

JULY 2024

Bethlehem Lutheran Church

Buffalo Center, IA 50424



Oh, Bethlehem!

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

CALENDAR of EVENTS

- July 4—Independence Day
- July 7—Worship Service @ 9:30 am
- July 7—Baptism for Grayson Cole Corporon
- July 8—Church Council @ 6:00 pm
- July 9—Bible Study with Pastor @ 2:00 pm
- July 14—Worship Service @ 9:30 am
- July 21—Worship Service @ 9:30 am
- July 23—Worship Committee Meeting @ 8:30 am
- July 28—Outdoor Community Worship Service 9:30 am @ Post Office Park
- Community Bible Study meets on Wednesdays @ 10:00

General Fund
Annual Giving
(As of 06.24.24):

Actual: \$67,091

Budgeted:
\$73,557

Year to Date
Deficit: **\$6,466**



Electrical Project Update

We are thrilled to announce that just this week, we received a grant for \$12,500 from the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa, to be used for Repairs and Updates.

Oh Bethlehem...we are so thankful.

Thank you for continuing to give towards the project fund. Your generous giving has been greatly appreciated.

GREETERS & USHERS

JULY

- * 7 Chris Berggren Family and Kyle Winter Family
- *14 Mike Baumann Family and Cheryl Baumann
- 21 Dave & Kate Kakacek and Rande & Mary Giesking
- 28 Bison Days - Ecumenical Worship Service in Post Office Park

AUGUST

- *4 Joe Angstman Family and Rod & Gayle Hansen
- *11 Brant Boekelman Family and Dana Greensky Family
- 18 Amy Walk Family and Mary Badje and Jamie Price Family
- 25 Logan Willmert Family and Ray & Vonnie Pilgrim-Bosma

Notes from our Graduates

Bethlehem Lutheran Quilters,
Thank you for your generous gift of a quilt. It is so beautiful and greatly appreciated.

Prayers for our Members and friends

Deloris Steffensen
Brian Bashans
Christina Coughlin
Clarice Stonebreaker
Shirley Hagenson
Joy Albert
Jason Hagedorn

Jaya Fever
Claire Hinz
Carolyn Bartz
Vince Johnson
Emmagene Silber
Roger Burnside



Sophia Hagen

Dear Quilters,

Just wanted to say thanks for the awesome graduation gift! Your kindness is much appreciated!

Thanks again,
Charlie



But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness.” Therefore I will boast all the more gladly of my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may rest upon me. For the sake of Christ, then, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. For when I am weak, then I am strong. (2 Corinthians 12:9-10)

On the surface, weakness and power appear to be polar opposites. They mix as well as oil and water. But as a child of God, true power can only be known and experienced through weakness. It is reminiscent of Jesus not doing many mighty works in his hometown due to their unbelief. Jesus, the Son of God, was doing amazing works, but those who claimed to know Jesus and his family could not see God’s power in him. They were caught up in their limited abilities, their perceived power. They clung to what they knew and could determine through their senses. Jesus was one of them and thus they could only see that little boy they watched grow up.

And weakness can be very unsettling. Not knowing what the outcome of a difficult situation can be unnerving. Feeling out of control is something that steals one’s peace. And thus, our natural desire is to try to be in control, to exercise power over a situation. As a church, “power” can come in the form of a healthy bank account or an active membership, favorable standing in the community or a large Sunday school. A church can cling to these things and feel secure and strong, but these are nothing more than a house built on the sand.

True strength is accepting one’s weakness and trusting in Jesus. It is building your house on the rock instead of the sand. It is trusting His promises. The apostle Paul was given a reminder of his weakness. We do not know what his “thorn in the side” was, but we do know that in his weakness, Paul was strong, for he relied on the grace of God. It was sufficient for him.

As a church, we are indeed strong, but not because of our abilities, people, talent, ingenuity, creativity, etc. We are strong because this is Christ’s Church. As long as we cling to that truth, and not take matters into our own hands, the evil one will never get the upper hand. Know and accept your weakness, and trust Him and His strength. Amen.

Calling ALL Youth, (Entering) Grades K Prep-6th

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL
Come join the fun at United Methodist Church!!

July 28—August 1
5:00—8:15 pm

Register on their Facebook page:
Buffalo Center VBS



*I keep my eyes
always on the LORD.
With him at my
right hand,
I will not be shaken.
Psalms 16:8*

Council

Congregational Meeting 06.02.2024

The meeting was called to order at 10:38 am. The congregation discussed calling Pastor Mark Neumann as deployed pastor for Bethlehem Lutheran Church. Questions were answered and positive feedback was given.

Kim Ostermann made a motion to accept Pastor Mark as a deployed pastor in ministry with Bethlehem Lutheran Church. The motion was seconded by Lorie Bierle. All in favor - unanimous. The motion to adjourn was made by Megan Holland. The motion was seconded by Lorie

Bierle. Meeting adjourned at 10:49 am.

Welcome, Pastor Mark!!

June Council Minutes

There are no minutes from council's June meeting as it was cancelled. They are planning to meet on July 8 for their regular monthly meeting.

Council Committee

WORSHIP

The first outdoor service of the season went well. We intend to reserve parking spots for those who may want to sit in their car since the sound system carries well and all can easily

hear. The usher/greeter list has been updated through the end of the year. Remember to switch with someone if you cannot attend on your Sunday. Thank you to all who serve in

any capacity to further the message of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Darla

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!



SCAN ME!

Current Office Hours for Susan:

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays

9:00 am - 4:30 pm

Making ourselves available...

The July FOOD BANK needs are:

- Green beans
- Baked beans
- Corn
- Canned peaches
- Canned pears
- Mandarin oranges

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

MISSIONS CORNER

Pastor Mark Neumann's son, Abram, just celebrated his NINTH year living and working at Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. He recently sent out a newsletter that is now hanging on the bulletin board in the narthex.

It's amazing to read about the work they're doing to help people get sober, stay sober, set goals, find work, secure housing, all the while being prayed for, encouraged, and supported along the way.

Their current needs:
1) Long-term volunteers/ interns

2) Financial support— with more residents comes more operating costs. They have a large grant that is coming to an end and no definite grant funding in the near future.

3) Prayers—for strength and resilience for their small staff, for community leaders as they make decisions that affect the shelter and their services, and for God's provision of funds to sustain their staff and programming.

If interested in giving, the address is:

Iglutheca
PO Box 5005
Pine Ridge, SD 57770

Bethlehem Lutheran Church
201 4th St. NE
P.O. Box
Buffalo Center, IA 50424

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.

Phone:
641-562-2552 — Susan
641-562-2553 — Pastor Eric

Our Mission Statement:

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

Email:
pastor@bliciowa.org
office@bliciowa.org

We're HERE for YOU!

We're on the web!

<https://bethlehemlutheranbc.com>



BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH
And
BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN SUNDAY SCHOOL

To GOD be the GLORY!

