The one large class has been separated into two classes: 1st/2nd and 3rd/4th.

First Sunday went smoothly!

### D. Stewardship

### E. Technology

No new updates. Everything is operating smoothly!

### F. Fellowship

-The Tuesday @ 2:00 Bible Study is off and going well. With attendance of 9-12 people.

-continued work is being done to update the work groups

-“kitchen duty/Sunday serving schedule” should and needs to fall under the role of fellowship

### G. Evangelism

-NIB Christmas Light up BC was cold, but a success!

-will continue to brainstorm more events. Stay tuned

## Pastor Report:

1. Wedding on December 18 for Tiarra Jenvold and Caleb Hagedorn. Another wedding is planned for November 2022

2. Confirmation students went caroling to TMNH and a few homes on December 22. Followed by pizza party at the church.

3. Christmas season went well. Will be working with the worship committee to debrief everything and plan for 2022. Thank you, Kelsey and all the teachers, for a great Christmas program. As well as a successful first half of the year.

4. Will now be writing my article for the BC Tribune every other week.

5. Women's Bible Study continues to meet the first Tuesday of the month @ 2:00.

Working on Psalm 23. Have a schedule in place through June.

6. Work has begun on Lent plans. Ash Wednesday is March 2. Services will be 30-40 minutes long, preaching Jonah. In regard to confirmation, students will attend the service and will wrap up in the fellowship hall afterwards.

## New Business

1. Ecumenical weekly youth event planning is well under way. Elementary(K-5) will meet Mondays from 3:30-5:30. Followed by a family meal. With High school meeting 6-7:30. Middle school will meet on Wednesdays. Please keep this in prayers. It will need weekly volunteers for crafts, meals, snacks. Cassie and Eric will keep everyone updated.

2. January Mission: LCMC; Brian motioned; Kelsey seconded; all in favor-approved  
Next meeting: short meeting after Annual meeting on January 16 with new members

Motion to adjourn made by Kelsey; seconded by Amy

Meeting adjourned @ 7:42

Ended with the Lord's Prayer

Secretary,

Megan Holland



### **Council Members 2022**

President

Cassie Willmert

V President

Amy Walk

Secretary

Kim Ostermann

Treasurer

Brian Blodgett

Education

Kelsey Bosma

Evangelism/Fellowship

Amy Walk and Kim Ostermann

Worship

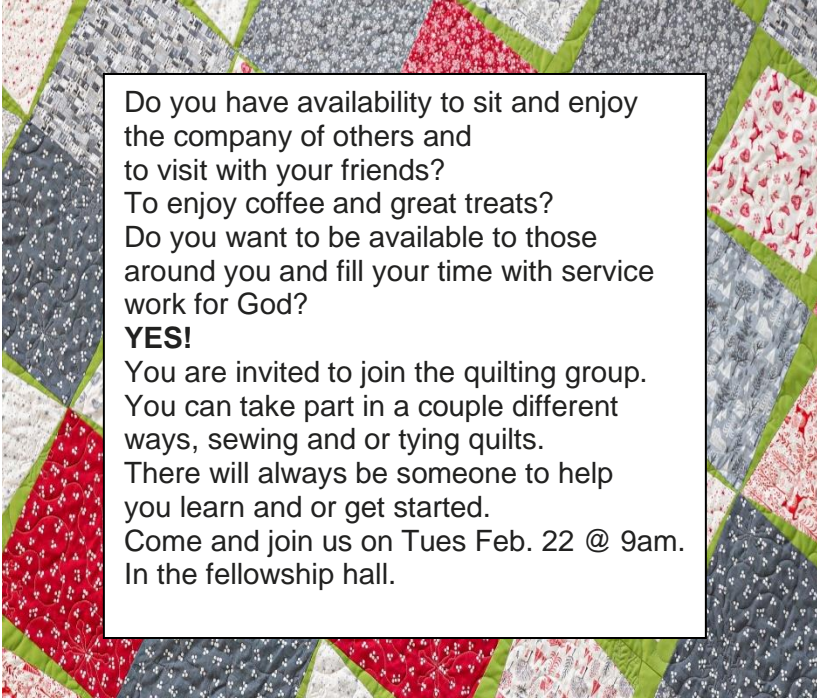
Susan Jensen

Property

Brandon Thilges and Derek Thilges

Stewardship

Patty Hassebroek



Do you have availability to sit and enjoy the company of others and to visit with your friends?  
To enjoy coffee and great treats?  
Do you want to be available to those around you and fill your time with service work for God?

**YES!**

You are invited to join the quilting group. You can take part in a couple different ways, sewing and or tying quilts. There will always be someone to help you learn and or get started. Come and join us on Tues Feb. 22 @ 9am. In the fellowship hall.



AS I HAVE  
LOVED YOU,  
LOVE ONE  
ANOTHER  
JOHN 13:34

Color Me and Cut me out! Give to a friend!



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

FIND US ON FACEBOOK  
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